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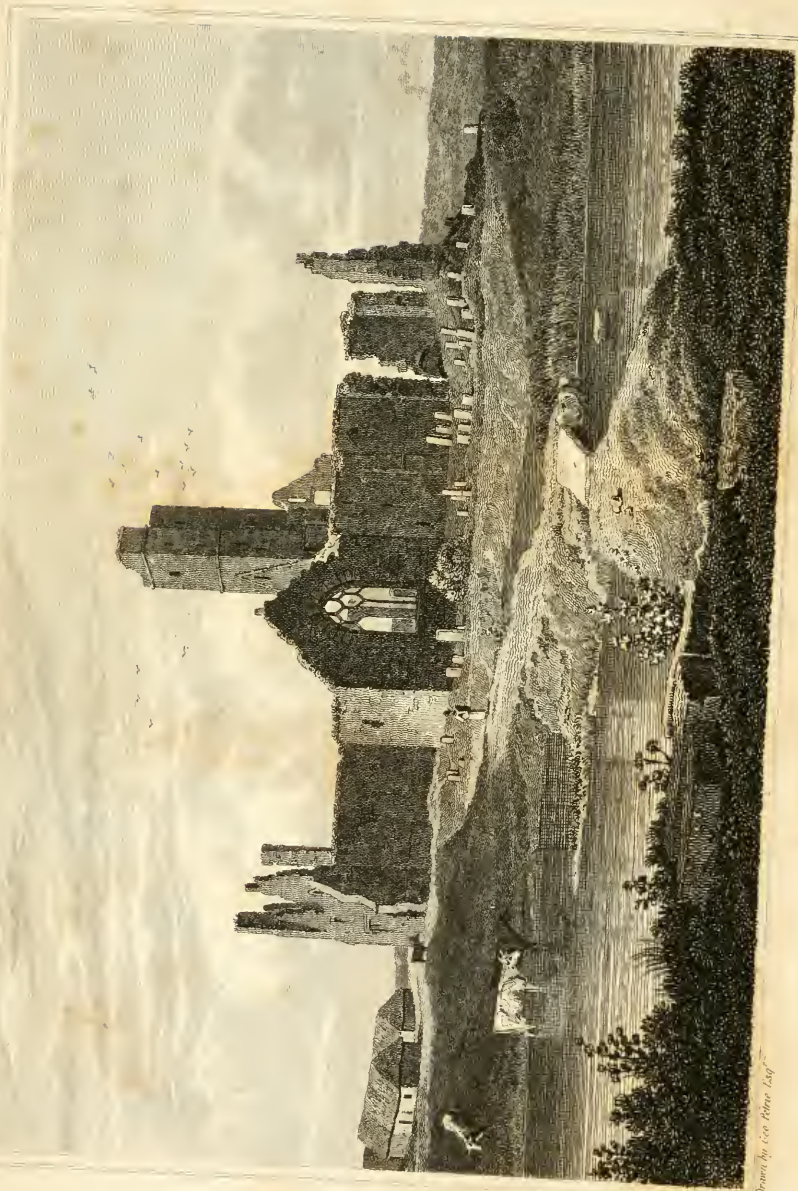
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Engd. by J. H. S. Street

RUINS OF MILLIFERNAN,
Co. of Westmeath.

Drawn by Geo. Peter Lag.



THE
Beauties
OF
I R E L A N D :

BEING
Original Delineations,
TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, AND BIOGRAPHICAL,
OF EACH COUNTY.

BY J. N. BREWER, ESQ.

Author of the Introductory Volume to the Beauties of England and Wales, and of the
Historical and Topographical Surveys of Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, and the
County of Middlesex, forming Parts of the same Work.

ILLUSTRATED

WITH ENGRAVINGS, BY J. & H. S. STORER,
AFTER ORIGINAL DRAWINGS, CHIEFLY BY MR. PETRIE, OF DUBLIN.

" Through the land the musing pilgrim sees
A track of brightest green, and in the midst
Appears a mould'ring wall, with ivy crown'd;
Or Gothic turret, pride of antient days!
Sea, mountain, lovely vale, and rushing stream,
Combine, in charms pictorial."

VOL. I.

London :
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1825.

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TO

HIS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

GEORGE IV.

KING OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,

&c. &c. &c.

THE FIRST BRITISH SOVEREIGN THAT HAS ENTERED

Ireland

WITH THE BENIGNANT INTENTION OF RECONCILING, BY HIS PATERNAL
INFLUENCE, EVERY JARRING FEELING AMONG ALL CLASSES OF
HIS SUBJECTS IN THAT PART OF HIS DOMINIONS;

A SOVEREIGN

ENTITLED TO THE GRATITUDE, ESTEEM, AND ADMIRATION OF EVERY TRUE
FRIEND TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOMS;

THIS VOLUME

IS, WITH HIS MAJESTY'S GRACIOUS PERMISSION,

HUMBLY DEDICATED

BY HIS MAJESTY'S MOST DUTIFUL

SUBJECT AND SERVANT,

JAMES NORRIS BREWER.

P R E F A C E

TO THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE BEAUTIES OF IRELAND.

WHILST submitting to the public the following sketches towards a history and description of the principal objects of topography in Ireland, I feel encouraged to hope for the indulgence of the reader, from a conviction that I have used, with a zeal of attachment to my subject, every method in my power to obtain original and correct information. But, when we duly remember the injurious neglect which such investigations experienced in Ireland, at periods most favourable to inquiry, it will be readily believed that with this hope is blended a very painful degree of apprehension.

This island had no Leland or Camden to snatch from oblivion the architectural character, and the history of ecclesiastical and castellated buildings, in the 16th century, when the fabrics and records of religious institutions afforded subjects of satisfactory research; and when the harsh abodes of our feudal ancestry were only recently abandoned, with the steel encasements of those warriors, and many customs of chivalry and license, offensive to the judgment, but still imperative over the fancy.

Ware, and his continuator Harris, have been said in some measure to supply this deficiency; and their labours, particularly in regard to episcopal history, are established on a firm basis of reputation. But the attention of those learned writers was not directed to topography; and their disquisitions, although assistant in parts, by no means afford a general ground-work of local history.

PREFACE.

The Monasticon of Mr. Archdall is an unhappy instance of national indifference to such works, when placed by the side of Dugdale's volumes in the sister island.

In more recent times, since copiousness and accuracy of topographical illustration have been viewed as rational sources of information and amusement, in most parts of the British empire, England has produced histories and extensive descriptions, not only of her principal towns, but even of rural parishes, and villages of no important name. Among the literary labours of the same modern times, Ireland numbers only about one dozen volumes, relating to about half as many counties.

But the age of indifference to works of this description, would appear to be hastening towards its close. The authors of *Hibernia Antiqua et Hodierna*, and the histories of *Galway* and *Armagh*, have produced books calculated to obtain national attention; and it may be confidently hoped that public approbation will encourage the prosecution of similar labours, among many native writers.

The favourable reception of the work termed the "BEAUTIES of ENGLAND and WALES," consisting of "Original Delineations, Topographical, Historical, and Descriptive," induced the design of a similar publication in regard to IRELAND. My attachment to the country—an admiration of its scenery—an ardent curiosity concerning its antient vestiges—and a warm respect for many of its inhabitants, inspirited me to undertake this task; and should deficiencies be ascertained, I trust that I may be allowed to plead these motives in mitigation of critical censure. The favour I solicit at the hands of one, I may hope to receive from the whole of my readers. The nature of the work is so entirely remote from subjects of party feeling, or at least is so when conducted with an honest

PREFACE.

intention, that it must be almost superfluous to say I am of no party whatever, as writer of this book. Facts, and not comments, are the chief objects of the topographer's attention.

The most pleasing part of my duty, in these prefatory pages, consists in acknowledgments of those who have favoured me with local information, or have otherwise taken an interest in the procedure of the work.

By many of the nobility of Ireland I was honoured, during the tours and inquiries incidental to this undertaking, with marks of polite attention, entitled to my lasting gratitude. In very few instances was an application, whether made personally or by letter, treated with indifference. I cannot avoid taking the freedom of observing, that the Right Honourable the EARL TALBOT, whilst LORD LIEUTENANT, &c. &c. of Ireland, honoured this work with fostering and very benignant regard.

I must also beg permission to name, and thus publicly to return thanks for, a courteous attention bestowed on the object of my pursuit by his GRACE THE DUKE OF LEINSTER.

VISCOUNT LORTON was pleased to show his desire of encouraging a work, descriptive of the country in which (happily for his tenants and neighbours) he resides, by ordering me to be furnished with a series of drawings, executed by the very able artist Mr. PEACOCK, representing the principal objects in the vicinity of his lordship's fine demesne.

To LORD HAWARDEN, and to LORD and LADY CLONCURRY I am under particular obligations, for a hospitable reception at their noble dwellings, and for flattering marks of kindness which are deeply impressed on my recollection.

It is here necessary to state, in the most explicit manner, the extent of my obligations to COLONEL HERVEY DE

PREFACE.

MONTMORENCY, K. ST. L. author of a learned and curious "Inquiry into the Origin and Primitive Use of the Irish Pillar-Tower." This gentleman has unfolded, for the use of the present work, his extensive topographical collections in regard to many of the most interesting counties of **Ireland**, comprising circumstances of local and genealogical history, the results of laborious research and an intimate knowledge of the country. Although I have rarely adopted his language, or profited by any descriptive parts of his collections, I feel it to be equally a duty and a pleasure to observe that I am indebted to this accomplished topographical collector, for a very large share of the intelligence conveyed, in regard to the local and genealogical history of the following districts :

Dublin (county of, distinct from the city).

Wicklow.

Wexford.

Kilkenny.

Carlow.

Kildare.

King's County.

Queen's County.

Westmeath.

To **WILLIAM SHAW MASON, Esq.** whose "Parochial Survey of Ireland" is read far beyond the limits of the island to which it immediately relates, I am highly indebted for the warm and liberal feeling with which he imparted numerous facilities to the prosecution of a work, which he was pleased to deem likely, from its design, to advance, in however humble a degree, the interests of his country.

SIR WILLIAM BETHAM, Ulster King of Arms, is entitled to my best thanks for the personal ardour with which he has forwarded my wishes, and for the distinguished

PREFACE.

liberality with which he offered to lay open to me every necessary document in the office of arms.

W. MONCKE MASON, Esq. the erudite author of *Hibernia Antiqua et Hodierna*, replied to every question submitted to him, with most attentive politeness, and greatly facilitated my inquiries on many topics.

To JOHN C. ERCK, A. M. of the First-Fruits office, author of the "Ecclesiastical Register" of Ireland, I am under important obligations, for a readiness of communication upon subjects connected with the office in which he is engaged, conspicuously to the advantage of that department.

In the library of Trinity College, and in the other libraries appertaining to learned institutions, or of a public character, in Dublin, I experienced every possible mark of attention, bestowed with exemplary politeness.

SIR JOHN NEWPORT, BART. M. P. honoured the object of my pursuit with particular attention; and the same expressions of gratitude are due, in at least an equal degree, to CHRISTOPHER DILLON BELLEW, of Mount Bellew, in the county of Galway, Esq.

To SHEFFIELD GRACE, Esq. whose taste in every branch of useful and polite literature is honourable to himself and ornamental to his country, I am indebted for the use of many drawings and rare books on subjects relating to Irish topography; and for a polite and flattering friendship, created by the work in which I am engaged, and which has led to numerous introductions, of great importance to my local inquiries.

To LIEUTENANT-GENERAL COCKBURNE I am under obligations for many acts of hospitable kindness; for information regarding every subject on which I requested his aid; and for numerous letters of introduction to distinguished persons, likely to afford useful intelligence.

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FRANCIS JOHNSTON, Esq. the highly respected architect of the Board of Works and Civil Buildings in Ireland, allowed me to encroach on much of his valuable time, and yielded me all necessary information concerning the important public structures in which he has been engaged.

RICHARD MORRISON, Esq. architect, to whom his country is indebted for a mode of "Gothic" architecture, evincing, as applied to domestic structures, the union of deep study with professional taste and skill, has conferred on me various acts of kindness; amongst which must be mentioned the loan of several drawings, representing some of the numerous buildings with which he has ornamented his country.—To WILLIAM MORRISON, Esq. son of that gentleman, and the inheritor of his professional talents, I also return thanks for many particulars of topographical information.

The REV. EDWARD GROVES advanced the object of my inquiries, in many instances relating to the city of Dublin; and directed my attention to several scarce works, of importance in Irish topography—a favour to which he is peculiarly competent, as he has been for some time engaged in preparing for the press an "Irish Historical Library."

The REV. EDWARD BERWICK, who has distinguished himself by several literary productions, favoured me with much information in regard to the vicinity of his residence in the county of Dublin.

For much information in regard to Kilkenny, and for great personal kindness, I am indebted to JOHN BARWIS, Esq. the truly respectable agent of the Marquess of Ormonde.

The late PETER WALSH, of Belline, Esq. is entitled to my tender and most respectful remembrance, for some literary favours conferred, and more promised. The hand of death prevented the completion of his intentions; but,

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until the same hand shall fall upon myself, I must retain a grateful impression of his personal worth, and the zeal with which he entered into every view, marked with a love of letters and the arts, and partaking of a general liberality of sentiment.

From the late W. BEAUFORD, A. M. I procured some MSS. relating to the general and local history of Ireland; of which, however, I have made little use; for, although his literary acquirements were, in many points of view, so respectable as to deserve a better fate than he experienced at the hands of his adopted country, he was, as relates to antiquities, a writer prone to indulge in imagination, rather than to exercise severity of judgment.

The names of several other persons who have honoured me with notice and assistance, will be introduced, with more propriety, in pages prefatory to the second and third volumes.

I cannot so far intrude on private favour, as to mention, individually, the numerous civilities, and offers of hospitable reception, I experienced in different parts of the island. Nor would it be necessary to notice these acts of kindness, in a public way, except for the purposes of acknowledging my sense of obligation to the country at large, and of adding the humble corroborative testimony of my experience, to the prevailing opinion respecting the hospitality of the people of Ireland, and their pre-eminence in the grateful quality, best expressed by the term of urbanity.

Truth, spoken without harshness, is said by Mr. Edgeworth to be "the most certain way to succeed in every honourable pursuit." A sense of duty, without any consideration of the policy of such conduct, impels me to place a fair and full record in the annals of topographical investigation in Ireland. Whilst I met with urbanity in all, I found, amongst individuals, even of the upper classes of

PREFACE.

society, an insensibility to the pleasures and utility of historical and topographical inquiry, which, in the more general spread of letters, must necessarily pass away, and will, therefore, as we earnestly hope and may confidently believe, at no distant period stand recorded merely as the unpleasing attribute of "other times." It, also, must not be concealed, that the ardent wish to oblige, which springs from hilarity of temperament and liberality of disposition, led many persons, who are quite incapable of a deliberate breach of word, to promise communications, of importance to the welfare of the work in particular parts, which were probably forgotten under the influence of new impressions, and have certainly not been received.

However humble my efforts, I shall think them well employed, if they conduce towards exciting a spirit of topographical inquiry in Ireland; and if they assist in performing the task of rendering that country better known, more frequently visited, and more duly appreciated, by the people of England.

J. N. BREWER.

PILLERTON HOUSE, WARWICKSHIRE,

July 25, 1824.

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The Purchasers of the BEAUTIES OF IRELAND are respectfully informed, that a General Index will be inserted in the last Volume. In the same place will also be given Directions to the Binder for placing the Engravings throughout the whole of the Work.

INTRODUCTION.

COMPRISING REMARKS ON THE NATURAL CIRCUMSTANCES, HISTORY,
ANTIQUITIES, AND PRESENT STATE OF IRELAND, IN A
COLLECTIVE POINT OF VIEW.

THE Topography of Ireland affords a subject of great and diversified interest. The natural beauties displayed in many parts of this country, realize the glowing pictures of a poetical imagination ; and each important æra in the history of the island is emphatically recorded in vestiges affording subjects of curious research to the antiquary, and to the philosophical inquirer into the manners of society. If the hand of neglect be too visible in some districts, the occasional aspect of penury produced by indifference and desertion is quickly relieved by the splendid buildings of the metropolis—the growing importance of other principal cities—and various noble structures, both antient and modern, dispersed over different parts of the island. Few countries are more rich in topographical anecdote, for few indeed have experienced greater vicissitudes of fortune ; and the peculiarity of manners retained by a large proportion of the inhabitants, adds to the interest and the value of local inquiry.

The limits of the present work forbid the laborious minuteness of the regular county historian ; and, except for objects of infrequent reference, it is probable that the purpose of information, as assuredly that of amusement, is sufficiently answered by such volumes as present only the bold and important features of Topography.

The general reader derives neither useful nor pleasing knowledge from an enumeration of towns, equally destitute of existing importance and instructive annals ; or from a statement of every hand through which the possession of a demesne has passed

But the history and description of distinguished places, afford subjects of rational curiosity and gratification. The annals of a particular town often assist in developing obscure passages in the history of a country at large; and a delineation of its prevailing features forms a species of literary portraiture, the value of which is denoted by the increasing taste for its cultivation manifested in every polite and lettered part of the British empire. The noble or private demesne, also, acquires additional charms, in the esteem of the examiner, when the scroll of its records is unfolded, and the names of such former possessors as were eminent for virtue, wit, or warlike exploit, are held forward to notice. Such historic recollections render every hill and lawn in the fair possessions a sort of consecrated ground, and interest the feelings in an examination of a decaying pile, whilst they emblazon and dignify the page of genealogy.

Actuated by the convictions thus briefly stated, we present in this work a comprehensive outline of intelligence respecting the extent, and the natural and artificial character, of each county; but adopt a principle of selection in describing its different towns, mansions, and antiquities, and expatiate only where interest appears to demand an amplitude of discussion.

Previous to topographical inquiries it is obviously necessary to submit a statement of many particulars relating to the island, in a general view. These prefatory remarks shall be as concise as is deemed compatible with the duty of conveying information respecting the NATURAL CIRCUMSTANCES; the POLITICAL and ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS; the HISTORY, AS ILLUSTRATING TOPOGRAPHY AND ANTIQUITIES; and the PRESENT STATE OF, IRELAND.

This island, has been described under various NAMES in different ages, but is chiefly recognised, by foreign writers in ancient times, under the successive appellations of *Hibernia* and *Scotia*. It is certain that Ireland was known to the Greeks, at least three centuries before the christian æra. Strabo observes that Eratosthenes, librarian to Ptolemy Philadelphus, King of Egypt, was so well acquainted with the western parts of Europe, that he determined the distance of Ireland (*Ierne*) from Celtica. In the

Argonautica, a work of uncertain but great antiquity, and which is by some writers ascribed to Orpheus of Crotona, Ireland is mentioned by the name of *Iernida*. In the book *de Mundo*, attributed to Aristotle, the British islands are noticed with their specific names, *Albion* and *Ierne*.

By Julius Cæsar, and several other Roman authors, the name is written *Hibernia*, a term probably bestowed on account of the cold and stormy severity of climate erroneously supposed to prevail in this country. *Diodorus Siculus* notices Ireland under the appellation of *Iris*, and is thought by a modern writer to "have preserved the genuine name" of the island. "*Iri*," says this author, "or as now written *Eri*, in Irish, is the great isle. In Teutonic, *Er-aii*, contracted into *Eri*, is the farther isle."*

Camden, after reciting the various names by which this island is noticed by antient writers, submits, but with the diffidence which he almost uniformly preserves on subjects of etymology, the possibility of the term *Eri* (or *Eire*) "being derived from *HIERE*, an Irish word signifying West, or the Westward."† In regard to this suggestion it must be remarked that *H* is not admitted, as a letter, into the Irish alphabet, by modern grammarians; nor is it otherwise employed in the Irish language than as a mere aspirate. The word *Iar*, in that language, signifies back, backwards, or the West.

Ireland is first recognised under the name of *Scotia* in writings of the fourth century; and by that appellation it is noticed in many succeeding ages, by various authors of different countries. It would appear, however, that this name did not entirely supersede

* *Antiqs. of Ireland* by Ledwich, p. 19. In a subsequent page the same author observes, that, "as to the change of *Iris* into *Ierne*, whoever is acquainted with the alteration of words by Greek dialects, and the effect of their epenthesis and paragoge, will easily account for the mutation."

† *Britannia*, vol. iv. p. 217. edit. 1806; to which edition of Camden's *Britannia* we refer on every future occasion in this work, unless the contrary be specified.

the original form of designation ;* but that it very generally prevailed is sufficiently proved by numerous literary documents. An enumeration of writers who thus described the island, down to so late a date as the fourteenth century, is contained in the works of Sir James Ware. Archbishop Usher maintains “ that it was not till after the coalition between the Scots and the Picts in the eleventh century, that both nations, viz. *Ireland* and the modern *Scotland* came promiscuously to be called SCOTLAND : and even then all correct writers, in mentioning the two countries, distinguished them by *Vetus et nova Scotia*, *major*, or *minor*, *ulterior* and *citerior*.”

In regard to the term *Scotia*, or *Scotland*, some writers believe the Scots to have derived their appellation from Scythia, which these writers suppose to have been their original country. But Whitaker and Chalmers, whose opinion appears to be preferable, contend that the Scots acquired their name from their love of roving, or passion for enterprize ; the term *Sceite* signifying dispersed and scattered.

Shortly after the reception of Christianity, the superior knowledge, piety, and zeal displayed by Irish missionaries and other ecclesiastics, caused Ireland to be distinguished by the title of *Insula Sanctorum*, the Isle of Saints.

As to circumstances of SITUATION AND EXTENT, Ireland is the second in magnitude, and the most western, of the British islands. The sea which separates it from Britain varies in breadth from fourteen to forty leagues, except as to the part contiguous to Scotland. Between that country and the county of Down, this sea is contracted to a channel not more than six leagues in width ; and farther north, between the north east point of the coast of Antrim and the Mull of Kintyre, it is diminished to a strait less than four leagues wide. The island is situated between 51° 19' and 55° 23' north latitude, and between 5° 19' and 10° 28' west longitude.

* Claudian, in his panegyric on the consulate of Honorius, introduces a passage which has been thus translated :

The Orcades were wet with Saxon gore ;
The Picts' warm blood was pour'd on Thule's plain,
And cold *Ierne* mourned her *Scottish* slain.

It has been truly observed that the situation of Ireland, in relation to other countries, capable of receiving and bestowing the mutual benefits of external commerce, is particularly favourable. In this respect, as is remarked by Mr. Newenham, Ireland may be said to excel England; "it being possible for ships, departing from a majority of the ports of the former, to reach the western coast of France, the coasts of Portugal and Spain, and even that of North America, to perform half the voyage to the West Indies, or to the different countries bordering on the Mediterranean sea, before the ships, which sail from the greater part of the ports of the latter, can enter the Atlantic ocean."

The greatest length of Ireland is found in a line struck from north-east to south-west. Fairhead, in the county of Antrim, and Mizen-head, in the county of Cork, form the extreme points in this direction; and the distance between them is about 241 Irish miles, or rather more than 306 English miles, of statute measure.* The longest line that can be stretched across the kingdom, extends from Emlagh-Rash, in Mayo, to Carnsore Point, in the county of Wexford. This line would intersect the former in an angle of 75 degrees, and would measure 163 Irish, or 207 English miles. But the greatest length that can be measured along a meridian, will not exceed 185 Irish or 235½ English miles. The greatest breadth, if measured in the same manner, occurs between Emlagh-Rash and the mouth of Strangford Lough, and is 143 Irish, or 182 English miles. The narrowest part is found between Tiellen-head and Island-Magee, where the breadth is 98 Irish, or 124 English miles.† It has been often remarked, and must be repeated here, that there is not any part of Ireland quite

* In all future pages the distance of places, and the measurement of lands, are stated according to the Irish mile and the Irish acre, except where the contrary is specified. The difference between these and the English mile and acre, is explained in the last section of this introductory part of our work.

† The above particulars respecting the extent of Ireland are stated on the authority of the "Memoir of a Map of Ireland," &c. by D. A. Beaufort, L. L. D.

fifty miles distant from the sea,—so devious is the coast, and so deep are the indentations effected by the numerous bays.

It is stated by Mr. Newenham, that the sinuous line of the sea-coast of Ireland, “ exclusive of such parts as lie within estuaries, or above the first good anchorage in every harbour, but inclusive of the river Shannon, as far as the tide reaches, and the shores of Bantry bay, Dunmanus bay, and Kenmare river, will, if accurately followed through all its windings, be found to measure 1,737 miles.” In this line, according to the same writer, there are no less than “ 130 harbours, and places where ships may anchor for a tide, or find shelter during the continuance of adverse winds.” The most commodious of the bays and harbours are found on the line of coast stretching towards the west from Waterford on the south, to Lough Foyle on the north coast ; in which line it is believed that they are more numerous than in the same extent of coast in any other part of the world. Here the shore opposes to the fury of the Atlantic Ocean unnumbered promontories, often of a bold and commanding character, that assist in forming many noble havens, several of which are capable of receiving the whole of the British navy.

Adjacent to the Irish coast are very numerous small islands, nearly one hundred of which are inhabited, exclusive of those which are embosomed in the different principal bays. Most of these are fertile, and many are productive of useful vegetation in an eminent degree.

There has not yet been made a Survey of Ireland with sufficient accuracy to enable us to state, with any resemblance of certainty, the superficial contents of the island. Dr. Beaufort has made a computation, by measuring the area of each county on the map formed by himself, and asserts, that, after rejecting all fractions, Ireland contains considerably more than 18,750 square miles, or several thousand acres above twelve millions Irish measure ; which is equal to 30,370 English miles, or 19,436 acres. Mr. Wakefield, in his “ Account of Ireland,” supposes the contents to be greater. His calculation is founded on the map formed by Mr. Arrowsmith, and he believes the super-

ficial content of Ireland, including the inland lakes, to be as follows : English square miles, 32,301—Irish acres, 12,722,615.—English acres, 20,437,974.

NATURAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

ASPECT OF COUNTRY.—Ireland may be described as a country partly level, and partly of a surface gently undulating, with many interspersed mountains. Considerable elevations occur in the contiguity of most parts of the coast which are exposed to the fury of the western ocean. The shores of Antrim, on the north-east, are rocky, bold, and high ; and the county of Wicklow, on the eastern margin of the island, chiefly consists of one vast assemblage of granite mountains.

It is remarked by Dr. Beaufort that there are not in Ireland, as in many other countries, “ long ranges of mountain ; if we except one ridge, of various heights, and interrupted by the river Blackwater, which extends from near Dungarvan to the county of Kerry. They stand rather in unconnected groups, or masses, of different magnitude, which are so dispersed through the island, that there are few parts of it in which the prospect is not somewhere terminated by this species of majestic scenery, forming a back ground seldom more remote than twenty miles.”

To the south of a range of mountains that intersects the county of Down, the country sinks into a level of great extent, which stretches over the counties of Louth, Meath, Dublin, Kildare, and Carlow. The county of Kerry presents a mountainous tract, of great sublimity, and comprises the highest land in Ireland. Leitrim and Mayo are also of a mountainous character, and abound in wild and romantic scenery. In the interior, the Sliehbloom mountains, which divide the King's and Queen's counties, form a lofty and noble chain of elevations. Further in the south the Galtee mountains rise conspicuous, and exhibit the rude magnificence of nature in bold contrast to a wide extent of equable surface.

Except on rare and favoured spots, a want of wood is observable throughout the whole of Ireland. More extended remarks

on this subject are presented in future pages ; but it must be noticed, in this place, that the finest outlines of the country are often rendered in a considerable degree frigid and unpleasing, by a want of that lovely variety and colouring which can be imparted by no other means than umbrageous shelter. Without this aid the richest verdure tires on the eye ; and the surface is, in some tracts, destitute even of the verdant bosom that forms the just boast of the island. Through many long miles of Connaught the traveller views around him a continuous expanse of cheerless level, thickly strewn with massive fragments of rock, which would appear to have descended in a prodigious and destructive shower, and are probably the memorials of some remote and awful volcanic eruption.

But districts so severe are not of frequent occurrence ; and each dreary interval of pleasing scenery acts as the conductor to such exquisite gems of natural beauty, as might almost recompense the traveller for a pilgrimage over Arabian deserts. It is well observed by Mr. Young, in the second volume of his "Tour," that "the mountains of Ireland give to travelling that interesting variety which a flat country can never abound with. And at the same time, they are not in such number as to confer the usual character of poverty which attends them." To which it must be added, that the luxuriant vales of this island ; its numerous lakes ; the fertile banks of its rivers ; and the frequency of sea-views ; unite with the wild magnificence of mountain scenery, in producing all which the most ardent fancy can require of the sublime, the soft, and the attractive.

The natural features of Ireland, considered in a pictorial view, may, indeed, be said to consist of extremes. Districts scarcely to be rivalled, and certainly not to be excelled, in their respective points of beauty, by the most admired and celebrated parts of any country, are contrasted with monotonous and dull tracts—flat—stony—dreary—incapable of eliciting one pleasurable emotion in the mind of the spectator. It is obvious that such a disposal of natural circumstances is, on the whole, favourable to a display of nature, in her grandeur and unusual beauties. The principle of

poetical influence is here exemplified on a stupendous theatre. More equable scenery lulls and soothes the mind, but leaves its energies untouched. The amazing contrariety of Irish landscape admits of no medium, but gratifies the traveller in the same degree as does the artificial expedient of conducting to the blaze of noon-day splendour, through the gloom of a darkened avenue.

The following is the elevation above the level of the sea of the most lofty mountains of Ireland, as measured by Mr. Kirwan :

| | | Feet. |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Curranea, Toohill, or | } co. Kerry..... | 3695 |
| M'Gilleycuddy's Reeks | | |
| Slicbh-Donard..... | co. Down..... | 2809 |
| Mangerton | co. Kerry..... | 2693 |
| Crow, or Croagh Patrick.... | co. Mayo..... | 2660 |
| Nephin..... | co. Mayo..... | 2630 |

As it is by comparison alone that clear and definite ideas are conveyed, respecting extraordinary circumstances of height and size, we illustrate the above statement of admeasurements, by noticing the altitude of some remarkable eminences, in England, Wales, and Scotland.

| | | Feet. |
|-------------------|----------------|-------|
| Warnside..... | Yorkshire..... | 5340 |
| Snowdon..... | North Wales .. | 3568 |
| Crossfellin | Cumberland.... | 3390 |
| Benewick | Scotland | 4350 |
| Benlomond | Scotland | 3240 |

SOIL AND BOGS.—Ireland does not afford any great varieties of soil, but the only decisive feature, of general prevalence, is the stony character of the surface. This circumstance constitutes, in the opinion of a distinguished agricultural tourist (Mr. Young), “ the greatest singularity of Ireland,” and induced that writer to join in the very common belief, that “ the whole island is one vast rock, of different strata and kinds, rising out of the sea.”

A large proportion of this rock consists of limestone, which

greatly assists in enriching the land. It is usually asserted that the best limestone is found in the neighbourhood of Carlow ; but this useful substance abounds in nearly every part of Ireland, except the counties of Wexford, Wicklow, Tyrone, and Antrim. Chalk is unknown ; and the species of flint, so frequently seen in several parts of England, is here very rare. Limestone-gravel, an excellent natural manure, is found in great abundance in most parts of the country. Some account of this valuable production is given in our notice of manures, under the head of *Agriculture*.

The great "rockiness" of the soil would appear to be repugnant to fertility ; but the fact is on the contrary side, and in an eminent degree. It is supposed by Mr. Young, that "acre for acre," the natural fertility of Ireland is superior to that of the sister country. This opinion is combated by Mr. Wakefield and several other writers ; but it is still unquestionable that certain districts of Ireland, and those occupying a wide expanse, surpass in richness any lands to be seen in other parts of the united empire.

In many places, and particularly throughout the county of Meath, the soil is a deep and rich loam, of a truly valuable character. In other districts, of considerable extent, the earth is thinly spread over the calcareous subsoil, but produces herbage of the most luxuriant description. Sand is never seen, except in the vicinity of the coast ; and the stiff and tenacious clay, prevalent in many parts of England, is not found at the surface in any part of this country. A fine dark and sandy loam, admirably adapted to the purposes of agriculture, prevails in Tipperary, Limerick, and some other counties ; but, viewing the island generally, there is only a small part of its surface sufficiently light in soil to come strictly under the denomination of land suited to the very estimable system of turnip culture.

With an exception of the *Corcasses*, a term bestowed on rich tracts of land upon the borders of the rivers Shannon and Fergus, the finest soil in Ireland is to be found in the counties of Tipperary ; Limerick ; Roscommon ; Longford ; Meath ; and Cork.

The mountains of Ireland are not usually of so barren a cha-

racter as many of those in Scotland and Wales. In general they afford profitable pasturage, even on their utmost heights. The calcareous soil, in many instances, does not ascend to the top of the Irish mountains; but still a luxuriant growth of clover is found on their summits. The interspersed valleys are often of extraordinary fertility.

The Bogs of Ireland constitute a curious feature in the natural history of the country. Reserving to future descriptive pages several observations concerning the extent and character of particular bogs, in different parts of the island, we present in this place, such remarks as admit of general application.

According to a report made to parliament by commissioners appointed to examine into the state of the Irish bogs, it appears that "six sevenths of those bogs occupy a portion of the island, somewhat greater than one fourth of its whole superficial extent, included between a line drawn from Wicklow Head to Galway, and another drawn from Howth Head to Sligo; resembling in form a broad belt, stretched across the centre of the country, with its narrowest end nearest to the capital, and gradually extending in breadth as it approaches to the western ocean." Exclusive of mountain bogs, and such as are under the extent of five hundred acres, the bogs of Ireland are reported by the same commissioners to cover at least one million of acres.

The bogs of Ireland are usually described as being of two sorts, black and red. The immense mass of which they consist is applicable to two uses only; those of fuel and manure. "The black bog," observes Mr. Young, "is generally very good. It is solid almost to the surface, and yields many ashes in burning. The red sort has usually a reddish substance, five or six feet deep from the surface, which holds water like a sponge, and yields no ashes in burning".* These bogs are generally situated far above

* Tour in Ireland, &c. vol. ii. part. 2nd, p. 72. Mr. Young aptly describes the substance of the black bog, as being "a solid, weighty mass, which cuts almost like butter, and, upon examination, appears to resemble rotten wood. Under the red bogs there is always a stratum, if not equally solid with the black bog, nearly so, and which makes as good fuel."

the level of the sea, and have commonly an inequality of surface, which renders them distinct in appearance from the morasses of England. Although in many instances they extend over a vast expanse of level country, they often stretch over the sides or tops of mountainous elevations. The spontaneous growth on the surface is usually heath, blended with bog-myrtle, rushes, and sedgy grass ; all being of little or no use to man.

The bogs of Ireland have been concisely described by Mr. Davy, in a letter inserted in Wakefield's Account of Ireland, as consisting " of inert vegetable matter, covered more or less with unproductive vegetables, and containing a large quantity of stagnant water." Respecting their origin, various ingenious conjectures have been made, but no satisfactory mode of accounting for their formation has yet been submitted to the public. It is generally believed that they are not primitive, or original, masses. Under some bogs, of a considerable depth, there have been discovered the furrows of land, once ploughed ; and various sorts of trees, the most common being the oak, the fir, and the yew, are found in great abundance. Some of these trees appear to have been broken, as if by tempest, or through the operation of time ; others retain the mark of the axe ; but more evince the agency of fire, and were, perhaps, levelled through that medium during the warfare of the early inhabitants, when the abundant woods formed places of retreat and defence.

In consequence of the frequent discovery of trees at various depths in the bogs, it has been supposed that dilapidated forests caused the formation of these vast turbaries. " Trees," writes Mr. Young, " lying very thick on the ground, would become an impediment to all streams and currents, and gathering in their branches whatever rubbish such waters brought with them, would form a mass of substance which time might putrify, and give that acid quality to, which would preserve some of the trunks, though not the branches, of the trees." The spots on which traces of the plough are found, the same author conjectures to have formerly been fields, adjoining the woods, which were overwhelmed by the bog when it rose superior to its first boundaries.

This mode of accounting for the origin of bogs is liable to many objections. The following argument, in opposition to the popular opinion, is of considerable weight, and is adduced on the authority of Mr. Griffith, one of the most observant and intelligent of the gentlemen employed in the survey of the bogs, by direction of the Irish commissioners. In the first report of those commissioners it is remarked by Mr. Griffith that such bogs as came under his notice were, assuredly, not produced by any cause resembling that mentioned above, "as trees, or the branches of trees, are rarely found in the interior of the deep and extensive bogs of Ireland, but are always met with at the edges, or near gravelly hills or islands in these bogs, lying horizontally, and in no particular direction; frequently crossing each other, and either attached to their roots or separated from them. In the latter case the stumps usually stand upright in the place where they grew, having six or eight feet of the bog sometimes above them, and three, four, and five feet, but rarely more, below their roots."

Whilst we dissent from the opinion of those who ascribe the formation of bogs to the agency of decayed timber alone, we think it indisputable that the obstruction produced by fallen woods proved greatly assistant in the operations of nature. On this subject an augmentation of inconclusive argument can be scarcely desirable; and we proceed to the notice of some particulars which are independent of theory and speculation.

The aquatic vegetables of which the Irish bog is composed are produced annually, and in proportion to the quantity of water contained on its surface. "It is very easy," observes a recent writer, of much experience and judgment on this subject, (Mr. Thompson, in his *Survey of Meath*) "to discern each year's growth, at least for the last twenty years, by examining a section of the bog, and considering, that it increases every year in as great a degree as it bears moss on its surface. The moss grows every summer, and is killed the following winter by the frosts; each year's growth forms a stratum, through which the next summer's heat draws a fresh crop, which dies in like

manner. Every year's growth may, therefore, be easily distinguished, lying horizontally in strata. Bogs are considerably higher in winter than they are in summer, perhaps three feet on a deep wet bog. This is very manifest to any person who takes the trouble of standing on one side, and marking an object just visible over the surface at the other side of the bog: this object, though visible in the months of August or September, will not be so in February or March following. The cause is obvious; the heat of the summer's sun, and the dryness of the atmosphere, cause exhalations from the bog, which deprive it of a considerable part of the water with which it was surcharged in the winter, thereby contracting and consolidating its surface, which being of a spongy nature, is swelled again by the rains of the succeeding winter, so that bogs are in a perpetual state of contraction and dilatation."

Our preceding division of the bogs of Ireland into two sorts, the black and the red, may, perhaps, admit of amplification, since the kind usually termed the *floating bog* does not fall strictly under either of those descriptions. By this term is understood an extensive mass, consisting, like that already noticed, of decayed aquatic vegetables, but having a large collection of water at the bottom. Instances have occurred in which bogs of this kind, when greatly surcharged with under-water, have burst their surface, and poured, in a black and destructive deluge, over the contiguous country. Such phenomena are noticed in our description of the King's County, and the counties of Tipperary and Galway. It will be recollected that circumstances so fearful are not peculiar to Ireland. Solway Moss, in Cumberland, and Chat Moss, in Lancashire, have experienced similar eruptions, an account of which is presented in the "Beauties of England."

That the bogs possess a strong antiseptic quality has been sufficiently ascertained, by the discovery of numerous animal and vegetable substances, free from important marks of decay, at a considerable depth beneath the surface. It may be readily supposed that such wide extents of aquatic vegetation impart a local increase of coldness to the climate; but it is certain that

they do not communicate any injurious qualities to the atmosphere, as is usual with the morasses of other countries. Dr. Campbell has observed, in his "Philosophical Survey," that "the watery exhalations from the Irish bogs are neither so abundant, nor so noxious, as those from marshes, which become prejudicial from the various animal and vegetable substances, which are left to putrify as soon as the waters are exhaled by the sun." The numerous persons who dwell in the vicinity of the bogs are not subject to any peculiar diseases, denoting a natural source of unhealthfulness.

The timber found in the bogs of Ireland is often of a large size, though considerably diminished from its original proportions, as the outward parts have sunk to decay and been decomposed. Thus the heart of the tree only remains; and this, in the instances of the fir, the oak, and the yew, is applicable to various useful purposes, having acquired a degree of hardness superior to that of wood prepared in the usual manner. Its texture is, indeed, so firm, that the operations of the saw are performed with much difficulty; and its durability often proves great, under all the trying vicissitudes of the atmospheric air. The kinds of timber found in the bogs are confined to oak; fir; yew; holly; and birch. Mr. Wakefield states, as the result of his investigations on this subject, that the black bogs abound with oak timber, and the red with fir, whilst yew and holly are found in bogs of every description.*

Bog-turf is used as a manure, both when reduced to ashes and in its original substance; but chiefly in regard to a species which is useless as fuel.

* Account of Ireland, vol. i. p. 525.—In Dutton's Survey of Clare is the following remark concerning the method used by the peasantry of Ireland in discovering timber secreted in the bogs:—"Very early in the morning, before the dew has evaporated, a man with a long sharp spear goes out into the bog, and as the dew never lies on the part over the trees, be they ever so deep, he can ascertain their length, and by thrusting down his spear he easily discovers whether they are sound, or rotten; if sound, he marks with a spade the spot where they lie, and at his leisure proceeds to extricate them from their bed."

There appears no cause for doubting but that, in past ages of gloom and national warfare, the less civilized of the inhabitants were desirous of encouraging, rather than of restraining, the increase of dreary and deceptive moss-lands, which acted as places of retreat to their own accustomed footsteps, while they presented barriers impassable, or dangerous, to foreign assailants. In recent more tranquil and enlightened times, there has naturally been entertained a very general desire of placing so extensive and unprofitable a portion of the island under judicious cultivation. The bogs of Ireland, when reclaimed, form meadow and pasture of great excellence. Commissioners have been appointed by government to examine into their extent, natural character, and capacity of improvement. The reports of these gentlemen are published, and contain much curious and useful information.

RIVERS AND LAKES.—Ireland is watered by many large and beautiful rivers, highly favourable to commercial interchange; and by very numerous rivulets, which intersect the country in nearly every direction. It is believed that there are in this island, exclusive of contributory and small streams, one hundred and twenty-five rivers which flow directly into the sea, or its different inlets; and it must be noticed, as a felicitous circumstance, that those rivers which are navigable for the greatest extent, pass through the finest and most productive parts of the country. In most instances they, also, fall into capacious and excellent harbours.

The *Shannon* is the principal river of Ireland. This noble river is usually said to have its rise at Lough Clean, in the county of Leitrim; though the honour of producing it is also claimed by a spot near Florence Court, in the county of Fermanagh. In its progress towards the south-west it nearly insulates the province of Connaught and the county of Clare. Its course, according to the statement of Mr. Newenham, “from abreast of Kerry Head, to Ballintrane Bridge, at the entrance of Lough Allen, through which it passes from Lough Clean, is 170 English miles in length.” In this extensive flow it waters the borders of the following counties: Leitrim; Roscommon; Long-

ford ; Westmeath ; Galway ; King's County ; Tipperary ; Clare ; Limerick ; and Kerry. The Shannon enters the Atlantic Ocean between the counties of Clare and Kerry ; and there forms an excellent bay, about eight miles in length, and seven miles broad in the widest part. In the progress from its source to the sea it is augmented by numerous tributary streams, and expands into several deep and extensive lakes. This river is navigable, as far as Limerick, for ships of five hundred tons burthen ; and is afterwards, with the assistance of a canal, navigable for small vessels to Shannon harbour, near Banagher, where it is joined by the Grand Canal from Dublin. Various circumstances relating to the width and characteristics of the river Shannon, and the scenery on its banks, are noticed in our description of the several counties through which it passes ; and the same remark applies to other rivers, here mentioned in general terms.

The *Barrow* rises in the Sliebh Bloom mountains, and shortly after pursues a course due south, watering the following districts : Queen's County ; Carlow ; Kilkenny ; and Wexford. It then unites with the Suir and the Nore, and enters the bay of Waterford in conjunction with those rivers. It is navigable for small vessels from the town of Portarlinton to the sea.

The *Nore* also rises in the Sliebh Bloom mountains, but pursues a south-eastern course, and flows through the central parts of the county of Kilkenny. It unites with the Barrow near the town of New Ross, and with the Suir a few miles nearer to the sea. This river is navigable from New Ross to Innistioge, and for boats from the latter place to Thomastown.

The *Suir* rises in the north-east part of the county of Tipperary. It has nearly an eastern course from the town of Clonmell to the sea, and separates the counties of Tipperary and Kilkenny from that of Waterford. We have stated that it receives in its progress the Barrow and the Nore. Shortly after this confluence takes place, the united rivers enter the sea. The Suir is navigable for small vessels, from Waterford Harbour to Clonmell.

The *Blackwater* has its source in the county of Kerry. It

intersects a tract containing some rich land, and much beautiful scenery, in the county of Cork ; and passes through the western part of the county of Waterford. It flows towards the sea in an easterly direction until it reaches Cappoquin, from which place it proceeds in a southern course to Youghal, where it enters the ocean. This river is navigable to Cappoquin, distant from the sea fifteen miles. Several smaller rivers of the same name occur in different parts of Ireland.

The *Slaney* rises in the county of Wicklow, passes through the counties of Carlow and Wexford, and enters the sea at the town of Wexford. It is navigable for barges from Wexford to Eniscorthy.

The *Bann*, a fine river in the north, flows along the borders of the following counties : Down ; Louth ; Armagh ; Antrim ; and Londonderry. It falls into Lough Neagh, and, issuing from the north end of that great expanse of waters, proceeds, in nearly a direct line, towards the sea, dividing the counties of Antrim and Londonderry. This river enters the ocean in the vicinity of Coleraine.

The *Foyle*, next in rank among the northern rivers, runs through the counties of Tyrone, Donegal, and Londonderry. At the distance of about twenty miles from Lough Foyle, where it enters the sea, this river forms a confluence with the Finn and Mourne, and is in most parts of its subsequent progress nearly half a mile in breadth. The Foyle is navigable to Lifford.

The *Boyne* takes its rise in the county of Kildare, and passes through the central part of the county of Meath. Washing the southern border of the county of Louth, it enters the sea in the vicinity of Drogheda. This river is navigable to Drogheda for ships of a considerable burthen ; and, with the assistance of a navigable canal, a communication is effected between that town and Navan.

The above are the principal navigable rivers, which, from their connexion with several distinct counties, require notice in a general view of the country. Many which are of great local importance, and constitute some of the most estimable natural

ornaments of the island, are confined to particular districts, and demand remark only as subjects of topographical description.

The *Lakes* of Ireland are numerous ; and, in regard to those which communicate with the sea by an immediate channel, may be considered as objects of national advantage, in a commercial point of view. Several are eminent for magnitude, and more for grandeur of scenery. The most extensive lakes are those of Lough Neagh, in the north-east part of the island (which is supposed to occupy not less than 173 English square miles); Lough Erne, which intersects Fermanagh; and Lough Corrib, in Galway.

Although Ireland is now lamentably deficient in Wood, it is evident that nearly the whole of the island formerly abounded in trees of various kinds. Proofs of this circumstance, bearing reference to different ages, may be easily adduced. The immense quantities of timber discovered in the bogs, plainly indicate that those districts formed one immense forest, at an early period ; and the names by which many places are distinguished, convey allusions to their former situation amidst extensive tracts of woodland.

The operations of agriculturalists naturally led to the reduction of the exuberant woods of this country ; and the ravages of early warfare probably destroyed other extensive tracts of forest-shelter. But the united effects of these labours were chiefly of a salutary description, and merely cleared the island of an injurious redundancy. That woods, so spacious as to be undesirable, existed down to the latter years of the sixteenth century, is shown by a remark of Spenser, who suggests, among various improvements which he wished to take place in Ireland, the propriety of an order “for the cutting and opening of all places through woods, so that a wide way, of the space of one hundred yards, might be layde open in every of them, for the safety of travellers, which use often in such perillous places to be robbed, and sometimes murdered.”*

* Spenser's View of the State of Ireland, Edit. of 1809, p. 258.—It may not be uninteresting to observe, on the authority of Sir John Davies, that

Many leases are still preserved which contain clauses, obliging the tenant to clear away the trees on the estate ; and every traveller through Ireland, who makes extensive inquiries concerning the topography of the country, is shown very numerous tracts, now entirely denuded, which, in the remembrance of aged persons, or their fathers, were covered with trees of a venerable growth.

Much of the devastation committed on Irish woodlands, in years comparatively recent, is said to have proceeded from the practice of burning timber into charcoal, for the manufacture of iron ore, in the latter part of the seventeenth century. But the consumption for the use of those works must have been trivial in regard to the produce of the whole country; and we believe that the true cause of the modern destruction which has taken place, must be found in the improvident conduct of land-owners, whose exigencies have led to the sale of flourishing timber, without the performance of that real duty to their successors and the public, the careful provision for a future equivalent growth.

In addition to the injuries inflicted by wilful destruction or reprehensible neglect, it must be observed that the management of woodlands is very imperfectly understood in Ireland. An absurd opinion (remarks Mr. Hayes, in his work on Planting) was adopted some years back, “ that wherever a wood was *felled* it was useless, if not detrimental, to leave a *single reserve*, and that no shoot from a tree once cut down could ever grow to

the early English settlers appear to have paid little attention to the preservation of woodlands, either for the purpose of the chace, or for the ornament of their respective demesnes. The following is the passage by which this information is conveyed:—“ It seemeth straunge to mee, that in all the Recordes of this Kingdome I seldome find any mention made of a Forrest, and neuer of anie Parke or Free-warren; considering the great plenty both of *Vert* and Venison within this land; and that the cheefe of the Nobility and Gentry are discended of English race; and yet at this day,” (reign of James I.) “ there is but one Parke stored with Deere in al this kingdom: which is a Parke of the Earle of *Ormond’s* neer *Kilkenny*.” A Discovery of the True Causes why Ireland was never entirely subdued, &c. Edit. 1747, p. 164.

timber. This ill-founded theory stripped whole counties at once both of their ornament and shelter ; whereas a judicious *thinning-fall*, repeated from time to time, would have kept up that appearance of woodland, which we remark in almost every shire in England."

There are no royal forests in this country ; and hedge-row timber occurs in very few districts. The tracts most amply wooded are found in the counties of Wicklow, Kerry, and Fermanagh. Oak abounds in the glens of Wicklow, and on the mountains of Killarney ; but, although greatly conducive to picturesque beauty, it rarely attains large dimensions, or individually approaches to the character of magnificence. Fermanagh appears to contain more wood than any other county of Ireland. Beech and ash are favourites of that soil, and the former attains a noble growth. Some majestic specimens of the Spanish chesnut are seen in the counties of Wicklow and Kerry.

The soil and climate, in most parts of Ireland, are peculiarly favourable to the growth of evergreens. In many places the laurel attains the size of a timber-tree ; and the holly and the yew expand to a surprising bulk. The arbutus, exhibiting most luxuriant foliage, abounds at Killarney, and in the county of Wicklow. Myrtles, of various species, flourish in several districts without the assistance of art.

Independent of the counties mentioned above, the principal woods of Ireland are to be found as ornamental circumstances connected with particular demesnes. . Of these we shall have occasion, in future parts of our work, to notice several fine instances.

MINERALS, FOSSILS, &c.—The subterranean productions of Ireland have not yet been explored with a sufficient degree of enterprise and perseverance, to afford important benefit to the inhabitants, or to gratify the curiosity of men of science. From the discoveries that have been made there is, however, ample cause for believing that this country abounds in mineral bodies, calculated to form potent auxiliaries in the attainment of national affluence.

We notice, in a previous page, the prevailing, and rational, opinion, that the island is formed of one immense bed of rock. The granite of which this bed chiefly consists, breaks through the surface in many parts of the country, and is seen in some of the most aspiring mountains. Limestone is the prevailing substance near the surface, but other kinds of stone, together with marble of an estimable quality, are found in great plenty, and in various districts. Amongst the most curious, although not the most useful, productions of this kind, must be noticed basaltes, which, on the northern coast of this island, stands displayed in some of the most awful forms that nature presents in works at once intricate and stupendous. The basaltic district occupies a line of coast reaching from the Estuary of Carrickfergus, on the north-east, to Lough Foyle, on the north; and extends inland to the southern shores of Lough Neagh. Some particulars respecting this august and interesting tract are presented in our description of the county of Antrim.

The precious metals have been found in small quantities, but with no indications of plentiful existence. Gold has been discovered in Wicklow, but not in continued, or regular, veins. A silver mine in the county of Kildare was worked about the middle of the last century, but was abandoned without individual or national profit. The ore of this metal is found, in small quantities, in several parts, but universally mixed with lead.

The more useful mineral substances are greatly abundant, and encourage the hope of much future advantage. Copper has been found, and worked, in several parts of the country; but hitherto not with any important benefit. Veins of lead are worked, with considerable success, in the counties of Donegal and Wicklow; and are found in various districts. Iron, which, from the valuable assistance it affords to human labour and the operations of the arts, would be entitled to primary consideration in a less cultivated state of society, is bountifully spread throughout nearly every part of the island. When treating on manufactures, we have occasion to mention the want of fuel, as a great impediment to the prosecution of iron-works in this country.

The amethysts, the crystals, and calcareous petrifications for which several counties are celebrated, are noticed in our topographical description of those districts ; as are, likewise, some of the principal mineral springs with which Ireland abounds.

CLIMATE.—The climate of Ireland may be described, in general terms, as being greatly variable, but not subject to extremes, either of heat or cold. Such careful and repeated observations as are necessary to convey scientific information, have not been made, in sufficiently numerous parts of this country ; and intelligence of a general nature is, therefore, all that can be afforded.

The prevailing mildness of the climate is evinced by the rich verdure retained, throughout the whole of the year, by the best pastures, except in the most northern part of the island. An additional proof is found in the vigorous growth of the arbutus and myrtle, often on exposed and elevated situations. The degree of cold is, indeed, seldom so intense as to produce lasting congelation ; and snow rarely falls, except in the mountainous districts. Hurricanes are frequent ; but storms, attended with thunder and lightning, are of unusual occurrence. Most of the storms by which Ireland is visited come from some point of the south or west ; and it is observable that the winds which most frequently prevail, in all seasons of the year, blow from the westward. The summers are rarely attended with oppressive heat ; but very dry summers are still more uncommon. The seasons are later here than in England. Spring is tardy in its approach, and the fall of the leaf seldom commences before November.

The moistness of the Irish climate, as compared with that of Britain, is the characteristic by which it is most strongly marked. In consequence of its situation between England and the Atlantic Ocean, Ireland necessarily arrests in its progress the vast body of vapour collected from that wide expanse of waters ; which, attracted and broken by the mountains, descends in copious showers. It would appear, however, that the humidity of the climate, as far as it is connected with the fall of rain, is caused rather by the frequency of the showers, than by the quantity of water which descends. It is stated, in the Statistical Survey of Londonderry,

that the medium quantity of rain which falls in Ireland at large, is from twenty-four to twenty-eight inches ; a quantity less than the medium fall of rain in most parts of England. To the powers of aerial evaporation, rather than to the quantity of rain which falls, we must look for the cause of moisture in climate.

The climate of Ireland, although humid and unstable, is highly conducive to health and longevity, whilst its mildness is favourable to the successful cultivation of the soil. Unable to convey satisfactory intelligence respecting those variations of temperature which will occur, from many obvious causes, even in the same country, we present, on the authority of Mr. Hamilton, the result of an observation made in the neighbourhood of the metropolis. According to the remarks of that gentleman, as inserted in the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, " the general temperature, in the vicinity of the capital, is somewhat lower than the 50th degree of Fahrenheit's thermometer, and a mean of the hottest or coldest months of the year rarely varies more than ten degrees from this standard heat ; winter, therefore, is usually accompanied by a temperature of 40 degrees ; spring and autumn of 50, and summer of 60 ; and the general heat of any single month of these seasons, seldom varies much from the corresponding temperature of the particular season to which it belongs."

It may be noticed, in this place, as a curious feature in the natural history of the country, that Ireland is free from all venomous creatures. No kind of serpent is found here, nor are there any moles or toads. Frogs are seen in abundance, but it is said that the first were imported from England, about one century back.

It has not been decided by naturalists whether these exemptions are to be attributed to soil or to climate ; but it appears to have been satisfactorily proved that viperous animals will not exist in this island. Dr. Beaufort affirms that snakes and vipers have been experimentally imported, but have not propagated.* It will

* Mem. of a Map of Ireland, p. 13. The same author observes that wolves were extirpated so lately as the time of Oliver Cromwell. A

be remembered that Crete and the Isle of France are said to possess the same freedom from venomous creatures, and, indeed, Britain produces but one kind, namely the viper, which is far from being a prolific species.

Several birds common in England are unknown in Ireland. Amongst these, to the regret of the inhabitants, is the nightingale, justly termed “the sweetest of the feathered tribe.”*

POLITICAL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS, GOVERNMENT, &c.

CIVIL, OR POLITICAL, DIVISION OF IRELAND.—It would much exceed our limits to present a lengthened statement of the numerous fluctuations of political division which have occurred in Ireland at different periods, caused either by the alternate strength and weakness of the governing powers, or the progressive advance of national improvement. It may, however, be necessary to observe that the existing civil division of the country has not experienced any alteration since the time of Charles I.

This island is politically divided into four Provinces, named **LEINSTER**; **MUNSTER**; **CONNAUGHT**; and **ULSTER**; which are again separated into thirty-two counties. The counties are subdivided into 252 baronies, and the baronies into 2436 parishes.

The *Province of Leinster* comprises the twelve eastern counties, thus denominated :

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Carlow. | Louth. |
| Dublin. | Meath. |
| Kildare. | Queen's County. |
| Kilkenny. | Westmeath. |
| King's County. | Wexford. |
| Longford. | Wicklow. |

writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine* (vol. lxx. p. 127) mentions the circumstance of a gentleman, in the county of Wexford, experimentally placing some vipers on his estate in that county, which shortly perished.

* The nightingale visits England in the beginning of April, and leaves the country in August, but is far from spreading over the whole of the island. It is not found in North Wales, nor in any of the English counties

In the *Province of Munster* are the following six southern counties :

| | |
|--------|------------|
| Clare. | Limerick. |
| Cork. | Tipperary. |
| Kerry. | Waterford. |

The *Province of Connaught* comprises the five western counties, termed :

| | |
|----------|------------|
| Galway. | Roscommon. |
| Leitrim. | Sligo. |
| Mayo. | |

The *Province of Ulster* comprehends the nine northern counties, denominated :

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| Antrim. | Fermanagh. |
| Armagh. | Londonderry. |
| Cavan. | Monaghan. |
| Donegal. | Tyrone. |
| Down. | |

ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISION, AND CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT OF IRELAND.—In common with most other European countries, Ireland was divided into very numerous bishoprics in the early ages of Christianity. No satisfactory documents have been adduced for ascertaining the number of Irish prelates, in the early centuries ; but, in the opinion of a modern writer (Dr. Ledwich), there were “ above three hundred.”

It has been found impracticable to narrate the progressive steps by which these numerous bishoprics coalesced, and assumed their present forms of ecclesiastical division. According to the papal tax-rolls, the number of Irish sees which paid annates, or first-fruits, to Rome, about the year 1229, was thirty-eight ; but, at a later period, the number is stated, in the Roman provincial, to be fifty-seven.

north of that district, except Yorkshire. We believe, likewise, that it does not migrate so far west as Devonshire and Cornwall. It is, also, a stranger to Scotland.

Ireland is, at present, divided, in regard to ecclesiastical circumstances, into four provinces, which are named ARMAGH; DUBLIN; CASHEL; and TUAM. An Archbishop presides over each province. The Archbishop of Armagh is styled *Lord Primate and Metropolitan of ALL Ireland*; and the Archbishop of Dublin, *Lord Primate of Ireland*.

The number of diocesses is thirty-two; but, in consequence of various circumstances, injurious to the resources and general prosperity of the country, it was found necessary, at different periods, to unite several of the poorest of the sees; and there are now only twenty-two prelates, twenty sees being united under ten bishops.

The *Province of Armagh* contains ten diocesses: the archbishopric of Armagh, and the bishoprics of Dromore; Down and Connor, united; Derry; Raphoe; Ardagh (at present united to the archbishopric of Tuam); Clogher; Kilmore; and Meath.

The *Province of Dublin* contains five diocesses: the archbishopric of Dublin,* and the bishoprics of Kildare; Ferns and Leighlin, united; and Ossory.

The *Province of Cashel* contains eleven diocesses: the archbishopric of Cashel, united with the bishopric of Emly; and the bishoprics of Waterford and Lismore, united; Cork and Ross, united; Cloyne; Limerick, Ardfert, and Aghadoe, united; Killaloe and Kilfenora, united.

The *Province of Tuam* contains six diocesses: the archbishopric of Tuam, and the bishoprics of Clonfert and Kilmacduagh, united; Elphin; Killalla; and Achonry.

The Bishop of Meath has precedence of all Irish suffragans; and the Bishop of Kildare is next in rank. The other bishops take place according to the date of their consecration.

The form usual in England of electing bishops by respective deans and chapters, on the issue of the writ termed *Conge d'elire*, was abolished in Ireland early in the reign of Elizabeth; and the crown has ever since collated to all vacant sees by letters-patent.

* The bishopric of Glendalough was added to the archbishopric of Dublin in the year 1214.

Four bishops, or one archbishop and three bishops, sit by rotation in the House of Peers of the united empire.

The same cause which led to the union of many of the bishoprics has also produced a frequent union, or consolidation, of parochial districts. Thus, the number of parishes in Ireland is greatly superior to that of benefices. Such *unions of parishes* take place, either by an act of parliament, an act of council, or by the authority of the diocesan, sanctioned by the consent of his metropolitan. From this circumstance of consolidation, the income of many church-livings is very large. The increase of tillage has been evidently favourable to the emoluments of the clergyman; and, at the present time, the benefices of Ireland are well known to be generally more productive than those of England. No clergyman is allowed to hold more than two livings; but the distance between them is not limited, as in the sister country.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF IRELAND. The state of the Roman Catholic clergy of a country, in which a great majority of the population adhere to the antient forms of religion, cannot fail to be a subject on which the reader requires information. The following particulars are chiefly collected from the communication of a Catholic clergyman, first printed in Newenham's "View of Ireland," and reprinted, with some comments, in Townsend's "Survey of the County of Cork." The accuracy of the statement afforded in Mr Newenham's publication has never been questioned, but we have still deemed it desirable to submit to the revision of well-informed persons in Ireland the compendium presented in this Work.

The Roman Catholic Church of Ireland is composed of four archbishops and twenty-two bishops. The archbishops take their titles, as in the Established Church, from Armagh, Dublin, Cashel, and Tuam. Of the bishops, eight are suffragans of Armagh; namely, the Bishops of Ardagh; Clogher; Derry; Down and Connor; Dromore; Kilmcre; Meath; and Raphoe. Dublin has but three suffragans, Leighlin and Ferns; Kildare; and Ossory. Six are suffragans to Cashel, namely, the Bishops of Ardfert and Aghadoe; Cloyne and Ross; Cork; Killaloe; Limerick; and Waterford and

Lismore. Four are subject to Tuam, viz. Achonry, Clonfert, Elphin, and Killalla. There is, besides these, the bishop of the united diocesses of Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora, the one in Connaught, the other in Munster, who is alternately suffragan of Tuam and Cashel.

The Roman Catholic, as also the Established Church, has a dignitary in Galway, termed a warden, who has nearly episcopal jurisdiction, and is no farther subject to higher powers than that he is liable to the triennial visitations of the Archbishop of Tuam.

Every bishop has a vicar-general, of his own appointment, who holds his office only *durante beneplacito*, and whose jurisdiction ceases on the death of the prelate.

Every diocess has also a dean, appointed by the *cardinal protector*, i. e. that cardinal in Rome who has the peculiar direction of all ecclesiastical matters appertaining to Ireland : and also an archdeacon, named by the bishop. These two are mere nominal dignities, having neither power nor emolument annexed to them.

On the death of a bishop, the clergy of the diocess are empowered by the canon law to elect a *vicar capitular*, who is invested, during the vacancy of the see, with episcopal jurisdiction : but if such election does not take place within a specified number of days after the demise of the bishop has been notified to them, the archbishop of the province may appoint, of his own authority, the vicar. The clergy, in the mean time, assemble, and fix their choice on one of their own body, or sometimes on a stranger, and petition the Pope that he may be appointed to the vacant see.

The bishops of the province also hold a consultation, and present to the Pope the names of two or three eligible persons, one of whom is usually appointed ; for the recommendation of the prelates has always more weight at Rome than the petition of the inferior clergy.

The appointment of the Irish bishops lies in the cardinals, who compose the *congregation de propaganda fide*. Their nomination is submitted by their secretary to the Pope, by whom it is usually confirmed. In former times Irish officers, in the service of foreign princes, frequently exercised an influence, through the recom-

mendation of their respective courts, in the nomination of prelates ; but, according to a decree lately issued by the congregation, no foreign recommendation is now to meet with notice.

There is in all Roman Catholic countries a custom that is frequent in Ireland, of appointing assistant, or *coadjutor*, bishops. In the event of old age, infirmity, or any accidental visitation of Heaven, whereby a bishop is rendered incapable of attending to the laborious duties of his station, he may choose any meritorious clergyman to be his coadjutor, and to succeed him at his death. His recommendation is almost invariably attended to at Rome ; the object of his choice is appointed and consecrated, taking his title from some oriental diocess, which title he relinquishes on his succeeding, at the death of the old or infirm bishop whom he was appointed to assist. While retaining the oriental title, though in character, and by consecration, a bishop, he is called a bishop *in partibus*, because the see, from which he takes his designation, being under the dominion of some eastern power, is described, in the language of the office from which the bull of appointment is issued, as being *in partibus infidelium*.

The emoluments of the bishop arise from three sources ; his parish, which is usually the best in the diocess ; the licences ; and the *cathedraticum*.

The *parish emoluments* are stated in our notice of parish priests. The *licence* is a dispensation granted by the bishop in the publication of banns, for which a sum, never less than a crown, and according to the abilities of the parties, amounting at times to half-a-guinea, or a guinea, is paid. And as it very seldom happens that the parties are inclined to have the banns published, the generality are married by licence, which adds very considerably to the episcopal revenue. The *cathedraticum* is a yearly sum, generally from two to ten guineas, given by each parish-priest to the bishop, in proportion to the value of his parish, for the purpose of assisting in the support of the episcopal dignity. There is no law to enforce this tribute, nor any obligation in paying it ; yet it is a very ancient practice, and is never omitted.

Parish priests are appointed solely by the bishop ; and if col-

lated, or having three years peaceable possession, they cannot be dispossessed; otherwise they may be removed at pleasure. A collation is a written appointment, signed by the bishop, by which he confers a parish on a clergyman, and confides it indefinitely to his care. Coadjutors, or curates, are appointed also by the bishop, and are moveable at will.

The parish priest is supported by voluntary contributions, if that can be called voluntary which is established by ancient custom and general prevalence. His income springs from various sources. The *Easter* and *Christmas dues* consist in a certain sum paid by the head of every family to the parish-priest for his support, and in consideration of his trouble in catechizing, instructing, and hearing the confessions of the family. The sum is greater or smaller, in proportion to the circumstances of the parishioner. In country parishes it is generally a shilling at Easter, and a shilling at Christmas: some give half-a-crown, some a crown, and some few a guinea a-year. There is no general ecclesiastical law to enforce the payment of these "dues;" but as the mode was struck out in what has been denominated the Council of Kilkenny, under Rinuccini, it has continued ever since to be practised, and from custom has acquired the force of law.*

The sum paid at weddings varies in different diocesses. In the diocese of Cork, by an order of the bishop, no clergyman is warranted in demanding more from the parties than half-a-guinea, but the sum usually given by the bridegroom is a guinea, in addition to which a collection is frequently made among the friends of the parties, for the benefit of the parish-priest. The parochial

* Some statements, useful in forming an estimate respecting the income of the Roman Catholic clergy, are presented in Mr. Wakefield's "Account of Ireland." A Catholic prelate, corresponding with that gentleman, observes, "As bishop, I never received more than £165, and as parish priest, £350 currency. A dozen of my brethren, I think, receive more; but others much less. As to other parish priests, the majority of them do not receive above a hundred guineas a-year, and there are many who do not get £60; these are supported chiefly by the hospitality of the parishioners."—Account, &c. v. ii. p. 551.

fee for each christening is two shillings or half-a-crown ; besides which the sponsors usually give something more. Some small sum is generally given for visiting the sick. In some parts of the country, custom has established, that a certain quantity of hay and oats is sent by the more opulent parishioners to the clergyman ; and also that his turf should be cut, his corn reaped, his meadow mowed, &c. gratis. The retribution for each mass is dissimilar in different diocesses ; in that of Cork it is two shillings. But if mass should be said at the house of a parishioner, at his own request, he usually gives the clergyman not less than a crown. The customary stipend of the curate is the third part of the general receipts of the parish.

Stations are half-yearly meetings at some commodious house, appointed by the priest, for the convenience of such people as live at a distance from the chapel, where he hears their confessions, gives them communion, catechizes the children, &c. ; and it is at these meetings that he receives his Easter and Christmas dues. A dinner is prepared for the priest at every house in which he holds a station, to which the householder's friends are invited.

Besides the Roman Catholic clergy regularly appointed, there are some itinerant priests, who occasionally officiate, and marry, baptize, and perform other rites among the lower classes of the people. These, we believe, are few, and are decreasing in number ; but they are said to encourage among the populace many superstitious customs otherwise obsolete, and are held in great contempt by the more respectable Catholics of every district

Monasteries and convents are frequent in Ireland. Many of these institutions possess considerable funds, arising from charitable donations. The priests who reside in the monastic houses occasionally travel through different parts of the country, to collect money, grain, and various articles of provision, for the support of their respective establishments. The nunneries in general possess a fund, proceeding from the sums paid on the entrance of ladies into the religious state, which are seldom less in amount than three or four hundred pounds. They also constitute the principal places

of education for the daughters of catholic families, and derive considerable pecuniary advantage from that circumstance.

GOVERNMENT, AND PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.—The policy of Henry II. induced that prince to establish the office of viceroy in his Irish territories ; and, under different denominations, a state officer of this description has been appointed in all succeeding reigns. The *lord lieutenant general, and general governor of Ireland*, acts as representative of majesty, and constitutes the head of the local government. The official income of this state personage is £30,000 per annum, and he maintains, at Dublin, the forms and ceremonies of a vice-regal court. Since the period of the Union, the political influence of the viceroy, and the splendour of his court, are necessarily much lessened.

The lord-lieutenant corresponds with the secretary of state for the home department ; but the details of public business devolve on a secretary, appointed exclusively for this part of the united empire. This latter officer is a member of parliament, and has the high responsibility of forming the active agent in the administration of public affairs. His office is divided into two departments, military and civil ; over each of which is placed an under-secretary.

Ireland has a local privy-council, in which the lord-lieutenant presides.

The commander in chief of the forces is independent of the lord-lieutenant, and corresponds with the commander in chief in England.

According to the Act of Union, which took place in the year 1801, the *parliamentary representation* of Ireland consists of twenty-eight temporal peers, elected for life by the general body of the Irish peers ; four spiritual lords, elected from the bishops for one session of parliament ; and one hundred commoners. It may be observed that the Irish peerage is necessarily a decreasing body, as, conformably to the Act of Union, no new peer is to be created, except on the extinction of three titles.

REMARKS ON THE HISTORY OF IRELAND, AS CONNECTED WITH TOPOGRAPHY AND ANTIQUITIES.

IRELAND PREVIOUS TO THE ENTRY OF THE ENGLISH.—An extensive disquisition on national history would be evidently misplaced in a work like the present. But the due illustration of topographical circumstances and the subjects of antiquarian research, requires a compendious review of those leading transactions which may be said to act as the great land-marks in the annals of the country, and form the chronological link to which local anecdote has a continual reference.

The limited purpose of the present inquiry renders it necessary that we confine our remarks on the early population of Ireland, chiefly to such particulars as stand connected with the tangible vestigia of antiquity. It may, indeed, be presumed that the antiquary renders his best tribute to the muse of history when he endeavours to throw light on her pages (too often clouded and dubious, from unavoidable circumstances) by presenting to consideration those relics which admit of no literary sophistry, and are scarcely liable to literary misapprehension.

It cannot be doubted but that Ireland, in common with Britain and other parts of western Europe, was originally colonized by the CELTÆ. In the language of the country, and in the names applied to rivers, mountains, and other great objects of nature, we find indisputable evidence of this fact. The language is well known to be a dialect of the Celtic; and a recent erudite philologist has given a very extensive list of names applied to rivers and other natural objects, forming a comparative statement of such names in Ireland and Britain, with the meaning of each appellation, from the Celtic language.*

Those antiquities of the country, which from their rudeness

* Caledonia, by G. Chalmers, vol. i. p. 20 et seq. In a subsequent page Mr. Chalmers remarks that "Ireland plainly preserves in her topography, a much greater proportion of *Celtic* names than the map of any other country; and next to it, in this respect, may be placed North-Britain. The names of towns, villages, churches, parishes, mountains, lakes, rivers, and of other places, and objects, in Ireland, are nearly all *Gaelic*."

must be ascribed to the most remote origin, uniformly approximate in character to the earliest vestiges discovered in Britain, where the Celtæ are known to have been the original settlers. Such are the axes and arrow-heads of stone, or flint, which are strewed so plentifully over the shores of Britain, and every other part of Europe formerly inhabited by Celtic tribes. Those tumuli and earns which constitute the earliest places of burial, agree in form with the same mounds of earth or stone in Britain; and their contents evince similar modes of funeral ceremony. In circles composed of upright stones, or simply of an earthen vallum; in cromlechs, and the various other works often termed druidical, we have also proofs of a coincidence in religious and civil customs between the inhabitants of Ireland and those of Britain, previous to the introduction of christianity, whether those works were actually carried into execution by the original Celtæ, or by the Belgic tribes which assisted in forming the early population of the island. Further testimony, as to the settlement of the Celtæ in this country, proceeds from the accounts transmitted by antient geographical writers.

Concerning the country whence the first settlers immediately passed into Ireland, several opinions have been formed; and probable conjecture is all that the utmost labours of research and ingenuity can afford. It would appear to be indubitable that the great tide of population flowed from the east of Europe to the west; and as there is fair reason for presuming that early colonists would proceed by land as far as was attainable, before they ventured on the perils of the ocean, many writers have supposed that Ireland received its first inhabitants from the neighbouring coast of Britain.

The aborigines were incapable of maintaining entire possession of the soil. They were disturbed by the *BELGÆ* (termed *FIRBOLGS* by the Irish) who came from the northern coast of Gaul, and effected in this country, as in Britain, a permanent settlement. The sympathy which we naturally bestow on those who suffer from the incursions of an invading power, should, surely, be extended to this interference with the quiet occupation of those

who first profited by the rich pastures of so fair an island, and were the earliest dwellers amidst its romantic scenery. From the Belgæ or Firbolgs it is, however, probable that the Celtæ, as was the fact with their kindred tribes in the sister-island, obtained a knowledge of several arts which advance mankind in the scale of civilization, and add value to existence.

The Scots are mentioned by many historians as subsequent colonists, and are described by several writers as a Scythian people. "It is conjectured," writes Dr. Ledwich, "that the Scots came to our isle two or three centuries before the Nativity; and as to their name, that seems not derived from a city or particular place, or ferocity or eminence in war, but from their original country, Scythia. Usher has shewn that they were distinguished by this appellation from the third to the twelfth century, and of course were the dominant people." We have stated, in our remarks on the various names by which Ireland has been distinguished at different times, that this country was first recognised under the name of *Scotia* in the fourth century. No such word occurs in the map of Ptolemy, to be hereafter noticed. The difficulty obvious in the temporary cessation of a prevailing name, supposing that the Scots were, as has been usually supposed, a distinct nation, entering the island at the alleged early period, has not remained unnoticed by critical writers. "It is not easy," remarks Lord Lyttelton, "to give a satisfactory reason, why, if the Scots were a people of Scythian extraction, who came into Ireland from any part of Spain, in such very early times, that name which denoted their original country, should have been lost and forgotten during so many ages, and revived about the middle of the fourth century, when (as appears by a passage of Ammianus Marcellinus) they were joined with the Picts in making war on the Britons."

A modern author suggests the following solution of this difficulty. Considering that Tacitus, and other writers previous to Porphyry, who flourished towards the close of the third century, mention nothing of the Scots, though they speak of the tribes inhabiting Ireland, Mr. Chalmers, in the work termed "*Caledo-*

nia," contends that it must be admitted, as a moral certainty, "that the Scottish people had not acquired their appropriate name during the first and second centuries." The Scoto-Irish, he affirms, always spoke Gaelic, as their descendants do at the present time; and, since the lineage of a people is most accurately traced in its language, he believes that the Scots were a Gaelic, and not a Teutonic, race. It is correctly ascertained that Ireland was originally populated by Gaelic tribes; and "as there is no proof, whatever chroniclers may say, that the Scots came from abroad," our author maintains that, "the *Scoticæ Gentes* must have acquired, within their original island, a 'local habitation and a name.' As the inhabitants of Ireland are indiscriminately called by classic writers *Hyberni* and *Scoti*, after the fourth century, we may infer that the *Hyberni* and *Scoti* were the same people, under different designations." As the Scots were indigenous in Ireland, so probably was their name. "From their own language," continues Mr. Chalmers, "they acquired the appellation of *Scæite*, which signifies, in the Irish, *dispersed*, and *scattered*; and they thus appear to have obtained this characteristic name, from their passion for enterprize during ages of perturbation."

In addition to the aboriginal Celtæ, and the Firbolgs, or Belgæ, whose settlement in Ireland is ascertained with sufficient precision, Camden reasonably believes that, after the extension of the Roman empire, and the revolutions consequent on such encroachments, great numbers fled to this country from Spain and other districts, and here found an asylum.

The earliest foreign source of intelligence, respecting the distribution of the different tribes which composed the antient population of Ireland, is found in the table, or map, of Ptolemy, who flourished about the middle of the second century. The statements of Ptolemy, together with the modern names of places noticed by him, according to the suggestions of Sir J. Ware and other respectable antiquaries, are mentioned in future pages of this work, descriptive of the counties into which Ireland is at present divided.

Richard of Cirencester* has bequeathed to posterity a map and description of Ireland, differing considerably from the table of the Egyptian geographer. Positions widely dissimilar are ascribed to several of the tribes, or nations. It remains to be ascertained whether these variations proceeded from a want of due information in the more recent writer, or whether internal wars had really effected vicissitudes so conspicuous in territorial possession. Many Irish historical manuscripts are now under a course of more attentive examination, amongst able Gaelic scholars, than they have hitherto experienced; and it will be a source of much interest with the antiquarian part of the public, if any of those writings should be found to convey intelligence illustrative of the geographical delineations of Ptolemy and Richard. As the work of the latter author has not been introduced to general notice in Ireland, a brief analysis of the part which relates to this country may not be unacceptable.

Ireland, according to this writer, was “formerly” inhabited by twenty tribes, of whom fourteen lived on the coast. This, in the opinion of Richard, “is the true country of the Scots, who, emigrating from hence (Britain) added a third nation to the Britons and Picts in Albion.” He proceeds to observe that he cannot agree with Bede, who affirms that the Scots were foreigners, but “conceives that they derived their origin from Britain, passed over from thence, and obtained a settlement in this Island. It is certain that the Damnii, Voluntii, Brigantes, Cangi, and other nations were descended from the Britons.”

In what is termed by Richard “a description of the island

* Richard, usually termed Richard of Cirencester, from the place of his birth, was a monk of St. Peter’s, Westminster, and lived in the fourteenth century. His work, entitled *De Situ Britanniae*, contains an Itinerary of Britain, which he states to have been collected from ancient records, now lost. In his map of Ireland he profits by the later intelligence he possessed, and introduces the “Scotti,” which word does not occur in the map of Ptolemy. But it will be observed that he considers the Scoti as a distinct people, having a determinate position amongst the other tribes, or nations, of Ireland, though he is desirous of deriving their origin from Britain.

and the most remarkable places," he asserts that the tribe called Rhobogdii "occupied the coast next to the Deucalidonian sea," or that which washes the northern side of Ireland. The metropolis of this tribe was named *Rhobogdium*. In the eastern part of their territories was situated the promontory of the same name; in the western the *Promontorium Boreum*, or northern promontory. "Towards the south, mountains separated them from the Scotti."

On the coast, between the northern and *Venicnian* promontory, (probably the *North Cape*, south-east of Tory Island, county of Donegal) and as far as the mouth of the Rhebeus, dwelt the Venicnii, "to whom the contiguous islands owe their name." Their capital was *Rheba*, (supposed to have been seated on the river Barrow). The Nagnatæ dwelt "below the Rhebeus, as far as the *Libnius*, (the bay of Sligo) and their celebrated capital was called after them. The Auterii lived in a recess of the bay of *Ausoba*,* towards the south, and their chief city was, also, named after them. The Concangii occupied the lower part of the same region, near the southern confines of which flowed the river *Senus*, (the Shannon) a noble river, on which was situated their chief city, *Macobicum*. Hybernia in this part being contracted, terminates in a narrow point. The Velatorii inhabited the country near the southern promontory by the river *Senus*; their metropolis was *Regia*, and their river *Durius*. The Lucani were situated where the river *Ibernus* (the river Kilmare, in the county of Kerry) flows into the ocean."

The southern side of the Island he describes as lying between the *Promontorium Austriacum*, or Southern Promontory, (probably the present Mizen Head) and the *Sacred Promontory*, (probably Greengore Point). "Here lived the Ibernii, whose metropolis was *Rhufina*. Next was the river *Dobona*, and the people called Vodiæ, whose promontory of the same name lies opposite to the *Promontorium Antivæsteum*, in England, at about the distance of one hundred and forty-five miles. Not far from thence is the river *Dabrona*, the boundary of the Brigantes, who have also the

* The Ausoba, or Ausona, is described by Ware as "a river which takes its rise out of Lough-Curb (Lough Corrib), and washes Galway."

river *Briga*," (the river *Brigus* of Ptolemy is now termed the river Barrow) "for their limit, and whose chief city is called *Brigantia*."

Under the description of the "eastern side," he includes the tract of coast "which reaches from the Sacred Promontory as far as Rhobogdium. The Menapii, inhabiting the Sacred Promontory, had their chief city upon the river *Modona*, (the river Slaney) called by the same name." The distance between this part and "Menapia in Dimetia" (St. David's in South Wales) he states to be thirty miles. Beyond these people, the Cauci had their metropolis, *Dunum*, (supposed to be Dunamase, in the Queen's County) and the river *Oboca* (Avon-more) washed their boundaries. "Both these nations were undoubtedly of Teutonic origin; but it is not known at what precise time their ancestors first passed over, though, most probably, a little while before Cæsar's arrival in Britain."

Beyond the tribes last mentioned were the Eblanæ, "whose chief city was *Mediolanum*, upon the river *Læbius*. More to the north was *Lebarum*,* the city of the Voluntii, whose rivers were *Vinderus*† and *Buvinda*, (the river Boyne). The Damnii occupied the part of the island lying above these people, and contiguous to the Rhobogdii. Their chief city was *Dunum*."

Having thus noticed the tribes who inhabited the coast, our author proceeds to specify the people who occupied the interior. "The Coriondii bordered upon the Cauci and Menapii, above the Brigantes: the Scotti possessed the remaining part of the island, which from them took the name of *Scotia*. Among many of their cities, the remembrance of two only has reached our times; the one *Rheba*, on the lake and river Rhebius; the other *Ibernia*, situated at the east side of the river Senus."

In the preceding pages we have confined our remarks to such subjects concerning the early population of Ireland, as can scarcely

* Probably the *Laberus* of Ptolemy, the site of which city is now unknown.

† The *Vinderius* of Ptolemy is described by Sir J. Ware as "the bay of Carrickfergus, or the mouth of the river Lagan, which there dischargeth itself into the sea."

be deemed liable to controversy. The antient and existing language ; the names of respective tribes, as stated by Ptolemy ; the appellations of places ; and the character of those emphatical vestiges of antiquity which are spread over the recluse parts of the country ; confirm us in the propriety of believing that Ireland was originally peopled by the Celtæ. From the names of several tribes, and from many other causes connected with the character of remaining antiquities, we are equally justified in concluding that the Belgæ encroached on the first settlers, and obtained a participation in the soil.

There are annals preserved in Ireland which state the settlement of other early colonies. These works are uniformly curious ; and, in regard to later ages than those now under discussion, are often replete with valuable intelligence. Chronicles respecting the infancy of a nation, are invariably mixed with fable. However faithful may be the first tradition, vanity, a luxuriant fancy, or adulation of the powerful, continually induces the alloy of exaggerations and romantic additions ; marvellous, heroic, and calculated to stimulate patriotic ardour in the early stages of society. In after-times, when judgment obtains the mastery over imagination, the patriot, as well as the scholar, feels it a duty to the genius of his country to discard the fabulous creation which amused the childhood of the state ; and he would rather relinquish two facts, in which the morals and honour of his nation are not concerned, than retain one error.

It must be a grateful task to writers whose limits are not contracted, as are those of the present work, to separate probable fact from the evident blandishments of romance. The nature of our undertaking, and the narrow bounds to which it is confined, render it necessary that we should restrict our notice of these historic materials, as regards the present stage of our work, to a brief description of their literary character, and a statement, equally concise, of the information which they convey.

The early parts of the history of Ireland, as presented by native writers, like the remote history of many other countries, rest chiefly on the genealogical poems of antient bards and sena-

chies. This channel of intelligence (independent of other objections) must naturally be regarded with suspicion ; as flattery towards a patron might obviously induce a fanciful creation, for the gratification of his vanity ; or, in an elective government, for the advancement of his more solid interests. We are told, however, that, in Ireland, some national and very unusual precautions were taken for the preservation of fidelity in historical and genealogical records. The purpose of information on this topic will be best answered by the following abridged extract of the judicious work by Bishop Nicolson, entitled *The Irish Historical Library*.

“ If what Keating and others report of the care taken by the government of the public records be true, it is hardly possible to imagine that any kingdom of the world should outdo Ireland, either in the antiquity, or certainty of her histories. They tell us that Ollamh Fodhla, the twenty-first monarch of the Milesian race (who is said to have reigned about nine hundred years before the birth of Christ) ordained a triennial parliament to be held at the king's pleasure, throughout all succeeding generations, at Temora, or Taragh ; in which, amongst other state-matters of the highest concern, a special committee was always appointed for the inspecting of all their monuments of antiquity, genealogies, chronicles, &c. Whatever was approved by them as genuine and authentick, was presently inserted in the book of royal records, called thence the Psalter of Taragh. After the kingdom became Christian, such another Parliament was held at the said palace of Taragh ; wherein a like committee of three kings and three bishops (whereof St. Patrick himself was one) was appointed, to review all the antient chronicles : the keeping whereof was afterwards, by the states of the realm, committed to the care and custody of the bishops. These prelates, for its more safe preservation, caused several authentick copies to be fairly engrossed.

“ We are further yet assured, that the Irish had ever so fond an esteem for their own genealogies and histories, that (in the most early ages of their civil state) they had above two hundred annalists and historians, whose families were seized (in fee) of considerable hereditaments for the carrying on of this national concern ;

every great lord being obliged to have a set of them, to transmit to posterity all the memorable occurrences in the several descents of his family : yet so, as that all these inferior reports were subject to the forementioned triennial scrutiny in Parliament."

It will scarcely be expected that any existing manuscript annals, written in Irish, should be of an earlier date than the period at which christianity was introduced to this island. Some Irish antiquaries, however, contend that their ancestors possessed an alphabet previous to that time, not derived from the Roman, but brought from Spain, at a date many ages antecedent to the christian era. If this assertion could be incontrovertibly established, it would be not only curious, but highly useful ; as it would prove that the possible facts, or traces of facts, involved in the confessedly fabulous parts of early chronicles respecting Ireland, were likely to be derived from a better source than that of oral and mutable tradition.

The most important feature in the tomes of history formed from the psalters and records noticed above, as regards the remote ages now under notice, is the supposed settlement in Ireland of a colony which came immediately from Spain, and bestowed on the Irish a numerous race of MILESIAN kings, whose exploits were the glory of the country and the theme of its latest bard. According to some Irish writers these colonists proceeded originally from Asia, " whence they brought the doctrine taught by Noah to his posterity." After various migrations they sojourned for nearly one hundred and fifty years in Spain, and thence proceeded to Ireland, where they met with a final resting-place. Their first princes in this Island were Heber and Heremon, sons of Milesius, whose descendants, together with those of Ith, another son of that personage, constituted a race of kings, ending in the person of Roderick O'Connor, who died towards the close of the twelfth century, being the last of the Irish monarchs. Copious accounts of the genealogy of these princes, and of the wars in which they were engaged, are presented in the Bardic compositions.

It is painful to observe that the most flattering page in the Irish annals ascribes to the Milesians no other right of dominion

in this country, than that obtained by sanguinary conquest. In the first battle between the Damnonii and the force led by Heber, on the second landing of the invading power, the bards assert one thousand to have fallen of those who defended the soil with desperate patriotism. The words of an "old poet," in celebration of this triumph, are thus quoted by the translator of Keating's History of Ireland :

" On Sliagh Mis our warlike squadrons stood,
Eager of fight, and prodigal of blood ;
Victorious arms our stout Gadelians bore,
Ruin behind, and terror marched before.
A thousand of the *enchanted host* are slain,
They try their *charms* and *magic arts* in vain,
For with their mangled limbs they cover all the plain."

Reserving to a future page a succinct notice of the probable condition of society in these early ages, we proceed to a statement of some circumstances in the ensuing history of the island, which do not altogether depend on any peculiar class of annalists, but are supported by the testimony of writers entertaining dissimilar motives, and connected with the literature of different countries.

Whilst the rude population of Britain experienced the mingled penalties and advantages of an invasion from the Romans, Ireland remained free from the hostile visitation of that august people. We are informed by Tacitus that Julius Agricola had the conquest of this island in contemplation, and that, from the knowledge he had obtained of its internal state, he believed that the design might be carried into execution with one legion and some auxiliary troops. There can be no doubt but that Agricola formed so contemptuous an opinion of the defensible power of the country, from the accounts he had received of the numerous petty states into which Ireland was divided, the whole being continually agitated by jealousy, distrust, and ambitious warfare.

The recal of this able general prevented his carrying the intended invasion into effect ; and we have no determinate proof that the Romans ever debarked on this island, whilst they held

Britain as a province, except, perhaps, as merchants, in occasional visits to the maritime parts. Towards the decline of the Roman power in Britain, the Irish, indeed, were enabled to act on the aggressive. They harassed the Romanized shores of the British island by maritime excursions, and they united with their kindred tribes in the northern and unconquered part of that island, in predatory enterprizes beyond the wall of partition.*

The introduction of christianity obviously forms the most important epoch in the history of every country to which its doctrines have been imparted. When we reflect on the zeal of the primitive missionaries, it must appear highly probable that the gospel was communicated to Ireland nearly at the same time as to Britain, where the converts were sufficiently numerous in the early part of the fourth century to call forth the persecuting spirit of Dioclesian. But the great æra in the dissemination of christianity amongst the Irish, is ascribed to the time of the celebrated apostle of this nation, St. Patrick,† who is believed to have been sent hither by Pope Celestine, in the year 432.

Although it cannot be denied that the tenets of christianity, so transcendantly calculated to harmonize the jarring passions of mankind, failed to effect any observable reformation of public manners, as regards the prosecution of internal warfare conducted with extreme ferocity, those divine doctrines led to some memorable improvements in the national character. The number of ecclesiastics, both secular and regular, speedily became very great; and the fertile genius of the country, thus happily directed to

* Ammianus, lib. xxvii. ch. 7. The British historian Gildas describes his country, subsequent to the death of Maximus, as “groaning for many years under the incursions of the *Scots from the north-west*, and of the *Picts from the north*.”

† A modern writer on the antiquities of Ireland (Dr. Ledwich) not contented with observing that numerous fabulous circumstances have been insinuated into the biography of St. Patrick, in its descent through illiterate ages, denies that such a person ever existed! We state some of the ideas of Dr. Ledwich on this subject, under the head of Armagh, where St. Patrick sat as bishop; and in the same place we present the arguments of those who controvert the assertions of that writer.

objects of sacred study, shone forth in numerous scholars, who were the pride of their own age, and, as far as relates to zeal, piety, and industry, claim the admiration of posterity:

The very numerous monastic institutions which were progressively formed,* acted as depositories of learning, and schools of instruction, at a period in which a great part of Europe was plunged in a state of political ruin, and in which letters consequently underwent an extreme depression. We are informed by Bede that in the seventh century great numbers of Anglo-Saxons, many of whom were of a noble rank, repaired to Ireland, for the purpose of receiving instruction, or pursuing studies in theology. That venerable writer adds that these visitors were most willingly received by the Scots (thus he terms the Irish) who maintained them at their own charge, supplied them with books, and became their teachers without fee or reward. This passage of Bede should never be quoted without a recollection of the comment presented by Lord Lyttelton, who styles it “a most honourable testimony, not only to the learning, but likewise to the hospitality and bounty of the Irish nation.”

Amongst the ecclesiastics of Ireland distinguished for such learning as these ages afforded, several are celebrated as successful missionaries to the continent and to Britain. The noble writer

* “It was,” observes Mr. Archdall, “towards the close of the fifth century, that St. Patrick established here the monkish profession; simplicity and purity of manners, and the most rigid mortification, were well calculated to inspire Pagans with veneration for such missionaries and their doctrines; and the Irish received, with the rudiments of their faith, a predilection for the monastic state. Congal, Carthag, and Columba, in the sixth century, carried monkery to greater splendour and perfection by their rules and noble foundations, and by their eminent talents, and distinguished zeal. They were the fruitful parents of a numerous progeny of monks, who, in the next century, multiplied to such numbers, that Bishop Nicolson, an excellent judge, pronounces them equal to all the other inhabitants of the kingdom. In succeeding ages, every improvement of dress, or discipline, was quickly adopted here; and the long catalogue of Augustinians, Benedictines, Cisterrians, and the rest, grace our monastic annals.” *Monas. Hib.* p. x.—xi.

before cited, observes, chiefly on the authority of Bede and Camden, that "great praise is due to the piety of those Irish ecclesiastics, who (as we know from the clear and unquestionable testimony of many foreign writers) made themselves the apostles of barbarous heathen nations, without any apparent inducement to such hazardous undertakings, except the merit of the work. By the preaching of these men, the Northumbrians, the East Angles, and the Northern Picts, were converted. Convents also were founded by them in Burgundy, Germany, and other foreign countries, where they distinguished themselves by the rigid integrity and purity of their manners; so that Ireland, from the opinion conceived of their sanctity, was called *the country of saints*."

It would appear to be indubitable, that the sixth and two following centuries formed that period of history in which Ireland enjoyed her greatest antient prosperity. We have seen that, in ages near the commencement of this period, she was so fearless of a foreign power that she sent forth troops to harass the Romanized Britons; and for the whole of this term, until the latter part of the eighth century, about which time the Danes, or Ostmen, assailed her shores in formidable numbers, the country experienced no lasting injury from an external foe. During these prosperous centuries it is, indeed, evident that the Danes committed some piratical and local ravages; but such as were chiefly confined to the coast. It must be also observed that, in the year 684, Beorht, the general of Ecgtrid, King of Northumbria, led a predatory and merciless band into Ireland. Plunder appears to have formed their chief object, but their incursions were marked by numerous acts of barbarity, amongst which must be noticed the destruction of many churches and monasteries. These troubles, however, lasted but for one season. "The islanders," observes Mr. Turner, in his History of the Anglo-Saxons, "defended their domestic lares with valour, and the Angles retreated." For such afflictions as Ireland experienced in these ages, she was chiefly indebted to the turbulent disposition of her own princes; or, rather, to that defective form of government which admitted an equipoise of

power, and encouraged continual intestine wars of ambition, avarice, or revenge.

Those northern marauders, who had occasionally landed in small bodies during the ages above noticed, commenced a series of more formidable incursions in the latter years of the eighth, or the early part of the ninth century. By the English they were collectively termed Ostmen ; and have often been recognised by historical writers under the common appellation of Danes ; which latter mode of designation is usually adopted in the present work.

As a general outline of history, it may be desirable to observe that these invaders from the north entered Ireland in a pagan state, and were for many years inveterate destroyers of churches, religious houses, and literary records. They appear to have been partially converted to christianity as early as the year 853 ;* and were never completely ejected from the island, although their power was much lessened by the heroic exertions of Brien Boromh, and his successor, Malachy, in the eleventh century.

Previous to a notice of that important epocha in the annals of Ireland, the entry of the English, in the twelfth century, the due illustration of topography requires that we should present some few observations on the form of political constitution, the laws, and the state of society, in ages precedent to that event.

It appears that, at the earliest period illumined by satisfactory historical documents, Ireland was divided into numerous petty states, subject to their own peculiar kings, who were again subordinate and tributary to a provincial sovereign. The whole of the provincial kings were nominally subject to the power of a monarch, chosen from their own number.

We are informed, by O'Flaherty, that the Irish monarchy was elective, but not without a consideration of hereditary right ; by which, observes Dr. Campbell, " we are to understand, that the election could fall upon a certain family only, but that the choice of the individual of that family belonged to the people : so

* Sir J. Ware places the conversion of the Danes in the year 948 ; but Dr. Ledwich affirms, that, " from a coin of Ivar, it appears they were christians in 853." *Antiqs. of Ire.* p. 159.

that it was *elective as to the person* and *hereditary as to the blood*. These principles, so jarring, were the perpetual sources of discord and contention, which could only be composed by the strongest hand. Accordingly, we find that out of a long line of near 200 Irish monarchs, scarce two in immediate succession have died a natural death."

In the scale of sovereignty we have seen that there were several degrees. Next in political consequence to the monarch were the provincial kings, each of whom appears to have been virtually monarch, in regard to the several chiefs within his province, who are also usually styled kings. The number of provinces fluctuated at different periods. At an early date of Irish history we are told that the number was five; but that through many subsequent ages it was limited to four, a portion of each being subtracted to form a domain for the support of the sovereign dignity. This royal territory chiefly consisted of the district at present termed the counties of Meath and West Meath, and must be considered as having really constituted a fifth province.

It is said by Dr. Ledwich, on the authority of Mr. O'Connor, that Ireland, at the arrival of the English in the twelfth century, was divided into "seven principalities; Desmond under the Macarthies; Thuomond under the O'Briens; Hy Kinsellagh, or Leinster, under the line of Cahir; Uladh, under the O'Dunlevies and Mac Mahons; south Hy Nial, or Meath, under the Clan Colmans, or O'Melaghilans; north Hy Nial under the O'Neils and O'Donnels; and Hy Brune, with Hy Fiachra, or Connaught, under the O'Conors."

The whole of the petty kings appear to have exercised full power within their immediate territories, and to have acknowledged, or at least to have rendered service to, a superior only on the occurrence of public danger, or as interest and ambition might dictate in the prosecution of party quarrels.*

* Every subordinate prince, "or head of a large tribe and tract of country, amongst the Irish, carried the title of king, and did effectually exercise all sorts of sovereign power in his own territories, and even that of making war and peace, not only with his co-equals, but also with the

The persons who held the fourth rank in the state were denominated *Tiarna* and *Toiseach*. They are described by O'Flaherty as resembling the Saxon Thanes. "The Tiarnas," says Dr. Ledwich, "were what Davies calls *Canfinnies*, the heads of clans. We had our Clanbreasil, Clancarty, Clanaboy, Clancolman, Clancfergal, and many more. In most cases the *Tiarna's* surname was that of his clan. Macarthy was Riagh, or King of Desmond; his *Tiarnas* were the clans O'Keefe, O'Donoghue, O'Callaghan, O'Sullivan, &c."

Each king, and chief of a sept, had his *Tanist*, or successor, who was elected during his life-time. According to General Vallancey, *Tanistry* was a law of succession, whereby, in attention to the original spirit of the institution, "the oldest male among the near kinsmen of the last ruling prince (legally succeeding) and of the same name and stock, was constitutionally to succeed him, by the right of seniority, unless some natural or accidental infirmity had rendered him manifestly incapable of governing." But, whatever might have been the primitive intention of this custom, it is sufficiently evident that ambition and factious influence generally caused the succession to be obtained by him who possessed the greatest energies and the strongest party.

All the possessions of the antient Irish passed to survivors either by the custom of *Tanistry*, or that of *Gavelkind*. The lands appertaining to the chieftain went, without partition, to his *Tanist*; but the possessions of all inferior persons were divided, in obe-

chief king of the whole province, whenever he found himself able to form a sufficient party against him."—"Amongst the different princes and states of this nation, the chief, and, I may say, the only proper mark of subjection and subordination, was the receiving a certain subsidy called *Tuarasdal*, which literally implies *hire*, or *wages*, in the English tongue, and which, in effect, was only a princely present, and token of generosity and magnificence in the giver. But the prince, or state, that received it first, was deemed inferior and tributary to the prince by whom it was given." In return for these presents the subordinate princes paid to their monarch different sorts of "retributions," or tributes, calculated for the support of his dignity, and for the assistance of the state. Collect. de Reb. Hib. Vol. i, p. 370, 373.

dience to the custom termed Gavelkind. This custom has been differently represented, but, according to the author of the *Collectanea*, it consisted in parting the lands of the father equally amongst all his sons, natural as well as legitimate, to the utter exclusion of his daughters. So rigorous was this exclusion of females, that, on the failure of male issue, the landed property of the deceased passed to his brothers, or next male heirs. Sir John Davies explains the practice of Gavelkind amongst the Irish, in a manner widely dissimilar from the above statement. In the opinion of this writer, who was attorney-general of Ireland in the reign of James I. "by the Irish custom of Gavelkind the inferior tenancies were partible amongst all the males of the sept," both illegitimate and otherwise. "And, after partition made, if any one of the sept had died, his portion was not divided among his sons, but the chief of the sept made a new partition of all the lands belonging to that sept, and gave every one his part, according to his antiquity." If this latter account be correct, we find that the Gavelkind of Ireland differed, in its essential principle, from that of Britain, and was calculated to restrain the country to a state of military rudeness.

The principal laws of each state and sept were, from a very remote period, committed to writing. These were styled by the English colonists *Brehon laws*, from *Brehon*, the title of the judge who administered them. Like most nations in the infancy of society, the ancient Irish permitted a composition for the most heinous offences, even the shedding of human blood. The fine paid by the offender was termed an *Eric*, and bears an evident similarity to the *Were* of the Anglo-Saxons. It is mentioned by Dr. Leland, as an instance of the lenity of the penal laws of the Irish, that the eric, or fine, paid to a son for the murder of his father, was twenty-one kine. These laws descended to very minute particulars; and, in regard to the preservation of property, are said, by the writer last cited, to breathe a spirit of equity and humanity, and to justify the honourable testimony of Sir John Davies and Lord Coke, who affirmed it to be no matter of surprise

that a people accustomed to the refinements found in their own laws, should be conspicuous for a love of justice.*

The office and property of the Brehon, or judge, were hereditary. His seat of judgment was in the open air, and on a spot either naturally or artificially elevated. Several of the seats

* On the final abolition of the Brehon laws in the time of James I. the manuscripts in which they were collected were widely dispersed, and were, perhaps, in many instances intentionally destroyed. Many fragments have survived the ravages of time; and General Vallancey, in the *Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis*, has presented the public with a translation of several extracts. It is understood that fourteen volumes of fragments of these laws, now in the possession of the Gaëlic Society of Ireland, are preparing for the press, under the direction of Mr. O'Reily. The most valuable and extensive collection is repositied in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. The fragments translated by General Vallancey, relate to sumptuary and miscellaneous laws. It may be necessary to remark that these curious fragments had baffled all efforts at translation, previous to the attempt of Vallancey. It was suspected that this difficulty arose from an affectation of obscurity in the writer, and was insurmountable without a glossary, or key, that was not to be discovered. The success of General Vallancey, of course, created much surprise; and here we must regret the want of courtesy with which antiquarian discussion was conducted in Ireland, some years back. The strength of language often adopted might, indeed, have induced the native of another country to look with apprehension on the peril of entering lists, where weapons of severe infliction were in use, rather than the rebated lances of the urbane tournament. The paroxysm, however, fortunately for the interests of literature, lasted for a short term only. It was during the prevalence of this unusual bitterness of spirit, that the Author of the "*Antiquities of Ireland*," asserted that "the translations in the *Collectanea* must be esteemed a literary imposition on the public," until the Author produced the glossary, or key, which assisted him in performing the task. In the preliminary discourse to Dr. Leland's history it is asserted, that "a considerable part of the difficulty which Mr. Lluyd, and other inspectors of these books, hitherto experienced, arose, it seems, from not adverting to the proper method of reading them; as they are written in the manner well known to the Grecian antiquary by the name of *BOUSTROPHEDON*. The unusual inversion of lines occasioned apparent incoherence and confusion. When this circumstance was once pointed out, the difficulties arising from an obsolete language appeared not so considerable."

attributed to the Brehons are still existing, and will be noticed in future pages.

Under such a government and such laws, the people of Ireland were necessarily very far removed from that state of barbarism that has been attributed to the country by some rash and splenetic writers. But the existence of so many independent states, in an island of moderate population, unavoidably retarded the progress of those arts and sciences, on which not only the real dignity, but the comfort of society depends. The rational calculation of the examiner is here supported by the pages of the annalist. We find, from credible documents, that states so naturally subject to rivalry were continually engaged in wars against each other, which had no aim but ambition or rapine, and no possible end but scenes of carnage, almost equally disgusting whether we view the sanguinary triumph of the successful, or figure the distress of the vanquished. Faint, and of little avail, are the tints of melioration imparted to so dreary a picture by occasional traits of generosity and heroism.

That want of unanimity which prevented the natives from attaining a satisfactory proficiency in many of the arts of peace, exposed them, also, an easy prey, to the arms of neighbouring countries. The history of Ireland presents, through most of the early and middle ages, a succession of invasions, which the utmost chivalry of the nation, when not condensed under one great head of government, was quite unable to resist.

The military character encouraged by the existence of many rival states, and employed, from the same cause, chiefly in domestic warfare, led to a neglect of commerce (the mother of the arts), if not to a disdain of so pacific an avocation. The custom of Gavelkind, although evidently calculated to prevent the durable investment of extensive property, even in the most successful families of warlike ages, still led to an habitual dependance on landed inheritance; and was, therefore, unfavourable to the cultivation of traffic and the mechanical arts. It is uniformly allowed that the commerce of Ireland, throughout many of the centuries

now under consideration, was chiefly carried on by Danish colonists.

We have noticed, with much pleasure, in a previous page, the literary eminence attained by the Irish in the sixth and two following centuries. From the constitution of society it is, however, improbable that the advantages of learning extended far beyond the cloister. In this respect Ireland shared in the condition of neighbouring countries; and it must be ever remembered, to the credit of national talent and liberality, that she eclipsed all competitors in the literature of those ages, and readily imparted to less favoured districts the benefits she had laboriously acquired.

There are not any traces of antiquity to sanction us in believing that some Irish writers have not enlarged, in terms too florid, on the bardic intimations of splendid courts, and pompous establishments, amongst many Irish kings and their chief nobles. A high degree of military dignity was, undoubtedly, maintained by those personages. Their own fertile island supplied them with numerous materials of rude grandeur; and the commercial spirit of the northern tribes added many foreign luxuries.

It is observable that no researches have succeeded in proving that the antient Irish had any coinage of their own. It is certain that no coins, unquestionably from an Irish mint, are known to exist; and the erics, or fines, specified in the Brehon laws, are usually estimated by cumals of cattle. The Danes coined money in Ireland, of which considerable quantities are preserved in different cabinets. That the antient Irish possessed numerous ornaments of gold is, however, correctly ascertained. Many discoveries of such curious and valuable relics are mentioned in future pages; and from these it will be evident that the Irish, if not sufficiently refined to feel the want of a coinage, were still masters of considerable wealth in the precious metals.

Whilst the political constitution of the country would appear to have been inimical to those pursuits which truly enrich a state, and form its best claim to ascendancy in the scale of nations, there were arts cultivated which were congenial even to a continued state of military contest, and had power to impart a fallacious

charm to acts of sanguinary aggression. Poetry and music were these arts; and both were made to sympathize with scenes of contention,—with the festival of the victor and the groans of the discomfited. In all those ages during which war was the chief business of society, and commerce was little known, the romantic scenery of Ireland echoed to the strains of her bards. Their songs stimulated the warrior to enterprize, and raised enthusiasm in the hall of triumph. In the same halls the bards formed the genealogists of their patrons, and the historians of public events.

The professors of the divine arts of poetry and music were rewarded with honours and emoluments, proportionate to the value of their efforts to elevate the national feeling, and to eternize the exploits of distinguished warriors. The harp of Ireland, which constituted its pride in prosperity, proved the solace of its adverse hours. It often encouraged a spirit of romance in real life, and added to rational regret a vein of lamentation over scenes of visionary bliss, created by its own powers; but it likewise assisted in preserving features of national heroism, admirable in the esteem of the brave and the generous of all countries and ages. Until the seventeenth century, representatives of the ancient bards were still protected and cherished in the mansions of the noble and affluent. Although their order be now extinct, their songs and melodies form subjects of exquisite pleasure, and act as emphatic memorials of the national superiority, at an early period, in those arts which “exalt and enchant the human soul.”

IRELAND SUBSEQUENT TO THE ENTRY OF THE ENGLISH.—Ireland, in the latter part of the twelfth century, had little cause to apprehend the formidable interference of foreign powers, if its strength had been collectively exercised under one efficient head of government. In regard to the quarter whence such an interference took place, it is evident that Henry II. of England had for some time meditated the union of the two islands beneath his own crown; but it was sufficiently proved, by the events of many succeeding ages, that other objects of policy or ambition,

and the unsettled state of its own affairs, prevented the English government from seriously devoting its powers to the reduction of the Irish princes. On deliberate reflection, the patriot of each land will allow that the junction of the two countries must be conducive to mutual interest, whilst such modes of legislation are adopted as are due to an associated, not a conquered, people.

Ambition alone was sufficient to stimulate Henry to the annexation of Ireland to his crown, in an age when the reputation of a sovereign chiefly arose from his extent of enterprize. Accordingly we find that, shortly after he ascended the throne, Henry II. procured from Pope Adrian a bull, sanctioning him in a project he entertained of adding that island to his dominions.*

The various troubles which accumulated around the head of Henry at an early period of his reign, caused him to delay the prosecution of this purpose ; and we cannot, indeed, point to any date of his long, but disturbed, career in which he would have found leisure for such an undertaking. But the perplexed and dangerous form of political constitution in Ireland, so prolific of faction, and decidedly inimical to the growth of public spirit, led to the entry of the English at the request of a native prince.

Dermod Mac Morough, King of Hy Kinselagh, or South Leinster, was vanquished in the storm of faction, and, according to uniform assertion, merited the ill-fortune which he experienced. That he was turbulent, cruel, and treacherous, is shown in many pages of the Irish annals. It is, however, worthy of remark that his tyranny appears to have been chiefly directed towards the ennobled and powerful part of his subjects, in counterbalance of whose influence he protected the commonalty, in an unusual degree. So base is his character, that we are constrained to believe this appearance of tenderness proceeded from policy rather than feeling ; and it is mentioned merely with a view of accounting for an unexpected share of popularity which he possessed

* This bull is printed in *Hibernia Expugnata* ; *Rymer's Fœdera* ; *Lyttelton's History of Henry II.* ; *Leland's Hist. of Ireland* ; and several other works.

amongst the subordinate classes, and which is connected with some eventful passages of history. Amongst other acts of rapine and violence, this King of Leinster had seized the wife of O'Ruark, King of Breifne, whom he dishonoured and conveyed in triumph to his own province. It has been insinuated that Dervorghal, the lady in question, indulged in much freedom of deportment, and was not altogether an unwilling victim to the desires of Dermod. History has little interest in her morals or sentiments, for it is certain that this adulterous insult was not the immediate cause of Dermod's expulsion from his kingdom, as has been usually asserted by English writers. It appears that the outrage was committed sixteen years before the English were invited into Ireland; and the animosity of the party which triumphed over the King of Leinster is satisfactorily traced to political causes.

By a combination of enraged enemies, at the head of whom was Roderic, King of Connaught, and titular monarch of Ireland, Dermod was driven from his provincial throne; and, in this extremity, he resolved on the unworthy plan of endeavouring to regain power by means of foreign arms. The situation of his territory naturally directed his attention to England; and, with sixty followers, he landed at the port of Bristol. Henry II. was then in Aquitaine, and thither Dermod quickly proceeded. It cannot be doubted but that his solicitation of aid was extremely acceptable to the English King. It at once revived the project Henry had formerly entertained, and flattered him with the hope of easy success over a people thus perniciously divided.

The engagements of the King of England, both foreign and domestic, prevented him from taking a full advantage of this opportunity; but he readily accepted the tender of allegiance which Dermod as freely offered, and gave to him a letter of credence, in which he promised his royal licence and favour to any of his subjects who might be disposed to assist the dethroned Irish prince. After some fruitless applications, Dermod prevailed on Richard, son of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Chepstow, to promise that he would lead into Ireland a considerable force in the ensuing spring, in reward for which service he was to receive in marriage the

daughter of Dermod, with an assurance of succession to sovereign dignity.* The fugitive king also procured the co-operation of several adventurous knights of Wales, under the conduct of Robert Fitz-Stephen and Maurice Fitzgerald. "Such," observes a modern historian, "was the original scheme of an invasion, which in the event proved of so great importance. An odious fugitive, driven from his province by faction and revenge, gains a few adventurers in Wales, whom youthful valour, or distress of fortune, led into Ireland, in hopes of some advantageous settlements."

Returning secretly to Ireland, Dermod lay concealed for some time in a monastery erected by himself at Ferns; and at length appearing in the face of day, not only found several partizans, but was enabled to engage in sanguinary skirmishes with the adverse power. In the month of May, A. D. 1170, a part of the promised succour arrived, under the command of Robert Fitz-Stephen. According to Giraldus these forces consisted of 130 knights, sixty men in armour, and 300 archers, all chosen men of Wales. With this expedition came Hervey de Montmorency, generally called Uncle of Earl Strongbow. On the following day there landed a re-inforcement of ten knights and 200 archers, commanded by Maurice de Prendegast, a native of South Wales. Maurice Fitzgerald debarked shortly after, with ten gentlemen of service, thirty horsemen, and about 100 archers.

These troops, few in number, but well disciplined, immediately

* It would appear that the grants made by Dermod to Earl Strongbow merely served as an excuse for the military assumption of property. "By the Hibernian constitution, no prince, chief or nobleman, could demise, or grant, his landed property, without the permission of the states of his nation. No prince could, in any case, make over the sovereignty of his nation, without the concurrence of the state. Nor could any woman, of whatever rank or condition, possess landed property, except in dower, confirmed in the assembly of the states. Nor could any alliance, grant, bargain, or contract, by the Hibernian constitution be binding longer than the joint lives of the contracting parties; for, according to the fundamental maxim of the Brehon laws, *Death breaks all chains.*" Brehon Laws, MS. as extracted by W. Beauford, A. M.

entered on active service, in conjunction with many of the former subjects of Dermod, who crowded to his standard on the appearance of a change in his fortunes. Although not without several arduous contests, the allies succeeded in re-placing a great part of Leinster beneath the power of Dermod, on condition of his acknowledging the supremacy of Roderic, and paying to him such services as were held due from inferior princes to the "monarch of Ireland." In contemplating this success, we must remember that the struggle did not exist between an invading power and the nation at large. It is true that Roderic, the nominal sovereign of the whole country, took the field; but, as it would appear, merely for the purpose of reducing a refractory vassal, who re-assumed power in opposition to his wishes. The interests of the country were so entirely divided by the form of the constitution, that internal wars were still carried on amongst various rival chieftains, to the entire neglect of those British invaders whose interference was supposed merely to apply to that individual province, in the quarrels of which they were first concerned.

Re-instated in Leinster, Dermod soon aspired to the monarchy, in opposition to Roderic, and applied to Earl Strongbow* for the speedy supply of that aid which he had formerly promised. The circumstances of the earl were such as rendered the undertaking desirable in his esteem; his private fortune was in a ruinous condition, and he was neglected by the court. But, in the habitual cautiousness of his temper, he was unwilling to commence so important an enterprize without the express permission of his sovereign. Henry, we are told, discountenanced the design, but did not positively forbid its execution; and the earl determined on profiting by his dubious acquiescence. In the spring of 1171, his preparations were complete; and his confidential friend, Raymond, surnamed *Le Gros*, first embarked, with ten gentlemen of service, and seventy archers. This small band landed near Waterford, and quickly formed an intrenched camp, in which they

* Richard, Earl of Chepstow, was surnamed Strongbow, on account of his skill and great exploits in archery. Under this appellation he is usually recognised by historical writers.

were vigorously assailed by the inhabitants of Waterford and the contiguous country ; but the assailants were repelled, with the slaughter of 500 men and the capture of many. Such was the first exploit of Raymond Fitzwilliam, surnamed Le Gros, whose subsequent achievements justify our early historians in assigning him a very conspicuous rank among his many distinguished contemporaries. He was, as has been said, the most renowned general, the wisest counsellor, and the ablest manager of the affairs of Ireland. Raymond le Gros was the son of William Fitzgerald, the eldest son of Gerald of Windsor, governor of Pembroke castle, by Nesta, daughter of Gruffydh ap Rhys, prince of South Wales.

When Earl Strongbow was on the point of embarking for Ireland, he was surprized by a command from Henry to desist from his intended enterprize ; but, in neglect of this prohibition, he sailed from Milford, and landed near Waterford on the 23d of August, 1171, with 200 gentlemen of service, and about 1200 soldiers. They were immediately joined by the party under Raymond ; and, on the ensuing morning, commenced an attack on Waterford, which city, after a short but vigorous defence, was reduced, with great waste of blood. As soon as tranquillity was restored, the marriage ceremony took place between Earl Strongbow and Eva, the daughter of Dermot, King of Leinster.

To the pages of regular history we must refer for a continuous narration of the various military events which occurred between the date at which Strongbow subdued Waterford, his first military undertaking in Ireland, and the landing of Henry II. in person. A brief outline would occupy too large a portion of our work ; and many particulars respecting local transactions are presented in different topographical sections. It must suffice to observe, in the present place, that Roderic, naturally alarmed by a course of warfare which had for its avowed object the removal of himself, for the purpose of seating Dermot on his throne, summoned his vassals, and penetrated, in opposition to Dermot and his allies, as far as Clondalkin, near Dublin. According to the Irish annalists, his brave but ill-organized troops, after a ser-

vice of brief duration, chiefly employed in skirmishing, there separated, and returned to their respective homes. Thus circumstanced, the titular monarch retired to his own province, leaving the other parts of Ireland to the fortune of war.

The growing success of Earl Strongbow, and his marriage with the daughter of Dermod, did not fail to increase the jealousy and political apprehensions of the English king. Fearful that this nobleman might erect an independent sovereignty, Henry commanded all his subjects resident in Ireland to return home before a stated time, and prohibited from passing to that island all vessels laden with military supplies. Whilst the adventurers struggled with numerous difficulties, consequent on this command and prohibition, the unprincipled Dermod expired; and thus the warfare of the English was deprived of the avowed motive under which it was originally conducted. The operations of Earl Strongbow were now chiefly confined to Dublin and its vicinity; whilst Fitz-Stephen, with another detachment of the English, was compelled to act on the defensive at Wexford, and was ultimately captured, as is said, through a stratagem of the basest nature.

Henry, King of England, at this time found leisure to make that visit to Ireland which policy demanded, and which was rendered of easy performance by the military connexion of his subjects with some of the parties into which the island was divided. As a prelude to his approach, he formally disavowed the proceedings of the private adventurers, and summoned Earl Strongbow to his presence. The earl obeyed, and yielded all his Irish acquisitions to the royal disposal. Henry, in his approach to Ireland, made a gradual progress through Wales; and thus allowed the Irish full time to deliberate on the measures necessary to be taken on so important an occurrence. But no sense appears to have been entertained of a common danger; and it is probable that each individual state merely calculated on its own interest, in utter apathy respecting what might have been deemed the dues of patriotism towards the general cause.

Henry landed at Waterford in the month of October, 1172,

attended by many noblemen, 400 knights or gentlemen of service, and about 4000 soldiers. The king was accurately informed of the dissensions which existed, and therefore did not expect any formidable opposition ; but an indignant bravery was observable throughout every part of the country, that might have prevented his taking a ready possession, if the state of society had been favourable to national resistance. He pursued a stately progress through Munster and Leinster ; and the several princes of those districts acknowledged his sovereignty, and consented to pay tribute ; but Roderic, though injured by the defection of these princes (who were, in truth, unable to avoid submission, whilst depending on their own peculiar resources) ; and harassed by dissensions in his immediate sphere of government ; still collected his provincial troops, and evinced a determination of defending Connaught, his own territory. The chiefs of Ulster, remote from the storm, also preserved a haughty independence in their retired districts. It is, however, certain that the progress of the king was not molested by those who disdained to acknowledge his supremacy.

The ensuing winter proved so extremely severe, that Henry was unable to make any attempts towards reducing the northern and western parts of the island ; and, after residing three months in Dublin, he sailed for England, called thither, at a short notice, by some exigencies of the state. Previous to his quitting this country, he appointed Earl Strongbow (joining Raymond le Gros with him in commission) chief governor over those parts which acknowledged the English power. He likewise divided the same districts into counties ;* and appointed for the shires, cities, and towns, sheriffs, judges-itinerant, and other officers suited to the administration of the English government and laws. It must be scarcely necessary to observe that these regulations were entirely

* There are some reasons for believing that a survey of such parts of Ireland as were possessed by the English, was made, in imitation of Domesday-book, by order of Henry II. If such a survey ever existed, it has been long since lost, and is, indeed, said to have been destroyed by fire, together with other records, previous to the time of Edward I.

confined to the narrow limits of the English settlements ; and that the mere circumstance of many Irish princes rendering tribute, produced no alteration in the form of government, or laws, existing in their respective territories.

Chiefly through the operations of the original adventurers, Henry acquired actual dominion over several maritime cities. The province of Leinster, fallaciously claimed by Earl Strongbow, as heir of King Dermot, was to be held of the king and his heirs by that nobleman. Some parts of Meath, also, appear to have been ceded to the English king. When we remember that the sway over Leinster depended entirely on military strength, we must perceive that the dominion of the English was truly circumscribed at the date of Henry's departure ; and that, as has been observed by Sir John Davies, he left not " behind him one true subject more than those he found at his coming over, which were only the English adventurers, who had gained the port-towns in Leinster and Munster, and possessed some scopes of land thereunto adjoining."

Henry bestowed large grants of land on several approved persons, and directed fortresses to be erected in eligible places. Encouraging a spirit of adventure, whilst himself was distinctly owned as liege-lord, he granted to a distinguished baron, John de Courcy, the whole province of Ulster, " provided he could reduce it by force of arms."

When the king quitted Ireland, the settlers were chiefly, if not entirely, left to a reliance on their own exertions and their private resources. The sole direction of affairs was shortly after committed to Earl Strongbow, who experienced many difficulties from the aversion, and the ardent, but ill-conducted efforts of some of the native princes. The arms of the settlers were, however, so potent, when opposed to the struggles of a divided people, that the English were enabled to extend their incursions, and acquired possession of the city of Limerick. Roderic, the nominal monarch of Ireland, convinced, as it would appear, that it was impracticable to stimulate his countrymen to unanimous opposition, now determined on averting immediate danger from his own province, by

having nearly attained the age of ninety, though so frequently exposed to domestic and foreign dangers. The last twelve years of his calamitous life were passed in religious retirement, in the monastery of Cong; under the head of which pious foundation his merits and sorrows are more fully noticed.

The various troubles incidental to the disputed claim, and imbecile disposition of King John, prevented his seriously interposing for the redress of those grievances which were daily accumulating in Ireland. Encouraged by these circumstances, De Lacy, in Meath, and De Courcy, in Ulster, affected independence; and although continually engaged in contests with the native chiefs of those provinces, by united valour and intrigue for some time maintained their acquisitions.

In the year 1210, this king visited Ireland, but remained for three months only, and prosecuted no military undertaking of importance. He received the submission of several princes, and directed his attention, with considerable assiduity, to the regulation of the Irish government. The English territories were now more accurately divided into counties, and directions were given for the construction of several castles on the borders of the English settlements.

The counties which were established during this regal visit, explain the extent of the English pale at that time. It is commonly believed that these were the counties of Dublin; Meath; Kildare; Louth; Carlow; Kilkenny; Wexford; Waterford; Cork; Kerry; Limerick; and Tipperary. Although this king left no military power, in aid of the colonists, it is certain that the English strength was continually increasing, from the influx of fresh adventurers, who progressively formed new settlements. Still, the arms of bands so thin and scattered, whilst totally unassisted by the head of government, could not have maintained secure possession in any other than a country divided against itself. It is observed by Sir John Davies, that, "after this time, the Kings of England never sent over any royal army, or any numbers of men, worthy to be called an army, until the thirty-sixth year of King Edward the Third."

During the long reign of the third Henry, Ireland was harassed by continued scenes of turbulence and bloodshed. It is unquestionable that the English possessed, at this time, a growing power over most of the Irish princes; but the weakness of the crown enabled them to prosecute dangerous and disgraceful schemes of personal aggrandizement. While the great lords assumed in their own persons the authority, and by degrees approached towards the character, of those native princes whom they had subdued, they became almost uniformly secret rivals, and in some instances the declared enemies of each other. Thus, with the first appearance of security, commenced a series of petty tyrannies which proved deeply injurious to the natives, and obstructed the best interests of the English in Ireland.

Little advantage had been derived from the conduct of the various governors sent by Henry, and that king vested in his son, the brave and accomplished Edward, and his heirs, the whole of his own claims on Ireland, “ provided that the lands thus granted should not be separated from the crown, but remain for ever to the kings of England, and be held by a delegated authority.” In consequence of such a grant, we often find, in the historical documents of this period, the lands of the king’s subjects in Ireland termed the *lands of Lord Edward*. It was intended that the prince should repair to his Irish government; but the troubles of his father’s reign, and his expedition to the east, prevented so desirable a circumstance.

The great power attained by the English barons settled in Ireland, and the serious contests for ascendancy in which they were constantly engaged, led to the erection of very numerous castles in this long and disordered reign. The remains of many of these structures are to be seen in different parts of the country; and nearly every ruinous pile is connected with tales of factious enterprize, often of a romantic although sanguinary character.

The circumstances of Ireland experienced no important change during the reign of Edward I. As a proof of the dangerous height of power attained by the principal settlers, it may be remarked that it was found necessary, by a parliament held in this reign,

to pass an ordination, forbidding the lords to make war without licence of the chief governor, or by special mandate of the king.

In the reign of Edward the Second, Ireland experienced an invasion from the Scots, which at first wore an aspect of considerable importance. This enterprize was conducted by Edward Bruce, brother of Robert of that name, who had assumed the crown of Scotland. The undertaking was favoured by many of the Irish, and particularly by the chieftains of Ulster. The Scots, to the number of 6000, landed in the north-east part of Ireland, in May, 1315, and were joined by the Irish lords of Ulster. They quickly ravaged the possessions of the most exposed of the English settlers, razing to the ground many castles, and destroying by fire several towns. Richard, Earl of Ulster, assembled a force to oppose the invaders, and was assisted by the Irish Prince of Connaught; an army commanded by Sir Hamon le Gras also gave a temporary check to their progress in the battle of Ascul, but there appears to have been a want of co-operation on the part of the English lords, and Bruce succeeded in penetrating as far as the county of Louth. He was unable to maintain that advanced position, but remained for some time unmolested in Ulster, where he assumed the style and parade of sovereignty, having been crowned at Dundalk. It is necessary, as it assists in explaining the extent of the jealousies which prevailed amongst the English, even at this early period, to observe that the invaders were joined by considerable numbers of persons, termed by historians *degenerate English*, by which is to be understood such settlers as had gradually, by intermarriage and habit, assumed the dress and manners of the original Irish.

Alarmed for their own safety by the increasing success of Bruce, the principal English barons at length united their strength, and entered on vigorous measures. But they had to encounter no ordinary enemy, and had little right to expect favour from the native inhabitants. Bruce proceeded, without molestation, to the walls of Dublin, but declined the attack of that city. After committing ravages in various parts of the country, he again retired to Ulster, where his troops are said to have been driven to an

extremity of distress by disease and famine. He was pursued by an English force under Sir John Bermingham ; and a decisive action took place near Dundalk, in which the Scots were defeated and Bruce was slain.

The miseries produced amongst all classes by this destructive war, failed to operate beneficially on the manners of the principal English settlers. In the reign of Edward the Third we find the English lords engaged in renewed schemes of individual ambition, and again plunged in sanguinary hostilities amongst themselves. The Irish naturally took advantage of these animosities ; but, from a want of concert and union, their attempts were chiefly confined to predatory excursions. In the year 1361, Lionel (afterwards Duke of Clarence), son of Edward III. entered Ireland, as governor, with a splendid retinue, and a force of about 1500 men. The same royal personage was again appointed governor in 1367. His military expeditions were attended with some temporary renown, but one of the most memorable transactions of his government consisted in that ordinance of parliament which is usually known by the name of the *Statute of Kilkenny*. From this curious statute we find that the English were rapidly advancing in an assimilation of manners and laws with the original Irish, and daily becoming less disposed towards a contented dependance on the English crown. Many persons now retired into England, forming *absentees* of the most pernicious description, as their presence was not only necessary to the defence of their castellated seats, but was essential to the general security. Amongst the grievances constituting matter for a petition to the throne, in this reign, the total neglect of such fortifications and castles as were in the custody of the king, is the leading article.

Richard the Second conducted, at different periods of his reign, two potent armies into Ireland ; but without performing any decisive action, calculated to produce the groundwork of permanent tranquillity. His first voyage to this country took place in the year 1394, at which time he landed at Waterford, as is said, with an army consisting of 4000 men at arms, and 30,000 archers. But it is probable that the number of his forces is much over-rated.

He took no steps for the establishment of such a strong and equitable form of government as might render nominal conquest a real blessing, but received, with much ostentation, the offers of submission tendered by numerous Irish princes. We are not informed of any strenuous efforts towards reducing the power of those English settlers, whose assumptions were more dangerous to the public peace, even than the defective modes of government prevailing amongst the original chiefs; but all works professing to represent the history of Ireland are deficient in reference to legitimate records. According to such authorities as we are constrained to adopt, the transactions of Richard, during this first visit, were chiefly confined to the exercise of supremacy over the Irish princes, and to scenes of pageantry and festival. He resided in Ireland about nine months, without extending the English pale one rood of ground beyond its former limits. In the year 1399, this king was again in Ireland, and, whilst engaged in some contests of no great importance with the native Irish, here received intelligence of the measures taken for his deposition.

The civil wars between the houses of York and Lancaster failed to produce any momentous change in the condition of Ireland. The most powerful of the English settlers employed their arms on opposite sides of the contending parties; and, from this circumstance, the country escaped scenes of unavailing bloodshed which must have proceeded from an attempt of either of the great Anglo-Hibernian houses to establish an independent government, during the convulsed and weak state of Britain. The original Irish refrained from any unanimous effort to expel the English, whilst the power of the settlers was thus drained for the sustenance of transmarine quarrels. They, however, seized on many tracts of land, left without defence at this juncture; and demanded, and received, annual tribute from the exposed parts of the contracted English province.

Owing to a defective policy in the faction then ruling in England, Richard, Duke of York, was appointed Vicegerent of Ireland in the reign of Henry VI. This prince was possessed of a large estate in Ireland, and was invested with the earldom of Ulster,

together with the Lordships of Connaught, Clare, Trim and Meath. His talents and pretensions were calculated to increase the number of his adherents ; and he, in fact, drew from this country a formidable accession of power. Although the great lords of Ireland were divided between the rival roses, he possessed a host of strength in the attachment of the Earl of Desmond. At the fatal battle of Wakefield the duke's army was chiefly composed of Irish troops, about 5000 in number. Their courage, discipline, and fidelity were attested by the obduracy with which they there contended against a superior force, and by the numbers which fell victims on that disastrous plain.

Whilst Desmond sided with York, the Butler family, of which the Earl of Ormonde was head, displayed an attachment equally fervid towards the house of Lancaster. Local history affords many anecdotes relating to these times of trouble, in which the operations of party were not confined to England, the great scene of action ; but the events of these memorable civil wars, as they affect individual noble houses, belong to our topographical department. The lasting inclination of the Irish (for so we must now designate the descendants of the successive English settlers) towards the house of York, was proved by the readiness with which they admitted the pretensions of the impostor, Lambert Simnel, who, in the reign of Henry VII, personated the Earl of Warwick, son of George, Duke of Clarence, and in his assumed character preferred a claim to the crown of England. Simnel was crowned in Ireland, and was chiefly supported by troops from this country in the single battle which terminated his public career, at Newark. Whilst the settlers expended their strength in factious disputes and enterprises, the original Irish septs were likewise engaged in continual wars amongst themselves.* Thus, the best interests of society lay dormant, throughout the whole island, from the want of a concentrated and supreme governing power.

Sir Edward Poynings, an English Knight, much in the confidence of Henry VII, was appointed governor by that King. During his exercise of vice-regal authority was passed that cele-

* The following laconic epistles have been often adduced, as examples

brated act, very generally known by the name of *Poynings' Law*, according to which "no parliament was to be holden in Ireland, until the acts should be certified in England." All discussion respecting the intention, or character, of this enactment is remote from our purpose, but it had too imperative an operation on the future affairs of the country, to remain entirely unnoticed.

As a subject more immediately connected with the illustration of topography, it must be remarked, that, according to a contemporary writer, Ireland, in the reign under consideration, contained "no less than sixty regions, of different dimensions, all governed by Irish chieftains after their ancient laws and manners, together with a long catalogue of degenerate English, who had renounced all obedience to government, in the several provinces." The English pale, according to the same writer, was confined within the narrow bounds of "half the counties of Louth, Meath, Kildare, Dublin, and Wexford; and the common people of those districts he represents, as entirely conforming to the Irish habit and language."*

That reformation of the religious establishment which was effected in England with little difficulty, in the reign of Henry VIII. met with a principle of opposition in Ireland, which was cherished by a great majority of the population through all the political vicissitudes of succeeding ages, and is well known to exist at the present day. Similar statutes to those passed in England, respecting the supremacy of the king, appeals to Rome, first fruits, the suppression of religious houses, &c. were severally enacted;

of those imperious demands, and contemptuous refusals, which led to sanguinary contests between the septs of original Irish:

"O'NIAL to O'DONNEL.

"Pay me your tribute, or if you don't—

"O'NIAL."

"O'DONNEL to O'NIAL.

"I owe you no tribute, and if I did—

"O'DONNEL."

* MS. Trin. Col. Dublin; of which curious document see an account in Leland's Hist. of Ireland, vol ii. p. 97-8.

but, from the state of the country, were not enforced with any resemblance of the extent or rigour there practised. In the parliament held at Dublin, in the 33d year of Henry VIII. all the monasteries and religious houses in Ireland were nominally dissolved, and persons were sent from England, to make a regular survey of the property and revenues thus seized by the crown. But it is obvious that such monasteries only as were within the most tractable parts of the strict English pale, were reduced in the reign of Henry. By Sir John Davies we are informed that the abbeys and religious houses in "Tyrone, Tirconnel, and Fermanagh, were never surveyed, nor reduced into charge, but remained in possession of the religious until the reign of James the First."

Thus, to use the language of Mr. Archdall, which on this subject we greatly prefer to any original remarks, "The prostrating fury of reformation, which, in England, laid the proudest structures and their monkish inhabitants level with the ground, operated more slowly in Ireland. The English interest here was weak, and consequently unable to carry into effect the plans projected in the sister kingdom. No Wickliff had ever raised his voice in Ireland against the command of the Sovereign Pontiff; none dared to incur his dire anathemas; our princes and people were the most passive subjects over whom the successors of St. Peter ever exercised apostolic domination. It was after much trouble and civil commotion, that penal laws and a steady and spirited British administration dissolved our connection with Rome, and established a partial Protestantism."*

* *Monas. Hibern. Intro.* p. xi.-xii.—The author of the *Monasticon* explains the propriety of the term "partial," as used in the above passage, by observing that, in the year 1756, there were, in different parts of Ireland, one hundred and eighty-one monks of the order of St. Dominick. "The Franciscans," continues Mr. Archdall, "are much more numerous, and the other orders have many members, all of them preserving the memory of their former possessions, and residing at, or near, their ancient monasteries." The same writer remarks, that from such a succession of persons practising a monastic life, "it might be imagined that there could not be a dearth of chartularies, registers, ledger-books, obituaries, and other evidences of the origin and state of our Abbeys; but

Until this reign the British Sovereign had been styled Lord of Ireland; but Henry VIII. altered the title to that of King. In the year 1541, he was proclaimed “King of England, Ireland, and France, Defender of the Faith, and in Earth Supreme Head of the Church of England and Ireland.”*

In the reign of Edward VI. the agents of those who exercised power in the name of that juvenile monarch, pursued the task of reformation in this country with the same barbarous hostility towards works of art that was displayed in England. Sculpture, painted windows, bells, and every species of ornamental, or valuable, church furniture, fell victims to the mistaken piety, or the avarice, of these ill-chosen emissaries. It is long since all well-educated classes first concurred in deprecating the irremediable havoc committed in the fine religious fabrics of England; nor can the antiquary and topographer call in vain for the same

this is far from being the case. The various convulsions which Ireland experienced, banished many of her religious to the Continent; some of our ecclesiastical records were carried away, but much more were lost in the turbulence of the times. Happily the inquiries of Sir Robert Cotton, Archbishop Usher, and Sir James Ware, impressed a value on such documents, and preserved them from total destruction.”

* Dr. Ledwich (*Antiqs. of Ireland*, p. 231-2) contends that the Harp was at this time adopted as the armorial bearing of Ireland, a circumstance supposed to be confirmed by the first appearance of that symbol on Irish coins in the year 1530. But the following remarks by Mr. Chalmers, shew that Ireland claimed the harp, as a badge of national arms, at an earlier period:—“When a commission was appointed, during the reign of Edward IV. to inquire what were the arms of Ireland, the commissioners returned, that her arms consisted of *three crowns in pale*. There remains in the College of Arms, a curious roll, containing the badges of the Earls of Warwick, from Brutus, the founder, which was composed by the celebrated John Rous, the Warwick antiquary, who died 1491. He included Richard III. as an Earl of Warwick: the antiquary, in painting the several crests of Richard, surmounted his crest as Lord of Ireland, with *the Harp*, and, in order to prevent mistakes, wrote under each crest, England, France, Aquitaine, and Ireland. These facts demonstrate that English Ireland had armorial bearings in an earlier age than her antiquaries have been disposed to allow.”—Chalmers’ *Caledonia*, vol. i. p. 463. *Note*.

concurrence of the liberal, in a sentiment of disgust, whilst they sigh over the desolated beauty of many estimable structures in the sister island.

Under the sanction of Queen Mary, all acts made against the holy see were repealed, and the jurisdiction of the Pope was re-established. To the church were restored the rectories, glebes, and other emoluments vested in the crown since the twenty-eighth year of Henry VIII. : the laity retained, in a firm grasp, those lands formerly appended to religious houses of which they had obtained grants.

The reign of Elizabeth, as relates to Ireland, presents one lamentable scene of continued warfare. The disputes of the factions, and the insurrections of the aggrieved, were now rendered more dangerous by the interference of a foreign power. The detail of the various sanguinary events which occurred in this long reign, causes humanity to shudder, and we are eager to escape to more pacific ages, in which divided and contentions greatness, however obtained, sinks beneath one supreme head. The wars under Elizabeth raged in all the provinces, and affect the topography of nearly every minor division of the island. Some brief hints respecting the character and duration of the principal of these contests must be all that is required in the present place.

The Spaniards, roused to severe anger by the support which Elizabeth had granted to the Netherlands, sent, at different times in this reign, aids of men and arms to the discontented princes and lords of Ireland. In one of these expeditions seven hundred Spaniards and Italians landed in the south, but were subdued, with no great difficulty, by a force under the Lord Grey. We shall, hereafter, state more fully, when noticing the place at which the transaction occurred, that this small body of invaders, with such of the Irish as had time to collect and join them, were, with the exception of their officers, inhumanly put to death in cold blood by the conquerors !

The war conducted against the English government by the Earl of Tyrone (who resumed the title of O'Nial, together with the exercise of sovereign power in Ulster) was the most important

contest of this age. All minor factions were, indeed, progressively involved in the great struggle on which he entered; and the final reduction of his power led to the settlement of the whole island beneath the legislative sway of England, in the succeeding reign.

Leaving to the regular historian, and to incidental notices in topographical pages, the long and perplexed series of events connected with the rise of this war, and its gradual increase in consequence until it prevailed, with different degrees of vigour, in all quarters; we direct the attention of the reader to one of its most important events, by observing that, in 1599, Robert, Earl of Essex, was appointed lord lieutenant, and furnished with an army of twenty thousand men. On his arrival he quickly found the difficulties of the situation which he had undertaken, at his own request. Embarrassed by the conflicting interests and opinions of the Irish Council, in contradiction to his former assertions respecting the proper course to be adopted, he first directed his march towards the south, whence he returned to the province of Leinster with a diminished and dispirited army.

O'Nial, confidently expecting assistance from Spain, and convinced by experience that his chief hope of success depended on protracting the war, resorted to his antient expedient of amusing his opponent by parleys, conferences, and proposals. Contrary, also, to the course of conduct which the Earl of Essex had in this respect prescribed for an able and honest general, he admitted of these delays, and agreed to a truce of six weeks. It has been suspected that a want of loyalty, rather than of spirit or judgment, caused the earl thus to act in direct opposition to the opinions he had professed to entertain. According to some writers, he was desirous of employing the force with which he was entrusted against his personal enemies in England, rather than against the foes of the state in Ireland. But this has not been proved. By virtue of a warrant granted by the queen soon after his arrival in this country, allowing him to repair to England without summons, he abruptly quitted his command, and appeared at court before

his intention was ascertained. His subsequent intemperate conduct, and death on the scaffold, are well known.

Lord Mountjoy was appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1600. His efforts were ably seconded by Sir George Carew, President of Munster; and, by a severe but skilful course of warfare, he eventually triumphed over that opposition with which Sir John Norris and the Earl of Essex had temporized. The success of these generals was, however, delayed by the landing of a Spanish force, commanded by Don Juan d'Aquila, in aid of O'Nial. The Spaniards debarked in the south of Ireland, but at too late a period of the war to be serviceable to their friends. Their conduct displayed much bravery and a high sense of military honour; but, after several unavailing exertions, they abandoned the cause, and evacuated the country on stipulation.

The remainder of the war consisted in a gradual pursuit of the enemy towards his strong hold in the north. In the prosecution of this dreadful task, forts were reduced, and slaughter was spread far and wide. Enclosed by conquering troops in every direction, the wretched insurgents perished in great numbers, more dying through famine than by the sword. We hasten to the close of scenes so appalling.—O'Nial threw himself on the mercy of the queen, and his submission was accepted. He relinquished his princely name, with all its assumed authority; and it has been emphatically said that, shortly after his submission, “no insurgent remained in the kingdom, who had not obtained or solicited mercy.”

Thus terminated those contests between the natives* and the

* It may be necessary to observe that by the term “Natives,” as connected with the internal wars of Ireland after the thirteenth century, we are not to understand the original Irish, exclusively. The English settlers, being chiefly private adventurers, when dispersed in parts of the country remote from the seat of government, found it to the advantage of their tranquillity to adopt the manners of the Irish, rather than to encourage an imitation of their own. To the credit of the original Irish, whose warmth of hospitable kindness, in all stages of society, has never been called in question, they readily entered into friendly association with those who had obtained a settlement and accorded with their manners.

English government, which lasted, to the injury of all parties, for upwards of four centuries.

Few opportunities of exercising regal power can be more enviable than that now possessed by James I. To him belonged the noblest harvest of victory, that of instituting civil regulations for the amelioration of a country, so long distracted by struggles for individual ascendancy that the arts of peace were unknown or despised, whilst *the people* were considered merely as the instruments of turbulent enterprize. That much local dissatisfaction should be created in the progress of attempts so arduous, will naturally be expected; and it is certain that many acts of great injustice to individuals were committed in consequence of some arrangements made by James, professedly for the public good.

Amongst the first important actions towards the settlement of the country, the antient Irish customs of Tanistry and Gavelkind were abolished, and the English law substituted for the Brehon jurisdiction. A subsequent measure has so much influence on the topographical history of this country, that it demands explicit notice.—In the twelfth year of Queen Elizabeth a law had been made, enabling the Lord Deputy to receive surrenders, and to re-grant estates to the Irish. But, as is observed by Sir John Davies, “there were few of the Irish lords that made offer to surrender during her reign; and they which made surrenders obtained grants of the whole again, to themselves only, whilst no

The history of Ireland, previous to the entry of the English, presents, indeed, a succession of colonists who, by degrees, amalgamated with the original Celtic population, and are not usually distinguished from the first possessors of the soil. Great numbers of the English had adopted the language and national sentiments of the Irish, long before the time of Queen Elizabeth; in whose reign, and in the wars noticed above, they sided by whole septs, or under the guidance of Anglo-Hibernian nobles with the descendants of the original inhabitants. Since the time of the Eighth Henry, the painful distinctions of religion had aided in widening the line of separation between the descendants of the antient English settlers, and the English newly arrived. From the date of that reign there appears to have been little or no distinction, in the point of view taken by English writers, between the original Irish and the posterity of the old English plantation.

care was taken of the inferior septs of people inhabiting these countries under them." By the neglect of small proprietors, mentioned in this passage, our author means that a degree of power, injurious to the commonwealth, was left in the hands of the principal lord, whilst the possessions of inferiors descended in the antient course of Tanistry and Gavelkind, and remained subject to long-established duties towards the chief.

In the reign of James, continues the author last cited, two special commissions were sent from England, "the one for accepting surrenders of the Irish and degenerate English, and for re-granting estates unto them according to the course of the common law; the other for strengthening of defective titles. In the execution of which commissions there was special care taken to settle and secure the under-tenants." It will not be doubted but that, under the existing political circumstances, many Irish chiefs embraced this opportunity of converting a tenure for life into an estate in fee, and a very general surrender of lands consequently took place.

The plans of the king were greatly advanced by the flight of the Earls of Tyrone and Tirconnel, who quitted the country under a charge of high treason, leaving their vast possessions in the north to the mercy of the crown. It is too likely that interested persons took advantage of the well-known contentious character of these lords, and imputed to them a crime which either had no existence or was aggravated by the accusers. The event alone is of import to the object of these pages. The two earls, with other persons in the north, of inferior note, were attainted, and a vast tract of land in Ulster, amounting to not less than 500,000 acres, escheated to the crown. On this extensive territory the king placed a colony of *Undertakers*, as these planters were termed, in part from England, but chiefly from Scotland. The conditions on which the plantation was conducted, and the important national effect of its industrious members and their posterity, are noticed, in that part of our work which is descriptive of the province of Ulster.

Other large tracts of land, considered to be vested in the

crown by the troubles of recent ages, were likewise granted, by James I. to different persons supposed likely to advance the general welfare. Among these latter grants, were not less than 400,000 acres, situated in the counties of Leitrim; Longford; Westmeath; and those of the King and Queen.—As it was usually stipulated that each undertaker should erect on his lands a castle, or house, proportioned to their extent, we find in Ireland very numerous remains of buildings evincing the architectural style of this reign.

The reign of Charles I. was marked in the annals of Ireland by a civil war of dreadful ferocity, which differed in character from those we have hitherto noticed, as religious enmity had a large share in its commencement, and (still more to the disgrace of human nature) in the cruelty with which it was conducted by each contending party. In the prosecution of this war, which commenced in October, 1641, and lasted, with little intermission, for nearly eleven years, most of the principal towns in Ireland experienced assault, or are rendered memorable in the annals of this period, by conflicts which took place in their vicinity. Whilst England was harassed by sanguinary disputes between the king and parliament, the civil wars of Ireland were occasionally diverted into channels foreign to the original subjects of dissension, or at least subsidiary to the chief objects of those with whom these commotions originated. But when the parliamentary party obtained the complete ascendancy, serious measures were adopted for the reduction of the royalists and Roman catholics of Ireland. Oliver Cromwell entered this distressed country, with the title of Lord-lieutenant, in the year 1649. His army consisted of 8000 foot and 4000 horse, provided with a formidable train of artillery; and he commenced a course of operations barbarously severe with the assault of Drogheda, which place was taken by storm, and the garrison put to the sword. By measures thus prompt and unrelenting, he successfully terminated the war, but with a profusion of bloodshed that has stamped his name and cause with lasting disgrace.

The ravages committed in the Irish war under Cromwell,

extended, as in the wars of England at the same æra, to works of art thought to be superstitious. The topographer will find that, in many recorded instances, the mutilation of sculpture, and other atrocious injuries committed on religious piles and the monuments which they contained, are traced to the hands of these fanatic warriors.

It may be necessary to observe that, in the disposal of lands forfeited in the above disastrous wars, Oliver Cromwell assigned considerable portions to the army which had served from the date at which himself entered on command (the year 1649); and reserved the province of Connaught entirely for the Irish, under qualifications determined by Parliament. In the reign of Charles II. the Government made a declaration for the settlement of Ireland, which was of great importance in the future tenure of landed property.*

It is well known that in the reign of James II. Ireland was again plunged in warfare. James, after quitting England, had repaired to France, from which country he immediately proceeded

* By this declaration the adventurers were confirmed in the lands which they possessed on the 7th day of May, 1659, agreeably to the acts of the seventeenth and eighteenth of Charles I. The soldiers who had received allotments of lands for arrears of pay were also confirmed in possession, with an exception of church-lands, of estates procured by fraudulent means, &c. Protestants whose estates had been given to adventurers, or soldiers, were to be restored, unless they had been in rebellion before the cessation, or had taken out decrees for lands in Connaught or Clare. The persons thus removed were to be reprimed, "Innocent Papists," although they had taken lands in Connaught, were to be restored to their estates, and the persons removed also to be reprimed. Many of the Irish nobility and gentry were named, as objects of the king's peculiar favour, to be restored to their estates on condition that the adventurers, or soldiers, who then enjoyed them were reprimed, and satisfied for their disbursements. From all the estates involved in the act of settlement a small rent was reserved to the crown. For particulars respecting this "Declaration," which is an object of frequent reference in Irish topographical history, see Irish Stat. 14 and 15. Car. ii.—It is justly observed, in a note to the "Account of Tullaroan," in Mr. Shaw Mason's Parochial Survey, that "the proceedings under the commissions of claims during the Protectorate, and the ACTS of SETTLEMENT and

when he entered Ireland in March, 1689, at the head of about 1200 of his native subjects, in the pay of the French King. The memorable siege of Derry was his first military operation; and the lengthened opposition he there encountered formed the precursor of numerous disasters, destructive of his last hope of sovereignty. After a considerable delay, occasioned by the political intrigues and embarrassments which attended the early stages of William's elevation to the throne, James was opposed by an army under Duke Schonberg; but the same impediments in the machinery of government which had retarded the duke's entry into Ireland, prevented his achieving any military exploit of importance, and the great event of the war was reserved for the king in person.

William landed at Carrickfergus, on the 14th of June, 1690, attended by many persons of distinction, and was joined by Duke Schonberg. Passing quickly through the north, he sought the army of his rival in the vicinity of Drogheda, and commenced his campaign with the decisive battle of the Boyne, which was fought on the 1st of July, 1690.

Shortly after the loss sustained by James on that eventful day, he fled to France; but the hopes of his friends did not utterly expire on his flight, and much blood was yet spilt before the nation was restored to a resemblance of tranquillity. In the subsequent prosecution of the war many deplorable acts of ravage were committed by both parties, which long left emphatical marks, in the desolated buildings of the gentry, and the distress visible in every feature of the country. The chief military actions were achieved by General de Ginkle in the siege of Athlone, commanded by Colonel Richard Grace, and in the battle of Aghrim, which derives its name from a village in Galway, contiguous to the field of bloodshed. In this battle the English were

EXPLANATION after the Restoration, and the several transactions connected with them, would form in themselves, if compiled with adequate judgment and sufficient information, as curious and interesting, and also as desirable and necessary, a compendium of Irish history, as ever yet issued from the press."

again victorious, although not animated as before by the presence of the king. The war was terminated by the celebrated siege and reduction of Limerick, which place, after repelling the efforts of William in person, was surrendered to his forces, by capitulation, in October, 1691. The treaty then entered into forms an object of considerable interest in the history of Ireland, and is noticed in our account of the city of Limerick.—The forfeiture of lands consequent on this war was very considerable, and introduced a new race of settlers.*

* The following extract from a speech of Lord Clare, on the subject of the Union, has little pretension to accuracy in the statement of figures, but conveys some general information, highly curious, relating to the state of property in Ireland, subsequent to the reign of Elizabeth: “ From the report made by the commissioners appointed by the Parliament of England in 1698, it appears that the Irish subjects outlawed for the rebellion of 1688, amounted to 3978, and that their Irish possessions, as far as could be computed, were of the annual value of £211,623, comprising one million, sixty thousand, seven hundred and ninety-two acres. This fund was sold, under the authority of an English act of parliament, to defray the expences incurred by England in reducing the rebels of 1688, and the sale introduced into Ireland a new set of adventurers.

“ It is a very curious and important speculation to look back to the forfeitures of Ireland incurred in the last century. The superficial contents of the island are computed at eleven millions, forty-two thousand, six hundred and eighty-two acres. Let us now examine the state of forfeitures.

| | Acres. |
|--|------------|
| “ In the reign of James I. the whole of the Province of Ulster | |
| was confiscated, containing | 2,836,837 |
| Set out by the court of claims at the Restoration | 7,800,000 |
| Forfeitures of 1688..... | 1,060,792 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total | 11,697,629 |

“ So that the whole of the Island has been confiscated, with the exception of the estates of five or six families of English blood, some of whom had been attainted in the reign of Henry VIII. but recovered their possessions before Tyrone’s rebellion, and had the good fortune to escape the pillage of the English republic, inflicted by Cromwell; and no inconsiderable portion of the island has been confiscated twice, or perhaps thrice, in the course of a century. The situation, therefore, of the Irish nation, at the Revolution, stands unparalleled in the history of the inhabited world.”

