# STATISTICAL SURVEY

OF THE

# COUNTY OF CAVAN,

WITH

## OBSERVATIONS

ON

## THE MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT;

DRAWN UP IN THE YEAR 1801,

FOR THE CONSIDERATION, AND UNDER THE DIRECTION

OF

## The Dublin Society,

BY

*SIR CHARLES COOTE, BART.*

Scire tuum nihil eſt, niſi te ſcire hoc ſciat alter.

PERSIUS SAT. 1.

Dublin.

PRINTED BY GRAISBERRY AND CAMPBELL,

*NO.* 10, *BACK-LANE.*

1802.

Royal Dublin Society.

No. 7309/
CLASS 330.9415
CAT.
INIT. LC

# TO THE READER.

*This* REPORT *is at present printed and circulated for the purpose merely of procuring further information, respecting the state and husbandry of this district, and of enabling every one interested in the welfare of this country, to examine it fully, and contribute his mite to its improvement.*

*The Society do not deem themselves pledged to any opinion given by the Author of this Survey; and they desire, that nothing contained in it be considered as their sentiments; they have only published it, as the report of the gentleman, whose name is affixed, and they publish it, for the comments and observations of all persons, which they entreat to be given freely, and without reserve.*

*It is therefore requested, that the observations on reading this work may be returned to the Dublin Society, as soon as may be convenient, and which will meet with the fullest attention in a future edition.*

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# DEDICATION.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

## PHILIP EARL OF HARDWICKE,

LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL, AND GENERAL GOVERNOR

OF IRELAND,

*PRESIDENT OF THE DUBLIN SOCIETY,*

&c. &c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

AS I am deeply ſenſible of the diſtinguiſhed honour, which your Excellency has conferred on me, by ſo kindly permitting the following work to be dedicated to your Excellency, ſo am I particularly happy as an individual, to embrace this opportunity of expreſſing the grateful ſenſe of obligation which is felt, by your Lordſhip's attention to the completion of the Statiſtical Surveys

of Ireland. Inadequate as have been my exertions for the elucidation of ſo important a ſubject, yet in this inſtance, under ſuch exalted protection, it will doubtleſs be a ſtimulus to others, to contribute their information towards the perfection of a work of ſuch general utility, to which your Lordſhip looks forward with an anxious concern, and an earneſt co-operation with the Dublin Society, whoſe patriotic exertions for the improvement of our ſoil, and the extenſion of our agriculture, have never been more eminently ſucceſsful than under your Excellency's reſpected preſidency.

That theſe important concerns may be long under the happy influence of ſo competent a ruler, is the true wiſh of his Majeſty's loyal ſubjects of Ireland, and of none more ſincerely than of him, who with all poſſible deference has the honour to ſubſcribe himſelf,

My Lord,

Your Excellency's moſt truly devoted,

and moſt faithful,

humble ſervant,

CHARLES COOTE.

# PREFACE.

IN the happy moment of returning peace, in this enlightened era, when knowledge is more generally and universally diffeminated, when the licentiouſneſs, which diſgraced the cloſe of the laſt century, has been cruſhed in his Majeſty's favoured realms, by the ſteady adminiſtration of juſtice, and the firmneſs of our government, the minds of the people muſt again return to their true intereſts, the improvement of our ſoil, and the extenſion of our agriculture.

Was the ſubject of the following ſheets to be confined to the theory of huſbandry, it would never have been undertaken by ſo inexperienced a hand; but in the Statiſtical Surveys of the counties of Ireland, much more is neceſſary to be ſhewn, conſiderably more indeed, than it is in the power of an individual to accompliſh. How then are we to attain the knowledge of ourſelves, but by a general concurrence, and that each individual ſhall according to his abilities join his mite in ſo important a concern?

It

It may be a weary taſk, and doubtleſs it is, to compile the various opinions of farmers on the ſubject of agriculture, and the ſtate of their country; and difficult indeed, if not impracticable, to clearly diſtinguiſh facts, in ſo contradictory and too often partial information; this requires a perſeverance and aſſiduity, which is all the merit the Author can claim: the ground-work being laid by this minute enquiry, it will be an eaſy matter to make a correct ſtatement in another edition, if the gentlemen and experienced farmers of the county, to which it relates, join their remarks and correct the errors, which doubtleſs muſt be found. It is indeed the duty of every capable perſon to contribute to the Statiſtical Surveys of Ireland; the bright example of the firſt magiſtrate of the country patronizing ſuch a work, muſt evince its importance, and the pure and reſpectable ſociety, who contribute their purſe and their unwearied patriotic exertions for our proſperity, have in no inſtance been more earneſtly engaged, than in the furtherance and completion of this deſign; I truſt then, that ſuch high and exalted patronage, ſuch laudable and patriotic views ſhall not be fruitleſs in this county, where the true intereſts of the trade of

the

the ſtaple commodity of the nation are ſo well underſtood, and where there are ſo many gentlemen capable of giving ſuch valuable information, as well of the agriculture as of the manufacture of the county.

If theſe deſirable and ſanguine wiſhes ſhall be fulfilled, then indeed would a work of intrinſic merit appear, which would doubtleſs be of the firſt importance to agriculture, a ſcience which requires not the panegyric of my feeble pen; the world is now convinced, that the happineſs and wealth, or the miſery and poverty of a nation depend on the proper or improper occupation of her ſoil, and that the produce of the fields is the trueſt dependence of commerce, and the ſureſt ſupport of the ſtate.

SUGGESTIONS

# SUGGESTIONS OF ENQUIRY

## FOR GENTLEMEN WHO SHALL UNDERTAKE THE FORMING OF

## *AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS.*

### GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

Situation and Extent,
Diviſions,
Climate,
Soil and Surface,
Minerals,
Water.

### AGRICULTURE.

Mode of culture,
Extent of it, and of each ſpecies of grain ſowed,
Courſe of crops,
Uſe of oxen—how harneſſed,
Nature and uſe of implements of huſbandry,
Markets for grain,
Uſe of green food in winter.

### PASTURE.

Nature of it.
Breed of cattle—how far improved,
——— ———how far capable of further improvement,
Markets or Fairs for them,

General

General prices,
Modes of feeding—how far houfed in winter,
Natural graffes,
Artificial graffes,
Mode of hay-making,
Dairies, their produce,
Prices of hides, tallow, wool, and quantity fold.

## FARMS.

Their fize,
Farm houfes and offices,
Mode of repairing them, whether by landlord or tenant,
Nature of tenures,
General ftate of leafes,
——— of particular claufes therein,
Taxes or Ceffes paid by tenants,
Proportion of working horfes or bullocks, to the fize of farms,
General fize of fields, or enclofures,
Nature of fences,
Mode of hedge-rows, and keeping hedges,
Mode of draining,
Nature of manures.

## GENERAL SUBJECTS.

Population,
Number and fize of villages and towns,
Habitation, fuel, food and cloathing of the lower rank—their general coft,
Price of wages, labour and provifions,
State of tithe, its general amount on each article—what articles are exempt, and what charged by modus,
Ufe of beer and fpirits—whether either or which is increafing,
State of roads, bridges, &c.
——— of navigations and navigable rivers,
——— of fifheries,

State

State of education, ſchools, and charitable inſtitutions,
—— of abſentee and reſident proprietors,
—— of circulation of money or paper,
—— of farming or agricultural ſocieties,
—— of manufactures, whether increaſing,
—— of encouragement to them, and the peculiar aptneſs of the ſituation for their extenſion,
—— of mills of every kind,
—— of plantations and planting,
—— of the effects of the encouragement heretofore given to them by the Society, particulariſed in the liſt annexed.
—— of any improvements which may occur for future encouragement, and particularly for the preſervation of the trees, when planted,
—— of nurſeries within the county and extent of ſales.
Price of timber and ſtate of it, in the county,
Quantity of bog and waſte ground,
Poſſibility and means of improving it,
Obſtacles to it and beſt means of removing them,
Habits of induſtry, or want of induſtry among the people,
The uſe of the Engliſh language, whether general, or how far increaſing.
Account of towers, caſtles, monaſteries, ancient buildings, or places remarkable for any hiſtorical event,
Churches—reſident clergy, glebes and glebe houſes,
Whether the county has been actually ſurveyed, when and whether the ſurvey is publiſhed.
Weights and meaſures, liquid or dry—in what inſtances are weights aſſigned for meaſures—or *vice verſâ*.
The weight or meaſure, by which grain, flour, potatoes, butter, &c. are ſold.

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# ERRATA.

Page 33 line 14, for *casting* read *lasting*.
119 — 2, for *acquired* read *required*.
220 2d. and 3d. lines from the bottom, for *absurb* read *absurd*.
221 2d. line from the bottom, for *Ballgreen* read *Bellgreen*.
223 line 13, for *roots* read *rots*.
251 — 9, for *agens* read *agents*.
265 — 12, for *differents* read *different*.

# INTRODUCTION.

# INTRODUCTION.

CAVAN has been celebrated in the hiſtories of the wars of Ireland for its faſtneſſes, woods, bogs, and all the natural impediments which are ſo formidable in warfare; but it had very little elſe to recommend it, until the linen manufacture was engaged in, which has now acquired ſuch a firm foundation—Nor is there much notice made of this county in the ancient reports, until in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and King James, a pretty minute political enquiry was made by Sir John Davies then Attorney-General.

It may therefore be acceptable to recite ſo much from his hiſtorical tracts as relate to this county, which are as follows:

" As for Cavan, otherwiſe called Breny Orelye or O'Relies Country, the late troubles had ſo unſettled the poſſeſſions thereof, which indeed were never well diſtinguiſhed and eſtabliſhed, as it was doubtful in whom the chiefrie of that country reſted, or if the chief lord had been known, yet was it as uncertain what demeſnes, or duties he ought to

" have. And for the particular tenants, they were ſo many times removed and rejected, as their titles and poſſeſſions were as doubtful as the lords. True it is, that Sir John Perrott being deputy purpoſed the reformation and ſettling of this country; and to that end, indentures were drawn between himſelf, in behalf of the late queen, on the one part, and Sir John O'Relie, then chief lord of the country, on the other; whereby Sir John O'Relie did covenant to ſurrender the whole unto the queen, and Sir John Perrott, on the other part, did covenant, that letters patent ſhould be made unto him of the whole. Howbeit, there followed no effect of this: for neither was there any ſurrender made by Sir John O'Relie, neither was there any patent granted unto him, during Sir John Perrott's time, marry afterwards, when the late Lord Chancellor, and Sir Henry Wallop, were Lords Juſtices, certain commiſſioners were ſent down to divide the country into baronies and to ſettle the chief Septs and families therein; which they did in this manner: The whole country being divided into ſeven baronies, they aſſigned two unto Sir John O'Relie, free from all public charges and contributions; a third barony they allotted to Philip O'Relie, brother to Sir John O'Relie; a fourth to Edmond O'Relie, uncle

"cle to Sir John O'Relie; a fifth to the ſons of one Hugh O'Relie ſurnamed the Prior: and out of the three baronies, whereof Sir John O'Relie was not poſſeſſed, they reſerved unto him a chief rent of ten ſhillings out of every poll (being a portion of land containing three ſcore acres or thereabouts) in lieu of all Iriſh cuttings and taxes. As for the other two baronies poſſeſſed by the Septs of M'Rernon, and M'Gaurol, being remote and bordering upon O'Rorke's country, they were neglected and left ſubject ſtill to the Iriſh exactions of the chief lord; but to the crown they reſerved upon the whole country 220 beeves, which the deputy ever ſince hath taken for his proviſion. This diviſion, or eſtabliſhment, was made and reduced to writing, as one of the commiſſioners, who is yet living, told me; who told me withal, that they were well paid for their pains: for he, that had leaſt, had an hundred fat beeves given him by the country; yet cannot we find any return of this commiſſion, either in the Council Book, or in the Chancery. So as hitherto there were only projects made for the ſettling of the country, but nothing was really and effectually done; none of the rules and ceremonies of the law obſerved, either by accepting ſurrenders, or regranting the land back again, or by any other lawful

" conveyance, or execution of eſtates. After this Sir John O'Relie died in rebellion; whereupon his brother Philip O'Relie took upon him the name of O'Relie, and poſſeſſed himſelf of the country as Tanniſt and chief Lord, according to the Iriſh cuſtom; and being ſo poſſeſſed, was ſlain in rebellion: after his death, Edmond O'Relie, his uncle, entered in like manner, and was killed in actual rebellion. Since the death of Edmond, none of that Sept was elected or created O'Relie, but the chiefrie of the country ſtood doubtful till the end of the wars: then a niece of the Earl of Ormond being the widow of Mulmora O'Relie (eldeſt ſon of Sir John O'Relie, which Mulmora had been always loyal, and was ſlain on the Queen's part), ſuppoſing that Sir John O'Relie held the country by grant, from the late queen (which indeed he never did), cauſed an inquiſition to be taken, whereby it was found, that Sir John O'Relie was ſeized of the country in fee, and died ſeized; after whoſe death, the country deſcended to Mulmora, who likewiſe died ſeized, his heir being within age and his majeſty's ward: thereupon ſhe made ſuit to Sir George Cary, then Lord-Deputy, as well for the grant of the wardſhip, as for the aſſignment of her dower; whereas indeed, the land never deſcended, according to

" to the courſe of the common law; but now was ever held by Tannis, according to the Iriſh cuſtom, whereby there could grow neither wardſhips nor dower. For, the Tanniſt coming in by election, neither did his heir ever inherit, neither was his wife ever endowed. Howbeit, Sir George Cary, by a warrant from the Council Table only, did aſſign unto her the third part of the profit of the country, and gave her withal the cuſtody of the body of her ſon, but the cuſtody of the land during the King's pleaſure he committed unto one Mulmora O'Relie, great uncle to the ſuppoſed ward, whereof the poor gentleman hath made little benefit, becauſe not being created O'Relie by them, they would not ſuffer him to cut and exact, like an Iriſh lord, neither would they ſuffer him to receive the eſtabliſhment made by the commiſſioners, becauſe it had been broken and rejected by Philip and Edmond, who ſince held the country as Tanniſt, or Iriſh chieftains. In theſe uncertain terms, ſtood the poſſeſſions of Brevye, which we now call the county of Cavan."

*After a recital of his circuit through Fermanagh and Monaghan counties, Sir John Davies gives an account of his proceedings in Cavan as follows, viz.*

" Having ſpent ſix or ſeven days in this waſte country, we raiſed our camp, and returned

" turned the ſame way, which we had paſſed before, into the county of Monaghan, and lodging the ſecond night not far from the Abbey of Clonays, we came the third day to Cavan, and pitched our tents on the ſouth ſide of that poor Iriſh town. The appearance of this place was very full, for not only the natives of the county of Cavan, but alſo, many inhabitants of Weſtmeath and other parts of the pale bordering upon this country, whereof ſome pretended title to land, others came to demand debts, and others to give evidence againſt felons, repaired to this ſeſſions, the chief of which was the Baron of Delvyn, who came attended with many followers.

My Lord-Deputy having a purpoſe to purſue the ſame courſe in the ſervice here, which had been holden in the other two counties, cauſed forthwith a commiſſion to be drawn and paſſed the Seal, whereby the Judges of aſſize, and others, were authoriſed to enquire of all lands eſcheated to the crown in this county by attainder, outlawry, or actual killing in rebellion of any perſon: or by any other means whatſoever. For the diſpatch of this buſineſs, a jury was impannelled of the beſt Knights and Gentlemen that were preſent; whereof ſome were foreign inhabitants of the pale; and, yet freeholders of this county;

" county; and the reſt were the chief of every Iriſh Sept, natives of this county; we received two preſentments from them: the firſt of ſundry freeholders, who were ſlain in the late rebellion, and of ſuch lands as they were ſeverally ſeized of at the ſame time of their killings; the ſecond was, that Philip O'Relie, who was, according to the cuſtom of the country, created O'Relie, and was Lord or Chieftain of the whole country, being ſeized of all lands, tenements, and hereditaments in Breny O'Relie, *in Dominio ſuo ut de feodo & jure* (for theſe are the words of the inquiſition), was ſlain in actual rebellion: and, again they found, that after the death of Philip, one Edmund O'Relie was, after the like cuſtom of the country, created O'Relie, and was in like manner ſeized of the country; and being ſo ſeized, was ſlain in rebellion; alſo they found laſtly, that Sir John O'Relie, who was Chieftain and Tanniſt of the country, long before Philip and Edmond did adhere to the Earl of Tyrone, and other rebels; and died an actual rebel againſt the crown. This Inquiſition was found with ſome difficulty, becauſe the jurors themſelves, all claiming and pretending to be freeholders of land within that county, were jealous, leſt their particular freeholds might be found eſcheated by this office; becauſe, in time of rebellion, theſe

" theſe Lords or Chieftains, by their Iriſh cuttings and exactions, took the profits of the whole country at their pleaſure, and ſo might be ſaid to be ſeized of all the country in Demeſne, when they were ſlain in rebellion: But ſome of the jury being learned in the law, informed the reſt, that by the words, *in Dominio ſuo ut de feodo & jure*, not only lands in Demeſne, or poſſeſſion, but a ſeniory or chiefry may be underſtood, and thereupon they were content to put their ſeals to the Inquiſition, which being drawn and engroſſed in parchment, by one of the Commiſſioners, was preſented unto them. By theſe two offices the greateſt part of this county, if not all, is veſted in poſſeſſion of the crown; but becauſe my Lord-Deputy conceived his Majeſty's pleaſure to be, that the natives of the country, to whom his Highneſs had granted his general pardon, ſhall be re-eſtabliſhed in their poſſeſſions, which they peaceably held, before the late war (albeit I do not underſtand that his Lordſhip hath any particular direction touching the diſpoſition of this country of Breny O'Relie); his Lordſhip therefore thought fit to look back to the time before the rebellion; and to inform himſelf how every man's poſſeſſion ſtood at that time, and thereupon commanded of us to take the like pains as were taken in Fermanagh,

" managh, and in the like order and method to diſtinguiſh the poſſeſſors and poſſeſſions of this country, which was the more eaſily performed, becauſe in the Iriſh countries, where the cuſtom of tanniſtry is not extinguiſhed, the tenures are every where alike. There is firſt a general chieftain of every country, or territory, which hath ſome demeſnes, and many houſehold proviſions yielded unto him by all the inhabitants; under him every ſept or ſurname hath a particular chieftain or tanniſt, which has likewiſe his peculiar demeſnes and duties, and their poſſeſſions go by ſucceſſion or election entirely, without any diviſion: but all the other lands, holden by the inferior inhabitants, are partable in courſe of Gavelkind, wherein there is no difference made between legitimate ſons and baſtards; and therefore both theſe cuſtoms, both of Tanniſtry and Gavelkind, in this kingdom, are lately, by the opinion of all the Judges here, adjudged to be utterly void in law;* and

* In Hilary Term, 3 of James I. See Sir J. Davies's Reports, p. 40. The Iriſh Gavelkind, which was extremely different from the ſame cuſtom in Kent, was declared by all the Judges to be void in law; not only for its *inconvenience* and *unreaſonableneſs*, but becauſe it was a mere perſonal cuſtom, which tended to alter the deſcent of inheritances, contrary to the courſe of the common law, which King James had, with a wiſe policy, extended over all the Iriſh countries.

" and as they are void, ſo ſhall they be ſhortly avoided and extinguiſhed, either by ſurrender or reſumption of all the lands, which are ſo holden.

My Lord-Deputy having received the like ſurvey of the lands, and the like diſtinction or liſt of the freeholders in this country, as was preſented to his Lordſhip in M'Guyre's* country, deferred the diſpoſition and ſettling thereof until his return to Dublin, having a purpoſe in Michaelmas term to make a perfect eſtabliſhment of theſe three counties.

The ſtate of the lay poſſeſſions being diſcovered, we did not omit to enquire of the number and value of the parſonages and vicarages, of the reparation of the churches, and of the quality of their incumbents; by which inquiſition we found, that the greateſt number of the parſonages are appropriate unto two great abbeys lying within the Engliſh pale, viz. the abbey of Fower in Weſtmeath, granted to the *Baron of Delvyn, and the abbey of Kells, whereof one Gerarde Flemynge is farmer. To the firſt of theſe fourteen parſonages within this county are appropriate, and to the other eight, beſides there are two or three more belonging in like manner to the abbey of Cavan, in this county, being now in poſſeſſion of Sir James Dillon. As for the vicarages, they

* Fermanagh.

" they are ſo poorly endowed, as ten of them being united will ſcarce ſuffice to maintain an honeſt miniſter. For the churches, they are for the moſt part in ruins; ſuch as were preſented to be in reparation, are covered only with thatch. But the incumbents, both parſons and vicars, did appear to be ſuch poor, ragged, ignorant creatures (for we ſaw many of them in the camp) as we could not eſteem any of them worthy of the meaneſt of thoſe livings, albeit many of them are not worth above 40s. per annum. This country doth lie within the dioceſe of of Kilmore, whoſe biſhop (Robert Draper) was and is parſon of Trym, in Meath, which is the beſt parſonage in all the kingdom; and is a man of this country birth, worth well nigh 400l. a-year: he doth live now in theſe parts, where he hath two biſhoprics; but there is no divine ſervice or ſermon to be heard within either of his dioceſes. His Lordſhip might have ſaved us this labour of enquiry, touching matters eccleſiaſtical, if he had been as careful to ſee the churches repaired and ſupplied with good incumbents, as he is diligent in viſiting his barbarous clergy, to make benefit out of their unſufficiency, according to the proverb, which is common in the mouth of one of our great biſhops here: *that an Iriſh Prieſt is better than a milch cow.*

Laſtly,

"Laſtly, our gaol-delivery was greater in this cóunty, and the civil cauſes were more in number, and of better conſideration and value, than thoſe that did ariſe in the other two ſhires, which we had paſt before; yet we finiſhed all our buſineſs here within five or ſix days, and after returned to Dublin about the 22d of Auguſt. This report of our ſervice in the county of Cavan, I have contracted and delivered ſummarily, as well for that I doubt I have been too large in the preceding diſcourſe, as alſo, becauſe we held an uniform proceeding, and did, in a manner, the ſame things, which we had performed in the other places of ſeſſions."

*As Sir John Davies's Letter to the Earl of Saliſbury particularly relates to this county, I ſhall alſo take leave to ſubjoin it.*

A LETTER

A

# LETTER

FROM

# SIR JOHN DAVIES.

*My moſt honourable good Lord.*

THOUGH I perform this duty, of adver-tiſing your Lordſhip how we proceed in the plantation of Ulſter, very late; yet I cannot accuſe myſelf either of ſloth, or forgetfulneſs, in that behalf; but my true excuſe is the ſlow diſpatch of Sir Oliver Lambert from hence, into whoſe hands I thought to have given theſe letters more than a month ſince.

In the perambulation, which we made this ſummer over the eſcheated counties in Ulſter, we performed four principal points of our commiſſion.

1. Firſt, the land aſſigned to the natives, we diſtributed among the natives, in different quantities and portions, according to their different qualities and deſerts.

2. Next,

2. Next, we made the like diſtribution of the lands allotted to the ſervitors.

3. Thirdly, we publiſhed by proclamation in each county, what lands were granted to Britiſh undertakers, and what to ſervitors, and what to natives: to the end that the natives ſhould remove from the precincts allotted to the Britons, whereupon a clear plantation is to be made of Engliſh and Scottiſh, without Iriſh, and to ſettle upon the lands aſſigned to natives and ſervitors, where there ſhall be mixed plantation of Engliſh and Iriſh together.

4. Laſtly, to the Britiſh undertakers, who are for the moſt part come over, we gave ſeizen and poſſeſſion of their ſeveral portions; and aſſigned them timber for their ſeveral buildings.

We began at the Cavan, where (as it falleth out in all matters of importance) we found the firſt acceſs and entry into the buſineſs the moſt difficult. Of our proceeding here, my report to your Lordſhip ſhall be the larger, becauſe the beſt precinct in this county fell to your Lordſhip's lot to be diſpoſed; and the undertakers thereof do ſtill expect to be by your Lordſhip countenanced and protected. The inhabitants of this country do border upon the Engliſh pale, where they have many acquaintances and alliances; by means whereof they

they have learned to talk of a freehold, and of eſtates of inheritance, which the poor natives of Fermanagh and Tyrconnel could not ſpeak of; although theſe men had no other, nor better eſtate than they; that is, only a ſcambling and tranſitory poſſeſſion, at the pleaſure of the chief of every ſept.

When the proclamation was publiſhed touching their removal (which was done in the public ſeſſion-houſe, the Lord Deputy and Commiſſioners being preſent,) a lawyer of the pale, retained by them, did endeavour to maintain, that they had eſtates of inheritance in their poſſeſſions, which their chief lords could not forfeit; and therefore, in their name, deſired two things: firſt, that they might be admitted to traverſe the offices which had been found of thoſe lands; ſecondly, that they might have the benefit of a proclamation made about five years ſince, whereby the perſons, lands, and goods, of all his Majeſty's ſubjects, were taken into his royal protection.

To this the King's attorney, being commanded by the Lord Deputy, made anſwer: That he was glad this occaſion was offered, of declaring and ſetting forth his Majeſty's juſt title, as well for his Majeſty's honour (who, being the moſt juſt Prince living, would not diſpoſſeſs the meaneſt of his ſubjects wrongfully, to gain many ſuch kingdoms,) as for the ſatisfaction

of

of the natives themſelves, and of all the world; for his Majeſty's right, it ſhall appear, ſaid he, that his Majeſty may and ought to diſpoſe of theſe lands, in ſuch manner as he hath done, and is about to do, in law, in conſcience, and in honour.

In law; whether the caſe be to be ruled by our law, of England, which is in force; or by their own Brehon law, which is aboliſhed and adjudged no law, but a lewd cuſtom.

It is our rule in our law, that the King is Lord Paramount of all the land in the kingdom; and that all his ſubjects hold their poſſeſſions of him, mediate or immediate.

It is another rule of our law, that where the tenant's eſtate doth fail and determine, the lord of whom the land is holden may enter, and diſpoſe thereof at his pleaſure.

Then thoſe lands in the county of Cavan, which was O'Relie's country, are all holden of the King; and becauſe the captainſhip or chiefry of O'Relie is aboliſhed by act of parliament, by ſtat. 2d of Elizabeth; and alſo becauſe two of the chief lords elected by the country have been lately ſlain in rebellion (which is an attainder in law), theſe lands are holden immediately of his Majeſty.

If then the King's Majeſty be immediate chief lord of theſe lands, let us ſee what eſtates

tates the tenants or poſſeſſors have, by the rules of the common law of England.

Either they have an eſtate of inheritance, or a leſſer eſtate; a leſſer eſtate they do not claim; or if they did, they ought to ſhew the creation thereof, which they cannot do.

If they have an eſtate of inheritance, their lands ought to deſcend to a certain heir; but neither their chiefries, nor their tenancies, did ever deſcend to a certain heir; therefore they have no eſtate of inheritance.

Their chiefries were ever carried, in a courſe of tanniſtry, to the eldeſt and ſtrongeſt of the ſept, who held the ſame during life, if he were not ejected by a ſtronger.

This eſtate of the chieftain or tanniſt hath been lately adjudged no eſtate in law, but only a tranſitory and ſcambling poſſeſſion.

Their inferior tenancies did run in another courſe, like the old gavelkind in Wales, where the baſtards had their portion, as well as the legitimate; which portion they held not in perpetuity, but the chief of the ſept did once in two or three years ſhuffle and change their poſſeſſions by new partitions and diviſions; which made their eſtates ſo uncertain, as that, by opinion of all the judges in this kingdom, this pretended cuſtom of gavelkind is adjudged and declared void in law.

And as theſe men had no certain eſtates of inheritance, ſo did they never till now claim any ſuch eſtate, nor conceive that their lawful heirs ſhould inherit the land which they poſſeſſed; which is manifeſt by two arguments:

1. They never eſteemed lawful matrimony, to the end that they might have lawful heirs;
2. They never did build any houſes, nor plant orchards, or gardens, nor take any care of their poſterities. If theſe men had no eſtates in law, either in their mean chiefries, or in their inferior tenancies, it followeth, that if his Majeſty, who is the undoubted lord paramount, do ſeize and diſpoſe theſe lands, they can make no title againſt his Majeſty or his patentees, and conſequently cannot be admitted to traverſe any office of thoſe lands; for, without ſhewing a title, no man can be admitted to traverſe an office.

Then have they no eſtates by the rules of the common law; for the Brehon law, if it were a law in force, and not an unreaſonable cuſtom, is aboliſhed; yet even by that Iriſh cuſtom, his Majeſty, having the ſupreme chiefrie, may diſpoſe the profits of all the lands at his pleaſure; and conſequently the land itſelf; for the land and the profit of the land, are all one; for he that was O'Relie, or chieftain of the country, had power to cut upon all the inhabitants, high, or low, as pleaſed him; which argues they held their lands of the chief

lord

lord in villainage, and therefore they are properly called natives; for *nativus*, in our old regiſter of writs, doth ſignify a *villein*; and the writ to recover a villein is entitled *De nativo habendo*; and in that action the plaintiff doth declare that he and his anceſtors, time out of mind, were wont *tallier haut & bas* upon the villein, and his anceſtors; and thence comes the phraſe of *cutting*, uſed among the Iriſh at this day.

Thus then it appears, that as well by the Iriſh cuſtom, as the law of England, his Majeſty may, at his pleaſure, ſeize theſe lands, and diſpoſe thereof. The only ſcruple which remains conſiſts in this point:—Whether the King may, in conſcience, or honour, remove the ancient tenants, and bring in ſtrangers among them.

Truly his Majeſty may not only take this courſe lawfully but is bound in conſcience ſo to do.

For being the undoubted rightful King of this realm; ſo as the people and land are committed by the Divine Majeſty to his charge and government, his Majeſty is bound in conſcience to uſe all lawful and juſt courſes to reduce his people from barbariſm to civility: the neglect whereof, heretofore, hath been laid as an imputation upon the crown of England. Now civility cannot poſſibly be planted among them, but by this mixt plantation of civil men,

which likewiſe could not be without, removal and tranſplantation of ſome of the natives, and ſettling of their poſſeſſions in a courſe of common law; for if themſelves were ſuffered to poſſeſs the whole country, as their ſepts have done for many hundred of years paſt, they would never (to the end of the world) build houſes, make townſhips, or villages, or manure, or improve the land as it ought to be; therefore it ſtands neither with chriſtian policy nor conſcience, to ſuffer ſo good and fruitful a country to lie waſte like a wilderneſs, when his Majeſty may lawfully diſpoſe it to ſuch perſons as will make a civil plantation thereupon.

Again, his Majeſty make take this courſe in conſcience, becauſe it tendeth to the good of the inhabitants many ways; for half their land doth now lie waſte, by reaſon whereof that which is habited is not improved to half the value; but when the undertakers are planted among them (there being place and ſcope enough both for them, and for the natives,) and that all the land ſhall be fully ſtocked and manured, 500 acres will be of better value than 5000 are now. Beſides, where before their eſtates were altogether uncertain and tranſitory, ſo as their heirs did never inherit, they ſhall now have certain eſtates of inheritance, the portion alloted unto them, which they

they, and their children after them, ſhall enjoy with ſecurity.

Again, his Majeſty's conſcience may be ſatisfied, in that his Majeſty ſeeks not his own profit, but doth ſuffer loſs by this plantation, as well in expence of his treaſure as in the diminution of his revenue: for the entertainment of commiſſioners here and in England, and the extraordinary charge of the army for the guard of the Lord-Deputy and council, in ſeveral journies made into Ulſter about this buſineſs only, hath drawn no ſmall ſum of money out of his Majeſty's coffers, within theſe three years; and whereas Tyrone did the laſt year yield unto his Majeſty 2000*l.* for four years to come, it will yield nothing; and afterwards the fee-farm of the undertakers will not amount to 600*l.* per annum.

Again, when a project was made for the diviſion of that country about 20 years ſince, Sir John O'Relie being then chief lord and captain, they all agreed (before divers commiſſioners ſent from the ſtate to ſettle that country) that Sir John O'Relie ſhould have two entire baronies in demeſne, and 10*s.* out of every poll in the other five baronies; which is much more than his Majeſty, who hath title to all the land in demeſne, as well as to the chiefry, hath now given to undertakers, or reſerved to himſelf.

Laſtly,

Laſtly, this tranſplantation of the natives is made by his Majeſty rather like a father than like a lord or monarch. The Romans tranſplanted whole nations out of Germany into France: the Spaniards lately removed all the Moors out of Grenada into Barbary, without providing them any new ſeats there; when the Engliſh Pale was firſt planted, all the natives were clearly expelled, ſo as not one Iriſh family had ſo much as an acre of freehold in all the five counties of the Pale: and now, within theſe four years paſt, the Greames were removed from the borders of Scotland to this kingdom, and had not one foot of land allotted unto them here: but but theſe natives of Cavan having competent portions of land aſſigned unto them, many of them in the ſame barony where they dwelt before, and ſuch as are removed are planted in the ſame county, ſo as his Majeſty doth in this imitate the ſkilful huſbandman, who doth remove his fruit trees, not with a purpoſe to extirpate and deſtroy them, but that they may bring better and ſweeter fruit after the tranſplantation.

Theſe and other arguments were uſed by the attorney to prove that his Majeſty might juſtly diſpoſe of thoſe lands both in law, in conſcience, and in honour; wherewith the natives ſeemed not unſatisfied in reaſon, though

they

they remained in their paſſions diſcontented, being much grieved to leave their poſſeſſions to ſtrangers, which they had ſo long after their manner enjoyed; howbeit my Lord-Deputy did ſo mix threats with entreaty, *precibuſque minas regaliter addit*, as they promiſed to give way to the undertakers, if the Sheriff by warrant of the Commiſſioners did put them in poſſeſſion: which they have performed like obedient and loyal ſubjects. Howbeit we do yet doubt that ſome of them will appeal into England, and therefore I have preſumed to trouble your Lordſhip with this rude diſcourſe at large, that your Lordſhip may underſtand upon what grounds we have proceeded, eſpecially in that county where your Lordſhip's precinct doth lie.

The eyes of all the natives in Ulſter were turned upon this county: therefore when they ſaw the difficulty of the buſineſs overcome here, their minds were the better prepared to ſubmit themſelves to the courſe preſcribed by his Majeſty for the plantation; and the ſervice was afterwards performed in the reſt of the counties with leſs contradictions. The Britiſh undertakers are preparing their materials for the erection of their buildings the next ſpring: the ſervitors and natives are taking out their letters patent with as much expedition as is poſſible. The agents

for

for London have made better preparation for the erection of their new city at Colrane than expected; for we found there such store of timber and other materials brought in places, and such a number of workmen so busy, in several places, about their several tasks, as methought I saw Dido's colony erecting of Carthage, in Virgil.

Instant ardentes Tyrii: pars ducere muros,
Molirique arcem, & manibus subvolvere saxa:
Pars optare locum tecto, & concludere sulco.

.....

Fervet opus, &c.

Thus, craving pardon and presenting my humble service to your Lordship, I leave the same to the divine preservation, and continue your Lordship's in all humble duties,

*JO. DAVIES.*

Dublin, 8th Nov.
1610.

## POSTSCRIPT.

This worthy servitor, Sir Oliver Lambert, is like to prove a good planter in the county of Cavan; whereof he hath made better proof than any man of our nation, having, at his own charge, voluntarily made a singular good plantation in the wild and most dangerous places in Leinster, more for the commonwealth than his own profit.

*As to the antiquities of this County they principally consist of Danish forts in some of which have been*

*been found treaſure, and ſome old and curious relicks; and as in ſeveral places are to be ſeen cairns or heaps of ſtones, it may not be unacceptable to give General Vallancey's opinion of theſe ancient monuments, and as I promiſed ſome of my friends this explanation, I very willingly perform the engagement, as ſupported by ſo able an antiquarian.*

*Cairn* or a heap of ſtones, ſays the General, are large mounds of ſtones found in different parts of Ireland, and indeed in moſt countries of Europe. They were the ſepulchres of the ancient Celtic heroes, eſpecially of celebrated commanders of armies, and founders of colonies. On theſe mounds ſacrifices were offered in honour of the Earth, or univerſal nature, on the eve of the firſt of November, from whence they were denominated *Tlachgo*, or temples of Veſta by the Iriſh, but Andate by the ancient Britons. Spoils and priſoners taken in war were alſo frequently ſacrfiiced on them, in order to appeaſe the manes of the departed worthies, after the manner of the ancient Mexicans. Here was exerciſed a ſpecies of divination denominated the *Ob*, in order to conſult the ſpirit of ancient times, relative to future events. As repoſitories of the dead, they were frequently called Mogh-ad-air, or Mogh-air-cair-nagh, that is temples, ſanctuaries, or cairns of Mogh or Sodorn, the genius who preſided over human affairs, and the manes of the dead; whence

the

the Romans called them temples of Mercury, and ſanctuaries of Saturn, on which fires were occaſionally lighted in honour of the Sun and Earth. According to the Iriſh antiquaries, theſe Cairns were the moſt ancient ſepulchres of the old Iriſh, the principal perſon was interred, or his Urn placed in a cave or dome in the centre of the mound, and in the early ages was accompanied by his wife and neareſt friends, who were incloſed alive with him in the tomb; for which reaſon we frequently find in opening theſe tumuli, human bones uncovered on the floor of the vault, whilſt the urn containing the aſhes of the hero lies interred under the tabernacle. This barbarous cuſtom, however, was at length aboliſhed, and the friends, relations, and deſcendants of the deceaſed chief were interred under the upright ſtones, encircling the baſe of the monument. A number of theſe Tumuli are ſtill remaining in Ireland, particularly Cairn-Nergus at New Grange, in the county of Eaſt Meath; Cairn-Ban near Newry; Cairn-Dare near Kildare; Cairn-Cluin, and a fine one on the banks of the Liffey about 10 miles from Dublin.

*The ancient religious buildings of Cavan were,*

*The Friery of Cavan.*

Gelaſius Rufus O'Rely, founded a Convent of Minorits there, in the year 1300. This

place

place John Clyn calls Brefinia, it was given to the Minorits of the obſervance in the year 1502.

*Priory of S. Mary of Drumlaban, or Domlech.*

Of the order of Auguſtin Canons, it was founded, or at leaſt rebuilt by S. Edan, commonly called Maidoc, Archbiſhop of Ferns, about the end of the ſixth century. It was at laſt ſubjected to S. Mary, Abbey of Kenlis, in Meath.

The derivation of the name of this priory ſhould be explained; Domleck, or Dromlahan, that is, the houſe of ſtone, is ſaid in the Collectanea to have been a general name amongſt the old chriſtian Iriſh for their churches, when conſtructed of lime and ſtone, to diſtinguiſh them from thoſe of timber and wattles, eſpecially thoſe with ſtone roofs; for the ancient churches of Ireland, particularly thoſe erected from the beginning of the eighth to the cloſe of the eleventh century, are in a different ſtile of architecture from any at this day to be found either in Britain or the weſtern parts of Europe; and are evidently built in imitation of the original chriſtian churches, in the ſouthern countries, taken from the ancient heathen temples of the Greeks and Romans; and probably were introduced into this iſland by the Greek and Roman clergy who retired from their native countries on the arrival of the Goths and Vandals

Vandals into the Roman empire. Theſe churches now remaining in Ireland, ſuch as Cormac's chapel, the churches of Glandalogh, St. Dulach's church, and the monaſtery of Monainſheigh, are all remarkably ſmall, ſeldom exceeding forty feet in length, and twenty in breadth, being covered with circular ſtone arches, under ſtone pediment roofs, of the true Gothic pitch, and the walls frequently ornamented with columns and pilaſters, in rude imitation of the Corinthian and Doric orders. They are, however, in reſpect to taſte, far ſuperior to any erected during the beginning of the later ages, when the Gothic method of building was introduced from Britain.

*Trinity Abbey, in the Iſland of Lough Oughter:*

Canons of the order of the Primon Stratenſes, founded in the year 1249, by Clarus Mac-Mailin, ſometime Archdeacon of Elphin, and endowed by Charles O'Rely. Either this or St. Mary, Abbey of Ballimore, is the ſame with that which John Le Page calls Monaſterium Ballimenualenſe, in the province of Armagh.

*Kilmore.*

Kilmore, or the great church, called in former ages Clunes or Cluain, that is, the ſequeſtered

tered place ſituate near Lough-Ern. Here a church and biſhoprick were founded in the ſixth century, by Fedlimid, which was afterwards removed to an obſcure village called Triburna, where it continued until the year 1454, when Andrew Mac Brady, Biſhop of Triburna, erected a church on the ſite of that founded by St. Fedlimid, to whoſe memory it was dedicated, and demominated Kil-more. At preſent there are neither Cathedral, Chapter, nor Canons, belonging to this ſee; the ſmall pariſh church of Kilmore, contiguous to the Epiſcopal houſe, ſerving for the purpoſe of a cathedral.

## *The Ancient diviſion of Cavan, and of the Eſcheated Lands, with Obſervations thereon.*

*It is ſtated, that when this county had the denomination of O'Relie's country, in ſeveral reigns previous to that of James the Firſt, it was divided into ſmall precincts of land, called Polls, (a diſtinction peculiar to the lands of Cavan,) every poll contained twenty-four acres, whereof there were 1620, which made up 40,500 Engliſh acres, of profitable land, or of arable and paſture. Theſe polls after the diviſion then uſed in Tyrone, and other eſcheated

* Harris's Hibernica.

cheated counties, contained thirty-two proportions; *viz.* of the leaſt twenty, of the middle ſeven, and of the greateſt five, and each of theſe proportions was a pariſh, with glebes and tithes to the incumbent.

In the project for the diviſion of the eſcheated lands, which was publiſhed by the King's proclamation, and generally adopted, four general points were obſerved, which holds good in all the eſcheated counties, *viz.*

1ſt. That the proportion of land diſtributed to undertakers was to be of three different quantities. The firſt and leaſt, conſiſted of ſo many parcels of land, as made up 1000 Engliſh acres or thereabouts. The ſecond or middle proportion, contained ſo many parcels as made up 1500 Engliſh acres or thereabouts. The third and greateſt proportion, ſo many parcels as made up 2000 Engliſh acres or thereabouts.

2d. That all the eſcheated lands were to be divided into four parts, whereof two parts were to be divided into proportions, conſiſting of 1000 acres each, a third part into proportions of 1500 acres, and a fourth part into proportions of 2000 acres.

3d. That every proportion was to be a pariſh, and that a pariſh church ſhould be erected thereon, and the incumbents be endowed with glebes of ſeveral quantities: *viz.* An incumbent

cumbent of a parish of 1000 acres, to have 60 acres; an incumbent of a parish of 1500 acres, to have 90 acres; and an incumbent of a parish of 2000 acres, to have 120 acres, and that the whole tithes and duties of every parish should be allotted to every incumbent, besides the glebes aforesaid.

4th. That the undertakers of these lands should be of several sorts: 1st. English and Scottish, who were to plant their proportions with English and Scottish tenants. 2d. Servitors then in Ireland who were allowed to take English or Irish tenants at their choice. 3d. Natives of the county, who were to be freeholders.

This project which was generally adopted, will more readily explain the division of this county as follows: viz.

*For the Portion of the Church.*

1st. The* termon lands were 140 polls, or 3,500 acres, which the King reserved for the Bishop.

2d. For the incumbents glebes were 100 polls, or 2,500 acres.

3d. The monastery land contained 20 polls, or 500 acres.

*For*

* These were church lands in the ancient division.

*For the Undertakers.*

There remained to be distributed to Undertakers 1,360 polls, or 34,000 acres, which being divided as before, made twenty-six proportions of all sorts; viz. Of the least seventeen, of the middle five, and of the greatest four, which were to be divided amongst the undertakers in this manner.