The remainder of the history of Ireland, as it affects the leading objects of this work, chiefly relates to a slow progress in the arts of peace, too often retarded, until late years, by the impolitic neglect, or more active injustice, of a governing power long unacquainted with the true interests of the island, and with the able and generous character of its inhabitants. Amidst all the evils arising from a mal-administration of authority, the country gradually recovered from the shock of wars unprecedented in the annals of the world for frequency and severity. To the professed statistical writer, and to the philosophic historian, we leave the grateful task of tracing the national advance in commercial importance (commensurate with the improved liberality of government) and the effect of this dawning prosperity on the character of the people. In our remarks on architecture, comprised in these introductory pages, we show that the increase of security and refinement has, in late years, been conspicuously evinced in a great accession of splendid piles, both public and private, which adorn the face of the country, and nobly supplant, whilst they rival in number, those dreary masses of fortification which once formed the only architectural contrast, of a civil, or domestic description, to the forlorn cabin of the neglected peasant.

Two events, in years subsequent to the Revolution, demand mention in this brief summary of the leading features of national history, as connected with topographical enquiry.

The unhappy rebellion of 1798, has left impressive marks of contention and woe on some of the fairest districts of the island; and, occasionally, in future pages, the locality of important transactions at that disastrous æra must unavoidably be noticed. The date of these sorrows is, however, too recent to admit of extended discussion; and a mere topographical notice, in succinct terms, is all that shall be presented. If no other motive were obvious, we should be thus studious of brevity, from a conviction that the most faint resemblance of entire fidelity of statement is never attainable until disinterested writers, in days far remote from the time of an intricate public action, have collated evidence,

and separated the simplicity of genuine history from the romance of party feeling.

When the heat of these discontents subsided, a legislative union between the two countries, similar to that between England and Scotland, was adopted, as the measure best calculated to provide for general strength and security. This scheme was no novelty in politics. It was proposed by Sir William Petty, and was again agitated in the reign of Anne, when the union with Scotland took place. According to the act now agreed to, the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland from the First day of January, 1801, and for ever after, are united into one kingdom, by the name of THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

ANTIQUITIES, AND ARCHITECTURE, ECCLESIASTICAL, MILITARY, AND DOMESTIC.

A *new* country, however luxuriant in natural charms, is scarcely adequate to the entire and permanent gratification of the examiner. What would be the plains of Marathon without their story? Even the varied and transcendant beauties of Switzerland, the "pleasure-ground" of Europe, acquire an acknowledged and potent accession of interest from the historical circumstances connected with many of the lakes and woods.* It is the prerogative of a country long inhabited, to present either tangible vestiges, or recorded facts, which call forth a grateful exercise of intellect in the contemplation of districts that may be of small importance at the existing period. Such links of association between past

* A modern tourist, after noticing the countless natural attractions of the Lake of Lucerne, presents the following animated remark: "But the great charm of this Lake is, that it is the classical region of Switzerland. It is the spot where the great exploits of the Swiss history were achieved, and are now commemorated. No walks in the aisles of a cathedral, among the tombs and monuments of the illustrious dead, excite so strong and solemn an image of their lives and exploits as the proceeding along the areas of this wizard Lake. The ear is haunted with the sound of ancient times. The eye at every new vista runs through a long tract of history." General Outline of the Swiss Landscapes, &c. Edit. 3d. p. 126.

ages and the present, ennoble the soil in the esteem of the native and the topographer, whilst they afford to the philosophical antiquary a continued theme of useful inquiry.

It has been the favourite object of some writers to represent many of the early and rude antiquities of Ireland as the works of "Phœnicians, Carthaginians, and colonists from Syria and Ionia." The most temperate of these hypothetical writers is contented with supposing that such antiquities, "particularly those in the south of Ireland," proceeded from trading settlers, whose priests undertook missions, and, perhaps, formed establishments, among the native inhabitants, rather than from eastern visitants assuming the character of positive colonizers.* We abstain in the present place from lengthened remarks on these conjectures, under the full persuasion that nearly the whole of the early antiquities of Ireland will be found to assimilate readily with the course of population usual to the sister island; namely, the Celtæ; the Belgæ (or Firbolgs); and different invaders from the north.

The investigator of antiquities in this country will experience, in one particular, a sensible want of interest.—No *Roman* vestiges here meet his view. We believe, however, that Ireland will be found to possess various "traces of other days," calculated to recompense, in a great degree, the want of those stations and roads,† which have so long formed subjects of curious inquiry in Britain.

* Observations on early Irish Antiquities, by Governor Pownall, *Archæologia*, vol. vii. p. 164.

† Although the remark may appear trivial, when appended to a notice of the military labours of the Romans, we venture on directing the attention of the antiquarian reader to various traces of ecclesiastical and commercial paved roads, still observable in several parts of Ireland. These public ways appear to have led from such sea-ports as were formerly of principal consideration, to the interior of the country, connecting the several churches and monasteries. They are usually narrow, and are often paved with stones placed edge-wise. They led over mountains and heaths, and through bogs, woods and morasses. According to an Irish MS. of considerable antiquity, they were secured "at fords, defiles, and passes through woods, by cliaths, or forts, where travellers, and cars with goods, remained during the night, secure

We present some collective remarks on the principal classes of Irish antiquities, commencing with those which lay claim to the most remote origin.

CIRCLES OF UPRIGHT STONES, AND OTHER VESTIGES OF PAGAN AGES.—In common with England, Wales, Scotland, and several other European countries, this island contains numerous erections of stone, which from their rudeness are evidently the works of a very remote period, and are, indeed, of a date so early, or obscure, that the uses for which they were designed are not to be ascertained in historical record. It is believed that no country presents more frequent vestiges of this description than Ireland. Scarcely one barony of Ulster, Leinster, and Munster is destitute of interesting examples.

Circles composed of *upright and unwrought stones*, although very numerous in this country, are in no instance on so large a scale as the stupendous work of Stonehenge, in Wiltshire, or that of Avebury in the same county, the latter now mutilated for sordid uses, and nearly deprived of every characteristical trace of original disposal. In many instances, however, the Hibernian circles are in a good state of preservation, and are sometimes connected with unusual and curious particulars. As an example may be noticed the stones arranged in a circular form round a tumulus at New Grange, in the county of Meath, beneath which mount was constructed an extensive gallery, appearing to have been devoted to religious and sepulchral purposes. It is also observable that within some circles are found stone seats, or chairs, traditionally termed Brehon's, or judge's seats. Circles of stone in Ireland, as in England, are frequently, but not invariably, found, on tracts naturally elevated.

Cromlechs are still remaining in most parts of Ireland, but are rarely seen within, or in the immediate vicinity of the stony circle. The term *cromlech* is evidently derived from the words *crom*, bent, from the attack of men and beasts." A map of these causeways could scarcely fail of affording much gratification to the antiquary and local historian, as it would contribute materially towards exhibiting the former state of the country, and would show the importance, in past ages, of many places now reduced to a state of utter and dreary neglect.

and *leac*, a flag, or stone. The monument is composed of massive stones, indeterminate in number, placed nearly upright, and supporting one large horizontal stone, almost invariably laid in a slanting direction. The probable use for which this ponderous and rude species of fabric was designed, has afforded a subject of much antiquarian discussion. Dr. Borlase, in his *Antiquities of Cornwall*, and several other writers of deserved reputation, believe cromlechs to have been intended as sepulchres, although some of those authors admit that, probably, divine honours were paid, and sacrifices performed to the manes of the dead, in their immediate neighbourhood.

In corroboration of the opinion that these erections were sepulchral, it must be observed that in Ireland human remains have been sometimes found beneath the area of the cromlech. A curious discovery of this kind is mentioned by Mr. Wright, and is noticed in our description of the county of Louth.

Such discoveries, however, have not been very frequent in this country or in Britain; and many antiquaries dissent from the opinion of the writers mentioned above. Mr. King and Mr. Rowlands, in their respective works entitled *Munimenta Antiqua*, and *Mona Antiqua Restaurata*, agree in supposing “that cromlechs, although, perhaps, often connected with the commemoration of the distinguished dead, were not themselves intended for sepulchres; but rather, in such instances, for altars of oblation.” In regard to cromlechs of very large dimensions, of which many specimens are to be seen in Ireland, Mr. King offers a remark, which is ingenious, if not entirely satisfactory. From the conspicuous site on which such fabrics are usually placed, and from the readiness with which the flow of blood might be traced on a slab of stone, large and sloping as is the covering stone of these cromlechs, he supposes that they were the altars on which human victims were sacrificed, in dreadful attempts at divination. Such arguments as proceed from local observation, and affect either of the above hypotheses, will be presented in future pages, descriptive of remarkable cromlechs in this country.

Rocking-Stones, and the various phenomena of that class,

which are by some writers termed druidical works, and by others are thought to be often, if not uniformly, the operations of unaided nature, are plentifully dispersed throughout many parts of Ireland, although no very eminent examples have fallen under our observation. In Playfair's "Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory," there are presented many arguments for believing that such phenomena are frequently "nothing else than stones, which have been subjected to the universal law of wasting and decay, in such peculiar circumstances, as nearly to bring about an equilibrium of that stable kind, which when slightly disturbed, re-establishes itself."

It is certain that the active fancy of some examiners has seduced them into strange misconceptions, on a subject so favourable to extravagance of conjecture; but we are decidedly of opinion that, in numerous instances, those curious results of a natural cause, which assumed the character of prodigies in the view of the unthinking, were improved, and rendered objects of superstitious practice.

Unwrought Pillars of Stone, either solitary or duplicated, are frequent in Ireland, and were often erected in Pagan times, as sensible images of the Deity, representing the solidity, strength, and perpetuity of his attributes. Such a practice is well known to have existed in the earliest ages of mankind; and we show, in another place, that these shapeless pillars were sometimes inscribed with the cross, by the priests of more enlightened days, and rendered instrumental to the conversion of the populace. Single stones, of a massive and lofty character, were likewise often erected as memorials of important events, whether felicitous or disastrous; and the chieftains of tribes were invested with authority, quite down to the time of James I. by ceremonies performed on a single stone, usually placed upon a hill. Amongst the most curious erections of this kind in Ireland, must be noticed a species of pillar, commonly ten or twelve feet in height, having a conical summit.*

* The following remarks on the general character of this rude, but curious, description of monument, are contained in a manuscript commu-

Circles of stone, and the various other antiquities now under consideration, are very generally termed druidical, and, without the labour of further inquiry, are attributed by the casual observer to the priests of the Celts, or primeval inhabitants of Ireland. Some modern antiquaries dispute the propriety of a designation so indiscriminate, and with much appearance of correctness. Dr. Percy, the late erudite and excellent bishop of Dromore, in the Preface to his edition of Mallet's Northern Antiquities, has suggested the necessity of distinguishing between the Celtic and "the Teutonic, or Belgic," relics ;* and Dr. Ledwich, in his Antiquities of Ireland, has enlarged on the bishop's view, and has assumed a ground so rigorously distinctive as to be, perhaps, scarcely tenable. The arguments of the latter writer are canvassed and criticized, with much ingenuity, by Mr. Townsend, in his Statistical Survey of the County of Cork.

nicated to the present writer.—"The Gobhlán, or beaked stone, is the only Pagan monument found in Ireland, and appearing to be sepulchral, that has been formed by a tool. These pillars are round, terminating in a kind of a beak, or snout, on which are marked a few characters resembling an inscription. Such monuments are found not only in Ireland, but in Germany, Poland, Persia, Bactria, and Hindostan ; in all which countries they exhibit the same size, form, and character ; and in the east are supposed to have been erected in honour of the sun. In Ireland they are found erected on level ground, on hills, and on tumuli. Under some are signs of humation, under others none ; such being probably Termini. Of this species are the *Gobhláns* of Broadleigh and Mullamast." MS. by W. Beauford, A. M. penes J. N. Brewer.

* It is scarcely necessary to remind the reader that several recent writers, amongst whom must be named Mr. Chalmers, in his elaborate work termed "Caledonia," maintain that the Belgic colonists of Britain and Ireland were a people of *Celtic*, and not *Teutonic*, origin. The chief argument in support of this opinion is drawn from the presumed affinity of language between the Celtæ and Belgæ, as manifested in the surviving names of waters, and other natural objects, in districts which they are believed respectively to have inhabited. Julius Cæsar describes the Belgic tribes of Gaul as using a different tongue from the other inhabitants of that country, who were confessedly Celtæ ; but Mr. Chalmers contends, that, from the intimations of Livy and Strabo, Pliny and Lucan, we may infer that Cæsar meant *dialect* when he spoke of language.

According to the *system* formed by Dr. Ledwich, the “ spiritual and refined religion of the Druids,” as practiced amongst the Celtæ, allowed of no temples, except “ unpolluted groves.” The “ upright pillar, the stone circle,” and other works usually termed druidical, he believes to be uniformly vestiges of “ Scythic” (by which term he here describes Belgic, or Firbolgian) superstition ; but he admits that a progressive “ union of the Celtic and Scythic rituals might be easily shown,” and that “ the Druids, when known to the Greeks and Romans, had in some respects united those rituals.” Our limits prevent our entering on a discussion of the various arguments adduced in support of a distinction, concerning which the disputant has only small and feeble aid from antient writers. It may suffice to observe that many circles of stone, and other rude but impressive works, embraced under the present head of disquisition, are universally allowed to be of at least as high antiquity as the period at which the Belgæ, or Firbolgs, first attained a permanent footing in Ireland and Britain. If any additional argument should be wanted in favour of this opinion, it may be observed that in the latter country several circles of stone are crossed and injured by *Roman roads*.

The science of antiquities is greatly indebted to the labours of Dr. Ledwich on this subject ; but, perhaps, most readers will agree in thinking that he has failed in producing conviction respecting the entire ignorance, or religious dislike of, stone temples, amongst the priests of the aborigines. It is certainly not evident from the writings of Cæsar, on whom this part of the early history of Britain chiefly depends, that the Druids of the Celtæ had any other places of worship than sanctified groves, or woods ; but his silence upon this occasion, considering the slender character of his remarks, can scarcely be considered as a proof of the non-existence of stone-temples. It will be observed that Cæsar was chiefly acquainted with such parts of Britain as were inhabited by the Belgæ (of similar descent and habits with the Firbolgs of Ireland ;) and the delineations contained in his commentary apply, consequently, to Belgic or Firbolgian, customs and

institutions. His silence, therefore, is of no advantage to the hypothesis formed by Dr. Ledwich.

The same antiquarian writer contends that the Celtæ were incapable of constructing circles of stones and cromlechs, on account of their ignorance of the use to which metals may be applied. But many instances of such structures in Britain, and, as we believe, the whole of the examples in Ireland, consist of unwrought stone, and might, consequently, be achieved by a people having little other resource than manual labour. Time has thrown over most of these relics a gloom so profound, that it defies the penetrative efforts of the most acute faculty. Thus circumstanced, it best becomes a writer, however bright his powers of discrimination, to enter on inquiry with temperance, and to present his thoughts merely in a conjectural form.

Whilst antiquaries are agreed in referring many of these vestiges to a date not later than the conquests and encroachments effected by the Firbolgs, it is unquestionable that circles of stone were used by the northern nations, in ages long subsequent to the christian æra. Dr. Borlase observes, on the authority of Wormius, that "the custom of chusing princes by nobles, standing in a circle upon rocks" (or rather upon stones) "is said to have remained among the northern nations, till the reign of Charles the Fourth, and the Golden Bull, A. D. 1356. Some of these northern circles have a large stone in the middle; as the monument near Upsal, in Sweden, on which Ericus was made King of Sweden, no longer since than the year 1396."

From the authority last cited, and from various other sources of information, it is evident that circular erections of stone constituted places of inauguration, as well as of religious ceremony; and it is believed that they were also used for purposes of judicature and national council. Urns, appearing to enclose the ashes of the human frame consumed by fire; remains of the human skeleton, not having undergone cremation; and other funeral deposits, are likewise, in some instances, found within, or near, the stony circus. A law of Odin, writes Dr. Ledwich, "directed great upright stones to be erected on and round the sepulchre of the

deceased ; and the rule was, that a single circle round the base of the barrow indicated it to be the tomb of some chieftain or general, and there sacrifices were performed in memory of the deceased." It is apparent that the erection thus prescribed is of a distinct character from those spacious circles which form prominent objects in the present inquiry. Enclosing a barrow or tumulus, the circle purely sepulchral stands plainly contradistinguished from the temple and place of inauguration and judicature, which is usually situated on a natural eminence, or a plain open to extensive observation.

In Ireland the circles of stone are of various descriptions, but chiefly such as are implicated in the foregoing general remarks. It will be our duty, in future parts of this work, to notice the characteristical features of such as are most important.

TUMULI AND CARNS.—These rude funeral erections are seen, in great abundance, in every part of Ireland. They have in several instances been opened, and the result of investigation has been sometimes recorded, though usually in terms too general to be satisfactory. The commendable example of Sir Richard Colt Hoare, who has prosecuted inquiries with equal ardour and discrimination, respecting similar antient sepulchres in England,* is calculated to stimulate an inclination towards such a pursuit in persons residing in Ireland, and possessing due affluence and leisure. A curious accession of antiquarian knowledge, honourable to the country, and grateful to the learned part of society in general, would probably reward their solemn but pleasing labours.

The tumuli, as in England, vary in size and shape. These mounds of earth, now covered with verdant sward, have been sometimes proved to contain a subterranean gallery or temple, as in the instance of New Grange, in the county of Meath ; and many such deep and secret places, devoted to the conjoined purposes of sepulchral and religious service, probably lie beneath the green and disregarded surface of other lone tumuli,—shut from the eye of man, for centuries of a great but unknown number ! Under

* The discoveries made by Sir R. C. Hoare are communicated to the public in the work termed " Antient Wiltshire," folio.

mounds appearing to have been raised to persons of less distinguished rank, the funeral deposit is simple, and easy of description.

In some instances a portion of ashes, comprising fragments of human bones and of burnt wood, are found enclosed in rude earthen urns, evincing the custom of consuming the body by fire on a funeral pile. In other tumuli the entire skeleton is seen, enclosed in a Kistvaen, or stone chest. In the same spot with the ashes or bones are discovered rude implements, as hatchets of stone, arrow-heads of flint, and trophies of success in the chase. It is observable that ornamental articles are more rarely found than beneath the tumuli of Britain. Stag's horns, wooden-combs, and two species of canvass, or cloth, appearing to be made of the fibres connected with the root of the birch tree, and the hair of the white bison, are the articles most frequently seen.

Considerable curiosity is necessarily excited as to the date and people to whom must be ascribed, on rational principles of calculation, the contents of these, the most antient burial places of Ireland. On this subject we gladly strengthen our own opinion with that of Sir R. C. Hoare, who concludes, from the resemblance of the urns and attendant articles to those which he has seen dug up in Wiltshire, that the deposit was made "about the same æra, and by a people preserving the same habits and rites of burial." Thus the antiquary aids the historian, and confirms him in the propriety of concluding that the early population of the country was composed of Celtic and Belgic tribes.

The following classification and description of tumuli and cairns in Ireland is presented on the authority of the late Mr. Beauford; and, however defective, may be found to contain some curious particulars. We copy without comment the terms used by this writer.

"The ancient Irish tumuli are known and designated under two principal classes, the *Moil* and the *Roimh adhlacadh*, each of which consists of several species.

"*Moil*.—This class consists of mounds of different species, magnitudes, and forms, of which the following are the principal:—*Cnoc beag*, or small mount of earth. In these sepulchres the body of the defunct being consumed on a funeral pile, its bones and ashes were inclosed in an urn and interred; and over the

grave a small hillock was raised, from two to four feet high. Many such urns have been found, of different magnitudes and forms, on opening the tumuli. Sometimes the body has been interred whole, and a tumulus raised over as before. *Cnocan*, or large earthen tumulus. Under these tumuli, the body, enclosed in a kistvaen composed of flat stones, or its sepulchral urn, having undergone cremation, was placed on the ground, and a mound of earth raised over it, to the height of from ten to thirty feet. The mound was frequently, though not always, circumscribed by a trench.

“ The *Ardán* is a large oblong mound of earth, containing several graves, or kistvaens; and the *Rustán*, or *Sornán*, is a small and oblong earthy mound, containing a single grave, or kistvaen, constructed of flag-stones, placed on their edges. Of these species was the *Ardán* of Brannock’s town, in the county of Kildare, opened in 1784, in which was found a number of skeletons, each enclosed in its chest composed of flag-stones; and the *Rustán* of Calver’s town, in the same county, containing in the chest a skeleton sitting upright, and near its head a small urn, of the same size, form, and ornaments as those found under tumuli on Salisbury-plain, and termed drinking-cups by the English antiquaries.”

“ The *Carn* is a small heap of stones, raised over a grave, and is usually from two to six feet high.

“ The *Carnán* is a large mound of stones, raised over a grave constituted of a kistvaen containing an urn, or the body of the person commemorated. These earns are from ten to thirty feet in height. They appear to be of the same age with tumuli, and exhibit similar contents.

“ The *Roimh Adhlacadh* forms the second class of ancient Hibernian sepulchres, and consists of areas surrounded by a fosse, or rampart of earth. This class comprises the following species: *Gnumh na gair Criadh*, consisting of tumuli and gravestones, of different descriptions, surrounded by a rampart of earth. Of this species are the tumulus and tomb at Skirk, in the Queen’s County, and at Broadleigh, in the county of Kildare. *Mota no*

Rath os Corp, consisting of a tumulus surrounded by a fosse, in which bodies are laid, distinguished by different descriptions of monumental stones, as *Cloch Glass* and *Treagh Cuchullen*, in the county of sligo.”*

RATHS, AND OTHER EARTHWORKS NOT SEPULCHRAL.—Earthworks, evidently intended for purposes of military defence, secure inhabitation, or public assemblage, are still very numerous in nearly every part of this country. A prevalent superstition, noticed more largely in a future page, assisted in preserving these vestiges through many ages after they had so entirely fallen into disuse, that the objects for which they were designed were even traditionally forgotten. But that dread of fairy-vengeance which led to popular forbearance, is now overcome in many districts; and such of these artificial elevations as contain an accumulation of earth useful to the agriculturist, are annually falling, in considerable numbers, beneath the operations of the spade.

Mounds of earth, raised by human labour, whatever may be their dimensions or characteristics, are very generally termed *Raths*† by the inhabitants of Ireland, and are also indiscriminately noticed under that name by some antiquarian writers. The same persons are in the habit of ascribing their origin uniformly to the Danes. The word *Rath*, in its popular acceptation, signifies a fortress; and, in the general mode of designation adopted in Ireland, is often improperly applied to these erections, many of which are evidently sepulchral tumuli.‡ It will not be difficult to show that there is an equal want of correctness in attributing

* MS. by the late Wm. Beauford, A. M. penes J. N. Brewer.

† A fastness, or enclosure, however situated, is likewise, in Ireland, sometimes termed a *Dun*. It is observed by Dr. Ledwich that, notwithstanding the present free use of this term, “the *Dun* originally was an insulated rock, as is proved by the application of it to *Dunamase*, *Dundunolf*, and others.” *Antiqs. of Ireland*, p. 279.

‡ The following remark on the word *Rath* is presented by Mr. Chalmers: “*Râth*, in the Gaelic, and *Rhâth*, in the British, signified originally a plain, or *cleared spot*, such as the Celtic inhabitants of the British Isles usually fixed their habitations on. *Râth*, in the Gaelic, also signified a *surety*: hence, the term was applied, by the old Irish, and by the Scoto-

them, universally, to the invaders recognised under the appellation of Danes.

The earthen-works of Ireland, falling under the customary term of Rathes, are extremely various in form and size. Sometimes they rise singly, in districts possessing no contiguous vestige of antiquity. In many instances two are seen near to each other; and often they are ranged in an extensive line, as if for the purpose of ready communication in times of need. Some raths consist of an elevation of moderate proportions, encompassed by a single agger and slight ditch. But often they rise to a considerable height; comprise not less than eighteen or twenty acres; and are encircled by numerous ramparts, and ditches, or intrenchments. These more spacious raths, or fortresses, bear a strict similitude to Maiden Castle, near Dorchester, and other works in Britain, ascribed to the early Celtic or Belgic inhabitants, with all the strength of the best arguments that antiquarian research has hitherto been enabled to collect.* To the labours of people deriving their customs and habits from the same source we may securely attribute the greater number of the raths of Ireland, although it is highly probable that many were altered and occupied by the Danes as places of defence; whilst some mounts, designed for military works, were perhaps entirely constructed by that people.†

Irish, to the villages in which they lived; to the seats of their *Flaiths*, or princes; and to a fortress, or *place of security*." Caledonia, vol. i. p. 27-28, *Note*.

* Notwithstanding all that has been conjectured and written on the subject, it is extremely difficult, if not quite impracticable, to discriminate between many works of the Celts and Belgæ. We are told by Dr. Ledwich, that woods and marshes served the Celts for camps and ditches, but "that they learned from the Firbolgs (Belgæ), to take refuge on hills, as Cæsar says the Britons did." Thus, in the opinion of Dr. Ledwich, both nations practised the same mode of fortification, but the Belgæ had the merit of setting the example.

† Giraldus Cambrensis, in his *Topographia Hiberniæ*, affords one of the earliest historical notices respecting the earth-works of Ireland. According to Giraldus, these works were effected by Turgesius and his followers, who invaded Ireland in the early part of the ninth century. But this author, writing about 1185, appears to have merely echoed vague

The raths of Ireland, like works of the same rude character in Britain, although usually approaching towards a circular form when entirely artificial and situated on a plain, assume an irregular figure when formed on a natural hill, varying then in outline according to the circumstances of the ground.

In consequence of the lengthened adherence of the Irish to antient laws, customs, and manners, these earthen elevations were used for the purpose of residence, long after such rude places of dwelling were exchanged by the inhabitants of Britain for regular castles of stone and walled towns. Hence we still find on many of the raths, traces of buildings, appearing to have constituted the residence of the Irish chieftain and his dependants. Such vestiges will form subjects of remark in the future description of several raths, or defensible places of retreat and abode. By the Anglo-Norman settlers the antient rath was often adopted as the site of a castle, or fortress.

Independent of earthen-works designed for defence or sepulchral purposes, there are numerous mounts in Ireland which are believed to have been used as places of conference and judicial decision. It has been conjectured, and with much appearance of probability, that the mounds intended for these purposes were chiefly such as are but slightly elevated, and are surrounded by a raised agger of earth, and a shallow ditch; the latter being on the inner side of the agger, or rampart. That artificial mounts were used as places of popular assembly so recently as the sixteenth century, is proved by a passage in Spenser, which at once assists in explaining the history of this species of tumulus, and conveys a forcible idea of the ill-regulated state of society at the period in which it was written.*

traditions, collected from particular districts. It is well known that Turgesius did not conquer the whole of Ireland, and yet the earth-works usually denominated Rathes are seen in nearly every part of the country.

* “There is a great use amongst the Irish, to make great assemblies together upon a rath or hill, there to parlie (as they say) about matters and wrongs betweene township and township, or one privat person and another. But well I wot, and true it hath been oftentimes proved, that in their meetings many mischiefes have beene both practised and wrought;

ROUND, OR PILLAR TOWERS.—These structures assuredly constitute the most remarkable antiquities of Ireland, and are, indeed, objects of curiosity so striking and attractive, that they are uniformly mentioned as a national characteristic, in regard to vestiges of remote ages. The people by whom these towers were constructed, and the purpose for which they were designed, are equally unnoticed in history. A theme of such potent incitement to antiquarian conjecture and discussion, has necessarily induced copious disquisitions amongst those modern writers who flourish in so advanced a stage of literature, that leisure is allowed for serious labours of retrospective inquiry on topics of much less importance in the annals of art and science.

We are desirous of affording the reader comprehensive intelligence on a subject of such acknowledged interest; and it appears that the most satisfactory method of conveying information will be that of stating, in these introductory pages, the prevailing characteristics of the round towers of Ireland, together with the opinions entertained by various authors concerning their date of erection and intended use. Occasional remarks are necessarily presented in the same part of our work; but we reserve to pages descriptive of the most curious examples, such observations as may tend to confirm or to invalidate the theories of preceding writers.

The structures usually described under the appellation of Round or Pillar-Towers, are dispersed over every part of Ireland. Several have been taken down, or have sunk in dilapidation, produced or hastened by human agency, within the memory of man; and it is, therefore, rational to conclude that the number was formerly very great. There are now remaining at least fifty-six.*

for to them doe commonly resort all the scumme of the people, where they may meeete and conferre of what they list, which else they could not doe without suspition or knowledge of others. Besides, at these meetings I have knowne, divers times, that many Englishmen, and good Irish subjects, have bin villanously murdered by moving one quarrell or another against them. For the Irish never come to those raths but armed, whether on horse or on foot, which the English nothing suspecting, are then commonly taken at advantage, like sheep in the pin-folde." View, &c. p. 126-127.

* Such is the number stated by Dr. Beaufort, but these towers are, in

The existing examples have frequently suffered injury, but their altitude, in their present condition, may be stated as varying from twenty-five to 133 feet. The usual circumference, at five feet from the ground, is from forty to fifty feet ; and in one instance fifty-six feet, decreasing pyramidally to the top. They frequently, but not uniformly, spring from a projecting plinth, and diminish gradually as they ascend. In some remaining towers the roof is of a conical form ; and there is reason to believe that the roofing of the whole was originally of a similar shape. Battlements now crown the summit of several towers, but appear to have been added long after the erection of other parts of the structure. The architecture is extremely simple, but the masonry is very good. The few openings which occur are, in general, either square or round-headed, and are usually quite devoid of ornament. In some few instances, however, are seen carved mouldings and sculptural decorations. These exceptions to the general mode of building are very rare, and it may be doubted whether such ornamental particulars were not inserted at a period subsequent to the first erection.

The door, or place of entrance, is usually at a considerable, but indeterminate, distance from the ground, and commonly measures from five to six feet in height, by two feet in width. In some towers the sill of the entrance is not less than twenty-four feet from the surface, but the usual height from the ground is that of ten or twelve feet ; and the door is generally placed towards the east. In some there is seen an entrance nearly nearly level with the ground ; but we believe it will be invariably found, either that such an aperture has been formed since the original construction of the fabric, or that the soil has been factitiously raised in recent ages.

The interior is destitute of any stairway whatever, but has, in most instances, evidently been divided into several stories, varying

fact, more numerous. Several still remaining in the obscure parts of the country are entirely unnoticed by topographical writers. Among the finest examples may be noticed the towers of Ardmore ; Devenis ; Roscrea ; Kildare ; Kilry ; Kilkenney ; Monasterboice ; Lusk ; Castledermott ; and Clonmacnois.

in number according to the height of the structure.* It appears that each of these stories, except the upper room, was lighted by one small and narrow window. The upper story had four apertures, or windows, corresponding with the cardinal points. The walls vary in thickness from three feet to four feet and a half.

Where these towers are seen, we generally find also a church. The buildings are seldom united, and the distance between them varies from upwards of 100 feet to that of five or six feet. In regard to the church, they frequently stand in a north-west position.

Giraldus Cambrensis, whose work was produced about the year 1185, is the earliest writer that notices these singular towers. He mentions them as “*Turres ecclesiasticas, quæ, more patrio, arctæ sunt et altæ, necnon et rotundæ.*” Ecclesiastical towers, built in a manner peculiar to the country, narrow, high, and round. From such scanty terms of notice we acquire little other useful information, than that these towers were considered as sacred appendages to the ecclesiastical edifices of the twelfth century. All that follows, with the exception of some assertions in manuscripts of uncertain date, and, therefore, of dubious authority, is entirely the offspring of conjecture and hypothesis.

From the date of the twelfth century until the year 1662, these aspiring and insulated towers remained destitute of literary notice. John Lynch, writing at the latter period, observes that they were termed *Clochtheach* (the house of the bell); and, according to report,

* The following passage in Dr. Ledwich's “*Antiquities of Ireland*” conveys some information, in regard to the principle on which these towers were constructed: “A very ingenious friend remarks that almost all our Round Towers are divided into stories, of different heights: the floors supported in some by projecting stone, in others by joists, put in the wall at building; and in many they were placed upon rests. The last are from four to six inches, carried round, and taken off the thickness of the wall in the story above. And he very probably conjectures, these rests do not diminish the thickness of the wall as they ascend, because then it would not have been sufficiently strong to bear storms, or support the conical cap. They seem, therefore, to be swellings in the wall, which rather add to its thickness upwards, and this is confirmed by the Round Tower at Lusk, whose wall is three feet thick at top.” *Antiqs. of Ireland*, p. 168-9.

were built by the Danes. Amongst succeeding writers, Peter Walsh supposes them to have been constructed by the heathen Danes, as watch-towers against the natives, but to have been afterwards converted, by the christian Irish, into "steeple-houses, or bell-fries." This conjecture, as to the original appropriation of these towers, is evidently futile, as they are, in many instances, placed on low grounds, and are overlooked by natural elevations in the immediate vicinity. Nor can it be likely that piety and patriotism would allow christian churches to be appended to structures, first used for civil or military purposes by a pagan and detested enemy.

Dr. Molyneux, writing in 1727, deems it probable that they were the works of the Danes, who "might fancy and affect to raise these fashioned steeples in this peculiar form, standing at a distance from their churches, as bearing some resemblance to the round tapering figure of their old monumental stones and obelisks, their pyramids, their mounts and forts, of which they were so fond in times of paganism." The same writer notices a local tradition, that a round tower formerly standing at Cork was built by the Ostmen.

Mr. Harris, in his edition of the History and Antiquities of Ireland by Sir James Ware, enlarges on a suggestion made to him by Dean Richardson, of Belturbet, and conjectures that the round towers were erected for the reception of the "Anachoret Monks, termed *Stylites* from the practice of living in a pillar." Symeon, the first ascetic who adopted this peculiar method of mortification, lived in the fourth century, and his history, as given by Euagrius Scholasticus, affords a curious specimen of phantasy and extravagance in the practice of religious austerities. It is believed that he met with several imitators, down to so recent a date as the eleventh century; but there is no literary proof that this sect ever existed in Ireland. In the general tenour of his opinions, Mr. Harris is followed by Mr. King, who has written an extensive essay on this subject in the fourth volume of the work termed *Munimenta Antiqua*.

Dr. Smith, in his "Natural and Civil History of Waterford," observes that "there was no doubt but the round tower of Ard-

more was used for a belfry, there being, towards the top, three pieces of oak still remaining, on which the bell was hung." He adds that "there were also two channels cut in the cill of the door, where the rope came out, the ringer standing below the door, on the outside." It is certain that several of these towers are at present used as belfries, but that circumstance affords no proof that such was the purpose for which they were originally designed. The same author, in the History of Cork, observes that "the use to which ancient Irish MSS. ascribe these towers, was that of imprisoning penitents." According to these authorities, "the penitents were placed on the top of the tower, and having made a probation of a particular number of days, in proportion to their crimes, they were admitted to descend to the next floor, and so on, till they came to the door, which always faced the entrance of the church; where they stood, and received absolution of the clergy, and blessings of the people."

If the manuscripts on which this intelligence is founded, were proved to be as antient as the time of those customs which they affect to describe, there would scarcely be any necessity for further inquiry. But Dr. Smith is contented with merely terming them "antient;" and their age was, in fact, unknown, but was probably not very great.

General Vallancey, indulging in a boldness of conjecture which has met with little respect from succeeding writers, attributes these towers to a Pagan origin, and supposes them to have been erected by the "old Irish, or Aire-Coti." These people he believes to have been the "*Ar-Coti* of Caucasus, and the *Ara-Cotii* of Dionysius, from the borders of the Indus, whence they were called Indo-Scythæ; they there mixed with the Brahmins, who at that period built round towers for the preservation of the holy fire, in imitation of which those in Ireland and Scotland were built."

In other pages of the same Essay, General Vallancey contends that it is evident from Irish history that "in ancient Ireland, as in ancient Persia, there were two sects of fire-worshippers; one that lighted the fires on tops of mountains and hills, and others in

towers. The Pagan Irish worshipped *Crom cruait*, the same God Soraster adored, in fire, first on mountains, then in caves, and lastly in towers ; this fire worship, says Irish history, was introduced by a certain *draoi*, named *Midhghe*. The pyramidal flame seems to have given the idea of the round towers, which were conical, and ended in a point at top, both in Hindoostan and in Ireland."

Although General Vallancey supposes the round towers of Ireland to have been erected by the worshippers of fire, he believes that they may have been applied to the use of bells at a very early period. This opinion he expresses in the following words : " That these towers were used as belfries, there can be no doubt ; and why they should not have been so used before Christianity was introduced, I know no reason. The same cause existed, namely, that of assembling the people to devotion. The Egyptians had bells ; and the Irish *Ceol* (*Keol*) a bell, and its diminutive Keolan, a little bell, was certainly derived from the Egyptian *Kel*, a bell."

Dr. Ledwich, who has examined with much critical severity the whole that has been written on the subject of these curious towers, is of opinion that the first specimens in Ireland were erected by the Ostmen, or Danes, and that the towers constructed by that people were " imitated by the Irish." He believes them to have been the " common appendages to wooden churches," and thinks it to be " more than probable that they served as belfries from the beginning, as five or six of them at this day certainly do."*

It arises, as an obvious objection to the above system, that no towers of this description are seen in the country whence the Ostmen, or Danes, proceeded. In reply to an objection so forcible, Dr. Ledwich presents the following, among other remarks : " Confining myself, as I ever wish to do, to matters of fact, and knowing that belfries abroad were distinct from the Church, and that the two Round Towers at Grymbald's crypt at Oxford, and

* Ledwich's *Antiqs.* p. 159, and Introduction to ancient Irish Architecture, prefixed to the Second Volume of Grose's *Antiqs. of Ireland*, p. ix.

the Round Steeple to the Church of Aix la Chapelle, exhibited by Montfaucon in his *Monuments of the French Monarchy*, belong to the ninth century, I conclude the rotund figure of our towers was adopted from the Continent, between which and Ireland a constant intercourse was maintained, particularly in that age. 'Our writers,' says O'Flaherty, 'glory in many missionaries of religion, professors of learning and piety, bred and born in Ireland, who were famous in France, as well in Charles the Great's time, as before and after him.' These missionaries, who frequently revisited their native country, might have taken the hint of our Round Towers from what they saw abroad."

We must consider this mode of argument, as to the derivation of the fashion observable in the towers of Ireland, to be extremely unfortunate. It is by no means an acknowledged fact that the turrets termed by our author "two round towers at Grymbald's crypt," were built in the ninth century. The external evidence that St. Peter's at Oxford, beneath which church is placed the crypt of St. Grymbald, is a Saxon structure, rests entirely on a paragraph that first appeared in Camden's edition of Asser's *Life of Alfred*, and which is not found in the MSS. of that author now extant. There are, indeed, some weighty reasons for believing that this church was built at a later period, by the Anglo-Normans.* At whatever date might be erected the "towers" at the east end, they have little connexion of character with the lofty, rotund, structures in Ireland. They are, in fact, merely diminutive turrets, forming part of the eastern façade of the church; and are similar in no other points than those of being round, and having a conical capping.

It is equally improbable that the peculiar mode of design evinced in the Irish towers was "adopted from the continent." The church of Aix la Chapelle, writes Mr. Whittington, in his *Survey of the Ecclesiastical Antiquities of France*, "was constructed in the manner of the ancient Basilicæ, with two porticoes, or colonnades, one over the other, on each side, like the churches of St.

* See an Essay on the subject of St. Peter's in the East, Oxford, in Britton's *Arch. Antiqs.* vol. iv.

Lawrence and St. Agnes, which were built at Rome about the same time."

Such churches of the 9th century as still remain on the continent, or are accurately described by credible writers, evince that debased modification of Grecian and Roman architecture, to which we attribute, in an ensuing page, on sound authority, the introduction into Ireland and Britain of the style often denominated Saxon. They exhibit, observes Mr. Whittington, "the most striking examples of barbarous deformity. The architects of them employed the most costly and beautiful columns to support diminutive arches, and high masses of wall, disfigured with uncouth painting, or covered with glittering, but frightful, mosaic work." We cannot believe that from such subjects of architectural study the Irish Missioners derived the model of those plain, aspiring, and massy towers, which have survived the wreck of all contemporary structures.

Dr. Ledwich places great value on the support which his argument, as to a Danish origin of these towers, receives from the similarity of opinion entertained by every author "for the space of 542 years, that is, from Cambrensis to Molyneux." But it is obvious, that all these opinions are conjectural, and comparatively modern. We have noticed the long interval of inquiry which took place between the time of Cambrensis and that of Lynch, who wrote in 1662. The coincidence of opinion in desultory modern authors, all destitute of historical document, is no potent auxiliary in the development of facts relating to antiquity.

The most judicious remarks, on the curious subject of these fabrics, are contained in the work entitled "A Historical and Critical Inquiry into the Origin and Primitive Use of the Irish Pillar-Tower," by Colonel Hervey De Montmorency-Morres, published in 1821. This truly respectable writer believes "that the founders of these towers were our primitive Cœnobites and Bishops, munificently supported in the undertaking by the newly-converted Kings and Toparchs; the builders and architects being those monks and pilgrims, who, from Greece and Rome (as history proves) either preceded, accompanied, or followed early missiona-

ries into Ireland in the fifth, the sixth, and the early part of the seventh centuries." The use to which they were applied he believes to have been that of affording a place of security, in times of war and danger, to the sacred utensils, the reliques, books, precious ornaments, and other valuables of a contiguous religious establishment. In these conclusions as to the probable date and appropriation of the buildings, we fully concur; and shall present, when describing examples to which such passages bear immediate application, some prominent arguments afforded in that work.

There are two towers in Scotland, similar, in nearly every point, to those seen in Ireland. One is situated at Brechin, and the other at Abernethy. Both are connected with churches; and concerning the church contiguous to that first named, Dr. Ledwich presents the following remarks: "the church of Brechin is supposed to be founded, A. D. 990, its round tower is probably a century earlier; for in Ireland the latter preceded the erection of sees by many ages. The Irish clergy were the only teachers of religion among the Picts in those times; Tuathal Mac Artgusa, being called Archbishop of Pictland in 864, as Tighernac, the Annals of Ulster, and Mr. Pinkerton declare. Brechin is in the same shire of Angus with Dunkeld, over which Artgusa presided, so that the round tower of Brechin can be ascribed to no other founders than the Irish Missioners, who constructed such in their native land."

We think it extremely likely, for the above and many other reasons, that the two round towers in Scotland were designed and erected by persons proceeding from the contiguous shore of Ireland. But there are some circumstances connected with the remarks of our author, as presented in other parts of his dissertation, which require notice. The tower of Brechin, we are told, "has on its western front two arches, one within the other, in relief; on the point of the outermost is a crucifix, and between both, towards the middle, are figures of the Virgin Mary and St. John, the latter holding a cup and a lamb: at the bottom of the outer arch are two beasts couchant."

The arches, as represented by Dr. Ledwich, are pointed, and

of the form usual in buildings erected late in the thirteenth, or early in the fourteenth century. We, therefore, cannot believe that the structure was raised, as is supposed by this writer, about the year 890, unless we presume that the arches and sculpture were inserted at a subsequent period. A consideration of this particular is of some importance in our future inquiries.

There are round towers attached to several English churches, which towers are of unknown antiquity, and in some respects bear a faint similitude to the towers in Ireland. They are found chiefly in Norfolk and Suffolk, but a few instances occur in other parts of the country. Unlike the well-executed towers of Ireland, the walls, though of a great thickness, are uniformly constructed in a rude manner, and are composed of flints, rough stones, chalk, and other coarse ingredients, imbedded in mortar. The towers, as now remaining, are seldom of a considerable height. Those which have been inspected by the present writer have not any stairs, but are divided into stories by a wooden flooring, and are ascended internally by means of ladders. They are in general used as belfries. The tradition of the country (but quite unsupported by historical testimony) ascribes the ecclesiastical round towers of England to the hands of the Danes. Those northern invaders left so great a terror on the minds of the English, that tumuli, which have been proved on examination to contain the remains of the antient Britons; and other objects, vast, gloomy, or mysterious, are still, without cause, traditionally attributed to them, in several reclusive districts of England.

The ascription of the round towers of Ireland to the same ferocious invaders from the north, is warranted by no other circumstance than the opinion of modern writers. It is evident that when Giraldus wrote, in the twelfth century, there was not even a traditional authority for attributing them to that people. Giraldus had little inclination to allow the Irish more merit of any kind than was unavoidable; yet we find that he explicitly describes the round towers as built *more patrio*, in a manner peculiar to the country. The possessions of the Danish and Norwegian settlers in this country were nearly confined to the sea-coast, except

during the short and sanguinary reign of Turgesius, in the ninth century. The constant wars levied by these marauders against works of piety and art, and the almost incessant struggles in which they were engaged for the maintenance of their footing in Ireland, prevent our admitting it as possible that they had either inclination or leisure for the vast labour required in forming edifices so stupendous, numerous, and widely-dispersed. In Ireland, tradition is now equally silent concerning the founders of these towers, and the people who constructed the circles of upright stones, or raised the gigantic cromlech. Respecting the towers of this description in Scotland, there prevails a local tradition that they were erected by the Picts.

ECCLESIASTICAL ARCHITECTURE.—Ireland exhibits, in each of its provinces, numerous examples of the respective modes in sacred architecture which prevailed during the middle ages. With the exception of a few cathedrals, and other principal churches, these buildings are now in a state of neglected ruin; and the frequency with which they occur imparts an additional tone of melancholy to many recesses of a country, otherwise too fertile in subjects of painful reflection. Still, the tasteful examiner derives exquisite gratification from the picturesque forms assumed, in their different stages of decay, by these perishing structures, which are often found in tracts now remote from the haunts of man, but rich in august or soothing features of natural scenery.

There will be little difficulty in showing that the Ecclesiastical Architecture of Ireland moved nearly in a parallel gradation of style with that of England, after the adoption of the pointed mode of design. But, in regard to ages previous to the termination of the 12th century, there exist architectural peculiarities of which the sister island presents no example. It has been asserted by some writers on the history and antiquities of Ireland, that, before the arrival of the English, in the reign of Henry the Second, no buildings composed of lime and stone were erected in this country. The mistake of such authors must be sufficiently obvious; but that Ireland was probably later than Britain in the general adoption of cement and squared stones, is equally undoubted. A

simple vestige of one of the first rude buildings designed and constructed by the christian natives, is supposed to exist in that circular wall, composed of ponderous stones without cement, which is termed *Dun Aengus*, and is seated on a high cliff of the greater isle of Arran. This spherical enclosure bears a close resemblance to that which Bede describes as having been erected by St. Cuthbert, about the year 684, in Lindisfarn, or the Holy Island. Similar fabrics are to be seen in several recluse parts of Ireland.

It may be remarked, that the custom of raising a structure so rude in one retired tract, does by no means imply that superior modes of building were not also, at the same time, known and practised in more populous districts of the same country, by persons of opulence and authority, intent on other purposes than a rigour of secluded discipline. Churches of stone were, certainly, contemporary in Britain with the rude circular barrier raised by St. Cuthbert for the attainment of religious privacy. About the year 627, as we are informed by Bede, a spacious church of stone was erected at York. Although we are entirely destitute of historical authority for attributing so early a knowledge of architecture to the Irish, it is certain that there are existing edifices which indicate a very remote antiquity, and might, by a bold and hypothetical examiner, be supposed of a higher date than those buildings in England, which are by some writers ascribed to the Anglo-Saxons, and which are, unquestionably, in the style practised by that people.

Previous to such cursory remarks on these structures as are consistent with the nature of our work, it may not be superfluous to remind the reader of some circumstances respecting the mode of architecture that prevailed in Europe, during the ages in which were erected the earliest surviving churches. These buildings are chiefly distinguished by circular arches, often rudely but elaborately embellished; and by columns, or rather piers, massive and short, in proportion to the span of the arch. In the form of the columns, and every kind of ornament introduced, there is usually observable a studied diversity; but the decorations frequently display an imperfect imitation of some particulars in classic

architecture, mixed with forms of men, animals, and imaginary figures. This is the style very commonly termed Anglo-Saxon, but which did not, in fact, originate with the Saxons settled in Britain, nor was it peculiar to that people. This mode evidently sprang from that debasement in Grecian and Roman architecture which took place in the third century, and is exemplified in the Palace of Dioclesian, at Spalatro. With slight varieties, proceeding from the manners, customs, and state, of respective countries, it became general on the continent for many ages ; nor was its use confined, in Britain, to the dynasty of the Saxons. With scarcely any variations it was adopted by the Anglo-Normans, and continued to prevail until the latter years of the 12th century.

From a consideration of the necessity of such a nomenclature as might simplify the study of architectural antiquities, modern English writers derive the terms which they apply to different styles, from the dynasties under which those respective modes flourished. But as the same ruling principles do not apply to Ireland, we shall, in the present work, use the term *CIRCULAR*, when alluding to the weighty style of architecture practised by the Saxons and Normans of England, the characteristics of which are stated above, and will be exemplified in a notice of several Irish churches.

There are some structures in Ireland which are evidently of great antiquity, but which do not agree, either in general character or in detail, with the supposed earliest specimens of the circular style in Britain. Of this description may be deemed many buildings composed of rough stones, dissimilar in size, with remains of round-headed windows, equally rude in construction with the coarsest parts of the fabric, and quite destitute of any ornaments whatever. The doors of such buildings are sometimes of the simplest shape, the top being formed of one massive stone, placed in a longitudinal direction. These ruinous memorials of very remote ages are often found in the most secluded recesses of the island, and are sometimes seen in the obscurity of narrow and deep glens, apparently placed there for the attainment of gloom and privacy.

When unassisted by legitimate historical intelligence, the suggestions of the antiquary must ever be received with caution. It

is possible, perhaps is probable, that buildings like those noticed above, which though rude were calculated for great durability, were erected before existing piles, evincing more skill in architecture, and a knowledge of the art of sculpture. But it may, likewise, be argued that a country divided into several states, as was Ireland, might be subject in different parts to a dissimilar progress in taste or opportunities; and that an exhibition of rudeness might, in fact, be contemporary with, or subsequent to, a display of comparative refinement.

A species of structure wearing more decisive marks of architectural character, though still possessing lineaments unknown to the earliest specimens of the circular style in Britain, is observable in the *Church of St. Doulach*. This fabric is of very small proportions, and the interior is principally divided into two apartments. Nearly the whole of the first division is occupied by a square mass of stone, forming the monument and altar of the saint to whom the church is dedicated. A narrow, and square-headed, doorway, too low to permit the transit of a full grown person without stooping, leads to the second apartment, which constitutes the portion formerly appropriated to divine service. Many pointed windows have been introduced in different ages; but the original arches are all of rude workmanship, and are either round, or formed on a defective imitation of the segment of a circle. No ornamental mouldings, or sculpture, are introduced in any part. The roof is composed of stone, and is double, admitting of an upper story between the two ranges of stone work.*

The earliest buildings in Ireland, exhibiting the *decorated mode of circular architecture*, will be found to differ from the manner of other countries in several particulars, which constitute curious features in the architectural antiquities of the island. One of the most antient, as well as most interesting of the structures in this style, is the building usually termed *Cormac's Chapel*, on the rock of Cashell, in the county of Tipperary. This edifice is said to

* A more minute description of this, and other buildings here noticed in general terms, is presented under the heads of the counties in which they respectively occur.

have been erected in the tenth century ; and from its architectural character, few will be inclined to call in question its pretension to so high a date of antiquity. The chapel is of small dimensions, and the interior is divided into a nave, choir, and chancel. Where arches are introduced they are circular, throughout the whole building ; but the windows now open are small, and *square-headed* ; and one entrance is through a *very narrow* doorway of the same form, inserted in a richly decorated circular doorcase. The columns are short and massive ; they are covered with a lozenge net-work, and have varied capitals. The sculptural and carved ornaments are numerous ; and besides the nail-headed, the chevron, and other mouldings familiar with the Anglo-Saxons, they comprise the heads of men and beasts, together with fanciful devices. There is no subterranean crypt. The roof is of stone ; and over the chapel is a vaulted apartment. The exterior is adorned with arcades of circular arches, and various particulars of embellishment. The execution of the ornaments is rude throughout the whole building, but does not evince a greater want of skill than is perceptible in many works ascribed to a later age and to the hands of the Anglo-Normans.

Cormac's Chapel is the most perfect vestige of circular architecture remaining in Ireland ; but parts of many other edifices display the same style ; and from a notice of the whole, the following appear to constitute the most striking marks of difference distinguishable between the mode of debased Roman architecture practised in Ireland, and that adopted in Britain.

The use of the stone roof is a peculiarity entitled to the careful notice of the examiner. In several instances these roofs are still in good preservation, although they uniformly appertain to buildings of great antiquity. They are worked in an angular, or wedge-like, form, of thin but rough stones, imbedded in cement ; and are cased on the exterior with slabs of squared stone.

Crypts, those gloomy subterraneous apartments so frequently seen beneath the antient churches of Britain, scarcely ever occur under Irish churches. In contra-distinction to the practice of the sister island, the Irish architects, in the ages under discussion,

formed *upper crofts* between the coved ceiling of stone and the angular roof of the same material.

The columns, or piers, are of much less proportional diameter than the Saxon and Norman. The sculpture is generally in less bold relief, and the ornamental particulars evince some peculiarities connected with the state of the island during the ages in which the designs were made. Thus, in several buildings of a later date than Cormac's Chapel, and erected after the Northmen had attained some resemblance of a secure settlement, we see the wolf and the raven, supposed to act as emblems of Danish courage or ferocity. Runic knots, attributed to the same people, sometimes occur; and, in more pleasing instances, we view particulars relating to the costume of the country.

This circular and weighty style of architecture appears to have prevailed in Ireland, as in Britain, until years near the termination of the twelfth century. It was succeeded by the light and graceful mode denominated the *POINTED*, or, as it is sometimes, but injudiciously, termed, the *Gothic*.* The principal characteristic

* Various appellations have been bestowed by different writers on that light and beautiful style of architecture, which grew into use towards the end of the twelfth century, and in which all ecclesiastical buildings were afterwards designed, previous to the revival of the Grecian. By many persons this mode of building is termed *Gothic*, which calumnious mode of designation was first applied, in the fourteenth century, by Italian writers, to all styles of architecture deviating from the Grecian or Roman. However injudicious the epithet, it might be permitted to continue, if it were so strictly applied to any one mode as to convey a distinct and determinate idea. But this term has been so indefinitely and variously used, that modern architectural antiquaries have found it necessary to propose a more specific nomenclature. In the Introduction to the "Beauties of England and Wales," the present writer has submitted many remarks on this subject. From the general tendency of its component parts to the pointed, or pyramidal form, an obvious characteristic affords a correct and luminous term of designation; and, in describing buildings erected in this style, we shall, in the present Work, when noticing their architectural character, uniformly apply to it the term *POINTED*. It is well known that the Pointed style was subject to several alterations in various ages. In the Introduction to the Work above-mentioned, these variations of

of this architectural style is well known to consist in the tendency of the whole, and every component part, to a pyramidal figure. The arches are pointed, being formed by the segments of two intersecting circles. The pillars are usually clustered, and are of slender proportions. A greater height is imparted to the fabric ; and the buttresses, which are very prominent, frequently terminate in turrets, or spires. The ornaments are numerous ; lightness and elegance being the chief objects of the architect's intention.

The artist and antiquary are often gratified, in an equal measure, by the examples of sculpture which still enrich many cathedral and other churches in England, although they have to deplore the barbaric insensibility to the arts with which numerous fine relics were demolished, during the rage of different popular convulsions. Ireland retains scarcely any specimens of religious sculpture, except such as are contained on antient crosses and sepulchral monuments.

It is observable, in regard to Irish ecclesiastical architecture, that we seldom witness that intermixture of styles, or incongruous union of arches and ornaments appertaining respectively to the circular and pointed modes, so frequently seen in Britain. A rare instance of this contrariety of styles in one design, occurs in the transept of the Cathedral of Christchurch, or the Blessed Trinity, Dublin, which was probably erected under the patronage of the first Norman adventurers, in the latter years of the twelfth century.

The pointed style of architecture was unquestionably introduced to Ireland by the English settlers ; and every progressive modification of this style appears to have been nearly contemporaneous with the adoption of the same novelty of fashion in Britain. It is well known that great difficulty is found in ascertaining the precise date at which many ecclesiastical struc-

ture are classified, and referred to the different reigns in which they prevailed. It would appear that the same vicissitudes of architectural fashion were common to both Islands ; and a notice of the age, or reign, to which the style of a building is referable, must, therefore, be sufficient in the present Work.

tures were erected, however important their character. In such researches even history often affords a deceptive light. From the pages of the annalist we frequently acquire information concerning the erection of a building, which acts as no guide to the date of the existing structure; since unnoticed circumstances of re-edification have evidently taken place. On the same principle, charters of foundation, respecting conventual fabrics, are, in a great majority of instances, equally fallacious. It is a subject of gratification with the antiquary that a striking uniformity, as to general lineaments, prevails in all buildings erected in the same age. Thus, when one standard of comparison is satisfactorily found, the examiner may safely decide on the date of a structure quite unknown to history, but exhibiting the same features. The architectural annals of Ireland are still more defective than those of Britain; but we shall be enabled to direct the reader to sufficient decided instances, in different parts of the country, as described in future pages, for the purpose of establishing those standards of comparison which often form the sole materials for the antiquary's conclusions.

That the religious edifices of Ireland should display a sympathy in fashion with those of England, will, indeed, be esteemed highly probable, when we remember that such structures were rarely, in either country, the works of native artists. It appears that bands of architects and workmen, of different nations, who had been long in the habit of travelling over Europe, in search of employment from the princes, nobles, and clergy, in the erection of churches, castles, and bridges, were incorporated by the pope towards the close of the twelfth century, and were at the same time endowed with various other important privileges. Under the name of Free and Accepted Masons this fraternity was well known in Ireland and Britain, and erected the principal churches of both countries.

Although a strong resemblance, in general character, was evidently produced by the labours of these associated artificers, thus travelling throughout christian Europe, it is certain that subordinate varieties were introduced in every country, either in

attention to local partialities, or to individual taste or caprice. Such minor shades of distinction occur in many Irish structures, and will be noticed in future descriptive pages. Nor were these fraternities uniformly the entire designers of the fabrics which they erected. We know that in England some of the greatest architects of the middle ages were dignified ecclesiastics, or studious inmates of religious houses. That the art was equally cultivated in many monastic establishments of Ireland, is, in every respect, highly probable; and we may, with undoubted justice, attribute much of the merit conspicuous in august vestiges spread throughout this island, to cloistered persons of genius, who studied architecture as a branch of knowledge so applicable to religious uses, that it was worthy the attention even of men whose whole mental energies were dedicated to purposes of piety.

It has been already observed that, from several causes sufficiently obvious, the greater number of structures, parochial as well as conventual, affording specimens of ancient architecture in Ireland, are now in a state of ruin; but they are still used, together with their attached grave-yards, as burial-places for the descendants of those who deserted the buildings as places of religious service, on an alteration in the forms of worship. The utter neglect and rapid decay to which the churches of Ireland became subject in years briefly following the æra of reformation, are recorded by Spenser, who remarks, in his "View of the State of Ireland," about the year 1596, that due care should be taken "to build up and repayre all the ruined churches, whereof the most part lye even with the ground, and some that have bin lately repayred are so unhandsomely patched, and thatched, that men doe even shunne the places for the uncomeliness thereof."

Still further injuries were inflicted during the political troubles of the seventeenth century, at which calamitous time many churches appropriated to divine worship, according to the rituals of the establishment, were alienated, and were exposed to various destructive insults from the more violent of the fanatics. A notice of the principal times and modes in which some important efforts

towards renovation have been carried into effect, involves remarks on erections of a recent date, and renders it desirable that we should trace, in the present place, the history of the ecclesiastical architecture of Ireland down to the existing period.

Between the years 1633 and 1641, the Earl of Strafford, then lord deputy, anxious to remedy, in some measure, the growing evils to which the religious establishment was subject, caused commissions to be issued for repairing places of worship throughout the kingdom. The king, in furtherance of this great work, consented to settle the appropriations possessed by the crown on the resident clergy; and many new churches were at that time erected. It is well known that the pointed style of architecture had fallen into disuse shortly after the æra of the reformation; and the mode which succeeded was of a barbarous character, either comprising an offensive mixture of the Grecian and Pointed styles, both being of a depraved kind, or affecting a variety of non-descript forms, often invented by mere masons or builders. In these tasteless modes were erected the Irish churches of the seventeenth century; and the same character applies to all such buildings raised in the early part of the century that followed. In the latter years of the eighteenth century an improved style of design was evinced in the church-architecture of cities and large towns, as is conspicuous in the cathedrals of Cashell, Waterford, Cork, and Armagh. But even the most eligible structures of those years were too frequently of a common-place character, although sufficiently massy, capacious, and temperate in regard to decoration.

Since the commencement of the nineteenth century, numerous churches have been erected in different parts of Ireland, in pursuance of an act of parliament made for that purpose. These modern structures are composed of the lime-stone so prevalent throughout nearly the whole of the Island; and are uniformly of ample proportions. An imitation of the Pointed style is almost invariably attempted by their builders; but it is to be regretted, in many instances, that more attention has not been bestowed on the ruling principles of this fine style of architecture, and on

the history of its procedure through several progressive and determinate orders. In too many recent edifices we find a total neglect of due accordance in the various parts ; arches, columns, and ornaments, belonging respectively to the earliest and the latest modifications of the Pointed style, being introduced without scruple into the same building. With the examiner possessed of ordinary information, and a correct feeling of the arts, this frequent neglect in the cultivation of professional knowledge must be seriously deplored, as the very numerous buildings recently erected, afforded an unprecedented opportunity for the revival of excellence in a style of architecture admired by all, and peculiarly applicable to religious uses.

From the above censure, extorted by a conviction of the duty incumbent on a topographical writer, must be made many honourable exceptions. Such we chiefly refer to pages descriptive of the districts in which they occur ; but we cannot avoid observing, in the same page which presents our animadversions, that the city of Dublin and the town of Lismore afford distinguished proofs of the judicious cultivation of this peculiar branch of an art to which historical reading is as essential as mathematical knowledge and a refined taste. The vice-regal chapel of Dublin, assuredly, ranks amongst the most attractive modern imitations of that order of Pointed architecture denominated florid ;* and in the re-edification of the church of Lismore (performed under the care of Mr. Morrison) an attention is bestowed on consistency of style, that merits the observation of every architect intent on upholding, or improving, the national reputation.

We must not omit to notice, as a pleasing feature of the churches recently erected in rural places, that they are, in general, ornamented with neat and well-proportioned spires. This mode of design was adopted with great correctness of taste. The spire is uniformly a grateful embellishment to the rural church. Its taper proportions, and unassuming character, readily assimilate with our ideas of village simplicity ; to which the embattled tower

* This splendid building, erected after the designs of a native architect, Francis Johnston, Esq. is noticed, at some length, in our account of the City of Dublin.

(well-placed, perhaps, in the churches of great cities) is utterly repugnant. To the less populous tracts of Ireland the spire is particularly adapted, as it imparts an air of social animation to districts otherwise wearing solely the gloomy aspect of neglected poverty.

The Roman Catholic Chapels, of modern erection, are not less numerous than the churches ; and many are of noble dimensions, of a substantial character, and have been raised at a great expense, defrayed by voluntary contribution. Several are fabrics of considerable splendour ; but the same lamentable want of attention to an uniformity of style is observable in most of these structures, as in many of the modern churches. Where the pointed style is adopted, the orders of that architectural mode, which are not less determinate than those of the Grecian, are frequently violated, as if with studied indifference. The Grecian and the Pointed styles are often, most reprehensibly, mixed in the same design, equally to the injury of fine effect and to the neglect of obvious propriety. Under the influence of a strange misapprehension, some modern architects encourage the lawless excursions of an inventive genius, and believe that their creations derive merit from novelty.* This error in judgment is well known to prevail in England, to as great an extent as in the sister island ; and it is only by severity of remark that many architects, in both countries, will be induced to learn, that excellence can alone be obtained by the judicious adaptation of established rules to the effect devised by a cultivated taste.

* Dr. Milner presents an anecdote on this subject, which we subjoin, in confirmation of a remark unwillingly made : “ Seeing the master-builder” (of one of the most important of the new chapels in Ireland) “ about to place a whimsical sort of capital for the buttment of a pointed arch, I took the liberty of asking him, what order, or style, that capital belonged to ?” He answered me : “ It is of no particular order or style ; but it is a fancy Corinthian capital.”—“ Do you, then, really imagine, Sir,” said I, “ that you can fancy a more beautiful Corinthian capital, than that which has obtained the approbation of all civilized nations in all ages ?” Milner’s *Inquiry*, &c. 293-4.

THE CROSSES OF SCULPTURED STONE to be seen in many parts of Ireland constitute a curious and interesting class of the national antiquities. The specimens, are, indeed, so numerous, and so various in character, that some remarks on the former customary appropriation of this species of monument, if not absolutely requisite, can scarcely fail of being acceptable.

That the practice of erecting single stones, in commemoration of an important event, or as a symbol of pagan worship, prevailed in very remote periods of antiquity, is a fact well known. It is also generally admitted that the early teachers of christianity, in a necessary condescension to the prejudices and gloomy ignorance of the multitude, collected their auditory or converts in places rendered fancifully sacred by these heathen erections ; but changed the stone from a pagan to a christian symbol, by carving on it the figure of the cross. As a knowledge of the arts increased, a progressive degree of elegance was bestowed on the decorations of these emblematical pillars. No longer was the indented cross their sole enrichment. The hand of pious taste was applied to the shaft ; and a variety of sculpture was bestowed, in augmentation of the attractive character of the sacred memorial.

The purposes for which crosses were erected were various, when christianity became the undisputed religion of the whole of Britain and Ireland. The following appear to be the chief uses to which they were devoted, subordinate to the general incitement they were supposed to present in regard to devotional feelings.

They were frequently erected as memorials of designation, or boundary marks in respect to property and parishes. Dr. Ledwich (in his account of the parish of Aghaboe), observes that a cross was constantly erected by bishops and abbots, on their glebes ; and adds that “ within these crocea they exercised civil and spiritual jurisdiction.” But it is said by Mr. Harris, in his additions to Ware's Antiquities, that although “ bishops and abbots had large jurisdictions in the districts called *Crocea*, or Cross-lands, yet the king had also sheriffs, or other ministers, distinct from the sheriffs of the counties ;” instances of which practice he cites from many antient records.

It is likewise probable that crosses erected by the road side in Ireland were endowed with a privilege of sanctuary. Such was the practice on many parts of the continent ; but it is believed that the same privilege was not granted to crosses in England, where the full rights of sanctuary could be obtained only by royal grant.

Crosses of sepulchral memorial are well known to have been extremely frequent, and perhaps constituted the earliest christian monuments in honour of the dead. A cross was also frequently erected near the entrance of the church, or on the side of the path leading to it, for the purpose of exciting solemn emotions in the minds of those who approached the sacred pile. Battles, and disastrous events (as instances of murder), were often commemorated by a cross, raised on the spot of triumph or calamity. In past ages the cross was considered a necessary appendage to the market-place, and was often supported on an arcade, which afforded shelter for the traders. Here it acted as an emphatical warning against dishonest practices ; and, from steps surrounding its base, the inmates of adjacent religious institutions are said to have sometimes harangued the assembly. " The general intent of market-crosses," observes Dr. Milner, " was to excite public homage to the religion of Christ crucified, and to inspire men with a sense of morality and piety amidst the ordinary transactions of life."*

Numerous examples of several of these various kinds of crosses are remaining in different parts of Ireland. In no instance do they equal, either in grandeur of design or excellence of workmanship, the most costly and distinguished of those still to be seen in England. But their number is greatly superior, and they exhibit a constant variety, calculated at once to excite and to gratify curiosity. Many are extremely rude, and nearly in the last stage of decay, but still abounding in interest for the antiquarian examiner.

* Hist. of Winchester, vol. ii, p. 183. For more copious remarks concerning the character and history of antient stone crosses, the reader is referred to the " Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain," by J. Britton, F. S. A. vol. i.

Others display a peculiar affluence of sculpture, that atones for any defect of skill in design or execution, and which no artist, or man of cultivated taste, can view with a feeling bordering on indifference. In these crosses the clustered plenitude of decoration, rich in figures, in fanciful devices, and storied passages of scripture, often produces an unspeakable degree of beauty, when mellowed by the lenient touches of time.

Many sculptured crosses in this country are evidently of high antiquity, and some are usually ascribed to ages previous to the conversion of the Danes. It would appear to be unquestionable that the greater number are the work of those incorporated masons and artists, who travelled over different parts of Europe, and built the churches and performed the religious sculpture of Ireland, in common with those of other countries. Amongst the most ancient remaining examples may be noticed the crosses of Monasterboice; Armagh; Kilry; and Kells, in the County of Meath.

MILITARY AND DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE.—Ireland abounds in vestiges of military architecture; but these remains are in few instances of a higher date than the entrance of the English, in the twelfth century; and nearly the whole are the works of invading nations. Whilst Britain acquired numerous castles of defence from the Romans and Saxons, the Celtic and Belgic tribes of Ireland remained destitute of an exemplar of fortification, on scientific principles. Attached, at a later period than neighbouring countries, to the ancient and rude methods of irregular warfare, they retired to the morass, or climbed the mountain, when overpowered by numbers or by military tactics. The Danes, their first invaders subsequent to the christian æra, were scarcely more skilful than themselves in constructing places of artificial defence. Thus, the vestiges of such modes of fortification as were practised by the ancient Irish chiefly consist of earthworks,—rude traces in the soil, which, from situation and character, have proved more durable than most works of stone.

Many writers assert that the Danes introduced to Ireland the use of cement in building; and Giraldus Cambrensis notices the great number of fortified places constructed by that people. But

there are at present scarcely any traces of stone buildings, which can, with a satisfactory calculation of correctness, be ascribed to a Danish origin. The antient tower at Waterford, termed Reginald's Tower, is usually believed to present an example of the fabrics of stone erected by the Danes in Ireland, for the purpose of defence. We are told, in the work on the Antiquities of Ireland published under the name of Grose, that the Ostmen, or Danes, had in Waterford "Turgis's, Magnus's, and Reginald's towers; names fully indicative of a Norwegian, or Danish, origin." It will be obvious that the mere retention of a founder's name is no proof that the existing building was erected under his auspices. The name might be habitually retained, after the structure had undergone re-edification. The building in question is of a circular form, and of a considerable height. The interior is ascended by spiral stairs of stone, and the few windows are small and square. The walls are not less than nine feet in thickness.

These characteristics would equally apply to the Anglo-Normans, by whom the fortifications of Waterford were restored after their ruinous assault of the town in the year 1171. It is observable that the author of "Northern Antiquities" describes the fortresses of the antient Danes as being "rude castles, situate on the summit of rocks, and rendered inaccessible by thick, misshapen, walls;" and we have reason to believe that the Danes settled in Britain introduced no particular mode of fortification, but merely imitated the works of their Saxon predecessors. No direct historical testimony, nor marked peculiarities, denote any stone towers in Ireland to be of Danish workmanship; and the examiner, who is averse to the indulgence of conjecture in antiquarian inquiries, will, perhaps, believe that the only military vestiges in this country, satisfactorily attributed to the Danes, are the earthworks noticed in a previous page, several of which retain traces of the foundation of former buildings.

The earliest castles in Ireland, on an extensive plan, were erected subsequent to the invasion by the English, in the reign of Henry II. Owing to the unsettled state of Britain, and the constant bias of our sovereigns of the Norman line to continental

warfare, Henry and his successors neglected to raise in Ireland a sufficiency of strong castles by royal mandate, in resemblance of those constructed in England, which were built at the public cost, and garrisoned for the defence of the state. The attainment of security, however, induced the military leaders and other powerful settlers, to construct strong holds of defence ; and by these distinguished persons numerous castles were erected, with great celerity, in different parts of the island.

Of the structures erected by the first settlers, or in ages briefly succeeding the reign of the second Henry, comparatively few remains are now to be seen ; but there are sufficient examples to shew that strength was the primary object cultivated by the builders. It is certain that these fabrics were designed by architects brought from England ; and they consequently bear a great similitude to structures remaining in that country ; but it may be remarked that they are of a character less intricate, or mixed, than is commonly attributed by architectural antiquaries to castellated buildings of a later date than the reign of Henry the First. The keep was often, but not invariably, flanked with round towers, and placed on an elevated site, either natural or artificial. Traces of machicolation, porteullisses, and the various other refinements of defence carried to high perfection by the Anglo-Normans, in that improved mode of fortification cultivated by Bishop Gundulph,* are still visible ; and these castles of the early settlers evidently comprised a ballium, and attendant outworks. Although strongly defensible, they are usually inferior in extent and beauty to English structures erected in the same ages ; their whole aspect declaring, in characters as intelligible as the mournful pages of the annalist, the local troubles amidst which they were erected, and the ferocious rudeness of the mere soldiers, however dignified in name, by whom they were occupied. An example, although mutilated by recent innovation, occurs in the castle of *Carlow*.

* For some account of the improvements introduced to military architecture by this distinguished Bishop of Rochester, see " Introduction to the Beauties of England and Wales," article Anglo-Norman Antiquities.

To these fortresses, of Anglo-Norman character, succeeded, as in England, an irregular mode of castellation, in which the plan no longer consisted simply of a keep, or central tower, surrounded by embattled outworks. In this latter mode numerous towers of defence, united by mural lines, are combined in the scheme of one structure. This style obtained in England as early as the reign of Stephen, and probably grew into use in Ireland before the middle of the thirteenth century. As an example may be named *Roscommon Castle*, commenced in the year 1268. It may be noticed, as a minor, but strongly marked, feature of such castles as were erected subsequent to the early part of the thirteenth century, that round-headed windows and doorways often give place to those of a pointed form.

The disturbed state of Ireland unhappily rendered of slow growth that ameliorated style of castellated architecture which was adopted in the sister-island in the reign of Edward I. and in which a captivating richness of exterior lineaments is united with an internal amplitude of domestic arrangement, calculated for social enjoyment and sumptuous festivity. A faint imitation of manners, however, arose by tardy steps; and the architectural vestiges of part of the fourteenth, and the whole of the fifteenth century, act as memorials of the increased splendour of baronial establishments. Several buildings remain, although deserted and ruinous, in which the towers of defence are united by lines of capacious building, instead of mere embattled walls; the whole edifice assuming the aspect of a fortified assemblage of spacious dwellings. The decaying castle of *Clonmore*, county of Carlow, may be noticed as an example of this kind of building. But, in ascribing a date to such structures, the examiner must hold in remembrance that in Ireland, as in Britain, many castles were altered, in conformance to the new mode; and additional buildings, not older than the sixteenth century, are therefore often seen united with towers of considerable antiquity.

It will be obvious that the whole of the above remarks apply to the castles of the principal grantees, or most powerful and wealthy amongst the English settlers. There succeeded to the

structures last noticed a species of dignified residence, appertaining to the same class of persons, of which there are many remains in Ireland, but none in England, except on the northern *borders* of that country. This is the *castellated house*, strictly so termed. In England there arose, after the disuse of regular fortresses as places of residence, a form of building on which this term is bestowed; but, in every instance with which we are acquainted, as Haddon Hall, in the county of Derby, these structures displayed only a mimicry of castellation, presenting loops and battlements, without possessing, in reality, a defensible character. In Ireland the coeval dwellings of the affluent, when not absolute fortresses, were large, massive, and irregular mansions, affording much of the convenience of the English halls, but of a more severe external character, and provided at every point with the means of formidable resistance. Such fabrics must chiefly be ascribed to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and they are exemplified in the ruins of *Moret Castle*, in the Queen's County; and those of *Carnew Castle*, in the county of Wicklow.

It is sufficiently evident that the custom of residing in fortified buildings prevailed in Ireland to a much later date than in Britain.* If history were mute, the architecture of a country would explain, in no mean degree, the manners of the inhabitants in progressive ages. Thus it is painfully apparent, without the aid of record, that a want of security pervaded all ranks of this harassed country in the early years of the seventeenth century, whilst the more favoured inhabitants of England resided in capacious halls, having unguarded windows carried nearly to the level of the soil. Nor must it be supposed that these domestic perils, as they related to the upper orders of English settlers, proceeded entirely from the avenging spirit of natives, only half-subdued and vexatiously governed. The English, ambitious of extending their domains, and insolent in individual power whilst remote

* It is believed that there is not in England any instance of a regular castle, erected as a residence, subsequent to the reign of Richard II. Introduction to "Beauties of England and Wales," p. 148.

from regal authority, were continually engaged in sanguinary quarrels amongst themselves.* All the arts which embellish life were unavoidably disregarded, amidst such complicated scenes of tumult and rapine.

As a necessary precaution of government, in a country so ill-organized as was Ireland in past ages, every grant of land was accompanied with the injunction of erecting a castle, down to so late a period as the colonizing of the six escheated counties of Ulster, in the year 1606. The defensible domestic buildings erected by the settlers on small portions of land, late in the sixteenth, and early in the seventeenth centuries, constitute the most numerous class of castles to be seen in Ireland, if such a name may be bestowed on these fortified houses, which are tall and rectangular towers, of moderate proportions, quite destitute of architectural interest, and imparting an air of unmitigated harshness to the scenery in which they occur. These gloomy fabrics will not fail to remind the examiner of the *Castlet*, or *Peel*, so frequent on the borders of England and Scotland, where a defence against acts of midnight aggression was the first object of care in the design of even an ordinary dwelling.

It appears to be satisfactorily ascertained, that the Irish were slow in adopting the mode of scientific fortification practised by the English settlers. The editor of the work on Irish Antiquities, published under the name of Grose, attempts to explain this defect of policy, by the following remarks: "The strong attachment of the Irish to Tanistry, Gavelkind, and their Brehon laws, creating a perpetual fluctuation of property and residence, prevented the erection of houses and castles, which the founders knew would never descend to their heirs. But when they surrendered their lands to the crown, and received a re-conveyance of them, to hold by

* Spenser, writing in 1596, observes, on the authority of a complaint made by the citizens of Cork, that "the English Lords and Gentlemen, who then had great possessions in Ireland, began, through pride and insolency, to make private warres one against another, and, when either part was weak, they would wage and draw in the Irish to take their part."—View of the State of Ireland, Dublin Edit. p. 106.

English tenures, one of which was the inheritance in the direct line, then they began to provide for posterity and the honour of their families, by building castles and improving their possessions. In 1584, Stanihurst names but O'Neil, O'Carrol, O'Rourke, O'More, and O'Conor, the most powerful Irish chiefs, who had castles."

From the history of military, or castellated, we descend to that of domestic architecture; and it is truly grateful to remark that there are still vestiges which denote the partial adoption, in the sixteenth century, of the character of structure usually denominated *Elizabethan*. The specimens of this style are few, and are chiefly united to castellated buildings, of strength and antiquity. Such is the spacious mansion at *Carrick on Suir*, belonging to the Earl of Ormonde, which clings, as if for protection, to the dismantled and decaying fortress that formerly constituted one of the principal seats of the noble family of Butler.

It is unquestionable that many buildings of the above, or a nearly similar description, fell before the firebrands of different infuriated factions, in the wars of the seventeenth century;* and the structures by which this loss was supplied have little claim to

* In a Manuscript by the late W. Beauford, A. M. now in the possession of the present writer, is the following remark, which is of some value as proceeding from intelligence afforded by actual witnesses of the scene described: "On the establishment of tranquillity, after the stormy period of the Revolution, the architectural beauties of Ireland were low indeed. From the information of those of the middle of the last age who well remembered the state of the country, at the concluding periods of the seventeenth century, it appears, that not a castle or mansion throughout the island, but was either in ruins or deserted; the gentlemen, in general, residing in temporary cottages until more appropriate edifices could be erected." This notice of the miseries caused by a long course of warfare, may assist in accounting for the former want of eligible mansions in Ireland, as complained of by Mr. Young, who, "supposes," in the observations appended to his "Tour," that "there were not ten dwellings in the kingdom, thirty years ago, that were fit for an English pig to live in!" But no statement of causes leading to temporary national depression, can excuse the ungracious character of the tourist's language in that passage. Mr. Young's Tour was commenced in the year 1776.

commendation. These were, in general, rectangular buildings, often of tall proportions, as if the designers were actuated by an observance of the isolated towers, already described as forming the habitations of grantees, or undertakers, settled on small allotments of land. In regard to internal arrangement, they were suited to a rude but abundant hospitality, rather than to the enjoyments of polished intercourse.*

The tasteless mode which pervaded these buildings remained in practice, with a few exceptions, for which the country was chiefly indebted to Mr. Bindon, of Limerick, until the latter part of the eighteenth century, when an attention to the models of Palladio was first introduced to the notice of the Irish. This improvement in civil architecture must be, in a great degree, attributed to the professional exertions of the late Mr. Cassels, who erected, amongst other noble structures, Leinster House, in the metropolis, now belonging to the Dublin Society.

The chaste and eligible style thus introduced, constituted the national fashion, in mansions of a superior class, until a date comparatively recent. It is now supplanted by a taste for that imposing species of design which prevails so generally in Britain, and is there often denominated *the modern Gothic*. It has ever been our opinion that buildings of this kind, when correctly designed, should be imitative of that character of structure which was invented by the English on the disuse of real castellation, and is noticed in a previous page under the name of *castellated house*. The licence permitted by this legitimate prototype, affords an ample scope for the indulgence of imagination, even in an architect of the boldest powers of mind. In a strict observance of rules, it is obvious that the whole exterior, in general design and in detail, should be allusive to military architecture, except one division,

* In mansions of this æra were retained the GUEST CHAMBERS, common in antient buildings where the necessity of defence precluded a liberality of accommodation. These consisted of two large apartments for occasional visitors, the one containing a number of beds for ladies, the other for gentlemen. These apartments were sometimes called *Barrack-rooms*. Beauford's MSS. penes J. N. Brewer.

supposed to constitute the family chapel. We must persist in thinking that the inventors of this kind of fabric committed a great error, by intermingling in one façade, without a consideration of the palpable defect in presumed utility of appropriation, the windows and ornamental particulars of the ecclesiastical style with the towers and loops of the military. If Irish architects have sometimes fallen into this objectionable incongruity of manners, they are warranted by the practice of the English, with whom the “modern Gothic” mode of architecture originated.

This bold and harsh, but splendid species of design, is well adapted to the recluse parts of Ireland, where nature reigns in wild and mysterious majesty. The towers, the ramparts, and long irregular lines of military grandeur which characterize the *castellated house*, assimilate with the lofty mountains and wide-spread lakes of this romantic island. Such architectural creations impart a grateful air of antient baronial character to scenes averse from the delicate refinements of Palladio. Some extensive and costly structures, exhibiting much of what is termed by Sir Joshua Reynolds the picturesque of architecture, have been erected in different parts of Ireland; and we observe, with pleasure, that amongst the most estimable examples must be ranked the works of a native architect, Richard Morrison, Esq. The buildings erected after the designs of this gentleman are highly ornamental to the country, and evince an exemplary depth of research into the history and progressive variations of our antient architecture.

MISCELLANEOUS ANTIQUITIES.—Great numbers of those rude instruments termed *Celts* by British antiquaries are found in nearly every part of Ireland, and are usually composed, as in all other countries where they are discovered, of stone, flint, or brass. It may be readily supposed that those formed of stone and flint are the most antient, and are probably relics of the Celtic, or aboriginal tribes, whilst those of metal are of a date subsequent to the arrival of the Belgæ. It will be recollected that antiquaries entertain different opinions concerning the use for which these instruments were designed; but there can be little room for doubting that they formed weapons of offence, like the tomihawk of the

North Americans. In the fourth volume of Gough's Edition of Camden, plate xvii. is the representation of a hook, double-edged and very sharp, which the editor describes as "a small *securis*, or Irish *scarr*, to cut herbs, misletoe, &c." The same writer observes that the instruments termed *Celts* by the British, were "called, by the antient Irish, *Tuagh snaighte*, or chip-axes." Small spear, or arrow, heads, of stone, are found in nearly equal abundance; and are here, as in some parts of Britain, termed elf-arrows by the common people, who preserve them as a charm against the malice of elfin visitants.

Many swords, and some other weapons, of considerable antiquity, found in various parts of Ireland, are of a metal usually termed *brass*, but which differs considerably from the metal properly so called. In a paper communicated by Governor Pownall to the Antiquarian Society of London, it is stated that, from an assay made by his majesty's assay-master, the metal of which the above antiquities are composed "appears to be chiefly copper, interspersed with particles of iron, and perhaps, some zink; but without containing either gold or silver. It seems probable that the metal was cast in its present state, and afterwards reduced to its proper figure by filing. The apparent palpable properties are, that it is of a texture which takes an exquisitely fine polish, and in its colour exhibits more of the colour of brass than of copper. It is of a temper which carries a sharp edge, and is, in a great degree, firm and elastic, and very heavy. It is, also, of a peculiar nature that resists rust." Mr Pownall truly adds, that "the use of this species of metal for weapons, and other military purposes, did not only exist prior to the invention of the use of iron, but, from the nature of the properties above noticed, continued in estimation for these purposes many ages after the use of iron was discovered, as appears from Homer, Hesiod, and all the Greek and Roman historians."

It is a curious fact that the swords of this metal found in Ireland bear a great resemblance to those discovered in the fields of Cannæ. On account of this similitude it has been conjectured that they were of Carthaginian manufacture; and Dr. Campbell

considers them “ as serving to corroborate the opinion that the Phœnicians had footing in this kingdom.” This notion is controverted by Dr. Ledwich, who observes that there would be some difficulty in proving that the Cannæ swords were really Carthaginian, and were lost 2000 years back, since historians say that only 1500 Africans and Spaniards fell, and more than 45,000 Romans. Cannæ was, likewise, the theatre of many battles, besides that between Hannibal and the Romans. In conclusion Dr. Ledwich remarks, that “ it is well known, from ancient writers that it must be the celebrated Spanish swords with which Hannibal’s army was furnished, and as well known that they were short. Whereas the Roman were, like those found in Ireland, long and heavy, by which they penetrated the armour to the very body. The Carthaginians never visited the frozen regions of the north, and yet brazen swords, and other metallic implements, have been discovered there.”

In different parts of Ireland, chiefly on digging the bogs, there have been found numerous articles of pure gold, which prove the inhabitants to have been acquainted with that precious metal in very early ages. These discoveries consist principally of ornaments for the person, and supposed insignia of office, several of which are of a character quite unique, and have given rise to a great variety of conjectures. The remote antiquity of their construction is sufficiently evinced by their singularity of character, and unknown appropriation, whilst the execution of the decorative part frequently evinces a considerable proficiency in the arts. A description of the principal of these articles will be found under the heads of the respective counties in which they were discovered.

OBSERVATIONS ON AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, MANUFACTURES, AND OTHER
PARTICULARS RELATING TO

THE PRESENT STATE OF IRELAND.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ECONOMICS.—Although it may appear, on a hasty view, that these subjects are but slightly connected with those topographical delineations which constitute the principal object of the present Work, the contrary will be deemed the fact, on mature deliberation. The aspect of a country ; the state of the middle and humble classes of society ; and the bearings of numerous regulations of civil polity ; are greatly involved in the discussion of these topics, and hold forth the promise of intelligence more generally interesting than the mere details of rural practice.

Agriculture, of primary importance in every country, acquires additional consequence in districts where manufactures and commerce are in an infant or drooping condition, owing to the want of capital, or to a contrary bias in the temper and habits of society. Such is the situation of Ireland. Her great natural opportunities for the cultivation of commercial enterprize are, unhappily, of little avail ; her manufactures are few, and chiefly confined to one part of the island. To agriculture she is equally propelled by fertility of soil and plenitude of population ; but many adverse circumstances have retarded her progress towards a due proficiency in this important art, the solid and sure foundation of national prosperity. To trace to their source the actuating causes of this backwardness in a pursuit of vital utility, would require numerous pages of painful investigation. It may be sufficient to notice, in the present place, some of the most obvious of the existing evils.

A considerable impediment to an improved system of cultivation proceeds from the usual form of tenure, and the want of confidence between the landlord and the tenant. Land, throughout a great part of Ireland, is viewed merely as a marketable commodity, and is let to the highest bidder, without such a consideration of his pretensions, in regard to capital, skill and industry, as is necessary towards obtaining an equitable mode of cultivation.

The absence of that species of paternal tie which still, in a great measure, exists in England between the landlord and the occupier, and induces a spirit of co-operation productive equally of private and public benefit, affords, in itself, a sufficient cause of neglect and ill-management.

Leases for a considerable term are granted throughout the whole of the country; but, in general, with attendant circumstances destructive of the advantages they appear calculated to produce.* They are destitute of clauses restraining the tenant to a salutary succession of crops; and the grantee has often the privilege of re-letting to others. "Thus," to use the words of Mr. Young, "the over-grown tenant, who is probably no farmer, has that security which the cultivator of the land should have; who, on the contrary, is often only tenant at will. In this pernicious system, long leases are practised, without one good effect flowing from them." Where the tenancy of land is thus a matter of barter, and the eagerness for an immediate increase of rental prevents a provision for the maintenance of the soil in a healthful condition, a flourishing state of agriculture is not to be expected.

The system of granting a long lease to presumed capitalists, either through the usual temptation of a sum of money, or for the purpose of simplifying the mode of receiving a rental, is, assuredly,

* It is observed by Mr. Wakefield that the "income of estates in Ireland varies from the lowest value to £100,000 per annum;" but, as it has been a common practice to grant leases for ever, or for 999 years, the fee of extensive estates often belong to persons who at present receive very little "head-rent." This custom, by which the possessors of landed property would appear to have shown a blamable indifference to the interests of posterity, is justly ascribed, by Mr. Young, to the small value of land in Ireland, before, and even through a considerable part of, the last century, joined to "the unfortunate civil wars, and other intestine divisions, which, for a long space of time, kept this unhappy country in a state rather of devastation than improvement." Under such circumstances, short, or even determinable leases, were not sufficient encouragement for a settlement; but the practice was injuriously continued after the original motives ceased to operate.

a severe grievance to the country, and merits all the reprobation which it has frequently experienced. In this system the lease of landed property is the floating representation of a specific bonus, and is as much an object of speculation in the national market, as the nominal thousands of the Stock Exchange. It passes through various hands, and creates *middle-men*, of different degrees, who sever the landlord and the occupier beyond all hope of re-union.

There have occurred, lately, ingenious writers who seek to defend the custom of creating these middle-men; but, as it would appear, such authors are actuated rather by a fondness for attracting notice from bold novelties of opinion, than by any more rational motive. That peculiar cases exist, in which, from the present state of Ireland, there may be propriety in admitting an intermediate tenant, must, however, be allowed. Such a position of circumstances is supposed by Mr. Wakefield, in his recent statistical work, and we present the substance of his remarks.—“ If an extensive tract of country be waste, or nearly in a state of nature, it would answer no useful purpose to place on it a number of indigent persons destitute of skill in agriculture. The only desirable tenant for property of this description, must be a man possessed of money and agricultural experience; and when such a person shall have improved the land it must be equitable that he should reap the benefit of his exertions. Thus, he would divide the estate into small portions among active sub-tenants; and the landlord ought to rejoice in a prosperity so intimately connected with his own, and so truly beneficial to the country.” That such instances have occurred we are convinced from personal knowledge; but they act as no excuse for persevering in the system on an indiscriminate scale. The character of too many of these intervening tenants, and the evils inflicted by their possession of power, produce the most weighty calamities experienced by the labouring classes.

The very general want of capital amongst the small farmers, induces the frequent custom of persons uniting their means, and entering on a farm in the shape of a joint-stock company. Thus, one furnishes a horse, and another a cow, whilst all contribute their

personal labour to the general fund. It must be superfluous to expatiate on the evils naturally arising from such a practice, where there is no directing mind, and an unavoidable want of a due stimulus to individual exertion.

The size of farms, as well as the mode of culture under which they are placed, varies greatly in different parts of the country ; and in this, as in many other particulars relating to Ireland, extremes are more usually found than the temperate mediocrity essential to the solid prosperity of a nation. In the manufacturing districts of the north, the farms, if such the small allotments of land may be termed, are limited to a few acres ; and agriculture is there so entirely subservient to manufactures, that the severe remark made by Mr. Young is still in some measure applicable : “ The cultivators of these lands no more deserve the name of farmers, than the occupier of a mere cabbage-garden.” In the counties of Limerick, Tipperary, Roscommon and Meath, the grazing farms are of extraordinary extent, one occupier frequently holding more than a thousand acres. In the arable counties, as Kilkenny, Carlow, and Kildare, a more judicious mediocrity is often found, although inordinate disproportions are still too common for the real interests of society, particularly as regards the formation of a valuable class of husbandmen who feel no true want, and covet no meretricious and enervating enjoyment.

The most serious evil in this country, as relates to the size of farms, assuredly consists in the minute tenures into which arable lands are broken. Poetry may sigh over those days in which

“ Every rood of ground maintain’d its man,”

but such a distribution of property is evidently one of the greatest calamities that a country can experience ; as it tends to produce a redundant population, groveling in a sordid semblance of content, and nurturing a pernicious rudeness of customs. This evil is felt by Ireland throughout some of her finest districts, and is partly to be ascribed to the desire entertained by landlords of augmenting their political influence, by the creation of a miserable race of freeholders, whose value in society is estimated solely by their numbers as voters towards returning a member of the imperial

senate.* The habits of the tenants, however, chiefly operate in producing the injurious sub-division of farms. The small farmers having rarely money to bestow, commonly make a partition of lands on the marriage of a son.

That mixture of grazing and tillage, which is so frequent in England, is of rare occurrence in this country, except on the farms of gentlemen, with whom the practice of husbandry is merely a local convenience, or an amusement. Nor are there any large tracts of country exclusively devoted to the breeding of cattle, as in the Highlands of Scotland.†

We have already noticed the principal grazing counties, and observed that the lands occupied by the chief graziers are usually of great extent. These tracts have been termed, by a competent judge (Mr. Arthur Young) “some of the finest pastures in the world;” and their fertility is indeed extraordinary. In the substance of the following remarks, and in many other particulars of intelligence conveyed in this section, we profit by the opinions of Mr. Young, and the very extensive inquiries instituted by Mr. Wakefield, whose attention was long and successfully directed to the statistics and agriculture of this country, as is sufficiently proved by his “Account of Ireland,” in two volumes quarto.

* The qualification of an Irish freeholder is an interest in property, for life, to the annual amount of forty shillings; but, as it is usual in this country to *insert lives in leases*, freeholders are readily created, without the actual transfer of property.

† The right of pasturage on mountains is frequently let to the associated inhabitants of a village, each of whom turns out a determinate quantity of stock, usually consisting of cows, goats, and sheep. Butter is the chief article of sale cultivated in the mountainous districts. It is remarked by Mr. Wakefield, that, in apportioning the allotments of the villagers “five goats are considered equal to one cow. Sheep are rated with goats, but are by no means so frequent, for milk is the chief object, and an ewe does not yield nearly the same quantity as a she-goat, yet, now and then, sheep are kept also for this purpose. Some readers, perhaps, may be surprised to hear that sheep are kept on account of their milk, but this custom is not confined to Ireland; it is common in Carmarthenshire, and is sometimes found in other parts of Great Britain.” Goats abound in the mountainous parts of Ireland, and are frequently seen browsing in flocks, as in Switzerland.

The grazing of oxen and sheep is seldom combined in this country. Under one system, yearling calves are collected from different parts of the country, and many are carried into the province of Connaught, where they are grazed for some years, but not with a view of fattening them for the butcher. When about four years old they are driven to Ballinasloe fair, which takes place in October, where they are purchased by the graziers of Limerick, Tipperary, Roscommon and Meath; on the rich pastures of which counties they are completed for the shambles. The first winter they are kept upon hay, and are generally sold out before the ensuing fair of Ballinasloe. If beasts are purchased by the grazier in the month of May, they are often fattened and sold by Christmas; but, if not then disposed of, they are fed through the winter with hay, or turned upon old grass. In some instances, although the practice is far from being general, they are assisted at this season with rape, turnips, or potatoes. "From Meath great numbers of fat cattle are shipped alive for Liverpool; many are sold for the consumption of Dublin and the north; but the other grazing parts of Ireland rely upon Limerick and Cork as beef markets, where it is sold, chiefly for exportation, in a cured or salted state." The exportation of this article forms an important branch of commerce, and is more fully noticed in future pages, appropriated to a consideration of general trade.

The *Dairy Farms* of Ireland form a conspicuous feature in its husbandry, and occupy a greater extent of country than is in the hands of the grazier. This island has been long celebrated for plenty and excellence of butter, which is exported in large quantities.* It is generally believed that the best butter is made in Carlow, whence it is sent to Dublin by means of the canal; and the worst, contrary to all rational expectation, is produced from the rich soil of Limerick and Meath.

* Mr. Wakefield observes that "Butter of the first quality is exported to England, where it is either consumed, or shipped for the East and West Indies; the next sort is sent to Spain, and the third to Portugal, the inhabitants of which country prefer it in a rancid state, that is, when it has a strong smell and taste." Account of Ireland, &c.

It is remarkable that a country productive of butter, inferior to none in Europe, except, perhaps, that of Holland, should be utterly unsuccessful in the article of cheese. It would be with difficulty we believed that the soil is repulsive to excellence in this particular, yet the fact is established that no good cheese is produced in any part of the island ; and the tables of the affluent are uniformly supplied with this article from England. Assuredly, continued efforts for the improvement of this valuable part of the produce of the dairy, are worthy the attention of the Irish Society for the encouragement of experiments relating to agriculture. We are conscious, however, of the very common persuasion that success is unattainable, and we have the opportunity of knowing that some judicious experiments have been practised by individuals. The present writer was informed by Lord Hawarden, whose estate lies in one of the richest tracts of Tipperary, that his lordship's father had procured two skilful persons from different parts of England, who had successively a fair course of trial, and were equally unable to make, from the milk produced on those fine pastures, a single cheese that was at once well-flavoured and not subject to injury from keeping. The remedy of this disadvantageous peculiarity is, probably, one of the benefits to be derived, at a future day, from the union of a knowledge in chemistry with the homely arts of the husbandman.

Comparatively few calves are fattened and killed for veal ; but, in the neighbourhood of large towns, where the calf is kept a proper time, the meat is of great excellence. It is, however, a frequent practice to slaughter male calves at the age of two, three, or four days ; and the disgusting flesh of these animals is used for food, by persons of the lower classes.

The *grazing of sheep* is an important object with the Irish husbandman ; and more land, although of a poorer quality, is employed for this purpose than in the feeding of bullocks. The chief breeding counties are Roscommon, Galway, Clare, Limerick, and Tipperary. The flocks are usually managed by the herd who attends the cattle, no regular shepherd being appointed, as in England. The custom of folding is scarcely ever adopted, and a great backwardness in

husbandry is evinced by the neglect of turnips as a winter food. It may be noticed, as a curious instance of a peculiarity of manners, proceeding from the rude state of society and the diminutive partition of landed tenure, that in many parts of the country sheep are kept merely for the purpose of supplying wool, not as an article of sale, but for the use of the proprietor's family. In Galway, the value of sheep is thoroughly understood ; and in that county are to be seen some of the finest flocks in Ireland. In several districts, after the lambs are weaned the ewes are milked by hand, for about two months, and cheese made of the milk.

The *arable land* of Ireland, in the occupation of regular tillage-farmers, although increasing in quantity, constitutes only a small portion of the soil ; and we have already noticed many circumstances which operate, with pernicious force, in retarding the growth, naturally slow, of an improvement in the modes of cultivation. It is impracticable to present, in a brief analysis, a collective view of the various modes practised in an extensive country ; but such characteristics as our limits allow us to afford, will exhibit a lamentable want of skill in the culture of a soil on which nature has shed her favours with an unsparing hand. It is, however, gratifying to observe that some few persons among the nobility and gentry of this island, who merit the name of patriot in its purest sense, are engaged in introducing on their estates such judicious examples of good husbandry, founded on the best principles of art and science, as can scarcely fail of promoting a beneficial spirit of imitation. The bright example thus held forth, and its worth acknowledged, the remainder of the lesson must be derived from repective landlords, and communicated in the form of restraining leases, and a liberality of patronage towards the occupying tenant.

The principal tracts appropriated to tillage are comprised in the counties of Kilkenny ; Carlow ; Kildare ; Meath ; Louth ; and the King's and Queen's Counties. In these districts the tenures and modes of cultivation exhibit many varieties ; and some peculiarities, of an injurious description, but demanding remark, occur in other parts of the island. As the only system to which

Irish farmers “pertinaciously adhere, without the least exception,” Mr. Wakefield, in the summary of his inquiries, states the following course of husbandry: “The first crop is potatoes; the land is then limed to call forth its productive qualities; and it is harassed in the most barbarous manner with one crop of white straw after another, till it becomes quite exhausted, and unproductive for many years after. Necessity then interferes, and the land, according to the expression used in some counties, is ‘turned to rest,’ or, as said in others, ‘to waste.’ This is the end and the result of all the exertions of an Irish farmer.”

The above is a dreary, but a just, picture of the conduct in general adopted by a race of agriculturists, who have acquired, from various adverse circumstances, the habit of snatching at every hope of present gain, however injurious to calculations respecting the future. It must be added, that, in pursuing this destructive course of husbandry, the manner is as defective as the system. Little judgment is shown in the mode of making fallows, which have seldom more than three tilts, although in England eight are not uncommon; the crops are usually suffered to grow foul with weeds; and a great accumulation of manual labour is employed in ill-executed operations. As one proof of the fidelity of the latter assertion, it may be mentioned that the use of the roller is ordinarily supplied by the practice of breaking the clods of earth, after ploughing, with heavy sticks, or mallets. In many parts of the country, where the allotments of land are small, the spade is used as an entire substitute for the plough, harrow, and roller. This mode, although laborious and expensive, is found, as will be readily supposed, to be productive of larger crops than plough tillage.

The manures are various, but lime is that most commonly used. Limestone-gravel* is also in great request, and, as it does not

* Limestone-gravel is mentioned, by Dr. Ruffy, as “a petrification, reducible to the class of the *Saburra* of *Hill*, tho’ not distinctly described by him. It consists of masses of stones, pebbles, and sometimes slate and ragstone, cemented or conglutinated together as by mortar. It always makes an ebullition with acids, which accounts for its magnetism with

require to be burnt in a kiln, is, in general, preferred to lime. Calcareous coral is dredged for on some parts of the coast, and is considered an excellent manure. Sea sand is also employed for the same purpose, in various places. The value of sea weed as a manure has been long known, and such weeds are obtained in large quantities on the south-western and north-western coasts. The bogs of Ireland, which consist of vegetable matter in a partial state of decay, likewise afford an useful manure, either separately or compounded with other materials. Dung and straw are almost universally applied solely to the leading crop, that of potatoes; and turf ashes are frequently used for the same purpose. The practice of *paring and burning* is forbidden by an act of Parliament, which renders the person adopting this process liable to a fine of ten pounds for each acre. This act, however, meets with little attention; and paring and burning, which is decidedly a salutary custom on many soils, is occasionally practised in most parts of the country.

The crops most frequently cultivated are wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, and flax.

The culture of *Wheat*, on an extensive scale, is not of antient standing in Ireland, and the produce is considered to be still far from excellent, "owing chiefly," in the opinion of Mr. Wakefield, "to bad harvesting."* The general market for this grain, except Drogheda, which is the largest corn-market in the kingdom,

regard to the acid in the air, and with it forming the calcareous nitre, an allowed principle of importance in the promotion of vegetation. Beside the use of it, on account of its binding quality, in gravel-walks, in gardens, and in the high roads, it is also of great and important use as a manure." Nat. Hist. of County of Dublin, vol. ii, p. 32-4.

* It may not be superfluous to remark that *gleaners* ("like the fowls of heaven asking their humble dole"), are scarcely ever seen in Ireland. In most instances this circumstance may be accounted for, by a consideration of the small extent of the lands appropriated to tillage. The corn is cut near the ground, and the farmer is careful to collect every straggling head. Remarks apparently trivial often convey comprehensive ideas. The above observation presents an unpleasant picture of the penuriousness of an Irish harvest.

is some mill in the vicinity of the farmer. The want of regular and open markets, where the cultivator might find a competition of buyers, is a proof of the dulness of commercial spirit, evidently injurious to the prosperity and increase of tillage.

Barley, as to succession of crops, usually follows potatoes, and is chiefly consumed in the numerous distilleries of this country.

Oats, in many parts of Ireland, are grown in larger quantities than any other grain, as they assist in forming the food of the people in several districts. They are allowed to follow all kinds of crops, and are often repeated on the same soil, until the fertilizing powers of the land are completely exhausted.

Potatoes constitute so important an article of Irish produce, that they demand more than a cursory notice. It is generally believed that this valuable root was introduced to Ireland by Sir Walter Raleigh, and first planted in the vicinity of Youghal, where Sir Walter had an estate. It appears that potatoes were largely cultivated in Ireland before they were known in Britain; and they speedily became the staple dependance of the labouring classes. That they still continue to form the principal, or sole, diet of the same order of people, is noticed in other pages, and is a circumstance peculiar to this populous island.

Potatoes are grown in every part of Ireland; and, in a regular course of husbandry, they are never planted without the land receiving a previous coat of manure. As an axiom of general application, it may be observed that the best are produced on calcareous soils, and the worst on "mountainy" (moorish, or heathy) lands, when first brought into a state of cultivation.

There are two distinct and usual methods of planting this root, respectively termed the *drill* and the *lazy-bed*. "The former method," as is observed by Mr. Wakefield, "consists merely in planting them in rows, on which account the above term is applied to it. This practice has been adopted by the gentry, and is one of the beneficial effects produced by their becoming farmers, as it introduces the use of the plough, instead of culture by the spade. The land is ploughed into small ridges, between which the sets

are laid; and the ridges which are split, falling down on both sides form a new ridge over the plants. This system is daily gaining ground in all parts of Ireland, and is by no means confined within the domain walls of the gentry. The "lazy bed" method is the old plan of producing them in wide ridges, having on each side deep trenches, out of which the soil is thrown on the beds."

In that system of culture which is usually termed the lazy-bed method, the potatoes, when at full growth, are dug with spades, and gathered into baskets. In the drill mode of planting they are generally turned up by the plough, but are also collected in baskets. The customary methods of preserving the crop necessarily depend on the quantity grown, and the circumstances of the possessor. By the humble classes potatoes are commonly placed in the shelter of the cabin, or left in a heap on the fields where they grew. Larger cultivators usually secure them in pits, and not unfrequently line the pit with bog-turf, which is found to act as a valuable preservative.

Flax is grown in nearly every part of the island, but chiefly in the Province of Ulster. The seed is placed in beds, or ridges, the land being in general prepared by the operation of the spade. The produce finds a ready market, in consequence of the extensive linen manufacture of the north.

The extreme richness of the *meadow* and *pasture land* of this country has been already mentioned. So great, indeed, is the fertility of the soil in the production of useful grasses, that if land be cleared and left to the operations of nature, it will in a very few years become clothed with luxuriant herbage. This spontaneous liberality of soil, as might be expected, has induced a reprehensible disregard of art. In laying down land to grass, the rise of verdure is seldom aided by seeds, entire reliance being placed on the exertions of nature. Clover is but little cultivated in this country, and is scarcely ever used as an ameliorating crop.

The usual season for hay-making is September; but this operation is often deferred to a later period; for so favourable is

the climate to vegetation, that, in many years, the grass will grow with luxuriance until Christmas. The accustomed methods of conducting the business of the hay-field, and of preserving the crop, evince a lamentable want of skill and judgment. Soon after the grass is cut, it is formed, *by the hands* into “lap-cocks, each of which is equal to the quantity that a woman can twist round her arms in the shape of a muff, and then deposit on the ground. After lying several days, and, in general, being thoroughly drenched by the autumnal rains, it is put into a ‘tramp-cock,’ which is very large, and cattle are then frequently turned into the meadows, the cocks still remaining. In this state the grass becomes heated, and at length it is carried to the hay-yard, where it is formed into ricks; but as the bottom and outside of the cocks, which consist of dry rotten grass, making no inconsiderable part of the whole, is mixed in the heart of the rick, it again heats, and hence its good qualities, if it possessed any, are destroyed. The greater part of the hay, therefore, in Ireland, is not better than sweet oat-straw, if it has been carefully preserved.”

The *Implements* used in husbandry are, in general, of a rude character, and defective in execution; but some improved models have been lately introduced, under the sanction of the Farming Society of Ireland, and also by a few judicious individuals in different parts of the country.* From their united exertions it is reasonable to hope that a more desirable mode of construction will be adopted; but reformation on a subject so closely connected with the prejudices of an ignorant class of society, must be unavoidably of slow progress.

The *Irish plough* is chiefly composed of wood, and is technically described as having “a very long beam, without catshead or swillyard. The breast, which is of wood, has seldom any ground,

* The duty on implements of husbandry formerly prevented their importation, on a large scale. In 1803, the Farming Society of Ireland obtained an order, from the Commissioners of the revenue, for the admission of such implements free of duty. Many have been consequently imported from Britain; and the Society has instituted a manufactory at Dublin, for the increase and dissemination of useful models.

and where there is one, it is not shod. The shock, or share, has hardly any wing, so that the furrow is forced up by the breast of the plough. The sock, in general, is of cast iron." The operation of this ill-designed implement is thus explained in the Agricultural Survey of the County of Cork: "Instead of standing upright, and making a fair and handsome furrow, the coulter and sock are placed so obliquely as to oblige the ploughman to turn it to the left side, in such a manner as to keep the mould-board entirely out of the ground. The office of turning over the sod is, therefore, performed partly by the heel of the plough, and partly by the foot of the man, who is obliged to assist the operation by frequent kicks. Though they remove but a little earth at a time, no part but the sock entering the soil, the draught is rendered difficult by the length of the chain. In ploughing old ground, an additional man is often required to keep the plough in the ground, by leaning on the beam."

Few circumstances exhibit a more surprising degree of ignorance and prejudice, than the ancient Irish custom of using the plough with the horses *drawing by the tail*. This practice was formerly very general in Ireland, and was first forbidden by an act of the state in the early part of the seventeenth century.* On Mr. Young's visit to Ireland, in 1776, he found this custom to prevail "all over" the county of Cavan; and it is not yet entirely exploded in Roscommon. The practice, however, is confined to a very few remote individuals. We were assured of its existence, from authority that we believe to be unquestionable, but no examples fell under our own observation.

Oxen, in particular districts, are frequently used in ploughing, and sometimes in the same team with horses, the oxen being placed first. In a few instances they are made to draw by means of a yoke, placed on the forehead, at the roots of the horns.

* By the Act of Council made in 1606, the penalty for the first year's offence was "the forfeiture of one garron (or horse); for the second two; and for the third the whole team. In 1612, ten shillings were levied for every plough so drawn; in Ulster there were 1740 forfeitures, amounting to £870."—Ledwich's Antiqs. of Ireland, p. 373.

This method is practised on several parts of the continent ; and it must, certainly, be admitted that the chief natural strength of the animal lies in the neck.

The *flail* is much too light for its intended purpose, and is composed of any sort of wood that chances to be of easy access to the rustic manufacturer. It may be remarked in this place, that throughout a great part of Ireland, corn is threshed on the highways. The operation of dressing is imperfectly performed by means of a sieve, held by a woman. Threshing on the bare ground may be described as a practice almost universal amongst small farmers ; but the threshing machine has been introduced in several parts of the country, with considerable success.

The *spade* commonly used in Ireland is much narrower than the English spade, and the handle is generally not less than five feet in length. The implement termed a *loy* is “ a long narrow spade, which projects entirely on the right side of the handle, and is just as wide as the breadth of the foot.” The handle is usually about five feet long. In cutting turf the labourers use a kind of double loy, termed a *slane*.

The other implements in common use have scarcely sufficient peculiarity to demand notice, unless it may not be deemed superfluous to remark that the blade of the *scythe* is placed in such a direction as to form an acute angle with the handle. By this mode of construction the mower is compelled to bend near to the ground ; a posture evidently unfavourable to activity of execution, and which custom only can render in the least degree tolerable to the labourer.

The four-wheeled waggon common to the English farmer is unknown in Ireland. The *cars* chiefly used in husbandry have been aptly described as “ small carts, having the wheel fixed to the axle tree, which turns round along with it. The shafts rise to the summit of the horse’s back, but reach no further than to the middle of it, where the back-band, which extends across a pad, is made fast to their extremities. The horse draws by a chain, or rope, one end of which is fastened to the collar, and the other to a staple driven into the lower side of the shafts.”—It is

probable, from its simplicity of construction, that this species of car is of very antient origin ; and a speculative antiquary might readily suppose it to present a specimen of the *essedæ*, or chariots of a lighter kind, described by Cæsar as appertaining to the Belgic tribes of Britain.* In mountainous countries, and during ages in which few roads were artificially formed and preserved, even carriages so rude were not calculated for general use. Accordingly, in Ireland and in Wales we find the *sliding car* to have been frequent in past times ; nor is it entirely discarded in either country at the present day. These vehicles (sometimes in Ireland called *loadcens*) are without wheels. The ends of the shafts are shod with iron, and glide over the earth with considerable facility. The

* That the Britons possessed very numerous cars, or chariots, is evident from the Commentaries of Cæsar, where it is said that not less than four thousand were collected about the person of Cassivelaunus. The greatness of their numbers has been adduced as an argument for the probable rudeness, or simplicity, of these chariots. In the Work termed *Munimenta Antiqua*, Mr. King observes that “they probably resembled the modern little, low-built, Welch carts.” That this resemblance is not founded on idle conjecture, continues the same author, “will plainly appear, if we fairly allow ourselves to consider that no sort of carriage, of any kind of construction that can be conceived, can better, or indeed by any means so well, agree with Cæsar’s description of the manner in which they were used in battle, running quickly here and there in every part, over the most uneven ground, without being overturned ; and then, when the warrior had descended from them to fight on foot, affording him an easy opportunity to ascend again in a moment.” Sir James Ware speaks with some doubt as to whether “the Irish had the use of military chariots, antiently called *Essedæ*, after the manner of the old Gauls and Britons ;” but Mr. Harris, in his additions to that writer, asserts that such chariots are “mentioned in the *Irish* histories a thousand times, and called by the name of *Carbad*, in the same sense as *Carpentum* in *Latin*. In a Book written in *Irish*, and called *Tain-bo-cuailgne*, or *the Pursuit after the Drove of Oxen at Cuailgne*, these military chariots, and the manner of the *Irish* fighting in them, are described much after the way that *Cæsar* describes the *Britons* fighting in the same sort of carriage ; and the guider of the chariot is there called *Ara*, a page or lacquey, but more properly a *Conductor*, from the obsolete *Irish* word, *Ar*, which signifies to *direct* or *conduct*.”

part designed as the receptacle of burthen is formed of wicker basket-work, and termed a creel. These carriages are denied a passage on the high roads, and their use is at present chiefly confined to mountainous districts.

The *Scotch cart*, or *dray*, a light and capacious carriage, has lately been introduced in the north. We also saw many of them in Connaught; and, from their superior convenience, they are likely to grow into progressive use amongst the most intelligent agriculturists of every district. After the above particulars of description, it is almost unnecessary to remark that one horse alone is employed in the draught of carriages appertaining to agriculture, or general traffic.

The *live stock* of the Irish farmer presents, in many instances, a subject more gratifying than the implements used in the various operations of husbandry.

There is sufficient reason for believing that, in those early periods in which pasturage was the common occupation of the Irish, their herds consisted of the *daimh*, or small black breed of cattle, and the small white bison, commonly called the wild cow. The latter has been long extinct; and the remains of the former, in a cross and depraved breed, are now found only in the mountains of Kerry, and some other remote parts of the island. A great improvement in the breed of cattle took place in the eighteenth century, by the introduction of the long-horned kind from England, and chiefly from Staffordshire. Importations from other parts of England have also occurred in recent years; but the stock produced by the cattle brought from Staffordshire, crossed with the native Irish breed, form the herds generally prevailing on the richest pastures of this country.

It is usually supposed that the aboriginal *sheep* of Europe were black; and such appear to have been the principal Hibernian flocks in the time of Giraldus Cambrensis. This breed is now nearly extinct, and the few still to be seen are found in the western districts of Connaught. To the English settlers is commonly ascribed the introduction of white sheep, of an improved kind; but England could not command the exportation of a truly

estimable breed in the middle ages, and the flocks thus introduced, if we may judge from their latest specimens, yielded a short, thick, staple of wool, well calculated for clothing, but the flesh was lean, and not productive. Recent efforts have greatly improved the character of this valuable animal. “ The importation of English sheep,” observes Mr. Wakefield, “ has altered the general breed, as has been the case in regard to the native Irish cattle. Whether this change was effected by admixture with the Tweed-side, or the Leicestershire sheep, cannot easily be determined, but it is certain that the English and Irish breeds were intermixed long before Bakewell’s day, and considering the appearance of the Irish sheep at present, they seem to participate in the characters as to wool and carcass of the Romney-marsh species, though there can be none of these in Ireland. The crossing, however, has produced animals similar in every respect ; they are all of the polled long-woolled kind, and in the great breeding counties are very large.”

On the mountains of Ireland is found a breed of sheep, nearly similar to that of Wales ; being very small, and having almost as much hair as wool. Fat sheep form an article of exportation to England ; but the Irish farmer suffers greatly from the want of turnips, as winter food for his flock.

Horses designed for agricultural uses are rarely of great excellence in this country. Few, indeed, are kept on tillage-farms, expressly for the purpose of draught. Attempts have been lately made to improve the breed, by an importation from England, but without any marked degree of success. The Irish “ Hack” is believed to possess very superior qualities for the road ;* and some blood horses, of high price and great reputation, are bred in the rich pastures of the principal grazing counties. It is with pain we observe that the treatment of working horses in Ireland is too frequently a disgrace to the feelings of the inhabitants. Severe

* The old Irish *Hobby*, a small but excellent breed, was supposed to be derived from a Spanish race. Some vestiges of this breed may still be seen in the western parts of Connaught.

labour, and a deficiency of food, are the ordinary lot of this generous animal.

No quadruped is more characteristic of the animated part of Irish scenery than the *Goat*. Extensive flocks are kept in the mountainous districts ; and the cottier must be indeed poor who does not rank a goat amongst his scanty possessions. The milk, however trifling,* is an important article with those whose staple aliment, through all varieties of season, is a simple root ; the kid is disposed of as a luxury, but, owing to the great number produced throughout the country, does not bear a high price.

Hogs are kept in great numbers, in every part of the kingdom. The peasant's hog is an inmate of his cabin, and acquires a docility of manners unusual to this animal in any other country. Its food is generally potatoes. When fattened it is sold, and is either pickled, or made into bacon, for exportation. The native breed is tall, bony and ill-proportioned ; but a cross of the Leicestershire hog has lately been introduced, in many parts of the country, with considerable advantage.

Poultry, consisting of ordinary domestic fowls, turkeys and geese, is raised in great quantities, and is sold at a low rate throughout the island. In common with the pig, these birds are inmates of the peasant's cabin ; and the warmth of that indiscriminate place of shelter renders them extremely prolific in eggs, whilst it is also favourable to the growth of their young. They are, in general, fed on potatoes, the refuse of the cottier's meal ; in which repast they share with the pig, the dog, and every other animal part of the humble establishment. Mr. Young supposes, and with apparent correctness, that the great increase of poultry in this country is partly to be ascribed to the nutriment received from " the large quantity of spontaneous white clover (*trifolium repens*) in almost all the fields, which much exceeds any thing we know in England."

* In the Survey of Kilkenny, Mr. Tighe observes that " the milk of six goats is said to be equal in quantity to that of one cow." The milk of the goat is richer than that of the cow, and is well known to be particularly nutritious.

The *dwellings and offices* of the common farmers are in general humble, even to wretchedness. In the customary mode of letting lands, the erection and repair of farm-buildings are left entirely to the tenant, who is too often equally destitute of capital and emulation. So powerful is the effect of habit, that the miserable character of the Irish farmer's dwelling is certainly a subject of regret with the spectator, new to the manners of the country, rather than to himself. For, if he obtain opulence, he seldom improves his habitation; and it must constantly be held in remembrance by the traveller, that, low as may be the estate of the Irish husbandman, his house and its appurtenances are abject beneath the measure of his condition. This sordid neglect of the respectable vanities of life, we might say of its becoming decencies, acts as a blot on the face of the country, perpetually injurious to its most attractive natural beauties.

We gladly refer as much as is practicable of the unpleasing task of censure, to the pen of a native writer, and extract the following descriptive passage from Mr. Tighe's Agricultural Survey of Kilkenny, but not without previously remarking that future pages will afford us the opportunity of noticing many favourable exceptions:—“The houses of rich farmers are generally far inferior to their means, and are such as exempt them from window-tax and often from hearth-money; but the greatest failing is in the offices; the barn is generally a shed to thresh on, with no floor but the natural soil; the stable a hovel; a cow-house is often not to be found; no yard is appropriated to pigs; the corn stands alone to mark the farm; a shed to protect the implements of tillage was never thought of; the richest farmers always leave the plough and harrow in the corner of the last field they tilled; such parts of harness as may not consist of gads or sugans, is secured in the house; and with the smaller farmers, if the car does not stop some gap, called a gate-way, it may lie against the ditch or on the dung-hill. The offices are sometimes covered with potatoe stalks, which form a very bad thatch.”

The dreary aspect of the ordinary Irish farm is increased by the usual character of the fences, or lines of partition between

respective fields. These frequently consist of mere earthen banks, or of stone walls constructed without cement. The neat quickset hedge, which so greatly adorns the farms of England, and, when well managed, forms a fence almost equally impervious with the common wall of stone, in regard to the larger species of animals, is growing into partial use, and will probably meet with a gradual, but universal, adoption in counties where stone does not abound. In the south of Ireland furze is sometimes planted on the banks dividing fields.

The levy of *tithes* in this country is subject to some peculiarities, which are very generally believed to be of an injurious nature. In the year 1735, the Irish House of Commons came to a resolution that “ any lawyer assisting in a prosecution for tithes of *agistment*, should be considered as an enemy to his country ;” and tithes of this species were formally abolished, by an act of the Imperial Parliament, at the time of the Union. By the term *agistment*, or *herbage*, is understood a payment for grazing cattle, made in lieu of the tithe of grass ; and thus, the whole tithes of Ireland fall on the land appropriated to tillage, which, as we have shown, is chiefly in the hands of small occupiers, the greater number being only cotter-tenants.

This circumstance is the more severely pernicious, as it is an evil that increases with the augmentation of tillage, which is annually taking place to a considerable extent. The distresses often caused by collecting this partial tithe from the impoverished class on whom it almost entirely falls, would wound humanity in the recital, and not seldom lead to acts of midnight vengeance, the origin of which remains unexplained by popular chroniclers.

Notwithstanding the abolition of tithes on *agistment*, the tithe of lambs and wool is still demanded. There occur some exceptions to the general system, which are remarkable on account of the irregularity of their operation. Thus, in the province of Ulster, potatoes are not deemed titheable, whilst in Munster tithe is universally paid by this important crop.

Tithes are usually collected in Ireland by an agent, termed a proctor ; who, immediately previous to harvest, forms an estimate

of the probable quantity of the crop, and makes a charge to the proprietor, on the scale of the market prices. This mode of collecting is evidently calculated to produce many acts of injustice and oppression.

Except on grazing and dairy farms, the article of *capital* is rarely taken into consideration. Exempt from heavy taxes and poor's rates, and incurring little expense for machinery, the agriculturalist adventures on the occupation of land, with a reliance on manual exertion. It requires no argument to show that excellence of cultivation must necessarily be a stranger to this career of poverty. So entirely is the farmer unacquainted with the benefit to be derived from the investment of capital in agricultural pursuits, that if, by a course of fortunate industry and penurious living, he amass a sum of money, he frequently *buries it in the ground*, and draws on the hidden treasure only on some family exigence, as the marriage of a daughter. This system of burying money appears to be a practice of recent origin, but is now very common.

Amongst the few solid advantages possessed by the Irish farmer must be mentioned the absence of poor's rates,* which, as it affects himself, is a benefit of great importance. The land is, likewise, generally enclosed, and he is thus exempt from the embarrassing prevalence of the open, or common field, and lammas lands. There are radical evils which no experimental association can remedy, but it is with pleasure we notice the existence of an institution which is creditable to the national spirit, and promises to be of distinguished service to the science of rural economy. The *Farming Society of Ireland* was founded in the year 1800, and consists at present of about one thousand members. Its objects are the improvement of agriculture and live stock, and the encouragement of planting, together with the cultivation of

* It is almost superfluous to observe that Ireland is entirely exempt from "Poor's Laws," or compulsory levies for the maintenance of those who are at once indigent and helpless. This is usually deemed a great advantage to the country; but it would appear that the abuse, rather than the existence of Poor's Laws, is injurious to national welfare.

industry, sobriety, and cleanliness, among the lower orders connected with husbandry. This society has two principal establishments ; the one in Dublin and the other in Ballinasloe, a town celebrated for the importance of its cattle fairs. Annual exhibitions of fat cattle, sheep, and swine are held in Dublin, and of breeding stock at Ballinasloe. Attached to the establishment at Dublin is a manufactory of implements on an approved plan.

MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE.—Manufactures, cultivated on judicious principles, are peculiarly desirable in a country like Ireland, where the population greatly exceeds the demand for agricultural labour. But it is to be regretted that many causes operate in retarding the increase and prosperity of manufactures, on a large and diversified scale. A deficiency of fuel has long prevented a due application of industry to the mines of iron* and copper, which are frequent in this island ; and, in regard to several other branches of manufacture, an evident want of stimulus proceeds from the habits and manners of the country. The internal trade of Ireland is much less than would be expected from its extent of population, even after making allowance for several circumstances unfavourable to the diffusion of competence. This paucity of commercial interchange proceeds from the rude ease with which a great proportion of the inhabitants supply themselves with the sordid necessities of life ; and to nearly all its superfluities they are entire strangers. On this head, the descriptive remarks of Sir William Petty (in his *Political Anatomy*) are still applicable to the bulk of the people : “ they live in such cottages as themselves can make in three or four days ; eat such food as they buy not from others ; and wear such cloaths as the wool of their own sheep, spun into yarn by themselves, doth make.”

* Before the commencement of the seventeenth century, when Ireland still possessed considerable tracts of woodland, iron, in an unwrought state, was exported to England in considerable quantities. Mr. Chalmers observes, in his “ *Historical View*,” p. 408, *note*, on the authority of a “ curious document,” that 449 tons of iron were exported from Ireland, in the year 1626. Sir William Petty affirms that, in the year 1672, there were “ 2000 persons employed in making iron.”

The only manufacture that is so far of national importance as to produce a surplus for exportation, is that of *linen*, the chief seat of which is the province of Ulster. In the pages descriptive of that district we present more extended remarks on the history and present state of this distinguished branch of Irish commerce (the great staple of the kingdom !) which first attained a flourishing aspect in the reign of Charles I. under the auspices of the Earl of Strafford, then lord deputy.

Although Ulster is the national emporium of the linen manufacture, various branches of industry, connected with the trade in linen, extend through nearly the whole of Ireland. The growth of the flax-plant, and the several operations it undergoes before it is made into cloth, afford employment to numerous persons in each of the provinces. In many parts the flax is grown merely as an article of agricultural produce ; and in others the manufacture extends no further than to spinning. Frequently the whole process, from the growth of the flax to the weaving of the cloth, is carried on by the same family. But, in every district except the north, the manufacture chiefly consists of a coarse article.

The *cotton manufacture* was introduced to Ireland so lately as the year 1785. Due machinery is employed in this beneficial trade, which appears to be of increasing importance, and has been lately extended to muslins, with considerable success.

In some parts of the south, and particularly in the neighbourhood of Cork, the manufacture of *sail cloth* is cultivated ; but the article in general produced is not judged equal to the cloth of Russia and Germany.

The manufacture of *woollen cloth* was in so thriving a state in the seventeenth century, as to create an illiberal and impolitic jealousy in the English manufacturers, who obtained, in the reign of William III. an act prohibiting the exportation of wool, yarn, and " new and old drapery," from Ireland to any other place than England, under a penalty of £500 for every offence, besides forfeiture of the ship and cargo. Thus restricted, the manufacture declined, and at length became almost extinct ; but it is lately revived, with no inconsiderable show of vigour, in the south. No

of the united kingdom and its dependencies ; and that in all treaties made by his majesty, his heirs, and successors, with any foreign power, his majesty's subjects of Ireland shall have the same privileges, and be on the same footing, as his majesty's subjects of Great Britain."

Thus circumstanced, the trade of Ireland has experienced a considerable increase of importance, although not in that rapid degree which was anticipated by the inconsiderate and enthusiastic. The merchant is in the safest road to permanent prosperity, when he moves in a slow pace, although with energetic steps, and such is the condition of a country at large.

The *foreign trade* of a nation forms the leading object of inquiry, with the examiner intent on ascertaining its position in the scale of comparative wealth, and its consequent chance of speedy improvement in those ornamental arts which communicate a tone to the mind, and dignify human nature. The commerce of Ireland is yet in its infancy, and its foreign trade is, therefore, small in proportion to other branches of traffic. A considerable trade with America is cultivated by the merchants of Ireland, and principally by those of Dublin, Belfast, and Derry. The chief articles imported from America are tobacco ; cotton-wool ; rice ; wood ; and flax-seed. Large quantities of linen are exported, in exchange for these commodities. A trade for wines is carried on with Portugal and Spain ; and great quantities of Irish butter are exported to the former country, together with articles of woollen manufacture ; linen ; beef ; pork, and salt fish. In addition to wines, Ireland receives, in return, salt ; oranges and lemons ; oil ; potash and cork. In times of peace, beef is sent to France, in exchange for the wines of that country. Provisions are also sent to Holland and Flanders. Geneva and linseed oil constitute the principal articles imported from the last-named countries. To the Baltic Ireland sends linen and butter ; and imports, in return, iron ; deals ; hemp ; potash, and herrings.

But the best markets for her surplus produce are found nearer to home. The most extensive exportation of cattle (usually termed black cattle) and of horses, to Britain, is carried on through the

medium of Port Patrick, in Scotland. Considerable numbers are sent direct to England, but the length of the voyage to English ports is an impediment to the conveyance of a cargo so liable to accidents by sea. To Scotland are, likewise, sent linen and linen-yarn; beef; pork; and tallow; untanned hides; butter; barley; oats, and oatmeal. The imports from that country are chiefly, coals;* dried fish; iron; cotton, and silk manufactures; stockings, millinery; rum, and tobacco.

The provision trade of Ireland unites with that of linen in producing a lucrative commerce with the sister island. The salted beef, and pork, or bacon, of this country are well known to assist greatly in victualling the fleets of the British Empire; and in times of war these articles afford an important source of national emolument. Fattened sheep are likewise obtained by England from this country, and butter is sent thither in large quantities. Flour, and grain of different kinds, now constitute articles of Irish exportation; a proof of the great increase of tillage that has taken place within the last half century. So lately as the year 1768, Ireland imported corn, for internal consumption, from America. But, in estimating the condition of the country, as it is affected by this circumstance, it will be remembered that grain does not form the staple food of the great majority of the population.

From the above brief and general remarks concerning the commercial interchanges which exist between Ireland and other countries, it will be evident that the imports of Ireland are almost entirely such as are designed for consumption by her own people, or are raw articles for the use of manufactures. The

* Ireland is principally supplied with coal from England, and this article is procured, in every part of the country, at a moderate rate of purchase. Mr. Newenham observes ("View," &c. p. 157) that "the number of tons of coal imported into Ireland in the year ended 5th Jan. 1808, was 491,239, worth £785,981:19, the average price being in Dublin, as the writer was informed by an eminent coal factor there, £1:12 per ton." Every port of Ireland is engaged in the importation of coal from England.

articles intended for re-exportation are comparatively of small account, but have lately increased in extent and value. The exports of this country have been properly divided, by a recent writer (Mr. Wakefield) into two principal classes, the produce of the soil and the produce of industry. "The first comprehends the various productions of grain and provisions; the second, linen and woollen goods, together with spirits; the only objects of commerce resulting from Irish industry of which a considerable export has yet taken place."

In our remarks on the different branches of manufacture, we have stated that the internal trade of Ireland is of much less importance than might be expected from the magnitude of its population; a fact to be attributed to the absence of the chief persons possessing landed property, and to the manners and habits of the majority of the people, or, in other words, the rude state of the most populous classes of society.*

It is, however, certain that a demand for the comforts of life is increasing amongst the great mass of the people; and this advance in comparative luxury is a circumstance of unequivocal advantage. A consciousness of new wants seldom fails to instigate the human mind to successful exertions. It learns the peasant to add skill to the efforts of manual labour, and gives birth to those useful arts and inventions which exalt a nation in the scale of social and moral comparison.

This growing improvement of habits, and the consequent increase of traffic which prevails in many districts, will be sufficiently explained in our notice of the principal trading towns, if

* It is a curious fact, that, in places remote from towns, the peasants of Ireland are often supplied by their landlords, or employers, with the few articles necessary to their subsistence, without the use of a circulating medium. A *Tally* is maintained between the parties; and the labour of the peasant is balanced against articles of sustenance furnished by the master. No circumstance can more plainly indicate the simplicity, or rather the rudeness, of manners, which still prevails in those remote parts; and few customs can have a greater tendency to enslave the mind and body of the peasant.

we may receive as a safe criterion the augmentation and improvement manifested in commercial and domestic buildings.

The FISHERIES of Ireland, if cultivated with judgment and vigour, would amply atone for any deficiency in manufacture or trade; and, to use the emphatical language of Sir W. Temple, “might prove a mine under water, as rich as any under ground.” The coasts are the resort of vast shoals of herrings, cod, ling, hake, mackarel, turbot, soles, haddock, plaice, sprats, and numerous less useful fish. The rivers and lakes abound in salmon, trout, pike, eels, perch, tench, and fish of other delicate kinds. A want of capital is usually mentioned as the cause of the little attention bestowed on many branches of the coast fishery; but there are few pursuits, of such high national importance, which require the employment of less extensive funds. The deficiency of capital would appear, in this instance, to be at least equalled by the want of enterprize and activity.

The Herring fishery wore a promising aspect throughout a great part of the eighteenth century, but is in a declining state. It is commonly asserted that these fish have abandoned most parts of the Irish coast; but there is reason to doubt the accuracy of such an opinion. Sufficient herrings are still taken to supply the inhabitants of the coast; and it is probable that a want of proper vessels and skilful management, by restraining the fishery to a small distance from the land, prevents their being found in greater abundance.

Cod, ling, and hake, constituting what is usually termed the white fishery, still abound on the Irish coast, and particularly in the vicinity of the Nymph bank, on the south of the island. The fishery of this bank, if cultivated with skill and activity, would probably equal that of Newfoundland. The western coast is particularly well adapted to an extensive fishery; but, in a great part of this district, no other boats are used by fishermen than the ancient canoe of the Celtic tribes, consisting merely of a rude frame of wood, covered with the hide of the horse or bullock. The fishery of Galway is of great local benefit, and affords a sufficient

proof that myriads of valuable fish animate the waters of the Atlantic in the contiguity of Ireland.

The inland fishery is extremely productive. The Irish salmon is universally allowed to be of a very superior quality, and abounds in the principal rivers. Large quantities of this, and other fish taken in the fresh waters, are sold at a moderate price, throughout nearly the whole of the island.

CANAL NAVIGATION. The great natural facilities of commercial interchange possessed by Ireland, in the happy distribution of her numerous rivers, have received the laborious addition of extensive lines of **CANAL NAVIGATION**. These works hold forth the promise of future benefit to the public, but are at present of circumscribed utility. They were, indeed, boldly commenced on a contrary principle to the policy which usually leads to such undertakings. In other countries it has been customary for productive trade and established manufactures to precede the formation of canals; but, in Ireland, canals have been formed with a view of stimulating commerce, creating manufactures, and encouraging speculators to seek and work mineral veins of wealth.

In the reign of George II. a corporation, furnished with liberal funds by parliamentary grants, was created, "for promoting and carrying on an inland navigation in Ireland." By these commissioners numerous works were commenced, but scarcely any completed, although very large sums were expended on each undertaking; and it was found necessary to add the stimulus of private interest to that of duty towards the public. The different branches of inland navigation were accordingly "vested, as properties, in the hands of associated companies, upon certain conditions, and under certain restrictions; and to these have been granted one third of their expenditure, as a bounty from the public."

The line of the *Grand Canal* was commenced in the year 1755, by the corporation noticed above; but, in 1772, a subscription was opened, and the subscribers were incorporated, under the name of the "Company of Undertakers of the Grand Canal." By this Society the work has been completed. This canal unites

the capital with the rivers Shannon and Barrow, the former river being distant sixty-one miles and three quarters, and the latter forty miles and a half.

The width of the canal is forty-five feet at the top, and twenty-five feet at the bottom. The depth of water in the body of the canal is six feet. The harbour in which this work commences is situated in the western extremity of Dublin, and is noticed in our description of that City. From thence, as is stated from ample sources of intelligence in Walsh's History of Dublin, the canal "ascends seventeen miles, by four double and fourteen single locks, to the summit level, which is 202 feet four inches above the level of the harbour in James's Street, and 261 feet ten inches above the tide water in the Liffey. From this level, and at the distance of twenty and a half Irish miles from Dublin, the canal divides into two branches; by one we descend 103 feet and half an inch in twenty-two and a quarter miles, to the Barrow at Athy, and through two double and nine single locks, with one ascending single lock of eight feet six inches, at Monasterevan; by the other we descend 163 feet eleven inches in forty-one miles, to the Shannon, at Shannon Harbour, about two miles northward of Banagher, and through one double and seventeen single locks; the double locks varying in elevation from thirteen feet four inches to nineteen feet seven inches, and the single locks from four feet three inches to thirteen feet four inches."

In different parts of its progress the Grand Canal crosses the Kilmahinham, Esker, and little Morell rivers, by aqueducts of a single arch. It crosses the Milltown river by an aqueduct of three arches; and, at the distance of fifteen miles from Dublin, passes over the river Liffey by an aqueduct bridge of five arches, with two other arches and a tunnel, to carry off superfluous waters in times of floods, to which this latter river is extremely subject.*

The proprietors are stated to have expended on the works of the Grand Canal more than one million and a half of their private

* The aqueduct thrown over the Liffey was erected at the expense of £7500, and is stated to be seventy-eight feet longer than the *Pont de Cesse*, the principal aqueduct on the Royal Canal of Languedoc.

property, since their incorporation in the year 1772. Considerable quantities of turf, dug from the bog of Allen, are conveyed to Dublin by means of this canal ; and some corn is also brought to the metropolis, from different parts of the country. Passage-boats proceed daily, to and from Dublin, along both branches of the canal. These boats are large, and have commodious covered apartments. Refreshments are provided for the passengers at regulated prices ; and the whole establishment is, assuredly, a great convenience to the public, though of trivial import in proportion to the magnitude and expense of the work in which it originates. When we find that the traffic of this costly line of water is at present limited to the above particulars, we hear, without surprise, that the affairs of the concern are far from being in a prosperous state.

The *Royal Canal* also forms a communication between the City of Dublin and the river Shannon, but is directed towards the source of that river, whilst the line of the Grand Canal points towards its middle and lower parts. The company of subscribers was incorporated by royal charter in 1789, and had additional powers subsequently granted by the legislature. This canal enters its harbour, for the accommodation of trade and passengers in Dublin, by an aqueduct thrown over the great north-western road ; and communicates, by a branch one mile and a half in length, with spacious docks in the vicinity of the custom house. In its progress towards the Shannon it visits Carton, Maynooth, and Kileock ; whence it proceeds to the town of Mullingar. Crossing the river Inny it passes through part of the county of Longford, and terminates at Tarmonbury, on the Shannon.

The width at the surface, is forty-two feet, and at the bottom twenty-four feet. Before it reaches the Inny it passes by aqueducts over the Rye water and the Boyne. The structure which affords it a passage over the former stream consists of no more than one arch, but the erection was attended with considerable difficulty, and the expense amounted to £30,000. The ascent to the summit level, from the high water mark in the docks, near the Dublin custom-house, is 307 feet, through twenty five locks, of

of which eleven are double. The rise is at first so rapid as to require eleven locks in a distance of five miles and a half; after which the locks become less frequent. The summit-level prevails for a distance of rather more than twelve miles. The depth of water is calculated for boats of from eighty to 100 tons burthen. Passage boats, regulated in the same manner as those previously noticed, are employed on this canal.

The Royal Canal has proved unfortunate in nearly every point of view. Its affairs were ill-conducted by the chartered company, and the calculation of its opening new avenues of commerce has not been verified. One of the principal objects contemplated, was the trade to be derived from the collieries and iron-works in the vicinity of its track. But these works have not answered the expectations entertained, as the produce is, in fact, not able to stand a competition, in price, with the coal of Cumberland and foreign iron. The immense expenditure incurred in forming the two principal canals of Ireland has compelled the directors to demand tolls so heavy, that land carriage is employed with superior advantage in the conveyance of many articles from parts not far distant from the capital; and tillage is still in an infant state in districts towards the interior. Thus, these truly noble "liquid roads," merely present the means of facilitating such manufactures and commerce, as may be created by the capital and enterprize of a more advanced stage of national prosperity.

In the year 1812, the Royal Canal Company was under the necessity of suspending the payment of interest on the loans it had received, and of abandoning the further prosecution of the work. The canal was then completed only to Coolnahay, distant fifty-three miles and a half from its commencement, at the docks near the custom-house of Dublin, and about twenty-four miles from its present termination, at Tarmonbury on the Shannon. The affairs of the canal were subsequently placed under the direction of the Board of Internal Navigation; and government has since completed the line at its own expense. The work was finished in the summer of 1817.

The above are the principal lines of canal in Ireland. Several

cuts, which have been made for local convenience, and are limited to distinct counties, will be noticed in our description of those respective districts.

ROADS, AND FACILITIES OF TRAVELLING. In no respect does Ireland evince so high a degree of internal cultivation, as in the construction of roads. The great improvement observable has chiefly taken place since the middle of the last century ; and the first steps of permanent amendment are ascribed by Mr. Young to the late Arthur French, of Monivea, Esq. representative of the county of Galway, who procured several wholesome enactments of the legislature. The same writer confines his commendation of the Irish roads to such as were intended for local accommodation, and pronounces the “ turnpikes to be as bad as the by-roads are admirable.” Since the year 1779, in which Mr. Young’s Tour was completed, the same judicious care has been extended to the whole, and the roads of Ireland certainly now rank among the best in Europe.

The materials, indeed, are excellent and the traffic easy. We have already observed that the sub-stratum of the greater part of Ireland is lime-stone ; and of that material, broken into small pieces, the roads are usually constructed. This deposit, pulverised by the wear of light carriages, binds into a fine substance, and gives to many lines of road the smoothness of a terrace. As an important circumstance in the preservation of Irish roads, it must be observed that there are no borders of hedge-row, or trees, as in many parts of England. The traveller may regret the want of umbrage ; and a deficiency in the picturesque confessedly proceeds from this want ; but the highways would receive particular injury in so moist a climate, from the obstruction of sun and wind, caused by the intervention of thickly-matted branches.

Connected with the above remarks on the highways of Ireland, is a subject of some consequence in explaining the degree of social refinement attained by the interior of the country ; and on this head we are particularly desirous that the reader should not entertain erroneous ideas. The *travelling establishment* of Ireland has been described in terms of censure or derision by most writers ; and

there has prevailed an idea, amongst many persons, that real perils, nearly equal to those which occur in the interior of Africa, encompass the traveller who ventures to penetrate the recesses of a country *so little known*, and reported to be so wild. These tales of personal danger from the manners of the inhabitants, are either the creation of a distempered fancy, or bear reference to periods of political convulsion which never, it is hoped, can return. The facilities of travelling, although still of a humble character, if compared with those of a commercial and wealthy country, like England, are greatly improved since any intelligence was conveyed, in a popular form, to the British public.

The establishment of mail coaches was first introduced to Ireland by the late Marquess of Buckingham, during his viceroyalty, commencing 1787; and we are told that "the state of the roads was then so bad, between Dublin and Cork, that there was no intercourse by coaches, except by hiring them for the entire journey, which was performed in five or six days, and commonly with the same set of horses." The first mail-coaches commenced running in the year 1790; and in 1804, an act was passed for making new roads for the accommodation of those public carriages. The mails of Ireland are commodious vehicles, provided with good horses, and are in every other respect extremely well regulated. These coaches are despatched from Dublin every evening, at eight o'clock, to the following among other principal towns, from which there is, also, a return with the same periodical regularity. Belfast and Londonderry in the north; Galway and Sligo in the west; and Kilkenny, Waterford, Cork, Limerick, and Wexford, in the south. There are, likewise, stage-coaches, which travel daily between Dublin and several large towns; and, lately, stage jaunting-cars have been established on many lines of road. These latter vehicles travel at a good pace, and are a considerable accommodation to travellers not too refined for so ordinary a mode of conveyance. The passengers are arranged, back to back, on two-seats, placed length-ways on the machine; and the driver occupies a small box on the front. In districts still too little frequented for the establishment of regular coaches, few travellers

will suffer an over-weening delicacy to debar them from profiting by these humble, but safe and well-conducted, carriages.

Post-horses may be obtained in most parts of Ireland; but we cannot vouch for their excellence; and the post-chaise of this country has long been the subject of humorous remark, under the name of *rattle-trap*.* An improvement, however, is taking place; and, on the principal lines of thoroughfare, post-carriages may be obtained, more nearly approaching to the *usual mode of construction* than is indicated by the descriptive accounts contained in writings published not many years back.

There are few subjects on which the public has usually more copious information, from literary travellers, than the *Inns* of a country. These houses of general reception are, indeed, objects worthy of attentive remark, not only on account of their importance to the stranger, but from the materials they afford for an estimate of the degree of internal traffic that prevails. They also, in some measure, assist in explaining the manners of society, by exhibiting the proportion of domestic comforts that is habitually held in request. The inns of Ireland were, until recent years, defective

* The following satirical delineation, by the keen and admirable pen of Miss Edgeworth, will be read with a smile, long after a national improvement in the particulars held forth to ridicule: "From the inn-yard came a hackney chaise, in a most deplorable crazy state; the body mounted up to a prodigious height, on unbending springs, nodding forwards, one door swinging open, three blinds up, because they could not be let down, the perch tied in two places, the iron of the wheels half off half loose, wooden pegs for linch-pins, and ropes for harness. The horses were worthy of the harness; wretched little dog-tired creatures, that looked as if they had been driven to the last gasp, and as if they had never been rubbed down in their lives; their bones starting through their skin; one lame, the other blind; one with a raw back, the other with a galled breast; one with his neck poking down over his collar, and the other with his head dragged forward by a bit of a broken bridle, held at arm's length by a man dressed like a mad beggar, in half a hat and half a wig, both awry in opposite directions; a long tattered great-coat, tied round his waist by a hay-rope; the jagged rents in the skirts of his coat shewing his bare legs marbled of many colours: while something like stockings hung loose about his ankles."—Tale entitled *ENNUI*, by Miss Edgeworth.

even in the ordinary points of accommodation,* and are still, on a general scale, greatly inferior to those of England. But the large trading towns, in every part of the country, now contain spacious hotels, in which all but fastidious travellers may find a solace after the fatigue of the day's journey. Except in very reclude districts, the intermediate stages are also often provided with decent places of entertainment; and an increasing spirit of refinement is evinced in many tracts where few would seek it with a sanguine hope of success. In nearly all the country inns a want of skilful organization, however, is apparent. The waiters are often caricatures of servingmen; the ample refreshments are injured by the cook, or placed on table in a crowded and tumultuous manner: the absence of a well-practised and directing mind is evident in every particular. But such petty evils are unworthy of consideration, when we find that a want of adroitness is recompensed by alacrity and winning kindness. With the principal articles which the experienced traveller holds in request, the Inns of Ireland are now fairly provided on all the chief lines of road; and it may not be unnecessary to remark that the charges are, in general, perfectly equitable.

We are aware that this favourable representation of the "hotels" of Ireland is opposed by the very different opinions of several who have written largely on the state of the country; but it is the result of deliberate conviction; and the faithful commendation here bestowed may be considered as a trifling proof of the real improvement in the habits of life which has taken place within the very few last years, and would appear to be rapidly proceeding towards a still higher degree.

* The deplorable state of Ireland, in regard to houses of public entertainment, in the time of Queen Elizabeth, is memorably depicted by Spenser, who observes that, in every town newly formed, there should be "convenient innes, erected for the lodging and harbouring of travellers, which are now oftentimes spoyled by lodging abroad in weake thatched houses, for want of such safe places to shroude them in." Spenser's "View of the State of Ireland," &c. p. 260.

REMARKABLE CUSTOMS AND HABITS, CHIEFLY DEDUCIBLE FROM ANTIENT USAGE.

A topographical work, like the journal of a tour, affords continual opportunities for remarks on the state and character of society. Such observations are, perhaps, most acceptable when called forth by circumstances of local description ; but, in regard to this country, there are some peculiarities in habits and manners which demand attention in a collective point of view. It has been asserted that “ the Irish are still in possession of certain customs, utterly relinquished by the other nations of Europe ;” and if such be not strictly the fact, it will be found that many practices retained in this insulated district are not only subjects of curiosity with the general reader, but are entitled to the extended inquiries of the philosophical antiquary.

We present a brief notice of those peculiarities which are of a prominent character. Such as evince antiquity of origin form the chief object of this article ; but several particulars are interspersed which are deemed likely to convey, without the formality of regular disquisition, useful suggestions respecting the existing manners of the country.

In noticing such customs as are evidently derived from very antient usage, we adduce those only which are believed to apply, in different degrees of acceptance, to the whole of the provinces. When we reflect on the several accessions of population which have taken place, and the consequent introduction of manners and habits which speedily assume, in the view of the cursory observer, the aspect of native growth, it will be evident that great care must be used in discriminating between those customs of the inhabitants which really act as national characteristics of the antient Irish, and such as are derived from the English of Leinster, the Scotch of Ulster, or other comparatively recent settlers.

The very antient custom of lighting fires on the summit of the highest hills, on the night of the 23rd of June, being Midsummer Eve, prevails throughout the whole of Ireland. In many

parts the young people dance round the fires ; and, in some reclus districts, the inhabitants drive their cattle round or through them, under a superstitious hope of preserving, by that ceremony, the cattle from pestilence and accidents.—In populous neighbourhoods, abounding in lofty elevations, the effect produced by these numerous fires possesses an indescribable air of mysterious grandeur.

For a considerable share of the emotions they create in the spectator, these illuminations are indebted to the remote antiquity of the superstition in which the custom originated. It is generally admitted that the practice is unconsciously derived from the heathen sacrifices to the God Beal. “Although historians” (observes the author of the *Philosophical Survey*) “had not given us the mythology of the Pagan Irish, and though they had not told us expressly that they worshipped Beal, or Bealin, and that this Beal was the sun, and their chief god, it might nevertheless, be investigated from this custom, which the lapse of so many centuries has not been able to wear away. The sun was propitiated here by sacrifices of fire : one was on the first of May,* for a blessing on the seed sown ; the next, at Midsummer, for ripening the fruits of the earth ; and a third, on the last day of October, as a thanksgiving for harvest home. The first and the last of these are entirely dropped ; but that on Midsummer’s Eve is duly celebrated to this very hour.”

The vacant minds of the pastoral, or half-employed, inhabitants of bold, mountainous, and romantic districts, are ever prone to superstitious fancies, proceeding from the simplest natural combinations. The vapours and fantastic shadows of the august mountains amidst which such persons dwell, assume, in the eye of united ardour

* The first day of May is termed by the Irish, at the present time, *Beallcine*; and on that day many of the country people kindle a small fire, through which they drive their cattle. In some parts of Scotland the same day is called *Bel-tan*, or *Bál-tein* ; and a custom is preserved there, which seems to present an unquestionable indication of the former sacrifice of a human creature to the pagan deity.—Vide Sir J. Sinclair’s *Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. xi. pp. 620-621. Bonfires on the Midsummer Eve are still made in several parts of England.—Vide “*Observations on Popular Antiquities*,” under article *Summer Solstice*.

and ignorance, the form of spectral appearances, waving a prophetic hand, or marching in the long and solemn line of a funeral procession. Those sounds, too, which break from the risings of the storm, and roar amongst the rocks, or sigh through the glens, are converted, by the ear of unschooled enthusiasm, into voices and denotations, of supernatural import.—Such fancies, sanctioned by long and hereditary tradition, still prevail among the thinly-spread part of the population, surrounded by natural circumstances favourable to the indulgence of imagination :

“ ————— Thro’ all the burthen’d air,
 “ Long groans are heard, shrill sounds and distant sighs,
 “ That utter’d by the Demon of the night,
 “ Warn the devoted wretch of woe and death.”

The following remarks on a prevalent superstition of the above character, are extracted from Walker’s Historical Memoirs of the Irish Bards :—“ On the decease of an hero, it was said, the harps of his bards emitted mournful sounds. This is very probable ; for the bards, while sorrowing for their patron, usually suspended to trees their neglected harps, from whose loosened strings the passing gales might brush soft plaintive tones. Here we have the origin of the *Benshi*, an invisible being, which is alledged to be still heard in this country, and in the Highlands of Scotland, crying most piteously on the death of the descendant of an antient house.”

The author of the Philosophical Survey affirms that it is often mentioned, as a laudable “ boast”, that an “ *Irish witch* was never heard of.” It would, indeed, appear that no popular superstition, ascribing an evil possession to certain ill-favoured, wretched, and aged females prevails in this country, as was, until recently, the case in England and Scotland, where many persons have suffered death under the imputation. The more harmless belief in *fairy mythology* is not less common in Ireland than in Wales. Marvellous, beyond the ordinary reach of romance, are many stories repeated by the side of the cabin fire, concerning the midnight revelry, and wanton tricks, of these malicious sprites,

who, by the courtesy of fear, are termed the *good people*. The peasants “believe each strange tale devoutly true;” and few will risk the danger of fairy anger, by passing, after nightfall, over spots traditionally attributed to elfin festivity. The tumuli so frequent in this country are usually regarded as fairy land, where the pigmy grandees “keep their moon-shine courts and star-light assemblies.” Hence arose a very prevalent reluctance to disturb, by the slightest operation of the spade, those rude but interesting vestiges of antiquity.*

The number of *Marriages*, in proportion to the population, is thought to be greater in Ireland than in any other European country; and the lower orders marry at a very early period. This custom, undoubtedly, assists in augmenting the misery to which the labouring people are subject, as their matrimonial connexions are usually formed without any consideration as to the means by which a new household is to be established, and a family supported. An entrance into the married state is considered so entirely a matter of course, when the age of childhood is passed, that the parents frequently do not wait for the discovery of their son's inclinations, but themselves select what they deem a suitable object; and, after an arrangement of terms with the parents on the opposite side, the ceremony is performed, quite free from the trouble of doubts, scruples, and tedious courtship. In these contracts amongst the lower orders, the principal, and too often the only subject of calculation, as to necessary provision, relates to the nuptial feast, which is always plentifully furnished with whiskey, and is usually attended by a piper. Some peculiarities respecting marriage-customs prevail in several counties; but these not being of general application will be more properly noticed in future

* The country people believe, observes Miss Edgeworth, “that beneath these fairy mounts were spacious subterraneous palaces, inhabited by the *good people*, who must not on any account be disturbed. When the wind raises a little eddy of dust upon the road, the poor people believe that it is raised by the fairies, that it is a sign that they are journeying from one of the fairies' mounts to another, and they say to the fairies, or to the dust as it passes—‘God speed ye, gentlemen, God speed ye!’”—Castle Rackrent, p. 200-201.

pages. As an example, however, may be mentioned the practice well known in Tipperary, some parts of Ulster, and other districts, of carrying off the intended bride, either by real or mimic force ; a custom that is, in the first instance, an evident relic of barbarous times, but, in the other, may be thought to partake of the romantic gallantry of past chivalric ages.

The custom of *Fosterage* would appear to have existed in Ireland at an early period ; and must thence be considered as presenting an anomalous feature in national manners, since, in the rude and simple stages of society, we usually find the female pertinacious in rendering every maternal duty in her own person. It has been asserted that, in former remote ages, “ the children of the Irish were mutually given from different families, to be nursed and bred up in others ; and that inferiors, instead of expecting any reward for their care, purchased the honour of fostering the children of the rich.” This opinion is controverted by Dr. Leland, who observes that “ so far are the fragments of the Brehon laws, from favouring the notion that the honour of breeding children was ever purchased, that they are exact in ascertaining the wages that shall be paid to fosterers, in proportion to the time that children continue under their care, and the instruction they have received.” But Sir John Davies expressly asserts that, even at the time of his writing (1612), “ the potent and rich men sold, the meaner sort bought, the fosterage of children.” It will be shown, in many future pages, that a very strong bond of affection was created by this practice, between the child fostered and those to whose care he was entrusted ; and that he was often attended, through life, by their offspring, with a zeal of attachment greater than that commonly existing between natural brothers. Such instances of a peculiar character of affection—hesitating between ordinary friendship and a natural tie—form, indeed, curious lineaments in many parts of Irish biography, and communicate to it much of what has been termed the romance of real life. It is still a prevalent custom in Ireland for the children of the affluent to be placed at nurse with a neighbouring cottager. The nurse, and perhaps her whole family, appear to consider themselves denizens

for life of the family by whom they are thus honoured ; and a lasting and ardent attachment is evinced towards the fostered child.

An inquisitiveness of disposition, and habitual eagerness to acquire information concerning such public or private occurrences as have the quality of interesting the fancy or the passions, is common to nearly all people who inhabit recluse districts. Owing to their usual excellence of capacity, and restless vigour of imagination, this thirst after *news* is so greatly prevalent among the rural and lower orders of Irish, that it has been attributed to them as a national characteristic. Those who would wish to seek for a similar habit in remote ages, may be reminded that Cæsar ascribes to the antient Gauls the same insatiable curiosity. But a sufficient explanation may be found in blended activity of intellect and deficiency of avocation. An English writer observes, but, perhaps, in terms too strong, that “ our peasantry, intent upon their own proper affairs, are not at the expence of thinking upon other subjects ; whereas these poor men, having neither labour nor trade to engage their attention, are more occupied with other people’s affairs than their own ; *excussi propriis aliena negotia curant*.”*

In many parts of Ireland the quarrels of individuals among the commonalty are not decided by single combat, but the person who supposes himself to be aggrieved calls in the aid, not only

* Phil. Survey, p. 112.—Spenser, writing in the reign of Elizabeth, notices a “ sort of loose fellows, who doe passe up and downe amongst gentlemen, by the name of Jesters,” and are “ common carryers of newes, with desire whereof you would wonder how much the Irish are fed ; for they use commonly to send up and downe to knowe newes, and if any meet with another, his second word is, ‘ What newes ? ’ Insomuch that hereof is tolde a prettie jest of a French-man, who having beene sometimes in Ireland, where he marked their great inquirie for newes, and meeting afterwards in France an Irishman, whom hee knew in Ireland, first saluted him, and afterwards said thus merrily : ‘ Oh ! Sir, I pray you tell me of curtesie, have you heard any thing of the news that you so much inquired for in your countrey ? ’ ”—View of the State of Ireland, p. 125-6.

of his relations and neighbours, but sometimes of the whole barony in which he dwells. The Shilelagh is the usual weapon employed in *settling* the dispute; and the combat between the assembled parties often takes place at fairs, after the business of the mart is over, and the more peaceable are retired. Broken heads and injured limbs are the ordinary consequences of such encounters, but on some occasions lives are lost. These ferocious conflicts, between bands of partizans, are evident vestiges of the antient custom of fighting in *Septs*.

The virtue of *Hospitality* has been so frequently attributed to the Irish, in the warm language of grateful admiration, that their liberality on this head is now almost confirmed into a proverb. It has been forcibly and truly said, that a stranger might travel throughout the land, might inspect the richest and the poorest districts, and meet with unpurchased shelter and entertainment in the whole of his journey.

This virtue, which, like pure charity, throws an oblivious veil over a multitude of failings, is evidently the native plant of an infant state of society, in which population is thinly scattered, and there is a want of houses at regular stations, in which the stranger is provided with refreshing viands and a resting place, for an equivalent in the form of money. But in the progress of society—in that stage which intervenes between antient simplicity and the entire diffusion of commercial habits—hospitality becomes a virtue of feeling. Imbued by hereditary precept as a duty, it prevails with undiminished force after the necessity is surmounted; it mingles with every generous emotion of the mind, and forms the habitual testimony of good will in which the bland and liberal are wont to express benevolence of temper. Such is, now, the hospitality of nearly all the Irish, beneath that elevated and refined class, with whom the common courtesy of nations is a sufficient inducement to the performance of every attention that may be required by the stranger—properly introduced to their notice.

In this instance the cotter rivals his lord, by freely sharing with the stranger the best that he possesses. The urbanity of

the neglected, impoverished, and suffering Irish peasant, can be duly appreciated by those alone who have frequently entered his cabin, and heard the simple emphasis of his "hundred thousand welcomes!" His compeers in poverty, wandering forlorn, far from a wretched home, find an asylum within his mud-walls, whatever county he may inhabit. Such accidental visitants of his humble shed the cotter terms "God-sends," and considers the entertainment of them as a point of religious duty.* The Wexford peasants, as noticed by Mr. Wakefield, "have a custom when at meals to sit with their doors open, which is an invitation to those who are passing to enter and partake of their homely fare."

It is deeply to be lamented that the lower classes are much addicted to intemperance in drinking; and the fiery spirit which constitutes their national liquor is, unhappily, obtained on such easy terms, by means of illegal distillation, that occasional excess is attainable to the most abject. The high imagination and poetical spirit of the Irish peasantry, uncontrolled by proper education, forbid the privilege of a pause in the first stage of exhilaration; and the fatal custom of draining the cup of pleasure to the dregs, leads to many acts of passion and violence, which are often placed to the general account of a natural turbulence of disposition.

The love of music evinced by the Irish constitutes a distinguished national feature. By a people entertaining a passion for music, the *dance* is never neglected. Even poverty, and a depression of feeling that has prevailed so long it is become almost habitual, have failed to suppress a fondness for this natural expression of gaiety; and dancing may be said to form a part of the education even of the poorest classes. The skill acquired from their humble teachers is regularly exhibited at weddings and other festivals. A

* "The benevolent spirit of Christianity," observes Dr. Leland, "served to enforce and countenance such manners. 'The most holy men of heaven', say the Irish laws, 'were remarkable for hospitality; and the Gospel commands us to receive the sojourner, to entertain him, and to relieve his wants.'"—Hist. of Ireland, Prelim. Dis. p. xxxiv.

native buoyancy of spirit, and freedom of limb, often impart a grace to the simple movements of the youthful female, that is quite beyond the art of her rude master.

There are several peculiarities of figure which have been attributed to the Irish as national dances. The most curious is the *Rinceadh-Fada*, which is traditionally said to have been the dance of the antient Irish, and is thus described in Walker's *Memoirs of the Irish Bards*: "When that unfortunate prince, James II. landed at Kinsale, his friends, who waited his arrival on the sea-shore, received him with the *Rinceadh-fada*, the figure and execution of which delighted him exceedingly. This was the figure:—Three persons abreast, each holding the ends of a white handkerchief, first moved forward a few paces to slow music, the rest of the dancers followed two and two, a white handkerchief between each. Then the dance began. The music suddenly changing to brisk time, the dancers passed with a quick step under the handkerchiefs of the three in front, wheeled round in semi-circles, formed a variety of pleasing, animating evolutions, interspersed at intervals with *entre chants*, or cuts, united and fell again into their original places behind, and paused.—This was, probably, the dance of the Pagan Irish during their festivals on the first of May (*Beil-Tinne*), and the first of August (*Lughnasa*) when fires were lighted, and sacrifices offered."

Waits, or annual perambulations of persons exercising, in a discordant manner, what they are pleased to term, *seasonable music*, are common in Dublin and other large towns. The perambulators are attended, as is observed in the *Memoirs of the Irish Bards*, "by a man who bears about with them on a long pole, a spherical lantern, which they call their *Moon*; as if they were to say, with Falstaff, 'let us be gentlemen of the shade, minions of the moon.' It is probable that this custom, which is certainly very antient, had originally a mythological allusion."

Another custom, connected with the celebration of Christmas festivities, has been supposed to discover marks of a faint attempt at dramatic composition amongst the Irish of the middle ages. *Mummers*, or strolling companies of young men and women,

observes Mr. Walker, “ go about carousing from house to house during the Christmas holidays, attended by rude musicians, to whose merry notes they dance in the presence of their entertainers. Each mummer personates an eminent saint ; as St. George, St. Andrew, St. Dennis, &c. Before the dance begins, these different characters form themselves into a circle, and each, in his turn, steps forward, declaring, at the same time, his feigned name, country, qualifications, and other circumstances, in a kind of doggerel rhyme ; then a mock fight (or *jouste*) commences, which is soon terminated, without loss of blood to any of the parties. The dialogues of the Irish mummers bear a strong resemblance to the poetical narrative in the *Mirroure for Magistrates*, a book which, as Mr. Walpole remarks, might have an influence in producing historic plays.”

Allhallow Eve is celebrated with many peculiarities. The following collection of customs relating to this festival is presented in Vallancey's *Collectanea* : “ On the Oidheche Shamhna (Ee Owna) or Vigil of Saman, the peasants in Ireland assemble with sticks and clubs, (the emblems of laceration) going from house to house, collecting money, breadcake, butter, cheese, eggs, &c. &c. for the feast, repeating verses in honour of the solemnity, demanding preparations for the festival in the name of St. Columb Kill, desiring them to lay aside the *fatted calf*, and to bring forth the *black sheep*. The good women are employed in making the griddle cake and candles ; these last are sent from house to house in the vicinity, and are lighted up on the (Saman) next day, before which they pray, or are supposed to pray, for the departed soul of the donor. Every house abounds in the best viands they can afford ; apples and nuts are devoured in abundance ; the nut-shells are burnt ; and from the ashes many strange things are foretold : cabbages are torn up by the root ; hemp seed is sown by the maidens, and they believe that if they look back, they will see the apparition of the man intended for their future spouse : they throw a ball of yarn out of the window, and wind it on the reel within, convinced that if they repeat the Pater Noster backwards, and look at the ball of yarn without, they will then also see his

sith, or apparition : they dip for apples in a tub of water, and endeavour to bring one up in the mouth : they suspend a cord with a cross stick, with apples at one point, and candles lighted at the other, and endeavour to catch the apple, while it is in a circular motion, in the mouth. These, and many other superstitious ceremonies, the remains of druidism, are observed on this holiday, which will never be eradicated while the name of Saman is permitted to remain."

The principal game of exercise practised by the Irish is, in the south, termed *hurling*. This is a common pastime at fairs, marriages, and other times of festivity. The parties opposed to each other vary in number, and are sometimes not less than 100 on each side. Each player is provided with a stick, which has usually a broad curve. A ball, which, in the south of Ireland, is large and covered with leather, is tossed up between the contending parties ; and it is the object of each party to impel it through specified marks of boundary, constituting the goal. It will be obvious that this pastime cannot be practised in mountainous parts of the country.

The *dress of the peasantry*, who necessarily present the only class affording any resemblance of national costume, must be described as too generally exhibiting scarcely any characteristic, save an excess of wretchedness. It is, indeed, to an unaccustomed eye, truly appalling to view the streamers of misery—the long and dirty shreds—which hang loosely on the limbs of a great part of the population, through their days of labour, and disfigure the fair creation of nature, without shielding its weakness from the penalties of changing seasons. But in discussing this, as many other topics, we have the happy opportunity of repeating that the country is in an improving state. In several districts the peasants are now comparatively well clad, and a rising spirit of self-respect is manifest in the cleanliness and good repair in which their attire is preserved. On Sundays and holidays their appearance is neat, beyond expectation. Few particulars, strictly national, or of decisive peculiarity, occur, unless we may notice as such the very general prevalence of the loose coat, or

trusty, in such parts of the island as have been least affected by new settlers.* The cloth, termed frieze, of which their dress is composed, is of a coarse woollen fabric, and is woven and dyed by the family of the wearer. The colour varies in several counties ;

* It may be safely supposed that the Irish derive the use of the loose coat, or *trusty*, from the Belgic part of their ancestors. (An Account of the dress introduced to Britain by the Belgæ is inserted in the Introduction to the Beauties of England, p. 42). The loose and commodious *mantle*, formerly worn by the Irish, is well known to have been common to many ancient nations, being, indeed, nearly the simplest form of garment that could be devised. The remarks of Spenser on the mantle of the Irish, as worn in the reign of Elizabeth, have been frequently cited, but it must still be desirable to present our reader with an extract of them. That writer, who viewed Ireland in some of its most troubled days, describes the mantle as answering the purposes of housing, bedding, and clothing ; but considers it as, at that time, producing more inconveniences than advantages ; “ for it is a fit house for an outlaw, a meet bed for a rebel, and an apt cloke for a theife. First, the outlaw being for his many crimes and villanyes banished from the townes and houses of honest men, and wandring in waste places, far from danger of law, maketh his mantle his house, and under it covereth himselfe from the wrath of heaven, from the offence of the earth, and from the sight of men. When it raineth it is his pent-house ; when it bloweth it is his tent ; when it freezeth it is his tabernacle. In sommer he can wear it loose, in winter he can wrap it close ; at all times he can use it ; never heavy, never cumbersome. Likewise for a rebell it is as serviceable. For in his warre that he maketh (if at least it deserve the name of warre), when he still flyeth from his foe, and lurketh in the thicke woods and strait passages, waiting for advantages, it is his bed, yea, and almost his houshold stuff. For the wood is his house against all weathers, and his mantle is his couch to sleep in. Therein he wrappeth himself round, and coucheth himselfe strongly against the gnats, which in that countrey doe more annoy the naked rebels, whilst they keepe the woods, and doe more sharply wound them then all their enemies swords, or spears, which can seldome come nigh them ; yea and oftentimes their mantle serveth them, when they are neere driven, being wrapped about their left arme in stead of a target, for it is hard to cut thorough with a sword, besides it is light to beare, light to throw away, and, being (as they commonly are) naked, it is to them all in all. Lastly for a thiefe it is so handsome, as it may seem it was first invented for him, for under it he may cleanly convey any fit pillage that commeth handsomly in his way, and when he goeth abroad in the night in free-booting, it is his

and the particular hue, thus locally adopted, is uniformly adhered to by the inhabitants of that district.

The majority of the peasants, and even many of the poor in cities and towns, do not wear shoes or stockings. A taste for these *refinements* appears, however, to be awakened among such of the lower classes as are least severely subject to the pressure of poverty ; but, even with these, they are viewed chiefly as articles of luxury, and are often disused during a journey, and are almost invariably laid aside on a return to that humble shed which is yet a stranger to decent emulation. Women of the same class, throughout the least cultivated counties, also neglect the use of the bonnet or hat. In general they wear neat, but not ornamental, caps, and long cloaks of their own manufacture, which have a hood enwrapping the head, as a preservative from cold or wet. In several counties the females of a youthful age bestow particular attention on dressing the hair in an ornamental manner ; a circumstance that often acts as a strange, but pleasing, contrast to the squalid character of their attire.

Many exceptions to the above general remarks, and some peculiarities, not devoid of curiosity, will be best noticed in our description of the counties to which they appertain. Such is the singular custom observable in the rustic of some districts of the south, who considers plenty as the acme of ambition, and exhibits his whole wardrobe on his back, even beneath the heat of a summer's sun. If such a person is so affluent as to possess four or five waistcoats, he will wear the whole upon holidays ; and if the warmth of the season will not permit him to bear the additional load of two coats, he will wear the one trusty and sling the second over his shoulders.

best and surest friend ; for lying, as they often do, 2 or 3 nights together abroad to watch for their booty, with that they can prettily shroud themselves under a bush or a bank side, till they may conveniently do their errand : and when all is over, he can, in his mantle passe thorough any town or company, being close hooded over his head, as he useth, from knowledge of any to whom he is indangered." Spenser's View, &c. p. 87-88.

Many of the *funeral customs of the Irish* possess great singularity, in relation to the existing manners of countries more uniformly polished, although they bear a close affinity to practices which once very generally prevailed. The custom of holding a *WAKE*, during the interval between the death of a friend and his interment, is universal amongst the middle and lower orders of catholics, and is also used by some protestants in the lower class of society.

“That watching with the corpse” (observes the author of *Popular Antiquities*) “was an ancient custom every where practised, numerous passages from ecclesiastical writers might be cited to prove, could there be any doubt of the antiquity of a custom, which, owing its origin to the tenderest affections of human nature, has, perhaps, on that account, been used from the infancy of time.” This practice, under the name of *Lake-wake*, a term derived from the Anglo-Saxon, is still known in the north of England. It, likewise, according to Pennant, is retained in the highlands of Scotland; and was, until recently, prevalent in North Wales. The custom was observed amongst the early christians with decorous solemnity, but speedily became liable to abuse.

In Ireland the neighbours assemble at the house of the deceased, immediately that he is known to have expired;* and usually continue their vigils until the body is consigned to the earth. Lighted candles are placed in the vicinity of the corpse; and a plate containing salt is sometimes put upon its bosom.† Amongst

* On the death of a person of the lower order, the straw which composed his bed is immediately removed, and burned at the cabin-door, the family at the same time uttering the death cry. “It is curious,” observes Miss Edgeworth, “to remark how good and bad are mingled in human institutions. In countries which were thinly inhabited, this custom prevented private attempts against the lives of individuals, and formed a kind of coroner’s inquest upon the body which had recently expired; and burning the straw upon which the sick man lay became a simple preservative against infection.” *Castle Rackrent, Glossary, p. 214.*

† We may presume that salt, from its anti-putrescent quality, is adopted on this occasion as a symbol of immortality. The custom of placing salt in a plate on the bosom of the dead, before the corpse is re-

the lower orders, the place of waking is generally a barn, or stable; and the elder of the assembled friends pass the hours of watching in festive conversation, intermingled for a short season, with boisterous exclamations of grief. The youthful part of the company indulge in gay pastimes, productive of unrestrained merriment and laughter.

Pipes and tobacco, snuff, whiskey, and other refreshments are provided in quantities limited only by the means of the relatives. The presence of a piper often adds exhilaration to the scene, and the young people join in a jocund dance. The Irish take particular pride in the number of persons who attend these wakes in honour of the deceased; and the hope of a plenteous and well-attended carousal, perversely expressive of respect and regret, often imparts no small degree of consolation to the reflections even of those who are sensible to the approach of death. The procession which attends the body to the place of interment, frequently consists of many hundreds of persons.

The *Caoinan*, or *antient funeral lamentation*, although fallen into disuse in some districts, is still prevalent in the provinces of Connaught and Munster, and is practised in parts of the north. That the same boisterous and artificial denotations of grief were used by the Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans is well known. It is observed by Dr. Campbell that “The *conclamatio* among the Romans coincides with the *Irish cry*. The *mulieres præficæ* exactly correspond with the women who lead the Irish band, and who make an outcry too outrageous to be the effect of real grief;

Ut qui conducti plorant in funere, dicunt
Et faciunt prope plura dolentibus ex animo—

That this custom was Phœnician we may learn from Virgil, who was very correct in the *costume* of his characters. The *con-*

moved to its coffin, prevails in many of the recluse parts of England, and has been witnessed by the present writer in the midland county of Oxford. In the highlands of Scotland mingled salt and earth are placed on the breast of the deceased.

clamatio over the Phœnician Dido, as described by him, is similar to the Irish cry.

Lamentis gemituque et fœmineo ululatu
Tecta fremunt.—

The very word *ululates*, or *hulluloo*, and the Greek word of the same import, have all a strong affinity to each other."

It is remarked, by the author of the Historical Memoirs of the Irish Bards, that the high antiquity of the Irish funeral cry "is unquestionable, from the circumstance of its obstinately refusing the accompaniment of a base." The form of the lament varies in different parts of Ireland, and the cadences are often inconceivably plaintive and affecting.* The mourners increase the energy of their cry on passing through a town, or on meeting a passenger. If the person thus met be on horseback, it is expected that he shall turn back, and ride a short distance in company with the procession. If he be on foot, the mourners are satisfied if he lift his hat.

An existing illustration of the scriptural passage, "Call for the mourning women, that they may come!" is found in some parts of this country, particularly in Munster and Connaught, where it is still usual to hire women to attend at funerals, who recite panegyrical orations respecting the deceased and his ancestry. Mr. O'Connor observes that this female chorus, as conducted at present, is "so debased by extemporaneous composition, and so

* In Mr. Shaw Mason's Parochial Survey, the contributor of the account of Ramoan, county of Antrim, observes that the funeral lament in that neighbourhood "is arranged with more melancholy sweetness than in any other part of Ireland. It consists of six notes, the first four of which are chaunted in a low and solemn tone; the concluding two more loud and rapid." In the very curious account of Maghera, county of Londonderry, written by the Rev. J. Graham, and inserted in the same work, it is remarked that the antient cry has in that parish fallen into disuse, "and its place is supplied by solemn hymns in the Latin language, set to the Gregorian music. These hymns are in Gothic rhyme, so highly prized in the dark ages; such as

Dies iræ, dies illa,
Solvat sæc'lum in favilla, &c."

disagreeable from unequal tones, that no passion is excited. It is at present a truly barbarous, but an innocent custom.”*

It is common to decorate the graves with garlands, composed of white paper, cut in various forms, as flowers, leaves, and gloves. On the paper cut in imitation of gloves is generally written a pious, admonitory, or affectionate motto. These garlands, according to antient usage, should be renewed on the anniversary of the saint to whom the church is dedicated. The effect of such simple, but emphatic, testimonies of regret is more impressive than can be readily imagined. Drooping beneath the rain, or waving in the chill wind that rends from them a tribute in every tempestuous blast, they present striking emblems of the fragile tenure by which man holds even the best of his sublunary privileges. If the topographer might be allowed to deviate into the province of the sentimental tourist, we should be tempted to expatiate on the mournful charm produced by these simple garlands, as their white and feathery leaves, and taper gloves, stand dubiously revealed in the faint rays of moonlight, while all around partakes of the silence of the tomb.†

After noticing a custom thus gratefully expressive of respect towards the dead, it is with reluctance we observe that the country

* Diss. on Hist. of Ireland, p. 114. Some curious similarities of funeral ceremonies to those practised by the antient Irish, are noticed in “Hobhouse’s Travels in Greece,” Letter thirty-second.

† In the History of the City of Dublin, recently published by the Rev. Dr. Walsh, it is observed that, “on St. James’s Day, the populace repair in great numbers to St. James’s Church-yard, which is the general cemetery of the lower classes, when they garnish and decorate the graves. Some of these decorations are strong indications of the affectionate attachment of the Irish to the memory of the dead. They form effigies, or images, of all the persons who have been buried in the same grave, or represent them by shirts or shifts, made of paper, of a size proportioned to the age of the persons. These are laid on, or hung round the place where they are buried; and a mother is frequently seen sitting on a grave, surrounded by the rude figures of her deceased children, with whom she is holding a communication, to which strong affection and an ardent imagination give a reality, unknown, perhaps, elsewhere.” Hist. Dublin, v. ii. p. 1175.

church-yards of Ireland are otherwise too often most reprehensibly neglected. Accumulations of long rank grass, and coarse weeds, overshadow the graves of those whose loss has ceased to be an object of individual concern, and render the dreary precincts of their ashes nearly impervious to the examiner; whilst fragments of mortality, which have too soon "revisited" the light, are exposed to decay above ground, and would appear to be unheeded by all but the unaccustomed traveller.*

It is a curious fact, connected with the history of monuments devoted to the dead, that if a person die out of doors, whether through the effect of accident or natural visitation, every passenger, informed of the circumstance, throws a stone upon the spot on which he expired, thus forming progressively an irregular cairn. This is one amongst numerous instances in which the student of human manners will find a contrary effect proceed, in different modifications of society, from people entertaining the same sentiments and motives. The practice of raising tumuli, or cairns, over the deceased, is well known to have been a pagan custom; and, as such, to have been speedily relinquished in South Britain after the introduction of christianity. Amongst the English it then became a mark of obloquy to throw stones over the remains of the dead. With the Irish (and also with the Scotch Highlanders) more tenacious of antient habit, some relics of the same custom have been preserved, with an hereditary feeling of respect, unconsciously derived from ante-christian ages. These rude *cenotaphia*, of comparatively modern formation, are seen in various parts of Ireland.

A veneration for certain springs, consecrated by the reverential usage of ages beyond record, is common in this country. According to antiquarian writers, this custom is deducible from heathen

* In many instances the neglected condition of cemeteries may proceed from the custom of the Irish adhering to their antient places of burial, although the contiguous church has sunk in deserted ruin; but no circumstance can palliate the disgusting indifference with which bones, turned up by the sexton's spade, are suffered to lie on the surface, as if in contempt of the ordinary feelings of human nature.

practices, and was allowed to remain by the first preachers of christianity, in pursuance of the caution then judged necessary by those who promulgated novel doctrines of religion amongst an uncultivated people. A similar toleration appears to have prevailed in Britain. But, in the same spirit of gentleness towards existing prejudices, which induced the priests of the early centuries not to demolish the upright stones, used by the pagans as symbols of divine power, but to carve on them the figure of the cross, these venerated wells (add our antiquaries) were dedicated by the early christian teachers to chosen saints. In some recluse districts of England, and in several parts of Wales, various springs are thought, at the present time, to possess a mysterious sanctity, and are not without visiters; but great numbers resort to the holy-wells of Ireland, to perform penance, and seek the cure of different diseases. In many instances these favoured springs possess a strong mineral quality. The common offerings of the devotees are pieces of rag, which are seen in great abundance, suspended on bushes that overhang the well, or grow in its vicinity.* Many acts of pilgrimage, and other customs peculiar to catholic countries, but which are unconnected with antiquarian discussion, will be mentioned in future pages, descriptive of the places which form the principal stations of resort.

* In Brand's "Observations on Popular Antiquities" are collected the following proofs that the custom of leaving pieces of cloth, or rather of rag, by persons seeking extraordinary means of recovering health, is not peculiar to European countries: "After ten days' journey we arrived at a desolate caravanseraï, where we found nothing but water. I observed a tree, with a number of rags tied to the branches: these were so many charms, which passengers, coming from Ghilan, a province remarkable for agues, had left there, in a fond expectation of leaving their disease also on the same spot." (Hanway's Travels into Persia, vol. i, p. 177.) Park, in his Travels in the Interior of Africa, has the ensuing passage: "The company advanced as far as a large tree, called by the natives Neema Taba. It had a very singular appearance, being covered with innumerable rags, or scraps of cloth, which persons travelling across the wilderness had at different times tied to its branches: a custom so generally followed, that no one passes it without hanging up something." Park's Travels, &c. 4to.

Patron-days, or festivals in commemoration of the days on which parish churches were dedicated to their respective saints, are still held in most parts of Ireland. On this subject we are induced to profit by the remarks of a contributor to the Parochial Survey, now in successful progress. “ It appears that while the Catholic religion was the national one of Ireland, the clergy and laity of each parish annually assembled at their respective churches on those solemn occasions, not only to implore the future tutelage of their patron-saint, but also to offer prayers and distribute alms for their departed friends; from whose venerated tombs they cleared the rank weeds, and decorated them with the gayest flowers of the season, renewing, at the same time, the mournful funeral dirge, in which was recounted every worthy action of the deceased and his relatives, as on the day of interment: hence it was necessary to erect temporary lodgings, or booths, in the neighbourhood of the churches, and procure provisions for the poor, which were distributed to them in charity by the pious of every denomination; as also to find refreshment for the strangers, whose devotion frequently brought them from very remote places on those occasions.”*

The same writer proceeds to observe that this institution retained its original character until the date of the reformation, when the “ ceremonies of the catholic religion were prohibited by penal statutes.” Since that period the patron-days of Ireland, like those of England, which are well known to be still held in

* The reader may be reminded that the practice of holding dedication-feasts has been ascribed to a very remote origin. “ At the Conversion of the Saxons, by Austin, the monk, the heathen paganalia were continued among the converts, with some regulations, by an order of Pope Gregory the Great, to Mellitus the Abbot, who accompanied Austin in his mission to this Island. His words are to this effect: on the day of dedication, or the Birth Day of holy Martyrs, whose relicks are there placed, let the people make to themselves booths of the boughs of trees, round about those very churches which had been the temples of Idols, and in a religious way to observe a feast: that beasts may no longer be slaughtered by way of sacrifice to the devil, but for their own eating, and the glory of God.” Brand’s Pop. Antiqs. vol. i. p. 423-4.

numerous parishes, under the names of Wakes and Revels, chiefly present scenes of boisterous amusement, to the entire neglect of the original intention. In many instances, however, religious ceremonials are still blended with the pursuits of ordinary recreation ; as an example of which may be noticed the *patron* held at Clonmacnois, on which day several thousands of persons assemble, from different parts of Ireland, for the performance of penance. Tents, or booths, on this occasion are erected round the churchyard, for the accommodation of the people.

The *Month's Mind*, a religious custom once general amongst the affluent of Britain, is still practised in many of the antient and opulent catholic families of Ireland. It is obvious that by this term is meant a month's *remembrance* ; and the ceremony commences four weeks after the interment of the person commemorated. The celebration is attended by numerous clergymen, who devote the forenoon of a day, or a certain number of days, to masses, and prayers for the souls of the deceased. The afternoons are occupied by hospitable entertainments.

POPULATION.

No proceedings for numbering the people of Ireland were entered upon by any branch of the legislature before the year 1731, but several estimates have been made by individuals, at different periods preceding and subsequent to that date. These estimates by private persons all rest on the same basis ; namely, " the number of houses, as ascertained by the hearth-money returns, and the probable average of souls to a house. The former of these was universally allowed, even by those who, for want of better materials, were compelled to have recourse to them, to be extremely doubtful, and tending, as far as relied on, to give a population much less than the truth : the latter was subject to no standard but the opinion of the calculator, supported occasionally by a very limited induction." We insert a table affording a synoptical view of these various estimates, in which the number of souls is calculated at six to a house, except in the estimate of Sir

William Petty, who calculates at the rate of five to a house. In the same table is also stated a return of population made to the House of Lords, in 1731.

POPULATION OF IRELAND.

| DATE. | NAME. | POPULATION. |
|-------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1672 | Sir William Petty. | 1,100,000 |
| 1695 | Captain South. | 1,034,102 |
| 1731 | Established Clergy. | 2,010,221 |
| 1754 | Hearth Money Collect. | 2,372,634 |
| 1767 | Ditto. | 2,544,276 |
| 1777 | Ditto. | 2,690,556 |
| 1785 | Ditto. | 2,845,932 |
| 1788 | Gervas P. Bushe, Esq. | 4,040,000 |
| 1791 | Hearth Money Collect. | 4,206,612 |
| 1792 | Doctor Beaufort. | 4,088,226 |
| 1805 | Thomas Newenham, Esq. | 5,395,426 |

Although the tract of Sir William Petty ("Political Anatomy of Ireland") which contains the estimate presented in the above table, is well known to be "a posthumous work, evidently unfinished, and avowedly published in the imperfect state in which it had been found at the author's death," we consider the following hypothetical passage to be too curious for omission. This author observes that if in 1641, (previous to the rage of the civil war) the Irish were in number about 1,200,000, which he believes to be the fact, then they were but 600,000 in number, two hundred years previous to that time, and not above 300,000 at the date of the invasion in the twelfth century; "for 300,000 people will, by the ordinary course of generation, become 1,200,000 in 500 years; allowance being made for the extraordinary effects of epidemical diseases, famines and wars."

The return made of the number of inhabitants in each county in the year 1731, was effected in obedience to an order of the House of Lords. It appears, from the journals of the House, "that this inquiry had been carried on simultaneously through two channels, the magistracy and the established clergy; and that the latter was preferred, as being of greater accuracy." But

considerable doubts are, with justice, entertained as to the correctness of this return.

In the year 1812, an act of the Imperial Parliament, “ for taking an account of the population of Ireland, and of the increase or diminution thereof,” received the royal assent, and was proceeded upon in the years 1813 and 1814. We regret to observe that, owing to various causes, “ the provisions of this act, guarded as they were with precautions apparently calculated to ensure success, did not produce the practical effect that might have been expected. Some counties treated the act as a dead letter, and made no return whatever ; in others the returns were confused, inaccurate or defective. In fine, it was found impossible to prepare from them, a digest fit to be laid before Parliament in the session of 1814 : and though in many instances the returns were repeatedly sent back for correction, and letters specially issued from the chief secretary to the grand juries and others concerned in conducting it, urging its accomplishment in the strongest terms, it was ascertained, at the close of the year 1814, that out of forty counties at large, and counties of cities and towns, into which Ireland is divided, but ten had attained the standard of perfection contemplated by the devisers of the measure ; six were wholly defaulting, and the remaining twenty-four defective or inaccurate, with respect to some of the points insisted upon in the schedule.”

An act for ascertaining the population of this country was introduced by the Right Honourable Robert Peel, in the year 1815, and received the sanction of the legislature ; but was not carried into effect. In the year 1821, returns of the population of Ireland were obtained, on an improved plan, under the authority of Parliament. By favour of W. Shaw Mason, Esq. who was greatly instrumental in facilitating the promptitude and accuracy of those returns, we are enabled to present the following tables, which afford A COMPENDIOUS VIEW OF THE DIFFERENT REPORTS, CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF HOUSES AND INHABITANTS IN THE SEVERAL COUNTIES OF IRELAND, IN THE YEARS 1813 AND 1821.

RETURN of the Number of Houses and Inhabitants in the several Counties of Ireland, as collected from the Enumerators' Periodical Returns of progress, and from the Reports of the Magistrates in the year 1821; together with a Comparative View of the Number of Houses and Inhabitants, as taken in 1813.

| COUNTIES, &c. | Number of Houses in 1813. | Number of Houses in 1821. | Number of Inhabitants in 1813. | Number of Inhabitants in 1821. | Increase of Inhabitants since 1813. |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| LEINSTER. | | | | | |
| Carlow | 12,090 | 13,854 | 69,566 | 81,287 <i>p</i> | 11,721 |
| Drogheda Town . . . | 3,086 | 3,463 | 16,123 | 18,118 <i>p</i> | 1,995 |
| Dublin County . . . | 16,633 | 21,987 | 110,437 | 160,274 <i>p</i> | 49,837 |
| Dublin City | 15,104 | 16,005 | 176,610 | 186,276 <i>p</i> | 9,666 |
| Kildare | 14,564 | 15,875 | 85,133 | 101,715 <i>m</i> | 16,582 |
| Kilkenny County . . | 23,414 | 26,479 | 134,664 | 157,096 <i>m</i> | 22,432 |
| Kilkenny City . . . | no return. | 4,321 | no return. | 23,230 <i>m</i> | — |
| King's County . . . | 19,705 | 23,032 | 113,226 | 132,319 <i>m</i> | 19,093 |
| Longford | 16,348 | 17,320 | 95,917 | 107,702 <i>m</i> | 11,785 |
| Louth | no return. | 17,428 | no return. | 101,070 <i>m</i> | — |
| Meath | 25,921 | 30,432 | 142,479 | 174,716 <i>m</i> | 32,237 |
| Queen's County . . . | 19,932 | 23,067 | 113,557 | 129,391 <i>p</i> | 15,534 |
| Westmeath | no return. | 23,478 | no return. | 128,042 <i>p</i> | — |
| Wexford | no return. | 29,513 | no return. | 169,304 <i>p</i> | — |
| Wicklow | 13,445 | 18,419 | 83,109 | 115,162 <i>p</i> | 32,053 |
| — | — | 284,673 | — | 1,785,702 | — |
| MUNSTER. | | | | | |
| Clare | 29,301 | 36,312 | 160,603 | 209,595 <i>m</i> | 48,992 |
| Cork County | 91,447 | — | 523,936 | 702,000 <i>p</i> | — |
| Cork City | 7,652 | 12,175 | 64,394 | 100,535 <i>m</i> | 36,141 |
| Kerry | 51,749 | 34,612 | 178,622 | 205,037 <i>p</i> | 26,415 |
| Limerick County . . | 17,897 | 36,089 | 103,865 | 214,286 <i>p</i> | 110,421 |
| Limerick City . . . | no return. | 8,268 | no return. | 66,042 <i>p</i> | — |
| Tipperary | 50,224 | 60,200 | 290,531 | 353,402 <i>m</i> | 63,871 |
| Waterford County . . | 19,342 | 21,493 | 119,437 | 127,679 <i>m</i> | 8,222 |
| Waterford City . . . | 3,581 | 4,052 | 25,467 | 26,787 <i>p</i> | 1,320 |
| — | — | — | — | 2,005,363 | — |
| ULSTER. | | | | | |
| Antrim | 42,258 | — | 231,548 | 261,601 <i>m</i> | 30,053 |
| Armagh | 21,944 | 37,714 | 191,449 | 196,577 <i>p</i> | 5,128 |
| Carrickfergus Town . | 1,166 | 1,444 | 6,136 | 8,255 <i>p</i> | 2,119 |
| Cavan | no return. | 34,744 | no return. | 194,330 <i>m</i> | — |
| Donegal | no return. | 46,000 | no return. | 249,483 <i>m</i> | — |
| Down | 53,310 | 62,425 | 287,290 | 329,348 <i>p</i> | 42,058 |
| Fermanagh | 19,291 | 22,912 | 111,250 | 130,399 <i>p</i> | 19,149 |
| Londonderry | 31,287 | 33,913 | 186,181 | 194,099 <i>p</i> | 7,918 |
| Monaghan | 27,066 | 33,197 | 140,433 | 178,183 <i>p</i> | 37,750 |
| Tyrone | 46,213 | — | 250,746 | 259,691 <i>m</i> | 8,945 |
| — | — | — | — | 2,001,966 | — |
| CONNAUGHT. | | | | | |
| Galway County . . . | 21,122 | 51,484 | 140,995 | 286,921 <i>p</i> | 145,926 |
| Galway Town | 3,353 | 4,185 | 24,684 | 27,827 <i>p</i> | 3,143 |
| Leitrim | 17,899 | 19,123 | 94,095 | 103,976 <i>p</i> | 11,881 |
| Mayo | 43,702 | 53,940 | 237,571 | 297,538 <i>m</i> | 60,167 |
| Roscommon | 30,254 | 38,289 | 158,110 | 207,777 <i>p</i> | 49,667 |
| Sligo | no return. | 24,246 | no return. | 127,879 <i>p</i> | — |
| — | — | 191,267 | — | 1,053,918 | — |

SUMMARY OF 1821.

| | Houses. | Inhabitants. |
|---------------------|---------|--------------|
| LEINSTER | 284,673 | 1,785,702 |
| MUNSTER | — | 2,005,363 |
| ULSTER | — | 2,001,966 |
| CONNAUGHT | 191,267 | 1,053,918 |

Total in Ireland ——— 6,846,949

- names this word usually appears to signify a fastness, an enclosure. It also signifies green.
- GLEANN, a valley, a glen.
- GORT, a cornfield, a garden.
- GUAL, coal.
- GURNA, a cave, a den, a hole.
- IAR, west.
- INBHEAR (sometimes written INVER) the mouth of a river.
- IOGHA, the yew-tree.
- LAG, a hollow, a cavity; also weak, feeble.
- LAN, full.
- LANN, a church, a fold, an enclosure.
- LAR, or LAWR, the centre.
- LEAC, or LEACK, a flat stone.
- LEIRG, a plain, a road, a way.
- LIATH, grey, hoary.
- LINN, a lake, a pool, a streight.
- LIOS, a palace, court, fortified place.
- LIS, dispute, conflict.
- LOCH, a lake, lough, arm of the sea.
- LONN, strong, powerful.
- MAGH, a plain, a field, a level country.
- MAIN, riches, patrimony.
- MAM, a hill, an eminence; also a gap, or pass through mountains.
- MIL, honey.
- MOINSE, a bog, a turbary.
- MOL, loud, clamorous.
- MONADH, a mountain.
- MOR, great, large.
- MUR, a wall, a bulwark, a house.
- MUIR, the sea.
- NEOCH, good.
- NUADH, new, modern.
- OGH, sacred, holy; also a point, an edge.
- OIR, the east; also precious, and a border.
- POLL, a hole, or pit; mire, dirt.
- RAC, a king, a prince.
- RAIGH, an arm.
- RATH, a fortress.
- REIDH, a plain, a level field, a green for play.
- REIGH, plain, open.
- REIM, a way.
- REILEAG, a church, a cemetery.
- ROSS, a promontory.
- RUADH, a reddish brown; a tint resembling that assumed by the leaves of many trees in autumn.
- SEAN, old.
- SIOL, race, tribe, or clan.
- SLIABH, a mountain.
- SLUAGH, an army, or concourse of people.
- SUIR, water, a river.
- TAIN, water.
- TALL, over, beyond.
- TAN, a country, territory.
- TAS, a dwelling.
- TEAGH, or TEACH, a house.
- TEAMPOLL, a church or temple.
- TEORA, a boundary, limit, outline.
- TIR, land, country, region.
- TOBAR, a fountain, source, spring.
- TOCHAR, a causeway.
- TOM, a bush, a thicket, a grove.
- TOR, a sovereign, a noble; a castle, or tower; a spire, or steeple; a bush, shrub; fruit.
- TRAIGH, the sea shore; a strand.
- TUATH, a lordship, a country; the north.
- TUILE, a flood.
- TULACH, a chief; a hill, a hillock.
- TULLA, a green, or common.
- UILE, all, superior greatness.
- UMADH, a cave.
- UR, border, limit; a valley; a heath; a grave; slaughter. This word also signifies green, and new.

The authorities chiefly consulted, in forming the above brief Glossary, are the Irish-English Dictionaries of O'Brien and O'Reilly, aided by some obliging communications from the author of the latter work. It may not be undesirable to cite, in this place, but without insisting on its accuracy, a remark of Mr. Chalmers (*Caledonia*, vol. i. p. 30) : " The Index to Beaufort's map contains 3842 names of cities, towns, baronies, villages, parishes, churches, mountains, lakes, rivers, bays, promontories, and islands : of these, 3028 are Gaelic names ; 171 are mixed names of Gaelic and English ; 623 appellations are English ; and, of the whole, only 20 names are Scythic, Scandinavian, or Gothic."

It is observed by the same writer, that " the Scandian names are confined to the coast, as we know, from Ware, the Eastmen were in their residence ; and these appellations are chiefly conspicuous, from their giving names to some of the maritime towns. The mixed names are composed by grafting English words on Irish roots ; as *Lif-ford*, *Achil-head*, *Ban-foot*, *Baile-borough*, *Gil-ford*, *Abbey-feal*. The English appellations are such as *Abing-ton*, *Ac-ton*, *Hills-borough*, *Lanes-borough*, *Mary-borough* ; *New-town*, *New-castle*, *Long-ford*, *Strat-ford*. The termination of *ford*, in those names, and in others, as it merely signifies the passage of several waters, must not be confounded, as Ware and Harris have mistakenly done, with the affix *ford*, in *Wex-ford*, *Water-ford*, *Carling-ford*, *Strang-ford*. The fact evinces that, in these names, the *ford* is affixed to some *bay*, *frith*, or *haven* ; and, consequently, must be the Scandinavian *fjord*, which denotes such collections of water."

The following remark of Sir J. Ware (*Antiqs. of Ireland* vol. ii. p. 46) will be found useful in topographical researches. " The words *Dal*, *Hy*, or *Ibh*, *Sioll*, *Clan*, *Kinell*, *Mac*, *Maicne*, *Muintir*, *Teallach*, and many others, are common adjectives in the Irish language, which, in their primary signification, denote the heads or founders of families, or the parts or branches descending from such heads ; but in a more lax sense they are taken for the territories, or tracts of country, possessed by them."

In addition to the information conveyed in previous pages, it

may be necessary to state the considerable difference which exists between the LAND MEASURES of Ireland and England.

The perch of Ireland contains 21 feet, or 252 inches ; the perch of England comprises no more than $16\frac{1}{2}$ feet, or 198 inches. The number of perches in the Irish and English miles is the same, i. e. 320 ; and the former, consequently, contains 80,640 inches, the latter 63,360. One Irish mile is, therefore, equal to 1M. 2F. $7\frac{3}{11}$ P. English ; or, to adopt a more frequent mode of comparison, eleven Irish miles are equal to fourteen English miles.

The square of the number of inches in the Irish perch is 63,504 ; and that of the number in the English perch, 39,204. Consequently, one Irish plantation acre is equal to 1A. 2R. $19\frac{21}{121}$ P. English ; or 121 Irish acres are equal to 196 English acres.

Having thus concluded such prefatory remarks as appear to be essential to the due illustration of Irish Topography, we proceed to a description of the country, its principal cities, towns, mansions, and antiquities, commencing with the Province of Leinster.

THE
Beauties
OF
I R E L A N D.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

LEINSTER, the eastern province of Ireland, is bounded on the north by the province of Ulster, the line of division on that side being chiefly artificial, but in other parts formed by the course of different rivers. Throughout a great part of its western limits it is separated from Connaught by the river Shannon; and on the south-west it meets the province of Munster. On the east and south its boundaries are washed by the Irish Sea.

This province comprises twelve counties, which are sub-divided into ninety-seven baronies, and 992 parishes. Writers differ as to the contents in square miles; but, according to Mr. Wakefield, the number is 7360, English measure. Leinster, under its present limits, is the most level part of Ireland, there being no great ranges of mountains, except those in the counties of Wicklow and Carlow. That vast plain which includes the Bog of Allen, and reaches entirely across the island, engrosses a considerable part of this province; but in other tracts the surface, if not boldly unequal, has a gentle and pleasing undulation. The sea-coast of this district is of a less sinuous character than that of any other provincial division of Ireland. The principal ports are those of Dublin, Dundalk, Drogheda, and Wexford.

Ptolemy states the country now comprehended in this province to have been inhabited, in the second century, by the tribes named Brigantes ; Menapii ; Cauci ; and Eblani.

We have already shewn that Leinster is that division of Ireland in which the English first effected a settlement. Continually fluctuating in extent, this eastern province constituted the district usually known, until the time of King James I. by the appellation of *the Pale*, or that part of the island chiefly inhabited by the English, and subject to English législation. Contests respecting the limits of this distinct and privileged territory were no less frequent than those in Britain, relating to the *borders* of the English and Scottish kingdoms. Concerning those disastrous struggles there remain very numerous traditionary tales, which are sometimes supported by historical documents, and which, in all instances, impart a vein of romantic interest to the former line of contention, and to the decaying castles in its vicinity.

This province contains the capital, and is justly considered to be the best cultivated, and most highly enriched part of Ireland. Leinster affords the title of Duke to the antient family of Fitzgerald. Our description of this fine district naturally commences with

THE CITY OF DUBLIN.

DUBLIN, the capital of Ireland, takes rank as the second city of the British empire, in regard to extent and population. It may be safely asserted that no city throughout Europe can produce so much splendour of modern architectural enrichment, in proportion to extent of site and number of domestic buildings. The discrepancies are numerous ; but, when viewed at points favourable to observation, Dublin is calculated, in a degree almost unrivalled, to impress on the spectator ideas of grandeur, polite habits of life, and national importance.

It is curious and useful to trace the rise and progressive increase of a great and attractive city through the vicissitudes of its annals ; and the interest we take in its description is, naturally, augmented by the familiarity thus acquired with its varied fortunes.

The earliest authentic mention of Dublin occurs in the work

of Ptolemy, who wrote in the second century of the christian æra. By this geographer a city on the eastern coast of Ireland is noticed under the name of *Eblana*; and, although he is mistaken as to the precise position, it is evident, from relative circumstances, that he describes under that appellation an assemblage of buildings on the site of the present metropolis. History does not produce documents for ascertaining the character of the town thus laid down by Ptolemy; but, if we receive as a criterion the state of society and of the arts among neighbouring nations, Dublin, probably, at that early period, consisted merely of simple huts, or cabins, protected, on the most exposed parts, by earthen works of rude construction.

It is observed by Mr. Harris that this city has been known by various *Names*. “The Irish,” at a very remote period, “called it Drom-Choll-Coil, that is, *the brow of a hazel-wood*, from an abundance of those trees growing about it.” To this day, adds the same writer, “the Irish call it Ath-Cliath, or *the ford of hurdles*, and Bally-Ath-Cliath, or *a town on the ford of hurdles*.” A conjecture at etymological deduction, assuredly ingenious, but quite sufficiently strained and fanciful, is presented in Dutton’s *Observations on Archer’s Statistical Survey*. After remarking that “the word *Ibh*, signifying a tribe of people, was often prefixed to the family names of the tribes that inhabited certain districts in Ireland, to express the territory,” this writer informs us that “*Laighean*, pronounced *Laihan*, was the *family name* of the people of the counties of Dublin and Meath; it is said they obtained this name from being expert at throwing the *Laighean*, or spear: be that as it may, *Ibh-laihan* was the name of the territory they inhabited, which, with the word *Du*, a country, formed *Du-ibh-laihan*, i. e. *Dublin*, that is, the country of the tribe of *Laihan*.” A more simple and obvious solution of the name by which the city is at present distinguished, may be found in the Irish *Dubh*, black, and *Linn*, water.

It is satisfactorily ascertained that the Danes, or Ostmen, seated themselves in this, the chief maritime town of the Eblani, at a very early period of their encroachments on the sea-coast of

Ireland ; but the mist of distant ages falls heavily on this period in our annals, and it is utterly impracticable to mention, decisively, the date at which they first obtained a permanent footing in Dublin. In Mr. Warburton's additions to the Annals compiled by Harris, it is said that, in the year 498, " the Ostmen, or Danes, entered the Liffey, with a fleet of sixty sail of ships, and possessed themselves of Dublin, Fingal, &c. ; and soon after environed the city with walls."—No ancient authority is given for this assertion, and few will believe that the city was authoritatively possessed, and actually fortified, by these rude invaders at so early a period.

It is evident, from various historical sources, that the Danes had obtained in the ninth century military power in Dublin ; and, in the absence of more explicit testimony, there appears reason to admit the probable correctness of the following statement made by Mr. Harris in the History of this city. " That the walls and fortifications about Dublin were raised by the Ostmen, or Danes, in the ninth century, is a point that admits of no controversy ; historians are uniform upon this head, though none of them are so particular as to fix an æra for the first erection. As it was the head and capital of their colonies in Leinster, from whence they issued out upon all occasions against their enemies, it is no way improbable but that they rendered it fit for defence and security soon after they first possessed it ; which seems to have been about the year 838, when we are told that a fleet of sixty sail of those foreigners entered the river Liffey, and another of the same number possessed themselves of the mouth of the river Boyne, at Drogheda." It is manifest, adds the same writer, on the authority of the Annals of Ulster, " that in the year 843, Nuad Mac-Segene, a religious of Kil-Achad, suffered martyrdom from the Danes of Dublin, who also pillaged the church of Kil-Achad."

We are told, in Ware's Antiquities, that, in the year 1000, the same people repaired and fortified the city with new works ; and that, five years afterwards, when King Melaghlin attacked Dublin, he destroyed the suburbs with fire, but was prevented from making any impression upon the city, on account of the strength of its walls.

Although the Danes, or Ostmen, appear to have effected a military settlement in Dublin without any important opposition, their sway was contested with considerable vigour in various subsequent ages. It is sufficiently evident that they established a form of civic and colonial government quite free from control, although policy induced them, except on any triumphant acquisition of temporary strength, to own subjection, and to pay tribute, to the provincial King of Leinster ; for it cannot be doubted but that they, in part, retained their original ardour for trading interchanges, mingled with the rapacity of the pirate and freebooter. In other words, when unable to spoliage they were content to barter. The Danish governors of Dublin assumed the title of King ; and numerous coins at once attest and commemorate their local sovereignty.

Strengthened by fresh bands of settlers, confederate with them in purposes of aggression and rapine, they shortly extended their conquests to contiguous districts ; and the associated invaders communicated the appellations by which they were respectively distinguished by the Irish, to several tracts bordering on Dublin. Thus, a district north of the city is termed *Fingall*, after a colony of Fins, or Norwegians ; and a tract on the south-east is still traditionally called *Dubh-gall* : the first signifying the white, or fair, the second the black-complexioned Gauls, or foreigners.

The conflicts between these unwelcome colonists and the Irish were so frequent, that a " brief chronicler " must decline the task of uniform and circumstantial recital. The most important events, however, in the warfare of the opposed parties demand notice. In the year 1014, stimulated to a unity of interests by the sanguinary incursions of this barbarous people, who, in their rage and avarice, carried the sword and firebrand into the sacred as well as the domestic buildings of the natives, several of the Irish princes formed a patriotic league, at the head of which was the renowned Brien Boromh. The Danish King, Sitric, also assembled a large power, calling to his aid many Danes and Norwegians from the Isle of Man and the Hebrides. The adverse

forces met at Clontarf, near this city, on the 23d of April in the above year ; and, on that day, was fought one of the most memorable battles in which the Irish were ever engaged against a foreign enemy. The action is believed to have terminated in favour of the Irish, although with the loss of their valiant king and general. A more extended account of this celebrated battle is given in our description of the village of Clontarf.

It is stated in some MS. annals, cited in Walsh's History of Dublin, that the Danes were so utterly reduced by the loss which they experienced in this sanguinary engagement, that the city was shortly after taken by assault, and set on fire by the Irish ; and again in the succeeding year (1015), according to the same annals, was Dublin " burnt upon the remnant of the Danes that survived the battle of Clontarf." But such intelligence is evidently erroneous ; as, in 1016, the " Gauls of Dublin" were enabled to act on the aggressive, and are recorded to have themselves burned Kildare and other places.

That the Danes suffered greatly in the severe action at Clontarf is certain, but, unhappily, they were enabled to retain possession of Dublin ; and the annals of many succeeding years evince a continuation of their power, and, as before, of power chiefly displayed in the exercise of tyranny, and the commission of flagrant crimes. It will not be supposed that the Irish annalists have overcharged this catalogue of evils, when we remember the injuries sustained by Britain, in the bloodshed of her best people, and the destruction of many amongst the fairest of her structures, from the same ferocious race.

In the Chronicle of the Kings of Man, inserted in Camden's Britannia, it is said, that, in the year 1066, Godred Crouan, king of that island, reduced Dublin, and a great part of Leinster ; under which latter term is evidently described merely the Danish territory of Fingall. The Chronicle published by Camden is not considered as indubitable authority ; but it is asserted by the Irish historians that Godred was King of Dublin, and also of Man and the Hebrides, at about this time, and reigned until the date of his death, which they place in 1076. That Dublin was not reduced

to a dependance on the smaller British isles is, however, apparent ; as, on the decease of Godred Crouan, the Ostmen of Dublin possessed the elective power, and named for their king, Godfrid Meranagh.

It is stated by Ware, that, in the year 1095, Mortogh O'Brien, king of Ireland, advanced to Dublin with a considerable force, and expelled Godfrid Meranagh. From the date of this expulsion, according to Mr. Harris, " we read of no other king of the Ostmen of Dublin for twenty-five years ; and therefore, probably, king Mortogh governed it, with the rest of Ireland, until his death in 1100 ; to which the MS. annals of Connell Mac-Geoghagan give some countenance, which say, that Mortogh was constituted King of Dublin, and of the Danes of Ireland."

The subject is confessedly of no great interest, but it may not be superfluous to observe that this account does not appear to be entirely correct. In the first volume of Vallancey's *Collectanea* it is asserted, on the authority of antient Irish annals, that Donal Gearrlamhach, or short-handed, son of Mortogh O'Brien, was King of Dublin, A. D. 1115 ; in which year he successfully gave battle to the united troops of all Leinster. On the resignation, or expulsion, of Donal, in 1118, we are informed, by MS. annals cited by Mr. Warburton, that Torlogh O'Connor " took upon him the sovereignty of the Danes of Dublin."

When the Anglo-Normans and the Welsh, under Robert Fitz-Stephen and Hervey De Montmorency, landed near Wexford, in the year 1170, they were speedily induced, by Dermot, king of Leinster, to direct their hostile efforts against the city of Dublin. Policy alone was sufficient to stimulate the allied powers to the capture of a walled and defensible city, so well calculated to form the metropolis of their expected conquests. But motives of revenge were super-added to incitements of a less violent character. Dermot had received from the Ostmen an insult of the most aggravated kind : they had treacherously murdered his father, and interred the mangled body with the carcass of a dog. The Welsh, who constituted a formidable part of the allied force, were almost as powerfully incensed against the same people, on account of the predatory visits frequently made by them to the principality.

Actuated by such urgent motives to warfare, the united powers entered the districts contiguous to Dublin, which they ravaged with sword and fire. Terrified by so severe an approach, and "finding their inability to resist," we are told, by native historians, that the Danes sued for peace ; which they obtained, on consenting to lay down their arms and give hostages for their allegiance. But it may be more rationally concluded that the real strength of the city proved too great to admit of an attack, in the existing exigencies of the hostile forces.

When the allied army was strengthened by Earl Strongbow and Raymond le Gros, with their puissant followers, its march was directed towards Dublin, with more efficient threats of vengeance. Roderic O'Connor, monarch of Ireland, advanced to the succour of the city, with a numerous body of troops ; but was compelled to recede, after some futile skirmishes with the enemy at Clondalkin, about five miles from Dublin towards the south-west.

Left thus to the fury of their assailants, the Ostmen sent to the adverse camp a deputation, led by Archbishop Laurence, a prelate greatly revered for moral worth and exemplary piety. The intercession of this benevolent churchman enforced a parley ; but, unhappily, the blow was suspended only to fall with more dreadful weight. The acts of bloodshed which ensued were rendered additionally deplorable by a breach of faith. Even whilst the semblance of a treaty was pending, the united forces rushed to the assault of the devoted city. We are told that one of the principal gates was destroyed, at this tremendous juncture, by an accidental fire. That misfortune probably accelerated the fall of the city. The besiegers entered with little opposition, and great numbers of the inhabitants were put to the sword. Asculph, the king, or governor, together with some of the principal Danes, escaped, by means of vessels lying in the harbour. The lordship of Dublin was now bestowed on Earl Strongbow, who named Milo de Cogan as his deputy.

The death of Dermot, King of Leinster, which occurred in 1171, caused an almost total defection of the Irish from their new

allies ; and the Britons, left to a reliance on their own resources, were shortly invested in the city of Dublin by a formidable army. Milo de Cogan commanded in the absence of Earl Strongbow, when Asculph, the Dane, appeared at the gates of Dublin, with a large body of troops, collected in the northern islands. The assailants directed their chief assault against the eastern quarter of the city, and an obstinate contest took place at the gate which stood in that direction, then called the gate of St. Mary les Dames, from a contiguous nunnery of that name. The besiegers were eventually put to flight, and were pursued to the sea, with considerable slaughter. Asculph was taken prisoner on the shore, as he fled towards his ships, and was conducted into Dublin, with some excess of triumph. When placed before the governor and attendant officers, he looked round with ferocious pride, and bade his conquerors reserve their exultation for the final issue of a war, which, if he lived, should put them to greater trials than they had yet experienced. It is said that Milo de Cogan had intended to spare this fierce Dane, on the condition of ransom ; but it is certain that, incensed by so bold a declaration, he ordered his head to be stricken off, which command was readily carried into execution.

There are few persons who will not agree with Lord Lyttelton, in thinking “ that it would have been a magnanimity, more becoming a soldier, to have set him at liberty, in contempt of his menace.”

The Ostmen made no further struggle to regain possession of the city. “ Many of them,” observes Harris, “ had before incorporated with the Irish ; and now, upon this great revolution, such as remained in the city, or neighbourhood, became quiet subjects to the English, and by degrees one people with them.”

When king Henry II. entered Ireland, in person, and made a stately, and, happily, a bloodless march through many parts of Munster and Leinster, Dublin was surrendered to him by Earl Strongbow, and he took possession of the city with due forms and ceremonials. The king held his court in this city during the Christmas festivities of 1172, and as much pomp and splendour were exhibited on that occasion, as were practicable under the

circumstances of the royal visit to a city so lately exposed to warfare and devastation. Dublin, at that time, afforded no structure sufficiently capacious for the banquets given by the English sovereign ; and there was erected for his use a temporary building, which is described by historians as a “ long pavilion, composed of smooth wattles, after the fashion of the country,” and is believed to have occupied a site near the old church of St. Andrew. This representation may be readily credited, when we remember that the Danes, by whom was built Dublin as it then stood, were a sordid race far from affecting dignity of domestic arrangement. Apartments so spacious as those required by Henry on this memorable occasion, could, indeed, be found in few provincial cities of the British Isles at that juncture ; for he was intent on entertaining the whole of the Irish princes who proffered him homage, together with all other principal persons of the country. This was a national entertainment, with a monarch presiding, surrounded by his retinue ; and it might be contended that the poverty of the city is by no means inferred, in stating that it was necessary to erect a new building, for the celebration of so unusual a solemnity.

From this date a new and brilliant æra commences in the history of Dublin. We have hitherto viewed the city as the abode of a rude colony, whose territory was limited to the district immediately contiguous. We are now to consider Dublin ascending progressively in the scale of cities ; first as the capital of the English Pale, and afterwards as the metropolis of the whole kingdom.

It is correctly ascertained that the English speedily enriched the city with public buildings, civil and ecclesiastical ; and it is also evident that they, as quickly, enlarged its boundaries. In an edict of king John, issued in the year 1205, the citizens are ordered to “ strengthen their city ;” from which words it has been surmised that the fortifications had then in some measure sunk to decay. The area comprised within the ancient walls, and the comparative extent of the city at different periods, are noticed in future pages. Our attention is, at present, devoted to a narration of the principal historical events connected with the

progress of the metropolis towards its existing state of civic importance and architectural splendour.

It is observable that Henry II. before he quitted Dublin, in 1173, invited to this place a colony from Bristol, the inhabitants of which city were, even at that early period, distinguished for habits of industry, and a spirit of commercial enterprize. In the translation of the charter then granted by Henry, is the following passage which demands transcription : “ Know ye, that I have given, granted, and by my charter confirmed to my subjects of Bristol, my city of Dublin to inhabit. Wherefore I will, and firmly command, that they do inhabit it, and hold it of me and of my heirs, well and in peace, freely and quietly, fully and amply, and honourably, with all the liberties and free customs which the men of Bristol have at Bristol, and through my whole land.”

In the year 1210, Dublin was visited by King John. Amidst the parade of many idle festivities, some regulations, of considerable importance to Ireland, were effected during this regal visit. The English territory was at this time divided into distinct counties, provided with sheriffs and other requisite officers. “ The king,” writes Dr. Leland, was, on this occasion, “ attended with men learned in the laws of his country, by whose counsel and assistance a regular code and charter of laws was ordained and appointed in this kingdom, and deposited in the exchequer of Dublin, under the king’s seal.” For the regular execution of these laws, the king’s courts of judicature were established in our city.*

The invasion of Ireland by Edward Bruce, in the early part of the fourteenth century, led to many public calamities, in which

* Upon the departure of John from Dublin, he left the government in the hands of John de Gray, bishop of Norwich; and it is worthy of remark that this prelate, by command of the king, caused pence and farthings to be coined, of the same standard as those in England, which had an equal currency in both kingdoms. “ On this new coin,” observes Mr. Harris (*Hist. of Dub.* p. 245.) “ was the king’s head in a triangle, inscribed JOHANNES REX, and on the reverse, a crescent and bright planet, with three lesser stars, or sterlings, in the three points of another triangle, with the mint-master’s name, ROBERD. ON DIVE. for Divelin, i. e. Dublin. The triangle on the Irish coins of this monarch, as well as those of his two

the city of Dublin participated. In the year 1316, Bruce appeared before the walls of Dublin, and threatened a regular siege. On this alarm, the citizens, as we are informed by Harris “to prevent any danger from his approach, by common consent set fire to Thomas-street, the flames whereof unfortunately laid hold of St. John’s church, without Newgate, and burned it down to the ground, together with Magdalen chapel, and all the suburbs. St. Mary’s abbey was destroyed, and St. Patrick’s church rifled by the enemy. The church of the Dominicans was also razed, and the stones of it employed in building and repairing the city walls, which were enlarged on the north part, and extended to the quays.”

The vigorous preparations of the inhabitants appear to have intimidated the Scottish prince, and he left Dublin unassailed, contented, for a time, with less perilous exploits in the county of Kildare.

King Richard II. on visiting Ireland in the year 1394, passed several months in this city. This royal visitant brought with him the crown-jewels, to increase the pomp of his appearance ; and maintained in Dublin a court of greater splendour than had before been witnessed. Several historians dwell, at some length, on the formalities with which the honour of knighthood was now conferred on four Irish princes, in the cathedral of Christ-church. A regal banquet succeeded, at which those princes, “in robes agreeable to their state,” sat with the king at table.

In the year 1399, King Richard was again at Dublin ; but,

“ Close by the regal chair,
Fell thirst and famine scowl
A baleful smile upon the baffled guest !”

Whilst recruiting in this city the strength of an army enfeebled by ill-directed efforts, and seeking, in his own person, a solace in luxurious entertainment, he received, to adopt the emphatical

next successors, have been supposed to represent a harp, the arms of Ireland, which was afterwards more fully impressed on the coins of some of the succeeding kings.

words of Leland, the tremendous news of his total ruin. According to the same writer, he heard these tidings with "abject dismay."—Never has Dublin witnessed the departure of a distinguished personage under such awful circumstances as those of the forsaken Richard, who quitted his last friend when his bark was wafted from these shores.

The rash and lamentable conduct of Thomas Fitzgerald, eldest son of the Earl of Kildare, plunged this city into very serious troubles in the year 1534. The Lord-deputy Kildare had not only offended several formidable parties in Ireland, but had become an object of suspicion in the view of the state, and was called into England, to answer certain charges preferred against him. On his departure he entrusted the administration of government to his son, a gallant but inexperienced youth, scarcely twenty-one years of age. On an unfounded rumour of the execution of his father in England, this youthful deputy rushed into open rebellion. At the head of an armed force he abruptly entered the Abbey of St. Mary, where the council was assembled, and resigning the sword of state, declared himself the mortal foe of the king and government.

For a considerable time Lord Thomas traversed the pale with a tumultuary army, subject to only trifling opposition; and he at length appeared before the gates of Dublin, and obtained, according to some writers, a ready passage through the city for the purpose of laying siege to the castle. Whilst his ill-organized troops lingered over the assault of this fortress, the young Fitzgerald was absent, in hostile operations against the earl of Ossory; but, on encouragement received from England, the citizens, who had hitherto remained neuter, suddenly closed their gates, and made prisoners of the party engaged in assailing the castle.

The insurgents now commenced a siege of the city, but without sufficient troops, or necessary provisions, for such an enterprise. History has not preserved any events, of general interest, connected with the military operations which ensued, but the following particulars may not be unacceptable, in a topographical point of view. On finding that his overtures to the citizens were

peremptorily rejected, Lord Thomas “laid a formal siege to the castle, in Sheep-street; but he was soon driven from thence, partly by the ordnance from the castle, and partly by an artificial fire,” prepared by an individual, “which burned down the thatched houses, and took from him all advantages of shelter.”

He fixed his next position in Thomas street, “having demolished the partitions of the houses on both sides, and thereby made a covered gallery, by which both his horse and foot were defended from any gunshot from the walls.” The citizens were encouraged to persevere in resistance, from a conviction that many of Fitzgerald’s followers had been forced to take arms in his cause, whilst they secretly favoured the loyal party. It was found that the greater number of the arrows shot over the walls were headless, and to several of them were attached letters, conveying intelligence respecting the movements and designs of the rebellious general.

Some of the principal efforts of the beseigers were directed towards the city gate termed New-gate, which they attempted to destroy by means of fire. At this critical juncture the citizens shouted from the walls that succours were arrived from England; and, profiting by the alarm created by such intelligence, they made a vigorous sally, in which many of the rebels were slain. Lord Thomas shortly after withdrew his small and shattered army from the siege, the citizens having previously consented to enlarge such of his party as had fallen into their hands, on condition of his restoring their children, many of whom he had seized in the villages to which they had been removed from Dublin, on account of the plague.

In the civil wars of the seventeenth century, Dublin, as the seat of vice-regal government, was the theatre of many transactions truly important in the general history of the island. The city was, in several years of this disastrous æra, threatened with assault, but was fortunate in escaping the miseries of an active siege.

In 1646, the Marquess of Ormonde made vigorous preparations to defend the metropolis against the expected attack of the “old Irish” of the north. On this occasion, we are told, that the

females of Dublin set a memorable example of public spirit, the Marchioness of Ormonde, and other ladies, placing themselves at their head, and the whole assisting in the labour of carrying baskets of earth to the lines of fortification. But notwithstanding this display of activity, the Marquess was, in fact, destitute of resources for permanent resistance; and, thus circumstanced, he felt compelled to treat with the Parliamentary party. In the mean time the two catholic generals, O'Nial and Preston, advanced to Dublin, with an army of 16,000 foot and 1600 horse, and set down before the city. Winter now raged with considerable severity, and the country, for several miles round, had been reduced to a state of desolation, by command of the Marquess, who caused the corn, the bridges, and the mills to be destroyed in every direction. Eventually, the armies of O'Nial and Preston were withdrawn, without any attempt of importance, on intelligence being received of the arrival of forces sent by the English parliament.

In 1647, Ormonde resigned his office of Lord Lieutenant, and delivered up the city to commissioners appointed by parliament. Colonel Michael Jones, a bigoted and severe republican, was now appointed governor, and succeeded in maintaining Dublin for the parliament, against the various hostile parties into which Ireland was then divided.

When Ormonde again repaired to arms, A. D. 1649, in behalf of the king, the reduction of Dublin appears to have constituted his favourite object. The force at his disposal was scarcely sufficient for such an undertaking, it consisting of no more than about 7000 foot and 4000 horse; with which army he first encamped at Fin-glas. On taking measures for the blockade of the city on all sides, the Marquess, with a considerable body of troops, fixed his station at Rathmines, on the south side of the Liffey, proposing to extend his works to the east, so as to command the entrance of that river. Although intent on persevering in the investment of Dublin, he found it necessary to reduce his small army by detaching Lord Inchiquin, with three regiments of horse, to strengthen such garrisons in the south as were favourable to the

royal cause. At this juncture took place the following circumstances, which provoked the garrison to make a sally, and brought on the decisive conflict sometimes termed the battle of Rathmines.

Certain officers of the royal army, possessed of more bravery than sound judgement, observing that the horses of the besieged chiefly depended for subsistence on some meadows near the walls, upon the south side of the city, succeeded in promoting an enterprize for gaining possession of the castle of Baggotrath, contiguous to that pasture-land, which they believed might be defensibly fortified by the labour of one night. This enterprize was undertaken by an officer named Purcell, with 1500 foot, whilst the remainder of the forces were drawn up in readiness to support him against any hostile operations of the garrison. The movement was made in the depth of night; and it is supposed that the guides were treacherous. Thus, many hours were wasted in traversing the country; and, on the appearance of morning, the Marquess found the projected works only slightly advanced, whilst the motions of the besieged evinced a disposition towards a general engagement. This active commander had passed the whole of the night either in the field or in watchful cares within his tent, and when he retired, after day-break, for the purpose of necessary repose, he was speedily aroused by repeated discharges of musquetry. The besieged had issued in considerable strength from the walls of Dublin, and his attenuated force gave way in every direction. Not less than 600 were slain, and about 1800, including 300 officers, were made prisoners. Such was the "battle of Rathmines," which is scarcely entitled to the character of a regular engagement. The Marquess, on the dispersion of his army, retired to Kilkenny, leaving the city of Dublin in the possession of the republican government.

The citizens of Dublin evinced a zealous desire for the restoration of royalty, in the person of Charles the Second. In January, 1659, Lord Montgomery, Sir Oliver Saint-George, and other persons of considerable consequence, possessed themselves of the castle; by a prompt and desperate effort made Jones and two

of his colleagues prisoners; and declared for a free parliament. On a petition of the magistracy of Dublin, the persons constituting a council of officers, who now assumed the government of Ireland, summoned a convention of estates. The declaration of Breda was cheerfully accepted; and Charles II. was proclaimed with manifestations of great joy.

This city was exposed to heavy and lasting troubles, on account of the violence of party feeling by which all classes were agitated, on the expulsion of James II. from the British throne. Shortly after that imbecile sovereign landed in Ireland, he marched to Dublin, which city he entered on the 24th of March, 1689, with a splendid train, and summoned a parliament to meet on the 7th of May. In the same year a mint was erected in Dublin, from which were issued coins of a nominal value, composed of the worst brass and the refuse of metals, melted together, but made current by proclamation.*

To this city the ruined king repaired, in great disorder, after losing the battle of the Boyne. It is said that it had been deliberated whether, on such an emergency, Dublin should not be set on fire, but that James charged his friends, on their allegiance, not to commit so barbarous an outrage, which must dishonour his cause and incense the mind of the conqueror. From Dublin James fled precipitately to Waterford, at which place he embarked for France.

The advance of King William towards the capital, after his success on the banks of the Boyne, was slow, and he encamped at

* When James resorted to this most injurious measure, he caused possession to be taken of the tools and engines of an individual named Moore, who enjoyed the right of a copper coinage in Ireland, by virtue of a patent of Charles II. We are told (by Simon on Irish Coins) that from every pound in weight of the base materials now used, valued at fourpence, there were produced and circulated coins to the nominal value of five pounds. The fictitious value was varied by different proclamations; and James promised, that, when this fallacious money should be disused, he would make full satisfaction in gold or silver. The half-crown piece was the largest coin struck at this time, and has "represented on one side the king's head, in bust, inscribed JACOBUS II. DEI GRATIA. and on

Finglas, distant from the city about three miles. From that place he made his entry with much military pomp, and repaired to the cathedral church of St. Patrick, to render solemn thanks for his victory.

The remaining annals of this metropolis, until the year 1821, chiefly consist of such particulars as do not demand separate notice, but will be sufficiently discussed in our view of the public institutions and buildings connected with the improvement of the city, and its increase in extent and population.

The year 1821, was marked by an event of distinguished importance in the history of the country at large—the visit to Ireland of his Majesty, King George IV. ; a royal progress truly glorious to the Sovereign, and gratifying to all classes of his people. Ireland, through many centuries, had been a stranger to the person of her crowned rulers, except when they entered the country in arms. It remained for the fourth monarch of the line of Brunswick to establish a new æra in the sway of the British sceptre,

the reverse a crown laid on two sceptres in saltier, with *I. R.* inscribed *MAG. BR. FRA. ET. HIB. REX.* 1689. Above the crown were *XXX.* denoting its value to be thirty-pence, and on the exergue, the month wherein the several pieces were coined, as *Aug. Sept. Oct.* The Shillings and sixpences were the same. By another proclamation, dated in December following, the Half-crowns were called in, and, being stamped anew, made to pass for crowns. These pieces bore the king on horseback, inscribed *JAC. II. DEI. GRA. MAG. BRI. FRA. ET. HIB. REX.* On the reverse a crown imperial, guarded with the four royal scutcheons (crosswise and each crowned) of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, interwoven with *ANNO DOM. 1690*, and inscribed *CHRISTO VICTORE TRIUMPHO.* In 1690, shortly previous to the battle of the Boyne, brass and copper grew scarce, and pewter was used in the coinage of James. The pieces composed of that material were intended to pass at the currency of a crown, but it appears that they were never issued, and they are now very rarely seen, even in the cabinets of the curious. Mr. Harris thus states the difference between these and the pieces noticed above : “ they had on the breast and flank of the horse two small specks of copper, and the imperial crown between the scutcheons was also struck on a bit of copper. They were, besides, ornamented about the edges with this inscription, *MELIORIS TESSERA FATI. ANNO REGNI SEXTI.*”

by approaching these shores in the character of a Patriot-King, equally attentive to the interests of every part of his dominions. The wisdom of this measure can scarcely fail to have a beneficial operation on the future fortunes of the country; and the visit may be viewed as a solemn ratification of the Union, in heart and hand, between the sister kingdoms.

The enthusiasm manifested by all ranks in preparing for the reception of a sovereign so justly beloved, was such as might be expected from a generous people, too long accustomed to neglect, and warmly responsive to overtures of friendship and liberality. As the harbinger of advantages to be anticipated from the paternal notice of a benignant ruler, it is grateful to observe that the invidious distinctions of party were forgotten, in arrangements for welcoming the august personage whose best prerogative is a superiority to party feeling. The welcome wafted towards his approaching bark, was that of a nation, united in one sentiment of respect towards a sovereign whose friendship was extended to all.

It was believed that the King would land at Dunleary, and very extensive preparations were made for receiving him at that place. In consequence of the decease of the Queen, intelligence of which event was conveyed to his Majesty whilst the royal squadron was detained by contrary winds, off the coast of Wales, he declined an immediate public entry of the metropolis; and, from the continuance of adverse winds, was induced to prosecute the remainder of his voyage in a manner quite unexpected, but particularly favourable to a private landing. As the passage from Holyhead was likely to be difficult and long, for vessels depending solely on the agency of the wind and tide, his majesty quitted his yacht, and embarked in the steam-packet, called the *Lightning*, commanded by Captain Skinner; by which packet he was safely conveyed to the Irish shore. He landed at the pier of Howth, at about half past four, P.M. on Sunday, the 12th of August, the anniversary of his Majesty's birthday; an event and a day which will long be joyfully remembered in the country upon which his landing bestowed a new degree of interest.

Sir Benjamin Bloomfield was in attendance to receive his royal master ; but comparatively few other persons were apprized of the mode in which the King would arrive. Considerable numbers, however, were attracted to Howth, by the customary recreations of the Sunday, or a vague hope of the King's arrival. Amongst those who had correct intelligence were several noble persons, who assembled on the pier to greet his approach ; but the greater part of the concourse was composed of various ranks fortuitously collected ; and by these honest, but incongruous, organs of the general feeling, he was received with loud and repeated acclamations of joy and welcome. We may well suppose that this cordial reception, from an indiscriminate assemblage, must have been peculiarly gratifying to the august visitant. His Majesty first placed his foot on Irish ground with marked alacrity ; and, by his demeanour, evinced that he was, on this occasion, well contented to admit, as a substitute for more polished harangues, the spontaneous language of the heart, bursting from classes so different in degree, but all uniform in sentiment. As a memorable feature connected with the unostentatious confidence in which George the Fourth landed in Ireland, it must be remarked that there was not present either military guard or police officer ; and, without any other escort than that of an attached people, his Majesty proceeded, in the carriage which awaited his arrival, to the Vice-regal Lodge in the Phoenix Park.

The King, during his visit to Ireland, chiefly resided at the Vice-regal Lodge ; and, for some days after his arrival, remained at that seat in great privacy, in consequence of the recent decease of the Queen. The public entry of his Majesty into Dublin took place on Friday, the 17th of August, and constituted the most magnificent, as well as the most gratifying, spectacle ever witnessed in this city. The splendid procession by which the King was conducted into the metropolis was arranged nearly in the following order.

A squadron of Cavalry, with a band.

Esquires.

Governors of the County of Dublin.

The High Sheriff of the County of Dublin.

The Masters in Chancery.

The King's Serjeants at Law.

The King's Solicitor-General.

The King's Attorney-General.

Companions of the Order of the Bath.

Knights Bachelors.

Knights Commanders of the Bath.

Grand Crosses of the Bath.

Baronets.

The Provost, Fellows, and Scholars of Trinity College.

Younger Sons of Barons.

Younger Sons of Viscounts.

Barons of the Exchequer, and Justices of both Benches, according
to their seniority, the Juniors first, and
all habited in their robes.

Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

Master of the Rolls.

Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

The Vice Treasurer.

Privy Counsellors not being Peers.

Eldest Sons of Barons.

Younger Sons of Earls.

Eldest Sons of Viscounts.

Secretaries of State.

Barons.

Bishops.

Younger Sons of Marquesses.

Eldest Sons of Earls.

Viscounts.

Eldest Sons of Marquesses.

Earls.

Marquesses.

Archbishop of Tuam.

Archbishop of Cashell.

Archbishop of Dublin.

The Lord Chancellor.

The Lord Primate.

Then his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant's State, in carriages and on horseback, as follows :

The State Trumpeters, Two and Two.

The Serjeant Trumpeter.

The Pursuivants Messengers.

Grooms of the Chamber.

Pursuivants.

The Lord Lieutenant's Pages.

Gentlemen at large.

Pursuivants.

Gentlemen of the Bedchamber.

Athlone Pursuivant of Arms.

Master of the Horse.

Serjeants of Arms, with their Maces.

Steward and Comptroller of the Household.

Gentlemen Ushers and Chamberlain.

Cork Herald.

Dublin Herald.

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Two Aides de | The Sword of State borne | Two Aides de |
| Camp. | by a Peer, (the Duke of Leinster) | Camp. |

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Gentleman Usher | HIS EXCELLENCY | Ulster King of |
| of the Black Rod. | THE | Arms. |
| | LORD LIEUTENANT. | |

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Two Aides de | Colonel of the Battle | Two Aides de |
| Camp. | Axe-Guards. | Camp. |

The Battle-Axe Guards.

The Town Major.

Squadron of Cavalry.

His Majesty rode in an open carriage, drawn by eight horses, and repeatedly noticed, in the most gracious manner, the enthusiastic acclamations with which he was continually greeted by the vast multitudes assembled to testify their loyal sentiments on this happy occasion. When the King arrived at the bounds of civic jurisdiction, the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs,

Aldermen, and Recorder, approached, and the Lord Mayor delivered to his Majesty the City keys, on a silver salver ; which he immediately returned. The Recorder was then introduced, and addressed to his Majesty an appropriate speech. The Lord Mayor and the Civic Body now preceded the carriage of the Lord Lieutenant ; and, with no other alteration of order, the procession moved towards the castle. At half-past two o'clock His Majesty entered the Castle-gate, intelligence of which event was promulgated by the discharge of a rocket, and a royal salute was immediately fired in the Park.

When the King entered the castle, he received from the Lord Lieutenant the sword of state, which he replaced in the hands of the Viceroy, Charles-Chetwynd, Earl Talbot. His Majesty afterwards received on the throne addresses from the city of Dublin ; the provost, fellows, and scholars of Trinity College ; and the clergy of the established church.

The weather, on this proud and auspicious day, was extremely fine ; and the most excellent order was preserved by the immense concourse of spectators. The procession was conducted with admirable skill and regularity, and no event took place to detract from the gratification of the sovereign or the joy of his subjects. In the evening the city was brilliantly illuminated.

On Saturday, August 18th, his Majesty was present at a review of the troops in the Phoenix Park, and the City was again illuminated on the evening of that day. On the morning of the following Sunday he attended divine service at Christchurch Cathedral, when a sermon was preached by the Archbishop of Dublin.

On Monday, August 20th, his Majesty held his first levee at the Castle of Dublin, which was very numerously attended by persons distinguished by rank or talent from all parts of the kingdom.

Amongst the ceremonials most conspicuous for grandeur and interest, during this royal visit, was that of an Installation of Knights Companions of the most illustrious order of St. Patrick. This installation was held in the cathedral of St. Patrick, on Tuesday, the 28th of August. The whole of the ceremonies were

performed with all possible magnificence, and the presence of the Sovereign shed over the stately proceedings an air of solemnity that imparted additional dignity to the national order. The Knights on that day invested with this illustrious order, were his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland (Lord Graves being proxy); the Marquess of Donegal; his excellency Earl Talbot; the Earl of Caledon; the Earl of Ormonde; the Earl of Meath; the Earl of Fingal; the Earl of Courtown; and the Earl of Roden.

After the ceremonies of the Installation a magnificent dinner took place in St. Patrick's Hall, at which his Majesty was present.

On the evening of Thursday, the 30th of August, a ball, of unusual splendour, was given at the Rotunda by the Knights of St. Patrick. His Majesty honoured this festivity with his presence, and it must be nearly superfluous to observe that the scene was resplendent in rank, beauty, and fashion.

Trinity College was honoured with his Majesty's presence at a sumptuous dinner; and the Lord Mayor had, likewise, the honour of entertaining his Majesty at the Mansion-house. Intent on acquiring all practicable knowledge concerning a city so greatly ennobled by public structures, and so well entitled to the personal notice of royalty, his Majesty favoured with his inspection the principal buildings and institutions of Dublin. His gracious attention to the solid interests of the country was especially evinced by his not omitting, among these objects of examination, the Lincn-hall, a building and establishment connected with the staple manufacture of the country.

Amongst different addresses received by the King, whilst he held his court at Dublin, must be noticed that of the Roman Catholic bishops and clergy of Ireland. The limited duration of this, his Majesty's first visit to Ireland, allowed of few excursions to places at any considerable distance from the metropolis. The principal country seats distinguished by his presence were Slane-castle, in the county of Eastmeath, the noble family residence of the Marquess Conyngham, and Powerscourt-house, in the county of Wick-

Wicklow, the mansion of Viscount Powerscourt. He also favoured with a visit the Curragh, in the county of Kildare, and witnessed, but in weather painfully unpropitious, the equestrian sports of that celebrated race-ground. Previously to leaving Dublin, his Majesty was pleased to bestow marks of his royal bounty on numerous charitable institutions.

On quitting Ireland his Majesty embarked at Dunleary, since termed King's-town. His embarkation took place on Monday, the 3rd of September; and before he proceeded to Dunleary his Majesty made a short excursion into the county of Wicklow, then honouring with his presence the fine seat of Lord Viscount Powerscourt. He left the Vice-regal Lodge in the Phoenix Park at one o'clock; and after visiting the mansion of Lord Powerscourt, arrived at Dunleary at about half past six o'clock in the evening. Due preparations were made at that port for the convenience and dignity of his embarkation. A pavilion, surmounted with the British crown, richly gilt, was erected for the accommodation of his Majesty, at which he was received, on alighting from his carriage, by the Lord Lieutenant, and other distinguished personages. The concourse of spectators, or rather of cordial actors in the ceremony of farewell to the august visitant, was immense; and the expressions of regret, and the reiterated blessings on the royal footsteps, which burst from the prodigious multitude, must have proved grateful, far, very far, beyond the most flattering plaudits that ever attended a conqueror's progress. The triumph here celebrated was that of an enlarged dominion over the best affections of a gallant, discriminating, and generous people. His Majesty received at Dunleary an address from the inhabitants of Dublin, to which, and other denotations of attachment towards his person, he made a brief, but gracious and impressive reply. He repeatedly waved his hand, with smiles of approbation and good-will, as he proceeded towards the water's edge.

Owing to adverse winds, the royal squadron did not finally quit the Irish coast until Friday, the 7th of September; but his Majesty, after formally embarking, remained on board his yacht.

On the day of his departure from Dublin, his Majesty caused

to be addressed to his excellency Charles-Chetwynd, Earl Talbot, Lord Lieutenant, a memorable letter, which we transcribe in this place, as the sentiments it inculcates are essential, in an important degree, to that increase of national prosperity which we hope may be confidently expected from the new æra in the history of Ireland produced by this visit of the Sovereign.

“ Dublin Castle, Sept 3, 1821.

“ MY LORD,—The time of the King’s departure from Ireland being arrived, I am commanded by his Majesty to express his entire approbation of the manner in which all persons acting in civil and military situations in the city of Dublin and its neighbourhood have performed their several duties during the period of his Majesty’s residence in this part of the kingdom. His Majesty is pleased to consider that to your Excellency his acknowledgments are particularly due. He is conscious how much he owes to your Excellency’s attentions and arrangements; and his Majesty gladly avails himself of this occasion of declaring the high sense which he entertains of the ability, temper, and firmness with which your Excellency has uniformly administered the great trust which he has placed in your hands.

“ I am further commanded to state, that the testimonials of dutiful and affectionate attachment which his Majesty has received from all classes and descriptions of his Irish subjects, have made the deepest impression on his mind; and that he looks forward to the period when he shall revisit them with the strongest feelings of satisfaction. His Majesty trusts that, in the mean time, not only the spirit of loyal union, which now so generally exists, will remain unabated and unimpaired; but that every cause of irritation will be avoided and discountenanced; mutual forbearance and good-will observed and encouraged; and a security be thus afforded for the continuance of that concord amongst themselves, which is not less essential to his Majesty’s happiness than to their own, and which it has been the chief object of his Majesty, during his residence in this country, to cherish and promote.

“ His Majesty well knows the generosity and warmth of heart

which distinguish the character of his faithful people in Ireland, and he leaves them with a heart full of affection towards them, and with a confident and gratifying persuasion, that this parting admonition and injunction of their Sovereign will not be given in vain.

“ I have the honour to be, with great truth and regard,

“ My Lord,

“ Your Excellency's most obedient and faithful servant,

“ SIDMOUTH.

OF THE ANTIENT STATE OF DUBLIN, ITS WALLS, DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE, AND RELIGIOUS FOUNDATIONS.

Previously to entering on a description of the existing importance and magnificence of Dublin, as displayed in extent of site and beauty of architectural embellishment, it is necessary, for the purposes of historical and topographical delineation, to examine into its boundaries and character whilst it constituted the theatre of many early, but distinguished transactions, recorded in former pages.

The walls of the antient city, including those of the castle, did not exceed in extent one Irish mile, and the space which they encompassed (as may be perceived by a reference to the map of Dublin, made by Speed in 1610) approached to an oblong form, except that a considerable contraction, or deviation from the right line, occurred on the south-west. From the north, or store, tower of the castle, now demolished, “ the city wall was carried by the garden of Cork-house, which was antiently the church-yard of St. Mary les Dames, unto Dame's gate, which stood upon the rising of Cork-hill, opposite to a small alley, called by some Scarlet-alley, and by some Salutation-alley. It must here be noticed, that the street now called Cork-hill, is no antient name of the place, but was affixed to it only in the last century, from a house erected there by the first Earl of Cork.”*

* Hist. of Dublin by Harris, p. 57 ; from which work (the most valuable authority in regard to the former state of this City) are derived all such passages in the following account of antient Dublin, as are marked by inverted commas.

Dame's-gate, " antiently called the eastern-gate and St. Mary's-gate, and so mentioned by Maurice Regan," stood near the centre of the city wall, on the north-east, and derived its name from the church of St. Mary les Dames, which occupied a contiguous site within the walls. This gate, which was " built with towers, castle-wise, and was armed with a portecullis," was one of the narrowest entrances into the city, and was taken down in the early part of the 18th century. In the time of Charles I. " the places where now Crane-lane, Essex-street, Temple-bar, and Fleet-street are built, were a strand and slough, and there was a small harbour near the foot of Dame's-gate, from whence Archbishop Alan, in 1534, took boat, intending to fly to England, to avoid the fury of Thomas Fitzgerald. This slough was reclaimed, and the river imbanked with quays, in the reign of King Charles II. and the council-chamber, and other structures being built there, it was thought necessary by the government, in regard to the incumbrances daily increased by the growth of trade, to make another aperture in the city wall, which was done in the government of Arthur, Earl of Essex, in 1675, by demolishing Isod's-tower, and in the room of it erecting a new gate, which then got the denomination of Essex-gate," since also demolished.

The exact situation of Isod's-tower is not noticed, either by Speed or Harris, but we learn, from the latter authority, that the wall extended from that structure NNW. until " it joined Newman's-tower, by some called Buttevant's-tower, on the banks of the river, a little west of the place where Essex-bridge now stands ; and from thence, at no great distance, it was annexed to another tower, antiently called Case's-tower, but, in latter times, the Baker's-tower, the same having been long held as the Baker's-hall."

To the west of Case's-tower, on the walls of the city, at the end of Fishamble-street, stood a " castle," which in different ages was known by the successive appellations of Proutefort's and Fyan's-castle, probably from two families bearing those names. A strong building, termed the old Crane, which was for some time used as a custom-house, stood near the walls,

“between the Wood-quay and Merchant’s-quay, at the end of Wine-tavern-street, but seems to have been more modern than the towers and castle before mentioned, and to have been erected for other purposes than defence.” Part of the building remained in the 18th century, and from this structure a line of wall, erected when the city was threatened by Edward Bruce, A.D. 1316, “stretched in a direct line along Merchant’s-quay, till it joined the Bridge-gate, standing on the south side of the old bridge, which gave name to one of the most antient streets in the city, called from thence Bridge-street, and afforded also another inlet to the city. This gate was not coeval with the bridge, which was built in the reign of King John, but was erected in 1316, against Bruce’s attempt.”

From Bridge-gate the wall was continued “on the west side of Bridge-street to another gate, which stood between the south end of the said street and the lower end of New Row.” This is called by Stanihurst, Gormund-gate, but is by other writers termed Ormonde-gate. The spot on which it stood is now known by the name of Wormwood-gate.

From the gate termed Ormonde’s, the wall stretched up a steep hill to Newgate, which latter structure was used as a prison until the erection of a more spacious gaol, in recent years.* Considerable remains of the city wall were lately to be seen in this direction; but those fragments of antiquity were destroyed on the opening of upper Bridge-street.

From Newgate “the wall was carried south-east along the rear of Back-lane, to another aperture in it, at St. Nicholas’s-gate, and in this extension it supported three towers; the first of which was called the Watch-tower, placed near Newgate, where ordinarily a sentry stood, heretofore, to guard the prisoners therein confined. The second tower was in shape octangular, but was usually called the Hanging-tower, from a propension, or lean-

* It is proved by the foundation charter of the hospital of St. John “without Newgate,” that this fortified entrance of the city was known by the appellative “New” about the year 1188.

ing posture, it had towards the suburbs. The third of these towers stood between the Hanging-tower and St. Nicholas's-gate, and was called sometimes the Round-tower, from its figure, and sometimes St. Francis's-tower, from its position opposite to the garden of the Franciscan friery, which is now all covered with buildings."

Between Ormonde-gate and the gate of St. Nicholas, the wall, instead of being placed at right angles with the other lines of mural defence, experienced that indentation which we have previously noticed. In its further progress it was carried "at the back of a mill-race in Bride's-alley;" and in that neighbourhood we believe some vestiges are still to be seen.

The first opening in the line of wall on the south-east was formerly termed Pool-gate, "from a confluence of water which settled in this hollow, and was often troublesome to passengers, till a bridge was thrown over it. In latter times this gate has been called St. Werburgh's-gate, in regard to its situation at the south end of a street of that name, dividing the same from Bride's-street, or St. Bridget's-street."

From Pool-gate the wall proceeded in nearly a direct line, until "it terminated with the castle, at Birmingham-tower, a little beyond a small tower which stood on the city-wall, in the room of which was afterwards erected a little building, projecting out of Hoccy's-alley." Here "a good part of the city wall" was to be seen, when the posthumous History of Dublin by Mr. Harris was published in 1766. The principal remains are now removed, but the wall may still in some places be traced, under workshops in the rear of Hoccy's-court.

We are told by Harris that there was "anciently, hercabouts, a small gate which gave an entrance into the city from Sheep-street to Castle-street,* called St. Austin's-gate, not as some

* On digging, in the early part of the present century, the foundation of the Quarter Master-general's Office, near the gate leading from the Castle-yard to Sheep-street, there was found a boat, made in the ribbed manner, but of rude construction. This discovery took place at about the depth of twelve feet from the surface.—Information afforded by F. Johnston, Esq. architect of the Board of Works.

have imagined, because it opened a passage to a monastery of Augustin-friers, which, to support their notion, they mistakingly place in Castle-street. For that religious house did not lie within the city, but without the walls, northward of Dame's-street, almost opposite to the end of George's-lane, where some footsteps of the ruins of it were lately to be seen, at the bottom of Crow-street." In the correction of such an opinion Mr. Harris observes that "this gate took the name of Austin's-gate, either as it was dedicated to that saint, or as it afforded a passage to the friers of that order to attend the citizens in their nightly confessions and other duties, when the principal gates of the city were kept close shut and guarded." According to the same historian, "before the building of the castle, the wall of the city ran up short of the same, and to the west of it, until it joined Dame's-gate; and much of the foundation of the old walls has been, from time to time, discovered in digging the earth for laying the foundations of buildings in that tract."

The above statement respecting the limits of the ancient city, although less perspicuous than is desirable, may not be altogether unsatisfactory, if the modern names of places, which are noticed in every practicable instance, are held in remembrance, as data of observation, or land-marks in the antiquary's progress over ground entirely divested of its former character by the wear of years and the hand of modern industry. We have shown that the embattled walls, long the chief reliance of the city, are now in every direction levelled with the ground, and that even the traces of their foundation are to be ascertained only in a few obscure districts. It appears, from all attainable documents, that they were in a state of fair preservation in the year 1610, at which time Speed published his map of this city. Although decaying, they were deemed defensible in the civil wars of the 17th century.* From that time they fell gradually into utter neglect,

* In the year 1641, "part of the city-walls fell down, and were left unrepaired by the citizens, under pretence of want of money, until the lords-justices sent them 40*l.* to advance that service." It must be nearly superfluous to observe that a want of zeal in the cause of defence, created

and have been progressively removed, in attention to a growing refinement of manners, and at the demand of an increasing population.

This city affords no curious instances of antient domestic architecture. It is observed, in the History of Dublin by Mr. Harris, that, "both before and in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the citizens fitted up their houses in a more durable and convenient form" than the building of smooth wattles erected by Henry II. ; "namely, of timber, built in the cage-work fashion, elegantly enough adorned, and covered with slates, tiles, or shingles." Several houses of this description were standing in different parts of the city, at the date of the above publication (1766), but we believe that scarcely any example is at present remaining. The custom of building with stone, or brick, became in Dublin, as in most great cities within the British dominions, more common in the reign of James I. and his successor ; but few, if any, of the houses erected in those early parts of the 17th century are now to be seen. Mr. Harris bestows particular notice on a "large house in Wine-tavern-street, opposite to Cooke-street, which showed some elegance in the structure, and had on the front an escutcheon containing a coat of arms, on one side of which was a tablet, bearing the date of 1641." But the front of this house was taken down, and rebuilt, in the year 1760.

Concerning the antient state of the northern division of the city, the information to be adduced is brief, and far from satisfactory ; for the most attentive inquirers into the topography of Dublin have been contented with deriving their principal intelligence, respecting this part of the capital, from the map of Speed, published in 1610. At that time "the river Liffey was not embanked by quays on the north side. The ground now occupied by the new custom-house ; the Bachelor's-walk ; the two Ormond-quays, east and west of Essex-bridge ; the Inns'-quay ; Arran, Ellis, and Pembroke quays ; extending above 7000 feet, and now entirely

by party divisions, was the true reason of this alleged incapacity. In 1648, "the walls and fortifications of the city of Dublin were repaired, and strengthened, by Colonel Jones."—Hist. of Dublin by Harris.

built on, was then covered with ouse, and overflowed by the tides, except a small part about the king's-inns, which had been a monastery of Dominican friars." The whole of the city on the north side of the river was then called Ostman-town (corruptly Oxman-town), and was confined between a religious foundation, termed St. Mary's Abbey, which stood on the east, and Church-street, so denominated on account of its contiguity to a church dedicated to St. Michan, situated on the west ; which street extended nearly from Pill-lane to the site of the present gaol. To the northward were the villages of Grange-Gorman, Stoney-batter, and Glassmanogue ; the buildings of which are since united to the city.

Whilst Dublin remained thus narrow in limits, but with a crowded population, it was frequently visited by the severe calamities of fire and pestilence. Such evils were common to all antient cities of the British Isles, which were alike constructed in an injudicious manner, the chief object being that of compressing a great number of habitations within the bounds of fortified walls, whilst the builders were indifferent to beauty of arrangement, and ignorant, or utterly neglectful, of precautions for the safety from conflagration, and the good health of the tenants.

Amongst the numerous RELIGIOUS FOUNDATIONS which were dissolved in the sixteenth century, and of which, with one trivial exception, no architectural vestiges now exist for the gratification of the antiquary, the following were of principal importance.*

The Abbey of the Virgin Mary, one of the most distinguished religious houses of this city, was situated on the north side of the river Liffey. It is said by Mr. Archdall, that this Abbey owed " its origin to the Danes, about the year 948, immediately after their conversion to christianity ;" but there appear to be some reasons for doubting the accuracy of this assertion. If the date of

* Much of the historical information contained in our brief notice of these extinct establishments, which, since the destruction of the buildings, have ceased to form objects of general interest, is derived from *Archdall's Monasticon Hibernicum*, in which work the reader desirous of further intelligence will find lists of the respective abbots, and many other particulars, collected with much industry, although still of an imperfect character.

foundation be, in fact, not earlier than that assumed by the author of the *Monasticon*, we must certainly admit, with him, that the Irish would scarcely "have attempted to establish a religious house, in the vicinity of foreigners with whom they were in a state of never-ceasing warfare;" but other authorities (*Antiq. Hibern.* p.78, &c.) ascribe the merit of this foundation to Malachy O'Melaghlin, the celebrated Irish king who seized and put to death the tyrant 'Turgesius, about the year 845. It is believed that king Malachy, when victorious over the Danes, obtained possession of Dublin; and we perceive no ground for objecting to the probability of the foundation then taking place under his auspices.

This abbey was richly endowed, and the abbot was a lord of parliament. The order was first Benedictine, but afterwards Cistercian. Subsequent to the dissolution, the buildings were granted to James, earl of Kildare, "for the keeping of his horses and train, at the times of his repairing to parliament, or council." Some remains of the structure, which exhibit the pointed style of architecture, are now worked into the buildings of a sugar bake-house. An image of the Virgin Mary, formerly in this abbey, is still preserved in the Roman Catholic chapel in Mary's-lane.

The Friary of St. Saviour, likewise situated on the north side of the river, was founded, writes Archdall, "near the great bridge (on the place where stood the chapel of St. Saviour) between the years 1202, and 1218, by William Mareschal, the elder, earl of Pembroke." The Cistercian order was first adopted, "but the Dominicans coming into Ireland in the year 1224, the Cistercians of St. Mary's Abbey gave up this house to accommodate them, on condition, that, on the feast of the nativity, yearly, they should offer a lighted taper at the Abbey of St. Mary, as an acknowledgment that this monastery did originally belong to the Cistercian order." In the twentieth year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, the buildings of the friary, "with the church and divers gardens, and an orchard within the walls of the same, containing three acres, were granted to Gerald, earl of Ormond, at the yearly rent of twenty shillings, Irish money." The whole of the site is now occupied by the extensive and splendid structure termed the Four Courts.

The Abbey of St. Thomas was situated in that part of the city which is now called Thomas-court, and was founded for canons of the congregation of St. Victor, by William Fitz-Andelm, butler to King Henry II. The endowments were very extensive, and the abbot was a lord of parliament. In the thirtieth of King Henry VIII. the site of this monastery, “with a malt-mill, a wood-mill, and two double mills, one carucate of land, called Donouer, ten acres of meadow, two of pasture, and ten of under-wood, near the Abbey,” were granted to William Brabazon, Esq.

The Priory of St. John the Baptist stood in Thomas-street, without the West, or New, Gate of the city. The steeple, evincing considerable antiquity, was recently taken down, and a Roman Catholic chapel now occupies part of the site of this religious house. The priory of St. John was founded as an hospital for the sick, by Ailred le Palmer, towards the end of the twelfth century. The founder became himself the first prior. We have stated, in our historical notice of Dublin, that when the citizens, alarmed by the approach of Edward Bruce and his army, set fire to Thomas-street, the church of St. John was destroyed by the flames. On that occasion King Edward II. granted for the re-edification of the pile, all deadlands happening in Ireland for the term of four years.

In this hospital there were both friars and nuns. The vestments for the inmates of several religious houses in Dublin were wrought by the members of this charitable and industrious institution, who received, for that labour, the tenth of the wool, or flax, which they spun, assigned them when the work was finished. The infirmary contained fifty beds for the sick; and it is stated in the annals of this house under the reign of Edward III. that the hospital then supported 115 sick and poor persons.

The Priory of All-Hallows, or All-Saints, was situated on Hoggin-green, now called College-green, and was founded about the year 1166, for canons of the order of Aroasia, by Dermot, King of Leinster. Miles de Cogan was a considerable benefactor to this house, and King Henry II. confirmed to it, by charter, the lands granted by King Dermot. About the year 1591, the

buildings were demolished, for the purpose of erecting Trinity College.

The Monastery of St. Francis stood in that part of the city which is now called Francis-street. The buildings were commenced in the year 1235. At the dissolution of this monastery the warden was seized of a church and belfry, dormitory, hall, three chambers, a cemetery and garden, within the precincts, and also of four messuages and three gardens, with appurtenances, in St. Francis-street.

The Monastery of the Holy Trinity was situated on the ground now occupied by Crow-street, the Theatre-royal, and other buildings. This religious house was founded about the year 1259, for friars of the order of St. Augustin. It was a foundation of considerable importance, and was the general college for all the friars of that order in Ireland.

The Carmelite Monastery, or White Friars, was situated in the parish of St. Peter, in the south suburbs of the city. The buildings were erected towards the close of the thirteenth century. In the year 1333, the parliament sat in the hall of this monastery. Aungier-street, White-friars'-street, and Longford-street, now occupy its site.

The Nunnery of St. Mary de Hogges was founded by Dermot, King of Leinster, in the year 1146, in a village called Hogges, which was contiguous to the east end of the city, near the site of the present church of St. Andrew. It may be remarked that nuns were not admitted into this house until past the age of thirty years.

It is stated by Mr. Archdall (Mon. Hibern. p. 173) that there stood, without the east gate of the city, another religious house, termed the Nunnery of *St. Mary les Dames*, whence "the avenue leading from the castle to the university acquired the name of Dame-street." So little is known concerning this establishment, that it may be almost doubted whether the foundation noticed by our author be not, in fact, the same with that mentioned above by the name of St. Mary de Hogges.

The Abbey of St. Olave is said by Archdall (on the authority

of King, p. 140.) to have been erected by the colony of Bristol merchants, settled in Dublin by the grant of Henry the Second. King likewise asserts that this abbey stood "in Castle-street, on the ground whereon Sir James Ware's house was afterwards erected," a spot since occupied by Cole's-alley, now demolished. These particulars are, however, controverted in the History of Dublin by Mr. Harris, and the precise situation of this religious house is not to be correctly ascertained.

According to an inquisition concerning the bounds of the city-franchises, taken in the reign of Richard II. there stood, in the west part of Dublin, the *Monastery of Witeschan*; but nothing authentic is known concerning this religious foundation.

It is supposed that the *Knights-templars* had a *priory* in a place called Casgot, in the south suburbs of the city; and Mr. Archdall conjectures that "this is the place where now stands the palace of the archbishop, in Kevin's-street."

The existence of three hospitals is also recorded, but very little is known concerning the character and history of these institutions.

The Hospital of St. Stephen was situated in the south suburbs, on the site now occupied by Mercer's hospital. *The Steyne Hospital*, which stood "near the city of Dublin," was founded A. D. 1220, by Henry de Loundres, archbishop of Dublin. *Allen's Hospital* was situated on a tract of ground, "lying between the bounds of the palace of St. Sepulchre and St. Kevin's-street, and extending from the wall of the prison belonging to the palace, to the wall of the deanery-house." This hospital was founded in the year 1504, by John Allen, then dean of St. Patrick's, for six poor men.

Few relics of very remote ages have been discovered, in the various alterations which have taken place in this city; or, perhaps, it should rather be said that the discovery of few has been recorded for the gratification of posterity. The most curious vestige is thus noticed in Harris's edition of Sir J. Ware's *Antiquities*. "In November, 1646, as people were employed in removing a little hill, in the east suburbs of the city of Dublin, in order to form a

line of fortification, there was discovered an antient sepulchre, placed S. W. and N. E. composed of eight black marble stones, of which two made the covering and were supported by the others. The length of this monument was six feet two inches, the breadth three feet one inch, and the thickness of the stone three inches. At each corner of it was erected a stone four feet high, and near it, at the S. W. end, another stone was placed, in the form of a pyramid, six feet high, of a rustick work, and of that kind of stone which is called a mill-stone. Vast quantities of burnt coals, ashes, and human bones, some of which were in part burned, and some only scorched, were found in it, which was looked upon to be a work of the Ostmen, and erected by that people, while they were heathens, in memory of some petty prince or nobleman."

MODERN DUBLIN.

DUBLIN is situated near the mouth of the river Liffey, which discharges its waters into an extensive and beautiful bay, near the central part of the eastern coast of Ireland. The city occupies a low site, with a surface gently undulating; the land upon which it is placed having, in most directions, a gradual ascent from the river on both sides. From the south-west to the south-east extends, at a short distance from the city, a range of lofty and picturesque mountains.

The approaches to this capital are not calculated to convey due ideas of its attractive character and real magnificence. The most natural and obvious, but not at present the most customary mode of approach, with visitors from England, studious of convenience and expedition, is that afforded by the waters which flow from the Irish sea up to the city quays. The transcendent beauties of the bay claim admiration from every spectator; but the city, when viewed in this gradual advance amidst scenery where the bold, the soft, and the lovely are intermingled with exquisite effect, presents some of its meanest features to the first glance, and exposes the most disadvantageous circumstances of

its situation.—Buried indiscriminately in a mass of buildings seated on low ground, which assumes in perspective the aspect of a cheerless level, the most noble structures and capacious streets are, in this point of prospect, entirely veiled by such sordid and uncouth objects as are usual to the maritime outlines of a trading city. The great deficiency of Dublin, when viewed from any distant point, has its most potent degree of effect with the examiner approaching in this direction. Amidst all its pride of architectural decoration, this city possesses few elevated objects to enrich the perspective. The steeple of St. George's Church, the tasteless spire of St. Patrick's, and the column erected to commemorate the exploits of Admiral Nelson, are the chief objects which shoot above the mass of buildings, and apprise the traveller of his approach to the metropolis of a populous country.

Until lately it was customary for passengers arriving by the government packets from Holyhead, to debark at a spot projecting into the bay at the distance of about two miles from Dublin. Landing near a house of entertainment called the Pigeon-house, the voyager was conducted to the city through the miserable village of Ringsend, and other forlorn passes, forming, in regard to Dublin, those water-side excrescences which Rotherhithe and Wapping constitute with London; and the nature of his first impression may be readily imagined. The packets which sail between this port and Holyhead now land the passenger at Howth, situated at the northern extremity of the bay of Dublin, and the approach from that place is more consonant to the intrinsic character of the city, although it is still far from being regular and commanding. As the first indication of our proximity to the capital, we pass, on the right, an assemblage of commodious but neglected buildings, termed the Crescent. On the left stands revealed the bay, lovely at every point of view! whilst the shipping in the river, and the wide-spread buildings of the crowded city, are just sufficiently disclosed to communicate anticipations of commercial activity and grandeur of civic disposal. On the opposite side of the waters rise those august mountains which impart so much romantic

beauty to the vicinage of Dublin. The suburban streets, by which the traveller proceeds, are very irregular, but, in general, contain houses of respectable dimensions.

The city is, perhaps, entered to the greatest advantage from the north. The borders in this direction are disfigured by cabins, equally wretched with those which afflict the traveller on the skirts of small provincial towns in Ireland; but, when these spectacles of misery are passed, one of those quick vicissitudes so frequent with this country, in regard to artificial as well as natural features, is displayed with unusual effect.—A fine line of streets, varying in width, but possessing, through much of its course, a noble amplitude of proportions, leads from this northern entrance to the castle, many of the chief public buildings standing, in superb exhibition, within the view of the passenger at different stages of his progress.

Dublin is divided into two unequal parts by the river Liffey, much the larger proportion lying on the south side of the river. It is stated in the history of Dublin by Whitelaw and Walsh, that the city covers an area of about 1264 English acres, of which about 785 lie on the south and about 478 on the north, side of the Liffey. In the same work it is observed that “the Royal Hospital near Kilmainham, and the Marine School on the south wall, which, at present, seem to mark the extreme points of Dublin to the west and east, are distant from each other about $2\frac{1}{4}$ English miles. The breadth of the city, from north to south, is not much less: an imaginary line, touching its extreme points, but including a considerable space occupied by fields and gardens, gives a circumference of nearly seven miles.”—The city is surrounded by a road, which approaches towards an oblong figure, but is termed the circular road. This line of transit, which recedes at many points from the city-limits, is $8\frac{1}{4}$ miles in extent.

The greater number of public structures, including the castle, or vice-regal residence; and the cathedral-churches, are situated in the southern division; and in such parts of this district as comprise the site of the antient city, we unpleasantly find that there still exist ample materials for estimating the crowded, mean, and

offensive character of which Dublin partook with most other walled towns, in past ages. The contrast of extreme humility to squares, streets, and public buildings of a description truly admirable, is, however, rarely obtruded on the examiner intent on investigating the principal edifices.

The chief augmentation of Dublin, within the last century, has been on the north side of the Liffey, and on the eastern part of that division of the city. In a western direction is seen much of the contracted arrangement of past times, narrow streets, and houses ill-constructed, degrading the state of the middle class of society, and aggravating at once the sufferings and the aspect of poverty. But, on that side which extends towards the north-east, the vast increase almost uniformly presents an example of improvement in style and disposal. Several lines of street, in this division, constitute striking ornaments of Dublin; and, except as to circumstances of splendour derived from public buildings, the examiner will scarcely hesitate to pronounce this the most attractive part of a metropolis abounding in points of interest.*

Having thus premised that the effect of contrast is harsh and frequent—that the abodes of misery are numerous, and subject

* The increase of the city on the north side of the Liffey, is thus stated by Dr. Walsh. "In the actual survey made by Charles Brooking, in 1728, the northern limits of Dublin, to the westward of Bolton-street, appear much the same as at present. To the eastward of that street the following accessions have been made: Upper Sackville-street, part of Marlborough-street north of Earl-street, west part of Mecklenburgh-street, Gloucester-street, north Cumberland-street, Dominick-street, Granby-row, Palace-row, Cavendish-row, Frederick-street north, Great George's-street north, Temple-street, Grenville-street, Gardiner's-row, Gardiner's-place, Gardiner's-street, Summer-hill, Rutland-street, Buckingham-street, Duke's place, Caroline-row, Mountjoy-square, Great Charles-street, Fitzgibbon-street, Belvidere-place, Upper Rutland-street, Mountjoy-place, Russel-place, Dorset-street, Henrietta-street, Paradise-row, Blessington-street, Eccles-street, with Beresford-place and the Custom-house. At the entrance to the Old Bridge, the quay was interrupted by houses close to the river on the north side as well as the south."—Hist. of Dublin by Whitelaw and Walsh, p. 457, *note*.

to every source of privation that can debase humanity—we gladly pass to the pleasing task of noticing, in general terms, those parts of the city which are most open to observation, and may be said to constitute the whole of Dublin with which the tasteful visiter is usually acquainted.

The principal streets of this city are uniformly of ample width, and are lined with spacious and eligible houses, composed of brick and covered with slate. The squares and streets appropriated to private residence are on a liberal scale, and, in several instances, approach towards a magnificence of character. The most distinguished domestic structures claim our future notice; and it will be sufficient, in this place, to observe that the number of capacious dwellings calculated for the residence of nobility and gentry, is great in proportion to the extent of the city, but that the labours of decorative architecture are almost exclusively confined to public edifices.

The finest line of street is, unquestionably, that leading towards the castle from the north. In this extent of thoroughfare, after passing through Rutland-square, the unusual width, and fine auxiliary circumstances, of Sackville-street, enforce a warm degree of admiration. In regard to dimensions this is one of the grandest streets in Europe; and it does not altogether depend for effect on amplitude of proportions. Towards the south it terminates in Carlisle-bridge, a handsome fabric of stone;* in the central part rises a lofty column of the Doric order, commemorative of the victories obtained by Admiral Nelson; and the west side is enriched by the extensive façade of the Post Office. The houses on both sides are of a respectable character, though deficient in regularity, and comprise many very spacious dwellings; but these are deserted by the gentry of the country: the best are used as hotels, and the remainder occupied by persons engaged either in professions or in traffic.

Crossing the ornamental stone bridge towards the south, we

* From this bridge is obtained one of the most attractive architectural views of the city; a point of observation which we particularly recommend to the visiter.

enter Westmorland-street, which, although not of great length, is of a commanding width, and is lined by capacious and handsome houses, occupied by traders of the most respectable description. Hence, in our way towards the castle, we diverge abruptly to the west, and enter on the area still termed College-green, although long since entirely paved, and now constituting almost the focus of public resort. The architectural display is here truly grand. The whole extent of this area towards the east is occupied by the front of Trinity College, a handsome, appropriate, and massive pile. On the north is the principal façade of the National Bank, formerly the Parliament-house, the unspeakable beauty of which structure is alone sufficient to ennoble the finest modern street. Near the centre of the "Green" is an equestrian statue of King William III.

The area termed College-green terminates in Dame-street, which is of a considerable width, and is lined with commodious shops. This forms the principal, or at least the most frequented, street in Dublin for the purposes of retail traffic, and is marked by a constant air of bustle and vivacity. In the further progress of this line of thoroughfare, and at a short distance from the vice-regal pile, stands the Exchange.

Amongst other principal streets of Dublin, many demand the attention of the visiter, either on account of amplitude and beauty, or commercial importance. Grafton-street, leading from the fine area above-noticed to St. Stephen's-green, has been considered, by some writers on the topography of this city, as "a sort of London Bond-street;" and, although not so extensive, or so greatly frequented, as the object to which it has been compared, is handsome in its widest parts. This street is well-furnished with shops, and forms a desirable place of morning perambulation with the fashionable and unoccupied.

The streets of recent creation are invariably of an eligible width, and the houses are in general of a commodious, if not an ornamental, character. Amongst the principal modern streets in the northern division of the city (although many contain individual dwellings of a superior description) may be noticed

Gardiner-street, which pursues a direct course, of considerable length, on ground gradually declining towards the river, and terminates in a view of the northern façade of the Custom-house.

The whole of the principal streets are well paved and lighted. In the year 1820, an act was passed for lighting the city of Dublin with gas, and active measures have been subsequently employed for carrying that desirable purpose into effect.

The SQUARES of Dublin are four in number, to which statement it must be added that a fifth, of a subordinate but respectable character, is now in a state of progress.

The square termed *St. Stephen's Green* claims priority of rank. Although mere amplitude of dimensions is usually a subject of vulgar inquiry and interest, it may be necessary to observe that this is believed to be the largest square in Europe. The *Green* and its marginal walks comprise 13 acres, 1 rood, and 20 perches, Irish measure, encompassed by a paved street sixty feet in width, lined by about 124 houses. The verdure of the extensive area is suffered to remain in a rough and neglected condition. Thin plantations of trees are interspersed in different parts; but in their present infant state, these communicate an air of poverty to the general effect, and they are scarcely sufficient in number to prove highly ornamental in a more advanced stage of growth. In the centre is an equestrian statue of King George II. placed on a pedestal of considerable elevation. This statue was cast by Van Nost, and was erected in 1758. The king is represented in a Roman military habit; and on the front of the pedestal is an inscription, in latin, stating the subject represented and the date of erection. Owing to the great extent of the area in which it is placed, this statue sinks into insignificance, when viewed from the usual point of observation,—the street surrounding the green.

The houses of St. Stephen's-square are totally destitute of uniformity. Many are handsome and ornamental mansions, whether detached or united; but others are of a character comparatively humble, and are, in some instances, approaching towards decay. The magnitude of this "green" is the principal object calculated to interest the examiner.

A want of symmetry is naturally destructive of all pretensions to beauty in the buildings of a square. In a street of devious progress, like the high street of Oxford, it is doubtful whether the want of uniformity in domestic structures may not constitute an absolute charm, in the fancy, if not in the judgment, of the spectator. But when right lines are adopted for the general ground-plan, regularity and symmetry in each part become indispensable. Even the extensive dimensions of St. Stephen's-green evidently render true grandeur of architectural effect difficult of attainment. Its scale is adapted to a line of palaces alone; and many mansions on the border of this square, which are estimable as architectural objects when separately considered, are lost, like the statue in the centre, in the vastness of the theatre on which they are viewed.

St. Stephen's-green derives its appellation from a church dedicated to the first christian martyr, which appears to have stood nearly on the site now occupied by the Castle-market. The green was levelled in 1678, and at that time, on account of the wetness of the soil, a deep drain, or ditch, was dug round it, which afterwards proved a very objectionable nuisance. The whole was enclosed by a wall of plain masonry, within which was planted a double row of lime trees. In their maturity these trees imparted an agreeable shade to a gravelled walk, which encompassed the square, and which was formerly so fashionable a promenade that one side of the square is still denominated the *Beaux-walk*. By recent judicious exertions the ditch is now filled up, and the lime-trees, which had survived their vigour, and were rapidly becoming mere leafless emblems of departed gaiety, are altogether removed. The gloomy barrier of the wall is also levelled, and the interior of the square is now enclosed by iron palisades.

MERRION SQUARE, situated at a short distance from St. Stephen's green, towards the north-east, although not the most extensive, is, undoubtedly, the finest square in Dublin. The central area, 1030 feet in length, by 530 feet in width, and containing about $12\frac{1}{2}$ English acres, is enclosed by a neat iron palisade, placed on a dwarf wall of mountain granite. The interior is laid out with

much correctness of taste, in green-sward, gravel walks, and shrubberies. Three sides of this square are occupied by lines of substantial and very capacious houses, well adapted to the residence of the nobility and gentry. The chief parts of the whole are composed of brick, but the basement-story of the houses on the north side is, in most instances, of stone. A sufficient degree of symmetrical proportion pervades these lines of building, although the three sides are not strictly uniform. No ornamental particulars occur on any of the fronts; but the ample dimensions of the respective buildings, and the considerable extent of the square in which they are placed, confer an air of dignity on the general effect. Between the houses and the enclosed part of the square are a carriage way, nearly sixty feet in width, and a foot-path, about ten feet wide, well flagged with granite.

The west side of the square contains no more than seven houses, the greater part being open to a spacious lawn, at the back of that noble mansion which formerly constituted the city-residence of the Duke of Leinster, and is now occupied by the Dublin Society. Towards the central part of this side is a public fountain. The structure raised over this enclosed spring for public use, extends about forty-seven feet in front, and was erected under the auspices of the Duke of Rutland, but is in a state of premature decay.

FITZWILLIAM SQUARE, likewise situated in that part of the city which is south of the Liffey, is at present incomplete. One side is not commenced, and a second is unfinished. This square is not designed on a large scale, but the houses, although not of the first class, are commodious and well-built.

RUTLAND SQUARE, in the northern division of Dublin, consists of ranges of handsome and capacious houses, which encompass the gardens of the Lying-in Hospital. The southern side is chiefly engrossed by the extensive buildings of that establishment, and the side towards the north attains considerable importance and dignity from the mansion of the Earl of Charlemont.

MOUNTJOY SQUARE, situated to the north-east of the square named after the duke of Rutland, is of limited dimensions, but

conspicuous for a respectable and liberal simplicity of arrangement. The central area, disposed as a lawn, and enclosed by an iron palisade, measures 450 feet on each side. The road for carriages is about fifty feet in width, and the raised path-ways for foot passengers are well flagged with granite. The streets leading to this square are eight in number, not any of which are less than seventy feet in width. The houses, like the area which they encompass, are of moderate but respectable proportions. They are composed of brick, and the exterior is entirely destitute of architectural decoration.

Without examining into other effects of the Union (which, we hope with confidence, will prove of progressive and solid advantage to the country at large) it is certain that the removal of the Irish parliament has "eclipsed the gaiety of the nation," and deprived the metropolis of too many of the noble and affluent residents who once shed so much lustre on the society of this city. As Dublin must be viewed rather as the seat of government, and emporium of national fashion, than as a mercantile city, however respectable its commerce, this deprivation is severely felt by the inhabitants, and is painfully perceptible in the deserted or altered state of the principal mansions.* We

* In one instance, and in one only, it has been thought, by a satirical poet, that a Dublin mansion was erected with so little judgment as to warrant its speedy desertion. We allude to the extensive and costly house raised by the Earl of Aldborough, on a site formerly constituting part of the strand, near Balybough-bridge. The situation is undesirable in every view, and the ground on which the house is built is held at a high rent, on a terminable lease. This very expensive fabric is now occupied as a school, and is thus noticed by the author of the poem entitled "the Seven Thieves:"

Where once the billows roared along the strand,
Now, far from billows, spreads the thirsty land :
There on a flat, in all the pride of taste,
A pompous palace beautifies the waste ;
Without, an hundred mottos deck the walls,
Within, daubs, shellwork, knick-knacks and glass-balls,
Studious of architecture's art divine,
Folly, Oh Stratford ! made this mansion thine !"

shall shortly have occasion to remark that the superb houses of the Duke of Leinster and Lord Viscount Powerscourt are now used as public buildings. Many dwellings of distinguished persons are converted into hotels, where, as it has been truly observed, "the former proprietors occupy a room for the few days they remain in the metropolis, in their transit to England." The vacant condition of other spacious and noble houses communicates, at present, an air of melancholy to many retired parts of the city, which, we trust, will be of no more than temporary prevalence. A perseverance in commercial habits, duly encouraged by the ruling power, may enable future merchants of Dublin, like those of Florence and Venice, to become the occupants of palaces.

Among the mansions retained for the residence of their noble owners, the house of the Earl of Charlemont is chiefly entitled to attention. This handsome structure is situated on the northern side of Rutland-square, to which it presents a stone front, of chaste and attractive architecture. The principal suite of apartments is designed on a noble scale, and enriched with many valuable paintings. The library is the finest room of its kind possessed by any private residence of Dublin, when her proudest mansions were occupied by nobles and gentry; and the extensive collection of books denotes the correct judgment of the distinguished peer by whom they were selected. Literature, sculpture, and the pencil, combine at once to decorate this admirable building, and to perpetuate the elegant taste of the late accomplished earl of Charlemont, by whom the mansion was constructed and its embellishments arranged.

Waterford House, the mansion of the Marquess of Waterford, is situated in Marlborough-street, and was built in the year 1740, after the designs of Mr. Cassels. This structure is usually described as being "the first private edifice of stone erected in Dublin." An air of undue weight and gloom prevails over the whole exterior, and the internal arrangement is equally conspicuous for dark and chill grandeur. Some excellent pictures by the old masters are preserved in this mansion.

As the seat of government and the king's representative,

Dublin, notwithstanding the removal of its parliament, and the consequent diminution of its fashionable circles in lustre and extent, wears, in the populous and busy parts of the city, an aspect of splendour and gaiety not to be witnessed elsewhere within the British dominions, except in the metropolis of the empire. In the winter and spring, the affluent and disengaged crowd to this great magnet of attraction from nearly every part of Ireland ; and at those seasons the cursory spectator, not enabled to make comparisons between the past and the present, is well satisfied with the appearance of wealth and vivacity, and recognizes no symptoms of impaired magnificence. At the court of the viceroy the change, however, is necessarily perceptible ; but the deficiency, even there, exists rather in rank than in numbers.

The University, and the different learned societies established in Dublin, impart to the most estimable circles a sterling value, independent on fashion ; and the numerous officers of the garrison assist in contributing to the gaiety of public entertainments and private parties.*

It has been often remarked that the middle classes of society in Dublin prefer domestic to public amusements ; and, from the paucity and neglected condition of places designed for public resort, such would, assuredly, appear to be the fact.† The

* Although we by no means vouch for the correctness of the calculation, we present the following statement of Dr. Walsh, respecting the classes of *visiting society* into which Dublin was divided in the year 1818. —“ Twenty-nine peers and peeresses temporal ; six peers spiritual ; thirteen baronets, or ladies ; five members of the House of Commons ; ninety-three Protestant clergymen ; 170 Roman Catholic clergymen ; twenty-five Dissenting clergymen ; 1851 lawyers and attorneys ; 204 physicians and surgeons ; 1484 gentry and private families ; and 4911 persons engaged in commerce, bankers, merchants, head-manufacturers, and dealers. To these may be added the officers of the garrison, about 200.”—Hist. of Dub. vol. ii, p. 1168, *note*.

† The altered circumstances of the city may, in some degree, account for the neglect of public places ; but it is distinctly evident that the taste of the inhabitants does not lead to their encouragement. The change of application to which several places of amusement have become subject, is

theatre for the performance of the regular drama has ever commanded, in this city, admirers and patrons; but select and convivial meetings, often enlivened by music and the dance, are more consonant to the genius of the people than indiscriminate assemblies. It is unquestionable that the prevailing manners have become of a more sedate cast since the removal of the parliament, and the consequent defalcation of affluent society. In a conspicuous instance a change has been effected, greatly to the advantage of public morals.—The club-houses are no longer patronized, and gaming, even in such circumscribed modifications as are usually believed to deprive this vice of its injurious qualities, has ceased to be fashionable.

To one most salutary species of gratification the inhabitants of Dublin are so ardently attached, that they may be said to carry the enjoyment to excess. This is the luxury of bathing; to which the close vicinity of the sea, and the beauty of its coasts, afford at once facility and attractions. On this subject we present the words of a native writer (Dr. Walsh); but not without remarking, that, perhaps, in some future æra of refinement, the bathers in the neighbourhood of all populous places may adopt those convenient and covered machines, which were invented, some time since, at Margate, in Kent, and are now in use at that and several other watering-places.—“The whole population of Dublin seem to crowd to the water in the summer months, and all ranks and ages think bathing a specific for the preservation of health, or the cure of distemper. On these occasions the roads to the sea, at particular times of the tide, present extraordinary spectacles. Every vehicle, both public and private, is seen filled worthy of remark.—In the latter part of the last century a garden was opened in the southern suburbs, under the name of Ranelagh. These premises are now converted into a nunnery, in which are educated the daughters of many highly respectable Roman Catholic families. A Circus, built for Astley’s equestrian exhibitions, is used as a charitable asylum and a meeting-house. On the site of the once celebrated theatre of Smock Alley has been lately erected a Roman Catholic Chapel.—Except the Theatre-royal, the promenade in the gardens of the Lying-in Hospital rms the only place that, at present, meets with ample encouragement.

with people crowding the avenues that lead to the salt water, on both sides of the bay, particularly on the south. As the shore is flat, and the period of bathing is but short at each tide, they hasten to avail themselves of it, and rush all together into the water. The swarm of naked figures thus seen on the shore from Ringsend to Sandymount is as singular as it is surprising, while the noise and sportive merriment seem to indicate that it is not practised so much for health as festive recreation. It is supposed that 20,000 people bathe every tide in Dublin-bay during the summer months, and many continue the practice through the winter.* For such persons as do not approve of the open sea, several cold and hot baths have been established in Dublin and the neighbouring villages.

In no respect is Dublin more improved, in recent years, than in the regulations of its police. The first act for establishing a watch in this city was passed in the reign of Elizabeth ; but no effi-

* Hist. of Dublin by Whitelaw and Walsh, pp. 1173-4.—For the conveyance of persons not provided with carriages on their own establishment, numerous vehicles, denominated *jaunting-cars* and *jingles*, attend at the different confines of the city leading to villages in the vicinity. The jaunting-car has two ranges of seats, on which the passengers (six in number, without any great inconvenience) are placed, with their backs towards each other, their feet resting on a part of the machine about twelve inches from the ground. The driver, if the complement of his vehicle be complete, occupies an elevated seat in front; otherwise he sits foremost in one of the lateral rows, and drives, usually with skill and safety, in this awkward position. This description of carriage is in very general use in all parts of Ireland; and affords a safe and not unpleasant mode of travelling. The jingle acquires its appellation from the ringing sound of the loose iron-work, in such carriages as ply for hire. This species of vehicle consists of a circular open body, placed high upon springs, the company having the advantage of facing each other. With suitable improvements, this description of carriage is growing into frequent use in most parts of the country.—We cannot conclude this note without observing that the ordinary Irish drivers maintain so high a degree of independence, that they entirely disregard that rule of travelling which directs the person entrusted with the reins, always to take the side of the road that is towards his left hand. Frequent precautions on this head are conspicuously posted, at such outlets of Dublin as are most frequented.

cient measures for preserving the tranquillity of the streets after sun-set, appear to have been adopted until years near the close of the eighteenth century.* The present police-establishment was instituted by act of Parliament in 1808. The district of its jurisdiction extends to all places within eight miles of the Castle of Dublin, and comprises six divisions, in each of which is a public office. The whole establishment, including peace-officers, constables, and horse patrol, consists of nearly eight hundred men, whose vigilance and activity succeed in rendering the streets of this metropolis as secure during the hours of night as those of any city in the British empire.

The city of Dublin enjoys a considerable share of the foreign commerce of Ireland, particularly as regards the trade with America, the West Indies, the Baltic, and the Mediterranean. Its continental trade, formerly a branch of great importance, is much diminished in late years, partly owing to the disuse of claret as an article of ordinary consumption.† The extensive trade with England is chiefly carried on through the port of Liverpool.

The internal trade of Dublin is very considerable, in proportion to that of other Irish cities. Here is the principal depository of bleached linen; and several manufactures are cultivated, although not on a scale of great importance.

The earliest authentic *Charter* granted to the City of Dublin, proceeded from King Henry II. Mr. Harris mentions a charter of King Edgar, dated in the year 964; but the fallacy of that document is now universally admitted.

* Dr. Campbell, in his “*Philosophical Survey*,” published in 1778, mentions Dublin as an “ill-policed city;” and observes “that his banker recommended to him a lodging in Capel-street, near Essex-bridge, assigning this reason; that, as it was the most public part of the town, he was in less danger of being robbed coming home late; for it seems that even two chairmen were not a sufficient protection.”

† In the year 1753, the quantity of claret imported is said to have been not less than 8,000 tons. In 1816, the import of French wines, of every kind, from France, amounted to no more than 211 tons, 2 hds. 49 galls.

The charter of Henry II. was granted in 1173, and the original patent is remaining in the office of the town-clerk. The last charter was granted by George II. in 1727, being the first year of that king's reign.

The Corporation of this city consists of twenty-five aldermen, of whom one exercises the office of chief magistrate, under the title of Lord Mayor;* ninety-six members of common-council; a certain number of sheriff's-peers, not exceeding forty-eight; a recorder, and other officers. The lord-mayor is annually elected from the court of aldermen; and that court returns the name of the member chosen by themselves, for the approbation of the commons. No person chosen lord-mayor, sheriff, recorder, or town-clerk, is capable of executing that office until approved by the lord-lieutenant, or other chief governor or governors, and the privy-council. The lord-mayor, aldermen, and two sheriffs,† are justices of the peace in the city and liberties of Dublin.

The aldermen are chosen for life, from the sheriff's-peers, or those who have either served or fined for the office of sheriff, and are elected by the lord-mayor, aldermen, and common-council. The common-council are elected for three years, by and out of the twenty-five guilds, or corporations, existing in this city. The sheriff's-peers are perpetual members of the commons.

The *City Assembly-house* is situated in William-street, and is a small building, originally erected as a place of exhibition by the artists of Dublin.

The *Mansion House*, or official residence of the lord mayor,

* The title of Lord Mayor was bestowed on the chief magistrate of Dublin by King Charles the First, in the year 1641, he having been previously styled first provost, and afterwards mayor.—Vide Charter of the seventeenth of Charles I. It would appear, however, that this title was not adopted until 1665.

† In the year 1548, the *Bailiffs* of Dublin were constituted Sheriffs, in a nomination of the corporation contained in a charter granted by King Edward VI. This change is confirmed by a charter of Queen Elizabeth (A.D. 1567), in which the city is declared “to be a county of itself, distinct from the county of Dublin.”

is entirely destitute of that architectural beauty and splendour which in general characterize the public edifices of the Irish metropolis. This building is situated in Dawson-street, and has a brick front, of an aspect peculiarly mean and uninviting. The interior, however, is provided with several very spacious apartments, well suited to the extensive and liberal hospitality usually practised by the chief magistrate of this city. Here, in the year 1821, the lord mayor and corporation had the honour of entertaining his majesty, King George IV. For the greater dignity of that distinguished festival a circular apartment was erected, at the expense of the corporation. This memorable apartment is ninety feet in diameter, and is lighted by a lantern, fifty feet from the floor. The whole room is surrounded by a corridor, five feet in width. Many of the apartments are ornamented with portraits of noblemen who have filled the high office of viceroy, and civic magistrates esteemed for exemplary conduct. In the grounds towards the front of the mansion house is an equestrian statue of George I.

OF THE RIVER LIFFEY—ITS BRIDGES—AND THE PUBLIC
BUILDINGS OF DUBLIN, MOST CONSPICUOUS FOR
ARCHITECTURAL GRANDEUR, OR IMPORT-
ANCE OF APPROPRIATION.

The river Liffey, which passes nearly through the centre of Dublin, having its course from west to east, is of a moderate width, throughout the whole of its progress in connection with the city, as will be shewn by our statement of the respective length of several of the bridges by which it is crossed. In winter this river is subject to floods, which, augmented by the ascending tide, have frequently laid the quays under water; and the stream is then so greatly swollen, that different bridges have been swept away by its impetuosity. In summer it is usually diminished to an inconsiderable character, and is, upon the recess of the tide, when dependant upon its own sources, far from being an ornamental adjunct of the capital. The tide reaches to the western extremity of the city, where its further flow is arrested by an

acclivity. From this circumstance, and the frequency of shallows and rapids in its subsequent course, the river affords no facility to inland navigation. Vessels of considerable burthen approach to Carlisle-bridge, being the last bridge that crosses the river towards the east.

Although the Liffey can scarcely be viewed, in itself, as an accession of beauty to Dublin, the artificial means used for restraining its waters within a regular channel, and for rendering its shores eligible to commerce, to residence, and to the transit of the passenger, improve this river, alternately rapid and turbulent, into a noble example of civic industry and power.—The river Liffey, through its whole extent, as relates to the city, is lined, on both sides, with quays and with walls of stone. The quays on the south side reach from the Grand Canal Dock, on the east, to Barrack-bridge on the west, being a distance of two English miles and a quarter. Those on the north side extend from the docks of the Royal Canal to the neighbourhood of the Barracks, a distance of one English mile and three quarters.*

The river is crossed by eight BRIDGES, seven of which are composed of stone, and conduce equally to the ornament and the convenience of the city. We enumerate the whole, in a progress from west to east.

Sarah Bridge consists of a single elliptic arch, 104 feet in span, and thirty feet in height, from the key-stone to the surface of the current at low water. The width of the line of transit is thirty-eight feet. The foundation-stone was laid in 1791, by *Sarah*, Countess of Westmorland, and the bridge acquires its appellation from the christian name of that vice-queen.

Barrack Bridge is an unornamented pile, composed of four semicircular arches, and occupies the site of a wooden bridge,

* The quay-walls are twelve feet thick at the foundation, and are faced with blocks of hewn mountain-granite. To the eastward of Carlisle-bridge they are constructed without parapets, to facilitate the landing of goods. Above that bridge, the walls finish with a neat and substantial parapet, interrupted only by occasional iron gates and stairs of stone, for the convenience of the interior traffic of small vessels.

first constructed in the year 1670. Near the south end has been recently erected an embattled gateway, more fully noticed in our account of Kilmainham hospital.

Queen's Bridge, a substantial and handsome building, comprising three arches, was re-edified, in its present form, in 1768, and was named in honour of her majesty, Queen Charlotte. On this spot formerly stood Arran-bridge, which was erected in the year 1683, but was demolished in 1763, by one of those floods to which the Liffey is subject.

Whitworth Bridge, a respectable structure, also consisting of three arches, was commenced in 1816, and has been recently completed.* The first stone was laid by Lord *Whitworth*, when lord-lieutenant of Ireland.

Richmond Bridge, a plain but handsome structure, built of Portland stone, consists of three arches. The first stone was laid by the duchess of Richmond, in 1813, and the bridge was opened to the public on St. Patrick's day, 1816. The breadth is greater than that of any of the bridges of London, being fifty-two feet.† The entire length is 220 feet. On the key-stones of the arches are six colossal heads, executed by Smyth, those on one side allegorically representing Peace, Hibernia, and Commerce; and those on the other side Plenty, the river Liffey, and Industry.

Next in succession is *Essex Bridge*, first built in 1676, and named in honour of Arthur, earl of Essex, then lord-lieutenant. The present structure was commenced in 1753, and was finished in 1755. This building is composed of hewn stone, and is designed after the model of Westminster bridge, though necessarily

* There formerly stood near this site the most antient bridge over the Liffey, known by the several names of Old-bridge, Dublin-bridge, and Ormond-bridge, which formed for many ages the only passage across the river. The period at which it was first erected has not been ascertained, but it was rebuilt in 1428. Long previous to 1802, it had become subject to decay, and in that year it was overthrown by a flood of unprecedented violence.

† The width of Westminster-bridge is forty feet, and that of Waterloo bridge forty-two feet.

of diminished proportions, except as to the breadth of the part for transit, which is greater than that of Westminster. The arches are five in number, and this bridge, which constitutes the most frequented passage between the southern and northern parts of Dublin, is, undoubtedly, the noblest, although not the most costly, fabric that has been constructed over the Liffey. The length is 250 feet, and the width fifty-one feet. The expense of erection was no more than £26,661.

The distance between Essex-bridge and the next stone bridge in succession towards the east, is in itself so considerable, and was supposed to be productive of so much inconvenience, that an *iron bridge* has been erected, in an intermediate situation, but intended for foot-passengers only. This is a light and pleasing fabric, of one arch, planned and carried into effect by two highly respectable individuals. The cost was about £3,000, and each passenger pays a toll of one halfpenny.

Carlisle Bridge, the most eastern of the bridges over the Liffey, is a structure of considerable elegance, consisting of three arches. The proportions are good, and the whole wears a light and decorated aspect, well-adapted to its situation as a channel of communication between those parts of the city which comprise many ornamental public buildings, and some of the most fashionable and dignified places of residence. This bridge is 210 feet in length, and forty-eight feet in breadth. The building was commenced in the year 1791, and finished in 1794.

THE CASTLE OF DUBLIN.

This edifice, although still retaining its original appellation, presents scarcely any vestige of a castellated character, and has been almost entirely re-built at different times, chiefly in the course of the last century. It is to be regretted that, in the progressive labours of renovation, little attention has been bestowed on harmony of arrangement or consistency of style. Whilst destitute of pretensions to palatial splendour, as regards the exterior, the buildings acquire a dignity of character from greatness of extent; and the spectator who adopts as a standard of comparison

the palace of St. James, is willing to allow that this structure is not altogether unworthy of the purpose to which it is appropriated,—that of affording a residence to the representative of royalty.

It is usually admitted, on the authority of a patent cited by Mr. Harris, in that writer's History of Dublin, that the fortress which originally occupied the site of the present vice-regal palace, was commenced by Meyler Fitz-Henry, about the year 1205. The patent of foundation granted by King John, was framed in the spirit of policy which induced that sovereign to project the erection of royal castles in Ireland, for the protection of dominions so recently acquired and so precarious in tenure, although his desire was carried into effect in but few instances. The building was probably completed, in years briefly ensuing, by Henry de Loundres, archbishop of Dublin, who is described as its founder by Camden and several other writers.

It is stated by Mr. Harris that the Castle of Dublin did not constitute the seat of government until the reign of Elizabeth; and it is certain that, in the latter part of the fifteenth century, the lord deputy executed business of state “in a chamber of presence, called the king's chamber,” at Thomas-court. In the years intervening between that period and the time of Queen Elizabeth, the chief governors held their courts either at Thomas-court; at the palace of the archbishops of Dublin; or at Kilmainham.

History does not furnish materials for a correct description of this building, while it retained its original character of a fortress.*

* The following particulars, relating to the antient edifice, may be collected from the Hist. of Dublin, by Mr. Harris.—The whole of the buildings were encompassed by a broad and deep moat, part of which was dry, but that part which lay towards the east was filled with water by the flowing of the tide and a branch of the river Dodder. This moat was filled up, at different times previous to the year 1766. The whole was, likewise, surrounded by a wall, strengthened with towers at irregular distances. The entrance from the city was on the north side, by means of a draw-bridge, and a gateway flanked with embattled towers and furnished with a port-cullis. From the western tower of this gate a “strong and high curtain extended, in a line parallel to Castle-street, as far as another

In the year 1560, Queen Elizabeth sent a mandate to the Lord Deputy and council, "to repair and enlarge the Castle of Dublin, for the reception of chief governors." Sir Henry Sidney, who

tower," which was rebuilt so lately as the year 1629, chiefly at the expense of the first Earl of Cork, and was, from that circumstance, denominated Cork tower. From that tower "the wall was continued, in one curtain of equal height with the former, until it joined Birmingham tower, which was the stateliest, strongest, and highest tower of the whole." This tower "was often used as a prison for state criminals," and afterwards constituted a repository of the antient records of the kingdom. It was taken down in the year 1775, but was rebuilt two years afterwards, although not in a style of solidity correspondent with its former character. From Birmingham tower "the wall was continued, by another high curtain, as far as the Wardrobe tower" (which structure, increased in height, and considerably altered in the interior, is now known by the appellation of the Record tower).—In the line of wall between Birmingham tower and the Wardrobe, or Record, tower, "were two nameless towers, of much less dimensions than either of the former," one of which is entirely removed. On the basement part of the other was raised a polygonal apartment, "constituting a cabinet to the government." From the Wardrobe, or Record, tower, "another curtain extended to the north, or Storehouse, tower, which stood near Dame's-gate, and is now entirely demolished; and from thence the curtain was continued to the eastern gateway-tower at the entrance into the castle." There were, also, two Postern-gates in the walls, one of which was situated near Birmingham tower.—Such are the chief particulars which Mr. Harris was enabled to collect, in the eighteenth century, respecting the antient state of this fortress. From intelligence so scanty it would appear that the buildings were destitute of a keep, or citadel, and presented merely an embattled wall, strengthened with a few towers, irregularly placed; the whole surrounding a spacious quadrangular area. All endeavours to penetrate the veil of antiquity must necessarily prove futile at the present time. But such a description as is afforded by Mr. Harris ill-accords with the military architecture prevailing in the reign of John, of which Ireland is believed to present several remains, greatly superior in strength and magnificence to such a mere mural and turretted outline.—It is, at any rate, certain that the earliest printed document respecting any buildings within the embattled walls of this "castle," consists in some orders issued in the reign of Henry VI. for the repair of the "castle-hall," among other parts of the structure. The existence of a chapel, and the office of a chaplain, appear to be recognized as early as the year 1224.

entered on office in 1565, is stated by Hooker to have been the first person that carried this order into any resemblance of salutary effect ; but the whole of the additions and repairs made in the sixteenth century were far from being commensurate with the dignity of the vice-regal court. It is ascertained, from authentic documents, (*vide* Stafford's Letters, vol. i.) that the buildings were in a dilapidated state so early after the adaptation of the pile to the residence of the viceroy, as the year 1631. Lord Clarendon, writing in 1686, describes the castle as " the worst lodging a gentleman ever lay in ;" and thus comfortless, and unworthy of official dignity, the buildings remained to the close of the seventeenth century. The renovations and improvements, since that period, have been of slow and devious progress.

Amongst the principal historical circumstances connected with this structure must be mentioned the siege which it underwent, in the year 1534, through the temerity of Lord Thomas Fitzgerald, son of the Earl of Kildare, some account of which is introduced in our general annals of the city of Dublin. As an event of minor importance, may be noticed a decision of quarrel by wager of single combat, which took place within these embattled walls in the year 1583, and which is one of the latest instances in which such an appeal was suffered to proceed to issue, under legal sanction, in the British dominions. This transaction is stated at considerable length by Hooker and Harris, in their respective publications ; and the particulars are briefly to the following effect.—Connor Mac-Cormack O'Connor, appealed Teig Mac Gilpatrick O'Connor, " for killing his men under protection." The challenge being accepted, preparation was made for the combat, " according to precedents drawn from the laws of England in such cases." The weapons were sword and target ; and the duel took place before the " lords justices, the judges and counsellors, and most of the military officers." After the pleadings were openly read, and customary ceremonies performed, the combat commenced at a signal given by sound of trumpet. " The appellant received two wounds in his leg, and one in his eye, and thereupon attempted to close the defendant, who, being

too strong for him, he pummeled him, till he loosened his murrion, and then with his own sword cut off his head, and on the point thereof presented it to the lords justices, and so his acquittal was recorded."

Several parliaments were held in this castle in the reigns of Elizabeth, James the First, and Charles the First. The courts of law were also commonly held in this building, during the same reigns.

The Castle of Dublin is situated on the south side of the river Liffey, and occupies an elevated and central part of the city. The buildings are divided into two courts, the principal approach to which is on the north-west, and leads from Cork Hill through the avenue termed Castle-street. This gate of entrance, with its contiguous buildings, occupies the site of the antient gateway flanked with towers, which has been described in a previous note. The gate of passage is erected on the site of the eastern of those towers, and is ornamented with a statue of justice. On the site of the western tower is placed a building, imitative of a gateway, but constructed merely from an attention to architectural uniformity, and not affording a way of passage. As a companion to the figure of justice, a statue emblematic of fortitude is here erected.

The upper, or principal, court is chiefly built of brick, with dressings of stone. This quadrangle is 280 feet in length by 130 feet in width. On the south side is a colonnade, forming the entrance to the apartments of the viceroy, which occupy the whole of that side and part of the east end. On the north is an ornamental elevation, occupying the space between the gateways before noticed. The central division of that northern part of the edifice, is composed of stone, and has a rusticated basement, perforated with arches, over which rise Ionic columns and pilasters, sustaining a weighty pediment. Behind the columns is a recess, or gallery, occupied by the state musicians* on gala

* It may not be superfluous to observe that various professional and trading persons, employed by the vice-regal establishment, affix the commendatory appellation of *state* to public denotations of their respec-

days, and over the whole rises a turret, or tower, embellished with Corinthian columns and other ornaments, and terminating in a cupola. Besides the apartments of the lord-lieutenant, this quadrangle comprises the war-office, and other offices attached to government; and also the apartments of the principal secretary, and those of the aides-de-camp, and the master of the ceremonies.

The interior of the buildings occupied by the lord-lieutenant presents few objects of striking interest. The presence-chamber is an apartment of considerable extent, but depends for attraction on those appendages of power and dignity, for which the spectator feels an habitual reverence quite unconnected with the real beauty of such ornamental particulars. The chair of government, and the state, or canopy over the vice-regal seat, are of crimson velvet, richly adorned with lace of gold. The council-chamber has few pretensions to elegance of arrangement; and the private apartments of the viceroy are scarcely adequate to the due accommodation of so dignified a personage. The ball-room, now termed St. Patrick's-hall, is eighty-two feet in length, by forty-one feet in width, and thirty-eight feet in height. This apartment has been arranged since the institution of the order of St. Patrick, in the year 1783, and some parts of the decorations are complimentary to the knights of that illustrious order. The ceiling is ornamented with paintings, in three compartments, executed by Mr. Waldre, which respectively represent St. Patrick converting to christianity the Irish of the fifth century; King Henry II. receiving the homage of the Irish chieftains; and an allegorical device, comprising a portrait of King George III. supported by Liberty and Justice. There are, also, other embellishments of painting by the same artist; and at each end is a gallery, one being intended for musicians, and the other for the accommodation of the public.

The lower, or eastern, court, 250 feet in length by 220 feet in width, is of an irregular character, but has recently received tive callings. Inscriptions to this effect may be seen in Dublin, from the respectable situation of state-surgeon, down to the less dignified but very necessary occupation of state-hair-dresser.

a splendid improvement by the re-edification of the castle-chapel. In this court are the treasury, the ordnance, and other offices.

On the south side of the range of apartments occupied by the viceroy are gardens, of a moderate extent, separated from the palace by a paved thoroughfare, but possessing a direct communication by means of a drawbridge. The garden-front of the buildings, although extremely irregular, is not devoid of beauty; and, when combined with the effect produced by the chapel, and the contiguous antient building now termed the Record tower, assuredly presents the most interesting display afforded by any part of the structure.

The former *Chapel* of the castle was a small and incommodious building of brick, evincing no great antiquity yet falling to decay. The present edifice was commenced during the administration of his grace the Duke of Bedford, and was opened for divine service on Christmas-day, 1814. This splendid structure is seventy-three feet in length by thirty-five feet in width; and, although thus limited in dimensions, must be viewed as the most elaborate effort made in recent years to revive the antient ecclesiastical style of building;—as the richest modern casket of pointed architecture to be witnessed in the British empire.

The principal labour of decoration is reserved for the interior, but the external parts evince a considerable degree of magnificence, and every division is finished with costly and delicate care. Each side is strengthened with seven buttresses, ornamented with pinnacles. The pointed windows, six in number on each side, are of a graceful form, and are surmounted with labels, springing from sculptured heads, some of which are historical and others fanciful. The great window at the east end is richly ornamented, and surmounted with a label, adorned with sculptures of Faith, Hope, and Charity. The gavel at this end terminates in a cross of antient character, the arms of which are enclosed in a circle; and at each angle are square towers, rising to the height of the roof. In the centre is a door of the pointed form, surmounted with a label, depending on one side upon the head of St. Patrick, and on the other upon that of Brian Boromh, the renowned Irish

king. The principal entrance is on the north-west, and opens into a vestibule, through which is the passage from the castle.*

The interior consists of a choir, chancel, and side aisles, with galleries. The roof is supported by clustered pillars, of a slender and elegant form, and the ceiling is groined, and very finely ornamented. The groins spring from grotesque heads, composed of stucco, which are placed above the capitals of the pillars; and the whole of the ceil-work is painted in imitation of stone.—The plans of the groined ceiling, and of various parts in the detail of this splendid pile, are derived from the most highly-ornamented divisions of York Cathedral.

The east end of the interior forms an attractive and magnificent object. Over the great window on this part of the chapel are whole length statues of Faith, Hope, and Charity; and busts of the four Evangelists, placed on the capitals of pillars, also ornament the chancel. The window is filled with painted glass, part of which was purchased on the continent by Lord Whitworth. The glass presented by that nobleman occupies six compartments, the subjects represented being passages in the history of our Saviour. In four other compartments are representations of the Evangelists, executed in Dublin by Mr. Bradley.