To English and Scottish six proportions, viz. Three of the least, two of the middle, and one of the greatest.

To servitors six proportions, three of the least, two of the middle, and one of the greatest.

To natives fourteen; viz. Eleven of the least, one of the middle, and two of the greatest.

There remained sixty polls or 1,500 acres, of which 30 polls, or 750 acres were to be allotted to three corporate towns or boroughs, which the King ordered should be endowed with reasonable liberties, and should send burgesses to parliament, and should hold their lands as aforesaid: viz. Ten polls or 250 acres to the town of Cavan, so much more to Belturbet, and so much more to a third town which was to be erected in or near midway between Kells and Cavan, the place or seat thereof to the chosen by the commissioners

who

who were appointed for the ſettling of this plantation. Ten other polls, or 250 acres were to be laid to the caſtle of Cavan; ſix other polls to the caſtle of *Cloughoughter, and the other fourteen poles or 346 acres, to the maintenance of a free ſchool, to be erected in Cavan.

The natives who were not freeholders, they were to be placed within the county, or removed by order of the commiſſioners.

*Obſervations on this Project.*

The intended town between Cavan and Kells was not made a borough, but it doubtleſs means Virginia, and Captain Culme who held the poſſeſſion of the grant by aſſignment from Capt. Ridgeway, the original patentee, (as in Pynnar's Survey of Ulſter made in 1618,) had conditioned to build this town, for which he was allowed ten polls, or 250 acres, and which his deſcendants or aſſigns have ſince enjoyed; at that time, but eight houſes were built, and were all of timber; but it does not appear that it was ever made a borough town.



* This muſt be the caſtle in the Iſland of Loughoughter, and Barony of Loughtee, afterwards called Biſhop Bedel's Iſland.

A conſiderable deviation from the project, alſo took place reſpecting tithes, glebes, and pariſh churches.

I cannot learn whether the number of polls allotted for the free ſchool of Cavan, had any alteration.

To every proportion a ſufficient quantity of bog and wood was allowed, as the country conveniently afforded; and to the ſeveral undertakers both Engliſh, Scottiſh, ſervitors, and natives, a fee farm grant was made of their eſtates to them and their heirs.

In the orders and conditions which were publiſhed by the King, and which were rigidly enforced under penalties, the Engliſh and Scottiſh undertakers were to plant their proportions with Engliſh and Scottiſh tenants only, were to yield to his Majeſty for every proportion of a thouſand acres *5l. 6s. 8d.* Engliſh, and ſo ratably for greater proportions, which is after the rate of *6s. 8d.* for every 60 Engliſh acres.

Every undertaker of 2000 acres, held his lands by **Knights Service in Capite*, and was bound to build a caſtle with a ſtrong court, or bawne about it. An undertaker of 1,500 acres held his lands by †*Knights Service of the caſtle of Dublin*

* A ſpecies of tenure in the feodal ſyſtem, founded on chivalry. See Encyclopedia Britannica, articles Chivalry, Feodal Syſtem, Knight.

† Ditto.

*Dublin*, and was bound to build a ſtone or brick houſe thereupon, with a ſtrong court or bawne about it; and every undertaker of 1000 acres, held his lands *by *common ſoccage*, and there was no wardſhip on the two firſt diſcents of that land, he was bound to erect a ſtrong court or bawne at leaſt. They were all obliged to make their tenants build their houſes in the vicinity of their manſion, for general defence, and an inhibition was made to reſtrain the falling or deſtruction of woods, out of which there was a ſufficient quantity adjudged for the building of each plantation.

The undertakers were bound to have a ſufficient number of arms ready at all times, and a competent number of able men, they were obliged to take the oath of ſupremacy, and to conform in religion according to the King's laws; they could not demiſe or alien to any but thoſe who conformed in theſe particulars, nor to the mere Iriſh on any account. They had power to erect manors, to hold Courts Baron twice every year, to create tenures, to hold of themſelves upon alienation of any part of the portions, ſo as it did not exceed the moiety thereof; they could not demiſe their lands at will only, but were bound to make certain eſtates for years, for life, in taile, or in fee ſimple; and there was a particular proviſoe



* Ditto.

againſt **cuttings*, *coſheries*, *exactions*, or *uncertain rents*, according to the Iriſh cuſtom.

In the articles concerning ſervitors, who had power to inhabit their portions, with mere Iriſh tenants, they were bound to yield to his Majeſty yearly, £8. Engliſh, for every 1000 Engliſh acres, which is after the rate of 10*s.* for every ſixty Engliſh acres, which they inhabited, with mere Iriſh tenants, but they were only to pay 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for every proportion of 1000 acres, which they inhabited with Engliſh or Scottiſh tenants, and they had all the ſame privileges, and were covenanted to the ſeveral conditions, as the Britiſh or Scottiſh undertakers were.

In the articles concerning the Iriſh natives, who were admitted freeholders, they were bound to pay 13*s.* 4*d.* for every ſixty Engliſh acres, and ſo ratably in proportion; they held their tenures as the other undertakers reſpectively, according to their portions, with a proviſoe of the forfeiture of their eſtates if they entered into rebellion; they were conditioned to make certain eſtates to their under-tenants at certain rents, to relinquiſh the old cuſtoms of the country, and to uſe tillage and huſbandry, after the manner of the Engliſh pale.

All

* See Sir John Davis's Hiſtorical Tracts, or the Introduction to the King's County Survey, by the Author.

All the undertakers were obliged to pay their tithes in kind, to the incumbents of their ſeveral pariſhes.

*It may not be unacceptable to preſent a Liſt of the original Patentees of Cavan, as reported by Pynnar, in his Survey of Ulſter, made anno domini,* 1618—19.

*The Precinct of Clanchie allotted to Scottiſh Undertakers.*

No. I. 3000 *Acres.* The Lord Aubignie was the firſt patentee. Denomination *Keneth.*

He reports that Sir James Hamilton, Knt. then held theſe lands by the names of Keneth, 2000 acres, and Caſhell, alias Caſtle Aubignie, 1000 acres. A caſtle was built thereon of lime and ſtone, which was large and ſtrong, with the King's arms, cut in freeſtone over the gate. The caſtle was five ſtories high, with four round towers for flankers; the body of the caſtle fifty feet long, twenty-eight broad; alſo a bawne of lime and ſtone, 80 feet ſquare, with two flankers fifteen feet high. Theſe lands had forty-one families, which conſiſted of eighty men at arms, of Britiſh birth and deſcent. The caſtle ſtood on a meeting of five beaten ways, which commanded all that part of the country; of theſe families, eight were freeholders, three leaſe-holders for lives, five ditto for years, and twenty-five cottagers.

II. 1000 *Acres.*
John Hamilton, Esq.
*Kilclogban.*

Having a stone house 48 by 24 feet, and 2 vaulted towers which flanked the house, with a bawne of stone 80 feet square and 13 feet high, with two round towers for flankers 12 feet in diameter, and a village adjoined the bawne. These lands had 40 armed men in 15 families, of which were 2 freeholders, 6 lessees for years, and 7 cottagers, each cottager then had a house, garden, and commons for 4 cows; there was also another bawne near the former one, 100 feet square, and 12 feet high made of clay and stone.

III. 1000 *Acres.*
Wm. Hamilton, Esq.
*Dromuck.*

Having a stone house 36 feet by 20, with a bawne of lime and stone 80 feet square and 13 high with two round towers for flankers, 2 stories high and vaulted, with a village contiguous to the bawne. These lands had 30 armed men in 14 families, of which were 2 freeholders, 3 lessees for lives, 4 for years, and 6 cottagers; all British.

IV. 1000 *Acres.*
Wiliam Bealie, Esq.
*Tonregie.*

Having a vaulted castle 30 feet by 22 with a bawne of lime and stone 90 feet square, with two flankers. These lands had 28 armed men in 10 families

10 families, of which two were freeholders, 4 leaſeholders for years, and 4 cottagers for years, all Britiſh Inhabitants.

*The Precinct of Caſtlerabin, allotted to Servitors and Natives.*

V. 1000 *Acres.*

Sir William Taaffe was the firſt patentee.

*Mullogh.*

He reports that Sir Thomas Aſh, Knight, held theſe lands by the name of Mullogh and that there was an old caſtle newly repaired, but that all the Inhabitants were Iriſh.

VI. 1000 *Acres.*

Sir Edmond Phittilace was the firſt patentee,

*Carvyn.*

Sir Thos. Aſh, Knight, alſo held this proportion, on which was built a good bawne, of lime and ſtone, 70 feet ſquare, 12 feet high, with two flankers, but that all the land was inhabited with Iriſh.

VII. 500 *Acres.*

Lieutenant Garth was the firſt patentee.

*Murmode.*

Upon this proportion was a bawne of ſods, and all the Inhabitants were Iriſh. Sir Thomas Aſh, Knt. was in poſſeſſion.

VIII. 1000

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|---|---|
| VIII. 1000 *Acres.* Capt. Ridgeway was the firſt patentee. *Logh-Rammor, alias the manor of Chicheſter.* | Captain Culme then held theſe lands, and a houſe 14 feet high, on which was a bawne of lime and ſtone 180 feet ſquare. |

This bawne ſtood on a paſſage and was able to do good ſervice, Captain Culme had conditioned to build a town called Virginia, for which he was allowed 250 acres: at that time, eight timber houſes were built with Engliſh tenants, and there was a miniſter who kept a good ſchool.

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|---|---|
| IX. 400 *Acres* Sir John Elliot, Knt. *Muckon.* | On theſe lands was a bawne of lime and ſtone 60 feet ſquare, and a ſmall houſe; all the Inhabitants were Iriſh. |

| | |
|---|---|
| X. 900 *Acres.* Shane M'Philip O'Relie. *Denomination not mentioned.* | On theſe lands was a bawne of ſods and an Iriſh houſe. |

The

## *The Precinct of Tullaghgarvy alloted to Servitors.*

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|---|---|
| XI. 1500 *Acres.* Captain Hugh Culme and Archibald Moore, Esq. **Tullavin.* | He reports that this was a place of great strength, having a bawne and tower thoroughly finished, Mr. Moore and four English families dwelt there, the rest were Irish. |
| XII. 750 *Acres.* Sir Thomas Ash, and John Ash. *Drumsheel.* | On these lands was a bawne of clay and stone, and another of sods 120 feet square, and all the Inhabitants were Irish. |
| XIII. 1000 *Acres.* Mulmorie M'Philip O'Reyley. *Ittery-Outra.* | On these lands was a very strong bawne of sods with four flankers and a deep moate, and a good Irish house within it. The proprietor had made no estates. |
| XIV. 1000 *Acres.* Captain Reley. *Liscannor.* | On these lands was a bawn of sods and a house in it. The proprietor had made no estates but from year to year, and all his tenants |

* William Moore, Esq. now enjoys this estate and resides thereon, it has never been alienated from his family since the original grant.

ants ploughed by yoking their horſes from the tail.

| | |
|---|---|
| XV. 3000 *Acres.*<br>Mulmorie Oge<br>O'Relie.<br>*Denomination not mentioned.* | On theſe lands was a bawne of ſods and within it an old caſtle which was then built up, in which the proprietor dwelt. He made no eſtates and they all ploughed by the tail. |
| XVI. 2000 *Acres.*<br>Captain Richard and his brother William Tyrrell.<br>*Itterery.* | On theſe lands was built a ſtrong bawne of lime and ſtone 80 feet ſquare, and 12 feet high, with four flankers. The proprietors made no eſtates. |
| XVII. 3000 *Acres.*<br>Maurice Mac-Telligh.<br>*Liſcurcron.* | On theſe lands was a bawne of ſods, and a good Iriſh houſe. |

*The Precinct of Loghtee, allotted to Engliſh Undertakers.*

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|---|---|
| XVIII. 1500 *Acres.*<br>John Taylor, Eſq.<br>*Agbicduff.* | He reports that on this proportion was a caſtle and bawne thoroughly finiſhed, and the |

the proprietor dwelling therein. On theſe lands were 54 armed men in 24 families, of which 7 were freeholders, 7 leſſees for years, and 10 cottagers in fee, who held from 60 to 30 acres each. A village of 14 houſes adjoined, in which was a water mill, the Inhabitants Britiſh.

XIX. 2000 *Acres.*

Thos. Waldron, Eſq.

*Drombim and Dromelan.*

On this proportion was a bawne of ſods 200 feet ſquare, with four flankers and a caſtle of lime and ſtone within it; a town of 31 houſes adjoined, having a wind mill, all the inhabitants were Engliſh: this was a great thorough fare and common paſſage into the country, and had 80 armed men in 53 families, of which 5 were freeholders, 17 leſſees for years, and 31 cottagers, each having a houſe, 2 acres of land, and commonage for 12 cows.

XX. 2000 *Acres.*

John Fiſh, Eſq.

*Dromany.*

On this proportion there was a ſtrong bawne and caſtle, alſo 2 villages, each having 10 houſes of ſtone and lime, with 60 armed men in 22 families, having 4 freeholders, 4 leſſees for 3 lives, 14 for years, and 14 cottagers, each had a houſe, garden, and a commonage right for 4 cows. Inhabitants Britiſh.

XXI. 1500

XXI. 1500 *Acres.*
Sir Hugh Wirral, Knt.
*Monaghan.*

These lands were then tenanted by a Mr. Adwick, and on which was a houſe of lime and ſtone, 2 ſtories high, which was purchaſed by Mr. Adwick. Theſe lands had 8 families with 8 cottagers able to make 26 armed men, and on which were 3 Freeholders, and five leſſees. Inhabitants Britiſh.

XXII. 2000 *Acres.*
Sir Stephen Butler, Knight.
*Clonoſe.*

On theſe lands was a caſtle and bawne of great ſtrength, 2 corn mills, and one fulling mill, and arms within the caſtle for 200 men; 41 Britiſh families beſides under-tenants, and 139 armed men, of which 15 were freeholders, 11 leſſees for 3 lives, and 15 leſſees for years; the Inhabitants all Engliſh.

XXIII. 384 *Acres.*
Sir Stephen Butler, Knight.
*Belturbet.*

Sir Stephen Butler was to plant a town at Belturbet, for which was an allowance of 384 acres*, he was alſo to build a church; here were houſes built of cage work, and all inhabited by Engliſh tradeſmen, who had each a houſe, garden, four acres of land, and commons for a certain number of cows and garrons.

XXIV. 2000

* This differs from his account, page xxxii.

XXIV. 2000 *Acres.* Reynald Horne was the firſt patentee. *Liſreagh.*

On theſe lands, then enjoyed by Sir George Manneringe wasabawne of lime and ſtone, 44 feet long and 12 high, with two flankers, alſo a brick houſe of ſame length, 20 feet high, and a village of ſeven houſes, all the families Engliſh. On the lands were 24 families and 48 armed men, of which were 3 freeholders, and 21 leſſees for years; all the Inhabitants were Engliſh.

XXV. 1500 *Acres.* William Snow was the firſt patentee. *Tonagh.*

Theſe lands were then enjoyed by Peter Ameas, Eſq., on which was a good bawne of lime and ſtone, 75 feet ſquare, and 12 feet high, with 2 flankers, and a ſtone houſe 60 feet long and 3 ſtories high, and a village of 7 houſes; 11 families, 30 armed men, of which 4 were freeholders, and 7 leſſees for years; all Britiſh.

*The Precinct of Clonemahown, allotted to Servitors and Natives.*

XXVI. 2000 *Acres.* Lord Lambert. *Carig.*

He reports that on theſe lands was a large ſtrong bawne and a ſtone houſe.

XXVII. 1000

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|---|---|
| XXVII. 1000 *Acres.* Captain Lyons and Joſeph Jones were the firſt patentees. *Tullacullen.* | Lord Lambert was then in poſſeſſion, and on theſe lands was built a bawne of lime and ſtone 200 feet ſquare, 14 high, with two flankers and a deep moate; 4 Engliſh families without the bawne held land on leaſes of 21 years. |
| XXVIII. 1000 *Acres.* Lieutenants Atkinſon and Ruſſell were the firſt patentees. *Denomination not mentioned.* | Archibald Moore, Eſq. was then in poſſeſſion of thoſe lands, on which was a ſtrong bawne of ſods with two flankers and an Iriſh houſe. |
| XXIX. 500 *Acres.* Captain Fleming. *Denomination not mentioned.* | On theſe lands was built a ſtrong bawne and a houſe, both of lime and ſtone and very ſtrong. |

NATIVES

NATIVES.

XXX. 2000 *Acres.*
Mulmory M'Hugh O'Reley.
*Commet.*

On theſe lands was a ſtrong houſe of lime and ſtone 40 feet by 20, 3 ſtories in height, and about it a bawne of ſods. This proprietor made no eſtates.

XXXI. 300 *Acres.*
Philip M'Tirlagh.
*Wateragh.*

On theſe lands was an Iriſh houſe ſurrounded by a bawne of ſods.

*The Preciſt of Tullaghconche.*

XXXII. 2000 *Acres.*
Sir Alexander Hamilton was the firſt patentee.
*Carotobber & Clonkine.*

He reports that Jane Hamilton wife to Claude Hamilton deceaſed, was in poſſeſſion of theſe lands on which was a ſtrong caſtle and bawne of lime and ſtone, thoroughly finiſhed, having 31 families with divers undertenants, able to muſter 52 armed men, of which 6 were freeholders, and 25 leſſees; Inhabitants Britiſh.

XXXIII. 1000

XXXIII. 1000 *Acres.* Sir Claude Hamilton was the firſt patentee.

*Clomny.*

The ſaid Jane Hamilton was in poſſeſſion of theſe lands which ſhe held for her ſon, a Minor, and on theſe was a town of 22 houſes, the cottagers had a houſe, garden, 4 acres of land, and a commonage for their cows.

XXXIV. 2000 *Acres.* Alexander and John Aghmootie were the firſt patentees.

*Drumbeda & Kilagh.*

Sir James Carig, Knt. was in poſſeſſion of this proportion, in which ſtood a bawne of lime and ſtone 75 feet ſquare, and 16 feet high, with four round towers to flank the walls; and a ſtrong and large caſtle, the length of the bawne 20 feet broad, and 5 ſtories high, and a platform for two pieces of canon. On theſe lands were 33 families and 100 armed men, 5 freeholders, 7 leſſees and 21 cottagers, each having a houſe, and commonage for cows; the Inhabitants all Britiſh.

XXXV. 1000 *Acres.* John Brown was the firſt patentee.

*Carrowdownan.*

Of this proportion Archibald Atcheſon, Eſq. was in poſſeſſion, and had a bawne of ſtone and clay 100 feet ſquare, with four flankers, and 9 feet high, ſtanding

ſtanding on a Mountain. Families 21, and 28 armed men, 2 freeholders, and 19 leſſees for years; Engliſh and Scottiſh Inhabitants.

## *The Precinct of Tullagha.*

**XXXVI. 1500 *Acres.***
Captain Culme and Walter Talbot.
*Balleconnell.*

He reports that upon this proportion there was a ſtrong bawne 100 feet ſquare and 12 high, with two flankers, and within the bawne a ſtrong caſtle of lime and ſtone, 3 ſtories high, and that it ſtood in a very good and convenient place for the defence of the country.

**XXXVII. 2000 *Acres.***
Sir Richard and Sir George Grimes.
*Denomination not mentioned.*

On this proportion was built a bawne of lime and ſtone 60 feet ſquare, and 10 high, and a ſmall houſe within it.

**XXXVIII. 1000 *Acres.***
William Parſons, Eſq.
*Larga.*

This proportion was between divers men, for it was granted for concealments, and they were not bound to build at all.

| | |
|---|---|
| XXXIX. 1000 *Acres.* Magawran a native. *Denomination not mentioned.* | On this proportion was built a ſtrong and good houſe of lime and ſtone, with a ditch around it. |

All theſe acres amount to 52,324 Engliſh meaſure, which were all the valuable lands in the county, at that time; neither bogs, woods, lakes, mountain, or unprofitable ſcopes were taken into account, the lands inhabited by Britiſh.

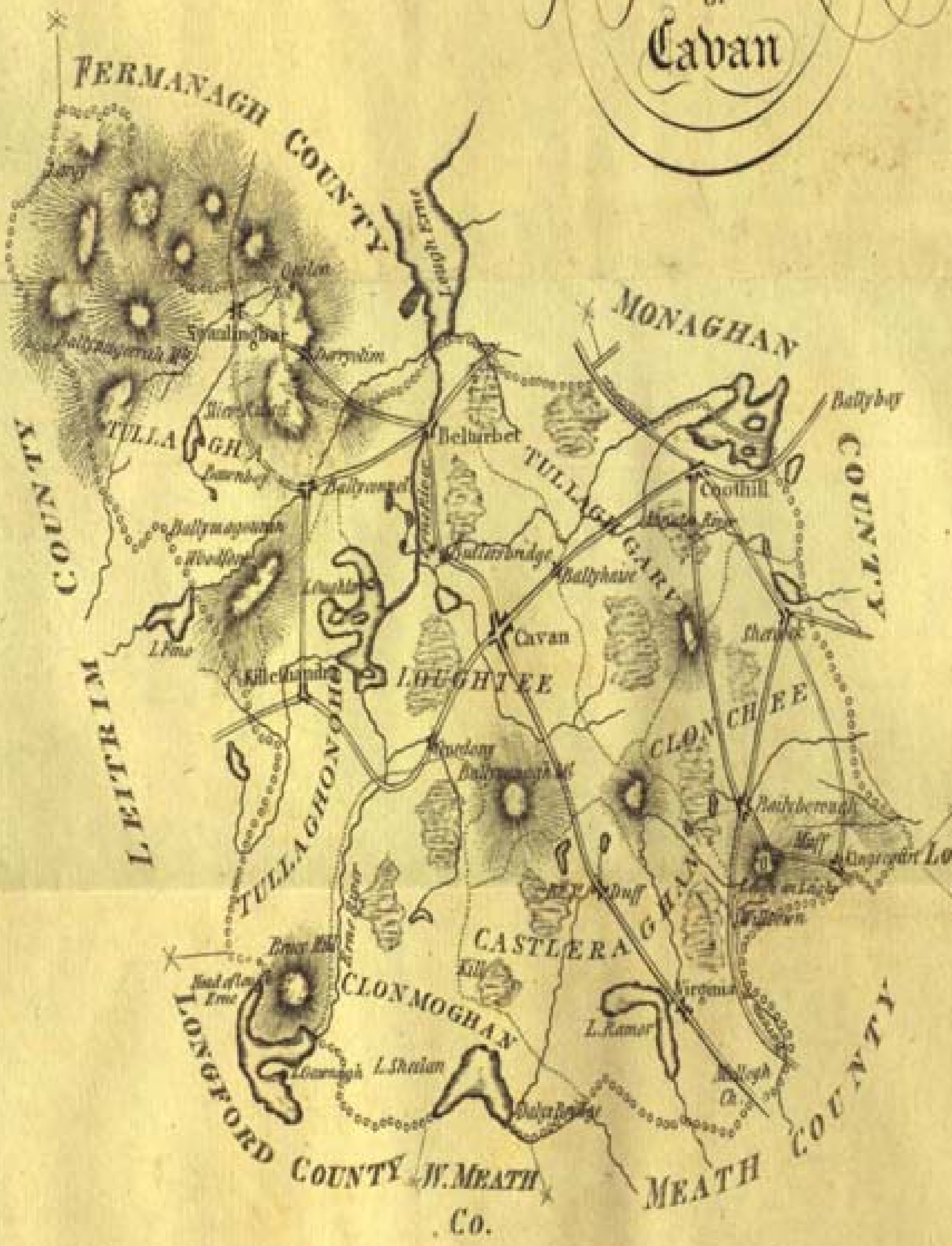
The total tot of Britiſh families at that period were as follow:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Freeholders, | - | 68 |
| Leſſees for lives, | - | 20 |
| —— for years, | - | 168 |
| Cottagers, | - | 130 |
| | Familes, | 386 |
| Body's of armed men, | | 711 |

Of theſe Inhabitants 159 only had taken the oath of ſupremacy. The lands inhabited by Britiſh tenants were cultivated after the Engliſh huſbandry.

A liſt of the preſent proprietors will be given in the 14th. chapter.

# SKETCH of the COUNTY of Cavan



Royal Dublin Society

# STATISTICAL SURVEY

OF THE

# *COUNTY OF CAVAN.*

## CHAPTER I.

### GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND MODERN CIRCUMSTANCES.

### SECTION I.

#### *Situation and Extent.*

CAVAN is an inland county of Ireland, in the province of Ulſter, ſituate midway between the Atlantic ocean and the Iriſh ſea, the extremities of the county being but fourteen miles diſtant from either of theſe waters, having Longford, Meath, and Weſtmeath on the ſouth, Fermanagh on the north, Leitrim on the weſt, and Monaghan on the eaſt.

It is in form rather circular, if we except the barony of Tullagha, which ſtretches in a narrow compaſs, conſiderably north and weſt on Fermanagh and Leitrim, and is in the line of diviſion between thoſe two counties. From the moſt northern part of Cavan in Tullagha barony, and Killinagh pariſh, to Mullogh church, on the borders of Eaſt Meath, near Monalty village by

a right line, the diſtance would not exceed forty miles, and from King's-Court, at the extremity of the county, to the head of Lough Erne, at the point of junction with Longford and Leitrim, about twenty-eight miles. It contains 470 ſquare miles, is 120 miles in circumference, and has 301,000 plantation acres.

From various calculations of the number of the inhabitants, the mean appears to be about 90,000, each pariſh will average above 10,000 acres and 3000 ſouls, and, allowing five to an houſe, leaves about 18,000 houſes in the county. The average value of land will be found to be 15s. per acre, and has within theſe twenty years paſt been raiſed nearly double its former rate.

## *Superficial Appropriation.*

| | ACRES. |
|---|---|
| Arable lands, Paſture and meadow, | 267,500 |
| Rivers and lakes, | 3,500 |
| Woods and plantations, | 3,000 |
| Roads, towns, and villages, | 3,000 |
| Mountain, bog, and waſte, | 24,000 |
| Total acres, | 301,000 |

The face of the country is very irregular, being entirely hill and dale, without any extent of level, in ſome places rocky, and, excepting the mountains, very little under actual waſte. To the north and weſt the proſpect

proſpect is bleak, dreary, and much expoſed; but in the other parts it is not only well ſheltered and woody, but the ſcenery is highly pictureſque and engaging; numerous lakes of great extent and beauty adorn the interior, and, generally ſpeaking, the features of the country are ſtrikingly diſpoſed for ornamental improvements; yet thoſe natural advantages are but partially embraced, though in no part of Ireland can be ſeen demeſnes of more magnificence and beauty, than Cavan can boaſt of. If thoſe charming ſeats are few, they are, indeed, unrivalled in natural ſituation, and in this age of improvement ſhould encourage the too tardy Lords of her ſoil to ſeize thoſe benefits, which nature has dealt out with a laviſh hand, and change the face of thoſe neglected wilds to profit, beauty, and civilization. The barriers of the county on the north and weſt, are highly marked by Slieb-Ruſſell and the mountains of Ballynageeragh; Bruce Hill is a ſtriking feature in the ſouthern extremity, and the Leitrim mountains verge the weſtern bounds.

The beautiful iſlands, formed by the chain of lakes, produce a variegated ſcenery, and the lofty woods, which overhang the river Erne, flowing to the celebrated lake of the ſame name, in the neighbouring county of Fermanagh, winds through fruitful banks, and appears highly favourable to a navigation, which, it is preſumed, would be the moſt certain means to enrich this county in her ſoil, by the eaſy conveyance of lime-ſtone, of which

which there is (but in partial ſpots) a great deficiency; and the ſure and ſteady ſupport, which always accrues from ſuch a work to the manufactures of a country, which here deſerve particular encouragement, from the ſpirit in which they are purſued, and the abundance of every material and natural advantage for carrying them to perfection, is no ſecondary argument for its recommendation or adoption.

## SECT. 2. *Climate.*

In the great ſcale of the county it muſt be allowed but little ſhelter is found, and being ſo much expoſed and high, and ſo contiguous to the great waters, which ſurround this iſland, the climate of Cavan varies little throughout; it is naturally cold, chilly, and boiſterous, but yet not unwholeſome; its elevated ſituation preſerves it from thoſe damps it might be ſuppoſed to poſſeſs in the exhalations of its numerous lakes, which are greatly diſpelled by the bluſtry gales, which ſo conſiderably prevail. The variation of ſowing and reaping ſcarcely exceeds ten days in any part of the county; this variation is not to be ſuppoſed to proceed from any great contiguity to the north, but from a more elevated ſituation. Inured to ſo rough a clime, the inhabitants are conſequently hardy, the huſbandman is remarkable for good health and longevity, and where

the

the weaver has a garden to relax from the fatigues of the loom, he ſeldom encounters thoſe conſumptive habits, which the people of the manufacturing towns who cannot enjoy ſuch advantages, too often ſink under. No where is the ſalubrity of the turf bog more exemplified than in Cavan, where in its environs, though the wretched peaſants are almoſt naked, and their dwelling but a ſodded hovel, yet they ſeem to diſregard the ſeverity of the ſeaſon, and enjoy a hardineſs and longevity, which the natives of more temperate countries are ſtrangers to; the complaints, which thoſe are ſubject to, are unknown to the former, where abounds a numerous population, that may be a corroborating proof of its ſound, ſtrong, and healthy climate.

## SECT. 3. *Diviſion.*

Cavan is divided into 7 baronies, viz. Tullagha, Tullaghonoho, Clonmoghan, Loughtee, Caſtleraghan, Clonchee, and Tullaghgarvy.

Theſe are ſubdivided into townlands, of which are made up 33 pariſhes, and contain 28 pariſh churches in the following Dioceſes:

| *Dioceſe.* | *Pariſhes.* | *Churches.* |
|---|---|---|
| Kilmore. - | 29 - | 24 |
| Meath. - | 1 - | 1 |
| Ardagh. - | 3 - | 3 |
| | 33 | 28 |

It

It alſo contains 9 towns and 24 villages, ſome of which have excellent markets, and will be particularly deſcribed in their proper places.

## POLITICAL DIVISION*.

For the more eaſily collecting the county ceſs, it was determined in the year 1699, that a certain portion of townlands ſhould be united under the particular denominations of a *Carvagh*, and that each barony ſhould contain 1000 carvaghs. Theſe carvaghs are meer nominal proportions of land, of which each townland conſiſts, more or leſs, in proportion to the number of acres in that diſtrict, and to the quality of them; and the original meaning of the word is ſuppoſed to have been as much arable land, as each townland contained, at the time, when this new aſſeſſment was laid on the county. Formerly there were 8 baronies in Cavan, but upper and lower Loughtee are now rated as one, and each barony being allotted to contain 1000 carvaghs, the county was of courſe divided into 8000, according to the following proportion.

* For the more ancient diviſions, ſee Introduction.

*Baronies*

| *Baronies.* | | *Carvaghs.* |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Tullagha contains | - | 551½ |
| 2. Tullaghonoho. | - | 701½ |
| 3. Clonmoghan. | - | 916½ |
| 4. Upper Loughtee. | - | 1776½ |
| 5. Lower Loughtee. | - | 924½ |
| 6. Caſtleraghan. | - | 757½ |
| 7. Clonchee. | - | 874. |
| 8. Tullaghgarvy. | - | 1498 |
| Total carvaghs, | | 8000. |

Each carvagh will be found to contain, by this diviſion, ſomewhat more than 34½ acres of arable land, by which calculation, whenever 10s. per carvagh is raiſed upon the county, each acre of carvagh land is, one with another, charged with three pence half-penny.

This being the mode of collecting the ceſs of Cavan, I ſhall give a calculation of the ſum each barony is to furniſh, according to the rate per carvagh, laid on the county, from 5s. to 10s. per carvagh, both inclusive. But I muſt premiſe, that, in ſo looſe a ſyſtem of taxation, it appears wonderful, how it ſhould be the modus for aſſeſſment, and have kept its ground for above a century; when this ſtrange innovation was propoſed, it was left to a few men

to

to determine, and to value the county, who, we may rationally ſuppoſe, were biaſſed by their own intereſts; but can any thing be more abſurd, than that the old valuation ſtill exiſts, although ſome thouſand acres are now good improved, and ought to be aſſeſſed land, and the full burthen of the tax yet falls on the lands, which were at that time only made liable to the impoſition.

## BARONIAL RETURN OF CESS.

| *Baronies.* | *at 5s. per Carvagh.* | | | *at 6s.* | | | *at 7s.* | | | *at 8s.* | | | *at 9s.* | | | *at 10s.* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *L.* | *s.* | *d.* | *L.* | *s.* | *d.* | *L.* | *s.* | *d.* | *L.* | *s.* | *d.* | *L.* | *s.* | *d.* | *L.* | *s.* | *d.* |
| Tullagha. | 137 | 16 | 6 | 165 | 7 | 0 | 193 | 1 | 6 | 220 | 13 | 0 | 248 | 4 | 6 | 275 | 16 | 0 |
| Tullaghonoho. | 175 | 7 | 6 | 210 | 9 | 0 | 245 | 10 | 6 | 270 | 12 | 0 | 305 | 13 | 6 | 340 | 15 | 0 |
| Clonmoghan. | 229 | 1 | 6 | 274 | 17 | 0 | 320 | 13 | 6 | 366 | 10 | 0 | 412 | 6 | 6 | 458 | 3 | 0 |
| Upper Loughtee. | 444 | 2 | 6 | 532 | 19 | 0 | 621 | 15 | 6 | 710 | 12 | 0 | 799 | 8 | 6 | 888 | 5 | 0 |
| Lower Loughtee. | 231 | 2 | 6 | 277 | 7 | 0 | 323 | 11 | 6 | 369 | 16 | 0 | 416 | 0 | 6 | 462 | 5 | 0 |
| Castleraghan. | 189 | 7 | 6 | 227 | 5 | 0 | 265 | 2 | 6 | 303 | 0 | 0 | 340 | 17 | 6 | 378 | 15 | 0 |
| Clonchee. | 218 | 10 | 0 | 262 | 4 | 0 | 305 | 18 | 0 | 349 | 12 | 0 | 393 | 6 | 0 | 437 | 0 | 0 |
| Tullaghgarvy. | 374 | 10 | 0 | 449 | 8 | 0 | 524 | 6 | 0 | 599 | 4 | 0 | 674 | 2 | 0 | 749 | 0 | 0 |
| County at large. | 1999 | 18 | 0 | 2399 | 16 | 0 | 2799 | 19 | 0 | 3189 | 19 | 0 | 3589 | 19 | 0 | 3989 | 19 | 0 |

*The County at large raiſes per Carvagh.*

| | | s. | d. | | £. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| At | - | 0 | 6 | - | 200 |
| — | - | 0 | 9 | - | 300 |
| — | - | 1 | 0 | - | 400 |
| — | - | 1 | 3 | - | 500 |
| — | - | 1 | 6 | - | 600 |
| — | - | 1 | 9 | - | 700 |
| — | - | 2 | 0 | - | 800 |

And in the ſame proportion, for every three-pence in the ſum laid on the carvagh, raiſing £100.

In the barony of Tullagha are four pariſhes, which contain two hundred and ten town-lands, and five hundred and fifty-one and an half carvaghs, viz.

| | *Pariſhes.* | | *Town-lands.* | | *Carvaghs.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *1 | Killinagh | has | 45 | and | 123½ |
| 2 | Kinawly | — | 25 | — | 89½ |
| 3 | Tempieport | — | 125 | — | 284 |
| *4 | Tomregan | — | 15 | — | 54½ |
| | | Town-lands | 210 | Carvaghs | 551½ |

In the barony of Tullaghonoho are two pariſhes, which contain one hundred and forty-five town-lands, and ſeven hundred and one and an half carvaghs, viz.

| | *Pariſhes.* | | *Town-lands.* | *Carvaghs.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Killdallen | - | 52 | 203½ |
| 2 | Killeſhandra | - | 93 | 498 |
| | | Town-lands | 145 | Carvaghs 701½ |

In

In the barony of Clonmoghan are 7 parifhes, which contain 180 town-lands, and 916½ carvaghs, viz.

| | *Parifhes.* | *Town-lands.* | *Carvaghs.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ballintemple - | 40 | 162¼ |
| 2 | †Ballymachugh - | 22 | 93¼ |
| 3 | Dromloman - | 40 | 226 |
| *4 | Dynn - - | 10 | 38 |
| 5 | Kilbride - - | 36 | 193¼ |
| *6 | Kildromfartin, *alias* Crofferlogh. | 16 | 89 |
| *7 | Kilmore - - | 16 | 114¾ |
| | Town-lands | 180 | Carvaghs 916½ |

In the half baronies of Upper and Lower Loughtee, now rated as one barony, are 11 parifhes, which contain 444 town-lands, and 2,701 carvaghs, viz.

| | *Parifhes.* | *Town-lands.* | *Carvaghs.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Annageliff - | 38 | 283 |
| *2 | Belturbet, *alias* Annagh | 32 | 254 |
| 3 | Caftleterragh - | 51 | 265 |
| 4 | Drmolane, and part of | 101 | 670¼ |
| *5 | Tomregan | | |
| *6 | Dynn - - | 49 | 120 |
| *7 | Killinkere - - | 8 | 42 |
| *8 | Kilmore - - | 60 | 436 |
| *9 | Larrhagh - - | 24 | 109 |
| 10 | Lowey - - | 32 | 167¼ |
| 11 | Urny - - | 49 | 354 |
| | Town-lands | 444 | Carvaghs 2701 |

In

† In this parifh the old denomination of the parifh of Ballymackilleny now merges, though the latter has yet fome diftinct right.

In the barony of Caſtleraghan are five pariſhes, which contain two hundred and nineteen town-lands, and ſeven hundred and fifty-ſeven and an half carvaghs, viz.

| *Pariſhes.* | *Town-lands.* | *Carvaghs.* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Caſtleraghan - | 35 | 115 |
| *2 Crofferlogh, *alias* Kildromfartin. | 50 | 152 |
| 3 Lurgan - - | 51 | 167 |
| 4 Monterconnaght - | 14 | 92 |
| 5 Mullogh - - | 69 | 231 |
| Town-lands | 219 | Carvaghs 757½ |

In the barony of Clonchee are five pariſhes, which contain one hundred and fifty-eight town-lands, and eight hundred and ſeventy-four carvaghs, viz.

| *Pariſhes.* | *Town-lands.* | *Carvaghs.* |
|---|---|---|
| *1 Dromgoon - | 27 | 123 |
| 2 Enniſkeen - - | 25 | 196 |
| 3 Killan - - | 57 | 269½ |
| 4 Knockbride - | 47 | 253½ |
| 5 Moybollogue - | 2 | 32 |
| Town-lands | 158 | Carvaghs 874 |

In

In the barony of Tullaghgarvy are four parifhes, which contain two hundred and fixty-fix town-lands, and one thoufand four hundred and ninety-eight carvaghs, viz.

| *Parifhes.* | *Town-lands.* | *Carvaghs.* |
|---|---|---|
| *1 Annagh, *alias* Belturbet | 57 | 432 |
| *2 Dromgoon - - | 42 | 170½ |
| 3 Drung and Larrahgh | 95 | 603½ |
| 4 Kildromferidan, *alias* Killerfherdinny. | 72 | 292 |
| Town-lands | 266 | Carvaghs 1498 |

Parifh of Annagh, *alias* Belturbet, containing

| | |
|---|---|
| Carvaghs - - - | 254 |
| And Drombane and part of Tomregan | 670½ |
| Making together Carvaghs | 924½ |

are all the lower half barony of Loughtee.

The other parifhes, containing 1776½ Carvaghs, make up the upper half barony.

It appears by the Down Survey, that Cavan contained at that time 274,800 acres of arable land, confequently 26,200 acres were included in bog, wafte, and mountain; the total being 301,000. The county being

*Note.*—Eighteen town-lands in the manor of Athfield, and parifh of Kildromferidan, make part of the feventy-two town-lands, in that parifh. Parifhes thus marked [ * ] branch into other baronies.

being divided into 8000 carvaghs, each carvagh on an average, contains a little more than 34½ acres. But as I already obſerved, the diviſion was not altogether as to quantity, but alſo as to the quality of the land.

## ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISION.

Cavan contains 33 pariſhes, and 28 pariſh churches, their ſeveral denominations and deſcriptions are as follows:

1. Annaghgeliff, an impropriate vicarage, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and barony of Loughtee. Church in ruins.

2. Ballimackkilleny, an impropriate vicarage, in the dioceſe of Ardagh, and barony of Clonmoghan, and hath a glebe.

3. Ballintemple, an impropriate vicarage, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and barony of Clonmoghan.

4. Ballymachugh, an impropriate vicarage, in the dioceſe of Ardagh, and barony of Clonmoghan.

5. Belturbet, alias Annagh, a rectory, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and baronies of Loughtee and Tullagarvy, and hath a glebe.

6. Caſtleraghan, a rectory, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and barony of Caſtleraghan, and hath a glebe and parſonage.

7. Caſtleterragh, a rectory, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and barony of Loughtee, the pariſh church is at Ballyhayſe.

8. Crofferlogh,

8. Crofferlogh, alias Kildromfartin, an impropriate vicarage, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and baronies of Caſtleraghan and Clonmoghan, and hath a glebe.

9. Denn, alias Dynn, an impropriate vicarage, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and baronies of Loughtee and Clonmoghan, and hath a glebe.

10. Dromgoon, a rectory, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and baronies of Tullaghgarvy and Clonchee, and hath a glebe. The pariſh church is at Coote-hill.

11. Dromlane, a vicarage, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and barony of Loughtee, and hath a glebe.

12. Dromloman, an impropriate vicarage, in the dioceſe of Ardagh, and barony of Clonmoghan.

13. Drung, an impropriate vicarage, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and barony of Tullaghgarvy, and hath a glebe and parſonage.

14. Enniſkeen, a curacy, in the dioceſe of Meath, and barony of Clonchee, and hath a glebe and parſonage.

15. Kilbride, alias Kill, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and barony of Clonmoghan.

16. Killan, a rectory, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and barony of Clonchee, and hath a glebe. The pariſh church is at Shercock.

17. Kildallen, a rectory, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and barony of Tullaghoncho, and a hath a glebe and parſonage.

18. Killerſherdinny, alias Kildromſeridan, an impropriate vicarage, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and barony of Tullaghgarvy, and hath a glebe.

19. Killinkere,

19. Killinkere, an impropriate vicarage, in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and baronies of Loughtee and Caſtleraghan, and hath a glebe.

20. Killinagh, a vicarage in the dioceſe of Kilmore and baronies of Tullagha and Tullaghgarvey, and hath a glebe; the church is in ruins.

21. Killeſhandra, a rectory in the dioceſe of Kilmore and barony of Tullaghonoho, and hath a glebe and parſonage.

22. Kilmore, a vicarage in the dioceſe of Kilmore and baronies of Loughtee and Clonmoghan, and hath a glebe and parſonage.

23. Knockbride, a rectory in the dioceſe of Kilmore and barony of Clonchee, and hath a glebe.

24. Kinawly, a rectory in the dioceſe of Kilmore and barony of Tullagha, the pariſh church is at Swanlingbar.

25. Larragh, an impropriate vicarage in the dioceſe of Kilmore and baronies of Loughtee and Tullaghgarvey, the church is in ruins.

26. Lowey an impropriate vicarage in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and barony of Loughtee.

27. Lurgan, a rectory in the dioceſe of Kilmore and barony of Caſtleraghan, and hath a glebe.

28. Moybollogue, a rectory in the dioceſe of Kilmore and barony of Clonchee, and hath a glebe, the pariſh church is at Bailyborough.