The furniture and subordinate decorations of the chapel are unusually superb. The facing of the gallery and pews is richly carved in oak, with a bold and masterly hand. In the central panel of the organ-gallery are carved the royal arms, placed between the arms of the Duke of Bedford, under whose administration the chapel was commenced, and the Duke of Richmond, under whose auspices the structure was completed. To these succeed, with historical accuracy, the armorial bearings of the most distinguished viceroys, from the earliest to the present time. Over each coat are the appropriate coronet, or helmet, and the date of administration. Beneath is inscribed the motto.

* This entrance is surmounted with a well-sculptured bust, intended to represent St. Peter; and, over a window above the same entrance, is a bust of Dean Swift, copied from that on his monument in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The pulpit is a beautiful erection, supported on a shaft issuing from an open Bible. On the capital of the shaft are carved the heads of the four Evangelists. The panels are enriched with the arms of many Irish prelates and other churchmen, distinguished for piety and talent since the date of the reformation. In the various carvings are also introduced the arms of Edward VI. Queen Elizabeth, and William III.

The organ was made in England, by Gray; but, with this exception, and that of the painted glass forming part of the window, the whole of this sumptuous chapel proceeds from the talents and labours of native artists. The design was furnished, and the execution of the building superintended, by Francis Johnston, Esq. of whose professional ability we trust it will prove a lasting monument. The numerous pieces of sculpture interspersed in different parts, were performed by Edward and John Smyth, and rank amongst the finest productions of those ingenious artists. The elaborate and estimable carving was executed by Stewart. The whole expense of this structure was £42,000.

Adjoining the chapel, on the west, is the building formerly termed the Wardrobe, and now the RECORD TOWER. This is a circular structure, of considerable antiquity, which is noticed by Mr. Harris as having long constituted "the repository of the royal robe, the cap of maintenance, and other furniture of state, preserved here by a patent officer, with a competent salary for that employment." The neglected condition of the public records of Ireland having attracted the serious attention of government, this antient and massy pile was selected as the place of their future conservation; and the building has, accordingly, undergone considerable alterations for that very desirable purpose. The walls vary in thickness from nine to twelve feet; and the combustible materials, formerly used in the floors and staircases, have been removed, and stone substituted in every part exposed to accident from fire. In effecting the recent alterations, the walls of the upper story were entirely rebuilt, and ornamented with a projecting and embattled parapet, which encompasses the whole summit of the tower. The improvements were completed

in the year 1813, and the interior is now appropriated chiefly to the preservation of public documents, comprising the statute rolls and parliamentary records; the various maps and books relating to the several surveys, estimates, and distributions made in Ireland at different periods; and the records and plea rolls, formerly kept in Birmingham tower. This building, also, contains the offices of the Record Commission,* the Surveyor General,† and the First Fruits.

The order of arrangement, and the talent and care appearing to be displayed in each department, are honourable instances of

* In consequence of an address from the House of Commons to the Prince Regent, in the year 1810, a commission was issued, for arranging, methodizing, and digesting, the records, rolls, books, and papers in the public repositories and offices appertaining to government; and, amongst other purposes, for causing to be printed such original records and papers as appeared to be desirable. On these important objects the labours of the commissioners have been employed, with a zeal of perseverance and accuracy of judgment entitled to no ordinary share of public approbation. The great value of these labours will be best understood from an enumeration of the records intended for more immediate publication: 1st. A complete edition of the Irish statutes, from the earliest on record to the date of the Union: 2d. A collection of state papers, royal acts, charters to cities, towns, and other public bodies; and various other public instruments, tending to elucidate the political state of Ireland during the earlier periods of its history, from the time of Henry II. 3d. Repertories to the patent and close rolls of chancery, and to the memoranda rolls of the exchequer; as, also, to the inquisitions post mortem and attainder, in both these courts: 4th. Selections from the ecclesiastical records: 5th. A catalogue of the MSS. in the library of Trinity college, Dublin: 6th. A list of the patentee officers of Ireland, from the earliest period to the present time. Several repertories, and indexes to the contents of other record repositories, are also forming. For more comprehensive information we refer the reader to the first volume of the Reports of the Record Commission, from 1810 to 1815; a work that has been truly said "to afford the most ample testimony of the zeal, ability, and perseverance of the secretary (William Shaw Mason, Esq.), and of the other very intelligent persons engaged under the commission by whom it has been principally compiled."

† Amongst the most useful and interesting documents repositied in the office of the surveyor-general, must be noticed the *Down Survey*, a work

improved regulations, which are particularly worthy of notice when we remember the hazard of injury and dispersion to which the national treasures here repositied were subject, in years not long passed. Until recent times, many of the public records

to which we sometimes refer in future pages. This survey was made under the direction of Sir W. Petty, in the year 1657, and comprehended nearly twenty-nine of the thirty-two counties into which Ireland is divided; Galway, Roscommon, the greater part of Mayo, and some baronies in other counties, being omitted. The survey relates exclusively to the lands forfeited in the rebellion of the seventeenth century; "but the outlines of the un-surveyed grounds are sufficiently preserved, when they are enclosed or inclosed within those laid down in detail;—when they lie upon the borders of a parish, they are lost to the general purposes of science by the omission of the external boundaries." This invaluable series of maps was originally deposited in the office of the surveyor general, then situated in Essex-street, and was there partly destroyed by an accidental fire, which occurred in 1711. The maps were then comprised in thirty-one books, eighteen of which escaped uninjured. Of the remaining thirteen volumes, four were almost totally consumed, and the rest injured in different degrees. The following statement explains the locality of the damage sustained on this occasion:—"In the eighteen uninjured books are contained the entire of the counties of West Meath, Dublin, Wicklow, Wexford, Carlow, Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone, and Leitrim, with parts of Meath, Kilkenny, King's and Queen's counties, Longford, Antrim, Armagh, Down, Limerick, Cork, Waterford, and Tipperary: of the counties contained in the thirteen remaining books, the second part of the Queen's county is almost perfect; much of Cavan has been saved; and the remaining parts of Meath, King's county, Longford, Kilkenny, Limerick, Tipperary, and Sligo, have suffered in various degrees; but Louth, Kildare, Clare, and Kerry, with the remaining parts of Antrim, Down, Armagh, Waterford, and Cork, have been almost totally destroyed." A very curious and satisfactory analysis of the Down Survey, drawn up by Edmund Hyde Hall, Esq. is prefixed to the second volume of Mr. Shaw Mason's Statistical Account of Ireland. The origin of the name by which this survey is distinguished is not clearly ascertained. By some persons the word *Down* is said to be derived from the circumstance of this survey "being laid down by maps on paper, prior surveys being generally by estimation only." In the very erndite and elegant account of Tullaroan, or Grace's Parish, published in the third volume of the statistical work above alluded to, it is observed that the authority of Lord Strafford refers the name to the mode of survey adopted by the dean and chapter of *Down*.

were suffered to remain in the houses of the different officers to whom they were intrusted ; and, from this most reprehensible negligence (arising, chiefly, from the want of judicious and active persons to enforce so flagrant a grievance on the notice of government) many important documents were irretrievably lost, either from accidental fire, or other obvious causes.

TRINITY COLLEGE.

The University of Dublin is of a date no higher than the reign of Elizabeth, but several attempts had been made, in earlier periods, to establish an academical body in Ireland. In the year 1311, John Lech, Archbishop of Dublin, procured a bull from Rome for the erection of an university in Dublin ; but this prelate died shortly after, and the project was suspended in consequence of that event. Alexander de Bicknor, his successor in the see of Dublin, renewed this liberal design, and appointed a set of statutes to be observed in the new university, the seat of which was placed in St. Patrick's Cathedral. The times, however, were unpropitious ; and, although the institution maintained a faint existence until the reign of Henry VIII. it progressively sank into a state of utter neglect. In the reign of Edward IV. it was enacted by an Irish parliament that an university should be founded in the town of Drogheda ; but this design was forgotten in the tumult of party contention.

When the power of the crown acquired at once greater strength and extension in the latter part of the sixteenth century, the establishment of an University in Dublin became a favourite object with those who were desirous of advancing the reformation of the Irish church, by providing well-instructed pastors from the natives of the soil. Endeavours to this effect were zealously, but unsuccessfully, made by Sir Henry Sidney and Sir John Perrot, whilst lords deputy of Ireland ; and the warrant for a license of incorporation did not pass the seals until the 29th of December, 1591. In the regular charter which speedily followed, the college was constituted the mother of an university, under the style of *The College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, near Dublin, founded by Queen Elizabeth.*

The ground on which the collegiate buildings were erected, was granted for that purpose by the mayor and citizens of Dublin, chiefly through the solicitation of Archbishop Loftus;* and assistance towards the expense of the buildings was procured by means of circular letters, addressed to the principal gentlemen throughout the kingdom of Ireland. The fabric was sufficiently completed for the reception of students on the 9th day of January, 1593. The prosperity of the infant society was greatly retarded by the wars which quickly ensued, as the endowment made by the queen was situated in Ulster, which province was long harassed by the ambitious struggles of Tyrone, and the severities inflicted by his opponents. Additional grants were, however, conceded by the crown; and, fostered by this care and bounty, the University, to use the words of Dr. Leland, “struck its roots securely amidst the public storms, and, cultivated as it was by succeeding princes, rose to a degree of consequence and splendour infinitely disproportioned to its first beginning.”

King James I. endowed this college with large estates in the province of Ulster. King Charles I. was also a considerable benefactor; in which liberality he has been emulated by several succeeding monarchs. The revenues proceeding from these sources are now ample, and arise chiefly from estates situated in the counties of Donegal and Kerry, which have lately produced, as we believe, about £15,000 per annum, exclusive of fines which are divided among the senior fellows. The provost possesses a separate estate, situated in the county of Galway, which has lately yielded an annual income of about £2,600.

This is the only university in Ireland, and is subject to a set of statutes received, together with a new charter, in the year 1637. The office of provost has, in some instances, been given to laymen, previously unconnected with the university; but has, in most recent examples, been bestowed on persons who had filled the office of fellow, and were in holy orders. During the

* This ground had formed the site of the monastery of All-Hallows, noticed in our account of dissolved religious houses in Dublin, and had been granted to the mayor and citizens by King Henry VIII.

absence of the provost, his duties are performed by the senior of the fellows, who always bears the title of vice-provost. The provost and seven senior fellows form a council, called the *board*, by which all affairs relating to the internal government of the college are regulated.* Besides the fellows there are seventy scholars, who have a right of voting at the election of the member returned by the college to parliament, and have some other privileges.

There are professors, on different foundations, of divinity; common and civil law; mathematics; natural philosophy; physic; anatomy and surgery; chemistry; botany; astronomy; history; oratory; and the greek, oriental, and modern languages.

The benefices in the gift of this university are nineteen in number, and are of considerable value. On a living becoming vacant it is offered to the clerical fellows in succession, beginning with the senior, until accepted; and the person inducted vacates his fellowship. The office of fellow is also vacated by

* The vacancies of the senior fellowships are usually supplied by the seniors of the junior fellows, on the election of the board, within three days after the vacancy is known. The admission to a junior fellowship is attained only by an exertion of mental labour that has been termed, and perhaps not unjustly, "one of the severest trials of the human faculties of which there is any account." The candidates for this office must have taken a bachelor's degree in arts, and are "examined in the public hall, three days successively, for two hours in the morning, and as many in the afternoon of each day; the first morning in logic and metaphysics; first afternoon in all the branches of the mathematics; second morning in natural philosophy; second evening in ethics; third morning in history and chronology; third evening in the Greek, Latin, and Hebrew languages; the fourth day is private, and is devoted to composition. The examination is in Latin."—Three of the fellows only are allowed to be members of the lay-professions, one of medicine and two of law, without an express dispensation from the crown. The remainder must be clergymen of the established church. According to the statutes, the fellows should be unmarried; but dispensations have been frequently given by the crown, and this article of the statutes at present meets with little attention. The junior fellows are eighteen in number.

those who accede to the professorships of divinity and common law.

The students are divided into the three classes of fellow-commoners, pensioners, and sizars. The fellow-commoners are distinguished by a peculiarity in the academical gown and cap, and have the privilege of dining at the same table with the fellows; the pensioners, at less cost, possess all the advantages which the college affords, in point of instruction; the sizars are limited in number to about thirty, and receive their commons and instruction free of expense. The undergraduate course continues four years, during the two first of which the students are called freshmen; in the two last they acquire the name of sophisters. There are four annual examinations in the public hall, and premiums and certificates are bestowed upon those who evince excellence on these occasions. The highest reward is a gold medal, and the premiums are books stamped with the college arms. The total number of names on the college books, in the year 1821, was 1600.

Although the annals of this university present the names of many scholars who have acquired distinction in various elevated paths of life, it is certain that the number is not so great as might have been expected in a collegiate institution so well calculated to convey general instruction. In the following selection will be found the names of several persons, whose worth and talents cannot fail to meet with the admiration of a very distant posterity. Primate Usher; Archbishop King; Bishops Berkeley; Bedell; P. Browne; Chandler; H. Hamilton, and Young. Amongst such students as are chiefly indebted for celebrity to the cultivation of literature, may be enumerated Swift; Congreve; Parnell; Farquhar; Southerne; Delany; Dodwell (Camden professor of history in the university of Oxford); Molinex; Goldsmith; and Dr. J. Leland. Many distinguished statesmen and lawyers have also been produced by this university; and foremost in this distinguished class stand the names of Edmund Burke; Grattan; Lord Chancellor Clare; Lord Avondale; Hussey Burgh; and Henry Flood.

Trinity college is an edifice of great extent, and of considerable splendour. The chief front forms the eastern termination

of the area denominated College-green, and is a handsome elevation, of the Corinthian order, 300 feet in length. This spacious front is composed of Portland stone, and is four stories in height. The central compartment is adorned with lofty columns, which sustain an angular pediment; and the building terminates, towards the north and south, in pavilions, ornamented with duplicated pilasters, and having an attic story surmounted with balustrades of stone. Towards the north the college displays a plain and massy front of mountain-granite, lately completed, which is extremely objectionable, on account of its discordance with the enriched style prevailing in other parts of the exterior. This front extends to the length of 270 feet.

The collegiate buildings are principally divided into three quadrangles, and are approached from the "green" by an octangular vestibule, quite destitute of any claim to architectural beauty. The first quadrangle is termed the *Parliament-square*, from the circumstance of it having been rebuilt chiefly by means of grants from parliament, made at different times, and amounting, in the whole, to upwards of £40,000. This quadrangle is of spacious proportions, being 316 feet in length by 212 feet in width; and is, in every respect, of an eligible and ornamental character. Besides apartments for students and other members of the university, this principal square contains the chapel; the theatre for lectures and examinations; and the refectory, or dining hall. The two former structures are placed opposite to each other, on the north and south sides of the square, and are entirely of a similar design, as relates to the exterior. The front of each is embellished with a portico of the Corinthian order, consisting of four noble columns, finishing in an angular pediment; and a balustrade of stone ranges along the top.

The interior of the *Theatre* (exclusive of a semicircular recess at the end) is eighty feet in length, forty feet in width, and forty-four feet in height. The principal ornaments are of stucco, rich and elaborate, but, perhaps, too minute and delicate for the production of dignified effect. Over the rustic basement rises a series of pilasters, of the composite order, highly decorated; and

the ceiling is adorned with mosaic work. In the panels between the pilasters are whole-length portraits of Queen Elizabeth, the foundress, and of seven eminent persons who received instruction in this university,* or are entitled, as benefactors, to its gratitude and respect. In the theatre is also placed a cenotaphial monument, commemorative of Dr. Baldwin, formerly provost of Trinity college, who died in 1758. This monument was executed, at the charge of £2000, by Mr. Hewetson, a native of Ireland, but residing at Rome. The effigies of the deceased is sculptured, recumbent on a mattress, spread over a sarcophagus of black marble. In the left hand of the figure is a scroll, intended to represent *the will* of Dr. Baldwin, by which he bequeathed his fortune, amounting to £80,000, to the university. A female figure, emblematic of the academical body to which he was so cordially attached, bends over his expiring form, with looks expressive of deep woe. An angel, standing at his feet, sustains a wreath of palm in one hand, and with the other points to the heavens.—It will be readily allowed that the story of this sculpture might have been told in a design at once more refined and equally simple; but the figures are well grouped, and are executed with considerable ability.

The interior of *the Chapel* presents the same plenitude of stucco ornaments as the interior of the theatre. In the respective parts, and in the general display, there is much elegance and some beauty; but we must repeat that true grandeur is seldom the offspring of minute decoration. These structures were erected after the designs of Sir W. Chambers, who supplied plans for the whole of the modern alterations of the college.

The *Refectory* is a plain but respectable pile, seventy feet in length by thirty-five in width. The whole of the buildings in Parliament-square are faced with hewn stone; and, in every point of view, this may, assuredly, be considered as one of the finest collegiate quadrangles in the empire.

* Primate Usher; Archbishop King; Bishop Berkeley; William Molineux, Esq.; Dean Swift; Dr. Baldwin; and Lord Clare. The portrait of Swift is a copy, executed about the year 1780.

Situated over the vestibule in the western front is an apartment, sixty feet in length by forty feet in width, constituting a *Museum*. The collection of natural and artificial objects of science and curiosity here repositied, comprises some valuable articles, but is rendered of secondary importance by the rival assemblage formed in the rooms of the Dublin Society.

The *inner, or library square*, is 265 feet in length by 214 feet in width. Three sides of the quadrangle consist of uniform, but unornamented, buildings of brick, containing apartments for students. The fourth side is occupied by *the Library*, a handsome structure, composed of stone; but, unfortunately, the material has proved of a bad quality, and, with the exception of the few ornamental parts, which are of Portland stone, the whole exterior is subject to a premature appearance of decay, resembling that so prevalent in the collegiate buildings of Oxford. Internally this library is scarcely excelled by any edifice devoted to a similar purpose, as regards amplitude of dimensions, and united convenience and beauty of arrangement. The length is 210 feet, the width forty-one feet, and the height forty feet. In furnishing and disposing this noble apartment, due precautions have been taken for the preservation of the books; for the accommodation of readers; and for the general display of the whole to the curious examiner.

The books are ranged on both sides of oaken partitions projecting from the walls; and the apartments formed by this mode of division are provided with desks and seats for students. The partitions terminate in fluted pillars, of the Corinthian order, which support a spacious gallery of passage, commanding a comprehensive view of the whole of the interior, and ornamented with busts of persons distinguished for literary attainments, or locally venerated from a long and exemplary connexion with the university. The books are classed and arranged with great care, and constitute a valuable and increasing collection, not unworthy of the sole university of a country in which literature is rising in esteem, with a quick and happy progress.*

* This Library (the first public institution of the kind in Ireland, as regards modern times) is indebted for its foundation to the liberality of

The third square (very commonly known by the appellation of Botany-bay) is of extensive dimensions, and situated to the north of the quadrangle last noticed. The buildings, which are designed with a view to convenience rather than ornament, consist of chambers for the accommodation of students.

To the east of the Library-square is a plot of ground denominated *the park*, which is planted with elms, but is much neglected, and possesses little beauty. In this division of the collegiate premises are the laboratory, the anatomical lecture room, and the printing-office.—In a building contiguous to the *Anatomical School* are preserved some curious models in wax of the human figure, executed by M. Douane, and presented to this college by the Earl of Shelburne, in the year 1752. The *Printing-office* is a small building, depending for architectural ornament on a portico of the Doric order, on which is an inscription, stating that it was the gift of Dr. John Stearne, bishop of Clogher.

The *Provost's House* is situated at the distance of about sixty feet to the south of the west front of the college, and is a spacious

military men. After the defeat of the Spaniards at Kinsale, in 1603, the conquerors collected among themselves the sum of £1800 for the purpose of establishing a public library in this university, as a durable memorial of their success and pious gratitude on that occasion. With this sum the celebrated Usher proceeded to London, and purchased such works as appeared to be indispensably necessary for the foundation of a literary establishment. Many valuable donations have been since made, including Usher's private collection, consisting originally of 10,000 volumes. A recent addition, of considerable importance, has been made by the purchase of the *Fagel* collection, consisting of about 20,000 volumes. This collection was the property of M. Fagel, pensionary of Holland, and was removed to England when the French invaded that country. The amount of the purchase was £8000, which sum was granted by the trustees of Erasmus Smith. It is believed that the total number of books in the university library is not less than 100,000 volumes, a number continually augmenting, as this library is included in the Act of Parliament for reserving a copy of every new publication for the use of certain public institutions. The manuscripts are preserved in a room at the east end of the library, and comprise many valuable documents relating to the history and ancient laws, manners, and customs of Ireland.

and costly building of stone, erected after a design of the Earl of Burlington and Cork, so justly celebrated for a liberal attachment to architectural pursuits. This structure, like most of the buildings designed by Lord Burlington, is of a classical, weighty, and superb character. The interior contains a very fine suite of principal apartments.

THE BANK OF IRELAND.

THE noble structure now used for the purpose of a national bank, is well known to have formerly constituted the parliament house of Ireland. It is stated, in the History of Dublin by Harris, that the building was commenced in the year 1729, and was chiefly executed under the direction of Sir Edward Lovet Pearce, engineer and surveyor-general; but, on the decease of that gentleman, the works were continued by his successor in office, Arthur Dobbs, Esq.; the whole, in its original state, being finished about 1739, at the expense of nearly £40,000.* This fine edifice is situated on College-green, and is placed nearly at right angles with the west front of Trinity College, uniting with that pile in presenting a very unusual display of architectural grandeur. The governors of the bank of Ireland purchased this building of government, in the year 1802, for the sum of £40,000, the property being subject to a ground rent of £240 per annum. The exterior part of the structure experienced some alterations previous to that change of appropriation; more have been since effected; and nearly the whole of the interior, with the exception of the apartment formerly used for the assembly of the lords in parliament, has necessarily been re-organized.

The chief front comprises the principal features of the original

* There has prevailed an opinion that the designs of the Parliament house were furnished by Mr. Cassels, to whose correct judgment the domestic architecture of Dublin is under important obligations. But such a persuasion is evidently unfounded. Mr. Cassels was first introduced into Ireland by Sir Gustavus Hume, of Castle Hume, in the county of Fermanagh, in the year 1773. It is much to be regretted that architects do not, like many other artists, affix their names to the most distinguished of their works.

design, and consists of a central façade and projecting wings, constituting a colonnade of the Ionic order, which is, perhaps, unrivalled, amongst modern works of art, for majesty of effect produced by chaste and scientific means. Simplicity of arrangement and harmony of proportions are here displayed with charms so captivating, that the mind revolts from the idea of all more obvious ornament, and the spectator feels that true dignity depends on a source quite remote from laborious decoration. A writer of considerable taste and equal judgment, (Mr. J. Malton) speaking of the original part of this building, and of its former appropriation as a house of parliament, pronounces it to be the “ noblest structure of which Dublin has to boast ;” and observes that “ it is no hyperbole to advance that this edifice, in the entire, is the grandest, most convenient, and most extensive of the kind in Europe. The portico is without any of the usual architectural decorations, having neither statue, vase, bas-relief, tablet, sculptured key-stone, or sunk panel to enrich it :* it derives all its beauty from a simple impulse of fine art, and is one of the few instances of form only expressing true symmetry.”

The first addition to the parliament house, as regards the exterior, consisted in a portico of six Corinthian columns, on the east side, intended as an entrance to the house of lords. This portico was erected about the year 1785, after the designs of James Gandon, Esq. architect. The tympanum of the pediment is vacant, but on its apex is placed a statue of Fortitude, with Justice on the right hand and Liberty on the left, ably executed by Mr. Edward Smyth. Viewed as a separate object, this eastern portico undoubtedly possesses considerable beauty ; but, as an appendage to a building of the Ionic order, it is extremely objectionable.† The expense of the additions on this side, chiefly

* Since the date of Mr. Malton's work, the central part of the building has received some embellishments. On the tympanum of the pediment are placed the royal arms in bold relief; and on the apex is a statue, representing Hibernia, with Fidelity on her right hand and Commerce on her left. The whole of the figures were executed by Mr. Edward Smyth.

† In the account of this building by Dr. Walsh (Hist. of Dublin, vol. i. p. 531.) it is said that “ adopting the Corinthian order instead of the Ionic

consisting of apartments for the accommodation of the peers, amounted to about £25,000. The eastern front is connected with the central part of the building, by means of a circular screen wall, ornamented with Ionic columns, and niches for statues.

In the year 1787, an addition was also begun on the west side, which was completed in 1794, after the designs of Robert Parke, Esq. architect. This addition consisted, internally, of an entrance-hall and suite of apartments, for the further accommodation of members of the house of commons. The entrance is under a portico of four Ionic columns, united with the main building, as is the portico towards the east, by a circular wall, ornamented with Ionic columns. The expense of the additions on the west amounted to about £30,000.

When this splendid structure was converted to its present use, as a national bank, great alterations of the interior were indispensable; and these have been judiciously executed under the direction of Francis Johnston, Esq. It will be found, with regret, that it proved necessary, in effecting these arrangements, to take down the commons-room, an apartment much admired for beauty of proportions and magnificence of disposal. Nearly on the site of the spacious room formerly termed the court of requests is now placed the cash office, a fine apartment, seventy feet in length by fifty-three feet in width. The house of lords has experienced scarcely any alteration, and at present forms the court of proprietors. This apartment is forty feet long and thirty feet wide, with a recess, formerly containing the throne, and now occupied by a statue of George III. executed by Bacon, jun. There are, also, in niches of this room, busts of the same sovereign and of the Duke of Wellington, by Turnerelli. Each end of the

in this front, was the result of the directions of the lords themselves, who, conceiving that such a variety would be pleasing, overlooked the difficulty of uniting parts so discordant. It is related that a gentleman passing, when the workmen were placing the Corinthian capitals on the columns, struck with this incongruity, asked 'What order was that?' when Mr. Gandon, who was present, answered with a ready wit, that it was a very substantial order, for it was the order of the House of Lords."

apartment is ornamented with Corinthian columns, and on the sides are two large pieces of tapestry, respectively representing the battle of the Boyne and the memorable defence of Derry.*

Since the conversion of the building into a bank, apartments have been erected adjoining the western front for a military guard, which are approached by a handsome gateway, ornamented with Ionic columns and military trophies.

THE COURTS OF LAW, OR FOUR COURTS.

THE building thus denominated comprises the four courts of judicature, and the principal law offices. Previously to the year 1695, the four law courts were separate and ambulatory; but, in that year, they were assembled under one roof, and the building in which they were appointed to be held was situated in Christchurch-lane, a crowded and inconvenient part of the antient city. The present building was commenced under the direction of Mr. Thomas Cooley, in 1776. That architect lived to complete the western wing only, and the remainder of the edifice was finished under the care of the able architect of the Custom-house, Mr. James Gandon.

This very sumptuous structure is situated on the north side of the river Liffey, betwixt the two bridges respectively termed Richmond-bridge and Whitworth-bridge. Between the building and the river there is merely the usual width of the northern quays; but the parapet of the quays here experiences an alteration, as the light and handsome balustrade of the bridges is continued along the side of the river, throughout the whole range of this edifice. It will be evident that such a situation is unfavourable to the display of the building, in the direct contiguity of its site. In fact, the only eligible point of view is obtained from the

* It is worthy of remark that these curious and well-executed pieces of tapestry were taken down when the house of parliament was first converted into a bank, and were consigned to the depository of decayed furniture in the Castle. In this situation they were fortunately seen by Mr. Johnston, architect of the board of works, and were, by the good taste of that gentleman, restored to their original and appropriate places.

opposite side of the river. Surveyed from the quay on the southern side of the Liffey, it presents an object of great magnificence, although the design, as regards symmetry and general effect, may, perhaps, be deemed liable to some objections.

The whole ground-plan of this noble fabric and its dependant offices, forms an oblong rectangle, of about 440 feet in length and 170 feet in depth. The central pile, which is 140 feet square, contains the courts of judicature. On the east and west are court-yards, shut from the street, or quay, by a screen, perforated with circular arches ; and on the sides of these courts are placed the law-offices.

The central front presents a splendid portico, the pediment of which is sustained by six Corinthian columns, and is surmounted with statues of Moses, of Justice, and of Mercy. Over duplicated pilasters, near the two extremities of the front, are statues, in a sitting attitude, representing Wisdom and Authority. Above the whole rises a lofty dome, encompassed by columns, with interspersed perforations for windows. It has been truly objected that this part of the building is of dimensions too extensive for its character and situation. A writer of accurate taste (Sir R. C. Hoare) observes “ that its proportions as a *detached temple* would be more just : viewed from the opposite side of the river the over-massive proportions of the dome and colonnade tend to lessen, and injure, those of the beautiful portico beneath, to which they should be only secondary.”

In the arrangement of the interior, simplicity and magnificence are blended with a happy refinement of art. Within the square outline of 140 feet, which we have previously noticed as the dimensions of the building, is placed a circular hall, sixty-four feet in diameter ; and in the angles of the square are formed the *four courts*, namely, the courts of chancery, king’s-bench, exchequer, and common pleas. The hall is surrounded by columns of the Corinthian order. Above the entablature is an attic pedestal, embellished with eight sunk panels ; and in the panels over the entrances into the courts is sculpture in bas relief, representing, 1st. William the conqueror, promulgating the Nor-

man laws; 2nd. King John, in the supposed act of affixing his signature to Magna Charta; 3rd. Henry the Second, receiving the Irish chieftains; 4th. James the First, abolishing the Brehon laws. From the attic springs the dome, between the windows of which are eight colossal statues, in alto relievo, emblematical of liberty; justice; wisdom; law; prudence; mercy; eloquence; and punishment. The frieze over the windows contains medallions, charged with the representations of eight eminent legislators of antiquity; and the remainder of the dome is enriched with mosaic work.

The whole of the four courts are of equal dimensions, and are formed on a judicious plan, but possess no peculiarity demanding notice.

As an edifice in some measure connected with the above, may be noticed, in this place, the INNS OF COURT. This building occupies a situation lamentably ineligible, but is by no means destitute of architectural beauty. The plan comprises a central elevation and two receding wings, 110 feet in length. The principal front is surmounted with a handsome octangular cupola; and different parts of the exterior are ornamented with storied and emblematical sculpture, executed by Edward Smyth, to whose professional talents many of the public buildings of Dublin are so highly indebted. The greater part of the north wing is occupied by a dining-hall, eighty-one feet in length by forty-two in width. Over the ante-hall is an apartment of moderate dimensions, used at present as a library. This ill-placed structure, which cannot be approached without difficulty, and is scarcely displayed to advantage at any ordinary point of view, was erected after the designs of James Gandon, Esq. whose merit as an architect is more conspicuously exhibited at the Custom-house.

THE ROYAL EXCHANGE,

Is justly termed one of the principal ornaments of Dublin. This fabric is placed on the south side of the Liffey, nearly in the central and highest part of the city. The chief front opens to Parliament-street, which lies in a direct line with Essex-bridge and Capel-street, on the opposite side of the river. From the

east the approach is through College-green and Dame-street ; and the building is thus connected in situation with the chief trading districts of the capital. It occupies the north-east angle of the precincts of the castle, and imparts much architectural grandeur to the vicinity of the vice-regal residence in that direction.

This admired structure is, in form, a square of one hundred feet, and shews three fronts, composed of Portland stone, and designed in the Corinthian order. The north, or principal, façade presents, in its central compartment, a portico of six columns, finishing in an angular pediment. The front towards the west varies little in character from that on the north, except that it is rendered subordinate by the want of a pediment. In the centre of this side the entablature projects, and is sustained by four columns only. The east front is presented to a narrow passage, and has few other ornaments than a range of pilasters. The side towards the south is not open to view, and is entirely destitute of decoration.

The interior of this edifice is believed to display the greatest excellence of architectural effort ; and, in regard to general disposal, its claims on admiration are certainly imperative. In the centre of the square area twelve fluted pillars of the Composite order, thirty-two feet in height, are arranged in a circular form, and are covered with a rich entablature. Above is a cylindrical lantern, about ten feet high, pierced by twelve circular windows, and adorned with festoons of laurel, in stucco work. The whole is crowned with a dome, or cupola, divided into embellished hexagonal compartments. On each side of the columns which sustain the dome are impost pilasters, of the Ionic order, which rise to rather more than half the height of the columns ; and the side-walks of the square are covered with a flat ceiling, the height of these pilasters. The principal parts of the interior are formed of Portland-stone, and the pavement is composed of square flags, alternately black and white. At each extremity of the north side is a geometrical staircase of stone, oval in form, and lighted by a lantern of the same shape, having a coved ceiling greatly enriched. These stairways communicate with a coffee-room and

other apartments intended for the transaction of business, which are disposed around the cylinder of the dome.

Opposite the north entrance, and well placed between two of the pillars which support the dome, is a statue of King George III. in a Roman military habit, cast in bronze by J. Van Nost, and presented to the merchants of Dublin by the first Duke of Northumberland, when lord lieutenant of Ireland. The cost is said to have been 700 guineas. In a niche of the western staircase is a good statue of the late Dr. Lucas, executed in marble by Edward Smyth.

This superb edifice was erected after the designs of Mr. Thomas Cooley, and was deservedly the cause of introducing that architect to many public and private works in Ireland. The foundation stone was laid in the year 1769, and the building was opened on the 1st of January, 1779. The entire expenditure, including the purchase of ground, amounted to about £40,000. The sum of £13,500, for the purchase of the site, was granted by parliament; and in procuring this aid considerable exertions were made by Dr. Charles Lucas, then one of the representatives of the city. The remainder was raised by the merchants of Dublin, partly by the profit arising from lottery-schemes.

This structure displays real excellencies which rise superior to all critical remark. If any obvious error exist, it may be found in an excess of embellishment. A fastidious examiner might consider the orders misplaced, when he observed, in the same city, the house of parliament erected in the simplicity of the Ionic order, and Corinthian splendour bestowed on the less dignified, although important, place where "merchants congregate." Such an examiner might, perhaps, believe that the minute and elaborate decorations of the ceil-work are more applicable to the mansion than to the exchange. Without entering, to any extent, on views so rigid, we may safely presume that no arguments are necessary to prove that style of architecture best adapted to mercantile uses which is most expressive of strength and solidity, and which exhibits ornament with the least possible degree of ostentation.

THE CUSTOM HOUSE.

This noble fabric is situated on the north side of the river Liffey, at a short distance from Carlisle-bridge towards the east. As an object of architectural grandeur it is, perhaps, secondary only to the Bank, amongst those public buildings for which Dublin is celebrated throughout Europe; and the appropriation of the edifice has been consulted with paramount care in every particular of arrangement.

The Custom house displays four ornamented fronts, the principal of which is placed towards the river. The form is an oblong quadrangle, 375 feet in length by 209 feet in depth; and the plan comprises a central pile, 130 feet broad, and extending to the entire depth; two interior courts, respectively placed on the east and west; and wings in the same directions. The Doric order is adopted in the columns and embellishments, but with some innovations on the austere simplicity of that architectural style. The south front, and the whole of the ornamental parts, are composed of Portland-stone; the remainder of the structure is chiefly of mountain-granite.

The centre of the south front consists of a portico of four columns. In the tympanum of the pediment is a group of figures in alto-relievo, representing the friendly union between Hibernia and Britannia, and the beneficial effects of such an amicable intercourse. On the attic story, over the four columns of the portico, are allegorical statues, representing Industry, Commerce, Wealth and Navigation, executed by T. Banks, R. A. Above the central façade rises a cupola, of fine proportions, bearing a considerable resemblance to those at Greenwich-hospital, on the top of which is a colossal statue of Hope.*

In this grand and extensive front not only the entire effect,

* This statue is twelve feet high, and is 113 feet from the ground. Some critical examiners have pronounced its proportions to be "too massive" for its situation; an objection to which it would certainly appear to be liable.

but many of the minute embellishments, are highly worthy of deliberate and repeated examination.—On the key-stones of the arches of entrance, and others corresponding, being sixteen in the whole, there are emblematical representations of the same number of rivers in Ireland. These designs consist of male heads, with the exception of the Liffey, which, from a fanciful attention to the usual prefix (Anna) is described by the representation of a female. The whole of these, together with the figures on the tympanum of the pediment, and many other ornamental particulars, were executed by the late Edward Smyth, and will be found to evince a vigour of imagination, and, in some instances, also an excellence of chisel, which cannot fail to gratify the connoisseur and to surprise and please every examiner.*

The north front is less superb, although considerably ornamented. In the centre is a portico of four columns, but destitute of a pediment. From the entablature over each column rises a statue; the whole executed by T. Banks, R. A. and representing the four quarters of the world. This front is viewed to great advantage from an extensive semi-circular area, left open for the convenience of the building.—The east and west fronts have a subdued but elegant character, in strict analogy with the principal parts of the structure.

In the arrangement of the interior, utility has been the first object of consideration, but an air of grandeur pervades the whole disposal, and embellishment is bestowed with a moderate and judicious hand. The principal hall of public business, usually

* Edward Smyth was born in the county of Meath, in the year 1746, and died in 1812. He was the son of a captain in the army, and was himself originally designed for the military profession. The sculpture executed by him for the Bank, the Courts of Law, the Castle-Chapel, and other public buildings in Dublin, will obtain for his memory a lasting respect from every person of discrimination. His allegorical masks display the simplicity of nature, in great varieties of representation, adorned by a rich vein of poetical fancy; and may be truly said to constitute that species of sculpture which at once addresses the understanding and the heart. Mr. Smyth is succeeded, in talent and avocation, by a son, now residing in Dublin.

denominated the *Long Room*, is a splendid apartment, nearly of square proportions, measuring seventy feet by sixty-five, and is approached through a fine octangular vestibule, constructed beneath the cupola. On each side of this noble room is a range of composite columns, at the distance of twelve feet from the walls, which unite in supporting an arched ceiling, having two large circular lanterns, richly ornamented with stucco-work. The room is farther lighted with semi-circular windows, placed above the entablature. Between the columns are desks for the officers and clerks.

To the east of the building is an excavated wet dock, which covers nearly two English acres, and communicates with the Liffey by means of a sea-lock, capable of admitting the largest vessels that can enter this part of the river. On the quay which bounds the dock upon the east and north, are commodious warehouses, and some offices connected with the business of the establishment.

The first stone of the Custom House was laid on the 8th of August, 1781, and the whole was designed by James Gandon, Esq. and executed under the direction of that architect. The expense of the building, including the dock and various contiguous erections, is stated at £397,232:4:11.

Whilst it is universally admitted that this edifice constitutes one of the principal ornaments of Dublin, many objections have been offered by critical examiners, but these are chiefly such as affect the choice of site. It is justly observed that the building is placed too near the margin of the river, a defect which obviously originated in a want of judgment with the architect, as he had an extensive area of waste ground upon an inland direction, when he formed the design. Although this light, yet substantial, fabric assists greatly in imparting an air of dignity to the city, as its quays are approached in navigating the harbour, the beauties of the building stand fully displayed only to the examiner taking his station on the opposite side of the river: Even a satisfactory view from this point is at present, obtained with difficulty, as the numerous shipping which frequent this port

now discharge their lading in the immediate precincts of the chief front. When the new docks, shortly to be noticed, shall be completed, this obstruction, however, will be removed, as vessels will then deposit their freight further to the east, and remote from the main official structure.

The central compartment of the north front is certainly much inferior in the harmony and elegance—the beautiful medium between airiness and solidity—which characterize other parts of the building. Some architectural critics contend that the principal front should have been constructed upon the north or inland side, on account of the extensive area from which the edifice is there surveyed. But there would appear to be an insuperable necessity for placing the grand façade of a building, connected with commerce, towards that element which affords the means of national interchange.—The exalted merits of this fabric so far prevail over its deficiencies, that it is justly an object of pride with the inhabitants, and of admiration with every tasteful visitor.

A considerable augmentation of the works appertaining to the Custom-house is now taking place towards the east. In consequence of an extension of the *bonding system*, under the operation of which the merchant passes his bond for the payment of duty on goods imported, and leaves the goods in the king's stores until the duty is actually paid, government has commenced two new docks, and very spacious warehouses, for the accommodation of merchants profiting by such an indulgence. The excavation of the docks was begun in 1816, and the stone-work of that which is designed to be least extensive in dimensions, is now completed, after the plans of the late John Rennie, Esq. This dock is about 320 feet in length by 250 feet in width; and it is intended that the dimensions of that which is projected but not begun, shall be 620 feet by 300. A warehouse for the deposit of tobacco, with vaults beneath for wine and spirits, is recently finished, and is about 500 feet in length by 160 feet in width. The whole of the design and execution affords a valuable example of this species of building, and we may, on rational grounds, encourage a persuasion that the scheme is not on too extensive a scale for the commercial prospects of the country.

THE POST OFFICE.

This building is situated on the west side of Sackville-street, and is at once commodious, well arranged for the dispatch of business, and highly ornamental to the city. The first post office in Dublin was situated on the north side of Dame-street, and the establishment was afterwards removed to the south side of College-green ; but the great increase of business rendered even this improved site ineligible, and the first stone of the present spacious edifice was laid by Lord Whitworth, then viceroy, on the 12th of August, 1814. The office was opened on the 6th of January, 1818, and was erected after the designs, and under the inspection of, Francis Johnston, Esq. architect, at the expense of £80,000.

This substantial and appropriate structure is of ample dimensions, the length being 223 feet, the depth 150 feet, and the height, measured to the top of the cornice, fifty feet. The ornamental parts are confined to the principal front, in the centre of which is a fine portico, that extends eighty feet, and consists of six columns of the antient Ionic order, four feet four inches in diameter. The entablature is highly decorated, and the pediment terminates with an excellent statue, representing Hibernia. On the sides are statues of Mercury and Fidelity, and on the tympanum are the royal arms, in high relief.* This portico projects sufficiently from the body of the building to admit the paved foot-way of the street, for the transit of passengers.

The design of the structure comprehends three stories, a handsome balustrade surmounting the cornice along the whole of the top. The material used is mountain-granite, procured from quarries in the neighbourhood of Dublin, with the exception of the portico, which is composed of Portland-stone. If the site be liable to any objection, it is that of being too far removed from the central parts of the city ; but this inconvenience was unavoidable.

* The three statues were executed by Mr. John Smyth, and the other sculpture by Mr. Stewart, who likewise performed many of the ornaments in the chapel of the castle.

able, and is, in a great measure, compensated by the noble extent of area allowed by the unusual width of the street in which the building is placed. The whole edifice is honourable to the present state of architectural talent in this country, whilst the necessity for so spacious a pile is a grateful proof of an increasing interchange, that cannot fail to prove of the highest national advantage.*

PUBLIC STATUES, AND OTHER MONUMENTS, COMMEMORATIVE AND ORNAMENTAL.

Next in esteem to splendour of architecture bestowed on edifices designed for public uses, are the statues and monuments erected as testimonies of public spirit. These must usually be described as the latest efforts towards civic embellishment, proceeding from aggregate opulence and a creditable degree of

* The establishment of a regular post between Ireland and England appears to be first recognized in the reign of Charles I. Under the protectorate of Cromwell the facilities of correspondence between the two countries were considerably augmented; and packet boats were directed to ply, weekly, between Dublin and Chester, and Waterford and Milford. In 1711, the post office was new modelled, under the inspection of a post-master-general, appointed for the three kingdoms. When the independence of Ireland on the English parliament was settled, in 1782, the Irish post office became a separate establishment, and has remained such, notwithstanding the Union of the two countries. We have stated, in our prefatory pages, the great improvement, in celerity and safety of conveyance, which took place in consequence of the introduction of mail-coaches in this country, in the year 1790. These coaches are now well-appointed, and afford a channel of prompt communication between all the principal parts of Ireland. The former deficiency in means of correspondence, between the metropolis and remote parts of the island, is curiously illustrated by the following anecdote in Dr. Walsh's History of Dublin.—“The town of Cahircavan, in the county of Kerry, 160 Irish miles from Dublin, was thirty miles from the nearest post town, and so completely cut off from all communication with the metropolis, that, having some intercourse with America, the Dublin newspapers and letters used, sometimes, to arrive there *via New York*, having twice crossed the Atlantic.” There are now nearly 400 post towns in this country, and the revenues of the post office have rapidly increased within the few last years. For the year 1800, the total revenues were about £85,000. The gross receipts for 1816, were £250,000.

intellectual refinement. The accessions made in recent years, place Dublin and its immediate vicinity in an elevated rank, in regard to such gratifying circumstances of decoration. The chief public monuments situated in the city have already received cursory notice. It remains to present them in a nearer point of view, and to enter as much into detail, respecting their various pretensions, as is consistent with the design of our work.

The monument termed *Nelson's Pillar* is situated in the centre of Sackville-street, opposite the opening of Mary-street on the west, and that of Earl-street on the east. This monument consists of a column of the Doric order, having a square substructure, or pedestal, of lofty proportions; and is surmounted with a colossal statue of the renowned admiral whose victories it is intended to commemorate. The whole design is so entirely devoid of ornament, that the above brief sentence is nearly sufficient for a description of its architectural character. On the upper part of the pedestal, towards the south, is placed a sarcophagus, inscribed with the name of "NELSON;" and on the four sides of the same division of the monument are the names and dates of Lord Nelson's principal victories. The colossal statue with which the column is surmounted, represents this distinguished admiral in naval uniform.*

This triumphal pillar was erected by means of private subscription, after the design of William Wilkins, Esq. architect, at the expense of £6856; and we must consider the structure to be equally honourable and ornamental to the city, although liable to some objections, both as to architectural character and situation.

* The total height of this pillar, inclusive of the statue, is 134 feet, three inches. The statue is thirteen feet in height. The interior is ascended by 168 stone steps; and from the platform at the top, which is surrounded by an iron railing, a fine panoramic view is obtained of the city, the bay, and contiguous tracts of country.—It may be here observed that, from an elevated point of view, Dublin, on account of the slate with which the buildings are universally covered, presents a neat and polished aspect, greatly superior in effect to London and Paris, where tile is chiefly used in the roofing.

It will be readily allowed that massive simplicity is the most appropriate characteristic of a monument designed to commemorate, through long-descending ages, peculiar events of national triumph. But we are not aware of any circumstances, except those of pecuniary restraint, which can justify the total absence of ornament observable in this structure. It must be superfluous to observe that the emphatical language of historical sculpture may be gracefully, and properly, introduced into designs having simplicity for their prevailing feature, and the firmness of the rock for their fundamental principle. The "genius of the place" also required consideration; a weighty and frugal pile, however imposing from magnitude of proportions, fails to exact its real dues of approbation, when contrasted with public buildings conspicuous, as are those of Dublin, for the cultivation of ornament, and richness of display.

The site of this monument has been considered undesirable; and, assuredly, the national trophy erected in commemoration of marine achievement is best placed when open to the sea, and "rearing its tall shaft" as a triumphal record, boldly and apparently addressed to those who seek, on that element, the foes of their country. The ground on which the column is erected wants the advantage of natural elevation; and it must be admitted that the character of the surrounding objects, (although the mean and little are entirely excluded) is not calculated to awaken any association of ideas, friendly to the appropriation of the monument. One favourable view only is attainable; and it may be remarked, that, throughout the whole of the approach in this direction (from Carlisle-bridge to the northern part of Sackville-street) the tardy degrees of approximation tend, in some measure, to lessen the effect of the pile on the spectator: he has become acquainted with the fabric by slow steps, and the real grandeur of proportions which it presents undergoes a defalcation of power through the effect of this familiarity. The detail alone remains an object of curiosity; and in this respect the building is nearly a blank.

After allowing all proper weight to these objections, we must

believe this monument, both in character and situation, to add much to the dignity and ornament of the city. Viewed as a separate object, its great altitude, and the massive proportions of its constituent parts, imperatively direct the attention and the curiosity to the important events, or unusual excellence, celebrated by an erection towering so far above all local rivalry, and with a solidity evidently intended for the contemplation of posterity. The gauds of laborious and minute decoration would have been obviously misplaced, in a fabric designed to act as a popular type of the imperishable character of a hero's fame. If an extreme must be adopted, that of masculine freedom from decoration was certainly preferable ; but we are not informed of the circumstances which prevented the use of a felicitous medium. This triumphal column, although raised in a part of the city comparatively remote from the water, assists in enriching the perspective view of Dublin, as regards objects of an aspiring character ; and, judging from our own feelings, it imparts an unspeakable air of grandeur to the wide and noble street in which it is placed.

The lofty and ponderous obelisk termed the *Wellington Testimonial*, although it claims rank amongst the public monuments connected with the city of Dublin, must be viewed by the topographer as a feature of the Phoenix Park, and is, accordingly, noticed in our description of that fine demesne.

The equestrian statue of King William III. on College-green, is placed upon a lofty pedestal of granite. The King is crowned with a wreath of laurel, but the original lineaments of the figure are nearly defaced by repeated coats of paint.*

* We are told by Mr. Harris that this statue was begun in the year 1700, “ and was opened, with great solemnity, on the 1st of July, 1701, being the anniversary of the victory of the Boyne.” On the pedestal is the following inscription :

GULIELMO Tertio ;
Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ et Hiberniæ
Regi,
Ob Religionem Conservatam,
Restitutas Leges,
Libertatem Assertam,
Cives Dublinenses hanc statuam posuere.

In the immediate vicinity of the Mansion-house, situated in Dawson-street, is an equestrian statue of King George I. which was first erected on Essex-bridge, in the year 1720, and was placed in its present situation in 1798, a circumstance recorded by an inscription on the pedestal.

The equestrian statue of King George II. placed centrally in St. Stephen's-green, has already been sufficiently noticed; and with that erection terminates our account of such monumental works as are conducive to the general ornament of the city, from entire publicity of situation. Some few years back endeavours were made to accommodate this capital with public fountains adorned with sculpture, emulative of those so much admired in several continental cities. The liberality of the design is entitled to lasting commendation; but the execution was lamentably defective, and the materials used in the decorations were so fragile, that the mutilated ornaments of the fountain previously noticed in Merriion-square, present the sole memorial of these intended embellishments.

ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES,

COMMENCING WITH THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PATRICK.

This edifice is situated in the southern part of Dublin, on a spot considerably without the line of the antient walls of the city, and which must have been at all times undesirable for the erection of a cathedral church. The site of the building is nearly the lowest ground in Dublin; and in its immediate contiguity are two streams (now covered over) which proceed from the river Dodder, and have been subject, in former years, to floods that have repeatedly risen to the height of several feet above the pavement of the church.

There stood on this site, for many ages previous to the twelfth century, a small church, which is thought, with every appearance of probability, to have been founded by native converts to christianity, before the Danes acquired possession of this city, as it was dedicated to the apostle of Ireland, and was erected in the vicinity of a holy well, also dedicated to St. Patrick. John Comin, the

first prelate appointed to this see after the entry of the English, demolished that antient church, about the year 1190, and commenced a more extensive fabric, in which he placed a collegiate establishment. From the time of this prelate, the church of St. Patrick assumes the character of a cathedral; but the offices of dean, precentor, chancellor and treasurer, necessary to the completion of a cathedral establishment, were not appointed until the prelacy of his successor, Henry de Loundres.*

In the year 1362, the buildings experienced considerable damage from fire, but were repaired under the auspices of Archbishop Minot.

In the year 1546, it was determined to dissolve this antient cathedral; and letters-patent were accordingly issued by King Edward VI. appointing commissioners to dispose of the building and its appendages. In 1548, the judges began to keep terms in the cathedral; and, from that time until its restoration by Queen Mary, in the year 1554, the church was used as a common-hall to the four courts of judicature. During the rage of civil war in the seventeenth century, this cathedral was also occasionally used for civil purposes, much to the damage of the structure; but the injuries then inflicted were repaired, chiefly by means of voluntary subscriptions raised among the inhabitants of the city and county of Dublin.

The cathedral of St. Patrick, although inferior in grandeur and dimensions to many of the cathedral structures of England, is an extensive, a commanding, and an interesting fabric. Its external

* From the united acts of these prelates proceeds the unparalleled circumstance of two cathedrals existing in one diocess. "The chapters of the Holy Trinity and of St. Patrick, although distinct corporations, became" from the date of the first year of Pope Honorius, "canonically united, and possessed of equal power and interest in all matters which concerned the diocess." The rank of seniority, or, as it is termed by Archbishop Alan, *the prerogative of honour*, was reserved by the cathedral of the Holy Trinity, on account of the greater antiquity of its foundation as a cathedral-church.—See ample remarks on the foundation and constitution of St. Patrick's, in "*Hibernia Antiqua et Hodierna*," by W. Moncke Mason, Esq.

claims on admiration are, however, rendered of little avail by the offensive character of the approaches, and by the crowds of mean buildings which press towards its venerable walls in every direction. The prevailing architectural character, throughout the exterior, is that of the early pointed style, with some occasional innovations, not sufficiently numerous to deprive the whole of an air of congruity. From the north-west angle of the building rises a square tower, of fair proportions, composed of blue limestone, erected under the care of Archbishop Minot, about the year 1370. A spire, formed of granite, but of a weighty and graceless character, was added in 1749. The ravages of time are painfully visible on nearly every external part; and the north transept, which had long been used as the parochial church of St. Nicholas without the walls, is in a state of ruin. This aspect of general decay and partial desolation, unites with the dreary character of the surrounding objects, in communicating to the whole pile an air of unusual and oppressive gloom.

The interior is principally divided into a nave, with side-aisles; a south transept, comprising the chapter-house; a choir, having lateral aisles; and a lady's chapel, to the eastward of the choir and chancel.* The whole is in the pointed style, and in the simple, and unadorned, mode of design which invariably characterizes the first regular order of this species of architecture.

The nave is separated from its aisles by unornamented arches, sustained by octangular columns. *The choir* is on a more liberal scale, and is more highly-finished than the nave, or body, of the church. This division of the structure has had the unusual good fortune of escaping the hand of innovation under the name of improvement, and displays the original plan in every leading particular, except where cumbrous monuments, or cathedral furniture,

* The dimensions of the principal parts may be thus stated, on the authority of Mr. Moncke Mason: "From the west gate to the east wall of St. Mary's Chapel, the cathedral is in length 300 feet; the breadth of the nave is sixty-seven feet, and that of the cross (or transept) 157. The height of the square steeple is 120 feet, exclusive of the spire, which measures 101 feet more." *Hibernia Antiqua*, &c. p. 8.

engross the space between the pillars, or otherwise interfere with the general effect. The arches which divide the centre from the aisles are narrow and sharply pointed, having clustered columns, or rather piers, each component shaft of which finishes in a small and simple capital, composed of foliage. There are two ranges of triforia, the arches of the lower tier being separated by a slender central column, that assists in forming two smaller arches beneath the sweep of each pointed opening. The mouldings are, in general, plain; and the ornaments are chiefly confined to the capitals of the various columns. Two trifling particulars of embellishment, however, demand notice. These exhibit the same device that occur on coins issued by King John when in Ireland (a blazing star in a crescent), and are placed on the columns at the eastern termination of the prebendal stalls. It is, also, worthy of remark, that these columns appear to have formerly constituted the boundary of the choir towards the west; an enlargement having taken place in that direction, by means of which the centre of the transept is now included within the limits of this part of the cathedral. The roof was originally of stone, but was lately removed, on account of its decayed state. The present ceil-work is of stucco, and is vaulted. The groining consists of simple intersecting ribs, or cross-springers, and is said, with every appearance of correctness, to be faithfully copied from the antient design. The archbishop's throne is of varnished oak, handsomely carved. Here also are oaken stalls, used by the Knights of St. Patrick; and the furniture of the choir comprises an excellent organ.

The chapter-house, or southern transept, exhibits little variation in architectural character from the body of the cathedral; and the same mode of design is preserved in the lady's chapel, or chapel of St. Mary, now used for divine worship by the parishioners of St. Nicholas Without.

From our brief description of the principal architectural features of this fabric, it will be evident that the style in which it is designed is that which grew into adoption with the English in the early part of the thirteenth century. It has been usually asserted that the building was raised "about the year 1190, by Archbi-

shop Comin." But so extensive a pile must have been a considerable time in progress; and, in the absence of existing archives to prove the contrary, we must be inclined to believe that even the eastern and principal parts were not completed until many years subsequent to that date; a conclusion in which we are warranted by the character of the building, and by the introduction of the device used by King John on the western columns of the choir.*

Partly through the inevitable wear of years, but more from the want of due finances for the purpose of timely repairs, this venerable structure had sunk, in the latter part of the eighteenth century, into a state of alarming decay. We have much pleasure in observing that the threatened ruin is, for the present, averted; a very judicious and extensive repair having been effected in the years 1814, and 1816, at which time the roof of the nave was taken down and rebuilt.†

The *Sepulchral Monuments* in this cathedral are numerous, and are, in some instances, of considerable interest, although scarcely any are conspicuous for excellence of execution. We notice such only as appear to possess a prominent claim on attention.

MONUMENTS IN THE NAVE.

On the south side of the nave, engrossing the arch between the fourth and fifth columns, is the large, but tasteless, monument of

* It was by no means necessary for the main pile to have been completed, when the act of consecration took place by Archbishop Comin, or when that prelate bestowed on the foundation a collegiate form of constitution. That churches were sometimes consecrated as soon "as their walls were perfected," see Pegge's *Sylloge of Ancient Inscriptions*, p. 1—3; and Brewer's "Introduct. to the *Beauties of England, &c.*" p. 496-7.

† It is observed by Mr. Moneke Mason that "some appearance of an ancient chapel was discovered at the east end of the north aisle, when the Cathedral was undergoing some repair in the year 1816; very many of the ancient tiles were at the same time discovered by the ingenious Mr. W. Maguire, Sexton, who shewed them to the author; they were each about four inches square, some of them had Gothic letters on the upper side, but the arrangement had been destroyed by the workmen, before it was known that any injury was done." Vestiges of several other chapels are to be traced in different parts of the cathedral.

Dr. Narcissus Marsh, successively Archbishop of Dublin and Armagh. An inscription in latin, of considerable length, is placed on a tablet beneath a canopy ; and on each side are duplicated columns, of the Corinthian order. This very deserving prelate was buried in the cemetery adjoining the cathedral, and the monument was originally erected over his remains, but was removed to its present situation with a view of preserving it from premature decay. Some few particulars respecting *Dr. Marsh* occur in the list of Archbishops of Dublin, presented in a succeeding page.

On the second column from the west gate, on the same side of the nave, is a black marble slab, bearing an inscription to the memory of *Dr. Jonathan Swift*, Dean of St. Patrick's, whose name, immortalized by wit and public spirit, needs no encomium or comment in the page of the topographer. The inscription was composed by himself, and emphatically records the severity with which he felt the stings of folly and vice, and the ardour with which he contended in the cause of a suffering country :

*Hic depositum est corpus JONATHAN SWIFT, S. T. D. Hujus Ecclesiæ Cathedralis Decani, Ubi sæva Indignatio Ulterius Cor lacerare nequit. Abi Viator et imitare, si poteris, Strenuum pro virili Libertatis vindicatorem. Obiit 19^o die mensis Octobris, A. D. 1745. Anno Ætatis, 78. **

The remains of this distinguished writer lie interred at the foot of the column ; and over the inscriptional slab is a bust of the deceased, executed with considerable spirit, which was given to the Chapter by Alderman Faulkner, Swift's publisher. This bust, as we believe, was originally intended for a decoration of the outside of Mr. Faulkner's house, in Essex-street, Dublin.

Near to the remains of Swift, lie those of *Mrs. Johnson*, the celebrated *Stella* of a wayward muse that was cold on no theme except that of love. We have occasion, in a future page, to present some brief remarks concerning the merits and fate of this accomplished lady ; but we must observe, whilst thus pausing over the

* It is stated by *Dr. Walsh* (*Hist. of Dub. vol. ii. p. 691, note*) that this monument was erected in the year 1747, at the expense of the governors of St. Patrick's Hospital.

awful spot where the secrets of the mysterious repose with them in dust and silence, that there are not satisfactory grounds for believing an unacknowledged marriage to have taken place between herself and Swift, as has been credulously supposed, chiefly on the authority of Lord Orrery.* On the pillar next in succession to that enriched by the monument of Swift, is a tablet, charged with the following inscription to her memory :

Underneath lie interred the mortal remains of Mrs. Hester Johnson, better known to the world by the name of STELLA, under which she is celebrated in the writings of Doctor Jonathan Swift, dean of this Cathedral. She was a person of extraordinary endowments and accomplishments, in body, mind, and behaviour ; justly admired and respected by all who knew her, on account of her many eminent virtues, as well as for her great natural and acquired perfections. She dyed, Jan. 27th, 1727-8, in the 46th year of her age ; and, by her will, bequeathed one thousand pounds towards the support of a Chaplain to the Hospital founded in this city by Doctor Stevens.

On the left hand of the entrance from the south, is a small slab of white marble, thus inscribed :

Here lieth the body of *Alexdr. M^cGee*, servant to Dr. Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's. His gratefull master caused this monument to be erected in memory of his Discretion, Fidelity, and Diligence, in that humble station. Ob. Mar. 24: 1721-2. *Ætat* 29.

On the north side of the nave, occupying the arch between the fourth and fifth columns, is the monument of *Dr. Arthur Smythe*, Archbishop of Dublin, who died in 1771. The latin inscription possesses considerable merit, and was composed by Dr. Lowth, Bishop of London.

The most antient monument in this part of the church, is now fixed to the wall on the north side of the western door, to which place it was removed from a decayed chapel at the west end of the south aisle, and commemorates *Archbishop Michael Tregury*, who

* See many ingenious arguments on this subject in a comprehensive review of the different writers on the life of Swift, inserted in Mr. Moncke Mason's "*Hibernia Antiqua*," &c.

died in 1471. On this monumental stone is a representation of the deceased, in his pontifical habit.

MONUMENTS IN THE CHOIR.

The most conspicuous monument in the choir is situated near the eastern end of the south wall, and was erected by *Richard, Earl of Cork*, early in the reign of Charles I. This is the most lofty sepulchral monument that we remember to have seen, and is divided into four stories, containing, in the whole, sixteen figures, designed to represent as many members of the founder's family. The monument is of black stone, with ornamental particulars carved in wood, and painted or gilt; and is entirely in that gaudy and tasteless style which was common at the æra of its erection. At the top of the monument is the well-known motto of the Earl of Cork, "GOD'S PROVIDENCE IS OUR INHERITANCE;" and on the front of a table of black marble, in the second story from the ground, is placed the following inscription:

This monument was erected for the Right Honourable Sir Richard Boyle, Kt. Lord Boyle, Baron of Youghall, Viscount of Dungarvan, Earl of Corke, Lord High Treasurer of Ireland, of the King's Privy Counsell of this realm, and one of the Lordes Justices for the Government of this kingdom; in memorie of his most dear, vertuous and religious Wife, The Ladie Katherine, Countess of Corke and their posterity, as also of her Grand-father Dr. Robert Weston, sometime Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and one of the Lordes Justices for the Government thereof, whose daughter Alice Weston, was married to Sir Geoffry Fenton, Kt. principal Secretary of State in this realm, and they had issue, the said Ladie Katherine, Countess of Corke, who lieth here interred with her said Father and Grand-Father, whose vertues she inherited on earth and lieth here intombed with them, all expecting a joyfull resurrection. Quæ obiit decimo sexto Februarii 1629.

On the floor of the upper story is the effigies of Dr. Robert Weston, grandfather of Lady Katherine, Countess of Cork, who is represented in his robes as chancellor. On the floor of the third story are the statues of Sir Geoffry and Lady Alice Fenton, parents of the countess, kneeling before open books, their hands

clasped in the attitude of prayer. In the second story are the recumbent statues of the Earl and Countess of Cork, in their robes, mantles, and coronets. Beneath arches in the basement story of the monument, and also at the head and feet of the earl and countess, are the figures of several of their children, in a kneeling posture, with folded hands.*

On the opposite side of the choir is the monument of *Thomas Jones, Archbishop of Dublin*, who died in 1619. This lofty monument, which occupies one of the arches of the choir, much to the injury of the architectural effect of the building, presents the effigies of the deceased, but is more remarkable for magnitude than for beauty of design.

Near the above monument is a mural tablet of black marble, with the following inscription to the memory of *Frederic, Duke Schonberg*, who fell at the battle of the Boyne :

Hic infra situm est corpus Frederici Ducis de Schonberg, ad Bubindam occisi, A. D. 1690. Decanus et Capitulum maximopere etiam atque etiam petierunt, ut hæredes Ducis monumentum in memoriam parentis erigendum curarent. Sed postquam per epistolas, per amicos, diu ac sæpe orando nil profecere ; hunc demum lapidem statuerunt ; saltem ut scias hospes ubinam terrarum SCHONBERGENSES cineres delitescent. Plus potuit fama virtutis apud alienos quam sanguinis proximitas apud suos. A. D. 1731. †

* This costly and elaborate monument was originally placed against the east wall, in the part now occupied by the altar. Such a choice of situation naturally gave offence to many persons, although the monument was, in fact, placed against the antient entrance of a chapel, " which had, time out of mind, been stopped up with a partition made of boards and lime." Its removal was effected, after much opposition from the Earl of Cork, chiefly through the interference of Archbishop Laud and Lord Strafford. The zeal which the latter personage evinced on this occasion was supposed to proceed, in a great measure, from personal enmity to the offending party ; and it has been thought that the indignation created by this action, in the bosom of the Earl of Cork, led to very important events connected with the subsequent ruin of Lord Strafford.

† It appears that the remains of Duke Schonberg were removed to this cathedral immediately after the battle of the Boyne, " where they lay until the 10th of July, and were then deposited under the altar." To the disgrace

There are, in different parts of this church, sepulchral memorials (comprising brasses, fixed on the walls) to several persons of some eminence in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, amongst which may be noticed those of *Sir Henry Wallop*, of Farley-Wallop, in the county of Southampton, Lord Justice “almoste by the space of 2 yeares,” in the time of Queen Elizabeth, who died in 1599; *Sir Edward Fitton*, “of Saulworth, in the county of Chester,” 1579; and Anne his wife, 1573. Several archbishops of Dublin, besides those already noticed, are also here interred, but without such monumental tributes as demand notice in the present work.*

The chapter of St. Patrick consists of a dean (elective by the archbishop and chapter); a precentor; chancellor; treasurer; two archdeacons (of Dublin and Glendalough); and nineteen prebendaries; one prebend, namely the prebend of Cullen, being annexed to the archbishopric.

The diocess of Dublin, according to the statement of Dr. Beaufort, is fifty miles in length, from north to south; and thirty-six in the greatest breadth; containing the whole county of Dublin, the greater part of Wicklow, and parts of Kildare, Wexford, and

of his family, and, assuredly, to the discredit of the government in whose cause he fell, the spot of his sepulture was suffered to remain destitute of any monumental tribute, until the tablet described above was erected by Dean Swift, in the year 1731. Swift did not undertake this task until he had made repeated unsuccessful applications to the family who derived the whole of its affluence and honours from the duke; and the indignant severity with which he composed the inscription, on a tablet thus raised by alien hands, although it gave some offence at the time, redounds to the honour of his humanity and public spirit. Copious extracts from the correspondence which took place on this occasion, are inserted in the “notes” appended to Mr. Moncke Mason’s “*Hibernia Antiqua*.”

* We must not conclude our notice of the monuments in this cathedral, without observing that most commendable and effectual exertions were made by Dean Swift, in the early part of the last century, to repair such as were sinking in dilapidation, and to rescue others that were passing into absolute oblivion. To the measures adopted in consequence of his energetic efforts, must be attributed the preservation of many interesting memorials of this description, which would otherwise have fallen in the wreck of ages.

the Queen's county. In the year 1214, the bishopric of Glendalough, which was founded as early as the sixth century, was incorporated with that of Dublin; and this union still subsists.

Amongst the numerous prelates who have filled this see, will be found the names of many churchmen distinguished for worth and talent, not only in the records of their own peculiar province, but in the annals of the country at large. We present an enumeration of the bishops and archbishops of Dublin, from the earliest period of authentic annals concerning the succession of those prelates.*

BISHOPS.

1. Donat, the first amongst the Ostmen who was Bishop of Dublin, advanced to this see 1038; died 1074.

2. Patrick, also an Ostman, succeeded 1074, died 1084.

3. Donat O'Haingly, a benedictine monk of Canterbury, succeeded 1085, died 1095.

4. Samuel O'Haingly, nephew to the last-named Donat, succeeded 1095, died 1121.

ARCHBISHOPS.

5. Gregory. This prelate was the first Archbishop of Dublin, being invested with the pall by Cardinal John Paparo, and Christian O'Conarchy, Bishop of Lismore, in the year 1152. He was advanced to this see in 1121, and died 1161.

6. St. Laurence O'Toole. This excellent prelate adhered firmly to the cause of his country on the first invasion of Ireland by the English; and his exemplary conduct appears to have obtained for him the respect of all parties, including the invading

* In this list we follow Sir James Ware and Mr. Harris, to the date at which was published their "History of the Bishops of Ireland." Our account of the succeeding bishops, from that date down to the existing period, is corrected by information received from the First Fruits' Office, Dublin. We acknowledge, in the preface to this volume, our obligation on this head to J. C. Erck, A. M. The same remarks, as to our sources of intelligence, apply to the whole of the lists of bishops inserted in the present work.

power, to which he submitted with sincerity when he found that resistance was hopeless. He was advanced to this see 1162, and died 1180.

7. John Comin, a native of England, who commenced the re-edification of St. Patrick's Cathedral, succeeded 1181, died 1212.

8. Henry de Loundres, or Henry of London, completed the erection of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Consecrated 1213, died 1228.

9. Luke, Dean of St. Martin's, London, succeeded 1228, died 1255.

10. Fulk de Saundford, a native of Sandford, in Oxfordshire, succeeded 1256, died 1271.

11. John de Derlington, who had been confessor to King Henry III. consecrated 1279, died 1284.

12. John de Saundford, brother to Fulk de Saundford, succeeded 1284, died 1294.

13. William de Hotham succeeded in 1297, at which time he was at Rome, employed in an embassy by King Edward I. He died in the same year, on his return from Rome.

14. Richard de Ferings, consecrated 1299, died 1306.

15. John Lech succeeded in 1310, and died in 1313. His name must ever be remembered with respect, on account of the liberal design he entertained of founding an university in St. Patrick's Cathedral, for which purpose a bull was issued by Pope Clement V.

16. Alexander de Bicknor, who succeeded in 1317, and died in 1349, had the merit of carrying into effect the design of his predecessor, and became the founder of an university in his cathedral. The procedure of this institution is noticed in our account of Trinity College, Dublin.

17. John de St. Paul, a canon of Dublin, succeeded 1349, died 1362.

18. Thomas Minot. This prelate repaired the damage which the cathedral underwent from accidental fire, and erected the tower. Succeeded 1363, died 1375.

19. Robert de Wikeford, consecrated 1375, died 1390.

20. Robert Waldby, Bishop of Aire in Gascony, translated to this see by a papal bull in 1391, resigned in 1395.

21. Richard Northalis, (probably a native of Northall, in Middlesex) translated from the see of Ossory to this archbishopric, 1396, died 1397.

22. Thomas Cranley, succeeded 1397, died 1417.

23. Richard Talbot, brother to the celebrated warrior, John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, consecrated 1417, died 1449.

24. Michael Tregury, consecrated 1449, died 1471.

25. John Walton, abbot of Osney, Oxford, consecrated 1472, resigned, in consequence of blindness and other infirmities, 1484.

26. Walter Fitzsimons, or Fitzsymond, consecrated 1484, died 1511.

27. William Rokeby, a native of Yorkshire, translated from Meath to this see in 1511, died 1521.

28. Hugh Inge, translated from Meath to this see in 1521, died 1528.

29. John Allen, or Alan, was advanced to this see through the interest of Cardinal Wolsey, to whom he had been chaplain. He was one of Wolsey's instruments in procuring the dissolution of forty of the lesser monasteries, and was, likewise, an agent of the cardinal in opposing the political influence of the Earl of Kildare, to the resentment of whose family he fell a sacrifice.* He was advanced to this see in 1528, and died in 1534.

* Archbishop Alan was murdered by a party under the direction of Lord Thomas Fitzgerald, when that rash youth entered on open rebellion, during the absence of his father in England. Terrified by the transient success of the rebels, the archbishop endeavoured to escape by sea, but the vessel in which he embarked was stranded near Clontarf, and he vainly tried to secrete himself in a neighbouring village. Mr. Harris, in his additions to Ware's Lives of the Bishops, concludes an opinion respecting the character of Archbishop Alan, in the following words: "he was of a turbulent spirit, but a man of hospitality and learning, and a diligent enquirer into antiquities, as appears from the registrys of his church, composed by him, *i. e.* the *Liber Niger, seu Registrum Johannis Alani*; and the *Repertorium Viride*; containing a short account of the churches of his diocese; both which are still extant. The statues made by him in his consistorial courts held in St. Patrick's church A. D. 1530; are also yet extant, in the Black Book before mentioned." Harris's Edit. of Ware vol. i. p. 348.

30. George Browne, who had been an Augustine friar of London, was the first of the clergy who embraced the reformation in Ireland. Consecrated 1535, deprived in the reign of Mary, A. D. 1554.

31. Hugh Curwin, chaplain to Queen Mary, succeeded in 1555. Oppressed by the growing infirmities of lengthened years (as is stated by his biographers) he procured himself to be translated to the see of Oxford, A. D. 1567.

32. Adam Loftus, chaplain to Queen Elizabeth, was translated from the see of Armagh to that of Dublin, in the year 1567. It is observed by Mr. Harris that "the great qualities of this prelate were something tarnished by his excessive ambition and avarice;" but it must be remembered, to his lasting renown, that he was one of the most zealous and efficient promoters of the university founded in Dublin at this period. Archbishop Loftus died in 1605.

33. Thomas Jones, a native of Lancashire, was translated from Meath to this see in 1605, where he sat until his death, in 1619.

34. Launcelot Bulkeley succeeded in 1619, and lived to witness many of those growing troubles which afflicted the church during the civil commotions of the seventeenth century. He died in 1640, having retired, the year before his death, from the public exercise of his pastoral duties.

35. After the decease of Archbishop Bulkeley the see remained vacant above ten years. In 1660, James Margetson was advanced to this see, whence he was translated to Armagh, in 1663.

36. Michael Boyle, translated to this see from Cork, in 1663, and again translated from Dublin to Armagh, in 1678.

37. John Parker, translated from Tuam to this see, in 1678, died in 1681.

38. Francis Marsh, translated from Kilmore to this see in 1681, died 1693.

39. Narcissus Marsh, translated from Cashell to this see, in 1694, had been principal of St. Alban's Hall, Oxford. The public library founded by Archbishop Marsh has already been noticed, and his active beneficence was also evinced by many

charitable institutions. This amiable prelate was translated from Dublin to Armagh, in 1702.

40. William King, translated from Derry to this see, in 1702, was one of the most energetic and useful churchmen of his æra. His attention to the interests of his diocess is evinced by his having “procured nineteen new churches to be erected, where no divine service had been performed since the reformation; seven to be rebuilt; and fourteen repaired.” He died in 1729.

41. John Hoadly was translated from the see of Ferns and Leighlin to that of Dublin, in 1729, and was again translated to Armagh, in 1742.

42. Charles Cobb, translated from Kildare to Dublin, in 1742.

43. Hon. William Carmichael, translated from Meath to this see in 1765.

44. Arthur Smythe, also translated from Meath to Dublin, 1766.

45. John Craddock, translated from Kilmore to this see, in 1772.

46. Robert Fowler, translated hither from the see of Killaloe and Kilfenora, 1778.

47. Charles Agar, Earl of Normanton, translated to this see from Cashell, 1803.

48. Euseby Cleaver, translated hither, from the see of Leighlin and Ferns, 1809.

49. THE RIGHT HON. LORD JOHN GEORGE BERESFORD, D. D. translated from Clogher to this archiepiscopal see, 1820.

The *Palace of the Archbishop* is a building of some antiquity and extent, but ineligibly situated, and ill-calculated for the accommodation of a distinguished personage. Large sums appear to have been expended on its repairs and improvement, so lately as the time of Archbishop King; but the palace is now deserted as an archiepiscopal residence, and is used as a barrack for the horse-police.

The *Deanery* is situated in the south-east part of the close, or precinct adjoining the cathedral, but on the border of a narrow, mean, and dirty street. This building was re-edified by Dean

Stearne, in 1713, who obtained, observes Mr. Mason, “ the archbishop’s certificate of having expended thereon £900, two thirds of which sum were paid to him by his successor, Dean Swift.” In the year 1781, this building, which was rendered of no trivial interest by the various memorials it presented of the days in which it was occupied by Swift, was consumed by an accidental fire. It was, however, quickly rebuilt ; and is now, as formerly, a substantial and commodious residence.*

THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST-CHURCH, OR THE BLESSED TRINITY.†

THIS building, although inferior in extent and popular attraction to the cathedral church of St. Patrick, is, undoubtedly, the most antient and the most curious religious structure in Dublin. The principal writers on the ecclesiastical antiquities of Ireland, Ware, Harris, and Archdall, ascribe the foundation of this pile to Sitric, the son of Amlabh, or Auliff, the Danish prince of Dublin, who, about the year 1038, gave to Donat, the first bishop of that name who filled the see of Dublin, a place, where certain arches or vaults already existed, to erect a church to the honour of the Blessed Trinity. They cite for their authority the record termed the Black Book of Christchurch ; according to which document, Sitric endowed the establishment with lands in different places, and “ the villains, and cows and corn,” on those

* In the deanery-house is a full-length portrait of Dean Swift, by Bindon. From an inscription in latin, under the picture, it appears that this portrait was painted at the expense of the chapter ; and from a chapter-minute, quoted in the “ *Hibernia Antiqua*,” it is ascertained that it was executed in the year 1738. Scarcely any other memorial of that distinguished occupant of the deanery is now to be discovered, with the exception of the walls which surrounded a garden constructed under his direction. This garden consisted of about an acre and a half of ground, situated on the south side of Kevin-street, and was named by Swift *Naboth’s Vineyard*. In the centre of the ground has been lately commenced an hospital, for the use of the county of Dublin.

† The term of Christ-church was first applied to the Church of the Blessed Trinity, when the priory was dissolved by Henry VIII.

lands. Mr. Archdall asserts that it was a well-known practice of the early ages in question, "to build small oratories, and to arch that part in which the shrine of the saint, or other sacred deposit was placed; and that when a large edifice was constructed, as was particularly the case at Cashell, these antient vaulted oratories were religiously preserved." Sir James Ware appears to believe that existing parts of the superstructure were also raised by bishop Donat, although the edifice was enlarged by Earl Strongbow, Raymond le Gros, and other Norman lords.

Whatever reliance may be placed on the authority of the Black Book of Christchurch, concerning the act of foundation by the Danish prince Sitric, it is certain that the dreary crypt of this cathedral exhibits no peculiarities to enforce the belief of it being constructed previous to the entry of the English; and it may be observed that the practice in other structures of this country, attributed to founders before that æra, whether Irish or Danes, is remarkably adverse to the formation of subterranean crypts, as has been stated in our general observations on the antient architecture of Ireland. The date of the superstructure is exhibited in architectural characteristics which may be deemed almost indubitable evidence. The most antient parts display that incongruous mixture of the circular and pointed styles, which grew into use in the reigns of Stephen and Henry the Second. The building may, therefore, be authoritatively ascribed to the Anglo-Norman noblemen, who first obtained a footing in Ireland towards the close of the twelfth century.

Previous to a description of this edifice, it must be desirable to state some particulars concerning its history, and that of the monastic establishment to which it appertained. According to the authorities cited by Ware and Archdall, the religious of this community, on the foundation of Sitric, were "secular canons, not tied to the observance of strict monastic rules, or belonging to any of the cenobitical orders; yet were they a sort of monks, although lax in discipline." Laurence O'Toole, Archbishop of Dublin, about the year 1163, substituted for this secular brotherhood, canons-regular of the order of Arras, a branch of the Augustinians.

The Anglo-Norman lords to whom the most antient parts of the existing building are to be ascribed, are known to have been liberal benefactors to the foundation ; as were several other of the same successful adventurers. In the year 1185, a synod was held in this church, on which occasion a dispute took place respecting the duty of continence in the clergy, in which Giraldus Cambrensis bore a part. On the 11th of January, 1283, the steeple, chapter-house, dormitory and cloister were destroyed by fire. According to an agreement made in the year 1300, between the prior and canons of the Holy Trinity, and the dean and chapter of St. Patrick's, it was amicably arranged that, thence-forwards, " the Archbishop of Dublin should be consecrated and enthroned in Christ-church ; that each church should be called cathedral and metropolitical ; that Christ-church, as being the greater, the mother, and the elder, church, should have the precedence in all rights and concerns of the church ; and that each church should have its turn in the interment of the bodies of their archbishop, unless otherwise ordered by their wills."

On the vigil of the feast of St. Edmund the king, A. D. 1316, the steeple of this cathedral was thrown down by a violent storm of wind. We have noticed, in our review of the general history of Dublin, that in 1395, four Irish kings received knighthood in this church, at the hands of King Richard II. The next pompous ceremonial performed within these walls was productive of some political inconvenience to many inhabitants of the pale. In 1487, Lambert Simnell was crowned in this church, after a sermon preached by the bishop of Meath. The crown used on this occasion was borrowed from a statue of the Blessed Virgin, which stood in the church of St. Mary les Dames.

In 1541, King Henry VIII. by letters-patent, changed the priory into a dean and chapter, confirming its antient estates and immunities. Robert Castele, alias Payneswick, the last prior, was constituted the first dean. A parliament was held in this church, A. D. 1559. The persons summoned met " in a room called the common-house." On the 3rd of April, 1562, the roof, and part of the body of the church, comprising the south wall of

the nave, fell to the ground. The repairs were commenced in the month of June following; but appear to have been several years in progress, as we find that a moiety of 200 beeves, being a mulct levied on "Maguire and his captainry," was granted, in 1585, by the lord deputy, Sir John Perrot, "towards rebuilding the walls" of Christ-church. Whilst King James II. resided in Dublin, he had mass celebrated in this church by Alexius Stafford, a secular priest of the county of Wexford, made dean of Christ-church by that king, and afterwards killed at the battle of Aghrim, officiating as chaplain to the royal regiment.

The possessions of this religious house were suited to the dignity of an establishment affording a second cathedral to the Archbishop of Dublin; and the prior was a lord of parliament.

The new constitution of Christ-church formed by Henry VIII. consisted of a dean, chanter, chancellor, treasurer, and six vicars-choral; to which Edward VI. added six priests and two choristers. Archbishop Browne, A. D. 1544, erected three prebends. James the First made some changes in the foundation; and the establishment at present consists of a dean; precentor; chancellor; treasurer; three prebendaries; six vicars-choral; and four choristers. The Archdeacon of Dublin has a stall in the choir, and a voice and seat in the chapter, in all capitular acts relating to this church. The deanery, since the date of 1681, has been held *in commendam* with the bishopric of Kildare.

The cathedral of Christ-church is situated in the south-west part of modern Dublin, but near the centre of the antient city. The approaches are extremely bad, and the neighbourhood abounds in crowded, mean, and discordant objects. These circumstances are to be less deplored, as the building, in its present state, is destitute of exterior attraction, and has evidently been formed at different times, without the least attention to consistency of design, or architectural symmetry. The plan is of the cruciform description, usual with cathedral churches. From the centre rises a square tower of low proportions, which was probably re-edified shortly after the fire in 1283. On the north side is a round-headed doorway, forming the most curious external feature of the

edifice. On each side of the door are two receding pillars, the capitals of which comprise various sculptured figures. The ornamented members of the arch display the beaded moulding, and the duplicated zig-zag, forming a succession of the lozenge figure. In the outward sweep the chevron-work is triplicated, by means of a bold and projecting central band. On the key-stone of the inner arch is sculptured a human head; and it appears that there were, also, two similar sculptures over the outer arch. There is, however, on that part of the doorway, at present, only one projecting stone, now shapeless. It has been supposed that the three faces were designed to represent either King Henry II. or King Dermot, with Earl Strongbow and Fitz-Stephen. The capitals "exhibit Fitz-Stephen's crest (a sagittarius) and the Eagles, or Ailerons, of the arms of Montmorency—Marisco."* On the east side of the north transept is another circular doorway, but of a less embellished character.

The interior of the church is principally divided into a nave; choir; chancel; and north and south transepts.

The nave, measured from the western entrance to the transept, is 103 feet in length, and twenty-five feet in width, having a side aisle, thirteen feet wide. The northern side of this division of the cathedral is part of the original structure, and is in an early and simple style of pointed architecture. The pillars, or piers, about six feet in diameter and ten feet six inches in height, are formed by a cluster of small shafts, and the capitals exhibit a fanciful combination of human heads, flowers, and foliage.† The arches which the pillars support are of graceful proportions; and above them are two ranges of triforia, the openings to which are alternately of the pointed and trefoil forms. The slender pillars of these triforia are composed of black marble. Each window, on this side, consists of three lights, of the lancet form. We have already stated that the south wall, and the roof of the nave, fell

* Remarks on a view of this doorway, communicated by the Chevalier de Montmorency.

† The floor of the nave has been raised about eighteen inches, by which alteration the bases of the pillars are entirely hidden.

to the ground, in the year 1562. The former part of the structure is replaced by a stone wall, destitute of architectural ornament. The antient roof was of stone, but the present roof is of wood, and of rude construction.

The transept presents the most interesting, and, undoubtedly, the most antient remaining part of the edifice. This division of the building displays its original character in every important feature. It has no side-aisle, but has two ranges of triforia. The openings in each triforium are round-headed, and ornamented with the Saxon and Norman zig-zag mouldings, the capitals of the dividing pillars appearing to be rudely imitative of the capital in the Corinthian order. In the lower range two pointed arches, of an irregular form, are comprehended under each circular sweep. The northern end of the transept also preserves its original character, and is perforated by three windows. Two of these windows are placed in parallel situations, and consist of single lights. The upper window is large, and comprises three lights. The whole are round-headed, and embellished with the zig-zag moulding; but the lower windows are divided, towards the interior, by two pointed arches beneath a circular finishing,* in the manner of the lower triforia. The dimensions of the transept are about 90 feet in length, by 25 feet in width.

Nearly the whole of the church, to the east of the transept, is of a date comparatively modern. It is stated by Sir J. Ware that the antient choir, which had been repaired and enlarged by Archbishop Comin, in the early part of the thirteenth century, was rebuilt by Archbishop John de St. Paul, between the years 1349 and 1362. This part of the building is quite destitute of architectural ornaments, and its furniture, although sufficiently ample and costly, is not calculated to produce estimable circumstances of decoration, in the esteem of the judicious examiner. The throne and stalls, formed of varnished oak, are imitative of the pointed style; but the galleries have embellishments derived from Grecian architecture, and are supported by Corinthian and Ionic columns.

The side aisle affords vestiges of the earliest style of pointed

architecture, in two spacious arches, which, although of the pointed form, have the zig-zag moulding and other decorations appertaining to the circular mode of design. The length of the choir is 105 feet, and the width 28 feet.

The probable periods at which the more antient parts of this church were erected, demand as extensive an inquiry as our limits will allow; and we are especially desirous of presenting some few remarks on this subject, as we believe that very erroneous opinions have been hastily adopted by many writers of great respectability. It is asserted by Sir James Ware that Donat (meaning the first archbishop of that name, consecrated in 1038,) besides some contiguous buildings, erected "the nave and wings" of this edifice; by which expression he appears to signify those parts of the church now existing, and in that sense has he been copied by succeeding writers. It is satisfactorily authenticated that Earl Strongbow, Robert Fitzstephen, Raymond le Gros, Hervey de Montmorency, and other distinguished Anglo-Normans, were patrons and benefactors of the buildings in the latter years of the twelfth century; but Sir J. Ware and his followers confine the exertions of these chieftains to the enlargement of the church, by the erection of the choir, the steeple, and two adjacent chapels. Thus, in the opinion of these authors, the nave is supposed to present one of the most antient parts of the building, and is, consequently, stated, in a recent large and respectable work, to have "stood above seven centuries and a half." By the same writers the nave is believed to synchronize with the transept, and both are attributed by them to the time of Donat, who was advanced to the see of Dublin in 1038, and died in 1074.

In contradiction to such opinions, it would appear that the architectural history of this structure stands simply, and demonstratively, exhibited in the internal evidence of its strongly marked features. According to the account presented by Sir J. Ware, the western divisions of the church were the first erected; a position which militates against the credible and acknowledged records of every religious building, the architectural procedure of which has been carefully developed. The eastern, and more sacred part, was,

unquestionably, that to which the pious labours of the builder were first applied.

We have no opportunity of ascertaining the character of the antient chancel and choir of this church. That they were of moderate dimensions is evident, since an enlargement was deemed necessary in the early part of the thirteenth century. Concerning their architectural features we may form a calculation on secure grounds, for the transept evinces the mode of building which prevailed at the time of the Anglo-Norman entry into Ireland; and the choir and chancel since demolished, and the transept yet existing, were, according to all rational deduction, erected under the auspices of Earl Strongbow and his associates in arms, between the years 1170 and 1180.

The transept, indeed, bears unequivocal marks of having been constructed in the latter part of the twelfth century. We have shown, in our general remarks on the ecclesiastical architecture of Ireland, that the same styles prevailed, at the same dates, in this country and in England. The latter island produces no example of the pointed arch, repeatedly introduced, and absolutely constituting part of the design, of any building previous to the reign of the first Henry.* In the times of Stephen and Henry the Second, pointed arches were frequently intermingled with those of a circular form, the architects appearing to hesitate in the adoption of so bold a novelty;—of which practice several instances, approximating in character to the transept of Christchurch, are now remaining in England.

The nave of this cathedral is evidently of a later date than the transept, although erected in an age briefly succeeding. The pointed arch was introduced by tardy steps, and it is not ascertained that a consistent and harmonious order of architecture was formed on the light proportions and pyramidal character of this kind of arch

* In the opinion of Dr. Milner the first open pointed arches constructed in Britain, were those in the choir of the church of St. Cross, near Winchester, which building was erected between the years 1132. and 1136. Vide Hist. of Winchester, and see also Introduction to the Beauties of England and Wales, p. 466.

before the termination of the twelfth century.—In the remaining parts of the nave of Christ-church (which, although few, afford definite ideas of the general design, and of the component parts in detail) the circular arch is uniformly rejected. The clustered shafts of the pillars, and the sculpture of their capitals; the varying character of the arches which divide the body of the nave from its side-aisle, and those used in the windows; unite with other circumstances in forcibly exhibiting one of the first attempts towards the production of a decisive order of the pointed style; and evince this division of the fabrie to have been erected late in the reign of Richard I. or early in that of John.

The SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS placed in different parts of this cathedral, are, in several instances, entitled to attentive examination. Amongst those situated on, or near, the southern wall of the nave, the attention of the antiquarian examiner is first attracted by a monument ascribed to *Richard, Earl of Pembroke, surnamed Strongbow*. This funeral memorial, as far as it is supposed to regard the earl, consists of the effigies of a knight, the legs crossed and the hands folded; the first position being probably intended to inform posterity that the deceased was engaged in the crusades, either in person, by proxy, or by vow. The knight is in mail; and on the left arm is a shield, with armorial bearings. The whole, as is usual with cross-legged figures, is rudely sculptured. On a tablet over the effigies is the following inscription:

THIS : AVNCYENT : MONVMENT : OF : RYCHARD : STRANGBOWE : CALLED :
 COMES : STRANGVLENSIS : LORD : OF : CHEPSTO : AND : OGNV : THE :
 FYRST : AND : PRINCIPAL : INVADER : OF : IRLAND : 1169 : QVI : OBIIT :
 1177 : THE : MONVMENT : WAS : BROKEN : BY : THE : FALL : OF : THE :
 ROFF : AND : BODYE : OF : CHRYSTES : CHVRCHE : IN : AN : 1562 : AND :
 SET : VP : AGAYN : AT : THE : CHARGYS : OF : THE : RIGHT : HONORABLE :
 SR : HENIRI : SYDNEY : KNYGHT : OF : THE : NOBLE : ORDER : L :
 PRESIDENT : WAILES : L : DEPVTY : OF : IRLAND : 1570.

It must be obvious that this inscription (the only authority for believing the monument to commemorate Earl Strongbow) is of little importance, since it merely shews that a tradition to that effect existed in the sixteenth century. The authenticity of such a tra-

dition is questioned by Sir Richard Hoare, in his "Journal of a Tour," for the following reason :—the arms borne by the knight on his shield are "*Argent, on a chief azure, three crosses crosslets fitchèe of the field* ; and on referring to Enderbie, and also to an ancient manuscript by George Owen, we find that the arms of this chieftain were *Or, three chevrons gules, a crescent for difference*." Heraldic cognizances often constituted the chief tokens of commemoration in unlettered ages ; and, in the present instance, if this record fail we are left entirely dependant on the shadowy aid of traditional evidence. If unable to authenticate the monument, we may, however, safely believe that the ashes of the renowned Earl Richard were really interred within the precincts of this antient cathedral. On this subject the testimony of Giraldus appears to be satisfactory. It is said by this writer, in his *Hibernia Expugnata*, "*Corpus Comitiss, Dubliniæ in ecclesiâ Sanctæ Trinitatis in ipso reverendæ Crucis prospectu, procurante Laurentio sedis ejusdem Archipræsule, celebratis solemniter exequiis, est cumulatum.*"*

By the side of the effigies ascribed to Earl Strongbow is a half-length figure, concerning which there once prevailed a traditional tale, that is now very generally discarded. It is said by Sir Richard Cox, on the authority of Hammer, that the only son of the earl, a youth of about seventeen years of age, deserted his father in a battle with the Irish, and that the earl, afterwards, as a punishment for his cowardice, caused him to be put to death, the executioner severing him in the middle with a sword. By the same writer it is suggested that the half-length effigies in Christchurch is commemorative of that ill-fated youth. This story is,

* It is, however, remarked by Sir Richard Hoare that the following passage in Leland's *Itinerary*, vol. iv. p. 80, has caused some doubt respecting the place in which the body of this celebrated chieftain was permanently deposited : "*Hic jacet Ricus Strongbow, filius Gilberti, comitis de Pembroke* ;" which Leland professes to have seen written on the walls of the chapter-house in the cloister of Gloucester Cathedral. Sir Richard Hoare suggests that although the Earl died and was buried at Dublin, his remains might have been afterwards removed to Gloucester.

likewise, circumstantially told by Richard Stanihurst, writing in the year 1584, but is altogether unnoticed by those earlier writers who constitute the best authorities on such a subject.—The effigy in question appears to be that of a female, and was, undoubtedly, constructed in half-length proportions without any allusion to the sword of an executioner.*

The monument of *Thomas Prior, Esq.* who died October 21st, 1751, in the seventy-first year of his age, possesses considerable elegance, and is enriched with a good bust of the deceased. The latin inscription was written by Bishop Berkely, who had been his fellow-student at the university. Beneath the bust are two boy figures, one of which points to a bas-relief, representing Minerva leading the arts towards Hibernia. On a scroll in the hand of the boy is the following inscription :

This monument was erected to Thomas Prior, Esquire, at the charge of several persons who contributed to honour the memory of that worthy patriot, to whom his veracity, actions, and unwearied endeavours in the service of his country, have raised a monument more lasting than marble.

Mr. Prior was a zealous promoter of the Dublin Society, and for many years performed the duties of secretary to that institution, with exemplary talent and zeal.—This monument was executed by J. Van Nost, in 1756.

At a short distance from the above is a handsome monument, to the memory of “*John Lord Bowes, late Lord Chancellor of Ireland*, who died in the seventy-sixth year of his age, 22d of July, A. D. 1767.” The sculptural part represents Justice, the full size of the human figure, contemplating, in a mourning attitude, a medallion, charged with the portraiture of the deceased, in bas-relief. This monument was executed by J. Van Nost, at the cost of £500.

A mural tablet to the memory of “*James, Viscount Lifford*,

* That the carved figures on antient monuments, or coffin-lids, were frequently half-lengths, and sometimes merely represented the head, is shewn in the Introduction to Gough's “*Sepulchral Monuments*.”

late Lord Chancellor of Ireland,” who died A. D. 1789, aged seventy-three years, is ornamented with the insignia of Justice. The inscription, at once temperate and laudatory, is remarkable for the felicity with which is introduced the motto chosen by this nobleman when appointed to office. The passage stands thus, and is well worthy of transcription.

The unanimous sense of a grateful nation is the best testimony of the unblemished Integrity, with which, for a space of 22 years, he filled his high and important station: ever firmly adhering to the maxim he had originally assumed, as the guide of his judicial decisions;—**BE JUST, AND FEAR NOT.**

On the north side of the communion table is a fine and costly monument, to the memory of “*Robert, Earl of Kildare*, the nineteenth of that title in succession, and in rank the first Earl of Ireland.” The inscription is of considerable length, and terminates in the following passage :

His disconsolate Relict, in testimony of her gratitude and affection, and the better to recommend to his Descendants the imitation of his excellent example, caused this Monument to be erected. He died the 20th day of February, A. D. 1743, in the 69th year of his age.

The sculptural part of this monument is executed in white marble, by H. Cheere, and is of an unusual and highly impressive character. The groupe delineated represents the deceased, in a recumbent attitude, as newly expired, his family mourning around him. At the feet stands his son, afterwards the first duke of Leinster; and at the head are the countess, and her daughter, Lady Hillsborough, who, amidst evident deep and ill-smothered emotions of grief, is still struggling to impart unheeded solace to the surviving parent. The whole are intended for portraits, and the varied expressions of grief are emphatically commemorative of the value of the deceased, and the family affliction caused by his loss. A natural air, perhaps calculated to increase, in the mind of the

spectator, the abstract effect of the action represented, is imparted by the circumstance of each figure being attired in the customary dress of the time. In a sculptural point of view it must be obvious that the striking graces of art were unattainable, where the formal dresses of elevated rank in the early part of the eighteenth century were to be represented in marble.

On the south side of this part of the church is a tomb, with figures well executed in small life, representing *Francis Agard*, who died in 1577, and *Lady Cecilia Harrington*, his daughter and coheir, wife of Sir Henry Harrington, who decessed 1584. Francis Agard was secretary to Sir Henry Sidney, whilst that personage was lord justice of Ireland; and his fidelity and worth are recorded by the historian Hollinshed.

Several of the archbishops of Dublin, previous to the reformation, were interred in this church; but the monuments erected to their memory have long since disappeared. We collect the following instances of such interments, from the annals preserved in the *Monasticon Hibernicum*. John Comin, buried anno 1212, beneath a marble monument on the south side of the antient choir. In 1254, or the succeeding year, Archbishop Luke was also interred in the same tomb with the above. Archbishop John de St. Paul, who re-edified the choir, was buried here in 1362, under a marble monument, adorned with brass plates, at the second step before the high altar. It may be added, on the same authority, that, in the year 1546, "the tomb of a bishop, who had been many centuries interred, was opened, and the body was found whole and uncorrupted, with a gold chalice, rings, and episcopal vestments."

PAROCHIAL CHURCHES.

The nineteen parishes of Dublin contain twenty-one churches,* but that of St. Nicholas without the walls, forming one of this number, and constituting the north transept of St. Patrick's Cathedral, is at present in a state of ruin. The parochial churches,

* Each of the parishes of St. Peter and St. George contains two churches.

with very few exceptions, are unworthy of the great city in which they are placed, equally as regards dimensions and architectural character. The disadvantage experienced by Dublin, when viewed in perspective, from a want of elevated public buildings, has already been noticed. Of the parochial churches the modern structure of St. George alone presents an aspiring steeple. With the exception of that building, the churches are placed in crowded parts of the city, unfavourable to architectural display, if the taste of past ages had sanctioned efforts towards the attainment of that object. Nor do they possess any claims to high antiquity, calculated to atone for deficiencies in extent and grandeur.

The following constitute the principal parochial churches demanding attention, in the SOUTHERN division of the city.

THE CHURCH OF ST. WERBURGH was erected about the year 1759, two former buildings on this site having been destroyed by accidental fire, in the years 1301, and 1754. The ornamental parts of this structure are of Grecian architecture, and the front, which is in the Ionic and Corinthian orders, is a respectable and pleasing elevation. The tower escaped the fire of 1754, and the exact date of its erection is unknown. A spire, of light and graceful proportions, was added in the year 1768, the whole then ascending to the height of 160 feet. But, unfortunately, the work of the spire became subject to premature decay, and this most desirable part of the building has been recently taken down.

The interior of the church measures eighty feet in length, by fifty-two feet in width, and is handsomely fitted up with pews and galleries of carved oak. The organ, which is much admired, was erected at the cost of 400 guineas. The vice-regal residence is situated in this parish, and the lord-lieutenant has a seat in the church, which, however, is seldom used, except on the delivery of sermons for charitable purposes, as his excellency has his own appropriate chapel in the Castle. By established etiquette the lord-lieutenant attends the charity sermon of this church, but not that of any other parish, except on some very particular occasion.*

* As there are no rates peremptorily levied in Ireland for the assistance of the indigent, every opportunity is taken for procuring the means of such

The remains of several monuments, of some antiquity, which escaped the conflagration of former structures on this site, are still preserved. In this church was buried *Sir James Ware*, who has been often, and justly, entitled the *Camden of Ireland*. This industrious antiquary and amiable man died on the first of December, 1666, in the seventy-third year of his age; but no monument has been erected to his memory, over the place of his sepulture.

The benefice of St. Werburgh's is a curacy, and assists with the rectory of Finglas in constituting the corps of the chancellorship of St. Patrick's.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, (often called the Round church) is remarkable for the unusual character of its form, whilst its internal attractions merit deliberate examination. The ancient church of St. Andrew was situated in the immediate vicinity of the Castle, and was most indecorously converted into a stable, in an age of civil commotion unfavourable to the well-being of all religious and moral institutions. In this state—a receptacle for the horses of the military appertaining to the garrison—the church existed in the year 1633. Soon after that date it was restored to the parish (as is said on the remonstrance of Archbishop Laud), but the injuries it had sustained were so great that it was taken down in 1670. A new parochial church was then constructed on the present site, a spot more central, and otherwise more eligible. But the period was peculiarly unfavourable to ecclesiastical architecture. The

aid through charitable dispensations. In the accustomed performance of divine service, a collection for the poor is generally made before the delivery of the sermon. When a sermon is preached expressly for the purpose of an appeal to christian benevolence, in behalf of the destitute, the collection is deferred until the object in view has been stated in the sermon of the minister. Great eloquence is often exerted on these occasions; and, to the honour of humanity, sermons for charitable intentions are always very numerous attended. The assembly has, indeed, been so great, on particular occasions, that a guard of soldiers has been found necessary to regulate the efforts of those who were unable to gain admittance! Distinguished ladies undertake the amiable office of collectors, and proceed from one pew to another, being attended, in their performance of this tender duty, by gentlemen bearing white wands.

form chosen was not more unfrequent than injudicious, being that of an ellipsis; and the material used was brick. This ill-designed fabric, from various causes, sank to decay in one short century after its erection; and was rebuilt, as it at present appears, between the years 1793 and 1807. The whole expense, including the furniture, amounted to about £22,000.

In the original plan for re-edifying the structure, it was proposed to curtail the dimensions, and to change the form from oval to rectangular. But these designs were over-ruled, and the lower part of the walls was retained, and is worked into the present building. The church now constitutes an ellipsis, eighty feet by sixty, and is forty-three feet in height, measuring to the cornice.

The situation of the building, and the restraints imposed on the architect, precluded all hope of successful exertions towards exterior magnificence. Even a temperate medium of decoration was not adopted, the plain brick walls of the ellipsis being merely covered with plaister, imitative of hewn stone. The entrance is towards the north, and through a low vestibule composed of mountain granite, surmounted with a statue of St. Andrew, executed by Edward Smyth, which is remarkable as being the only statue erected as an ornament to a protestant place of worship in Dublin.

Elegance of conception and grace of display are reserved for the interior, which affords a striking and fine contrast to the cheerless penury of the external features of the building. A grave and decorous simplicity prevails throughout, but in a modification productive of great beauty. The seats, diverging from an oval area which occupies the centre of the church, rise amphitheatre-wise; and the whole of the ellipsis, except a part engrossed by the organ-loft, is encompassed by a gallery, supported by columns receding considerably from the front. It is observable that no regular architectural order is attempted in the disposal of this interior; and, certainly, if such a licence be ever admissible, it may be allowed in a structure so hostile to the adaptation of customary modes, whether emanating from classical, or antient ecclesiastical, rules of architecture. The fluted columns which support the

gallery are designed on ideas derived from the remains of Egyptian buildings, as delineated by Denon; and the capitals represent the flowers of the lotus. The ornamental carvings introduced in different parts are well-executed, and enrich the general effect without offending the eye by redundancy of insertion.*

In this, and also in another modern church of Dublin, there exists a peculiarity in the situation of the communion-table, which appears entitled to considerable attention. The reading-desk and pulpit here occupy the south side of the unbroken ellipsis, and *in front* of these is placed the communion-table, enclosed by a railing, of a semi-elliptical form. Behind the pulpit rises an excellent organ. On each side of the organ is a gallery, appropriated respectively to children of both sexes educated by means of voluntary contributions.

Whatever may be the opinion concerning this position of the table of communion, the general effect produced in the present instance is irresistibly affecting. The feelings reign paramount whilst we witness regulations thus uniting the testimonies of piety and benevolence. The advocate of faith appeals with additional solemnity, when his words are delivered over the table of sacrament; and the groupes on either hand, of helpless children succoured by christian generosity, assist, most impressively, in mingling in one display, the ideas of faith, hope, and charity. In the centre of the oval-area before noticed, which is paved with black and white stone, is placed the baptismal font.

This church, so unpromising on the exterior, but so finely arranged within, is re-edified after the designs of Francis Johnston, Esq. In appreciating its character we must remember that the merits are all his own, whilst the discrepancies may be attributed

* The carvings of St. Andrew's church are executed in native oak, taken from the roof of the old chapel of Trinity college; and it is observed in the Hist. of Dublin by Whitelaw and Walsh, (vol. i. p. 512,) "that this wood is of such fine texture and density, that the specific gravity of several pieces of it was found, on trial, to exceed that of water." The branch for lights, suspended from the ceiling of this church, was formerly pendant from the centre of the house of commons.

to unfavourable circumstances of site, and to the control under which he acted. Mr. Johnston's plan included a steeple, 230 feet in height, of which two stories only are finished.

THE CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE, situated in Thomas-street, in the south-west part of the city, is a respectable structure, built chiefly in the Doric order, after the designs of Mr. John Smith, and completed in 1769. The expense of the building was partly defrayed by a parliamentary grant of £7000.

This church exhibits towards Thomas-street a simple, massive, and handsome front, ninety-two feet in extent, composed of mountain granite. At the west end is a tower, intended to support a steeple, of considerable altitude; and as the spot occupied by the church is nearly the highest ground in Dublin, it is to be regretted that means have not been found for carrying into effect so laudable an intention.

The interior, exclusive of the recess for the communion-table, is eighty feet in length, by forty-nine feet in width; and has, in its disposal, an air of solemnity approaching towards gloom. If such an effect exist in an unpleasing degree, it must, however, be solely attributed to a deficiency of light, as the principal divisions are quite sufficiently embellished. The galleries are supported by eight Ionic columns, over which rise the same number of columns of the Corinthian order, having an entablature connected with the ceiling, which is coved towards the centre but is flat over the galleries.

The benefice constitutes a vicarage, in the presentation of the Earl of Meath; and beneath the chancel is a vault, appropriated to the interment of the noble family in whom the right of presentation is vested.*

* No monuments, demanding attention as works of art, have yet been erected in the body of this church, but two mural inscriptions require notice. A simple tablet, placed near the entrance of the vestry, commemorates "*William Mylne, Architect and Engineer,*" who died in 1790. This tablet was erected by his brother, Robert Mylne, of London, "to inform posterity of the uncommon zeal, integrity, and skill, with which" the deceased "formed, enlarged, and established on a perfect system, the water-works of Dublin." A tablet on the interior of the church commemorates the

On the NORTH side of the river Liffey two churches only require particular notice.

The CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, although most recent in date of erection, is entitled to primary attention. The plan of this edifice was attended with many circumstances highly favourable to the views of the architect, and it will be seen that he has availed himself of his unusual opportunities with equal good taste and discretion. St. George's church is situated in that modern and open part of the city, in which an improved scale of design is visible in every particular. The streets are wide, the houses uniform, and the parts contiguous to the church are evidently arranged for the reception and display of that structure. The church is free from the appendage of a burial-yard, always objectionable in a populous city; and stands in a rectangle moderately extensive, and lined by houses of a neat and respectable character. Towards the west the buildings recede, in the form of a crescent. Three handsome streets form desirable approaches, and afford fine direct and oblique views of the edifice.

The building is of liberal proportions, being externally ninety-two feet in front, by eighty-four feet in depth, independent of a vestry-room and parish-school, attached to the eastern end. The whole is cased with stone, and the principal embellishments are of the antient Ionic order, probably the most pleasing mode that can be adopted, where the taste of the designer induces a rejection of the bold and varied graces produced by the ecclesiastical architecture of the middle ages.

The chief labour in ornamental particulars is confined to the western front, in which is the principal entrance, formed beneath a beautiful portico. Four fluted columns, exhibiting the captivating simplicity of the antient Ionic, support an angular pediment, and

Rev. James Whitelaw, A. B. who was vicar of this parish for twenty-five years, and died February 4th, 1813, aged fifty-five. Mr. Whitelaw, in addition to the character of a pious divine and exemplary moralist, merits the esteem of posterity from his various public and literary undertakings. His *Census of the City of Dublin* was performed with an unusual degree of skill and perseverance, and he compiled a considerable part of the *History of this City*, since completed by Dr. Walsh.

on the frieze of the entablature is worked a Greek inscription, signifying *GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST*.

Over the grand entrance of the church rises a very noble steeple, divided into four decorated stories, surmounted with a spire of excellent proportions. The entire height, measured from the pavement, is 200 feet. This steeple forms an estimable ornament to the city, when viewed from many points at various degrees of distance; and its architectural character will creditably sustain the scrutiny of close examination.

The interior is richly, but decorously, adorned. In this, however, as in most other religious structures designed on a model of Grecian architecture, the internal embellishments are chiefly confined to those additional circumstances of arrangement which may be said to constitute the furniture of a church; and, whilst we admire the taste displayed in such particulars, we involuntarily regret the absence of the groined ceiling, the devious aisle, the clustered shaft, and window superb in tracery.

The interior of this church measures eighty-four feet in length by sixty in width; and peculiar skill is evinced in its disposal for the commodious reception of a large congregation. The galleries are free from the support of columns, being sustained by richly carved arms of timber, (cantilivers) which project from the walls; and their continuance is broken on the eastern side alone, where, in a curved recess, are placed the pulpit and reading-desk, having, in front, the railing which encloses the communion-table.

This handsome fabric, which constitutes the most distinguished architectural feature in the modern part of Dublin, was erected after the designs, and under the superintendence of, Francis Johnston, Esq.

THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS, situated in Marlborough-street, was built between the years 1758 and 1762, under the direction of Mr. John Smith, the architect employed in the church of St. Catherine. The plan of the ornamental parts is taken from a design of Palladio, subject to some alterations. The chief façade possesses considerable elegance, although it displays a mixture of the Grecian and Roman styles, more calculated to attract by effect

than to gratify by a simple grandeur of component parts. The Corinthian and Composite orders are used throughout; but the splendour of these orders, as exhibited in the principal front of this church, is not supported by the remaining parts and prevailing character of the building.

The interior, which is eighty feet in length by fifty-two feet in width, is abundantly ornamented, in the Corinthian order; and the enrichments of the ceiling evince considerable elegance of design.

Several of the remaining parochial churches of Dublin are sufficiently commodious, but it would appear that not any, besides those already noticed, are likely to afford interest in description. It may, however, be necessary to observe that the churches of *St. Peter* and *St. Michan** are the largest in this city. Both these

* The vaults of *St. Michan's* constitute a subject of much melancholy interest and curiosity, on account of an antiseptic quality which they are known to possess. Bodies said to have been "deposited here some centuries since, are still in such a state of preservation that their features are nearly discernible, and the bones and skin quite perfect." The following remarks on this local peculiarity are extracted, without comment, from an article published in a periodical paper, some short time back, by a chemist of Dublin. "The bodies of those a long time deposited, appear in all their awful solitariness, at full length, the coffins having mouldered to pieces; but from those, and even the more recently entombed, not the least cadaverous smell is discoverable; and all the bodies exhibit a similar appearance, dry, and of a dark colour. The floor, walls, and atmosphere of the vaults of *St. Michan's* are perfectly dry, the flooring is even covered with dust, and the walls are composed of a stone peculiarly calculated to resist moisture. This combination of circumstances contributes to aid nature in rendering the atmosphere of those gloomy regions more dry than the atmosphere we enjoy. In one vault are shown the remains of a nun, who died at the advanced age of 111; the body has now been thirty years in this mansion of death; and although there is scarcely a remnant of the coffin, the body is as completely preserved as if it had been embalmed, with the exception of the hair. In the same vault are to be seen the bodies of two Roman Catholic clergymen, which have been fifty years deposited here, even more perfect than the nun. In general, it was evident, that the old were much better preserved than the young. A convincing proof of this was afforded in the instance of a lady who died in child-birth, and was laid in those vaults with her infant in her arms. Not long after, the infant putrefied and

structures are of a cruciform ground-plan, and some parts of the latter building evince considerable antiquity. The church of *St. Audoen* (often termed *St. Owen*) exhibits some curious traces of the pointed architecture of different ages. The whole of this fabric, with the exception of the western end, still used for divine service, is now in a state of ruin; and the spectacle of its decay is rendered additionally impressive by numerous sepulchral monuments, blended with the perishing fragments of the building. One of these monuments, ornamented with the figures of a knight in armour and his lady, was erected in 1455, by Rowland Fitz Eustace, Baron Port-lester, who built the aisle formerly parallel with the choir. The most antient of the remaining monuments are chiefly of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; and several, executed in those ages, are of wood, having effigies of the deceased, carved in that material.

It may be remarked in this place, that the whole of the churches, with the exceptions of the two cathedrals, are deficient in funeral-monuments worthy of notice for excellence of design or sculptural execution. We are, also, constrained to observe that the burial grounds attached to the churches of Dublin are lamentably disproportioned to the great number of inhabitants in the respective parishes; a circumstance productive of some very offensive violations of the decent preservation due to the remains of mortality. The poor belonging to that crowded part of the city denominated *the Liberty*, have, in late years, interred their dead in the hospital-fields, near Kilmainham, and other cemeteries in the environs of Dublin; and it is greatly to be wished that grounds for burial might be laid out at some distance from the city; and that the

dropped away, while the mother became like the other melancholy partners of this gloomy habitation. In the year 1798, two brothers, of the name of Sheers, were executed the same day for high treason, and after suffering decapitation were laid together in these vaults; and, as a demonstration that this anti-septic power is to be attributed to the atmosphere peculiar to those regions, the bodies being just thrown at the entrance of the vaults, were exposed, in a great degree, to the influence of the external atmosphere, in consequence of which they shortly after totally decayed."

whole population would follow, from motives of propriety, the example thus humbly set by the children of necessity.

Several of the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPELS of Dublin are capacious buildings, and one structure, now in progress, is on a scale of considerable magnificence. The parochial chapels are twelve in number; besides which there are in this city six friaries and seven nunneries.

The English reader may be reminded that, during the operation of the penal code, the public performance of divine service, according to the rites of the Roman Catholic church, was not permitted in Ireland. The public celebration of mass was first tolerated, in modern times, by Lord Chesterfield, when lord lieutenant of Ireland, A. D. 1745; and, even yet, the catholics are not allowed to summon their congregations by the toll of the bell.

Owing to the long prohibition of the Roman Catholic forms of public worship, the chapels are chiefly of modern erection, but several are designed in a modification of the fine character of architecture which dignifies so many antient ecclesiastical structures, and is best described under the term of the pointed style. The principal efforts of ornament and expense are bestowed on the interior; but we unwillingly observe, that, although the embellishments are in some instances elaborate, and are often productive of an imposing effect in the general display, a want of due study, concerning the history and characteristics of the different classes, or orders, of this style of architecture, is too frequently apparent. It will be readily allowed, that, from obvious circumstances, the massive and commanding solemnity of shafts composed of stone, and groin-work and tracery wrought in the same material, is attainable in but few modern buildings. Simplicity, however, and consonance of parts, are equally practicable in materials of less cost and more easy workmanship. Glitter and shew are feeble substitutes for harmony of arrangement and strictness of architectural keeping.*

* On this, as on many other occasions, we recommend to the serious attention of persons employed to erect religious structures in the pointed

The *Metropolitan chapel*, situated in Marlborough-street, on the north side of the river Liffey, is in a mode of design widely different to the buildings noticed above. This structure was commenced in the year 1816, and was proceeding rapidly towards completion, when some defects in the plan rendered it necessary for a considerable part to be taken down and rebuilt. The work of restoration is still incomplete, but is in a forward state.

We are told that the design of this fabric was furnished by an "amateur artist residing in Paris." The Grecian style is adopted,* and the principal front presents a portico of six columns of the Doric order, supporting an entablature and pediment. The portico projects ten feet, and the columns are without bases. This part of the building is composed of Portland stone, and is designed in imitation of the façade of the temple of Theseus, at Athens. The same chaste and attractive simplicity prevails throughout the whole of the exterior. In the centre of each side is a retiring colonnade, ascended, as is the portico in front, by a flight of steps. No statues are to be introduced on any external part of the chapel.

The plan of the interior, which is not yet completed, is thus stated in Mr. Wright's recent work on Dublin: "The centre or grand aisle is enclosed by a range of columns on each side, which support an entablature, from which springs an arched ceiling, divided into compartments. The colonnade is continued behind the altar, which stands in the centre of a semicircular recess at the end of the great aisle, exactly opposite the principal entrance, and a passage is left outside the colonnade in the recess. The altar, which is quite detached from every other part of the building, is of white marble, enclosed by a circular railing, and without ornament.

style, the judicious remarks of Dr. Milner, as conveyed in the second letter of the appendix to his "Inquiry into certain vulgar Opinions," &c.

* Without detracting from the real merits apparent in the design of this magnificent chapel, we cannot avoid regretting that, in a pile so costly, the ingenious person with whom the plan originated, declined adopting that impressive and grand style of architecture which characterizes the ecclesiastical buildings of our forefathers, and appears to be peculiarly adapted to the solemnities of religious service.

Behind the colonnade, at each side, are side aisles, the length of the great aisle, and uniting behind the altar. In the centre of those at each side are deep recesses of a rectangular shape, in which altars are also placed, so forming three distinct places of worship beneath the same roof. The length of the great aisle is 150 feet, and the breadth about 120."

The expense of this stately pile is entirely defrayed by subscription. The sum of £26,000 has already been expended, and it is supposed that as much more will be wanted to complete the building.

There are in Dublin congregations of protestant dissenters of the following denominations: Presbyterians; Seceders; Independents; Methodists; Kilhamites; Moravians; Baptists; and Quakers. To each of these classes appertain meeting-houses, which do not require notice as subjects of architectural investigation.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS RELATING TO SCIENCE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

The DUBLIN SOCIETY, instituted for promoting husbandry and other useful arts in Ireland, originated in the patriotic exertions of several individuals, who united in the year 1731, for the furtherance of these truly estimable purposes. It is observed by Mr. Arthur Young that this association "has the undisputed merit of being the father of all the similar societies now existing in Europe;" a national honour deserving of lasting remembrance. For some time the funds of the establishment proceeded entirely from voluntary contribution; but a charter of incorporation was granted in the year 1749, since which period annual grants have been received from parliament.* Although improvements in agriculture, and its attendant pursuits, constituted the chief objects originally contemplated by this society, various other walks of art and science have been embraced in its progressive and enlarged

* The annual grant from parliament was £5,500, until the year 1800, since which period the amount has been increased to £10,000. Each member for life pays, on his admission, the sum of £50.

sphere of action. Lectures are periodically given, by professors of natural philosophy, botany, chemistry, mineralogy, mining, and the veterinary art; and due means of exemplification are provided for the lecturers on each course. The fine arts have, also, participated in the advantages held forth by this institution. Masters are provided for gratuitous instruction in drawing, architecture, and modelling; and various subjects of study, chiefly consisting of casts from esteemed originals, are repositied in the house of the society, for the benefit of pupils.*

In regard to the exertions used by this institution in promoting its first and most important object, the improvement of agricultural practice, it must be observed that, independent of various experiments effected under its sanction, and bounties awarded for the exercise of particular branches of good husbandry, persons have been sent throughout the island for the purpose of making agricultural surveys of the respective counties, similar, in intention, to those executed under the direction of the agricultural board of the sister country. Twenty-three of these reports have been completed, and printed for public use. Their merit, like that of the English surveys, is very unequal; but several are executed with due labour and talent, and afford information at once of local and national importance.

The useful, pleasing, and elegant, science of botany, has met with the liberal attention of this society. Under the encouragement of the legislature, land has been procured at Glasnevin, a village bordering on Dublin, and laid out as a botanical garden, richly furnished with exotic and indigenous plants.† The valuable collection of mineral and animal productions, made by the Dublin Society, is noticed in our subsequent account of the buildings devoted to its use. For the benefit of students in the veterinary

* Amongst the models provided for purposes of study, are casts from the principal of the Elgin marbles, procured by the society for the sum of £210.

† Some further account of the botanical garden at *Glasnevin* is presented in our pages descriptive of the *county of Dublin*.

art, a museum, relating to that branch of knowledge, has been purchased from Dr. Percival, of London.

The original house of the society was situated in Grafton-street ; but, shortly after the year 1801, a more costly structure was commenced, with the aid of parliament, on ground contiguous to Hawkins-street. After the expenditure of considerable sums on the buildings, this site was abandoned ; and the society removed to its present noble seat, which had been erected, and occupied, as the town mansion of his Grace the Duke of Leinster.

This capacious pile assuredly constituted the most splendid private residence in Ireland. The entrance is from Kildare-street, by a massive and handsome gateway, which opens to a spacious court, forming a segment of a circle. The building is composed of stone ; and, although like other domestic structures in Dublin, it is not conspicuous for plenitude of exterior ornament, is sufficiently embellished for the attainment of a dignified character. The principal front has a rusticated basement, over which rise four Corinthian columns, sustaining a pediment. Colonnades, of the Doric order, proceed from each side. The eastern façade is destitute of architectural decorations, and opens to a lawn, extending to Merrion-square, from which it is separated by a low wall. This mansion was erected after the designs of Mr. Cassels, whose name is so greatly distinguished in the architectural history of Ireland.

The interior has experienced many alterations, but is still far from being well adapted to the various purposes of a great national institution. The hall is a room of noble proportions, and is ornamented with considerable taste and splendour. The library occupies the western wing, and is a fine apartment, containing not less than 12,000 volumes, on natural history, agriculture, and botany ; the fine arts, architecture, antiquities, &c. This collection is particularly affluent in the botanical class.

The museum affords a fine assemblage of subjects in natural history. The labours of numerous scientific persons have contributed to the value of this collection ; but the principal accession proceeds from the purchase of the Leskean Museum, made in the

year 1792.* The specimens of the animal kingdom are arranged under the six classes of Mammalia; Aves; Amphibia; Pisces; Insectæ; and Vermes; the entire number of examples being 1716.† The mineral part of the Leskean collection is extremely fine, and experienced considerable improvements from the hand of the late Mr. Kirwan, whose name, so well known in the world of science, ranks amongst the brightest and most durable ornaments of Ireland, his native country. The mineralogical collection is divided into five parts, in attention to the rules laid down by Werner, in his Treatise on the formation of a complete Cabinet of Minerals.‡ In the miscellaneous parts of the Museum are several articles of considerable interest; but we must state, with regret, that few subjects relating to Irish antiquities are here repositied, and scarcely any of great rarity or importance. This

* Mr. Leske, from whom this collection derives its name, was one of the most distinguished pupils of the celebrated Werner. After his decease his museum was purchased by the Dublin Society, for the sum of 1350*l*. The zoological department of the Leskean collection is particularly rich in shells, butterflies, beetles, and examples of the serpent tribe; but is deficient in beasts and birds.

† The Society has published a "Catalogue of the Subjects of Natural History in this Museum," in the advertisement to which it is stated that the classification adopted "is generally that of Linnæus, the exception being in the class *Insecta*, which is arranged according to *Fabricius*, with a further deviation, under the authority of *Cuvier*, by which the genus *Cancer* is withdrawn from the *Aptera* of Linnæus, and the *Agonata* of *Fabricius*, to the class *Vermes*, under a new order *Crustacea*."

‡ As a striking instance of the neglect with which Ireland has been too frequently treated by scientific men in past years, it must be remarked that there was not, in the Leskean collection, a single mineralogical specimen from this country. We have much gratification in observing that the Dublin Society has, for some time, directed the attention of persons of adequate talent to the task of investigating the minerals and fossils of their native island. In this department great praise is due to R. Griffith, Esq. the mining engineer of the society. The specimens already collected are arranged in the chorographical order of the thirty-two political divisions of Ireland. This department affords many curious and valuable articles, calculated to incite further exertions, and is entitled *Museum Hibernicum Regnum Minerale*.

museum and room of statuary are open to public inspection for two days in every week, and access to the library may be obtained by introduction to the librarian.

THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.—From various causes, injurious to the pursuit of speculative science and the cultivation of polite literature, Ireland remained destitute of an academical institution for the nurture of these important national objects, long after neighbouring countries had received so estimable an advantage. In the midst of party feuds, inimical even to a cordial unity of interests in the prosecution of literary refinement, this island, however, cherished within its bosom some men distinguished by genius and philanthropy, who struggled with vigour, although ineffectually, to encourage a taste for letters and the arts, as an antidote to the bitter spirit of the times, and a solace for consequent privations.

About the year 1683, Mr. Molineux endeavoured to establish a society in this country, similar to the Royal Society of London. In this undertaking he was ably supported by the talents of Sir William Petty. But the æra was peculiarly unpropitious; and the learned association, after a difficult existence of five years, sank to utter dissolution, amidst the public and private woes of that troubled period.

In 1744, a society of greater promise was formed, for the purpose of historical and chorographical researches, under the name of the Physico-Historical Society. By different members of this association, and under the encouragement of its protecting genius, several works were executed, which take place amongst the most valuable productions of the Irish press.—The temper of the times was still repugnant to the growth of all liberal arts and sentiments; and, in the short term of two years, this society also fell the victim of a frigidity of public spirit, that must be recorded with regret, not unmixed with a feeling of shame. A more genial season, however, has arisen, and an academy has been established, in an age which is likely to entertain an increasing sense of the importance of its efforts to add dignity to the country, by patronizing the dissemination of letters, and setting the example of literary discussion.

The Royal Irish Academy originated in a society of gentlemen, chiefly connected with the university, who commenced, in the year 1782, weekly meetings for the communication of opinions on literary subjects, in which essays were read in turn, by the respective members. The accession of persons distinguished in different walks of literature shortly proved so great, that, in 1786, the society was incorporated, by act of parliament, under the name of the ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY FOR THE STUDY OF POLITE LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ANTIQUITIES.

The King is patron, and the Lord Lieutenant is visiter of the academy. The number of members is at present 180; and the regulation of the society is vested in a president and vice presidents; a treasurer; two secretaries; and a council of twenty-one, which is subdivided into three committees, of science, polite literature, and antiquities.

The Academy-house is situated in Grafton-street, and is a plain but spacious edifice, provided with a library, and suitable apartments for the purposes of the institution. Occasional prizes are proposed for the most approved compositions on given subjects, and the academy has published twelve volumes of its transactions, which rank, in every point of view, with the best publications of contemporary societies.

The KIRWANIAN SOCIETY was founded in the year 1812, and has, for its principal objects, the cultivation of knowledge in chemistry, mineralogy, and other branches of natural history. In its extended field of operation, this society is designed to encourage a general spirit of philosophical inquiry throughout the country. The appellation assumed by this most useful institution is derived from the late celebrated Richard *Kirwan*, whose chemical works reflect so much honour on Ireland, and who was the liberal friend of every scientific pursuit.

The IBERNO-CELTIC SOCIETY is instituted for philological, historical, and antiquarian inquiries, connected with the study of the Gaelic language. The great value and interest of such an institution are sufficiently obvious; and, if any attraction beyond the evident inducements should be required, it may be sufficient

to observe that there are, repositied in various libraries, and placed in the precarious tenure of private individuals, very numerous manuscripts relating to the early history and state of Ireland, the publication of which has been deemed a great desideratum by some of the most distinguished scholars in every age favourable to literary investigation. We remark, with much regret, that although this society is actively supported by several patriotic noblemen and gentlemen, it is deficient in the co-operation of the public ; a circumstance additionally unpleasing when we recollect the successful exertions of the Highland Societies, established for similar purposes.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS is situated on the west side of St. Stephen's Green, and is a handsome building, of moderate dimensions, begun in 1806, and erected at the expense of £25,000. The front is chiefly composed of Portland-stone, and is chastely ornamented in the Doric order. The interior is provided with a theatre, in which lectures are periodically delivered on anatomy ; surgery ; the practice of physic ; surgical pharmacy ; and other requisite branches of professional instruction. The dissecting-rooms, and other apartments appertaining to this collegiate establishment, are on a desirable scale of extent and convenience.

The surgeons of Dublin were not incorporated until the year 1784, a circumstance which may, perhaps, in some measure account for a fact that would otherwise be nationally discreditable ;—the want of due respect, long prevailing in Ireland, for the members of one of the most honourable professions in which the talents and labours of man can possibly be engaged. The studious inquiries of this collegiate establishment, and the regulations enforced by its councils, have already improved, in an important degree, the practice of surgery in this country.

The corporation of APOTHECARIES, in Dublin, remained blended with that of barbers, until the year 1745, at which date the apothecaries were constituted a distinct body. In 1790, they judiciously exercised their corporate privileges, by petitioning parliament for permission to raise a fund, for the purpose of erecting a

HALL for the supply of medicines of a pure quality, prepared under the inspection of persons duly skilful. This building stands in St. Mary's-street, and comprises a shop for vending drugs, and an elaboratory for compounding chemicals. Lectures are here delivered on chemistry and pharmacy, and the examination of candidates for the rank of master apothecary is conducted with great strictness.

The PUBLIC LIBRARIES of a city obviously form objects of topographical notice, beyond the interest derived from a mere statement of the character and extent of the respective collections; since the number of these institutions, and the degree of liberality with which they are supported, assist in conveying due ideas of the state of society, as regards the progress of intellectual refinement,—the usual concomitant of national prosperity.

The library attached to the university, (already noticed in our account of Trinity College) must be viewed as a splendid appendage to a collegiate establishment, and as the repository of materials for the historian, rather than as a collection designed for general use. The valuable library belonging to the Dublin Society has also been previously mentioned, as an object immediately connected with the patriotic views of that excellent institution.

Marsh's Library, situated in the vicinity of St. Patrick's Cathedral, was founded in 1707, by Dr. Narcissus Marsh, then Archbishop of Dublin. Originally all "gentlemen and graduates" had free access to it; but some very shameful abuses having been perpetrated by persons assuming the former of these characters, the terms of admission are now more circumspect, although still sufficiently liberal. The greater part of the books contained in this library formerly belonged to Bishop Stillingfleet, and were purchased by Archbishop Marsh, for the purpose to which they are at present devoted. Many donations have been made by different persons, at subsequent periods, and the whole of the books, consisting of about 25,000 volumes, are arranged in two long galleries, which meet each other at a right angle.*

* Amongst many books in this library which formerly belonged to Dean Swift, several have marginal notes, believed to have been written by that distinguished person. Some of the most curious of these remarks occur in a

The Librarian has a salary of £210 *per annum*, on condition of keeping the building in repair, together with an allowance of £30 for an assistant librarian ; but no other provision than that of £10 *per annum*, is made for the purchase of new productions, or such as might be deemed requisite to the improvement of the library.

The *Dublin Library Society* was established in the year 1791, and is supported by annual subscriptions. The library contains a judicious collection of the best modern works, and the design of the establishment also comprehends a separate department for the daily and other periodical publications. The subscribers are about 1500 in number. A handsome and spacious building has been recently erected in D'Olier-street, for the use of this society.

The *Dublin Institution*, designed for literary and scientific objects, was established in the year 1811. The sum of £15,000 was raised, by 300 transferable debentures, of £50 each; and with

folio copy of Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, and exhibit the violence of Swift's dislike for the Scots of the seventeenth century. On the inner side of the cover of the first volume is written, "Finished, the fourth time, April 18th, 1741;" and this information is worthy of attention, since some part of the acrimony contained in the remarks may justly be attributed to the morbid irritability in which the dean was plunged, at a date so closely bordering on his last oppressive illness. The notes chiefly consist of indignant exclamations and angry invectives. The following examples may be given, as conveying due notions of their general character. "The cursed, hellish, vilany, treachery, treasons, of the Scots, were the chief grounds and causes of that execrable rebellion." Concerning Clarendon's expression, *the word of a king*, Swift observes "This phrase is repeated some hundred times, but is ever foolish, and too often false."—To the name of the Marquess of Hamilton, introduced by Lord Clarendon, at page 96 of the first volume, Swift has appended the remark, "A cursed true Scot!" Ruthen, also, he designates "a cursed Scottish dog!" and the Earl of Stamford he terms "a rogue—half as bad as a Scot."—At page 342 of the second volume, he remarks that "the devil made the damnable Scots covenant." In different notes on the third volume are the following passages: "Cursed Scot! sold his king for a groat!" "The Scots were the cause and chief instrument of the king's murder, by delivering him up to the English rebels."

this fund a public library was opened in Sackville-street. Attached to the general library, is a circulating library of such works as constitute the class of familiar reading. The members are in number about 600 ; one half of whom are proprietors, and the remainder subscribers, at the rate of three guineas *per annum* each.

THE THEATRE ROYAL. On the mention of the Dublin Theatre bright visions of histrionic fame, relating to times long past, arise in the mind of every person conversant with dramatic annals. The shades of Wilkes, Booth, and Farquhar ; of Quin, Cibber, and Garrick ; flit over the fancy, either in the solemnity of “ sceptred pall,” and attended with bowl and dagger, or in forms so inimitably comic, that even the lip of woe might relax to a transient smile. To these memorable *dynasties* succeed, in the “ mind’s eye,” the almost rival excellencies of Barry, Mossop, Woodward, Crawford, and Woffington.—The sway of the stage-sceptre of Dublin by Sheridan presents to the contemplation a family distinguished for talent through several descents, and which terminates, in public view, with a character resplendent on the theatre of the great world, as well as on that epitomized stage which merely “ holds the mirror up to nature.”

The first regular theatre in this city was erected about the year 1635, by John Ogilby, master of the revels during the government of Lord Strafford, and more generally known as the translator of Homer. The building first erected as a theatre by Mr. Ogilby was situated in Werburgh-street ; but he afterwards raised a second structure, for this purpose, in Orange-street, since called Smock-alley. This building was constructed with so little care, that a part fell down within nine years after its erection ; by which accident several persons were killed and wounded. Theatrical amusements were then suspended for a considerable time ; but, during the festivities which took place in Dublin, after the victory of the Boyne, the citizens repaired the house in Smock-alley, and formed a company for the gratuitous representation of the tragedy of Othello ; a circumstance deserving of remembrance, as it introduced to the stage Mr. Wilkes, after-

wards so highly celebrated as a performer. At the same theatre, in the year 1695, George Farquhar, destined to lasting fame as a comic writer, was first ushered to public notice. The genius of Booth was, likewise, first cultivated on these boards. In the early parts of the eighteenth century this theatre arose to a degree of eminence, highly creditable to the liberality of the city. The most distinguished performers on the London stage were at that time invited to Dublin, and the increasing taste of the inhabitants for dramatic representations speedily led to the erection of several new theatres.

It is painful to observe, that, during these years, conspicuous for the exercise of talent, the profession of a player was held in a degraded point of view, even by those most susceptible to the charms of dramatic exhibition; and the theatre was the chosen spot for the display of boisterous vulgarity amongst bands of untaught, or ill-tutored, young men, who, by descent and estate, seemed intended for members of the Irish gentility. We are told, by the historians of the stage, that the Dublin theatre did not assume the form of a well-regulated dramatic establishment until the middle years of the eighteenth century. It was then that Mr. Sheridan succeeded to the management; and his labours were greatly beneficial in elevating the character of the exhibitions, and in correcting the manners of the audience. His efforts towards the attainment of the latter object were, however, made frequently to the injury of his property, and sometimes to the hazard of his life. The deficiency in that polish which can proceed only from the cultivation of letters, is, indeed, nowhere more remarkable, as regards the annals of Dublin, than in the spirit of ferocious riot which formerly characterized a great part of the assemblage, then somewhat erroneously termed a theatrical audience.*

* A disgusting description of the dissolute persons by whom the tranquillity of the Dublin theatre was continually interrupted in the early part of the eighteenth century, is conveyed in the following passage of a recent publication. "These young men were generally distinguished by the name of *Bucks*, which was frequently prefixed to their surname, as an agnomen to distinguish the most eminent. It was their practice to walk up and

Previous to the commencement of Mr. Sheridan's career, an union had taken place between the two theatres of Dublin, situated in Aungier-street and Smock-alley;* and both were placed under his sole direction. The monarchs of the sock and buskin, if philosophically viewed, hold forth an impressive lesson to kings of

down through Lucas's Coffee-house, with a train to their morning gown, sweeping the floor, and challenge any man to fight who by accident trod upon it. They also assumed the appellation of "Mohawks" and "Cherokees," and their actions would not disgrace their savage archetypes." As an example of the license assumed by these persons, on the authority of the character they arrogated—that of gentlemen!—the subjoined anecdote is extracted from the work cited above (Walsh's Hist. of Dublin, vol. ii. p. 1115—16.) "On the 19th of January, 1746, a young man, of the name of Kelly, went to the pit much intoxicated, and climbing over the spikes, got upon the stage, and proceeded to the green-room, where he insulted some of the females in the most gross and indecent manner. As the play could not proceed, he was taken away and civilly conducted back to the pit; here he seized a basket of oranges, and amused himself by pelting the performers, particularly Mr. Sheridan, whom he publicly abused in the grossest manner. A few nights after he returned with fifty of his associates, who, climbing over the spikes of the stage, proceeded to the dressing rooms, in search of Mr. Sheridan, with drawn swords, which they thrust into the chests and presses of clothes, to feel, as they facetiously observed, if he was there; and not finding him, they proceeded to his house in Dorset-street with the same murderous intention. After much riot for several nights in the theatre of a similar kind, the cause was brought to a legal decision, under a general impression in Dublin that a jury could never find a gentleman guilty of an assault on a player! It was on this occasion that a barrister remarked, 'he had never seen a gentleman-player,' when Mr. Sheridan replied, 'I hope you see one now, Sir.' Kelly was found guilty of the assault, and sentenced to a fine of £500, and three months imprisonment."

* These formed the two principal theatres of Dublin in the early part of the eighteenth century, and were long opposed to each other, in commendable rivalry. Quin and Cibber played at Aungier-street, while Garrick exercised his superior talents, seconded by the sterling merit of Mrs. Woffington, in the theatre of Smock-alley. The reader, acquainted with theatrical records, will scarcely need to be reminded that an epidemic disorder, which appeared in Dublin at this time, was locally termed the *Garrick fever*, as it was commonly thought to have arisen from the crowded state of the theatre during the performance of that incomparable actor.

more substantial form, respecting the instability of all mortal sway. Dangers accumulated round the throne of Sheridan, and the whole fabric of his sovereignty was soon undermined.—A new and rival theatre had long been projected ; and the intention was carried into effect by the erection of a building in Crow-street, which was opened on the 23d of October, 1758, under the direction of Barry and Woodward. Our limits prevent us from entering further on any resemblance of a detailed review of the annals of the Irish stage, confessedly a subject of no ordinary interest. Barry was opposed in his turn by Mossop ; and the rivalry between these parties continued till 1767, when Mossop became sole proprietor of both theatres. On the death of that respectable performer, Mr. Ryder succeeded as manager ; and, in order to preclude opposition, rented both theatres, namely, those of Smock-alley and Crow-street, the latter of which only he kept open. The vacant house was afterwards opened by Mr. Daly ; but was soon abandoned, and converted into merchant's stores. On the site of the former theatre in Smock-alley, a Roman Catholic chapel is now erected ; and Dublin, at present, possesses but one theatre for public performance of the legitimate drama.

The patent of Crow-street theatre having lately expired, a renewal has been obtained from government by Mr. Harris, of Covent Garden ; and under the direction of this judicious and spirited manager a new theatre has been erected, on the site of the house formerly belonging to the Dublin Society in Hawkins-street. For the following particulars respecting this very handsome and well-designed structure, we are indebted to a brief but interesting work on “ Ancient and Modern Dublin,” recently published by the Rev. G. N. Wright, A. M.

“ The form is that of a lyre, but the line of the back of the boxes being struck from a different centre from that of the front, gives the dress circle, when viewed from the stage, the appearance of a crescent. The decorations of the first tier of boxes are selected and adapted from the temple of Bacchus ; are divided into pannels by gilt mouldings, and separated by gold pedestals, ornamented with burnished gold caducei ; these pedestals form

the basis of two rows of burnished gold columns, which are fluted, and apparently support the second circle of boxes, the slips, and the gallery. On the first circle is placed a continuous ornament, adapted from the temple of Erectheus and Minerva Polias ; and on the upper one a composition of the Greek chain, twined with the shamrock ; mouldings, taken from the classic models of ancient Greece, run all round the three tiers.

“ The ornaments of the proscenium are compositions from decorations found in Pompeii and Herculaneum, surmounted by draperies of velvet and gold, and by arches surrounded by the Greek fret and honeysuckle. The upper part of the proscenium is connected with the ceiling by coves, which leave no harsh lines to hurt the eye ; and this part of the proscenium and ceiling forms the peculiar feature of the theatre, and the *first* instance of such an attempt ; by continuing the circle of the back of the boxes, along the proscenium, instead of cutting it short by the straight line of the stage, as in every other theatre, a completely circular ceiling is formed, by which means a great appearance of expanse is attained, without the inconvenience of distance ; and the performer speaks actually in the body of the house, without the appearance of intruding upon the auditory. It is to the form of this ceiling and the absence of any distinct top proscenium, that we attribute the facility with which the slightest word uttered on the stage is heard in the remotest corner of the house. The ceiling is coved into a shallow dome, divided into decorated compartments, and being supported by a circular row of antæ-pilasters surmounted by an entablature, ornamented with gold wreaths, gives to the theatre the appearance of a vast Greek temple. All the decorations are raised in burnished gold upon lilac pannels, relieved by fresco-coloured stiles ; the tints are so blended as to present no decided distinction of colour to fatigue the eye, and all the lines are curves.”

The theatre of Dublin opens in November, and closes in August. During the summer months (locally termed the after-season) some of the most distinguished performers on the London boards usually visit Dublin, and exercise their talents for a certain number of nights.

HOSPITALS, AND OTHER CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

It is observed by Mr. Harris, that the city of Dublin was formerly reproached by foreigners for an ungenerous and impolitic neglect of any public provision for the indigent and afflicted. This alleged deficiency of humanity and prudential regulation is justly attributed, by the same writer, to the unsettled state of public affairs, in ages preceding the latter part of the seventeenth century ; and it is worthy of remark that the reign of the second Charles, very generally censured for a corruption of manners, proceeding from the bad example of the court, stands nobly distinguished in the annals of this city, as the period at which the energies of public spirit first elicited the means of permanent foundations for charitable purposes.

The genius of operative benevolence has never slumbered since it was first called into existence. The charitable institutions of Dublin are now so numerous, and on so extensive a scale, that they would scarcely seem to leave untouched one latent path of human wretchedness. We present a succinct statement of the origin, constitution, and finances, of the principal of these establishments, together with an enumeration of such as are of less magnitude and importance.

ROYAL HOSPITAL, KILMAINHAM. This hospital was founded in the reign of Charles II. for “ such officers and soldiers of his majesty’s army in Ireland as are, or may become, unfit for service, by reason of age, wounds, or other infirmities.”* It is believed that the plan of a foundation so judicious originated with Arthur, Earl of Granard, about the year 1675 ; but the merit of carrying it into execution was reserved for the Duke of Ormonde, by whom the first stone of the building was laid in 1680.

At that time the Phoenix Park, which is now confined to the north side of the Liffey, comprehended within its walls not less

* Vide abstract of the charter of this hospital, as presented in Harris’s Hist. of Dublin, p. 429, *et seq.*

than 71 Irish acres, to the south of the river; which land had formerly been the property of the Knights Templars, and afterwards of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. The walls of the chapel, and some other remains of a priory successively belonging to these two orders of Knights, were then existing, and the stones composing the consecrated part of the former ruins were carefully removed, and are worked into the chapel appertaining to the present institution.

This hospital is advantageously placed on the summit of a gentle elevation, about fifty feet above the level of the river; and is now on the immediate confines of the city, towards the west, although no buildings were nearer than the distance of one quarter of a mile, at the time of its erection. It is best approached by a military road, of recent construction; at the commencement of which is a tower-gateway, lately erected after a design of Francis Johnston, Esq.*

The buildings of the hospital are spacious, and are, in architectural character, well adapted to the object for which they are designed, the leading features evincing weight and respectability, with a moderate diffusion of ornament. The fabric forms a rectangle, of 306 feet by 288, and encloses an area 210 feet square. Three of the fronts presented to view by this form of ground-plan are composed of brick, and are plain but regular, comprising three stories. The windows of the upper story are contained in the elevated roofing, a mode of design also adopted by Sir Christopher Wren in the Royal Hospital of Chelsea, and which was introduced from France in the seventeenth century. The principal front is built of rough stone, and is lighted by twelve large circular-headed windows. In the centre of this front is the great entrance, ornamented with an angular pediment, supported by four Corinthian pilasters. Over the door are the arms of the Duke of Ormonde,

† This crenellated gate possesses considerable beauty, but it may be doubted whether the adoption of the ancient style of military architecture was, in this instance, entirely judicious, as the object to which the gate conducts is in a different mode of design, and of a date so comparatively recent as the seventeenth century.

carved in stone. From the central part of the same front arises a clock turret, of two stories, surmounted with an octagonal spire, of no great height or beauty.

The area of the quadrangle is disposed in grass-plots and graveled walks. Three sides of the building, towards the interior, and part of the fourth, have a piazza, thirteen feet in width, faced with Doric arches, and constituting a desirable ambulatory during inclement seasons. The central part of the principal front is occupied by the great dining-hall of the establishment, which is 100 feet in length and fifty feet in width. The lower part of the walls in this spacious hall is appropriately decorated with military weapons, ornamentally arranged. On the upper division of three sides are placed twenty-two full length portraits of sovereigns and other distinguished persons, amongst which the following appear to be of the greatest interest. King Charles II. King William III. and his consort, Queen Mary. Queen Anne. George, Prince of Denmark, consort of that Queen. James, Duke of Ormonde, Lord Lieutenant in 1662. Narcissus Marsh, Archbishop of Dublin, and one of the lords justices in 1699. Sir Richard Cox, lord chancellor, and one of the lords justices in 1704.

The chapel is a heavy but respectable building, eighty feet in length by forty feet in width. The ceiling is coved and highly enriched with stucco-work; and the lofty frontispiece over the communion table is of Irish oak, embellished after a design of the Corinthian order.

The governor's house presents little that is worthy of remark, except the real beauty of its situation. In front a fine garden declines in a gentle slope towards the margin of the Liffey, and the house commands rich and diversified prospects over part of the Phoenix Park, and that intermediate valley which is rendered attractive by the placid flow of the river.

At an eligible distance from the principal buildings of the hospital is the infirmary attached to the establishment, which has recently received an addition, and is now sufficiently spacious for the salutary accommodation of the sick.

The total expense incurred in erecting this royal hospital was £23,559, which was defrayed by a deduction of sixpence in the pound sterling, out of the pay of all officers, privates, and other persons on the military list of the Irish establishment. The support of the institution was for many years derived from the same means ; but the whole of the current expense is now defrayed by government.

The governor, or master, is always commander in chief of the forces in Ireland. The in-pensioners, or, as they are locally and emphatically termed, the "old men," are, according to the rules of the foundation, to be 300 in number. Each man has a separate bed, and the following allowance of food : one pound of bread and two quarts of beer each day ; eighteen ounces of mutton on two days in the week, and the same weight of beef on three other days. On Wednesdays and Fridays half a pound of cheese is substituted for the allowance of meat. One quarter of a pound of cheese is also allowed for breakfast on the five meat days, and gruel on the days when meat is not granted. There are, likewise, out-pensioners on this establishment, who are about 3000 in number, and receive an allowance proportioned to their length of service, or other claims on assistance, varying from five-pence halfpenny to two shillings and sixpence halfpenny, per day.

THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL. This institution has progressively grown on the basis of a charity established in the year 1704, for the relief of the infirm, and the compulsory labour of the professed mendicant. It first assumed the positive character of an asylum for infants in 1730, and has experienced considerable alterations, in its constitution and objects, at different later periods. It is now conducted on a plan arranged in consequence of parliamentary interference, in the year 1797.

This establishment is open to the reception of infants from all parts of Ireland, and "his majesty's neighbouring dominions." Wet and dry nurses are in constant attendance for the immediate care of the infants thus consigned to charity ; and the children, unless in a state requiring medical assistance, are quickly placed in the hands of nurses residing in the country. Applicants for

this melancholy charge, living in different counties of Leinster nearest Dublin, are generally in attendance in sufficient numbers. The wages of each nurse are three pounds *per annum*, she finding clothes for the child, with the exception of a suit of flannel, in which the infant is clad when she receives it. At the end of the first year, if the nurse have faithfully performed her duty, she is presented, besides the stipulated wages, with the sum of two pounds.

When the children are of a proper age they are replaced in the hospital, and are instructed in the elementary parts of learning, and in some branch of useful industry. The whole are brought up in the principles of the protestant religion, and, when sufficiently advanced in years, are apprenticed, or placed in servitude.

We forbear to examine into the various contrary arguments which have been advanced by recent writers, respecting the probability as to a salutary or prejudicial tendency of institutions of this description. The motive is so amiable, and the act so closely connected with some of the finest chords of human susceptibility, that passion unites with philanthropy in opposing the cool deductions of the moral and statistical calculator.

That such establishments are sometimes conducted in a manner not favourable to the increased preservation of human life, is, however, mournfully apparent; and we regret to state that the hospital now under notice formerly afforded a disgraceful instance of the truth of this position. It is an appalling fact that, in twenty-one years, ending in 1796, no less than 10,272 children were sent to the infant infirmary, of whom forty-five only were recovered. In the year 1797, the number admitted to the hospital was 1922, of whom 1457 died before the expiration of that year!—Misconduct so flagrant called for the interference of government; and, in the year last named, many salutary regulations were adopted, which have since been uniformly maintained with honourable care, and with increasing success. The average number annually admitted, for the last nine years, has been about 1940.

The buildings appertaining to this institution are substantial,

capacious, and, in many important features, highly eligible. It would be a mockery of degraded morals and feelings, if architectural magnificence were here displayed. The building is sedate and massive, and the premises occupy an extensive plot of ground. In front of the hospital is a spacious area, used as a place of exercise for the boys; and an interior area is appropriated to the female children. The dining-hall is 120 feet in length, by forty in width; and is thirty-two feet high.* This apartment is capable of affording accommodation at meals to 1000 children, leaving a central avenue, fifteen feet in width, for the gratification of visitors led to enjoy the spectacle of so interesting an assemblage.

The infirmary is at the distance of 150 feet from the main buildings of the hospital, and is a capacious fabric, three stories in height, completed in 1810, after the designs of F. Johnston, Esq. The chapel, situated in the centre of the buildings, on the south side of the interior court, is a neat building, also recently finished after a plan of the same architect.

The governors of this hospital, according to the regulations of 1797, are twelve in number, chosen by election, together with the chancellor of the exchequer, who is a governor officially. Twelve ladies also act as visiting governesses. For the support of the establishment there has been hitherto levied a tax of one shilling in the pound on all houses within the several parishes of this city, and within two miles of the castle of Dublin, of the yearly value of five pounds, or upwards, according to the valuation of minister's money; a tax of sixpence in the pound on all houses of less value, within the same limits; and, also, sixpence in the pound on all houses wherein malt or spirituous liquors are sold by retail. The net produce of these levies is about £8000 *per annum*. The remainder of the expenditure is supplied by parlia-

* Over the fire-place at the eastern end of the hall is a full-length portrait of Primate Boulter, who provided food in this room, at his private expense, for the poor of Dublin, in the scarce years of 1727, and 1728, when the nation was threatened with actual famine. This portrait has been engraved in a well-known print, representing that memorable transaction.

mentary grants, the annual amount of which has sometimes exceeded £30,000. It is in contemplation to relinquish the tax on the city, which has been considered partial and oppressive by the persons charged with the payment; in lieu of which it is intended that the sum of £5 shall be paid by each parish for every child sent from it to the hospital.

THE LYING-IN HOSPITAL. This hospital, the first of the kind established in any part of the British dominions, is indebted for its origin to the exertions of an individual, Dr. BARTHOLOMEW MOSSE, a physician of eminence in Dublin. The experience of an extensive practice convinced this distinguished philanthropist, that the efforts of public charity must be incomplete whilst the destitute and forlorn female was unaided in her season of greatest trial and most numerous wants. In the year 1745, Dr. Mosse opened, for the purpose of affording such assistance, a large house in George's-lane, which he maintained at his own expense, until the utility of the plan procured the co-operation of other benevolent persons.

In the year 1750, he obtained a lease of the grounds on which the present hospital is erected; and laid out part as a garden of public resort and parade, appropriating the sums paid for admission to the furtherance of his humane intentions. The foundation-stone of the existing structure was laid in the year 1751, and the building was progressively erected, after a design of Mr. Cassels. With the enthusiasm and perseverance necessary to the completion of such an undertaking, Dr. Mosse continued, with money raised by lottery-schemes and procured on his own credit, to augment the buildings, until the year 1755, when it was found necessary to solicit aid from parliament. Grants of twelve thousand pounds were, consequently, obtained at different times, towards the cost of finishing the hospital; together with the sum of £2000 for his own use, as a testimony of the sense entertained of his public services.

A charter of incorporation was granted to the governors and guardians, in 1756, by which Dr. Mosse was appointed master of the hospital during life; and the building, although not entirely

completed, was opened for the reception of patients on the 8th of December, 1757. We regret to add that the amiable founder lived but a short time to view the success of his arduous exertions. Exhausted by the cares and anxiety produced by so important an undertaking, he expired on the 16th of February, 1759, in the 47th year of his age.

The hospital which he has bequeathed to posterity, as a grateful monument of his virtues, abilities, and perseverance in the cause of humanity, is situated near the northern termination of Sackville-street; and the whole of the buildings and their precincts involve, besides the charitable asylum, a structure devoted to the assemblies of the gay, and gardens of public amusement.

The central building, constituting the body of the hospital, is a handsome fabric, 125 feet in length by eighty-two feet in depth. The principal front is composed of mountain granite, and is moderately, but sufficiently, ornamented. The frontispiece comprises four three-quarter columns, of the Doric order, which rise from the basement story, and support an angular pediment, of good proportions. A colonnade of the Tuscan order unites this building, on the east, with a handsome pavilion and the rotunda, a structure requiring future notice. The front towards the gardens, is, also, of mountain granite, but is judiciously devoid of ornament.

The interior of the hospital possesses, in amplitude of the respective apartments, and in simplicity of arrangement, the best ornaments of a building devoted to charitable uses.

The spacious hall, to which the visiter is first conducted, communicates with a gallery, opening to ranges of apartments appropriated to the use of the institution. In this room the attention is arrested by a marble bust of the founder, on the pedestal of which is the following simple and expressive inscription:

Bart. Mosse, M. D.
Miseris Solamen
Institui
MDCCLVII.

The chapel is placed immediately over the hall, and is of similar dimensions. This part of the building is furnished with admirable neatness ; and the stucco-work of the ceiling, designed by Cre-millon, and executed by that ingenious Frenchman and the two Francini, Italian artists, possesses great beauty,

The wards of the hospital are spacious and airy ; and we have the pleasure of observing that three of these are supported by endowments, respectively proceeding from *Dr. Richard Robinson, Archbishop of Armagh* ; *Thomas Preston, Esq.* ; and *William Raphson, Esq.*

As objects connected with the funds by which the above charity is supported, it is necessary to notice, in this place, the rotunda and the gardens attached to the hospital.

The rotunda is united, as has been already observed, with the exterior of the hospital, by means of a colonnade of stone, and a pavilion, through which is its principal entrance. Although it has externally little claim to admiration, the interior is well adorned for its intended purpose. This circular room is eighty feet in diameter, and forty feet in height ; and is surrounded with eighteen pilasters of the Corinthian order, between which are windows, enriched by stucco-work, and surmounted by triangular pediments. Adjoining is a suite of splendid apartments, comprising spacious ball and supper rooms. Concerts, subscription-balls, and other festive meetings, are held in these rooms, and the profits are applied to the uses of the charity. This source of revenue has, however, lately been much less productive than formerly.

The gardens are not of extensive dimensions, but are laid out with creditable taste, and are encompassed by a light railing of iron. The walks are agreeably shaded with elms, of a flourishing growth ; and, on the northern side, is constructed a broad terrace, provided with seats and an orchestra. On summer evenings instrumental music is here presented, and ranges of decorative lamps bestow a considerable degree of brilliancy on the scene, as night approaches.

This pleasing promenade is well attended ; and the charm conveyed by the assemblage of the fair and fashionable, refines into

sentiment when it is remembered that the pleasure of the season conduces towards the comfort and sustenance of the distressed female, in her natural extremity of helplessness and want. The gardens close soon after nightfall; and the profits arising from the price of admission (the fivepenny silver coin of Ireland) contribute to the support of the charity.

These gardens occupy the greater part of that area, encompassed on three sides by very capacious dwellings, which we have previously noticed, under the name of Rutland-square.

It is not required that the formality of a recommendation should be obtained, for females to procure admission into this hospital. The subjects of the charity are received at all hours, whether of day or night, and are accommodated within the house for a "reasonable time," after delivery; by which term, we believe, is usually understood about nine days. The total number of patients admitted, from the 8th day of December, 1757, to the 31st of December, 1811, was 73,176. In regard to the births, the proportion was about twelve males to eleven females; the proportion of women having twins (and more) about one to fifty-seven; and of women having three and four children, about one to 3348. The number of women delivered between the 1st of January, 1820, and the 3rd of November, in the same year, was 2,078.

The precarious income of this useful charity has lately experienced a considerable diminution, on account of the infrequent residence of many of the nobility and gentry in Dublin, and from other causes. The aid of parliamentary grants has, therefore, been obtained in recent years, the sum voted in 1821, being £2,800.

ST. PATRICK'S HOSPITAL, FOR LUNATICS AND IDIOTS, was founded in obedience to the will of the celebrated Dr. Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's, who bequeathed for that purpose the whole property of which he died possessed, subject to some trifling legacies. Such a testamentary bequest appeals to the feelings with irresistible influence, when we remember that the founder, once exalted far above ordinary men in vigour and excellence of intellectual faculty, himself died deprived of common reasoning powers, an

awful monument of the necessity of such an asylum as he benevolently provided for sufferers in future ages !

The amount of Dr. Swift's bequest has been usually stated at about £11,000 ; but it appears that considerable difficulties occurred in collecting the property. Parliamentary grants of two sums, each amounting to £1000, were obtained towards the completion of the buildings and furniture ; many voluntary donations were also received ; and the hospital was opened for the reception of patients in the year 1757.

This structure is situated on the south-west border of the city, between Bow-lane and Steeven's Hospital. The front is 147 feet in extent, and is divided into a central compartment, of about 100 feet in width, faced with mountain granite, and low wings of substantial masonry ; the whole being judiciously destitute of embellishment. The wards, situated in the rear, occupy two parallel buildings, 327 feet in length by thirty-three feet in width. Those respectively appropriated to males and females are entirely separated from each other, and are spacious and well ventilated. There are also distinct inclosures, for the male and female patients to take necessary exercise in the open air.

This charity was incorporated in the year 1746, and has received, at different times, some liberal, but not very extensive, benefactions. Until lately no other asylum for the indigent insane existed in Ireland, and the demands for admission have proved so numerous and increasing, that nearly the whole of the income arising from the permanent funds has been usually applied to the maintenance of patients. In aid of repairs demanded by the buildings, government granted, in the years 1811, and 1812, the two sums of £4000 and £4180.

Patients not supported on the foundation are also received into this establishment. These are divided into two classes, termed chamber-boarders and ward-boarders, in reference to the accommodations afforded according to their respective rates of payment. It will be a subject of gratulation if the time shall arrive when the whole of the buildings are open to the reception of afflicted paupers, by means of public contribution.

The RICHMOND LUNATIC ASYLUM was instituted in the year 1815, for the reception of all such indigent insane persons as were not provided for by other establishments, whether in Dublin or other parts of Ireland. This asylum is under the management of a board of Governors; and the chief officers are a moral governor, a physician, and a surgeon. The establishment is capable of accommodating 230 patients, and such as are pronounced incurable are removed to apartments in the House of Industry. The system of treatment here adopted is judiciously mild, and has proved highly successful. The united afflictions of poverty and mental derangement are the only recommendations needed for admission, when vacancies occur. The institution is supported by annual parliamentary grants, the grant for the year 1821 being £5,500.

SIR PATRICK DUN'S HOSPITAL. This establishment originates in a bequest made by an eminent practitioner of physic, Sir Patrick Dun, of estates in the county of Waterford, for the foundation of a professorship or professorships in the college of Physicians. The bequest was carried into effect in the year 1781, and the appointments were termed King's Professorships; but the proceeds of the estates having greatly increased in value, it was directed, by an act of parliament in 1785, that Clinical lectures should be given. The same act also suggests the propriety of erecting an hospital, for the delivery of those lectures.

The present building was commenced in the year 1803, and is a handsome and capacious structure, comprising a centre and two wings, composed of mountain granite. The design is evidently at once favourable to the interests of charity and science, as it comprehends, on the same foundation, an asylum for the sick and a theatre of instruction for the student in medicine.

STEEVENS'S HOSPITAL, situated near the southern bank of the Liffey, to the north-east of Kilmainham, is a plain but spacious structure, commenced in the year 1720, in pursuance of the will of Dr. Richard Steevens, a physician of Dublin, who bequeathed, for the purpose of this foundation, his real estate, which was set for lives renewable for ever, at the yearly rent of £604 : 4s. To

this endowment considerable benefactions were speedily added ;* and, in the year 1730, the managers were incorporated by act of parliament. The buildings consist of four fronts, and surround a court, 114 feet by ninety-four, each side of which is provided with a piazza.

This hospital is designed for “ the relief and maintenance of curable poor persons,” whether the cases be medical or surgical ; but the endowment has proved insufficient to the magnitude of the scheme, and assistance has been obtained from the bounty of parliament. In three different years, the first being 1805, about £10,480 were granted for repairs of the structure ; and a yearly sum is also allowed by government, in aid of the permanent funds of the charity. This grant amounted, in the year 1821, to £1,400. The annual income of the establishment, independent of parliamentary assistance, is about £2,231. The whole number of beds for the reception of patients is about 200.

The Stove Tenter-House is a benevolent institution of great utility, established in 1815, by the late Thomas Pleasants, Esq. whose name is entitled to a distinguished place in the list of modern philanthropists. The building is situated in the populous and poor district termed the Earl of Meath's liberty, and was erected at the expense of nearly £13,000. It has for its object the assistance of the weavers dwelling in the liberty, who, before the erection of this building, were either destitute of employment in wet seasons, or were exposed to temptations of vicious indulgence, by the custom of tentering their clothes by means of some neighbouring ale-house fire. In the Stove Tenter-House all persons have the privilege of tentering cloths, on the payment of a small sum, which assists in defraying the general expense of fuel for the establishment. A very perceptible improvement in the comfort and morals of a numerous class of artizans, has proceeded from this well-organized foundation.

* Among these contributions has already been noticed the sum of £1000, for the purchase of lands in augmentation of the chaplain's salary, bequeathed by Mrs. Hester Johnson, the *Stella* of Dean Swift.—Vide inscription to the Memory of Mrs. Johnson, in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Amongst those numerous institutions for the relief of the miserable, under various circumstances of indigence or infirmity, which are inferior in utility to such as are more copiously noticed, only because they are on a less extensive scale, the following demand enumeration.

There are three different *Asylums for the Blind*, respectively denominated Simpson's Hospital;* the Richmond National Institution; and the Molyneux Asylum.

Under various modifications there are five *Magdalen Asylums* in this city. That which was first instituted is situated in Leeson-street, and originated in the amiable exertions of Lady Arabella Denny. It was opened in the year 1766. The other asylums of this description are called the Lock Penitentiary; the Dublin Female Penitentiary; the Bow-street Asylum; and the General Asylum, situated in Townshend-street. The two latter are chiefly supported by members of the Roman Catholic church.

The *Asylums for Female Servants* are three in number, and possess the following diversities of character: an asylum for aged and infirm females, having creditably performed the task of servitude; a house of refuge for servants out of place;† and a second house of the same character, which is supported chiefly by persons of the Roman Catholic form of religion.

The *Asylums for Widows* are numerous, and may be divided into two classes; such as are assisted by means of endowment and general contribution, and such as come under the denomination of Parochial alms-houses. Of the first description there are six; namely, the Widows' almshouse in James-street; the Widows'

* This hospital is not designed exclusively for the blind. George Simpson, the founder, at once laboured under the infirmity of weak eyes, and was subject to severe attacks of the gout. The asylum instituted by his sympathy and benevolence is intended for fellow-sufferers of both classes.

† Mrs. Tighe, the amiable and elegant author of *Psyche*, bestowed upon this institution, which was founded by her mother, the profits accruing from the publication of that poem.—Some brief memoirs of this lady occur in our description of the county of Wicklow.

almshouse in Great Britain-street; Fortick's almshouse, in Denmark-street; the Widows' Retreat; George's almshouse; and Knight's almshouse, a foundation of a limited character in the parish of St. Peter's. Ten of the parishes of Dublin have almshouses appropriated to the reception of indigent widows, each of whom receives a small stipend weekly.

An association for *the Relief of sick and indigent Room-keepers* (emphatically and well described as those "who are unwilling to beg and unable to work") was first instituted in the year 1791, and now pervades, with a most benign and salutary influence, various recesses of unmerited distress in this great city. Several other charitable associations, designed for the aid of such classes of the indigent as fall under the cognizance of the poors-laws in England, have been established, in recent years, with a degree of success commensurate to the benevolence of intention.

An asylum for *old men* was established in the year 1812, and is situated in the circular road, at a short distance from Mountjoy-square. The building was opened for twenty-four men, not under the age of sixty, who must be protestants, and incapable of earning a subsistence.

The first *charitable Infirmary* established in Dublin, originated in a benevolent association of six practitioners of surgery, in the early part of the eighteenth century. The institution proceeding from the efforts and example of those gentlemen, is situated in Jervis-street, and the governors are now incorporated. The present building was erected in the year 1803, and the views of the members enlarging with the spirit of the times, the institution was, in the year 1808, erected into a school for medical and surgical instruction; at which time a course of lectures commenced on the "theory and practice of physic and clinical surgery." The *Meath Hospital*, situated in the Coombe, and primarily designed for the relief of the crowded poor in the Earl of Meath's liberty, besides that useful purpose acts as an infirmary for the county of Dublin.

A *Female Orphan-house*, for daughters of respectable householders of St. Peter's parish, was founded by a bequest of the

humane and liberal Mr. Pleasant. This asylum was opened in 1818, and affords maintenance, and education of a very eligible description, to twenty female orphans.

Dispensaries, although institutions of unquestionable utility, and supported at a less expense than any other charities of such extensive benefit, were not established in Dublin before the year 1782. The first dispensary instituted in this city was that of the parishes of St. Thomas and St. Mary. There are now several, in different parts of the city. An institution for disseminating the advantages of vaccine inoculation was first opened in the year 1800. It has been stated that “nearly 68,000 persons have been vaccinated since the opening of this institution; and out of that number the directors admit the subsequent occurrence of no more than four cases of genuine small-pox, none of which proved fatal.”

Mercer's Hospital, in Stephen's-street, founded (as far as regards the gift of the house in which the charity is held) by Mrs. Mary Mercer, in the year 1734, contains six wards for the sick.

In consequence of the prevalence, to a fearful extent, of *low and contagious fever* in recent years, a spacious structure has been erected for the reception of patients suffering under the oppression of this disease. This hospital, destined, as it is hoped, only for temporary use, is situated in a field on the south-west side of the city, constituting nearly the highest ground in the immediate neighbourhood of Dublin. The expense of erection was chiefly defrayed by public contribution.

The *Westmorland Lock Hospital* is an extensive establishment, open to all indigent applicants, without the necessity of a recommendation. The sum of £3,400 was granted by parliament to the “Lock Hospital of Dublin,” in the year 1821.

ENDOWED CHARITY SCHOOLS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS FOR GRATUITOUS EDUCATION.

THE BLUE-COAT HOSPITAL, OR FREE SCHOOL OF KING CHARLES THE SECOND. This institution originated in a design of great extent and benevolence, formed by the citizens of Dublin in the seventeenth century. The first intention embraced a

foundation for the reception and support of the aged and infirm poor of this city, united with a school for the instruction and maintenance of necessitous children. The earliest contributions towards this comprehensive plan, proceeded from the bounty of the corporation of Dublin; and the original buildings for the use of the charity were erected in the year 1670. This was the first foundation of the kind in Ireland, and the design speedily obtained the sanction of government. King Charles II. granted a charter to the establishment, by which he bestowed on the lord-mayor, sheriffs, commons, and citizens, the land constituting the site of the hospital; and commanded the directors to take the title of the "Governors of the Hospital and Free School of King Charles the Second, Dublin."

It was shortly found that the above design was too vast for execution. So early as the year 1680, the governors felt compelled to contract the scheme of their benevolence, and to limit the exercise of this charity to the sustenance and education of children being the sons, or grandsons, of decayed citizens.

The original building was situated in Queen-street, at the south-eastern angle of Oxmantown (or Ostmantown) green; and contained apartments sufficiently spacious for the accommodation of the national parliament, which frequently sat here before the erection of the senate-house on College-green. This building falling to decay, a new edifice was commenced, on a more eligible site, in the year 1773.

The present structure is advantageously situated near the centre of the area termed Oxmantown-green, and its principal divisions, undoubtedly, constitute an architectural object highly ornamental to this part of the city. The edifice consists of a centre and two wings, connected with each other by subordinate and receding buildings, and presenting in the whole a façade 300 feet in extent. The central division is designed in the Ionic order, and has in the frontispiece an angular pediment, supported by four columns, over which is the commencement of a steeple, or clock-turret. This part of the hospital is entirely engrossed by apartments for the officers of the house, and rooms for conducting the

business of the establishment. The northern wing, decorated with a turret proceeding from the roof, constitutes the chapel; and the southern wing contains the school-room, sixty-five feet in length by thirty-two feet in width, with dormitories in the upper story. The western front is at present in an incomplete state, but is designed in a less costly and embellished style.

It is sufficiently obvious that, in buildings devoted to a charitable purpose, the adaptation of the structure to the comfort of its eleemosynary inmates, is the principal object in request. We must, indeed, believe that the simple exhibition of an arrangement calculated at all points to advance the intention of the establishment, is, invariably, the most decorous and gratifying ornament that can be imparted to such buildings. But, when a redundancy of means is obtained from the munificence of public patronage, it is certainly desirable that an object, homely in its original character, should be rendered an architectural embellishment of the city exercising so exemplary a degree of liberality.

Without attempting to investigate the cause, we regret to state that the finances of this institution have proved insufficient to the furtherance of the original intention; and Ionic columns, and balustrades of stone, with all attached particulars of architectural display, were here misplaced. Viewed without these reflections, the chief front of this structure will obtain very general commendation, for justness of proportions and dignity of general effect.

The children received on this foundation should be between the ages of eight and twelve years. The number of boys has fluctuated in recent periods, but has been usually about 150. They are fed, clothed, and educated; and are apprenticed, at the age of fourteen, to useful trades or to the sea-service, the master receiving a premium of £5 with each apprentice.

The income of the hospital chiefly proceeds from the fee-farm rents of St. Stephen's-green and Oxmantown-green (the original endowment made by the corporation of Dublin), together with several other rents and annuities, bestowed by different indivi-

duals at various periods. The whole revenue, according to a recent statement, amounts to about £4,000 *per annum*.

In addition to the boys appointed by the corporation, who constitute the majority, a certain number are supported in this house by the governors of Erasmus Smith's charities. Ten, also, are appointed by the Bishop of Meath; two by the minister of St. Werburgh's parish; and two by the guild of St. Anne.

THE HIBERNIAN MARINE SOCIETY'S SCHOOL, FOR THE CHILDREN OF DECAYED SEAMEN, is situated on the south bank of the river Liffey, at the Lower end of the Quay named after Sir John Rogerson. The expense of the building, which is a substantial structure of stone, amounted to £6,600. The society engaged in this charitable object was incorporated in the year 1775, for the purpose of "maintaining, educating, and apprenticing the orphans and children of decayed seamen, in the royal navy and merchants' service." At a suitable age the boys on this foundation are either apprenticed to the masters of merchants' vessels, or are sent on board ships belonging to the royal navy. The parliamentary grant to the Hibernian Marine Society amounted, in the year 1821, to the sum of £1,600.

SCHOOLS FOUNDED BY ERASMUS SMITH, ESQ.—The extensive revenues of this charity proceed from lands which had been seized and sequestered, on account of the rebellion in 1641, but were afterwards adjudged to Erasmus Smith, and were by him devoted to the maintenance of grammar-schools, and to other charitable purposes. The annual amount of the rental is now more than £7000, and, from the produce of this noble benefaction, several schools, on an extensive scale, are supported in different parts of Ireland, besides assistance afforded to other establishments connected with the object of public education. Two schools on the foundation of Erasmus Smith have been erected in Dublin, to which children of both sexes are admitted.

In each of the parishes into which Dublin is divided, there is a parochial school for the education of children belonging to poor protestant inhabitants, in which they are merely instructed,

or are likewise supported and clothed, as the circumstances of the parish may admit. The different congregations of Roman Catholics also support schools of charitable instruction, which are largely attended. Children of both sexes are admitted to the greater number of these institutions, and, where practicable, are maintained as well as educated.

The schools not being parochial, but supported by general subscription, aided, in some instances, by charity-sermons, are numerous, and are respectively maintained by the various classes of religious persuasion into which the population of this great city is divided. In several the mode of tuition usually known by the name of Lancaster's system, has been adopted with success. Sunday Schools were first introduced into Ireland in the year 1786, and several have been established, with great public advantage, in the city of Dublin.

The following statement of the number of institutions for gratuitous education in this city, and of the religious classes by which they are supported, is given on the authority of the History of Dublin by Whitelaw and Walsh.

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Protestant Schools | 29 |
| Catholic. | 32 |
| Dissenters' | 12 |
| Mixed | 12 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 85 |

VARIOUS BUILDINGS RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICES, COMMERCE, AND INTERNAL REGULATION.

THE STAMP OFFICE is a fine and spacious building, formerly constituting the town-mansion of a noble family. This structure was erected by Lord Viscount Powerscourt, in 1771, and the two following years. The stone of which it is composed was brought from the mountains on his lordship's estate in the county of Wicklow.* When Dublin failed in attractions for the gayer part

* It is observed by Dr. Walsh (Hist. of Dub. vol. 2. p. 1010) that this building "exhibits a specimen of the only defect, perhaps, with which our

of the nobility, Lord Powerscourt disposed of this house to government, for the sum of £15,000, and the business of the stamp department of the revenue was removed hither in the year 1811. The building is situated in William-street, a narrow thoroughfare, unfavourable to architectural display; but, when appropriated to its original purpose, this mansion must have constituted one of the most dignified domestic structures of Dublin. The design is not characterized by any peculiarities demanding notice, but is conspicuous for a more plentiful introduction of ornament than is customary in the domestic architecture of this city. Extensive additions and alterations have been made, to render the building eligible to its present use.

THE COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, situated on the north side of Dame-street, were erected by means of private subscription, and were opened for the transaction of business in the year 1799. The whole expense amounted to about £38,000. The exterior of these buildings presents a handsome front of mountain granite. The interior consists of three stories; and the entire premises comprise a hall; a public coffee-room; offices for insurance-companies; a private subscription-room, for merchants; the stock-exchange; and apartments appropriated to the uses of an hotel.

THE LINEN-HALL is a commodious structure, designed, as its name implies, for the transaction of business relating to the great staple manufacture of Ireland. This building, which possesses little interest in an architectural view, occupies nearly three acres of ground on the northern side of the Liffey, and consists, by means of several augmentations made at different times, of six spacious courts, surrounded by store-houses. The whole number of apartments is 557; of which 492 are used for the storage of

mountain granite can be charged as a building-stone. The granulated texture presents a rough surface, in the asperities of which the floating films of soot with which the atmosphere of the narrow street is charged from sea-coal fires, are entangled, and the hue of this fair stone is so entirely discoloured, as to leave no trace of what it was: Powerscourt-house is now so black, that the quality of the stone can only be recognized by breaking off the surface."

linen, and the remainder for yarn. The present building for the resort of persons engaged in this important branch of trade, was opened in the year 1728. To this hall the dealers in different parts of the country forward their linens for sale; and here may be purchased all the varieties of this manufacture, from the finest damask to the coarsest fabrics. This is also the great depôt for the sale of yarn from various counties.

The MARKETS of Dublin are plentifully supplied with articles of an excellent quality, and at prices rather lower than those obtained in London and some other populous cities of England. But the places of sale, with one exception, possess neither amplitude nor convenience, and are adapted to the antient, rather than to the modern and improved, state of Dublin.

The wholesale market for cattle and hay, termed Smithfield, is of confined dimensions, and is accessible only by narrow avenues. Dublin affords the principal market in Ireland for the sale of grain; and a spacious Corn-Exchange has been lately erected, on the south bank of the Liffey, nearly opposite to the Custom-House.

The established markets for the supply of the table are nine in number, but are totally deficient in regularity of plan, and due precautions of cleanliness and ventilation. In this respect Dublin is still lamentably inferior to Oxford, Bath, and most of the chief provincial cities of England. From markets thus ineligible, the city, however, is provided with meat, fish, and poultry, not to be excelled in any country, and, perhaps, to be rivalled in only few. The rich pastures of Ireland produce beef, mutton, and lamb, of the finest quality. Fish is abundantly supplied by the neighbouring seas; and poultry is generally good, and always plentiful. Esculent vegetables are also furnished in sufficient quantities, and at a low price. We are not aware of any deficiency for the comfort of the homely table, or the indulgence of the affluent, except in the article of fruit. Horticulture, as a trading pursuit, has hitherto been much neglected throughout the whole of the country; and the small supply of fruit at the Dublin markets is seldom of a superior quality, and is attainable only at a high rate of purchase.

The BARRACKS of Dublin are, perhaps, unequalled throughout Europe for extent, and for excellence of architectural disposal. The principal building of this description is situated on a slight eminence, which overhangs the north banks of the river Liffey, at the western extremity of the city. These barracks were erected in 1706, and consist of several capacious squares. In George-street are, likewise, barracks capable of receiving one regiment of infantry; and there are two other structures of this kind on the immediate borders of the city. *Richmond Barracks*, for infantry, situated near the banks of the Grand Canal, in the vicinity of Kilmainham, occupy an elevated and healthy situation, and form a fine and substantial fabric, of great extent. The *barracks of Portobello*, for cavalry, are also erected on the borders of the Grand Canal. The whole of the site comprehends twenty-seven acres of ground.

HOUSE OF INDUSTRY.—The claims of indigence, proceeding, in a great majority of instances, from depraved indolence, and constituting what has been, with justice, termed the “nuisance of beggary,” long disgraced the streets of Dublin, in a degree unparalleled in any other city throughout Europe.* To alleviate, and, if possible, to remedy, this offensive grievance, a corporation was instituted in the year 1773, by virtue of an act of parliament passed in 1771. For a short time the voluntary subscriptions to this laudable establishment were creditable to the public understanding and spirit; but this source of support failed by quick degrees, and, in 1777, the parliament of Ireland granted the

* The following remark of Mr. Harris, inserted in Ware’s *Lives of the Bishops*, refers to the existence of this evil in the early part of the 14th century. “There is extant, in the registry of St. Mary’s Abbey, an account of a remarkable sermon, preached by Archbishop de Bicknor, against sloth and idleness; wherein he bitterly complained of the mischiefs arising from the stragglers and beggars that infested the city and suburbs of Dublin. His sermon had such influence, that the then mayor of Dublin would not suffer an idle person within his liberties, but such who spun, or knit, as they walked the streets; even the begging friers were not excused.”

sum of £4000 towards the maintenance of the House of Industry. The fund arising from voluntary contribution shortly became extinct, and parliamentary grants have been continued for the maintenance of the institution. The sum granted in 1821 was £19,600.

It is provided by the act of 1771, that "houses of industry shall consist of four distinct parts; the first, for such poor helpless men as shall be judged worthy of admission: the second, for women of a similar description: the third, for male vagabonds, or sturdy beggars: and the fourth, for such idle, strolling, and disorderly women, as shall be committed to the hospital." The conductors of the institution are authorized to seize strolling vagrants, &c. and to commit them to the House of Industry, there to be kept to hard labour for a term at discretion, not exceeding four years. All paupers who enter voluntarily may leave the house at their own option. Until a recent date paupers were admitted from all parts of Ireland, and from any country; but at present none are admissible except those of the city and county of Dublin.

The principal buildings form two squares, respectively appropriated, under the existing system of management, to the aged and infirm, and the insane. There are, also, three hospitals, detached from the main building and from each other, "for fever, chronic, medical, and surgical cases." The superintendence of the whole is vested in one resident governor and seven visitors, who hold their meetings weekly.

In aid of the views entertained by the original promoters of the above institution, there has lately been formed in Dublin a *Society for the Suppression of Mendicity*, the beneficial effects of which are visible in every part of the city. This association commenced its proceedings in the early part of the year 1818, and is under the regulation of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, who is president, and twelve vice-presidents, assisted by a committee.

Owing to the exertions of this laudable society, the paupers who formerly thronged the streets of Dublin, to the great annoyance and disgust of residents and passengers, are now employed

in various labours, and a school is provided for their miserable offspring.

THE SESSIONS HOUSE is a building sufficiently spacious, but placed in a confined situation between the Gaol of Newgate and the Sheriffs' Prison. This building was opened for public use in the year 1797, previous to which date the quarter-sessions were held in the Tholsel, a structure since taken down.

THE PRISONS OF DUBLIN require some notice in topographical pages; but on a subject so dreary we forbear to dilate, convinced that no reader will expect, in a work of a general nature, suggestions respecting the possible improvement of these receptacles of degraded humanity—the only inducement for a writer to present extended remarks on a topic so offensive to the feelings.

The prison termed *Newgate* was commenced in the year 1773, and was erected after the designs of Mr. Cooley, at the expense of about £16,000. This is a quadrangular building, three stories in height, the dimensions of the whole being 170 feet in length by 130 feet in width. The character of the fabric is faithfully given by a recent historian of Dublin (Dr. Walsh), who observes that the extent is insufficient, the arrangement bad, and the execution wretched. The prison is designed for criminals of all descriptions, for the county of the city of Dublin, and for persons placed in confinement under coroners' writs. Many amendments of the internal regulations have taken place since the year 1808, in consequence of representations made by the commissioners for inspecting the gaols of Ireland.

The *Sheriffs' Prison*, situated in Green-street, to the northward of the Sessions House, was erected in 1794. This building is intended for the reception of prisoners whose debts exceed the amount of ten pounds, and was established with the humane view of preventing the abuses which prevail in sponging houses. The buildings have, unfortunately, proved on too circumscribed a scale for the entire remedy of this grievance.

The *Four Courts' Marshalsea* is a prison used for debtors in all parts of Ireland, many of whom are occasionally removed hither, in hope of obtaining the benefit of the maintenance and

insolvent acts. The comfort of the wretched inmates has been considerably advanced by the interference of the commissioners for examining into the state of prisons; but the buildings are deficient in extent, and are otherwise of an inappropriate character.*

The *City Marshalsea* is contiguous to the Sessions House in Green-street, and was completed in the year 1804. In this prison are confined persons under process of the Lord Mayor's Court, and the Court of Conscience.

Kilmainham Gaol is a spacious and well-arranged building, constituting the prison of the county of Dublin, for felons and debtors.

POPULATION OF DUBLIN.—We are not enabled to present any resemblance of an accurate statement concerning the progressive increase of population in this metropolis, but such few particulars as are afforded, sufficiently indicate the rapid augmentation of the city, in the ages of comparative security which succeeded the convulsions of the seventeenth century. In the year 1644, the citizens of Dublin were numbered, when the gross population was found to be 3767 males and 4392 females, making a total of 8159 souls. Dr. Ruttly (Hist. of Dub. vol. i.) conjectures, on a calculation of ten persons to a house, that the number of inhabitants, in 1753, was 128,370. According to an estimate made in 1798, by the Rev. J. Whitelaw, the number was then 182,370. A statement contained in the third volume of Mr. Shaw Mason's Parochial Survey, presents the result of the returns made in 1813. From this it appears that no returns were made by the parishes of St. George and St. Luke, but that the gross population of the city, with the exception of those parishes, was at that time 176,610. It is believed that, inclusive of the suburbs, but independent of the garrison, the population of Dublin rather exceeds in number 200,000.

* A plan for a new Four Courts' Marshalsea, on an extensive scale, and admirably adapted to the comfort and health of the prisoners, has been prepared by the able architect Francis Johnston, Esq. and will, we hope, be speedily carried into effect.

The City of Dublin claims numerous DISTINGUISHED NATIVES, and a notice of these is, assuredly, calculated to afford to topography some of its most estimable ornaments; but the biography of the most eminent men born in Dublin is so familiar with the public, that it cannot be deemed necessary for us to attempt, in the present work, even a brief analysis of their respective lives. It would be trite to expatiate, in topographical pages, on the talents and fortunes of a Swift, a Burke, a Steele, or a Sheridan. Nor does it appear to be imperative that we should enumerate the whole of such natives as might justly claim attention in a work exclusively devoted to biographical record. The purpose of our DELINEATIONS may, possibly, be fulfilled to the satisfaction of the reader, when we state the names, and the times of birth and decease, of such natives as have attained pre-eminent distinction. In forming this list we adopt a chronological plan of arrangement.

| | Born. | Died. |
|--|---------|-------|
| James Usher, Archbishop of Armagh..... | 1580 .. | 1656 |
| Sir James Ware, Knt. (Historian and Anti-quary) | 1594 .. | 1666 |
| Arthur Annesley, Earl of Anglesea (author of "Memoirs of his own Times.")..... | 1614 .. | 1686 |
| Sir John Denham (Poet)..... | 1615 .. | 1688 |
| Henry Dodwell, the pious author of many celebrated works | 1641 .. | 1711 |
| Thomas Southerne, author of <i>Isabella</i> and other dramatic pieces. | 1660 .. | 1746 |
| Jonathan Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's | 1667 .. | 1745 |
| Sir Richard Steele | 1671 .. | 1729 |
| Thomas Parnell (Poet) | 1679 .. | 1717 |
| Thomas Sheridan | 1719 .. | 1788 |
| Spranger Barry (Tragedian) | 1719 .. | 1774 |
| Thomas Leland, D.D. (author of a History of Ireland, &c.)..... | 1722 .. | 1785 |
| Mervyn Archdall, A.M. (author of " <i>Monasticon Hibernicum</i> ," &c.) | 1723 .. | 1791 |

| | Born. | Died. |
|--|---------|-------|
| James Caulfield, Earl of Charlemont, a resident Irish nobleman, in attention to duty, rather than from habit or inclination; an encourager of the arts, from the impulse of genius; and a patriot, in the best sense of the word. | 1728 .. | 1799 |
| Burke (the Right Hon. Edmund). | 1730 .. | 1797 |
| John Cunningham (Poet).. : | 1731 .. | 1773 |
| Hugh Kelly, Author of the Babbler, &c... .. | 1732 .. | 1777 |
| George Barrett, R. A. : | 1732 .. | 1784 |
| Robert Jephson, Dramatic and Miscellaneous Writer | 1734 .. | 1803 |
| John Jarvis, Painter of Glass | 1749 .. | 1804 |
| Henry Tresham, R. A. | 1749 .. | 1814 |
| Sheridan, (Right Hon. Richard Brinsley) .. | 1751 .. | 1816 |
| J. Cooper Walker, Writer on the Antiquities of Ireland | 1761 .. | 1810 |
| Mary Tighe, the amiable and elegant authoress of <i>Psyche</i> , and other poems | 1774 .. | 1810 |

THE COUNTY OF DUBLIN.

The eastern limits of this county are formed by the Irish sea, and the coast is rendered extremely picturesque, in many parts, by the bays and creeks into which it is irregularly broken. On the north and north-west it is bounded by the county of Meath. Part of its western border meets the county of Kildare; and on the south lie the mountainous tracts of Wicklow. The extreme length of this county is twenty-four miles, and its greatest width fifteen miles. Its superficial contents, as stated by Dr. Beaufort, are 142,050 acres, which make about 221 square miles. It comprises six baronies, exclusive of the city and liberties of Dublin. The river Liffey runs in a western course through the county, and discharges its waters into the bay of Dublin. On the north side

of this river are the baronies of *Balruddery*, *Nethercross*, *Coolock*, and *Castleknock*; and on the south side those of *Newcastle*, and *Half-Rathdown*.

The returns made for this county under the act passed in 1812, for "taking an account of the Population of Ireland," were far from being satisfactory, as regards several baronies. For the following summary of the actual returns made under the operation of that act, we are indebted to the third volume of Mr. Shaw Mason's "Parochial Survey."

POPULATION OF THE COUNTY OF DUBLIN.

| Baronies, Half-Baronies, or Parishes. | Number of Houses. | Gross Population. |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Balruddery | 3,286 | 18,297 |
| Castleknock | 4,612 | 32,990 |
| Coolock | — | — |
| Donore | 803 | 10,910 |
| Nethercross | — | — |
| Newcastle | 2,674 | 15,742 |
| Rathdown | 2,595 | 15,995 |
| Uppercross | 2,663 | 16,503 |
| | 16,633 | 110,437 |

Except in the attractive varieties of its sea-coast, and the great accession of beauty produced by the mountainous district which approximates on Wicklow, this county must be considered as possessing less diversity of natural scenery than many parts of the island; but it is superior to all in artificial decoration, and the banks of the Liffey abound in circumstances of the picturesque.

It is said by Dr. Rutty, in his Natural History of the County of Dublin, that the prevailing *soil* of this county appears to be gravel and loam; that clay is frequent; and that the ground is sometimes stony, and intermixed with slates; and sometimes sandy; marshes and bogs are very rare. The character of the

soil is, however, more fully explained by Mr. Dutton, in the following passage of his *Remarks on Archer's Statistical Survey*: "Though the soil of the greater part of the county of Dublin is inclined to clay, it is not like those deep and tenacious clays so frequent in many parts of England; for scarcely any part of our soil but has a mixture of gravel, and almost every where, if farmers will be at the pains to search for it, it will be found that, at no very great depth, they possess limestone, or other beneficial gravels, with this uncommon advantage attending it, that the operation of draining the ground generally raises a sufficiency of gravel to manure the whole surface."

The estates in this county, as in most districts bordering on a large and commercial city, are in few instances of very great extent. In Wakefield's "*Statistical and Political Account of Ireland*," the following noblemen and gentlemen are noticed, as being, at present, the largest proprietors of land: "Mr. Luke White, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Talbot, and the Lords Longford, De Vesci, and Mountjoy." But it may be added that Lords Pembroke, Carisford, and Castle Coote; Sir William Palmer, of Rush; and the three daughters and co-heiresses of the late Nicholas Plunket, of Dunsoghly Castle, Esq. who married Mr. Grace, of Gracefield; Mr. Malone, of Pallas Park; and Mr. Dunne, of Brittas, are likewise possessed of very extensive landed estates.

The size of farms, like that of estates, varies considerably; and there is no prevalent peculiarity in agricultural practice, worthy of remark in a work designed chiefly for topographical inquiry.

The mineral productions are numerous, and include substances of great importance to the common wants of mankind. Granite, amenable to all the purposes of building, abounds in the neighbourhood of Dublin. To the south of the city are, likewise, extensive quarries of freestone; and limestone is equally plentiful. Copper, lead, and potter's clay are also found.

Amongst several Mineral waters of great value, those of Lucan have preserved the most lasting celebrity, and are duly noticed in our topographical survey of this district.

Many relics of pagan antiquity, usually termed Druidical, are

seen in different parts, and there are several curious vestiges of ecclesiastical and castellated architecture. But the chief interest of this county proceeds from the numerous mansions with which it is enriched, and the various historical particulars that consecrate large tracts of soil in the esteem of posterity.

The evident attraction of these circumstances, united with the consideration of the superior claims possessed by a county attached to the metropolis, and comprising the whole of its environs, induces us to dedicate to so important a district as large a proportion of our pages as the limits of the work will possibly allow.*

The ENVIRONS OF DUBLIN afford a topic concerning which most writers have agreed in using terms of admiration; and their beauties are, in reality, great and various. The Bay, and its richly-cultivated shores, constitute the most pleasing features in the contiguity of the city, whilst a chain of mountains, towards the south, chiefly situated in the county of Wicklow,† impart an air of grandeur, and convey ideas of romantic solitude, finely contrasted to the busy scenes of the populous town. On the west the Phoenix-park, and the banks of the winding Liffey, display diversified subjects of the picturesque. Towards the north the country diminishes in interest, but has many interspersed points of great beauty.

* To these inducements must be added the circumstance of extensive communications with which the author is favoured by COLONEL HERVEY DE MONTMORENCY, K. St. L. For many valuable particulars of historical and genealogical information, and much topographical intelligence, contained in the following sheets descriptive of the county of Dublin, this work is indebted to the MS. collections made by that distinguished member of an illustrious family, connected through many ages with important events in the History of Ireland. In the preface to this volume, and in various parts of the work, we acknowledge the same obligation in regard to other counties.

† These elevations form the verge of a mountainous district, which extends for more than thirty miles to the southward. Of the mountains nearest to Dublin, "one of the highest (named *Garry Castle*) is 1531.7 feet above the level of the road at Ballinteer; and the *Three-Rock-Mountain* is 1247.9 feet above the same place, the elevation of which is considerable." Transactions of Geological Society, v. 1. p. 274.

In describing these far-famed environs our attention is first bestowed on the bay, with the villages and other objects of curiosity seated on its margin. The Phoenix Park affords the centre of further researches; whence we proceed, first to the south, and subsequently to the north, in a second, or inland, line of such places contiguous to the capital as are entitled to observation.

THE BAY OF DUBLIN,

presents in its general display so noble a combination of scenery, and affords at different points such attractive varieties, such fine interchanges of the soft and the august, that it has been often placed in rivalry with the bay of Naples, to which, in many natural circumstances, it bears some similitude. And, although destitute of the lovely terrors of Vesuvius, and the relics of architectural magnificence which enrich the shores of that celebrated bay, its charms are sufficient to justify the eulogy of Dr. Campbell, who asserts that the admirer of the picturesque would think a journey to Ireland, from the sister country, well repaid by this single prospect.

On entering the bay of Dublin the nearest points of land, on the north and south, are the promontory of Howth and the island of Dalkey.* Towards the north the peninsula of Howth presents a bold ascent;—rocky, interspersed with heaths of various tints, and apparently repulsive to all the arts connected with human inhabitation. But soon the shore loses its precipitous elevation, and a long extent of level margin allows a view of the picturesque crags of an islet to the north-east, termed Ireland's-eye; and, still further in the same direction, of the more spacious island of Lambay. The flatness of the northern coast continues through the remaining extent of the bay, but the retired parts of the landscape swell into undulations of considerable beauty, and are

* The Baily point, or most southern part of the promontory of Howth, and the island of Dalkey, are distant from each other $6\frac{3}{4}$ English miles. From the line uniting these points, to the light-house at the end of the south wall, the distance is $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles; and from the same line to Ringsend $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

ornamented with numerous villas, or groupes of houses, almost invariably white, the tint so congenial to rural scenery. At a short distance from Dublin the shore is enlivened by the village of Clontarf; and, on the immediate confines of the city, is viewed Marino, the classic seat erected by the late accomplished and revered Earl of Charlemont.

The finest component features of the bay are found on the south side, where the mountains of Wicklow rise in "harmonious confusion,"—those mountains which first proclaimed to the voyager his approach to the Irish coast, and which now enchant him with by unnumbered combinations of beauty. At the extreme point of this southern border of the bay we quit the small island of Dalkey, and enter on a rugged shore, the severity of which is heightened in effect by an antient military pile, the castle of Bullog. This austere character of scenery is speedily relieved by populous villages, which line the coast, and contain decorated dwellings, equally admirable for natural and artificial circumstances. In the back ground the varied outlines of the mountains impart a charm to the whole, and terminate a succession of views where the eye and the heart acknowledge no want.

The bay of Dublin, thus abundant in picturesque attractions, to subject to some defects, of considerable importance in regard to navigation. On the north and west are two dangerous sandbanks, denominated the north and south bulls. Between these lies the harbour, which is, in fact, a continuation of the channel of the Liffey, extending to the light-house at the termination of the south wall. The channel is of an inconsiderable width, and the entrance is difficult, in consequence of a bar projecting from the north bull, on which, at the recess of spring tides, there is no more than five feet depth of water. To alleviate these obstructions various efforts have been made, at a great expense, and with some advantage; but the navigation is still attended with much danger, in stormy weather proceeding from the east and south-east

Near the northern extreme line of the sand-bank termed the

south wall has been constructed a pier, which is, undoubtedly, the most considerable work of the kind in Europe, and reminds the spectator of the magnitude and grandeur of Roman undertakings, when Rome was the imperial mistress of the world. This pier commences at the suburban village of Rings-end, and proceeds, under the name of the south-wall, to the place termed the Pigeon-house, a distance of 7938 feet. Through this extent it consists of double stone walls, filled between with gravel, and admitting an excellent and elevated road, secured by parapets. This part of the pier was begun in the year 1748, and completed in 1755.

The place denominated the Pigeon-house formed, before the construction of the harbour at Howth, the point at which the whole of the packets between Dublin and England received and landed passengers, and continues to be used by the passage-vessels between this port and Liverpool. Here is an artificial basin, 900 feet in length by 450 feet in width, which is nearly dry at low water. At this place are also fortifications, comprising a battery of twenty-four pounders, and barracks for a detachment of the artillery.

Beyond the Pigeon-house, the pier, or mole, extends eastward, but with a slight inclination towards the south, 9816 feet, and terminates in a light-house. This division of the pier originally consisted merely of frame work and piles; but the great expense of keeping in repair works so inadequate to resist the sea, led to the construction of a more substantial fabric, which was begun in 1761, and finished in 1796. This part of the pier, which extends from the Pigeon-house to the light-house, is composed of two parallel walls of hewn granite, without cement; the intermediate space being filled, to a certain height, with gravel and shingle, over which is a course of stone-work, imbedded in cement. The whole is finished on the top with a course of granite blocks, of large dimensions, laid in tarras. The pier thus forms a solid mass, which is 32 feet broad at the bottom, tapering to 28 feet at the top. As this is merely a sea-wall, and not liable to the transit of persons unconnected with local duties, it is not provided with parapets.

The light-house at its eastern extremity was built between the years 1761 and 1768, and is in the form of a truncated cone. The material used is mountain-granite, and the structure consists of three stories, separated and strengthened by arches of stone. The summit is ascended by a stone stairway, which winds round the outside, and leads to an octangular lantern, lighted by large oil-lamps, aided by reflecting lenses.

This very noble pier effectually secures the harbour from the sands of the south-bull; and, if viewed in conjunction with the quay-walls, must be described as assisting to form one great line of barrier against the waters, extending from the light-house, on the east, to Barrack-bridge at the opposite point of the compass, a distance of nearly six English miles.

The village of *Rings-end*, which constitutes the extreme eastern suburb of Dublin, and is situated at the commencement of the south wall, presents no circumstance to demand the pause of the topographer; and we proceed to an examination of those numerous objects which skirt the bay, and form some of the most interesting features in the environs of the city. In attention to the mode of approach described in the above general view, we commence this tour of investigation at the promontory of Howth on the north, and traverse the margin of the bay, until we conduct the reader to Dalkey Island, the point to which we first directed his attention on the south.

HOWTH.—This small sea-port has lately emerged from the secluded quiet in which it had remained for many ages, and has become a place of great public resort, as the point at which the government-packets sailing between Dublin and Holyhead receive and land despatches and passengers. The promontory of Howth* is connected with the main land by a sandy isthmus, about half a mile in width; and, although it wears a steril and repulsive aspect, is believed to contain within its bold and rugged, but picturesque, bosom, mineral veins of considerable importance.

* It is stated in the Transactions of the Geological Society, vol. 1. p. 274, that “ the highest point of Howth is 567 feet above high water mark.”

The antient name of Howth, according to several authors, was *Ben-Hy-dair*, the promontory of the oaks. Some Irish writers, however, describe the antient appellation as *Ben-Adar*, or *Ben-Hadar*, the birds' promontory; in support of which opinion it is noticed that the rocks on this coast are still the resort of unusual numbers of sea-fowl. This hill has also been called *Dun-Crimthan*, Crimthan's Mount, from its former distinction as the residence of Crimthan, "the 111th monarch of Ireland," celebrated for his successful incursions into Britain, and the advantages he there obtained, not only over the natives, but some Roman forces, in the time of Agricola. Certain Irish bards, with the customary licence of poetry, expatiate on the richness of the booty obtained in these expeditions against the rude inhabitants of the opposite shore. Amongst the articles specified are a golden chariot, a pair of tables studded with 300 brilliant gems, and a cloak interwoven with threads of gold!

When the English entered Ireland in the twelfth century, Sir Amoricus, or Amorey, Tristram, as we are informed by family records, usually considered to be authentic, ranked amongst the most forward and active of the adventurers. In the year 1177, he approached this country, in conjunction with Sir John de Courcy, at the head of a courageous band, and debarked at Howth. An engagement speedily occurred between the invaders and the natives; and, owing to the illaess of the allied general, the entire command devolved on Sir Amoricus, who obtained a signal victory at the bridge of Evora,* on the north side of Howth. In this action he is said to have lost seven near relatives, in the different degrees of sons, nephews, and uncles; but received, as the reward of his gallantry, the lands and title of Howth. The change of the family name to that of St. Laurence, by which the descendants of this noble person are at present distinguished, is ascribed, by some writers, to the circumstance of a victory gained, on a future occasion, upon *St. Laurence's day*. The cause of this alteration

* The bridge of Evora, described as the scene of this victory, crosses a mountain-stream, which falls into the sea nearly opposite the west end of Ireland's Eye.

is, however, scarcely to be ascertained, from satisfactory records; and it is of more importance to observe that the estate and title of Howth have remained in the family for more than 600 years. The former it is said, has experienced, in that long course of ages, neither increase nor diminution; to which a modern writer has added, with a freedom of expression not entirely correct, that it has also remained “without improvement or alteration.”—The present lord is third earl, and twenty-ninth baron, of Howth.

On approaching the Irish shore, in this direction, the coast, broken into various picturesque inequalities—the village, enriched with the ruins of a religious pile—and the antient seat of the lord of Howth, concerning the architectural character of which the spectator, rejoiced at the sight of land, feels no disposition towards critical inquiry—unite in presenting an assemblage of objects calculated to elevate the fancy, and to hold forth the promise of a country worthy of attentive investigation.

The *Castle of Howth*, which constitutes the principal feature in this scene, and has, for so many ages, formed the residence of the ennobled family of St. Laurence, is a structure of considerable extent, which has evidently been altered at various periods, without much regard to exterior character, or beauty of arrangement. It is, however, agreeably situated under the shelter of the hill of Howth, and is embosomed in a fine mass of ornamental wood, which ascends the hill until its progress is arrested by an acclivitous break of mountain, one of the characteristic features of this peninsula. In front is a park well stocked with deer; and sea-views, of striking grandeur, are obtained at several points of the demesne.

The interior is roomy rather than splendid, but contains several objects not devoid of interest; and there are some legends attached to the antient halls,* which are cherished, in the

* The following extract of the history of Dublin by Dr. Walsh (vol. 2, p. 1258) affords a satisfactory specimen of these traditional stories.—“The celebrated Grana Uille, or Grace O’Malley, was noted for her piratical depredations in the reign of Elizabeth. Returning on a certain time from England, where she had paid a visit to the Queen, she landed at Howth,

neighbourhood, with no ordinary fondness. The hall of entrance extends along the whole front of the building; and on the sides are suspended ancient armour and weapons; among which (in faint resemblance of the discarded wonders of Warwick castle) is shown the two-handed sword with which Sir Tristram, who founded the honours of the St. Laurence family, “defeated the Danes!” Amongst some portraits preserved in the saloon is one that will afford much gratification to the examiner,—a full length of Dean Swift, painted by Bindon, in the year 1735. In this painting Swift is represented in clerical costume, and at his feet is *Wood* (that “Goliah, armed in brass,” over whom he obtained so memorable a triumph) in an attitude of subjection and agony.†

The town, or village, of Howth consists chiefly of one humble street, passing along the ridge of the cliff; but some additional buildings, comprising a few neat dwellings and a good hotel, have been lately constructed, in consequence of the appointment of this

and proceeded to the castle. It was the hour of dinner, and the gates were shut. Shocked at an exclusion so repugnant to her notions of Irish hospitality, she immediately proceeded to the shore, where the young lord was at nurse, and seizing the child, she embarked with him, and sailed to Connaught, where her own castle stood. After some time, however, she restored the child, with the express stipulation that the gates should be thrown open when the family went to dinner, *a practice which is observed at this day*. In a chamber, to which a flight of steps leads from the hall, is a painting, said to represent the abreption of the young Lord Howth. A female is mounted on a white horse, receiving a child from a peasant; above, the sky seems to open, and a figure is represented looking down on the group below.” The examiner will find that there is no authority but that of tradition, for ascribing the subject of this painting to the supposed exploit of the piratical *Grana Uille*.

† There are in Ireland several original portraits of Swift, from the pencil of Bindon. It is observed by Mr. Monck Mason, that “of Swift’s portraits, those made in his juvenile years are generally deposited in cabinets in England, and those which represent him at a more advanced period of his life are more frequently to be found in Ireland. It is remarkable that the chief painter of each sort was his own countryman; the most eminent of the former class was C. Jervas; of the latter, F. Bindon.” *Hibernia Antiqua*, p. 414.

place as a packet-station, and the extensive works relating to the new harbour. The town is still of a mean character; and the greater number of the inhabitants are fishermen, who hold their cabins rent-free, on the antient tenure of supplying the lord of the soil with the best fish taken by each boat. The church is a plain but commodious building, finished in the year 1816, and the village contains a neat Roman Catholic chapel.

On the northern shore, near the middle of the village, are the ruins of a collegiate church, dedicated to St. Mary, together with the decaying walls of a monastic edifice, not noticed in ecclesiastical records, but which was, probably, founded by the family of St. Laurence. The church is divided into two aisles by six pointed arches, of unequal dimensions; three being smaller than the remainder, and evidently of a less antient date. A more strongly-marked dissimilitude of styles prevails in regard to the windows, some of which are circular and others pointed. We are informed, in the *Hibernia Antiqua* of Mr. Monck Mason, that this church was erected during the prelacy of Luke, Archbishop of Dublin, at which time the prebendal establishment of Howth was removed to this site from Ireland's Eye. This archbishop was elected to the see of Dublin in the year 1228. The steeple, or belfry, is an object of some curiosity, as it is ascended by a flight of steps constructed on the outer side.

The principal entrance to the church is by a circular doorway; and, on the interior, are several niches, appearing to have been formerly occupied by the images of saints. Here are, also, a few sepulchral monuments.*

* The most antient of these monuments is without inscription, but is designed to preserve the memory of an abbot, and is ornamented with a crosier and a cross *floree*. In the south aisle is the altar-tomb of *Christopher St. Laurence*, thirteenth baron of Howth, who died in 1430, and *Anne Plunkett*, Lady Howth, his wife, daughter of — Plunkett, of Rathmore, in the county of Meath, Esq. The baron is represented in a shirt of mail and armour, his hands joined on his breast, and at his feet a dog. The lady is in the same attitude, her feet resting on a cushion. The dress of her head represents the *horn cap*, fashionable in the fifteenth century, which was designed to sustain streamers of silk, negligently pendant, or brought

At a short distance from the church are the vestiges of a stone building, locally termed the *College, or Abbey*. Here are the remains of some apartments; and several ruinous recesses are occupied, as chill and melancholy dwellings, by poor families. These ecclesiastical ruins are encompassed by an embattled wall, displaying a characteristic feature of antient Irish architecture, both sacred and military—the double, or graduated, parapet. Their situation is at once conspicuous and romantic. Impending over the sea, they form a principal object in the first view of Howth; and the embattled character of their outlines adds to the interest and dignity of their decay.

In a secluded valley, on the east side of the Hill of Howth, are the remains of a Cromlech, the upper, or covering stone of which has sunk to the ground, on the side at which it was most weightily incumbent on account of its shelving position.

The new *Harbour* at Howth is formed on the north side of the peninsula, in the sound between the promontory of Howth and the island termed Ireland's Eye.* From the northern shore of Howth on one side, and the south-east point of the island on the other,

over the bosom, and wrapped round the left arm. Various other ornaments were sometimes suspended from the horns of these fantastic caps. The tomb and figures are of marble, and the former is ornamented with the emblems of the crucifixion, together with the arms of St. Laurence, Plunkett, Cusack, Barry, Bellew, or Caddle, and a shield per-pale, surmounted of a fess.

* This island is distant about one mile, towards the north, from the Hill of Howth, and is little more than one mile in circumference. It is observed by the author of *Hibernia Antiqua* that the name is properly *Hirlandsie*, the present orthography proceeding merely from a vulgar denomination. A monastery was founded here by St. Nesson, in 570. Howth constitutes a prebend in the cathedral of St. Patrick, instituted by Archbishop Comin; and the original prebendal church was situated in this island. The building was dedicated to St. Nesson, and its ruins are still to be seen on the south-west side. In the religious sanctuary of this island was preserved the book of the Four Gospels, commonly called the *Garland of Howth*, which is thus noticed in the *liber niger*, by Archbishop Alan: "That book is held in so much esteem and veneration, that good men scarcely dare take an oath on it, for fear of the judgements of God being immediately shewn on those who should forswear themselves."

run two ledges of rock, in the direction of approach towards each other, leaving an intermediate space of half a mile. Between the north-west end of the island and the sands of Baldoyle there is a space, or passage, of a similar width, and these two passages lead into the sound, or anchorage, and into the harbour. In constructing the new harbour, a pier has been formed on the ridge projecting from the main land, 200 feet in width at the base, and 85 feet at high water mark. This pier is 38 feet in height, and runs 1503 feet from the shore, where it forms an obtuse angle with its first direction, and proceeds north-west for the distance of 990 feet. At the extremity is erected a lighthouse, for the guidance of vessels through the sound. On the *west* has been raised a pier, 170 feet wide at the base, and 80 feet broad at high water mark. This western pier is 36 feet in height, and runs 2020 feet on the north-east, to meet the return of the other. The entrance between the piers is 300 feet in width, and the area enclosed not less than 52 English acres. The inside of the piers is faced with cut granite stone, which, under low water mark, was built by means of diving bells; and those machines were also introduced, and successfully employed, at this place, in the blasting of rocks under water. The surface, or wharf, of the piers forms a spacious road, on the outer edge of which are lofty parapets, also faced with cut granite stone; and the side facing the sea is formed into a glacis by large blocks of rubble stone. The first stone was laid in 1807; and, within two years afterwards, the works were put under the direction of the late John Rennie, Esq. by whom they were completed at the expense of £305,000.

This place now constitutes the port of the packets sailing between Holyhead and Ireland; and the passage is not only abridged eight miles, by the substitution of Howth for the Pigeon-house, the former point of destination, but the packets are likewise enabled to sail at any hour. The average time in which the passage is performed between the Pigeon-house and Holyhead is eighteen hours, and one or two tides are sometimes lost, if the wind blow fresh from the east or north-east; whilst the average passage

from this harbour is not more than twelve hours, and, by the introduction of steam packets, the average, passage, in moderate weather, is reduced to seven hours.*

The pier of Howth, throughout every age for which its massy works of stone present a barrier to the sea, will be regarded with a vivid degree of interest by the topographer, the historian, and an attached nation, as the spot on which his Majesty, King George the Fourth debarked, on his visit to Ireland in the year 1821. The King landed here on Sunday, the 12th of August. We have presented in former pages some particulars respecting this memorable event,† and have there stated that the landing of his Majesty was intentionally as private as was practicable; but numerous persons, of various classes, were assembled, under an imperfect hope of his arrival, by whom the royal visitant was greeted with ebullitions of reverence and joy, snited to the benignity of his approach. No column which the veneration of a loyal people may raise on the spot honoured with his first footstep, can be too lofty, or too solid, for the commemoration of an event so new and important in the annals of Ireland, as the visit of a King, who approached in peace; who “cherished and promoted concord, during his residence in this country;” and left, on quitting the island, lessons of “mutual forbearance and good-will,” as his “parting admonition and injunction.”

The ride from Howth to Clontarf, the next village on the immediate margin of the bay, abounds in unusual beauties, which vary in character with quick succession. From several points the noble elevation of Howth, and the sea-worn islands of Lambay and Ireland's Eye, combine with the intervening waters in producing views, which partake, with peculiar felicity, of the attractive and the august. The sterile and cheerless sands of the isthmus are speedily relieved by the view of well cultivated plains, smiling cottages,

* For information concerning the new harbour at Howth we are indebted to Mr. John Aird, who obligingly furnished us with such intelligence by desire of the late John Rennie, Esq. Engineer.

† Vide pages 19 and 20 of the present volume.

handsome seats, and all the attendant charms of busy animation. The wide expanse of the bay, enlivened by flitting sails, and the distant mountains of Wicklow, majestic in altitude, and infinite in colouring, enforce the frequent pause and admiration of the traveller.

Whilst pursuing this road we find, at the distance of two miles from Howth, a decayed religious building, seated on a solitary part of the strand,—a wreck in the stream of time. This is familiarly said to be one of the most antient ecclesiastical structures in Ireland; and, according to the same vague source of information, it was founded for religious persons devoted to the humane duty of rendering assistance to mariners, exposed to danger on the great sand-bank termed the north bull. The building is locally termed the *Abbey of Kilbarrock*; but the ruins are, in fact, those of the chapel of Mone, called likewise Cilbarrock,* which antiently belonged to the monastery of St. Mary, near Dublin. The fabric was of small dimensions, and of a rude character. The remaining arches are chiefly semicircular, and no traces of ornament are to be discovered in any part. The attached burial-ground, now destitute of any fence, and overgrown with weeds, is still used as a place of burial by some few families in humble life.

CLONTARF is in itself an object of considerable interest, and the neighbourhood is Irish classic ground, as the scene of the memorable battle in which Brien Boiroidh, at the head of a patriotic army, obtained a victory over the Danes.† This celebrated action took place on Good Friday, the 23rd of April, 1014.

* Kilbarrock is a curacy, forming with Howth and Baldoyle, the corps of the prebend of Howth, in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

† The battle of Clontarf affords the subject of Gray's ode of "The Fatal Sisters," imitated from the Norse tongue, and "to be found in the *Orcades of Thermodus Torfæus, Hafniæ, 1679, folio*; and also in *Bartholinus*." The poet, and his authority, describe the battle as having taken place on *Christmas-day*. The fabulous machinery of the poem will be readily recollected; but it may not be superfluous to extract the two following verses. The "Earl" is introduced by Gray as "Sigurd, Earl of the Orkney Islands, who went with a fleet of ships, and a considerable

Brien, who had been previously engaged in successful opposition to the Danish invaders, fixed his camp at Kilmainham, his army consisting of his Momonian forces, and the troops of Meath and Connaught, under the command of their respective kings. The Danes of Ireland were strengthened by the derogue forces of Maemorough, King of Leinster, who was a principal promoter of the war, and by numerous auxiliaries from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and the western islands of Scotland. According to the account presented by General Vallancey, Brien divided his troops into three separate columns. The first was composed of the tribe of Dalcas, and was commanded by himself and his son Morogh, his four other sons having also commands in this corps. Besides the Dalcassians, Malachy, King of Tara, with the forces of Meath, formed part of this division, which was intended for the first attack of the enemy. The second division consisted of the Conations, supported by a strong body of Munster-men. The last division of the Irish King's army was composed of the Eugenians and Desians.†

The onset of the battle was rendered unpropitious by the desertion of Malachy, and the forces of Meath; but, after an obstinate fight, "which lasted from soon after the rising of the sun till late in the evening," victory declared on the side of the Irish,

body of troops, into Ireland, to the assistance of Sigtryg with the silken beard, then making war on his father-in-law, Brian, king of Dublin." The "King" is obviously the warlike and patriotic Brien Boiroimh:

"Low the dauntless earl is laid,
Gor'd with many a gasping wound;
Fate demands a nobler head;
Soon a king shall bite the ground.

"Long his loss shall Eirin weep,
Ne'er again his likeness see;
Long her strains in sorrow steep,
Strains of immortality!"

† History of Brien Boiroimh in Vallancey's Collectanea, vol. i. compiled from the annals of Tighernach, Innisfallen, &c.

although with the loss of their gallant and venerable monarch.* Besides the king there fell in this engagement, on the part of the natives, Morogh, his son, and Turlogh, his grandson, with seven petty kings, and most of the nobility of Munster and Connaught. The number slain, of persons of inferior degree, is variously stated, but, according to the most temperate account, was not less than four thousand.

On the side of the Danes there perished, besides the unworthy King of Leinster,† and 3,000 of his followers, many distinguished leaders, and, as some writers assert, 10,000 men of inferior rank. Although this celebrated battle acquires a distinctive name from the village under consideration, it will be obvious that the sphere of action, where armies so numerous were engaged, was extended widely over neighbouring places. Bones, and the remains of military weapons, have, indeed, been discovered, in excavations

* Brien Boirhoimh, at the time of his death, in the arms of victory, was not less than eighty-four (or, as is asserted by some writers, eighty-eight) years of age. His patriotism and numerous virtues have formed subjects of deserved eulogy with all writers on the history of Ireland. Mr. Walker (*Hist. of Irish Bards*, p. 59.) collects some instances favourable to a belief that this monarch bestowed extensive patronage on the drooping literature of his country. Amongst other liberal arts, he is said to have been much attached to music; and so general is this traditionary, and probably correct persuasion, that in pictorial representations he is usually drawn leaning on a harp. In the museum of Trinity College, Dublin, is a harp richly ornamented, said to have belonged to this renowned monarch. But, although its antiquity be evidently great, there is no safe authority for believing that its strings ever vibrated to the ennobling touch of the hero of Clontarf. After the battle, the remains of this royal patriot were conveyed, together with the bodies of his son and grandson, who attained on the same field a share in the immortality of his fame, first to Kilmainham, thence to Duleek, and finally, for sepulture, to Armagh.

† The corpse of this traitor to the vital interests of his country, is said to have been indignantly cast into the sea. Whatever may be the result of treason, the crime remains unalterable in detestable character; and it is worthy of notice that this Macmorrough was the lineal progenitor of Dermot Macmorrough, King of Leinster, who first introduced the Anglo-Normans, in 1169.

effected at a considerable distance from Clontarf, which are believed to present relics of this sanguinary day, and to evince the great extent of the field of contest.*

Clontarf is a considerable village, the principal part of which, comprising the castle and the church, recedes in an inland direction from the margin of the bay. On the edge of the water are numerous small buildings, termed the *sheds* of Clontarf, which appellation they acquire from the former residence of fishermen, who erected here many wooden fabrics, for the purpose of drying fish. Neat dwellings, used as lodging-houses, are now interspersed among the relics of those humble sheds; but the most pleasing parts of this retired and agreeable village are scattered, with an unstudied diversity of site, through shaded and rural lanes. Several of the buildings, thus widely placed, are villas of some extent. Others are cottages of a soft and embellished character, and well adapted to the occupation of persons who seek, on this tranquil shore, a summer or autumnal residence, for the advantage of bathing. The whole district is adorned with sheltering wood; and prospects of considerable beauty are obtained at several points of the green and devious lanes.

A monastery was founded at this place in the year 550, which, in the reign of Henry II. was erected into a commandery of

* The battle probably raged over much of the ground now occupied by the north-east part of Dublin.—vide some remarks by Dr. Ledwich, in Wilson's Dublin Mag. for May, 1763, stating that bones, and other vestiges, were discovered, in great numbers, on excavating for a new street then building. Mr. Harris, in his additions to Ware's Antiquities, vol. ii. p. 149-50, observes that there are, near *Forest*, in the barony of Coolock, three very large *tumuli*, or artificial mounds; one of which "was opened for gravel," in the early part of the eighteenth century, and was found to "contain numbers of human bones, lying promiscuously." The tumulus thus investigated was, evidently, raised over the remains of persons who had fallen in battle, and was, consequently, of the class of funeral mounds termed *Battle Barrows* by English antiquaries. The remaining mounds are probably of the same description, and Mr. Harris supposes it to be not unlikely that the whole were constructed over the bodies of combatants who perished in the battle of Clontarf.

knights templars. Upon the suppression of the Templars, their possessions passed to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, at which time Clontarf became a preceptory of that order, and one of the chief seats of the grand prior of Kilmainham.

Sir John Rawson, prior of Kilmainham, and treasurer of Ireland for several years, with the consent of his chapter, under their common seal, surrendered, in the 32nd year of Henry VIII. the hospital, with its dependencies, into the king's hands; and was, on the 20th of June, 1541, created, by that monarch, Viscount Clontarf, with a pension of 500 marks.

In the year 1600, the "manor, territory, tithes, town, and lordships" of Clontarf were granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Geoffrey Fenton, principal secretary of state, who is styled by Sir Richard Cox "a moth in the garments of all the secretaries of his time." Sir Geoffrey Fenton died in 1608, and was succeeded by his son, Sir William, who had a confirmation of this manor in the year 1637, under the commission for the remedy of defective titles. Sir Maurice Fenton, son of Sir William, was created a baronet by Oliver Cromwell, and died before his father, leaving an only son, Sir William, and one daughter; both of whom dying unmarried, the estate of this family devolved on Catharine, their aunt, who had espoused John King, Lord Kingston.

Notwithstanding the above possession and descent of the manor, it is ascertained that a family of the name of King (different, as we believe, from the foregoing) resided in the castle of Clontarf in the reign of James I. and had considerable property in the town and neighbourhood. On the 15th of December, 1641, this town was burned by the republican general, Sir Charles Coote, at which time were destroyed "goods and chattels," belonging to John King, Esq. to the value of £4,000.

Oliver Cromwell bestowed on Captain Blackwell, one of the parliamentary officers, the castle and forfeited lands of Clontarf; who afterwards sold the estate to the family of Vernon, in which it at present remains. The castle is supposed to have been

built either by Hugh de Lacy, Lord of Meath (whose fondness for the erection of castellated structures will be often noticed in future pages), or by Adam de Feipo, one of his knights, to whom he granted this lordship. It is, consequently, one of the oldest castles of the pale, but has experienced alterations destructive of the original character. Considerable repairs and improvements have been effected by John Vernon, Esq. the present proprietor, who has also richly planted and ornamented the demesne.

The *Parish Church* of Clontarf occupies the site of the monastery; and, in common with many Irish churches destroyed during the wars in the reign of Elizabeth, was rebuilt in 1609. The building is small, and destitute of architectural embellishments, but is a neat structure, having at the west end a low perforated pier, intended for the reception of one bell. This church contains several sepulchral monuments, fairly executed and in good preservation. On the south wall is a monument of black and white marble, ornamented with the arms of Bourchier, and erected to the memory of *Charles Bourchier, Esq.* of Northamptonshire, who died on the 18th of May, 1716, and *Barbara, his wife*, daughter of Richard Harrison, Esq. of Balls, in Hertfordshire, who died on the 23rd of December, 1719.* A monument, likewise of marble, commemorates *John Kilpatrick, Esq. M. P.* for Granard, “son and heir of Major Kilpatrick, who so gloriously signalized himself at the battle of Plassey, in the kingdom of Bengal.”† At this place is the family vault of the *Vernons*, of

* The inscription states that the deceased “came into Ireland, after the Revolution, with the Hon. General Villiers, father to the present Earl of Grandison, and uncle to the aforesaid Barbara. They left two sons, the eldest of whom was sometime governor of Bombay; and five daughters, the eldest of whom erected this monument to their memory, A. D. 1758.”

† We are informed by the epitaph “that this amiable young man was without the affectation usually attendant on great wealth, a social friend, with an humane and generous heart, without ostentation, and was admired by all who truly knew him. His early death, at the age of twenty-five, was inexpressibly regretted. He married Harriet, youngest daughter of William Rochfort, Esq. of Clontarf, and niece to the late Earl of Belvedere; by whom he left one son.”

Clontarf; and there are also some inscriptions to the family of *Rockfort*, of the same village.

Near Clontarf is the CHARTER SCHOOL, a substantial and capacious building, surmounted with a cupola. Early in the eighteenth century many of the nobility, clergy, and gentry of Ireland united themselves into a society for promoting and establishing parochial day-schools, for the gratuitous instruction of poor children in the English language, and the principles of the christian religion. In the year 1733, King George the Second granted his royal charter for the incorporation of this society. Our mention of the *Charter Schools*, erected in pursuance of that deed of incorporation, will be so frequent in future topographical pages, that it is desirable to explain the principle on which they are organized, by the extract of a few passages from the charter granted by the king.

In that document it is observed by the royal patron of the society, that, from information afforded by the lord primate and other distinguished persons, it appears that in many parts of Ireland “ there are great tracts of land, almost entirely inhabited by papists,” and that “ the erecting of English protestant schools in those places is absolutely necessary for their conversion. To the intent, therefore, that the children of the popish, and other poor natives, of the said kingdom may be instructed in the English tongue,” &c. the incorporated society is empowered “ to receive and enjoy manors, lands, or other estates, not exceeding the value of £2000 per annum;* the same to be applied to the establishing and supporting English protestant schools in such parts of the kingdom as they shall think proper.”

This design was evidently calculated for popularity among several wealthy and powerful classes. In addition to a royal grant of £1000 per annum, considerable parliamentary aid has been afforded, and many bequests from private persons have

* In the year 1792 a new charter was granted by his late majesty, allowing the Society to receive and enjoy any estates, &c. not exceeding, in the whole, the clear yearly value of £3000 sterling, in addition to the lands which by the first charter they were empowered to hold.

been added to the funds of the institution. The number of Charter Schools dispersed over different parts of Ireland is thirty-seven. Children of both sexes are received, and are dieted, clothed, and instructed, free of expense. In the year 1775, the society entered on a resolution to admit none but the children of papists into these schools. This injudicious resolution was, however, rescinded in 1803. The number of protestants admitted is still few, compared with that of Roman Catholics, but is said to be at least in a ratio with the proportion of protestants to catholics, in the districts whence the schools are supplied with inmates.

The annual income of the incorporated society, arising from estates and funded property, is stated at about £9859. The sums annually granted by parliament have, in many years, exceeded £22,000. The number of children instructed and supported, by means of this large income, has varied considerably at different periods. In a recent year, the total number on the establishment was 2550, comprising 1500 boys and 1050 girls.

MARINO, the seat of the Earl of Charlemont, is situated at a short distance from Clontarf, on the road leading towards Dublin. The mansion so termed was erected by the late patriotic, tasteful, and accomplished Earl of Charlemont; and this structure will be regarded with additional interest when the spectator recollects the amiable motive of its founder.—James Caulfield, Earl of Charlemont, after travelling on the continent for many years of youth, and mixing with distinction in the polished circles of the most splendid courts, felt it a duty of patriotism to fix his residence in the country of his birth, and is well known to have built the villa termed Marino, entirely with a view of strengthening his attachment to a district, then far less eligible as a place of residence than at present. At this place, and at his mansion in Dublin, his Lordship assembled round him numerous works of antient and modern art; and here were passed, in literary amusements, or refined society, most of the retired hours of this truly excellent nobleman, in the meridian and decline of his life. The mansion contains many apartments, arranged with much classical taste, and enriched with estimable works in painting and sculp-

ture. The demesne comprises about one hundred acres, finely wooded and sumptuously ornamented. As the most admired circumstance of artificial decoration, must be noticed *the Casine*, a small but beautiful fabric, erected after the designs of Sir W. Chambers.* We regret to observe that this very attractive demesne is, at present, subject to considerable neglect.

Pursuing the margin of the bay to the southern side, we quit Dublin by Baggot-street, where the assemblage of jaunting-cars, jingles, and other carriages, waiting for passengers, or delivering their freight, announces our entry on a line of busy thoroughfare. At the distance of one mile and a half from the castle of Dublin is the village of *Balls-bridge*, deriving its name from a stone bridge over a stream which issues from the mountains near Rockbrook, and falls into the Bay at a short distance from the village.† Near this place is the *College Botanic Garden*, now rendered of minor interest by the splendid establishment at Glassnevin.

In proceeding towards Black-rock we pass through *Booterstown*‡ and *Williamstown*, containing several seats of nobility and

* Mr. (afterwards Sir William) Chambers became acquainted with Lord Charlemont whilst pursuing his studies at Rome. Chambers furnished designs for many of the improvements at Marino, an account of which may be seen in his Treatise on Civil Architecture. Sir William there observes, that the design of the Casine was originally that of one of the “end pavilions of a considerable composition, made, soon after his return from Italy, for Edwyn Lascelles, Esq. afterwards Lord Harewood. The same composition, with considerable variations, was afterwards wrought to the extent of a palace, for the Dowager Queen of Sweden.” No part, however, of either of these large designs was carried into execution, except that at Marino. The building was erected by Simon Verpoyle, after models made in London under the direction of Sir W. Chambers. The elevation and plans of this Casine are given in the 1st and 2nd plates of the work mentioned above.

† In the vicinity of Balls-bridge stood *Baggotrath Castle*, noticed in our account of the battle of Rathmines, as the scene of some military operations in the 17th century. The ruins of this structure have been lately taken down, and scarcely a vestige now remains.

‡ The word *Booter* (as is observed in “*Hibernia Antiqua*”) would appear to be a corruption of the Irish *Bothar*, a street, or road.

gentry, among which are conspicuous *Trimleston*, the property of Lord Trimleston; *Willow-park*, successively the residence of Lord Carleton and Viscount Mountmorres; and *Merrion Castle*, late the seat of Viscount Fitzwilliam, and at present of the Earl of Pembroke.

The main line of road now presents, on both sides, a continuance of buildings, destructive of all pretensions to village simplicity; and is enlivened, particularly at the time of bathing, with numberless carriages, of various descriptions, from the well-appointed equipage, at once convenient and superb, down to the jaunting-car of passage, drawn by one miserable garron, so ill-fed, ill-groomed and lean, that it would appear to be scarcely capable of accelerating its own dissolution by an effort towards speed of foot. Yet, beasts thus wretched and destitute of flesh, draw with rapidity a heavy load, when urged by the stimulants of drivers, who, like themselves, feel only where the scourge falls; and, be the conveyance costly or humble, we gain the village of Black-rock with expedition, and enter it, if in the summer-season, amidst dust, noise, and a tumultuous throng.

When arrived, unless favoured with an introduction to certain chosen spots, we look in vain, to the character of the place, for the magnet which thus attracts multitudes. The street of transit, thickly-lined with houses of an ordinary description, holds forth no charms; and, independent of some agreeable and ornamental dwellings, retired from the busy thoroughfare, the sole inducement to visitants is found in the facility of bathing on the soft and gently-sloping strand. Numerous detached villas, however, command fine views of the sea and contiguous country, and have extensive demesnes, enriched with shrubberies, and otherwise disposed with great taste. *Maretime*, lately a seat of Lord Cloncurry, has been long distinguished as one of the principal ornaments of this neighbourhood.

The next stage in the line of buildings, admitting of a distinctive appellation, is *MONTPELLIER*, a "village," containing many handsome domestic structures, amongst which must be noticed *Montpellier-Castle*, the seat of Sir Wilkam Betham, Ulster king

at arms, and principal herald of all Ireland.* The grounds attached to this agreeable residence have been improved by Sir William Betham, with exquisite taste, and command views almost unrivalled in beauty, reaching over a rich expanse of varied scenery, and bounded by the Wicklow mountains, a limit at once lovely and sublime.

MONKSTOWN, next in the line of villages, is said, but on no creditable authority, to derive its name from a former monastic foundation. Here is a building termed *Monkstown-castle*, the seat of the Honourable Mr. Jones; but this mansion acquires its present appellation from courtesy alone, as the castellated portions are merely imitative, and were constructed within the last fifty years. The church is a spacious building of stone, plain, but respectable in design, erected in 1797.

At the distance of half a mile from the above village, and five miles and one quarter from Dublin, is KING'S-TOWN, formerly termed DUNLEARY, an object of curiosity, on account of the extensive works now in progress, towards the formation of a new harbour. The obstructions of navigation in the bay of Dublin have been already stated. The bar which we have previously noticed, is, indeed, impassable for the greater part of the twenty-four hours, and shelter has been hitherto unattainable for a vessel embayed by a storm from sea. No situation for an artificial harbour was discoverable on the northern coast; and it was, therefore, determined to construct a harbour at Dunleary, on the south, as a place sufficiently "to the east, or windward, to secure the depth of water at all times necessary to shelter large trading vessels and ships of war, and so far to the west, or leeward, as to offer security to fleets of smaller vessels, attempting, in vain, perhaps, at that

* On mentioning this gentleman we feel it to be incumbent on us to echo the public opinion, by observing that Sir W. Betham not only ranks as one of the best genealogists in the British empire, but that to his zeal, industry, and integrity, the office of arms is indebted for a degree of order and accuracy to which it had been a stranger for more than a century previous to the date of his appointment. His duties are, with Sir W. Betham, a study rather than a mere official obligation; and to his exertions the historian is equally indebted with the gentry of the country.

time, to cross the bar, and incapable of reaching the finest harbour, if too far to windward."

A small bay at this place was naturally formed by an indentation of the coast; and a pier, of rude construction, had been erected, which, however, afforded an uncertain shelter to vessels under stress of weather. The new pier is formed half a mile further to the east, or nearer to Dalkey, at the commencement of a rocky tract, denominated the Codling-rocks; to the westward of which, within the shelter of the pier, the bottom is a fine sand. The probable expense of the works, according to an estimate laid before parliament, is £505,000. The pier is designed to extend 2800 feet, and to consist of four parts, "the first running directly from the shore to the distance of 1500 feet, in a direction north-east; the next returning, in a direction north, 500 feet; the third running north-west 500 feet; and the fourth west 300 feet. The base of the pier will be somewhat more than 200 feet in breadth, terminating in a perpendicular face on the side of the harbour, and an inclined plane towards the sea. A quay, fifty feet wide, will run along the summit, protected by a parapet, eight feet high, on the outside. At the extremity will be a beacon to mark the harbour. Close to the pier-head, there will be a depth of water of twenty-four feet, at the lowest springs, which will admit a frigate of thirty-six guns, or an Indiaman of 800 tons, and at two hours flood, a seventy-four may take refuge with safety."*

The first stone of this great work was laid in 1817, and the whole has been since in active and successful progress. The effects of so important an undertaking have, already, been sensibly felt in the circumstances of the surrounding country. Before the commencement of this extensive pier, Dunleary consisted entirely of the cabins of fishermen; and constituted, however humble, the last assemblage of habitations, towards the east, between Dublin and Bullog. Domestic buildings have recently increased in every direction, comprising some eligible houses, calculated for retired residence. Enclosures have been made, and agriculture has claimed its dues on cheerless plains, lately productive chiefly of

* Hist. of Dublin by Whitelaw and Walsh, p. 1275.

fürze and heath. The want of wood will long be felt, in efforts towards the improvement of this neighbourhood, as regards its ornamental character; but the sea-views present some of the boldest features of the bay, in combinations highly picturesque; and the village will, probably at no distant day, expand into a town of much fashionable resort.

We have already stated, in our account of historical events relating to the City of Dublin,* that his Majesty, King George the Fourth, embarked at the port of Dunleary when quitting Ireland, after his memorable visit to this country in the year 1821. This interesting event took place on Monday, the 3rd of September; and the departure of the sovereign was witnessed by an immense concourse of attached subjects, on whom his gracious demeanour had imprinted indelible sentiments of admiration and esteem. The descendants of the various classes assembled on this occasion will long regard, with a sigh of regret, the tract of Irish land last gladdened with the presence of a patriot King, whose name and visit must be subjects of national reverence, and honest pride, when every eye that witnessed his departure shall be extinct, and the wisdom of his pacific progress stand recorded alone in the pages of the historian. Since this port was honoured as the place of his Majesty's embarkation, it has been denominated KING'S-TOWN.

BULLOG, BLYOKE, or BULLOCK, the next village on the southern coast, has a small quay, and a castle of considerable extent, which was formerly the seat of the family of Fagan, of Feltrim. This is a square, or rather oblong building, having few windows; but the harshness of its outlines is relieved by the ornamental character of the parapet, which ascends pyramidally at several centres and angles, and was designed chiefly for the purpose of embellishment. Near Bullog was lately to be seen a rocking-stone, the curious position of which was evidently effected by artificial means.

DALKEY, the last village on this side of the bay, is situated at

* Vide page 25 of the present volume.

the base of a lofty mountain, but commands extensive sea-views, in which the hill of Howth forms a prominent feature, rising majestically upon the north, as a natural guard to the recesses of the bay. In the early periods of the connexion between Ireland and England, and even throughout a great part of the seventeenth century, the harbour at this place constituted the most frequent resort of shipping engaged in commercial interchanges between the two countries; and the village, in the same ages, consequently acted as an occasional repository of goods belonging to the merchants of Dublin.

For the protection of a place thus important, seven strong castles, or fortified houses, were erected, three of which, although dismantled, and applied to humble uses, are still in fair preservation. It has been sometimes asserted that these buildings are of Danish origin; but the architecture satisfactorily shows that they were erected by the early English settlers. The privilege of holding markets and fairs was granted in the reign of Edward IV. After the neglect of its harbour, however, Dalkey speedily sank into its present character, that of a poor and thinly-inhabited village. It must be noticed, for the information of the antiquarian visiter, that his examination of *Dalkey-hill* will be rewarded with the view of a Cromlech. On the extensive *Common* of Dalkey are also the remains of a circle of upright stones.

At this place Sir John Talbot, Lord Furnival, afterwards the renowned Earl of Shrewsbury, landed in 1414, at which time he entered on the chief government of Ireland; and many subsequent viceroys also debarked at the same port. The property of Dalkey is at present vested in Lord Carysfort, and the Dean and Chapter of Christchurch.

The small ISLAND OF DALKEY contains the ruins of an antient church, dedicated to St. Benedict; and it is observed, in the "Antiquities of Ireland" published under the name of Grose, that Kistvaens, enclosing human bones, were "formerly" discovered on this island. The vestiges must, probably, be ascribed to the Celtic, or Belgic, tribes of a very remote æra; and, when describing the neighbouring village of Killynues, in a page briefly

subsequent, we have the opportunity of noticing further presumed traces of the same people.

At *Rochestown* is an obelisk, erected by the late John Mapas, Esq. which is placed on rising ground, and is a land-mark and conspicuous object for many surrounding miles.

Having thus performed a circuit of the bay of Dublin, noticing the principal objects which line its truly beautiful shores, we conduct the reader to the place that is deemed likely next to attract his curiosity, if engaged in a personal examination of the environs of the Irish metropolis.

THE PHŒNIX PARK, situated on the north-west side of Dublin, acts as an appendage to the dignity of the vice-regal establishment, and a place of public resort for exercise and recreation. This extensive and well-designed demesne contains the summer residence of the lord lieutenant, and houses for the principal and under secretaries of state, and other officers of government, together with a school for the children of soldiers, and a military infirmary.

We are informed, in the History of Dublin by Dr. Walsh, that the park derives its name from a corruption of the Irish term *Fionn-uisge* (clear, or fair, water) pronounced *finniské*, “which, articulated in the brief English manner, exactly resembles the word Phœnix.”* The manor of Phœnix made part of the lands

* The spring, or well, believed to have given a name to the demesne, still exists. “It is situated,” observes Dr. Walsh, “in a glen, beside the lower lake, near the grand entrance into the vice-regal lodge, and has been frequented from time immemorial, for the supposed salubrity of its waters. It is a strong chalybeate. It remained, however, in a rude and exposed state till the year 1800, when, in consequence of some supposed cures it had effected, it immediately acquired celebrity, and was much frequented. About five years after, it was inclosed, and is now among the romantic objects of the Park. It is approached by a gradual descent through a planted avenue. The spa is covered by a small structure of Portland stone, on which sits a colossal eagle, as the emblem of longevity. This appropriate ornament was erected by Lord Whitworth.” Behind the spring is a rustic building, with seats for the numerous persons who repair to this spot for the purpose of drinking the waters.

of Kilmainham, and was surrendered to the crown by Sir John Rawson, prior of that hospital, in the reign of Henry VIII. An intention of forming the demesne into a deer-park was entertained in the time of Queen Elizabeth, but this design was not carried into effect till the vice-royalty of the Duke of Ormonde, in the reign of Charles II, since which date large additions have been made from lands purchased under the sanction of the crown.* The completion of the demesne, as regards ornamental disposal, was, however, reserved for the accomplished Earl of Chesterfield, who, whilst residing in Ireland as Lord Lieutenant, embellished the park with many walks and plantations.

Notwithstanding the efforts of Lord Chesterfield, this extensive park is more conspicuous for natural than artificial beauties; and is, perhaps, in every point of view, except as regards dimensions, excelled by many demesnes in the possession of ennobled or private individuals. Its attractions are, however, considerable.

Two "lakes," of moderate extent, are well situated to adorn the principal ride; and their pensive waters intermingle with the scenery at several points of observation. The great extent of the grounds, and the prevailing undulation of surface, produce an abundant variety of landscape; and many noble views are obtained of contiguous tracts, in which the city of Dublin stands displayed with peculiar advantage.

The endeavours of Lord Chesterfield were chiefly directed to the disposal of the grounds; but, in one instance, he called to his

* In the work before cited, the extent and dimensions of this park are stated as follow, on the authority of a survey made by Bernard Scale, in the year 1776. "From the Dublin gate by the Magazine and Hibernian school to Knockmaroon gate, two miles and sixty-six perches. From the Dublin gate by the Phoenix Column to Castle-knock gate, two miles and thirty perches. From the Dublin gate by the rere of the Vice-regal Lodge to Castle-knock gate two miles one quarter and twenty-seven perches; and from Castle-knock gate to Knockmaroon gate, half a mile and fifty-four perches. Its contents were found to be 1089 acres, Irish plantation measure; or 1759 acres and twenty-two perches, English statute measure, contained in a circumference of five and a half Irish, or seven English miles." *Hist. of Dublin*, vol. 2. p. 1311.

aid the decorative hands of architecture and sculpture.—In the centre of an area, approached by four avenues, his lordship erected a stone column, of the Corinthian order, on the top of which is sculptured the emblem of the Phœnix, re-productive from its own ashes. There appears to be little propriety in the adoption of a figure, which is connected with the demesne in no other way than by the operation of an anglicism calculated to create national risibility! and the pillar (no more than thirty feet in height) sinks into insignificance, when viewed as the central ornament of so extensive a district.

From the area embellished with this Corinthian column, we may approach the *Vice-regal Lodge*, forming the country, or summer, residence of the lord lieutenant. This must be considered as a place of temporary retirement, rather than as a building of state, connected with the discharge of official duties. The house was erected by a private individual, of whom it was purchased; and the first important improvements were made by Lord Hardwicke, in 1802, at which time that nobleman added wings to the original small and plain structure of brick. The north front, which forms the only ornamental façade, was chiefly erected by Lord Whitworth, after a design of Francis Johnstone, Esq. This front is decorated with four Ionic pillars, sustaining a pediment; and is of a respectable and pleasing character. At this country seat of the Viceroy, his Majesty, King George the Fourth, (as has been noticed more fully in a previous page) chiefly resided during his visit to Ireland, in the year 1821.

The few subordinate domestic buildings in the vice-regal demesne are scarcely entitled to examination.

The Hibernian Society's School, for the children of soldiers, stands in the south-west angle of the park. The building consists of a centre, with large projecting wings, the whole forming a front of about 300 feet in extent, and three stories in height. The central division contains a school and dormitories for boys; the western wing is occupied by the female part of the establishment; and the wing towards the east is appropriated to the use of the commandant, adjutant, and chaplain.—The society, en-

gaged in the useful purposes of this charity, was incorporated in 1769 ; but the school was opened two years previous to that date. A new charter was granted in the year 1808. The number of children on the establishment usually exceeds 500, of which boys constitute the majority. The family of the lord lieutenant, when residing at the vice-regal lodge in the park, generally attends divine service in the chapel attached to this institution.

The Royal Military Infirmary occupies an elevated spot of ground, and is, in every respect, well adapted to the purpose for which it is designed. The principal parts consist of a centre and two wings, extending, in the whole, to the length of 170 feet. The interior comprises thirteen wards, of which seven are medical and six surgical. This structure was completed in 1788, at the expense of £9000, after the plans of Mr. William Gibson, architect.

On the highest ground in the park, a site lately occupied by the *Salute Battery*, where twelve pieces of cannon were mounted for discharge on rejoicing days, has been recently erected a lofty pyramidal structure, termed the *Wellington Testimonial*. This monument is designed to commemorate the achievements of the illustrious native of Ireland, whose name it bears, Arthur, Duke of Wellington, and was erected by means of public subscription, at the expense of about £20,000. Numerous models were submitted to the judgment of the committee appointed to manage this public undertaking ; and that furnished by Mr. R. Smirke, junior, was finally selected.

From a pedestal, placed on the platform of a lofty flight of steps, proceeds a massive obelisk, rising to the extreme height of 205 feet. In the die of the pedestal, on each side, is a panel, ornamented with representations, in basso-relievo, of the principal victories obtained by the Duke of Wellington. On a pedestal, placed centrally in regard to the principal front, is to stand an equestrian statue of the hero commemorated ; and on the four faces of the ponderous obelisk are inscribed the names of all the victories by which his military career has been distinguished.

The following are the principal villages, and other objects de-

manding topographical notice, in the immediate neighbourhood of Dublin, to the south of the Phoenix Park. The whole are mentioned according to their locality, in diverging from the vicinity of the park, rather than in attention to a right of precedence in description, proceeding from extent or importance.

CHAPEL-IZOD, or CHAPEL-ISOLDE, a considerable village, bordering upon the confines of the Phoenix Park, is agreeably situated on the banks of the river Liffey, which display much exquisite scenery in their meandering course between this place and Lucan. In this village King William III. passed several days, on returning from his expedition to the south, shortly after the battle of the Boyne; "employed," says Leland, "in receiving petitions, and redressing the grievances arising from perpetual violations of his protection." The mansion in which he resided was frequently used as the country seat of the viceroys of Ireland, before the purchase and improvement of the Lodge in the park. Dr. Boulter, Archbishop of Armagh, when he filled the office of one of the lords justices, in 1726, repaired this palatial dwelling, and occupied it as a principal residence. The church is a small but neat structure, destitute of monumental inscriptions. Chapel-izod was formerly appropriated to the neighbouring hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

The village of CLONDAKIN, distant from Dublin five miles towards the south-west, is highly worthy of examination, especially by the traveller newly arrived in this country, as it presents, in a favourable point of view, many objects forming characteristical features in the village-scenery of Ireland. The devious street is lined with the low cabins usual to the peasantry of this island; but with such as rank among the neatest of their ordinary dwellings. The ruinous remains of a fortified house frown in stone near one entrance of the humble village; and, in the vicinity of the small and modern church (which supplants a decayed structure, of comparative splendour) rises the noble spectacle of a round or pillar-tower.

Some modern writers suggest that the antient celebrity of this place commenced with a Danish population. But for such an

opinion they have no sound authority ; and the existence of the pillar-tower unites with other causes in persuading the unprejudiced investigator that the origin of the place is of a date far more remote. An abbey was founded here at an early period, of which St. Cronan Mochua was the first abbot. This religious pile was spoiled and burned at several different times ; namely, in the years 832, 1071, and 1076. Anlabh, or Auliffe, the Danish King of Dublin, erected a fort, or "palace," at Clondalkin ; which, about the year 866, was destroyed by the Irish. Such disasters were too common to cause any lasting desertion ; and it is probable that this town constituted a favoured place of Danish residence, whilst that barbarous people retained power over the maritime parts of the country.

The *Round Tower* is in good preservation, but would appear to lean slightly from the perpendicular. This curious fabric, which is among the plainest of such erections in Ireland, is eighty-four feet in height, and fifteen feet in diameter. The shaft proceeds from a solid basement of stone-work, presenting a diminutive representation of the artificial mount of an antient castle. The doorway is at the height of about fifteen feet from the ground ; and, near the summit, are four square openings, placed on each side. At different stages in the ascent are, also, two smaller apertures. There are no traces of a stairway in any part of this mysterious pile. At the summit is a conical capping of stone.

In the close vicinity of the tower are some shapeless remains of the old church, which appears to have been a structure of ample dimensions, extending thirty-eight yards in length and eighteen in width. The modern church is a small and mean building, remarkable for the peculiarity of its ground plan ; the greatest length being from north to south, instead of from west to east, the prevalent direction in places of Christian worship.

In April, 1797, a tremendous explosion took place in extensive powder-mills erected near Clondalkin. The quantity of powder in the mills, at the time of this accident, was not less than 260 barrels, and the shock was felt through a large tract of surrounding country. "The earth," says a daily register of that

time, “seemed to shake from the very centre. On the spot, the effects were terrific ;—the whole building was torn up from its foundations, and hurled into the elements. Ponderous ruins, tons in weight, were cast to the distance of five or six fields.”—It is worthy of remark that, amidst this fearful combustion, no stone was displaced in any part of the pillar-tower.

DRYMNAGH, or DRUMNAGH, CASTLE, situated between Clondalkin and Cromlin, at the distance of about three miles from Dublin, is an irregular pile, displaying, in the most antient parts which at present remain, the lineaments of a fortified house rather than those of a castle, in the strict meaning of that term. Great alterations have evidently taken place, even whilst the building constituted a dignified residence ; and it appears likely that nearly the whole of the structure has been renovated at different times. The buildings are surrounded by a moat, and occupy a spot of much romantic beauty. Towards the south the view is bounded by the mountains of the county of Dublin, which present a dark and solemn aspect, congenial to the decaying splendour of a fortified edifice replete with the tales of other times.

This is the most antient seat of the family of Barnewall, within the county of Dublin ; which family (although not proved to derive its descent from the dukes, or counts, of Brittany, as is asserted by some writers) is still of great antiquity, and has been ennobled in various branches. The family of Barnewall were lords of this castle and manor so early as the reign of John, with which prince it is probable they came into Ireland ; and their residence on the estate is distinctly traced down to an advanced period of the 15th century. The castle was not alienated by the Barnewalls until the reign of James I. when it passed into the hands of Sir Edward Loftus, Bart. In the year 1614, it was considered a place of some consequence ; and we are informed by the historian Cox that the Duke of Ormonde was inclined, before the battle of Rathmines, to strengthen himself here, and raise fresh fortifications ; but was dissuaded from this purpose by Purcell and his general officers. The estate is now the property of the

Marquess of Lansdown, and the castle is in the occupation of a farmer.*

CROMLIN, or CRUMLIN, distant two and a half miles from Dublin, on the south-west, contains several handsome dwellings, but has ceased to form a fashionable place of residence, and the effects of neglect are painfully visible in many parts of the village. The manor, and much the larger proportion of the lands of Cromlin, were for many years vested in the Purcell family, who still possess property in this place. The manorial residence, long inhabited by that family, is a substantial structure, but less agreeably situated than many inferior buildings in the vicinage of the metropolis.

In the year 1594, Gerald, brother to Walter-Riagh Fitzgerald, then in rebellion at the head of the Wicklow insurgents, destroyed this village by fire.

A part of King William's army was encamped here, in the year 1690, and we are informed by Dr. Story that his majesty, at this place, settled the method of granting *protections*, according to his declaration. On the 10th of July, in that year, King William issued from Cromlin his proclamation for stopping the currency of the brass money coined by James, except at reduced rates of valuation.

The *parochial church* has been lately rebuilt, in a neat but unornamented manner, with the exception of the tower, which is a fabric of some antiquity, in the pointed style. Here is a school, supported by charity sermons and voluntary contributions, in which the children of this and the adjacent parishes are admitted without religious distinction, and are clothed, according to their diligence and desert, as far as the state of the funds will admit.

RATHFARNHAM, three miles from Dublin, towards the south, is a village of considerable extent, and is in some parts of a rural and pleasing character. The principal road is shaded by

* Drymnaugh Castle affords the scene of a poem, in two cantos, by M. W. Hartstonge, Esq. entitled "Marion of Drymnaugh, a Tale of Erin." The events described in this "tale" are entirely of a fanciful character.

trees, which overhang the lines of wall forming boundaries of the demesnes by which this village is ornamented.

The mansion termed *Rathfarnham Castle*, long a seat of the Loftus family, and now the property of the Marquess of Ely, is an extensive fabric, in the style often termed modern gothic ; an appellation by no means improperly applied to an edifice in the design of which particulars of Grecian and embattled architecture are licentiously mingled.

The great Hall is entered, from a terrace, by a portico of eight Doric columns, which support a dome, painted in fresco with the signs of the Zodiac and other devices. This room is ornamented with antique and modern busts, placed on handsome pedestals of variegated marbles ; and has three windows of stained glass, in one of which is an escutcheon of the Loftus arms, with quarterings, finely executed. Several other apartments exhibit considerable splendour of arrangement, and contained, until lately, numerous family portraits, and a valuable collection of paintings by antient masters.

The castle of Rathfarnham was founded by Archbishop Loftus. On the breaking out of the rebellion in 1641, Sir Adam Loftus, of Rathfarnham, held a garrison in this castle, in order to cover the city against the irruptions of the septs of O'Byrne and O'Toole. Adam, the grandson of that gentleman, and the son of Sir Arthur Loftus, Lieutenant-colonel of Sir Charles Coote's regiment, and governor of the town of Naas, was, by privy seal, dated the 5th of January, 1685, and by patent, the 29th of the same month, created *Baron of Rathfarnham*, and Viscount Lisburne. His only daughter Lucia, by Lucia, daughter to George Brydges, Lord Chandos, marrying Thomas Lord Wharton, carried the Rathfarnham estate into her husband's family. Lord Lisburne, the father of Lady Wharton, was killed by a cannon shot, on the 15th of September, 1691, commanding a regiment in the service of King William, at the siege of Limerick ; and Philip, late Duke of Wharton (who was also Earl of Rathfarnham and Marquess of Carlow) sold this estate in 1723, to William Conolly, Esq. speaker of the house of commons,

for the sum of £62,000, from whose successors, as we believe, it passed to the late Marquess of Ely. The mansion has been lately deserted as a residence by its noble proprietor, and the best pictures, together with the family portraits, have been removed from the halls to which they afforded appropriate and estimable ornaments.

The demesne-lands of the castle are laid out with considerable judgment, and are entered from the Rathmines road by a splendid gateway, ranking among the best productions of this species of architecture to be witnessed in Ireland.

The church of Rathfarnham is a respectable structure, of ample dimensions, but destitute of architectural decoration. The material is rough stone, with coignes of squared stone at the angles of the tower and other parts of the building. The windows have wooden frame-work, and are of dissimilar forms, the whole being better suited to domestic than ecclesiastical architecture. The interior is fitted up with exemplary neatness, but contains no more than two monumental erections.*

Rathfarnham claims as a native the celebrated theatrical per-

* A slab on the north wall commemorates *Orlando Manley, Esq.*, who "commanded the Royal Artillery in Ireland during eight years," and died December 15, 1808, aged 66 years. On the south wall is the following inscription placed upon a slab of white marble:—"In the adjoining cemetery are deposited the mortal remains of BARRY, VISCOUNT AVONMORE, late Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer in Ireland, who departed this life on the 19th day of August, in the year of our Lord 1805, aged () years. In consideration of having long been honoured with his lordship's friendship, Sir William Cusack Smith, Baronet, has obtained a kind permission, of which he avails himself with gratitude and pride, by consecrating to his respected memory this tablet. It is a plain one, but it bears the name of YELVERTON, and therefore is not unadorned. The abilities and worth which it might with truth record, it, however, cannot be necessary to commemorate here. Of merits so recent and so eminent as his, on the minds of the present generation the impression must be strong: while, considering the eventful periods which his life embraced, and the elevated and active sphere in which it was his lot to move, to transmit those merits to posterity seems the task of the historian, to whom, accordingly, fearlessly it is surrendered by the friend."

former, *Wilkes*, who was born in the year 1670. His grandfather, Judge Wilkes, had raised a troop of horse, at his own expense, for the service of King Charles I., and took refuge in Ireland, on the utter ruin of the cause in which he had embarked. The subject of this biographical notice received a liberal education, and was placed as principal clerk under Secretary Southwell. In our account of the theatre of Dublin we have mentioned the circumstance which first introduced him to public observation, as a candidate for histrionic fame. In 1698, he repaired to London, where he speedily acquired distinction, and is recorded, by adequate judges, as one of the best performers of his day. In 1711, he paid his last visit to his native country, and performed, at Smock-alley theatre, the part of Sir Harry Wildair, with great applause, for nineteen successive nights.

Besides the castle already noticed, Rathfarnham and its vicinity contain several handsome villas, and numerous inferior, but eligible, buildings for retired residence. At the distance of one and a half miles from this village is MARLAY, a seat so denominated from the eminent prelate of that name, and belonging to the highly-respected family of La Touche. The country which surrounds this fine mansion possesses unusual advantages, independent of the exertions of art; but every circumstance of the home-scenery has been carefully improved by the exercise of an active and correct taste. The approach is particularly admired, and abounds in romantic beauties. The plantations on this demesne are extremely rich, and a moderate flow of water has been artificially rendered a powerful adjunct of the picturesque. The "ivy'd ruins" of a church, and some lovely cottage scenery, add to the attractions of the varied landscape; and the range of mountains in the distance impart the charm of contrast, whilst they form a magnificent boundary to the whole.

The village of RATHMINES, situated on the river Dodder, at the distance of one and a half miles from Dublin, is celebrated as the scene of the battle in which James, Duke of Ormonde, sustained a defeat, at the head of the Royalist army, on the 2d of August, 1649. Some account of this brief action is given in our

narration of the principal historical events relating to the city of Dublin, and it only remains to observe, in this place, that the rage of the conflict appears to have extended for a considerable distance along the banks of the Dodder, a stream which rises in the Wicklow mountains, and, after watering Rathfarham and Milltown, falls into the sea at Ringsend. In the winter season, after heavy rains, this mountain stream assumes the character of a desperate torrent, sweeping away whatever obstructs its course; but in the summer its diminished waters ripple idly over the unequal bottom of the channel.

Near the small village of *Milltown* (which gives the title of Earl to the family of *Lceson*) is ROEBUCK CASTLE, long a seat of the Barons of Trimlestown. The building was nearly destroyed in the war of 1641, whilst the property of Matthew Barnewall, Lord Trimlestown; but has been since restored, and has recently experienced considerable improvements, under the direction of its present occupant, James Crofton, Esq. This seat commands fine and animated views over the bay and contiguous city.

The immediate approach to Dublin on the Rathmines road exhibits a busy transit of population, and is lined with houses, chiefly of modern erection, sometimes detached, but frequently united in rows; and the latter circumstance causes this outlet of the Irish metropolis to bear a closer resemblance than any other to the environs of London. Independent of the main line of thoroughfare, the country, in this direction, for several surrounding miles, is plentifully studded with villas, extending to Dundrum, and thence to Glencullen, on the borders of the county of Wicklow.

Amongst these seats may be distinguished, on account of its former possessor, rather than of its architectural pretensions, the PRIORY, late the residence of the Right Hon. John-Philpot Curran, master of the rolls, one of the most persuasive orators produced by this or any other country, either in antient or modern times. This former abode of genius, wit, and hospitality, is of limited dimensions; and, beyond its claim on the feelings and reverence of those who remember Mr. Curran, or duly appreciate his character, has little to attract the traveller's attention. The name of

the villa was fancifully bestowed by a convivial society, entitled the “ Monks of the Screw,”* who elected Mr. Curran their *prior*; and never (to use the words communicated to this work by a former friend of the illustrious president) “ did an election of the kind fall upon a more sociable, a better-natured, or more witty and heart-enlivening man !”

DONNYBROOK, situated on the river Dodder, at a small distance from the southern suburbs of Dublin, is celebrated for its annual fair, which commences on the 26th of August. This gay festival of the commonalty (the Bartholomew fair of Dublin) lasts a week, and has, for its professed object, the sale of horses and black cattle. The fair is held on a spacious green, or common, which is, on this occasion, covered with tents, where *pipers* and fiddlers attend; and dancing, to which the Irish are nationally attached, prevails at all hours. In recent years shows of wild beasts, and other spectacles customary in English fairs, have been added to the former attractions of the noisy scene. Each day of pastime usually concludes with a pitched battle, in which many heads are broken; but life is not *often* sacrificed to the genius which prevails over this consummation of merriment. If the visiter choose proper hours for contemplating the jocund assemblage, he will be highly gratified by the genuine display of humour, strongly marked with the broadest peculiarities of Irish character, which distinguishes this carnival of the lower orders.

At Donnybrook is an *Hospital*, of a very useful and benevolent character;—an asylum for destitute persons, afflicted with incurable disorders. An institution of this kind was particularly desirable in a country exempt from Poor Laws; since patients, in such a country, when pronounced incurable, and consequently dismissed from ordinary hospitals, had no defence from a resort to

* Amongst the members of this association were the late Lord Charlemont; Mr. Flood; Mr. Grattan; Mr. Grace; Mr. Bowes Daly; Mr. George Ogle; Messrs. Day, Chamberlaine, and Metge, since judges; Mr. Barry Yelverton (afterwards Lord Avonmore;) Dr. O’Leary; and many characters of equal distinction. The society met, for several years, every Saturday during the law-terms, at a house in Kevin-street, Dublin.

the streets (there exhibiting the frightful spectacle of their inevitable decay, as an inducement to fortuitous bounty) unless provided with a room for the approach to death, by private charity. The building at Donnybrook, appropriated to such hopeless sufferers, was formerly the Lock Hospital, an institution now removed to the city, with considerable advantage.

The *parochial church* is a small but neat building, containing the vault of the Fitzwilliam family. On the north side of the church-yard is buried *Dr. William King*, archbishop of Dublin, who died on the 8th of May, 1729. Some notice of this prelate is presented in our list of the archbishops of Dublin.

TAWNEY, often called *Churchtown*, distant from Dublin rather more than three miles towards the south, contains many pleasing dwellings, chiefly occupied as places of country residence by citizens of the metropolis. This parish assists in constituting the corps of the archdeaconry of Dublin. The old church is a small building, of little interest; but in the attached cemetery are several monumental inscriptions to persons deserving of public remembrance.* The church of modern erection is a spacious fabric, seated on elevated ground; and from its vicinity are to be obtained very fine views over the city, the bay, and a lovely expanse of country, the numerous ornamental plantations of which combine, at this point of observation, into a massive richness. The building, although substantial and extensive, is deficient in strictness of architectural keeping. The plan is cruciform, and

* Amongst these inscriptions we must notice one to the memory of *William Haliday, jun.* "cut off by a lingering disease, in the early bloom of life. He anticipated the progress of years, in the maturity of understanding, the acquisition of knowledge, and the successful cultivation of a mind gifted by Providence with endowments of the highest order. At a period of life when the severer studies have scarcely commenced, he had acquired an accurate knowledge of most of the European languages, of Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Arabic. But of his own, the Hiberno-Celtic, so little (O shame to the youth of this once-lettered island!) an object of attainment and study, he had fathomed all the depths, explored the beauties, and unravelled the intricacies." He died A. D. 1812, in the 24th year of his age.

the pointed style is adopted in the detail, but without due attention to any consistent order of that style. Stone, tinted in various hues, is used in different parts of this structure; and, with a fanciful effort towards novelty, which is quite unworthy of imitation, the mullions of the windows, on the exterior, are of a deep yellow, whilst the crocketed pinnacles at the angles of the tower are black.

The village of **DUNDRUM**, in the parish of Tawney, and near the commencement of that mountainous region which we have often, in preceding pages, contemplated at a greater distance, is seated upon an embosomed fall of land, sheltered from the severity of ungenial winds. This village is the fashionable resort of invalids, for the purpose of drinking goats' whey. At early hours of the morning numerous jaunting-cars convey from the city, large parties of visitors, to partake of that sanative beverage amidst the reviving scenery over which the animals have browsed. In this rural hamlet are many romantic cottages, whose white fronts and low proportions would appear to harmonize with the wishes of those who frequent the place, by holding forth the soothing invitation of retirement and peace.—In the neighbourhood are several villas of a superior description, amongst which is conspicuous the spacious and handsome residence of Mr. Foote, commanding prospects of various and exquisite beauty. The family of Walsh, of the line of Carrickmaine, were antient proprietors of the manor of Dundrum.

KILGOBBAN CASTLE, situated between Dundrum and the scalp, in the county of Wicklow, is a fabric of tall and narrow proportions, destitute of outworks, and falling under the description of a fortified house, of an unornamented and cheerless character. The entrances are on a level with the surrounding soil, but the few windows are carefully placed at a considerable height in the rugged walls. This building, which is now deserted and ruinous, was erected by the family of Walsh, of Carrickmaine, by whom it was forfeited in the reign of Charles I. at which time it passed to the Loftus family. It is now the property of Viscount Powerscourt.

STILLORGAN, about four miles and one quarter from Dublin,

towards the south-east, is enriched by a handsome seat, finely situated. In the year 1216, Reymond de Carew, a Strongbonian baron, was lord of this manor, at which time he granted the parish church, and an adjacent townland, to the prior and canons of Christchurch. This place, together with other lands in the counties of Dublin and Meath, passed into the family of Plunkett, of Ratlmore, by the marriage of Marian, daughter and heir of Sir Christopher Cruise, with Thomas Plunkett, chief justice of the king's bench. The family of Wolverston, also, were seated at Stillorgan through several descents; one of which family was indited for adhering to the rebellious party in 1641. Stillorgan gives the title of baron to the family of Allen, Viscount Allen.

At this place is a square obelisk of stone, of considerable height, placed on a rustic base. From the platform which encompasses the obelisk, are obtained extensive views, comprehending the bay of Dublin and the Irish Channel.*

In the year 1716, a curious sepulchral work was discovered at Stillorgan, of which Sir Thomas Molyneux and Mr. Harris give the following account. The place of inhumation was "a cavity, only two feet long, sixteen inches wide, and about fourteen inches deep, the two sides and ends whereof were lined with four rude ag-stones, set edgeways; over which was placed a covering of one huge massy stone, that ten men could not lift, lying two feet beneath the surface of the ground." This kistaven contained several fragments of human bones, "lying promiscuously dispersed within the hollow of the grave; near which stood an urn, containing nothing but loose earth, that accidentally fell in as the workmen were opening the grave."

Kilmacudd, (the church of Cuthbert) in the immediate vicinity of Stillorgan, is celebrated as the birth-place of St. Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarn.

To the NORTH of the Phoenix Park are spread the following villages, constituting, in addition to the places already noticed on

* Mr. Twiss, in his "Tour in Ireland," observes that the Hill of Howth, on the opposite shore, when viewed from the platform of the Stillorgan obelisk, "appears exactly like the rock of Gibraltar."

the margin of the bay, the environs of the metropolis in that direction.

Previous to a description of these villages, it is necessary to observe that part of the territory north of Dublin is, by antient usage, termed *Fingall*, which appellation it acquires from that colony of Fins, or Norwegians, whose former aggrandizements in this quarter have been already noticed. The district thus denominated gives the title of Earl to the antient and distinguished family of Plunkett.

On this side of the city the *Circular Road*, already noticed, forms an excellent thoroughfare. Here, among other buildings, is the *Female Orphan House*, an extensive and handsome fabric, appertaining to an institution of great benevolence and utility. The governors of this charity are an incorporated society, and the house is capable of accommodating about 160 orphan children, who are supported by public subscription, an annual grant from parliament, and the produce of a charity sermon.

Glassnevin, distant about two miles from Dublin, is agreeably situated on rising ground, proceeding from the borders of the stream named Tolka. The proximity of this village to the metropolis rendered it a favourite place of residence, in ages during which mere convenience was an object of primary attraction, to the neglect of the bold and picturesque charms of nature. Several ornamental mansions are at present inhabited by persons of distinction, or otherwise of great respectability; but the former celebrity of the village is chiefly attested by many domestic buildings, now in a state of ruin, which present a scene of desolation that forcibly directs the attention to the events and characters of past times.

On examining the history of this village, we find that, although deep antiquity be mute, its inmates, in the early parts of the last century, were such as cast no ordinary lustre on its decaying structures and altered grounds. Dr. Delany and Tickell had each a residence at this place; and Swift, Addison, Sheridan, and Parnell were frequent visitors.

Delville, the former residence of Dr. Patrick Delany, is still

remaining, and has not experienced many important alterations. It will be recollected that Delany had contracted an intimacy with Swift, while both were students at Trinity College. He married to his second wife, Mary, the widow of Alexander Pendarves, Esq. a lady of considerable talent, who had also been a correspondent of Swift from an early period of life.* In the year 1744 he was promoted to the Deanery of Down, and possessed for many years an ample income; but, from an excess of hospitality, and a neglect of vigilance in pecuniary affairs, he was usually in an embarrassed state, and at his decease left (according to the author of his life in the *Biographia Britannica*), little behind, except books, plate, and furniture.

Dr. Delany is said, in the second volume of the *History of Dublin* by Whitelaw and Walsh, to have erected the house and laid out the gardens of Delville, in concert with his friend Dr. Helsham, a physician, and also fellow of Trinity College. The following faithful description of the house and grounds is presented in the same work. "The demesne consists of eleven acres, and was laid out in a style then new in Ireland. It is said by Cowper Walker to have been the first demesne in which 'the obdurate and straight line of the Dutch was softened into a curve, the terrace melted into a swelling bank, and the walks opened

* Mary, the second wife of Dr. Delany, was born at Coulston, in the county of Wilts. She attained a very peculiar and memorable excellence in the art of imitating flowers, and other natural productions, in work composed of cut paper. She also painted with much taste, although she had not learned to draw until more than thirty years of age; and likewise excelled in embroidery and shell-work. After the death of Dr. Delany she resided for some time with the Duchess Dowager of Portland, and on the decease of that amiable lady was so fortunate as to experience the protection of the late King and Queen, from whom she received a pension of £300. a year, together with the grant of a house in the vicinity of Windsor Castle. At the age of seventy-four she constructed her great work, a *British Flora*, of a truly curious description, formed entirely of coloured paper, so closely imitative of nature, that there existed some difficulty in distinguishing the original from the portrait. She died in 1788, at a very advanced age, deprived of sight, almost the only faculty which failed before the close of her mortal career.

to catch the vicinal country.' Notwithstanding this eulogy, it still retains the stiffness of the old garden; walks in right lines terminating in little porticoes, and valleys crossed by level artificial mounds. On the most eminent point stands a temple, decorated with specimens of Mrs. Delany's skill in painting, On the rere wall is a full-length portrait of St. Paul, in fresco, and in excellent preservation, and above is a medallion of the bust of Stella, said to be taken from the life, and an excellent likeness. It represents a female face, with sharp and disagreeable features, and gives a very unfavourable impression of the celebrated original. On the frieze in the front is the inscription, *fastigia despicit urbis*. This is attributed to Dean Swift, and supposed to be a punning allusion to this rural retreat on an eminence which literally looks down on the city. The house displays also many specimens of Mrs. Delany's taste. The rooms are decorated with admirable imitations of Chinese paintings on crape, which cannot be distinguished from the originals; and the ceiling of the domestic chapel is ornamented with entablatures of real shells, disposed in the manner of modelled stucco, with singular taste and beauty."*

During the residence of Delany at this place, he was actively engaged in that war of wit between the party of Dean Swift and the minor poets, which would have been forgotten, long since, if the saving quality of the Dean's reputation (earned in more

* Hist. of Dublin by Whitelaw and Walsh, vol. ii. p. 1285-6—note. In the same place Dr. Walsh mentions the following circumstance, which, although of no great importance, is a local anecdote too curious to be omitted. "A discovery was some time ago made in one of the old out offices of this house, which gives colour to a current tradition. Swift's intimacy with Delany, and his frequent visits to Delville, are well known. He passed there the summer of 1735, and in 1736 his Legion Club appeared. It is generally understood, that this bitter satire was not printed in Dublin, where no one would undertake so dangerous a libel, and it was supposed to have been composed and struck off at some private press. In removing the lumber of an out office at Delville, preparatory to its being pulled down, a printing press was found concealed among it, and it is a tradition current in the house at this day, that it was here the first copy of the Legion Club was printed."

weighty labours) had not interposed a barrier between conflicts so fugitive and utter oblivion. The grossest personalities were used in this literary warfare ; and the pecuniary difficulties under which Dr. Delany laboured were held forth in triumph to the notice of the world, and were attributed by his adversaries to the extravagance with which he expended large sums in decorating this house and demesne. Of such a character are the following specimens :

“ Quite ruin’d and bankrupt, reduc’d to a farthing,
By making too much of a very small garden.”

* * * * *

“ But you, forsooth, your all must squander,
On that poor spot called *Delville*, yonder.”

Tickell, who has been justly said to “ hold a distinguished rank among the minor poets of his country,” came to Ireland, as assistant to Addison, when that eminent person was employed as secretary to the Earl of Sunderland, in 1714. His stay, on that occasion, was probably of short continuance ; but, in 1725, he was advanced to the situation of secretary to the lords justices of Ireland, and in the following year he entered into a matrimonial connection at Dublin. He retained his official appointment until the time of his decease, which took place at Bath in the year 1740. He occupied a house on the site of the present Botanic Garden in this village, which is noticed in our account of that national institution.

Amongst several handsome mansions still existing in different parts of Glassnevin, the most conspicuous is the seat of the Bishop of Kildare.

The *Parish Church* is a small structure, rebuilt in 1707. At the west end is a square tower, completely shaded with ivy ; and from this circumstance the church, although comparatively modern, has been described by some writers as a building of considerable antiquity. In the south-west angle of the church-yard is a mural tablet inscribed to the memory of “ *Patrick Delany, D.D.* formerly senior fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, and late Dean of Downe, who died in 1768.”

The *Botanic Gardens* of Glassnevin impart a high degree of interest to the modern character of the village. The science of botany, which had long experienced neglect in Ireland, became an object of public attention in the year 1790, at which time pecuniary aid was granted by parliament to the Dublin society, for the establishment of a garden adapted to experiment and general instruction. The last act of the Irish parliament contained a notice of the same commendable purpose; and annual grants are continued by the Imperial parliament towards the expenses of the institution, which in some years amount to £2,000. The gardens, as we have previously observed, occupy the former demesne of Mr. Tickell, to which additions have been progressively made, and the whole of the enclosure now covers about thirty English acres. The river Tolka forms the boundary of the grounds on one side; and the irregularity of their surface is greatly favourable to the production of beauty in disposal. Great taste has been displayed in profiting by these natural advantages, and the gardens, as an object of gratification, independent of the delightful science to which they are dedicated, present superior attractions to any grounds of the kind with which we are acquainted.

The following brief outlines explain the arrangement adopted in this botanic garden; but our limits prevent us from entering on such details as would be satisfactory to the scientific reader.*

Hortus Linnæensis, divided into two parts, namely, *Plantæ Herbaceæ*, Herbaceous division; and *Fruticetum et Arboretum*, shrub, fruit, and forest-tree division.—“Each plant is here arranged by its parts of fructification, according to its class, order, genus and species, beginning with Monandria, and proceeding to Cryptogamia.” As this collection is intended to include the whole series of Nature, such exotics as are too tender to stand

* For the information contained in this synopsis we are chiefly indebted to an account afforded by Dr. Walsh, in the second volume of the History of Dublin, which gentleman was equally qualified for a description of the botanical gardens, by his residence in the vicinity and by his scientific acquirements.

in the open air are placed in the conservatory. This extensive compartment occupies, at irregular intervals, the whole central division of the garden, having six acres assigned to it. The Arboretum and Fruticetum form a screen, on the south and west sides, five or six perches in width, the trees being planted from 20 to 30 feet asunder.

Hortus Jussieuensis, Garden laid out on the system of Jussieu.

Hortus Hibernicus, Garden of plants indigenous to Ireland. In this useful department "is collected every plant which is indigenous to the soil of Ireland, arranged on the Linnæan system." Extensive additions to the stock of Botanical knowledge, under this head, have been made since the establishment of the national garden.

Hortus Esculentus, kitchen garden, devoted to the experimental cultivation of such plants as are adapted to culinary uses.

Hortus Medicus, Plants used in medicine. This department is arranged on the plan of Woodville's Medical Botany.

Hortus pecudarius, Cattle Garden.

Hortus Rusticus, Plants used in rural œconomy, divided into *Gramina Vera*, Natural grasses, and *Gramina Artificiosa*, Artificial grasses.

Hortus Tinctorius, Plants for the use of Dyers.*

Plantæ volubiles repentes et scandentes, &c. Twiners, Creepers, and Climbers.—"These, though found in their proper

* On the subject of this class the following remarks are afforded by Dr. Walsh: "The colours most in repute with the ancient Irish, were yellow, purple, scarlet, and black. The first is extracted, not from saffron, as the act of Henry VIII. erroneously states, but from the *Reseda luteola*, called by the ancient Irish *Buidhe mor*, or the great yellow, from its constant application to this purpose. It grows in great abundance in arid situations in every part of Ireland, and is collected and used at this day in factories. Purple was procured from the *Lichen calicaris*, called by the Irish *corcair*. Scarlet was obtained from the *Buccinum capillus*, a shell which abounds on all the shores. The curious process of extracting the dye is minutely described by Pennant in his *Zoology*. Black was extracted from the matter of bogs, consisting of decayed vegetables of a highly astringent nature."

places in the respective class and order to which they belong, are here collected into two compartments, that the various modes adopted by nature to support a plant or extend it, may be at once seen, and her various precautions examined and compared."

Plantæ saxatiles, Rock plants.—For the reception of plants of this kind, an artificial mound has been constructed from fragments of rock brought from the Hill of Howth, and "such pieces of rock were selected as were already clothed with various species of mosses and lichens." The mound is ascended by spiral walks, each stone exhibiting the garniture of its appropriate vegetation.

Aquarium, lacustre et palustre, Aquatic and Marsh plants. The waters of the Tolka, on the borders of the Gardens, afford peculiar advantages to the arrangement of plants of these classes.

Cryptogamia. "The incomprehensible and anomalous nature of this class of plants placing them beyond the scope of ordinary cultivation, it became necessary to select a peculiar and congenial site for them. This is a steep bank, sloping to the river, and shaded with lofty trees; through this, the Cryptogamies are dispersed, and in a dark and gloomy retreat are solicited to indulge those habits of vegetation in which they are supposed best to thrive." This dank and secluded spot, has not succeeded according to expectation, and seems indeed "as little adapted to the stubborn natures of Cryptogamies as the other compartments of the garden."

The *Flower-garden* is laid out in parterres, but is not remarkable for variety or beauty of specimens. The *Hot-houses* and *Conservatories* for exotics* are ~~on an~~ extensive scale, but are destitute of architectural ornament; and the present situation of

* A building, worthy of particular notice, is raised in this part of the establishment, over the *Dombia*, or Pine of Norfolk Island. This tree, in its native soil, attains to the height of between two and three hundred feet. The specimen at Glassnevin thrives with a degree of vigour unprecedented in the climate of the British islands; and over it is constructed a conservatory, having a moveable dome, which is elevated in accordance with the growth of the tree.

the latter interferes with the picturesque arrangement studied in the general disposal of the garden.

The *Professor's house* was the residence of Tickell, the former accomplished master of this demesne; and the apartment now used as a lecture-room has a frieze, ornamented with pipes, lyres, and other emblems of the muse, supposed to have been executed under the direction of that pleasing poet.* Lectures on botany are here delivered three times in each week, commencing in May, and continuing to September. The public are gratuitously admitted, and the audience is generally very numerous. The Gardens are thrown open to public inspection two days in every week, and constitute, as will be readily supposed, one of the most agreeable places of resort in the neighbourhood of Dublin. On days that are not public, admission is obtained without difficulty, by an application to certain members of the Dublin Society.

FINGLAS, three miles from Dublin Castle, and at a short distance from Glassnevin towards the north-west, is situated in a luxuriant, picturesque, and populous tract of country. An abbey was founded at this place by St. Kenny, or Canic, at an early period of christianity, or as some have thought, by St. Patrick himself, St. Canic being the first abbot.

In the year 1271, Fulco de Saundford, Archbishop of Dublin, died at his manor of Finglas; and here, also, Archbishop Fitz-Simon breathed his last, in 1511. The Marquess (afterwards Duke) of Ormonde, with the royal army, encamped at Finglas,

* A walk in the former demesne of Tickell is traditionally said to have been planted under the direction of Addison, and is still termed Addison's walk. The path thus denominated was lined with a double row of trees, some of which are still remaining. It is locally said, that here Tickell composed his pleasing ballad of Colin and Lucy, commencing with "In Leinster, famed for maidens fair." On reviewing the circumstances of Tickell's life, it appears probable that he did not establish himself in a country residence, at Glassnevin, until about the time of his marriage, in 1726. Addison died in 1719, and we may safely suppose the walk in question to have been poetically consecrated to the memory of that distinguished friend and patron, rather than to have been formed under his inspection.

June 18th, 1649, previous to the fatal action at Rathmines. Here, likewise, on the 5th of July, 1690, King William took a position, and mustered his army after the victory at the Boyne; his troops then amounting to 30,330 effective men. James II. having evacuated Dublin on the approach of the conqueror, the Duke of Ormonde (grandson of the duke last mentioned) possessed himself of that city for King William.

There is at Finglas a mineral spring, or well, dedicated to St. Patrick, formerly much celebrated, but lately neglected.* The parish-church, a plain but substantial structure, which was rebuilt in 1609†, stands on the site of the antient Abbey. The rectorial part of the parish forms the corps of the chancellorship of the cathedral of St. Patrick. The benefice is a vicarage, and to this living was inducted, in the year 1716, Thomas Parnell, D.D. the intimate associate of Swift, Addison, Pope, and other distinguished ornaments of that bright æra. This preferment must have been peculiarly desirable, from its contiguity as a place of residence to Glassnevin, the favoured abode and resort of his literary friends; but Parnell removed to Finglas in the clouded evening of his brief life, and brooded in this retirement over the agonies of a breaking heart.

Distant about one mile from the village of Finglas is the OBSERVATORY belonging to Trinity College, Dublin. This establishment was founded in pursuance of the will of Dr. Andrews, provost of that college, who died in 1774, and bequeathed the sum of £3000 for erecting an observatory, and furnishing it with instruments, together with a rent-charge of £250 *per annum* for the support of the institution. The building occupies elevated ground, and is seated on a solid rock of limestone, which extends

* Experiments, “in concert on the water of this well and divers other waters,” are stated in Ruttý’s Nat. Hist. of the County of Dublin, vol. ii. p. 157.

† This year constitutes the most prevalent epoch of church building within the limits of *the Pale*; the greater number of churches having been destroyed, or injured, in the course of the ferocious wars of Queen Elizabeth, Desmond, and O’Neill.

through several miles. The situation appears to be extremely eligible, as the horizon is uninterrupted in every direction, except on the south, where the mountains of Wicklow form an abrupt boundary, at the distance of fifteen miles, rising about one degree and a half.

The building (on which was expended considerably more than the sum bequeathed by Dr. Andrews) consists of a central division, surmounted by a dome, and two receding wings. The dome, which surmounts the "Equatorial room," is moveable, and contains an aperture, two feet six inches in width, readily directed to any part of the horizon. "The Equatorial instrument with which the observations here are taken, rests upon a solid pillar of masonry, which rises from the rock below, and stands insulated and unconnected with the floor or walls." The Transit instrument is six feet in length, with an astronomical circle eight feet in diameter.

The first professor appointed to this observatory was Dr. Henry Usher, senior fellow of Trinity College, under whose care the building was erected. This gentleman dying in 1790, was succeeded by the learned and ingenious Dr. Brinkley, whose "Observations" have obtained a distinguished rank in the annals of astronomical science.*

ARTAINE, a pleasing village in the vicinity of the northern shore of the bay, and distant from Dublin Castle about two miles and a half, was for many ages the estate of the family of Hollywood, or Holywood; of which family was "R. Holliwood," a

* It is remarked in the Hist. of Dublin by Dr. Walsh, that, since the erection of the transit instrument, "two important objects of astronomical research have engaged the attention of Dr. Brinkley. These are the parallaxes of the fixed stars, and astronomical refractions. His observations seem to point out that several of the fixed stars have a visible parallax, and that Aquila, particularly, is nearer to us than others which appear to us to be much brighter than that star." A very interesting account of the observations made by Dr. Brinkley is inserted in the 12th vol. of the Transacts. of the R. I. Academy, in which work are also presented a ground-plan and elevation of the observatory.

baron of the exchequer in the reign of Edward III.* The manor is at present vested in the family of Wellesley, Earl of Mornington and Marquess Wellesley.

Here is a castle, still in habitable repair, long in the occupation of the family of Donellan, of Ravensdale, which building is believed to have been the scene of a tragic event, briefly noticed in preceding pages. We have there stated that when John Allen, or Alan, Archbishop of Dublin, attempted to escape from the vengeance of the house of Kildare, which he had provoked by his adherence to the will and measures of Cardinal Wolsey, he was shipwrecked near Clontarf. He was then made prisoner by two followers of the Kildare family; and by these persons was conducted into the presence of Lord Thomas Fitzgerald, at that time posted, with the insurgent army, at Artaine. The circumstances attending the murder of the prelate are thus related by the most lenient writers. After questioning Allen as to the nature of his mission into England, and receiving no satisfactory answer, the Earl exclaimed, “take the clown out of my sight!” which mandate the captors of the archbishop misapprehending as a sentence of death, hurried the aged man into the hall of this building, the castle of Artaine, and there deprived him of life.

In the year 1641, on the breaking out of the civil war, Luke Netterville, one of the Catholic leaders, and son to Lord Netterville, at the head of a body of Royalists, took this castle, and placed in it a garrison.

The *Church* is small, and in a state of ruin. Some writers have asserted that the attached burial-yard “is full of antique tombstones, which merit attention;” but this assertion is founded in error, as the whole precincts of the church do, in fact, contain but one sepulchral monument entitled to remark.†

* The most distinguished individual of this name, mentioned in the *Annals of Ireland*, is John Holywood, or de Sacro-bosco, a celebrated philosopher and mathematician of the 13th century. See Ware’s *Writers*, p. 73.

† This is an unadorned tomb, elevated about two feet from the ground, and broken across, with an escutcheon, representing a chevron ingrailed between three pigeons, and a pigeon the crest. The inscription is as

DRUMCONDRA, or DRUMCONRATH, although not distant more than two miles from the metropolis, is marked by an air of pensive tranquillity, in some measure produced by the deep shade of numerous trees, which embower many parts of the village. In the sixteenth century the antient family of Bathe, or De Bathe, had a mansion in Drumcondra, which formed, in 1564, the residence of John Bathe, attorney general, afterwards chancellor of the exchequer of Ireland. This family is now represented by Sir James Wynne Butler De Bathe, Bart. who still possesses hereditary property in the village. Near the church is a seat of J. Claudius Beresford, Esq.

The church, or chapel, a small and plain fabric, was erected by the Coghill family, in the early part of the eighteenth century. On the north side of the interior is a marble monument, of large dimensions, to the memory of *Marmaduke Coghill*, chancellor of the exchequer, ornamented with the effigies of the deceased, sitting in his robes as chancellor. Below at his right hand is the figure of Minerva, and at his left the emblematical representation of Religion. This monument was executed by P. Sheemakers.*

In the church-yard are interred the remains of *Francis Grose*, Esq. well known as author of the "Antiquities of England and Wales," and other writings, chiefly relating to subjects of antiquarian research and elucidation. The grave is on the south

follows: "This tomb hath been erected by Christopher Hollywood, of Artaine, Esquire, the 19th of February, Anno Domini 1713. And underneath the same lieth the body of Elizabeth, wife to the above Christopher Hollywood, daughter to John Talbot, of Malahide, Esquire, who departed this life, the 23rd of June, 1711. Here also lieth the body of the above-named Christopher Hollywood, Esq. husband to the said Elizabeth, who departed this life the 12th of August, 1718."

* The inscription, which is of considerable length, states that the deceased was eldest son of Sir John Coghill, of Coghill-Hall, Yorkshire, Knight, and was born in Dublin, A. D. 1673. He was advanced to the office of chancellor of the exchequer in 1737, and held that post until his death, which took place on the 9th of March, 1738. His body was laid in the vault belonging to his family, in St. Andrew's Church, Dublin.

side of the church, and is covered with a flat stone, bearing this inscription: "To the memory of Captain Francis Grose, F.R.S. who, whilst in cheerful conversation with his friends, expired in their arms without a sigh, 18th of May, 1791, aged 60."

This humble sepulchral tribute is not protected by rails, and is disfigured by noisome weeds.* Amongst other persons buried in the neglected church-yard of Drumcondra may be noticed *Thomas Ryder*, an actor of some celebrity, who died at Sandy-mount, near Dublin, Nov. 26th, 1791.

In this village are a *School* for gratuitous education, which has met with several valuable benefactions, and is on an extensive scale; and a charitable building termed the *Retreat*, which is intended as a *temporary asylum* for every species of distress.

SANTRY, or SANTREFF, a small village, one mile and a half from Drumcondra, towards the north, is ornamented with a spacious mansion and demesne, some of whose successive proprietors are enumerated in the following brief notices respecting the descent of the manor.

In the year 1173, Hugh de Lacy, Earl Palatine of Meath, made a grant of this manor to Adam de Feipo, one of his knights; from whose family Santry, Skryne, and other lordships, passed to the house of De Mareward, titular baron of Skryne. William Nugent, 2nd son of Richard 8th baron of Delvin, having married Jenet, daughter and heir of Walter Mareward, Baron of Skryne, inherited with that lady the manor of Santry and other possessions. James Nugent, his son, marshal of the confederate (catholic)

* Mr. Grose arrived at Dublin in May, 1791, for the purpose of investigating the Antiquities of Ireland, preparatory to a work on that subject, on the plan of his former publication respecting Great Britain. On the 18th of the same month occurred the fatal catastrophe, narrated in the funeral inscription copied above. On the day of his decease he had dined with the late Lord Avonmore, and a convivial party. The awful circumstance of his sudden dissolution occurred shortly after his return to his lodgings. No more than seven descriptive pages of the work published under his name, on the "Antiquities of Ireland," was written by Mr. Grose; the remainder being compiled by the Rev. Dr. Ledwich, of Dublin.

army, and governor of Finagh, forfeited the estate; which was, in consequence, entirely lost to his descendants.

The family of Barry afterwards became possessed of this manor, and Sir James (eldest son of Richard Barry, merchant and alderman of Dublin) who was eminent in the profession of the law, and attained the dignity of chief justice of the king's bench, was created *Baron of Santry* in the year 1660. Henry, the fourth Lord Santry, who acceded to the title in 1734, forfeited his station in society by the calamity of killing one of his servants, a footman. He was indicted for the offence in the year 1738-9, and was convicted, on a trial by his peers, but received the grant of a miserable life from the clemency of the crown.

The family of Domville succeeded in possession of the lordship of Santry, in the person of Sir Compton Domville, uncle to the above unfortunate nobleman. The estate has lately passed to the Scottish family of Pocklington. The present possessor, Sir Compton Pocklington Domville, was created a baronet in 1815, his father having, by royal permission, assumed the name and arms of his maternal uncle.

Santry House is a square and spacious structure, composed of brick with finishings of stone. The principal apartments are of ample dimensions, and contain several family portraits. The demesne, which is adorned with much timber of a respectable growth, is encompassed by a stone wall unusually high, and several miles in circuit. The *Church* is a well-preserved but unornamented fabric, rebuilt in 1609, and has afforded a place of sepulture to many members of the families of Barry and Domville. At this place is a *Charter School*, designed for 80 children. The village of Santry was burned in November, 1641, by the republican troops stationed at Dublin, on the first discovery of the insurrectional plot attributed to Lord Macguire.

KILLESTER, an agreeable village, adorned with one extensive demesne, and several handsome abodes of inferior extent, is distant from the metropolis about three miles. In the year 1174, the prior of Christchurch, Dublin, granted to Audren (Adrien) le Brun, or Browne, the manor of Killester, he engaging to pay

annually, on the feast of St. Michael, forty pence sterling, and a *pair of slippers* to the prior. This grant was renewed to William le Brun, the following year, on condition of his paying yearly, at the altar of the same church, half an ounce of gold, together with a *pair of boots* for the prior. These grants were again renewed in 1189, to "William le Brune," or Browne, with an additional stipulation that slippers should be provided for the prior's use.

In this village was seated, for many years, a branch of the Coote family, commencing with Chidley Coote, Esq. a colonel in the army, and second son of the celebrated Sir Charles Coote, the republican general, from whom were descended the Earls of Mountrath and Bellamont, whose titles are now extinct. Colonel Chidley Coote died at this place in 1668, and was succeeded at Killester by Sir Philips Coote, his younger son, whose line is now also extinct.*

Killester House, the principal residence in this village, is now the seat of Thomas Viscount Newcomen,† and is a mansion of extensive proportions and pleasing character, surrounded by a demesne laid out with much correctness of taste.

In the vicinity of the above village is MARYVILLE, the seat of Lord Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency, commanding beautiful views over the sea and harbour, the islands of Lambay and Ire-

* Chidley Coote, eldest brother of Sir Philips, was ancestor of the present Sir Charles Coote, Bart. the head of this family; and, likewise, of Charles Henry, who succeeded to the barony of Castlecoote, pursuant to the entail, on the death of the last Earl of Mountrath; and of Sir Eyre Coote, K. B. who died at Madras, April 26th, 1783, with distinguished military reputation.

† The late Sir William Gleadowe, Bart. a banker of Dublin, and former proprietor of this seat, married the daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Newcomen, Bart. of the ancient family of Mosstown, in the county of Longford. This lady was created a peeress in 1800, by the style and title of Baroness Newcomen, of Mosstown; and was raised to the further dignity of a viscountess in 1812, with remainder to her issue male, by Sir William Gleadowe, who died in 1807. Her ladyship deceasing in 1817, was succeeded by her son, the present viscount.

land's-Eye, the promontory of Howth, and the southern shore, bounded by the mountains of Wicklow. The demesne is surrounded by a wall, and the grounds are highly improved and very tastefully planted. This agreeable seat has recently received considerable additions from its present noble owner.

COOLOCK, which gives name to a barony in this county, is a place of little consideration, but has a neat church, of modern erection,* and a small Roman Catholic Chapel, which, on Sundays and holydays, is very numerously attended. The property of this parish was long hereditary in the family of Talbot, of Malahide Castle, but is now chiefly vested in Sir Compton Domville, Bart. In the neighbourhood are many handsome seats. There are in this vicinity no other remains of antiquity, of which we are aware, than several of the artificial elevations usually termed Rathes or Motes.

RATHENY, or RATHENY, a small and pleasant village situated near the sea-coast, at the distance of four miles and a half from Dublin, contains several commodious and ornamental villas. The neighbouring strand affords great facilities to bathing, and is much used for that purpose. The *parish church* is a building of humble proportions, having at the west end an elevated pier, perforated with niches, in one of which is placed a bell. This species of flat bell turret requires little attention, as an architectural object; but is worthy of notice, at this place, so near to the usual entrance of Ireland from Britain, on account of its frequent recurrence in the smaller ecclesiastical buildings of this country. The church is said to have been rebuilt in 1609, but bears the date of 1712, possibly in allusion to the time at which repairs, or alterations were effected. The interior is well preserved, but entirely destitute of embellishment.

Ratheny, so early as the reign of King John, gave the title of

* This structure was completed in the year 1760. The churches of Coolock, St. Doulagh's, and Portmarnock, have ornamental spires, constructed of timber covered with slate; and were erected, as we believe, principally through the influence with government possessed by the late Right Hon. John Beresford.

Baron to John, supposed, by the most judicious genealogists, to have been a natural son of Sir John de Courcy, the renowned Earl of Ulster, one of the first Anglo-Norman conquerors in Ireland. The village and its adjoining lands were for several generations in the possession of a distant branch of the antient family of Grace, of the County of Kilkenny, who rebuilt the present manor-house, now in the occupation of Mr. Sweetman.

BALDOYLE, situated on an inlet of St. George's Channel, at the distance of six miles from Dublin, is a neat village, much frequented in the summer for the benefit and luxury of sea-bathing. Dermod Macmorrough, King of Leinster, who invited the Anglo-Normans into Ireland, made a grant of this manor, with the farmers and cerfs living upon it, to the priory of All Saints, Dublin, founded by himself in 1166. Sir William de Windsor, lord justice of Ireland, held a parliament at Baldoyle in the year 1369.

The above village, seated on a branch of the sea which washes the Eastern coast of Ireland, forms the last of those places which we have considered it desirable to notice, under the character of the immediate environs of the metropolis. In continuing our description of this country, we first select for remark the remaining principal objects on the north side of the river Liffey.

ST. DOULAGH'S, distant from Dublin rather more than four miles, is highly worthy of attention, on account of its *church*, which, although quite destitute of pretensions to beauty, ranks amongst the most curious vestiges of antiquity preserved in any part of Ireland. This building does not stand due east and west, and is on a diminutive scale, its extreme length being forty-eight feet, and its width eighteen feet. The roof is double, and composed of stone; the exterior division ascending in the form of a wedge. The inner roof is constructed of rough stone, imbedded in cement; and between the two is space sufficient for an upper story to the building. Towards the centre of the fabric rises a square tower, which is evidently of a more recent date than the principal parts of the church.

The entrance is by a small doorway on the south, the arch of

which is imperfectly formed, and appears, unintentionally, to approach in a faint degree towards the pointed form; an irregularity of construction observable in many other rude and very antient buildings in this country. On each side of the entrance are traces of an arch, more correctly circular. The window-cases, and remainder of the architectural parts of the exterior, are in the pointed modes usual in different early ages, and are evidently innovations on the original character of the structure.

The interior is divided into two compartments. The western division constitutes a small room, at one angle of which is a low turret, appearing to have been designed for a belfry. At the eastern end of the same room is a plain and massive altar-monument, called the tomb of St. Doulagh. These erections encroach so much on the limited dimensions of the room, that space is left for only a very small assemblage of persons; and it is conjectured in Dr. Ledwich's work on the Antiquities of Ireland, that this apartment "was designed for no other use but the separate admission of those who came to make their prayers and offerings to the saint." In the north wall are three unornamented square cavities.

This apartment communicates with the eastern division of the interior by a narrow and square-headed doorway, of proportions too low to admit the transit of a full-grown person, in an erect posture. The eastern compartment of the building, forming the place of divine worship, is twenty-two feet in length by twelve feet in width; but its original character has been greatly obliterated in different early ages, and the whole is in a state of disuse and dilapidation. At the east end has been inserted a pointed window; and there are two other windows, respectively of a lancet-form and of a wavy trefoil shape. The stone-roof, now all rugged and partially disjointed, retains, under the tower, the traces of homely groin-work, but is coved in the eastern and more antient part. On the west wall are relics of a wide and irregular arch, circular in intention; and on the north side are the remains of an arch more strictly semi-circular in outline. A stone stairway, on the south, leads to the tower; and on the same side of the church,

near the east end, are two spacious but plain recesses, for the reception of books and sacred utensils.

No traces of sculpture, or architectural decorations, are to be seen in any part of the building. In regard to presumptions arising from internal evidence of architectural character, the antient parts of this structure are, indeed, quite beyond date. The peculiarities which we have noticed, independent of the absence of embellishment, and of the marks of such architectural fashions as are traced with satisfactory accuracy from the 12th century down to the present time, prove its origin to have been extremely remote; whilst, from its situation in a district long triumphantly infested by the Danes, we can scarcely suppose it to be probable that the church was erected before the conversion of that people to christianity. If, then, we deem it to be likely that this fabric was raised by the converted Danes, as a place of conservation for the reliques of their venerated northern saint, Olave (of whose name the word Doulagh is said to be a corruption), can we, at the same time, believe that architects, contented with so rude and humble a building for a purpose esteemed peculiarly solemn, possessed either inclination or industry to construct the massy round towers of Ireland, as *belfries*? It is, however, extremely doubtful whether the name by which this church is distinguished has, in fact, any reference to the favourite saint of the Danes. The Chevalier De Montmorency, in his MS. communications to this work, is "inclined to deduce the name from the Irish *duilleog*, *duilleach*, a leaf, the leaf of a book; whence *duilleachan*, a small book, the Holy-book, or Gospel." By the same writer it is suggested, that "what is here called St. Doulagh's bed was nothing more than the shrine, or tabernacle, in which this holy relic had been preserved and venerated."

Contiguous to this antient fabric is a modern building, quite uninteresting in character, forming the present place of parochial worship. At a small distance is a consecrated *well*, of lucid water, enclosed in an octangular building. This structure was repaired, and painted *in fresco*, A. D. 1609, at the expense of John Fagan,

of Feltrim, Esq. The paintings represent St. Patrick, St. Doulagh in a hermit's habit, and other subjects.

In the same neighbourhood is the village of BEALGRIFFIN, or BALGRIFFIN. The castle at this place was originally erected by the ancient family of De Burly, who are known to have possessed this manor in the 14th century. In later ages the manorial rights were vested in the families of O'Neill and De Bathe. Bealgriffin castle was for some time the residence of Richard, Duke of Tyrconnel, lord deputy of Ireland under James II.

PORTMARNOCK, to the north of Baldoyle, is principally vested in a branch of the Plunkett family, who have here a handsome and commodious residence. The manor belonged, at an early period, to the Abbey of the Virgin Mary, in Dublin; the abbot of which house was successively confirmed in possession of "the Grange of Portmarnock" by Henry II. and King John. In the neighbourhood are many respectable seats, amongst which must be noticed the residence of Mrs. Preston. The building is of brick, and of a very eligible character; but the chief attraction of the place proceeds from the gardens and demesne, which bear some resemblance to those of Malmaison, near St. Germain, the celebrated seat of the Emperor Napoleon, and afterwards of the Empress Josephine.

Seated on a rock, close to the sea-shore in this neighbourhood, is the small and gloomy castle of *Rob's-wall*, or *Robuck's-wall*, founded in the fifteenth, or early in the sixteenth century, by Mac Robuck, the head of a sept of De Bermingham, descended from Robuck de Bermingham, a chieftain "famous in his generation."

On the borders of the village of Malahide is SEAPARK-COURT. This mansion, which is finely situated, with a sloping and ornamental lawn in front, is a square building, of ample proportions, having a flat roof concealed by a parapet that surrounds the whole structure;—a prevalent mode of domestic architecture in years between the reigns of Charles II. and George I.

The house of Seapark-court was erected by Nicholas Morres, Esq. second son of Sir John Morres, of Knockagh-castle,

county of Tipperary, Bart. who obtained this portion of the manor of Malahide on his marriage with Susanna, eldest daughter of Richard Tallbot, of Malahide-Castle, Esq. By this lady he had issue three sons and two daughters: 1st. John, who died before him unmarried; 2nd. Richard, a colonel in the French service, killed by accident, at Paris, on the day of the coronation of Louis XVI. and Marie Antoinette of Austria; 3rd. Sir Nicholas, colonel-commandant of the regiment of Lord Bulkeley, Irish brigade, in the same service, and Chevalier de St. Louis; who, on the death of his cousin, Sir Redmond Morres, of Knockagh-castle, without children, succeeded to his title, and became the seventh baronet; but he, also, dying without issue, at Amboise, in Tourraine, the title passed to the late Viscount Mountmorres, and from him, in rotation, to his brother, the present viscount and 9th baronet, by the right of male descent from Hervey Morres, of Castlemorres, Esq. second son of Sir Redmond, the 2nd baronet, great grandson of John of Templemore, who was the youngest brother of Sir Oliver Morres, surnamed O'Fearlaghan, Lord of Thorney, of Lateragh, of Knockagh, of Grantstown, of Balyrickard-Morres, &c. chief of the British and Irish line of the house of Montmorency, and Baron de Marisco and de Montemarisco in the dormant peerage of Ireland.

Sir Oliver Morres having espoused Lady Elisha Butler, fourth daughter to Peter, Earl of Ormond and Ossory, by Lady Margaret Fitzgerald, daughter to Gerald, eighth Earl of Kildare (which Lady Elisha after Sir Oliver's decease married, secondly, Gerald, Lord Decies) had issue, among other children, Oliver-Oge, his son and heir, progenitor of the line, late of Balyrickard Morres and Rathnalin, in the county of Tipperary, senior representatives of this antient family. Of this line Colonel Hervey de Montmorency-Morres, Chevalier de Montmorency, in France, (late of Rathnalin) and his four sons, are the only males, in lineal legitimate descent, from the said Oliver-Oge, by his eldest son and heir Sir John, sometimes styled *of Vals*, because mortally wounded before that town, then besieged by Duke Henry of Montmorency, in whose arms he expired on the 7th of March, 1622. The demesne of Seapark-

court has reverted to the Talbot family, and has, in recent years, been successively in the occupation of the Hon. John Leeson; Captain (now Sir Robert) Mends, R. N.; and — Sweeny, Esq.

The village of MALAHIDE, or MULLAGH-HIDE, is agreeably situated on an inlet of the sea, and contains many decorated cottages, partly occupied by families who resort to this neighbourhood for the purpose of bathing, but in several instances used as places of permanent residence. General Vallancey, with an ample indulgence of the licence often assumed by antiquaries, derives the etymology of Malahide from the Hebrew and the Hindostan; *Mal*, *Mahl*, *Malo*, riches, commerce, &c. or *Malair*, a merchant. This recluse village has, at present, no pretensions to commercial activity,* but much local advantage accrues from the fishery on the coast. A dispensary has been recently erected, and the whole place wears a thriving aspect.

Malahide is a lordship, or manor, having courts *leet* and *baron*, and has belonged in fee to the Talbot family, from a period very closely approaching to the Anglo-Norman invasions in the time of Henry II.†

The *Castle of Malahide*, the residence of this ancient family, is scarcely surpassed in interest, arising from various sources, by any building in the county of which it forms a distinguished orna-

* Although Malahide is not at present a place of commercial importance, several attempts have been made by its manorial lords to increase its trade. In the year 1524, Sir Peter Talbot was fined, for “suffering merchant-vessels to break bulk at this port, contrary to the King’s grants made to the city of Dublin.” (Hist. of Dublin by Harris.) In more recent times a cotton factory, on an extensive scale, was instituted by Mr. Talbot; but the undertaking was not attended with success.

† Amongst the knightly, or distinguished, families who entered Ireland in the reign of Henry II. and settled in the county of Dublin, the families of St. Laurence of Howth; *Talbot of Malahide*; Luttrell of Luttrell’s-town; Russell of Seatown; Wolverston of Stillorgan; Cruise of the Naul (said to be of Danish extraction); Walsh of Carickmaine; Archbold; Feipo; Fyan; Peppard; and some others, continued to possess their estates down to the years 1641 and 1690. The three first-named families retain possession at the present day, with the exception of the Luttrell’s-town estate, lately sold by the Earl of Carhampton to Mr. Luke White.

ment. This structure, as it stood in the early part of the last century, was of contracted dimensions, and, although surrounded by a moat, was not castellated. The various additions which now render it an architectural object of considerable magnificence, and a capacious residence suited to the exercise of a dignified hospitality, were chiefly carried into effect by the late Colonel Talbot, father of the present proprietor. The building, thus enlarged, is an extensive pile, of square proportions, flanked on the principal side by circular towers. A fine "gothic" porch, or chief entrance, has been constructed, under the direction of the present owner of the castle, greatly to the advantage of the building, in regard both to external ornament and the convenience of the interior. The moat is now filled up, and its sloping surface covered with verdant sward. The demesne and gardens are disposed with much correctness of taste, and the former is enriched with some venerable timber, and numerous plantations.

The interior of the mansion affords many objects of gratification. The apartment of greatest curiosity is wainscotted throughout with oak, elaborately carved, in compartments representing the history of Adam, and other scriptural subjects, some of which are executed with much skill. The chimney piece is carved with peculiar beauty, having, in the central division, figures of the Virgin and child.* The whole is highly varnished, and acquires a sombre but striking effect from a blackness of tint, which causes the apartment to assume the resemblance of one vast cabinet of ebony.

The suite of principal rooms comprises several lofty and handsome apartments, in which, amongst other embellishments, are some very costly specimens of porcelaine. But the most esti-

* The figure of the Virgin Mary in this piece of carving is the subject of a marvellous tradition, amongst the lower orders of inhabitants in the vicinity of Malahide. They assert that, during the civil wars, whilst this castle was in the possession of Cromwell and his partizans, the statue of the Virgin indignantly disappeared, but resumed its station after the return of the Talbot family to their lawful home. It is fortunate that some friend of the family removed the figure, at that time, beyond the reach of the fanatics, as it is a very estimable specimen of ancient art.

mable ornaments consist in a collection of portraits and other paintings, amongst which the following demand notice.