29. Mullogh, a chapelry in the dioceſe of Kilmore, and barony of Caſtleraghan.

30. Monter-

30. Monterconnaght, a rectory in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Castleraghan, church in ruins.

31. Templeport, a rectory in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Tullagha, and hath a glebe and parsonage.

32. Tomregan, a rectory in the diocese of Kilmore, and baronies of Tullagha and Loughtee, the parish church is at Ballyconnell.

33. Urny, a vicarage in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Loughtee, and hath a glebe and parsonage.

## SECT. 4. *Soil and Surface.*

Generally speaking of the soil of this county in its present state, it cannot be called fertile, as not producing a sufficiency for the supply of its inhabitants, although it is so considerably engaged in tillage; in its natural state, the soil is cold, spongy, inclined to rushes and a spiry grass, with a thick stratum of a stiff brown clay over heavy yellow argillaceous substrata; when this is improved by draining and gravelling or liming, which manures are but very little attended to, the return is grateful; however, in general, the lands of this county are not so difficult to drain as in Monaghan, they being naturally of a more

dry, tilly, and friable ſoil, and the tillage not retarded in the ſame degree by rain; limeſtone is very little found, and carried at no leſs a diſtance for manure, than from ten to twelve miles, and is always burned with turf; but, where the peaſantry are ſo poor, and the carriage ſo long, over hilly and very bad roads, improvement is not to be looked for in very rapid ſtrides. Wheat is very little cultivated, nor can the grounds, in their preſent ſtate, produce it at all, but other kinds of grain are ſowed, of which oats occupy almoſt the entire. The vales ſhew how favourable to graſs is their ſoil, of a deep brown clay, and are excellent for dairy huſbandry, yet a trifling proportion is ſo occupied; the farms being very ſmall, nothing more is required than ſupplies the peaſant's family, and furniſhes flax for his loom, of which almoſt every houſe in the county poſſeſſes one or more. The hills are entirely under oats, and approaching to mountain are occupied in the grazing of young ſtore cattle.

Cavan is of an undulating and very irregular ſurface, with ſcarce a level ſpot to be ſeen, this inequality is the moſt ſtriking feature, and being very elevated with no conſiderable tract of mountain in the interior, preſents a ſameneſs throughout, which in its uncultivated appearance is far from being engaging; where the ſurface is ſo unequal, of courſe the ſoil cannot but conſiderably vary. The management of their tillage is but looſe and ſlovenly, and indeed, a fundamental

reform

reform in their ſyſtems muſt take place, before we ſee the ground yield what it is certainly equal to, if it were in judicious hands; to exhauſt a ſmall plot with repeated crops of oats, and then ſuffer it to be overrun with noxious weeds, while in a ſtate of recovery from the hardſhips of long oppreſſion, would gradually make the beſt ſoil good for nothing, and how ill muſt it here agree, where the revigorating manures of lime and gravel are hardly attainable but at an exceſſive coſt, and but little uſed?

The peaſantry ſhould be ſhewn the advantage and renovating power of an intermediate green crop between two of corn, and taught to deſpiſe that tyrant cuſtom, to which they are moſt bigotted ſlaves. The grand ſecret of huſbandry is to procure ſtock; tillage cannot otherwiſe be profitably purſued; their dung will enſure ſuch vigorous crops as will quickly prepare them for market, the return of his money to the farmer is ſpeedy, he can trade on it nearly three times for once, of the old modes of feeding, and he ſhall find his profits tenfold encreaſed by ſoiling in the houſe, as much as poſſibly he can.

In this ſyſtem ſo rational and convincing, even in its theory, we will find by introducing intermediate vegetable crops, we entirely aboliſh the uſe or rather the abuſe of fallow, which the moſt celebrated writers on agriculture and the beſt farmers now entirely condemn.

## MOUNTAINS.

The mountains of Cavan are almoſt all in the northern extremity of the county, in the barony of Tullagha, which is nearly ſurrounded by them on Leitrim ſide; they are, in their preſent ſtate, barren and bleak, and in ſome places very lofty; the deſcription of their ſoil, and natural diſpoſition, will, of courſe, be found in the Reports of that county, they being here but the line of ſeparation. The mountain of Slieve Ruſſell borders on Fermanagh, and is the higheſt land in Cavan, but yields ſcarcely any vegetation in its preſent ſtate, and is moſtly waſte. The ſoil is gritty, and extremely rocky and boggy; immenſe and very deep ſwamps cover conſiderable tracts, yet marle is here found, which ſhews that parts are reclaimable, and that it poſſeſſes the manure within itſelf, ſo proper for its improvement. I do not mean, that this valuable manure is confined to Slieve Ruſſell individually, for this favourable report holds good with the whole range of mountain within this diſtrict, ſome of which has been reclaimed by Mr. Griſſon, of Swanlingbar, which may vie with the beſt lands in the county, and proves what yet may be effected, were but the Lords of the ſoil intent on their own individual intereſt, if they ſhewed no concern for the public weal. But how little can be expected from proprietors, who draw the entire rent of their eſtates,

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without ever beholding them, or expending one shilling in improvement, in any manner whatever? they must, of course, be ignorant of the real value of these grounds, which yield them in the aggregate a large revenue, though the tenures set individually for but a very small sum. As to the reclaiming of these mountains, they have not the remotest idea, which would return such a fair and honourable income; and it is astonishing to see with what peculiar care they preserve their game, on these extensive wilds, without the least regard to bettering the condition of their tenantry, whose state of uncivilization is, indeed, a pointed reflection on the supineness of their Lords. The soil of these mountains is in many parts of a red colour, and quickly pulverizes, when turned up or exposed to the air; every material for successfully draining the lands, are at hand; the peasants, who reside in these dreary wilds, are industrious, honest, and quiet, and, were but a little encouragement afforded them, to improve their lands, they would exert every nerve to effect it; they cannot be said to be very poor, as few are without the blessing of a cow, and their farms are so very cheaply rented, they are by no means distressed, nay, many of them are wealthy; but what does this tend to?—What they hold is sufficient for their consumption, and any redundancy from their industry, which sometimes is considerable, cannot be fairly returned in improving of their lands, for want of due encouragement. In civilization they have made no proficiency, for the very wealthiest,

wealthieſt of theſe mountaineers have no better bed than ſtraw, nor is a bedſtead to be ſeen amongſt them, but they indiſcriminately herd together with the hogs and all the domeſtic animals of their hovel. In more minutely examining the condition of this abandoned peaſantry, we have an opportunity of ſeeing far into human nature, and we behold the natives happy, even in this ſavage clime, and abundantly poſſeſſed of thoſe qualifications, which endear mankind to each other. In acts of friendſhip to their neighbours, they are rarely deficient; their generous hoſpitality to ſtrangers is proverbial; for educating their children they are particularly anxious, and a cloſe attention to religion is univerſally prevalent; though their ideas may be tinctured ſtrongly with ſuperſtition, it only argues, their minds have been totally neglected, and they ſhew a great wiſh and anxiety for inſtruction, even in religious concerns. What can be more deſirable to have extended to them than proper tutors? nor could their landlords preſent them with more welcome gueſts.—How nearly does this faint picture apply to all the wilds of Ireland, and to her uncivilized ſons?—Independent of the pleaſure, which muſt reſult to the feelings of man, in bettering the condition of his fellow; independent of the ſatisfaction, which ariſes from the change of ſavage wilds to the fair face of improvements, is it not ſtrange, that ſelf-intereſt doth not induce us to ſeize thoſe capabilities,

bilities, which we ſo amply poſſeſs, and would well repay our toil, and return incalculable profits?—Comparatively ſpeaking, the preliminary ſteps to enſure this deſirable improvement would be but very ſmall indeed; were roads opened through the mountains, and ſmall ſtone houſes erected, with an encouraging tenure, every thing would follow of courſe. Let the peaſant pay but a very ſmall rent for ſo many years, for taking in, ditching, fencing, and liming ſo many acres of ground, and then have his farm for ſo many years longer, at an advance rent, and the matter would ſoon be effected. Not to dwell on the increaſe of income to the individual, which would reſult from this deſirable ſcheme, we will find how immediately it would become the intereſt of the county at large, to concur in its advancement, and perhaps, on a further examination, it would appear by no means unworthy the conſideration and ſupport of the legiſlature: for in this great mountainous tract, extending into the heart of Leitrim, and not even terminated at Lough Allen, than which there cannot be a more ſavage or uncivilized waſte, and in this direction inhabited by a people as rude and barbarous as their wilds; the diſſaffected rebel had a ſecure retreat in the late rebellion, and, from the nature of his receſſes, baffled the purſuit of the yeomanry, whoſe gallant exertions in this inacceſſible region were as meritorious, as the ſervice was difficult and dangerous. How effectually then would it meet

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ſuch deſperadoes, were thoſe mountains to be opened with roads? In the county of Wicklow it was the only expedient found to break the bands of rebels and robbers, which ſo long infeſted the neighbourhood of the metropolis; here it would have the ſame happy influence, and at once add to the improvement of the county, and be the foundation to reclaim an extenſive waſte, and add to the population and wealth of the nation. Theſe unprofitable waſtes, which are now ſo ſecure a retreat for the enemies to the laws, would then ſoon become the habitations of induſtrious farmers; and what ſources of hidden wealth muſt in the cultivation of theſe lands be diſcovered, which now lie dormant? A very fine kind of manure, being a decayed limeſtone, is found in theſe hills, ſimilar to that deſcribed in the County of Monaghan Survey, found in the Sleive-Baught mountains, but much richer, and more calcareous, and effervesces moſt highly with acids. In the banks of rivulets, it is in great plenty, and about a mile from Swanlingbar, up the ſtream, is an immenſe heap of it, which, when applied to the land, gives the moſt luxuriant crops. Marle, is here proved effective for tillage, and is in abundance at the bottom of the hills, but they always exhauſt this manure with repeated croppings, before they let out their lands into graſſes, or allow it any refreſhment.

In Quilca mountain is a very rich iron mine; I have ſent ſpecimens of the ore to the Dublin Society, which

which may be ſeen in their Muſeum; this mine has been worked long ſince to a conſiderable profit, and the ore was ſmelted about half a mile from Swanlingbar into pig iron, and carried from thence to that village, where mills were erected to forge it into bars, and were worked by water, as a very ſtrong mountain ſtream flows there: when the timber of thoſe mountains were exhauſted in the furnaces, the work was given up, though coal is certainly contiguous; on the lands of Lurgan and Coolagh, which are very near at hand, are ſtrong indications of that mineral, on the eſtate of Johnathan Morton Pleydell, Eſq. If the roads were opened, which I have recommended, then the coal mines in Leitrim could be reſorted to, and the iron works reſumed. On the ſummit of Quilca is a ſpring of good water, and this hill forms a remarkable feature in this diſtrict, and overhangs the valley with towering magnificence; for this mountain the rude natives have a ſtrong veneration, and numerous fables, too abſurd to relate, are on record amongſt them of its ſupernatural powers, and the extraordinary race, which they affirm and well believe are reſident within it. Nor is it leſs remarkable, that the ſummit of this hill was the place always choſen for crowning the M'Gwires, or inveſting their chief with ſupreme power over the adjoining county of Fermanagh. This potentate, whoſe envied title and ſole appellation was M'Gwire, enjoyed as abſolute

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and uncontrouled a dominion as any eaſtern prince, and tyrannized over his vaſſals with deſpotic ſway, which they held to be the baſeſt crime to oppoſe; nay, ſo firmly were they rivetted in duty, we cannot from his tyranny ſuppoſe affection to their chief, that they would not ſhrink to ſacrifice their lives and properties to his commands; to this day the ignorant peaſants of theſe hills believe, that the fates of that family are all dependant on Quilca, and that extraordinary appearances are ſeen here on the deceaſe of any of the deſcendants of their ancient chiefs.

The extreme ſuperſtition, which is connected with the old traditions, and the credulous natives being ſo prone to the belief of thoſe idle tales, is very eaſily accounted for, when we reflect, that the ancient bards of Ireland always concealed the moral of their poems, and ſpoke to the people in fables founded upon allegories. The poet extenſively availed himſelf of his licence, in ſtepping beyond the bounds of probability in his flights and rhapſodies, as he found, that fables only were grateful to the ear of an unlettered rabble; but, if we conſider the mythology of his ſtrains, we may diſcover, that a moral inference may be frequently deduced.

If this idea, which is not a novel one, was more minutely conſidered, and generally taken into account, in the peruſal of the old hiſtories and poetical compoſitions of the country, we ſhould be leſs apt to attach

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to them ſo much fiction, which appears in a literal ſenſe; for their fables were either intended as a decoration to the piece, or to convey inſtruction, which effects ſtrains of mere morality would never have produced, becauſe they were not ſuited to the taſte of the people.

I do not mean to aſſert, but that there are many inſtances to be found in ſuch writings, which were the ſole work of fiction, and intended to impoſe on the minds of an ignorant people; many of theſe were the ſubtilty of prieſtcraft, as an illuſtration to their ſuperſtitious doctrines, which they delivered in verſe, as alſo in the ſame manner were the laws promulgated, and many were the effuſions of a fertile invention, or an abſurd taſte, that indulged in marvellous recitals, to divert and amuſe the credulous ear, or perhaps to ſerve as a relief to the unintereſting and tedious chronology they deſcribe.

The Roman and the Grecian poets indulged conſiderably in fiction, but the Iriſh bards were philoſophers as well as poets, and like the Eaſtern Bramins, their verſes were regarded as ſacred inſpirations, and we read that, under their alluring and pleaſing diſcipline, the laws were obſerved, and the minds of the people were craftily reformed to learning and civilization.

It cannot be denied but that in this deſign the bards had well ſucceeded for ages antecedent to the third century

century, and to a nation thus civilized the divine precepts of chriſtianity about that era ſoon became manifeſt truths, and were embraced even to the total extirpation of the Druids or bards their paſtors, whoſe abſolute dominion gave way to the venerable miſſionaries of the goſpel; and it is well authenticated, that for ages preceding the Daniſh invaſion, the nation was renowned for learning and arts, which envied diſtinction, exiſting valuable relicks, and the moſt reſpectable ancient writers have concurred to teſtify it well deſerved.

But the unhappy and tedious warfare, which took place with their cruel invaders, afforded no opportunity for the further cultivation of peaceful ſtudy, and at once extirpated all manner of learning: hence followed a rapid and miſerable relapſe into ignorance, and by the baneful effects of war, the bright and eminent erudition of their predeceſſors was obliterated in the barbarity of the ſubſequent dark and uncivilized ages, whoſe annals will ever be an indelible ſtain on the character of the nation.

To reſume the natural hiſtory of theſe mountains, we find, that coal or iron ore are not the only minerals that abound; for in the mountain of Ormaculagh near Ballyconnell, both lead and ſilver ore are carried down the ſtream, which flows from thence, pure ſulphur is frequently found, fuller's earth, and pipe clay are in abundance, the latter is found very

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ſoft, and when baked in the ſun acquires a proper conſiſtency; approaching into the Fermanagh mountains, beautiful white and red tranſparent ſpars are within a ſpade's depth of the ſurface, and here are two ſlate quarries, which only require a ſpirited undertaker to return an ample profit; potter's clay is in every townland, and ſome of it of the very beſt and pureſt kind; patches of brick clay abound, of the fineſt and moſt durable quality, and every ſtep we take, evinces the value of the mineral productions of theſe mountains. Nor in its mineral waters, is this country deficient; at Swanlingbar is a celebrated well, which is reſorted to in the ſummer by the beſt company; the report of the analyſis is ſulphur, earth, ſea-ſalt, and foſſil alkali, and its medicinal effects both alterative, and diaphoretic; the waters are uſed from April to September, and are eſteemed particularly revigorating for a debilitated conſtitution. It may not here be improper to account for the etymology of this village, which is ſo incongruous with the ancient names of this country, and hold its appellation from the following ſilly anecdote.

When the iron mine was diſcovered at Quilca, it was engaged in by a company, whoſe names were Swift, Saunders, Darling, and Barry, who choſe this ſpot, from its favourable ſite, for a mill, which they had to erect on the ſtream to forge their bar iron, and from their names this ridiculous word was tortured,

tured, from whence the village was called; it is on the eſtate of Mr. Wynne. Another mineral water is contiguous to the town, but is entirely ſulphureous; on the mountains near Ballyconnell, is alſo an indication of coal, on the eſtate of the Miſs Montgomerys.

The climate of theſe mountains is exceſſively ſevere, for four months expoſed to harſh winds and continual ſnow and ſleet, which lies long on the ſurface; the ſoil is argillaceous, with deep ſtrata of gritty ſtone, approaching near to granite; the ſurface very moſſy, but they have ample ſupplies of a blue gravel, which, with firing, certainly deſtroys it, and alſo, when dug into the ſoil, renders it very tilly and dry. Limeſtone gravel of a loamy and very calcareous quality is frequently met in banks, and the ſolid block of limeſtone is abundantly found, which they burn with turf, and apply rather ſparingly to their lands, ſcarcely exceeding 30 barrels to the acre, and this ſmall ſupply yields a very productive crop. Oats of the hardieſt kind, and quite black, which is ſowed after one or two crops of potatoes, is their principal grain. Barley is ſo rarely cultivated, as ſcarcely deſerving to be ſpoken of, amongſt them. Their valleys or low-lands are graſſy, but very coarſe, and ſerve to ſuſtain their cattle in the winter months, or rather three parts of four in the year, when the mountains are inacceſſible; the breed is conſequently poor and ſtunted.

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The plough is never uſed, the ground is ſo rocky; their ſpade is remarkably long in the blade, which they call the loy, and is faſhioned with a conſiderable curve to prevent the adheſion of the ſoil, and as they trench in all their grain, their labour is immenſe yet not very expenſive, for they are ſo expert as to require but twelve men to dig an acre in a day's work; the ground lies admirably for draining, but being ſo much under church, and ſchool* dominion bars its improvement very materially; nor is it to the profitable reclamation of huſbandry only that their mountains are ſo very favourable, but, as I have ſaid, they evidently poſſeſs immenſe riches in their mineral productions, and perhaps no where are more natural beauties to be ſeen, to invite the hand of the ornamental improver; the lofty hills preſent the boldeſt views, and create the ſublimeſt ſenſations, and their naked ſummits form a perfect contraſt with the verdure of the country below, which, though coarſe, yet from this diſtance appears to poſſeſs the richeſt luxuriance. Aſcending the mountain from Derryolim, its ſingular ſhape is particularly ſtriking, and nods in uncouth pre-eminence over the leſſer hills, which ſeem to ſhrink from the craſh of its impending ſummit, from whence is preſented the grandeſt proſpect over ſeveral counties; the ſurrounding ſcenery is only deſtitute of

timber

* Under theſe eſtabliſhments, encouraging leaſes cannot be made.

timber to complete the landſcape: the woods have been long ſince cut down to ſupply the furnaces at Swanlingbar. It is evident from the fine growth they had, that the ſoil is particularly favourable to plantation, and from the very fiſſures of the rocks ſpring ſhrubs, which flouriſh in theſe wilds, and defy the inclemency of the winter, which is here ſo ſevere. Manganeſe and ochres are alſo found in theſe mountains, the latter of the very beſt quality, both red and yellow; of the former, the coarſe kind only, which is uſed in the potteries.

## WOODS.

The woods of Cavan were formerly very conſiderable, and the timber of uncommon ſize, which argues that the ſoil is favourable to plantation. Demeſne grounds now can only boaſt of this valuable ornament, which will be particularly noticed in their places. Immenſe trees are found in the bogs, much groſſer than I have ſeen elſewhere, but not ſo found as thoſe raiſed in the Bog of Allen. That theſe bogs are of a leſs aſtringent quality, I cannot conceive; for, if genuine original bog is any where, it muſt be in Cavan, where they are ſo extremely deep. I rather apprehend, from the ſize of the timber, that it decayed before it fell.

A ſpirit of improvement in this delightful purſuit is evidently getting forward, as many demeſnes are now

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well planted, and give a woody appearance to the county; but, excepting the vicinity of gentlemen's ſeats, very little ſhelter is to be found. In hedging and ditching, they are remarkably deficient; take all the town-lands of Cavan, and I queſtion, if, on an average, three fields will appear well incloſed in each town-land, or half of this number ſhew quick or thorn hedges.

## BOG AND MOOR.

For culinary purpoſes, or for manufactures, Cavan poſſeſſes a full ſufficiency of bog, and gives fuel of the very beſt quality; for draining, it generally lies favourable, and yields the ſtrong red aſhes, which are ſo particularly good and caſting a manure. In lime-ſtone gravel the county is very deficient, which is ſo valuable in the reclaiming of bogs, as alſo it is in limeſtone quarry: but here the bogs, when drained and burnt, only yield a verdure of a very kind and fine nature, ſuperior to any I have before ſeen, which had not been limed. Theſe bogs are variouſly deep, but more generally extremely ſo; the ſtratum next the ſurface is very denſe and cloſe, and makes the fineſt fuel; that next to it is more commonly leſs tough, and apt to crumble, after which, to the bottom, it is of the moſt excellent quality. When the ſurface is burnt, it yields ſhamrock and clover naturally, and the ſweeteſt herbage.

The moors are but in ſmall proportion, and that, which is called moor here, would be eſteemed abſolute bog in other parts. They only differ from bog from the partial argillaceous ſtrata, which run ſo near the ſurface, and in them marle more generally abounds, which is highly calcareous, and very eaſily raiſed.

## Sect. 5. *Minerals, and mineral waters.*

Are iron, lead, ſilver ore, coal, ochres, marle, fuller's earth, potter's clay, brick clay, manganeſe, ſpar, ſulphur, and a ſpecies of jaſper ſtone; limeſtone, but in ſmall quantities.

Beſides the mineral waters at Swanlingbar, already deſcribed in this county, is that at Derryleſter, which has the ſame medicinal virtues, being alterative and diaphoretic.

The waters at Derrindaff have ſulphur and purging ſalt; their effects are uſeful in lowneſs of ſpirits, and nervous diſeaſes, and they have a diuretic tendency.

The well at Owen Breun has the like medicinal properties, and the analyſis ſhews ſulphur and foſſil alkali.

At Carrickmore, the waters are impregnated with fixed air, purging air, and foſſil alkali, and are both purgative and diuretic. They are extremely cold.

## SECT. 6. *Water.*

The Erne is the principal river of Cavan, and is supplied, in its courſe to Lough-Erne, with numerous lakes and ſmall ſtreams, which very plentifully water the country. A very fine line of navigation runs with this river, and viſits the beſt cultivated and richeſt parts of the county. A very ſmall expenſe would render it complete from Coote-hill to Belturbet, and, from thence to Ballyſhannon; it is at preſent navigable.

If the line of canal were adopted, which I took the liberty to recommend in the Reports of Monaghan county, then would this county alſo ſhare the extenſive benefits to be derived from it, were the line, I now propoſe, to be determined on here; and on candidly examining the ſubject, there is no difficulty in pronouncing, that no means whatever are ſo likely to afford true benefit here, as a navigation would enſure. In water they would, doubtleſs, have a ſteady ſupply, ſo numerous are their reſources in this particular, and it is preſumed, that their manufacture would be highly benefited.

The lakes are capable of enſuring a reſervoir, for a conſiderable part of the year, as many of them are not dependent on ſprings within themſelves for their waters, but are filled with ſmall ſtreams, which flow into them.

The lakes of Cavan are numerous, and ſome of them very extenſive ſheets of water, which cover ſeveral hundred acres, as will be particularly ſhewn; others preſent great extent in winter; many of them are entirely dry in ſummer, and are not without good falls, and could be eaſily drained; they abound with the fineſt pike, and their waters are very deep and uncommonly clear; ſeveral of them are diſcharged into ſtreams, which form in the vales a powerful current, and with the diverſity of the channel create many other leſſer lakes. After watering a great extent of country, they flow into Lough Erne, and clearly ſhew the fine line of navigation, which is ſo attainable, ſhould it be deemed politic to adopt it.

CHAP.

## CHAP. II.

## STATE OF PROPERTY.

### *Eſtates and Tenures.*

THE value of large eſtates of this county rates from 10,000*l.* to 1000*l.* per annum, and they reduce even to 50*l.* per annum; the ſmaller are conſiderably enjoyed, as grants even from the Cromwellian expedition.

The moſt conſiderable eſtates are reſided on by the proprietors, and the leſſer ones are almoſt individually ſo; a life intereſt is moſt uſually the tenure of farmers, and no county is more obſtinately conteſted in elections for members to ſerve in parliament. Three lives is the general original term of the leaſes, or twenty-one years and a life, yet ſome valuable farms are enjoyed in perpetuity, and ſome of the holders have a conſiderably ſuperior intereſt to the proprietor, who has the fee.

The farms are ſmall throughout, and come under the ſame deſcription as thoſe of Monaghan, in the manner of occupation, being principally held by manufacturers, who occaſionally relax from the loom to the buſineſs of

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the farm; the larger farms may average thirty acres, the ſmaller ſeven; the latter bear above ten to one to the former, in the proportion of the county, ſo that nine acres may be the average of the whole.

The reſtriction of non-alienation is not ſo rigorouſly inſiſted on, and indeed, it is a very difficult, if not an unattainable matter, to deviſe the means for carrying this deſirable clauſe into effect. It muſt be allowed, that the more the benefits reſulting from the obſervance of this impoſition are conſidered, the more deſirous we ſhould be, to have it of general effect through the nation, as the beſt guardian to improvement, and the furtherance of agriculture; but ſuch unconquerable difficulties are preſented, as ſeem a total bar to its maintenance.

To make a leaſe to the farmer for his own life will not bar the transfer of property; for, ſhould he become a bankrupt, then, the intereſt in his tenure becomes the property of his creditors, which no form of leaſe can deprive them of, and is an alienation on the death of the leſſee, and the lands becoming the property of the children, it conſtitutes a direct alienation; and what man will exhauſt his wealth from his family, on the uncertainty of his own life, ſo that the improvement is barred by this clauſe, and agriculture is, doubtleſs, ſhackled; however, we ſee ſuch miſerable examples, in every part of Ireland, of the interference of middle-men, as, doubtleſs, cauſe a ſerious evil, and is

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a real oppreſſion to the poor, as unreaſonably loading the produce of the lands with a heavy charge; for each perſon concerned muſt have his profit, and ultimately the proprietor is a material ſufferer, when his land is returned on his hands, ſo exhauſted by inceſſant croppings, that it is incapable of yielding more, until unprofitable reſt and immenſe expence prepare it again for perhaps the like ſlovenly and infamous management.

The remedy for this evil is worthy the conſidera-tion of the legiſlature, and the miſerable appearance of the *coſhier lands of Ireland loudly calls for their interference, which the proprietor has at preſent no remedy againſt, but the tedious ſtages of ejectment, when he cannot otherwiſe reſcue his grounds from the hands of men with neither capital nor judgment.†

Speculation without capital, which our countrymen are too prone to, will inevitably involve ſome of the parties engaged in it. If the needy peaſant, who thus embarks, cannot fail in the purſuit, it is becauſe he has nothing to loſe; but the weight of his folly and knavery

* A neglected ſtubble overrun with weeds.

† I beg leave to quote one legal opinion on this ſubject.

2 Durnford & Eaſt. Roe v. Galliers. Page 137. *Per Aſhburſt Judge.* The general principle is clear, that the landlord having the Jus diſponendi may annex whatever conditions he pleaſes to his grant, provided they be not illegal or unreaſonable. It is reaſonable, that a landlord ſhould exerciſe his judgment with reſpect to the perſon, to whom he truſts the management of his eſtate; a covenant therefore not to aſſign is legal.

knavery preſſes hard on the landlord, who has no redreſs by law, but by ejectment: in the mean time, the middle man, who oppreſſes both the proprietor and the miſerable occupier, is enriched, and is encouraged to perſevere in a ſyſtem more injurious to the real intereſts of the nation, as barring all improvement, than treble the weight of taxes, which are impoſed by the legiſlature.

CHAP.

## CHAP. III.

## BUILDINGS.

THERE is nothing of magnificence in the buildings in this county; at Bellamont foreſt this ſtile is attempted, but quite too little ground covered to admit it. At Farnham, the irregularity, and want of method in the ſtile, forbids claim to elegance, but theſe two princely demeſnes are well deſerving the moſt magnificent manſions, as will be ſhewn, when we come to ſpeak of the beauties they ſo eminently poſſeſs. The more ſubſtantial farmers have good family houſes, which have little in the exterior to recommend them, but the dwellings of the peaſantry are miſerable indeed; the general rent of theſe huts with liberty of turbary, and a rood of ground, is from forty to fifty ſhillings per annum; this would not average fifteen ſhillings from the head landlord, but, by the interference of middle-men, is raiſed to the preſent extravagant pitch. This middle-man is generally a manufacturer of linen, who employs journeymen; he rents, perhaps, ten or fifteen acres of land, at from fifteen to thirty ſhillings per acre, according to the quality of the land, and

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the number of cottages, which are erected on it: this he divides into ſo many parts, as he has capital to employ journeymen; he ſets a rood of ground for fifty ſhillings, which is ten pounds per acre, from which let us, (at the utmoſt) deduct five pounds for the building of the cabin, which he is quickly repayed, we find it is he, who has the great benefit of the land, that but a ſmall matter is returned to the original proprietor, and the occupier, who ought to enjoy ſome profit, as it is he who makes and pays the rent by exceſſive labour, is left in penury and diſtreſs, by this extravagant and burthenſome proceſs.

This wretched member of ſociety works at the loom for his rapacious employer, and his tenure is called a dry cot-take; if he has the graſs for a cow, he pays for it, from one to two guineas additional, which is termed a wet cot-take: theſe cot-takes are not leaſed to the weaver, which is the pretence the employer pleads to his landlord, (who may be an enemy to alienation) that, as he does not give any ſtated term of the tenement, of courſe he has no fixed intereſt in it, but yet the miſchievous conſequence is the ſame, and the occupying tenant is grievouſly oppreſſed, and kept in continual poverty. This ſubject will be again reſumed in the eleventh chapter, where it particularly applies.

CHAP.

# CHAP. IV.

## MODE OF OCCUPATION.

### SECTION I.

### *Size of Farms, and characters of Farmers.*

THE average of farms here is about nine acres, taking large and ſmall together, but in the vicinity of towns where is a market, they ſeldom exceed five. The mountainous parts only, where the population is ſo thin, are largely allotted to individuals, who occupy them in grazing young cattle, in the ſummer months, moſtly for hire; the low grounds being in ſo ſmall allotments, that the occupiers cannot raiſe grain for market in abundance, but merely to ſupply their own families. The principal commodity for market, which is raiſed from the ground, is flax; potatoes, of courſe, are plenty, as their clay grounds are ſo favourable to them. In pet-parks, in the demeſnes of the gentry, ſome ſheep are fatted; theſe occaſionally come to market, but, in general, excepting the environs of Cavan town, there are not good ſheep-walks to any extent in the county. The middle diſtrict, in the barony of Loughtee,

Loughtee, is certainly ſuperior to any other part of the county for feeding ground, and here, particularly at Farnham, where the breed of cattle is ſo fine, they feed oxen to as great a ſize, as any part of Ireland can produce; but, in general, the markets of this county are but poorly ſupplied with meat. As to the peaſantry, whether we conſider them as manufacturers, or as farmers, they are commendable as to induſtry, as indubitably they are hard working people; but yet their farms ſhew but a ſlovenly care and ill management, and argue the impoſſibility of devoting a due attention to the two purſuits, which, in their ſeveral ſtages, are ſo oppoſite. If it could be done at all, I ſhould think in this county it ought to ſucceed, where the farmer holds ſo ſmall a portion of land, and has more than his entire rent coming in from the offsets of his little farm, ſo that neither want of capital, nor extent of ground, can be taken as an excuſe for ill management, and the general characteriſtic of the people is thrift and ſobriety; yet we ſcarcely ſee a field incloſed with a ditch, which will ſtand for a ſeaſon, and no attempts at all to quick it, or plant a tree. Theſe improvements are peculiar to the ſeats of men of fortune, and which the lower claſs have little notion of.

As I have ſhewn the character of the people is praiſeworthy as to induſtry and ſobriety, ſo candour muſt oblige me to expoſe their ſtrange infatuation to cuſtoms however ridiculous, which yet prevails, nor will

demonſtration

demonſtration itſelf perſuade them to abandon them, or adopt modes of improvement, which have not been ſanctioned by the example of their predeceſſors.

## Sect. 2. *Rent.*

Sihce the Engliſh ſettlers came to this country, rent has been paid in ſpecie; before that time, it was paid in kind, and, although in the principal parts of Ireland bank notes were received in payment, yet here, until the latter year, they have been generally and ſteadily reſiſted, and now but partially ſo: ſpecie enough was hitherto found to diſcharge their rents. It is worth enquiring the reaſon for this ſudden change, after ſo long and ſo ſucceſsful a reſiſtance, which I ſhall endeavour to account for. The linen manufacture, which is the life and ſoul of this county, and on which its proſperity entirely depends, has had all its materials hitherto paid for in ſpecie, and as the weaver or the farmer would take no other payment but caſh, they were, of courſe, obliged to pay their rent in ſpecie; and where extenſive markets are reſorted to every day, and perhaps, from eight to ten thouſand pounds regularly expended weekly, it was not in the power of the ſpeculators in diſcount to take the ſpecie out of the county; for the manufacturers paid the higheſt diſcount for caſh, to take to market to purchaſe their webs.

webs. I muſt here digreſs a moment in obſerving, that this has been a conſiderable tax on the trade, in as much, as the rate of diſcount per cent. exceeded the currency of bank notes, and may, in ſome degree, account for the extravagant prices, which linens have borne, ſince the national bank was prohibited from paying ſpecie by order of council. Other reaſons, and material ones, have alſo occurred, to occaſion the extraordinary riſe, which has conſiderably injured the trade.

I muſt only now remark, that, as the tax of diſcount for ſpecie is in part taken off, and the merchants pay for webs with both caſh and bank notes, it is to be expected, that ſince the burthen is gradually removing, the trade will again recover, and be brought more on the general level with other articles of commerce, which the community at large will, doubtleſs, fell the good effects of.

To reſume this account for the diſappearance of ſpecie, I muſt remind my readers of the extraordinary emigration of linen weavers from this province, the laſt ſpring, to America, ſeveral thouſands having actually left the country, which the too lenient and miſtaken government permitted, in conſideration of the calamity of the ſcarceneſs of proviſions. It is a well authenticated fact, that it was not the pooreſt claſs who left the country; for how could a poor man command ſix guineas for each of his family, which was the bare paſſage money only? And, although in former years

their

their venture was linen cloth, yet it is well known they took out all they were worth, converted into *ſpecie*; the intereſt of their farms, their ſtock on the farm, and in trade, was all ſold for caſh: how many thouſand pounds muſt the country have been ſtripped of, for their paſſage money only, which was given in prompt payment? Granting, that the amount of this ſum was left in the country by the captain of the veſſel, for the high diſcount which then prevailed, yet the moſt conſiderable ſums muſt have accompanied the adventurers; for the man, who could ſpare from his ſtock ſix guineas per head, for the paſſage of his family, muſt have had no ſmall purſe, to commence a living in a ſtrange country. How ſtrongly pictured here is the character of the Iriſh peaſant—how directly marked with ſpeculation and adventure?

After encountering two years of famine, ſuch as he before never witneſſed, and burthened with an unprecedented weight of taxes, at the eve of the moſt abundant harveſt, that ever the country was bleſſed with, he diſpoſes of his all, for an adventure to a country he knows not of, and will ſoon forſake for his native home, to which he returns a burthen and a pauper.

Such is the true picture of emigration, as already the adventurers have repreſented to their relatives, whom they have forſaken, which will, doubtleſs, quell that rage for emigration, better than the moſt ſtrict laws, which to the national diſgrace, and incalculable loſs, were here incautiouſly permitted to ſlumber.

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One half of the yearly rents of Cavan are left with the tenants to trade on, as they pay only the laſt gale, as the ſecond becomes due. I have in other Reports very fully endeavoured to ſhew the impropriety of this cuſtom, which the landlords call an indulgence, but which, doubtleſs, can be made the moſt arbitrary uſe of, as at all times the tenant muſt obey the orders of the landlord, or be driven for the pending gale of rent, which too few can command, without diſpoſing of their ſtock to their diſadvantage, in a bad ſeaſon, or leaving their lands unoccupied.

We have numberleſs inſtances of the abuſe of this cuſtom, the recital of which muſt be as well to the national as the individual diſcredit, for in too many parts does it ſhamefully prevail; I ſhould conſider him the beſt landlord, who would oblige and inſiſt on having his rent paid up punctually: his tenant is much more independant than the man, who has the indulgence of the hanging gale.

The women contribute very conſiderably to the rent by ſpinning, they are extremely induſtrious; as the farms are ſmall, there is no great demand for labour, the family on the land being generally fully adequate to all the work; nor for the ſame reaſon have they cottiers, as in Leinſter and Munſter, as thoſe called cottiers here give their labour to their employer at the loom. For the cot-take there is no leaſe, and rent is paid in labour, in the like

like manner, as in the counties where the cottiers work abroad: they are both mutually bound to their employers, only as long as they like their ſervice; duties, which doubtleſs ought to be conſidered as rent, are only partially adhered to in this country, and are another ſource, from which much evil may flow, and at leaſt only ſerve to hold up the veſtiges of the feudal ſyſtem, which in ſo many inſtances are in direct hoſtility to the ſpirit of our conſtitution, and a heavy ſhackle on the liberty of the ſubject. The happy ſpirit of improvement is firmly taking root, and the true intereſt and honour of the nation will naturally prevail, before which theſe idols muſt fall.

## SECT. 3. *Tithes*

The matter of complaint, in this inſtance, is not againſt the principle of the tax, ſo much as the mode of collecting it; no ſyſtem in exiſtence labours under greater abuſes, nor could any be more eaſily reformed; the timidity diſplayed by the friends of the Church, in remedying the enormous abuſes which are countenanced, almoſt induce a ſuppoſition, that the whole fabric will meet a craſh; for that, which has ſo much evil interwoven in it, will not ſtand; I beg I may be underſtood, that there cannot be any perſon, who

wiſhes better to the intereſts of the church than I do, and I by no means would argue for the impropriety of the tax; I would wiſh to ſupport the rights of the church; I therefore would willingly expoſe the defects, which may be remedied, and far from preſuming to point out an infallible cure for the evil, I would heartily wiſh that the clergy themſelves would rectify it, which it is doubtleſs in their power to do, without recourſe to the legiſlature, and almoſt to the general ſatisfaction. I conceive, that the ſame miſchievous ſpirit of alienation has cauſed the preſent grievances in this ſyſtem, as paſſing through the hands of ſo many proctors, each of whom has a conſiderable profit. This is a ſubject I wiſh to touch on but lightly, as I know that this particular, being a matter of enquiry in the ſurveys of the preſent ſtate of the counties of Ireland, has created an unfounded alarm; however, there are ſome matters here ſanctioned by cuſtom, which there can be no impropriety in canvaſſing, and one, which ſeems not a little extraordinary, is the loading the tillage only with the tax; the tithe for meadow is not an acreable charge, but is ſix pence for any quantity, be it more or leſs, ſo that the man, who has one thouſand acres of meadow, pays juſt the ſame ſum as the man, who has but one acre: and as the poorer claſs have nothing but tillage, of courſe, the ſmall meadow tax he is not liable to, but he is to the heavy tax, which falls on grain.

Thus,

Thus, it is not the rich in meadow lands and crops of hay, who pay the clergy, but the miſerable peaſant, out of the ſcanty morſel he has prepared for his wretched family. I do not now mean, that it is a hardſhip, that the rich landlord, who has his parks in luxuriant graſs, ſhould not contribute to this tax; for, reverting to the original inſtitution, we find it is he, who has been a material ſufferer, becauſe, as his lands are liable to the impoſition of tithe, of courſe, by ſo much as they ſhall be rated to return to the clergy, by as much will the tenant underrate them in his offer for the rent of the farm; for he knows the lands muſt pay tithe and taxes, let who will occupy them, and this ſum he ſhould deduct from the value of the rent, before he makes his bargain.

I would therefore conceive it is the original proprietor, on whom the tax bears the hardeſt in the principle, but that the great evil of farming tithes, and the modes of collecting them, cruelly oppreſs the pooreſt claſs of the community; and except in latter years, when corn did not bear ſo immoderate a price, it is well known, that meadow lands were more profitable than tillage; of courſe the rich farmer choſe the former huſbandry, and one very natural reaſon in this county was, becauſe it removed him beyond the reach of the griping proctor.

Another evil is, that, where ſo many middle-men intervene, why not charge each of them with a pro-

portion, as they have therein profits clear, and not load the occupier with the entire tax, who pays all of them their immoderate profits, and by the ſweat of his brow they are enriched, whilſt his own family, worn down with toil, know not the joys of independence, or the bleſſings of plenty.

It would be an inſult to a rational underſtanding to ſay, that theſe are evils, which cannot be redreſſed; many, though fruitleſs, have been the obvious remedies ſhewn, but which have hitherto met with cruel inattention.

On the whole, the clergy are ill paid, the occupier is diſtreſſed and impoſed on, and the crafty proctor is enriched at the expence of both parties; he muſt be rooted out, or the ſyſtem will ever cauſe a juſt complaint, and be the continual ſource of diſcontent and miſchief.

## SECT. 4. *Eſtabliſhment for the Poor.*

The great abuſes, which have crept into the poor laws of England, and the ſeverity of the tax ſhould intimidate us from encouraging a ſyſtem ſo expenſive and oppreſſive; yet, that ſomething is neceſſary to be done for the poor of Ireland is an undiſputed matter.

The ſureſt way to amaſs a fund for this purpoſe, is by ſubſcription, in times of plenty, appreciated according

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ing to the abilities and occupations of every individual in ſociety, between certain ages.

The following ſcheme, though not entirely adapted to Ireland, yet a ſufficiency may be collected from it, as could be modified, ſo as to anſwer very fully the intention. I have given it in the preceding volumes, at the ſuggeſtion of the Dublin Society, which I here repeat.

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## *Heads of Mr. PEW'S twenty minutes advice on the* POOR LAWS.

"1ſt. That a proper officer be appointed for ſuch extent of diſtrict as he may be ſuppoſed conveniently to ſuperintend, to take a liſt of the names and places of abode, of all males above the age of eighteen, and of all females above the age of ſeventeen years, in the ſame manner as the liſt is made out for the militia.

"2d. That every ſuch male pay two-pence per week, and every ſuch female three farthings or one penny per week, in the hands of the above officer, for the purpoſes hereafter to be ſpecified.

"3d. That the above officer ſhall be empowered to furniſh employment for all ſuch as are willing to work, and who cannot find it for themſelves.

"Whether

"Whether this officer ſhould be choſen annually in rotation, after the manner of an overſeer, or whether he would be a permanent officer, upon an adequate ſalary, will be matter of future conſideration; but, if the latter, he ſhould be paid by the community, and not out of the fund.

"4th. All the poor being thus ſure of employment, the maſter or miſtreſs, for whom they work, ſhould be juſtified in retaining theſe ſums reſpectively out of their wages; and, whether they do ſo or not, they ſhould (in default of the individual) be anſwerable to the officer for its payment; all maſters and miſtreſſes of families ſhould in like manner be anſwerable for their ſervants; and all keepers of lodging houſes, &c. for their inmates.

"5th. Theſe ſums ſhould be carried weekly to the general treaſurer of the *diviſion*, who ſhould give ſufficient ſecurity for the ſame.