Charles I. and Queen Henrietta Maria, by Vandyck.

James II. and his Queen (Anne Hyde), by Sir Peter Lely.

Queen Anne, by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

The Duchess of Portsmouth, mistress to Charles II. Half length. The face unusually expressive of captivating beauty; the bosom half exposed, and the hands fondling a contented dove.

The first Duke of Richmond (son of the above Duchess) when a child.—This picture, and the preceding, were presents from the Duchess of Portsmouth to Mrs. Wogan, of Rathcoffey, from whom they were inherited by Col. Talbot.

Richard Talbot, Duke of Tyrconnel, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, general and minister to James II. descended of a collateral branch of the house of Malahide.* Half length, by Sir Peter Lely.

Ladies Catharine and Charlotte Talbot, daughters of the above, by Sir P. Lely

Amongst the family portraits are, also, representations of the *first Lord Shrewsbury*; *Sir Gilbert Talbot*, of Grafton; *Colonel Talbot*, brother to the Duke of Tyrconnel; *the Duchess of Tyrconnel*; *Colonel Wogan*; and a pleasing half-length of *Susanna*, eldest daughter of *Richard Talbot, Esq.* wife of Nicholas Morres, Esq. and grandmother to John Earl of Ormonde and Ossory, which lady is noticed in our account of Seapark-court.

The paintings of more general interest comprise several that are worthy of attentive examination. Among these stands, unrivalled in attraction, an altar-piece by Albert Durer, divided into compartments, representing the Nativity, Adoration, and Circum-

* The political character of this nobleman is well known, but it may not be superfluous to observe that he is noticed, in the Memoirs of Count Grammont, as "one of the most genteel men in the court of Charles II." In that dissolute court he played deep, and entered into all the gaieties of the age. "He was," writes Grammont, "one of the tallest men in England, and possessed of a fine and brilliant exterior. His manners were noble and dignified."

cision. This picture was purchased by King Charles II. for the sum of £2000, and was by him given to the Duchess of Portsmouth, who presented it to the grandmother of Colonel Talbot.

King Charles I. dancing with the Infanta of Spain, at the Escorial.

Virgin and Child, by Parmigiano.

A very large and fine landscape, by Hobbima.

Portraits (half-length) of himself and wife, by Francis Hals.

Two Battle Pieces, by Wouvermans.

Noah inebriated, by Annibal Caracci.

There are also in this collection some sea pieces by Vandervelde and Vernet; a fine head by Rembrandt; and several landscapes by Bergen, Succherelli, Barret, &c.

The distinguished line of the house of Talbot, long settled at Malahide, is said to descend from the eldest branch of the family; and, with the Talbots of Batshall, and Thornton, in Yorkshire, derives from Sir Geoffrey, who was governor of Hereford for the Empress Maud, in opposition to King Stephen. Richard Wogan Talbot, Esq. the present owner of Malahide, is one of the representatives in parliament for the county of Dublin.

Amongst such memorable circumstances, connected with the annals of this castle, as are desirable for notice in the present work, must be mentioned a lamentable instance of the ferocity with which quarrels of party rivalry were conducted, in ages during which the internal polity of Ireland was injuriously neglected by the supreme head of government.—On Whitsun-eve, in the year 1329, as is recorded by Ware, John de Bermingham, Earl of Louth, *Richard Talbot*, styled Lord Malahide, and many of their kindred, together with sixty of their English followers, were slain in a pitched battle at Balbriggan, in this neighbourhood, by the Anglo-Norman faction of the de Verduns, de Gernons, and Savages; the cause of animosity being the election of the earl to the palatinate dignity of Louth, the county of the latter party.

The homely commendation bestowed by Sir Richard Edgecomb, evinces the hospitable spirit for which the owners of the castle

were celebrated in the succeeding century. This lord justice landed at Malahide, from England, in the month of June, 1488; "and there," says Sir Richard, "a gentlewoman, called Talbot, received, and made me right good cheer."

The political and religious principles of the Talbot family exposed them, in the early part of the troubles of the seventeenth century, to the persecution of the party assuming government in the name of the parliament. It is believed that Oliver Cromwell took up his abode, for a short time, at Malahide; and it is known that Myles Corbet, the regicide, resided here for several years.*

From this port, when outlawed at the period of the Restoration, Corbet took shipping for the continent. The subsequent expiation of his errors by a degrading death is well known; and, shortly after his flight from Malahide, the Talbot family regained possession of the estate.

Immediately contiguous to the castle are the ruins of an ancient church; and this close proximity of a decaying pile, in which are shut from the light of day the remains of those who once tenanted the cheerful mansion, warm with the hopes and enjoyments of life in its varied ages, imparts to the scene a woful and impressive effect, not readily to be described. From the ruins, which, however, retain few architectural characteristics, it would appear that the fabric was not of a date more remote than the fourteenth century, and was not designed in an enriched modification of the pointed style. The church was long since deprived of its roof;† but the grass-grown aisles are shaded by chesnut trees of a venerable growth, which, when luxuriant in foliage, throw the whole solemn precincts into pensive and deep obscurity. The church-yard is still used as a place of burial;

* Myles Corbet obtained a lease for seven years of the castle of Malahide, and 500 acres of arable land, belonging to John Talbot, Esq. who had been indicted and outlawed for acting in the "Irish rebellion." The lease is dated 21st of December, 1653. M.S. note of Sir W. Betham.

† It is believed that this church was unroofed by order of Myles Corbet, who is said to have employed the materials in the roofing of offices attached to the castle.

and the white garlands, and taper funeral-gloves, suspended over recent graves, add a simple and affecting lineament to this picture of sorrow and dissolution.

The forsaken church of Malahide afforded, for many ages, a place of sepulture to the lordly inhabitants of the castle. The only monument connected with the Talbot family, which now exists, is an altar-tomb, in a neglected and ruinous condition, surmounted with the effigies, in bold relief, of a female, habited in the costume of the fifteenth century, the most conspicuous part of her dress being the horned cap, a peculiarity of fashion noticed in our account of a monument at Howth. The base of the tomb is ornamented with escutcheons, some of which are charged with the symbols of the crucifixion, and others with the arms of Plunkett; Cusack; and Talbot of Malahide.—This is the monument of the *Hon. Maud Plunkett*, second daughter to Sir Christopher Plunkett (in right of his wife first Baron of Killeen, of the Plunkett family,) and deputy, in 1432, to Sir Thomas Stanley, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; which lady was the first wife of Sir Richard Talbot, of Malahide, Knight.*

In this desolate church is, likewise, a flat monument of grey marble, to the memory of *Nicholas Morris, Esq.* who died 23d of March, 1742, aged 66. This monument was erected by Susanna Talbot, his widow, who is also buried at this place.

Adjoining the church is a monastic ruin, said to have been a chantry attached to that structure. Here is, likewise, a holy well, dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

The ISLAND OF LAMBAY,† distant about two miles from the coast, forms a conspicuous object in the diversified views of this

* This monument has attained a greater degree of celebrity than would otherwise be acquired by a sepulchral-tribute so obscure and ruinous, on account of the peculiar fortunes of the deceased, who is still the subject of popular curiosity and commiseration, as having been “maid, wife, and widow, on one and the same day.” Previous to her marriage with Sir Richard Talbot, she was married to Mr. Hussey, son to the Baron of Galtrim, who was slain on the day of their nuptials.

† The island of Lambay is about three miles in circumference, and produces, in great abundance, porphyry, of an estimable quality. The soil

neighbourhood, and contains a fishing lodge, in which Colonel Talbot occasionally resides in the summer season.

SWORDS, a small town, distant from Dublin about seven miles, towards the north, consists chiefly of one wide street. The domestic buildings are in general of a humble character, but the whole place wears an improving aspect. Previous to the Union, Swords was a borough, sending two representatives to parliament. The sum of £15,000, received from the *Compensation Fund*, as a solace for the loss of the elective franchise, has been partly expended in a school for the gratuitous education of poor children ; and a Dispensary has also been recently erected.

This town was formerly of much greater importance than at present, and it still derives a considerable degree of interest from the vestiges of past splendour, although these receive little aid, or illustration, from the page of history. A monastery, described by the author of the *Monasticon* as having been of a “sumptuous” character, was founded here in the year 512, by the celebrated Irish Saint, St. Columb, who gave to it “a missal written by himself, blessed the well here, and placed St. Finan Lobhair, or the Leper, over the Abbey.” The records concerning this religious house are few, and chiefly relate to scenes disastrous to its inmates and the contiguous town. In the year 1012, Swords was reduced to ashes by the Danes ; and in 1016, it experienced a similar fate. It was again plundered and burnt, together with the Abbey, in 1035, or 1037, by Connor O'Melaghlin, Prince of Meath ; and

in parts of the island is highly amenable to cultivation, and some good crops of wheat and other grain have been raised, in recent years, under the care of Colonel Talbot. In the reign of Edward VI. Lambay was granted to John Chaloner, on condition of his colonizing the island, and protecting it from the pirates who then infested the coast. The fishing-lodge occasionally inhabited by Colonel Talbot is formed from a castellated building, supposed to have been erected by the above-named J. Chaloner. Archbishop Usher received a grant of this island in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and is said to have written a considerable part of his works in this secluded district. From the representatives of that celebrated prelate the fee simple was purchased by the Talbot family, in which it is still vested.

a repetition of the same calamity occurred at several succeeding periods, the last destructive visitation taking place A. D. 1166.

The next important event connected with this town relates to the 17th century. It was here that the first Irish army of the Pale assembled, on the 9th of November, in 1641, preparatory to the commencement of a long series of fatal hostilities. On the 10th of January following, Sir Charles Coote attacked, and drove this body of troops from its intrenchments, with very inconsiderable loss of men on his side, the only officer killed being Sir Lorenzo Carey, second son of Lord Falkland.

The Archbishop of Dublin had a palace at Swords from an early period, and it is noticed by Harris, that King John granted to Archbishop Comin his licence for an annual fair to be held at this place, for eight days after the festival of St. Columb-Kill.

The episcopal palace was of a castellated character, strongly illustrative of the troubled complexion of the times in which it was raised. The remains (of which we present an engraved view) consist of ranges of embattled wall, flanked with towers, and enclosing a court, the former site of the palatial buildings. Some considerable parts of the palace were remaining a few years back, but have been taken down and dispersed for the value of the materials. The area within the walls (now used as garden ground) contains about one Irish acre and a quarter.

A *Nunnery* was founded here at an unknown date, of which few other traces have been discovered than a grant made by parliament, in the year 1474, of twenty shillings yearly, out of the revenues of the crown, to Dame Eleanora, the prioress, and her successors.

The *Church* of Swords, and its contiguous buildings, form a groupe of architectural objects of an unusual and very impressive character. The church has been lately re-built after a design suggested by Mr. French, of Heywood, in the Queen's county, and skilfully carried into effect by Mr. Farrel, architect. The steeple of the more antient structure, a square tower, of rather lofty proportions, is remaining, and stands detached on the north side. At a short distance further, in the same direction, and also insu-

lated, an ancient round or pillar tower rears its august head; and the spectacle of these contrasted and disjoined fabrics, from which all other buildings have sunk away in the operations of dissimilar ages, is equally curious and striking.

The Round Tower at this place ranks amongst the plainest of these interesting piles, but is in a high state of preservation, and has, indeed, recently experienced some repairs. It is stated by Seward that this tower is seventy-three feet in height. At the top is a conical capping, now surmounted by a cross; but it is believed that this pious emblem was erected at a date long subsequent to other parts of the fabric. Near the summit are four round-headed apertures, placed at the cardinal points. In different stages of ascent are four other openings, small and square. In the present state of the surrounding soil, the door-way, which is placed towards the east, is on the level of the footway, but the entrance is now walled up.

The steeple of the former church, now acting as a bell-tower, has no indications of a greater antiquity than the fourteenth or fifteenth century. The modern church was completed in the year 1818, and is a substantial and handsome building of cut stone, in the pointed style of design. The interior has no division, and is neat, but destitute of architectural embellishment. At the west end is a gallery, designed for the reception of an organ; and the east window is filled with modern painted glass, executed in a pleasing manner.

Swords constitutes a prebend in the cathedral of St. Patrick, Dublin. This was one of the thirteen canouries of the college instituted at St. Patrick's by Archbishop Comin. It afterwards, as is observed by the author of *Hibernia Antiqua*, obtained the name of the Golden Prebend, "on account of its great value, arising out of its considerable demesne, and tithes issuing from a large and fertile district." We are further informed by the same writer, that, besides the church, there were formerly in this town two chapels, one dedicated to St. Finian, and the other to St. Bridget, "which latter was on the north side of the town, not far from the gates of the old palace. Near to it was an ancient cross, termed "Pardon Crosse."

At the distance of one mile from Swords, towards the south-east, is DRYNAM, an antient residence of the Russell family, formerly of great consideration in this county; and in the same neighbourhood, bordering on the strand, are the ruins of *Seatown-castle*, once the chief seat of this branch of the house of Russell.

LISSON HALL, an antient seat near the same town, belonged, in the reign of Edward I. to the family of De Lacy. Sir William Fitzwilliam, lord deputy of Ireland, resided at this place during some part of his vicegerency.

FELTRIM, or FELTRUM, a village two miles from Swords, is situated at the foot of a hill which commands an extensive and beautiful prospect, comprising, as principal features, the country of Fingall, rich in ornamental seats, and the sea, rendered finely picturesque at this point of observation by the promontory of Howth, and animated by numerous vessels approaching, or quitting, the port of Dublin. On this elevation stands FELTRIM CASTLE, the antient seat of the Fagan family, long proprietors of the surrounding district. This family is of great antiquity; and the following anecdote, connected with the castle of Feltrim, may be thought to display a dignity of sentiment worthy of the man who bears a name traced through a long line of ancestry. In the reign of Elizabeth, when Gerald, sixteenth Earl of Desmond, was a prisoner of state, the custody of that nobleman was consigned to Christopher Fagan, of Feltrim, who informed the government, without hesitation, that, “as *his guest*, the Earl was most welcome to diet and lodging at his house; but that he never should become *his keeper*!” Desmond, placed in hands so liberal, received permission to walk abroad on his parole; a privilege which he abused, and effected his escape into Munster; where, entering soon after on open rebellion, he was treacherously murdered by some of his own followers. The portals of this castle were opened to the unfortunate James II. when flying after the defeat of his army on the banks of the Boyne. The chamber is still preserved in which the fallen monarch is said to have passed the long hours of one wretched night, at that juncture.

In this neighbourhood are the following, among other handsome seats.

GREENWOOD, a spacious villa, was erected by the late Sir William Montgomery, Bart. The house received much additional embellishment from a more recent occupant, Mr. Sayers, of Dublin; under whose direction was constructed a dairy, greatly admired, and forming one of the most pleasing buildings of the kind to be witnessed in this country.

Adjoining Greenwood is ABBEVILLE, a fine mansion, with extensive gardens and plantations. This house, as it stands at present, was principally erected by the late Right Hon. John Beresford, after the designs of Mr. Gandon, architect of the Custom-house, Dublin, and other public buildings. The interior is highly finished, and comprises many rooms of ample and judicious proportions. The gardens, are, perhaps, the most extensive, and the best arranged, of any in the vicinity of the metropolis. This place afforded an occasional summer-residence to several of the lords-lieutenant of Ireland, previous to the acquisition by government of the vice-regal lodge in the Phoenix Park.

BELCAMP is a spacious structure, composed of brick. This estate formerly belonged to the Stanley family, and afterwards became the property of the late Sir Edward Newenham, by whom the present mansion was erected. Amongst several residents at Belcamp, after the estate was sold by Sir Edward Newenham, may be noticed the Hon. Francis Hely-Hutchinson, brother to the Earl of Donoughmore; and the late Mr. Serjeant Ball, very generally respected for integrity of principle and distinguished suavity of manners.

On the northern side of the inlet which forms the small harbour of Malahide, is TURVEY, the property and seat of Lord Trimleston. The mansion is a plain building, having in front a terrace, which commands extensive sea and inland prospects. The interior is ornamented with some family portraits and other paintings. The manor of Turvey, or *Much-Turvey*, belonged at an early period to the Butler family, and this manor, or rather the seneschalship of it, was granted in the third year of Queen Mary, by Thomas Earl of Ormond to Sir Christopher Barnewall, a lawyer of great eminence, and high sheriff of the county of Dublin in 1560,

who died at this place in 1575. Turvey has since constituted a principal seat of the Barnewall family; and, in the year 1645, Nicholas Barnewall was created *Baron of Turvey*, and Viscount Barnewall, of Kingsland.

Adjoining Turvey, and also contiguous to the small and humble village of Donabate, is NEWBRIDGE, the extensive demesne of Charles Cobbe, Esq. The village of Donabate is said to derive the latter part of its appellation from persons of the name of *Bate*; believed to be of Danish extraction; and it is observable that there dwells near the village a person of this name, who still occupies, and holds in fee, a few acres, part of the manor, descending to him in hereditary succession from the earliest date of local record. The church is situated on a commanding eminence, and contains a handsome marble monument to the memory of *Charles Cobbe*, Archbishop of Dublin, who died April 12th, 1765.* In a ruined chapel, contiguous to the church, are several sepulchral monuments, the most antient of which was erected in the sixteenth century.†

At the distance of about one mile and a half from Donabate is

* His grace was father to Thomas Cobbe, Esq. of Newbridge, who was his only son, and who married Lady Elizabeth Beresford, eighth and youngest daughter of Marcus, first Earl of Tyrone, and of Lady Catherine De la Poer, daughter and heiress to James le Poer, Earl of Tyrone, and, by tenure and right of descent, since the reign of the Plantagenets, Baron le Poer of Curraghmore; which antient barony, being held in fee, devolved on the Countess of Tyrone and her issue. Lady Elizabeth Cobbe was sister to George, first marquess, and aunt to the present Marquess of Waterford; and left issue Charles, M. P. for the borough of Swords, (father of the present *Charles Cobbe*, of *Newbridge*, Esq.) and a daughter, Elizabeth.

† On this mutilated monument is an inscription to the memory of *Patrick Barnewall*, of Staffords-town, and of his wife Beignet Del Hide (de la Hide) who died 12th January, 1592. At a short distance, so entirely covered with weeds as to attract the attention of few visiters, may be seen a monument erected for *Christopher Barnewall*, of the house of Rathasker, who died in 1661, and, which also bears inscriptions to his wife, their two sons, and one daughter. These persons derive from the line of *Turvey*, the youngest of the three branches of the house of Barnewall, of Drimnagh Castle.

PORTRANE HOUSE, the seat of George Evans, Esq. The mansion, a spacious building composed of brick, is situated near the centre of a fine park, well stocked with deer, and occupies a bold position favourable to extensive views. The character of the surrounding scenery admits of an unusual extent of prospect, and presents a happy variety of objects. Nearly the whole of Fingall lies spread in one vast picture. The sea-views are relieved and enlivened by the islands of Lambay and Ireland's Eye. The bold promontory of Howth mingles finely with the retirement of the fore-ground; and, in the distance, the Wicklow mountains bound the powers of vision with a romantic and enchanting outline. This attractive demesne comprises some of the best land in the county of Dublin, and the large plantations thrive with a degree of vigour, not usual to situations so much exposed to the keen winds which sweep over the sea.

The manor of Portrane belonged, at an early period, to the religious institution of the Holy Trinity, Dublin. In the year 1204, Patrick, the sub-prior of that monastery, exchanged with Archbishop Comin all the rights possessed by the prior and canons of Christ-church in the town of Portrachern (Portrane) and in the island of Lambay, for certain other property; and, as it would appear, the manor was then obtained by the abbess of Gracedieu, a nunnery contiguous to Portrane, with whose successors it remained until the suppression of religious houses. In the year 1536, Sir John Barnewall, third baron of Trimleston, was constituted seneschal, and receiver of a moiety of this among other manors; and a considerable property, then acquired by him in this neighbourhood, is still in the possession of the Trimleston family. Sir Patrick Barnewall, ancestor of Viscount Kingsland, likewise obtained a considerable grant of lands in Portrane, on the dissolution of monasteries. That branch of the family of Evans which at present possesses the mansion, derives from Eyre Evans, Esq. M. P. for the county of Limerick, who settled at Portrane in the early part of the eighteenth century.

Portrane *Castle* consists of a square tower, of moderate dimensions, long since deserted by its proprietors, but not reduced to a

state of utter ruin. At the date of the suppression of monasteries, the prioress of Gracedieu was possessed of this castle, together with much contiguous property. The building, among other possessions of the same religious house, passed, in the year 1541, to Sir Patrick Barnewall; but the family of Cusack, of Rathaldron, appears to have had some share in the grants then obtained by Sir Patrick, for, during the several ages in which the Barnewall family occasionally resided at Gracedieu, we find the Cusacks to occur as inhabitants of Portrane castle, and have many notices of their intermarriages with the Plunkets, Luttrels, and other families of great local influence. In the first named of these families (the Plunkets) the estate at length became vested, but was forfeited by them, as we believe, in the civil war of 1641.

The ruins of the *Convent of Gracedieu* present an interesting feature in the scenery of Portrane. This convent was indebted for its foundation to Archbishop Comin, who removed hither from Lusk, in the year 1190, the nunnery of the order of Arroasia, established at a very early period in that town. The nunnery was dedicated to the Virgin Mary; and, at the time of the dissolution, the prioress, as has been suggested in a previous page, was seized of considerable property in the vicinity, including the manorial rights of Portrane. The buildings then passed into the possession of Sir Patrick Barnewall, of Fieldstown, ancestor of Viscount Kingsland, but have since progressively sunk into decay.

LUSK, situated eleven miles from the metropolis, and about two miles to the north-east of Portrane, is an extensive village, consisting chiefly of neat and comfortable dwellings, thatched with rushes, reeds, or straw. There are 300 acres of common land attached to this village, which are at present of little benefit to any party, and might be enclosed with general advantage, as has been recently proved, in regard to similar wastes, in the contiguous district of Portrane. An abbey was founded at this place, in the early ages of christianity.* St. Macculind, styled

* The *Nunnery* founded in Lusk at an early period, and translated to Gracedieu, near Portrane, by Archbishop Comin, has been mentioned in our account of the latter place.

bishop and abbot of Lusk, died in the year 497, and his feast is annually celebrated on the 6th of September. Cassan, the learned scribe, or "chronographer," of Lusk, died here in 695; and in the same year, or in that which followed, St. Adamnanus held a synod in this abbey, at which were present the chief prelates of the kingdom, amongst whom we find Colga, the son of Mœnach, abbot of Lusk. About the year 825, the abbey was pillaged and destroyed; and in 854, it was consumed by fire, together with the whole town. The monastic buildings were again destroyed by conflagration in 1135, at which time the town, and nearly the whole country of Fingall, were involved in similar destruction by the arms of Donal Mac-Morogh O'Melaghlin, who was actuated by revenge for the murder of his brother, Connor, prince of Meath.

In the month of July, 1789, the shock of an earthquake was felt in this town and neighbourhood.

Shortly after the Anglo-Norman entry of Ireland, Hugh de Lacy, Lord of Meath, obtained from King Henry II. a grant of the territory of Fingall, including the place under consideration.* In after ages the families of De la Field (of Fieldstown); de Bermingham; Butler; St. Laurence; Barnewall; Grace, and Fitzwilliam, enjoyed the leading interest in this manor; and the Earl of Howth, representative of the family of St. Laurence, is the chief proprietor at the present time.

The *Church* of Lusk was probably erected on the site of the antient abbey, and presents some architectural features of a very unusual character. The principal parts of the building are in the pointed style, but at the west end is a square steeple, attached to three angles of which are round towers, finishing with the graduated parapet often observable in the ecclesiastical edifices of Ireland. At the fourth angle is likewise a round tower, but of greater alti-

* The natives of this district, like those of the baronies of Forth and Bargy, in the county of Wexford, whom they greatly resemble in person and habits, and also in dialect, are chiefly descendants of the Anglo-Norman colony planted in Fingall by De Lacy, in the reigns of Henry II. and John.

tude than the others, and also of greater diameter than is usual with these curious fabrics, although the height is not equal to that of many. This tower has, at present, no stone capping, or roof, but otherwise partakes, in many points of character, with the antient pillar-towers dispersed over various parts of the island. The masonry is finely executed; and the walls, on the inner side, exhibit a surface beautifully smooth.—It must be unquestionable that this structure, and the steeple erected by its side, but of inferior elevation, were designed at different times; and the latter affords a curious instance of the imitation of the Irish Round Tower, and the introduction of it into church-architecture, probably with a view to the protection of property.

The *interior* of the church consists of two aisles, divided in the manner of the church at Howth, by a range of seven arches, now built up, the east end alone being used as a parochial place of worship. Except in the eastern part, the windows are also closed with masonry; and the whole body of the fabric wears a chill and neglected air. Beneath the steeple is a crypt, or vaulted chapel; a feature of rare occurrence in the ecclesiastical buildings of this country. The north aisle is 150 feet in length.

The sepulchral monuments at Lusk are numerous, and several possess considerable interest.

In the south aisle, placed before the high altar, is the costly monument of *Sir Christopher Barnewall*, of Turvey, grandfather of Nicholas, first Viscount Kingsland; and his lady, Marian, daughter of Patrick Sherle, or Sharle, of Shalton, in the county of Meath, Esquire.* This monument is composed of different

* Sir Christopher Barnewall died on the 7th of August, 1575; and his lady, then the widow of Sir Lucas Dillon, on the 8th of June, 1607. On the east end of the monument is the following inscription: "This monument is made for the Right Worshipful Sir Christopher Barnewall, of Turvey, Knight, by the Right Worshipful Sir Lucas Dillon, of Moymet, knight, and Deam Marion Sharl, his wife, who married herr three years after the Deathe of the said Sir Christopher, herr first and lovinge Hoosbande, who had issue five sonnes and fifteen daithers by herr." On different parts of the monument are the arms of Dillon (having over the shield the words "wish well to Dillon;") of Dillon impaled with Sherle;

materials, the principal figures being sculptured in grey Italian marble, whilst the lower part of the tomb is entirely of the marble of Kilkenny. Sir Christopher is represented in a rich suit of armour, his head bare, and his hands joined over his breast in a devotional posture. The feet rest on the body of a greyhound. His lady lies by his side, dressed in a round cap and high ruff. Her gown, thickly plaited round the waist, is puffed on the shoulders, and richly embroidered. Her petticoat is of cloth of gold; and from her girdle hangs a chain, of superior workmanship, to which is appendant a scapular, two inches square. At the feet (which can scarcely be distinguished) is placed a lap-dog. Her hands, like those of her husband, are crossed devotionally on her bosom, and the head of each reposes on an embroidered pillow.

In the north aisle is a tomb of black marble, bearing the effigies of a knight, or gentleman, in armour, the vizor unclosed, and his sword across the left thigh. The hands are joined on the breast, in the attitude of prayer, and the feet rest upon a dog. On the exergue of the slab is the inscription copied beneath.*

An antient monument, restored to the light in 1753, and now to be seen in this church, has attracted considerable notice, on account of the supposed extreme remoteness of its date. This monument is composed of coarse grit-stone, and is of the ordinary dimensions. A crucifix, with the representation of Christ in *relievo*, engrosses the centre of the slab; and in the chief quarters (appearing to be an after-operation) are introduced the following subjects. In the first quarter is the representation of a prince, ducally crowned with the modern Anglo-Norman, or English,

Barnewall; Sherle, &c. The names of the children are engraved on the north side; and it may be observed that of this numerous family fifteen lived to maturity; eleven daughters, who married into some of the noblest houses in the kingdom, and four sons.

* “ For James Bermingham, of Ballogh, Esq. and his wife, Eleanora Fitzwilliam, who died A. D. M. DCXXXVII. VÆ MIHI PECCATORI.” The deceased was a justice of the peace and quorum for this county, and was a person of considerable note in his day. His lady was daughter to Nicholas Fitzwilliam, of Holmpatrick and Baldongan Castle, Esq.

coronet. The figure wears a long beard, and is habited in a loose garment. The right hand and fingers are uplifted, as if the person represented were swearing a solemn oath; the left hand, holding the globe and cross, the insignia of royalty, reposes on the breast. In the second chief quarter is the figure of a bird, of the vague form frequently seen in hieroglyphics. The whole is indifferently executed, and chiefly depends for interest on the following inscription, which is in raised Roman letters, and, although partially mutilated, is otherwise in tolerable preservation:—IC JACET WALTERUS DERMOT. ET UXOR EU. MONICA QŪO AMBUS PROPTUR CRIS. AMEN JESUS. ANNO DOMII CCCCCXXXV.*

A monument of Kilkenny marble, encompassed with an iron railing, bears an inscription to *Sir Robert Echlin*, of Russ, in the county of Dublin, Bart. born 1699, died 1757.†

There are several other monuments deserving of attention in a more extensive work; but we regret to have occasion for

* The very early date of this monument is noticed, without comment, by Mr. Archdall (*Mon. Hib.*) and in the *Antiquities of Ireland* published under the name of Grose. But the whole character of the monument forbids us to believe that it is really the work of the sixth century. The style of the inscription is evidently less antient; and in the term *Walter*, and in the English coronet, we view a name and an ornament which bear reference to a period subsequent to the settlement of the Anglo-Normans in Ireland. Perhaps the reader will have little hesitation in thinking it probable that the letter M, like the initial of the word HIC, has been effaced, and that the date may, without any great danger of error, be read 1535. Relying on the more antient reading, we believe that this monument is claimed by the family of Mac Dermot-roe, descended from the family of Dermot Mac Morough, progenitor of the last Dermot, King of Leinster. (MSS. of the Chevalier de Montmorency.)

† The following lines, appended to the ordinary intelligence afforded by the epitaph of Sir Robert Echlin, merit transcription:

“ Here lies an honest man, without pretence;
Blessed with plain reason, and with common sense;
Calmly he looked on either life, and here
Saw nothing to regret—or there to fear.
From Nature’s temp’rate feast rose satisfy’d,
Thank’d Heav’n that he had liv’d, and that he died.”

observing that many of the funeral-stones are in so neglected a condition, that the inscriptions cannot be deciphered without much difficulty. In this church is preserved a vestige of antiquity, thought to be part of an idol appertaining to the Danes, who long bore sway in Fingall. The material resembles stone, but is as weighty as the most ponderous mineral. The carving represents the human features, in a modification fancifully hideous. The face is about seven inches broad, and the head, without neck or body, is attached to a pair of kneeling thighs and legs.

RUSH, a small seaport-town, distant from Lusk about two miles and one quarter, is noted for the large quantities of ling caught and cured by its inhabitants. The harbour is difficult of access, and consequently adapted to the reception of no other than small vessels.* The fee of the manor was vested in the house of Ormonde, from the time of Edward I. until the year 1641. Subsequent to that date the family of Echlin obtained a title in this manor. The late Sir Robert Echlin, Bart. who died in 1757, and lies buried in Lusk church, disposed of the manorial property to Roger Palmer, of Palmerston, in the county of Mayo, Esq. Mrs. Budworth Palmer, the sister of Mr. Palmer, is the present possessor of this fine estate, and resides in England; but her agent occupies *Rush House*, which is a handsome mansion, situated within one mile of the town, and contains some valuable paintings.

* It may be mentioned, as a subject of curious rather than of important, or creditable, biography, that in this small seaport-town was born *Luke Ryan*, much celebrated in the American War, as commander of the *Black Prince*, privateer, under a commission of the French government. This bold adventurer, whose actions attracted at the time much conversation, was tried as a pirate at the Old Bailey, condemned, and four different times ordered for execution, but reprieved. On the conclusion of peace he obtained his liberty, through the mediation of the Court of Versailles, and expected to enjoy the fruits of his exploits, a fortune of £70,000, which he had lodged in a mercantile house at Roscoff, in Brittany. But his wary bankers, taking advantage, as is said, of his legal incapacity, arising from the circumstance of condemnation, applied that large sum to their own use. The wild career of this daring seaman terminated in the King's Bench prison, where he died in 1789, being detained for a debt of £200.

In the immediate vicinity of Rush is the ruined *Church of St. Mechlin*, in which is a large tomb, adorned with the coat-armour of the deceased, and bearing an inscription to the memory of *George, fourth baron of Strabane*, who died on the 14th of April, 1668.

At the distance of about two miles from Rush are the stately ruins of **BALDONGAN CASTLE**, seated on a bold eminence, commanding views over a large tract of country, and a vast expanse of ocean. This building was probably founded by the Barnewall family, late in the thirteenth century, from whom it passed, by marriage, to the family of De Bermingham. From the De Berminghams it afterwards went to the house of St. Laurence, on the marriage of Anne, daughter to — Bermingham, of Baldongan, Esq. with Christopher, seventeenth baron of Howth; by whose descendant, the present Earl of Howth, the Bermingham property is still enjoyed.

Nicholas Fitzwilliam, second son of Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam, of Meryon, resided at Baldongan before the year 1635, and Colonel Thomas Fitzwilliam, son of Nicholas, defended Baldongan Castle for the parliamentary party against Charles I. This strong hold was ultimately surrendered to the royalists, who dismantled the fortress, and destroyed the greater part of the buildings with gunpowder.*

The castle of Baldongan was a capacious structure, and the ruins still cover a large extent of ground. At the west end are two square towers, designed to protect and dignify the principal entrance. At each angle of the eastern end was also placed a tower; that towards the south being of inferior proportions. This latter tower is probably of a date less antient than other parts of the castle, and contains the stairs which now lead to the battlements.

* It is stated by Mr. Archdall, and copied after that author by the editor of Grose's *Antiquities*, and other writers, that "Oliver Cromwell battered the castle of Baldongan from his ships." It would, however, appear, from an examination of the distance between the castle and the nearest point at which a vessel could approach the shore, so as to bring her guns to bear on the fortress, that such an attack was scarcely practicable with any hope of success.

It is observed by Mr. Archdall that, “ according to tradition, this castle has been, at different times, a friary and a nunnery.” Such a tradition was unworthy of serious record, or should not have been presented without comment. A pile so severe, and defensible at every point, must, evidently, have formed, from the date of its foundation, a baronial residence. But it is well known that a monastic establishment was the frequent appendage of the antient baron’s castle; and it would appear that vestiges of such an institution are still to be discovered in the contiguity of this building. At a very short distance are the remains of a church, extending to the length of more than eighty feet. The steeple is a curious structure, and was apparently designed to answer the purpose of defence as well as that of religious appropriation. This building is a tower of ten angles, and is of such excellent workmanship and materials, that it has little to apprehend from the hand of time, if left free from the more destructive operations of man. The walls of the church, and of that part of the tower which is near the body of the fabric, have perforations, about four or five inches square; probably intended for openings to musketry, during the civil wars of the seventeenth century. In the vicinity of the church are the ruins of buildings, which may have been used by the religious fraternity noticed in the tradition preserved in the *Monasticon Hibernicum*.

SKERRIES, situated between Rush and Balbriggan, is a fishing-town of no great importance; but in the neighbourhood are several handsome villas, amongst which must be noticed SHEEP-HILL, the seat of Hans Hamilton, Esq. the proprietor of this manor, and for many years representative in successive parliaments for the county of Dublin. At Skerries Sir Henry Sydney, when sent by Queen Elizabeth as lord deputy of Ireland, landed, on the 12th of September, 1575.

On the sea-coast, at a small distance from the town of Skerries, are the ruins of the antient ABBEY OF HOLMPATRICK, originally founded by Sitrick Mac-Murchad, towards the close of the ninth century, on an island about one mile from the shore, upon the south-east. That situation proving inconvenient, the establish-

ment was removed to the site of the existing ruins, at a date between the years 1213 and 1228, by Henry de Londres, Archbishop of Dublin. In the original monastery Gelasius, Archbishop of Armagh, assisted by Malachy O'Morgair, apostolic legate, held a synod, A. D. 1148, at which were present fifteen bishops, two hundred priests, and several others of the clergy. This synod, however, was removed in the same year, and was concluded at Armagh. Peter Manne was the last prior of Holmpatrick; and, in the 20th year of Queen Elizabeth, a grant of the monastery and its appurtenances was made to Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam, of Baginbally, and Thorncastle, otherwise Meryon, Knight, who afterwards resided at this place. In conjunction with Patriek Finglas, of Westphalstown, Esq. chief baron of the Exchequer, his father-in-law, Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam, who appears to have been high in the confidence of Queen Elizabeth's government, represented the county of Dublin in the parliaments of 1559 and 1561, of which county he likewise was sheriff.

BALBRIGGAN, distant from Skerries three miles and one quarter, is a small sea port, chiefly inhabited by fishermen. A cotton manufactory was established here, in the year 1780, by the late Chief Baron Hamilton. The harbour of Balbriggan is the only place of refuge for vessels exposed to severe weather between the bays of Dublin and Carlingford. The pier, which renders the harbour safe for vessels of 200 tons burthen, was completed in 1763, by parliamentary aid. At this place, in the year 1329, occurred the fatal conflict noticed in our account of Malahide, in which Richard Talbot and other distinguished persons fell victims to the rival faction of the Verdons, Gernons, and Savages. King William III. after gaining the victory of the Boyne, encamped at Balbriggan, on the 3rd of July, 1690.

Within half a mile of the above town are the ruins of *Brymore Castle*, the antient seat of a branch of the Barnewall family; and, at the distance of one mile from that decaying structure, is *Lowther Lodge*, the seat of Mr. Lowther.

As we approach "the Naul," the country augments in beauty and variety of character. The CASTLE of the NAUL, or ROCHES,

is boldly seated on a rocky precipice at the brow of a chain of hills, and commands a fine view into the vale of Roches, over which it is elevated upwards of 150 feet. This romantic glen is intersected with rocks, of various size and shape, which contain numerous deep cavities, the constant resort of the fox and hare. A lucid rivulet, termed *the Delvin*, which separates the counties of Dublin and Meath, winds through the valley, and, after forming the *Waterfall of the Roches*, enters the sea at the hamlet of Knockingan.

The castle of the Naul was probably built by the Anglo-Norman family of De Genneville, who obtained from Lord Hugh de Lacy, large grants of land in this and the adjacent counties. From that family it passed, with the neighbouring district, in the fourteenth century, to Sir Robert Cruise,* of Grallagh and Tyrrelstown, who married Elinor, daughter of Simon de Genneville, a powerful baron of the Pale. This castle afterwards constituted, for many ages, the principal seat of his descendants, until forfeited, in 1641 by Christopher Cruise, Esq. The manor is at present the property of — Tennison, of Castle-Tennison, and Anthony-Strong Hussey, of Westown, Esquires.

At a short distance from the Naul is Westown, the seat of Anthony-Strong Hussey, Esq. This respectable mansion appears to have been erected in the early part of the eighteenth century. From the terrace in front of the house is obtained a fine view over the romantic glen of Roches, enriched with the picturesque ruins of Naul Castle. An extensive lawn is spread before the mansion; and the demesne, which contains some antient timber, has been greatly improved by its present owner. Westown was an antient manor of the family of Bellew, who were residing here in the year 1609, but from whom the property passed by marriage, shortly after that date, to the family of Hussey. Richard Hussey, Esq. dying without legitimate issue, bequeathed one moiety of his estates, comprehending this manor, to his cousin, Gerald Strong,

* The family of Cruise is believed to be of Danish origin, and to derive from one primitive stock with the existing family in Denmark of the name of *Kruse*.

of Monfin, in the county of Meath, Esq. in consequence of which bequest Mr. Strong assumed the name of Hussey, and dying in 1811, was succeeded by his son, Anthony-Strong Hussey, Esq. now proprietor of Westown.

CORDEFF, in this neighbourhood, an antient manor of the house of Ormonde, was for some time the seat of Richard Stanyhurst, Esq. well known as the author of several works on the history of Ireland and other subjects, who married Genet, daughter to Sir Christopher Barnewall, of Turvey.

On returning towards the metropolis through the western division of the county, we find several objects which demand examination. The country leading from the Naul by *Rathbeal*, a handsome seat of the Gorges family, to the pleasing glen of *Brazil*, although bare of timber is highly cultivated. The term Brazil is ascribed to the Irish *Breasail*, a royal demesne, or *Breaslann*, a palace; etymologies sufficiently indicative of the dignity of former residents. In later times this place was the seat of the Bolton family, through many successive generations. Of this family was Sir Richard Bolton, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, who, in the troubled year 1640, was impeached by the House of Commons, for assisting in the introduction of arbitrary government. The mansion was destroyed by fire some years back, at which time we believe an unique portrait of the chancellor perished in the flames.

The village of KNOCKSEDAN presents the ruins of a castle, some traces of intrenchments, and a lofty rath, or mote, which commands an extensive prospect over the surrounding country. Villas, chiefly belonging to merchants and citizens of Dublin, increase as we proceed on this track, and enliven the scene as we approach Glassnevin, or Finglas, both which villages are noticed in previous pages, as forming parts of the direct environs of the metropolis.

At CABRAGH is the antient seat of the Sedgrove, or Segrave, family, which house forms the occasional country residence of Lord Norbury, chief justice of the common pleas.

CASTLEKNOCK, a small but pleasant village, four miles from Dublin, imparts its name to a barony in this county. Here, oc-

cupying the summit of a lofty hill, are the picturesque ruins of a castle, once of considerable strength and celebrity. This structure was founded in the reign of Henry II. by Hugh de Tyrrel, styled Baron of Castleknock; whose descendants long resided at this place, in all the rude splendour customary with the ages in which they flourished.* In the latter part of the fourteenth century the title of Baron of Castleknock was obtained by Robert Serjeant; but we have not been able to discover whether he was advanced to this honour by marriage with an heiress of the Tyrrel family, or by creation, or writ of summons. In later times the family of Burnell, of Balgriffin, became possessed of a title in this manor; for we find that, upon the attainder of John Burnell, Esq. in 1568, one moiety of the lands of Castleknock, forming part of that gentleman's estate, was granted to Sir Lucas Dillon, of Moymet, chief justice of the queen's bench, and one of her majesty's distributors of forfeited lands in the province of Munster.

This castle was besieged and taken by Edward Bruce, in February, 1316, at which time the Baron Hugh de Tyrrel and his lady were made prisoners, and were not released until after the payment of a large sum of money. Colonel Monk, afterwards celebrated as the Duke of Albemarle, likewise captured this fortress, in the month of June, 1642. It is recorded by Cox that eighty of the unfortunate adherents of royalty were killed in the attack; and it is still more lamentable to find that many were put to death, on the gibbet, after the reduction of the place. It is stated by the same historian that, in November, 1647, Owen-Roe O'Neill, and Sir Thomas Esmond, Bart. at the head of a loyal force, took this hold from the Republicans; about which time the castle was dismantled, and the buildings have since sunk into a state of utter ruin.

* The family of Tyrrel, or de Tyrel, has been, from an early date, of great respectability in the county of Essex, and in the counties of Dublin, Meath, and Westmeath. This family derives its origin from the house of Tyrel, *sires*, and latterly *princes*, of Poix, in Picardy, whose title and estate have passed by marriage into the ducal house of de Noailles. (MSS. of the Chevalier de Montmorency.)

An abbey for regular canons, following the rule of St. Augustin, was founded at Castleknock by Richard Tyrrel, probably in the latter part of the thirteenth, or the early years of the fourteenth century. That religious house afterwards gave place to the parochial church, which was rebuilt in 1609, and again in recent years.

PALMERSTOWN, distant from Dublin rather less than four miles, is an irregular and humble village, chiefly entitled to notice on account of a neighbouring mansion, and from the circumstance of affording the title of viscount to Henry-John Temple, Lord Palmerston, who possesses a considerable estate in this neighbourhood. *Palmerston House* is a spacious mansion, on elevated ground, and commands extensive views over a most luxuriant spread of country. The house was erected by the late Right Hon. John Hely-Hutchinson, secretary of state for Ireland, and provost of Trinity College, Dublin; and is at present the seat of the Earl of Donoughmore, son of that gentleman.

LUCAN, a busy and pleasing village, distant six miles and a half from Dublin, is situated near the southern border of the Liffey, (over which river is a handsome bridge, of recent erection) and on the high road to Leixlip, Maynooth, and Molingar. This place has obtained considerable celebrity on account of a medicinal spring, discovered in 1758, the waters of which are found of considerable benefit in cutaneous and some other diseases.* In the

* A dissertation on the "Sulphureous Springs at Lucan" is presented in the second vol. of Dr. Rutty's Nat. Hist. of the county of Dublin; but it is believed that the most correct analysis of this water is contained in the eighth vol. of the Transacts. of the R. I. Academy, of which the following is a copy:

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Two gallons contain | Carbon of Magnesia - | 1½ grain. |
| | — of Lime - - - | 23 grains. |
| | — of Soda - - - | 39 ditto. |
| | Muriate of Soda - - - | 4 ditto. |
| | Sulphur - - - - - | 16 ditto. |
| | Bitumen - - - - - | 0 |

seasons prescribed for using this sanative water, Lucan is the resort of much fashionable company; for whose accommodation an hotel and suitable lodging-houses are provided. In addition to the assemblies and other amusements customary at such times, must be noticed the attraction of rides, and promenades, almost unequalled for beauty in the neighbourhood of the metropolis.*

The earliest possessor of this district, concerning whom we have obtained information, was Waryn de Peche, Lord of Lucan in the year 1220, at which time he founded the monastery of St. Catherine's, near Leixlip. The manor was, also, for some time the estate of the Earl of Kildare; and, in the reign of Richard II. was possessed by the Rokeby family.† In the sixteenth century the family of Sarsfield was seated on this manor. Sir William Sarsfield, of Lucan, descended of a good English family, was knighted by Sir Henry Sydney, in 1566, for his services against Shane O'Neill, Dynast of Tyrone; and the descendant of this Sir William, the celebrated Irish general, Patrick Sarsfield, was created Earl of Lucan by James II. after his abdication. Sarsfield, undoubtedly, deserves the reputation of having been the best general officer in the service of the unfortunate James. The consummate

* The meandering course of the Liffey produces an infinite variety of lovely scenery in this neighbourhood, the shores of that river being marked by a captivating alternation of hanging-wood, acclivitous rock, and gentle slope. Between Chapel-Izod and Lucan the banks are cultivated to the summit, and planted with strawberries of an excellent quality. The Chevalier de Montmorency (to whose MS. communications every page in this part of our work is much indebted) observes, that "the ride from Chapel-Izod to Lucan reminds the traveller of the scenery in the vicinity of Heidelberg, in the Palatinate of the Rhine, except that, instead of a steep or sloping chain of hills, overhanging the lovely Necker, covered with vines and fruit trees, the swelling land is here clothed in a richly-spangled dress of strawberries, peas, and flowers, ranging in variegated forms with the winding course of the gentle Liffey. The woodland scenery of Luttrells-town, and of the demesne attached to Lucan House, assist in rendering this one of the most pleasing and luxuriant landscapes in nature." MS. remarks on the county of Dublin, by the Chevalier de Montmorency.

† M.S. note of Sir W. Betham.

address with which he forced King William to raise the siege of Limerick, in the year 1690, will be duly noticed in our account of that city, and merits a conspicuous place in military annals. This brave officer, following into France the calamitous fortunes of his royal master, was slain at the battle of Landen, in Brabant, on the 29th of July, 1693, fighting under the Marshal Duc de Montmorency-Luxembourg.* William Sarsfield, of Lucan, Esq. elder brother of Patrick, created Earl of Lucan, left an only daughter by Mary his wife, daughter to James II. which lady became sole heir to the Lucan estate, and married Agmondisham Vesey, Esq. from whom is descended the present Mr. Vesey, of Lucan. Anne, daughter of the same marriage, became wife of Sir J. Bingham, Bart. grandfather of Richard, the present *Earl of Lucan*.

Lucan House, the seat of George Vesey, Esq. is a handsome structure, erected in the latter part of the eighteenth century, after the destruction of the antient family mansion by fire. This agreeable residence is situated on the banks of the Liffey, which are here of a varied and picturesque character. The demesne stretches along the borders of the river, in proportions too narrow for the attainment of exalted beauties in arrangement; but the exercise of a correct taste has succeeded in producing many charms, to counterbalance this defect. As an example of the cultivated border-scenery of a river, this demesne, enriched by antient wood, in some parts hanging over the silent waters, and in others receding to exhibit the course of the Liffey through a rocky channel, can scarcely fail of eliciting the admiration of every examiner.†

EDMONDSBURY, the residence of Thomas Needham, Esq. is a commodious and well-built mansion, placed to great advantage on the south side of the Liffey, with an extensive lawn in front,

* General Sarsfield, created Earl of Lucan by James II. had a son, who died unmarried in Flanders, and a daughter, who married, as is reported, the well-known Baron Theodore de Neubourg, King of Corsica. The Countess of Lucan (daughter to the Earl of Clanrickard) re-married, in 1695, with James Fitzjames, Duke of Berwick, eldest natural son of James II. by Arabella, sister to John, Duke of Marlborough.

† A view of this seat, and a copious description of its beauties, are inserted in the *Universal Magazine* for December, 1790.

which reaches to the margin of the river. The grounds and gardens are preserved in excellent order, and possess fine prospects over a highly-cultivated country. This demesne was arranged under the direction of the late Edmond-Sexton Pery, speaker of the house of commons, afterwards created Viscount Pery, and was for many years the favourite retreat of that distinguished ornament of the "Western Forum."

WOODLANDS, the seat of Luke White, Esq. was, for many ages, known by the name of *Luttrell's-town*. This estate was granted to Sir Geoffrey Luttrell, by King John, and remained the property of his descendants until a recent date, at which time it was sold to Mr. White by the Earl of Carhampton. The principal parts of the mansion were rebuilt about thirty years back; but some portions of the ancient castellated pile are still remaining, among which is an apartment fancifully termed King John's chamber. Many augmentations, and improvements, of the buildings have been effected by the present proprietor.

The demesne abounds in felicities of natural circumstances, well improved by the hand of art. The surface, throughout the extensive grounds, undulates in bold and beautiful variety. The swells of land are clothed with venerable timber, or thriving plantations; and water, artfully expanded, or flowing with natural vehemence through the narrow and rocky channel of a glen, enlivens the landscape on the level and in the vales. Whilst the home-scenery is thus diversified, the views over the distance are particularly rich, and have a fine termination in the mountains bordering upon the county of Wicklow.

ESKER, in the vicinity of Lucan, is one of the four manors in this county antiently annexed to the crown, and governed by a royal seneschal; the three other manors being Cromlin, Newcastle, and Saggard. Near this place are the ruined castles of Balyfin and Rowlagh. The *Glebe House* is the residence of the Rev. Edward Berwick, whose name is rendered familiar to the literary world by several productions, which reflect equal credit upon his talents and liberality of sentiment.

NEWLANDS, situated to the south of Clondalkin, is a handsome

modern seat, which has been successively in the occupation of several distinguished persons, amongst whom must be noticed the lamented Arthur Wolfe, Viscount Kilwarden, chief justice of the king's bench. The death of this nobleman, caused by an insurgent mob, in the year 1803, is fresh in the remembrance and in the regret of the public. His lordship was succeeded in the possession of this residence by the late Right Hon. George Ponsonby, lord chancellor of Ireland.

In the immediate vicinity of Newlands is BELGARD CASTLE, formerly the seat of Mr. Dillon, but now of Mr. Cruise. This castle is placed on the side of a hill which commands a rich view over a great extent of country, and originally belonged to a branch of the family of Talbot of Malahide, who resided here in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

TALLAGH, or TALLAGHT; also *Tamlact*, or *Taimlacht*; is a considerable village, distant from Dublin five miles. This place, according to fabulous historians, is the Taimlacht-muintir-Partholan, mentioned in Irish annals; so called from "the Phœnician, or Grecian, colony, which Partholanus led into Ireland, in the year of the world 1956, where this colony subsisted 300 years." It was then swept away by the plague, and the bodies were buried, all together, in one grave or tomb in this neighbourhood; whence (add these fanciful writers) the village obtains the appellation of the Taimlacht, or tomb of the race of Partholanus! (*vide Ogygia*.)

In the early ages of christianity an abbey was founded here by St. Moelruan, who died on the 7th of July, but in what year is not recorded. In the year 824, St. Ængus was abbot. The last person connected with the Abbey of Tallagh, whose name has descended to posterity, is the Professor Moelsnthumius, who died A. D. 1125; after which period history is silent respecting this religious foundation.

At this place is the palace, or country seat, of the archbishops of Dublin, which has been renovated by different prelates, and appears to have been formerly an edifice of considerable strength. We are told by Ware, that Archbishop Alexander de Bicknor, who died in 1349, "built the episcopal palace at Taulaght;" but

it is not made evident, by any authority, that a palatial residence was then first erected on this spot. The present structure is a spacious, but long and narrow, building, composed of the grey stone of the country, and is destitute of pretensions to architectural beauty.

The interior contains many apartments of ample proportions, but none that are highly embellished. The Hall, into which the visiter is conducted by a flight of stone steps, measures twenty-one feet square, and is lighted by two tiers of windows. The dining-room is twenty-five feet in length, by twenty-one in width, and is ornamented with the archiepiscopal arms, impaled with a shield, quarterly, charged in the first quarter with a pigeon. The date is 1729, and, above, is the crest, a hawk perched on a round ball. Underneath the coat of arms is the following inscription: "*Johannes Hoadly, hanc Domum refecit.*" The great drawing-room, or salon, measures thirty-three feet by twenty-one, and contains the only portrait in the palace,—a full-length of Archbishop Hoadly, who was translated to the see of Dublin in January, 1729. The library is a small apartment, having a window of large dimensions, from which, as from all the windows of the reception-rooms, very fine views are obtained of Montpelier-hill, and the adjacent tract of captivating scenery.

The Gardens are disposed with unpleasing formality; but the antiquary will derive some gratification from finding here the remains of a tower, which constituted an integral part of the former palace. Archbishop Fowler, translated to Dublin in 1778, surrounded the demesne with a wall, and bestowed other improvements; but the situation of Tallagh is unfavourable to the residence of the prelates, and the palace has, in late years, been forsaken by its dignified owners. In early periods this place was continually exposed to the hostile visits of the native clans,* and the

* As an instance of the fidelity of this remark, it may be noticed that, in the year 1331, O'Toole, dynast of Imayle, at the head of a numerous train of armed followers, plundered the palace, carried away a prey of 300 sheep, slew many of the bishop's servants, and defeated, in a pitched battle, Sir Philip Britt, and a "body of Dublinians," who were sent against him.

Strongbonian feudal chiefs. In recent times it has been rendered almost equally undesirable by the depredations of outlaws and robbers, who have peculiarly infested this neighbourhood.

The *Parish Church*, a venerable pile, is supposed to occupy the site of the antient abbey. The tower is square, and of a height unusual with the country churches of Ireland, having a curious embattlement, and niches for three bells. The interior facing of the walls was formerly ornamented with armorial bearings, belonging to the archbishops and to the families of respected parishioners and benefactors. But, with equal want of reverence and taste, a coat of white-wash has been suffered to obliterate, or much injure, these memorials of departed greatness and worth. There are several sepulchral monuments, but such as do not demand particular notice in a work of a general character. As an occurrence of some antiquarian interest connected with this church, it must be recorded, that, on removing the wainscot of a pew, a few years since, there was discovered a cavity in the wall, containing a chalice of glass, and human skulls.

At a small distance from the village rises a lofty eminence, called Tallagh Hill; reckoned, according to Seward, "three miles over," and much celebrated for its noble prospects, which comprehend the city of Dublin, its harbour enlivened with shipping, and the picturesque hill of Howth, boldly projecting into the open sea.

The village of *Greenhills*, between Tallagh and Dublin, claims notice for one of the circular mounts, denominated Rathes, so frequent in this country. Here, also, is a strong guard-house, forming an example of several which were erected in this neighbourhood, at a remote period, as military posts, to control the movements of the predatory tribes of Wicklow.

TIMON CASTLE, in the parish of Tallagh, stands on rising ground, and forms a conspicuous object for many miles round. This is a square tower, of a severe character, but quite destitute of outworks. The windows are few and small, although the surrounding scenery is peculiarly extensive and grand. This structure, indeed, was tenanted in no other than the iron ages in

which security was the only object of the builder. It is stated by Mr. Moncke Mason, in his work entitled *Hibernia Antiqua*, that the lordship, or manor, of "Timothan," was granted by King John to Henry de Loundres, in recompense for losses of the church, and for the expense that prelate had incurred in fortifying the castle of Dublin. In 1247, Timothan was constituted a prebend of St. Patrick's Cathedral, which prebend still exists, although divested of its endowment, or corps, by accidents and lapse of time. From the same work we learn that, according to an inquisition taken in the reign of Henry VIII. Timon castle was then in a ruinous condition.

LOUGHLINSTOWN, or LEIGHLINSTOWN, distant from Dublin about seven miles, on the high road to Bray, is a rural and agreeable village, ornamented with several handsome villas. The principal seat is the property of the family of Donville, and was long the residence of Judge Day. The glebe-house (locally termed the vicarage) was, for several years, the favourite retirement of Dr. Thomas Leland, author of the *History of Ireland*, who was rector of Bray; and it may not be superfluous to observe that the shrubbery, which still decorates this pleasing dwelling, was planted by the hand of that historian.

Near Loughlinstown is CABINTEELY, the seat of the Byrne family, descended from the O'Byrnes, dynasts of Wicklow. This mansion and demesne are now the property and residence of Miss Byrne, daughter of the late Robert Byrne, Esq. The house, although designed on a noble scale, as regards amplitude of proportions, has no pretensions to architectural beauty. The demesne is adorned with thriving plantations, and abounds in natural charms. At the distance of about one quarter of a mile from the above seat, in a valley, now enclosed in grounds attached to the residence of Mr. Barrington, is a *Cromlech*, of large dimensions, the ponderous covering-stone of which is placed, as usual, in a slanting position.

KILLYNY, or KILLENY, a small village, situated on the coast, at the distance of eight miles from Dublin, is rendered attractive by its picturesque bay. Near this village are some traces of a

curious relic of antiquity, for the following information concerning which we are indebted to a judicious work, entitled the “*Dublin Examiner*,” published in 1816. In that work is an etching of a rude stone, of mountain granite, deeply inscribed with a circle and a segment of a circle, supposed by the author “to represent the sun and moon,” deities of the pagan Irish. This stone, together with another of nearly the same size, quite plain, “and a stone seat, or chair, constitute the remains of an antient temple near the village of Killyny. This temple, not very many years since, contained two other chairs, similar to the one remaining, one of which we have seen in an adjoining field, and was encompassed by a circle of stones, eighteen or twenty in number. These stones have either been removed, or are covered with an embankment which appears to have been thrown up round it. The area within the circle has been converted into a kitchen-garden; and, when first turned up, some ornaments, celts, and spear-heads, were, as we understand, discovered. About twenty-five or thirty years ago a number of rude slate “coffins, containing skeletons, were found between the temple and the shore; and, about ten years since, five large urns of baked clay, containing calcined bones, were dug up in the village of Killyny.”

That circles of stone were used, by the antient inhabitants of the British islands, for civil purposes,—for assemblies of council, judicature and election,—is uniformly believed, on grounds which are stated, at some length, by the present writer, in the “*Introduction to the Beauties of England and Wales*.” But, in the countries last-named, we meet with no peculiar vestiges to denote the civil appropriation of such rude structures. In the instance now under consideration it will be obvious that the “chairs,” termed by tradition the seats of the Brehons, or judges, of Ireland, under the legislation of its antient septs, may have been introduced, in later times, into the circus habitually venerated.* But

* Upright stones were regarded with hereditary respect, and were connected with the solemnities of public assemblies, among the native Irish, until the final rejection of the Brehon laws in the reign of James I. Spenser, writing in the latter years of the sixteenth century, observes that

we should rather be inclined to consider the whole erection as contemporaneous, and to view the existence of these rude stone-seats as an early peculiarity of the country.—The conjectural solution of the circular indentations on the single stone noticed by our author, is bold, but scarcely fanciful. That the deity, in his attributes of power and benignity, was worshipped by the pagan inhabitants of these islands through the medium of the sun and moon, the grandest of his works, is not only probable, but is acknowledged on early testimony; and that circles composed of upright stones formed, at the same time, places of religious and civil ceremony, will hardly be doubted, after a due consideration of the simplicity of antient manners.

SHANGANAGH, distant about nine miles from Dublin, towards the south-eastern extremity of this county, was the property of the family of Walsh, of old Connaught, from the reign of Edward I. until the early part of the eighteenth century; and here are still to be seen the remains of the castle which constituted the dwelling of those proprietors of the estate. This place is now embellished with a fine modern seat, the property and country residence of Lieutenant-General Cockburne. The exterior of the building was designed by Mr. Morrison, in the castellated style, and is a pleasing example of this fashionable mode of architectural arrangement. The house was formerly of limited dimensions, but has been recently enlarged to its present ample proportions under the direction of General Cockburne, at which time the aspect of a baronial mansion of the middle ages was first bestowed on the external part of the structure.

With his accustomed taste and skill, the architect has con-

“They” (the Irish) “use to place him that shall be their captaine, upon a stone alwayes reserved for that purpose, and placed commonly upon a hill: In some of which I have seen formed and ingraven a foot, which they say was the measure of their first captaine’s foot, whereon hee standing, receives an oath to preserve all the auncient former customes of the countrey inviolable, and to deliver up the succession peaceably to his Tanist, and then hath a wand delivered unto him by some whose proper office that is: after which, descending from the stone, he turneth himselfe round, thrice forward, and thrice backward.” View, &c. p. 11.

finer to the outward portion of the building all allusions to the gorgeous but rude manners of times long past. The interior, both as regards disposal and decoration, is well adapted to the habits of refined life,—to the customs of society intent on intellectual pleasure as well as hospitable entertainment. The classical acquirements and correct taste of General Cockburne have been displayed to the literary world in several estimable productions; and he has at this place a large and valuable library. In different apartments are some fine pieces of sculpture, and casts after the antique. The principal rooms are also ornamented with numerous paintings, amongst which the following appear to be most deserving of notice :

Three very fine Landscapes, by *Wilson*. A Descent from the Cross, copied by *Pompeio Battoni* from the celebrated picture by *Daniel de Volterra*. An old Man and Children, by *Francis Hals*. Beggar Boy, by *Murillo*. Sacrament, by *Murillo*. An old Man tempting a Girl with a Purse; a highly-finished picture, by *Mieris*. Two Dutch Schools, by *A. Ostade*. Cattle, by *Rosa de Tivoli*. The Fool of Antwerp, finely executed, by *Jordans*. A Shoemaker, by *Breclincamp*. A Sea-piece, by *Monamy*. Two pictures, the subjects Ruins, by *Panini*. View of Venice, by *Canaletti*. Holy Family, by *Correggio*. Four Portraits, by *Janssens*. The Adoration, by *Bassano*. A fine Landscape, by *Gabrielli*. Roman Charity, by *Parmigiano*.

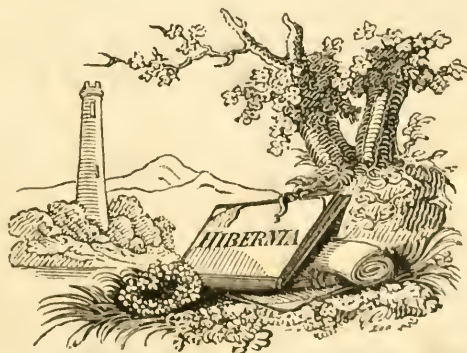
This mansion is further enriched by several antique bronzes; tables of Mosaic and of Egyptian granite; and numerous volcanic specimens from Mounts Vesuvius and *Ætna*, with other collections illustrative of Natural History.

CONNOGH, usually termed OLD CONNAUGHT, a small and pleasant village, distant about one mile from the town of Bray, contains several cottages of a neat and eligible character, and is ornamented with the handsome residence of Richard Morrison, Esq. whose talents as an architect are noticed in many of our pages.—Connaught, in the early part of the thirteenth century, was the estate of the De Marisco family, and was granted, in the year 1248, by Sir Geoffrey de Marisco, to the priory of Christchurch,

Dublin. At this place was formerly a seat of the Walsh, or Wallis, family, whose large possessions in this quarter (including Shanganagh and Carrickmaine) were acquired by intermarriage with the de Cogans, about the commencement of the fourteenth century.

Near the centre of the village is a flourishing plantation of chesnut-trees; and here, on a Sunday evening, when the place was visited by the present writer, in the autumn of 1819, the villagers and neighbouring peasants were engaged in a cheerful dance; the whole were neatly attired, and the rustic festival was conducted without excess of any kind, except that of the jocund spirit proceeding warm from the heart, which mantled on every countenance.

At the distance of about half a mile from the village, on a high bank by the side of a road, is a cross of considerable antiquity, formed of granite. The shaft is surmounted by a circle, on which the crucifixion is represented in rude sculpture. Buried in the deep seclusion of several neighbouring glens, as if intentionally placed in obscure situations, are to be seen the remains of small churches, roofless and overgrown with the moss and ivy of numerous ages. These buildings (abandoned to decay at periods unknown to any attainable record) are usually constructed of unhewn stone, and exhibit no traces of any peculiarity in architectural style.



END OF THE COUNTY OF DUBLIN.

COUNTY OF WICKLOW.

THIS county is situated to the south of Dublin, and is bounded towards the east by St. George's Channel. The county of Wexford meets its southern border; and on the west it unites with Carlow and Kildare, together with an insulated part of the county of Dublin. Its dimensions and contents may be thus stated, on the authority of the agricultural survey made by Mr. Fraser. Extent, from north to south, 32 Irish, or $40\frac{1}{2}$ English miles; and from east to west, 26 Irish, or 33 English miles. The county contains, in Irish acres, 305,404; in English measurement 494,704 acres, and is divided into the following six baronies: Arklow; Newcastle; *Half* Rathdown; Ballinacor; Talbotstown; and Shillelagh. According to Dr. Beaufort, there are in this district 58 parishes and 20 churches. "Of these, 49 parishes and 17 churches are in the archbishoprick of Dublin; 6 parishes and 3 churches in the diocess of Leighlin; and 3 parishes and 1 church in that of Ferns."

The returns made under the act of 1812, for taking an account of the population of Ireland, are known to be inaccurate as regards the baronies of Talbotstown and Shillelagh; and no returns were procured from the barony of Newcastle. The statement, as to the number of inhabited houses and the gross population of the respective baronies, with the exception of Newcastle, was as follows:

| | Number of Houses. | Gross Population. |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Arklow | 2,867 | 18,248 |
| Ballinacor | 3,039 | 81,419 |
| Newcastle | — | — |
| Rathdown | 1,165 | 7,287 |
| Shillelagh | 1,971 | 12,122 |
| Talbotstown (low.) | 1,889 | 11,250 |
| Talbotstown (up.) | 2,534 | 15,783 |
| | 13,645 | 83,109 |

According to the returns made in the year 1821, the number of houses was 18,419; and the number of inhabitants, 115,162. Thus, according to those returns, the increase of inhabitants between the years 1813 and 1821, would appear to have amounted to 32,053.

Much the greater part of Wicklow is of a mountainous character. "An oblong," observes Mr. Fraser, "may be measured from Kippure, the highest mountain in the north, to Lugnaquilla, the highest in the south, being in length fourteen miles. From Blackmoor Hill, on the north-west, to mountain Donce, on the north-east, and from Black Mountain, on the south-west, to Trooperstown Hill, on the south-east, a medium breadth may be taken of ten miles."

Towards the interior this alpine region is boggy, uncultivated, and rendered additionally cheerless by the want of wood; but throughout a long extent of its borders, and particularly on the sea-coast, it assumes a splendour and variety of scenery not to be surpassed in any part of the island.* The mountains and rocky elevations are here magnificently bold, and the country is plentifully clothed with ornamental wood. The numerous streams which issue from the lofty wilds of the interior, flow through glens, extensive, devious, and rich in all circumstances which enchant the eye and elevate the fancy. From each grand ravine diverge vales so exquisitely soft, so unspeakably lovely, that they would seem to have been formed as the earthly paradise of the poet and the painter. The scenery in the eastern parts of Wicklow, indeed, presents one of those few subjects on which the pen may freely expatiate, without danger of creating too vivid an expectation in the reader's mind; and which, after the most glowing description, must be visited to be duly admired.†

* It will be recollected that Dean Swift compared Wicklow, on account of its rugged aspect in the central divisions, and the exuberant richness of its borders, to a frieze cloak trimmed with golden lace.

† This beautiful district is much frequented, in the summer and autumn, by parties from Dublin, and is particularly recommended to the notice of the English traveller, desirous of acquiring a knowledge of the peculiar characteristics of Irish scenery, without the labour of extensive journeys from the metropolis. A curiosity concerning the unusual charms dispersed

The central parts of this district, comprising nearly 140 square miles, consist chiefly of one mass of granite, having, on the surface, heath, or bog-turf, under which is found a coarse gravel. Towards the north-east is a ridge of mountains, composed of hornstone intermixed with quartz. No lime-rock is found in any part of the country.* Amongst the metallic substances discovered in this mountainous tract, must be noticed lead and copper. It is a subject of much notoriety that gold has also been found, in sufficient quantities to stimulate to ardent enterprize, although not to gratify expectation. The works connected with seductive researches after this royal metal, are noticed in our account of the parish of Arklow.

The following statement of the altitudes of several mountains in this county is derived from two valuable papers in the Transactions of the Geological Society, by Dr. Tritton and Mr. Weaver. Lugnaquilla, which is supposed to be the highest, is situated to the south-westward of the centre of the mountainous district; its

over a country still too little known, has lately caused a considerable increase in the number of visiters to this delightful tract; and inns, sufficient for the comfort even of luxurious travellers, are constructed at several eligible points of the customary route.

* A curious circumstance, relating to the geology of this county, is thus noticed by Mr. Fraser. "Adjacent to the chasm called the Scalp, on the eastern border of the county, and in the whole of the intervening valley, a phenomenon presents itself, when first observed exciting considerable attention, when afterwards investigated being equally difficult to be explained. Nor is it confined to this spot, but is found in very large districts both on the east and west sides of the mountains. This phenomenon arises from an infinity of rounded and blunted limestones, found in the strata of the earth, bedded generally in loose marle, and in gravel, of which the chief part is small limestone of various granular dimensions; sometimes the marle is found more compact and indurated. These blunted and rounded pebbles of limestone have every appearance of being so formed by attrition, after having been broken off from some mass of limestone; and as they are found at very considerable heights up the mountains, it might be supposed that they have been broken off from some mountains of limestone in the internal part of the district. Yet certain it is, there is no lime rock whatever to be found in the whole of the county of Wicklow, nor any vestige of such rock in the internal part of the mountains." Fraser's Survey of Wicklow, p. 9, 10.

summit is elevated 2455 feet above the house of Mr. Greene, at Kilranelagh, which is itself almost 590 feet above the marine level, making the total height of the mountain 3045 feet.* Cadeen, a hill detached from the body of the mountains, and forming a striking object from the adjacent flat country, is 1559 feet above the same place. Baltinglass-hill 682; Eadestown 749; Brisselstown 740; and Kilranelagh-hill 705.

Although numerous rivers and streams take their rise amongst the mountains of Wicklow, not any are navigable in their progress through this county; but the *Liffey* and the *Slaney*, the principal of these rivers, attain considerable importance in other districts.

The *Liffey* has its origin either in a stream proceeding from Kippure, or in a rival stream issuing from Sally-gap, both of which unite within a mile of the latter place. The *Slaney* rises amidst the mountains on the west, and, after pouring its waters through the vale of Imale, proceeds by Stratford, and Baltinglass, to the county of Carlow. The *Ovoca* takes its rise among the mountains in the central part of the county, whence proceed two streams, under the names of *Avonmore* and *Avonbeg* (the great and little Avon), receiving many tributary waters in their course, and uniting, three miles to the south of Rathdrum. After that junction, the river assumes the name of *Ovoca*, and flows in a winding course through a valley celebrated for romantic charms, equally by poetical and prosaic writers, under the appellation of the *Vale of Ovoca*. Here it receives the tribute of the Derry, a stream which rises in the neighbourhood of Shillelagh, and finally enters the sea at a short distance from the town of Arklow. The minor rivers of this county, although not demanding particular notice, add greatly to its beauty, in various directions.

Wicklow, as we learn from Spencer, was incumbered with a redundance of *wood*, so lately as the reign of Elizabeth. The pride of Shillelagh is no more: a few straggling trees are all that remain of a region, whence the architect of Westminster Hall is said to have procured the timber for constructing the

* We have the opportunity of observing that Lugnaquilla has been since measured by Mr. Griffith; and, in the opinion of that gentleman, the height is not less than 3072 feet.

singularly wide roof of that noble fabric. But numerous glens still abound in oak, which greatly ornament the country, although rarely allowed to attain a venerable or magnificent growth. Except in the immediate neighbourhood of the principal seats, the wood of this county is usually cut at about thirty years growth, and coppices consequently now occupy the place of former forests. Evergreens, of unusual size and vigour, are plentifully found in many parts of this county.

The prevailing *Soil* of Wicklow is described, in the survey published under the sanction of the Dublin Society, as consisting “of common clay and silex, mixed in various proportions, and of various degrees of fineness, from the coarse gravelly to every minute siliceous earth, and of various degress of fertility.” Agriculture is still in a backward state in many parts; but, in the districts most thickly populated, considerable improvements have been recently introduced, and are growing into frequent adoption. The enclosed pastures are chiefly natural grass, rising without aid on fields exhausted by a long continuance of arable culture; but the herbage, notwithstanding such a neglect of the due cares of husbandry, is in general extremely rich. Some cattle are fattened in different parts of the county, and the milk of the cow is often applied, in the districts near Dublin, to the feeding of lambs.* Many excellent calves are also produced for the Dublin Market. On the mountains are pastured a breed of sheep peculiar to this country, having wool particularly short and fine.

* We are told by Mr. Fraser (Agri. Sur. p. 208.) that the lambs thus fed do not suck the cows, but receive their nourishment “by women squirting the milk into their mouths.” We did not see this operation performed, but we place confidence in the accuracy of the narrator. In some instances, however, the most acute investigator may be misled. Thus, it is said by Mr. Arthur Young, in his “Tour in Ireland,” that some farmers in the county of Wicklow are in the habit of *giving their ewes claret*, in order to warm their temperament on occasions connected with the raising of stock. We inquired, at every possible opportunity, concerning the truth of a remark sounding so very like a jest; and found, as will be supposed, that the late secretary of the board of agriculture had certainly, in this instance, sunk the dupe of a sportive sally, or a malicious trial of his credulity.

The farms are generally large, and the farm-buildings are often of a respectable character, and are rendered pleasing by whitened fronts and roofs covered with slate. We regret to observe that the habitations of the lower orders present, too frequently, an offensive contrast to the comfortable aspect of many farming abodes. Except on spots favoured with the residence or patronage of the affluent, the cabins of the peasantry are wretched tenements of mud or sod, worthy of human occupation only in the infancy of society.

The *Manufactures* are chiefly confined to flannel and calico; to which may be added frieze and ratteen, made in most parts of the country for domestic use, and also, in small quantities, for sale at the periodical fairs.

The English language is spoken in every part of Wicklow, and the inhabitants are courteous, quick-witted, and communicative. In reclusive parts of the country, and especially in the neighbourhood of antient vestiges, they are prolific in vague traditions and strange legends, which accord with the romantic wildness of all surrounding circumstances, and are customary tributes to the genius of solitary and mountainous regions. Music and the dance find a welcome in every shed, and are the solaces and cordials of every heart. Even when their places of habitation are lamentably sordid, the peasantry seldom exhibit, in person and habiliment, indications of extreme indigence. Some of the women wear round hats made of felt, and in other respects, as relates to manner and neatness of attire, resemble the females of North Wales. The men of the labouring classes universally wear a long coat, of home manufacture.*

The few towns in this county are small, and not distinguished

* Mr. Wakefield, in the second vol. of his "Account of Ireland," notices in the following words a peculiar, and rather troublesome, vanity which prevails among the peasantry of Wicklow, in regard to the article of dress. "So fond are these people of a profusion of clothes, that a man may be seen, like the grave-digger in Hamlet, with half a dozen of waist-coats on in the height of summer; over these is one trusty on his back, while another hangs over his shoulders; and by way of bravado, and to create a row, he lets the last trail on the ground, calling out "Touch that, by Jasus, if you dare!"

by commercial importance; but the seats are numerous in the northern part, and in the fine district bordering on the sea. Among the principal proprietors of land may be mentioned Earl Fitzwilliam; the Earl of Wicklow; the Earl of Carysfort; the Earl of Meath; Lord Viscount Powerscourt; and George Putland, Esq.

Ptolemy places in such parts of the country now termed Wicklow as are to the north of the river Ovoca, the tribe, or nation, of *Cauci*; in which circumstance of appropriation he is followed by Richard of Cirencester. Before this territory was reduced to shire ground, the northern division comprised the antient *Dalmac-scoe*, which was subdivided into two principalities: *Crioc-Cuolan* and *Tyr-Tuathal*. The first consisted of a narrow tract between the mountains and the sea, or the modern baronies of Rathdown, Newcastle, and Arklow; of which territory, at the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, O'Cullan was the reigning dynast, his domain extending to Naas, in the county of Kildare. O'Toole ruled the rest of the country; the Danes holding certain possessions about Bray, Wicklow, and Arklow; and the sept of the O'Byrnes inhabiting the mountains.

The septs of O'Toole and O'Byrne, enwrapped in the natural fastnesses of their woods and mountains, maintained themselves against the power of the English government until the termination of the sixteenth century. The predatory descents of these warlike mountaineers form frequent subjects of disastrous detail in the annals of Dublin, "over the neck of which city," to use the words of Spencer, "they continually hung." Wicklow, which had previously been considered by the English as part of the county of Dublin, was made a separate county, under its present appellation, in 1603. This district was the scene of many sanguinary transactions, during the troubles of the year 1798.

BRAY, a small town, distant eleven miles from the metropolis, is agreeably situated on the borders of St. George's Channel. A river, celebrated for plenty and excellence of trout, separates the town into two parts, and also forms the line of division between the counties of Wicklow and Dublin. From its situation on the

coast, and in the vicinity of several admired parts of the county of Wicklow, this place is rendered busy and cheerful in the summer months by numerous visiters, having health and pleasure for the objects of their travels. An excellent hotel, and several convenient lodgings, must be noticed amongst the solid attractions of this gay town.

The church is a neat but plain structure, rebuilt in 1609. A considerable augmentation has been recently made to the eastern part, but without the least attention to architectural beauty. The interior is destitute of sepulchral monuments, and has no embellishment, unless such a term may be applied to the arms of the Earl of Meath, which, in large proportions, are worked in stucco on the northern wall. In different parts of the town are a dispensary, and a school for gratuitous education. The remains of an antient castle, once the seat of the family of *De Riddesford*, are still to be seen, incorporated with a modern dwelling. On the northern borders of the town are many ornamental villas, and the environs, in a contrary direction, are rendered pleasing by several thatched cottages, of a decorated and romantic character.

On the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, in the twelfth century, a portion of the territory, near the sea between Bray and Dublin, appears to have been occupied by Ostmen; but the greater part belonged to a petty toparch, named Macgiola-Maholmoc, or Mac Colman; whilst the lands on the Wicklow side were entirely possessed by the septs of O'Toole and O'Cullan. Earl Strongbow, in his partition of conquered lands, bestowed on Milo and Richard de Cogan, the estate of Mac Colman, together with the holdings of the Danes; granting at the same time all the intermediate tract, (with the exception of the maritime district called the Murse, Morragh, or O'Mortagh), between Bray and Arklow, to Maurice Fitzgerald. To Walter de Riddesford, the earl gave, along with a great extent of territory reaching in a southern direction to Castledermott inclusively, the town and lordship of Bray, of which place he bore the title of baron, King Henry II. confirming to him that dignity. This Walter obtained a patent for a fair at Bray, in the fifteenth of King John, together with the privilege of free warren; and,

having no male issue, his great possessions in the counties of Wicklow, Dublin, and Kildare, were divided between his two daughters, Emmiline, wife of Hugh de Lacy the younger, Earl of Ulster; and Christiana, married to Geoffrey de Montmorency, Baron de Marisco and de Montemarisco, viceroy of Ireland in 1215. The manor of Bray afterwards passed through various families, and is at present vested in the Earl of Meath and George Putland, Esq. both of whom have seats in this neighbourhood.

On the coast is a martello tower; and near the town is *Bray Head*, a lofty cape, or promontory, which stretches a considerable way into the sea. According to Harris, this promontory derives its name from *Braighe*, a neck, and imparts its appellation to the neighbouring town. It may, however, be remarked that the word Bray implies, in the old Norman dialect, a marshy place, and probably affords the true etymology of the name by which the town is distinguished.

Amongst several mansions in the vicinity must be noticed KILRUDDERY (Knightschurch) the seat of the Earl of Meath, distant from Bray one mile. The manor of Kilruddery, with the exception of the rents payable thereout to John Fitz Dermot and his heirs, was given, in the year 1201, by Richard de la Field to the Abbey of St. Thomas, Dublin, for the support of two canons. The lands thus bestowed on the Abbey were granted to Richard de la Field, the donor, by Dermot Mac Giola-Maholmock (*Mac Colman*) the antient proprietor. On the dissolution of monasteries, various possessions of the Abbey of St. Thomas, including Kilruddery, were granted by the crown to William Brabazon, Esq. (afterwards Sir William) ancestor of the present noble owner of this estate.

The mansion of Kilruddery was, until lately, a low and rather old building, quite destitute of architectural interest; but a new and very estimable structure is now in progress, after the designs of Messrs. R. and W. Morrison. The style adopted is that which prevailed in the reign of Henry VIII; a mode assuredly combining the advantages of picturesque effect and convenience of internal arrangement. The plan of the house is an irregular quadrangle, enclosing a court-yard. The entrance is through an ante-hall,

which communicates by a broad flight of fourteen steps with the great hall, an extensive apartment that rises to the height of thirty feet, and is designed in strict attention to the style of the sixteenth century. The walls are partially wainscoted with oak, and the roof is supported by carved beams, of the same material. The great staircase terminates in an arcade, which continues round three sides of the hall, having, on the fourth side, windows filled with stained glass. The principal sleeping-rooms open on this arcade, and the chief rooms of reception communicate with the great hall, and are designed in a style duly corresponding with that fine apartment. The demesne of Kilruddery occupies a narrow valley, which separates the mountain termed the smaller Sugarloaf from the promontory called Bray Head, and is marked by many circumstances of great natural beauty. The grounds are laid out in a manner peculiarly adapted to the character of the present building, and present nearly an unique instance in this country of the old Dutch style of gardening. From the natural grandeur of the surrounding country, the formality of this mode stands revealed with peculiar distinctness. The enclosing mountains rise boldly and at once, with all their brilliancy of purple and brown colouring, above the long avenues of stately elms, the close cut yew hedges, and regular terraces of this little St. Cloud.

The village of WINDGATES, distant from Bray about three and a half miles, is worthy of notice, on account of a *Cairn*, of vast dimensions.

As our work is not designed on the plan of a regular tour, we refrain, for the present, from conducting the reader further towards the interior of the county, and direct his attention to some objects, of no ordinary interest, on the road leading from Dublin through Kilternan and Enniskerry.

About one mile beyond the former place is a curious chasm, denominated the SCALP. This is a deep defile, formed by the operations of nature, in the bosom of a rock, or mountain, composed of granite. The sides are acclivitous, but not so near the perpendicular as to prove inaccessible; and the whole surface of the ascent, on both sides, is covered with prodigious and disjointed

masses of stone, which shoulder each other in tumultuous confusion, and threaten to fall upon, and crush, the passenger at each adventurous footstep. When the traveller looks back, and views this tremendous chasm in dreary perspective, he is almost induced to believe that the base of the mountain has, at some remote period, given way, throughout the extent of the ravine he has passed, and the incumbent mass fallen into the hollow of the earth; thus leaving a frightful channel, not to be accounted for on a consideration of the ordinary works of nature. It needs no argument to prove that such a conjecture is the offspring of fancy, created by unusual appearances; but sound philosophy offers no better terms of explanation, and we quit the scene with impressions of surprise, unmixed with instruction. It is observed by Mr. Twiss that "the heaps of enormous stones here seen, much resemble those of the rock of Cintra, near Lisbon." A good road has been cut on one of the shelving sides of the Scalp. When the pass opens, and restores the traveller to a view of the surrounding country, a lovely display of mountain and vale atones for his temporary confinement to the horrors of incumbent rocks, and imparts all the inspiring influence of potent contrast.

The small and pleasing village of ENNISKERRY is situated on the margin of the Kerry, and in the midst of those mountains which regale the eye of the traveller on quitting the rugged barriers of the Scalp. This village is placed on a gentle slope, and its white cottages, partially screened by foliage, present a captivating picture of repose and rural beauty, at various points of the winding descent by which the village is approached from Dublin. This place is situated in the antient territory of O'Toole, by one of which sept (such are the vicissitudes of fortune!) the village inn was lately kept.

In this neighbourhood, at the distance of about ten miles from the metropolis, is POWERSCOURT, the seat of Richard Wingfield, Lord Viscount Powerscourt. The varied charms of this noble demesne, and the tracts of mountainous country by which it is surrounded, invoke description whilst they mock its powers. No satisfactory ideas of scenery so diversified and splendid, can possibly be conveyed by the efforts of the pen.

The mansion of Powerscourt is a spacious structure, composed of granite, and was erected late in the eighteenth century, after the designs of Mr. Cassels. The style of architecture is not conspicuous for purity or beauty, and it is much to be regretted that one of the finest situations in Europe should not have been occupied by a fabric evincing correspondent grandeur of conception. This building displays two fronts. One of these comprises a central body and two wings. The central compartment is ornamented with a pediment, having the family arms on the tympanum. The wings are plain, and beyond each is a circular sweep, terminating in an obelisk which supports the crest. The second front has a circular tower at each extremity, crowned with an ogee-shaped cupola. The interior presents some fine rooms, and the richly decorated hall is deservedly admired by most visitors.

This mansion is placed on an eminence, sufficient for a display of the structure and for a command of extensive views; but not so lofty as to communicate the fears of chillness and exposure. In the back ground, but sufficiently distant to preserve the building from comparative diminution as a pictorial object, mountains rise in magnificent succession, their summits broken into an outline of beautiful irregularity.

The home-demesne is luxuriant in natural charms, cultivated with distinguished taste. The graceful inequalities of this elevated tract are rich in wood, finely disposed; and a winding river, partially enwrapped in foliage, flows through the vale to which the grounds descend.* Nature is here gently assisted, and no incumbrances of modern temples, hermitages, or other toys of the landscape-gardener, call forth vulgar admiration, whilst they offend the eye of the judicious, and violate the dignity of Heaven's works.

It would be vain to attempt the task of pointing out the numerous situations in this demesne, from which may be obtained prospects of peculiar beauty; and, perhaps, none are excelled by

* This lovely stream passes the village of Tinnehinch, with the demesne of the late amiable patriot, Mr. Grattan; and, after pouring its waters through the celebrated Dargle, forces its way into the ocean at a short distance from the town of Bruy.

the view gained shortly after entering the grounds. Here, as we approach the house, the first break of scenery towards the south is inconceivably grand, soft, and various. Mountains, often cultivated high towards their summits, and sometimes rudely majestic in the unaided tints of nature, form the impressive back ground, at a happy distance. The undulating tracts which lie between that range of mountains and the lofty ridge on which the spectator is placed, comprise the rich woods and plantations on the demesne of Charleville. Amidst the umbrageous screen of this cultivated scenery, the river pursues its devious course, lucid, rippling, and often half-hidden. It may be added, that a distant bridge over the winding stream stands well revealed, as an adjunct of the picturesque. This is, in itself, a pleasing object, evincing, without effort, the operations of art; and the occasional animation afforded by the transit of rural passengers, imparts a felicitous effect to the profound and silent expanse of scenery.

The *Deer-Park* of Powerscourt abounds in natural beauties, but of a character partaking more of wildness and austerity than the attractive precincts of the mansion. This extensive enclosure is enriched with many oaks of a venerable growth, and is celebrated for a water-fall of great magnificence. The herds of deer are equally numerous and fine.

The principal object which arrests the attention, on approaching the park, is *Knockree mountain*, which rises to the right of the villages of Coolekea and Balynagea. This mountain represents the central part of a stupendous *Rath*, or antient Irish fortress, wrought by the mighty hand of nature; and it may be thought that the similitude is preserved by surrounding circumstances: the lofty mountains of Glencree, Cuttlestown, and Walker's Rock, or the Long Hill, partly forming a resemblance of the outward ramparts, and the valleys of Glencree, Balynagea, and Charleville, the fosse, or ditch.*

* The Chevalier de Montmorency, to whose MSS. we are indebted for the above notice of Knockree, observes, that it may be regarded as matter of surprise, that, in the romantic days of "the primitive Milesian princes," this august mountain was not chosen as a place for holding the assemblies

The entrance of the park is marked by much grandeur of effect. On each side is a chain of mountains, wooded to the summit; and a river hurries over a rocky channel through the valley at their base. The mountains close at the termination of this vale, and form one great amphitheatre of wood, the scene of the *Waterfall*. The stream which supplies this celebrated fall rises at a place called Glensoulan, and is, in the more temperate parts of its course, an inconsiderable rivulet. After reaching the Jouss mountain, its waters sink down a precipice, or stupendous wall of feruginous basalt, upwards of one hundred feet in height. When not augmented by heavy falls of rain, the volume of descending liquid is small, and the face of the rock is seen through the thin veil of its delicate transparency. But, after continued rains have surcharged the interstices of the mountains, the tumultuous fury with which this precipitated body of water bursts down the frightful depth of its descent, affords a rare spectacle of awful beauty. The profound seclusion of the glen favours the full poignancy of the effect, and the dark masses of contiguous wood, rising to the utmost height of the mountains, lend a delightful contrast of colouring to the foam and torrent of the cataract. This noble fall of water is distant about two miles and a half from the mansion of Powerscourt.

The estate derives its name from *De la Poer*, a former possessor, by whom it was obtained in marriage with one of the daughters of Milo de Cogan. A strong castle was constructed at this place by De la Poer, which was taken and destroyed by the septs of O'Toole and O'Byrne, in the year 1535, but was speedily rebuilt by government, at the great expense, for those times, of 5000 mares. In 1556, the sept of the O'Kavanaghs gained violent possession of Powerscourt, then the property of a branch of the Talbot family, by grant from Henry VIII. These invaders fortified the castle, and garrisoned it with 140 men;

of the states, rather than Taragh, or Temora. The appellation of Knockree (the *King's hill*) proves this mountain to have been once connected with royalty, and it was, probably, the place of inauguration of the neighbouring dynasts and toparchs.

but when attacked by Sir George Stanley, with a regular force, the Kavanaghs surrendered upon mercy. We regret to observe that the *mercy* shown by the conqueror, consisted in putting to death *seventy-four* of their number! the remainder were suffered to depart.

The Wingfield family acquired this estate in the reign of James I. By a grant of that king, made in the year 1609, Sir Richard Wingfield, first viscount of this family, received "the lands of Powerscourt, with all the lands, tenements, and possessions lying within the whole province of Fercullin, extending five miles in length, and four in breadth;" which lands, in the year 1611, were erected into a manor.

It is mentioned by Mr. Harris, in the second volume of Ware's Antiquities, that, about the middle of the last century, six urns were discovered beneath an artificial mount near Powerscourt, one of which is represented in an engraving inserted in that work. "The capacity of it, if entire, would not much exceed a quart; it is of a light brown colour, and composed of a crumbling soft clay, rudely enough wrought," but much ornamented on the exterior; "and each urn was covered with a small flat stone, and filled with black dirt, which possibly might have been ashes reduced to that condition by time."

TINNEHINCH, long the favourite seat of the late Right Hon. Henry Grattan, is situated on the southern border of Lord Powerscourt's demesne, and on the margin of the river which so greatly ornaments those grounds. The house is of moderate dimensions, and is placed at the foot of a lofty hill, richly wooded through its whole ascent. A lawn extends to the silver bosom of the river; and the grounds attached to the residence were ornamentally planted under the direction of Mr. Grattan. But the chief beauties of the demesne are borrowed from the splendid improvements of Powerscourt, the whole charms of which territory conduce towards its decoration. At this place—on a spot thus deeply retired, amidst some of the most captivating scenery of a country he truly loved—the late admired orator, and venerated friend of mankind, passed the evening of a life devoted to

the service of the public. It would be superfluous to expatiate on the interest which Tinnelinch must retain with a very distant posterity, from its connexion with a man so illustrious. The refinements of mental pleasure blend with each inanimate object; and, when the feelings of party shall have subsided in utter coldness, and his name be no longer hailed with popular acclamation, this spot must remain consecrated to genius and patriotic benevolence.

On the opposite bank of the Powerscourt river is CHARLEVILLE, the seat of Lord Monk, a handsome mansion, surrounded by a demesne finely wooded; and in the same range of scenery is BUSHY-PARK, the capacious villa of Colonel Howard.

We now pursue the course of that river which we have traced through the demesne of Powerscourt, and usher the reader to a tract in its progress, exhibiting more striking features of the sublime and beautiful than any hitherto noticed. This paragon of the Hibernian picturesque, as regards the eastern part of the island, is denominated THE DARGLE, and may be succinctly described as a glen, prodigiously deep, formed by the sides of opposing mountains clothed with oak. At the profound depth of the bottom, which is no wider than to afford a channel, the river pursues a course fearfully troubled, falling from rock to rock in perpetual contest. The sides of the mountain vary in declivity, but are usually precipitous, and sometimes perpendicular. The glen is about one mile in length; and a continual variety is produced by its devious course, by the different degrees of declivity in the opposed mountains, and by the intermixture of rich mantles of wood with vast projections of naked rock, or of masses having a rocky surface, tinted with heaths and shrubs of various hues. The groupings of scenery presented by this endless diversity afford a noble series of distinct pictures, and prevent the possibility of describing the glen as a single and determinate object.

The prevailing features partake of the sublime, in a very eminent degree. The vast depth of the glen, and the solemn screen created by the masses of oak intermingled with precipitous rock, plunge the wild tumults of the river in the bottom into half obscurity.

The horrors of its progress are heard, but are indistinctly seen amidst the gloom of these overhanging woods and rocks; and, when its troubled waters are discovered, they afford no silvery relief to the sombre grandeur of their majestic channel, but are seen tinged with the brown cast of the rocky fragments over which they roll.

Amongst the principal stations, or prospect-places, must be noticed the summit of a precipice, locally termed *the Lover's-leap*, at no great distance from the entrance of the Dargle on the Powerscourt side. In the fore-ground the river breaks over fantastic knolls of dissevered rock, its white surge contrasted with the dark hue of those craggy impediments, and of the matted foliage which descends even to the margin of the waters. Beyond are displayed, with astonishing splendour, the unequal grounds of Powerscourt, and the adjacent country, richly verdant and adorned with forest trees and plantations, which gather into groups, or lie spread in long and massy continuance. The mountains on both sides recede in sullen magnificence, to admit of one of the finest sites in nature for the mansion of that territory; and, in the extreme distance, are ranges of mountains, in picturesque varieties of altitude and colouring, their summits forming an outline of exquisite beauty.

A road leads through the wood on one side of this august glen, and conducts to the several points which command the most admired views. Our limits prevent an attempt at describing the whole of these singular displays of scenery; but we present, from the remarks made by the late Mr. Young, who visited this place in his "Tour" through parts of Ireland, the following account of a point of prospect quite different from that noticed above, and which, therefore, conveys some idea of the amazing variety observable in the views of this great natural gallery of subjects for the study of the landscape painter.—"Winding down to a thatched bench on a rocky point, you look upon an uncommon scene. Immediately beneath is a vast chasm in the rock, which seems torn asunder, to let the torrent through that comes tumbling over a rocky bed far sunk in a channel embosomed in wood. Above is

a range of gloomy, obscure woods, which half overshadow it, and rising to a vast height, exclude every object. To the left the water rolls away over broken rocks : a scene truly romantic. The path leads to the water's edge, at the bottom of the glen, where is a new scene, in which not a single circumstance hurts the principal character. In a hollow, formed of rock and wood (every object excluded but those and water) the torrent breaks forth from fragments of rock, and tumbles through the chasm, rocks bulging over it, as if ready to fall into the channel, and stop the impetuous water. The shade is so thick as to exclude the heavens ; all is retired and gloomy."

We must not quit the Dargle without observing that the eccentric tourist, Richard Twiss, who will scarcely be suspected of a wish to speak of Ireland in exaggerated terms of commendation, asserts that the scenery of this district " may justly vie with any part of Italy." A spot so sublime favours the warmest illusions of poetry. Mr. Preston, in some pleasing "Verses written in the Dargle," fancifully describes this romantic tract as the asylum of the antient bards of Ireland, when persecuted by the English government, to whose policy they were equally objectionable with their legendary brethren of Wales :

" ——— Here, in old heroic times,
The minstrel wak'd his lofty rhymes ;
He tun'd the harp, he bade them flow,
Attemper'd to the streams below.

* * *

To such a scene, to such a shade,
Condemn'd, proscrib'd, the poet stray'd ;
The warrior rais'd his buckler high
To shade the son of harmony ;
And while he sung with skill profound,
A grove of lances bristled round."

THE GLEN, OR GLYN, OF THE DOWNS, four miles to the west of Bray, is one of the most lovely tracts in this luxuriant part of the county of Wicklow, on which nature has shed her favours with

a land so bounteous, that scarcely a spot is found in severe contrast, and all is beauty! This glen lies between ridges of lofty mountains, covered in many parts with oak, ash, and mountain shrubs, often of antient standing, but generally of a diminutive growth. The modern plantations are of great extent, and might, possibly, have been withheld to advantage in some places, where the wildness of nature produced more real beauties than can be obtained by the most finished result of art. The glen is of a devious course, and a constant succession of new charms is produced by the fine inequalities into which are broken the rocky, but wooded, sides of the protecting mountains. Where foliage fails to impart ornament, heaths of various tints, the green, the purple, the yellow, and all the glowing variety of mountain herbage, supply its place, with a lovely delicacy of colouring. In some few instances unclothed projections of rock interpose the contrast of deep shade. A small stream glides through the narrow vale, on the margin of which are slips of rocky pasture ground, with interspersed shrubs.

On entering the glen the first object that arrests attention is a cottage, constructed in a taste so romantic, and placed on a spot of such captivating rural beauty, that it bestows on the whole scene a poetical air, and would almost appear to be of fairy creation. On the brow of a lofty mountain, further in the glen, is a banquetting-house, belonging to Mr. Latouche; which building might, perhaps, have been rendered more consonant to the unusual character of the surrounding circumstances. A second cottage is an object of less equivocal interest, and assists in the enchanting influence of nature, by a correspondence with her simplicity.

The glen of the Downs is the property of Peter Latouche, Esq. whose mansion, termed BELLE-VUE, recedes from the beauties of the glen, but commands an extensive sea-view over St. George's Channel. The house is a capacious, but unornamented, building, chiefly erected about the year 1754, by the late David Latouche, Esq. father of the present proprietor. The principal apartments are embellished with a few good paintings.

The demesne comprises about 400 acres of land, and presents a great variety of fine positions and exquisite prospects. The marine view embraces, in the extreme distance, the "cloud-capped" mountains of Caernarvonshire; and the home coast is rendered picturesque by the promontory of Bray, and other bold inequalities. But the most attractive views are obtained from such parts of the grounds as are contiguous to the glen. The banquetting-house already noticed is the best station for the enjoyment of this mental luxury. From an octangular room in this elevated building, the glen far beneath, with the many-tinted sides of the rocky steeps by which it is overhung, rich in native wood and abundant plantations; and the sublime galaxy of neighbouring mountains, here seen from an eminence approaching towards a rivalry with their own heights; present a scene of beauty and grandeur, which creates mute astonishment in the spectator, and cannot be justly described on recollection.*

The gardens of Belle-vue are very extensive, and richly stored with indigenous plants and exotics. The green-houses are on a scale of unusual amplitude, and are connected with the mansion by a glazed passage, or conservatory, stocked with a noble variety of plants and shrubs. The whole of the buildings protected by glass, inclusive of this conservatory, extend to the great length of 552 feet.

Immediately contiguous to the house is a domestic chapel, conspicuous for symmetry and delicacy of embellishment, erected after the designs of Mr. Morrison.

As examples of judicious patronage evinced by the benevolent

* Prominent among the elevated objects beheld from this station are two hills composed of quartz, and denominated, from their conical form, the *Sugar-loaves*. It is observed by Mr. Monck Mason, that these beautiful hills, "whose conical-shaped summits furnish with picturesque apices the mountain scenery of Wicklow, were by the native Irish called by a name which signifies, "The Gilt Spears," derived from their retaining the light of the sun after the rest of the surrounding landscape was involved in darkness; this name, than which no other could be imagined more picturesque or significant, was altered by the English, for the vulgar appellation of "The Sugar-loaves." *Hibernia Antiqua*, &c.

family of Belle-vue, must be mentioned two schools, of eminent utility. In an establishment within the demesne, a certain number of girls are instructed in the various duties connected with their humble station, and are provided with all the necessaries of life. The adjacent village contains a school, likewise supported by Mrs. Latouche, in which females, passed the age of childhood, are instructed in several branches of manufacture. The doors of this desirable institution are open to persons of all religious denominations.

The neighbouring village of DELGENY consists entirely of neat habitations, and contains several cottages of ample dimensions and an ornamental character. In the year 1022, was fought at this place a battle between Ugair Mac Dunluing, King of Leinster, and Sitric, king, or chief of the Danes of Dublin, in which the latter was defeated, with the loss of most of his followers. The church of Delgeny has been rebuilt by Mr. Latouche, and is a capacious structure, furnished in a neat and appropriate manner. The architecture is intended to be imitative of the pointed style. On the front of a lofty square tower, which surmounts the building, are the arms of Latouche, and the following inscription: "This church was built A.D. 1789. Of thine own do I give unto thee, O my God!" The interior is enriched with a large and costly monument, to the memory of David Latouche, Esq. father of the present respected proprietor of Belle-vue. In the upper part is presented the full-length effigies of the deceased, a robe thrown over his customary dress. At his feet is a figure emblematic of commerce;* and beneath is a sarcophagus, surmounted with a funeral urn, on which the resemblance of the deceased is presented in profile. The sarcophagus is sustained by three mourning figures, well executed, and representing, with a considerable fidelity of portraiture, the three sons of Mr. Latouche. No attire is shewn on either figure, but the whole are partially screened by the drapery of a pall, appearing to have been removed from their lamented funeral burthen. The inscription is as follows: "Sacred

* In Mr. Ferrar's "View of Dublin" &c. this figure is said to represent "the late Mrs. Peter La Touche, holding a cornucopia."

to the memory of David Latouche. He added a rigid integrity of principle to a mild and benevolent nature, and the most engaging gentleness of manners. But the purity of his mind was most strongly evinced in his constant and unaffected piety. His life, though long and prosperous, appeared, alas! too transitory. Riches in his hands became a general blessing. His profusion was [a disinterested liberality to the deserving: his luxury the relief and the protection of the poor and defenceless." Mr. Latouche was born in 1704, and died in 1785. The monument was executed by J. Hickey, of London, in the year 1790.

NEWTOWN MOUNT KENNEDY is a small but neat village, founded by a mercantile family of Dublin, of which family was George Kennedy, an alderman of that city in 1590. The manor was purchased of Mr. Barker (who inherited the property from the last male of the Kennedys) by the late General Conyngham, afterwards advanced to the peerage by the title of Lord Rossmore. From his lordship this estate descended to the family of Gunn, of Ratoo, in the county of Kerry; and the mansion was lately occupied by Robert Gunn, Esq. At this place a body of insurgents was defeated in 1798, by the king's troops under the command of the Lords Rossmore and Kingsborough.

The manor-house of Mount Kennedy is a spacious and substantial building, surrounded by a demesne of great extent and beauty. The whole of the grounds are marked by a lovely inequality of surface, and are finely disposed, and judiciously adorned with thriving plantations*.

* An *Arbutus* growing on the lawn in this demesne has been noticed by most writers on the county of Wicklow, and is, certainly, as it has been styled, "one of the greatest natural curiosities in the kingdom." We are informed by Mr. Hayes, "that the stem, below its first division, as measured by Mr. Fortesque in 1773, was thirteen feet nine inches round. It had been planted in a small garden, enclosed with high walls, at a period previous to the present" (18th) "century. As the castle was destroyed towards the end of the last, this ascertains its age to exceed one hundred years." In consequence of removing the protecting walls, this celebrated *Arbutus* was unfortunately blown down, and the trunk split in two; but, through skilful management, "fresh shoots have sprung up

In this neighbourhood are several grand and uncommon displays of nature, which demand the attention of the curious visiter. The **DEVIL'S GLYN** (which might more aptly have been denominated the Glyn of the Gods) appears to be the most striking of these scenes, and is, perhaps, one of the most romantic objects in an island fertile of subjects for the inspiration of romance. Here a noble cataract descends the Bolinass mountain, and, collecting below, rolls over a rocky bed through a winding glen of considerable extent, between lofty ridges of mountains, rugged with projecting cliffs which hang threatening over the traveller's path. From the interstices of those cliffs shoot forth the oak, the holly, the birch, and shrubs of unnumbered hues. We have, in late pages, had occasion to notice several scenes of nature, where a glen, formed by impending rocks and mountains, and a river flowing impetuously through a narrow channel, form the great features of descriptive outline. But if a fatiguing similarity should be observable in our writings, no oppressive sameness exists in the objects we have attempted to delineate. The glen under consideration has beauties peculiarly its own. Inferior in majestic character to the Dargle, and destitute of the softness, mingled with the grandeur, of the highly-adorned glen of the Downs, it is marked by some combinations of pictorial objects, in which rock, wood, and water are blended in forms unknown to either of those districts.

On an elevated situation, occupying one of the most admirable spots in this glen, and commanding a fine sea view, is **GLENMORE**, the seat of — Syngé, Esq. This modern building is imitative of the antient castellated style; a mode of architecture well adapted to the character of the scenery amidst which it is placed. In the neighbourhood of the house are rich plantations of pine, fir, and other evergreens.

The Devil's Glyn, with a great extent of domain, stretching on one side to the sea, and reaching on the other from Rathdrum to Aghrim, Balymorres, and nearly to Arklow, was granted by

from the branches, where they have been inserted in the ground in the manner of layers." Hayes on Planting, p. 128.

William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke (son-in-law and heir of Earl Strongbow), to Lord Geoffrey de Montemarisco, in exchange for the baronies of Forth and Bargo, in the county of Wexford. This territory was called by the Irish *Mac Morres's country*, Lord Geoffrey himself having, in the year 1208, assumed the title of Mac Morres,* and the dignity of an Irish sovereign dynast. After the disgrace and banishment of Lord Geoffrey, his sons made scarcely any efforts to preserve this district, which was then of little value, being an uncultivated tract, remote from their usual places of residence, and inhabited by a few roving septs of semi-barbarians, who eventually established themselves in MacMorres's country, and maintained possession until the 17th century. In the reign of Charles I. the old English proprietors, and the sept of O'Byrne, still more antient claimants, being unable to produce any written titles showing their right to those lands, the entire territory was taken into possession by the crown, and was speedily granted by the king to Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford. By virtue of that grant Earl Fitzwilliam at present enjoys a noble revenue from this part of the county of Wicklow; but the fee of the glen is divided between Sir Francis Hutchesson, Bart. and Mr. Tottenham.

* This epithet is by no means derived, as some may be inclined to suppose, from the Irish-English compounds *Macmaurice* or *Macmorris*; with neither of which names (*Maurice* or *Morris*,) however respectable, has the family of Lord Geoffrey de Montemarisco any paternal connexion. The derivation of the title, or distinction, in question is not only purely local, but it is fundamentally correct; being altogether assimilated to the Anglo-Norman *De Marisco* and *De Montemarisco*: the "*Mor-risc* and *Muine (mons) mor-risc*," in the Irish language, literally signifying the same thing: viz. a great morass or marsh; and a mountain in a marsh or moor. Hence came the "*Muine-tir-mhicmor-risc*," the territory and mountain-region of the son of *De Marisco*. In after times, in consequence of Lord Geoffrey's styling himself "*Macmorghuis*," (pronounced *Macmorish*,) which means, according to O'Reilly "the son or chieftain of noble deeds," the posterity of this nobleman, or more properly speaking, the chief of this house, was usually, though not constantly, down to the early part of the seventeenth century, distinguished by the title "*Macmuirish*, *Macmorish*, and *Macmorres*," and the district to which we refer was called "*MACMORRES'S COUNTRY*."

Near the small village of BONEALY, the property of Mr. Carroll, of Balynure, is ROSSANA, the seat of Mrs. Tighe. This agreeable mansion is surrounded by a demesne of considerable extent, shaded with much venerable wood, and acquires a powerful interest from a former highly-gifted and amiable resident, the late Mrs. Tighe, author of *Psyche*, and other admired poems. It was in this retirement that the fine imagination of that lady expatiated, amidst scenes favourable to the efforts of the muse; and the virtues which marked her brief, but distinguished, career, are still vivid in the remembrance of the inhabitants of all classes.*

In this vicinity is DUNRAN, one of the sublime glens which enrich the eastern part of the county of Wicklow. This wild

* Mary Tighe was born in Dublin, in the year 1774, and died at Woodstock, in the county of Kilkenny, on the 24th of March 1810. This excellent and interesting woman was the daughter of the Rev. William Blashford, librarian to St. Patrick's library, Dublin. Her fine intellectual powers were left to the cultivation of an exemplary mother, as her father died during her infancy. She married her maternal cousin, Henry Tighe, of Rossana; and the romantic scenery of this residence improved her taste for natural beauty, and strengthened her powers of imagination. Devoted to the muses, with all the incitements of social happiness and a highly picturesque country, she frequently employed her leisure hours in the delightful occupation of transcribing the workings of a delicate mind, and strong fancy, in poetical composition. The poem of *Psyche*, containing the most beautiful delineations of human sensibilities, blended with the harmonies of nature, was first printed at a private press at Rossana, and circulated among her chosen friends, as were most of her smaller productions, before the whole were presented to the public at large. In the midst of these refined enjoyments, not less beloved for the estimable qualities of her heart than admired for the effusions of her brilliant imagination, she was attacked with a dangerous disease, which, after six years of suffering, snatched her from the society of her friends and the literature of her country, which she had enriched and adorned, in the 37th year of her age. The accomplishments, personal and mental, of this highly gifted lady, together with the purity and benevolence of her life, rendered her an object of universal admiration, and her surviving friends could not have devised a mode of commemorating her numerous virtues more congenial with her character than that which they adopted. Her poems were collected and published, and the profits applied to the endowment of an hospital ward, attached to the "House of Refuge," a charitable institution founded by her mother.

and romantic pass partakes in character with those already described, as regards varieties of noble scenery, produced by ridges of wooded mountains, with interspersed masses of rock overhanging a narrow vale, in countless fantastic, threatening, or lovely forms. As a collective object it has potent claims upon admiration. On attaining the summit of a lofty eminence, the eye is delighted with the magnificence of scenery crowded into one vast picture. The winding stream of the glen flows through a verdant tract; and two small islands, thickly planted, embellish its meandering course. An antient castle, the former abode of a proprietor of Irish or Anglo-Norman race, rears its hoary head from the vale, having in front a view of the wide sea, and being sheltered behind by the mountain sides, clothed with forest trees and shrubs. The barriers of the glen erect their ponderous masses in forms varying between the capricious, the terrific, and the attractive.

The first Lord Rossmore, in whom was vested the property of this fine district, caused an excellent road to be made through the glen; and, about midway in its progress, on a spot that would seem consecrated to poetical dreams, his lordship built a cottage, for the accommodation of strangers visiting Dunran.—Whilst recommending this glen to the notice of the painter, and those capable of feeling the charms of pictorial beauty, we reluctantly observe that, in times too recent, its recesses echoed to the shocks of tumult and destruction. The deluded insurgents, flying after their defeat at Newtown Mount Kennedy, in 1798, sought refuge in this deep vale, but were pursued by the king's forces, and many were here put to the sword.

RATHDRUM is a small, but neat, town, situated on the estate of Earl Fitzwilliam, in the barony of Balynacor. The approach to this place, from the Glanely road, is highly picturesque. The winding Avon presents itself in two places, flowing gracefully through a pleasing vale. The town stands on the ascent and summit of a hill, and is entered over a stone bridge, after descending the tedious length of a mountain road. Here is a public hall for the sale of flannels; and a fair is held on the first Monday

of every month (with the exception of July, when it is held on the second Monday,) for the meeting of the manufacturers and purchasers from Dublin. This is a spacious building, composed of stone, erected at the expense of Earl Fitzwilliam, and finished in 1793. The cost of the erection was £3,500, and his lordship receives 2*d.* on the sale of each piece of flannel, consisting of twelve yards, of the value of from 1*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per yard. According to a statement published by Mr. Wakefield, the total sale for twelve years ending 1809, was 55,042 pieces. The parish church is a respectable modern building. A dispensary has been established in this town ; and a Sunday-school, designed for children of all religious denominations, is held in the flannel-hall, under the direction of several neighbouring gentlemen. It has been supposed that Rathdrum was the *Dunum*, mentioned by Ptolemy as the capital of Menapii. At this place were seated the chiefs of Coulan, who probably bestowed on it the appellation by which it has been long known. In the year 1595, the Lord Deputy Fitzwilliam took Rathdrum from Pheagh Mac Hugh O'Byrne, one of the most powerful and troublesome enemies of the English government in the reign of Elizabeth.

From Rathdrum we diverge towards the north-west, and penetrate the mountainous region in the barony of Balynacor, for the purpose of conducting the reader to Glendalough, celebrated for the ruins of ecclesiastical buildings, very generally known under the appellation of the Seven Churches.*

The road leading from Rathdrum to that interesting spot, passes through part of GLENMALAUR, or GLENMALIRE, a valley unpleasantly distinguished in the history of Leinster during many years of the sixteenth century. The country assumes progressively a black and threatening aspect as we enter this district ; and, at length, the traveller is almost induced to believe that he has quitted

* It may be here observed that, through the central part of the mountainous district of Wicklow, an excellent road, termed the *Military Road*, has been constructed since the year 1793. This road commences at Rathfarnham, and opens a communication between the capital and the interior and south-western parts of the county.

the habitable world, so profound and cheerless is the apparently interminable scene. Steep mountains and broken rocks impend over the glen on both sides; and from several elevated points of the road an extensive view is obtained of the steril gloom, which increases in every mile of our advance. Sometimes mountain-streams descend between the crannies of the rocks, their channels encumbered by huge and rugged masses, denoting the fury of their passage in the wintry months. In a few small intervening vales are found dots of human habitation, surrounded by strips of pasture, and shielded by scanty plantations. But these recluse dwellings fail to enliven the view, and rather augment the chilling effects of this desolate scene, by identifying man, in a severity of privations, with the awful aspect of nature in her frowning mood. The Avonbeg takes rise in Glenmalaur, but winds through its terrors with few touches of alleviating beauty. Beyond the rocky barriers on each side, are spread unfriendly mountains, in long succession. The glen terminates in a rocky ascent, down which the waters of the highlands fall precipitately. Beyond lies a vast tract of uninhabited mountain and bog.

The few features of artificial cultivation connected with this cheerless district, may be noticed in a brief section. Near the entrance of the glen, and softening the approach to its most obscure parts, is a substantial dwelling, the residence of W. Kemmis, Esq. The wild country in the vicinity of this house is ameliorated by extensive plantations. Deep in the solitude of the valley are barracks, capable of holding 300 infantry; and, at the distance of about one mile from the barracks, are lead mines, worked with some success.*

The historical particulars relating to Glenmalaur require more

* We should not omit to observe that in the vicinity of the barracks is an inn, of a homely character, but well provided with the solid essentials of accommodation. As a proof that the traveller visiting Glendalough, or otherwise led to this remote tract, need not fear trusting to the comforts of this "hostel," it may be observed that the present writer, in September, 1819, succeeded in the occupancy of the principal apartments to a noble earl and his lady, who possess much neighbouring property, and had passed several days on this recluse spot.

extended notice. Its mazy recesses would appear suited to the retreat of predatory bands; its sable mountains and craggy rocks want no finishing touches of the terrific, except legends of martial exploit: and history, in many tragic pages, supplies images to complete the thrill of soul to which the spectator is subject. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth this glen afforded a principal fastness to the celebrated *Pheagh Mac Hugh O'Byrne*, whose courage and power are sufficiently evinced by the reluctant testimony of several contemporary writers.

We have already observed that the hardy natives of this county were long enabled, by the natural advantages of their territory, to hold at bay the English in their utmost pride of military discipline, and that they also committed acts perniciously aggressive, by rapidly entering and spoiling contiguous cultivated and enriched districts. Their mountainous retreats, indeed, formed an asylum for malcontents, and constituted the head-quarters of the disaffected in this part of the island. So vexatious, if not formidable, was found the continued warfare agitated by these mountain-septs, that, when Sir James Crofts was deputed to the government of Ireland, in 1551, he was instructed, "above all things, to reduce the Byrnes and Tooles, and their country."

Amongst the leaders of the O'Byrnes, in the sixteenth century, Pheagh Mac Hugh excelled in the qualities most dreaded by the English government. Spencer, whose dislike of the Irish prevented him from justly appreciating any individual character of this nation, speaks of Pheagh Mac Hugh with unfounded contempt, although with unequivocal alarm.* Concerning the tenour of his

* After using arguments to show that the right to the country over which Pheagh Mac Hugh exercised domination, was "absolutely in her majesty," Spencer observes that, "if it were not, yet could it not be in this Feagh, but in O'Brin, which is the ancient lord of all that countrey; for he and his auncestours were but followers unto O'Brin; and his grandfather Shane Mac Terlagh, was a man of meanest regard amongst them, neither having wealth nor power. But his sonne, Hugh Mac Shane, the father of this Feagh, first began to lift up his head, and through the strength and great fastness of *Glan-malor*, which adjoyneth unto his house of Ballinacor, drew unto him many theeves and out-lawes, which fled unto

actions, as they were injurious to the public peace, there can be now but one opinion. The dispassionate examiner, however, must admit that whilst he was, assuredly, one of the bravest and most wily of Elizabeth's Irish opponents, he was not destitute of generosity, and several other virtues, which acted in alleviation of hereditary ferocity, and dignified the rude grandeur of his character.

At *Balynacor*, on the verge of Glenmalaur, this renowned chieftain held his unpolished court; and the glen, with its precincts, afforded to his desultory bands a fastness more secure than artificial ramparts of stone. Spencer, noticing Pheagh Mac Hugh, in his "View of the State of Ireland," observes, that "all the parts about him being up in a madding moode, as the Moores in Leix, the Cavenaghes in the county of Wexford, and some of the Butlers in the county of Kilkenny, they all flocke unto him, and drawe into his countrey, as to a strong hould, where they thinke to be safe from all that prosecute them. And from thence they doe, at their pleasures, breake out into all the borders adjoyning, which are well peopled countries, as the counties of Dublin, of Kildare, of Catherlagh, of Kilkenny, of Wexford, with the spoiles whereof they victuall and strengthen themselves."

Some few dates connected with the career of this chief of the O'Byrnes, the legend of whose exploits is so peculiarly consonant with the wild, tumultuary, and fearful character of Glenmalaur, may not be altogether unacceptable. In the years 1577, 1578, and 1580, he, in alliance with several malcontent lords, of Anglo-Norman derivation, harassed the English pale; and in the last-named year he obtained a sanguinary victory, at Glendalough, not far from Glenmalaur. In 1595, on a reverse of

the succour of that glynne, as to a sanctuary, and brought unto him part of the spoyle of all the countrey, through which he grew strong, and in short space got unto himselfe a great name thereby amongst the Irish, in whose footing this his sonne continuing, hath, through many unhappy occasions, increased his said name, and the opinion of his greatness, inso-much that now he is become a dangerous enemy to deale withall." View of the State of Ireland, &c.

fortune, he made his submission at Dublin; and, on the following day, Captain Richard Wingfield was knighted by the viceroy, as a reward for his services against so potent a chieftain. On the 30th of December, 1596, his sept was defeated by the British troops, after a sharp action; and the year 1597, was the last of his turbulent life. He fell in an engagement with the Lord Deputy, Sir William Russell, fought on the 7th of May; and his son, Phelim Mac Pheagh, was elected to supply his place, as chief of the O'Byrnes.*

In the year 1600, Phelim Mac Pheagh made a humble submission to Queen Elizabeth, in company with several other Irish toparchs; but he gave offence to the government before the expiration of the same year; and we find, in the first volume of Moryson's History, an account of an expedition undertaken against him by the Deputy (Lord Mountjoy), who appeared before his house so suddenly, that he with difficulty escaped at a back window, and his wife and eldest son were taken prisoners. This chief of the O'Byrnes died at *his castle of Balynacor*, in the year 1630, leaving issue several sons, to the eldest of whom (this county having then become shire ground) he demised the castle and demense. The descendants of Pheagh Mac Hugh, in the senior male line, became extinct in the early part of the eighteenth

* We cannot conclude our notice of this upland warrior, who had many qualifications which might have obtained a high degree of heroic fame, in better days, and under different circumstances of fortune, without observing that there is now in the possession of Sir W. Betham a curious MS. which formerly belonged to the Chevalier de Montmorency, and contains an account of the marriage between Pheagh Mac Hugh and Rose Ny-Toole. It appears, from this instrument, that all the lands belonging to the sept were held in common by those of the name. *The O'Byrne*, or chief, presiding alone over the castles and fortresses, claimed no distinct title, separately from the tribe, over any portion of their domain. Hence all the members of the sept were obliged to subscribe their assent to the jointure of Pheagh Mac Hugh's wife, and to have the same settled upon the whole of their lands and possessions. The trustees to this article, which bears date 1593, were Henry Walsh of Shanganagh, and Pierce Walsh of Kilgobbin, Esquires; Redmond Mac Pheagh, and Phelim Mac Pheagh, the sons of the chieftain, being parties to the same.

century. The present Sir John-Fleming-Leicester Byrne, of Tably, in the county of Chester, Bart. and the family of Byrne, of Cabinteely, in the county of Dublin, and of Balymanus, county of Wicklow, are descended from junior branches.

Such are the mountainous wilds amidst which, in deep solitude and awful quiet, is situated GLENDALOGH, celebrated in early ages of christianity for the comparative splendour of its religious piles, and for a city of considerable population; now a melancholy waste, romantic in character, and rich in antiquities, but visited by few, except the curious traveller and fanciful pilgrim.* Previous to a description of this singular glen, and a notice of its architectural vestiges, it must be desirable that we should present an outline of historical intelligence respecting its rise in celebrity, and the circumstances which caused it to be abandoned as a place of residence.

St. Coemgene, or Keivin, by which latter appellation he is usually distinguished, is said to have descended from a noble family, and was born in the year 498. At the age of seven years he was placed under the care and tuition of Petrocus, a Briton, who had passed many years in Ireland for the exercise of learning. After pursuing his more advanced studies, for a considerable time, in the "cell of three holy anachorites," St. Keivin embraced the monastic profession. On taking upon him the cowl, he retired, says Archdall, "to *these wilds*, where he wrote many learned works." It is generally admitted that he founded an abbey at Glendalough, and presided here as abbot and bishop for many years. He died on the 3rd of June, 618, "having nearly completed the uncommon and venerable age of 120 years."

* The annexed view of Glendalough is taken at a short distance from the Ivy-church, on the road leading to the bridge, or stepping stones. In the vale below are seen the round tower, with the remains of the cathedral and those of Trinity church. More to the left is St. Keivin's kitchen, with its small attached tower. The high mountain above the buildings is Kemyderry. The mountain in shade on the left is Derrybawn; and that in the distance is Lugduff. In the latter mountain is the recess, or rocky chamber, called St. Keivin's bed.

The eminent virtues and exemplary sanctity of this holy man, and the miracles said to have been wrought by him, drew, as we are told by the author of *Monasticon Hibernicum*, “multitudes from towns and cities, from ease and affluence, from the cares and avocations of civil life, and from the comforts and joys of society, to be spectators of his pious acts and sharers in his merits, and, with him, to encounter every severity of climate and condition. This influence extended even to Britain, and induced St. Mochuorog to convey himself hither, who fixed his residence in a cell on the east side of Glendalough, where a city soon sprang up, and a seminary was founded, from whence were sent forth many saints and exemplary men, whose sanctity and learning diffused around the western world that universal light of letters and religion, which, in the earlier ages, shone so resplendent throughout this remote and at that time tranquil isle, and were almost exclusively confined to it.”

It is supposed by Mr. Harris that St. Keivin first founded the church of Glendalough as an abbey only; but it is sufficiently evident that this place speedily grew into the see of a bishop. The diocese of Glendalough was of great extent, and comprised nearly all the country in the vicinity of Dublin. It is observed by the same writer, in his edition of Ware's *Antiquities*, (vol. i. p. 371) that “in the confirmation of Pope *Alexander III.*, of the possessions of this see to *Malchus*, Bishop of *Glendaloch*, A. D. 1179, we find no less than fifty denominations, or particulars, recited; and that *Dublin* itself stood in the diocese of *Glendaloch*, is mentioned in the preamble of the bull of Pope *Honorius III.* A. D. 1216; whereby that pope confirms the union that *Paparo* had made.”

The see of Glendalough subsisted until the reign of King John, at which time the diocese was united with that of Dublin.* But

* In the additions to Sir J. Ware by Mr. Harris, are a copy and translation of a curious “letter concerning the Palls sent into Ireland,” written by Felix, Archbishop of Tuam, contemporary with the last legal bishop of Glendalough. From the following passage we learn that Glendalough had been declining in importance and resort, from about the date at which the

it would appear that this was considered, by many, as an objectionable stretch of power, and the measure was naturally opposed by the sept of O'Toole, within whose territory stood the antient see. It has been conjectured that the see was kept constantly filled by that sept for many succeeding ages, although the temporalities were principally estranged. Many instances of this "usurpation" are recorded. Friar Dennis White, the last of these nominal prelates, surrendered his possession in the year 1497, and the archbishops of Dublin have ever since presided over the united sees, without interruption.

Some scanty materials collected by Mr. Archdall towards the history of the *Abbey* of Glendalough, involve several particulars relating to the annals of the city. But his authorities deal in no other than the prominent events of fire, massacre, and rapine; and, unhappily, this city of the mountains afforded a prolific theme for the labours of such annalists. We decline a chronological detail of the enormities here practised, but it may be proper to notice some of the principal of these woful occurrences. In the year 770, Glendalough was destroyed by fire; and in 830, the abbey was plundered by the Danes. The ravages committed by that people were so frequently repeated, that we may condense the intelligence respecting their aggressions, by observing that they appear to have considered this religious retreat as a depository of rich offerings, to be emptied by sacrilegious avarice as soon as replenished by votive piety. In the year 1020, "Glendalough was reduced by fire to a heap of ruins;" and we are told that thrice, in an advanced part of the same century, the city was consumed by accidental conflagration. Trifling particulars may not be altogether devoid of interest, when they relate to a place

English, or Anglo-Normans, acquired possession of the city of Dublin: "the holy church in the mountains, although antiently it was held in great veneration on account of *St. Keywin*, who lived a solitary life in that place, is now so waste and desolate, and hath been so for near forty years past, that of a church it is become a den and nest of thieves and robbers; so that more murders are committed in that valley, than in any other place in Ireland, occasioned by the vast and desert solitude thereof." Ware's *Antiquities*, &c. by Harris, vol. i. pp. 376—7.

of which scarcely any domestic traces, or civic records, are now remaining; and we, therefore, mention that, in 1177, "an astonishing flood ran through this city, by which the *bridge* and *mills* were swept away, and fishes remained in the midst of the town." In 1309, Piers de Gaveston, the well-known favourite of Edward II. defeated the sept of O'Byrne in this neighbourhood. He "rebuilt the castles of *Mac Adam* and *Keivin*; cut down and scowered the pass between Castle-Keivin and Glendalough, in despite of the Irish; and then made his offering at the shrine of St. Keivin." In the summer of 1398, the English forces, as we learn from the "Annals of the Four Masters," burnt and destroyed the city. It would appear that Glendalough, long declining, never recovered from the injuries then inflicted, but has, ever since, remained a dejected solitude, the theme of no other pages than those of the antiquary and poet. We may add to the above broad features in the annals of this deserted glen, that, on the 25th of August, 1580, an English force commanded by Lord Grey de Wilton, was here defeated, with considerable loss, by the Irish under Pheagh Mac Hugh O'Byrne, and Eustace, Viscount Balinglass. The queen's troops, writes Leland, "had to enter a steep, marshy, valley, perplexed with rocks, and winding irregularly through hills thickly wooded. As they advanced, they found themselves more and more encumbered; and either sunk into the yielding soil, so as to be utterly incapable of action, or were obliged to clamber over rocks which disordered their march. In the midst of confusion and distress, a sudden volley from the woods was poured in upon them, without any appearance of an enemy; and repeated with terrible execution. Soldiers and officers fell, without any fair opportunity of signalizing their valour. Audley, Moore, Cosby, and Sir Peter Carew, all distinguished officers, were slain in this rash adventure."

Glendalough is situated in the barony of Ballinacor, at the distance of about twenty-four miles from Dublin, towards the south. The name is derived, like most other early denominations of places, from obvious and characteristic natural features, and implies the glen, or valley, of the two lakes. The glen extends

from east to west, and is open in the former direction, but enclosed in every other part by steep and lofty mountains. A singular and striking view of the scene which the traveller is approaching, may be obtained from the neighbourhood of the barracks, not far from the opening of the vale towards the east. The sequestered recesses of this solemn tract are here partially revealed, rich in a group of ruins, above which rises a stately round tower. Behind these perishing relics (the sole remains of the city!) rises an abrupt and very lofty mountain, of fantastic shape.

Near its commencement the vale is of an expanded and a comparatively cheerful character, with broad but neglected tracts of meadow, or pasture, watered by the flow of the Avonmore. But the mountains speedily relinquish their shelving positions, draw nearer in a fearful abruptness of ascent, and spread a thick mantle of gloom over the consecrated but forsaken district. The first architectural object which arrests attention * is a building whose antient appellation is forgotten, and which is now known only by a name familiarly borrowed from the vestment which screens its decay ;—that of the Ivy Church. This ruin is situated to the south of the traveller's progress, and near the customary path. On the opposite side of the river, towards the south-east, are the remains of a building called by Mr. Archdall and Dr. Ledwich, the Priory of St. Saviour, and a chapel, which had been buried in obscurity for many ages, and was discovered only a few years back. At the distance of about a furlong to the west of the Ivy Church, we reach the former market-place of the city ; to the south of which are the cathedral ; a round tower ; St. Kevin's Kitchen ; and other remains of ecclesiastical buildings. Nearly in the middle of the glen are the ruins of the abbey.

The two lakes which afford an appellation to this glen, are

* It will be observed that names are ascribed to several of these ruined edifices, on no other authority than that of local tradition. The topography of Ireland was so utterly neglected for many ages, that Glendalough has become an object of enquiry at a period too late for the attainment of accuracy in designating its numerous perishing fabrics.

situated to the west of the cathedral and the site of the antient city. These are divided by a watery meadow ; and a cataract enriches the interstice of two mountains, towards the south. Here, on the strip of land between the waters, is the stony path of pilgrimage ; and the ruins of several crosses, and of a circle of stones, denote the places of former ceremonials. Here, also, we approach the Rhefeart church, or burial place of kings ; and the excavation of a lofty rock, termed St. Keivin's bed.—We are now arrived at the spot in which Glendalough stands revealed in all the awful tranquillity which induced the selection of this place by St. Keivin and his followers, as a recess marked by the hand of nature for deep religious meditation. The lakes are thrown into solemn shade by precipitous mountains of a sable tincture, which shut the profound waters from familiar visitation, and form a world peculiarly their own, more fearful, black, and like the quiet of the grave, than man can sustain, for a continuance, when under the influence of his wonted habits. It is the region of the Eremite ; it is the inspiring territory of the tragic poet, when embodying monstrous images that would appear to have issued from the womb of night, thrown into a frightful half-existence by distempered dreams. The gloom of this scenery overcomes the buoyancy of man's spirit, and the tones of worldly converse seem profanation. Oppressed to extreme dejection, we look for relief to the avenue by which we entered ; and there, in a tract approaching, although faintly, to the complexion of ordinary life, behold the unrecorded ruins of a religious city—the Palmyra of the desert !

That this picture is not overcharged, will be readily admitted by those who visit Glendalough ; and the antiquities presented by the vale are highly worthy of investigation. We have already suggested that the best guides, in an examination of these ruins, are confused and defective. Even the identity of the *Seven Churches** is quite open to discussion ; but we believe that these

* In regard to the *number* sometimes observable in the antient sacred edifices of Ireland, the following extract will be found satisfactory and useful : “The number seven was mystical and sacred, and early consecrated to religion. It began with the creation of the world, and all the

structures may, with some hope of correctness, be enumerated as follows :—1. The Cathedral. 2. The Abbey. 3. St. Keivin's Kitchen. 4. Our Lady's Church. 5. The Rhefcart Church. 6. Teampull-na-Skellig. 7. The Ivy Church. In our notice of the principal ruins of Glendalough, we commence at the east, and pursue a western progress throughout the valley.

The *Ivy Church* is small and of rude construction, the walls being formed of unhewn stones, dissimilar in size. This building is roofless, and in the last stage of decay. The entrance to the body of the church is by a narrow and square-headed doorway; and in that part of the structure there now remains only one window, about two feet high, and ten inches in width; round-headed, and the sides expanding towards the interior. At the east end is a semi-circular arch, of large dimensions, very coarsely executed, leading to a small attached building, in which are two windows, one round-headed, and the other forming a point, by means of two slabs of stone inclining towards each other, and meeting at the top. At the west end was lately a circular tower, of moderate height and diameter, evidently designed for a belfry; but this part of the building was of very different masonry to the tall pillar-towers of Ireland, and fell to the ground in the winter of 1818.

The *Abbey*, which was dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is now in so ruinous a condition as to have lost nearly all traces

Jewish rites were accommodated to it. It is found among the Brachmans and Egyptians. The Greek fathers extol its power and efficacy, and the Latin, as usual, apply it to superstitious purposes. The church formed various septenaries. The following is extracted from Archbishop Peckham's constitutions made at Lambeth, A. D. 1281, 'The most high hath created a medicine for the body of man, reposit in seven vessels, that is, the seven sacraments of the church. There are seven articles of faith belonging to the mystery of the Trinity. Seven articles belonging to Christ's humanity. There are seven commandments respecting man; seven capital sins, and seven principal virtues.' The Irish entertained a similar veneration for this number, witness the seven churches at Glendaloch, Clonmacnois, Inniscathy, Inch Derrin, Inniskealtra, and the seven altars at Clonfert and Holy Cross." *Antiquities of Ireland by Grase, vol. ii. p. 96.*

of architectural character. The earth rises in wavy hillocks over its fallen enrichments, and matted trees and brambles overgrow the decayed walls. The description of these remains, in their existing state, may be nearly comprised in the above sentence ; but so vivid a degree of curiosity is naturally excited by this ancient pile, that we extract, and present in the margin, some observations made on this spot by the late Mr. Archdall, about forty years back.*

Amongst the most curious architectural vestiges of Glendalough must be noticed a small *Chapel*, or *Oratory*, which had lain buried for ages beneath the ruins of a contiguous church, and was restored to the light of day by the antiquarian zeal of the

* "The ruins of the abbey consist of two buildings, parallel to each other (the larger one on the south being the church) ; on the east end of the abbey is an arch, of extremely curious workmanship ; the columns on the sides recede one behind another, and are very short, but do not diminish ; the capitals are ornamented in a singular manner, most of them with human heads at the angles, and dragons, or other fabulous animals, at the sides ; the heads have much the appearance of those in Egyptian sculpture, with large ears, long eyes, and the tresses of the hair straight ; the ring-stones of the arch are indented triangularly, in imitation of the Saxon architecture, and in some parts human heads and other ornaments are within the triangular mouldings. On the removal of some heaps of rubbish from under the ruins of this arch, a few stones beautifully carved were found, many of them belonging to the arches, and some to the architrave of the window ; the architrave is twelve inches broad, and a pannel is sunk, ornamented lozenge-wise, and an ovelo forms the lozenge, with a bead running on each side ; the centre of the lozenge is decorated on one side, in bas relief, with a knot delicately carved ; the other with a flower in the centre, and mouldings corresponding to the shape of the lozenge. The half-lozenge, at the bottom of the pilaster, in one is filled with a bas relief of a human head, with a bird on each side pecking at the eye, and the other by a dragon, twisting its head round the tail turned up between its legs into the mouth. Here is another stone, apparently the capital of a column ; two sides of it are visible, both are ornamented with a patera, but each side in a different manner ; one consists of a flower of sixteen large leaves and fifteen smaller ones, relieved the eighth of an inch, and the other of six leaves branching from the centre, with another leaf extending between their points." *Monast. Hibern.* p. 771.

late Samuel Hayes, of Avondale, Esq. The remains of this building exhibit few traces of architectural style, but afford some specimens of antient sculpture, which, although rude, are of great interest. The chapel is about fourteen feet in length, by ten feet in width, and has been supposed to contain the tomb of St. Keivin. The entrance is by a doorway towards the west, the decayed arch of which, and the capitals and bases of the pillars, are adorned with various carvings, in faint relief. In describing the subjects of these carvings we take advantage of some remarks afforded by Dr. Ledwich, whose observations are usually of unequivocal value, where description alone is the object in request.

The following are the principal subjects represented. A ravenous quadruped, probably a wolf, gnawing a human head. The head is large, and the hair, beard, and whiskers unite in bestowing on it a savage appearance.—The head of a young man and a wolf; the long hair of the man entwined with the tail of the beast. The author by whom we profit in our notice of this chapel, observes that “the hair thus thrown back from the forehead was the genuine Irish Culan, Cooleen, or Glibb. Wolves, until the year 1710, were not extirpated, and the mountains of Glendaloch must have abounded with them, There was a singular propriety in joining the tail of this animal with the young man’s glibb, to indicate the fondness of the one for the pursuit of the other.”—A triangle, enclosing a wolf, holding the end of its tail in its mouth.—Two ravens picking a skull, the whole enclosed in a triangle. Dr. Ledwich observes that this bird was peculiarly sacred to Odin, who has been called the King of ravens.—A central human head, with a wolf on each side, feeding on it.—Various intersecting segments of circles, supposed to represent Runic Knots. Dr. Ledwich quotes Keysler to show that “there were seven kinds of Runes, adapted to promote every human action and wish according to the ceremonies used in writing them; the materials on which they were written; the place where they were exposed; and the manner in which they were drawn; whether in the form of a circle, a serpent, a triangle,” or otherwise.

From the character of these devices, the author of the “Anti-

quities of Ireland" ascribes, without hesitation, the origin of the structure to the Danes. Here (writes Dr. Ledwich) "are no traces of Saxon feuillage, no christian symbols, no illusions to sacred or legendary story: the sculptures are expressive of a savage and uncultivated state of society;" and, therefore, as is clearly implied by his remarks, the work is not Irish but Danish. It may be observed that in the sculpture at Mount-Cashell, which few will suppose to have been executed under Danish patronage, there is no device that can be deemed a "christian symbol;" and it is well known that the grotesque carvings used for church-ornaments by the Anglo-Normans, were often equally destitute of pious reference. We might expatiate on the improbability of an artist under Danish protection introducing a head confessedly Irish, with the complimentary allusion of attachment to the useful and dangerous chase of the wolf. But our limits prevent an ample discussion of such topics; and we must rest contented with briefly remarking, that, since the Danes are known to have so frequently ravaged with sword and firebrand the consecrated recesses of this valley, it must be deemed extremely unlikely that they were, at the same time, the founders and superintendants of a costly religious edifice in the vicinity of its abbey. Dr. Ledwich would appear to insinuate, (in page 181 of his "Antiquities of Ireland") that the Danes "pillaged their own countrymen" when they burst with a sacrilegious hand into the feeble sanctuary of Glendalough; but if he believe that they had really effected a stationary residence in this mountainous part of the territory of the O'Tooles, he will certainly not make converts to such an opinion. In ascribing this building to invaders from the north, our author appears to be chiefly influenced by his favourite assertion that masonry "was not practised in this land before the establishment of the Danish power in the tenth century;" a position which, we think, will remain untenable whilst the stupendous round tower of this vale rears its massy and finely-wrought form, in a district continually "pillaged" by that savage people.

On pursuing the customary path from the Ivy Church towards the west, we speedily arrive at the former centre of busy congress,

the market-place of the fallen city! This is a small and square plot of ground, the surface now uneven and overgrown with grass. In the middle stood a cross, of which the base still remains. No traces of antient domestic buildings were discovered in our researches; but the city is supposed to have extended from the Rhefeart church on the west to the Ivy Church on the east; and to have stood on both sides of the river. The remains of a paved street, about ten feet in width, are still visible for a considerable extent, leading from the market-place into the county of Kildare. A few small cabins are inhabited by peasant families, who readily act as guides to the inquisitive visiter.

To the south of the market-place we pass over the river Glendasan (a shallow brook in the summer, but a torrent of much fury when swoln with the rains of winter) by means of stepping-stones; and then approach the cathedral. That church is surrounded by a spacious cemetery, entered by a double gateway of semi-circular arches, composed of large stones rudely hewn. Within the limits of the cemetery is a round or pillar tower, 110 feet in height, and fifty-two feet in girth near the bottom. The roofing is gone, but the tower is, otherwise, in excellent preservation. The entrance is by a round-headed doorway, about 10 feet from the ground. In different stages of the ascent there are, as usual, several small apertures, which are of a square form. In the south part of the same cemetery is a plain cross, formed of one entire stone, eleven feet in height.*

The *Cathedral* is of small dimensions, the nave being forty-eight feet in length by thirty feet in width. The whole is in a ruinous state, and of rude architecture. The original windows were small, and in the circular mode of design; but, with one exception, were destitute of ornament. The chancel is divided

* Amongst several remains of sculpture, engraved (but not with satisfactory correctness or effect) in Dr. Ledwich's *Antiquities of Ireland*, may be noticed "a loose stone, shewing in relievo three figures." In the centre is "a bishop, or priest, sitting in a chair, and holding a penitential in his hand. On the right a pilgrim leans on his staff, and on the left, a young man holds a purse of money." Vide *Ledwich's Antiquities, &c.* p. 177.

from the body of the church by a semi-circular arch; and, at the eastern end, are the remains of a window, now greatly mutilated, but formerly exhibiting much curious decoration. The head is semi-circular, and the sides are cut away with considerable skill, thus causing the aperture to be large within, whilst the actual perforation of the wall is scarcely of greater width than the arrow-loop of an antient castle.* The sweep of the arch is ornamented with chevron work; and a broad impost-moulding formerly contained many pieces of legendary sculpture.

At a small distance from the cathedral is a building, familiarly termed *the priest's-house*, which was, probably, the sacristy. This is a structure of small dimensions, composed of unhewn stone, and now in a state of ruin.

The building commonly known by the inappropriate appellation of *St. Keivin's Kitchen*, is nearly parallel with the cathedral. The walls of this chapel, or oratory, are constructed of rough stone, and are three feet six inches in thickness. The gloomy effect of twilight was evidently studied in the disposal of the interior, as there was originally only one window in the western division of the building. This was placed about eight feet from the south-east angle; and, as we learn from Mr. Archdall, was ornamented with an architrave of free-stone, "elegantly wrought, which was conveyed away by the neighbouring inhabitants, and brayed to powder for domestic use." The eastern compartment is separated from the body of the chapel by a semi-circular arch, and is lighted by two narrow and round-headed apertures. Towards the north is a small apartment, or chapel. It may be observed, that the part which we describe as the body of St. Keivin's chapel, is of a greater height than the fabrics towards the east and north, and probably constituted the whole of the original building. The roof is composed of thin stones, laid horizontally, and rising in the form of a wedge to a sharp angle, the extreme height being about thirty feet. The ceiling is coved; and between the coving and the roof is a rude apartment, lighted by a small

* It may be here observed that not any of the few windows remaining in the ruins of these churches, appear to have been glazed.

window. From the west end of the roof ascends a circular turret, designed for a belfry.

Our Lady's Church is nearly opposite to the cathedral, and is now in a ruinous condition, and overgrown with ivy. The masonry, although far from excellent, appears to have been superior to that observable in several of the other buildings.*

The *Rhefeurt*, or *Sepulchre of Kings*, is situated between the two lakes, and acquires its appellation from the circumstance of having afforded a place of burial to the princes of the race of O'Toole. This church is now a confused mass of ruin. The interior is filled with the fallen materials of the structure, amidst which have shot up trees, of various growth, some flourishing in early vigour, whilst others are themselves decayed through age. The cemetery is overgrown with brambles, and disfigured with fragments of the ruin. Here are to be discovered the mutilated remains of several crosses, which do not appear to have been richly worked, and are now covered with mosses. On a tomb in this church is an inscription, defaced through age, which is said to have presented the following words, in the Irish character :

Jesus Christ

Mile deach Feuch Corp Re Mac M'Thuil.

Behold the resting-place of the body of King M'Thuil (or Mac Toole)
who died in Jesus Christ, 1010.

Between the cathedral and the tract to which we have now

* The architectural character of our lady's church was thus noticed by Mr. Archdall, about the year 1780: "The door consists of only three courses; the lintel is five feet six inches in length, and fourteen inches and an half in depth; the door is six feet four in height, two feet six in width at top, and two feet ten at bottom; a kind of architrave is worked round the door six inches broad, and in the bottom of the lintel an ornament is wrought in a cross resembling the flyer of a stamping-press. The walls are carried up with hewn stone, in general of a large size, to about the height of the door, and the remainder are of the rude mountain rag-stone, but laid incomparably well. At the east end was an arch of hewn stone, exactly similar to that of the cathedral." *Monast. Hibern.* p. 774.

directed the reader's attention, is a paved footway, over a marshy piece of ground in the strip of land that divides the two lakes. This path, now overgrown with grass, was in the line of antient pilgrimage, and several crosses were erected in different parts of the pilgrim's progress. These are now much injured by time and wanton hands, but appear, from their remains, to have been originally destitute of elaborate ornament. Near the first cross on leaving the Rhefeart church, is a circle of stones, piled up to the height of about three feet; at, and round which, we are told, the pilgrims performed penance.

Situated in the recess of a mountain that rises to the south of the upper lake, was *Teampull-Na-Skellig*, often called the *Priory of the Rock*, or the *Temple of the Desert*; names expressive of the Irish appellation. This was a small and rude fabric, extremely difficult of approach.

In a rocky projection of the mountain, near the frightful site of this temple, is the celebrated *Bed of St. Keivin*. The place thus denominated is a cave, hewn in the perpendicular rock, at a considerable height above the profound waters of the lake. A situation more appalling cannot be readily imagined. The path which leads to it is fearfully narrow, and one false step must inevitably plunge the adventurer into the lake beneath, which wears a black and threatening aspect, the reflection of the gloomy mountains by which it is surrounded.

The above are the most prominent objects which require attention; but, besides the subjects which we have described, there are many ruins of inferior ecclesiastical buildings, left without a name amidst the spoils of time. These are of sufficient interest to merit examination by the visiter whose taste and leisure may favour extended researches; but we are not aware that they afford any curious vestiges of architecture or sculpture. We shall make no apology for omitting to specify the various tales of wonder fondly cherished by the illiterate, respecting this sequestered glen. The festival of St. Keivin is annually celebrated on the 3rd of June, at which time,

“ The mountain-nymphs and swains are seen,
Combining in the dance of mirth.
There many an awful tale is told,
Traditions of the times of old ;
Which the fond ears of wondering youth,
Devour as words of sacred truth.”

Glendalough was the chief town of the territory denominated *Imayle*, or *Hy-Mayle*, the principality of O'Toole, on the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in this country. The O'Tooles remained a powerful sept for several centuries subsequent to that event, their possessions, at the date of the Norman invasion, extending to Castle-Dermott, in the modern county of Kildare, where the toparch generally resided, until dispossessed by de Riddesford, Baron of Bray. The harassing wars in which the O'Tooles and O'Byrnes engaged against the English settlers, are narrated under nearly every reign in the history of Ireland, previous to the termination of the 16th century ; and, after a long interval of comparative tranquillity, the former sept appeared in arms so lately as the year 1641 ; a circumstance noticed in our account of the town of Wicklow. One of the most illustrious persons of this name and lineage, was St. Laurence O'Toole, Archbishop of Dublin from the year 1162 to 1180, whose unquestionable worth has been recorded in several previous sections of our work. This excellent prelate was the son of Moriartach, Prince of Imayle, and received his education in the seminary of Glendalough, in the monastery of which place he took upon him the habit of religion.

Since the troubles of the 17th century, in which every party bore a share, the family of O'Toole have maintained a more amiable, though a less important station in society, than in preceding ages. The present known representatives of this once-formidable sept are, — O'Toole, Esq. of Edermyne, and Colonel John O'Toole, of Newtown, both in the county of Wexford. The latter very respectable gentleman was formerly an officer in the French service. He married the Lady Catharine Annesley, sister to the late Earl of Mountnorris, by which lady he has issue.

Whilst in this sequestered part of the county, we penetrate the mountainous district towards the north, for the purpose of noticing a singular and romantic spot, called LUGGELA.* A lake, termed *Lough Tay*, about three miles in circumference, is here situated in a deep hollow, surrounded by stupendous and rugged mountains. The masses of rock, the succession of mountains on all sides, and the dearth of vegetation, would seem to indicate that this recess were beyond the limits of society. But the hand of art has exhibited the power of contrast and relief, with unusual effect. At an unexpected point, in the bosom of this chilling scene, is revealed a verdant and well-planted dot of cultivation, embellished with a banquetting-house. This vale of Tempe in the midst of the desert, has arisen under the fostering care of the Latouche family.

The town of WICKLOW is seated on the sea-coast, at the distance of twenty-four miles from Dublin. The name, formerly written *Wykinglo*, is probably of Teutonic origin. This is the shire and assize town, but is otherwise a place of small consideration. Over the river Leitrim, which here enters the sea, is a stone bridge, of eight arches. The *Church* is a commodious and well-preserved building, having at the west end a square tower,

* In the tract of country between Glendalough and Luggela is a place, bearing the name of *Annamoe*, which is so little known as scarcely to be entitled to our observation. But we cannot avoid remarking that it is connected with a memorable event in the early life of *Laurence Sterne*, who is mentioned, in a subsequent page, as a native of Clonmell. In the brief memoirs of himself, prefixed to his "Letters," Sterne thus notices a temporary residence of his family in this county, whilst he was a child, and moving, in dependance on his father, through all the vicissitudes of a soldier's life.—"We lived in the barracks at Wicklow, one year, (one thousand seven hundred and twenty); from thence we decamped, to stay half a year with Mr. Fetherston, a clergyman about seven miles from Wicklow, who being a relation of my mother's invited us to his parsonage at *Animo*. It was in this parish, during our stay, that I had that wonderful escape in falling through a mill-race, whilst the mill was going, and of being taken up unhurt. The story is incredible, but known for truth in all that part of Ireland, where hundreds of the common people flocked to see me."—Memoirs of Sterne by Himself.

erected, as we are informed by an inscription on the interior, in the year 1777, by the Eaton family. On the south side of the church is a round-headed doorway, the ornamental mouldings of which are worked in rude and slight relief. The church of Wicklow was formerly the head of a rural deanery, and, in 1467, was constituted a prebend of St. Patrick's cathedral, Dublin. This place affords the title of Earl to the Howard family.

On a rock upon the coast are the small remains of a *castle*, originally built by Maurice Fitzgerald, ancestor of the Duke of Leinster, to whom this manor was granted by Earl Strongbow. William Fitzaldelm, progenitor of the house of De Burgh, shortly after the foundation of the fortress procured this estate, in exchange for Ferns Castle, in the county of Wexford. The building falling to decay was restored, in the reign of Edward III. by Sir William Fitz-William, whose successors, of the house of Merrion, were long constables of this castle. This was a post of more danger than honour. Situated in the vicinity of mountain-septs who were inaccessible to open warfare, the castle was often taken and re-taken by the O'Tooles, the O'Byrnes, the O'Kavanaghs, and the English. In the early part of the sixteenth century it was possessed by the sept of O'Byrne; but, in 1543, was, together with the town of Wicklow, by them surrendered to the king. In the year 1641, Luke O'Toole, at the head of his mountaineers, laid siege to Wicklow, but was compelled to retire by an English force under Sir Charles Coote.

At this place was a monastery for conventual Franciscans, founded, according to Ware and Archdall, by the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles, in the reign of Henry III. Some small remains of the building are enclosed in a garden, which formerly belonged to the family of Eaton.

The harbour of Wicklow admits no other than small craft, but appears to be capable of improvement at a moderate expense. In 1761, and the two following years, several sums, amounting in the whole to more than £8,000, were ineffectually granted by government for that purpose. In the year 1774, a light-house, of great utility, was here erected.

The *Morragh*, or *Omortagh*, is the name bestowed on a tract of land extending for about six miles along the sea-shore, between the towns of Wicklow and Bray. This tract was granted, in 1172, by Earl Strongbow, to Lord Walter de Riddesford, and Hervey de Montmorency, constable of Ireland, who, by some annalists, is termed, after this place and a manor of the same name in Wexford, “Heremon Morty, or de Mortagh.” The Morragh was enclosed in the last century, with the exception of a small part, used as the Wicklow race-course.*

We now return to the vicinity of Rathdrum, where we again meet the Avonmore, and shall pursue the course of that river in its progress towards the sea, through a country so exuberant in beauty, that we despair of communicating any resemblance of just ideas respecting its varied charms.

At the distance of about one English mile from Rathdrum is AVONDALE, formerly the seat of the late Samuel Hayes, Esq. by whom the estate was bequeathed to the late William Parnell, Esq. one of the representatives in parliament of this county, and second son of the late Right Hon. Sir John Parnell, Bart. It is a pleasing duty of the topographer to observe that both these former possessors of the mansion were conspicuous for zeal towards the improvement of their native island. Colonel Hayes will be long remembered for the ardour with which he endeavoured to cultivate a taste for the rural arts, by written precept and a valuable example. Mr. Parnell, who is recently lost to his friends and country, was author of several curious literary publications respecting Ireland.

The house of Avondale is a capacious and handsome structure, seated on an eminence which overhangs the river. This rise of

* From the verdant level of this tract, there descends to the lowest water-mark, a slope, which is sometimes merely fine sand, but is in other seasons a heap of pebbles, three or four feet in height, and of considerable breadth, one tide augmenting, and another diminishing the quantity, under the operation of different winds. Here are found many beautiful pebbles, latterly manufactured by the jewellers of Dublin into necklaces and other ornaments, and believed to be superior, in every respect, to the pebbles of Scotland or England.

land is finely various in character, at one part presenting gentle slopes, and in another assuming a precipitous aspect, the whole being adorned with antient forest trees, and plantations selected and cultivated with great judgment and care.