"6th. Out of this fund, every male, who is really incapable of labour, ſhould (by virtue of a certificate from the above officer) have A RIGHT TO DEMAND from the treaſurer five ſhillings per week for the firſt ſix months, ſhould his illneſs laſt ſo long, and four ſhillings per week after that period, until he again becomes capable of labour.

"Every female ſhould have A RIGHT TO DEMAND 2*s*. 6*d*. per week for the firſt ſix months, and afterwards 2*s*. per week, until ſhe was again able to work; ſhe ſhould be entitled to four weeks full pay at every lying-in.

"Every

" Every male above the age of ſixty-five years, whether capable of labour or not, ſhould be entitled to 4*s.* per week during life. Every female ſhould, after the ſame age, be entitled to receive 2*s.* per week during life.

" 7th. Any perſon having three children under nine years of age, ſhould be entitled to 1*s.* 6*d.* per week, until the eldeſt ſhould have attained the age of nine years; and if he has more than three under that age, he would be entitled to 1*s.* 6*d.* per week for each, above that number; and, if any one or more of his children ſhould happen to be idiotick, inſane, or otherwiſe ſo far diſabled, either in body or mind, as to be utterly incapable of labour, each of them ſhould be conſidered as under the age of nine years, and paid for accordingly.

" If a mother ſhould be left a widow, with three children under nine years of age, ſhe ſhould be entitled to receive 5*s.*; if with two children, 3*s.*; and if with one child, 1*s.* 6*d.* per week; if more than three under that age, 1*s.* for each above that number: it being admitted, that all her time is taken up by three, and allowance made for it, but that ſhe is incapable of looking after and taking care of a greater number. The wives of men ſerving in the militia, and in the army or navy, ſhould, during the abſence of their huſbands, be conſidered and provided for in all reſpects as widows.

" If a child ſhould be left an orphan under nine years of age, 2*s.* per week ſhall be allowed from the fund for

its

its maintenance; if more than one of the ſame family, 1*s.* 6*d.* per week for each, above that number. As there is probably no leſs friendſhip amongſt the lower than amongſt the higher orders of ſociety, it would generally happen, that ſome friend or relation of the deceaſed would gladly take charge of the children, provided they could do ſo without eſſential loſs to themſelves: this regulation would effectually prevent that loſs; and, to compenſate in ſome degree, for the want of parental affection, 6*d.* per week more is allowed for the maintenance of an orphan, or a family of orphans, than for a child, or family of children, who ſtill retain their mother. If, however, any beings ſhould be ſo uncommonly unfortunate as not to be thus adopted, the officer above mentioned ſhould be obliged to provide a receptacle for them, which he will always be able to do for the ſum or ſums above mentioned.

"8th. All children above nine years of age, if in health, ſhould, if they have no parents, or their parents are not able to provide for them, be put out after the manner of pariſh apprentices.

"9th. All perſons neglecting or refuſing to pay their contribution, ſhould be committed to hard labour, in the houſe of correction, for the ſpace of

10th. If the fund ſhould any time fall ſhort of the neceſſary demands upon it, the deficiency ſhould be made up by a pariſh rate, collected in the ſame manner as at preſent, but without any ſenſe of obligation on the

part

part of the multitude, (for there would be NO POOR) who ſhould in all caſes receive their relief IN THE NATURE OF A DEMAND.

11th. If the fund (as moſt probably would happen) ſhould increaſe beyond the neceſſary demands upon it, the ſurplus ſhould on no account be diverted to any other purpoſe, than the benefit of the ſubſcribers. But when the price of grain exceeded that, which brings it eaſily within the reach of the multitude, every perſon, who had three children or more under nine years of age, ſhould have a right to demand ſuch a ſum, in proportion to the number of his family, as would reduce the various neceſſaries of life (taking wheat at a ſtandard) to a moderate price; and indeed, I think, in all caſes, when the price of grain exceeds that proportion, at which the induſtrious labourer can afford to come to market, ſound policy, as well as common humanity, requires that all large families ſhould be entitled to receive ſuch a ſum as above ſpecified, although it ſhould be neceſſary to collect a rate for the purpoſe."

This ſyſtem certainly would not apply in every inſtance to Ireland; the rate would certainly be near one half too high, and it would require ſeveral material alterations. The wives and children of militia men are already provided for by act of parliament; but an excellent eſtabliſhment for the poor might be formed from the heads of theſe rules; and, if ſuch a modification was

adopted,

adopted, and the example ſet by the proprietor of a large eſtate, making it a binding clauſe on the reſidents on his lands to obſerve certain rules, the happieſt conſequences would doubtleſs be the reſult, and would ſoon be generally followed.

## Sect. 5. *Leaſes.*

In the preſent prevalent ſyſtem of alienation, the leaſes are of too long a period, though the general term is but twenty one years, to which a life is added, or three lives without years, or thirty one years without lives. Formerly, the landlord ſought for a tenant to take his ground on a long leaſe, and even obliged him to renew on the expiration of his term; but now there is no want of bidders for farms, at conſiderably a higher rent more than their value.

In lands, which are exhauſted, and without any improvement, as generally is the caſe, when the leaſe drops, the tenant, if he is ſolvent, ought to have a long leaſe, to ſecure him the money he muſt expend, to bring the land into heart, and the preſent term is certainly too ſhort for that ſpeculation. If it were conditioned, that leaſes ſhould be renewed to the original tenant, if he has made certain valuable and laſting improvements,

provements, it would tend to general advantage, allowing a fair advance in rent, according to the rife of the times, but it will be a long time before the people will have the confidence to expend their capital on a leafe for a fhort period; yet in many parts of England it is conftantly done, nor have the tenants ever had cauſe to repent their credulity.

## THE FOLLOWING ARE THE USUAL CLAUSES IN LEASES.

A reſervation of royalties to the proprietor; liberty of looking for game.

To permit landlords to ſearch for mines, making the tenant compenſation for damage.

To pay all taxes made, or hereafter to be made, quit and crown rent excepted.

To do ſuit and ſervice at the manor court, and grind corn at the manor mill.

Not to alienate under penalty of double rent, (this clauſe not ſufficiently underſtood to be inſiſted on.)

To join neighbouri ng tenants in making fences, and ſcowering ditches. (This clauſe ſhamefully neglected.)

Not to pare or burn the land under the penalty preſcribed by law. *Totally neglected.*

To exhibit lives or prove that they exiſt, once in every three years.

To

To oblige the tenant to reſtore all dung to the ſoil, made on the farm, under penalty of ten ſhillings per cart-load.

And in ſome new leaſes, to reſtore to the ſoil all the ſtraw, which his farm yields.

CHAP.

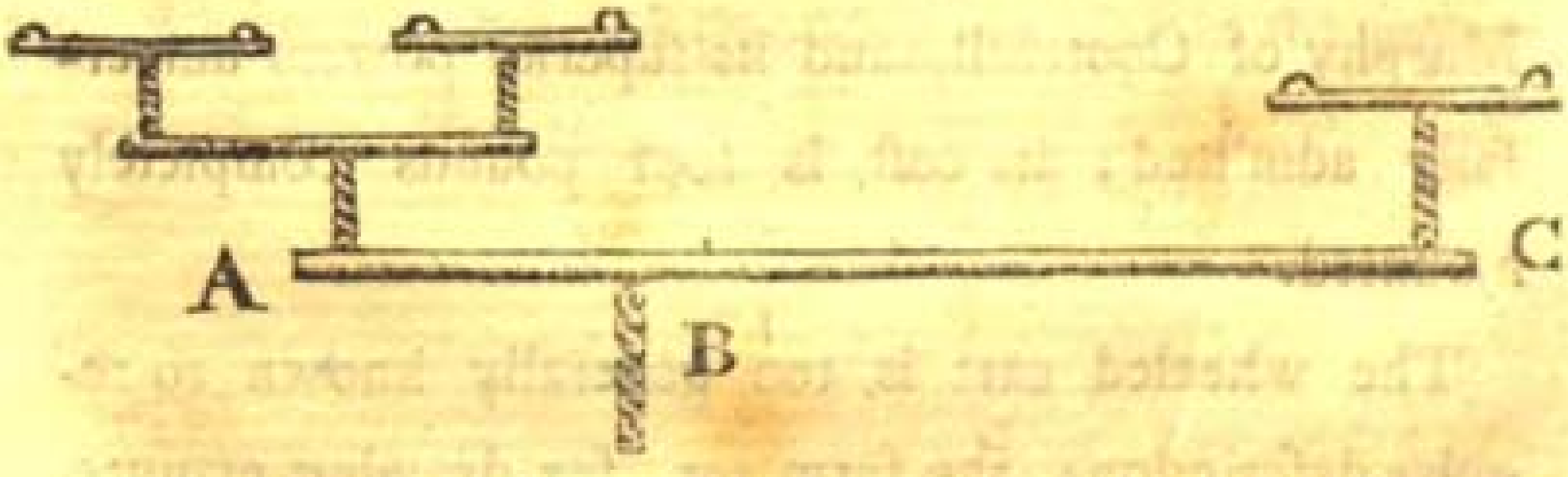
## CHAP. V.

## IMPLEMENTS.

THE beaten track of old cuſtoms has hitherto prevented an improvement in this particular, and ſome of the moſt miſhapen ploughs are to be ſeen here.

The three horſe plough abreaſt is, however, well balanced in the draught, and particularly adapted to this county, where, from the weak powers of their horſes, the yoke is too ſevere for two horſes, and yet not ſufficiently heavy for four, which gives a great ſaving; but the principal objection to it, which is a material one, is that the ſingle horſe is always walking on the ploughed ground.

The following draught will at once ſhew the principle of it, as given in the reports of Monaghan.




Let the right line A B C repreſent the ſwindle-tree, to which the long chain is yoked, from four feet and a half to five feet long, three inches broad, and two thick:

thick: the uſual iron hooks and rings, here called cut weddys, are fixed to each end; the intermediate ſpace is next divided into three equal diviſions; at one end (A) is fixed the tree for two horſes; at one third of the length of the beam from the point (A) is fixed the chain (B), by which the beam is attached to the plough; at the end (C) the remaining two-thirds of the length of the beam, diſtant from the chain (B), is fixed the one horſe tree; the weight or draft is thus exactly divided amongſt the three horſes. Let the beam (A C) repreſent the Roman balance, ſuſpended by, and turning on its axis on the chain (B); the arm (B C) being twice the length of the arm (A B), it follows, by the known rules of that power, that it will require twice the weight at the point (A), to act as a counterpoiſe to a given weight at the point (C); or, in other words, two horſes pulling from the point (A), will be no more than a match (or counterpoiſe) for one horſe at the point (C).

The Scotch plough has been introduced by Mr. Murphy of Cootehill, and its ſuperior powers univerſally admitted; its coſt is four pounds completely mounted.

The wheeled cart is too generally known to require deſcription; the farm car, for drawing manure, conſiſts of long ſhafts and back ſlats only, on which the dung baſket is placed, as the ſoil being in ſo many

places

places ſpiry and boggy, wheels would ſink, and be much more laborious than the ſlide, which is ſhod with iron.

But in the hilly parts, the dung is carried in two boxes, called bardocks, ſlung acroſs the back of an horſe, having falling bottoms, which drop the load without diſturbing the box; theſe boxes value from three to four ſhillings per pair.

The ſpade reſembles the Engliſh garden ſpade, with two ſteps, and requires to be ſtrong, as the ground is very ſtony; the handle is alſo conſiderably larger; they coſt, when mounted, from four to ſix ſhillings. The ſhovel of the uſual ſhape coſts two ſhillings and two pence, with handle; fork ditto, one ſhilling and ſeven pence halfpenny; hay-rake, eight-pence to ten pence. The harrow is ſmall and light, and always ſingle, its coſt from thirteen to twenty ſhillings; common plough, one guinea and a half.

A hoe has never been uſed in the county, but in gardens, nor do they ever ſow their grain, or potatoes, in drills.

I have ſeen but one threſhing machine in the county, which is at Farnham.

## CHAP. VI.

## INCLOSING, FENCES, &c.

EXCEPT in the vicinity of towns, and on demeſne grounds, the fences and incloſures of Cavan are extremely bad; of courſe, they want ſhelter, and are much expoſed. They have few ſtone walls for incloſures, and the poor mound of earth appears more as a boundary mark, than a fence from cattle.

An excellent method for thickening and laying hedges, which makes the beſt defence, is to procure ſtakes with a crook on the head, and drive them into the ground with a hatchet, confining the branch, which is nicked and laid down; care ſhould be taken to keep the ſhoots well trimmed, which will quickly thicken the fence; double ditches are not now made, as was formerly the caſe, lands being ſo very dear; but it is abſolutely neceſſary in reclaimed bog, to incloſe it with a double ditch, which ought to be wide at top, ſo that trees might be planted, with which this kind of ſoil admirably agrees, and the nature of this fence makes a

ſure

ſure protection to the trees, from young cattle; but to plant trees on the tops of ſingle ditches, it is ten to one, if ever they come to maturity, as they are ſo expoſed to cattle, and other accidents, by which means the ditch is broken down, and the expenſe goes for nothing. Quicks make the beſt fence, and will thrive in every ſoil; they ſhould be carefully hoed, and earthed up for two years, and attention had to weeding them. In making ditches, where the ſtuff thrown out of the dyke is wet, it ſhould be done by degrees, and not heap too much looſe ſtuff together, as its own weight will conſequently burſt it, before it is ſettled; after a little is thrown up, it ſhould be permitted to harden, and worked in dry weather, and after ſome time to throw up more, until the whole is completed. The month of March is an excellent ſeaſon for this work, but to ditch in wet weather, inſures perpetual repairs and trouble, and a non-attention to the proper ſeaſon for this work is the cauſe of ſo much expenſe attending it, and makes it diſcouraging to the farmer.

## WALLS.

The Incloſure of walls is little attended to in Cavan; but a dry wall coped at top with mortar, and daſhed, makes an excellent and neat fence, and is by no means expenſive; a wall of this deſcription, ſix feet high, two

and a half feet at bottom, reduced to eighteen inches at top, will be a good proportion. This is an excellent inclosure for a paddock.

## FARM YARDS.

Hitherto, there has been little concern paid to offices, or farm yards, nor is their disposition here to be recommended; they seem to be erected without plan or method, and occasional additions built as they found the want of offices. At Farnham a great extent of ground is covered with good offices, and an inclosed yard apart for every particular use; those immediately adjoining the house possess all that convenience which is necessary for so extensive an establishment. More generally, if the necessary offices are erected, they seem to think it quite sufficient, and appear to be ignorant of the importance of an inclosed yard. With the lower class, their cow or horse have a corner of the cabin assigned to them, when they are too poor to erect a stable or cow-house, and this is too frequently the case on absentee property.

The immense quantities of manure, which a farm yard would treasure, would soon repay the expense of the wall, and where is the soil, on which such manure would better tell, than on the hills of Cavan, or the vallies when drained?

The

The moſt important office in the farm-yard is the barn, the ſite of which requires particular attention; this office ſhould conſiſt of two ſtories in the rear, and but one in front; of courſe, it ſhould be built on the ſide of a riſing ground, and the floor joiſted, and boarded with oak; this precludes the poſſibility of vermin burrowing beneath, and a very convenient office is gained under it.

We little conſider the deſtructive conſequences of vermin, which to ſome farmers are more grievous than all the other taxes they pay; and how little management will place corn beyond their reach?

A barn thus conſtructed, may be built completely for from twenty to thirty pounds, and about twenty ſhillings will pay for a ſet of ſtands and caps for a corn ſtack, where they commit the greateſt plunder; how often have farmers refuſed an exorbitant price for their corn, and left it to be devoured by rats and mice, when their market had fallen?—Theſe caps for corn-ſtands ſhould be twenty-ſix inches in diameter, ten of which to project from the pillar, and to be concaved underneath bars a paſſage; but the negligent cuſtom of leaving a fork, or any other ſtick againſt the ſtack, is the readieſt way for vermin to creep up.

## LIME KILNS.

As the manure of lime in every ſtage is ſo excellent for the ſoil of this country, I herewith give the plan of an improved kiln, which exceeds by above one half, the quantity of lime it returns, for that of culm conſumed. It has been found by experience, that the lime, which has been burned with turf, is not ſo ſtrong or ſo powerful a manure as that burnt with culm; for building it is unqueſtionably of no ſuch value, and Cavan poſſeſſes culm enough, if the proprietors ſhould have the ſpirit to work their collieries. The deep and clay grounds of this county are powerfully aſſiſted by lime, which, when applied hot from the kiln, will be found to have the beſt effect; but on their moors and bogs, there is no other manure will work ſo rapid a change, and prepare them for meadow, yielding crops the moſt luxuriant, and the ſweeteſt herbage.

This county is naturally fertile, and wants but a little aſſiſtance to render it extremely ſo; every material, but limeſtone, is in abundance; the centre of the county is beſt furniſhed with this valuable mineral, and were a navigation adopted, how readily would this be ſupplied? Can there be a greater proof of its extraordinary virtue on this ſoil, than the journeys and expence

# IMPROVED LIME KILN,

INVENTED BY

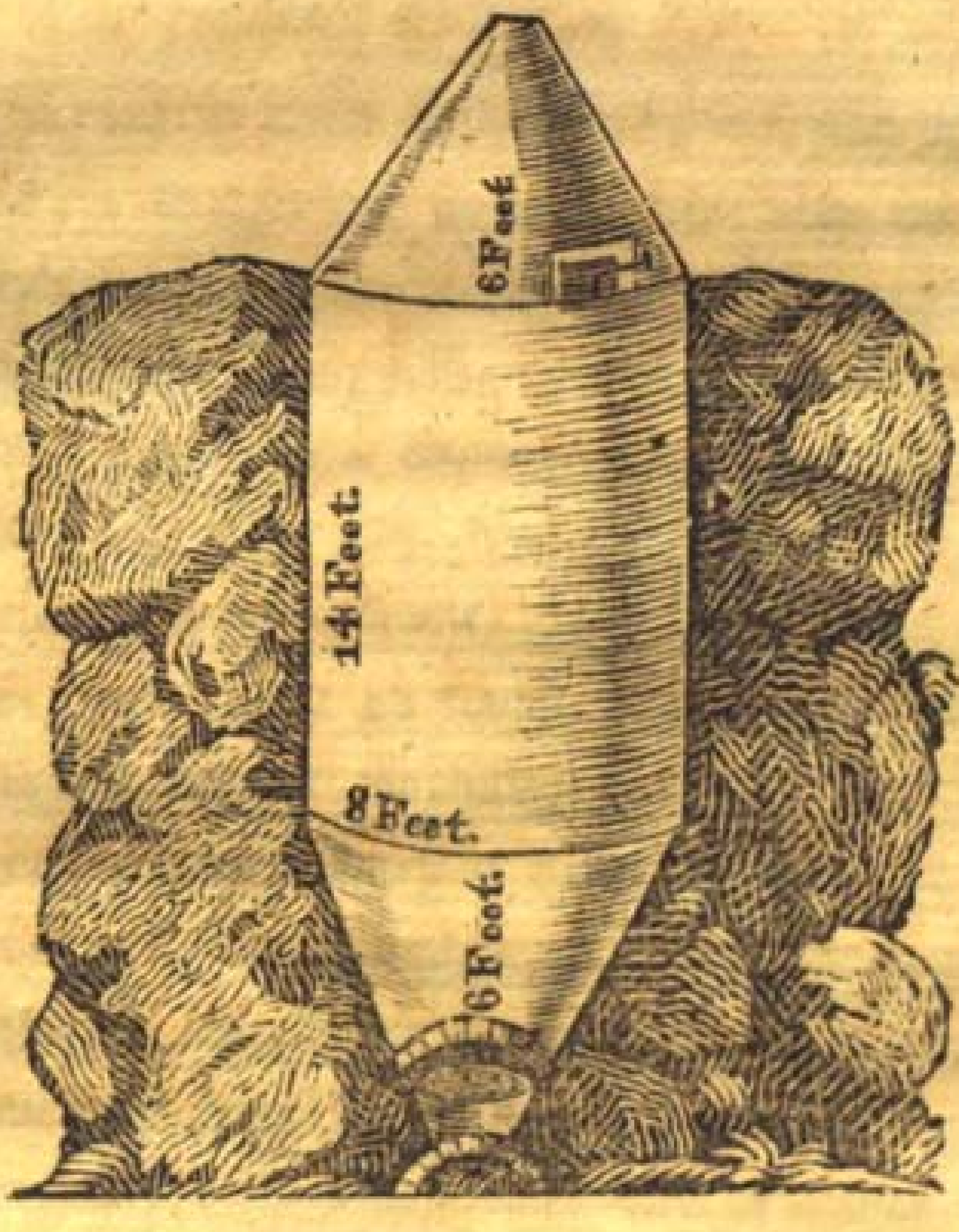
## THOMAS JAMES RAWSON, ESQ.

*OF CARDINGTON,*

IN THE

## COUNTY OF KILDARE.

*To face page 68—County of Cavan Survey.*




A lime-kiln ſhould be made as high as the ſituation of the ground will admit; 20 feet is better than 16, 30 better than 20. The ſides ſhould be perpendicular. The annexed view is for 20 feet high; the proportions ſhould vary with the height. At bottom a metal plate with holes, ſhould be placed ſix inches above the lower part, to admit air, and for the ſhovel to run on in drawing.

The drawing part ſhould be ſix feet; width, 8 feet; perpendicular ſides, 14 feet; on the head a cap is placed, formed like an extinguiſher, brought to a hole at top of 12 inches diameter; in the ſide of the cap an iron door, with a latch is placed, to admit the charging the kiln, and to be kept cloſe ſhut. A kiln built on this plan will burn 9 barrels of lime for each of culm, and any ſized ſtones may be thrown in. Two active labourers muſt attend it.

pence the poor peasants submit to for it, carrying it from twelve to fourteen miles to their little farms, and even obliged to purchase it at the quarry?

## ROADS.

The roads of Cavan are extremely bad, and ill contrived; a straight line seems to have been the most desirable object of our predecessors in this particular, no matter how many hills, or I may say mountains, opposed them. In a country, where the entire face presents only small hills, it would strike the ideas of a person, who never saw it, that in the winding of the vallies a road might be found, without encountering the highest tops of the hills; and true it is, that I believe no hilly country is better disposed for such roads than Cavan, though I must allow the materials the country affords are but poor for this purpose; of limestone gravel they have none, but of a green and red slaty flag, which soon pulverizes, they have abundance, and it is durable for about six months. In other counties, where they have the best materials, they do not leave the roads for a year's repair, but they gravel them as they may require it at every assizes; yet in Cavan, where these are not durable, the Grand Jury presents for roads at one assizes only; thus the tax falls heavy on the poor man, whereas, if it were divided, he might be better able to pay it.

In

In ſummer months he is moſt liable to be obliged to buy his proviſions, as his little ſtock may be exhauſted, and unfortunately it is, that at that time he is called on for the tax, and, if I am well informed, much of the miſchief is attributed to the arrears and confuſion, in which the ceſs is involved; theſe are matters, which require a radical reformation.

## TASK WORK.

The rural buſineſs of this county, which is paid for by taſk work, is mowing, threſhing, ditching, and turf rearing; for the former the price is agreed on between the parties, according to the weight of the ſwarth; for the beſt meadow five ſhillings per acre, and progreſſively to its value: from the irregular face of the ground, they more commonly agree by the quantity to be mowed in the groſs, and not by an acreable charge; when they mow for daily hire, they are paid two ſhillings with milk or beer. The farms are ſo ſmall, and the tillage of courſe ſo proportioned, that the inmates of the farm generally do all the rural buſineſs; thoſe, who employ threſhers, pay eight pence per barrel of fourteen ſtone for oats, one ſhilling bere or barley, of wheat they have little or none. Ditching is only to be ſeen on the lands of gentry, who pay eighteen pence, per running perch, for making

king a ditch ſeven feet in depth, and ſix feet wide at top, reduced to two and a half at bottom.

Quicks are ſold in the markets at from four to five ſhillings per thouſand. Reaping is done by daily pay, and they have never the high wages here, which in Leinſter are paid for this work; one ſhilling per day is generally the higheſt price; for binding, and all work done by women in the field, from four to ſix pence halfpenny per day.

Turf cutters will earn one ſhilling and four pence per day, where they work by taſk, or one ſhilling for daily pay; diet is very ſeldom included in any of theſe branches.

The average wages of handicrafts, ſuch as carpenters, maſons, weavers, coopers, ſmiths, thatchers, &c. amounts to two ſhillings per day, or to one ſhilling and four pence with diet.

The weavers, of whom there are one or more in every houſe, will earn from one ſhilling to eighteen pence per day, I mean the journeymen; the man, who works for himſelf, will ſometimes not make more, and at times, his labour will return him above five ſhillings, perhaps the average may be two ſhillings.

*As theſe reports are printed in this preſent out-line, merely to lay the foundation of a more perfect work, I ſhall now enter into a minute account of the preſent ſtate and cuſtoms of each barony, ſo that every individual of this*

*county,*

*county, into whose hands this book may fall, may turn to that particular part, where his local concerns lie, and with which he is best acquainted; by this means, he can with very little trouble point out any defects or omissions he may find, which can be readily corrected in another edition, and a more perfect plan can be adopted after the necessary information is collected. In the volumes I have already had the honor to present to the Dublin Society, this plan has met their approbation, and in the following baronial tour, each article, as suggested in their detail of matter for investigation, will be enquired into.*

CHAP.

## CHAP. VII.

## BARONY OF LOUGHTEE.

### SECTION I.

*Agriculture.*

THE culture is moſtly performed with the ſpade, and in ſome places by two horſes abreaſt where they plough, which is chiefly the lea only for potatoes; or with many, they only mark out the ridges with the plough, ſpread the dung on the graſs, on which is laid the ſeed, and throw up the earth from the trench; about three fifths of their land is under tillage; oats bear a proportion of twenty to one, to all other grain. Flax always follows potatoes, and is ſucceeded by oats. If they ſow wheat, it is only after a ſummer's fallow, and but in a ſmall proportion, and the crop by no means repays the expenſe ſo well as oats, as the produce is trifling, and the grain impoveriſhed.

At Farnham only, are oxen uſed in the plough, they are harneſſed by the neck yoke, and alſo worked from the horn, in a manner I have not before obſerved,



Royal

as the bar is behind the horn, and anſwers like a neck yoke to couple the oxen together; but there are cuſhions ſtrapped acroſs the forehead and round the horn, from the lower part of which is a conſiderable ſhare of the draught, for which reaſon I cannot think it at all equal to Mr. Darby's method, of Leap-caſtle, in the King's county; a plan of which is annexed, and it is by far the more ſimple yoke; beſides, there is no draught on the horn, which is a very tender part, and ſhould not be oppreſſed.

Here, there is no market for grain, as all the corn is brought to market in meal. Oatmeal and potatoes are the only articles of proviſion for ſale in any of the markets of the county. If oats are wanted for purchaſe, the farmers houſes are the places reſorted to.

At Farnham only is green food cultivated; rape, cabbages, and turnips, are there produced in abundance, and ſtall-feeding conſtantly attended to, on a very large ſcale, and to a conſiderable profit.

## MARLE.

This ſpecies of manure will be found to anſwer extremely well with the cold clays of this country, it being highly calcareous, and ſhould be ſpread on ploughed ground; the beſt time to apply it is in ſummer,

## YOKE FROM THE HORN.

*To face page 74—County Cavan Survey.*

Fig.° 1

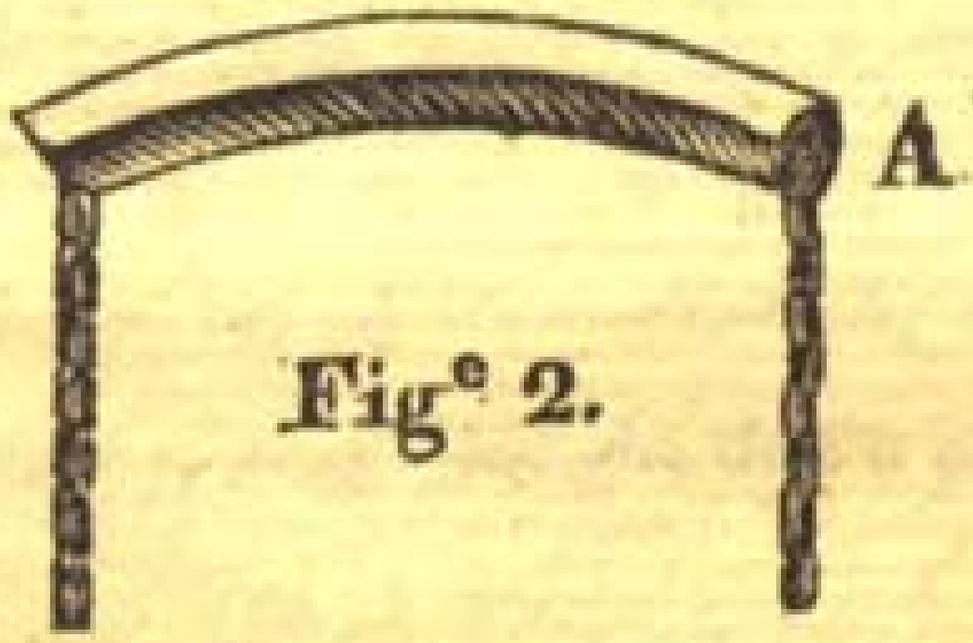



Fig.° 2.

Fig. 1. This Yoke conſiſts of a flat piece of aſh, about eight inches wide in the middle, and reduced to about three inches at the ends, (falling off like the handle of a battledore,) and is proportioned in length to the ſize of the ox, the object being juſt to clear his ſides from the traces, or chains, by this is meant the diſtance between the letters, A. A. This board is lined with woollen cloth, and ſtuffed with hair. To an iron ſtape affixed at either end is hooked a long trace or chain, which reaches from the extremities of the ſwindle-tree: it muſt be obſerved, that the draught is conſequently from the neck, where the ſtrength of that animal prevails, and not at all from the horns, to which the board is only ſtrapped, to prevent its falling off; ſo that the ox, rather puſhes than pulls in this yoke. For further particulars, and experiments, See King's County Reports, Chapter 8, Barony of Ballibritt.

Fig. 2. Repreſents the back-band for the horn yoke, the inſide is ſtuffed with hair, the circles at A. are plates of iron, nailed to the wood, which is of aſh, fourteen inches long, and three and an half broad, concaved within, to lie acroſs the back of the ox: from either end hangs a chain of five links, to which the traces are hooked up.

mer, and it ſhould be laid on with regularity and even-neſs, in order that the rain and dews may deſcend on it, and drive into the ground the virtue it contains, which are fixed ſalts; theſe ſalts being mixed with the natural ſalts of the earth, on which it is ſpread, now very actively commence their operations on the ſoil, and cauſe it to turn up tilly and friable, and the longer reſt the ground has had, the better it is prepared for this manure, as the natural ſalts ſuch land poſſeſſes, are in a ſtronger proportion, and more revigorated than ground, which has been lately under a long courſe of tillage; with new ground, it will apply with ſtill more efficacy; I have heard it mentioned, that it is very injurious to barley, until brought down previouſly with other crops.

In ground, which has been limed, it is too often the caſe, that farmers ſuppoſe they have laid in an inexhauſtible ſtock of revigorating matter, and oppreſs the ſoil with repeated crops of corn, without an intermediate vegetable one, which would conſiderably renew it, and on ſuch worn out ground marle will be found particularly nutritious; for ground, which has long been under corn, becomes too looſe, and its ſalts and ſulphurs are exhauſted and abſorbed by the atmoſpher; whereas the marle confines the ſulphurs of the ſoil within itſelf, and prepares it for new action.

In this country, marle is found moſtly in low moiſt bottoms, contiguous to moors, and can be raiſed at a

ſmall

ſmall expenſe. The beſt time for its application is in July or Auguſt, and being evenly ſpread, it would be adviſeable to harrow it into the ground.

Before any further trouble is taken, let it be expoſed to rain, which, I have already ſhewn, particularly aſſiſts and haſtens its powers.

After ſeveral crops, it will be found to make the ground very looſe and crumbly, and a crop of peas will ſoon flatten it, which I have heard recommended. The affinity, which marle bears to limeſtone in its natural properties on the ſoil, is ſo extremely obvious, that it would appear, as if they were one and the ſame ſubſtance reduced into different ſtages; and it is well known, that by expoſing marle to the influence of ſalt water, it quickly petrifies, and is changed into a hard ſtone.

The colours of marle are white, grey, black, blue, and red. The black marle I have ſeen proved of extraordinary powers, but the white and blue are the only colours, which marles here have.

Where limeſtone does not abound, marle may be ſafely applied; on dry lands it is better to apply the ſofter part of the marle, and ſpread the ſtiff cloggy marle on the moiſt ground.

SECT.

## SECT. 2. *Paſture.*

This country is exceedingly graſſy, which varies from a ſtrong coarſe ſpiry graſs, to a very delicate and luxuriant blade, but the ſoil is not inclined to much other herbage. The breed of cattle appears to have ſome very good points, and with attention might be brought to be extremely ſo, by introducing good bulls into the country. At Farnham, the breed of black cattle is very fine, and brought from Devon and Leiceſterſhire, at a heavy expenſe. Lord Farnham has lately given one hundred and forty guineas for two cows.

On this extenſive eſtate, the tenants have the advantage of the beſt bulls gratis; but they fear to admit them amongſt their cows, as they all hold ſuch a ſmall quantity of land, and keep cows only for dairy purpoſes; and it is certain the improved breed are very inferior to the native Iriſh in this reſpect, though they fatten on a leſs quantity of ground, and a poorer paſture, and will nearly double the weight of our ſtock in the like ſpace of time; yet they by no means yield ſo much milk.

The markets or fairs for cattle are very bad, and I apprehend in a great meaſure ſo, for want of encouragement.

Why

Why ſhould there not be held a great annual fair for cattle in the province of Ulſter?—It will be anſwered, becauſe the country is not engaged in feeding, nor the ſoil ſo productive of luxuriant graſs; but I conceive it is, becauſe the country is leſs improved in agriculture, that it has not ſo luxuriant herbage, and, of courſe, is ſo inconſiderably occupied in feeding.

On viewing the ſoil, we find it has depth ſufficient, and that there are materials enough at hand to ameliorate it, and prepare it for graſs, to which it is naturally inclined. It is no difficult matter then to change a coarſe graſs to a better quality, and, here where it has been done, we find cattle fatted to great weight and profit. Several neighbouring counties are alſo graſſy, and want but draining, to produce excellent ſound walks.

If an annual ſhew of cattle was encouraged, it would be a very leading ſtep to ſo deſirable a purpoſe. This matter could certainly not be expected to take place with very rapid ſtrides, much difficulty would oppoſe it, and it would require a very great patronage to forward it. Should ſuch a ſhew be ever eſtabliſhed, Belturbet town has numerous advantages to recommend it as the place of meeting. General prices of cattle at fairs are extremely high, in a conſiderably greater proportion than in the counties of Munſter, and they are in much worſe condition.

Lord Farnham, who has infinitely the beſt ſtock, ſends his cattle to Smithfield market; there is no other

principal

principal feeder in the county; his Lordſhip ſtall-feeds his bullocks with rape and hay, and fattens them very frequently to forty or fifty guineas price. It muſt be obſerved, the parks of Farnham are finely reclaimed, and equal to feed to a great weight, and ſhew what improvement could be made in the agriculture of this county. Theſe reclaimed lands are now ſo profitable, as to repay many times the original coſt; I ſpeak of uſeful improvements on the lands only.

The ornamental grounds are not conſidered as yet.

The oxen are conſtantly houſed in winter, on the lands of Farnham, and return a great ſupply of manure; they are littered with bog-ſtuff, over which is a layer of ſtraw.

Artificial graſſes have not been ſucceſsfully cultivated, but clover thrives admirably.

The late Lord Farnham had ſome ſainfoin and timothy graſs ſowed, but they did not ſucceed; this is eaſily accounted for, as the quarry appears within two ſpades depth of the greater part of the demeſne, and the ſainfoin being a tap-rooted plant, which ſhoots very deeply into the ſoil, before it comes to any vigour, it could not, of courſe, thrive here.

In this barony, the hay is made in cap-cocks, very ſmall, teaded out often, and gets quite too much of the weather, then trammed into ſmall cocks, two of which are made contiguous to each other, and in a few days

joined

joined in one; in this ſtate, it is let to lie for ſeveral weeks in the meadow, and much of the tops and bottoms of the cocks go to waſte; the ground they ſtand on is ſcalded, and will give no graſs the next year; and, when the hay is drawn home, the after-graſs, which is then arrived to its full vigour, is cut up and trampled. If the climate is ſuch, as I have heard advanced, that hay cannot be drawn home in lap-cocks as in England, ſurely it might be made in ſmall cocks in the haggard, and thus the fine after-graſs, which is ſo valuable, would be ſpared from the waſte it now is liable to.

Of hides and tallow, what the country affords, are manufactured in Cavan town; price of the former, from thirty-five to fifty ſhillings per cwt. this laſt year; and of tallow, from ſeven ſhillings and ſixpence, to eight ſhillings and ſixpence per ſtone. Of wool there is yet no manufactory, but one is now about to be eſtabliſhed by Lord Farnham.

## COMPARATIVE VIEW OF GRASS AND TILLAGE LANDS.

It is a matter worth our enquiry, whether in ſmall farms it were to the advantage of the occupiers to keep them under tillage or graſs; but in the preſent diviſion of the lands of this country, the matter does not fairly apply,

apply, as 20 acres of ground ſhould be the leaſt quantity, where a ſufficient profit would be reaped from the farm.

Hence it would appear, that allotments of land are too ſmall here, and badly managed; doubtleſs, they are ſo, and the buſineſs of the loom and of agriculture would ſurely thrive better, if ſeparately and diſtinctly followed. I mean not to deprive the weaver of his garden; that he ſhould certainly have to relax from the ſedentary buſineſs of the loom; but I would by all means ſend him to that market for his proviſions, to which he brings his commodity.

## *A ſtatement of the Stock of a graſs and tillage farm of twenty acres—each.*

### *STOCK FOR TILLAGE FARM.*

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rent, at 30*s.* per acre, - - | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Tithes and taxes, 6*s.* per acre, - | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Two horſes, - - - | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Plough and tackle, - - | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| Harrow, - - - | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Other implements, as ſhovels, ſpades, pickax, forks, &c. - - | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| Shoeing, per year, - - | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| Keeping two horſes the winter half-year, at 4 cwt. of hay per week, with paſture hay, 3*s.* per cwt. - | 15 | 12 | 0 |
| Oats, for ditto, ſix barrels, at 10*s.* per barrel, - - - | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Seed for 16 acres, ſay oats, twenty-eight ſtone to the acre, and 10*s.* per barrel of fourteen ſtone, - | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Labour of a boy the year round, at 6*d.* per day. - - - | 7 | 16 | 0 |
| £. | 107 | 0 | 0 |

*Stock*

*Stock of a graſs farm, twenty acres.*

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rent, 30*s.* per acre, - - | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Tithe in the county for hay, - | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Taxes, 6*d.* per acre, - - | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Dairy implements, - - | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| One horſe only wanted to take the dairy produce to market in ſummer, | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Shoeing and graſs, - - | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| Eight cows, at 6*l.* each, - | 48 | 0 | 0 |
| Hay-making, additional labour, - | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Boy, the year round, - - | 7 | 16 | 0 |
| Implements of huſbandry, and car, | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| | £. 106 | 0 | 3 |

Thus it appears, that the ſum neceſſary to ſtock the tillage farm exceeds that for the graſs farm.

But let us now ſee the creditor ſide of theſe accounts, and the difference becomes very ſerious; the ſixteen acres of oats, and the ſtraw the farmer has to ſpare, will ſcarcely repay his expences, and he has the profits of the other four acres to live on.

## *Grafs Farm.*

CREDITOR.

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| To 8 cows, at 10*l.* per cow profit, | 80 | 0 | 0 |
| To the litter of fows fed from the dairy, fay 20 pigs per annum, at forty fhillings, - - | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| - | 120 | 0 | 3 |
| Deduct expences, | 106 | 0 | 3 |
| Balance, | £.13 | 19 | 9 |

Allow the dairy farmer the like profits as the tillage farmer for his fupport, and we fee that there is a balance in his expences, in his favour, of 13*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, and his ftock to the good.

Encreafe the number of acres on the farm, and the proportion is ftill more conſiderable in favour of dairy huſbandry, and the value of manure, which is made, is incalculable; beſides, what little anxiety is here required, and how fmooth goes on the regular care of the dairy, which no weather prevents ?—Except in feafons when corn bears an immoderate price, the farmer to

make

make out his rent, not to ſay to have a profit, muſt himſelf hold the plough, and have a ſon to drive it; his ſtock of cattle is inſufficient to ſupply manure for the land, and he is too poor to purchaſe it; and thus the farm quickly is impoveriſhed.

As to the occupier advantages reſult in grazing, ſo to the landed proprietor will they hold equally good.

A graſs farm cannot be exhauſted by bad management, as a tillage farm may, in injudicious hands, and the graſs farm does not require half the expences of offices, which the other does; a cow-houſe and dairy only are requiſite here; under the roof of the dwelling the dairy will be afforded, and the moſt comfortable cow-houſe I have ſeen with a poor man, ſufficient for twenty cows, was had at only the expenſe of the walls, on which the hay-rick was made; this held as a covering, ſo long as ſhelter was required in winter.

The ſtable, the barn, and the granary, will bear no compariſon to this; beſides, they will all require repairs; ſuppoſing a paſture farm out of leaſe, how much more valuable is it to the proprietor than that under tillage?

The heavy burthen attending a farm is the expence of horſes; go on a large ſcale, and ſay fifteen acres may be compaſſed by one horſe; for a farm of five hundred acres of tillage, 33 horſes will be required. Whereas, in dairy huſbandry four or five will do all the work of the like extent. In the latter end of this book,

book I ſhall endeavour to ſhew, that the moſt perfect huſbandry is to connect both purſuits. I only here ſtate the balance in favour of dairy, when the farmer chooſes to confine himſelf to one only.

## SECT. 3. *Farms,*

Are generally ſmall, but yet conſiderably larger than in other parts of the country; the average here may be fifteen acres.

The houſes have little to recommend them, being poor indeed, except on Lord Farnham's eſtate, where they are now erecting very neat and commodious farm houſes, conſiſting of every neceſſary apartment, and two ſtories high. Theſe are built at a no leſs coſt than ſixty pounds each, which is quite too much. When the tenant builds, he is ſupplied with timber from his Lordſhip's woods, but he muſt bear all other expenſes.

Leaſes are more generally for three lives, or thirty-one years, but a very conſiderable tract is held at will, and, of courſe, has no appearance of improvement.

Tenants pay all ceſs; one horſe may be the proportion to ten acres, but they hire and borrow occaſionally from each other. Fields are in ſize from about three

to

to four acres; the fences are tolerably good in partial ſpots. On the Farnham eſtate ſeveral of them are well quicked, and dreſſed with care and judgment; from thence to Virginia looks like a bleak unhoſpitable common.

Draining is ſcarcely at all attended to, but in demeſne grounds. In Farnham the drains are numerous, yet the land ſtill inclines to ruſhes. After having marked out the drain about eighteen inches in breadth, the ſod is ſkinned off, and the drain ſunk from fourteen to eighteen inches, in the centre of which is ſunk another narrow pipe about four inches ſquare; ſometimes they ſod this pipe over, as is deſcribed in the Monaghan Survey, or they lay flags over it as a ſubſtitute for ſods, and the ſod, which is cut out, is laid in its own place again, after the trench is filled with clay. Theſe drains have all ſome good effect, but yet will never reach the evil effectually, until the ſoil is opened; for the ſurface is a loam of a porous and ſpungy ſubſtance, which quickly imbibes the rain and moiſture, and deſcends on the ſtiff clay, that lies immediately under it: this can only be opened by gravel to ſeparate the ſoil, or by highly fermenting manures, which require a conſiderable expence. In its preſent ſtate it anſwers well for graſs, and will give an excellent paſture; the other proceſs might make it good tillage land, then why change the face of nature to diſadvantage?