The most attractive parts of the demesne are on the banks of the Avonmore, which river proceeds through these grounds for an extent of not less than two miles. Throughout the whole of its progress its course is sinuous, and its meanders produce a lovely diversity of scenery. The waters in some places roll tumultuously over a channel broken by fragments of shivered rock, and in others glide, in lucid tranquillity, over a pebbly bed. The banks are delightfully various; often pressing towards each other with a bold and rocky front, bare as if scathed by the lightning of the tempest, or partially clothed in shrubby wood, and heaths fluctuating in tint with every change of season. In prevalent character the lofty banks recede, in unnumbered varieties of inclination, richly mantled with oak, the native growth of this district. On a spot deeply sequestered is a romantic cottage, adjoining the lodge of the wood-ranger. This building is designed in an admirable simplicity of taste, and its situation seems formed for the resort of poetical enthusiasm. The Avonmore here contends with one of the most rugged parts of its winding channel, and the cliffs upon its margin, finely painted with the varied foliage of the oak and luxuriant evergreens, veil the brilliancy of noon-day with the perpetual gloom of evening. In the front and rear of the cottage is a small, but verdant, tract, embellished with a hand so judicious, that the operations of art are not detected, and the spectator believes the whole picturesque effect to proceed from the sportive wildness of nature.

In general character, although several exceptions occur, the scenery of this demesne is pensive rather than gloomy, thus affording a fine and chastened variety of the description of country on the borders of a mountain-stream, noticed in former parts of our work at the Dargle, Dunran, and the Devil's Glyn, where the profound and terrific often prevail to a chilling degree. The judgment exercised by Colonel Hayes, under whose direction

the demesne was arranged, cannot be too warmly commended. Sensible of the bounties of nature, he obtruded no artificial efforts, except such as tended to remove incumbrances, or to supply defects proceeding from casualty.

The demesne of Avondale enlivens as it approaches its southern limit. The vale expands in this direction, and opens to scenery in which the lovely and august are mingled with a rare felicity of disposal.

We now enter the VALE OF OVOCAL and here the attention of the lover of the picturesque, and, we may add, the respectful pause of every man, duly conscious of the benignity with which the great Author of nature has adorned the painful scene of human travel, with beauties which soothe the cares of life, and elevate the imagination, are first demanded by the point at which takes place the junction of the two streams denominated the Avonmore and Avonbeg. This spot, generally termed the *Meeting of the Waters*, transcends, in an enchanting combination of delightful objects, all powers of prosaic description, and we gladly refer the expression of our feelings to the warm and brilliant pen of a native poet :

“ There is not in the wide world a valley so sweet
As that vale in whose bosom the bright waters meet.
Oh! the last rays of feeling and life must depart
Ere the bloom of that valley shall fade from my heart!

“ Sweet Vale of Ovocal! how calm could I rest
In thy bosom of shade, with the friends I love best.
Where the storms which we feel in this cold world shall cease,
And our hearts, like thy waters, be mingled in peace!” *

Near the Meeting of the Waters is CASTLE HOWARD, the seat of Colonel Robert Howard. This mansion is placed on the summit of a lofty elevation, the sides of which are finely overspread with wood. The original building on this site was not of an extensive character, and was nearly inaccessible to carriages. The

* Vide the “ Meeting of the Waters,” by T. Moore, Esq. *Irish Melodies*, vol. i. p. 50.

estate was purchased in the year 1811, by the present proprietor, who has greatly enlarged the house, and bestowed on it the form of an antient baronial residence. The approach, and every relative circumstance, favour the illusion cultivated by the architect. The demesne is entered from the public road by a stone bridge and an arched gateway. A carriage-road, nearly one mile in length, winds up the sides of the mountain, resembling in every respect, except excellence of construction, the circuitous progress to the embattled castles of times long past. The various displays of scenery at different points of this tedious ascent, might afford subjects to a descriptive volume, and could scarcely be over-rated by its most glowing page.

The mansion is composed of stone, and its design involves the representation of a castle, or rather a castellated house, and an attached ecclesiastical structure. The whole is happily imagined for the attainment of picturesque effect; and the interior is admirably consistent with the mode of building that prevails throughout every external part. The characteristics of one of the most highly-embellished fabrics of the fifteenth century, are here successfully rendered subservient to a liberality of arrangement, suited to the less stately, but more truly dignified, habits of modern life. Several of the ceilings are finely worked in pendants and tracery. The adoption of the antient English style of architecture is peculiarly judicious in a mountainous and romantic country, like Wicklow. The towers of this elevated building, so beautifully circumstanced by nature, afford conspicuous ornaments of the fairest vale which Ireland produces, and which is, perhaps, not to be excelled in any other part of Europe. We believe that we are correct in attributing much of the spirit which pervades the improvement of this house and demesne, to the excellent taste of Mrs. Howard. The architect employed was Mr. Morrison.

After leaving the base of the mountain whose summit is adorned with the towers of Castle-Howard, the Ovoca flows between the mountains of Cronebane and Balymortogh, both of which contain mines of copper, the former being worked at present with some success.

Pursuing the banks of the river, the vale gradually expands into fertile districts, dotted at intervals with white cottages, and smiling in verdure and tranquillity. Mountains, of vast altitude, rise on both sides, thrown into an endless variety of lovely pictures by the irregularity of their positions. In general, these mountains are covered with wood, or are richly pictorial in heaths and other upland vegetation; but nature knows no oppressive sameness in this region: bold jutting rocks start forth, where the traveller anticipates a continuance of enchanting softness, and cast the landscape into shade and contrast. Small and sweet glens retire from the eye in various directions, and speak of repose beyond earthly hope.

The river in this part of the vale is crossed by two bridges, which have in their vicinity scattered rural buildings, combining happily with surrounding objects. Here will, also, be noticed *Cherrymount*, a villa inferior in magnitude to many seats on the borders of the Ovoca, but surpassed by few in charms of situation. The building is placed on an elevated site, but is sheltered by more lofty contiguous eminences; and the grounds are shaded by feathering woods, which enwrap the whole demesne in tender seclusion.

A tract, unrivalled in this vicinity for natural beauties, precludes the notice of numerous minor charms which would amply repay the labour of investigation. This is *BALYARTHUR*, formerly the estate of Mr. Symes, and now the residence of the Rev. Henry Lambart Bayly. The house is a substantial and commodious structure, but has, in itself, no claims on the attention of the traveller. The demesne comprehends several of the mountainous elevations which rise from the margin of the Ovoca, and affords views unspeakably magnificent and lovely. A terrace, one mile in length, stretches along the lofty ridge forming the northern bank of the river; and from this exalted walk stands revealed the whole of the vale which we have casually noticed from low-land positions, together with an immense tract of alpine country, perceptible, in one vast congregated view, from no other place. The Ovoca, increased in its progress by the tributary waters of the Derry, winds round this

demesne, in a circular sweep of prodigious boldness; its mountainous banks covered with the rich foliage of the oak. The devious course of the river is here traced through scenes of amazing variety, the valley along which it flows often extending to the width of more than a mile.

At the point considered most favourable to a command of prospect, is constructed a small and rustic octangular building, from which nature stands displayed in a degree of beauty and magnificence that dazzles the eye and overpowers the feelings. In a direction towards its rise the meanders of the Ovoca are enlivened by all the pastoral softness of verdant meadows, and their attendant objects of rural animation, screened by mountains which recede in an infinitude of wavy or broken outlines. Towards the sea, the river pursues a broad but numbered course, through shelving masses of wood, which reach towards its brink, or retire from its current, in majestic and graceful transitions.

The views obtained from this favoured walk are not confined to the charms of the vale, transcendant as are those beauties, and varying at almost every step. Mountains, endless in shape, and sublime in character as the columnar masses of an autumnal sunset, form the distance in some directions; whilst other spreads of remote scenery are profound in apparently interminable ranges of matted wood. The wide sea rolls upon the eye towards the east, and completes this immense congress of the grandest and softest objects which nature affords in any single display.

SHELTON, the seat of the Earl of Wicklow, is situated on the northern bank of the Ovoca, at the distance of two miles from the town of Arklow. As the river approaches the spot at which its waters are discharged into the sea, the country assumes a more subdued aspect. The vale expands, and the mountains subside into gentle undulations. Amidst this scenery stands Shelton House. The building occupies a low site, but is encompassed by a fine demesne, extremely rich in wood. The Spanish chestnut attains, in these grounds, a growth unusually noble; the oak is the prevalent tree, but, owing to a neglect of thinning and judicious culture, is rarely seen in magnificent proportions; some

beech trees in the vicinity of the mansion are conspicuous for size and beauty.

The ancestors of the Earl of Wicklow have been seated at Shelton since the middle of the seventeenth century. The family-house, which was of considerable antiquity, received some alterations and additions from the grandfather of the present earl, but was much neglected in succeeding years. The present noble proprietor, on acceding to the title and estate, wisely resolved on fixing his chief residence on a spot so highly favoured by nature, and has bestowed on the house very important improvements, after the designs of Messrs. Richard and William Morrison. We are informed by the architects that their intention, in the design of this altered edifice, is that of an abbey constructed in the fourteenth century, and converted, with additions, into a noble residence at a date shortly subsequent to the Reformation. This conception is entitled to much praise. Public taste has been too long misled by "Gothic" designs, entirely destitute of attention to the progression of styles observable in antient English architecture, and fantastically comprehensive, at once, of the ecclesiastical, the military, and the domestic modes of building, as practised in various ages. The interior of the mansion very correctly assimilates, in character, with the design adopted as the "ruling genius" of the alterations. The hall of entrance is wainscotted with carved oak, and the ceil work is enriched with pendants. The great hall, which lies beyond the room of entrance, is finely ornamented in the manner of its supposed æra. The principal staircase is, likewise, of carved oak, and has a striking and noble effect. Several of the chief rooms of reception are arranged with eminent delicacy of taste; and the whole are conspicuous for a due keeping of architectural fashion. The lover of the fine arts will find, with pleasure, that, amidst these allusions to antient times, there is interspersed a good collection of pictures, many of which are by distinguished masters. The large and valuable library contains the books, drawings, and medals, assembled by Hugh Howard, Esq. together with the works collected by the bishop of Elphin, great grandfather of the present Earl of

Wicklow, who purchased a great part of the extensive library of the Lord Chancellor West. It may be observed, as a local anecdote, that King James II. was entertained at Shelton House, when pursuing his troubled road to Waterford, after his defeat at the Boyne.

On the opposite, or southern, bank of the Ovoca is KILCARRA, the seat of the Earl of Carysfort. The house was formerly a hunting-lodge, but has been greatly enlarged by the present earl, and ornamented in imitation of the castellated style. The building, which is profoundly sequestered, is placed on a gentle eminence, and surrounded by a fine and richly-wooded estate.

ARKLOW,* distant from Dublin thirty-six miles, is a town of moderate extent, situated on the banks of the Ovoca, near the spot at which that river enters the sea, and forms a haven for small craft. The town may be described as consisting of two parts, the upper town and the fishery. The buildings in the first division are ranged in one street, of an eligible width; and are, in general, neat, but in no instance rise superior to a respectable mediocrity of character. The fishery consists of between two and three hundred cabins, built of mud, and placed without the least attention to regularity.

A monastery was founded at this place by Theobald Fitz-Walter, hereditary lord butler of Ireland, "for the love of God and the Blessed Virgin, and for the health of the souls of Henry II. king of England, King Richard, King John," and other persons. The monks, according to a charter in the Cotton library, cited by Sir W. Dugdale, were of the Cistercian order, and came from the abbey of Furness, in Lancashire. Theobald Walter le Boteller died at his castle of Arklow, in 1285, and was buried in the abbey-church, beneath a monument ornamented with his effigies. On the dissolution of monastic houses in the reign of Henry VIII. this friary and its appurtenances (including the right of three flaggons and a half out of every brewing of ale, for sale,

* The *barony of Arklow* gives the title of baron, by tenure, to the house of Ormonde, and the same title, by creation, to his Royal Highness Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex,

in the town of Arklow) were granted for ever to John Travers, at the annual rent of 2s. 2d. Irish money. Mr. Archdall (Monast. Hibern. p. 760.) terms the building "a noble structure," of which "large ruins" existed at the date of his publication. These remains stood at the rear of the town, but are now entirely demolished. On part of the site was erected a parish church, the land having been granted for that purpose by Sir Laurence Esmond, Bart. and Benjamin Mountney, Esq.; but this building falling to decay a new church has been recently erected, on a more eligible spot.

The new *Church* of Arklow, situated near the centre of the town, is a capacious building, in the pointed style of architecture, erected after designs by Francis Johnston, Esq. A spacious and handsome Roman Catholic chapel has, also, been built within the last few years.

The *Castle* of Arklow was originally erected by Theobald Fitz-Walter, fourth lord butler of Ireland, the founder of the abbey. In the month of May, 1331, O'Toole took this fortress by assault, but was shortly after driven from the place by Lord De Bermingham. In the following year it was again taken by the Irish and re-taken by the English, at which time it is said to have been re-edified by the latter possessors. In 1231, a battle was fought near this place between the English and Irish, in which the latter were totally defeated by Stephen de Fulborne, Bishop of Waterford, the lord justiciary. Oliver Cromwell captured this place in 1649, and reduced the castle to a state of ruin. The small remains of the building, chiefly consisting of a mutilated tower, nearly covered with ivy, are now attached to barracks, which are sufficiently large for the accommodation of two companies of foot, and are surrounded by a wall.

Amongst the few public institutions of this small town, must be noticed a dispensary and a fever-hospital. Here is also a Sunday-school, supported by private subscription. The herring-fishery on the coast is cultivated with increasing success. There are two seasons in the year, one commencing in May, and continuing for six weeks; the other in November, and lasting an

equal time. The total population of the town, according to returns made under the act of 1812, was 2592. In the account of Arklow, inserted in Mr. S. Mason's parochial survey, are noticed the following curious instances of longevity: "A few years ago a woman died at the age of 110, and in speaking of her children, she said her youngest boy was then eighty; he is still alive. There is, at present, the crew of a herring boat, five in number, who fish during the season, and whose united ages amount to 335 years."

This town has become unhappily distinguished in recent annals, on account of the battle fought here on the 9th of June, 1798, between the insurgent army and the king's troops and yeomanry, under the command of General Needham; in which the former were defeated, after a desperate but ill-directed resistance. Colonel Skerret, the second in command, highly distinguished himself on this occasion, as did his regiment, the Durham fencibles. The insurgents were inspired and led to action by a priest named Michael Murphy, a man of enthusiastic intrepidity, believed, by many of his ignorant and credulous followers, to be invulnerable. Murphy, however, fell by a cannon-ball; and the insurgents, destitute of experienced leaders, after this battle were no longer formidable to the government.

The mountain in this parish denominated *Croghan*, situated on the border of the county of Wexford, is celebrated as the district in which native gold was discovered, some few years back, in quantities so considerable as to encourage vivid hopes respecting the existence of an abundant mine of that precious metal. It appears that, about the year 1765, there was found, in a stream descending from this mountain, a piece of gold not larger than the head of a brass nail; which discovery caused many neighbouring persons to pursue laborious, but fruitless searches, after a more valuable prize. Many touches of comic humour were blended with the eagerness, and the fallacious character, of this investigation. The enthusiasm of a schoolmaster, over whose imagination the idea of riches, so easily to be obtained, had acquired an influence subversive of sober judgment, is still locally remembered, and has

created public smiles, through the medium of a farce written by O'Keefe, under the title of the "Wicklow Gold Mines."

After the first casual discovery, the streams of Croghan proved nearly as barren of gold as the labours of the alchemist, until the month of August, 1796. In the latter part of that month, a man crossing the brook perceived in the water a piece of this sovereign metal, about half an ounce in weight. A vigorous search was immediately renewed amongst the country-people; and, between the 24th of August and the 15th of October, at which time possession was taken of the ground by government, it is believed, that as much gold was found, and sold on the spot, as amounted to £10,000 Irish currency. The average price paid was 3*l.* 15*s.* per ounce, and the quantity of gold supposed to have been found was consequently 2,666 ounces. We present, in the annexed note, a summary view of the scientific, but unsuccessful, methods subsequently used to discover veins productive of gold in this mountain.*

* The gold discovered at Croghan was "found in lumps (one of which was nine ounces in weight, a second eighteen ounces, and a third even twenty-two ounces), and in grains, in some cases, under a very considerable depth of soil, mixed with clay, gravel, sand, fragments of rock, and metallic substances, forming a kind of stratum next to, and reposing on the subjacent solid rock. Government, in consequence, established stream-works on the several streams descending from the mountain, in order to obtain the gold. In the processes of washing, by which all the metallic particles, dispersed through the soil, are collected in a concentrated mass, and which are well known to professed miners, it was shewn that the native gold was constantly attended (more particularly in the principal stream-work of Ballinvally stream) by quartz, magnetic iron-stone, (some in the octahedral form), magnetic sand, cubical and dodecahedral iron pyrites, specular iron ore, brown and red iron-stone, iron ochre, tinstone chrystals, wolfram, and grey ore of manganese. It appeared also that the gold, magnetic ironstone, and wolfram, were each of them frequently intermixed with quartz; and also that the gold sometimes, though rarely, occurred incorporated with iron ochre, and even with wolfram.

"A due consideration of these circumstances, in connexion with the known existence of metallic veins in the mountain, led to the inference that these veins might upon adequate trial be found productive of gold; and hence the directors of the works were induced to propose to government to extend their researches upon a systematic plan, in order to ascertain

At the distance of one mile to the left of the small town of *Aughrim*, is the residence termed *Clone*; and, at the same distance on the right, is *Balymanus*, an antient seat of a branch of the Byrne family, denominated after this place. Distant from *Aughrim* about four miles, is *BALYBEG*, the seat of Mr. Syms. The latter demesne is well planted, and commands very impressive views over a wild and mountainous district, in which the sublimity of nature is scarcely softened by a single effort of art.

TINEHELY, distant from Dublin forty-one miles, is situated in a mountainous country, on the banks of a small stream, over which is a stone bridge of two arches. This town, or village, was entirely destroyed during the troubles of 1798, but was shortly after rebuilt, in an improved manner. A neat market-house, over which is the Sessions-room, was then erected by the lord of the manor, Earl Fitzwilliam. Within one quarter of a mile of the town, stood the ruins of *Coolruss* (the *Cosha*, as we presume, of the unfortunate Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, so often noticed by him in his letters); to which place the inhabitants have given the name of *Black Tom's buildings*. Many of the modern houses in the town have been erected with the

the truth of this conclusion. The measures suggested for this purpose were, to continue the stream-works to the head of the several streams: to examine more narrowly the solid mass of the mountain, by means of trenches cut in every direction down to the firm rock; to explore more fully the veins already known, and those that might be discovered by the trenches on the surface of the rock; and lastly, to try these veins in depth, by means of a level or gallery, to be driven into the mountain in a direction nearly at right angles with the general range of the veins.

“These measures met the approbation of government, and were consequently carried into effect. Numerous trials were made by driving and sinking on the veins previously known, and subsequently discovered. The mineral substances obtained, were subjected to the operations both of fire and of amalgamation; but in no instance was a particle of gold elicited from them, either by the one or the other operation.

“The result persuaded government, that no gold was to be found as an inherent ingredient, in the veins which traverse the mountain, and hence they were induced to abandon the works.”—Remarks by Thomas Weavers, Esq. Parochial Survey, vol. ii. pp. 30-33.

stone and brick taken from those ruins, which closely resembled the remains of Jigginstown Palace, near Naas, commenced by the same nobleman.

CARNEW, a small town in the barony of Shillelagh, containing the remains of a castle, or strongly-embattled house, said to have belonged, formerly, to the O'Tooles, is also on the estate of Earl Fitzwilliam. The king's troops were here defeated by the insurgents, on the 3rd of July, 1798. *Tomacork*, the seat of Mr. Sherwood, near this place, was burned in 1797, shortly before the breaking out of the rebellion: and it is observable that this was the first outrage of the kind perpetrated in this county at that disastrous season.

The village of *Aghold*, or *Agh-uail*, presents some ruins of a monastic institution, not noticed by Mr. Archdall, together with remains of stone crosses.

BALTINGLASS, a town of some consideration, distant from Dublin twenty-nine miles, is situated in a valley, watered by the river Slaney, over which is here a stone bridge of four arches. This place has been thought to have constituted a principal station of the priests who sacrificed to Baal, or the Fire, the emblem of the Sun; and thence to have been termed *Beal-tinneglass*, the clear fire of Baal. John Stratford, Earl of Aldborough, now bears the title of Baron of Baltinglass, to which dignity his family was advanced in 1763.

The family of Eustace, or Fitz Eustace, were lords of this manor from the reign of Henry VIII. to that of James I. Thomas Eustace was created Viscount Baltinglass, in 1541, by the former king; and the turbulent, but brief, annals of this family, bear frequent reference to the place whence their title was derived.*

* These potent viscounts shared in the memorable rebellions of the great Earls of Desmond, in whose downfall they also participated. The above-mentioned Thomas died in 1549, and was succeeded by Roland, his eldest son. James, 3rd Viscount Baltinglass, son of Roland, was a man of a restless character, and engaged actively in the rebellions of Fitzgerald, Earl of Desmond, and of O'Neill. In September, 1580, he made war on the English governor, Arthur, Lord Grey de Wilton; but, in the 27th of Elizabeth, being convicted, with his four brothers, of high treason,

An *Abbey* was founded at Baltinglass in 1148, or within the three succeeding years, by Dermot Mac Morough, King of Leinster, in which building, according to some writers, that derogate prince was interred. This religious house was founded for Cistercian monks; and John, Earl of Mortaign, afterwards King John, was amongst its most liberal benefactors. Albin O'Molloy, Abbot of Baltinglass, was distinguished by a controversy with Giraldus Cambrensis, caused by a sermon preached by the abbot in Christ-Church, Dublin, in which he severely censured the ill example, as regarded incontinence, set by the clergy who entered Ireland from England and Wales. From a curious passage in the annals of this monastery, we are enabled to form an idea of the state of the country in the early part of the fourteenth century. The Abbot of Baltinglass, in the year 1314, received permission of government to hold conferences with the septs of the O'Tooles and the O'Byrnes, "and many others of the inhabitants of the mountains, denominated Irish felons, for the purpose of receiving from them the goods, chattels, &c. of which the abbot had been robbed, or a full equivalent for the same." The abbot was a lord of parliament, and the house was richly endowed. In the thirty-third year of Henry VIII. a grant was made of the dissolved monastery to Thomas Eustace, Lord Kilcullen (afterwards Viscount Baltinglass.) On the forfeiture of the Eustace estates, in the reign of Elizabeth, the same property was bestowed upon Sir Henry Harrington.

Considerable remains of the abbey are still standing; from which it appears to have been a less extensive fabric than the abbeys of Dunbrody and Tintern, in the county of Wexford, but to have been built nearly on the same plan. The steeple occupies the centre; and six pointed arches, belonging to one of the side aisles, are still preserved. There are also remains of an

the estates of all were confiscated to the crown, by a statute emphatically termed the "*Statute of Baltinglass*;" which renders any kind of inheritance forfeitable for treason. Lord Baltinglass, in the year 1584, retired to the Continent, accompanied by several of his relations and adherents.

east window, which was composed of three narrow lights. The chancel, with some additions, acts as the parochial church. The Aldborough family have here a sepulchral vault, but no monumental erection. The graves in the adjacent cemetery are planted with flowers and shrubs, productive of a soothing and grateful effect.

The *Castle*, originally the residence of the abbot, and afterwards of the Viscounts Baltinglass, is an irregular, and not very extensive structure, evidently built at different periods. The outward doors are in the circular mode of architecture, whilst other parts are of various less antient ages.

The town contains many eligible private dwellings, and the inhabitants are engaged, with some success, in the linen and woollen trades. This place was incorporated as a borough in the 15th of Charles II. under the name of the "sovereign, burgesses, and free commons (twelve in number) of Baltinglass." Previous to the union, two members were returned to parliament. The Roman Catholic Chapel is a spacious and respectable building. We regret to close our notice of this town, by observing that great excesses were here committed during the troubles of the year 1798. On the opposite side of the river is a handsome seat of the Stratford family.

STRATFORD-UPON-SLANEY is a small but pleasant town, chiefly erected in recent years, under the auspices of the Earls of Aldborough. The town is situated on the acclivity of a hill, and has a neat church and a convenient market-house. The river Slaney is here crossed by a bridge of four arches. The cotton trade is cultivated at this place, on a scale rather extensive. The calico-manufactory was erected at the expense of about £40,000; and, in prosperous seasons, affords employment to not less than 500 persons.

On the border of the river Slaney, in the vicinity of the above town, is SAUNDERS-GROVE, the handsome seat of Morley Saunders, Esq. Numerous relics of the moose-deer have been discovered in marle pits in this neighbourhood.

Near the village of *Donard*, on the summit of SLIABH GUTH,

often called the **CHURCH MOUNTAIN**, is a rude work of stone, enclosing an area in which is a well, still frequented by pilgrims. The out-works, twelve feet in height in the most elevated part, approach towards an oval form, and consist of rough stones, the extreme length being 117 feet, and the width 101 feet. In the northern and widest part of the area, are some traces of the rude walls of an oblong building, said to have been designed for a church, the greatest length of which is thirty-six feet. In Gough's additions to Camden's *Britannia*, vol. iv. are a view and plan of this ancient work, together with the following remarks from the pen of the late Mr. Beauford. "Tradition asserts, that these stones were collected some time in the twelfth century to build a church, and to pave a way over this mountain from Old Kilcullen, in the county of Kildare, to Glendaloch: part of which road was executed from Glendaloch to Glendasann for some miles along the valley, and still remains perfect; but the work, on some account, was discontinued, and the materials for the church remain to this day in their pristine state."

BLESSINGTON, on the north-western border of the county, is a town of small population, but is agreeably situated on rising ground. Before the Union this place returned two members to the Irish parliament.

The most conspicuous ornament of this part of the county is **RUSSBOROUGH**, the seat of the earl of Milltown. This noble mansion was erected after designs made by Mr. Bindon,* and is composed of stone. The principal façade has embellishments in the Corinthian and Ionic orders, with statues inserted in a colonnade. The whole range is said to extend nearly 700 feet. The interior comprises many superb apartments, and is enriched with a collection of paintings, highly worthy of deliberate inspection.

* Bindon, who attained considerable notoriety in the united professions of architecture and painting, was, as we believe, a native of Ireland. He lived in habits of intimacy with Dean Swift, Delany, and Dr. Sheridan; whose portraits he painted, together with those of many other persons distinguished in Ireland in the early part of the eighteenth century. Mr. Bindon died suddenly, in the year 1765.

At a short distance from Russborough, on the left of the great road leading from Blessington to Ballymore, is the waterfall termed *POUL-A-PHOUKA*, or *POLA-PHUCA*, (*the Puck's, or Devil's Hole.*) This cataract is formed by the descent of the river Liffey, whose accumulated waters here fall, in ponderous magnificence, down several progressive ledges of craggy precipice; huge masses of rock impending on both sides, with much variety of picturesque effect. The great body of precipitated water eddies round the abyss into which it descends, forming a vortex, of frightful aspect and prodigious depth. Owing to the various breaks in the fall, this cataract is, unquestionably, the most picturesque and pleasing of any with which we are acquainted in the county of Wicklow. The single burst of the fall at Powerscourt produces astonishment in an unusual degree; and many adjacent circumstances are truly attractive. But Poul-a-phouka does not depend on a first impression for its influence over the feelings. Its charms give greater exercise to the imagination, and afford a variety of pictures, independent of the general display.

On completing our notice of this county we cannot avoid observing that the reader, unacquainted with its finest parts, may possibly be of opinion that we have formed an exaggerated estimate of its beauties; whilst the native, or traveller who has investigated its recesses, will scarcely fail to turn from our pages with a persuasion that we have not conveyed ideas sufficiently exalted respecting those dazzling, soothing, impressive charms. The splendour of nature, in many parts of Wicklow, transcends, indeed, the powers of "prose or rhyme." Nor have the warmest efforts of the pencil ever communicated a due notion of scenery so truly captivating. No native of the British dominions can be justified in travelling to Italy and Switzerland, in search of beauty, until he has visited the County of Wicklow.

COUNTY OF WEXFORD.

THIS county occupies the south-eastern angle of the province of Leinster, lying opposite to the southern part of Wales, from which it is separated, on the east, by St. George's Channel. The whole of its southern limits are also washed by the sea. On the west it is divided from the counties of Waterford and Kilkenny by a spacious bay, and by the river Barrow. On the north, and north-west, it is separated from the counties of Carlow and Wicklow by ranges of lofty mountains.

In general character of surface, this is far from being a mountainous district. A chain of elevations runs along the south, forming the natural limit of the baronies of Forth and Bargie. The county, in other parts, is plentifully studded with single hills, often of considerable height. According to the statement of Mr. Fraser, author of the "Statistical Survey," the county of Wexford extends thirty-eight miles in length, and twenty-four miles in breadth. It is divided into eight baronies, namely, *Gorey; Ballagheen; Scarewalsh; Bantry; Shelburne; Shelmaliere; Bargie; and Forth.* These are subdivided into 142 parishes. The principal towns are Wexford and New Ross, each of which sends one representative to the imperial parliament.

The river Slaney, which is navigable between Wexford and Eniscorthy, passes through the centre of the county from north-west to south-east, receiving in its progress the tributes of the Banna and numerous minor streams. The banks of the river Banna are in many parts well wooded, and produce a diversity of grand and beautiful scenery, which will scarcely sink in estimation when compared with river-views more celebrated, because situated in parts of the island more frequently visited. It must, indeed, be confessed that the attractive parts of Wexford, as regards picturesque display, are chiefly found on the borders of these lovely waters. In other districts a great want of wood

prevails, except in the vicinity of ornamented dwellings; and the predominating features partake little of boldness or variety. There are, however, many circumstances to atone for these deficiencies. Some very interesting recollections of local history inspirit the traveller's investigations, and he is often cheered in his progress by the view of moral beauty, as exhibited in the aspect of an industrious and well-regulated population.

As this county is destitute of limestone, it affords a surface and character of country remarkably different to most parts of Ireland. No mines are now worked, although there are some reasons for believing that silver and lead were formerly discovered in considerable quantities; nor are there any manufactures, yielding a profitable surplus after home-consumption. This is chiefly an agricultural county; and a considerable, and increasing, degree of skill is evinced in most departments of husbandry. Barley is the grain of greatest prevalence; but wheat and beans are likewise cultivated on an extensive scale, and large quantities of corn are exported, both in a ground and unground state. Dairies are numerous, and butter forms an important article of exportation; but the Wexford dairy is by no means conspicuous for excellence of management. It may be observed that poultry of various kinds is raised in unusual quantities; and it is scarcely necessary to remark that the solid plenty which pervades this maritime county is increased by an abundant supply of fish.

The farms are in general of a moderate size, and the buildings, although erected and kept in repair by the tenants, are often neatly-constructed and well preserved. The fields are uniformly small; and the traveller will not fail to regret, as far as relates to beauty of country, that instead of hedge-rows, ameliorating a widely spread tract with the resemblance of continued woodland, the fences are formed by banks, planted with furze on the sides and tops. The thriving condition in which these plantations of furze are maintained in many parts of the county, reveals, on investigation, the unpleasant fact that this district is ill-provided with fuel. The slender shrub with which the banks are planted, acts, indeed, not merely as a fence, but is carefully grown as a

substitute for more valuable articles of consumption in the domestic fire. With the exception of this want, the condition of society, in most parts of the county, appears to be very superior to that of any other district in the south of Ireland. The farmer is surrounded by comforts, the cottier is decent and well-clothed. As a strongly-marked feature in the attire of the peasantry, it may be observed that they very generally wear straw hats and bonnets, manufactured by themselves. Shoes and stockings are almost universally worn.

Amongst the principal landed proprietors Mr. Wakefield, in his "Account of Ireland," enumerates Lord Mountnorris; Lord Portsmouth; Lord Meath; Lord Courtown; Lord Spencer Chichester; Mr. Groghan; Sir William Ouseley; Sir Brook Bridges; Mr. Annesley; Mr. Rose; Mr. Nunn; Mr. Colelough; Mr. Alcock; Marquis of Ely; Mr. Tottenham; Mr. Leigh; Mr. Ram; and Mr. Carew.

The antiquary is gratified with finding, in most parts of this county, but particularly in the neighbourhood of the sea-coast, many remains of ecclesiastical and military structures. Some specimens of the latter class are extremely curious, as presenting the earliest examples of castellated buildings erected in Ireland by the Anglo Normans. The artificial elevations locally termed raths, are also frequent, but are in general of small dimensions. Not any vestiges of Round, or Pillar, towers are to be discovered.

No returns were made by this county under the act of 1812, for ascertaining the population of Ireland. According to returns made in the year 1821, the number of houses was, in that year, 29,513; and the number of inhabitants 169,304.

In addition to the above general notices respecting the natural and artificial circumstances of the county of Wexford, there is a tract within its limits which has an imperative claim on more extended remarks. The reader will readily apprehend that we allude to

THE BARONIES OF FORTH AND BARGIE.

These districts, so interesting from their connexion with important passages of history, and from some peculiarities long

retained, in contradistinction to the manners which prevailed in other parts of the island, occupy the south-eastern division of the county of Wexford, and are open to the sea both on the south and east. On the north they are separated from the rest of the county by the ridge of mountain termed the mountain of Forth.

It is observed by Mr. Fraser, in his statistical survey of Wexford, that "the appearance of these baronies from the mountain of Forth is not unlike the appearance of the south of the county of Devon from the mountains of north Dartmore, though on a much smaller scale. The whole is well inhabited. The farm houses generally, as in Devonshire, built with mud and thatched, appearing warm and comfortable, with convenient out-houses adjoining; even the very small farmers, of from five to ten acres, have their habitations comfortable and convenient."—Improved modes of husbandry are here adopted with exemplary success; and the whole district, as compared with many other parts of Ireland, enjoys an enviable state of agricultural prosperity.

The tract of country now comprised in the baronies of Forth and Bargie (emphatically termed the *English Baronies*) was granted, in the year 1169, by King Dermot Mac Morough, to the Constable Hervey de Montmorency; and the whole district was colonized by that distinguished person and his adherents. It is a curious fact that the descendants of those colonists have constantly preserved themselves in a separate community, as regards language and manners, until a comparatively recent period, whilst other settlers adopted in the early centuries, the tongue and habits of the Irish, and whilst many of the original stock of natives, in succeeding times, assumed the modern language and manners of the English.

The late General Vallancey, in a paper inserted in the second volume of the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, presents the following remarks (which although far from being completely satisfactory, are still too curious to be omitted), concerning the state of these baronies in the middle of the eighteenth century.

“When we were first acquainted with this colony, a few of both sexes wore the ancient dress; that of the men was a short coat, waistcoat, and trunk breeches; with a round hat and narrow brim: that of the women was a short jacket, a petticoat bordered at bottom with one, two, or three rows of ribband, or tape, of a different colour; the dress of the head was a kircher. The people of these baronies live well, are industrious, cleanly, and of good morals; the poorest farmer eats meat twice a week, and the table of the wealthy farmer is daily covered with beef, mutton, or fowl. The beverage is home-brewed ale and beer, of an excellent flavour and colour. The houses of the poorest are well built and well thatched; all have out-offices for cattle, fowls, carts, or cars. The people are well clothed, are strong and laborious. The women do all manner of rustic work, ploughing excepted; they receive equal wages with the men. The professed religion here is the Roman Catholic; there are about one hundred catholics to one protestant. Marriage is solemnized much in the same manner as with the Irish. The relations and friends bring a profusion of viands of all kinds, and feasting and dancing continues all the night; the bride sits veiled at the head of the table, unless called out to dance, when the chair is filled by one of the bride-maids. At every marriage an apple is cut into small pieces, and thrown among the crowd; a custom they brought from England, but the origin of it has not descended with it.”

The enlarged interchanges of society which have rapidly taken place in recent years, have not failed to effect great alterations in the manners and fashions of these remote baronies. The dialect so long cherished, and found sufficient for the purposes of life in less commercial periods, is now confined to the aged, and the very humble and recluse. The antient dress is entirely abandoned, and with it have been discarded many of those broad peculiarities of manner, which, down to the middle years of the last century, rendered the inhabitants so entirely distinct from the people in every other part of the British dominions. Whilst adopting a modern exterior and tongue, they have, however, re-

tained much of their antient simplicity, industry of habit, and independence of spirit.*

In regard to the language which prevailed in these baronies, it has been erroneously stated, by the authors of Seward's Topography of Ireland, that the "antient British, or Celtic," has been here preserved in great purity. General Vallancey, in the work cited above, presents a brief "Vocabulary of the language of the Baronies of Forth and Bargie;" from which its affinity with the Anglo-Saxon will be readily perceived. To this Vocabulary Vallancey subjoins an "old song, in the dialect of these baronies," which he believes to have been "handed down by tradition, from the arrival of the colony in Ireland." We present two stanzas, with the translation afforded by General Vallancey. The subject is the "game at ball called Camánn, or Hurly: the time a church holy-day."

"Yerstey w'had a baree, gist ing our hone
Are gentrize ware bibern, amezill, cou no stone.
Yith Muzlere had ba hole, t'was me Tommeen,
At by mizluck was i pit t'drive in.

"Joud an moud, vrem earchee ete, was i Lough
Zitch vaperren, an shimmereen, fan ee daff i tha'r scoth
Zitch blakeen, an blayeen, fan ee ball was ee drowe
Chote well ar aim was t'yie ouz n'eer a blowe.

"Yesterday we had a gaol just in our hand,
Their gentry were quaking, themselves could not stand.
If good for little had been buried, it had been my Tommy.
Who by misluck was placed to drive in.

"Throngs and crowds from each quarter of the Lough
Such vapouring and glittering, when stript in their shirts.
Such bawling and shouting, when the ball was thrown;
I saw their intent was to give us ne'er a stroke."†

* Amongst minor singularities in rural life, still remaining, may be noticed the custom of regularly going to bed for about two hours after dinner, during the summer season; in consequence of which indulgence, the farming labourers work until a very late hour in the evening. Where this custom prevails, the doors are closed, and a silence, like that of deep night, reigns at mid-day.

† After reading these verses, we can readily suppose the correctness of the following anecdote, in the third volume of Mr. Shaw Mason's *Paro-*

It is uniformly admitted, and is, indeed, conclusively ascertained from the tenor of history, that these districts were entirely colonized by the Constable de Montmorency, his family and followers, who caused the natives to retire into the neighbouring countries of Decies and Ibh-Kinselagh. The English possessions of the de Mariscos, or Montmorencys, lay principally in Somersetshire, at Huntspylle, Bath, &c; and those of the barons and knights who accompanied Hervey de Montmorency and Fitzstephen were chiefly situated in the same county, or in neighbouring districts. It is remarked by the Chevalier de Montmorency that some traces of the antient dialect of the baronies of Forth and Bargie are still distinguishable among the lower orders of people in Somersetshire; and we believe that the affinity will be discovered, on a close investigation, in a greater degree than has been hitherto supposed.* Intermingled with this dialect of the Anglo-Saxon, is perceptible a variety of words introduced by such of the colony as came from Pembrokehire, some of which are observable in the Welsh appellations of places in these baronies.

chial Survey. The Rev. W. Eastwood, who contributed to that work a statistical account of the Union of Tacumshane, observes that he was recently in a field on his farm, reading Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, and near to labourers who were conversing in the antient language of the south of Wexford. "It chanced that he threw his eye towards some words that he fancied might resemble those they were repeating, if sounded. He arrested their attention whilst he read the lines," and found that "they were fully competent to interpret, explain, and even to translate every line and passage." The same writer notices the simplicity and peculiarity of address amongst this description of people. "On passing each other, they ask, '*is it long since?*' meaning, do you consider the time that I have been from you as long and heavy? and the reply is couched in artless but kind courtesy, '*yea joi!*'"

* It is added, by this erudite and truly valuable contributor to our work, that a strong affinity is likewise perceptible between the names of various town-lands and places in the baronies of Shelburne, Forth, and Bargie, and in Somersetshire. The most remarkable are such as commence or terminate in *Pylle*, or *Pyle*. In Somersetshire we find *Pylleton*; *Pylle-lande*; *Huntspylle*, &c. names which existed before the Norman Conquest; and in Wexford we likewise meet with *Camppylle*, or *Kempyle*; *Pylle town*; *the Pylle*, &c.

WEXFORD,

The capital of this county, is situated at the mouth of the river Slaney, which river here enters the Irish sea. The site is low, and sheltered by a neighbouring hill. This respectable and populous town contains some handsome domestic buildings, but the houses are in general marked by a mediocrity of character. Several of the minor streets are by no means remarkable for cleanliness of aspect, but there are, happily, few of those wretched cabins which so frequently disgrace the borders of Irish towns.

It is generally admitted that the town of Wexford was possessed at an early period by Danish settlers in Ireland, and it is asserted by the late Mr. Beauford, in a MS. communicated to the present writer, (but without a due notice of any antient authorities,) that the town "was founded in the ninth century, by a colony of Ostmen, Danes, or Frissians, on a bay denominated *Garman*, but by them termed *Waesfiord*, or *Washford*, which imports a bay overflowed by the tide, but left nearly dry at low water; and in this sense the same as the English *Washes* of Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire." In the same MS. are also the following remarks: "Waesfiord, or, as it is now corruptly written, *Wexford*, was long the emporium of the S.E. of Ireland, and the port of passage between England and Ireland. Here the slave merchants assembled their slaves, which they had purchased in England. Here might be seen, says a monkish writer, whole ranks of fine young men and beautiful women exposed to sale in the slave market on the hill. They were sold, in part, to the Irish noblesse and herdsmen, while others fell to the share of foreign merchants, and were exhibited in the slave marts of Rome and Italy. Since the arrival of the English in the twelfth century, the inhabitants of Wexford have been principally composed of the descendants of Frissians, Anglo-Saxons, Anglo-Normans, and a few Welsh, but no Irish. Even at the present day the port and countenances of the inhabitants often designate their origin, especially among the females, many of whom, if dressed in the garb of the Netherlands, might be taken for veritable Dutch-women."

The town was antiently surrounded with walls, parts of which, and the castellated buildings with which they were strengthened, are still remaining, but a large portion of the present town stands on the outer side of the former mural lines of defence. In the agreement between Dermot Macmorrough and the warlike chiefs from Britain whom he called to his aid, that prince promised to cede to Fitzstephen and Fitzgerald the entire dominion of the town of Wexford, with an extensive contiguous territory. Quickly after landing at the mouth of the river Banna, Fitzstephen and his associates marched towards this town, which, after a defence evincing much unskilled bravery in the besieged party, was surrendered by capitulation. Fitzstephen and Fitzgerald were now jointly invested with the lordship of the town, and Hervey de Montmorency was declared lord of a considerable tract on the coast, since termed the baronies of Bargie and Forth. Thus took place the first plantation of British inhabitants in Ireland.

For many subsequent events connected with the sway of these new lords of the town, we necessarily refer to the pages of general history; but it may be here remarked, that Fitzstephen, who had raised for his security the strong neighbouring castle termed Carrick, was besieged in that fortress by the revolted inhabitants of Wexford; and, sinking the victim of a stratagem almost unparalleled for baseness and depth of perjury, fell into the power of his enemies, who afterwards set fire to the town, and retired with their prisoner to an island situated in the harbour. From this situation Fitzstephen was relieved by the approach of the English king, who landed at Waterford, in October, 1172. On quitting Ireland King Henry embarked at this port, on the feast of Easter, 1173. At this place was also celebrated, with much festivity, although in the midst of warfare and alarms, the marriage between Basilea de Clare, sister to Earl Strongbow and Raymond le Gros, ancestor to the antient families of Grace and Fitz-Maurice, the former of whom inherited his acquisitions in this and the adjoining county of Kilkenny, and the latter a vast district in the county of Kerry, denominated Clannaurice.

The next event of historical importance in which this town

was implicated, relates to the intestine wars of the seventeenth century.—After the sanguinary reduction of Drogheda, and the subsequent successes of Cromwell, that merciless leader appeared before Wexford. The garrison was strengthened by 2000 troops, detached from the army of the Marquess of Ormonde, and active measures were taken for a vigorous defence; but an act of treachery led to the hasty surrender of the town, and to consequent scenes of dreadful carnage. These transactions are thus stated by Leland, on the authority of Carte's life of Ormond: "One Stafford, governor of the castle, had been suspected by Ormond; but, as he had the merit of being a catholic, the commissioners of trust would not consent to remove him. No sooner had Cromwell's batteries began to play, than this man admitted his soldiers into the castle, upon conditions. The citizens were suddenly confounded at sight of his colours waving on the battlements, and their own cannon pointed against the town. In the first tumult of terror and consternation, they sent commissioners to treat with the enemy; but the townsmen were impatient of delay; the soldiers ran tumultuously from the walls; every man consulted only his own safety, and thus were all destroyed. The enemy gained the city without further resistance, and proceeded to put all to the sword who were found in arms, with an execution as horribly deliberate as that of Drogheda."

In the troubles of the year 1798, Wexford unhappily bore an ample share. The town was for some time in the possession of the insurgents, and constituted the theatre of many appalling acts of outrage. We willingly throw a veil over the blood, shed in that woeful season, by each infuriated party. It may, however, be observed, that the bridge was the chosen place of massacre on the one side, and of retributive vengeance on the other;—a recollection that will long cause the passenger to look with a thrill of horror and disgust on that fabric, otherwise so attractive.

The several parishes of Wexford form one union, to which are added some parishes in the vicinity of the town. The principal church is a respectable building, and the Roman Catholic chapel is spacious and handsome. Here is, also, a friary, or establishment

of secular clergy, on a small scale. The ruined church of St. Mary, in one of the united parishes, has some traces of semicircular arches, but of an unornamented character, together with a row of pointed arches, supported by round columns, having capitals of a simple construction and evincing considerable antiquity.

Previous to the reformation there were several monastic establishments in this town, of which the following were the principal. Considerable remains of the buildings are still to be seen, in a state of ruin.

A priory of regular canons, often called *the Priory of St. Peter and St. Paul of Selsker*. This house is said to have been founded by the Danes, but more probably owed its origin to the family of Roche, who are known to have been munificent benefactors. Here John, bishop of Ferns, held a synod in the year 1240. Sir John Talbot, Lord Talbot of Furneival and *Wexford*, in the year 1418, granted to this priory the chapel of St. Nicholas of Carrick. In the first year of King Edward VI. this monastery and its appurtenances were granted for ever to John Parker, *in capite*, at the annual rent of 15s:0½. In the reign of Elizabeth the same property was possessed by Phillip Devereux, of Wexford, Gent. The prior was a lord of parliament, and the establishment was richly endowed.

Without the town-walls stood a *Priory of Knights-hospitallers*, founded by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke. Antecedent to the abolition of the templars, this house, says Archdall "was the grand commandery; but, on the total suppression of those knights, the consequence of this priory gradually diminished, and the preceptory of Kilmainham being granted to the hospitallers, it immediately became the grand commandery of their order." From the same author we learn that the "Conventual Franciscans procured a settlement for themselves in this town, in the reign of King Henry III. and were reformed A.D. 1486."

Among the few public buildings for civil uses are a custom-house, on a limited scale; and a handsome court-house, on an eligible plan, erected after the design of R. Morrison, Esq.

The river Slaney, which imparts much beauty to this neighbourhood, and is navigable between Wexford and Eniscorthy, is here crossed by a wooden bridge, at once convenient and ornamental. This is one of the structures erected, with admirable skill, in this part of Ireland by Emanuel Coxe. It is to be regretted that the tolls are inadequate to the repayment of the projectors and the charges for necessary repairs; in consequence of which deficiency in finances, the bridge is falling into great dilapidation.

The *Harbour* of Wexford, as an object of picturesque scenery, is a fine and estimable appendage to the town, but is subject to obstructions which much lessen its importance, in a navigable and commercial point of view. This harbour, as is well observed by Mr. Hay, “is formed by two narrow necks of land, bending towards each other, like two arms closing after an extension from the body, which appearance the river’s mouth assumes by its banks, not very unlike the old Piræus of Athens. The extremities of these peninsulas, denominated the Rayen on the north and Roslare on the south, form the entrance into the harbour, which is about half a mile broad, defended by a fort erected at the point of Roslare.” Here, unfortunately, is a bar, which frequently shifts its position; and the harbour is so shallow that no vessels, drawing more than ten feet of water, can proceed to the town.

The trade of Wexford is chiefly confined to the export of corn and malt, of which former article considerable quantities are sent to Liverpool, the ships bringing cargoes of coal in return. Much provision is also conveyed hither for exportation from Eniscorthy, by means of the navigation on the river Slaney. Amongst the numerous inhabitants are many truly respectable families, much celebrated for hospitality and a social spirit. The assemblies and evening parties are conducted in a liberal and judicious manner. The markets are well supplied with fish, poultry, wildfowl,*

* It is remarked that the coast of Wexford “has the peculiar benefit of possessing a certain grass, or sea-weed, which maintains myriads of wild fowl, and gives them a taste and flavour superior to those of any

and other articles of domestic consumption; and it may be confidently said that this town affords, in many points of consideration, a very desirable place of residence.

At this place was born *Nicholas French*, a violent party writer during the civil wars of the seventeenth century. It is said by Harris (*Ware's Writers*, p. 167) that "the calumnies of this foul-mouthed author gave occasion to the Earl of Clarendon of writing his history of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in Ireland, in defence and justification of the Marquis of Ormond's behaviour."

Wexford sends one member to the imperial parliament, and gives the title of Earl, in the Irish peerage, to the family of Talbot, Earls of Shrewsbury in England. The internal government of the town is vested in a mayor; mayor of the staple; recorder; two bailiffs, &c.

CARRICK CASTLE, the structure slightly noticed in a preceding page, is situated about two miles to the north-west of the town of Wexford; and, independent of other claims on attention, is extremely curious, as being the earliest military edifice constructed by the Anglo-Normans in Ireland. This castle was erected by Lord Robert Fitzstephen de Marisco, who entered Ireland in 1169, two years previous to the arrival of Earl Strongbow. The most important event in the history of this fortress is the memorable siege sustained by its founder.—Fitzstephen had weakened his garrison by sending a detachment to the succour of Earl Strongbow, when the men of Wexford suddenly rose, and laid siege to his castle. The fortress was defended with the utmost gallantry, and the besiegers were repulsed in several desperate attempts, when they had recourse to stratagem, and demanding a parley assured Fitzstephen that Strongbow was no more; that all the British adventurers in Dublin were put to the

other place or country." Amongst various kinds of choice fish taken on this coast, the oysters of Wexford are particularly esteemed. About twenty boats are employed in dredging; and, on an average, not less than forty hundred oysters are taken by each boat, every day they can get out of the harbour. The Wexford oysters usually sell in this neighbourhood for about sixteen pence the hundred. *Parochial Survey*, vol. iii. pp. 400, 401.

sword; and that Roderic, the Irish king, with his triumphant forces, was then on his march to wreak vengeance on the garrison of Carrick. It is said they added that, from respect for his person, they would favour the escape of Fitzstephen, and it is generally believed that a procession of clergy, including the bishops of Ferns or Wexford, and Kildare, repaired to the castle, and solemnly swore to the truth of the intelligence conveyed by the assailants. Fitzstephen credited the oaths of the clergy, and yielded to his mortal enemies, whose duplicity and subsequent barbarous treatment of their prisoner we have already stated.

The castle is seated on the pinnacle of a rock, upon the banks of the river Slaney. The remains at present chiefly consist of one square and lofty tower. From this vestige it would appear that the building was of a rugged and severe character; and it would, indeed, be absurd to look for other lineaments in the structure erected at a season so pregnant with danger. The loop-holes of this antient tower are unusually small; and the doorway so low and narrow that it cannot be entered without stooping.* In the vicinity of the castle is a handsome wooden bridge over the Slaney, built by Emanuel Coxe; and the views obtained from the rising ground of this neighbourhood are extremely fine. The bay is here seen to great advantage; and, in addition to that lovely expanse of water, the prospect combines a fine variety of craggy rock, ascending woodland, and distant mountain.

CARRICKMENAN, or CARIGMENAN, the family seat of James Edward Devereux, Esq. chief of that name in Ireland, is also situated to the north-west of Wexford. This family, which has borne a distinguished rank in the county of Wexford since the beginning of the thirteenth century, derives its descent from Philip

* It is observed by the Chevalier de Montmorency, that there is a close resemblance between Trajan's tower at Paboquai-pass, on the Danube, and the remaining tower of Carrick castle. This similitude prevails even in regard to the entrance, where, "instead of a regular door way, you meet in both what may correctly be called the *mouth of a den*, or cavern." Essay on the Origin of the Irish Pillar-Tower, pp. 73—74.

Devereux, first of the name in Ireland, who passed over from England to this country in the year 1232, and who deduced his origin from the same source with the Earl of Essex and the Viscount Hereford. Sir John Devereux (as will be more fully noticed in an ensuing page) founded, before the year 1283, the monastery of St. Saviour, in the town of New Ross.*

* We present some extracts from a genealogical account of this antient family, communicated by the Chevalier de Montmorency, which contains so many particulars of topographical intelligence that we regret being prevented by our limits from inserting it in an entire form. Sir John Devereux, mentioned above as founder of the monastery at Ross, was the son of Sir Stephen of Balymagir, and grandson of Sir Hugh, who obtained in marriage with his wife, Alicia, daughter to Sir Alexander Headon, the *manor of Balymagir*, which for many subsequent ages constituted one of the principal seats of this family. Sir Nicholas, or the "white knight," who married Catherine Le Poer, daughter of Lord Le Poer, of Curraghmore, built, A.D. 1556, the *castle of Adamstown* in the barony of Bantry. The castle consisted of a square tower, encompassed by a court, flanked with four turrets. Over the castle gate was formerly a stone (since removed to Carigmenan) upon which was displayed a shield of the family arms, viz. *argent*, a fess *gules*, in chief three tortoises of the *second*, and these words in raised letters: "Orate pro animabus Nich. Devereux Et Dominæ Katerinæ Poer, ejus uxoris, qui hoc. condiderunt A. D. MDLVI." It may be here remarked that in the first vol. of Mr. S. Mason's "Parochial Survey," is a plate, representing a seal and an inscription, relating to the Devereux family, found in the castle of Adamstown. Sir James Devereux was knighted on the 20th of June, 1596, by Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, lord-lieutenant of Ireland, on the occasion of his excellency paying a friendly visit to his kinsman at his castle of Balymagir. The name of *Essex bridge* was given, at the same time, to a new bridge that had been erected on the Gorey road to Wexford, to facilitate the earl's journey; which name the bridge still preserves. Sir James was a man of great power in this county; and, in 1597, marched at the head of the Wexford gentry against the sept of the Kavanaghs, who had taken up arms in favour of O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, upon which occasion he greatly distinguished himself. Philip Devereux, Esq. eldest son of the above Sir James, had eight sons, but the issue of all is supposed to be now extinct, except the posterity of *Robert*, to whom he granted the *manor of Carigmenan*, which charming demesne has ever since continued the principal family seat. Nicholas Devereux, son of the above Philip, forfeited

Among other seats in the vicinity of Wexford is SAUNDERS COURT, the demesne of the Earl of Arran. The grounds attached to this mansion are very extensive, and are adorned with much venerable timber, among which the oak and larch are conspicuous, with interspersed evergreens of unusual size and beauty.

in 1641, among other estates, the *manors of Balymagir and Adamstown*. James Devereux, of Carigmenan, Esq. obtained letters patent from King Charles II. dated 1683, granting him seventeen townlands in the counties of Wexford, Kilkenny, and Waterford. He represented the town of Eniscorthy in King James's parliament, 1689; and during the siege of Limerick commanded a company in Colonel Butler's regiment. Mr. Devereux married first (of which marriage Mr. Archdall makes no mention) Elizabeth, daughter, or grand daughter, to Edward, Viscount Galmoy, by whom he had two daughters. He wedded, secondly, Ismay, daughter to Matthew Hore, of Shandon, Esq. by whom he had four sons, and two daughters. Robert Devereux, Esq. eldest son of the above named Philip, married, 30th November, 1710, Lucy, daughter to Sir Laurence Esmond, Bart. by Lucy, or Lucia, daughter to Colonel Richard Butler, of Kilcash, brother to James, first Duke of Ormond. Robert Devereux, of Carigmenan, Esq. (third of that name) married, in 1765, Mary-Thomasine, daughter to Thomas Ward, Esquire, of Newton, county of Carlow, and of Mary, daughter to Edward Hay, of Balynkeele, Esquire, one of the most beautiful women of her time. This marriage is seldom mentioned without a notice of the following circumstances: "One midwife introduced this couple into the world; one nurse gave them suck: and both of them lay with their nurse the night of Miss Ward's birth."

JAMES EDWARD DEVEREUX, of Carigmenan, Esquire, chief of the name, and the present proprietor of this estate, was born 22nd November, 1766. He received his education in France. In 1793, he was named one of the five deputies who presented the petition of the catholics of Ireland to his late majesty; and in 1820, he filled the same situation, as one of the delegates of that body, sent in their name, to congratulate his present majesty King George IV., upon his accession to the throne. Mr. Devereux succeeded, by the will of his kinsman, James Fanning, Esquire, to the inheritance of the lordship of La Roche-Talbot, in Anjou; and being in France on the breaking out of the late war, was arrested, along with many others of his countrymen, by order of Napoleon, and was detained till the restoration of Louis XVIII. in 1814. Mr. Devereux presented to the commission of privileges relating to the coronation of his present majesty, a claim of hereditary right to carry the golden rod and sceptre of

At the distance of about four miles and a half from the same town is GARRYLOUGH CASTLE, the antient seat of the Stafford family, who entered Ireland in the twelfth century.

TAGHMON, an antient but decayed town, distant from Wexford five miles towards the east, is approached by some of the worst roads in the whole island, but is situated in a fertile and populous tract of country. This town, which is placed near the foot of the mountain of Forth, consists chiefly of mean cabins, but exhibits vestiges of a castellated building and a monastic foundation. The abbey of Taghmon was founded by St. Munno, otherwise named Fintan, who is recorded to have possessed 152 disciples, of great sanctity, and to have been zealously attached to the antient manner of celebrating the Feast of Easter. This saint died on the 25th of October, A.D. 634. The abbey was plundered by the Danes in the year 917. King Dermot, or Diarmod, Macmorrough, in his charter to the abbey of Ferns, granted this place to that religious foundation.

Amongst numerous seats in the vicinity of Taghmon is HARPERSTOWN, the residence of the antient family of Hore.

HORETOWN, three miles west of Taghmon, was, formerly, a seat of the family of Furlong, supposed to be now extinct in the legitimate male line, which family founded here, in the fourteenth century, a monastery for Carmelite, or white, friars, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Since the suppression of religious houses a humble convent, of three or four monks of this order, has existed, under the protection of temperate and benevolent inhabitants of all religious persuasions. At the dissolution the buildings and possessions of the friary were granted to Sir John Davis, from whom, after several intermediate transmissions, the property passed to the family of Gough, or Goff, who have a residence at

the dove, and also a silver canopy, supported by four lances, as his ancestor did at the coronation of Richard I.; and that one of the services might be allowed to be done by deputy. Upon the introduction into parliament of certain bills, for the relief of the catholics in Great Britain and Ireland, by the Right Hon. Mr. Plunkett, this gentleman addressed a letter to Mr. Peel, late secretary for Ireland, which obtained a large circulation.

Horetown, situated on an eminence in the midst of flourishing plantations.

In the same neighbourhood is TOTTENHAM GREEN, a fine seat of the Tottenham family.

NEW ROSS, situated on the river Barrow, at the distance of sixty-seven miles from Dublin, and near the point of confluence between that river and the Nore, is a town of considerable extent, and of increasing importance. The Barrow is here a river of noble width, and flows past the quays with a depth sufficient for the navigation of vessels of a large size. Although New Ross is possessed of peculiar advantages for the cultivation of commerce, the trade of this town remained long in a drooping condition, and is still inadequate to the expectations which might be formed respecting a place so well situated for both internal and external intercourse.

This was a "burgesse town" in the time of Edward I. by which king it was given to the Earl of Norfolk, then Marshal of England.* In the thirteenth of Edward III. a writ of *ad quod damnum* was issued, at the request of the Earl of Norfolk, to make this (under the name of *Rossponte*) a free port, and to enable merchants to bring their ships to the town by the river of *Burdonan* (the Barrow.) The inhabitants derive several of their existing privileges from the charter then granted. In 1372, this was declared to be "an antient borough town," or borough by prescription.

We are not aware that the town of New Ross is noticed in any important page of the annals of warfare, before the year 1642, at which time it underwent a siege from the Marquess of Ormonde. The Irish garrison was strong and well-provided, having been lately reinforced with 2000 men, whilst the assailants were deficient in ammunition and provisions. Thus impelled to prompt

* MS. penes Sir W. Betham, Ulster king of arms. In the 14th of Edward I. "at petition of the burgesses of *Rossponte*, letters patent were granted, that, after proclamation, no one should take the victuals, &c. of those burgesses without payment, under great penalties." Rot. Pl. B. T.

and decisive measures, Lord Ormonde attempted the town by storm, and succeeded in making a breach; but was ultimately repulsed, with considerable loss. He shortly after raised the siege, and retreated towards the capital, fighting with, and defeating, by the way, a superior army under the command of General Preston.

In the disastrous year 1798, Ross suffered severely from an attack of the rebels, nominally under the command of Beauchamp Bagenal Harvey; and, had the discipline of the assailants equalled their personal courage, the town would probably have fallen a victim to their arms. In our brief outline of this turbulent transaction, we take as our guide the Rev. James Gordon (Hist. of the Rebellion in Ireland, Lond. 1803) by whom we are informed, that the rebel force advanced, on the 4th of June, to Corbet-hill, within a mile of this town. Harvey formed the plan of an attack on three different parts of the town at once, but the want of subordination in his intemperate followers, prevented the completion of this design. Hostile operations commenced at day-break, on the 5th of June. Finding his forces galled by a fire "from the out-posts of the garrison, Mr. Harvey ordered a brave young man, of the name of Kelly, to put himself at the head of five hundred men, and to dislodge the troops who were giving this annoyance. Kelly, followed confusedly by a much greater number than he wished, executed his commission; but his men, instead of returning to the main body, as they had been ordered, rushed headlong into the town, drove back the cavalry, with slaughter, on the infantry, seized the cannon, and being followed in their successful career by crowds from the hill, seemed, for some time, nearly masters of the town."

Flushed with the success of this premature onset in one quarter, the rebels neglected their original plan of attack. "The Dublin and Donegall militia, maintaining their posts at the market-house and a station called Fairgate, prevented them from penetrating into the centre of the town; while Major-general Johnston, the commander, a man of consummate courage and fervent zeal for the welfare of his country, was, by vehement

exertions, aided by those of an extraordinary gentleman, an inhabitant of Ross, named M'Cormick, labouring to rally the discomfited soldiery. Brought back to the charge by uncommon efforts, after they had fled across the river to the Kilkenny side, the troops of the gallant Johnson recovered their post, and drove the rebels from the town, the outskirts of which were now in flames. The rebels in their turn, rallied by their chiefs, returned with fury to the assault, and regained some ground. Again dislodged by the same exertions as before, and a third time rallied, they were at last finally repulsed, after an engagement of above ten hours, ending about two o'clock in the afternoon."

This was decidedly the most sanguinary battle of the troubled year 1798, and was attended with some scenes of disgusting barbarity. Although the place was preserved from capture, it suffered greatly in the assault, as not less than 300 dwellings, chiefly cabins, were reduced to ashes.

The town is situated on the side of a hill, and the domestic buildings are, in general, of a respectable character. The whole were formerly surrounded by strong walls, traditionally said to have been built about the year 1310. These were standing until the latter part of the 18th century, and their partial destruction was a cause of serious regret when the place was exposed to assault in the rebellion of 1798. The river Barrow is here crossed by one of the handsome wooden bridges erected in this part of Ireland by Emanuel Coxe, having footpaths, a portcullis, and ornamented railings. From various parts of the town and its environs are obtained fine views of the river and adjacent country.

The parish of St. Mary, New Ross, forms part of an union, extending over several contiguous districts. The parochial church is a handsome edifice, completed in 1813, after the designs of Francis Johnson, Esq. architect; and there is also a new and spacious Roman Catholic chapel. Here is a charter-school, erected in 1741, for sixty children. A school for the reception of poor Catholic children was founded at this place by Dr. Fagan, who expended upon the institution the sum of £2,000.

There were formerly in this town a monastery for conventual

Franciscans, founded by the family of Devereux, and an Augustinian friary, founded by that of Grace. It is satisfactory to add that some remains of both structures still exist, for the gratification of the antiquarian visiter. The MONASTERY OF ST. SAVIOUR was erected before the year 1283, by Sir John Devereux, on the site of the "Crouched Friary," the buildings of which, according to Archdall, were destroyed by the people, in consequence of a friar having killed one of the principal inhabitants. This religious house does not appear to have been richly endowed, and was granted, on the suppression of monasteries, to the Earl of Ormonde. The AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY was founded by Hamon, or William, le Gras, before the 6th of Edward III. (1333) for eremites following the rule of St. Augustin. On the dissolution, this friary and its appurtenances were granted, *in capite*, to Richard Butler, at the annual rent of 17*d.* Irish money.

Ross gives the title of earl to the family of Parsons, and returns one member to the imperial parliament. The internal government is vested in a sovereign; deputy; recorder; bailiff; and town clerk. This is one of the staple ports for the exportation of wool, but the principal attention of the inhabitants is directed to the corn trade, for the convenience of which some considerable storehouses have been erected.

At CORBET-HILL, distant nearly one mile from Ross, is the seat of — Corbet, Esq. Here the rebel forces were encamped on the 4th of June, 1798, and hence they proceeded, at day-break on the following morning, to the attack of the neighbouring town, as has been more fully stated in a preceding page.

On the summit of MOUNTGARRET, a lofty hill which overlooks the town of New Ross, is an antient castle, now in ruins, which chiefly demands notice on account of the fine view thence obtained over a vast extent of rich country, enlivened by the flow of the Nore and the Barrow. This place gives the title of viscount, in the Irish peerage, to the second eldest branch of the house of Butler, which derives from Richard, second son of Pierce, or Peter, Earl of Ormonde and Ossory, and of Lady Margaret Fitzgerald, daughter of Gerald, or Garret, eighth Earl of Kildare.

OLD ROSS is an unimportant village, distant three miles from the more prosperous town contradistinguished by the term of *New*, although itself of ancient standing.

CLONMINES, a hamlet, distant about six miles from the town of Wexford towards the south-west, near the place at which the river Corug falls into Banow harbour, or the arm of the sea called Banow river, ranked as a borough-town previous to the union, and sent two members to parliament for the Ely family. Although long since reduced to a state of stagnant humility, this hamlet, as may be ascertained by sufficient evidences, was formerly a place of much consideration. Mr. Fraser, in his Statistical Survey of Wexford, observes that he has inspected, in the library at Lambeth, a document from which it appears that, during the sway of the Ostmen, or Danes, over the maritime parts of Ireland, silver ore was found here in so much abundance that the Ostmen established a mint, and coined pieces of that metal. We are not informed of the date of this MS.; but it is certain that some traces of mining shafts are visible near the sea side.

Several religious structures were founded here, at an early but unknown period; the principal of which was an Augustinian monastery. Alemande believes this institution to have been founded by the family of Kavanagh. That circumstance would appear to be doubtful, but it is ascertained that, in the year 1385, Nicholas Fitz Nicholas, clerk, repaired and enlarged the edifice. The monks of the order of St. Dominick, or Friars preachers, afterwards possessed themselves of this abbey, which they held until the reformation, at which time the property was granted for ever to John Parker, at the annual rent of 2*s.* 4*d.* Irish. It may be remarked that a small brotherhood of Augustinian monks, about four or five in number, still exists near the ruins of Clonmines; and these pious and recluse persons, thus clinging to the forsaken walls, would appear to perpetuate the remembrance of their order possessing a prior right to this foundation.

The Abbey-church stands on the margin of that inlet of the sea termed the Banow. The ruins evince a considerable degree of former splendour, and are surmounted by a square tower, of

light and graceful proportions, which rises from the central arch that separates the chancel, nave, and aisles. The great east window, which is in the pointed form, and in the architectural style of the fourteenth century, was formerly divided into five days or lights, and ornamented with much handsome tracery work. So unsparing has been the hand of time, that no sepulchral monuments remain, to recall to memory "the men of other days."

Here are, likewise, to be seen the remains of *seven churches*, with several towers. The latter structures, which once constituted the strength of this corporate town, appear to have been blown up with gunpowder. The foundations of numerous other buildings may also be traced, throughout an extent of at least twenty acres; but the depopulation is now so complete, that not more than one inhabited building is seen on the tract presenting so many memorials of former animation.

DUNGORMUCK, or CROSSGORMUCK, CASTLE, situated on the Banow lough, in the barony of Bargie, at the distance of about four miles from Clonmines, was built by the De Marisco family. The Constable Hervey de Montmorency granted the tithes, and certain royalties here, to his abbey of Dunbrody.

FETHARD is a very ancient town, of a neat appearance, situated on the southern coast of the barony of Shelburne. The name is probably derived from *Fiodh-aird*, the woody coast, or woody eminence.

Particular mention is made of this town in the historical fragment of Maurice Regan, "the servant and interpreter to Dermot Mac-Murrough, King of Leinster." On the marriage of Raymond le Gros with Basilea de Clare, "the Erle," says Sir George Carew, who translated this little tract, "gave unto him the Constableship of *Leinster*, with the ensign and banner; he also gave *Fethard*, O'Drone, and Glascarrig unto him and his heirs for ever." The author's words, continues Sir George, are these.

Fethard li donat li cuntur
A mariag od sa sorur
Pius li ad saches done
Odrone tut enherits,

The Erle gave to him Fethard
In marriage with his sister;
Then he gave him Odrone
In full inheritance,

Et Glaskarrig ensement
Sur la mer vers le orient.

And Glascarrig likewise,
Upon the sea towards the East.

Near this place Lord Robert Fitz-Stephen de Marisco, and his uncle, Hervey de Montmorency-Marisco, landed, with their forces, in the year 1169. The borough of Fethard, at the very remote and unrecorded period of its incorporation, obtained for armorial bearings a Roman soldier, holding a shield *or*, charged with a cross *gules*; in allusion to the Roman origin, as has been supposed, of those Anglo-Norman chiefs and the cross they bore for arms.* Previous to the Union, Fethard sent two members to parliament for the Loftus family; Nicholas Loftus, Esq. having obtained an act of parliament, in the year 1634, confirming to him and his heirs for ever the proprietorship of the manor, which he received from the bishop of Ferns, in exchange for other lands. Among several remains of fortified buildings in this town is the Castle, formerly a residence of the bishops of Ferns, and afterwards of the Loftus family. The rectory of Fethard constitutes the corps of a prebend in the cathedral of Ferns. The internal polity of the town is now under the direction of a sovereign and town-clerk.

The recollections connected with the adventurous landing of Fitzstephen impart an unusual degree of interest to the neighbourhood of the above small town. This "first of all Englishmen, after the conquest, that entered Ireland," as he is termed by Hollingshead, landed in the territory of Hy-Kinselagh, at the head of a

* In the office of Ulster king of arms is an entry, signed by Thomas Preston, Esq. Ulster king in 1641, containing the following absurd attempt at etymology: "The achievement, or coat armour, above depicted, belongeth to the ancient borough and town of Fethard, alias Fydert, alias *Fight-hard*! in the county of Wexford, in the kingdom of Ireland; which said borough and town continued an ancient corporation for a long time, it being the place where the English (when they first invaded the same kingdom of Ireland) first landed and fought; whence it hath the denomination of *Fight-hard*!" In the same entry it is added that the town was "re-incorporated by King James I. of happy memory, in the 11th year of his reign, A. D. 1613, by the name of Portrieve, free burgesses, and commoners."

chosen band of Anglo-Normans, amounting to thirty knights, sixty men at arms, and 300 archers and horsemen. He made the passage from Milford haven in three ships, and effected the debarkation of his followers on the 11th of May, 1169, at the mouth of the river Banna, or Banow (which here empties itself into the sea) in a creek called Bag-and-Bun.* The memorable arrival in this creek of Fitzstephen and his hardy followers, has given rise to the well-known Wexford proverb,

In the Bay of Bag-and-Bun,
Was Erin lost and Erin won!

TINTERN ABBEY, a monastic ruin of considerable interest, was founded by William, Earl Marshal of England, and Earl of Pembroke, who wedded the lady Isabella de Clare, daughter of Earl Strongbow by his second wife, the Princess Eva Macmorrough, in whose right he claimed the lordship of Leinster. The Earl of Pembroke, when in great danger at sea, made a vow that, in case he escaped, he would found an abbey on the spot where he landed in safety. His bark found shelter in Banow-bay, and he religiously performed his vow by founding this abbey, which he dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and filled with Cistercian monks, whom he brought from Tintern, in Monmouthshire, a monastery that owed its foundation to the house of de Clare. The new abbey of Tintern was richly endowed by the founder, but experienced some vicissitudes of fortune; and it is stated by Archdall that, in the year 1447, "the lands belonging to it being very much wasted, and the abbot having rebuilt the house at his own particular cost and charge, it was enacted by parliament that

* An example of equal absurdity, in etymological conjecture, with that which we have noticed at Fethard, is presented by Hollingshead, in reference to this creek, who says that the "*Banna* and the *Boenne*, were the names (as the common fame is) of the two greatest ships in which the Englishmen there arrived." It is observed by the Chevalier de Montmorency that the "epithet *Bag-and-Bun*, may be deemed a corruption of the old French *Bac*, or *Bacq*, a ferry, or ford, and *Bun* for *Bann*, or *Banna*, the river of that name; viz. *Bac-au-Ban*, the Banna ford, or ferry." Montmorency MSS.

the Abbots of Tintern should not in future be compelled to attend parliaments, or other great councils." After the dissolution of religious houses, the buildings and appurtenances of this monastery were granted, by Queen Elizabeth, to Anthony Colclough (afterwards Sir Anthony Colclough, Knight) to hold *in capite*, at the annual rent of 26s. 4d. Irish money.

By the Colclough family a part of the structure was converted into a mansion, still their residence; and many of the dependant chapels and outer buildings were removed at different times, the stone being used in erecting the parish church, and a neat bridge thrown over the meandering river that waters the demesne. The abbey, which still constitutes a commanding and picturesque object, stands on a plain at the foot of a lofty hill, near the stream above noticed, which falls into the bay of Banow. The abbey church was a handsome building, in the pointed style, designed after the plan and elevation of Dunbrody abbey, but not on so extensive a scale. The walls are still entire, with a square tower rising from the centre; but scarcely any traces of architectural ornament are now to be discovered.

The present mansion is chiefly formed from the chancel of the antient church, and is not well adapted to the purposes of a liberal domestic establishment. Considerable improvements were projected, and many were commenced, by the late Mr. John Colclough, who, amongst other alterations, intended to restore the roof of the venerable abbey. The gardens are extensive, and are entirely enclosed with long ranges of substantial wall.

There are at this seat many family portraits, the principal of which we enumerate, although not without observing that they depend for attraction on the worth and local interest of the persons represented, rather than on the merits of the respective artists.*

Two heads, the one painted on wood, the other on canvass, of *Sir Thomas Colclough*, aged thirty-six, date A.D. 1600. The

* For the list, and biographical anecdotes, of the principal persons represented in these family portraits, we are indebted to the Chevalier de Montmorency.

knight is dressed in a white stuffed jacket, or doublet, with black collar richly trimmed; and has a long visage, mustachios, a pointed beard, sleek hair, sharp nose and eyes, and sandy complexion. At the top are the family arms.

A half length of *Cæsar Colclough, Esq.* "forty years a member of parliament for Wexford county, during which time he never gave a vote against his country." This painting represents a handsome man, in a court dress of blue velvet, full bottomed wig, sword, &c.

Lady (Anne) Bingham, great-grand-daughter (maternally) to King Charles II., and grand-niece to Patrick Sarsfield, Earl of Lucan. Lady Bingham is represented in a loose robe of red velvet, having one of her infant sons (either Sir John Bingham, the sixth baronet, or his brother, Sir Charles, first Lord Lucan,) at her side. Her ladyship was a woman of some beauty, with black hair and eyes. She was the daughter of Agmondisham Vesey, Esq. by Charlotte, sole daughter to William Sarsfield, of Lucan, Esq. by Mary, daughter to King Charles II., and own sister to James, Duke of Monmouth; which William was the elder brother of the celebrated Patrick Sarsfield, general of the forces of the unfortunate James II. in Ireland, created Earl of Lucan by the deposed monarch, shortly after his abdication.

A head of *Cæsar Colclough, of Rosegarland, Esq.*

A head of *Dudley Colclough, of Moccurrey, Esq.* colonel of the county of Wexford militia, painted with a full wig, and in armour.

Mary Barnewall, wife of Dudley Colclough, Esq. second daughter, as is presumed, of Sir Patrick Barnewall, of Crickston, Baronet, (knight of the shire for Meath, in King James's parliament) by Frances, daughter to Colonel Richard Butler, of Kilcash.

Anthony Colclough, of Rathlin, county of Wexford, Esq. a member of the supreme catholic council of Kilkenny, in the reign of King Charles I. He is represented in black armour.

A half length of *Frances, Lady Colclough*, daughter to Sir William Clarke, of Thame, in Oxfordshire, Baronet. She was the wife of Sir Cæsar, second baronet, son of Sir Adam Colclough, created a baronet in 1628; and of Alice, daughter to Sir Robert

Rich, Knight, master in chancery, in England ; in whose only son, Cæsar, the title, on his dying without issue, became extinct.

Margaret, sister and heir to the last mentioned Cæsar, and the only surviving daughter of *Sir Cæsar and Alice Rich*. A half length portrait, badly painted ; the dress superb. This lady wedded first, Robert Leigh, of Balybrittas, otherwise Rosegarland, in this county, Esq. ; and secondly, John Piggot, Esq. by neither of whom, (who both had successively assumed the name of Colclough), had she any issue. At her decease, in the latter end of the year 1722, Cæsar Colclough, Esq. her cousin, and the next heir male, succeeded to the Tintern estates.

The late *Sir Vesey Colclough*, Knight, M. P. father to the present Cæsar Colclough, of Tintern, Esq. Sir Vesey is represented in the uniform of a colonel of the volunteer army of 1782, (scarlet faced with blue). It may be observed that his corps was the first association of the kind raised in Ireland, towards the close of the American war.

Miniatures of *Sir Vesey*, and of his widow, *the present Lady Colclough*, sister to Thomas and John-Knox Grogan, and to Overstreet and Cornelius Grogan, Esquires ; of whom the first fell in 1798, at the battle of Arklow, whilst gallantly leading on his corp of yeoman cavalry. The two next are since deceased ; and Cornelius, having unfortunately sided with the malcontent party, suffered death by the sentence of a court-martial, at Wexford.

A head of *Oliver Cromwell*, said to be by Sir Peter Lely.

Miniatures of *Cæsar Colclough, Esq.* and of the late *John Colclough*, second son of Sir Vesey, who was killed in a duel, by William Congreve Alcock, his rival upon an election for a county representative in parliament.

The *village* of Tintern is a small assemblage of rural dwellings, placed on a gentle acclivity near the bay ; and it should be remarked that the farm-houses in this parish usually wear a neat aspect, being whitewashed, covered with slate, and decorated with agreeable plantations. Here is a school for gratuitous education, endowed by Mr. Colclough. The parish church, situated

at a short distance from the abbey, contains several monuments to different members of the Colclough family, of which the most remarkable is a large table monument of black marble, with the coat of arms, and an inscription of considerable length, in Latin and English, to the memory of *Sir Anthony Colclough, Knt.** Here, also, is interred *Sir Thomas Colclough*, who succeeded to the estates of his father, Sir Anthony. He died on the 23rd of August, 1624, and after lying in state until the 23rd of September following, was buried with great pomp in this church.† Amongst the other monuments to this family, are those of *Sir Caesar Colclough, Bart.* who died 22nd of June, 1684, aged sixty-one years; and of the much-lamented *John Colclough, Esq.* only brother of the present proprietor of Tintern, who unhappily fell in a duel, as has been already noticed, in the year 1806.

The long and narrow promontory which contracts shortly after

* The English inscription is of a biographical character, and in the following words: "Here lieth the body of Syr Anthony Colcloughe, Knight; eldest sune of Richard Colcloughe of Wolstanton in Staffordshire, Esquire, who came first into this land the 34 yere of Hen. VIII. and then was captayne of the Pensioners, in which place and others of greater charge he continued a most Faythful Servitor during the lye of Edward the Sixth and Queen Mary, and until the 26th yere of our most noble Queen Elizabeth, and then dyed the 19 December MDLXXXIV. He left by his wyfe Clare Agare, daughter of Thomas Agare, Esquire, seven sonnes, Francis, Ratcliefe, Anthony, Syr Thomas Colecloughe, Knyght, John, Mathew, Lennard; and five daughters. Jacquenet was married to Nicholas Walshe, Esquire, of the Privy Counsaile, and sune of the justice of the King's Bench, in Ireland; Franc marryed to Willyam Smethwicke of Smethwycke in Cheshire; Mari marryed to John Cotes of Woodcote in Shropshire, Esquire; Clare marryed to Wylliam Snedd of Brodwall in Staffordshire, Esquire; Elinor died iunge."

† The ceremonial of Sir T. Colclough's funeral is recorded in the Ulster office of arms, by which it appears that he was attended to the grave by all the surviving members of the families of Colclough and of Loftus; also by Patrick Sarsfield; Sir Robert and John Pigott; Sir Nicholas Walsh; Captain Butler, &c. with "the servants and followers" of each. Thomas Ram, Bishop of Ferns; Alan Leveret, Athlone pursuivant; and Daniel Molyneux, Ulster king at arms, were likewise present, with many other persons of note.

we leave the town of Fethard, and presents near its southern termination the well-known object termed the Hook-tower or light-house, contains two small hamlets and an extensive mansion.

Here, situated in the close vicinity of the sea, is **LOFTUS HALL**, formerly termed Redmond's Hall, the spacious and fine seat of the Marquess of Ely. Henry Loftus, Esq. grandson and eventual heir of Sir Dudley, purchased this estate, and much contiguous property, between the years 1669 and 1703. He died in 1716, and was succeeded by Nicholas, his eldest son, created Baron Loftus, of *Loftus Hall*, in 1751, and Viscount Ely, in 1756.

The village of **SLADE** is about one mile to the north-east of Hook-tower, and is situated on a small harbour, an asylum to the fishing boats of this rocky tract. Here is a *Castle*, which for many generations belonged to the family of Hay. This family, one of the most antient and respectable in the county of Wexford, derives from Richard de Hay, Lord of Hay, in Wales, who accompanied his kinsman, Hervey de Montmorency, into Ireland in the year 1169, and obtained grants of lands in the baronies of Forth and Bargie. The descendants of Richard long resided at Slade Castle, and at the "Hill," in the county of Wexford; but, since the general forfeiture of the estates of the Roman Catholics, in the civil troubles of the seventeenth century, the representative of the Hay family has lived at Ballenkeele. Of this family is Edward Hay, Esq. late secretary to the general committee of the Catholics of Ireland, and author of a History of the Insurrection in Wexford, A.D. 1798. Philip Hay, Esq. the brother of that gentleman, served in the British army, with the rank of lieutenant colonel of the 18th hussars, and now resides at Ballenkeele.

HOOK TOWER is a tall circular structure, placed on a rock at the southern extremity of this peninsula, and at the entrance of the harbour of Waterford. The walls are extremely thick, with stairs leading to the summit of the tower. Several romantic stories are locally told concerning the origin of this fabric; and the continuator of Grose's Antiquities, in the indulgence of a favourite hypothesis, is inclined to believe that it was erected by

the Danes. With more probability of correctness it is observed by the Chevalier de Montmorency, in his MS. communications to this work, that the name is properly *Hougue* tower, and that it is so called after an Anglo-Norman knight, named Florence de la Hougue, who, in 1172, attended Henry II. into Ireland, and laid the foundation of this building. The tower was afterwards raised to the height of 100 feet, and has long served for a beacon, or light-house, to mariners navigating these dangerous coasts.

On the 21st of August, 1171, two years and three months after Fitz-Stephen de Marisco had entered Ireland, Richard de Clare, surnamed *Strongbow*, Earl of Chepstow and Strigule, at the head of a well-appointed force of 200 knights and 1200 soldiers, landed in Waterford Haven, on the coast of Wexford, at a place distant four miles north-east from the present light-house, termed Hook-tower. The spot of debarkation is still called *Strongbow's Fort*; and vestiges of very antient field fortifications may yet be traced.

We cannot quit this peninsula without observing that the ill-fated author of "Walks through Ireland," Mr. J. B. Trotter, fixed his residence for some time on its rocky shores, and dates hence several of the letters which have since been published. He lodged at nights in a farm-house, about a mile from the light-house; but passed the days, with the companions of his pedestrian tour, in a tent, erected on a romantic and solitary part of the coast, well suited to the wayward cast of his genius.

On the eastern bank of Waterford harbour is DUNCANNON FORT, a building of antient foundation, but renovated at different times, and still occupied as a military fastness. The fort covers a considerable ground-plot, on the flat surface of a high rock which overlooks the water, and is entered by means of a draw-bridge. The whole of the buildings are surrounded by a strong wall, and defended by thirty pieces of cannon, ranged in three tiers. The governor's house and the chapel are of moderate proportions; the barracks commodious and well-built. In this part of the harbour, or river Suir, there are several strands and bays. Duncannon strand is very shoal, and dangerous to ships;

but a creek is formed by the rock on which the fort is built. In this creek is a pier, for the protection of fishing and other boats; and vessels of 100 tons burthen may enter here at high tide and in favourable weather. In the neighbourhood of the fort is a mean street, consisting of cabins chiefly supported by the military and the produce of a few fishing boats.

Henry VI. made a grant of Duncannon to John Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury, Waterford, and Wexford, and seneschal of Ireland; but it was afterwards united to the crown, and a portion of land was granted by Elizabeth, for the purpose of preserving it in repair; which land was successively vested in trustees, to the same intent, by King Charles II. and William III. Duncannon may be termed the key of the ports of Waterford and Ross. In the year 1645, Laurence, Lord Esmond, held it for the Parliament, at which time his lordship was aged and almost blind. General Preston, the royalist commander, sat down before this place, with 1500, or, as some assert, 2000 men, and having planted his great guns, cannonaded the fort. The badness of the season retarded for some time Preston's operations, but Captain Lurken, who was second in command in the fort, being slain with a stone beaten from the wall by a cannon shot, the subaltern officers, seeing the besiegers ready to take the place by assault, beat a parley, without consulting the governor's inclinations, and surrendered the fort upon honourable conditions, being permitted to depart with arms and baggage, and taking with them the old lord Esmond, who died of grief at this catastrophe, on the road to his own house at Balynastragh. King William made himself master of this place in 1690; and from hence the unfortunate James II. took shipping when he fled into France. Duncannon is included in the foundation charter of Dunbrody Abbey, and now gives the title of viscount to the Ponsonby family, earls of Besborough.

DUNBRODY ABBEY, situated on the banks of the Suir, near the confluence of that river with the Nore and Barrow, is the noblest monument of antiquity in this county, and was, undoubtedly, one of the finest ecclesiastical edifices in the whole island. This religious house was founded in the year 1182, or 1184, by Hervey

de Montmorency, Lord de Marisco, marshal to King Henry II. constable of Ireland, and senechal of Leinster for Earl Strongbow; which latter nobleman is generally called Hervey's nephew, that distinguished person being the paternal uncle of the earl's first wife, Lady Aliva, or Isabella, de Marisco. Hervey having obtained from King Dermot Mac Morough extensive grants of land in Ibh-Kinselagh, comprising the whole of the modern baronies of Forth and Bargie, and the greater part of the barony of Shelburne,* together with other lordships from Earl Strongbow, established in the two first named baronies a numerous colony of his followers and relations; and, finally retiring from the world, took the cowl in the monastery of Christ-Church, Canterbury.

Lord Hervey de Montmorency upon this occasion undertook to found the abbey of Dunbrody, and to endow it with those lands in the barony of Shelburne which at present constitute the union of St. James.† This religious foundation he dedicated to St. Mary and St. Benedict, and placed the monks under the obligation of following the rules of the Cistercian abbey of Buildwas, in Shropshire. In the primitive state of the institution obedience was yielded to the abbot of that house; but we find that, immediately after the complete establishment of the new foundation, the abbot of Buildwas transferred to the abbot of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of Dublin, the powers with which he was invested during its

* According to M. Du Chesne's *Histoire de la Maison de Montmorency*, the lands granted to the Constable Hervey amounted to 200 manors and villages. See *Histoire*, &c. one vol. thick folio, published at Paris, 1624.

† The foundation charter of Dunbrody Abbey is inserted at full length in *Monasticon Anglicanum*, vol. ii. p. 1027. The union of St. James "is bounded on the west and W. N. W. by the river Suir, from the conflux with the Nore and the Barrow, to the near end of the Harbour of Waterford. On the east by the union of Tintern; on the south by the union of Fethard; and on the north by Campile-hill, part of the union of Whitechurch, and part of Tintern. Its length and breadth are four miles each, being nearly of a square form, and contains twenty-five townlands, and part of three others." The whole is arable ground, a very few acres of turf bog excepted. See Mr. Shaw Mason's *Parochial Survey*, vol. i., article Union of Killesk, or St. James's.

infancy; and, subsequently, this richly-endowed abbey maintained its own proper independence. The abbot of Dunbrody was a lord of parliament, and the abbey long flourished in great dignity and reputation. The abbey itself, and the barony of Dunbrody, upon the suppression of monasteries, were granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Osborne Itchingham, *in capite*, at the annual rent of 70*s.* 6*d.* Irish money.

The remains of this very extensive abbey exhibit a scene peculiarly solemn, and partake as much of the picturesque as is attainable without the aid of foliage. They may be truly said to “sit in naked solitude on the edge of the whispering waves.” No venerable tree shades their decay; no voice, save that of the curious traveller, breaks on the quiet of their seclusion. Deserted and lonely, whilst slowly yielding to the assault of ages, they present to the fancy the image of stern but pensive resignation. It may be observed that the finest points of view, for pictorial effect, are obtained from the varying positions of a boat, on the noble river which flows along the precincts of this august pile.

The Abbey-church was built in the form of a cross, and the walls are still nearly entire. It is said by Ware, that the greater part of this church was erected by Herlewin de Marisco, Bishop of Leighlin (Hervey's brother's son) shortly before the year 1216; but it would seem to be probable that the building, in its present form, was constructed at a more advanced part of the thirteenth century, as the pointed style, in much simplicity and purity, prevails in the principal parts of the interior.

The nave is divided into a body and side aisles by two rows of pointed arches, eighteen feet in width, and thirty feet in height, supported by square piers. The inside of each of these arches is adorned with a moulding, which springs from handsome consoles, and produces a pleasing effect. A square tower rises from the central part of the edifice, and is sustained by arches fifty feet in height. This tower, although not ungraceful, is of low proportions, the entire height, from the supporting arches to the parapet, being little more than thirty feet. The whole length of the church is nearly 200 feet; and the chancel is in the same state of lingering

decay as the nave. The great window over the west entrance is forty feet in height, and comprises three tall and narrow lights, with three quatrefoil openings in the screen of masonry that fills the head of the arch. The doorcase of the western entrance, now mutilated, inclines towards the circular form, and appears to have been handsomely ornamented. In its more perfect state it is described by Mr. Archdall, as "being adorned with filigree open work, cut in the stone, and so raised as to allow a finger easily under it." The transepts measure from north to south 140 feet. In each transept are three chapels, which have groined ceilings, and are lighted by narrow pointed windows.

In this venerable church are still to be seen four niches, once containing sepulchral monuments. Near the high altar remained until lately, in a deep niche, a monument of black marble, erected to the memory of the *Constable Hervey de Montmorency*, who died in the year 1205, at the age of seventy-five, and was interred at this place. The monument was ornamented with small pillars, the capitals of which represented fleur-de-lis, and sustained a slab, on which was placed the recumbent effigies of the deceased, his shirt of mail appearing, characteristically, beneath his religious garment. In the right hand, which reposed on his breast, he held a chalice; and in the left, apparently, a short truncheon. The head was bare.* We regret to observe that this statue was removed from its place, and wantonly broken to pieces, by a party of soldiers belonging to the garrison of Duncannon, at the time of the insurrection in 1798. In a niche, or recess, near the above monument, was interred *Herlewin de Marisco*, Bishop of Leighlin, nephew of the Lord Hervey de Montmorency, who died in 1216.

In the vicinity of the church are some ruinous vestiges of the hall, refectory, and other domestic parts of the abbey; together with the foundations of a spacious cloister.

* It is asserted by some writers, and with probable correctness, that Hervey constituted himself the first abbot of Dunbrody. His monument was called by the neighbouring inhabitants the tomb of *Hervey Morres*, and is represented in one of the plates engraved for the Genealogical History of the house of Montmorency, by the Chevalier Hervey de Montmorency, to whom we are indebted for the above particulars.

KILCLOGHAN and BALLYHACK, in this neighbourhood, were commanderies of the order of St. John of Jerusalem ; the former founded (as is said) by the family of O'More ; the latter by the De Mariscos and Le Poers. Near to Ballyhack are the ruins of the CASTLE of KILHILE, which structure, together with the castles of Dunbrody, Killesk, and Knockagh, in the same district, was originally built by the Constable De Montmorency, or his nephew and heir, Lord Geoffrey Fitzjordan De Montemarisco, viceroy of Ireland, by order of Henry II. and his son John, for the general protection of the colony.

At a short distance from Dunbrody, situated on a rock close to the river, near St. Catherine's, or the Nook, church, is a curious fabric called *Cuislan-na-Blahie*, which the natives, for what reason it is not easy to discover, translate BUTTERMILCH CASTLE. This structure is placed at the foot of a steep hill, and consists of two small and gloomy towers, joined together, and destitute of windows, the one much loftier than the other. The lower building has a pointed stone roof, and contains one chamber, about ten feet square, with a flight of steps that leads into the higher tower, and thence into another confined room, not more than eight feet square; which are the only apartments contained in this building. The castle was erected by the monks on this romantic spot, by way of a toll house on the river, and also for the protection of the fishery, and the purpose of curing the fish taken for the use of the Abbey.

BALKUROGUE, or SUTTON'S CASTLE, is distant from Dunbrody one mile and a half. This castle, of which considerable ruins are still remaining, was built with flankers and a bawn by one of the family of Sutton, which family derives from Roger de Sutton, a British knight, who followed into Ireland, in 1169, Robert Fitzstephen, and Hervey De Montmorency. He obtained from the latter a grant of lands near Dunbrody, since called Sutton parish, and was a subscribing witness to one of the charters of Dunbrody Abbey. From this Roger descends the existing family of the name of Sutton, in the county of Wexford.

In the same neighbourhood are the castles of *Stokestown* and

Aldertown, the latter being the scat of Mr. Glasscott. On a tract formerly insulated, and still called the *Great Island*, although the course of the river is now diverted and the land drained, are two castles, one of which is occupied by — Wilson, Esq. There are, in the “great island” two Danish or Irish forts, and some traces of Anglo-Norman intrenchments. Great quantities of human bones have been dug up at different periods, and also many cannon-balls, which doubtless had remained since the time that Cromwell, on his approach to Waterford, here intrenched himself.

We now conduct the reader to the BARONY OF SCAREWALSH, situated in the north-western part of the county; and commencing our topographical notices with the town of Clonegall, proceed along the delightful banks of the river Slauey, until we return to the vicinity of the town of Wexford.

CLONEGALL, (*Cluain-na-gail*, the plain of slaughter) is a small but neat market town, situated on the river Derry, or Derrihy, which river divides this town into two parts, and likewise separates the counties of Wexford and Carlow; one half of Clonegall being in the former, and the remainder in the latter county. This was the antient estate of the Esmond family, by one of whom it was alienated to the Lord Le Poer, of Curraghmore, in whose representative, the Marquess of Waterford, the manor is at present vested; but the Carlow side of the town belongs to the Tottenham family. The sum of £1,300 has lately been advanced by parliamentary grant towards re-building the church of Clonegall, otherwise called *Myacomb*, or *Mycomb*, church, by which name the parish is known. The view obtained from the burial yard of this church is particularly fine. As proofs of the salubrity of the air in the neighbourhood of Clonegall, it may be noticed that the inscriptions in the church-yard present the following instances of longevity. Elizabeth Cummins died 1793, aged 101 years; she was the wife of Walter Cummins, of Kilcarr, Gent. John Ralph, died 1803, aged 104 years; and John Byrne, of Kilcarr, miller, aged 104.*

* It may be added that the sister of Mrs. Elizabeth Cummins, living in 1809, was then 103 years old; and the parish priest of Clonegall, the Rev. Mr. Purcell, was at the same period in his hundredth year.

Close to the above town is HUNTINGDON CASTLE, the ancient seat of the Esmond family, now the property of Sir Edward Lesly, of Tarbert, Bart. but let on lease to the present occupant, Mr. Durdin. The mansion is designed in the bad style of castellated architecture which prevailed in the early part of the seventeenth century, at which period it was erected by Sir Laurence Esmond, the second baronet of that family. The castle was named by that gentleman after the original seat of his ancestors, Huntingdon, or Huntingdon, in Lincolnshire, the residence, in the reign of Henry II. of Sir Geoffrey de Ezmondiis, or Esmond, prior to this Sir Geoffrey or his son accompanying the Anglo-Norman expedition into Ireland, at which time they settled in the county of Wexford, where their descendants have since constantly resided, and maintained a distinguished rank.*

BUNCLODY, otherwise NEWTOWN BARRY, occupies one of the most picturesque and agreeable situations in this part of Ireland. The bounty of nature is finely seconded by the exercise of a liberal taste, and the charms of this place can never be obliterated from the remembrance of the traveller. Bunclody, seated at the conflux of the rivers Slaney and Clody, was first raised from the character of a miserable hamlet to its present respectability as a small fair and post town, in the year 1577, by Alderman James Barry, who was sheriff of Dublin, in that year, and was progenitor of the late barons of Santry. Judith, the only daughter and heir of James Barry, prothonotary of the court of common pleas, married John Maxwell, first Lord Farnham; since which period the Newtown-Barry estate (which had formerly constituted part of the domain of Macmorrough-Kavanagh) has belonged to the Maxwell family.

The town, or village, is built in the form of an irregular square, and an attractive air of neatness prevails in every part.

* The family of Nesmond, in France, according to the "*Dictionaire de la Noblesse*," of the late Monsieur Lachenais-de-Bois, derives from an individual of the house of Esmond, of Wexford, who settled in the province of Angoumois, in the reign of Henry III. of England, and gave rise to the Marquesses and Counts de Nesmond, in that country.

The houses are chiefly white-washed, and comprise many ornamented and most desirable cottage dwellings. The parish church, a handsome structure, was erected by Lord Farnham; and the church-yard is the most beautiful rural cemetery that we have seen in the British dominions. This little earthly elysium is situated on a gentle declivity, overhanging the river Clody, which rolls its murmuring flood in appropriate plaintive sounds below. The burial ground is said by the Chevalier de Montmorency, to whose MS. remarks we are so much indebted, to resemble the cemetery of *Pere le Chaise*, near Paris, except that it is much inferior in extent. Several walks, shaded by forest trees, and planted with shrubs, conduct to the venerated regions of the dead; and many of the tombs are composed of marble, and executed with considerable skill. The whole cemetery acquires a charm, at once simple and potent, from the custom which prevails of decorating the graves with flowers and evergreens, the mingled emblems of decay and perpetuity.* These pious offerings of tender friendship

* It has been asserted that this custom is peculiar in Europe to Wales and the Swiss Cantons; and, although we adduce an instance of the incorrectness of such a remark, it is highly probable that the practice was introduced to the county of Wexford from Wales, by the first colonists from that country in the twelfth century. It is well known that this custom is of Pagan origin, and was common with the Greeks and Romans. Virgil alludes to it in some of the finest lines of the *Æneid*. Our great poet, Shakspeare, also notices it in the play of *Cymbeline*; and, whilst viewing the graves of this romantic burial-yard, we unavoidably recall to mind the Dirge written by Collins, and introduced in the representation of that play:

“ To fair Fidele’s grassy tomb,
Soft maids and village hinds shall bring
Each op’ning sweet of earliest bloom,
And rifle all the breathing spring.

“ No wailing ghost shall dare appear,
To vex with shrieks this quiet grove;
But shepherd lads assemble here,
And melting virgins own their love.”

and of filial, conjugal, and paternal love, divest the precincts of the tomb of all that is appalling in solemnity, and impart to the scene a soothing calm, favourable to the reception of religious and moral impressions.

The vicinity of Newtown-Barry is greatly enriched by the plantations, and the various improvements, connected with the demesne of Colonel Maxwell Barry, whose handsome residence is situated on rising ground near the town. The lawns dependant on this mansion sweep down to the margin of the river, and the pleasure-grounds are finely wooded. In the distance Mount Leinster presents a majestic object, whether glowing with the numberless hues of halcyon days, or wrapped in the storms of winter.

The beauties of natural scenery for which Newtown-Barry is justly celebrated, are not confined to this demesne, however transcendant its attractions. The banks of the Slaney, throughout a long extent, abound in the lovely and the magnificent, finely combined, or exhibited in enchanting succession and contrast. From this place to the town of Wexford, pursuing the gentle meanders of the river, the country is, indeed, in most parts lustrous in beauty. The principal seats in this district are chiefly placed on, or near, the banks of the river; and several are not unworthy of so well-chosen a situation.

ENISCORTHY, or ENNISCORTHY, is a considerable trading town, situated at the foot of the mountain called Vinegar Hill, on the banks of the Slaney, at the distance of eleven miles from Wexford towards the north-west. Seward, after other topographers, asserts that this town was originally called *Corthæ*, and was the capital of the Coriandi of Ptolemy; but it is observed by the Chevalier de Montmorency, that the name may also be derived from *Enis-scor-teach*, the stud-house pasturage. This town contains the ruins of two monastic edifices, and an antient castle, still in habitable repair. The principal historical events relating to the town at large may be communicated in a notice of those structures, until a recent period, at which this place acquired a very calamitous degree of celebrity. In the year 1798, Enis-

corthy unhappily became the focus of party animosity and contention in this part of the island. The insurgents of North Wexford, led by the infuriated church-militant Father John Murphy, of Boulavogue, after several successful enterprizes encamped on *Vinegar Hill*, on the 28th of May; and on the same day commenced an attack upon the neighbouring town. It is stated by Mr. Gordon that the number of the rebels amounted to nearly 7,000, of whom about 800 were armed with guns. The garrison of the town is said, by the same writer, to have consisted of 290 men. After a vigorous resistance on the part of the North Cork militia and the yeomanry, the town was captured by the assailants, with considerable loss on both sides. The scene which ensued, although less sanguinary than might have been feared, was sufficiently distressing, and is thus noticed by the writer above cited: "Most of the loyal inhabitants of Enniscorthy, and a multitude of others, who had come thither for protection, fled through the flames towards Wexford; and, providentially, the direction and weakness of the wind favoured their escape, for they could not have otherwise passed through the burning streets. The terror, consternation, and distress of these fugitives, is not to be described; flying for their lives in a confused multitude, without distinction of rank, sex, or age, almost all on foot, and leaving all their effects in the hands of their enemies." Much the greater part of the town was destroyed by fire, or otherwise reduced to a state of ruin, on this melancholy occasion.

A *Convent of Augustinian monks* was founded at Eniscorthy, between the years 1223, and 1243, by Gerald de Prendergast, an Anglo-Norman toparch, as a cell to the abbey of St. Thomas, in Dublin. The foundation was endowed with considerable property, and maintained a fair reputation until the dissolution of religious houses. In the year 1581, a lease of this abbey was granted by Queen Elizabeth to the celebrated poet, Edmund Spenser, who assigned over his title to Thomas Earl of Ormond. Some small remains of the buildings still exist. The abbey demesne amounted to 300 acres, and now belongs to Mr. Hill,

whose dwelling house, on the road leading to Gorey, formerly constituted part of the abbot's summer residence.

A *Franciscan Convent* was founded in this town, in the year 1460, for friars of the strict observance, or *Observantines*, by Donald Kavanagh, head of his sept, surnamed *Fuscus*, or *the brown*, who died on the 21st of April, 1476. In the 37th of Queen Elizabeth this friary and its appurtenances, together with the manor of Eniscorthy, were granted for ever to Sir Henry Wallop, Knight, ancestor of the present earl of Portsmouth, to be held by knight's service, and not *in capite*, at the annual rent of £10. 16s. 4d. Oliver Cromwell, it is said, wrested this manor from the Wallop family, and bestowed it on the ancestor of Robert Shapland Carew, Esq. but the subsequent claim of that family being allowed, an agreement was entered into by the parties, according to which Mr. Carew, on being restored to his family inheritance at Castleboro' in this neighbourhood, surrendered the manor of Eniscorthy to its former owner. The remains of this friary stand on the borders of the river, and comprise a tower, or steeple, together with the spacious kitchen, and the apartments of the father guardian, which are in tolerable repair, and inhabited.

On the side of the river opposite to the remains of the Franciscan convent stands the CASTLE, one of the noblest, as well as earliest, military structures of the Anglo-Norman settlers. This stately pile owes its origin to Raymond le Gros, the Achilles of the expedition of which, Strongbow was the Agamemnon. The great possessions of the founder in this county and elsewhere, his individual importance, and his near alliance as brother-in-law with the sovereign lord of Leinster, added dignity even to such an edifice as tradition commemorates Eniscorthy Castle to have formerly presented. In after times this fortress was possessed by the sept of Macmorrough, and was given by Donald Kavanagh to the Franciscan friars, as a mansion for their guardian. The castle was taken in 1649, by Oliver Cromwell, but was afterwards repaired by the Wallop family. During the insurrection of 1798, it was used as a prison for the insurgents; and for events connected

with the building, whilst thus employed, we willingly refer to the pages of the historian. The castle was in that year taken by the rebels, and greatly injured by its tumultuous captors; but the damages it then sustained have been since repaired by order of Lord Portsmouth, and the buildings are now occupied by his lordship's agent. This fine Anglo-Norman structure is of a square form, and is flanked at each corner with a round tower. The material of which the walls are composed is a hard blue slate, dug on the spot. The cases of the doors and windows, like those of the friary, are of a grey grit stone. Much of the antient interior disposal is still perceptible, although many parts have experienced alteration at different periods.

The town of Eniscorthy is spread over the eastern and western banks of the Slaney, which is here a river of considerable width, crossed by a handsome stone bridge, and navigable for small vessels, employed by the inhabitants in the provision and corn and malt trades. The injuries which the town sustained in the troubles of the year 1798,* have been since repaired, greatly to the advantage of its buildings and general appearance. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a structure of no great interest. The Roman catholic chapel is a spacious building, recently erected by subscription.

In October, 1795, four circular plates of gold were turned up by the plough in the neighbourhood of this town. They were exactly similar, being richly ornamented on one side, and plain on the other; and weighed about an ounce each. On the plain side was a kind of cap, or screw, apparently for the purpose of receiving a handle. A figure of one is given in the *Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy*, vol. vi. *Antiquities*, p. 31.

The banks of the Slaney are truly beautiful in the vicinity of Eniscorthy, and maintain that character for the whole remaining progress of the river, until it enters the sea at Wexford. Whilst examining the varied charms displayed by this river, in its progress through the county under consideration, we cannot avoid

* It is believed that not less than 478 dwelling-houses and cabins were destroyed at that lamentable period.

expressing surprise that its attractions are so little known to travellers in Ireland, and have pleasure in recommending them to future notice.

Amongst the principal seats in this district must be mentioned *Solsborough*, the residence of Solomon Richards, Esq.; *Castleboro'*, the fine seat of the Carew family; *Bellevue*, late the seat of the Right Hon. George Ogle; and *Macmines*, or *Macmine*, the estate of Mr. Newton-King; *Edermine*, within three miles of Eniscorthy, is the seat of a chief representative of the O'Toole family; and near that place is *Riverview*, the richly-planted demesne of Mr. Le Hunte, whose family is of antient standing, and has long possessed considerable landed property in the county of Wexford.

The BARONY OF GOREY, which now claims our notice, occupies the north-eastern part of the county, having on its eastern borders the Irish sea.*

* The land included in this district, together with a portion of the baronies of Arklow and Shillelagh, in the county of Wicklow, comprises the antient *Hy-cin-selac*, properly so called, and the territory of *Mac-Da Mores*, commonly called *Mac-Omore's*, and *Mac-Morres's country*. The sept of O'Kinselagh in this district descended from Morough, a younger brother of Dermot Mac Morough, King of Leinster. The septs of Mac Dermott-Roe (another branch of this house) and of O'Deyle, were antient proprietors here. Such is the instability of human affairs, that of the name of O'Kinselagh, the *legitimate* line of the former princes of Leinster, not one individual is now to be found, in any part of this county, holding a higher station in society than that of a petty shopkeeper or small farmer. William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, son-in-law of Earl Strongbow, as lord paramount of the county of Wexford, in right of his wife, Earl Strongbow's daughter by the princess Eva Macmorrough, exchanged this district, and the adjacent territory of Wicklow, with other Anglo-Norman settlers for lands in another part of this and the neighbouring counties. By virtue of this exchange he took from the De Marisco family the baronies of Forth and Bargie, granting in return, to the sons of Lord Geoffrey de Montemarisco, the chief part of this maritime district, and a still wider tract in Wicklow. Lord Geoffrey, as early as the year 1208, took upon him the state of an Irish dynast, with the title of Mac Morres; and it is probable, but not certain, that the name by which this district has ever since been known (*Mac De Mores*, the *Macomores*, or *Mac Morres's country*) proceeded from his family. Be this as it may, the old proprietor

On entering the county in this direction, the attention is first attracted at Wicklow Gap by a high mountain, which bears considerable resemblance to the rocky pass described in previous pages under the appellation of *the Scalp*. Here an action took place in the year 1798, between the king's troops and the insurgents, in which many fell on both sides. *A Cairn* has been raised over the slain, by the contribution of a small stone from all who pass this way, and are acquainted with that antient practice of paying respect to the dead.

In examining the contiguous country, and enquiring into the history of the several mansions spread around, we find lamentable traces of the devastating spirit which prevailed in the unhappy year of insurrection. Among the houses of resident gentry burned to the ground at that time, was *Wingfield*, the highly-improved seat of Henry Brownrigg, Esq. whose family is one of the most antient and respectable in this county.

At Balyellis, near Carnew, on the demesne of Sir John-Jervis White-Jervis, Bart. a battle was fought, June 30th, 1798, between the royalists, commanded by Colonel Pilson, of the regiment of ancient Britons, having under his orders a considerable force, regulars and yeomanry, and the insurgents, headed by their leaders, Byrne of Balymanns, Fitzgerald of Newpark, and Pery of Inch; in which the former were totally defeated. One officer, a black trumpeter, and twenty-eight rank and file, of the regiment of ancient Britons; eleven of the fifth dragoon guards; six of the Gorey yeomanry; and two of the Balaghean yeomanry were slain. Colonel Pilson had his horse killed under him, and

retained the possession of a large portion of Mac De Mores's territory, and lived on amicable terms with the English colonists. Morough O'Kinselagh was the supreme lord of this district in 1169, and 1172, and constantly sided with the invader. His descendants were denominated of this place, but were partly dispossessed at the period of the settlement and distribution of the country into shire ground by Queen Elizabeth, and finally in the year 1606, by James I. when the families of Esmond, Masterson, Fisher, Ram, and others, obtained grants from the crown of the barony of Gorey. MSS. of the Chev. de Montmorency.

a great many men were wounded. On the side of the insurgents it is said not one was killed. Balyellis house upon this occasion was burned to ashes.

The country in this part of Wexford is well cultivated, and of a pleasing character. The village of LIMBRICK, which ranks as a fair town, claims attention in several points of view. Here are the ruins of a castle, once the seat of Laurence Lord Esmond; and in the adjacent ruined church, called *Balykillkevan*, is the sepulchral vault of the Esmonde family.

This district is termed the *manor of Esmond*, and enjoys the usual privileges of a court leet and baron. On this estate is situated BALYNASTRAGH, the fine seat of Sir Thomas Esmonde, Bart. The mansion-house, originally a castellated building, was erected by James, second son of Sir Thomas the first baronet (so created in 1628), and next brother to Sir Laurence Esmonde, the second baronet; which James left issue, by Barbara Vincent, daughter to — Vincent, Esq. of the city of Limerick, two sons. Patrick, the younger son, died with the rank of colonel in the Austrian service, leaving an only daughter, his heir, married to Count Charles Kavanagh, of the Borris family, a lieutenant general in the same service. Laurence, the eldest son, succeeded his father in the manor of Esmond and at Ballynastragh. He married three wives, but had issue only by the first, Elizabeth, daughter to — Brownrigg, of Wingfield, Esq. By this lady he had issue Sir James, his only son, and four daughters.

Sir James succeeded to the baronetcy upon the death of his cousins, Sir Walter Esmonde of Cregg, and Sir John, the brother of Sir Walter, who both died without leaving any issue, the latter only three days before his successor; so that the two baronets were both buried on the same day, in the family vault at Ballykillkevan, or Limbrick. To this Sir James succeeded Sir Thomas, who died without issue in 1803, and was followed in his title and estate by the present Sir Thomas, his nephew, eldest son and heir of the late John Esmonde, Esq. and of Helen, daughter and coheir of Bartholemew Callan, or O'Callan, of Osberstown-House, in the county of Kildare, Esq.

now the wife of the Chevalier Hervey de Montmorency, by whom she has issue.

The exterior of Ballynastragh manor-house was altered and modernised by the late baronet, at which time were removed some antient terraces in the front of the building, and a large flight of stone steps was substituted, which conducts to the spacious hall. Considerable additions and improvements to this extensive mansion are now in progress, under the direction of the present proprietor of the estate.

In different apartments are preserved some good portraits of the Esmonde and O'Callan families. Among the best of these we remarked the following.

A well-painted half-length, by Kneller, of *Patrick O'Callan, Esq.* (of the sept of O'Neill) maternal great-grandfather of the present baronet.

Margaret Barnewall, of the house of Drimnagh, wife of the above Patrick O'Callan, Esq.

Neill-Callan O'Neill, brother to the same gentleman. The subject of this fine half-length portrait was a lieutenant general in the Austrian service, and called Count O'Neill. He is represented in armour, but wearing a full-bottomed wig. He died at Bruxells, in or about the year 1777.

Bartholemew O'Callan, Esq. of Osberstown, only son and heir of Patrick, grandfather to the present baronet; and his wife, only daughter of Michael Caulfield, of Levitstown, county of Kildare, Esq. and of Helen, daughter to John Taylor, of Swords, Esq. by which lady is Sir Thomas Esmonde's mother.

The demesne lands of Ballynastragh are judiciously laid out and well planted. The gardens and offices are extensive, and in high preservation.

Gorey, or *Newborough*,* is a small, but tolerably well-built, inland town at the distance of forty-five miles from Dublin. This is a place of little trade, but has a market and four annual fairs, and was a borough before the union. The town consists of one

* The name of Newborough was bestowed on this town at the period of its incorporation, but has not grown into popular usage.

chief street, and several minor lanes.* In the year 1798, this place was frequently the scene of warfare, and was alternately possessed by both contending parties. Here are a Protestant church, and Roman Catholic chapel. The former structure has been lately rebuilt, after designs imitative of the circular (Anglo-Saxon or Norman) style of architecture, and reflects much credit on the talents of the architect employed, Mr. J. B. Keane. The present edifice does not occupy the site of the antient church, which building, however, was demolished, and the materials used in the new erection. The cost of the present church was £2,200. Of this sum £2000, were advanced by the board of first fruits, and the remainder was presented by the late Mr. Ram, who also contributed the ground on which the building is placed, namely an elevated spot on that part of the town which lies towards Ferns.

At a short distance from Gorey towards the sea side is CLONATIN, a handsome seat of the Ram family. The house was burned by the insurgents in 1798, but has been since rebuilt.—At this place are to be seen the ruins of a very antient and curious ecclesiastical edifice. These vestiges present the remains of a small church, not more than thirty feet in length by nineteen

* The most curious, although not the most eligible, or handsome, of the domestic buildings in this town, is an antient house, for some time the principal inn, but now used for a barrack, which was the original mansion of the Ram family, and was built by Thomas Ram, Bishop of Leighlin and Ferns, in the reign of James I. At a considerable height on the wall, between the windows of the second story, is a slab of black stone, on which are sculptured the family arms, (a chevron, ermine, between three rams' heads; crest a ram's head), and on either side of the shield are the letters T. R. in Roman characters. Underneath are the following inscriptions, in raised old English letters:—

Quod tibi tu non vis fieri

Ne feceris ulli.

Math. vii.

Let all thy thoughts, thy words, and deeds,

Be such unto thy brother,

As thou would'st his should be,

And let them be none other.

feet in width. The walls are constructed of large blocks of red grit stone, rudely put together, and evince, from the want of skill in the builder, a much earlier date of erection than the doorway, which is a highly-ornamented example of the circular style of architecture, often denominated Saxon. The material is a blueish grit stone, and the capitals of the pillars contain representations of human heads, beasts, both natural and fanciful, &c. The broad members of the arch are decorated with reticulated work, and other embellishments customary in the circular mode of design. It would, perhaps, be no extravagant conjecture to deduce the etymology of Clonatin from the Irish *Cluain*, a sacred retreat, and *Ædan* the name of the patron saint of *Ibh-cinselac*, who flourished in the fifth century. Whatever may be the date of this structure, its rudest parts must unquestionably rank with the very earliest ecclesiastical buildings existing in Ireland, and it probably appertained to one of the numerous monastic foundations which formerly flourished in this district.* We cannot quit this interesting relic of an unknown but very remote age, without lamenting that no neighboring gentleman, of antiquarian taste, has taken measures to preserve it from the state of utter ruin to which it is making rapid advances.

COURTOWN, the beautiful demesne of the Earl of Courtown, is situated on the sea-coast, to the south-east of the town of Gorey. The mansion is a convenient, rather than splendid building, placed close to the river Owenvarra (*Aun-na-bharra*) which falls into the sea at the bay of Kilbride. The extensive lands attached to this seat are finely laid out, and are particularly rich in evergreens, which are observed to flourish with peculiar vigour and beauty on lands, like the demesne of Courtown, in the immediate vicinity of the sea, where snow never lies for any long continuance. We regret to say that this place was sacked, and otherwise injured, by a party of insurgents, in the year 1798.

King James I. in the ninth year of his reign, granted certain

* MSS. of the Chevalier De Montmorency. For a notice of several monastic foundations formerly existing in *Ibh-cinselac*, see Archdall's *Mon. Hib.* under the head of *County of Wexford*.

towns, lands, and hamlets, situated in the territory called *Mac-de-mores*, or *Mac Morres's*, country, and in the territory called *Hy-Kinselach*, containing by estimation, 1500 acres, Irish measure, together with the river Owenvarra, and the mountain of Torchill, to Sir Edward Fisher, Knt. one of the commissioners for the settlement of this county. The lands so granted were erected by patent into a manor, successively termed the manor of Fisherstown or Fisher's-Prospect, and the manor of Chichester, at present the *lordship of Courtown*. Elizabeth, fifth and youngest daughter, and co-heir of Sir Edward Fisher, who died in 1631, having married Edward, the third son of Edward Viscount Chichester, brought to her husband this manor. The estate continued in the Chichester family until the year 1711, when it was granted by John Chichester to James Stopford, Esq. who for many years represented in parliament, first the borough, and afterwards the county, of Wexford. By Frances his wife, daughter to Roger Jones of Dublin, Esq. this gentleman was father, amongst other children, of James, first Earl of Courtown. James, the second earl, was created, June 7th, 1796, a peer of Great Britain, by the style and title of Baron of Saltersford, in the county of Chester; and was father of James-George, the present and third Earl of Courtown.

RANSFORTH, situated to the west of Gorey, is the seat of the senior branch of the Ram family. The mansion on this estate, formerly a magnificent edifice, was destroyed in 1798. At that melancholy period the insurgents battered this house from the elevation termed Gorey-hill, with two six pounders and one cur-ricle gun. After they had obtained possession of the building they burned it, leaving the bare walls to reproach the perpetrators with this act of vandalism, so disgraceful, in all respects, to a civilized country, as being levelled at once against the arts and against distinguished private virtue. This ruined mansion had been erected by the late Colonel Ram, in 1751, and the following year, after the designs of Mr. George Semple, the able architect of Essex-bridge, and other public structures in the city of Dublin. It occupied the site of a former building, that in its turn had

replaced a more antient dwelling, both of which were consumed by accidental fire. A handsome house, but on a less extensive scale than the mansion designed by Mr. Semple, has been lately erected, in a new, and it is to be hoped a more propitious situation. The home-grounds and park are surrounded by high stone walls, and enriched by much timber of a full and flourishing growth.

The family of Ram has enjoyed a high share of consideration in the county of Wexford for more than two centuries, the first of the name who settled here being Dr. Thomas Ram, a native of Windsor, in Berkshire, who is mentioned in our list of the bishops of Leighlin and Ferns. That prelate, at the time of the settlement of this county, obtained from the crown extensive grants of lands, the greater part of which has descended to his posterity.

In this neighbourhood are likewise situated, together with several other handsome demesnes, CAMOLIN PARK; WELLS; and BALYMORE; the fine seats of the Earl of Mountnorris, and the families of Doyne and Donovan.

Near Camolin is the village of ROSSMINOGUE. Here the late Right Hon. George Ogle, of Bellevue, distinguished for brilliancy of wit and an exuberance of social qualities, passed some of his early years, under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Miller, rector of the parish. It was at this place, and whilst he was very young, that Mr. Ogle wrote his admired song, beginning,

Shepherds I have lost my love,
Have you seen my Anna?
Pride of ev'ry shady grove
On the banks of Banna!

Here, likewise, at a less youthful age, he composed his still more celebrated song of "Molly Asthore," in which the banks of his favorite "Banna" are still the scene of his poetical wanderings.*

FERNs, FERNEGENALL, or FERNNAGENAMHUIL (*Ferns the stately or beautiful*) at present a humble village, chiefly composed

* The first of these juvenile effusions is said to have been inspired by the charms of Miss Stepney, of Durrow-house, Queen's county, afterwards

of small but neat thatched cabins, was, in former times, a place of considerable note, being the royal seat of Government of the Kings of Leinster, of the House of Macmorough, and the archiepiscopal see of the province. It still preserves the episcopal rank, and is the residence of the bishop, although, as will be shown more fully in a subsequent page, this diocese is now united to that of Leighlin.

The history of this town commences with the former importance of its religious foundations and establishments.—We are told that, in the year 598, a certain King named Brandubh, gave to St. Maodhog, or Mogue, otherwise called St. Ædan, the lands of Ferns, where he founded an abbey, and was consecrated bishop. It is added, that Brandubh was interred here, *anno* 601.

The rising consequence of Ferns was interrupted, early in the ninth century, by the incursions of the Danes, who plundered and burned the abbey in the years 834; 836; 838; 917; and 928. By the same unhallowed marauders it was, for the sixth time, consumed by fire, A. D. 930; and the town was accidentally destroyed by conflagration in 1165. In the following year, for what reason is not specified, the town and abbey were reduced to ashes by the celebrated Dermot Macmorough, King of Leinster. It was at this period that Dermot, defeated in a pitched battle, and dethroned, by the monarch Roderic O'Conor, and the princes of Breffny, Meath, and Ossory, sought refuge in England; shortly after which memorable journey he introduced the Anglo-Normans, in the character of allies, as has been already noticed in our remarks on the general history of this country. As some atonement for the crime of burning the antient monastery at Ferns, immediately on resuming the crown of Leinster under foreign auspices, he founded, at this place, a new abbey for Canons regular of the rule of St. Augustin, under the invocation of the Virgin Mary, which he richly endowed with lands. He did not, however, witness,

Mrs. Burton Doyme, of Wells, one of the most admired beauties of her day. It is believed that the lovely "Molly Asthore" was Miss Moore, the lady whom Mr. Ogle afterwards married. The Banna is an agreeable stream, that waters the chief part of the Barony of Gorey.

for any length of time, the beneficial effects of this expiatory act, but died in his castle, or palace, of Ferns, on the 1st of May, 1171, at a very advanced age, and was buried in the abbey at this place.*

The memory of this prince has been so universally execrated by the Irish throughout all ages, that the precise spot of his sepulture has afforded no object of curiosity with posterity, and is now quite unknown. Dermot left no other legitimate issue than one daughter, namely Eva, who married Richard de Clare, surnamed Strongbow, Earl of Strigule, Chepstow, and Pembroke; but from his natural son, Donald, surnamed *Ceibhinach* (pronounced *Kevenach*) i.e. *of the flowing locks*, is lineally descended the distinguished family of Kavanagh.†

The *Castle* of Ferns, now dismantled and decayed, is a structure of considerable interest, equally in an historical and an archi-

* The author of the *Annals of Inisfallen* thus notices the above event : “ Anno 1171. Diarmoid Mac Morogh, King of Leinster, and of the English in Ireland, the contriver and fomentor of dissention throughout the whole island, and perpetrator of its destruction; who continually harassed and preyed on the Irish, and supported the English, whom he brought hither for that purpose, having plundered, destroyed, and demolished many churches and territories, died within the space of a year after acting those detestable and wicked deeds, of an intolerable and shocking disorder, inflicted through the miracles of Fiaceen and Columb-cille, and all the other saints whose churches he plundered and destroyed; and was buried in the cathedral church of Ferns, founded by Saint Maodhaig.”

† It is worthy of remark, that, since the earliest periods of Irish history, as well before as after the introduction of christianity, and, in certain instances, so lately as in the sixteenth century, illegitimacy was not considered, in this country, in the same humiliating sense as at present. The cause of this disregard paid to one of the wisest regulations of the church and state, may, very possibly, be discovered in the principle of the Brehon law, which sanctioned the election of the most *efficient* member of any particular dynasty, though of illegitimate descent, to rule and lead the sept or clan, preferably to a weak, pusillanimous, or sickly person, though the legitimate successor, by birth, of the last toparch. Of this, many instances occur in the genealogical successions of great Irish families, especially of the O’Connors, of Kerry; O’Carroll, of Ely; Fitz Patrick, of Ossory; and even in the most powerful house of O’Neill. MSS. of the Chev. de Montmorency.

tectural point of view. This fortress was originally built by Earl Strongbow, on the site of the comparatively humble palace of his father-in-law, King Dermot. The building erected by the Anglo-Norman Earl was, however, briefly destroyed, and the manor of Ferns was bestowed by King Henry II. on William Fitz-Aldelm. That royal favourite, rendered insolent by powers and privileges, on the death of Maurice Fitzgerald, in 1176, seized upon his castle of Wicklow, and compelled the sons of Maurice to take, in exchange, the ruined castle at this place, which they rebuilt. The animosity, or avarice, of Fitzaldelm was not yet satisfied; and the castle of Ferns had not been long restored when Walter L'alemand, his nephew, with an armed force, wrested it from the Fitzgeralds, and again reduced it to a ruinous condition. It was, however, speedily re-edified on an enlarged plan, and fortified with additional towers, a fosse, and other works. This important fortress afterwards became, at intervals, the residence of the bishops of Ferns, but constituted one of the royal castles, held of the crown by military service, for the defence of the country.

The principal historical events connected with this building, in various descending ages, until its entire reduction in the seventeenth century, may be thus succinctly stated.* It is said,

* A legendary tradition respecting Ferns castle, which is credited by the neighbouring peasantry, although utterly devoid of truth, would scarcely be entitled to notice, were it not gravely repeated by the author of a "Tour in Ireland," published in 1748. "It is told," says that writer, "that this castle once belonged to Catharine de Clare, who, for many years, committed most horrid murders here, under the countenance of friendship, hospitality, and good nature. She would invite several of the rich inhabitants, in order to entertain them, and when they were in their mirth and jollity, sink them through a trap door, and cut their throats! It is certain we saw a *convenience* of that kind, that opened into a large cavern, which might give rise to such a tale." We readily admit it to be "certain" that a narrow channel, like that seen by our author, is found in most Anglo-Norman castles; but its use was obviously not that of secret murder. It may be remarked that, throughout the province of Munster, the common people uniformly term these funnel-like channels, "murdering boles;" and almost every old castle has a creature of the faucy, resembling Catharine de Clare.

that, in the year 1312, the Irish malecontents burned this castle, together with the Abbey; but by such an expression we are often, as in the present instance, not to understand that the building was completely reduced by fire, but merely that the interior and some subordinate works were exposed to conflagration and rapine. We are again told that the building was sacked and burned by the sept of O'Toole, in 1331. As a curious instance of the turbulent spirit of the times, it may be noticed that John Esmond, (of the antient family of this name) bishop of Ferns, having displeased the pope in the year 1349, was, by his holiness, deprived of the episcopal dignity. Esmond, however, continued to maintain himself, by force of arms, in his castle of Ferns. The sheriff of the county being sent to dispossess him, complained to the government that he was unable to execute the king's writ, by reason of the resistance opposed to him by the bishop and twenty-seven other persons, of whom ten were of the name of Esmond. The refractory prelate was afterwards arrested, not without some difficulty, and bound, by articles, to keep the peace. During the prelacy of his successor, bishop Charnells, who sat from 1350, to 1362, the castle was invaded by some Irish septs, whose sole employment in those ages was war; but the bishop having made a desperate sortie, at the head of his servants and dependants, routed the enemy with considerable slaughter.

In the reigns of King Edward VI. and Queen Mary, Richard Butler, second son of Peter Earl of Ormond and Ossory, created Viscount Mountgarret in 1550, was keeper, or constable, of this castle; and in the year 1558, the first of Elizabeth, was joined in a commission of martial law with Sir Nicholas Devereux, of Balymagin, for the territories of Fassagh-bantry and Le Morroes' country.* Sir Thomas Masterson, an Englishman and a soldier of fortune, obtained a lease of the *Abbey* of Ferns in the 26th of Queen Elizabeth; and his descendants constantly inhabited the

* Le Morroes, the present barony of Bealaghkeen, or Ballagheen, a district bordering on the sea-coast; the antient territory of the O'Morroghoes, or Murphys, a branch of the sept of Macmorrough.

castle until the civil war which commenced in 1641. At that calamitous period Sir Charles Coote, the parliament general, took and dismantled this fortress, and committed unparalleled and detestable acts of carnage on the Irish inhabitants of the town. The castle has ever since continued in a state of ruin.

The remains of this once formidable pile are situated on a commanding eminence, from which are obtained extensive views over the country formerly protected by its towers.

The following description, presented by Mr. Baranger, whose tour was published in 1780, is so circumstantial and accurate, that we profit by the words of that writer. The plan of the building was "a square, flanked by four towers, of which one entire, and half of another remain, with fragments of walls. The tower which is entire is built in this manner; one third of its height, beginning at the ground, of small stones; the one third of larger; and the one third of regular hewn stone. This tower contains, among other apartments, a beautiful chapel, the groining of which springs from consoles. The floor of this chapel is down, and it makes but one with the under apartment. The room over it is arched; and the edges of the stones of the long loop-hole windows have been cut underneath, as if cannon were to be pointed through them."

The *Palace of the Bishop* is the chief modern ornament of the town of Ferns. This is a capacious and handsome structure, erected by the late Bishop Cleaver, afterwards archbishop of Dublin, who provided an excellent library, at considerable pains and expense. In 1798, the buildings were much injured, and the library destroyed, by the insurgents; an event that is believed to have made a woful and indelible impression on the mind of the prelate. The grounds and spacious lawn attached to the palace are finely laid out and planted; and the general effect is heightened by several interesting vestiges of the superior splendour which prevailed at this seat of episcopacy, in antient times.

A winding walk conducts to the ruins of the *Abbey*, which at once impart a picturesque object to the demesne, and inspire a crowd of reflections on an important passage in the history of Ireland. It was here that King Dermot was secreted and enter-

tained, whilst waiting, in the early months of 1169, for the arrival of his British allies ;—a period pregnant with the future fortunes of the island ! The remains of the fabric consist chiefly of two sides of a cloister, or of a narrow chapel, having rows of tall windows, of the lancet form. The windows and the piers are uniformly of an equal breadth. Adjoining this architectural fragment is a church, the steeple of which is on a very unusual plan. The lower part represents an oblong square, of confined proportions, the dimensions being about eleven feet by eight. At the height of twelve or thirteen feet from the ground, the steeple assumes a round form, seven feet in diameter and twenty in height. The whole is constructed of a reddish stone, and, withinside, a flight of steps leads to the summit, whence is obtained a delightful prospect over an unbounded extent of landscape.

In the abbey church-yard is an antient stone cross, now broken in pieces. The upper part is applied as a head-stone, and the base and a portion of the shaft cover the graves of unknown persons. The whole of the cross was adorned with elaborate sculpture, and bears a close resemblance to the monumental cross of Tirdelvach O'Connor, King of Ireland, at Clonmacnois, in the king's county. It would appear to be far from improbable that this is the cross which several authors mention to have been erected at Ferns, in honour of King Dermot Macmorrough ; and it may be observed that the circumstance of its broken and neglected state, as being significative of the little respect paid to the memory of that prince, assists in adding to the rationality of such an opinion.* At the distance of about one furlong from the abbey, towards the east, are the ruins of St. Peter's, formerly the parochial church ; near which, on the road-side, is St. Mogue's, or St. Aedan's, well. This spring is enclosed in a small building, and constitutes an object of great local veneration.

The present *Cathedral-church* is a modern building, attached to some remains of the more antient structure. Here is a handsome mural monument, composed of marbles of different colours,

* MSS. of the Chevalier De Montmorency.

and bearing the inscription copied beneath.* In a niche, evidently not its original situation, is the monument of St. Ædan. The saint is represented *in pontificalibus*; his mitre (a very small conical cap, ending in a point) on his head, and his short crozier, or *baculum*, across his breast. A monster, writhing with pain, is sculptured beneath his feet, and the exergue of the monument is ornamented with trefoils. At the top we read as follows: "Under this monument are interred the remains of St. Edan, commonly called Saint Moague, the founder of this Cathedral, and first Bishop of Ferns. He discharged the pastoral office with piety and christian zeal for the space of fifty years, and died, in an advanced age, January 31st, A.D. DCXXXII."

We are not informed by whom, or at what period, this monument was erected, but it is visibly not of a very antient date.—Saint Ædan, the son of Sedna, was of royal blood, and born at Inis-reagh-muig, in the modern county of Cavan. He was the eighth in descent from Colla-Vais, king of Ireland; and Ethna, his mother, drew her pedigree from Amalgaid, who on Saint Patrick's arrival, filled the throne of Connaught. He presided, as bishop or archbishop, for the term of fifty years over this see, and died, as is stated above, A.D. 632.†

* "Sacred to the memory of the *Rev. William Preston*, who was private secretary to Charles, Duke of Rutland, when lord-lieutenant of Ireland. He was promoted by him to the see of Kildare, in 1785, and, after a long and painful illness, which he sustained with the patience of a philosopher and the resignation of a christian, he died on the 10th April, 1789, in the sixtieth year of his age. He was a man whose life was pious, whose mind was enlightened by genius, enlarged by travel, softened by benevolence, and accomplished by society. This monument is erected to his memory, by Mary-Isabel, Duchess of Rutland, as a memorial of the virtue and talents which she respected and admired, and as a testimony of gratitude for a friendship most valuable to her in his life-time, and which, in its effects, extended beyond the grave."

† Ware's Bishops, pp. 436—7. The following remarks, contained in the same pages, should be held in recollection whilst investigating the ecclesiastical history of this country. "In the early ages of christianity the title of archbishop in *Ireland*, except that of *Armagh*, was not fixed to any particular see; but sometimes belonged to one and sometimes to

St. Ædan, founder of the SEE OF FERNS, had for his successor St. Moling, who is termed by Giraldus Cambrensis one of the four prophets of Ireland. The annals of this bishopric are extremely obscure for many following ages, and no resemblance of a continuous and satisfactory list of prelates is attainable at an earlier æra than the twelfth century. It must also be observed that the prelates presiding over this see were often styled bishops of Wexford, and it is supposed that several entertained the design of removing the see to that more populous town. In the year 1600, the see of LEIGHLIN was united with that of Ferns, which union exists at the present time. The succession of prelates since the year 1155, has been as follows :

Bishops of Ferns.

| | Succ. |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Joseph O'Hethe, or O'Ædha,..... | 1155. |
| 2. Albin O'Mulloy, | 1186. |
| 3. John St. John,* | 1223. |
| 4. Geoffrey St. John, | 1243. |
| 5. Hugh de Lamport, | 1258. |
| 6. Richard de Northampton, | 1282. |
| 7. Simon de Evesham,..... | 1304. |
| 8. Robert Walrand, | 1305. |
| 9. Adam de Northampton, | 1312. |
| 10. Hugh de Salter,† | 1347. |
| 11. Geoffrey Grosseld, | 1347. |
| 12. John Esmond,† | 1349. |

another city, according to the sanctity and merits of the presiding bishop ; and he was not called archbishop of this or that see, but took his title from the province at large. Thus, *Fiech*, Bishop of Sletty, or of the Mountains, was consecrated archbishop of *Leinster*, by *St. Patrick*. So Conlaeth, Bishop of *Kildare*, was called high-priest, and archbishop of *Leinster* ; and *Kildare* was called a metropolitical see." Ware, *ut supra*.

* This prelate was the first Englishman who sat in the see of Ferns. Sir J. Ware observes, that " he either erected or endowed a deanery in his church."

† Hugh de Salter, and John Esmond, were both deprived by the pope, shortly after their consecration to this see.

| | Succ. |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 13. William Charnells;..... | 1350. |
| 14. Thomas Den, | 1363. |
| 15. Patrick Barret,..... | 1400. |
| 16. Robert Whittey, | 1416. |
| 17. John Pursell, | 1459. |
| 18. Laurence Nevill, | 1480. |
| 19. Edmund Comerford,..... | 1505. |
| 20. Nicholas Comyn, | 1509. |
| 21. John Pursell, | 1519. |
| 22. Alexander Devereux, | 1539. |
| 23. John Devereux,..... | 1566. |
| 24. Hugh Allen,..... | 1582. |

Bishops of Ferns and Leighlin.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| 25. Robert Grave,*..... | 1600. |
| 26. Nicholas Stafford,..... | 1600. |
| 27. Thomas Ram, | 1605. |
| 28. George Andrew, | 1635. |
| 29. Robert Price, | 1660. |
| 30. Richard Boyle,..... | 1666. |
| 31. Narcissus Marsh,..... | 1682. |
| 32. Bartholomew Vigors, | 1690. |
| 33. Josiah Hort,..... | 1721. |
| 34. John Hoadly, | 1727. |
| 35. Arthur Price, | 1729. |
| 36. Edward Synge,..... | 1733. |
| 37. George Stone, | 1740. |
| 38. William Cotterell, | 1743. |
| 39. Robert Downes, | 1744. |
| 40. John Garnet, | 1752. |
| 41. Hon. William Carmichael, | 1758. |

* Robert Grave, in whom the sees of Ferns and Leighlin were first united, was shipwrecked in the bay of Dublin, in the month of October following his consecration.

| | Succ. |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 42. Thomas Salmon, | 1758. |
| 43. Richard Robinson, | 1759. |
| 44. Charles Jackson, | 1761. |
| 45. Edward Young, | 1765. |
| 46. Hon. Joseph Deane Bourke, | 1772. |
| 47. Walter Cope, | 1782. |
| 48. Euseby Cleaver, | 1789. |
| 49. Hon. Percy Jocelyn, | 1808. |
| 50. Lord Robert Tottenham, | 1820. |
| 51. THOMAS ELRINGTON, D. D. | 1822. |

The diocess of Ferns extends about forty-six miles in length, and eighteen in breadth, comprising the whole county of Wexford, and two parishes in Wicklow. The chapter is composed of a dean; precentor; chancellor; treasurer; archdeacon; and ten prebendaries.

This see was so greatly impoverished by Bishops Devereux and Allen, that it was termed, in a letter from Lord Strafford to Archbishop Laud, “one of the meanest sees of the whole kingdom;” and it is a curious fact that Bishop Andrew, who was promoted hither from the deanery of Limerick, was elevated to the mitre, and consigned to the see of Ferns, as a punishment for an offence committed by that divine against Strafford, “he leaving much better behind him than he would find in this bishopric.” The revenues were improved by the care and liberality of several succeeding prelates, and are at present ample.

END OF THE COUNTY OF WEXFORD.

COUNTY OF KILKENNY.

THIS inland county forms the south-west extremity of the province of Leinster, and lies to the west of Wexford, from which county it is separated by the river Barrow. On the north it is bounded by the Queen's county, and on the north-east by the county of Carlow. On the west it meets Tipperary. "Beyond its antient limits, to the north, an insulated portion of the Queen's county, containing, with the town of Durrow, 1902 acres, was annexed to the county by act of parliament, at the instance of the Earl of Ormonde. His object was to repress the outrages committed by the Fitzpatricks against his tenantry, who, when tried in the Queen's county, were always acquitted, but when brought to Kilkenny never escaped with impunity."* The greatest length of the county from north to south is thirty-six miles, and its greatest breadth, from east to west, about nineteen miles. Its superficial contents, according to a survey lately made for the use of the grand jury, are stated at 318,249 square plantation acres, which are equal to 510,882 English acres. In this survey the town of Newbridge, with a small tract adjoining, on the banks of the Barrow, is omitted.

The whole is politically divided into the following nine baronies, besides the county of the city of Kilkenny and the liberties of the town of Callan:—*Gorwan; Fassadinan; Galmoy; Cranagh; Shillelogher; Kells; Knocktopher; Iverk; and Idagh.* The number of parishes is 127, of which six belong to the diocess of Leighlin, and the remainder to that of Ossory.

In general aspect this county is hilly, but the elevations are

* Tighe's Statistical Survey of the County of Kilkenny, p. 3. This work is not excelled, either as regards fidelity of statement, or merits of composition, by any of the various county surveys published in Ireland and England. Every reference to its authority is, consequently, made with peculiar confidence and pleasure.

seldom so precipitous or severe as to preclude the operations of the plough. The tillage-farms are usually extensive, and productive of considerable quantities of wheat, oats, and other grain, although the system of husbandry, except in partial instances, is still greatly defective. There are two districts peculiar to the dairy; "one includes that portion of the county usually called the Walsh mountains, forming the eastern and southern part of Knocktopher, and running into the barony of Idagh, covering a space of about eight or nine miles in length, and from four to five in breadth; the other comprehends the principal part of the extensive parishes of Comer and Mucullee, with some lands to the south of them, comprising about 30,000 acres."* The woollen manufacture, in several branches, is cultivated with some success.

The marble and coal of this county take rank as its most valuable natural productions, and will be more fully noticed in a

* Some particulars relating to the dairy-farms of the *Walsh mountains* exhibit striking peculiarities of manners. We present an abridgement of the long and curious account afforded by Mr. Tighe, which was written in 1802. The district of the Walsh Mountains belongs to various proprietors, and consists, in general, of dry land, inclined by nature to grass, but unimproved, and almost unenclosed. The chief part is occupied by dairy-farms, and some of the principal of these belong to a family of the name of Ellward, which consists at present (1802) of five branches, who hold among them above 2000 acres. Their houses are small and near to each other, and till lately were little better than those of the poorest farmers; but they have now slated them, to guard against malicious burning or robbers. The women of the family constantly marry in it, and for this purpose are obliged to buy dispensations at a high price; and if a widow marry a stranger she loses all, except what she brought with her. They graze all their land in common, except 300 acres, which are divided equally between the five families. Each family employs two servant-boys and two servant-girls, and scarcely ever want any additional labourers. They pay particular attention to the fattening of pigs, and indulge in no other animal food than the offal. They, indeed, live principally on potatoes and some griddle bread, although their incomes are, probably, not less than £600 or £700 a year. The dairies have the natural earth for their floors; no ceiling, no window, no table or shelf, but are tolerably clean.

future page. A small part of this district consists of granite, and there are considerable quarries of flags, composed of siliciferous shistose argillite, containing mica. There are, also, iron mines, formerly worked to some extent. Mineral waters are found in several parts of the county: the most celebrated is termed the Spa of Ballyspellin, and is situated in the parish of Fartagh.

The principal river is the Nore, which flows through the central parts of the county, in a winding course of not less than thirty-six miles, receiving in its progress the King's river, the Diuan, and several inferior streams. This river is of a rapid character, and is subject to great and dangerous floods. It is navigable through a part of its course, and the tide flows as high as Inistioge. The banks of the Nore often present much pleasing scenery, particularly between the fine demesne of Mount Juliet, near the bridge and castle of Ballylinch, and the town of Ross. Mr. Young has expatiated, in his tour, on the charms of this ride; and it is justly said by Mr. Tighe that the whole course of the river, from Mount Juliet "to Ross, by Thomastown and Inistioge, presents picturesque scenery, varied by ruined castles and abbeys, by rocks that turn the course of the river, by green meadows that skirt its banks, or by steep hills clothed in foliage."

The river Suir passes in a meandering course along the southern border of this county, and is navigable to the bridge of Carrick for vessels of considerable burthen. The lovely scenery on the banks of this river is noticed in our description of several counties, and is truly worthy of the traveller's investigation.*

* The following anecdote related by Mr. Tighe is still traditionally vivid in the neighbourhood. "When King William, in his march to Carrick, gained the summit of the hills that overlook Iverk, and beheld the noble course of this river flowing through a district emphatically called the *Golden Vale*, winding beneath the towers of two ancient towns, and emptying itself at last into a capacious harbour, where it meets its brother streams; when he beheld on its opposite bank steep hills presenting masses of foliage, backed by the rocky summits of a chain of mountain; when he beheld beneath him a country which nature had partly clothed with wood, which art had embellished with cultivation and crowned with castles; he is reported by tradition, as soon as he recovered the first emotions of sur-

The river Barrow, which skirts the eastern border of the county for about twenty miles, is navigable for small vessels, and occasionally exhibits romantic views, little indebted to modern art, but greatly enriched by woods and ruins.

We cannot refrain from reminding the reader that Spencer, the poet of the Irish waters, after fancifully representing these three rivers as the offspring of the "nymph Rheiisa" and the "great giant Blomius," thus states their names and characteristics:

"The first the gentle Shure, that making way
By sweet Clonmell, adorns rich Waterford;
The next the stubborn Newre, whose waters grey
By fair Kilkenny and Rosse-ponce board;
The third, the goodly Barrow, which doth hoard
Great heaps of salmon in his deep bosom:
All which long sundred, do at last accord
To join in one, ere to the sea they come,
So flowing all from one, all one at last become."

Ptolemy places the Brigantes in this part of Ireland. The following particulars, presented by Mr. Tighe, are entitled to consideration: "In antient times the whole of this county formed part of the kingdom of Ossory. The name of Uisraigagh, modernised in Ossory, is supposed to be expressive of its local situation, being compounded of the Gaelic words *uisge* water and *rioghachd* kingdom, as lying between the rivers and extending to their junction. The portion lying between the Nore and Barrow is sometimes excluded from the kingdom of Ossory; it was anciently styled *Hy breoghain gabhran*; the southern part of this county was sometimes called *Comar na tri uisge*, the high district of the three waters. The countries of Ely O'Carrol and Hy-carthin, comprized some of the north-west portion of this county. The kingdom was sometimes tributary to Leinster, and sometimes to Munster."

The city of Kilkenny imparts a high degree of interest to this prise, to have exclaimed, "This, indeed, is a country worth fighting for!" Survey, &c. p. 121.

district, but there are few other towns within its limits of great extent or importance. The vestiges of antiquity are numerous. Here are four round towers, and some remains of a fifth; many earth-works, much diversified in size and character; and several cromlechs, of great magnitude and curiosity; but we regret to observe that many of the latter class of monuments have been destroyed, at no very distant date. The country in many parts is thickly studded with the ruins of ecclesiastical and castellated structures, several of which are of considerable architectural and historical interest.

Amongst the principal landed proprietors may be mentioned the Earl of Ormonde and Ossory; Earl of Carrick; Earl of Kilkenny; Earl of Normanton; Marquess of Lansdowne; Earl of Besborough; Lord Viscount Clifden; Lord Viscount Mountmorres; Earl of Desart; Lord Callan; Lord Viscount Ashbrook; Earl of Courtown; Sir Edward Loftus, Bart; Sir John Blunden, Bart; Sir William Morris; Sir J. Cuffe, Bart; and the families of Flood; St. George; Tighe; Bryan; Murphy; Bunbury; Walsh; Aylward; and Rothe. The proprietors of estates supposed not to exceed £2000. *per annum* are very numerous, and form a valuable class of resident gentry.

The population of this county was thus stated, in the returns made to government under the act of 1812.

| Baronies, Half Baronies, or Parishes. | Number of Houses. | Gross Population. |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Kilkenny City | <i>no return</i> | <i>no return</i> |
| Grannagh | 2,130 | 12,515 |
| Fassadining. | 3,764 | 20,890 |
| Galmoy | 2,051 | 11,995 |
| Gowran | 5,386 | 30,119 |
| Ida | 2,240 | 13,938 |
| Iverk | 3,248 | 13,040 |
| Kells | 1,648 | 9,915 |
| Knocktopher | 1,793 | 10,496 |
| Shelilogher | 1,149 | 6,768 |
| Callan, Town and Liberty..... | 1,005 | 4,988 |
| TOTAL.... | 23,414 | 134,664 |

According to returns made in 1821, the numbers were as follow. KILKENNY CITY: *Houses* 4,321; *Inhabitants* 23,230. KILKENNY COUNTY: *Houses* 26,479; *Inhabitants* 157,096. Thus, according to these statements, the increase of inhabitants in this county, from 1813 to 1821, was 22,432.

KILKENNY.

THIS respectable and pleasing city is distant from Dublin about fifty-seven miles. In buildings, and in general arrangement, it happily combines many interesting vestiges of antiquity with the advantages of modern improvement; and is further enriched by a noble and castellated residence, connected with some curious, and very important passages of history. The city consists of two distinct towns, termed, at present, Kilkenny and Irishtown, separated by the small river Bregah; each of which has a separate corporation.

The first establishment of a town on this site is not to be ascertained by existing records. Some writers have supposed that this place is the Iernis of Ptolemy, and the Ibernina of Richard of Cirencester; but the probable correctness of this conjecture is a subject quite open to antiquarian discussion. The etymology of the name would appear to be sufficiently obvious; Kil-Kenny, the cell or church of St. Canice, or St. Kenny. A modern writer, however, has discovered certain other words which bear a close resemblance of sound, and to which he would willingly refer the origin of the appellation by which this town is distinguished. "The natives at present," observes Dr. Ledwich, "call Irishtown Bally-gael-loch, or the town of the Gael on the lake. The first settlement of the Gael was along the margin of the Norc, the higher land extending from the site of the cathedral to the castle, was covered with wood, and from this circumstance had a Celtic name, *Coil* or *Kyle-ken-ui*, or the wooded head, or hill, near the river; and by the natives *Cilcanuigh*, or *Kilkenny*."*

* See an "Essay towards the History and Antiquities of Irishtown and Kilkenny," by Edward Ledwich, L. L. D.

The English appear to have effected a settlement in Kilkenny shortly after their invasion of Ireland under Richard de Clare (surnamed Strongbow) Earl of Pembroke. The steps of their progress were, necessarily, marked by lineaments of fortification ; and a castle was founded by them at this place, before the expiration of the twelfth century. Nearly at the same time Kilkenny was constituted the see of a bishop ; and, under such an union of favourable circumstances, the city speedily obtained great population and importance. William, lord marshal of England, and Earl of Pembroke, who married the daughter of Earl Strongbow, and succeeded that nobleman as lord of the palatinate of Leinster, granted to Kilkenny a charter of incorporation, conferring on the citizens many valuable privileges ; and Gilbert Clare, sixth earl of Clare, Gloucester and Hertford, the son-in-law of William the earl marshal, who received the county of Kilkenny as the dower of his wife, extended the privileges of the corporation. Thus favoured, Kilkenny became, with a rapid progress, one of the most distinguished inland cities of the kingdom, and was often selected, throughout several centuries, as the most eligible and secure place for meetings of parliament, and other great assemblies.*

* The following enumeration comprises the principal, if not the whole, of the parliaments held in this city. An assembly of the lords of the pale, usually deemed a parliament, took place here in 1294. A parliament, of considerable national importance, was held in 1309, the acts of which are to be found in the several editions of the Statutes of Ireland. In 1317, Lord Roger Mortimer and the Irish nobility met, to deliberate on measures for opposing Edward Bruce. A parliamentary assembly was held in 1326. The Earl of Kildare, lord justice, held a parliament at this place in 1327. Parliaments were, also, assembled here in the years 1330, and 1331. In November, 1341, was held a general parliament, at which were strongly exhibited the jealousies then prevailing between " the English by birth and the English by blood." Parliaments were also held in 1347, 1356, 1365, and 1367. The last named meeting was attended with peculiar circumstances of splendour, and took place in the presence of Lionel, Duke of Clarence. At this meeting was enacted the celebrated *Statute of Kilkenny*, which has been already noticed in our " Remarks on the History of Ireland." A parliament was likewise held in 1370 ; and it may be observed that, in 1374, Sir W. Windsor, lord lieutenant, was sworn into his

The castle of Kilkenny was purchased by James Butler, third earl of Ormonde, in 1391, from Thomas Le Spencer, lord of Glamorgan and Kilkenny, whose grandfather, Hugh, acquired it, and the earldom of Gloucester, in marriage with Eleanor de Clare, third sister and co-heir of Gilbert, ninth earl of Clare and Gloucester. In the illustrious family of its new proprietor the rising city found important patrons and benefactors. The earl fixed his chief residence at this place; and here, in 1399, had the honour of receiving King Richard II. and of entertaining that sovereign for fourteen days. The munificence of the Butler family, as regards religious and charitable foundations in Kilkenny, will be evinced in future pages; and it is usually believed that the city was first surrounded with walls by means of their connexions and influence. We are told by Stanihurst, that "in the yere 1400, Robert Talbot, a worthie gentleman, inclosed with walls the better part of the towne, by which it was greatly fortified." This eminent benefactor was nephew of the Earl of Ormonde, and so expensive an act of service must naturally be attributed to a local attachment, arising from family interest. Dr. Ledwich, to whose "essay" we are indebted for the above remark, states, on the authority of Carte, that "the wall began at the earl's old stables, not far from the castle-gate; and, making a semi-circular sweep, or nearly so, ran across the end of the coal market, and took in the Franciscan abbey; the river Nore secured the place to the northward; so that the new town was quite enclosed."