Marle,

Marle, limeſtone, and limeſtone gravel, are all found here, yet partially confined to this neighbourhood.

## HOEING.

Hoeing of crops, which is never practiſed in this county, cannot be ſufficiently recommended, where the deep clays are ſo favourable for this important branch of huſbandry; the horſe-hoe is evidently the moſt deſirable, and leaſt expenſive implement, and the manner of the ſowing of the corn in this county is favourable to it, but would ſtill be more ſo, if the ridges, on which the corn is ſowed, were leſs wide; this would ſoon lead into drill huſbandry, the ſuperior advantages of which, when ſhown, would never be abandoned.

The great weight of labour in Cavan is manual, and worked with the ſpade, to which this inſtrument, which I would recommend, comes very near in its operation; its uſe is exactly the ſame. The grain, when ſowed, requires the natural food of the earth to vegetate it, and bring it to perfection; this food is exhauſted in a great meaſure by the roots of the plant lying dormant in it, and this implement conveys a freſh ſupply of food to the roots, which is new earth; for the greater the action and room for ſpreading which the roots have, which is doubtleſs encreaſed by

looſening

loosening the soil with the hoe, the greater and more luxuriant will be the crop; for it does not depend so much on the quantity of the surface being under grain, as it does on the soil being frequently stirred and loosened in a due proportion, which proves the benefits of drill husbandry; to overstock the surface is to waste the seed, and to starve the plants produced from it, not having nutriment sufficient to bring them to perfection.

Though in the broadcast husbandry the corn may look best in spring, yet it never has so good a produce as that drilled, as has been fully exemplified by numerous experiments, and the crop, which was *dunged* in the same field, was considerably inferior to that *bored*, which had no dung.

When I come to speak of drill husbandry, this subject will again come into consideration, and the numerous disadvantages, attending the abuse of the broadcast, will only require a little attention to carry with it clear demonstration. The surest evidence is experiment; I could wish that drilling was only tried, and I am confident it would be found, in every consideration, superior to the broadcast, which it is high time to explode for ever.

SECT.

## SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

The population of this diſtrict is very great, and the abundance of fuel is no ſecondary cauſe for it. Six to a houſe is not beyond the average return, and the people are more engaged in huſbandry than in manufacture, comparatively with other parts of this county. Cavan, which is the chief town, is pretty large, but its market but inconſiderable; the main ſtreet has ſome excellent and well built houſes, but the other ſtreets are narrow, and very ill built and ſtraggling. The environs are diſguſting with mean cabins, almoſt obſcured with the dunghills heaped in front.

This is too much the deſcription of the vicinity of every town in the county.

Yarn, which is ſo conſiderable a commodity in their markets, is but little ſold here, and very much under the price, which it brings in other towns. Potatoes are ſold in bulk by the ſack, and meal both by weight and meaſure.

The gaol is a ſtrong excellent building, but not roomy enough, and a large military force is always quartered here, where is alſo a conſiderable depot for military ſtores. Three ſtage coaches run through this town. Until the act of Union it returned two members

bers to parliament. The patronage of the borough was jointly in the Clements and Nesbit families. The weekly market is held on Tuesdays; a very considerable establishment, worth above eight hundred pounds per annum, is afforded for the school of this town, yet by no means on that large scale, for which its funds are adequate. I have not seen the grant or patent, on which it depends, so I cannot say, with whom lies the fault for its neglect. The gentleman, who *nominally* presides at present, has long enjoyed the emoluments, and consigned the school concerns to a deputy for his superintendance; but does this answer the original and benevolent design of the royal founder? did he mean, that his generous donation was to become the individual property of a nominal master, and that on the management of his deputy the credit of the seminary was to be founded? But such a man, as the late Rev. Mr. Meares, who so worthily discharged that important office, rarely appears in such a situation; had that gentleman the full emoluments of the school, which he so well deserved, perhaps the establishment would have been extended on that scale, for which its revenues are so ample.

Several other such seminaries in Ireland are supported by grants of immense tracts of land, and, it is well known, some of them are well attended to; yet it is notorious, that the great emoluments, which result to individuals, might be extended more generally on such

a scale

a ſcale as would better provide for the education of youth. To elucidate this matter requires a little explanation of the minutiæ of theſe eſtabliſhments, of which, I believe, the following will be found to be a correct ſtatement.

The ſchool lands are held by the occupiers on the like terms as Biſhop's lands, that is, by leaſe of twenty-one years; revenues far beyond what is immediately neceſſary for the principal to derive are yielded to him, yet in no proportion is his intereſt equal to that of the leſſee, who derives from him, and whoſe rents are little more at preſent, *(in ſome caſes exactly the ſame)* than they were when the ſchool was firſt founded; ſmall fines at ſhort periods ſecure the renewal of the leaſes, and as the incumbent is ignorant who is to be his ſucceſſor, he, of courſe, is attentive only to his individual intereſt. Thus we find, that ſome of theſe eſtabliſhments would, if ſet to the value of the lands, return at leat *five*, in ſome inſtances *ten* times the preſent revenue, which ſhews what a fund now exiſts for the education of youth, if it were managed to good account.

The original intention being founded on a broad and liberal ſcale, a great deal of reprehenſion lies with thoſe, who hold ſo ſacred a charge, and yet neglect their duty in not carrying it into effect; nor can it be conſidered leſs than a national diſgrace, that it has not long ago been ſettled by parliament on a ſure and laſting foundation.

dation. On ſuch an important concern as the education of our youth, it is ſhameful that individual intereſt has ſo long preponderated; it is high time that monopoly ſhould give place to the general good, and, where the funds are adequate to very extenſive eſtabliſhments, good ſtewarding is only required to render ſuch deſirable purpoſes fully productive.

In this town is alſo the court-houſe, and the county infirmary, which is well attended to, and to which the county pay one hundred pounds annually; the gentry alſo ſubſcribe liberally to this excellent inſtitution, and government has the nomination of the ſurgeon; there is a good mill-ſite alſo, but the mill is in ruins. There are alſo ſix houſes for widows, a fund for which was bequeathed, in the profits of a good farm, by a lady of the Laneſborough family, which the truſtees ſee are duly appropriated, according to the will of the humane founder.

All the land around the town is excellent, and in a high ſtate of perfection; the town parks ſhow how grateful a ſoil has been improved, and the fences are well kept; the average value may be judged at five pounds per acre. All the corn in this diſtrict, and indeed, throughout Cavan, is trenched, and ſown on high ridges, juſt as potatoes are ſown, ſo that, before the corn ſhoots high, the whole county would appear to a Leinſter farmer, as if under potatoes. This crop they never drill; in ſome places they could not attempt

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it without previous draining, where the ground is ſo wet, that the crop could not be earthed up, but with the ſpade and ſhovel.

Approaching the vicinity of towns, the habitations of the farmers are better; the general coſt of fuel may be four pence the kiſh of turf on the bog, which horſes may be hired to draw, at one ſhilling and ſeven pence halfpenny per day.

Food principally is potatoes and oatmeal, and always good wholeſome vegetables in the ſummer ſeaſon, of which beans make a principal ſhare; formerly much bacon was conſumed in the cabins, but not ſo now; ſince the war, the price has been ſo much encreaſed.

The clothing frizes, which are made at home, or thoſe for ſale are had from Connaught; the general coſt of this article from two ſhillings and ſixpence, to three ſhillings per yard. The price of potatoes will average about three pence per ſtone, and oatmeal ten ſhillings and ſix pence per cwt. not taking the two ſcarce years into account.

Wages, ſeven pence to eight pence through the year, for conſtant employment to both cottier and labourer, which is extraordinary, as the former has the advantages of a houſe and half an acre for twenty ſhillings, and the graſs of a cow for thirty ſhillings; if two men attend from the one family, then they have the hay and graſs for two cows, and an acre of ground, which acre and the houſe they pay no more for than twenty ſhillings;

lings; the only difference between these two workmen is, that the cottier is bound for a year, the day labourer only during his pleasure.

The tithe will be found in the table at the conclusion; beer much in demand, since the extraordinary rise on spirits. In no county were more private distilleries formerly than in Cavan, and the very simple and expeditious process, they used, placed them beyond the reach of discovery. When they malted they threw a sack of oats in a lake, for so long as it should steep, and they spread it under their bed, or the most convenient place for preparing it. They seldom made more than one charge of their puny still, and, if the revenue officer was at hand, all was instantly conveyed into the lake; as on the borders of these waters, or in islands inclosed by them, was the place chosen for the distillery. Notwithstanding the frequent seizures, which were trifling as to value, the expence of the establishment was so small, that it was quickly at work again, and nothing effectually put a stop to them but the late scarcity, which made every man discover and give information where they were, in apprehension of the stock of the country being insufficient for provisions.

Near the borders of this barony is the town of Belturbet, whence is a navigation to within three miles of Ballyshannon through Lough Erne, and into which the river Erne flows. This town formerly returned two members to parliament; the patronage of the borough

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was formerly in the Butler family, but lately in Lord Belmore. The market here is but indifferently supplied, though the very beſt ſituation for trade of any part of the county, having the advantage of the navigation to its very centre. Oatmeal, potatoes, and a good deal of yarn are ſold here, but no webs; in the cuſtoms, which are paid for commodities entering the market, there is a very glaring impoſition, which materially injures the town, and ought ſurely to be redreſſed; they take their cuſtoms in kind, for which they have not any lawful ſtandard or meaſure, or if they have, they do not uſe; the collector of the cuſtoms impoſes a large wooden diſh full of meal from each ſack, the ſize of which is never adjuſted; conſequently, as the markets riſe, ſo do his tolls; the owner of a ſack of meal, which was lately worth near ſix ſhillings per ſtone, was obliged to give this huge meaſure, which, from its ſize, I ſhould ſuppoſe contains conſiderably more than fourteen pounds. I queſtion is there a market in Ireland, where the cuſtom in caſh, on ſuch an article, exceeds three pence; in the adjoining village of Ballyhayes it amounts to but two pence per ſack, and in this little ſpot the market is conſiderably better of courſe, than in Belturbet. Theſe cuſtoms are now individual property, and are ſet annually for about one hundred pounds. This terrible monopoly, which is ſuch deſtruction to the town and its proprietors, is now veſted in two families, who alternately preſide over

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the corporation, by which and a provoſt the town is governed, and is now in fact their eſtates. Whether this patronage has deſcended to them by inheritance under the ſame patent, with the grant of the extenſive commonage adjoining, I am at a loſs to know, but the following circumſtance ſeems to favour the ſuppoſition.

The Laneſborough family, who enjoyed this eſtate, made a grant of two hundred acres of excellent land adjoining Belturbet to the provoſt and burgeſſes of the corporation and their *heirs*, in miſtake for their *ſucceſſors*. Theſe are now divided and ſeparately incloſed, and are termed burgeſs acres, as in the original grant it ſaid the commons conſiſted of two hundred acres, which was only a gueſs as to their contents, being very conſiderably more; but when they became the property of the burgeſſes, the land was divided into ſo many parcels as each had a claim to; and though under the nominal return of ſo many acres, according to the diviſion each was entitled unto, yet ſome individuals poſſeſſed five or ſix times their proportion of the original two hundred acres, and a plot of ground was rated as one acre, which, perhaps, contained from five to ſeven; theſe are ſignificantly termed burgeſs acres, and, perhaps, under ſuch circumſtances the entire property of the coporation is now enjoyed by the deſcendants of the original company. I do not know, whether the act

of Union makes a final ſettlement of the borough intereſts, that are aboliſhed, but I conceive it would be a very fair act to take ſo heavy an oppreſſion off this town, which is admirably ſituated for trade, and by all means to recompence individuals, who might be deprived of a legal inheritance.

A very extenſive commonage yet remains in the environs, which is the property of the inhabitants, for ſome very peculiar privileges are enjoyed by them, which ſhew how much the family, who were the founders, had the proſperity of the town at heart, and how much their benevolent and public ſpirited exertions have been perverted. The town was regularly divided into compartments, termed home-ſteads, each of which contains 36 yards, and to which is annexed a proportionate quantity of bog, and every houſeholder has a right to graze on the commons. To keep theſe in heart, they take off their cows every ſecond month. They have alſo the advantage of a very excellent flour mill, with two water wheels under-ſhot, and are ſo well ſupplied, as to be able to grind conſtantly, being built on the river Erne. There are alſo in this town a diſtillery, brewery, and malt-houſes, with an excellent market-houſe, over which is a ſeſſion's-houſe, ornamented with a handſome town clock; theſe buildings command the town, and were all erected at the private expenſe of the noble family, who were the original founders.

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The church is ſpacious, on which is now laid a new roof, and is getting a capital repair, which all the churches in the county are ſhamefully in want of.

In the church-yard is the veſtige of a great fortification, incloſing an extenſive plot of ground; the baſtions and ſalient angles are admirably planned, of great ſtrength, and yet perfect.

This town has ſome neat houſes, but in general they are mean and thatched; on that part, which is the eſtate of the Earl of Farnham, ſome new and very handſome ſlated houſes have been lately erected, and are a conſiderable ornament, and ſeem to be an encouragement for progreſſive improvement.

The navigation from Lough Erne is open to this town, with water enough in winter, and by reducing a few flats might be made completely ſo in all ſeaſons. The river Erne, which flows through Coote-hill, I have juſt deſcribed as watering this town, into which is diſcharged the river of Cavan, and ſeveral leſſer ſtreams, with the waters from the great lakes at Shercock, Farnham, and Killeſhandra, ſo that any navigation, which ſhould be made to Lough Erne, muſt evidently paſs here, nor can any place be better ſituated for trade or for improvement; the beautiful expanſion of water and pictureſque views are highly engaging, and the land is a ſound limeſtone; wheat is cultivated, but yet in ſmall proportion, though more than uſual. The

average return of an acre of barley is twelve barrels of ſixteen ſtones to the barrel, of which a conſiderable quantity is ſown, and of oats fourteen barrels of fourteen ſtones per barrel. Flax and potatoes about the ſame as the general return of the county; viz. eighty ſtones of rough flax to the acre fit for the heckle, average value £.16, and of potatoes ſixty barrels of forty ſtone each, which may be worth about three halfpence per ſtone. Aſhes, marle, and dung are the manures of this neighbourhood, though they have good limeſtone, and much of their ſoil conſiſts of the deep clays, which would be ſo well reclaimed with lime; yet they never uſe it, nor do they burn it for building, but ſend for it to the county of Fermanagh, and it is brought down the lake.

But it is to be hoped, that the numerous advantages, which Belturbet poſſeſſes, will ere long be brought into fair play.

Ballyhayes is a common village, but has an improving market, and here is a flour and oatmeal mill; it is ſituate in the pariſh of Caſtleterra, which is as often ſtyled the pariſh of Ballyhayes; hence a very amicable and laudable agreement has taken place between the incumbent and his pariſhioners, that they ſhall pay eight pence halfpenny per acre, for all tithes; this includes meadow, arable paſture, and bog. Theſe dues are eaſily collected without the interference of a proc-

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tor, and all parties are satisfied, and here a particular and most honourable condition is observed, that the man, who is known by the parish to be actually a pauper, is excluded in the assessment, and there is, of course, no tax upon industry. In some particular parts of the county is a modus of one shilling per acre for hay, but more generally, as I already stated, six pence only, be the quantity more or less: flax has the like rate, but I cannot learn that there is tithe for potatoes in any part of the county, though the proctors insist they are entitled to eight shillings per acre, should they choose to exact it.

The market-house of Ballyhayes is arched, as also is the ring of the old town, and built of brick. These antique and fantastical buildings shew Ballyhayes to have been once a place of considerable note, being remarkably furnished with all the old-fashioned ornaments, that the Lords of this county were particularly attached to, and proves their fondness of displaying those appearances of grandeur, with which the stranger might be prepossessed, in his entrance into their domains.

The mansion-house seems well constructed for the indulgence of feudal vanity, having an extensive and very elevated front, and is curiously arched: the demesne is in a rapid decay as to beauty, being all set out in small farms, and the fine woods, for which Ballybayes was famous, have fallen beneath the merciless

axe,

but a little yet remains. Timber is, of courfe, very dear in this neighbourhood. This eſtate was a long time diſputed by the families of Newburgh and Burrowes, and after ſeveral verdicts for both parties in the court of Exchequer, it was removed to Chancery, and from thence to the Houſe of Lords, where it was confirmed to the preſent proprietor, Mr. Newburgh. What remains of the town are very mean thatched cabins, with the exception of one or two good houſes; it is now a place of no conſequence.

The village of Butler's-bridge is alſo in this barony, where there is an oatmeal mill and a good oſiery, but no nurſery; it has not one ſlated houſe. The ſituation of the village is pictureſque and engaging, on a pleaſant ſtream, but the cabins give it but a mean appearance.

The mountains of Arghill and Ballynanaght lie to the ſouthward of this barony, and that of Slieb-glas a good deal more to the northward. Taking a general view of the barony of Loughtee, we find it is the beſt ground in Cavan, lies moſt central, having a good deal of limeſtone, and limeſtone gravel, and poſſeſſing a ſoil, that is highly improveable with theſe manures: in general it is the beſt fenced and incloſed part of the county; it has a conſiderable bleach-green, Mr. Neal the proprietor. The people are much engaged in the linen buſineſs; more than one-third of the carvaghs

in

in Cavan is in the diſtrict, which argues its ſuperior ſtate of improvement, ſo long ago as that diviſion of the county took place; they generally have one-third of their farm in graſs, and but in one place only is green food preſerved for cattle in the ſpring. The dioceſan reſidence of Kilmore is in this barony, and the demeſne is very excellent ground, ſound ſheep-walk, and here are pits of the beſt limeſtone gravel. It ſeems as if the people were ignorant of the value of this, the very beſt material for roads, which they neglect, and repair with frequent coverings of rotten ſlate, which is quickly pulverized, and the firſt rain, that comes, makes it a heavy ſludge, being of much more miſchief to the roads than uſe.

The country in this diſtrict is very fine, from Farnham to Belturbet, but has ſome conſiderable tracts of bog. Adjoining Farnham is Mr. Saunderſon's ſeat, which is beautifully planted, and has a rich graſſy ſoil.

The houſe is on a bold commanding ſite, and very handſome.

Caſtle Saunderſon, the ſeat of Francis Saunderſon Eſq. who repreſents the county, is richly wooded with oak, and is a very extenſive demeſne; the roads through this part of the country are excellent indeed, which is a very agreeable ſurprize to a traveller in Cavan. The water in Caſtle Saunderſon is highly picturesque, and completely furniſhes this luxuriant landſcape;

ſcape; how extremely beautiful is Lough Erne in every view, and here its banks are crowned with the richeſt foliage. The riſing plantations will afford a charming diverſity, and promiſe all that can be anticipated from the genuine taſte, with which they are ſo elegantly diſpoſed. Clover-hill, the ſeat of J. Saunderſon, Eſq. is alſo a very beautiful demeſne, and finely improved. This gentleman has at a conſiderable expenſe, and with great judgment, reclaimed a vaſt tract of land, and ranks in the foremoſt claſs of the experimental and beſt farmers in the county. A ſpacious lake adorns and bounds his demeſne, which is elegantly laid out and richly planted, and a very excellent manſion has been juſt finiſhed. The dead level of the lake in the oppoſite ſhore has been drained with great effect, both as to beauty and the acquiſition of a conſiderable range of land now made excellent; I conſider it particularly unfortunate for theſe Memoirs, that I had not the pleaſure of meeting this gentleman in my tour, from whence I would doubtleſs have had much valuable information.

Farnham, the charming ſeat of the Earl of Farnham, which is ſo finiſhed an ornament to this county, contains one thouſand two hundred acres of land, and above ſix hundred of wood and water. I have already mentioned in the former part of this work, that the manſion does not poſſeſs much exterior magnificence,

but

but in the intended alterations and additions this will be conſiderably improved; however the ſite is not commanding, but the demeſne has numerous elevated ſpots, moſt happily ſituated for building. The gardens are extenſive, and extremely well attended to; the parks are capitally reclaimed, covered with a beautiful verdure, and occupied by the fineſt herds of black cattle, for which theſe fertile lawns are ſo celebrated. The beautiful irregularity of the ground has the fineſt effect in theſe improvements, and every hill aſcended preſents a new and extenſive variety of intereſting ſcenery.

At a conſiderable diſtance from the manſion, but within the demeſne, are the lofty woods of Killy, whoſe ſhores are waſhed by the extenſive waters of Lough Oughter, and furniſh the higheſt contour to the ſurrounding ſcenery.

The many beautiful iſlands, encircled by this charming lake, are crowned with the fineſt timber, which their undulating ſurface preſents to view in a variety of ſhades, and their deep receſſes and romantic ſcenery ſtrongly picture to the mind the aptitude of theſe ſequeſtered iſlands for the ſuperſtitious rites, which formerly were celebrated here; one of theſe iſlands, named Cloghother, was the priſon of the venerable and excellent Biſhop Bedel, when he was in the hands of the inſurgents, in the rebellion of 1641, and whoſe death

death was occaſioned by the ſeverities he received, and the miſery of the times; he lies buried in the corner of the church-yard at Kilmore.

The improvements of Farnham ſtill rapidly are continued, and the new approach from the town of Cavan is not the leaſt conſiderable.

Nor are thoſe advancements, which reflect ſuch honor on the munificent benefactors, neglected, nor in the diſburſements of a princely fortune are the riſing generation forgotten, twenty-five girls being well clothed and educated by the Counteſs of Farnham, and taught ſuch uſeful works, as will inſure to them a maintenance. In the manufacture of ſtraw hats they have made a great proficiency, and receive a conderable emolument by their own induſtry. Contiguous to this ſchool, Lord Farnham is erecting one on a ſimilar plan for thirty boys, who will be alſo clothed, educated, and taught uſeful trades. Theſe are ſolid improvements, which, if more attended to by our gentry, would at once yield the happieſt conſequences and the moſt grateful ſenſations: theſe will eminently bear the teſt of approbation, and unqueſtionably inſure the approbation of Heaven.

The antique buildings of this barony have little to recommend them; at Urney, near Cavan, are the walls of a monaſtery, and at Drumbane church,

which

which is very large, is a circular tower, but low; about two miles from Belturbet are the venerable ruins of an abbey, and thoſe of a caſtle are in the ſame neighbourhood.

CHAP.

# CHAP. VIII.

## BARONY OF TULLAGHONOHO.

### SECTION I.

*Agriculture.*

THE ground is ſtill moſtly cultivated with the ſpade; their crops, two years potatoes, next flax, and oats for two or three years ſucceſſively; in a poor ſoil this muſt naturally be exhauſting, and very bad management, as they are obliged to leave their ground a ſeaſon idle under caſhier fallow.

Killeſhandra is their market town; the one-third of the farm is generally in graſs; they never plough more than once, and all the reſt of the labour is done with the ſpade. Here there is no market for grain, ſince the diſtilleries were prohibited by government, but formerly a conſiderable quantity of barley was ſold, for which they have a nice ſoil in many parts, if it was well managed. They breed but very few horſes here, and leſs of black cattle; tillage is their principal purſuit,

fuit, and they cultivate now no more proviſions than they require for themſelves; their great concern is flax huſbandry, and the linen manufacture.

## BURNING GROUND.

This operation ſeems but little underſtood, though ſo generally practiſed, and may be juſtly compared to a ſpecifick, a due proportion of which is a powerful remedy for a diſorder, but, if improvidently applied, may be of conſiderably greater detriment than any good, which could be derived from it. We may naturally ſuppoſe that the aſhes, which were ſwept from the hearth, created in the mind of man the firſt ideas of theſe revigorating powers to the ſoil, from the ſuperior yielding of that ſpot, on which chance had ſcattered them, and taught him to ſeek a ſufficient ſupply for his exhauſted lands in the exuberances of mounds and weeds, which they furniſhed. The grateful return from this treatment induced him to try the experiment ſtill further, by burning the entire ſurface, nor were his moſt ſanguine expectations diſappointed in the effects they produced; but here was the miſtake, for overcharged nature yielded too much, and required means he was not yet acquainted with, to reſtore her relaxed powers; for this immoderate burning conſumes

the

the ſulphurs, which are the powers of the earth, although it may unlock the vegetable ſalts, that were bound up in the tough clod; nothing but ſulphureous manures will tend to reſtore theſe powers, even ſo but very gradually, and it is for want of theſe compoſts the natural graſſes do not ſpring for many years after. When ground is to be burnt, it ſhould be done ſo in ſmall heaps, ſo that its ſulphurs may be ſecured; if light and calcareous earth, let it burn very leiſurely, and ſuch will give a very grateful crop of barley, and it ſhould be burnt in the ſpring ſeaſon; the very reverſe is to be obſerved in a ſtrong gravelly ſoil, which ſhould have a hot fire, that the gravel and ſtones may yield, as they are highly impregnated with ſalts, which they are required to diſcharge into the ſoil; by this operation, ſuch land is excellent for oats, but the principal matter to be conſidered in burning ſhould be our bogs, which ſo long have been neglected, and with but ſmall expenſe, which is ſoon repaid, become the ſureſt and the beſt land our iſland can boaſt of.

The firſt ſtep towards their reclamation doubtleſs is draining, as the outfalls are choaked, which reſtrain that body of water, on which they float; a main cut to carry off this water is the neceſſary preliminary, and by interſections leading into it the material expenſe and grand object is attained; for they quickly conſolidate and become firm ground, which is eaſily

brought

brought into action; for by various experiments and analizations it has been been proved, that the principal matter, of which they are compoſed, are decayed ligneous particles, which are haſtening again to earth, the ultimate change of all matter.

It is a received opinion, that bogs were formed by foreſts, which grew in a moraſs, and were ſunk and covered by their own weight; thus, as they very gradually decayed, they vegetated new earth, which poſſeſſes a very conſiderable portion of ſalts; and it is eaſily accounted for in chemiſtry, that their inflammability is not loſt, but rather encreaſed by their ſoakage in water; the decay of theſe ligneous particles muſt therefore be very ſlow, and may be rather ſaid to be a change to their preſent pulpy ſtate.

The aſhes of bog muſt therefore contain a conſiderable quantity of ſalts, which cauſe a quick fermentation when applied to land, and afford a large ſupply of food or nouriſhment for plants, and here is their excellence, applied as a manure for a different ſoil: in ſurface dreſſings, they draw the native ſalts from below, which the glutinous properties of the roots of graſs have repelled, and thus is produced the fermentation, which revigorates them. The atmoſphere, as well as the dung of animals, which graze on land, furniſhes this glutinous ſubſtance, which ſhuts up the ſoil, and hence land becomes hide-bound, and requires to be broken.

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But not only as a manure for another ſoil, but on bog itſelf turf-aſhes are the higheſt preparation for vegetation on its own ſurface, and it only requires an attention to draining, and the application of calcareous ſubſtances to render it fit for every branch of huſbandry, as daily experiments have ſo clearly evinced.

That turf is evidently engaged in active vegetation cannot be denied, as numerous inſtances are in every country of bogs affording new fuel, which have long ago been cut out; the antiſeptic quality of bog is eaſily accounted for by the quantity of timber it contains; it is this, which prevents the water from putrifying, which is ſhut up within it, and cannot be changed; elſe, was a running ſtream paſſing through it, it would quickly rot, and be converted into earth; therefore we muſt ſuppoſe that in early ages, before theſe foreſts had fallen, the vicinity of moraſſes, which now are bogs, were as remarkable for their unwholeſome damps and fogs, not having yet received the aſtringent principle, which the timber conveys, as they are at preſent for their ſalubrity, which is occaſioned by their poſſeſſing that principle imparted by the trees, which they cover; and this may account, why this iſland was ſo poorly inhabited, and ſo overrun with immenſe foreſts.

The application of lime on bog reduces that acid, which will not yield to putrefaction, and conſolidates the maſs of matter ſo as to prepare it for the purpoſes of tillage. In laying on this correcting manure, it has been

been found to anſwer the purpoſe beſt, when the bog had been gradually and not too quickly dried; for if too dry, it for a long time reſiſts moiſture, but ſpread hot lime on bog, that poſſeſſes a due degree of moiſture, and admit water or rain, and the lime ſearches every pore of it, by which the antiſeptic and aſtringent principle is deſtroyed, which is ſo foreign to vegetation.

The power of lime on bog is unqueſtionably of great moment and rapid effect, but the very beſt reclaimed bogs I have ſeen had no quick lime, but were brought to yield the ſweeteſt herbage from the following proceſs:—After ſufficiently draining the propoſed tract, it was ſkinned and burnt in ſmall heaps; a very ſtrong calcareous limeſtone gravel of a whitiſh clayey ſubſtance was drawn in, and ſpread on in froſty weather; this ſeaſon was choſen, as the bog being at that time acceſſible to cattle. This manure being ploughed in, a crop of turnips was ſown in July, and in October rye graſs was ſcattered in, and buſh-harrowed. The turnips are well worth four pounds per acre, and the rye graſs yielded a fine crop of hay, the ſeeds of which were worth three pounds per acre. This mode perſevered in for three or four ſeaſons, always gravelling in each ſeaſon, and well ploughing in the large limeſtones, it was then laid down in meadow, and has ſince continued to give the moſt luxuriant herbage, yielding white clover and trefoil naturally, and in great abundance. In this caſe the calcareous quality of the lime-

ſtone gravel had the ſame effects as the lime itſelf, but is more durable in effect, for after this proceſs it will not revert to its original aqueous herbage, which will ſoon appear, after the virtues of quick lime are exhauſted; and thus we ſee it is the calcareous matter, which conſolidates the bog, and gives it a gravity fit to ſuſtain the roots of plants.

This denſity is highly aſſiſted by the weight of the gravel, which remains, and more gradually imparts the limy quality it poſſeſſes; beſides, by the original mode of treatment of burning, if even it ſhould again require it, the quantity of gravel in its boſom inſures the greateſt effect, and places it in the higheſt poſſible ſtate of vegetation.

The effects of burning land were not well underſtood, when the legiſlature impoſed the heavy penalty againſt this proceſs, and it would be unwiſe yet to repeal that law; doubtleſs, much miſchief might accrue and has occurred, when adopted by ignorant or mercenary tenants. The very rapid ſtrides to perfection in agriculture, which are now making, will, of courſe, point out in due time an emendation for this law.

## SECT. 2. *Paſture.*

The nature of the paſture of this diſtrict is very kind, and more inclined to herbage; a conſiderable quantity might be turned to ſound ſheep-walk.

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The breed of cattle excels many parts of the county, as much of this barony is well inhabited by a reſident gentry; amongſt the better kind of cattle, that are ſeen here, the improved breed of Farnham are eaſily diſcoverable; the milch cows are only houſed in winter, from November to May.

In hay-making they are not ſo tardy as in Loughtee, but yet leave all their hay in the field too long; their meadow crops, particularly in demeſnes, are heavy and luxuriant. The other matters of inveſtigation under this head are very ſimilar to thoſe in the preceding chapter.

## FENCING.

A principal concern, which is too much neglected, and ought to be a primary one, is the making of good fences, the want of which is a great loſs, inconvenience, and ſource of ill will amongſt the farmers of this country; it is indeed a leading ſtep to improvement in agriculture, and ought by all poſſible means to be encouraged; nor could a farming ſociety find a fitter object for their moſt liberal rewards.

In ſtony grounds a ready material for incloſures is afforded, and a double purpoſe anſwered of clearing the ground, and making the fence; this mode of incloſure is the moſt rapid, and by which the object is ſoon

attained, but it is a bleak defence without either beauty or ſhelter; at leiſure hours it is eaſy to conſtruct without it a ditch and hedge, to which it will be a ſecurity from cattle, and when this latter comes to perfection, theſe ſtones will be found uſeful in making drains, building, &c.

Our iſland is favoured with a fertile ſoil, and very well adapted to the growth of trees; how ſmall is the expenſe for the comparative benefits of planting quicks in our hedge-rows, which give ſo improved an appearance to the country, and afford ſo neceſſary a ſhade and ſhelter for our flocks and herds? If we look to the ſiſter country, we find that there hedges are planted for fuel, which our bogs ſo amply ſupply. The numerous advantages we poſſeſs ought to ſtimulate us to arrive at perfection, but unfortunately they create a ſupineneſs and indifference.

In incloſing bog a twofold object is obtained; the defence from cattle is the drain for the water to flow off; this ſoil is ſo eaſily worked, that the expenſe of a double drain is not conſiderable, and is well repaid by the bank, which is incloſed within theſe two drains, and thus capitally ſecured from cattle, and would be very proper to plant with timber trees, and to quick at both ſides: a valuable improvement is thus made, and the ſhelter obtained for the incloſure.

Quicks will thrive in any ſoil, but require hoeing and weeding for a year or two. Attend well to fences

of

of profit, and they will ſoon become fences of pleaſure; but for a little be careful, and tire not in preſerving them from cattle, and they will ſoon repay your labour.

The beſt method of inſuring the planting of hedges would be for the landlord to plant them himſelf, and bind the tenant to pay intereſt for the money expended, and to keep them in good and conſtant repair; nothing would more promote the landlord's intereſt, when leaſes expire, or more rapidly tend to further civilization, which ſuch improvements ſo eagerly invite.

## SECT. 3. *Farms.*

The farms here are ſmaller than in Loughtee; twenty acres is here eſteemed a very large one, and but few grazing farms, and thoſe in the occupation of a wealthy gentry. The ſmaller farms are divided into plots of three, five, and ten acres.

The farmers houſes are not ſo poor, and in the villages are remarkably neat. The tenures are held in the manner already deſcribed, and to each of them is a freehold, fondly ſought for. Their incloſures are poor, and fences but bad indeed; I do not ſpeak of demeſne ground, for in ſuch places they are particularly well kept. Manures are dung, clay, and bog-ſtuff, and occaſionally lime, which they have in partial ſpots.

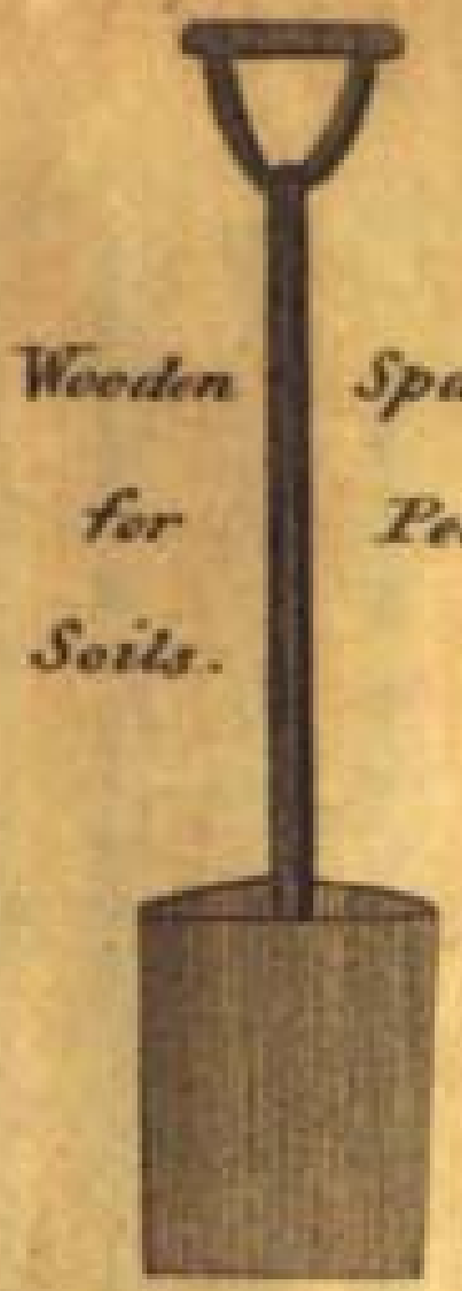
## DRAINING.

Draining is an art in huſbandry, the knowledge of which is of the firſt importance, and deſerves the minuteſt enquiry, as the wetneſs of lands, which periſhes the crops, will be thereby remedied. The cauſes of this partial ſubjection of land to water are numerous, but principally will be found to proceed from ſprings flowing over the ſoil, or confined under it, by reaſon of its own tenacity, which repreſſes it, or by various other cauſes.

Water, which lies on the ſurface and proceeds from rains, is eaſily diverted off, by ſinking drains according to the fall of the ground; but the grand method of arriving at ſprings has been lately diſcovered by the ingenious Mr. Elkington, for which the parliament of Great Britain have rewarded him with a grant of one thouſand pounds, and this has been effectually accompliſhed by the auger, or tapping and boring the earth, until the ſpring is reached, ſo that the water flows through this paſſage. This ſimple inſtrument reſembles the borer uſed by miners, or to bring it home to the familiar ideas of every body, the auger of a pump-borer; the annexed plate will repreſent it both ſcrewed together, and in joints of about four feet each; it is thus

divided

# ELKINGTON'S BOREER.



Bottom Shovel with edges Turned up.

divided for the convenience of carriage, and it can be added to, for any acquired length; the lower joint is conſtructed like the bottom of the auger, and is hollowed for about ſixteen inches; theſe rods are three inches or three and a half in diameter. As a ſubſtitute for the auger or lower rod, a chizel and a punch are occaſionally ſcrewed on, when the ſoil is gravelly or hard, which would refuſe the auger. At the joints it is neceſſary to leave it a little ſtouter than in the general ſize of the rods, which are ſcrewed together by two iron keys and a wooden handle paſſing through the eye of the topmoſt joint for turning the auger, which has two iron wedges to faſten it, and make it work ſteady. I am thus minute in the deſcription, that any perſon may have it made at home, who may chooſe to try its effects.

A drain is always cut for the water to flow off, before the auger is uſed, and it is in the bottom of this drain, at occaſional diſtances, that its operations are commenced; when the ſpring is arrived at, the water riſes with velocity, and is thus diverted off in the drain.

In working this inſtrument two men are ſufficient to turn it, and ſtand on the bank over the drain; it is neceſſary to have a third below in the drain, to help to lift it up, and clean out the earth from the hollow of the auger, as it may require it, which will be as often as the hollow fills; or elſe, the clay they perforate will

be

be firmly affixed as it rises, and greatly obstruct their pulling it up again.

A scoop is also used or hollow spade, for throwing the earth up from the trench.

This mode of draining will effectually dry the greatest extent of land, on which it is practised, and only requires the experiment to be made, to insure its general approbation; I have seen it tried in several parts of Ireland, and always with success.

## Sect. 4. *General Subjects.*

Population is yet very considerable, and the linen manufacture more engaged in, and much encouraged by the market at Killeshandra, where coarse linens are purchased every week to the average value of £.1500. The appearance of this town is engaging, being neat and clean, and industry and its rewards are very conspicuous, every thing appears comfortable; a good market-house, and a brisk trade.

Immediately contiguous to the town is Castle Hamilton, the seat of Colonel Southwell; the whole demesne is beautifully wooded and watered, though much timber has been lately cut. The mansion is newly built and spacious.

In

In this neighbourhood are quarries both of lime and freeſtone, and ſtrong indications of coal.

The land around is dry, and very good, but the ruſhes not yet baniſhed from any part of the county I have ſeen

The river of Croghan, which flows through the magnificent lakes of Killeſhandra, winds through a beautiful part of country, and diſcharges its waters with thoſe of the lakes into the Erne river, which paſſes through this barony, and thence into Lough Erne. The lakes of Killeſhandra, and thoſe connected with them, cover ſo great an extent as are many miles in circumference; theſe are already deſcribed with Lough-Oughter in the preceding chapter, and are all the ſame expanſion of water, unrivalled in beauty, extent, and true natural advantages. The mountain of Bruce-hill is a leading and prominent feature in the ſouthern extremity, and is ſeen at a conſiderable diſtance. The county in its environs is mountainous, but this hill overtops them all in proud preeminence, and from its ſummit is commanded the moſt extenſive proſpect.

Cor-hill is a very ſteep mountain, not far diſtant from Killeſhandra, beyond which the land is more wet and uncultivated, yet naturally fertile, and on the ſummit of this hill is a tract of reclaimed ſheep-walk, and a great ſcope more is in forwardneſs. This ſpirited undertaking has well repaid Mr. Harkneſs the proprie-

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tor, who has incloſed it with excellent fences. Arvagh village is but inconſiderable, and the point of junction with the counties of Leitrim and Longford; contiguous to it is the famous lake of Scraba, which is one of the ſources of Lough Erne.

The lower lands of this barony are extremely well cultivated, and poſſeſs a generous and grateful ſoil. Liſmore, the ſeat of Colonel Neſbitt, appears to be excellent land, and is celebrated as being one of the earlieſt reclaimed ſeats in Cavan, which its antique appearance and diſpoſition of its improvements favour much: it is ſituated at the entrance of the village of Croſsdony, which is conſpicuous for an air of neatneſs and comfort, ſo unuſually ſeen in an Iriſh village. The well dreſſed little gardens attached to the cottages, which are kindly preſented to view, and the thriving plantations, make it extremely engaging; from hence to Farnham, about three miles, the face of the county is entirely changed, and is certainly, for that extent, the beſt improved and the neateſt part of Cavan: it is but a continuation of demeſne ground, and comprizes the ſeats of Mr. Story, Mr. Elliot, Mr. Fleming, and the Biſhop of Kilmore, whoſe improvements are only divided by the road. Through this extent, which has no reſemblance to the preſent appearance of the country, there is a luxuriance of ornamental plantation, and engaging ſcenery; the land is rendered

dered excellent for any husbandry, and possesses much sound sheep-walk; indeed all around Killeshandra, and for many miles further is valuable land.

Mr. Pallas, of Kileogy, and Mr. Crawford, of Scraba, have good bleach-greens in this barony.

CHAPTER

# CHAP. IX.

## BARONY OF TULLAGHA.

### SECTION I.

*Agriculture.*

THIS barony, which is the moſt northerly of Cavan, differs extremely from the features of the reſt of the county, and more reſembles thoſe of Leitrim or Fermanagh. A reference to the map of Ulſter will ſhew it more properly belongs to Leitrim; its ſoil, ſurface, and the general obſervations relating to it, will be found in the preceding part of this work, under the head of *Mountains*, in the firſt chapter.

They only cultivate oats and potatoes, and all their tillage is done with manual labour, which is effected with the long loy, or curved narrow ſpade, an excellent implement for ſtony ground.

In agriculture they are extremely deficient, and were it not for Mr. Griffon's improvements, which are well executed, this part of the country would ſhew little emanation from its rude and primeval ſtate of nature.

Deſcending

Deſcending towards Ballyconnell, the proſpect improves, where Mr. Sneyd's plantations, at Bawnboy, give the country a warmer and more comfortable appearance, but the roads in this country are terribly bad indeed.

I know but of one, which is tolerable, from Belturbet to Swanlingbar through Derryolim, which is a very poor ſtage; that from Ballyconnell is almoſt impaſſable.

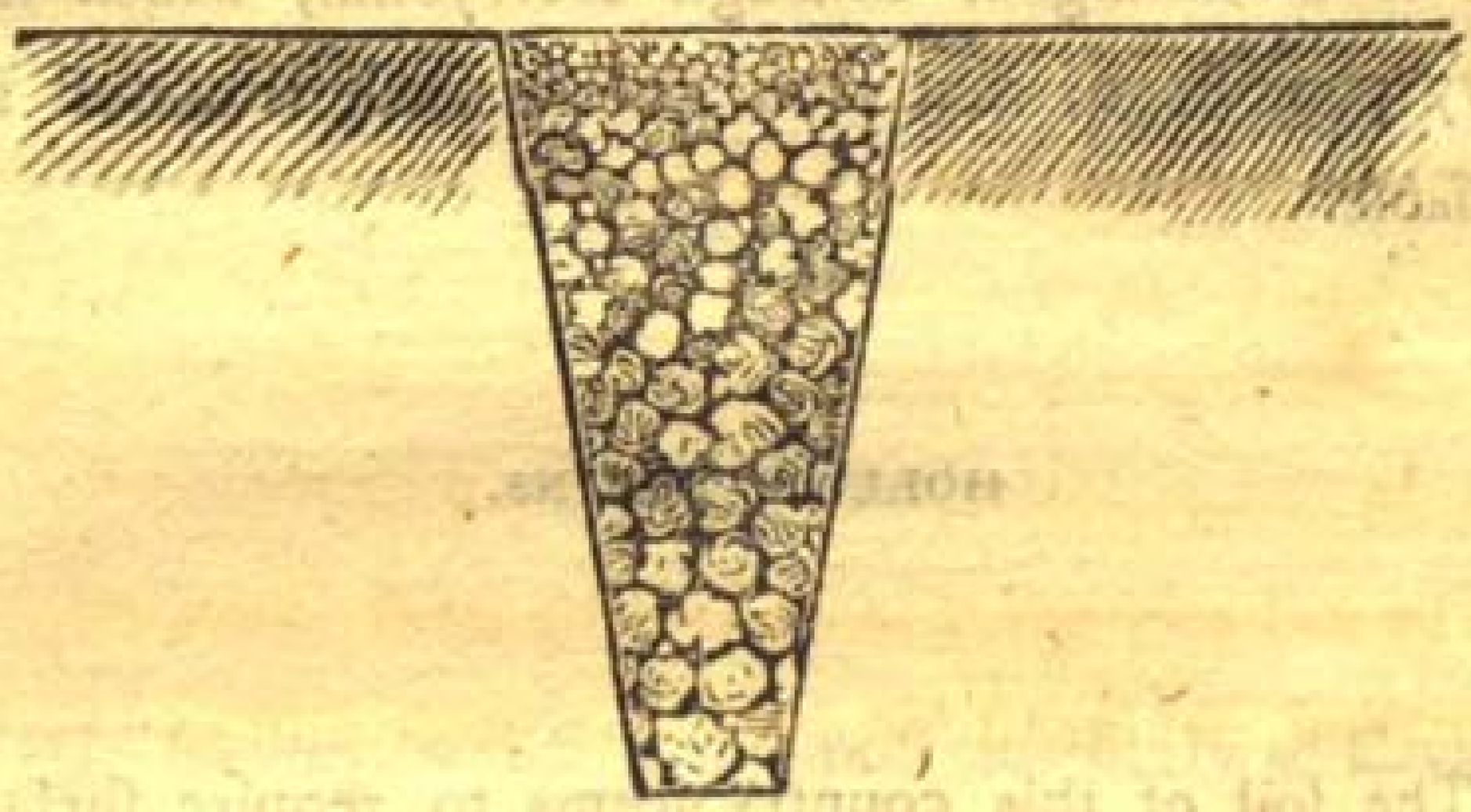
## HOLLOW DRAINS.

The ſoil of this country ſeems to require ſurface-draining more particularly, and theſe trenches to be at very ſhort diſtances aſunder, for which purpoſe, it would be adviſeable they ſhould be hollow and covered at top. Theſe drains anſwer every purpoſe, and are equal to bear any weight of cattle, when judiciouſly made.

After cutting the drain two feet or two and a half feet deep, which ſlopes in towards the bottom two-thirds of the breadth at top, that is, from eighteen inches above to ſix below, fill it with large ſtones, which are here in abundance; procure them ſo large, that you muſt force and mallet them into the drain, or large round paving ſtones, which are covered with

ſmaller

ſmaller ſtones, to bring a level face; then lay bruſh-wood and furze to bear up the clay from filling the ſpaces between the ſtones; throw in the clay and ſod it. The annexed draft of a hollow drain will at once explain it.



This is a very good mode of ſurface-draining, and the expenſe very trifling; here materials are in abundance.

## SECT. 2. *Paſture.*

A coarſe ſpiry graſs, and conſiderable quantities of ruſhes ſtill ſhew on a light loam, covering a ſtiff clay. The cattle are of a hardy breed, but very coarſe, and ſhelter muſt be firſt obtained, before much improvement can be expected. They never houſe but the milch cattle, and their hay is very ſtrong, coarſe,

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and full of a poor aqueous herbage, which ſo greatly impoveriſhes their milk; as for artificial graſſes they have none, ſcarcely clover is to be found amongſt them, and all their commodities for ſale are ſo very trifling, as not to afford the leaſt encouragement for a market.

If a ſufficiency of proviſion for their family conſumption is raiſed, a very little abundance will diſcharge their rents, which are very low.

## LIME.

The manure, which contains the moſt active ſalts in vegetation, is limeſtone, and the moſt difficult to be ſearched; for its virtues only can be extracted by fire, or looſened, ſo that the admiſſion of air when calcined will pulverize it, and break it to pieces; or this is more rapidly effected by water, which drives it down very quickly, ſearching every pore of the earth, on which it is laid.

The manner of burning lime is too generally known to require deſcription, but the quality of the ſtone to be choſen for that purpoſe requires attention.

The beſt ſtone in Ulſter (than which there cannot be better) is very white, and riſes in rugged blocks; it is frequently found in boulders, or in ſingle blocks apart from the quarry. This kind will not leave the leaſt particle of clinker, if judiciouſly burnt, and is

very

very quickly calcined; its efficacy is moſt rapid and durable. Limeſtone has various other colours; the blue comes next in quality, which is the beſt when under ground; the grey is more apt to have ſpar, and burn in clinkers, and the red is the weakeſt and pooreſt of all.

The ſalts contained in this mineral are not deſtroyed or exhauſted by the fire, but only expoſed and unbound; it is therefore neceſſary to burn it thoroughly for manure, as the ſalts are by that means entirely laid open.

All ſoils will be improved by lime, even ſhallow and limeſtone ſoils, if the firſt heat ſubſides before it is applied, and mixed with clay or bog-ſtuff; but to apply it hot from the kiln before it is ſlaked, or previouſly made into a compoſt with earth, it is highly detrimental, and will burn the plants inſtead of nouriſhing them.

After ſpreading the lime on ploughed ground, let it have the benefit of rain to ſeparate it well, and then plough it in evenly, and harrow it ſharply, previous to winter: thus it is prepared for a ſpring crop; but barley cannot be ventured for a year or two; it may chance to thrive, but there are many chances againſt it.

Its virtues on bog are moſt rapid, deſtroying that aſtringent principle, which is hoſtile to vegetation, and condenſing the bog; it thus becomes prepared to hold

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as well as nouriſh the roots of plants, and gradually throws up the ſweeteſt herbage.

## Sect. 3. *Farms.*

The extenſive tracts of mountain are not allotted into farms, and rather an imaginary line is the diviſion of property, than any real boundary; nor is there much attention to ſuch land, when the average rent ſcarcely exceeds three pence per acre, but it is always ſet in a bulk rent. Theſe tracts are only occupied in grazing ſtore cattle in the drieſt ſeaſon, which hardly is fit for this purpoſe four months in the year, and the prices of graſs vary from two to four ſhillings a head per ſeaſon; younger cattle than thoſe of three years old would actually ſtarve, ſo coarſe and poor is the paſture in its preſent natural ſtate; and it muſt be conceived how little value can be in ſuch a paſture, when the ſum charged for the graſs of cattle is ſcarcely ſufficient to pay the herds attending them, who are anſwerable for them; as in the many deep ſwamps, which theſe mountains contain, it frequently happens, that cattle fall in and inevitably periſh. In the lower regions there is little comfort in the exterior view of their cabins, which are by no means bettered withinſide; yet it is not poverty, that occaſions this dreary proſ-

pect, for the peasantry, though poor in appearance, are not without means and capability, but they have no inducement to improve, and they have yet sources of wealth in their own industry, were their landlords emulous in promoting their civilization, or active in instructing them in useful and desirable pursuits.

Nor is it a secondary, but indeed a leading and primary cause for this neglect, that such extensive tracts of country are church-lands, or other establishments, which are held after the like tenure.

The laws, which were made for this purpose, had solely in view the interests of the church, without any regard to the reclaiming the face of the country, or the civilization of the people, which only can be effected by encouraging and unrestricted tenures: such laws were enacted in times of feudal barbarity, and have too long existed, nor do I hesitate to assert, that they at this day stand as a total eclipse between the country and that wealth, which is its natural right, and which an improved agriculture would doubtless afford. On such lands we find no proper mode of culture, and the inhabitants are strangely oppressed as well with poverty, as with ignorance, as if civilization was crushed within the deadly grasp of this shameful and impolitic monopoly.

This in a peculiar manner applies to the extensive wilds of Kinawly parish in this county, and to the neighbouring counties of Fermanagh and Monaghan,

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and, in a great degree, to thoſe parts of Ulſter, which are under the influence of this malignant and oppreſſive ſyſtem. I wiſh not to reſtrain the rights or clip the revenues of the church, I would more willingly increaſe them; it could be done by ameliorating the laws, which are hoſtile to improvement, nor would I encroach on the eſtabliſhments, which were founded for education, it is notorious they are ſhamefully perverted; and were they duly guarded and huſbanded with economy, they could be extended to a great national account; though individual benefit has hitherto been conſidered before the public weal, and barefaced monopoly, which is now upheld with general indignation, has too long triumphed over the rights of this country, yet they muſt ſoon give place to the proud ſpirit of improvement, which happily is diſſeminated thro' the nation, and will ultimately prevail againſt the hoſt of evils, which have oppoſed its progreſs.

## HOGS.

The proper management of theſe animals is little known in Ireland, and the very great profit, which accrues from a careful attention to them, ought to be conſidered by the judicious farmer. This profit depends very much on their being turned out to green food, which few of us have any idea of.

The dairy offal and the refuſe of the potatoes, which ſuſtain the ſow during her nurſing, ſhould certainly be uſed to wean the young pigs, and they will require this kind of nouriſhment for ſome time, but when arrived to a little hardihood, they ſhould be allowed to graze, and clover is known to agree extremely well with them; to this graſs they ſhould be confined, nor get any other food until they are full grown, which it rapidly promotes; for it inſures ſize, and ſome pigs will even grow fat on it. The clover ſeaſon comes in early, and will hold till the beginning of December; if in the neighbourhood of oak woods, acorns will complete their fattening, and give their fleſh a great degree of firmneſs; but potatoes ought again to be uſed, when acorns are not to be had, and at this ſeaſon are very cheap. Peaſe or corn will give a delicate flavour to bacon, and a ſmall proportion ought to be given to hogs during the laſt month of their fattening.

Thus it appears from this mode, that the offal only is the ſupport of the hog in the ſpring and winter; and in ſummer, when proviſions are dear, they are fed on clover: a ſmall plot of this graſs will ſupply food for a conſiderably longer time then, if let to range at large over the field; this might be done by folding them on the plot, if feeding them within is not convenient; for by changing to a new ſpot, the part eaten down ſoon recovers and ſprouts again, and the plot is well manured. The neceſſary crops for the uſes of a

dairy

dairy are too little conſidered, and the profits of this huſbandry will be great indeed: where milch cows are, there ought to be a due proportion of breeding ſows; no management will pay better than this, and the choice and proportions of crops for the collateral purpoſes of the dairy are, indeed, of conſiderable import to agriculture, and are too little underſtood.

A different management is doubtleſs wanted, as this animal could be turned to much greater profit than we have yet experienced; and it is a matter of no ſmall moment, that on the hog depend, in a great manner, the prices of proviſions, which it materially affects.

Nor in their early ſtages of weaning ought the carrot be refuſed them, which, with good culture, will yield very great crops, and give ſtrength and vigour to the hog, and ought to be again reſorted to after the green food is conſumed, as quickly affording firmneſs to the fleſh.

In their confinement in the ſtye they ſhould be kept dry, and their ſtraw often changed, as this animal is naturally cleanly; and a yard of very ſmall dimenſions ſhould be incloſed for them to feed in.

When at green food they will require water in the field, which ought to be attended to.

On the improvement of the agriculture of the nation a good deal is connected with this animal; with the prices of proviſions they are inſeparately connected, and it is to be regretted, that their fleſh, which poſ-

ſeſſes ſo much nouriſhment, as entitles them to be called the natural food of the laborious peaſant, ſhould now be ſcarcely even enjoyed by the poor cottager, when in times of leſs civilization, and before improvement had lifted its head from the chains of ignorance, the peaſant enjoyed his cow, his ſheep, and his pig, and though they ſhared the ſhelter of his hovel, yet they affor ed him food and rayment, which he no longer can boaſt of.

To what purpoſe then is the face of a country to be changed to gay and improved ſcenes, if the peaſant, on whom its durability depends, is gradually enervated not by luxury, but by keen poverty, and too often by ſavage oppreſſion?—What does it avail, if the proud lord of extenſive domains ſhall raiſe neat ſlated cottages on the ruins of the ſqualid hut, if he does not take care to ameliorate the condition of the peaſant, who cannot warm the walls of his ill found habitation, whoſe interior but ill agrees with the outer view?

That there are ſuch ſcenes cannot be denied, and ſurely they ought to be reformed; then indeed would the improvements of agriculture, and the ornaments of a country, be purſued on a durable and efficient foundation; then would the cauſes of too juſt complaint be removed, and content and competence again prevail.

Happy cottagers, whoſe comforts are the care of a humane maſter, who directs his improvements to the bettering the condition of his tenants, and in the teach-

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ing of thoſe arts in huſbandry, which he ſhall allow them to feel the good effects of in their own domeſtic concerns: thus, he not only indulges the fineſt feelings of man, in affording happineſs to his fellow creature, but it ultimately will be found the trueſt and ſureſt policy.

Improvement is as yet but in its infancy in this country, but fortunately there are here men of worth and judgment, and who have as near at heart as they poſſeſs means to effect ſo deſirable a change, which gives us the beſt hopes to expect a ſpeedy amelioration of the condition of the peaſantry, as well as a total change in their wretched ſyſtem of huſbandry.

## Sect. 4. *General Subjects.*

The population rates here but thinly, ſo extenſive are the wilds; the peaſants are hardy and induſtrious, yet much depreſſed for want of encouragement; the women ſpin a good deal of wool as well as flax; frizes for home uſe are made here, but every thing is on a very narrow and contracted ſcale, and confined to individual account.

Ballyconnell is a ſmall town, which has a weekly market, and here is a good flour-mill, Mr. Faris the proprietor, and Mr. Beniſon has an excellent bleach-

green

green in this neighbourhood. In the mountain of Slieve-Ruffell coal is found, and generally dug out of the ſide of the hill in blocks near the ſurface. How theſe have been ſeparated from the vein may employ the enquiry of the natural philoſopher, but no attention to ſo valuable a concern has yet actuated the proprietors, on whoſe eſtates this mineral is found in ſuch abundance, and ſo eaſily raiſed. This coal has formerly been brought to Ballyhayes, to Cavan, and to the great iron works at Arigna, in the county of Leitrim, which are contiguous.

Of Swanlingbar and its relatives a full account has already been given in the fourth ſection of the firſt chapter of this work, under the head of Mountains; it is to be regretted, that the ravages of the fire, which happened in the village above fifteen years ago, have not yet been repaired, in which twenty-two houſes were deſtroyed. A great deal of harmony and ſociability prevails in this retired watering place.

The celebrated ſpa is in an ornamented incloſure, which is very handſomely improved with pleaſant walks and neat plantations. The breakfaſt room is contiguous to the well, and here the company generally partake of this ſociable meal, at the ſame table drink the waters, and ride or walk till dinner, when an excellent ordinary is provided.

On the mountains adjoining is an ample field for the enquiries of the natural philoſopher, and abounds

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with minerals, as I have already explained; ſeveral caves are on thoſe hills doubtleſs excavated by the hand of nature, though ſome of them ſhew appearances of art in their formation.

The general quality of the town-lands is a ruſhy and ſpongy paſture, with a light loam over a ſtiff clay; here the farms are ſmaller, and the paſture is favourable to dairy, from whence ſome butter, but in no great quantity, is ſent to market.

The men are principally employed in huſbandry, though ſome few manufacture linens; the women and children ſpin both yarn and wool. Their markets are diſtant and diſcouraging; labour may average ſeven pence per day through the year, but they have every thing cheap, proviſions in abundance, and turf quite convenient, and only for the coſt of rearing. Clothing is moſtly furniſhed at home, ſo that their expenditure is trifling, if their incomes are ſmall. In fact, they rely on themſelves chiefly for their neceſſaries, and are in a great degree independent, and confined to their own peculiar concerns; few are without a cow, and the greater proportion have two or three.

Their currency is principally in ſpecie, and their rents are always paid in caſh.

There is no eſtabliſhed fiſhery, though there are claimants for the fiſh of the lakes flowing into Lough Erne, on which they have erected eel weirs.

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The roads are few, and miſerably bad; a particular attention is requiſite here; much depends on good roads, towards forwarding the improvements of agriculture.

The plantations are but few; Mr. Sneyd's, of Bawnboy, are contiguous to the ſmall village of the ſame name, rank foremoſt amongſt thoſe, and his demeſne ſhews a judicious management. Timber is dear and ſcarce through this diſtrict, yet the ſoil very favourable for plantation; from Lough Fena, in the county of Leitrim, flows the river of Woodford through this barony, and ſkirting the county on Fermanagh ſide it is diſcharged into Lough Erne. The ſmall villages of Woodford and Ballymagowran are ſituate on this ſtream. On the whole, the country is rich in minerals, and poſſeſſes every material, as well as a hardy and induſtrious peaſantry, to bring it to a better ſtate; its defects are ſuch as can be removed, and the greateſt difficulty, which oppreſſes it, proceeds from the neglect of its proprietors, and the want of due encouragement, which is ſtrongly pictured in the moſt conſiderable tracts of this extenſive barony. I have been favoured with ſome very judicious information from the Rev. Mr. John Jebb, of Swanlingbar, which came too late to be inſerted in the deſcription of the mountainous diſtrict in the firſt chapter: but as that region is entirely within this barony, I ſhall

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beg leave to mention them here, and have taken the liberty to ſelect from theſe very general remarks, which that gentleman has ſo kindly communicated, thoſe ſubjects, which either I have not before touched on, or which may have been the reſult of obſervation ſince I have been in his neighbourhood.

He acquaints me, that the ſpirit for reclaiming their lands is ſtrikingly manifeſt amongſt the lower orders, and that, though prior to the laſt ſeaſon oats was the general grain, yet they have now been induced to till wheat by their vicinity to the flour-mills at Ballyconnell and Belturbet, where their ſoil was ſufficiently weighty after a potatoe crop, an experiment which was now firſt attempted in this diſtrict. I ſhould do injuſtice to Mr. Jebb's very intelligent remarks and pleaſing ſtyle, were I to curtail any thing new, as ſome of his arguments agree with thoſe, which I have before touched on. I ſhall willingly repeat his opinions, as a confirmation of theſe I have ventured to offer, which thus proceed:

"The crops produced have been remarkably fine, and it is hoped the ſowing of wheat may gradually extend. Here, as probably in other places, the laſt two years ſcarcity has had a moſt happy effect. Induſtry and foreſight, and a ſpirit of improvement are manifeſtly increaſing; ſpots formerly ſuffered to remain in a ſtate of wild and barren nature, have been profuſely manured

manured with burnt aſhes, and have yielded an abundant ſupply of excellent potatoes: it may reaſonably be expected, that the people feeling the advantage of the extraordinary labour, to which they were incited by the fear of dearth, may be induced to perſevere from the hope of comfort. The habits of economy too, in the uſe of proviſions, which have been taught by adverſity, will not, perhaps, be relinquiſhed in the hour of plenty; that gracious providence, which out of evil can elicit good, may have been pleaſed to make temporary want the ſource of permanent abundance.

"The great impediment to improvement is want of capital, to drain and clear our grounds; reſident gentry or ſubſtantial farmers we have none*. To agricultural experiments no encouragement is afforded by abſentee proprietors, and the poverty of our peaſantry diſables them from engaging in any plan, which does not promiſe an immediate return. If landlords were to propoſe a liberal bounty to their tenantry for draining and clearing their ground, in a few years they would be amply reimburſed. This work once effected, improvement would be moſt rapid; for the means of improvement are within our reach, to be applied with little trouble, and at little expence. Every ſpecies

* Here Mr. Jebb doubtleſs forgot his friend Mr. Griſſon, who is indeed the only exception to the remark.

ſpecies of manure, appropriate to an inland country, exiſts here in great plenty: there are eſpecially vaſt quantities of limeſtone gravel, and rotten limeſtone ſlate, and marle is perhaps more frequently to be met with here, than in moſt parts of the county.

"With want of induſtry the people cannot juſtly be charged, their exertions are ſpontaneous, and almoſt inſtinctive; without experiencing that aſſiſtance and encouragement from their ſuperiors, which the peaſantry enjoy in more favoured ſituations, they are conſtantly employed, the men in agriculture, the women and children in ſpinning; ſome there are who weave, and ſell the productions of their looms at Enniſkillen and other neighbouring markets, but in this branch not much progreſs has been made for want of proper encouragement.

"In the ſituation of our poor, the moſt unfavourable circumſtances, which preſent themſelves, are the wretchedneſs of their hovels, and want of cleanlineſs in their mode of living; in theſe reſpects, however, they are by no means ſunk ſo low as the ſouthern parts of Ireland, and within theſe few years an attention to comforts, and a ſpirit of neatneſs have been viſibly gaining ground. An anxiety for education and for religious inſtruction happily prevails. Few even of the pooreſt are without a wiſh to ſend their children to ſchool, and during more than two years, that I have had the care of this pariſh, the demand for prayer books, teſtaments,

teſtaments, and bibles, ſold at the prices of the aſſociation for promoting the knowledge and practice of the Chriſtian religion, has been very conſiderable. At church there is always a moſt regular, decent, and attentive congregation of the lower orders, and amongſt the Roman Catholics purchaſers have been found for the new teſtament; proper ſchool houſes and qualified teachers are great *deſiderata*. This deficiency will, it is hoped, be in ſome meaſure obviated by the erection of a building in the neighbourhood of the town, which ſhall at once ſerve as a reſidence for the maſter, and a ſchool-houſe for the children. By a charity ſermon and by private ſubſcriptions, ſixty pounds have been already raiſed for this purpoſe, and it is expected, that in a very ſhort time that ſum will be ſufficiently increaſed to authorize the commencement of the undertaking. This circumſtance is mentioned, both as it is materially connected with the ſtate of education in this pariſh, and becauſe it ſhews what may be effected in other places, by an inconſiderable degree of exertion; at firſt view few ſituations in Ireland could afford leſs proſpect of ſucceſs to a plan of this nature, than the town and neigbourhood of Swanlingbar."

*Mr. Febb, after deſcribing that chain of mountains ſtretching towards Lough Allen and Boyle, which I have already ſpoken of, and which he ſhews is not only unproductive of poſitive good in the preſent ſtate, but has been the ſource of much real evil, very ſtrongly proves the neceſſity and policy*

of

*of building ſtone houſes, and interſecting the mountain with roads, for the reaſons I have before offered in the fourth ſection of the firſt chapter; and he explains that, as the adoption of this plan would conduce to the peace of the country, it would be more extenſively advantageous, for, ſays he,*

" Amidſt thoſe mountains there are numerous and extenſive vallies, which only require the hand of cultivation to bring them into fertility and beauty: even the bleakeſt parts abound with hidden ſources of wealth, which time and labour would inevitably diſcover, and apply to the promotion of the public good. The nitrous, ſulphureous, and chalybeate ſprings, which every where arreſt the attention of the obſerver, abundantly evince, that thoſe mountains are full of valuable mineral productions, and the exiſtence of conſiderable iron works here, early in the laſt century, proves what may be effected, if ever the cultivation of our internal reſources, and the extenſion of inland navigation ſupply us with proper fuel for the fuſion of iron ore. Of this now neglected diſtrict the importance will be indefinitely increaſed, when the long projected junction of Lough Erne with the ſea, by a cut from Belleek to Ballyſhannon, takes place, and when the propoſed opening from Lough Erne to the Shannon is effected by inland navigation, and the Leitrim lakes; then we ſhall have a communication with the Atlantic, both in the north and ſouthweſt, and then we ſhall enjoy a ſafe and eaſy intercourſe with the

principal

principal parts of Ireland. Would it not be the part of a wife and enlightened policy, to prepare for the full participation of thoſe great advantages, by opening our mountains, by giving every encouragement to agriculture, and thus at once gaining wealth and population ſufficient to reap the benefits of foreign and domeſtic commerce?—Surely, when we conſider the important change it may effect in the condition of this country, we cannot but feel anxious, that the proprietors of eſtates ſhould, in this particular, ſufficiently conſider their own intereſts and the intereſts of the community. If they but make roads and build cotters houſes, they will pave the way for a ſtate of induſtry, civilization, and happineſs, in a diſtrict at preſent untilled, and uninhabited, the occaſional reſort of plunderers and rebels: they will conſiderably increaſe their own incomes, and they will add new lands to our cultivation, new ſubjects to our ſtate.

"Should theſe expectations be deemed ſanguine, ſhould it be ſaid, that the propoſed navigations may never be effected, and that, though they were effected, this country is too poor to avail itſelf of their aſſiſtance, yet ſtill it muſt be granted, that facilitating communication by judicious roads, that civilizing the people by comfortable habitations, that producing even a moderate degree of vegetation in places now utterly unproductive, are objects worthy the attention of our great proprietors.

"A very

" A very few words more on this subject; of late years, emigrations to America have been frequent, in this country; the motives generally assigned are want of ground, and want of encouragement to cultivate at home. The opening of our mountains, and holding out suitable inducements to our peasantry to improve them, would surely diminish the emigrating *mania*. At all events, the experiment is worth trial, every probability is in favour of its producing the desired effect; but should it even partially fail, it must unquestionably be attended with most beneficial consequences, and those, who put it in practice, cannot be deprived of the delightful and animating reflection, that they have endeavoured to advance the population and prosperity of their country."

# CHAP. X.

## BARONIES OF CASTLERAGHAN, CLONMOGHAN, AND CLONCHEE.

### SECTION I.

*Agriculture.*

IT would only tend to ſwell the bulk of this book, and afford but a tireſome tautology, to give a diſtinct and ſeparate account of theſe baronies, which have ſo ſtrong a ſimilitude in every reſpect, that in deſcription they ſhould not be divided, and, with a few exceptions, have ſo very little to recommend them in their preſent ſtate.

The general feature of this extent of country is elevated ground, very irregular in the ſurface, and the hills containing from twenty to above one hundred acres, with a very ſmall ſpace of valley intervening, and thoſe incloſed to a good paſture; the hills are tilly, and the ſoil very favourable to corn, of a ſtrong brown colour, and as it approaches to red, is of a better quality, more dry and friable; the manure of lime

is

is particularly efficacious, but this is placed at a great diſtance, and is procured but at a conſiderable expenſe. All theſe lands have the rotation of potatoes, flax and oats; of the latter, two, three, or four ſucceſſive crops. This is very bad management, and, of courſe, ſoon exhauſts the ſoil, and obliges the letting it out to reſt, during which period nothing is yielded but weeds and thraſh, and a heavy dead rent accrued, which will ever keep the tenant in poverty. To point out the modes of redreſſing this grievance requires little ingenuity; an intervening green crop between corn crops is effected without any additional expenſe. Every man who holds a farm muſt have potatoes, and let him chooſe that ſpot for this crop, which has laſt year had corn, which can be reſtored this year to vigour with the dung for his potatoes, and he need never let it out to reſt. Thus, it is in a greater degree the miſmanagement of our crops, the ſelection of ground for them, and an undue courſe of rotation that is the evil, rather than the want of capital, which is complained of. Induſtry acquires capital, and miſmanagement, though with ever ſo much induſtry, exhauſts it.

It is true theſe lands are capable, by judicious manures and good farming, of yielding crops, which have never been attempted here; but in ſeeking the modes of attaining the requiſites for ſuch improvement, we ſhould alſo take into conſideration, what are the obſtacles in our way, and we muſt alſo judge how far po-

litic it may be, (by introducing agriculture and the several improved branches of husbandry into this country) to adopt those modes, which might tend to divert the attention from the linen manufacture, in which it is so well established, to perhaps a neglect of that great national pursuit, and the fears of many sensible and steady men, in this particular, certainly deserve a fair and deliberate investigation.

The linen manufacture is at present more or less engaged in by every peasant in this district, and they are all as earnestly devoted to the business of the farm, though I cannot say their pursuits are in either cases crowned with success; for there is little to boast of, from their management or rural economy. Perhaps here lies the evil, that the attention of the manufacturer is not confined to his trade; the soil is doubtless very favourable to flax husbandry, which is as certainly injuriously pursued, and requires a care and knowledge in the several stages, which we are entire strangers to. This is a business to be effected in the field, and which the manufacturer ought to have nothing to do with; give him a garden for his recreation, and culinary supply, let good markets be encouraged for the sale of flax and provisions, then husbandry and trade will flourish in their proper spheres.

The evil of those very different pursuits being interwoven, was highly exemplified in latter years, when the high price of corn induced every poor man to till his

his lands, and the temptation was too great to be resisted; their manufacture was of course neglected, and suffered very severely, and their lands, which have been exhausted by repeating cropping, are now reduced to a slovenly cashier fallow.

In how many instances can we trace the characteristic of the peasantry of Ireland, and truly pronounce it fond of speculation and enterprize? Too ready to grasp at every novelty and change, it neglects that business, whose difficulties it has just surmounted, and a steady adherence to which might have insured wealth and independence.

As the peasantry of Ireland have not capital for both employments, they should be confined to one of them, and the landlord, who would resist the offer of high rents, which the manufacturer should make for his lands, would doubtless serve the nation at large, and would *ultimately* find he acted best for his own particular interest.

To confine the business of agriculture to the farmer only, would, I apprehend, strike at the root of the evil, and his judgment would lead him to cultivate flax crops, which the soil is so favourable to, and in such a country of manufacture would be always in high demand; but to expel the fears of those, who say that this crop would not be sufficiently cultivated, if out of the hands of the weaver, let the farmer be bound in his lease to occupy so much of the farm with flax, as

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the lands are at preſent ſo occupied: let farming ſocieties give due encouragement to this huſbandry, and it would ſoon be very ſuperior to its preſent ſlovenly cultivation, and great depreſſion.

But to conſider, what are the moſt adviſeable means of reſtoring a high and profitable mode of farming to this country, I allow it muſt be gradual, as, though lime will effect ſuch a conſiderable change, yet the diſtance and bad carriage is ſuch a draw-back on its benefits, as muſt preclude a general amelioration, until a navigation or ſome fortuitous circumſtance will conquer the exiſting difficulty, as at preſent this manure is brought over the worſt and ſteepeſt roads, for ten or twelve miles diſtant, in very ſmall loads, ſlung in baſkets acroſs a horſe's back, and theſe loads proportioned to the ſtrength of their cattle, which is very inconſiderable.

In ſo irregular a ſurface, it may appear a monſtrous abſurdity to adviſe a navigation; yet in the windings of theſe valleys a ready line of canal could be choſen, to which a conſiderable number of ſupplies of water could be eaſily diverted. This I conceive of ſuch importance to agriculture, that, whenever it can be effected, it ought to meet due encouragement; for it not only conveys at a cheap rate the beſt manures to ſoils, which do not naturally poſſeſs them, but it eſtabliſhes the beſt markets, and brings their advantages home to the farmer's door, and a very conſiderable matter, that

it

it ſends ſo many men and horſes to the buſineſs of agriculture, who have before been entirely engaged in the carriage of goods.

Thus the money, which is now ſent from hence for proviſions, would be kept at home, the country would amply yield a ſufficiency of every crop, and trade would have a better and ſurer ſupport.

In ſo many thouſand acres now occupied by very poor weavers we rarely ſee better than black oats, of an impoveriſhed grain, which are capable of yielding the fineſt wheat, or could certainly be converted to the beſt ſheep-walk.

The vallies are very graſſy, and have generally a light loam for a ſpade's depth, and a deep clay beneath; from the want of ſurface-draining they are now very ruſhy, and full of aqueous herbage, and ſome of them are ſeveral months of the year under water.

Theſe lands produce a coarſe meadow, and are very kind for dairy huſbandry; when they are drained, they are very much improved by manuring the ſurface with aſhes from the bog.

Their culture is with the three-horſe plough, and alſo very conſiderably with the ſpade, as they trench their crops, which, I have ſaid, are a rotation of potatoes, flax, and oats; except what produces milk for their own conſumption, they are very little otherwiſe engaged in dairy huſbandry.

## CLAY SOILS, AND THEIR MANURES.

This deſcription of ſoil, which prevails in this country, is naturally ſtiff, and will ſoon return to its binding and adheſive quality, after the beſt tillage, without a due recourſe being had to the manures, which are neceſſary to bring it into a fertile and yielding ſtate.

The beſt manure, which is attainable here for clay-ſoils, is marle; this is more beneficial towards the bottom of the hills here, the higher grounds are more improved with lime. This wants ſome inveſtigation, as lime tends to cake on clay, whereas marle makes it friable and tilly; but the manure beſt calculated for theſe ſoils is limeſtone gravel, as highly poſſeſſing the calcareous virtue, of which clay is deprived, and affording that matter, which is peculiarly and mechanically adapted to open the ſoil, as the pebbles it contains, by being well incorporated into the ſoil, ſeparate the clay, and prevent it from binding again; this latter virtue it always poſſeſſes, when its calcareous powers or marly quality may be exhauſted, and it muſt be conſidered, that from the cloſe formation of the pebble, this virtue will be more durable than it is either in lime or marle; conſequently it is the fitteſt

manure

manure for their ſoils. As Mr. Kirwan in his valuable Eſſay on Manures lays down as a general maxim, that "*Manures are applied to ſupply either the defective ingredients of a ſoil, or improve its texture, or correct its vices*," ſo here this is particularly verified, the texture being improved, and the natural chill of the ſoil corrected by limeſtone gravel; but as the country does not ſupply this manure, it cannot be uſed here, until a navigation will convey it; in the mean time, whatever tends to open the ſoil ought to be applied; gravel, lime, rubbiſh, or pebbles of any kind, will greatly effect it. It ſhould be obſerved, that the clayey marle is the leaſt beneficial kind for this ſoil; that which poſſeſſes moſt pebbles is the beſt. Marle is eaſily attained and raiſed, and where ſuch abundance is had, the propereſt kind ought to be ſelected; if mixed with dung it becomes very powerful, and the proportion of the latter, which is happily the leaſt attainable, requires to be many times leſs than the quantity of marle neceſſary in this compoſt, which will be found a very durable manure.

Paring and burning is a manure very unfit for theſe ſoils, which poſſeſs ſo few vegetables. I have ſeen a ſoil here totally reduced by repeated croppings, after this mode of treatment, ſo as not to yield graſs; when the carbonaceous matter is exhauſted, it will require a long time before fertility is reſtored. Though under the idea of burning, we ſuppoſe the ſoil is evaporated or waſted,

yet this is denied by the beſt experimental philoſophers, who account thus, that a ſlow fire will harden and not waſte it, that it affords, inſtead of conſuming, new vegetative matter, but its principal effect is the change of the roots of plants into actual coal; with heathy ſoils this mode particularly agrees. As this carbonic principle or coaly matter is loſt to the ſoil, ſo it becomes exhauſted; for this matter is very highly contained in the dung of animals, and alſo in all fermenting manures, which at firſt ſight may appear wonderful, but is certainly aſcertained from their analyzation; and thus it is, that graſs-lands are more in heart than arable, becauſe they not only receive this principle from the dung of the ſtock, which graze thereon, and which they retain, not yielding crops to exhauſt it; and as the herbage itſelf contains this principle leaſt, ſo it yields in a leſſer degree, and leaves it on the ſoil, which accounts for its fertility, and thus it is, ſays Mr. Kirwan, that "*Vegetables thrive beſt in the vicinity of towns, becauſe the carbonic principle is copiouſly diſperſed by the ſmoak of the various combuſtibles conſumed in inhabited places.*"

This ſubſtance ariſes from putrefaction, and is conſequently found in great vigour in a dunghill, and experiments have been tried, which proved that earths the moſt calcareous, and manures the moſt revigorating, when deprived of this principle by an analyſis, were

were totally barren, and on its being again reſtored to them recovered their fertility in a high degree.

To apply the ſeveral manures to their proper ſoils, is a ſtudy will be worth our enquiry, and highly pleaſing in the purſuit; it enables us to diſſeminate the moſt uſeful knowledge, and it particularly tends to the happineſs and comforts of mankind.

## SECT. 2. *Paſture.*

In a country ſo engaged in tillage, and divided into ſuch numerous ſmall farms, little can be ſaid of its paſture, as but a trifling proportion of it is ſo occupied; where the bleſſings of a cow are rarely enjoyed by the peaſant, and a horſe is equal to the work of ſeveral of thoſe farms, there is no room for paſture, which is ſo poor as eaſily to account for the impoveriſhed breed of cattle, that graze thereon. A patch of clover is the only graſs attempted to be cultivated, and though its excellencies are evident, from the repeated crops it yields in one ſeaſon, yet it is by no means ſufficiently engaged in. The demand for it is certainly increaſing, from the greater quantity being now ſold in the neighbouring market towns, than was formerly the caſe.

For want of draining the paſtures are overgrown with a ſpiry graſs, which in outer appearance has no

variation

variation from ruſhes; and as their graſs lands are cold and low, ſo they muſt yield but a very poor kind of milk, which does not produce much butter; as they are not at all engaged in feeding cattle for market, ſo there is no produce of wool, hides, or tallow.

## TILLAGE.

As our cropping exhauſts the virtues of the ſoil, ſo it is in a great degree reſtored by tillage, that is, ploughing the ground when the proper manures are not to be obtained; and in ſhallow ſoils particular manures are as neceſſary after a courſe of crops to enrich them, as they are in a clayey ſoil to open and pulverize them.

Thus it is, that additional ploughing will in effect mellow and enrich the ground, and ſupply the place of manures, by the conſtant turning the ſoil to the influence of the ſun and air; the ſalts of the atmoſphere are greedily ſucked in, in the broken ſtate of the earth, which it has not the power to imbibe in its cloſe ſtate, when in vegetation particularly ſo, when the plant is not tap-rooted. It is now ſtrongly aſſerted, and gains conſiderable credit from experience, that theſe ploughings ought to take place in ſpring and winter only, and a vegetable crop ſhould be the ſuccedaneum for a ſummer's fallow. The choice of this

crop

crop is to be conſidered, and will variouſly apply as to the neceſſity for each particular kind.

## Sect. 3. *Farms.*

Inconſiderable as is the ſize of farms, yet they are miſerably managed, and the houſes ſhew as little comfort or neatneſs as their huſbandry is wretched. Where ſo ſmall a portion is under the care of one farmer, as from two to five acres, which are here the general run of plots, we muſt conclude that there is ſome hidden cauſe, that prevents its very rapid improvement, which it ſhould attain almoſt to perfection; but the difficulty is eaſily ſolved, when we find the farmer is alſo a weaver, and though induſtrious, yet unable to follow both purſuits, for want of capital; nor is the nature of their tenures leſs diſcouraging, where many hold during pleaſure only, and are liable to have their rents raiſed, ſhould they venture to improve. This proceeds from neglect principally, and in a great meaſure from the fear of making the tenantry independent by granting leaſes; for ſo high does the ſpirit of electioneering prevail in this county, that it is no uncommon thing to ſee the landlord's intereſt at an election oppoſed by his own tenantry, which cauſes continual ill will, and is a great bar to improvemnet.

Fences

Fences are indifferently kept, ſcarce any quicks are planted, and a ſlight mound only thrown up during the growing of the corn: nor are they more attentive as to draining, which only a few gentlemen farmers have engaged in. Their manures are dung, bog-ſtuff, and aſhes.

## IRRIGATION.

This is a branch of huſbandry ſtrangely neglected in moſt parts of Ireland, though of unqueſtionable importance, and the manure it affords to graſs-lands cannot be excelled by the richeſt covering of ſtable dung: this, it is ſaid, depends very conſiderably on the quality of the water. It is alledged, that water at the ſource is pureſt, and that it loſes its virtues as a manure in proportion to the diſtance from the ſource. It is true, that a deep river at the fountain head is little variable in temperature at all times; but when the ſpace between the banks is of greater extent than the depth of the ſtream, then it is acted upon by the ſeaſons. I confeſs my own inability of determining the point, whether by the remoteneſs from the ſource the land could be parched in ſummer by a ſhallow ſtream, or periſhed in winter; or whether in its paſſage it might imbibe noxious qualities, or be impregnated with minerals, which might be prejudicial to ſome ſoils.

ſoils. However, we can be at no loſs to conclude, that the more ſaline particles which the water conveys, the greater are its virtues as a manure. It may be in ſome meaſure accounted for as beneficial to vegetation, as all plants contain a certain degree of water; the vegetable ſubſtance of herbs is more particularly compoſed of it, and this water is condenſed, and made ſolid in ſome degree, as it loſes its warmth, and is not in a liquid ſtate; by overflowing with water, this principle is again revived.

In moſs lands it has been aſſerted, that water is hurtful to the paſture, as it periſhes the roots, and that the water of a river, which abounds with ruſhes and aquatic plants, is unfit for the purpoſes of vegetation, and it is accounted for, as the water conveys the ſeeds of the moſſes and coarſe herbage as it flows, which ſoon grow to that vigour as to ſmother the natural graſs of the ſoil: as a remedy for this, the ſurface has been burnt and limed; yet it is notorious, that limed ground will quickly run to moſs when let out, but by a timely attention it may be nipped in its early growth and totally deſtroyed. Coal-aſhes will, when ſtrewed over young moſs, very quickly conſume it; old land, which is hide-bound and long in graſs, is apt to yield moſs, but by ſcarifying the ſurface and ſprinkling lime it has been ſucceſsfully baniſhed; by throwing freſh pure earth into the reſervoir, from whence the water is commanded, or in the trench, which con-

veys

veys it to the meadow, the vegetative properties are highly promoted; on deep ſoils quick lime thrown into the ſtream will have a very rapid effect, and is a very cheap and certain mode of manuring*.

## SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

The population is great in theſe baronies, but the villages and towns are very inconſiderable in ſize or wealth.

The village of Shercock is ſituate in the barony of Clonchee, lies high, and is but of mean appearance; it has a weekly market, in which no commodity is ſold but yarn. This village is on the eſtate of ——— Ruxton, Eſq. of Ardee, in the county of Louth. The Rev. Alan Noble Adams is the only gentleman reſiding in this neighbourhood.

A new church has been this ſome time paſt erected here, for which a very adequate ſum was granted, but it is yet unfiniſhed; how often do we find the like inſtances of miſapplication of money in church property, not to give it a harſher epithet?

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* For the extraordinary effects of irrigation, and times of applying this manure, ſee Queen's County Reports—Page 77, 78.

The ſoil around this village is light, and the grounds much elevated; the hay-graſs is particularly ſweet, though it grows on a very light ſoil. The farms are ſmall, and on about 300 acres of glebe land the cabins give a diſguſting appearance of ſqualid poverty. The year's ſubſiſtence is not attainable from the lands, and they buy much corn in the neighbouring county of Louth.

The leaſes in the vicinity are generally for three lives, and ſomewhat better for building ground in the town; the rents are principally made from the loom, and the women contribute much by ſpinning.