Tolls, for the charge of paving the city, had been granted to the citizens so early as 1334; and grants for murage, pavage, and other purposes connected with internal regulation, were made at several times subsequent to the erection of the walls. Fynes Moryson, writing about the year 1588, mentions "Kilkenny, giving name to the county," as "a pleasant town, the chief of the towns within land, memorable for the civility of the inhabitants, for the husbandman's labour, and for its pleasant orchards." Fresh

government at Kilkenny. In 1376, another parliament was here assembled. The next parliament at this place occurred in 1408. A parliament which was commenced here in 1536, was adjourned to Cashell.

charters were granted by Elizabeth and James I. ; and this favour was bestowed by the latter sovereign with peculiar marks of approbation. In the year 1601, the lord president Mountjoy held his court at Kilkenny. In 1636, the city was visited by the lord deputy Wentworth, afterwards Earl of Strafford.

This place participated largely in the civil wars of the seventeenth century. It is not practicable for us to follow the entire course of the alternate scenes of consultation and tumult which occurred here, in those disastrous years. Amongst several great assemblies then held at Kilkenny, perhaps the most important was that attended by Roman catholic deputies from the whole of the provinces, which met in 1642. This assembly, says Leland, (following Carte, in his *Life of Ormonde*) was “formed on the plan of a parliament, consisting of two houses ; one composed of temporal peers and prelates, the other of representatives deputed by counties and cities. Both sat in the same chamber. Patrick Darcy, an eminent lawyer, already distinguished by his activity in parliament, took his place, bareheaded, on a stool, as a substitute to the judges. Nicholas Plunket, another distinguished partizan of the recusant faction, was appointed speaker of the assembly. The lords had their place of retirement for private consultation ; and Darcy communicated their resolutions to the commons. Those of the clergy who were not admitted to sit among the lords, formed a convocation.”*

* For further particulars concerning this assembly we refer to Carte’s *Life of Ormond*, and to Leland’s *Hist. of Ireland*, vol. 3, p. 182, et seq. Concerning the building in which the assembly was held, the following particulars are derived from Mr. Tighe’s *Statistical Survey*, and Dr. Ledwich’s *Essay towards a history of Kilkenny*. The meeting was at the house of Mr. Robert Shee, son of Sir Richard Shee, situated in the coal-market, and lately inhabited by Mr. Langford. The lords, prelates, and commons, sat in one room, but the lords “had an upper room, which served them as a place of recess for private consultation.” The chamber of meeting “consisted of one large hall, forty-nine feet by forty-seven, with a dungeon underneath, twenty feet square ; with which the hall communicated by a trap door, and stone stairs. Part of the benches with high backs, and the carved oak frame of a table remain. An iron door formerly led out of

In 1650, Oliver Cromwell invested Kilkenny with a considerable army. The garrison was much reduced by the ravages of the plague; but, however thin their numbers, a gallant spirit animated the defendants. Cromwell appeared before the place, on the side of the black quarry, upon the 23rd of March. Sir Walter Butler had been appointed governor of the city by Lord Castlehaven; and, on the evening of that day, there passed between the parliamentarian general and the besieged, the summons and answer copied in the margin.*

On the following day the assailants endeavoured to gain possession of Irishtown, but were repulsed, and, early on the morning of the 25th, their cannon opened on the castle. A breach was effected about mid-day, but the besiegers were twice beaten off,

the dungeon into the yard: the windows have iron bars, and are small, high and arched. This hall is now subdivided into a kitchen, shop, and three or four rooms. The upper floor is low, with large beams, and above is a modern building." Tighe's Survey, &c. *ut supra*.

* "GENTLEMEN,

"MY coming hither is to endeavour, if God pleaseth, the reduction of the city of Kilkenny, and your obedience to the state of England. For the unheard of massacre of the innocent English, God hath begun to judge you with his sore plague, so will he follow you until he destroy you, if you repent not. Your cause hath been already judged in England upon them who did abett your evils, what may the principals then expect? By this free dealing, you see I entice you to a compliance; you may have terms; may save your lives, liberties, and estates, according to what will be fitting for me to grant, and you to receive. If you chuse for the worse, blame yourselves. In confidence of the gracious blessings and presence of God with his own cause, which this is by many testimonies, I shall hope for a good issue upon my endeavours. Expecting a return from you, I rest your servant,

"O. CROMWELL."

"SIR,

"YOUR letter I have received, and in answer thereof, I am commanded to maintain this city for his majesty, which, by the power of God I am resolved to do, so I rest, Sir,

"Your Servant,

"Kilkenny, 23rd March, 1650.

"WALTER BUTLER."

on attempting to profit by that opportunity, and the breach was quickly repaired.

It is said that Cromwell, apprehending a longer resistance than suited the expedition necessary in his military plans, was on the point of quitting the place, when he received overtures from the mayor and townsmen, who offered to admit him into the city. He, accordingly, took possession of Irishtown ; and, on the 27th, (writes Dr. Ledwich) “ began to break the wall of the Franciscan abbey, with pick-axes, to make way for his horse and foot to enter. That post being guarded by townsmen only, they began to forsake it, when the governor gave orders to a party of horse to alight, and leading them on, beat off the enemy, and killed most of those that were near the wall, and put an end to their efforts there ; at the same time an attempt was made to burn the gate on St. John’s bridge, but there the enemy were likewise repulsed with the loss of many officers and soldiers. Next day Cromwell was joined by Ireton with 1500 fresh men, and Sir Walter Butler, considering the weakness of the garrison, few in number, and those worn out for want of rest by continual watching, and hopeless of relief, determined to execute Lord Castlehaven’s orders ; which were, that if they were not relieved by seven o’clock the day before, he should not, for any punctilio of honour, expose the townsmen to be massacred, but make as good conditions as he could, by a timely surrender. A parley was beaten, and a cessation agreed on at twelve o’clock the next day, when the town and castle were delivered up.”

The articles of capitulation were highly creditable to the garrison, and it is recorded, that Sir Walter Butler and his officers, when they marched out, were complimented by Cromwell, who said, “ that they were gallant fellows ; that he had lost more men in storming that place than he had in taking Drogheda ; and that he should have gone without it, had it not been for the treachery of the townsmen.”

The first of Cromwell’s *high courts of justice* met at Kilkenny, on the 4th of October, 1652 ; and it is a curious fact, that this

court occupied the identical chambers used by the supreme catholic council, in 1642.

The city of Kilkenny, including St. Canice, or Irishtown, is seated on the banks of the river Nore. It is stated by Mr. Tighe, in his survey of this county, that the extent "from north to south, as far as there is any continuation of houses, is about 1500 yards; from east to west, by John's-bridge, about 1470 yards; and by Green's-bridge about 1000 yards; including, between these extremities, an irregular square space, of about 235 acres, one rood, plantation measure; of which, about two thirds are cultivated ground." On the two most elevated parts of the united towns are placed the structures which constitute their principal ornaments; namely, the cathedral and the castle. The city is irregularly built, but wears a busy and cheerful aspect. The domestic buildings, in the principal streets, are generally respectable, and many are of a capacious and ornamental character. The houses are chiefly built of stone, and are usually whitened, or dashed with rough-cast. The best lines of building, and the chief efforts of modern improvement, are found in the part denominated Kilkenny, as contradistinguished from Irishtown. Fine views of the city may be obtained from the eastern, and high, bank of the river, and from the rising ground on the road leading to Clonmell. The castle, the cathedral, and the different monastic ruins of the city, are seen to great advantage from both those points. The river Nore, at this place a stream of considerable beauty, but not navigable, is crossed by two stone bridges, built after the designs of Mr. G. Smith.*

* We have already noticed that the river Nore is subject to dangerous floods. The "great bridge" of Kilkenny was overthrown by one of these floods, about the year 1447. St John's bridge, also, was swept away by the sudden rising of the Nore, in 1564. "On Sunday, October 2nd, 1763, about eight o'clock in the morning, a most unusual flood and inundation poured down upon the city and county of Kilkenny, from twenty-four hours of incessant rain. Green's bridge, near the cathedral, fell, but no life was lost. On St. John's bridge about a hundred persons were standing; but it being reported, that a cabin was sailing down the river without sinking, most of them hastened to behold the sight; fourteen men and

THE CASTLE OF KILKENNY.

THIS structure is finely situated, in the immediate vicinity of the town, on the banks of the river Nore. It comprises the remains of an antient fortified pile, blended with buildings erected in the latter part of the seventeenth century ; a date, by no means favourable to the cultivation of decorative domestic architecture in this country. We, accordingly, find the additions to be offensively incongruous in character, as regards the antient parts of the edifice, whilst they are in few particulars entitled to approbation, as unconnected works of art. Still the fabric, viewed as a whole, impresses ideas of dignity and baronial splendour ; for which it may be, perhaps, in some measure indebted to the renown it has obtained in history, as the former residence of noble persons greatly distinguished in the annals of their country, and as the scene of many important transactions at various periods.

The name of the actual founder of this castle is not recorded ; but it is believed that Earl Strongbow commenced a fortress on the site of the present building, about the year 1172. In the following year, according to the author of the Annals of Innisfallen, and some other writers, the structure then in progress was destroyed by Donald O'Brien, king of Limerick. In the year 1195, William Lord Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, rebuilt this castle ; which, whilst it yet retained its severe and defensible character, was, probably, enlarged and improved by several of his successors.

On the failure of heirs male in the family of William, Earl Marshal, the castle and palatinate of Kilkenny passed, by marriage, to Gilbert de Clare, sixth earl of Clare, and also earl of Gloucester and Hereford. Gilbert, the ninth earl of Clare, dying without issue, in 1134, the castle and palatinate passed to his third sister and co-heir, Eleanor de Clare, wife of Hugh le Spenser ; who, in her right, became Earl of Gloucester and Lord of

women, however, unfortunately remained, the bridge fell, and they were instantly swallowed up in the torrent. For two days there was no communication between the people on each side the river ; boats could not ply ; in most low situations the water rose to eleven, and in some to fifteen feet in height." Essay, &c. by Ledwich.

Kilkenny. Thomas le Spencer, their grandson, sold the castle and its dependancies, in 1391, to James Butler, third Earl of Ormonde; in whose descendants the property has remained vested to the present time.*

Several events, in the history of this building, are noticed in our account of the city to which it has at once afforded protection and ornament. The detail of important transactions connected with this pile, united with the statement of such particulars of domestic arrangement as would greatly assist in illustrating the history of manners at various periods, but chiefly those of the seventeenth century, are fit subjects for a distinct work, ample materials for which are repositied in the evidence chamber of the castle.† From topics requiring such amplitude of discussion, we are obviously debarred by the limits of our undertaking.

The character of the fortress, as re-edified by the Earl of Pembroke, in 1195, is thus mentioned by Dr. Ledwich. “The situation, in a military view, was most eligible; the ground was, originally, a conoid; the elliptical side abrupt and precipitous, with the rapid Nore running at its base; there the natural rampart was faced with a wall of solid masonry, forty feet high; the other parts were defended by bastions, courtins, towers, and out-works; and on the summit the castle was erected. The area thus inclosed, besides furnishing accommodations for the earl and his domestics,

* Account of Tullaroan, or Grace’s Parish; Ledwich’s Hist. of Irish-town and Kilkenny; MSS. of the Chev. De Montmorency, &c.

† Many of the documents here repositied were used by Mr. Carte, whilst employed in writing the life of the first Duke of Ormonde. Some idea of the extent of the papers here preserved, may be formed from the recorded fact of Mr. Carte having removed to Dublin such as he wanted to consult, on “*three Irish cars*.” Among the manuscripts in this chamber are many volumes of stewards’ accounts, relating to this splendid family, which are of great interest, and might afford as much curious information to the public as the household book of the Earl of Northumberland; or as a similar original MS. compilation, which, as we have the opportunity of stating, is in the possession of her grace the Duchess of Buckingham, relative to the establishment and expenditure of the first Duke of Chandos, in the reign of Queen Anne.

contained caserns for a strong garrison, with their equipments. The earl, in his charter to St. John's priory, provides, that if he be absent, the monks of that house shall serve his castle-chapel, and receive the emoluments from thence arising; but if he be resident, then his own domestic chaplains shall attend. In the same record, his barns lying beyond the bridge are mentioned, with every other circumstance indicating a regular household and court."*

The building, in its present state, occupies two sides of a quadrangle, and retains three round towers of the antient castle, worked into spacious additions made by the first Duke of Ormonde. These additional buildings, now forming the principal parts of the structure, are in the heavy style of architecture that prevailed on the continent in the middle of the seventeenth century; a taste for which, had, possibly, been imbibed by the duke in his repeated visits to France. The chief front opens to a garden, in which were formerly a fountain, and other decorations, in the style of a warmer and less variable climate than that of Ireland. On the leaden spouts for conveying water from the roof, is a ducal coronet, and the date of 1682; showing the time at which the principal ranges of building were completed.

Few alterations have been since effected; but it is known that the last Duke of Ormonde had intended to add the two sides wanting to the completion of the square; a design interrupted by the mistakes and misfortunes which drove him from his country, and from the proudest hereditary dignities, the most splendid fortune, and greatest political power, enjoyed by any subject of the British crown.

The interior, like the external features of this structure, has not experienced any important alterations since the latter part of the seventeenth century, and may be viewed as a curious example of the modes of disposal and decoration which then prevailed. The apartments are very numerous, but inconvenient, and ill-adapted to the accommodation of a noble family in modern times. Beauty of proportion is not studied in any instance; and the arrangements

* Hist. and Antiquities of Irishtown, &c.

for dignified entertainment are so deficient in method and extent, that we find, with surprize, the building, in its present state, was once the seat of splendour conspicuous in national history, and the mansion in which the first Duke of Ormonde often entertained at his table two hundred gentlemen.

Several of the rooms are hung with good tapestry, the greater part of which is thought to have been brought from the continent by the second Duke of Ormonde. The principal subjects described, are a series of the most striking passages in the story of Decius, and allegorical representations of the four elements, with a great variety of attendant figures and inanimate objects.

The chief state apartment, termed the *Presence Chamber*, has a high pace, raised one step above the level of other parts of the floor. Here was placed the seat on which the first duke often sat in state; and the whole apartment will not fail to acquire an interest from recollections of the many audiences, of vital importance to the welfare of thousands, held within its walls, in a season of unparalleled trouble, by the nobleman, who vainly, though ably, endeavoured to rule the storm, and to save the nation from wreck in its own despite. Over the spot formerly occupied by the chair of dignity, is a picture, by Vandyck, representing the infant family of Charles I. We regret to state that this noble piece has been so greatly injured in *cleaning*, that the most delicate touches of the pencil are obliterated; and, in some parts, the intention of the painter is alone to be discovered.

The collection of paintings at this castle has long constituted one of its principal attractions; and, as regards portraits, is still entitled to attentive examination; but many of the best pictures, on subjects of more general interest, have been removed.

The *Gallery* is about 180 feet in length, but, like many similar apartments, designed in a past age for parade and the dance, rather than the judicious display of pictures, is greatly disproportionate in width. The numerous portraits which decorate these walls, act as emphatical memorials of the leading events in the history of the seventeenth century, and the early part of that which followed. The representations are chiefly confined to the royal race of Stuart,

and the family and alliances of the noble owners of the castle, so greatly distinguished in state-transactions during the reigns of those princes. The following are the principal portraits.*

Charles I. in rich robes of state. The face pale, and the whole countenance exhibiting its usual attribute,—that of melancholy, rendered touching by dignity of expression. *Vandyck.*

Queen Henrietta-Maria, said to be by Vandyck, but probably a copy by Gandy, a pupil of that artist, who was brought to Ireland by the Duke of Ormonde, and is believed to have executed many pictures under his patronage.

Charles II. in rich robes.

James II. wearing a hat and feather.

William III. in splendid robes of blue and gold.†

Queen Mary. The dress blue and ermine, trimmed with roses.

Queen Anne, in robes and the collar of the garter.

The above are all full-length portraits.

James, first Duke of Ormonde, in robes of the order of the garter; full length. The name of this distinguished nobleman is blended with the history of his æra, and his character and fortunes need no explanation or comment in the present place. The countenance evinces deep thought and penetration, assuming an air of severity from the habit of command.‡

* For much assistance in enumerating and describing the principal portraits in the gallery at Kilkenny Castle, the author is indebted to the Chevalier de Montmorency.

† King William III. dined in Kilkenny Castle, on the 19th of August, 1690, with James, second Duke of Ormonde. The Castle, which had recently been evacuated by the adherents of the deposed monarch, had been preserved in good condition by the French general, Count de Lauzun, who commanded here for King James II. At his departure, the Count is said, by G. Story, to have surrendered the building to its owner with full cellars, as well as in good repair.

‡ There are in the Castle several portraits of the first Duke of Ormonde, representing him at different periods of life. The expression of countenance ascribed to the picture above noticed is perceptible in each; mingled with some touches of melancholy in the advanced stages of life. We know, however, that no unmanly dejection crept on the character of the Duke of Ormonde. He remained self-dependant, and even courted by

Thomas, Earl of Ossory, eldest son of James, first Duke of Ormonde, in the full dress costume of the order of the garter. Whole length. This excellent nobleman, one of the most distinguished characters of his illustrious house, was born in the castle of Kilkenny, on the 8th of July, 1634. His character, at the age of twenty-one, is thus drawn by Sir Robert Southwell, afterwards secretary of state to William III. "He is a young man with a very handsome face; a good head of hair; well set; very good-natured; rides the great horse very well; is a very good tennis-player, fencer, and dancer; understands music, and plays on the guitar and lute; speaks French elegantly; reads Italian fluently; is a good historian; and so well versed in romances, that if a gallery be full of pictures and hangings, he will tell the stories of all that are there described. He shuts up his door at eight o'clock in the evening, and studies till midnight: he is temperate, courteous, and excellent in all his behaviour."

For a comprehensive narration of the chief events in the biography of this accomplished nobleman (the Sidney of his age) we refer the reader to the account presented by Lodge and Archdall, (under the article of Viscount Mountgarret); but, as a powerful degree of interest is created by the contemplation of his portrait, it must be desirable to state, in this place, some few leading particulars concerning a career so distinguished. After a rapid military preferment, the consequence of his merits, he was created a member of the Irish house of lords, in 1662; and, when brought by the commons to the bar of that house, an order was made, "that, by the consent of the earls' bench, the Earl of Ossory

many, as well as very generally respected, when deprived of royal favour. In the drawing-room, when no longer noticed by the king (Charles II,) we are told that "his virtues and conciliating address attracted a little circle around him, of those who were independent of the court. On such an occasion, the king, not daring to shew him any civility, was abashed and confounded. "Sir," said the profligate Buckingham, "I wish to know whether it be the Duke of Ormonde that is out of favour with your majesty, or your majesty with the Duke of Ormonde; for, of the two, you seem most out of countenance." Leland, vol. iii p. 470.

should be placed above all of that degree." In the years 1664, and 1668, he was deputy to his father, as lord-lieutenant of Ireland; and in 1672, he was elected a knight of the garter, as an acknowledgment of the deserved reputation he had gained whilst commander of the Victory ship of war. In 1673, he was made rear-admiral of the blue squadron; and in the engagement with the Dutch fleet, which took place shortly after, he acted, says Anthony á Wood, "gallantly, beyond the fiction of a romance." He was, subsequently, made rear-admiral of the red, and displayed the union flag, as commander in chief of the whole fleet, in the absence of Prince Rupert. In July, 1677, he joined the Prince of Orange, at the siege of Charleroi; and in the following year was appointed, by that prince's patent, major-general and commander in chief of the English brigade in the pay of the States. In the campaign of this year he obtained great glory, from his conduct at the battle of Mons, in which the Mareschal de Luxembourg was compelled to retreat. This distinguished nobleman, whose genius was calculated to shine in any age, died of a fever at Whitehall, on the 30th of July, 1680, almost to the equal grief of his father,* and of the country to which he afforded so bright an ornament. His remains were conveyed to the family vault in the cathedral of Kilkenny.

Amelia de Nassau, Countess of Ossory, wife of the above nobleman; a pleasing three quarter portrait, by Sir Godfrey Kneller. This lady was daughter of Louis, Lord of Beverwent,

* The filial attachment of the earl, and the determined gallantry of his spirit, are memorably recorded in the following passage of history. When an attempt was made on the life of the Duke of Ormonde by the infamous Blood, the earl suspected that the design originated with Villiers, the last Duke of Buckingham of that name. "While Buckingham," writes Leland, "stood near the king, the earl advanced with his eyes glaring, and his aspect inflamed with indignation. 'My lord,' said he, in a low and sullen voice, 'I well know that you were at the bottom of this late attempt of Blood. Take notice; should my father come to an untimely or violent death, I shall consider you as the assassin: I shall pistol you, though you stood behind the king: I tell it you in his majesty's presence, that you may be sure I shall keep my word.'" Leland, vol. iii. p. 469.

Averquerque, &c. natural son of the celebrated Prince Maurice, of Orange. She left issue by the Earl of Ossory, James, second Duke of Ormonde, Charles, Earl of Arran, and three daughters.

James, second Duke of Ormonde.

Walter, late Marquess of Ormonde; his parliamentary robes over the uniform of his regiment (the Kilkenny militia) and wearing the collar of the order of St. Patrick. His lordship dying without issue in 1820, the earldom of Ormonde and Ossory has devolved on his next brother, James, who at present enjoys this distinguished title.

A head of *Cardinal Wolsey* (small). This portrait is peculiarly appropriate to its situation, as the cardinal was an important political friend of the Ormonde family.

Mary Butler, Duchess of Devonshire, three quarter size : said to be painted by Vandyck. This lady was daughter of James, first Duke of Ormonde, and Elizabeth Preston, daughter of Preston, Earl of Desmond.

Anne Hyde, Duchess of York, in an elegant dress of brown satin, open at the neck. A fine three quarter portrait, by *Sir Peter Lely*.

James, Duke of York, afterwards King James II. his bonnet in his hand. Three quarter size.

Sir William Pointz, represented in a close black vest, belt and sword, bonnet and white feather. The date of this picture is 1535. The style is extremely hard, and the whole destitute of relief from light and shade.

Elizabeth, Lady Thurless*, in a black dress, and in the attitude of lifting her veil with the right hand, to uncover her face, which evinces considerable beauty. A good half-length portrait. This lady was daughter to Sir John Pointz, of Acton, and wife of Thomas, Viscount Thurless, eldest son of Walter, eleventh Earl of Ormonde, by whom she became mother to James, first Duke of Ormonde. After the death of the viscount (who was drowned in his passage from England, in 1619), her ladyship married,

* In an inscription on the frame of the picture, the name of this lady is erroneously written *Helen*.

secondly, George Mathew, Esq. a gentleman of Wales, who afterwards seated his family at Thurless, in the county of Tipperary, under the auspices of the house of Ormonde, and laid the foundation of the respectable line of Mathew, of Thomastown, now Earls of Llandaff.

Richard de Burgh, sixth Earl of Clanrickard, in the costume of the reign of James I. This nobleman was the elder of the two sons of Sir William De Burgh, brother and eventual heir of Richard, surnamed of *Kinsale*, the fourth earl. He married Lady Elizabeth Butler, seventh daughter of Walter, eleventh Earl of Ormonde.

Wentworth, Earl of Strafford; a fine and interesting portrait.

Countess of Clancarthy, painted by *Wright*, A. D. 1679. This very pleasing half-length portrait is marked by an admirable spirit of truth and nature. The character represented is that of matronly good humour, dispensing family peace by habitual smiles; and no formality of attire can divest this amiable figure of its easy air. Ellen, or Eleonora Butler, the lady represented in this picture, was eldest daughter of Thomas, Viscount Thurless, and sister to James, first Duke of Ormonde. She married Donough Mac Carthy, Earl of Clancarthy, and died in April, 1682, at the age of seventy years.

James Graem, or Graham, the first and celebrated marquess, and fifth *Earl of Montrose*. A fine head by *Vandyck*.

Elizabeth Butler, Countess of Chesterfield, half-length. Eldest daughter of the first Duke of Ormonde, and second wife of Philip Stanhope, second Earl of Chesterfield.

Mrs. Knott, a three quarter length, by *Sir Godfrey Kneller*. A beautiful woman, attired in red, with a brown veil. Mrs. Knott is believed to have been the mistress of one of the Dukes of Ormonde.

Sir Roger O'Sheaghnessy, of Gort, in the county of Galway. The hair and beard red, profuse, and much neglected. The countenance bold, independent, and not free from a degree of ferocious expression. Sir Roger is attired in armour, and the whole of the aspect and circumstances of his portrait, exhibit, in strong

lineaments, the Irish chieftain of the seventeenth century. He was eldest son and heir of Sir Dermot, chief of the name; and married Gyles, or Julia, daughter to Cormac Mac Carthy, Lord Muskerry.

Ulick de Burgh, surnamed the great, *Marquess of Clanrickard*, and Earl of St. Alban's, in England. This nobleman acted a conspicuous part in the political and military contests of the seventeenth century, and was one of the most eminent and consistent loyalists of his time. In the year 1650, he was appointed by the king lord lieutenant of Ireland, and made several attempts to assemble an army in the field, but was defeated in his measures by the disaffection of his officers. Being at length driven out of Ireland, where his estate of £29,000 a year was seized and sequestered, he retired to his inheritance at Somerhill, in Kent, where he died in July, 1657, and was buried with his father, Earl Richard, at Tunbridge. His lordship is painted in armour, with a long beard, which he is said to have let grow, in consequence of a vow he made not to shave, or indulge in convivial pleasure, until he witnessed the restoration of the royal line of the Stuarts; a happiness which, as we have shown above, it was not his lot to experience.

Honora, Duchess of Berwick, second daughter of William, seventh Earl of Clanrickard. She married first, the celebrated Patrick Sarsfield, General in Ireland of the forces of James II. created Earl of Lucan, after the abdication of that prince; and secondly, in 1695, in the chapel of the castle of St. Germain's, near Paris, then the residence of the dethroned Stuart, James Fitzjames, Duke of Berwick, peer and marshal of France, eldest natural son of James II. by Arabella Churchill, sister to John, Duke of Marlborough.

Such are the principal portraits in the gallery. Distributed through various other apartments of the castle are also the following portraits, entitled to notice.

Thomas Butler, of *Kilcash*, nephew to the first Duke of Ormonde. He was colonel of a regiment of foot in the army of James II. and married the Lady Margaret De Burgh, eldest daughter of William,

Earl of Clanrickard, by whom he had three sons, who all died without issue, and five daughters. Upon the extinction of this branch in the male line, the family of Garryricken became chief of the house of Butler.

Mary, the second wife of *James, the second Duke of Ormonde*, and her two daughters, Lady Elizabeth and Lady Mary Butler. Her Grace was daughter of Henry, the first Duke of Beaufort.

Charles Butler, Earl of Arran, younger son of Thomas, Earl of Ossory, and brother of James, second Duke of Ormonde. Represented in a blue court-dress, sword, &c. His Lordship married Elizabeth, fourth daughter of Thomas, Lord Crew of Stene, but dying without issue in 1758, at the age of eighty-eight, was succeeded in his large estates by his next male heir, Walter Butler, of Garryricken, Esq.

Walter Butler, of Garryricken and Kilcash, Esq. father to earl John, and grandfather to the late marquess and to the present Earl of Ormonde.—Concerning the descent and family alliances of this gentleman, it may be desirable to state the following brief particulars.—Walter, the eldest son of Colonel Richard Butler of Kilcash (brother to the first Duke of Ormonde) married the Lady Mary Plunkett, only daughter of Christopher, second Earl of Fingall, by whom he had three sons. Thomas, his successor at Kilcash; John; and Christopher, titular archbishop of Cashell. John Butler, Esq. the second son, was seated at Garryricken, and married Frances, daughter to George Butler of Balyraggett, Esq, of the house of Mountgarrett, by whom he had an only son, Walter, the subject of this portrait. This Walter married Eleanor, eldest daughter of Nicholas de Montmorency-Morres, second son of Sir John Morres of Knockagh-castle, Bart. By this marriage, he had, besides two daughters, one son, John, who was restored by his late Majesty George III. to the hereditary peerage of his ancestors, forfeited by the attainder of the last Duke, and died Earl of Ormonde and Ossory.

Sir Nicholas De Montmorency-Morres, Bart. brother-in-law to the above named Walter Butler, Esq. This portrait is in French crayon, and represents a handsome man; at a youthful

period of life, habited in a plain scarlet coat and breast armour. The fortunes of this gentleman were attended with some peculiarities worthy of notice. He entered the French service as a cadet, in the year 1729, being then sixteen years of age. At the battle of Fontenoy he commanded a company, and highly distinguished himself. In 1756, he was lieutenant-colonel of the regiment of Lord Bulkeley, Irish brigade, but retired, in disgust, in 1763. He was afterwards named lieutenant-colonel, *à la suite*, under the Duc de Choiseul, of the royal castle of Amboise, in which city he died, in the early part of the French Revolution. The horrors perpetrated at that period, and particularly the executions of Louis XVI. and Maria-Antoinette, preyed so deeply on his mind, that he made a vow, similar in character to that noticed in our account of the Marquess of Clanrickard; namely, to let his beard grow, in token of his sorrow, until the restoration of the Bourbons! The event so ardently wished he was doomed, like his noble prototype, not to witness. Sir Nicholas died about the year 1795; and, at the time of his decease, his beard covered nearly the whole of his chest.

Eleanor De Montmorency-Morres, Countess of Ormonde. A fine half length. Her ladyship is habited in blue and white robes, with a ruff of white lace; her hair closely combed up from the forehead, and ornamented with diamonds, having a rose at her breast and a lapdog on her knee. This lady was elder sister of Sir Nicholas De Montmorency-Morres, Bart. mentioned above, and wife of Walter Butler, Esq. by whom she was mother of John Earl of Ormonde and Ossory. It was chiefly through her exertions and judicious conduct, that a reversal of the attainder which affected this peerage was obtained from the crown, and that both she and her son were restored to the family dignities. Her ladyship died in 1794, and has left abundant proofs of a masculine understanding and genius, united to a winning courtesy of manners, and the softer virtues of her sex. In the annals of this noble house she may be not unaptly compared to the celebrated Countess of Ormonde, Lady Margaret Fitzgerald, wife of Peter Earl of Ormonde and Ossory, whose name occurs in several pages of our work.

The windows of the gallery, and of several other principal apartments, admit noble and captivating views over the city and a great extent of landscape. Kilkenny, from these windows, stands displayed with peculiar felicity; all its attractive buildings being exhibited in fine combinations, whilst the meaner parts are shut from observation. The author of the Philosophical Survey, breaking into admiration at the recollection of this prospect, quaintly observes, "that the subjacent town looks as if it had been built merely to be looked at!" Pursuing a comparison between the views from this place and from the castle of Windsor, he continues, "not Eton's spires, not Cooper's classic hill, not Cliefden's gay alcove, nor Gloster's gayer lodge, can furnish such a lavish variety to the landscape-painter as these Hibernian scenes. There nature has painted with her most correct pencil, here she has dashed with a more careless hand. This is the fanciful and fiery sketch of a great master, that the touched and finished work of a studious composer." The congregated selection of architectural objects in the city; the windings of the river Nore through a country unequal in every part, but picturesque in all; and the fluctuating outline of the hills and mountains in the distance; do, indeed, present a scene of surprising beauty, variety, and magnificence.

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. CANICE.

This structure, dedicated to St. Canice, forms the cathedral church of the diocese of Ossory. The see of Ossory (as we are informed by Ware and his authorities), was first planted at Saiger, or Sager, now called St. Keiran's, or Seikyran, distant nearly four miles from the town of Birr. By the same writers it is said that this event took place about the year 402, which was thirty years before the arrival in Ireland of St. Patrick. The see was removed from Sager to Aghaboe, in the district at present termed the Queen's County; but the date of the translation is not ascertained. "Possibly," says Ware, "it was in the year 1052; for in the MS. annals of Leinster, under that year, we meet with this passage: 'A church was built at Achadboe, and the shrine of Canic placed in it.'" The see was again translated from the latter place to Kilkenny, by Felix O'Dullany, or

Delany, about the end of the reign of Henry II. where it has ever since remained. Mr. Harris observes, "that the see of Ossory, like that of Meath, did not take its name from any fixed place, but from the territory at large; and they are the only two instances of the like in the kingdom."

The cathedral of St. Canice is an extensive and commanding pile, seated on a gentle eminence, whence are obtained fine views over the city, and along the winding banks of the river Nore. This church is of a cruciform shape, surmounted with a low tower. The length from east to west is 226 feet, in the clear; and the breadth of the cross, from north to south, 123 feet; "dimensions," writes Mr. Harris, "which are believed to exceed those of any other church in Ireland, except St. Patrick's and Christ-Church, Dublin." In the north transept is a chapel dedicated to St. Mary, long used as the parish church. In the same transept may also be noticed the remains of a fixed stone seat, locally called the chair of St. Keiran.

It is said by Ware that the foundation of this cathedral was laid by bishop O'Dullany, towards the end of the reign of Henry II. and that the building was completed (subject to alterations by several future prelates) in the time of Geoffry St. Leger, who sat in this see from 1260, to 1286. But no antient documents exist for ascertaining the progress of the architecture, and the opinions of the examiner must, consequently, rely on the internal evidence afforded by the structure itself. We here find the feature of greatest antiquity to be the lancet-shaped arch, as employed in windows, with its usual accompaniments in the arrangement of other particulars; and we, therefore, with confidence, presume that the oldest parts of this church were erected in the early part of the thirteenth century. The prelates of following ages, in perfecting or altering the building, have, in no instance, employed a splendid, or laborious, modification of the pointed style; but the fabric, in every component part, is respectable, and, in general effect, is solemn and impressive.

The eastern part of the church, comprising the choir and chancel, is seventy-seven feet in length. The bishop's throne,

the seats, and the gallery are of varnished oak; the whole being conspicuous for a sedate simplicity. At the east end is a very lofty window, divided into three lights of the lancet form on the exterior, but each compartment finishing, internally, with a trefoil head. We are informed by Ware that Bishop Ledred, soon after the year 1318, expended large sums in embellishing his cathedral, and particularly in filling the windows with stained glass. His liberality was eminently displayed in this eastern window, the paintings of which represented the history of Christ, from the birth to the ascension. Rinuncini, legate to the catholics of Ireland during the troubles of the seventeenth century, is said to have offered £700 for the glass of this window, which offer was declined; but, unhappily, the glass was destroyed, in 1650, by the fanatics of that gloomy period. Some mutilated fragments were afterwards collected by Bishop Pococke, and placed in two ovals over the western door.

The nave is divided from its side aisles by pointed arches, unornamented, and supported by pillars composed of black marble. The side aisles are lighted by pointed windows, and the body of the church by windows of quatrefoil shape, placed in a clerestory. In the side aisles, and between the pillars, are numerous altarmonuments. The long succession of these sepulchral memorials adds greatly to the impressive effect of this division of the structure; and we have rarely seen the interior of an ecclesiastical building, which at the same time was so little indebted to architectural effort, and possessed so imperative a sway over the feelings.

We have already suggested that this fabric experienced great injuries in the wars of the seventeenth century. The interior long remained in a state of dilapidation, and the whole pile appeared to be rapidly sinking into utter ruin, when Bishop Pococke was advanced to the see of Ossory, in 1756. By that prelate the mutilated and prostrate monuments were reinstated, and the church repaired throughout. In the performance of these pious duties, considerable sums were expended from his own revenue, and he also procured subscriptions to a large amount. The names of the subscribers are preserved on a marble tablet in the north transept.

Many of the sepulchral monuments are worthy of attentive investigation. They are often curious, as works of antient art in different ages, and more frequently demand attention on account of the worth or eminence of the deceased, to whose ashes they are consecrated. Our limits prevent us from noticing any other than the most distinguished names.*

In the CHANCEL, CHoir, and NAVE, are monuments and inscriptions to the following, among other persons.

Richard Butler, Viscount Mountgarret. This monument was erected by the deceased, for "himself, his ancestors, and posterity." Lord Mountgarret was the third viscount, and was a distinguished character in the troubles of the seventeenth century. He died, according to Lodge, in 1651.

Anne Cox, grand-daughter of the Earl of Inchiquin, and wife of Michael Cox, Bishop of Ossory, died in childbed, in her twenty-third year, A. D. 1745. "Within the same tomb, and near the remains of his dear wife, rests the most *Rev. Michael Cox, Archbishop of Cashel*, son to Sir Richard Cox, Bart. formerly high chancellor of this kingdom," who died in 1779. The monument is of white marble, ornamented with a statue representing Piety, executed by Scheemakers.

On the right of the door leading into the chancel, is a cenotaphial inscription to the memory of the learned and exemplary *Richard Pococke, L. L. D.* sometime Bishop of Ossory, and afterwards translated to the see of Meath. Bishop Pococke died Sept. 15th, 1765, and lies buried at Ardbraccan, in the county of Meath. The inscription truly states that "he discharged every duty of the pastoral and episcopal office with prudence, vigilance, and fidelity; adorning his station with unshaken integrity of heart and of conduct; attentive to the interest of religion, he caused several

* A more general transcript of the Epitaphs may be seen in the work entitled "Epitaphs on the Tombs in the Cathedral Church of St. Canice, Kilkenny, collected by John O'Phelan," &c. This work was published, with additions to the original MS. in 1813, by *Mr. Peter Shee*, a very respectable and intelligent inhabitant of Kilkenny. O'Phelan's MS. was drawn up by desire of Bishop Pococke, and is repositied in the episcopal palace.

parochial churches to be rebuilt within his diocess. He promoted, and liberally contributed to, the repair and embellishment of this cathedral church, then unhappily falling into decay. A zealous encourager of every useful public work, especially the linen manufacture. He bequeathed a considerable legacy to the governors of the incorporated society for promoting the united interests of industry and charity, within this borough of St. Canice."

Thomas Otway, Bishop of Ossory, died 1622-3. Bishop Otway lies near the west door.

In the NORTH TRANSEPT AND AISLE are buried the following, among many less eminent persons.

Peter Butteler (Butler), eighth Earl of Ormonde and Ossory, who died 26th August, 1539, and *Margaret Fitzgerald, his countess*, who died "on the ninth day of August.*

The "most illustrious and noble lady, *Ellena Butler*, daughter to the most noble lord, Peter, Earl of Ormonde, and pious countess to the most magnificent lord Donald, Earl of Thomond." Died second of July, 1597.

* "The descendants of this nobleman" observes Mr. Shee, "may claim four places of interment within this church. The Mountgarrets, have two; one in the choir, near the altar, and another near the consistorial court; there is a third, for lady Ellena, in the nave, and the monument, the inscription on which we have just seen. On this tomb, the figure of the earl is extremely well represented in black marble, at full length, in armour, his sword hanging across his body, and a dog at his feet. Entombed along with him is his lady, *Margaret Fitzgerald, daughter of the Earl of Kildare*, better known in this country by her Irish name, *Morhy-head Ghearrhodh*. Of this lady, history has taken particular notice, and tradition relates extraordinary anecdotes. Inheriting the lofty spirit and the warlike temper of her ancestors, Margaret is said to have emulated, if not excelled, her lord in deeds of arms. Like the barons, in the times of the feudal system, she was followed by numerous vassals, well clothed and accoutered, forming an army always ready at her command. She had several strong castles within the circle of her territory, of which, that at Ballyragget was not the least considerable, and a favourite residence." Concerning this lady, who was the second daughter of Gerald, eighth Earl of Kildare, many remarks are occasionally presented in several parts of the present work.

In the SOUTH TRANSEPT AND AISLE are monuments, or inscriptions, to the following among other persons.

David Roth, titular bishop of Ossory, who entered on possession of this see in 1641, under the sanction of the supreme council of the confederates. The date of his death is uncertain, and he was not buried in the cathedral of Kilkenny. The cenotaphial monument to his memory is extremely curious, and is said to have been executed by an Italian ecclesiastic. In our description we profit by the remarks of Mr. Harris. This monument is of black marble, and is enriched with much sculpture, including the paternal coat of arms of the Roths, being a stag trippant, gules, leaning against a tree, vert; flowers, foliage, &c. Between pilasters, where formerly stood Corinthian columns, “are two imposts, on which an arch rests, in form of a gate, or flat niche; and that which represents the gate, is the table upon which are the inscriptions. Over the corner of the left impost, is cut the effigies of Saint Keiran, with a mitre on his head, a crozier in his hand, and his name written underneath. Over the corner of the right impost, is the effigies of Saint Canice, with his mitre standing at his foot, a crozier in his hand, and a monk’s hood upon his head, with his name underneath. The pilasters support an entablature, composed of an architrave, frieze, and cornice: the frieze is adorned with roses. Over the entablature is another table, on which is cut the representation of our Saviour on the cross, and on each side a woman weeping.” The arms and images show the remains of gilding and painting.

The inscription was absurdly mutilated by order of Bishop Parry. The words defaced, as supplied by tradition, and copied from the work of Mr. Shee, are here inserted in parenthesis :

Deo. Opt. Max.

et.

Memori Davidis episcopi Ossoriensis, qui

Hunc ecclesiam cathedralem sancto Canico

Sacram (pristino cultui restituit, heresim

Schismaque exinde emundans.)

Anno domini 1642.

Ortum cuncta suos repelunt mortemq; requirunt

Et redit ad nihilum quod fuit ante nihil.

Near the Bishop's Court is the tomb of — *Butler*, first *Viscount Mountgarret*, who died on the 20th of Dec. 1571. The effigies of the deceased are represented in armour, the feet resting on a dog.

John Grace, Knight, and Baron of Courtstown, and *Onorina Walsh*, his wife, A.D. 1568. This monument is situated between the first and second pillars, at the eastern extremity of the south side of the nave. The recumbent figure of the baron, “ of full size, clad in a complete suit of mail armour, with a belt round his waist, a sword by his side, and a dog at his feet, is very well executed in black marble: six apostles, in bold *alto relievo*, labelled with scrolls, stand in niches, richly fretted, on the north, and a like number on the south side of the tomb. On the western side, or head, the crucifixion, and two attendant female figures are represented; and on the eastern side, or foot, a shield, bearing a lion rampant.”*

Nicholas Walshe, Bishop of Ossory, died 17th of Dec. 1585.

We regret that the nature of our work does not admit of our entering more fully on an examination of the monuments of this cathedral, several of which, evincing considerable antiquity, are unnoticed by topographical writers, and could not be appropriated, at the present day, without great difficulty. The havoc committed by the military under Cromwell, who are said to have made a stable of this cathedral, is perceptible in almost every monument; and several tombs, then overthrown or mutilated, have now entirely disappeared. Among these was the monument of *Thomas, Earl of Ormonde and Ossory*, erected by *Nicholas Stone*, at the expense of £400, concerning which an extract of *Stone's Journal* has been published by *Lord Orford*.

The following prelates, here buried, are not mentioned in the above selection of monuments. Their names and places of sepulture are thus stated by *Dr. Ledwich*. “ *Bishop Horsfall*, a

* Statistical account of Tullaroan parish, p. 567; in which work are many particulars respecting *Sir John Grace*, and other members of his distinguished family, whose ancient place of burial was in this cathedral-church.

native of Yorkshire, died in 1609, and is buried in the church, with a monumental stone, laid flat on the floor." His only son, Sir Cyprian Horsfall of Innishnagg, had an only child Joan, married to Oliver Grace, of Courtstown. "*Bishop Williams* is interred on the south side of the chancel. *Bishop Mapilton* near St. Mary's chapel. *Bishop St. Leger* near Mapilton. *Bishop Ledred* on the north side of the high altar. *Bishop Hacket* before the altar. *Bishop O'Hedian* in a chapel at the west end of the cathedral. *Bishop Gaffney* in a chapel on the north side of the choir."

The burial-yard of the cathedral is entered from the town by a flight of marble steps, and is planted with trees. On the south side of the church, at the distance of six feet and a half from the wall of the south transept, is a round or pillar tower, 108 feet in height, and 47 feet in circumference. The entrance, which faces the south, is narrow, and at the distance of eight feet from the ground. Exclusive of this opening, there are five small and square apertures, at regular distances in the ascent. Near the top are *six* apertures of the same kind; and a low battlement surmounts the whole. The following more minute remarks on this pillar-tower, are derived from the descriptive account written by Mr. Shee. "Interiorly, there are six offsets in the wall from the bottom to the top, equidistant, and completely circular, each being from four to five inches in depth, and exhibiting merely so many inches diminution in the thickness of the wall rising over each similar offset. Thus, the wall at the entrance is three feet six inches in thickness, and at the next offset, over the entrance, is diminished five inches, as can be ascertained, by measuring the aperture connected with the offset; and the wall rises with this diminution to the next offset, when it is again diminished four or five inches, so that, at the summit, the wall diminishes from twenty-five to thirty inches."

An *Episcopal Palace* at Kilkenny was first erected under the auspices of Bishop Ledred, in the reign of Edward III. This building is said to have been of very moderate dimensions, and was much improved by Bishop Parry. The principal parts of the structure were renovated, with important additions, by Bishop

Este, shortly after the year 1735, and the palace is now a commodious and respectable, although by no means a splendid, residence.

The *diocess* of Ossory, says Ware, “containeth the whole county, and county of the city of, Kilkenny, except the parishes of Kilmochahell, Shankill, Ullard, Powerstown, and Graig. It also containeth one parish in the King’s county called Seir-Keran, and the entire barony of Upper Ossory, which is a full third part of the Queen’s county.” According to Dr. Beaufort, this diocess is 36 miles in length, and 23 miles in breadth. The chapter is formed by the dean; precentor; chancellor; treasurer; and archdeacon; with eight prebendaries.

The following list of the bishops of Ossory is collected from Ware and Harris, with additions down to the present time. It may be premised, to the honour of this see, as is remarked by Dr. Ledwich, “that two of its bishops were lords justices; four lords chancellors; three lord treasurers; three translated to archbishoprics; one an ambassador; and one chancellor of the exchequer.”

BISHOPS OF OSSORY.

St. Keiran, who is deemed the founder of this bishopric, and is styled, by Ware, the first bishop of Saiger, or Sagir, which place was the original see of the diocess, is said to have died in 549. Between the time of his death and the final translation of the see to Kilkenny, there is great difficulty, as will be readily supposed, in ascertaining any resemblance of a chronological succession in the names of prelates. Mr. Harris, in his additions to Ware, has attempted this task. His intelligence is “drawn from the Annals of the Four Masters and other writers;” and he proceeds, in observance of an opinion that “the terms abbot and bishop were used by antient writers as synonymous terms.” We doubt whether this rule will admit of literal application, whilst it must be allowed that the terms were often used, without careful discrimination, by early writers on the ecclesiastical history of Ireland. For “a sort of succession, although not perfect,”

formed on such a view of antient authors, we refer to the works of Ware, edited by Harris, article “Bishops of Ossory;” and commence our enumeration with the first prelate who sat at Kilkenny.

| | Succ. |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Felix O'Dullany, | 1178. |
| Hugh Rufus, | 1202. |
| Peter Mannesin, | 1218. |
| William of Kilkenny, | 1229. |
| Walter de Brackell, | 1232. |
| Geoffry of Turvill, | 1244. |
| Hugh de Mapilton,* | 1251. |
| Hugh 3rd. | 1257. |
| Geoffry St. Leger,† | 1260. |
| Roger of Wexford, | 1287. |
| Michael of Exeter, | 1289. |
| William Fitz John, | 1302. |
| Richard Ledred,‡ | 1318. |

* Hugh de Mapilton is said by Ware and Harris, to “have been at great expenses on the fabric of the Cathedral of St. Canice, insomuch that he hath been called the founder of it.” He also founded some prebends in this cathedral.

† This prelate is said, by the writers last cited, to “have been at great charges in putting the last hand to the building of his church, which Bishop Mapilton had left unfinished; and upon that account is reckoned the second founder of the cathedral.”

‡ In the prelacy of Richard Ledred occurred the prosecution of Dame Alice Kettle; William Outlaw; a woman named Petronilla; and Basilia, the sister, or daughter, of Petronilla, for the supposed practice of sorcery. Petronilla was convicted and burnt; but Dame Alice escaped, as is thought, to England. William Outlaw received his liberty, on condition of covering with lead St. Mary's Church, in this city. Outlaw, profiting by the party divisions which prevailed among the civil governors and the ministers of religion, turned prosecutor in his turn; and Bishop Ledred himself experienced imprisonment, and many other inconveniencies. Ledred's conduct, although severely reprehensible in the opinions of more enlightened ages, was far, as is well known, from being a peculiar instance of persecution; and we must not forget that, however misled in this in-

| | Succ. |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| John of Tatenale, | 1360. |
| Alexander Balscot, | 1371. |
| Richard Northalis, | 1386. |
| Thomas Peverell, | 1397. |
| John Griffin, | 1398. |
| John Waltham, | 1399. |
| Roger of Appleby, | 1400. |
| John Volcan, | 1404. |
| Thomas Snell, | 1405. |
| Patrick Ragged, or Rugged, | 1417. |
| Dennis O'Dea, | 1421. |
| Thomas Barry, | 1428. |
| David Hacket, | 1460. |
| John O'Hedian, | 1479. |
| Oliver Cantwell, | 1488. |
| Milo Baron, | 1527. |
| John Bale,* | 1552. |
| John Thonery, | 1553. |
| Christoper Gaffney. | 1565. |
| Nicholas Walsh, | 1577. |

stance by the gloomy ignorance and severity of the times, he was a benefactor to his see, in an admirable point of view, by constructing a residence contiguous to the cathedral, thereby affording the bishops of Ossory an opportunity of attending more immediately to the duties of the see.

* This voluminous and well-known writer enjoyed the benefits of the see of Kilkenny for scarcely six months, finding it expedient to retire from Ireland shortly after the accession of Queen Mary. He is usually styled the first protestant bishop of this diocess. An invariable asperity, injurious to the best interests of religion, is observable throughout his writings, but we must charitably recollect that he lived in times when moderation was rarely practised by any Irish or English writer on religious subjects. A list of his very numerous works may be seen in his book "*Scriptores illustres Majoris Britanniae*," and also in Ware's "*Writers of Ireland*," p. 325—6. He is said by Ware to have died at Canterbury, A. D. 1563, and to have been buried there, in the nave of the cathedral.

See Vacant nine months.

| | Succ. |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| John Horsfall, | 1586. |
| Richard Deane, | 1609. |
| Jonas Wheeler, | 1613. |
| Griffith Williams,* | 1641. |
| John Parry, | 1672. |
| Benjamin Parry, | 1677. |
| Michael Ward, | 1678. |
| Thomas Otway,† | 1679. |
| John Hartstonge, | 1693. |
| Sir Thomas Vesey, Bart., | 1714. |
| Edward Tennison, | 1731. |
| Charles Este, | 1735. |
| Anthony Dopping, | 1740. |
| Michael Cox, | 1743. |
| Edward Maurice, | 1754. |
| Richard Pococke,‡ | 1756. |

* Bishop Williams, in common with most other prelates of Ireland, and the sister-kingdom, experienced great severities and privations during the rage of the civil wars. An account of these he published in a work termed "The Persecution and Oppression of John Bale and Griffith Williams, Bishops of Ossory," 4to. 1664. He appears to have been a man of a violent temper, well suited to the iron character of the times in which he lived. So bitter a spirit of recrimination is evinced in his writings, that he leaves no room for sympathy with his miseries.

† This prelate, who, in the early part of the civil wars, had been chaplain to Sir Ralph Hopton, afterwards Lord Hopton, lived a bachelor, and at his death disposed of his property to pious uses. Among his bequests must be noticed the foundation of a library, in the church-yard of our cathedral. He is also recorded as a benefactor to his see, by ornamenting the chancel of the cathedral with its "compass-ceiling," and by a gift of plate "to the amount of 363 oz. 5 dwt."

‡ We have the pleasure of noticing the public and private worth of this bishop, whilst mentioning his monument in the cathedral. His name must be ever remembered, with respect, in the bishopric to which he was so eminent a benefactor. His "Description of the East and some other Countries," in two vols. folio, is a work of known value. In the intro-

| | Succ. |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Charles Dodgson, | 1765. |
| William Newcombe, | 1775. |
| John Hotham, | 1779. |
| Hon. William Beresford, | 1782. |
| Thomas Lewis O'Beirne, | 1795. |
| Hugh Hamilton, | 1799. |
| John Kéarney, | 1806. |
| ROBERT FOWLER, | 1813. |

The *Church of St. Mary* is a spacious but plain structure, not remarkable for architectural interest. The antient building on this site was more extensive than the present.

Several MONASTIC FOUNDATIONS formerly added much to the importance and dignity of this city, and their remains are still objects of curiosity and interest.

The most antient of these establishments is the HOSPITAL, or ABBEY OF ST. JOHN, which was founded for the relief of indigent poor, by William Marshal the elder, Earl of Pembroke, about the year 1211.* This institution was well endowed by the founder, and subsisted in considerable repute until the 31st of Henry VIII. when the buildings, with their appurtenances, were granted to the mayor and citizens of Kilkenny, to be held in mortmain. The remains of this structure are situated in St. John's-street, but retain, at the present day, scarcely any of their original character. It is observed in the *Antiquities of Ireland* by Grose, that "great part of this priory was demolished to make room for a foot barrack." The abbey-church, however, a very curious fabric, remained in a state of picturesque ruin until a recent date. Since the year 1817, it has been renovated, and adapted to the desirable

duction to the Monasticon, Mr. Archdall acknowledges, with gratitude, the literary and other favours conferred on him by Bishop Pococke, to whom he was domestic chaplain.

* In this date we follow the *Monasticon Hibernicum*, p. 369. In Grose's *Antiqs. of Ireland*, vol i. p. 31, it is contended, on the authority of the *Monasticon Anglicanum*, that the foundation took place about the year 1220.

purpose of a parochial church, under the direction of Mr. Robertson, a judicious architect residing in Kilkenny, who has performed this task with all practicable attention to the antient character of the structure. Grose, in describing the former state of the church, remarks, that “ for about fifty-four feet of the south side of the choir, it seems to be almost one window.” This writer adds that “ the eastern window is about sixteen feet wide, and thirty feet high, and is divided by delicate stone mullions.” The antient windows and walls are partly worked into the renovated fabric; but the delicacy of the original design has, unavoidably, experienced deterioration. In the antient building, the tall and slender windows were replicated in such quick succession, and brought so near to each other, that the intervals were merely mullions, and the whole was one tissue of stone frame work and lights. This curious, rather than estimable, effort towards novelty and lightness in pointed architecture, has, not inappropriately, been denominated the *lanthorn of Kilkenny*. Some highly interesting, though rude, specimens of sepulchral monuments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, of the Butler, Grace, and Purcell families, belonging to this church, are noticed in the MS. memoranda of General Vallancey’s Antiquarian Researches.

THE DOMINICAN, OR BLACK ABBEY, situated in Irishtown, was founded in the year 1225, by William Marshal the younger, Earl of Pembroke. General chapters of the Dominican order were held here, in the years 1281; 1302; 1306; and 1346. Several distinguished persons were interred in the church, but the locality of their sepulture is now to be ascertained only by record. William Earl Marshal, the founder, was buried in the choir, in the year 1231; and Richard, the brother of that nobleman, who was mortally wounded in battle, on the Curragh of Kildare, was also interred here in 1234. Bishop Hugh was buried near the high altar, in 1259; and the remains of Bishop Cantwell were, also, deposited in this church, A. D. 1526. On the dissolution of monastic houses, the buildings and appurtenances of this abbey were granted to the sovereign and burgesses of Kilkenny; and it

appears that part of the fabric was subsequently used as a shire-house.

The remains of the abbey-church are extensive, and are of considerable interest. This structure was cruciform, with a square tower rising from the centre, which is still in good preservation. At the top is a graduated parapet, deeply indented into the sides of the tower; and the angles are surmounted by plain but aspiring turrets, or pinnacles. The architecture of the western part of the church, and of the south transept, ranks amongst the best examples of the kind in Ireland. The windows are in that graceful modification of the pointed form which prevailed in the fourteenth century, and their heads are adorned with elaborate ramifications and tracery. An end window, divided into five lights by mullions of stone, is of very spacious proportions, commencing at not more than one foot from the ground, and ascending nearly to the summit of the building. The most eligible part of this structure is lately repaired, and used as a Roman catholic chapel. In the restoration of the interior, the talents of native artists have been employed, much to their credit; and we cordially join in the words of some remarks inserted in an Irish periodical publication, by saying "that the whole, when completed, promises to be ornamental to the city, and will, at the same time, act as a striking monument of the good feeling and liberality of the age."

THE FRANCISCAN FRIARY, situated on the banks of the Nore, is supposed, by some writers, to have been founded by Richard Marshal, Earl of Pembroke; but its early history is buried in great obscurity. It is, however, sufficiently apparent that this monastery attained considerable wealth and importance. Its revenues, as stated at the dissolution, were ample; and, so early as the year 1267, a provincial chapter was held within its walls.

John Clynn, an annalist of some celebrity, was a friar of this house,* and Thomas Fleming, also a friar, was advanced to the

* John Clynn is supposed to have fallen a victim to the dreadful pestilence which prevailed in Ireland in the year 1348, and raged at Kilkenny

bishopric of Leighlin. It is said by several authors (see Ledwich's *Antiqs. of Ireland*, p. 493-4) that William and Richard Marshal, Earls of Pembroke, were buried in the church of this friary; but we have followed Mr. Archdall in believing that those noble persons were interred in the church of the Dominican abbey. In regard to existing monuments, it may be observed, that, after a careful investigation, we could find at this place no other inscriptions whatever, than those placed on funeral tablets to Dr. William Purcell, who died 1687, and to a member of the family of Smith. The buildings and appendant property were granted, on the dissolution, to the corporation of Kilkenny. In our account of the operations of the besieging army under Cromwell, in 1650, we have stated some military transactions connected with this friary and its precincts.

The ruins of the structure possess considerable beauty and interest. The body of the church is still remaining, but deprived of its roof, and is now used as a tennis-court; at the east end are the relics of a lofty window, comprising seven narrow lights, progressively increasing in altitude towards the central and most aspiring compartment. From the former centre of the building rises a tower, of light and pleasing proportions, resting on a pointed archway, the vaulting of which is well groined. We are informed by Archdall, on sufficient authorities, that the *new choir* of this church was completed in 1321, and that the steeple was erected shortly after 1347. The area within the boundary-walls of the friary-demesne is now used as garden-ground, and bones are frequently dug from the former cemetery. Near the margin of the river is a spring of water, exquisitely limpid, which is termed St. Francis' Well, and was antiently famed for miraculous pro-

with peculiar violence. He concludes his *annals* with the following impressive words: "Lest the writing should perish with the writer, and the work fail with the workman, I leave behind me parchment for continuing it, if any man should have the good fortune to survive this calamity, or any one of the race of Adam should escape this pestilence, to continue what I have begun." A copy of John Clynn's chronicle is in the possession of Sir William Betham, Ulster king of arms. This chronicle acts as a continuation of *Regan's Diary*, down to the year 1318.

perties: Horse-barracks, and a distillery, engross parts of the ground formerly belonging to this friary.

The GRAMMAR-SCHOOL, or COLLEGE, of Kilkenny, is an institution of great public utility. A "grammar-schoole," as we are informed by Stanilhurst, "was founded in the weste of the church-yard by Peirce, or Peter, Butler, Erle of Ormond and Ossorie, and his wife, the lady Margaret Fitzgerald." Peter White, sometime fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, was a distinguished master of this early establishment; and it may be remarked that Stanilhurst was himself educated at Kilkenny, under this preceptor.

In the year 1684, writes Dr. Ledwich, "the Duke of Ormonde granted a new charter to the College in Kilkenny, of a certain house in John's-Street, with the adjacent park, for a school-house." The duke, at the same time, bestowed some rectories and tithes for the uses of the establishment, and rendered it subject to a regular code of statutes. These "statutes, orders, and constitutions," have been several times printed. The nature of the establishment, according to the intention of the founder, may be explained by the following extracts. The master, who is to reside in the house belonging to the school, is, in person, with the assistance of an usher, to instruct the scholars in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages, (which latter language is not at present taught) as also in poetry and oratory. The children "of all such as are attending in the service of the Duke of Ormonde, shall, at all times, be admitted to the privileges and benefits of the said school, gratis;" but the master may "demand and receive of all other scholars, according to the rates and usages of the most remarkable schools in Dublin, for boarding and schooling, those children excepted whose parents are, or were, at the time of their birth, inhabitants of the city of Kilkenny, or its liberties, who shall pay but half price." The bishops of Ossory, Leighlin, and Ferns, and the provost of Trinity College, Dublin, for the time being, are appointed visitors.

This laudable institution experienced some changes, during the troubled state of public affairs in the latter years of the seventeenth century. King James II. erected this establishment into a royal

college, consisting of a rector, eight professors, and two scholars, in the name of more ; to be called “ the Royal College of St. Canice, Kilkenny, of the foundation of King James.” New rules were then drawn up by Dr. Phelan, the catholic bishop of Ossory ; but these were of short prevalence. On the retreat of James, this institution, with others of still greater importance, returned to the channel from which it had been compulsively diverted.

According to the original terms of foundation, the master was to be nominated by the Dukes of Ormonde ; but, owing to the attainder of James, Duke of Ormonde, in 1715, the right of presentation lapsed to the provost and fellows of Trinity College, Dublin. Although the term of *College*, as applied to this establishment, is entirely a title of courtesy, the grammar-school of Kilkenny is a distinguished ornament and advantage to the south of Ireland, and demands to be named amongst the chief public schools of the empire. The house having sunk to decay was lately rebuilt, by the aid of parliamentary grants, amounting to £5064. The present substantial structure is capable of receiving eighty boarders, in single beds ; but the number is not usually so great. It is situated on low ground, near the banks of the river. The tract denominated in the deed of foundation, *the park*, is an expanse of meadow, about three acres in extent. Amongst many celebrated persons who have received the early part of education at this school, may be mentioned Swift ; Congreve ; Farquhar ; Mr. Harris, the continuator of Ware ; Provost Baldwin ; and Dr. Berkeley, Bishop of Cloyne. Several of the masters, in years approximating to the boyhood of those distinguished pupils, were men of great talent and respectability. Dr. Edward Jones, afterwards Bishop of Cloyne, was master of this school in 1670. Dr. Henry Ryder, master in 1680, was promoted to the see of Killaloe.

Besides private schools in this city, the system of gratuitous instruction is conducted on a liberal scale ; and here is, also, a Roman Catholic seminary, in which is completed the education of persons designed for the priesthood. Mr. Tighe, in his survey of this county, observes, “ that a charitable foundation was lately established, under the form of a *Nunnery*, of the order of the pre-

sentation, for which a large sum of money was given by a native of the city, named Murphy, and in which twelve boys, and twelve girls are to be instructed." The Charter-school of Kilkenny is designed for seventy children.

The *Court-house*, which is used on official occasions, such as specifying the place for holding the assizes, for electing the members of parliament, for assembling county meetings, &c. is denominated *Grace's old Castle*. It comprises the courts of the city and county, and is a capacious and handsome structure, recently completed by Mr. Robertson, the architect, already mentioned.* The *Tholsel* is a spacious building, but by no means conspicuous for beauty of design. In the lower division is an area, used as a market-house. One of the principal apartments is now occupied as a library, which is supported by subscription, and is a prosperous and pleasing instance of the increasing refinement and good taste of the inhabitants.

Here are barracks for horse and foot soldiers, the latter of which is an extensive and substantial building.

The *Theatre* is a small but handsome fabric, erected by pri-

* The court-house stands on part of the site of *Grace's Castle*, an extensive structure, supposed to have been erected by William le Gras, before the eleventh of John (1210). It is certain, that the antient and distinguished family of Grace possessed much power and property at Kilkenny, in the early part of the thirteenth century. William le Gras, the supposed founder of the former embattled pile on this site, was appointed for life constable and seneschal of Leinster, and governor of Kilkenny. The same dignified officer is thought to have erected "the antient tower and gateway, commonly called Grace's Gate, or Grace's Pass, or Way, which formerly flanked the city walls on the west." The castellated residence of this family in Kilkenny is thus noticed in a recent work: "Grace's Castle was situated between the Marshal's Castle and the Abbey of St. Francis. It presented a front of 130 feet, and its massive out-works extended to the river Nore, where some well-cemented fragments of them are still visible." For further particulars the antiquarian examiner is referred to the "Account of Tullaroan Parish," in Mr. Shaw Mason's Statistical Survey of Ireland, and to the "Hibernia Dominicana," a scarce and curious work, by Dr. Burke, R. C. Bishop of Ossory; which work, it may be added, was printed at Kilkenny, in 1762.

vate subscription ; and the "Theatricals of Kilkenny," have obtained great fashionable notoriety in the south of Ireland. The performers are chiefly amateurs. The exhibitions usually last for two or three weeks in the autumn, and the profits are bestowed on the charitable establishments of the town. Very considerable talent has been occasionally displayed by several of the performers, and the institution is so desirable, in many points of view, that we are sorry to observe it has been for some time falling into "the sear, the yellow leaf."

We have experienced peculiar pleasure in having occasion to notice the above gay establishment, as an auxiliary to the *Charitable Institutions* of this city. The benevolent feelings of the inhabitants are, indeed, creditably evinced in various efforts towards lessening the miseries of poverty and disease, although there are still many opportunities for the exercise of public charity. The *Infirmary*, which is the principal charitable establishment, was opened in 1767, and is partly supported by benefactions and annual subscriptions. Here is a *House of Industry*, for the assistance of the laborious indigent, with an attached hospital for lunatics. There are, likewise, in Kilkenny, several private foundations for charitable purposes, chiefly of a limited character, and some humane associations for the assistance of the aged and unfortunate.

The woollen manufacture, in several branches, has been cultivated here for many years, with varying degrees of success ; and there are many tanneries, on rather an extensive scale. With these exceptions, Kilkenny possesses no peculiar branches of manufacture, or trade, which demand notice. Two circumstances, however, of natural produce, connected with its vicinity, are equally the sources of local convenience and emolument.

The *Marble* of Kilkenny, well known throughout the empire, is found at the distance of half-a-mile from the city, towards the south. Over the strata of marble there is usually "about twenty-three feet of clay and gravel, between the vegetable mould and the first bed. This stone, when polished, has a black ground, more or less varied with white marks, (which are said to appear more strongly from long exposure to the air) and contains a great

variety of impressions, of madrepores, of bivalve, and of turbate shells." The quantity of marble exported is about fifty tons annually. The marble sent to Dublin is taken upon cars, as far as Leighlin-bridge, where it is embarked on the Barrow. That which is exported is usually sent to Waterford, and goes by land as far as Thomastown. Some coarse work is finished at the quarry, but the principal operations are effected at the *Marble-mill*, which is on the banks of the river, nearly two miles distant from Kilkenny, and is admirable for the simplicity of its construction and the greatness of its power.*

The *Coal* of Kilkenny, celebrated as "one of the wonders of Ireland, in producing fire without smoke," is found at Castlecomer, distant from this city about ten miles. These collieries were not worked until a few years before the date of 1726, at which time Boate published his *Natural History of Ireland*. The Coal greatly resembles the stone coal of South Wales, and produces no smoke, but emits a sulphureous odour, nauseous, and even in some measure, dangerous. These unpleasant effects are, in a great degree, overcome by habit; but the effluvia, when no longer offensive, or productive of immediate inconvenience to health, are believed to encourage a disposition towards asthma and other prejudicial affections of the lungs. The Kilkenny Coal is an unrivalled fuel for the drying of malt, and is also in esteem for the uses of the forge. According to an analysis made by Mr. Kirwan, it contains $97^{\circ} 3'$ *per cent.* of pure carbon, the remainder being uninflamable ashes.

The *Market* is well supplied with all articles in ordinary request, including sea-fish from Dungarvan, and vegetables and fruit from gardens in the neighbourhood of the city.

The *Corporation* of Kilkenny consists of a mayor; aldermen; two sheriffs; a recorder; town-clerk, &c.; and possesses property, which, in 1794, yielded the sum of £1567.

* Abridged from Mr. Tighe's Survey of the County of Kilkenny, to which work we refer for an extended, and very intelligent, account of this valuable quarry.

The *Gaol* is a large and appropriate building of stone, recently constructed, at a short distance from the town.

Kilkenny affords the title of Earl to Edmund Butler, Viscount Mountgarrett, and returns one member to the imperial parliament.

The immediate environs of the city are pleasant, in several directions. Amongst the most agreeable features in its borders may be noticed "the Duke's Walk," a parade about one mile in length, on the banks of a canal commenced many years back, but not completed. This path is lined with thriving and ornamental trees, and forms a continuation of a walk usually termed the Mall, on the banks of the river Nore, and at the base of the castle. On a suitable spot, at some distance from the city, the band of the regiment stationed at Kilkenny occasionally plays, for the gratification of the inhabitants there assembled in promenade. In an airy and pleasant part of the suburbs is an eligible range of buildings, termed *St. James's Asylum*. This charity was founded and endowed in the year 1803, by Mr. James Switzir, for twenty reduced widows, twelve protestants, and eight Roman catholics, each of whom is provided with an habitation, and allowed £20. *per annum*. In the area, before the alms-houses, is erected an ill-executed statue of the founder, who was a native of Kilkenny, and amassed considerable property as a tradesman at Dublin. In one hand of the statue is placed a scroll, bearing the following inscription: "I am thankful to thee, O my God! for this and all thy blessings, through thy dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen!"

Amongst several seats, which, although not in the immediate vicinity of Kilkenny, may be most desirably noticed as ornaments of the surrounding country, must be mentioned the following houses of nobility and gentry.

Desart, the seat of the Earl of Desart (a minor), a large and handsome stone building, placed on a gentle acclivity, and surrounded by an agreeable demesne, possessing some ornamental wood. *Castleblunden* (formerly called *Clonmolan*), the fine mansion of Sir John Blunden, Bart. *Kilcreen*, the antient seat of the baronet family of Evans, which passed, by a marriage, to the family of Morres, of Castlemorres, and is now the estate of Sir William

De Montmorency, Bart. *Jenkinstown*, the spacious residence of George Bryan, Esq. distant five miles from Kilkenny. This estate, which formerly belonged to the family of Roth, is situated in a fine and highly-cultivated tract of country, bordering on the river Nore, and is adorned with much noble woodland. *Kilfane*, the residence of John Power, Esq. a handsome building, newly fronted, and greatly improved in recent years.

CASTLEDURROW, a neat post and fair town, thirteen and a half miles from Kilkenny, towards the north-west, is built in the form of an oblong square, and contains many respectable slated houses, occupied by genteel private families. This town is situated in a thickly-populated country, enriched with many handsome seats; and from its proximity to Kilkenny, Maryborough, Portarlinton, Balyspellan Spa, and other places, of some importance and fashion, often wears an air of agreeable animation. The district of Castledurrow formerly belonged to the lordship of Ossory, in the Queen's county, and was a part of the great territory wrested, with force of arms, by Pierce Butler, Earl of Ormonde, and his adherents, in the reign of Henry VIII. from the sept of the Fitzpatrick's. Castledurrow gives the title of Baron to Henry-Jeffry Flower, Viscount Ashbrook, whose mansion is the principal seat in the vicinity of the town.*

* The following account of some remains of antiquity in this neighbourhood, is presented nearly in the words of Mr. Tighe. At Ballynasliegh, near Durrow, was a great stone, called in Irish *Cloghan-carneen*. It was about fifteen feet in length, by nearly eight feet in width, and twenty inches thick. It was supported on six or eight large stones, which stood in the side of a cavity, and raised it three feet above the ground. Beneath was a place, hollowed out, and floored with stones. This fabric was entirely destroyed (the hollow only now remaining) by a neighbouring clergyman, who, it is said, *dreamed there was money underneath!* In one angle of the hollow, when the stone was broken, was found a heap of bones, with teeth like those of pigs. At no great distance is a square enclosure, with four large upright stones, and two others forming a roof. Three or four side stones have been taken away, to make gate posts. On digging within, human bones *are said* to have been found. The earth round it is raised, and the entrance is at an angle. On the hill above is an elliptical enclosure, forty yards by thirty-four, surrounded by a bank of small stones.

Between Durrow and Ballyragget, on the road to Kilkenny, and on the banks of the river Nore, is **BALYCONDRA**, the antient seat of the Viscounts Mountgarrett, whose descendants now enjoy the earldom of Kilkenny; and on the opposite side of the river is a seat termed the **MOAT LODGE**, likewise belonging to this noble family.—Richard Butler, first Viscount Mountgarrett, so created by Edward VI. in 1550, was second son to Pierce, Earl of Ormonde and Ossory, and brother to James, called the lame, ninth Earl of Ormonde, whose representative at the present day, in case of failure of male issue in the existing line of peers, is next in remainder to the earldom of Ormonde and Ossory.

BALYRAGGET, distant nine miles and a half from the city of Kilkenny, towards the north-west, is a small post and fair town. King James I. in the year 1619, constituted this place a manor, with a grant of two annual fairs, in favour of Richard third Viscount Mountgarrett, the proprietor of the estate. In the year 1600, at which time the sons of the Viscount were in rebellion against the crown, and concerned with O'More in the scheme to arrest the Earl of Ormonde, and those English generals who accompanied his lordship, Sir George Carew, (afterwards Earl of Totness,) governor of Munster, placed a strong garrison in Lord Mountgarrett's castle of Balyragget. This castle was converted, some years back, into a barrack, for the use of the military stationed here to repress the frequent insurrections of the plebeian faction called "**WHITE-BOYS**." It was once a favourite residence of the celebrated Lady Margaret Fitz Gerald, commonly styled "*Mornia Gheroda*," Countess of Ormonde, mother to the first Viscount. From this place, indulging in the lawless habits too common at the age in which she flourished, Lady Margaret is said

To the north and east of this are marks of small enclosures and foundation walls, shewing the site of an inconsiderable town. Among these enclosures are seven or eight circular pits, mostly filled up, about twelve feet wide at top, narrower below, and the sides formed of stones. Between this hill and the river, a great many human bones have been found; and, among others, a skeleton enclosed between flags, accompanied by a horn. Abridged from Tighe's Survey of the County of Kilkenny, p.p. 625-6-7.

to have frequently issued, at the head of her armed retainers, and committed ravages on the cattle, and other possessions, of many of the neighbouring families who were not so fortunate as to be deemed her friends.

In the immediate vicinity of the above town is the noble seat of the "*Butlers of Balyragget*," which branch of the house of Mountgarrett has lately ceased in the male line, in the persons of the late Dr. James Butler, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cashell, and George Butler, Esq. his brother. This estate and residence are now the property of Thomas Kavanagh, Esq. of Borris, in the county of Carlow, who acquired the property by descent from the Butler family.

CASTLECOMER, a small town, near the northern borders of the county, is chiefly entitled to remark from the extensive collieries in its vicinity, which have already been noticed. The mansion of the dowager Countess of Ormonde, which adjoins the town, has been recently erected at a considerable expense, and contains some valuable family pictures. The grounds are adorned with extensive and thriving plantations. This town gave the title of baron to the noble family of Wandesford, who possessed 17,000 acres of land in the immediate neighbourhood; which, together with other considerable estates, devolved upon the Countess of Ormonde, as only child and sole heir of the last Earl of Wandesford.

The SPA OF BALSPELLAN, which yields the mineral water most celebrated in this county, is situated in the parish of Fartagh. "The spring," observes the author of the Statistical Survey, "rises out of a rock of brittle slate, consisting of ferruginous argillite; the hill immediately above is formed of the same materials, accompanied to the north as usual by siliceous shistus; but the hills of Cloghmanta and Killishulan, which immediately adjoin to the south-east, are composed of limestone, and they are the highest limestone hills in the neighbourhood. The water collected first on these calcareous heights, and filtrating through their upper beds, passes afterwards into the ferruginous slate, at the farther end of which it forms the spa of Ballyspellan. From

the limestone it receives its carbonic acid gas, or fixed air, which enables it to dissolve a small portion of iron in its passage; and hence we find it exhibits evident signs of these two substances, and very little of any other."

In its effects it is said to resemble the waters of Pyrmont, and the Groisbeck spring, at Spaw. Several medical writers have descanted on its virtues, in disorders proceeding from obstruction or relaxation, and it is said to have been used with great success in cases of recent dropsy.* The company visiting the Spa generally reside at the village of Johnstown, distant from the spring about one mile. The accommodations, although lately improved, are still of a humble character; but considerable gaiety prevails here in the most genial season for drinking the waters, and for enjoying the pleasures of a country excursion.

It is noticed by Mr. Tighe, that, "on the lands of Ballyspellin, not very far from the Spa, is a very large stone, which

* The principal publications on the properties of this mineral water are a tract, called "The Irish Spaw," by Dr. Taafe, 1724; and an "Essay on the Waters and Air of Ballyspellin," by Dr. John Burgess, 1725. Dr. Ruttty notices this Spa, at some length, in his work "On Mineral Waters;" and a judicious analysis of all that has been said is given by Mr. Tighe, in his "Statistical Survey" of this county. Dr. Sheridan accompanied to this Spa a lady who received benefit from the waters, and he wrote some verses on the subject, of which the following are specimens:

" All you that would refine your blood,
As pure as famed Llewellyn,
By waters clear, come every year
To drink at Ballyspellin.

" If lady's cheek be green as leek,
When she comes from her dwelling,
The kindling rose within it grows,
When she's at Ballyspellin.

" Though dropsy fills you to the gills,
From chin to toe though swelling,
Pour in, pour out, you cannot doubt
A cure at Ballyspellin."

was formerly supported on smaller ones ; it is called by the country people *Clogh-bannagh, stone of blessing*. Not far from it is a conical stone, lying on its side."

One mile to the right of Johnstown is FOWKSCOURT, or FOWKS-RATH, the very fine seat of the family of Hely, which family acquired possession of this estate in the time of Sir John Hely, knight, chief justice of the court of common pleas, who died in 1701. Here are the extensive ruins of a castle, formerly the residence of the Purcell family, the antient lords of this manor ; and a handsome obelisk, erected by their successors in the demesne.

FRESHFORD, a small but neat town,* distant from Dublin sixty-four and a half miles, towards the south-west, is entitled to notice on account of its church, which formerly appertained to an abbey, founded here by St. Lactan, in the early part of the seventh century. This church is evidently of considerable antiquity. Over the door is a curious inscription, in antient Irish, which is thus translated by Mr. Beauford, in Seward's *Topographia Hibernica*. "The priest M'Roen and chief, gave to this church the glebe of arable land ; and over the door placed this stone, as a true token ; and with this favour, the land, slaves, and tribute." This inscription is engraven on several stones, but is without date. It is not known that any historical particulars have been preserved concerning the abbey, to which this church belonged.

The town of Freshford is the estate of Sir William De Montmorency, bart. who has an elegant seat, termed *Upperwood Lodge*, in the vicinity of the town. Near this place also is the seat of Mr. Warren. In the same neighbourhood is a ruined mansion, belonging to the Ryves family ; near which forsaken abode, stands *Baly Castle*, an antient oblong fortress, formerly a seat of the

* It may be observed that a custom prevails in this town, and also in several other parts of Ireland, but perhaps more peculiarly in the county of Kilkenny, of *dashing* with white mortar the roofs as well as the walls of houses. This practice is, undoubtedly, favourable to the preservation of the buildings, but the unalleviated glare of white thus produced is extremely displeasing to the eye.

Viscounts Mountgarrett, and now the property of Lieutenant-colonel Reymond Browne. At the distance of one mile from Freshford is KILRUSH, a fine seat of the St. George family; near which is the ruined castle of *Balylarkin*, or *Balylurkin*, once the seat of the family of Shortall, long of great note in this county.

The Cave of Dunmore is the most remarkable natural excavation in this part of Ireland; and, although not equal in extent, or variety of involutions, to the celebrated Peak cavern of Derbyshire, is entitled to the examination of the curious traveller. This cave is situated on the slope of a gentle hill, at a small distance from the church of Mothill, towards the south. The mouth of the cave is approached through a pit, or hollow, of considerable length and depth, and is rendered picturesque by the brush wood, and wild plants, which grow there in great abundance. The excavations form several apartments, the first of which is of large dimensions but irregular shape, and about fifty feet in height. From this cell a narrow passage conducts towards the interior, and opens into a second large apartment. Winding passages lead over a slippery bottom to other cavities, which are said to terminate near the side of the hill opposite to the entrance. A stream of water passes along the cavern, at a considerable distance from the opening; in the vicinity of which have been found many skulls and bones, some of which were enveloped in calcareous spar. The profound interior of these subterranean recesses is, in many parts, rendered fearfully interesting by the bold and threatening character of projecting masses of rock, revealed in shadowy indistinctness by the few and dim lights of the examiner. A countless variety of stalactic forms is caused by the continual dripping of water; and among these, and the various shapes assumed by calcareous sinter, the imagination, prepared for active exercise by the mysterious gloom of a situation so unusual, traces the resemblance of organ-pipes, pillars, inverted pyramids, a cross, an altar, and many other objects of artificial fabric, which may occur, at the moment, to the recollection of the beholder.

TULLAROAN, situated near the north-western border of the county, is part of the extensive cantred of *Grace's country*, the

whole of which, for several centuries, belonged to the Grace family. The district named after that family consisted of a vast tract of land, comprehending, it is said, the barony of Cranagh, and extending northwards by the liberties of Kilkenny, and the river Nore, to the borders of the Queen's county; and thence, southwards along the borders of Tipperary and the Munster river, to the liberties of Callan: forming a district between eleven and twelve miles in length, and between five and six in breadth.*

The central situation of Tullaroan in this district, caused it to be selected as the principal residence of the territorial lords, several of whom were styled barons of Tullaroan, as well as barons Grace, and barons of Courtstown. The extent of this parish from east to west is about six miles, and from north to south about five miles. It is divided into two parts, called *first* Tullaroan, and *second* Tullaroan; the whole containing twenty-nine townlands.† This part of the country abounds in hills, which approach to the

* Statistical account of Tullaroan, in Mr. Shaw Mason's Parochial Survey, vol. iii. p. 518, to which work we are indebted for much information respecting "Grace's country."

† The following observations, by the author of the "Statistical Account," are entitled to particular attention. "Upon looking over the denominations of townlands in this parish, we are at once struck with the prevalence of the Celtic language, and the significancy of the terms descriptive either of the fendal consequence of the proprietor, or of the character of the place. In fact, the seat of an antient baron represented all the features of a royal court, though, in course, upon a lesser scale. Thus, in the instance before us, there is a townland of the physician, of the huntsman, of the tailor, and, in short, of every necessary dependant. The hawker had his portion (*Ballysealgaive*) allotted in another part of the cantred; but the swine-herd, a somewhat more useful though less magnificent adjunct, was nearer the castle. Of the lord upon whom was this dependency, the name of Grace, differently modified, reminds us, and admirably points out the close and reciprocally advantageous relationship of the superior and his vassals. Most of the other names were descriptive of the topography, as the field of stumps; the great rocky waterfall; the red bog; the hamlet of the little glen, &c.; and these characteristics still justify the application, excepting where the industry of man, like death, has levelled all distinctions." Statistical Account of Tullaroan, &c. p. 652.

character of mountains. The valleys are soft, fertile, and attractive; but the admirer of the picturesque will scarcely find any circumstance satisfactorily to atone for a striking deficiency in wood and water.

Tullaroan being comprehended in the territory of Leinster, became, on the decease of King Dermot Mac Morough, the property of Richard, Earl of Pembroke, surnamed Strongbow, by whom the district subsequently termed Grace's Country, was, with other lands, bestowed on Raymond le Gros, in marriage with Basilia de Clare, his only sister. It would appear that various small portions of this great territory were re-granted in fee, at an early period, though, probably, the paramount jurisdiction of the Grace family continued to be acknowledged. That powerful family had, for their principal seat, Courtstown Castle, in which noble building they continued to reside, with possession of the extensive tract emphatically denominated Grace's Country, until the year 1701, at which time was carried into effect an act of forfeiture, incurred by a zealous adherence to the disastrous fortunes of the second James. The history of this unexpected and ruinous forfeiture, unfolds one of the most sordid and malevolent acts of treachery presented by the annals of Irish topography, even in pages relating to the bitter animosities of the seventeenth century.

Baron John Grace, of Courtstown, was a minor at the time the manor of Tullaroan was seized by the commonwealth, after the temporary triumph of the popular party, in the expulsion of the Stuart family. By a special ordinance of the lord protector, however, he recovered that manor, and other large estates; and these were specifically confirmed to him, by the act of settlement, on the restoration. Stedfast in his principle of adherence to the Stuart family, he afterwards raised and equipped, at his own expense, a regiment of foot in the service of James II.* and shared

* It is recorded in a MS. executed about the year 1720, that Baron John Grace was solicited, with very flattering promises of royal favour, to throw the weight of his influence into the scale of King William's interest; and that, in the warmth of the moment, he wrote on the back of a card this indignant reply to the overture, conveyed by an emissary of

in the misfortunes of his party, on the utter discomfiture of that prince's hopes at the battle of the Boyne. Baron John Grace died in 1690, leaving, among other issue, Robert Grace, the next proprietor of Tullaroan. This Robert was lieutenant-colonel of his father's regiment of foot, in the service of King James; but the Courtstown estates were, for some time, secured to his family by the articles of Limerick, in which himself and his *second son*, John, were included. He died in 1691, leaving issue two sons, Oliver and John. The remainder of the story we present in the words of the author of the Statistical Account of Tullaroan.

“Baron Oliver Grace, of Courtstown, survived his father only nine days, dying unmarried in 1691. He held, for a short period, the rank of major in the army of King James, when severe indisposition obliged him to retire to the south of France, after which he never saw his father, or even knew of his decease; having returned, in exhausted health, a very short time preceding that event, and consequently subsequent to the ratification of the treaty of Limerick. In this treaty his father and his younger brother, as we have already seen, were included, though his fatal absence from Ireland necessarily precluded him from participating in its benefits. These circumstances were known only to his immediate family, and the utmost secrecy was observed respecting them, as certain ruin was evidently involved in the disclosure. Their marked and efficient exertions for King James against the prevailing government, and their great possessions were no ordinary incentives to confiscation. On his death the manor of Tullaroan and his other estates, which, as he was ignorant of his father's death, he never even knew he had inherited, immediately

Duke Schomberg. “Tell your master I despise his offer; tell him that honour and conscience are dearer to a gentleman than all the wealth and titles a prince can bestow.” This card chanced to be the six of hearts, which is, to this day, in the city of Kilkenny, frequently termed “Grace's Card.” Thus, observes the author of the Statistical Account of Tullaroan, “the nine of diamonds is styled the curse of Scotland, from Duke William writing his sanguinary orders for military executions, after the battle of Culloden, on the back of that card.”

passed to his next brother, John Grace, then of Courtstown Castle. In his undisturbed possession they remained till the year 1701, when a bill of discovery was maliciously filed against him by the dowager viscountess Dillon, (the relict of his uncle, Sheffield Grace,) upon his refusing to comply with her demand of £500, which she had endeavoured to extort from him by threat of this base disclosure. He was necessarily obliged, by this most infamous act, to set forth his title before the court of claims, where the treacherous informer had previously discovered the concealed circumstance of Oliver's survivorship. His estates were soon pronounced to have been forfeited by his elder brother Oliver, the presumed proprietor of them *for nine days*, who was found (under the general act of attainder against King James's adherents) to have been indicted and outlawed in the county of Meath, for bearing arms under that prince, which outlawry, owing to his absence from Ireland on the surrender of Limerick, had never been reversed. Tullaroan and his other estates, thus forfeited, produced, at that time, an annual rent exceeding £9000, and had been in the possession of the Grace family 530 years."

The village of Tullaroan at present consists of a few cabins, and the neighbourhood entirely depends for interest with the traveller, on the ruins of antient buildings, and the tales of other times. To those who derive pleasure from traditionary story, Grace's country affords an almost exhaustless source of amusement. The various contests between the Graces, the Fitzpatricks, the Mac Moroughs, and other rival septs, in the days of *black rent*, and *coigne and livery*, before the power of the laws efficiently interfered in the adjustment of party quarrels, are still locally mentioned, as events of importance to the feelings of the existing generation. Many poems, in the Irish language, on these subjects, are preserved, several of which, after surviving nearly two centuries, solely by tradition, have been lately transcribed from their oral sources, and are, as we have the opportunity of knowing, in the possession of Sheffield Grace, Esq. whose library affords to them an elegant and appropriate place of deposit.

The *Castle of Courtstown*, so long the principal residence of

the Grace family, is seated, contrary to the choice of site for a modern fortified building, at the foot of a natural elevation. In front is spread a rich vale, bounded by a chain of undulating hills. Much of the surrounding tract was formerly covered with venerable timber, and a river rolls its lucid waters through the contiguous glen. Before the precincts were deprived of the ornament of wood,* the situation of this edifice must have been greatly distinguished for picturesque effect.

The exact date at which this castle was commenced is not known, but the building is supposed to have been founded nearly at the same time with Grace's castle, in Killeenny, which is said to have been erected by William le Gras, before the year 1210. Whilst the date of its foundation is thus open to conjecture, its former magnificence is unquestionable; and it is traditionally said to have been exceeded, in this part of the country, as to extent and splendour, only by the Earl of Ormonde's castle at Kilkenny. The ruins evinced much harsh grandeur, and exhibited the remains of accommodation for an establishment on a vast scale. The style of building was of the mixed and irregular kind, usual in the early part of the thirteenth century, blended with many traces of the ameliorated architecture of after ages. It is, indeed, ascertained that the fabric was altered and enlarged, so lately as the reign of Henry VIII. The following description of a building which dignified for so long a period this district, is equally minute and faithful.

“ The castle consisted of an outward ballium or envelope, having a round tower at each angle, and also at each side of an embattled entrance to the south, which was further defended by a portecullis. Within this area or outward court, comprehending about an acre of ground, stood the body of the castle, enclosing an inner court of an oblong form. The general figure of the building was polygonal. A massive quadrangular tower, or keep, projected from the centre of the south front, directly opposite to

* The timber in this neighbourhood was felled shortly after the attainer of the Grace family, at which time above 400 acres of wood were sentenced to the ravages of the axe.

the embattled entrance of the exterior area above-mentioned. The walls of this tower were of considerable thickness, and the rests and fire place within shewed it to have originally admitted five floors. From the sides of this great square tower, two wings extended, which terminated on the east and west with round towers. The east front consequently exhibited on its southern angle one of these round towers, and further northwards stood a similar tower, flanking a portal which led into the inner court, formerly furnished with a portcullis. Between this last flanking round tower and a square tower at the northern angle, was a spacious room or hall, of an oblong shape, occupying the entire space. The north front consisted of a high embattled wall, connecting two square towers, and enclosing the inner area on that side. The western front externally corresponded with the eastern. There is said to have been a communication round the buildings of the inner court by a gallery, and, in the centre of it, the traces of a draw-well are still visible, as are also the vestiges beyond the outside walls of the bowling-green, cock-pit, fish ponds, &c. Some mounds of earth to the south of the castle, called "*bow-butts*," are likewise visible, and are reported by tradition to have been the place where the followers were exercised in the practice of archery."*

We have already observed that the castle of Courtstown continued to form a residence of the Grace family, until the year 1701. It would appear that the purchasers of the estate, after the lamentable forfeiture which then occurred, were doubtful as to the durability of their tenure; and, under the influence of such fears they promptly stripped the castle of its leaded roof, and disposed of every part that was readily convertible into money. The progress of decay has since been rapid, and the last remains of the structure are now almost daily appropriated to the erection of walls, the repair of roads, or the manufacture of lime. Two specimens of antient breast armour, or cuirasses of iron, one of them inlaid with gold, or some other yellow metal, are stated to have been

* Statistical Account, &c. p. p. 530-1.

found here, some years ago. Other pieces of body armour, an axe with a double edge, together with human bones, have been also discovered at different times.

At the distance of about half a mile to the east of Courtstown Castle, are the ruins of *Tullaroan Church* and *Grace's Chapel*, both founded by the Grace family, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. The church was of small dimensions, and is probably of as early a date as the twelfth century. This building displays little architectural beauty, and no peculiarity. Some semi-circular arches occur, but the prevailing arch is of the narrow and pointed form. In the wall of the choir are worked two seats, evidently of later construction than the principal parts of the building; and in the south wall is a niche, terminating in a pointed arch, and having at the bottom a concavity for the reception of holy water. Grace's Chapel forms the southern wing of the church. This chapel is twenty-seven feet in length, by seventeen feet in width. The windows are of the narrow pointed form, and the chief architectural attraction of the building consists in a richly-ornamented entrance, through a pointed arch on the west side, bearing the following inscription, in *alto relievo* gothic characters.

“Orate pro anima baronis Gras Johannis filii olim qui me fieri fecit.”

“Et pro anima Onorinæ Brenach uxoris ejus año dñi MCCCCXLIII.”

We have observed, in our account of Kilkenny, that the burial-place of the Grace family was, for many ages, in the cathedral of that city. Few monumental inscriptions are, consequently, found in this chapel.

To the south of the church are some unimportant remains of a friary, believed to have been founded by the Grace family, as a cell to the priory of Rosibercon, in the barony of Ibercon.

At the distance of about one quarter of a mile from the church, towards the north, at the cross road in the village of Tullaroan, are two crosses, erected by the family of Grace. On the centre of one is a sculpture, in *alto relievo*, of our Saviour; and on the other a figure of the Virgin, or of a female saint, in long flowing drapery.

On the side of the road near Bonnestown is a third cross, said to have been erected in commemoration of the melancholy fate of a young man of the family of Courtstown, who had been only two days married when he was killed, on this spot, by a fall from his horse. The date of erection is 1619; the most recent date for the erection of such a structure with which we are acquainted in this country.

There are, throughout the whole of this district, many of the earthen elevations termed raths; and, also, several of the curious remains locally called Druid's chairs; with other vestiges of very remote antiquity. We notice, on this head, some descriptive particulars contained in the "Parochial Survey." The most perfect of the raths is situated on the townland of Courtstown, and is "surrounded by a very deep foss, inclosing nearly half an acre of ground, having other intrenchments on the outside, comprehending about six acres, to which the smaller central inclosure appears to have been designed as a kind of citadel. On the same townland, and within a quarter of a mile of this large rath, there are two others of about fifty yards in diameter, with barrows, or mounds, in the middle, and a step, or swell, in the ground along the side banks, apparently designed as a seat; and the whole is enclosed with fosses."

The rath of largest dimensions in this neighbourhood is situated on the townland of Rathley-Grace, towards the northern boundary of the parish, in the midst of fine undulating pasture hills. "The inner fosse includes nearly two acres of ground; and in the adjoining fields the exterior rampart, marked by very large banks and dykes, evidently for defence, is still strikingly discernible."

At the distance of about 150 yards from the old church of Tullaroan is "*a caught*, or meeting place for funerals, distinguished by two bushes on a heap of earth, and by another of stones aggregated by the prevalent superstitious customs of the times." The funeral processions of the peasantry still make a stop at this place, and a prayer for the deceased is repeated by the mourners.

GOWRAN, nominally a corporate town, but in reality a small

and mean village, is situated in the eastern part of the county, at the distance of fifty-two miles from Dublin. Lord John Butler, seventh son of James, first Duke of Ormonde, was created, in the year 1676, Earl of Gowran. The title of Baron of Gowran was afterwards borne by the family of Fitz Patrick, Earl of Upper Ossory. This place, although now reduced to a state of humility, was of some importance in the middle ages of the English domination over Ireland. A castle of great strength was here built, in the fourteenth century, by James, third Earl of Ormonde, who made Gowran his principal residence, until he concluded the purchase of the castle of Kilkenny, in the year 1391. Teig O'Carroll, Dynast of Ely, (afterwards slain when opposing the royal forces under the command of the L. Deputy Scroope) was confined in this fortress, A. D. 1399; from which hold he escaped in the following year. According to Archdall and other authorities, Gowran Castle was rebuilt by Margaret, Lady Ormonde, usually termed the *great Countess of Ormonde*, who died shortly after the year 1539. The royalist Colonel Hammond bravely defended this castle in 1650, against Oliver Cromwell, Sankey, and Hewson; but the assailants at length prevailing, the gallant Hammond, and most of his officers, were massacred by the conquerors, who also destroyed the castle by fire.

The ruined *Church* of Gowran demands the careful notice of the visiter. This building was in the pointed style, with a square steeple rising from the centre. The chancel is still used as the parochial church of Gowran, and is entered through a fine pointed arch of black marble. The ruins comprise arches, supported by round and octagonal pillars; some beautiful quatrefoil and pointed windows; and several interior chapels. The door-ways and baptismal font are curiously wrought in marble.*

* It is not noticed by Mr. Archdall that any monastic establishment existed at Gowran, but the Chevalier de Montmorency, in the MSS. by which our work is aided, suggests some powerful reasons for believing that such was the fact. The Chevalier observes (and the remark, we believe, is new to Irish topography) that none of the antient parochial churches of Ireland were built with central steeples and side aisles; such

The sepulchral monuments are numerous. Amongst the most interesting may be noticed three antient monuments, surmounted by figures in armour, in alto relievo; which figures the country-people denominate *the Earl of Gowran and his two sons*. In regard to this popular tradition we can offer no further intelligence than that contained in the MSS. of the Chevalier de Montmorency. James, third Earl of Ormonde, whose erection of the castle at this place we have already noticed, was commonly called "Earl of Gowran." He died on the 7th of Sept. 1405, and was here interred. His two sons were certainly not buried at Gowran; but, in previous ages, we find two noblemen interred at this place; namely: Edmund Butler, Earl of Carrick, who died in 1321; and James, his eldest son, first Earl of Ormonde, who died, in the flower of his youth, A. D. 1337.—Amongst the monumental erections of a recent date, is conspicuous a bust of *James Agar, Viscount Clifden*, who died 1st of January, 1789, aged 54.

The principal mansion in this neighbourhood is GOWRAN HOUSE, the seat of Viscount Clifden. This elegant and commodious residence is of modern date, a former edifice having been taken down by the present noble proprietor. Mr. Robinson of Kilkenny was the architect employed; and, as regards good workmanship and judicious arrangement, few houses surpass that of Gowran. The demesne and deer park belonging to this mansion are of great extent, and richly ornamented with full grown wood and numerous plantations of young trees. As a landed proprietor, in this part of Ireland, Lord Clifden ranks next to the Earl of Ormonde. His lordship is Baron Mendip, in the peerage of England, where he possesses considerable estates, by inheritance from his uncle, the late Lord Mendip.

an elaborate and costly mode of construction being exclusively appropriated to cathedral and abbatial edifices. Such, however, is the mode of arrangement visible in the church of Gowran. A further argument, as is stated by the Chevalier, may be drawn from the interment within these walls of several noble persons, since it is well known that very rarely, previous to the reformation, were the remains of the nobility, or principal gentry, buried in any other than cathedrals, or the churches of monasteries.

THOMASTOWN, situated in the southern part of the county, at the distance of fifty-nine miles from Dublin, is well circumstanced for commercial interchanges, and enjoys a considerable and increasing trade. This town is justly described, in the Statistical Survey by Mr. Tighe, as a "kind of depot for Kilkenny, since the navigation ends here, and cars can come from Kilkenny and return in the day." The name is derived from *Thomas Fitz-Anthony* Walsh, seneschal of Leinster, an Anglo-Norman, by whom the town was founded. This place is also sometimes termed, in Irish, *Baly-mac-andon*, (*Anthony's Town*), in attention to the patronymic of its founder. The river Nore is here crossed by a light and handsome stone bridge of five arches, completed, by means of a county subscription, in 1792, B. Brophy, architect. At each end of the bridge stands an antient square tower, formerly connected with the line of fortification by which the town was surrounded. It is evident that the principal houses, in past times, partook of the castellated character, even down to ages not far distant. The most antient domestic building, in fair preservation, has door and window cases of stone, square and canopied. Over the door is inscribed, "Owen Fennell, and Ellan Tobin, A.D. 1646."

We are informed by Mr. Archdall, that, according "to tradition," there was a Dominican convent at this place, concerning which foundation the reverend author of the *Monasticon* "could not find any authentic account." This page of the *Monasticon* (as is observed in the MSS. of the Chevalier de Montmorency) is of a very surprising character, since Mr. Archdall must have had before him the authority of Dr. Burke, Bishop of Ossory, (*Hiber. Dominicana*, p. 337,) exhibiting the fact of such an institution at Thomastown. But, if lettered information were not sufficient, a visit to the place in question could not have failed to remove the scepticism of this author. The ruins of the abbey comprise five beautiful pointed arches, forming one side aisle, together with several windows. The chancel constitutes the present church, and is far from being an inelegant specimen of the pointed style of design. The pillars are quadruple, each capital varying from the

other in its ornamental particulars; the door is of a correspondent lightness with the arches, and more than usually lofty. The west window is of the narrow style that prevailed in the time of Henry III. Beneath the building is a crypt, or subterranean chapel. There are many sepulchral monuments among the remains of the abbey, including the part now used as a parochial church. Several of these are of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but such as bear any pretensions to antiquity are so shamefully mutilated, that they could not be described without great difficulty and labour. The most curious monumental relic consists of the figure of a man, represented in gigantic proportions. This figure was dug from the ruins of the Abbey-church, and is believed to have formed part of an antient tomb belonging to the family of Denne, of Grenane, in the vicinity of Thomastown. Several of the monumental stones appear to have commemorated priors, or superiors of the convent.

Here is a handsome Roman Catholic Chapel, built about fifteen years since; and the examiner will find, with considerable interest, that the great marble altar in this Chapel was removed to its present situation from the fine and venerable ruins of Jerpoint Abbey.

George Berkeley, D. D. the learned and very eminent Bishop of Cloyne, was the son of William Berkeley, of Thomastown. This celebrated prelate was born on the 12th of March, 1684, at *Kilcrin*, say his biographers, but we believe at *Kilkerril*, near the native town of his father.

In the vicinity of the above town, on the opposite side of the river, is *Grenane Castle*, formerly the residence of the Anglo-Norman family of Denne, or De Den, now represented by Patrick Denne, Esq. of this county. Previous to the Union, Thomastown returned two members to parliament, nominated by Viscount Clifden; but the Grace family, of Ballylinch Castle, in this neighbourhood, who possessed most of the adjoining lands, were for a long period proprietors of this borough.

JERPOINT ABBEY, situated on the river Nore, is distant from Thomastown nearly two miles. To this spot we conduct the reader with mingled emotions, secure of his sympathy in each

variety of feeling. The extent and beauty of the ruins command the admiration, equally of the architectural antiquary and the lover of the picturesque. The pleasing melancholy with which we approach the former retreat of piety and depositary of illustrious ashes, is, however, speedily succeeded by a vivid sentiment of disgust, on beholding the sordid, or wanton, havoc inflicted, in modern times, on a ruin so august, and so well-entitled to lasting reverence.*

The abbey of Jerpoint was founded, according to Archdall, by Donough, King of Ossory, in the year 1180, for Cistercian monks, whom he removed hither from a distant part of his territory. The establishment was liberally endowed by the founder and other distinguished persons; and, after the arrival of the English, the monks were confirmed in their possessions, by John "Lord of Ireland," afterwards King John. The abbot had a seat in parliament. The last person that exercised this ecclesiastical dignity was Oliver Grace Fitz-Oliver, a younger brother of Baron John Grace, of Courtstown, who surrendered the abbey in the thirty-first of King Henry VIII. (1539).

The ruins of Jerpoint Abbey occupy three acres of ground; and still, although sinking quickly to dissolution, through injuries inflicted by the hands of the spoliator rather than from the operations of time, present attractive indications of the former magnificence of the structure. In these remains we, indeed, perceive one of the finest examples, in Ireland, of the mixed Anglo-Norman and early English styles of architecture. The effect of the whole, as a combined object, is imperative over the feelings; and many parts

* A very pleasing poem was printed in the year 1820, for private circulation, under the title of "Lines written at Jerpoint Abbey," addressed to Sheffield Grace, Esq. We have the opportunity of stating that these "Lines" proceeded from the pen of S. C. Hall, Esq. a younger son of the gallant Col. Hall. Many of the verses evince great warmth of poetical feeling; and, in addition to the value of the metrical part of this production, which also bespeaks an intimate knowledge of the country, the notes convey so much genealogical anecdote respecting the distinguished house of Grace (intimately connected with this county, in past ages of baronial splendour) that we regret the modesty of the author should prevent the regular publication of his work.

are entitled to the attentive examination of the antiquary, as regards architectural detail. Those less antient divisions of the building which are strictly in the pointed mode of design, are, probably, contemporary with the abbeyes of Dunbrody and Tintern; but the execution is greatly superior, and the general design partakes more of lightness and elegance than is seen in either of those buildings. With such claims on the regard of posterity, even viewing the fabric merely as a work of art, this deserted pile should have experienced protection from the hands of those at whose mercy it was placed. But we lament to say that all classes have concurred in accelerating its downfall, with the aggravation of the most contumelious disrespect. Not only have many parts of the abbey, replete with architectural ornament, been removed for sordid uses, but even the sepulchral monuments have, in some instances, yielded to the vile inroads of the spoliator. Swine, confederate with these ruffian contemners of funeral memorials raised by piety and regret, have free warren in the once-sacred aisles, and complete the degradation of a scene disgusting to the examiner, and disgraceful to those by whom it is sanctioned.

It is with pain we observe that, on a spot so desolate and greatly abused, there are to be seen numerous monuments, erected to persons highly distinguished in their respective ages. Most of these are in a dilapidated state, but several demand the patient notice of the antiquarian visiter, among which the following should not experience neglect.

Opposite to the grand altar of the south cross-aisle stand the remains of a tomb, upon which repose a male and a female figure, habited in the costume of the twelfth or thirteenth century. This monument is said to have been erected for Donough, King of Ossory, founder of the abbey, who died, and was here interred, in the year 1185. The male figure holds in the right hand, which reposes on his breast, the fragment of a crucifix. The left hand is directed towards a small harp, that hangs from his left side. The base of the monument is cut into compartments, in which are seen various images of the apostles. Two crowned figures appear at the foot of the monument, standing beside a kneeling angel,

whose hands are uplifted, in the act of fervent prayer. Most of the figures wear long beards, and appear to be singing or laughing.

On a tomb of black marble lies the full-length statue of an abbot, in his proper habit. In the left hand he holds a crosier, the volute of which contains an Agnus Dei, well sculptured. The right arm is uplifted, and the two first fingers and thumb are raised, as if in the act of swearing an oath of fidelity, or of some very serious kind, in the manner that is to this day practised on parts of the continent. A serpent, or monster, gnaws at the lower end of the crosier. The head of the statue reposes upon a pillow of much elegance. The inscription is illegible.

A second antient monument of a religious person sustains a statue, executed with conspicuous talent and delicacy. The crosier is of excellent workmanship, and in the right hand is a sprig of trefoil, emblematic of the Trinity. The table, or altar-slab, on which this figure reclines, is covered with trefoils and roses.

Several other disfigured monuments of ecclesiastics may be discovered amidst the rubbish with which the abbey-church is now defiled.

Among the few inscriptions still legible may be noticed the epitaphs in Latin, of *the Lord James Butler, chief of his sept*, and *Isabella Blanchville*, his wife. Date of decease 1490. Of *Oliver Grace, Knight, Lord of Leagan and Carney*, descended from the Graces of Courtstown. The date wanting.—Of *Walter Brenach*,* *Captain of his sept, and Katherine Butler, his wife*.

* This person was chief of the sept of *Walsh*, styled of *the Mountains*, in this county; which family, like many other Anglo-Normans, adopted an Irish surname and title, and was known, through many ages, by the name of ‘*Brenach*,’ which in Irish signifies a Welchman. It is, however, conjectured by some persons, that the word originated in the circumstance of this antient family having come from the county of Brecknock, in Wales, on the invasion of Ireland; and we learn from Giraldus Cambrensis that David Walsh was nephew to the celebrated Raymond le Gros, the brother-in-law of Earl Strongbow, and his successor as viceroy of the kingdom. At an early period the Walsh family were the proprietors of a considerable portion of the county of Waterford, as well as of the county of Kilkenny; and their possessions in both counties were chiefly in districts which, bor-

The date wanting. Of *Robert Walsh*, and *Katharine Power*, his wife. Date of decease 1501.—Of *Edmund Walsh and Johanna le Butteller* his wife. Date of decease 1496.—On a square stone bearing an escutcheon charged with a saltire, engrailed on an ermine field, is an inscription, in Latin, to “*Mary*, of the noble race of *Geraldine*, who died on the 2d of December, 1605.” She was the daughter of *Sir Gerald Fitz Gerald*, Lord of Decies, wife of *Sir Oliver Grace* of Legan and Ballylinch.—Of *Gerald Grace*, of Ballylinch, date 1618; and of *Margaret Hartpole*, his wife; date 1619.

On the dissolution of religious houses, the abbey of Jerpoint, with all its dependancies, was granted to *Thomas*, tenth Earl of Ormonde, and his heirs male, *in capite*, at the annual rent of £49: 3: 9. sterling. The manor of Jerpoint is at present subdivided into four portions, or parts, namely; *Church, or Town Jerpoint*, the estate of the Hunt family; *Abbey Jerpoint*, which, after passing through the families of Marsh and Hobson, is now the property of the family of Greene; *Waste Jerpoint*, now possessed by Mr. Marshe of Stradbally; and *Hill Jerpoint*, which was inherited by the Marquess of Lansdowne from *Sir William Petty*, but was lately sold by that nobleman to Mr. Franks, of Dublin.

Near the above ruins is a mansion, formerly occupied by the late *Edward Hunt*, Esq. M. P.

In the vicinity of Thomastown is MOUNT-JULIET, the seat of the Earl of Carriick, finely situated on the banks of the river

dering on the city of Waterford, stretched far towards the south into the county of that name, and at least equally far towards the north into the county of Kilkenny. In this latter county their noble estates formerly extended, in one direction, from the Suir, near Waterford, to the banks of the Nore; and, in another direction, from the river of Ross nearly to the banks of the Lingane; a princely tract of country, comprehending a great number of square miles, fine castles, and extensive woods. For above four centuries this family held the third rank in the county of Kilkenny, being inferior in power and possessions only to the families of Butler and Grace. They enjoyed the palatinate title of *Baron Shanacaher*: and Walsh's Country contained twenty-six castles, besides Castle Hoel, their principal residence.

Nore. We have already presented some descriptive remarks, concerning the peculiar beauties exhibited by the Nore in this part of its devious course. That lovely river passes entirely through the demesne of Lord Carrick, scarcely imparting more charms than it receives from so highly cultivated a territory. The mansion, which is spacious and of a very respectable character, is placed on rising ground, adorned in every direction with venerable wood or thriving plantations. The whole demesne is rich in various beauties, amongst which, perhaps, stand pre-eminent the banks of the river on the side opposite to the mansion. These swell into lofty but soft ranges of hills, improved and decorated by very extensive and flourishing plantations. Here the extensive remains of *Ballylinch-Castle*, contiguous to the river, and partially enveloped in ivy and venerable trees, present themselves to view. This spacious structure constituted the residence of the Viscounts Ikerrin, until Somerset-Hamilton, the eighth Viscount and first Earl of Carrick, erected the mansion of Mount Juliet on the opposite banks, and gave it the appellation it now bears, in compliment to his wife *Juliana*, daughter of Henry Boyle, first Earl of Shannon. Ballylinch (or, more properly, *Bally-Inch*, the peninsulated townland or habitation) was, for a long period, the property of a very distinguished branch of the Grace family, thence denominated, till the opposition of Gerald Grace to the Commonwealth incurred the penalty of forfeiture. It appears that Gerald Grace of Ballylinch, and also of Carney Castle in the county of Tipperary, commanded a corps in the army of his maternal uncle, Richard Butler, third Viscount Mountgarrett, at the battle of Kilrush, where he was slain on the 15th of April, 1642.*

We are informed, by an original MS. that “ *Ballylinch* ; Legan ; Raduth ; Killearney ; Fussamacuda ; Grace’s Court ; Thomastowne,

* The consequences resulting from the death of Gerald Grace, in the battle of Kilrush, are thus feelingly alluded to in stanza xvi. of the lines written at Jerpoint Abbey, already noticed :

“ But when the battle, vainly fought, was o’er,
And the bright sun had drunk the hero’s blood ;
When his heart beat with youthful hope no more,
It’s life stream mingled with the passing flood ;

and some other lands in this neighbourhood, were, at the same tyme, given to the Captaines Rogers and Joyner—Sir John Barlowy had some interest in the said lands from Captaine Joyner, but reconveyed the same to Joyner, who was cook to King Charless, tho' not his friend ; wherefore, to secure the said estate, hee conveyed it to his brother in-law Col. Daniel Redmond, who gave Ballylinch and Legan to his daughter, the ladie Ikeryn, and the remainder to his other daughter, married to Sir John Meade—Captain Rogers gave Killearney and Raduth, on a marriage of Rogers his daughter to one Meyhill." James Butler, the third Viscount Ikerrin, having thus acquired, in marriage with Eleanor Redman, or Redmond, this and several other considerable estates, removed from his paternal residence, in the county of Tipperary, to Ballylinch Castle, which his posterity continued to occupy, until the erection of *Mount Juliet* by the first Earl of Carrick.

In the neighbourhood of Thomastown, towards the south west, is *Flood Hall*, the handsome scat of John Flood, Esq.

The village of *INNISTIOGE*, or *ENNISTIOGE*, which before the Union was a borough town, sending two representatives to parliament, and was formerly protected with walls, is finely situated on the western borders of the river Nore. This village, or town, is chiefly composed of one square of comfortable slated houses, with rows of lime trees neatly planted before the doors. In the centre of the square are the base, and a part of the shaft, of a

The democratic despot seized the land
Of him who, fighting for his country, fell :—
'Tis melancholy that the spoiler's hand
Can touch the temple where the free should dwell !
Then Leix, thy plains received the injured race,
Denied the shelter of their castle walls ;
And Gracefield, thy sweet spot, their resting place ;—
They grieve no longer for their ancient halls.
Here tranquil Arles, on thy wood-crowned hill,
Beneath whose base thy waters, Barrow ! spread,
The hallowed mausoleum stands, and still
Inurns the honour'd ashes of the dead."

Lines written at Jerpoint Abbey, &c.

lofty stone cross. On the former may still be seen this inscription, in raised letters, together with the arms of Fitzgerald, impaled with Morres, and sculptured emblems of the crucifixion :

“ Orate pro anim Rich

David. Geraldin. dictū.

Baron. de Brownsford,

Obiit 14 April. 1621. Et

Joannæ Morres, ejus

Uxoris ... obiit.....

Per redempt. .. Christ...*

The river Nore is here crossed by a handsome stone bridge of ten arches, built after the designs of Mr. G. Smith, and ornamented, on the southern side, with Ionic pilasters. Near the bridge is an antient tower or castle.

An abbey appears to have been founded at Innistioge, so early as the year 800. About the year 1210, a monastery was,

* David, Baron of Brownsford, mentioned in the above inscription, was lord of the manors of Innistioge and Brownsford (now called Woodstock), and was of a very powerful family, which derives its descent, as do the titular barons of Bournchurch, from a younger son of the knights of Kerry. His lady, abovenamed, who erected this cross to her husband's memory, was the daughter of John, styled Sir John Morres, of Balyrickard-Morres, Lateragh, &c. in the county of Tipperary, and of Onora his wife, one of the daughters of the renowned chieftain of Leix, Rory-oge O'More. Sir John Morres, by the French historians styled Baron and Marquis de Morres, was the son of Oliver-oge, lord of Lateragh; but having been implicated in the rebellion of the Earl of Desmond, he retired to France, about the year 1607; in which country, through the powerful influence of the constable Henry de Montmorency, who received him for his kinsman, Sir John obtained the rank of a mareschal-de-camp, in which capacity he accompanied the young Duke de Montmorency in the war against the Protestants of Languedoc; when this valiant knight, who before had distinguished himself in Ireland, was mortally wounded, in a sortie of the garrison of the castle of Vals, in Vivarais, and expired in the arms (as the historian Grammond, an eye witness, emphatically says) “ of his dear friend, the Duke of Montmorency.” Of this gallant soldier, whose heart was conveyed to Ireland, and buried in the family place of sepulture, the church of Lateragh, the Chevalier Hervey De Montmorency, and his sons, are sole representatives.

likewise, founded here by Thomas Fitz Anthony, then seneschal of Leinster, for Augustinian canons, which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. Columb, the especial patrons of the parish. Milo Baron, otherwise Fitzgerald, was the last prior, and surrendered the possessions of the community over which he presided, in the thirty-first of King Henry VIII. He was the son of — Fitzgerald, palatine baron of Burntchurch (properly *Bournchurch*), the younger branches of which house usually adopted the term of *Baron* for their surname, instead of Fitzgerald. This prior is recorded to have built a new steeple to his monastery, and an adjoining cloister. In the year 1527, he was made bishop of Ossory, but still, by papal dispensation, continued to hold the priory. He died in 1550, or 1551, as some assert of grief, “which,” says Ware, without further explanation, “often proves fatal to old age!” The ruins of this monastic house evince the buildings not to have been spacious or magnificent. The windows are of the lancet form. Two steeples remain, one of which is octangular, and the other square, resembling the tower noticed at Dumbrody. A broken and disfigured tomb is shewn as that of Bishop Milo, who was buried within these walls, amongst his ancestors.

Innistioige was besieged, and taken, for Cromwell's party, by Colonel Abbot, in 1649.

The vicinity of this village is greatly adorned by Woodstock, the fine demesne of — Tighe, Esq. which extends from the hill of Carigneill, near Ross, to the borders of Innistioige; presenting, for several miles, a display of scenery scarcely to be excelled in beauty and grandeur. The river Nore here glides through its ample channel, with the serenity of an artificial lake, having on one side rugged rocks, and noble masses of wood, which sweep the edge of the water and rise to the summit of lofty hills. On the other border of the waters are cultivated fields, and flourishing plantations of trees and shrubs, to a great extent. Every building, or trace of human art, visible from these beautiful grounds, conduces to magnificence or interest of prospect. At different points are seen the noble mansion of the Tighe

family ; the ruins of Brownsford castle, formerly the residence of Baron, *alias* Fitz-Gerald, of Brownsford, the antient proprietor of the demesne ; and the remains of Castle Cluin, or Clunagh castle, placed on an artificial mount, and overhanging the river. In the same views are comprehended the well-stocked deer-park ; numerous banquetting rooms and cottages, chiefly designed for the accommodation of strangers ; and the ruins of the abbey, with the handsome bridge and neat little town of Innistioge. These objects, combining with the natural grandeur of the scenery, present such an enchanting series of prospects as is not to be found within the same limits in many parts of the British dominions.

The mansion of Woodstock was built after the designs of David Bindon, by the late Sir William Fownes, maternal grandfather of the late William Tighe, Esq., father of the present proprietor of this estate. To the late Mr. Tighe his country is indebted for the excellent statistical survey of this county. Under the article of Rossana, in the county of Wicklow, we have mentioned the poetical talent, and the shining virtues and accomplishments, of Mrs. Mary Tighe, sister-in-law of that gentleman. Mrs. Tighe breathed her last at this mansion ; and a mausoleum, of Italian statuary marble, executed by Flaxman, has been erected to her memory. It represents “ the fine form of the deceased, reclined on a couch, in the tranquil sleep of death, whilst attending angels are waiting her resurrection.”

Amongst the numerous attractive spots in this neighbourhood must be noticed *Poulaculla*, part of the estate of the late Lord Callan, and now belonging to Viscount Clifden. This is a romantic glen, about three miles to the south-east of Woodstock, and is approached by a narrow creek, proceeding from the Nore, at the extremity of which a cascade, of great beauty, rolls in mournful tones over the rugged fragments of rock, and descends a craggy precipice about fifty feet in height. From the fissures of numberless cliffs, which hang over the boatman's head as he plies the oar below, shoot forth venerable trees, ameliorating and diversifying the character of this pensive glen.

The excursion by water from Innistioge to Waterford harbour

is delightful in every part, although the scenery on the banks of the Nore and Barrow, between Innistioge and Ross, comprising the demesne of Woodstock, is assuredly the most transcendent in charms.* Some few objects in the tract bordering on the line of this aquatic excursion, may not be deemed unworthy of topographical notice.

The RHOR, ROWER, or ROCHAR, is a tongue of land about two miles from Ross, at the conflux of the Nore and the Barrow.

* The Chevalier de Montmorency, to whose MS. communications we are indebted for many particulars in our account of this neighbourhood, observes that he visited the Lakes of Killarney, and the banks of the Nore and Barrow, between Ross and Innistioge, in the same month; and, although deeply impressed with the majesty and varied beauties of Killarney, was nearly unable to decide as to which tract of scenery deserved the preference! The country on the banks of the river between Innistioge and Thomastown, further upwards, is also abundant in attractions; and, as our work is not designed on the scale of a mere tour conveying individual opinions, but is intended, where practicable, to disseminate prevailing impressions and sentiments, we present the remarks made by Mr. Young (*Tour, &c.* vol. i. pp. 100,—101), on the scenery of this neighbourhood. “From Thomastown to Woodstock is the finest ride I have yet had in Ireland. The road leaving Thomastown leads on the east side of the river, through some beautiful copse woods, which before they were cut must have had a most noble effect, with the river Nore winding at the bottom. The country then opens somewhat, and you pass most of the way, for six or seven miles to Innisteague, on a declivity shelving down to the river, which takes a varied winding course, sometimes lively, breaking over a rocky bottom, at others still and deep, under the gloom of some fine woods, which hang down the sides of steep hills. Narrow slips of meadow, of a beautiful verdure, in some places form the shore, and unite with cultivated fields that spread over the adjoining hills, reaching almost the mountain tops: these are large and bold, and give in general to the scene features of great magnificence. Coming in sight of Sir W. Fownes’s (Woodstock), the scenery is striking; the road mounts the side of the hill, and commands the river at the bottom of the declivity, with groups of trees prettily scattered about, and the little borough of Innisteague in a most picturesque situation, the whole bounded by mountains.” In continuation, Mr. Young proceeds to notice many eligible points of prospect in the demesne of Woodstock, concerning which we have already presented some brief remarks.

Here is an antient residence of the family of *Bolger*, styled of the *Rhor*; and also, *Ringwood*, the fine seat of the late Lord Callan, which, with the rest of that nobleman's large property, has devolved on his nephew and heir, Viscount Clifden. On the estate of Mr. Bolger is *Balynabearagh*, a romantic spot, thickly planted with oak trees down to the margin of the water. The name would appear to signify the *seat of judgment* (*Baly*, a town or seat; and *bearacht*, judgment), and is an appellation derived, unquestionably, from the practices of very remote antiquity. In the neighbourhood are several cromlechs, all of which have been partially prostrated, and otherwise injured.

The ruins of the monastery of *ROSSIBERCON*, seated on the borders of the river Barrow, form a melancholy, but attractive, ornament to this part of the country. The monastery of *Rossibercon* was founded by the families of Grace and Walsh, in the year 1267. The ruins are extensive and picturesque, comprising the lofty tower of the church, sustained on four pointed arches, and the south wall of an aisle, containing five arches and ten windows. The contiguous scenery is extremely pleasing. The river Barrow is here of a noble width, and its bosom is often animated by ships of considerable burthen, and numerous fishing boats. The town of *Ross*, placed on the side of a precipitous hill, rises finely in the back ground. This religious house was dissolved in the thirty-first of Henry VIII.

AYLWARDSTOWN, the estate of the Earl of Bessborough, and at present the seat of the family of *Strange*, was formerly the property of the *Aylwards*, from whom it derives its name.*

At *Ballinlaw-Ferry* is a small village, near the confluence of

* The family of *Aylward* is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and down to the period of the conquest (1066,) had been of great note, especially in Somersetshire. The branch settled in Ireland is now represented by *Nicholas Aylward*, Esq. of *Shankill*, in this county. Several of this family were mayors and sheriffs of *Waterford*, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. *Faithleg*, and other great estates, possessed by the *Aylwards* in the county of *Waterford*, were forfeited during the usurpation of *Cromwell*. Mr. *Aylward*, abovementioned, is lineal heir to the last proprietor of *Faithleg*.

the Suir and Barrow. Here is a square tower, or castle, in habitable condition, built at an early period by the Fforstall family. It afterwards passed by marriage into the above-mentioned family of Aylward. The surrounding scenery is extremely fine; and close to this place we find RINGVILLE, the seat of the dowager Lady Esmond, widow of the late Sir Thomas Esmond, Bart. and niece and heir of the late Nicholas Devereux, Esq. who here met a melancholy fate from the hands of a gang of robbers, whom he resisted when in the act of plundering his house. The mansion, a plain but capacious structure, having an extensive lawn in front, gently sloping to the Barrow side, with ornamental walks and plantations, was built by the late Edmond Fforstall, Esq. who granted a lease, in perpetuity, of this part of his estate to Mr. Devereux, whose unfortunate end, at the favourite residence which he had greatly improved, we have just noticed. One mile north of Ringville is ROCHESTOWN, the seat of Pierce Fforstall, Esq. chief of that name.

GRANDISON (sometimes termed *Granny*) CASTLE, situated on the banks of the river Suir, at a short distance from the city of Waterford, is a fine and picturesque ruin, covering a considerable plot of ground. The design involves extensive ranges of fortified outline; two courts; a large square tower or keep; and various dependant buildings, within the fortified walls, adapted to baronial splendour and hospitality. On the margin of the river are still remaining three circular towers, which attest the formidable character of this noble pile, when in its original state, and garrisoned as a fortress. The traces of many apartments are visible in the keep, connected with which part of the structure are the remains of the great hall. Placed on the arch of a window in this hall, is a grotesque, holding a shield charged with the arms of Butler; and opposite is seen a figure of Justice.

History is silent concerning the date at which Grandison Castle was erected; but the tradition of the neighbourhood ascribes its origin to Pierce Butler, eighth Earl of Ormonde, Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1521. "In the hall of this castle," (observes Mr. Tighe), "according to tradition, there was held a court, under

under the direction of Margaret, *the great Countess of Ormonde*,* for the trial of rebels ; and the window is shewn whence they were supposed to have been hung. The respect, or fear, inspired by this great woman still remains among the common people, by whom she is called *Maughreed ny ghirord*, or Margaret Fitzgerald ; and they frighten children by her name."

In the civil wars of the seventeenth century, this castle, as we are told by Dr. Ledwich, " was strongly garrisoned for the king, and commanded by Captain Butler. Colonel Axtel, the famous regicide, who was governor of Kilkenny, dispatched a party to reduce it, but they returned without accomplishing their orders ; upon which Axtel himself marched out, with two cannon, and summoned the castle to surrender on pain of military execution. Without any hope of relief it is no wonder they submitted, and were conducted to the nearest Irish quarters." Since that period the castle has remained unoccupied, progressively sinking, through the effects of spoliation and time, towards the state of dilapidation and decay in which it is now seen.

For the substance of the following account of a rude stone monument, exhibiting some peculiarities of arrangement, we are indebted to Mr. Tighe's Statistical Survey of this county.—On the

* Margaret, second daughter of Gerald, eighth earl of Kildare, and wife of Pierce, eighth earl of Ormonde, to which nobleman she was married in 1485. Her ladyship was one of the most distinguished characters of the age in which she flourished, and seemed formed to advance family dignity in periods of baronial contention. By Carte she is described as " a person of great wisdom, and courage uncommon in her sex." Stanishurst thus notices the countess and her noble husband : " The earl was of himself a plain and simple gentleman, saving in feats of arms ; and yet, nevertheless, he bare out his honour and charge of his government very worthily, through the singular wisdom of his countess ; a lady of such port that all estates of the realm couched unto her. So politic that nothing was thought substantially debated without her advice. She was manlike, and tall of stature ; very liberal and bountiful ; a secure friend ; a bitter enemy ; hardly disliking where she fancied ; not easily fancying where she disliked." A detailed account of the principal events in the life of this formidable and eminent lady, if impartially written, would constitute a valuable, as well as curious, addition to Irish biography.

summit of Tory hill, called in Irish *Sleigh grian*, or the *hill of the sun*, is a circular space, covered with stones. The larger stones have been taken out, and rolled down the hill for the use of the country people ; but there is still one large stone near the centre, and there is an appearance of smaller stones having stood in a circle, at a little distance from the heap, which is above sixty-five yards in circumference. On the east side is a large stone, raised on three rude supporters, of unequal bulk, with this inscription facing the west, and also facing the centre of the heap :

BELI CIUO39

The letters are deeply cut, on a hard block of siliceous breccia, and are two inches in height. In Roman letters the inscription would stand thus :

BELI DIUOSE

Concerning this inscription Mr. Tighe remarks that the first letter is one of the most simple forms of the Pelasgic B. The others are well known. "That the Divinity," adds our author, "was worshipped in this country under the name of BEL, needs no proof ; and that the Divinity was also worshipped in the British isles under the name of DIONUSOS, is also recorded."

The stone on which this inscription is cut is not placed in a sloping position, as is usual with the covering stone of the cromlech. "It is five feet one inch long, in front ; at the back six feet five inches ; it is five feet broad, and one foot four inches thick. In front appears to have been a sunk place, flagged, the sides diverging ; but it is imperfect. The common people pay some respect to this relic."

BESSBOROUGH, the seat of Frederick Ponsonby, Earl of Bessborough, distant about three and a half miles from the town of Carrick-on-Suir, is situated on rising ground, in a fine and well-wooded park, comprising more than 500 acres of land, the whole of

which is enclosed with a high stone wall. This mansion was erected about the year 1744, after the designs, and under the inspection of, Mr. Bindon, who likewise built in this county the houses of Woodstock and Castlemorres. The mansion of Bessborough is a spacious structure, of square proportions, composed of hewn stone; but the efforts of the architect were directed to amplitude, and convenience of internal arrangement, rather than to beauty of exterior aspect. The house extends in front 100 feet, and in depth about 80. Viewed as an architectural object, its prevailing characteristic is that of massy respectability.

The interior presents many handsome apartments, amongst which is conspicuous the great Hall. In this fine room are four Ionic columns of Kilkenny marble, each shaft one entire stone, ten feet six inches in height. The principal interest of the mansion arises, however, from a source foreign to architectural arrangement, and is found in the valuable collection of pictures here preserved, which contains some excellent specimens of the Italian and Flemish schools. We present a catalogue of such paintings as appear to be most deserving of attention.

The daughter of Herodias, and head of the Baptist. *Titian.*

St. Jerome, with angels, called the Vision of St. Jerome. *Dominichino.*

Small Madona, with the infant Jesus in her lap. *Raffaele.*

Cupid forming his bow; and a companion-piece, Venus and Cupid. *Supposed Parmigiano.*

A sleeping Venus with Cupids. *Procaccini.*

A legendary story. *Ciro Ferri.*

Christ and the Samaritan woman. *Paul Veronese.*

Battle-piece. *Borgognone.*

Naked children at play. *Supposed Raffaele.*

Continence of Scipio, a sketch. *Rubens.*

Romulus and Remus. *Calandrucci.*

Christ and Mary at the Sepulchre. *Bassan.*

A woman's head. *Rembrandt.*

A man's head, with a ruff, said to be Sir Walter Raleigh. *Vandyck.*

Virgin, with a book reading. *Francisco Imperiali.*

Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex. *Holbein.*

Peter's Denial of Christ, candle light; extremely fine. *Gerard Segers.*

St. John, small whole length, with the Eagle. *Carlo Maratti.*

St. Jerome, holding a small crucifix in the left hand. *Guido Reni.*

Two landscapes, with figures by *F. Imperiali.* *Horizonte.*

Two landscapes and figures. *Lucatelli.*

A Madona, child, and wise men. *Gio. Battista Pagi.*

Manoah, his wife, and the angel. *Philippo Lauri.*

A Madona, (a head, with hands in a praying attitude.) *Carlo Maratti.*

Diana and nymphs, a large picture, unfinished. *Dominichino.*

The Cascade of Terni, with figures. *Horizonte.*

A sleeping Venus. *Supposed Titian.*

A large portico to a temple, with many figures on the steps, representing Christ scourging the money-changers. *Viviani.*

Jupiter and Antiope, a fine copy by *Bronzino*, after Correggio.

A Nativity, with Shepherds bringing offerings. *Jordaens.*

Ruins. *Punini.*

Landscape. *Claude Lorraine.*

A concert of birds. *Hondekoeter.*

Dutch Boors, intoxicated and quarrelling. Imitation of the Dutch School. *Annibal Caracci.*

A Madona, sleeping child, St. Catherine and Angels. *Carlo Maratti.*

A Dutch Larder, with dead game, fruit, and a female figure. *Snyders and De Vos.*

Two flower pieces, with landscape. *Lopez.*

There are also many portraits of different members of the noble family to whom this estate belongs, two of which are by Bindon, who united the professions of architecture and painting; nor must we omit to notice a portrait of the Earl of Strafford, by Vandyck. Among a few excellent drawings are two, in red chalk, of Saints, by *Guercino*; and two, in black lead, likewise of Saints, one being St. John the Evangelist, by *Carlo Maratti.*

At the distance of one mile from Bessborough is *BELLINE*, the seat of the late Peter Walsh, Esq.; and, whilst we render the humble tribute of our respect to the departed worth of that gentleman, we are well convinced that every reader, to whom he was known, will join in the warmth of our admiration and the sincerity of our regret; so general was the esteem created by his unassuming virtues! The residence at Belline was well suited to the character of its owner; sufficiently large for a liberal hospitality, but affording no room for ceremonies unconnected with the heart and social duties. It will be long remembered, that the real beauties of this demesne were entirely created under the fostering guidance of a hand so justly revered. The house was built by Mr. Walsh; and, when he began his improvements, the land was swampy and unproductive, possessing scarcely any other favourable circumstance, than the promise of aid in tasteful arrangement, held forth by a few scattered oaks. The ample grounds are now rich in thriving wood and plantations, so judiciously disposed, that the real limits of the grounds are with difficulty ascertained by the cursory examiner. The arts shed a bright influence over this estimable abode. Mr. Walsh, in the opportunities of a long life dedicated to liberal pursuits, had collected numerous paintings, many of which were curious from the subject represented, and from historical anecdote, as well as valuable from merit of execution. The most select of these were placed in the principal apartments of the villa. For the reception of the remainder he had erected a spacious building, at a short distance from the house.* This amiable man and true patriot died in December,

* This detached gallery was constituted a sort of academy for students, by the active liberality of the late Mr. Walsh. It is a circumstance highly worthy of observation, that several children of the peasantry in this neighbourhood have lately evinced a considerable degree of genius for drawing. Such as were of greatest promise, Mr. Walsh took under his immediate protection, and supported in the pursuit of the art to which they aspired. Several of the students whom he sustained, and directed, in their ardent exertions, appeared likely to reflect honour on his patronage, when Belline was visited by the present writer. One of these is the son of a labouring blacksmith, whom Mr. Walsh relieved from the dusky toil of the anvil, and

1819, leaving a vacuum in society, as regards the sphere of his benevolent exertions, which will not readily be supplied.

Several vestiges of antiquity have been found at Belline, and many are still to be seen in its neighbourhood. Some urns of baked clay, with an ornamental design rudely traced on the exterior, and containing ashes, were here discovered. Horns of the moose-deer have also been found, on excavating the soil; one pair of which, unusually large, is now to be seen at Bessborough. These were found at about eight feet from the surface, in a bed of soft marl; and a great part of the skeleton of the animal was discovered at the same time. In the neighbourhood are many tumuli, earns, and cromlechs. The most remarkable cromlech in this county, and perhaps the largest in Ireland, is to be seen on the lands of *Kilmogue*. The upper stone, according to an admeasurement presented in Mr. Tighe's Statistical Survey, is "forty-five feet in circumference, and is supported, before, upon three upright stones, two of which are twelve feet high, and one nine, being farther in. The other end rests on an horizontal stone, propt by others; forming, with side stones, in all nine. There is a small inclosure under the lower part of the great stone, which is six feet from the ground, at the lower end, and fifteen feet at the upper. It slopes to the S. S. W. By the country people it is called *Lachan Scahl*, the *Great Altar Stone*."

enabled to prosecute with ease the pursuit to which he was ardently impelled by natural genius, or strong powers of mind accidentally directed. It may be also added that the topographer and antiquary are seriously indebted to this amiable and enlightened man. About the year 1769, he became possessed of a small collection of drawings, representing the architectural ruins which lie scattered over the face of this county. This collection he continued to augment, as opportunity offered; and, besides the castellated and religious remains connected with his own name and family, he directed much of his attention to those founded by the families of Butler and Grace. By every person acquainted with the despoiling spirit, in regard to ancient buildings, which unhappily prevails in Ireland, the interest and value of such a collection will be duly appreciated. No trace of many of these edifices is now to be found, except in the drawings executed for Mr. Walsh.

On the upper part of the *hill of Garriduff*, in this neighbourhood, are some curious vestiges of a very remote age, which are noticed to the following effect by Mr. Tighe. The place is somewhat hollow in the centre. There were sixteen stones, arranged in four rows; but several have been undermined and taken away. The largest are about six feet high. The two central rows were four feet distant, and had each five stones, placed close to each other. The outer rows were closer to the others, and have three stones each. It is probable that there were originally more stones employed; and one, of a large size, lies in a neighbouring ditch. Lower down on the lands of Garryduff, are “the remains of enclosures, or stones disposed by art, though time and derangement have rendered their disposition obscure. About five hundred yards lower down, stands a single tapering stone, ten feet eight inches high, and more, if the soil was level.”

Bessborough, Belline, and the principal antiquities last noticed, are situated in the parish of *Fiddown*; and in the same parochial district is the village of *PILLTOWN*. The villages of Ireland, almost invariably, exhibit an extreme degree either of beauty or deformity. The tame, but useful, mediocrity of rural arrangement to be seen in England, is quite unknown to this country. Pilltown is, happily, an example of the favourable kind, and is, indeed, a rare gem of rural beauty. Its wide street, seated on a branch of the Suir, termed *the Pill*, is nearly one quarter of a mile in length. Amongst its white cottages are interspersed many fine old trees. Taste and tranquillity would appear to have marked the spot for their own. As an instance of the passion for the pictorial art, which prevails in this district, chiefly through the patronage of the late Peter Walsh, Esq. of Belline, it must be noticed that the master of the neat (and in itself *picturesque*) village inn, possesses a cabinet collection of paintings, in which are pieces by Rubens, Vandyck, Tintoretto, and Rosa Tivoli.

In the parish church of *Fiddown* are several monuments of the noble family of Bessborough. The most conspicuous is that of Brabazon, first Earl of Bessborough, who died July 4th, 1758. This monument consists of half-length figures of the Earl and

Countess of Bessborough, placed on a sarcophagus of Egyptian marble, under a pediment having Corinthian columns and pilasters, of Sienna marble.

Mr. John Ponsonby, the founder of this distinguished family, accompanied Cromwell into Ireland, as a major of horse; and, on the reduction of the kingdom, received the honour of knighthood. His services were, also, further rewarded by the grant of several very considerable tracts of forfeited lands, amongst which was the estate of *Kildalton*, which he denominated *Bessborough*, in compliment, as Swift informs us, to his wife Bess (Elizabeth), the daughter of Henry Lord Foliot. The generosity of Sir John Ponsonby to the original proprietors of the forfeited lands of which he became possessed, is, perhaps, without example. He is said to have assigned to each of them either an annuity, or a considerable farm at a small rent, for a term of lives and ninety-nine years; several of which have fallen out of lease since this splendid inheritance devolved upon the present noble proprietor. Mr. Dalton, the original possessor of Kildalton (Bessborough) died in his paternal mansion, after residing there many years, as the guest and companion of Sir John Ponsonby. This humane and truly liberal spirit may be still said to form the characteristic feature of the noble house of Ponsonby; and though, unfortunately, absentees, their patriotism, as landlords, is altogether exemplary.

KNOCKTOPHER, which imparts its name to a barony in the southern part of this county, ranked as a borough, previous to the Union, although a town of small population or importance. The Duke of Ormonde, or his brother the Earl of Arran, sold this estate to Lord Bessborough, of whom some part was purchased by the Langrish family, who possess a handsome seat here, lately occupied by the Hon. James Butler, now Earl of Ormonde and Ossory. The full grown trees of this demesne afford, at once, shelter and ornament to the humble town. A convent of Carmelites, or White Friars, was founded at this place, by James, second Earl of Ormonde, in 1356. The remains of the buildings consist of two arches of one of the side-aisles, together with the

steeple of the church. The latter fragment is square, for one half of its height, and thence upwards assumes an octangular form ;—a mode of design often observable in the antient steeples of Ireland. Here are, also, to be seen one of the mounds denominated duns, or moats, and the ruins of an antient and noble castle, belonging to the Ormonde family, whose possessions in this neighbourhood were of vast extent. In December 1649, this castle was besieged and taken for Cromwell, by Colonels Huson and Reynolds, by whom the fabric was demolished. The parish church, which is small, is situated within the precincts of the ruined abbey.

CASTLEMORRES, situated in this barony, at a short distance from Knocktopher, constituted, for nearly two centuries, the magnificent seat of that line of the DE MONTMORENCY-MORRES family, which, in 1756, received the title of Baron, and in 1763, that of Viscount Mountmorres of Castlemorres. The house is a large and massy pile of cut stone, erected after the designs of Bindon, the architect employed in building the noble mansions of Bessborough and Woodstock in this county. This structure occupies the site of the antient castle of Derryleagh, which, upon the attainder and forfeiture of Comerford, the old proprietor, in the civil war of 1641, was granted by Oliver Cromwell to one Matthias Westmoreland, a lieutenant in his army, by whom it was sold to Hervey Morres, Esq. a younger son of Sir Redmond Morres, of Knockagh Castle, in the county of Tipperary, Bart. By Mr. Morres the tower of Derryleagh was taken down, and a house erected in its place, which was, however, demolished by his grandson, the first viscount, under whose direction was constructed the existing edifice. The castle occupies a commanding position, on the acclivity of a hill called the King's Mountain; and is perceptible at a vast distance, placed apparently in the centre of two great vistas, or avenues of full-grown-trees, extending not less than three miles in front and rear. On the mountain side the building is screened by a forest of oaks and firs, of a venerable growth. The demesne lands are advantageously disposed, and tastefully planted.

This fine territory was erected into a manor by King Charles II. with the usual privileges of courts leet and baron, and three annual fairs, in favour of the before mentioned Hervey Morres, Esq. who, deviating in that respect from the example of his parents, very early in life embraced the tenets of the reformed church, and with them the republican side in politics. By Cromwell he was named to a captaincy in the Protector's own regiment of horse. Having afterwards taken an active part in favour of Charles II., he obtained, at the period of the settlement, a confirmation of his estates, although, as it would appear, not without the powerful aids of money and intrigue. This member of a family so greatly distinguished in many parts of Ireland, died in the year 1724, at the age of ninety-nine years, and is the progenitor by Frances Butler, his third wife, granddaughter to Edmond first Viscount Galmoy, of the Lords Mountmorres and Frankfort de Montmorency, in the Irish peerage; of Sir William De Montmorency, of Upperwood House, in this county, Bart; and of the late Rev. Redmond Morres, of Rathgar, in the county of Dublin, and his issue.

The noble seat of Castlemorres is now the inheritance of Colonel Pratt, in right of his mother, Sarah, sister and coheir of the late Viscount Mountmorres.*

In the vicinity of the above mansion is the small and poor

* Colonel Pratt is eldest son of the Rev. Joseph Pratt, and Sarah, the above-named lady; who, jointly with her sister, Lætitia De Montmorency, late Marchioness of Antrim, (mother, by her ladyship's first husband, of the present Viscount Dungannon) became possessed of the bulk of the estates in Ireland, formerly belonging to their brother, the late Lord Mountmorres; one moiety having fallen to the Pratt family, and the other half to Lord Dungannon; to the prejudice of the present Viscount Mountmorres, who was only *paternal brother by the half blood*, whilst those two ladies were sisters of *the full blood* (namely, by father and mother) of the last owner. They, consequently, enjoy, as heirs at law, although females, this succession, to the exclusion of the direct male line. This disseverance of title and estate, by tenour of law, is assuredly a case of peculiar hardship; and a form of law so likely to involve the independence and happiness of noble and honourable houses, demands loudly the consideration of the legislature.

hamlet of *Newmarket*, in which are held the three annual fairs noticed in the foregoing page, and which are locally called the "Fairs of Hervey." At *Aghavillar*, also within the boundaries of this lordship, are the remains of a pillar-tower, and of an antient castle and abbey, the latter containing the sepulchral vault of the Castlemorres family.* The remains of Aghavillar Castle consist chiefly of the keep, or body of the building, which distinctly attests its former magnitude. This castle and a very considerable attached estate, were, for a long period, the residence and inheritance of a younger branch of the Ballylinch family of Grace, but were seized, as the property of a royalist, by the Commonwealth, and a large portion of the estate was

* In connection with this place of funeral deposit we are enabled to present an anecdote, strongly illustrative of the tenacity with which the Irish *chiefs* of antient families are prone to maintain their rights and hereditary privileges. The first Viscount Mountmorres having become possessed, by the gift of Sir Redmond Morres, Bart. of the Knockagh estates, in the county of Tipperary, proposed to transfer the place of sepulture of his immediate line to that county. On the death of his lady he, accordingly, dispatched a party of workmen, from his own seat to Lateragh (a distance of between thirty and forty miles) with orders to open the family vault, and make the necessary preparations for the reception of the corpse. The hearse, bearing her ladyship's remains, proceeded towards Lateragh on the following day. His lordship was, possibly, not aware that the proprietorship of the antient sepulchral church of Lateragh was not vested in him, but in Mr. Morres of Rathnalin (late Balyrickard-Morres) *chief of the name* in Ireland; and as he omitted to demand permission of that gentleman, with whom he was then at variance, the workmen were not suffered to fulfil their mission. Of all the extensive domain of Lateragh, once possessed by his ancestors, but dissipated by an unguarded member of the family, the tomb of his forefathers alone remained to the eldest representative of the name. But the privileges of that dreary spot were still maintained by the dignified senior of the family. The followers of the chief assembled from the neighbouring mountains, and, on a show of resistance being made by the servants of the peer, some of them were severely beaten, and the whole compelled to take refuge in a neighbouring mansion, the owner of which, at the head of his servants and tenants, conducted the procession in safety for several miles on its return towards Aghavillar, where the remains of Lady Mountmorres were finally interred.

granted to Captain Hervey Morres, with whose descendants it still remains.

DANGANMORE, or DANGINMORE, near Castlemorres, has an antient castle, which gave the title of a baron palatine to former proprietors, of the family of *Comerford*, early followers of the Earls of Ormonde, under which house they derived their title and estates.

At KILREE is one of the finest of the Irish pillar-towers, computed to be one hundred and twenty feet in height, without the conical capping, or covering, which has fallen. The door is now not more than five feet six inches from the ground, owing, probably to an accumulation of earth round the base. There are brackets and rests within-side, evidently the former supporters of floors; and a crossbeam, near the top, induces a belief that this tower was, at no very remote period, used for a belfry. The masonry is exquisitely fine.

At this place was formerly an *abbey*, dedicated to one of the numerous Saints Gobban noticed by annalists,* and founded by Geoffrey Fitz-Robert De Marisco, seneschal of Ireland, and brother-in-law of Earl Strongbow. The foundation probably took place about the year 1176, and certainly during the lifetime of that earl, who died in 1177; as, in his charter, the founder describes the said "Earl Richard as being then chief lord of the country." In the ruined church of this abbey are many sepulchral memorials, the most curious amongst which is a monument of marble, bearing an inscription, in raised characters, to the memory of *Richard Comerford, Lord of Danginmore*, who died Oct. 4th, 1622, and *Joan St. Leger*, his wife, "*pia hospitalis et admodum in omnes miserecors matrona.*" It may be remarked that the daughter of the persons thus commemorated married John Fitzgerald, styled nineteenth Earl of Desmond, who, upon the attainder of his brother James, in 1601,

* Mr. Archdall, although he correctly describes many circumstances respecting this Abbey, confounds it with Killemary, a rectory, according to Beaufort, in the barony of Gowran, where no monastic ruins of any kind are to be found.

removed into Spain, where he assumed his hereditary title, as did, after him, his only son, Gerald Count de Desmond, who having served in the armies of the king of Spain and the emperor, died in Germany, without issue, in 1632, and is supposed to have been the last legitimate male heir, in a direct line, of the great earls of Desmond.

At Kilree is to be seen a curious stone cross, about eight feet in height, and of great antiquity. The cross is formed from a single block of free-stone, and has no other ornament whatever than orbicular figures or rings, one within the other, placed on the centre and extremities of the fabric. According to tradition, this monument is referable to Neill Callan, monarch of Ireland, who is said by Macgeoghegan to have been drowned in the river of Callan, in this county (since called *Aunree*, or the king's river), whilst vainly endeavouring to rescue a nobleman of his suite, with whom he perished in the stream.*

KELLS, formerly a town of some importance, but now reduced to the character of a small village, has the distinction of impart-

* In contradiction to the above tradition, it is asserted by some writers that King Neill did not perish in this neighbourhood, but in the river Callan which waters the city of Armagh; and which is, assuredly, a more rapid and dangerous stream than the Aunree. The probability of the latter assertion is strengthened, in the opinion of its advocates, by the existence of a magnificent stone cross in the square fronting the cathedral church of Armagh, dedicated to the venerated monarch in question. Upon this subject it is correctly observed in the MSS. of the Chevalier De Montmorency, that crosses were frequently erected, as pious memorials, on places where the bodies of royal personages were temporarily reposed. Thus, when Brien-Boiroimh fell at Clontarff, his remains were first removed to Kilmainham Priory, and a cross was at that place erected to his memory, although his body was finally conveyed to Armagh for interment. The instances, indeed, of such erections are very numerous. In consideration of this custom, the learned and ingenious Chevalier believes the cross at Kilree to have been designed, as the very prevalent tradition asserts, in commemoration of King Neill, although, in common with that constructed at Kilmainham in memory of Brien, it cannot be thought to cover the ashes of the deceased. King Neill, who was probably drowned in the river Callan in this vicinity, was the son of Hugh VI., monarch of Ireland, and his premature death occurred about the year 860.

ing its name to a barony in this county. The barony of Kells, afforded the title of Baron to Geoffrey Fitz-Robert de Marisco, to whom the town was indebted for much of its former dignity. On the death of that nobleman, without issue, in 1211, his barony of Kells, and other great estates, devolved on his nephew, Lord Geoffrey de Montemarisco, by whom they were forfeited in 1242, when the family of De Bermingham obtained a grant of the property. In the evil temper of the times, different members of that family entered into sanguinary disputes among themselves, and with the family of St. Auban; in the course of which quarrels Lord William de Bermingham (A.D. 1252,) burned the town of Kells to the ground. The family of Le Poer afterwards received a grant of the barony; and by Sir Eustace Le Poer, in the early part of the fourteenth century, the town was fortified and surrounded with a wall. The history of a particular place often assists in conveying due notions of the state of a country at large, at various eras in national annals. Thus, the chronicles of this small town convey a lamentable picture of the unsettled state of Ireland, in the century last noticed. In the year 1348, Sir Eustace Le Poer was hanged by the arbitrary Lord Justice D'Ufford; and, after his death, Sir Walter de Bermingham, lord justice, gained full possession of the domain. In the two following centuries, the abbot and canons of Kells were principal lords of this barony. The Earl of Ormonde and Ossory is the chief proprietor, in fee, at the present time.

A *monastery* was founded at Kells, by the Lord Geoffrey Fitz-Robert de Marisco, in the year 1193, which flourished, with eminent lustre, until its dissolution in the thirty-first year of King Henry VIII. The abbot was a lord of parliament, and the possessions of the monastery were extensive. The ruins of the buildings comprise the remains of several towers and walls, enclosing two large squares. The cloisters are also remaining, in a good state of preservation.

CALLAN, as to comparative size, and extent of population, ranks as the second town in this county, being inferior in those respects to Kilkenny alone. It was, also, a borough town, previous to

the union; and, until lately, gave the title of baron in the Irish Peerage to the Agar family. But, notwithstanding these apparently high pretensions to notice, the town of Callan has, in fact, little claim on the attention of the traveller. The hand of improvement has not visited this place, and Callan, at the present day, presents the chilling aspect of an Irish country town in the latter part of the seventeenth century. Its domestic buildings consist, in the best instances, of the houses of small tradesmen, but the great majority of the habitations are miserable cabins, often formed of mud, and destitute of a chimney. The market-house, small and abject, is a sufficient voucher for the absence of profitable traffic; and it may be added, in regard to the impression on a cursory observer, that the long dresses of dark blue, worn by the Kilkenny peasantry, complete the sombre effect of the scene. The only instance of modern architectural effort, on an extensive scale, is found in a friary, which is a large and substantial structure of stone, recently erected, in a plain but respectable manner. The extent of the town, and the humble character of its domestic buildings, are sufficiently explained by Mr. Tighe, in the Statistical Survey of this County. In that work we are informed that the number of houses, in the year 1800, was 530; of which, in the same year, no more than forty-six paid the tax on windows. The number of inhabitants at that time is stated to have been 2229.

Callan, however humble at the existing period, was formerly of some importance, and the leading features in its history demand our brief examination.—This territory, according to O'Halloran, was the antient lordship of the O'Glohernys and O'Caillys, or O'Callans. The Fforstalls,* Butlers, and Comerfords, in later times, had castles here, of which the ruins may yet be seen. A desperate battle was fought near Callan in 1405, between James Earl of Ormonde, L. Deputy to the Duke of Clarence, then lord lieutenant, and the Irish, headed by O'Carroll, aided by the sept of the *Burkeens*, of the county of Tipperary, in which

* The family of Fforstall were distinguished, for many ages, by the local title of "Knights of Callan."

battle O'Carroll was slain. In the reign of Elizabeth, the celebrated James Fitz-Maurice, of Desmond, took this town; and in the year 1650, Callan was exposed to still more severe penalties of warfare. In that year Oliver Cromwell, having second in command the republican Colonel Sankey, captured the place, after experiencing resistance for a few days, with a great waste of blood amongst the inhabitants.

Hugh de Mapilton, bishop of Ossory from 1251 to 1256, is said by the annalist Thady Dowling, to have erected an Augustinian friary in this town; but the true founder, according to Archdall, was Sir James Butler, of Poolestown, who died A. D. 1487, and from whom the present Ormonde family is lineally descended. At the time of the dissolution this friary was granted to Thomas Earl of Ormonde, and some remains of the buildings are still to be seen.—The town of Callan was incorporated in the reign of Henry IV. and the charter was renewed by King James I.

END OF THE COUNTY OF KILKENNY.

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