The lake at Shercock is a very fine ſheet of water, being many miles in circumference. This lake is ſaid to be one of the principal ſources of Lough Erne, to which it flows, branching off by Coote-hill and the demeſne of Annalee, uniting with the great waters from Bellamont foreſt and Dawſon Grove lakes, at Tullavin, and thence winds on through an extent of country into Lough Erne. This lake is named Lough Scelin, and but a few years ago was beautifully ſurrounded with full grown timber; the hills, which riſe ſo picturesque, awe this expanſe of water, and were thickly planted, but now not a tree remains.

The ſituation for ſuch ornamental improvements was moſt happy, but the miſerable appearance of the country around, and the ſorry village on its banks, has left nothing but this fine ſheet of water to recommend it.

On the town-land of Glaſleck, about two miles ſouth of Shercock, contiguous to the Bailyborough road, on the eſtate of John Singleton, Eſq. is a great vein of ſtrong ſtone coal, of a very ſulphureous quality, courſing the bed of a narrow glen, through which runs a ſmall ſtream, that after heavy floods riſes conſiderably, and flows with great rapidity. When this vein is denuded of the ſoil by the waters of the ſtream, it reſembles a rock of limeſtone, and is of a blueiſh colour, but when chipped is of a deep and ſparkling black: along the high ridge of land running ſouth, it appears within ſix inches of the ſurface; after the ſtream has fallen, an iron ore and a ſtrong mineral ſpews from the joints of the mine.

There cannot be any coal mine more eaſily worked; at preſent one man with a crow-iron and ſpade could raiſe above a ton weight daily.

By the ready aſſiſtance I received from Mr. Alan Adams, we raiſed ſome of this coal; that part near the ſurface burned deadly and was flaty, but what was raiſed from about the depth of twelve or eighteen inches was much more lively, and emitted a ſtrong blue flame, which waved a long time over the top of the fire; the ſlack ſeemed excellent for a lime-kiln.

I apprehend the quality of this coal is of the ſame nature of the Caſtlecomber collieries, in the county of Kilkenny, and where ſo near the ſurface it was ſo very promiſing, it may be concluded it is excellent at a due

depth.

depth. The very little expenſe and labour neceſſary to work it is a matter of great encouragement to give it a fair trial, and the great demand for fuel in Louth, which juſt adjoins, and its aptitude for bleachers uſes ought to ſtimulate ſome active adventurers to embark in a buſineſs, which doubtleſs would well repay them.

Bailyborough is a very mean village in the ſame barony, but has an excellent market; the church is on an eminence and commands the town, which is on the eſtate of Thomas Charles Stewart Corry, Eſq. of Rockcorry, in the county of Monaghan. This gentleman inherits this eſtate from the late Charles Stewart, Eſq. who long repreſented this county in parliament, and whoſe improvements and family manſion are contiguous to this village, as is the bleach-green of Mr. Speers: there is another alſo in the barony, Mr. George the proprietor. The crops around this vicinity conſiſt of potatoes, flax, and oats, and are very poor. Here, as in Shercock neighbourhood, ſome ſmall farmers have two cows, and they make ſome butter for market, which is brought up for Newry export, as alſo are their pigs, which make a conſiderable article of trade.

I know of no town more neglected, or which has better capabilities than Bailyborough; its diſtance from other markets, and many internal advantages, could readily raiſe it to a ſtate of proſperity and conſequence, were there any encouragement given, and though it

has been a principal ſtage on the northern road, it is now without an inn. When Mr. Corry, who is but yet a minor, ſhall duly conſider the matter, he will doubtleſs complete the improvements, which his worthy predeceſſor had in view, and which muſt greatly tend to his own intereſt as well as the general and public benefit.

A famous lake, or rather pool, which is on the road between Bailyborough and King's Court on the ſummit of a mountain, is celebrated for its antiſcorbutic virtues imparted by the patients bathing in it, and rubbing the mud to the affected parts, which rarely fail of being effectually cured; this very powerful remedy is teſtified by all the country around, it is ſignificantly called Lough-on-leighaghs, or the healing lake.

Its diſtance from Bailyborough is two and an half miles, and three from King's Court; this lake well deſerves a minute inveſtigation, as much from the ſingularity of its ſituation, and the virtues of its waters, as well as from the particular circumſtances attending it, of never riſing or lowering; neither is there any evident ſupply to keep up ſo deep a body of water, nor does any diſcharge appear whatſoever to iſſue from it; beſides, it is remarkable that the ſun or atmoſphere has no effect either in imparting its genial influence, or in reducing its waters by attraction, nor has it ever been frozen or its temperature altered in the ſevereſt winter.

The

The lake does not cover more than half a ſquare rood in area, and is ſituated on the ſummit of a mountain, which has a range of lofty hills to the eaſt and weſt. The grounds to the weſtward are conſiderably higher. For about ſix feet from the ſurface the water is pure and clear, but within one foot deeper it is muddy, and this mud continues for an unfathomable depth; it gradually approaches to a heavy thick mud at about thirty feet depth. I am aſſured by very reſpectable gentlemen, who live in this neighbourhood, that an immenſe coil of line, to which a heavy weight was affixed, had not found the bottom, but I cannot ſtate the length of the chord. The mud, which is doubtleſs the efficacious part, at the depth of thirty feet, is procured by a pole of that length, round which a thick rope of hay is twiſted, being turned round in the pool, to which it adheres, and comes up in a greaſy ſhining ſubſtance reſembling tar. As a corroborating proof that the virtue is principally in the mud, this is frequently ſent many miles diſtance to patients afflicted with ſcrophulous complaints, and many inſtances have been known of a certain cure having been effected.—The water has ſome little tincture of chalybeate in taſte, but I ſaw it in the month of January after great rains.—It is remarkable that a military gentleman, who had been dreadfully afflicted with a leproſy, and had ineffectually tried the moſt celebrated waters in England, and on the Continent, was in one ſeaſon effectually cured with

this

this mud: this vicinity was ever after dear to him, and there he reſided in perfect health for many years, and lived to a very old age. This lake is much frequented in ſummer, from June to Auguſt, for bathing, though the mud is ſaid to be efficacious at all ſeaſons, with which the affected parts are poulticed. The company reſide at King's Court or Bailyborough, and walk or ride here every day, as there are now but the ruins of lodging houſes, and the veſtige of the ladies bath at the lake, which long ago were well attended to. After bathing, they drink of the well, which is about two hundred yards below the mountain, on whoſe ſummit the lake is, and ſome ſuppoſe its waters are diſcharged here by a ſubterraneous paſſage, and by ſuch another they are ſupplied, which I take to be very erroneous, as this water is a hard clear ſpring, not having any reſemblance in the taſte or colour to the waters of the lake, nor is the ſtream from the well but a mere dribble, and where the ſupply can come from is ſtill more puzzling.

The village of Muff is alſo in this neighbourhood, but of very little moment in appearance; here is a good annual horſe fair, and alſo the ruins of a caſtle; it is contiguous to the thriving town of King's Court. The mountains, which are in the vicinity, form a great ridge, and cultivation is rapidly creeping up their ſides, and ſuch excellent crops of oats are yielded as well repay the toil of the improver: the average rate of land from ſeven to ten ſhillings per acre; when it is a little

cleared

cleared of the heath and furze, it will readily bring from twelve to fifteen ſhillings per acre on a thirty-one years leaſe. The bogs are plenty, and their aſhes yield a very ſtrong manure. Marle is alſo in abundance, and they are not very diſtant from limeſtone, which is ſo remarkably powerful on theſe mountains. Of ſhelter this country is remarkably deſtitute, and either ſide of the mountain is inhoſpitably bleak. Approaching nearer to the county of Meath, and juſt within its borders, the proſpect brightens, and there are ſeveral deep glens and vallies, within which flow rapid ſtreams and afford many picturesque and intereſting ſcenes.

The town of King's Court, which nearly bounds the county of Cavan, and is within this diſtrict, was founded not long ſince by the late Mervyn Pratt, Eſq. and is now very ſpiritedly followed up by the preſent proprietor, his brother, the Reverend Joſeph Pratt. This town is very conſiderably improved, and every day adds ſomething to its conſequence: it has ſeveral excellent ſtone and ſlated houſes; here is every convenience for building, as they have the fineſt ſtone poſſible for this purpoſe, and ſand and lime very near at hand, the latter but thirteen pence per barrel unſlacked.—The late Mr. Pratt leaſed the town plots and one rood of garden adjoining, for one guinea per annum, in perpetuity, and ſet four acres of town plot for one guinea per acre, on a leaſe of thirty-one years. This encouragement ſo effectually ſucceeded, that the preſent

ſent proprietor has now doubled theſe ſums, and new houſes are conſtantly adding—a market houſe has been built, as alſo a very neat church and a handſome chapel, and a diſpenſary is well attended to under the humane and careful patronage of Mrs. Pratt.

The new roads, which are making, and were ſo materially wanted, will conſiderably add to the town, and ſerve its very promiſing market.

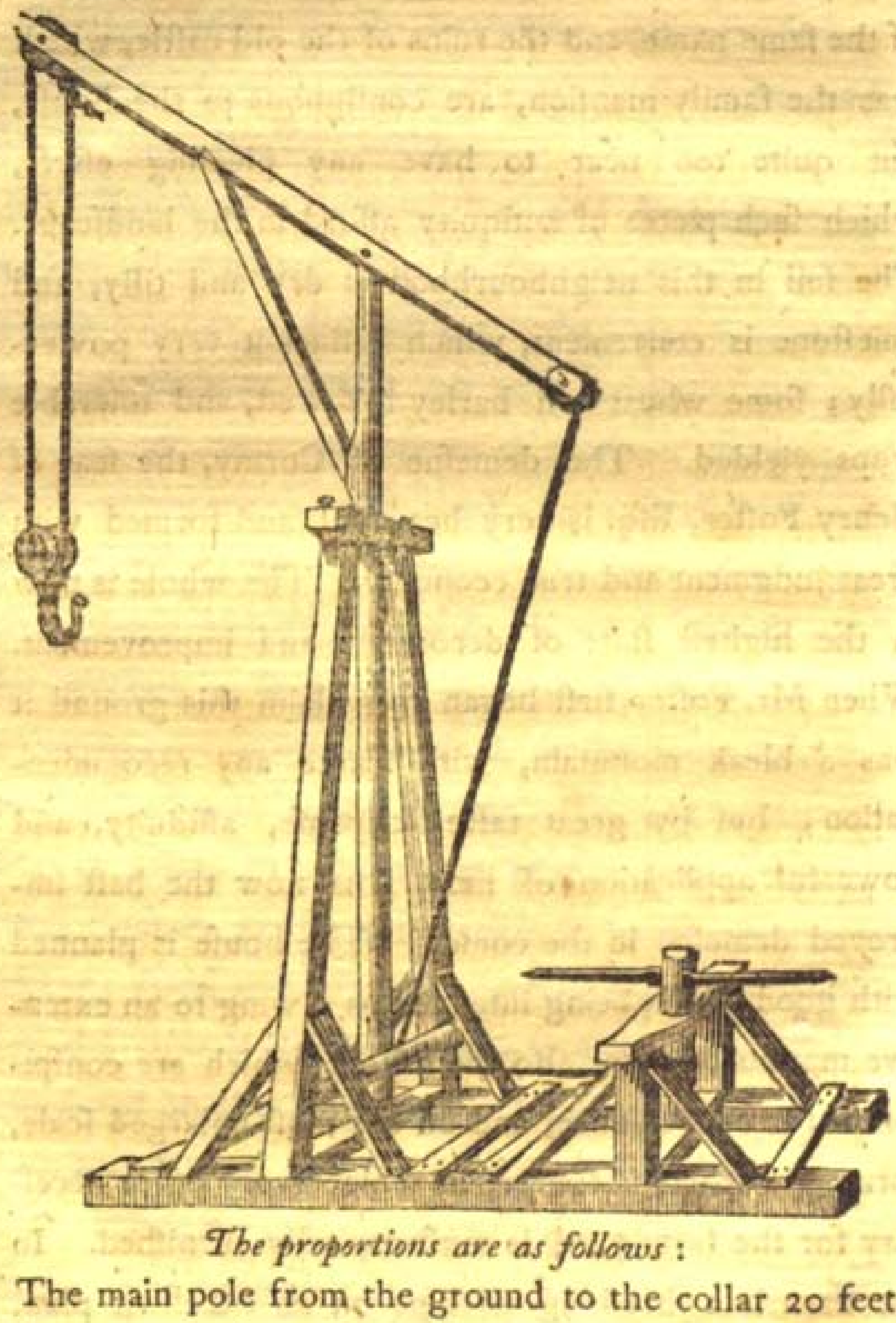
Mr. Pratt's improvements are well decorated with excellent plantations; the houſe, which was lately built for a lodge, is ſituated in a valley, and ſurrounded with high grounds, which are quite too near, and entirely ſhut out every appearance of proſpect, forming a perfect amphitheatre.—Through an extenſive wood rolls a rapid ſtream in a deep and narrow glen; the rocks, which impede the water, forming natural caſcades produce a lively and pictureſque ſcene. The new approach winds through a fertile lawn, and is well furniſhed with young timber. The old caſtle of Cabra in ruins, and the many Daniſh forts, which are well planted, are intereſting objects in this pleaſing landſcape; from one of theſe, which bound the demeſne, the view is moſt extenſive and pleaſing, compriſing noted objects in Armagh, Louth, Meath, Monaghan and Cavan counties, commanding alſo the ſpire of Carricmacroſs, and the extenſive lake of Ballihoe. The nearer views are moſt highly enlivened with the adjoining elegant plantations of Cormy, where Mr. Foſter has formed a paradiſe out of the

moſt

moſt ungracious and almoſt ſavage wilds; and on the other ſide Cabra is bounded with the neat and ornamental grounds of Mullintra, the ſeat of Mr. James Pratt. The demeſne grounds of Cabra, which immediately adjoin the houſe, were the ſite of the old town of the ſame name, and the ruins of the old caſtle, which was the family manſion, are contiguous to the houſe, but quite too near to have any pleaſing effect, which ſuch pieces of antiquity afford in the landſcape. The ſoil in this neighbourhood is dry and tilly, and limeſtone is convenient, which refines it very powerfully; ſome wheat and barley is ſowed, and tolerable crops yielded. The demeſne of Cormy, the ſeat of Henry Foſter, Eſq. is very beautiful, and formed with great judgment and true economy. The whole is now in the higheſt ſtate of decoration and improvement. When Mr. Foſter firſt began to reclaim this ground it was a bleak mountain, with ſcarce any recommendation; but by great taſte, expenſe, aſſiduity, and powerful application of lime, it is now the beſt improved demeſne in the county. The houſe is planned with good effect, being intended as a wing to an extenſive manſion, as are alſo the offices, which are conſpicuous for convenience, and on the moſt enlarged ſcale, forming a ſpacious ſquare, in which every office neceſſary for the farm-yard is moſt capitally furniſhed. In the barn is a threſhing machine on an excellent plan, and indeed the yard is well ſtocked with almoſt every uſeful and neceſſary implement for the modern and improved huſbandry.

I ſhall

I ſhall beg leave to give the view of one very uſeful machine, which is here annexed, and which I have not ſeen with Mr. Foſter; it is peculiarly well adapted for hoiſting hay and corn to the rick, in a car-load at each draught.



*The proportions are as follows*:

The main pole from the ground to the collar 20 feet. The top pole from the collar to the arm 8 feet. The length of the arm from the pole to the pulley and block 14 feet. The length of the ſhort part of the arm 8 feet.

Thomas

Thomas James Rawſon, Eſq. of Cardington near Athy, in the county of Kildare, is the inventor.

The garden is divided into ſquare plots, each plot incloſed with a low beechen hedge, and is very well laid out. The drill huſbandry is followed with the greateſt ſucceſs, and the lands are laid down with clover and artificial graſſes in the greateſt heart; the green crops are alſo in fine vigour on the moſt extenſive ſcale, all drilled and regularly horſe-hoed; the fineſt ſheep-walks are now acquired, and ſtall feeding is engaged in on an extenſive ſcale. The neatneſs, the regularity, the economy, and the uncommon ſucceſs, which attends Mr. Foſter's huſbandry, evince the correctneſs of his moſt comprehenſive and correct ideas in this delightful ſcience; and if the elegant improvements of Cormy, which bear ſo ſtriking a miniature reſemblance to the beautiful and extenſive plantations at Collon, ſhould hereafter inſpire the Muſe, ſhe would doubtleſs repreſent Ceres, and all the wood nymphs in her train, crowning Mr. Foſter with the rural wreath and the rewards of agriculture; to him indeed every praiſe is due, no individual in the county has to boaſt half his exertions, which have met with the fulleſt ſucceſs. The plantations of Cormy, which received the Dublin Society's premium in the years 1781, and 1784, are in the greateſt vigour, and taken the beſt poſſible care of.

In this diſtrict there are but little relics of antiquity; in a cairn of ſtones I could trace ſome reſemblance to

the

the ancient Leaba-Feine, which was the name given to the tombs of their chiefs, and is tranſlated by Gen. Vallancey as the bed or graves of the nobles. He ſays, that this name was given to the tombs appertaining to the Mileſians, or ancient Iriſh nobleſſe; they conſiſt in general of immenſe rock-ſtones placed on others either upright, or laid flat, the covering ſtone being placed ſome horizontal, others inclined, and often circumſcribed by a wall of looſe ſtones. On ſeveral of theſe ſtones, eſpecially on thoſe belonging to the Druids or Bards, are found inſcriptions in ſymbolic and alphabetic characters, ſpecifying the name and quality of the perſon interred. According to the Iriſh Antiquaries, this ſpecies of tombs was introduced about the beginning of the third century, burning the dead having been univerſally diſcontinued throughout the iſland. A very remarkable tomb of this deſcription and in great preſervation, which I omitted to make mention of in my Reports of the County of Monaghan, ſtands in a field adjoining the road between Caſtle-Blaney and Newry, and about two miles from the bounds of the county of Armagh; but it requires the ſkill of an antiquarian to diſtinguiſh whether this relic was a tomb or an altar, as it bears a ſtrong affinity to that ſpecies of ſtone altar, which in the Colle&tanea is called Crom-leck, or the ſtone of devotion, from *Crom* to bow down or worſhip, and *leck* a ſtone, a name given

given at this day to a ſpecies of Druidic altars, ſtill remaining in different parts of Ireland, conſiſting generally of an inclined rock-ſtone, ſupported by ſeveral upright ones, thereby forming a room or apartment, in which the Druids attending the ſervice of the altar generally reſided, on which account they were alſo denominated Bothal, or houſe of God, and were nearly of the ſame conſtruction with thoſe erected by Abraham and the Patriarchs, mentioned by Moſes, and called Bethel, which in the Hebrew language is of the ſame ſignification as Bothal in Iriſh. Theſe altars were dedicated to the Supreme Being, or firſt cauſe, called frequently Crom-al, or the All Powerful Being, and erected either on plains, or on eminences in the centre of dark and thick woods. The victims ſacrificed on them were deer or oxen, whence on many of them canals are cut in the ſtone, into which the blood flowed at the time of ſacrifice, in order that divinations might be taken therefrom. There was no ſtated period for ſacrifice offered to Crom; but when any perſon was willing to conſult fate or Providence, relative to the future events of his own affairs, either in war or the chace, he brought the victim to the Druid, who from the ſtate of the entrails and flowing of the blood drew preſages relative to the ſucceſs or the failure of the enterprize.

After the eſtabliſhment of polytheiſm among the Celtic nations, little adoration was paid to the Supreme being.

being. Confucius is ſaid to be the firſt, who reſtored it among the Eaſtern people, and according to the Iriſh Antiquaries, it was introduced into this iſland by Tighernas, about two hundred and ſixty years before the Chriſtian era, but was violently oppoſed by the Druids, who favoured the doctrine of polytheiſm, whence Tighernas and his followers are reported to have been deſtroyed, during the time of ſacrifice, at Magh-Sleuchta in the county of Leitrim. The worſhip of the true God, however, from this period gained ground in Ireland, but was not univerſal until about the middle of the third century, when Cormac, King of North Leinſter, openly declared in favour of the unity of the Deity, and condemned all degrees of polytheiſm; a circumſtance, which greatly contributed to the introduction of Chriſtianity ſome ages after. Several of the altars of Crom are yet remaining nearly entire in ſeveral parts of Ireland, particularly at Tolin and Brownſtown in the county of Carlow, and near Dundalk in the county of Louth.

The cairn I alluded to in *this* county ſtands on the ſummit of the loftieſt mountain of that range between King's Court and Bailyborough, and about a mile or better from Lough-on-leighaghs, which I have juſt now deſcribed.

The features of the country in Caſtleraghan barony are not very inviting; and entering Cavan from Meath county,

county, near the village of Monalty, the ſoil ſhews a deep loam and ſtiff argil below, very ſpongy, covered with ruſhes, and a great proportion is under bog: the appearances of limeſtone are very ſcanty and of a poor quality; but when lime has been well applied, the land ſeems to be very conſiderably improved, but I ſhould ſuppoſe limeſtone gravel was a more proper manure. The diſpoſition of the ſurface is very favourable to draining; in the bogs about two ſpades depth, is a thick ſtratum of a very green gravel, which would be extremely fit for ploughing into the uplands, merely to open the ſoil, although it does not ſeem to poſſeſs any calcareous quality. Fuel is very abundant; the huts are very mean and filthy, but well covered and warm. Their incloſures are the beſt ſoil they poſſeſs, reared up in great heaps, but quite naked, without any quick or thorn; if this mould was mixed with lime but in a ſmall proportion, and ploughed into their ſoil, it would be an excellent manure, and there are quarries in abundance of green ſtrong ſlate and ſtone, which could afford incloſures, and ſeem only calculated for ſuch purpoſes, or for making drains, which are here particularly required.

The ſurface is very hilly in this diſtrict, and extremely irregular, but the roads are as good, rather better than in other parts of the county, neither is there a ſcarcity nor a profuſion of water. The paſturage

turage is only for milch cows and horſes; the far greater proportion of the farms are under tillage.

The farmers, though of ſlender capital, yet expend very conſiderably in liming, the value of which they are now ſenſible of; yet the limeſtone they uſe is far diſtant, and very coſtly. No wheat is ſowed here, the ſoil being ſo wet; potatoes, flax, and oats are yet the rotation of crops, and of the former they generally take two crops ſucceſſively, and three of the latter. Lime is the beſt manure for all crops in this ſoil. The limeſtone, which is uſed, is very white, rugged, and crumbly, and of the higheſt calcareous quality. The blue limeſtone here is very inferior and hard, and only partially had. Burning the ſurface is conſiderably purſued, and will bring an excellent crop; the ſoil is ſo very deep they do not injure it, as they are attentive not to over-crop, on which account their burning is never oppoſed. The value of labour is eſtimated from eight pence to ten pence through the year, but little demand for hired labourers.

Virginia is a very mean market town in this barony, on the banks of the great lake of Ramor, which flows into the Blackwater river, and thence to the Boyne. In this lake are ſeveral iſlands, in which are the ruins of old caſtles; it is of very great extent, and of much greater circumference than Shercock lake; the ancient appearance muſt have been very beautiful and pic-

tureſque,

tureſque, when the iſlands were covered with fine timber; at preſent the lake only is engaging; the bleak iſlands are but a foil to its beauties, though at a diſtance the ruins thereon are pictureſque. Contiguous to this are the neat improvements of Fortland Lodge, the ſeat of H. Maxwell, Eſq.; near Mullogh is another very extenſive lake, whoſe waters are diſcharged by another courſe into the ſame river. The ſmall village of Kill is on the bounds of this and Clonmoghan barony; Ballyjamesduff is only to be obſerved as a ſtage on the road to Cavan town, as there is nothing to recommend it; contiguous to it is a ſpacious lake, but of comparative extent with either of the preceding. The late Alderman Bevan at his own expenſe ſunk a ſhaft near this village, adjoining the eſtate of the Earl of Farnham, and came to unerring indications of good coal, but did not purſue the work; it would be well worth the attention of the preſent poſſeſſor to reſume it, as the principal trouble and expenſe is already accompliſhed: what an acquiſition would ſuch a diſcovery be to the neighbouring county of Louth, which is ſo poorly ſupplied with fuel, and what reſources would it inſure to the proprietor? Daly's-bridge is a ſmall village on the borders of Weſtmeath; it is ſituate in Clonmoghan barony, and contiguous to the great lake of Sheelin or Shenklin, which is of very conſiderable magnitude, and extends to Finnoe in Weſtmeath,

where it communicates with Lough Inny, thence flowing through Longford, its waters are discharged into the Shannon. In these waters are several small islands, and also the ruins of a church and a castle. The lake touches on four counties, and is the point of division between them, viz. Cavan, Longford, East and West Meath. This little town of Daly's-bridge is the only town in Clonmoghan barony. The same irregular surface is observable throughout, but the ground is not so elevated, neither are the hills of such extent in area nor so lofty: the soil is much drier and fitter for wheat culture, yet little of it is so occupied. The farms are yet larger than those in the preceding baronies; the river of Crossdony rises from a lake in the centre of this barony, and a part of the village stands in this district.

The land at this extremity is worse than the centre, not so tilly but very wet, and the rent not about 5*s.* per acre extraordinary.

The great lake of Gawnagh, and the village of Scraba in Longford county, just touches on the extremity of this county in Clonmoghan, and is beautifully indented, and the banks very well wooded. Mr. Sloane, who resides near Crossdony, has a good bleach mill, which is the only one in this barony.

At Kilcogy, near Glan, is the seat of Mr. Pallis, which is well ornamented and improved, and is contiguous

tiguous to the beautiful waters of Lough Sheelin, which is charmingly wooded, where alſo are the handſome plantations of Mr. Nugent on the borders of Eaſt Meath. In this diſtrict near Old Caſtle, Mr. Tatlo is extending very judicious improvements.

# CHAP. XI.

## BARONY OF TULLAGHGARVEY.

### SECTION I.

*Agriculture.*

THIS barony appears to be by no means inferior to any in the county, either in improvements, navigable line, or trade, in which it particularly excels, and its lands are high, eaſily rendered tilly with a ſlight application of lime, and yield very abundant crops. As theſe lands are acceſſible to the plough, we find that mode of culture more generally adopted, and it varies from two to three horſes abreaſt, as the ſoil is more or leſs weighty.

Farms are divided in general from three to twenty acres, except where demeſne lands interfere, and theſe are moſtly grazed or turned to meadow. The poor farmers, who are all manufacturers, have about one-third of their farms under labour, which is occupied with potatoes, flax, and oats. They generally break

up

ſip as much ground every year as they can manure with their ſcanty dunghill, and plant potatoes in the lazy-bed manner; the following ſeaſon they divide or ſplit the ridges, and make the ridge where the trench was before, and thus have two crops of potatoes for one year's dung. A ſmall portion of this tilled ground is then appropriated to flax, and the remainder to oats for two or three crops ſucceſſively, and they let out the land to reſt without ſowing any kind of graſs ſeeds. The produce of theſe lands may be only given by eſtimation, as their crops are not for ſale, merely for the ſupport of the family. The very needieſt ſometimes are obliged to ſell, which they do very unwillingly, perhaps to pay rent, and thus they muſt buy again at dear rates in ſummer. As no more land is tilled than they eſtimate will anſwer to their conſumption, the loom is their main dependance, its profits pay their rents, and provide clothing, fuel, &c.

Their crops may perhaps rate at from ten to fifteen barrels of oats, per Iriſh acre; flax yields from three and an half to four and an half ſtone, per perch. Potatoes here have an excellent produce, and it is no uncommon crop to yield ſixty barrels per acre, of forty-eight ſtones to the barrel.

This mode of huſbandry, courſe of crops, and ſize of farms, being the pretty general or average return of Cavan, accounts why there is not a market for grain in the county; meal and potatoes are indeed for ſale,

but

but for the latter there is little demand. The ſtaple commodities are the materials for the linen manufacture; they never uſe oxen in the plough, nor feed them but in the demeſne parks for home ſlaughter, and a very ſmall portion is under ſheep-walk, or adapted for ſuch feeding; of courſe, no idea of cultivating green food has ever been in contemplation, nor are the paſtures indebted to any thing but the hand of Nature, which here ſhe has not very laviſhly ſpread, but with a coarſe aquatic graſs.

## HEMP.

*The culture of this valuable plant has hitherto been unknown in Cavan, or indeed in Ireland, but the late miſunderſtanding with the Northern powers of Europe induced the truſtees of the linen manufacture to offer very conſiderable premiums for its growth in Ireland, and as ſeveral gentlemen in this county are anxious to promote this laudable deſign, and are unacquainted with its management, I herewith at their requeſt annex the mode of culture, as practiſed in Suffolk, with ſome general obſervations thereon, which are literally copied from the General View of the Agriculture of the County of Suffolk. I ſhall in the next ſection give the mode of culture of this plant taken from the Somerſetſhire Survey, which ſeems very different from that adopted in Suffolk, and leave my readers to adopt either mode as they*

*they may judge beſt ſuited to their ſoil. That mode recommended by the Linen Board is the ſame as mentioned in the Somerſetſhire Survey; but it ſhould be obſerved, that the author, Mr. Billingsley, does not ſay, that this plant is cultivated within the county of Somerſet, and only gives general directions for rearing it. At all events, where flax huſbandry is ſo much followed as in Cavan, and its culture and dreſſing, &c. ſeem ſo well ſuited to that practiſed with hemp, a little time muſt lead to a conſiderable, if not a perfect knowledge of its management, which would ſo materially enrich the kingdom, and ſave ſuch immenſe ſums as are annually paid for its importation. In the cloſe of the next ſection will be alſo given the premiums offered by the Linen Board, for the culture of hemp.*

## ON HEMP.

### FROM THE GENERAL VIEW OF THE AGRICULTURE OF THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK.

"The diſtrict of country, in which this article of cultivation is chiefly found, extends from Eye to Beccles, ſpreading to the breadth of about ten miles, which oblong of country may be conſidered as its head-quarters.

It is in the hands of both farmers and cottagers; but it is very rare to ſee more than five or ſix acres in the occupation of any one man. With cottagers, the more

more common method is, to ſow it every year on the ſame land: there is a piece at Hoxne, which has been under this crop for ſeventy ſucceſſive years. The ſoil preferred is, what is called in the diſtrict, *mixed land*, that is, ſandy loam, moiſt, and putrid, but without being ſtiff or tenacious; in one word, the beſt land the country contains; and does well, as may be ſuppoſed, on old meadow, and low bottoms near rivers. They manure for it with great attention; ſo that it may be taken as a maxim, that hemp is not often ſown without this preparation: of dung and moulds, twenty-five three-horſe loads per acre; of dung alone, ſixteen loads. This is done directly after wheat ſowing is finiſhed.

The tillage conſiſts in three earths, with harrowing ſufficient to make the ſoil perfectly fine; and it is laid flat, with as few furrows as poſſible.

Time of ſowing, from the middle to the end of April, but will bear being ſown all May. It is often found, that the early ſown yields hemp of the beſt quality.

Quantity of ſeed, eleven pecks per acre, at the price of one ſhilling or two ſhillings a peck, generally from ſixteen to eighteen-pence. Much is brought from Downham, and the fens; the ſeeded hemp is not ſo good by eighteen-pence or two ſhillings the ſtone.

No weeding is ever given to it, the hemp deſtroying every other plant.

It

It is pulled thirteen or fourteen weeks after ſowing; the wetter the ſeaſon, the longer it ſtands, and it bears a dry year better than a wet one; make no diſtinction in pulling, between the male and female, or femble and ſeed hemp, as denominated in ſome places. In the Cambridgeſhire fens they are frequently ſeparated, which may ariſe from their hemp being coarſer, and the ſtalk larger. The price of pulling is one ſhilling a peck of the ſeed ſown, or eleven ſhillings an acre, and beer; but if it comes in harveſt, the expenſe is higher. It is tied up in ſmall bundles called *baits*.

It is always water-*retted**; clay-pits preferred to any running water, and cleaned out once in ſeven or eight years. An acre of three ſmall waggon loads are laid in one *bed*. They will water five times in the ſame hole; but it is thought by ſome too much. If neceſſary to wait, they pull as the hole is ready, not chuſing to leave it on the land after pulled.

It

* Generally; but in a circle of about ſix miles round Thilnetham, the greater part is never put into the water at all, but is dew-retted, which is done by laying it on paſture ground, for from three to ſix weeks according to the ſeaſon, and turned five or ſix times. This proceſs coſts about one ſhilling per ſtone per acre, including pulling, ſpreading, turning, and getting up; and the hemp at market is not worth ſo much by two ſhillings per ſtone, as that which hath been water-retted, and therefore probably the cuſtom of dew-retting is only followed to any conſiderable degree, where there are not pits ſufficient to water-ret what grows in a diſtrict.—*Note by a Correſpondent of the Board.*

It is generally four days in the water, if the weather is warm, if not, five; but they examine and judge by feeling it. The expenſe is twelve to fifteen ſhillings an acre.

The graſſing requires about five weeks; and, if there are ſhowers, conſtantly turned thrice a week; if not, twice a week. This is always on graſs lands or layers. It is done by women; the expenſe ten ſhillings an acre. It is then tied up in large bundles of eight or ten *baits*, and carted home to a barn or houſe to break directly.

Breaking is done by the ſtone, at one ſhilling. There are many people in the diſtrict, who do it, and earn fifteen or ſixteen-pence a day, and beer. The offal is called hemp *ſheaves*, makes good fuel, and ſells at two-pence a ſtone.

It is then marketable, and ſold by ſample at Dis, Harling, Bungay, &c. price *5s. 6d.* to *8s.* a ſtone; generally *7s. 6d.* In 1795, 10*s.*

The buyer heckles it, which is done at 1*s. 6d.* a ſtone; he makes it into two or three ſorts: *long ſtrike*, *ſhort ſtrike*, and *pull tow*. Women buy it and ſpin it into yarn, which they carry to market, and ſell at prices proportioned to the fineneſs. This the weaver buys, who converts it into cloth, which is ſold at market alſo.

The ſpinners earn better and more ſteady wages, than by wool: a common hand will do two ſkains a day, three of which are a clue, at nine-pence, conſe-

quently

quently she earns six-pence a day, and will look to her family and do half a clue. Nor is the trade, like wool, subject to great depressions, there being always more work than hands; the consequence of a brisk demand. They begin to spin at four or five years old: it is not so difficult to spin hemp as wool; but best to learn with the *rock*. For very fine yarn, one shilling a clue is paid for spinning. About Hoxne, the yarn is half whitened before weaving; but in other places, weave it brown, which is reckoned better. The weavers of fine cloth earn 16*s.* or 18*s.* a week, middling 10*s.*

The fabrics wrought in this country from their own hemp have great merit. They make it to 3*s.* 6*d.* and 4*s.* 6*d.* a yard, yard wide, for shirts; and I was shewn sheets and table linen, now quite good, after twenty years wear. Huckabacks, for table linen, 13*d.* to 7*s.* a yard, ell wide.

The produce of an acre may, on an average, be reckoned forty-five stone, at 7*s.* 6*d.* Some crops rise to fifty-five, and even more; and there are bad ones so low as twenty-five. If sold on the ground as it stands, generally 1*s.* a rod, or 8*l.* an acre.

The

The account of an acre may be thus eſtimated:

EXPENSES.

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rent, tithe, and rates, - - | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Manure, 25 loads, at 1*s.* 6*d.* - | 1 | 17 | 6 |
| Three earths, at 4*d.* harrow included, | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Seed, - - - - | 0 | 16 | 6 |
| Sowing, - - - - | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Pulling, - - - - | 0 | 12 | 10 |
| Watering, - - - - | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Graffing, - - - - | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Breaking, - - - - | 2 | 12 | 6 |
| Carriage and delivery, - - | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| | £.9 | 8 | 10 |

PRODUCE.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Forty-five ſtone, at 7*s.* 6*d.* - | £.16 | 17 | 6 |
| Expenſes, - - - | 9 | 8 | 10 |
| Profit, - - | £.7 | 8 | 8 |

All accounts of this ſort muſt be received with due allowances for many variations. The preceding was taken at Hoxne; but at Beccles (where, however, the quantity cultivated is not equally great) a very different mode of calculation takes place, and rent is *valued*.

EXPENSE.

EXPENSE.

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rent, tithe, and rates, - - | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Manure, - - - - | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Tillage, - - - - | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Seed, twelve pecks, - - | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| Pulling, - - - - | 0 | 19 | 0 |
| Watering, - - - - | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Graffing, - - - - | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Breaking, - - - - | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| | £.14 | 11 | 0 |

PRODUCE.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fifty ſtone, at 8s. - - | £.20 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenſes, - - - | 14 | 11 | 0 |
| Profit, - - - | £.5 | 9 | 0 |

The common method is, to ſow turnips on the land immediately after the hemp is cleared: this is for producing, among the little occupiers, ſome food for a cow and the family. With good management, one ploughing and one hoeing will carry them to the value of 30s. But an evil ariſing from the practice is, that the land muſt, for the next crop, be mucked in the ſpring, when carting

carting does more damage. When corn is ſown after the hemp, it is wheat; and theſe are the beſt crops in the country, as nothing is eſteemed to clean land like this plant. After the wheat, barley or oats, and this great alſo.

Finding the profit ſo great, I demanded why the culture did not increaſe rapidly. I was anſwered, that its coming in the midſt of harveſt was embarraſſing, and that the attention it demanded in every ſtage of its progreſs was great; being liable to be ſpoiled, if the utmoſt care was not perpetual.

It is conſidered, and with great juſtice, throughout the diſtrict, to be of infinite conſequence to the country, and eſpecially to the poor, who are entirely ſupported by it, and are now earning ſix-pence a day by ſpinning, with more eaſe than three-pence is gained on the other ſide the county by wool.

The culture has increaſed conſiderably in the laſt ten years.

A manufacturer at Stowmarket thus communicates to me on the ſubject, from whoſe account it appears that there are variations:—"Hemp may be grown with ſucceſs, on the ſame land, many years, by manuring annually. The quantity of ſeed uſually ſown, is from nine to twelve pecks per acre; varying with the ſtrength of the ſoil, and the cuſtom of the country. In thoſe places, where the fineſt and beſt hemps are grown, twelve pecks is a common quantity.

"The

"The ſoil and ſeaſon make a very material difference in the produce and quality. An acre will produce from 25 to 60 ſtone; an average crop may be eſtimated about 36 or 38.

"Hemp, when left for ſeed, is ſeldom water-retted, from the additional trouble and expenſe; but I am of opinion, it would be better if ſo done. It is generally ſtacked and covered during the winter, and is ſpread upon meadow-land in January or February. If the ſeaſon ſuits, (particularly if covered with ſnow) it will come to a good colour, and make ſtrong coarſe cloths. It is much inferior to hemp pulled in proper time, and water-retted.

"The cuſtom of many places is, to dew-ret their hemp; that is, to ſpread it on meadow-land as ſoon as pulled, and turn it frequently; but this is a very bad method of retting it; the bark will come off completely—it therefore requires more violent means of bleaching the yarn, and conſequently diminiſhes the ſtrength. It is likewiſe much ſooner injured in rainy ſeaſons than hemp water-retted: water-retting is performed by binding the hemp in ſmall bunches, with the under hemp, when pulled, and, as ſoon as may be, placed in rows croſſing each other in the water, and immerſed. Standing water is deemed the beſt: it requires four, five, or ſix days ſteeping, till the outſide coat eaſily rubs off, and is then ſpread on meadow-land, and turned frequently until finiſhed. The ſame water will not be

proper

proper for receiving hemp more than three times in a ſeaſon, and the firſt water always produces the beſt colour, in the leaſt time.

" But I do not pretend to give exact directions for managing hemp; it can only be acquired by practice. When the hemp is retted, it is bound up in ſheaves or large bunches, and with a machine called a brake the cambuck is broken in pieces, and with a ſwingle is cleared from the ſmall remaining pieces of the cambuck, and then bound up in ſtones. In Suffolk 14½ pounds of hemp is deemed a ſtone. The hemp, which breaks off in the operation, and called ſhorts, is bound up by itſelf, and is about half the value of the long hemp.

" The price of breaking hemp varies with the length, and the eaſe or difficulty, with which the cambuck ſeparates from it: from 12*d.* to 18*d.* or 20*d.* is paid; 12*d.* and 14*d.* are the moſt common prices. The refuſe is only fit for burning, and is ſold from one penny to two-pence per ſack.

" I have been informed there are mills erected for breaking flax; and, as the mode of breaking is ſimilar, I imagine they might be applied to hemp. In ſome parts of the country, where much hemp is grown, this might prove a conſiderable ſaving. But, as hemp is very bulky before it is broken, and ſmall quantities only are grown in each village, in general, I fear it would not anſwer the expenſe to erect many of them.

" When

"When the hemp is broken, it is fit for market, and is purchaſed by hecklers. Dis, Harleſton, and Haleſworth, are conſiderable markets for hemp; but the greateſt quantity is ſold to neighbouring hecklers, without carrying to market.

"The prices vary very much: dew-ret hemp ſells from 1*s.* to 18*d.* or 2*s.* lower than water-ret. The preſent price of the beſt water-ret is about 8*s.* 6*d.* per ſtone; this price is very high. Dew-ret hemp is proper for coarſe yarns only; and if that were made from water-retted hemp, it would be ſtronger and of a better colour.

"The firſt operation of the heckler, is bunching or beating the hemp; this was formerly, and is ſtill, in ſome places, done by hand, but in Suffolk is now always done by a mill, which lifts up two, and ſometimes three heavy beaters alternately, that play upon the hemp, while it is turned by a man or boy to receive the beating regularly. This mill is ſometimes worked by a horſe, and ſometimes by water; but I think a machine might be conſtructed to ſave the expenſe of either. In this I may be miſtaken.

"The time, requiſite for beating the hemp, varies according to the quality of it, and the purpoſes it is intended for; the finer the tow is intended to be, the more beating the hemp requires. When bunched, it is dreſſed or combed by drawing it through the heckles, reſembling wool-combers tools, only fixed. The prices

paid the heckler vary in different places, and with the different degrees of fineneſs, to which it is dreſſed; from three farthings to two-pence per pound is paid; and the earnings are from 15*d.* or 16*d.* to 2*s.* per day.

" In the hemp trade there are no fixed rules for combing, as in the wool trade. The ſame hemp is dreſſed finer or coarſer, to ſuit the demands of the purchaſers. It is ſometimes divided into two or three ſorts of tow, and ſometimes the whole is worked together for one ſort. The prices of tow vary, from about 6*d.* to 18*d.* per pound.

" The heckler either ſells the tow to ſpinners and to weavers, or puts it out to ſpin himſelf, and ſells the yarn to the weavers. The prices of ſpinning vary with the fineneſs of the yarn.

| | | *d.* | *d.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | clue from a pound is worth ſpinning, about | 7 | or 6½ |
| 1½ | clue from a pound, - - - - | 8½ | or 8 |
| 2 | clues from a pound, - - - - | 9½ | or 9 |
| 2½ | clues from a pound, - - - - | 10½ | or 10 |
| 3 | clues from a pound, - - - - | 12 | |

" The ſpinners, who buy the tow, ſell their yarn to neighbouring weavers, or at the neareſt market. The yarn is reeled, in many places: 2 yards, 1 thread; 40 threads, 1 lea; 20 leas, 1 ſkain; 3 ſkains, one clue, 4800 yards: in others, 3 yards, 1 thread; 40 threads, 1 lea;

1 lea; 20 leas, 1 ſkain; 2 ſkains, 1 clue, 4800 yards. The former is the moſt convenient method for the bleacher and weaver.

" Weavers, in general, purchaſe their yarn from ſpinners in the neighbourhood, or at markets, and deliver it to the whiteſter, as he is commonly called, who returns it, bleached, to the weaver; receiving 20 or 21 for bleaching 120 clues.

" Bleaching the yarn is performed by laying it in large tubs, covered with thick cloths, upon which aſhes are placed; and pouring hot water daily through it, turning the yarn frequently, until the bark comes off. It is then rendered whiter, by ſpreading it on poles in the air. This is a difficult part of the buſineſs; the art conſiſting in procuring the beſt colour with the leaſt diminution of ſtrength.

" Weaving is, in general, conducted in the manner I have ſtated; that is, by purchaſing the yarn at market, and, after bleaching, making it into cloth of various degrees of fineneſs and breadth. The breadths are half-ell; three-quarters wide; three-quarters and a nail; ſeven-eights and yard-wide ſheeting; yard wide; ſeven yards one-eighth wide; and ell-wide. Prices from 10*d*. per yard, half-ell wide, to 4*s*. or 4*s*. 6*d*. ell-wide.

" Exceeding good huckaback is alſo made from hemp, for towels and common table-cloths. The

low-priced hemps are a general wear for husbandmen, servants, and labouring manufacturers; the sorts from 18*d.* to 2*s.* per yard, are the usual wear of farmers and tradesmen; the finer sorts, seven-eighths wide, from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per yard, are preferred by many gentlemen, for strength and warmth, to other linen.

"The largest quantity of hemp is sold as it comes from the loom, and bleached by the purchasers; but some quantity is bleached, ready for weaving, either by the weaver or by a whitester: this is done by boiling it in lye (made from ashes,) and frequently spreading it on the grass till it is white.

"Many weavers vend their cloths entirely by retail, in their neighbourhood; others to shopkeepers, principally in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and in part of Essex, and others at Dis, where there is a hall for the sale of hemp cloth, once a week; and at Norwich, where there is a street occupied by weavers, from different parts of the country, who have shops in it.

"The earnings of the journeyman weaver vary considerably, from the season; frosty, windy, and very dry weather being unfavourable; and they vary also, from the great difference in skill, and the quality of the materials to work upon: they may earn from about 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6. per day; in extra cases, more.

"I think,

"I think, Sir, you will perceive, from the ſtatement I have given of the manner, in which the hemp trade is conducted, the impoſſibility of aſcertaining, with any tolerable degree of certainty, the profits ariſing from an acre of hemp, converted into cloth; and that eſtimates, drawn from ſources ſo vague and uncertain, would be more likely to miſlead than inform.

"I will now, agreeably to your requeſt, proceed to mention a few hints, which may tend to the improvement and extenſion of the trade.

"Although I have ſtated hemp, in the proceſs of manufacturing, to paſs through the hands of the breaker, heckler, ſpinner, whiteſter, weaver, and bleacher of cloth, yet many of theſe different operations are frequently carried on under the direction of the ſame perſon. Some weavers bleach their own yarn and cloth; others their cloth only: others heckle their tow, and put it out to ſpinners; others buy the tow, and put it out; and a few carry on the whole of the trade themſelves. This latter is the plan I purſue, the advantages appearing to me conſiderable.

"When the trade is conducted by different perſons, their intereſts often claſh: by under-retting the hemp, the grower increaſes the weight; by ſlightly beating it, the heckler increaſes the quantity of tow, but leaves it fuller of bark; by drawing out the thread beyond the ſtaple, the ſpinner increaſes the quantity of yarn, but injures the quality; by forcing the bleaching, the whiteſter

ſter increaſes his profit, but diminiſhes the ſtrength of the yarn. The whole ſhould, therefore, be checked and regulated by the weaver, with a view to his ultimate profit; which, in the hemp trade, ſhould ever be deemed inſeparable from the ſtrength of his cloths.

"It appears to me, that in manufacturing cloth, in general, in Ireland, Scotland, and elſewhere, ſtrength has been ſacrificed to fineneſs and colour. Flax is pulled too early (being fineſt before it acquires its full ſtrength,) and drawn beyond its ſtaple, to render the cloth finer, at the price; and although there never was a time, when the linen manufacture excelled ſo much in colour and in fineneſs, yet the want of ſtrength was never ſo univerſally complained of.

"The hemp manufacture cannot rival that of flax in fineneſs, nor is it deſirable. In colour, it is by no means deficient, and poſſeſſes this advantage over Iriſh and all other linens, that its colour improves in wearing, while theirs declines. But the article, in which Engliſh hemp, properly manufactured, ſtands unrivalled, is the ſtrength: flax will not bear the leaſt compariſon with it, in this reſpect; and I can aſſert, from experience, that it is far ſuperior in ſtrength to Ruſſian—the ſtrongeſt known hemp next to the Engliſh. Every regulation made in the trade ſhould, therefore, be done with a view to improve it in this reſpect, and one of the moſt beneficial I conceive to be an increaſed bounty on the growth of hemp; if it could be procured,

the

the additional bounty to be paid for hemp water-retted only. If large farmers could be induced to grow it, as they became habituated to the management of it, the trouble would decreaſe, and the bounty might in time be diſcontinued.

" The neceſſity of keeping up the quality of the cloths ſhould be ſtrongly impreſſed on the weavers; perhaps, if premiums were given for the beſt manufactured hemp cloths, it might be ſerviceable, under proper regulations. I think the public would be found very much diſpoſed to encourage a ſtrong manufacture of cloth, and there are facts, which induce me to think ſo.

" Conſiderable quantities of Ruſſian ſheeting are ſold in England, merely for their ſtrength, as they are coarſer, at the price, than any other foreign linen.

" Hemp, if known, would always be preferred, being ſtronger than Ruſſian, from the quality of the thread, and, at the ſame time, lighter in waſhing, which is often an objection to Ruſſian.

" The quantity of good hemp being gradually increaſed, would inſenſibly increaſe the number of ſpinners, and extend the trade. Some regulations are wanting, reſpecting reeling the yarn. The ſame method the wool trade has adopted, would not, I think, ſucceed; as the ſpinners often buy the tow, and therefore it would be impracticable for an inſpector to examine the yarn. But, if the puniſhment were ſimilar, and

the

the owner of the tow, the putter out, or the perſon, to whom it was offered, were permitted to proſecute, it might anſwer the purpoſe.

" In Ireland and in Scotland, I am informed, there is a board, or committee of gentlemen, entruſted with powers by government for the regulation of the linen trade: if ſome plan of this kind were adopted, I think it would be very ſerviceable, as they would acquire, in time, a complete knowledge of the trade, in its different branches, and apply ſuch rewards and regulations, as the different times and ſituations would require, and might extend theſe to circumſtances, which general regulations by parliament could not effect.

" In Scotland and in Ireland, each piece of cloth is ſtamped by an officer, with the length, breadth, and number of one hundred threads contained in the warp.

" If a ſimilar practice were obtained here, it would have a beneficial tendency; as the length, breadth, and rate (or number of threads in the warp) being given, it is eaſy to aſcertain, what ſhould be the weight. If then a certain mark were put on each piece of hemp, manufactured agreeably to the beſt rules, it would improve the quality of the cloths, by exciting competition rather in goodneſs than in fineneſs. This would alſo prevent a practice, which, I fear, prevails greatly; the ſelling other cloths, made up to imitate hemp, in lieu of it.

" If

"If the method I have hinted ſhould be found impracticable, ſome means ſhould be deviſed to prevent this impoſition on the public, which, if ſuffered to proceed, will diſcredit, and perhaps ruin the manufactory.

"You will perceive, Sir, that theſe are, many of them, hazarded thoughts, which it would require much reflection to mature and reduce to practice.

"You inquire if Suffolk hemp is uſed for ropes?—I believe, never. It is too fine and dear; and ſacking is principally made from Ruſſian hemp, although the offal of Engliſh is ſometimes uſed.

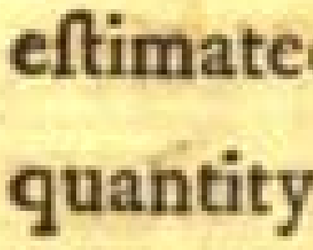
"I hope, Sir, you will find the above account in ſome degree ſatisfactory; if you wiſh any further information, I ſhall be happy to give it you, as far as in my power. You will be pleaſed to make any uſe of theſe hints you think proper—concealing my name. I have incloſed a few ſpecimens of hemp cloth, of different degrees of fineneſs."

The Rev. Mr. Mills, of Bury, alſo writes thus:—"Hemp delights in a black rich mould, the richer* and ſtronger† it is, the better. It has ſometimes been ſown

* A rich black ſtrong ſoil is beſt for every thing; but it would too much diſcourage the culture, if it was ſuppoſed to be eſſentially neceſſary: I have ſeen it thrive well, ſown after turnips fed off on good common friable loams; manure will make it thrive on any except very dry and ſteril ſoils.—*A. Y.*

† A good and friable clay, well manured with mould, will anſwer: the ſoil cannot be too rich.

ſown upon the breaking-up an old lay, and where there has been ſufficient depth, with ſucceſs. Let the land be well worked and manured with thirty loads per acre, about a fortnight before ſeed time, which is from the beginning to the end of April; if ſown earlier, as the plants are almoſt as tender as French-beans, the froſts would greatly injure, if not totally deſtroy them; the ſooner (the ſeaſon permitting) it is ſown, the better, though it has been ſometimes deferred to the 15th of May. Three buſhels and an half of good bright ſeed are ſufficient for an acre, which ſhould be gently and lightly harrowed in: the birds muſt be kept off the land till the plants appear: the time of pulling is about the beginning of Auguſt, or, more properly ſpeaking, thirteen weeks from the time of ſowing: the leaves turning yellow and the ſtalks white, are ſigns of its maturity; the male and female hemp are pulled together: indeed when the crop is thick, it is impoſſible to ſeparate them. The expenſe of pulling is generally eſtimated at one ſhilling per peck, according to the quantity originally ſown.

"When it is all taken up and bound in ſmall bundles, with bands at each end, to ſuch a bigneſs as you can graſp with both hands, it is conveyed to the pond of ſtanding water (if a clay-pit the better,) where it is laid bundle upon bundle, direct and acroſs, thus,  this is termed a bed of hemp, and after it is piled to ſuch a thickneſs, as to anſwer the depth of

the

the water (which cannot be be too deep,*) it is loaded with blocks and logs of wood, until all of it is totally immerſed: after remaining in this ſtate four or five days, as the weather ſhall direct, is is taken out and carried to a field of aftermath, or any other graſs, that is clean and free from cattle; the bundles being untied, it is ſpread out thin, ſtalk by ſtalk; in this ſtate it muſt be turned every other day, eſpecially in moiſt weather, leſt the worms ſhould injure it; thus it remains for ſix weeks or more, then it is gathered together, tied in large bundles, and kept dry† in a houſe till December or January, when the ſtalks are broken, and the bark wholly freed from them, by an inſtrument called a braker. The art of breaking it, by a labourer of common capacity, would be learnt in a few hours, and the ſwingling of it, which follows, requiring ſome ſleight as well as labour, though more difficult, might, in a little longer time, be acquired. After breaking and ſwingling, it is ſent to the heckler and hemp-dreſſer, to be prepared for ſpinning, according to the fineneſs deſired.

" Should

* This deſerves experimental inquiry; watering hemp is a partial rotting through fermentation; the vicinity of the atmoſphere muſt for that purpoſe be neceſſary. The beſt hemp ponds I have ſeen, have not exceed the depth of five feet.—*A. Y.*

† It might do as well ſtacked if kept perfectly dry.

"Should the hemp ſtand for ſeed, the yarn of it will never be ſo white, as it is not watered, but only ſpread on the graſs for the benefit of the dews; it will not be improper to obſerve, in this caſe, after it is tied in bundles, it is ſet up like wheat in ſhocks, till the ſeed will freely ſhed, and then threſhed out.

"In the ſtate hemp comes from the brake, it will fetch from 6*s.* to 7*s.* 6. per ſtone*; in the year 1787, it ſold as high as 9*s.* The produce is ſo variable and uncertain, that in one ſeaſon a rood and ſix perches of land has produced ſeventeen ſtone, and another with the ſame culture and manure, only twelve.

* The hemp is tied up in ſtones, when it comes from the brake.

"The

"The expences of cultivation may be thus eſtimated:

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rent of an acre of land, - - | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Ploughing, ſowing, &c. - - | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Three buſhels and an half of ſeed (ſold from 1s. 4d. to 2s. 6d. per peck) at 1s. 6d. per peck, - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Boy keeping birds a week or more, - | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Pulling, at the rate of 1s. per week, according to the ſeed ſown, - - | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| Getting it in and out of water, turning and laying up, - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Tithe and town charges* not eſtimated. | | | |
| | £.4 | 8 | 0 |

"The expenſe of breaking hemp, is from 1*s.* to 1*s. 6d.* per ſtone; the dreſſing at the hecklers 1*s. 6d.* per

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| * To continue this account: - - - | 4 | 8 | 0 |
| Tithe and rates, ſuppoſe - - - | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| The loweſt crop mentioned, is 48 ſtone per acre, let us ſuppoſe only 40, breaking at 1s. 3d. | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Total, | £.7 | 4 | 0 |

PRODUCE.

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Forty ſtone, at 7s. - - - - | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Parliamentary duty, 3d. a ſtone, - - | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| | £.14 | 10 | 0 |
| Expenſes, - - - - - | 7 | 4 | 0 |
| Neat profit per acre, | £.7 | 6 | 0 |

per ſtone; and the ſpinning (according to the fineneſs) from 7*d.* to 1*s.* per clue. A clue is three ſkains, a ſkain is twenty leas, a lea is forty threads, a thread is two yards when reeled. The weight of a clue varies with the fineneſs or coarſeneſs of the thread.

"There cannot be much difficulty in a wool-ſpinner's learning to ſpin hemp; the uſual ſtint of a woman, is two ſkains per day, or from four pence halfpenny to eight pence, according to the fineneſs; from this there are no deductions, and the price has been nearly the ſame for ſome years.

"As you requeſted, I inquired if a rich ſand would anſwer for the cultivation of hemp, and whether wheat might be ſown after it. Both theſe queſtions were anſwered in the negative*. And the reaſon aſſigned againſt the wheat was, the richneſs of the land would make it run to ſtraw. Oats is the general crop after hemp. Turnips, ſown immediately after it, have anſwered tolerably."

* It is common to ſow wheat after hemp in various parts of this kingdom, and alſo in France; and it is reckoned one of the beſt preparations for that grain; but upon a rich black mould, the obſervation of this gentleman is probably very juſt. I have ſeen very fine hemp on good ſands.—*A. Y.*

SECT.

## SECT. 2. *Paſture.*

The breed of cattle is very indifferent; for as little attention has been paid to their improvement as to the fertilizing of the ſoil. This neglect comes in an heavy charge on the landlord, who could at a trifling expenſe introduce that breed, by which his tenantry might be materially bettered. Milch cattle are houſed during the winter, after the meadows are cut; the graſs is not ſtirred for a day; the day following it is turned and ſeparated into lap-cocks; theſe are ſhook out for ſeveral days, and made a ſecond time into lap-cocks, and it becomes quite dead, and bleached before it is tramped.

The produce of the meadow is generally from eight to twelve or fourteen good horſe-loads per acre; the hay however is very coarſe and ruſhy, except the meadow has been well drained and manured, which the poor farmer never thinks of. Much of their meadow ground has been bog, which has been cut out, and when well levelled they burn the ſurface, plant potatoes for two years, ſow one crop of oats, and then let out: ſome few will procure hay-ſeed of the commoneſt kind, but very generally it is left to throw up the natural herbage, which for a year or two is very tolerable, and the produce good, but quickly degenerates to

a coarſe

a coarſe ſpiry graſs, and ruſhes, if not manured. This neglect ſhews their indolence or depraved ſyſtem; for the manure, which well anſwers, is a dreſſing of aſhes, which is ever inexhauſtible here, and would well repay their trouble.

As I have ſhewn the proportion of their tillage lands, the remainder of the farm is appropriated to graſs for a cow or two, and it is ſurpriſing, after the ſupply of the family's milk, how much butter they regularly ſend to Newry market, for the export trade; ſmall parcels, of courſe, from each farm, but the aggregate is very conſiderable. The trade of hides is ſo trifling as ſcarcely to deſerve notice; what this country ſupplies are ſent to Dundalk, value about thirty-five to fifty ſhillings per cwt.; butter rates to ninety-four ſhillings ditto; tallow from ſeven ſhillings and ſix pence to eight ſhillings and ſix pence per ſtone; but this alſo of ſo inconſiderable a quantity, as nothing equal to the demand of the country. Of wool, they have none from their own paſtures, but it is brought to their fairs and markets, from Louth, Meath, and Weſtmeath.

## HEMP.

*Here follow the directions for the culture of this plant, as taken from Mr. Billingsley's Survey of Somerſetſhire, which will be found to differ from thoſe given in the Survey of the County of Suffolk, as copied in the preceding ſection.*

DIRECTIONS

# *DIRECTIONS*

FOR THE

# CULTURE OF HEMP,

## *FROM THE SOMERSETSHIRE SURVEY.*

The culture of hemp and flax agrees in many reſpects; but in their nature and form they are widely different. In flax, the male and female embrio are lodged in the ſame flower; but in hemp the male is found on ſome plants, and the female on others; they are, therefore, called *male* and *female* hemp; that which has only flowers is the *male*, and that which has ſeeds is the *female* hemp. The male is ripe five or ſix weeks before the female, and they both ariſe from the ſame ſeed.

Hemp likes a deep, rich, dry, ſandy loam, and abhors a cold wet clay; a piece of woodland, grubbed up, generally anſwers well. It requires freſh land, good tillage, but ſeldom dung: even land exhauſted with other crops, *if well tilled*, will produce good hemp, and if properly managed, will leave the land as clean as a garden.

The quantity of ſeed per acre about three buſhels, and time of ſowing April or May; great care muſt be taken to keep off the birds, for they are very fond of the ſeed, and their time of feeding is principally before

ſun-riſe, and within half an hour of ſun-ſet. Compleat weeding is as neceſſary for hemp as for flax.

About the beginning of Auguſt the male hemp will be ripe, and great care ſhould be taken that the pullers do not trample and injure the female hemp left ſtanding. It muſt be gathered into ſmall bundles, and nothing more is neceſſary than to dry it in a proper manner, ſo as to make it fit for working.

In managing the female hemp, particular regard is to be had to the ſeed; care, therefore, muſt be taken in drying it. After it is tied up in bundles about the ſize of a yard round, it ſhould be ſet up in the ſun for three or four days; but if the weather be difficult, it may be ſtacked in ſmall mows of about a waggon-load each, where it may remain till it is thoroughly dry, and fit to be houſed; a little wet does not injure the *ſtalk*, but it greatly damages the ſeed. An acre of land will produce from twenty to thirty buſhels of ſeed; and the ſtalk of the female hemp is more valuable than the ſtalk of the male. The watering, breaking, and dreſſing of hemp, is ſo nearly like thoſe operations on flax, that I ſhall not detain my reader any longer on this article, and ſhall only add, that in many caſes the crop is more profitable than that of flax.

## PREMIUMS FOR THE CULTIVATION OF HEMP, OFFERED BY THE LINEN BOARD.

AT a meeting of the *TRUSTEES OF THE LINEN AND HEMP MANUFACTURE OF IRELAND*, on Tuesday, the 3d of March, 1801.

*Hon. JOHN BARON DILLON in the Chair.*

The Right Hon. *John Foster* reported from the Committee a plan of encouragement for promoting the growth of hemp, and the eſtabliſhment of the ſail-cloth manufactory, which was read and is as follows:

### HEMP.

The truſtees of the linen and hempen manufacture, anxious that this kingdom ſhould effectually lay hold of the preſent opportunity, which the interruption of trade with the northern ſtates offers for promoting the growth of hemp, and the eſtabliſhment of the ſail-cloth manufacture, call upon all landholders or farmers to aſſiſt their endeavours, by allotting ſome portion of their ground to the raiſing of hemp.

They underſtand it is as eaſy in its culture as flax; the richer the ſoil and the deeper the loam the better will be the produce; it ſucceeds admirably in drained bog manured with aſhes; and the truſtees propoſe to procure a ſufficient number of perſons properly ſkilled in the management of it from the time it is ripe for pulling, until it is made fit for the ſpinner.

Theſe perſons will be ſtationed in various parts of the kingdom, and orders will be given to the county inſpectors to receive all applications from gentlemen or farmers, who may deſire their aſſiſtance, and to ſend them accordingly.

The truſtees will alſo give the following bounties, and continue them for three years.

## BREAKING AND SCUTCHING.

1. For every ſtone of Hemp grown in this kingdom in the years 1801, 1802, and 1803, well broken and ſcutched for the hatchel or for cordage, the ſum of *4d.* and a further bounty of a complete ſet of hemp hatchels to every perſon, who ſhall have broken and ſcutched half a ton weight thereof.

2. To the owner of any mill or mill machinery, wherein not leſs than thirty tons of ſound hemp of Iriſh growth ſhall be broken and ſcutched perfectly before the 1ſt of June 1802, the ſum of 100*l.*

3. To

3. To the owner of any mill or mill machinery, which ſhall be erected after the 1ſt of May 1801, whether entirely new, or added to an old mill, wherein there ſhall be broken and ſcutched the greateſt quantity of ſound hemp of Iriſh growth, between the 1ſt of June 1802, and the 1ſt of June 1803, not leſs than 50 ton, the ſum of 150*l.*—for the next greateſt quantity, not leſs than 40 ton, between the ſaid periods, the ſum of 100*l.*—and for the next greateſt quantity, not leſs than 30 ton, between the ſaid periods, the ſum of 50*l.*

4. To the owner of any mill or mill machinery, now or hereafter to be erected, wherein there ſhall be broken and ſcutched the greateſt quantity of ſound hemp of Iriſh growth, between the 1ſt of June 1803, and the 1ſt of June 1804, not leſs than 100 ton, the ſum 300*l.*—for the next greateſt quantity, not leſs than 80 ton, the ſum of 200*l.*—and for the next greateſt quantity, not leſs than 60 ton, the ſum of 100*l.*

5. For every ſtone of hemp of Iriſh growth, well watered, retted, and ſcutched, which ſhall be hackled and dreſſed fit for ſpinning, between the 1ſt of Auguſt, 1801, and the 1ſt of Auguſt, 1804, the ſum of 3*d.*

## SPINNING.

6. For all machinery which ſhall be erected, whether entirely new or added to old mills, for ſpinning hemp or flax for ſail-cloth, before the firſt of Auguſt, 1802, to be worked by water or ſteam, a ſum after the rate of 10*s.* for every ſpindle it ſhall contain, on ſufficient ſecurity being given that the number of ſpindles, for which ſuch premium ſhall be received, ſhall be regularly kept at work in ſpinning hemp or flax for three years.

For this premium the ſum of 3000*l.* will be appropriated—and if more than 6000 ſpindles ſhall be claimed for, the truſtees will reſerve to themſelves the power of dividing the ſum of 3000*l.* rateably among the claimants.

7. To the perſon, who ſhall ſpin ſuch yarn by ſuch machinery, before the firſt of Auguſt, 1804, a ſail-cloth loom made of the beſt materials, and on the moſt improved plan, will be ordered by the truſtees for every two ton of good even merchantable yarn ſo ſpun; every ſuch loom to continue the property of the board, into whoſeſoever hands ſuch ſpinner may give it.

## ITINERANT

## ITINERANT HEMP DRESSERS.

All perſons, who can produce ſufficient proof of being perfectly ſkilled in the management of hemp throughout all its different proceſſes, from the time it is pulled until it is completely dreſſed for ſpinning, and wiſh to engage with the truſtees, are deſired to apply to their Secretary, at the Linen office, Dublin, or their Agent, Edward Stewart, Eſq. Aldermanbury, London; and the firſt twelve, who ſhall be approved of, will be appointed itinerant hemp dreſſers, at 30*l.* a year each, and will have the liberty to receive from the perſons, whom they ſhall be ordered to attend, ſuch reaſonable allowance as the truſtees ſhall previouſly fanction.

## MILL WRIGHT AND MACHINE MAKERS.

All perſons of this deſcription, in Great Britain or Ireland, who wiſh to be employed in conſtructing any machinery for the ſcutching, dreſſing, ſpinning, or weaving of hemp, may regiſter their names, characters, and prices or terms if they chooſe, in the Linen-

office,

office, Dublin, where a book will be kept for the purpose, and be open at all times to the inſpection of any perſon, who may wiſh to erect machinery.

And the ſame being read paragraph by paragraph, was unanimouſly agreed to, and ordered to be publiſhed.

By order of the truſtees,
JAMES CORRY, SEC.

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## LINEN-OFFICE.

THE following Letter from the Navy-Office to the Lords of the Committee of Council for trade and foreign plantations, has been ſent by their Lordſhips' orders to the Right Hon. JOHN FOSTER, to be communicated to the truſtees of the Linen and Hempen manufactures.

JAS. CORRY, Sec. to the truſtees.

*SIR*,

Our Secretary having laid before us your letter of the 24th of laſt month, tranſmitting, by direction of the Lords of the Committee of Council for trade and foreign plantations, to whom it had been referred to conſider

conſider, what meaſures it may be moſt proper to propoſe to parliament for encouraging the growth of hemp, &c—copies of two minutes made by their Lordſhips on the 23d of January and 21ſt March laſt on that ſubject, and ſignifying their Lordſhips' deſire, that we ſtate to the committee what ſteps we have taken in conſequence of the previous communications on this ſubject, and what further ſteps we may think neceſſary to be taken in order to carry the intentions of the committee, as expreſſed in the ſaid minute, into complete execution.

We deſire you will pleaſe to acquaint their Lordſhips, that, wiſhing to give all poſſible encouragement to the cultivation of hemp in Ireland, agreeably to their Lordſhips intention, we are willing to engage to receive into his majeſty's ſtores all ſuch hemp as may be proved to be Iriſh growth, and ſhall be found fit for the navy, for three years, from the preſent time, at the market price of the day, on which the ſame may be received; and will further engage, that the price ſhall not, during that period, be leſs than 50*l.* ſterling per ton.

With reſpect to canvas, the only encouragement we can hold out to the Iriſh manufacturers is, that of not ſending any from this country for the ſupply of his Majeſty's ſhips ſtationed on the coaſt of Ireland, and the authoriſing our agent, Mr. Browne of Kinſale, to purchaſe from the Iriſh manufacturers, at the market price,

price, ſuch quantities of ſail-cloth as may be wanted for thoſe ſhips; and alſo, when making future contracts for the ſupply of that article for the navy, to put the Iriſh manufacturers upon the ſame footing as the manufacturers of England and Scotland, provided they make the article conformably to the exiſting act of parliament for the manufacture thereof.

We are, Sir, your very humble ſervants,

A. S. HAMOND,
J. HENSLOW,
GEO. ROGERS,
W. BELLINGHAM,
S. GAMBIER.

*Navy-office, May* 8, 1801.

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Sir Stephen Cottrell,
Council-office.

## SECT. 3. *Farms.*

Their farms rate from three to twenty acres, the average may be ſix; very few of them exceed twenty; but on all of theſe farms are one or more cottiers, who are bound to work, not in the field, but at the loom, for regular day's hire, or at taſk work, according to agreement.

Theſe

These cottiers are of two descriptions, and their tenure is termed the dry or the wet cot-take, as explained in the Monaghan Survey; suffice it here to mention, the former has not the privilege of grazing his cow, which the latter enjoys, and the dry cottier pays for his house, garden, and bog-leave, from a guinea and an half to two guineas per annum; the wet cottier from four to five guineas, as he may be supplied with hay, and have one or two cows. Their landlord is obliged to repair their houses; the breach of this covenant causes great dissentions.

The small wages of the dry cottier, even with his wife's industry, are insufficient to procure the common necessaries, much less the comforts of life for his wretched family.

The farmer or the employer, who is more commonly called the manufacturer, lives well, and has a good profit from the industry of his cottiers; a pig, a small tub of butter, and a calf, pay *his* rent; for these people hold their lands on very easy terms. A manufacturer, who is able to work four looms in his own house and employ his cottiers, soon acquires a comfortable independence. A weaver can, in general, earn from twelve to eighteen pence per day, according to his attention or the goodness of his warp, at task-work, and at daily hire from eight pence to twelve pence; sometimes the demand is so great, as their wages considerably multiply, and at other seasons they are much reduced:

duced: a ſlovenly and dirty mode of living, and wretched appearance of economy is too prevalent, and eaſily accounts for the rapid and unuſual extenſion of infectious diſorders amongſt this claſs of people.

The leaſes are generally for twenty-one years and one life, or three lives, or thirty-one years; and the middle-men, who have been the bane of this country, are not ſuffered to renew their leaſes—the landed proprietors are at length ſenſible of their deſtructive interference, and ſeem combined together and determined to reſiſt them with vigour and hoſtility.

Too often we here find theſe leaſes bear the veſtige of feudal oppreſſion, and the miſerable tenant loaded with innumerable duties; ſuch as duty work, duty fowl, duty yarn, which at the period of the date of the leaſe were cent. per cent. cheaper, and of leſs value than the rate of this day, and yet are ſtill ſhamefully exacted. How cruel is it to exact a peaſant's labour, and that of his horſes at many miles diſtance from his habitation, and give him neither payment nor entertainment for himſelf or his cattle?

The county as well as the pariſh taxes are very ſmall, but in this barony are extremely unequally laid on; referring the reader to the firſt chapter and third ſection, relating to the diviſion of the county by carvaghs, it may tend as a further illuſtration of that abſurb and unfair aſſeſſment, to mention that it frequently occurs here, that in one town-land are ten carvaghs,

and

and but one in the adjoining land: ſome of theſe contain thirty acres, others not five acres, yet will theſe five pay as much ceſs as the thirty, and no material difference in the value of the ground. County ceſs may average ſix pence per acre, and pariſh ceſs one penny. As I have already ſhewn that labour is principally performed here with horſes, the proportion of cattle employed is one to five acres, bought in after harveſt three years old, and ſold out in May or June following; their place is then ſupplied with a cow; they are fond of dealing in horſe fleſh, though they rear but few foals, and they generally make money of them, beſides getting their labour.

Their fences are remarkably bad, looſe ditches made of ſtone, ſods or clay, without either grips or quicks; a ſhameful neglect of this moſt neceſſary branch of huſbandry is too obvious in many of the lands, even of the gentry; a temporary fence of ſods too often incloſes the corn and potatoe plots, which are levelled when the crop is taken off the ground; where quicks are carefully attended to, they grow in great vigour, and very rapidly, which ſhews how well the ſoil agrees with this moſt uſeful and ornamental diviſion of lands; and the capital incloſures of Mr. Moore at Tullavin, and the healthy and ornamental hedges at Mr. Brunker's, at Ballgreen, ſhould be a ſtimulus to the neighbouring gentry, to follow ſuch ſpirited improvers.

Very

Very little attention has yet been applied to draining, and this principally confined to the cut-out bogs, which will repay this expenſe.

Marle and lime are excellent manures for this ſoil; the former is not very eaſily attainable, and the latter, which is ſo very powerful in theſe deep clays, is unhappily from ten to twelve miles diſtant. The ſtupidity of the peaſants in the conveyance of this manure to their lands is extraordinary; they prefer carrying the ſtone in its raw ſtate, which they are obliged to purchaſe, to the burning of it at the quarry, when three times the quantum of lime could be brought home for the ſame expenſe.

Kilns are numerous in the vicinity of the quarries, which they could readily hire, and have this valuable manure at a much cheaper rate; but their neglect in this particular can be only imputed to their love of money, which they cannot bear to part with; for they conſider it a much greater loſs and expenſe to pay for the load of ſtone, than the labour of their horſe, and near two days work, which are loſt bringing it home.

The favourite manure amongſt them is aſhes, as being the leaſt expenſively procured; they now very frequently burn the deep heavy bottom lands in ſummer, which they leave in heaps till ſpring, to mix with the dung for potatoes, and ſometimes they plough this compoſt into a poor oat ſtubble.

But

But the effect of lime on ſuch lands is extraordinary, in the rapid reclamation and total change of ſoil. The coſt of the ſtone at the quarry, one ſhilling and a penny per ton, and from five to ſix ſhillings additional coſt for drawing home. The expenſe of breaking and burning increaſes the charge very conſiderably, much above the means of a poor peaſant, to allow him to give his lands the due proportion; they are neceſſarily ſtinted, but they find the greateſt benefit even from the ſcanty ſupply they can afford. It is frequently ſtrewed over with their hands when the crop is ſowed, which, they are aſſured, aſſiſts it, and alſo prevents the ſeveral roots, which they often materially ſuffer from. Marle is partially found at the bottom of hills, and in the bogs: they remark that the crop ſown on ground, which has been marled, is generally very weak, eaſily laid down in a bad harveſt, and exceedingly prone to weeds; but they conſider it good for graſs lands, which in a lighter ſoil I have known marle to burn and exceedingly injure, though it might aſſiſt them if under tillage.

The coſt of manuring and reclaiming an acre of ground here will fully amount to twelve pounds, over and above the value of the firſt year's crop; but even this well repays, as the ſoil after liming yields excellent crops, and is moſt durable for many years; with a little refreſhment occaſionally, it becomes moſt valuable and certain land, which no drought of ſeaſon can materially injure.

## ON DRILL-HUSBANDRY, THE CONNECTION OF TILLAGE AND STOCK FARMING, COURSE OF CROPS, THEIR MANAGEMENT, AND GENERAL REMARKS THEREON.

This mode of ſowing grain, which is ſo rapidly coming into uſe, ought to meet every furtherance and encouragement; and where the ſoil can be managed with the drilling machine, the farmer ſhould by all means procure it. Complicated as it appears in the annexed plate, which is an improvement on Cooke's patent drill machine, yet it only requires to be ſeen and examined, to convince us, that much ingenuity has been ſucceſsfully exerted to render it more effective, and more ſimple than any, which has been hitherto invented.

For a particular explanation of this improved plan, and the directions for its uſe and management, I refer my readers to the concluſion of this volume, where it is given in the words of the inventor.

The great regularity and exactneſs, with which the work of this machine is performed, is a very ſtrong recommendation to the drilling ſyſtem in general, as it coincides with the great and general principle of economy and method, which is a leading one towards perfection in every art, and in none has it hitherto been

more

# Cooke's *Patent Drill Machine improved and simplified and capable of being converted into a Horse Hoe.*

Fig. 1.

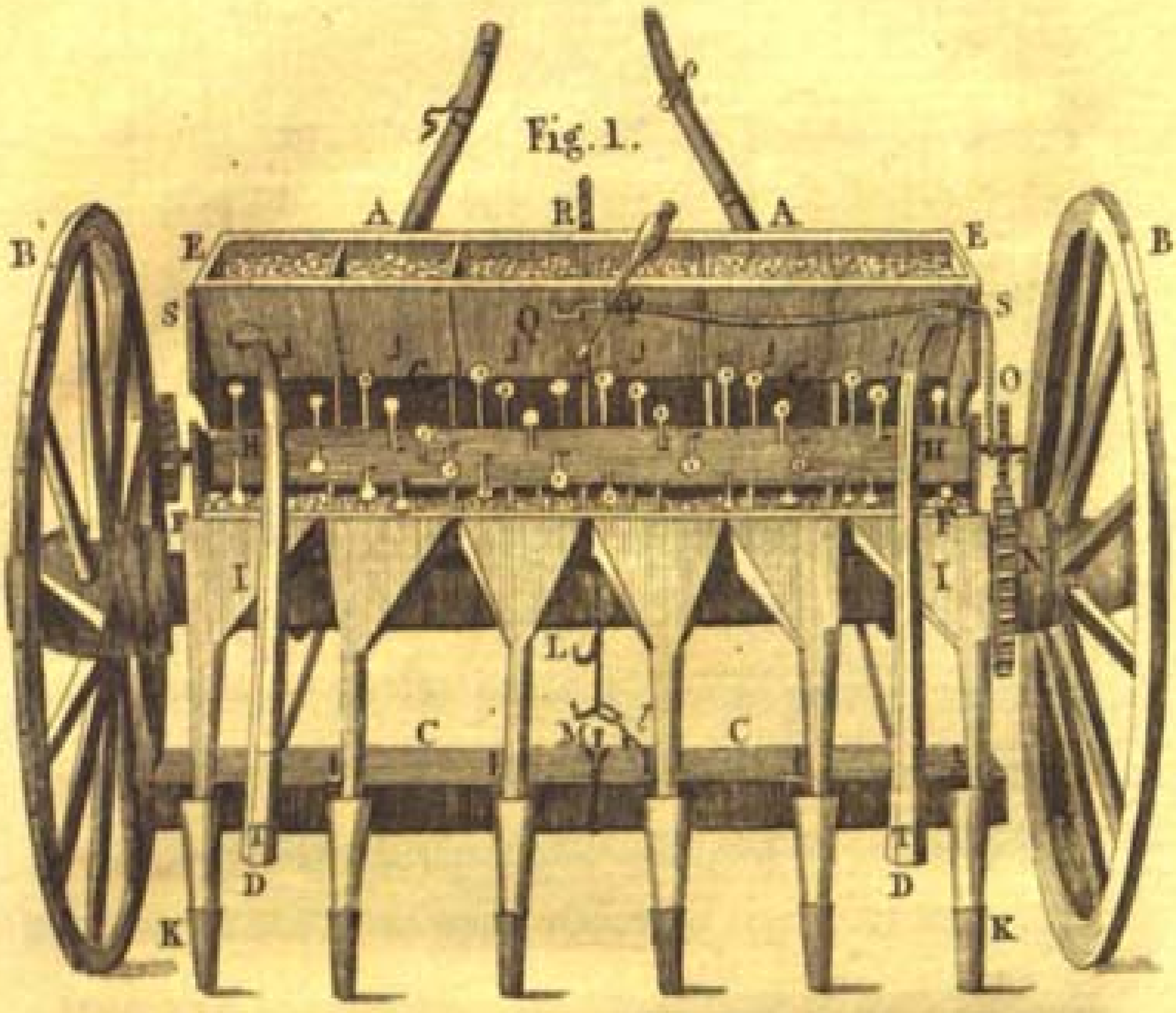



Fig. 4.

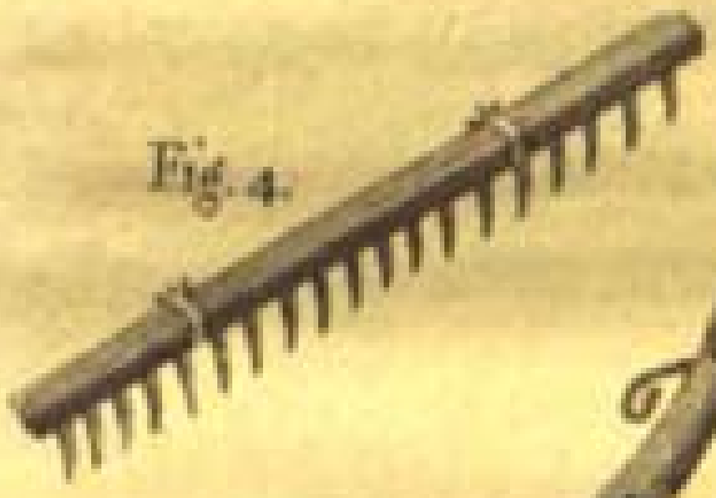


Fig. 2.

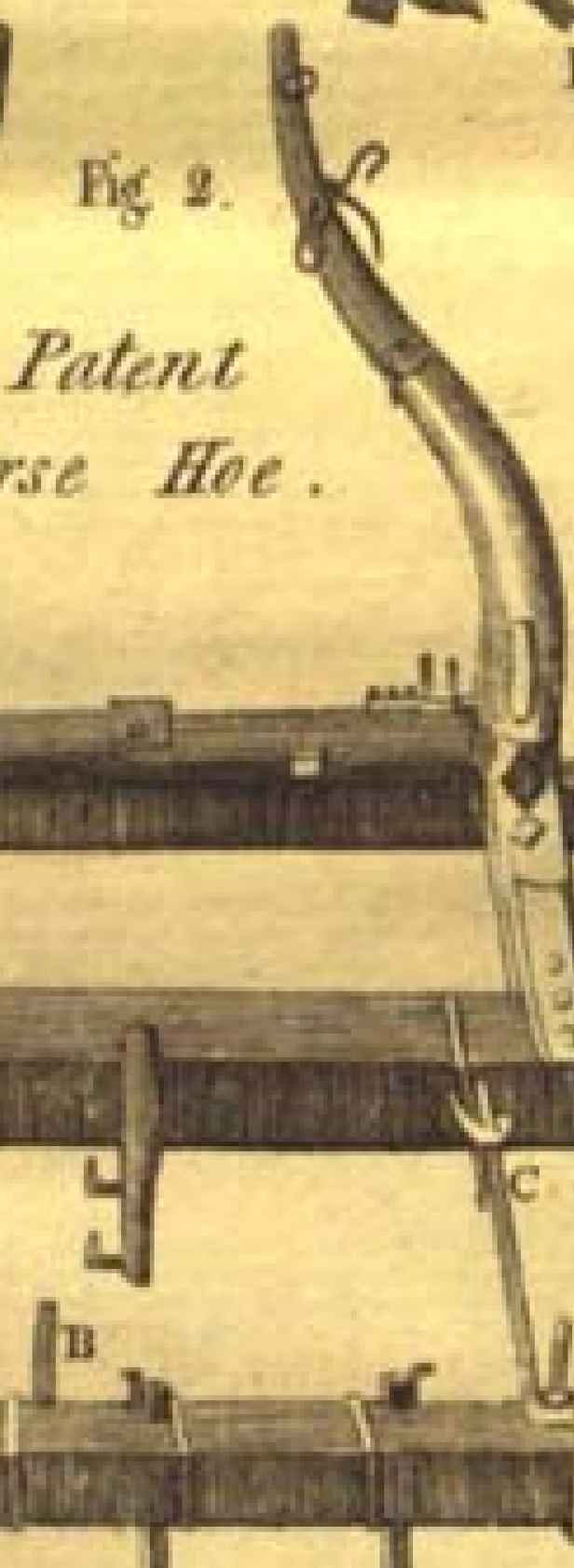
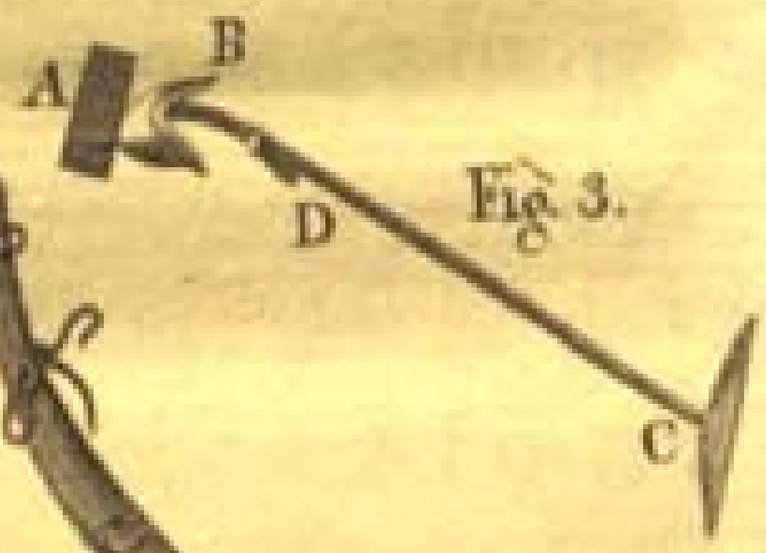
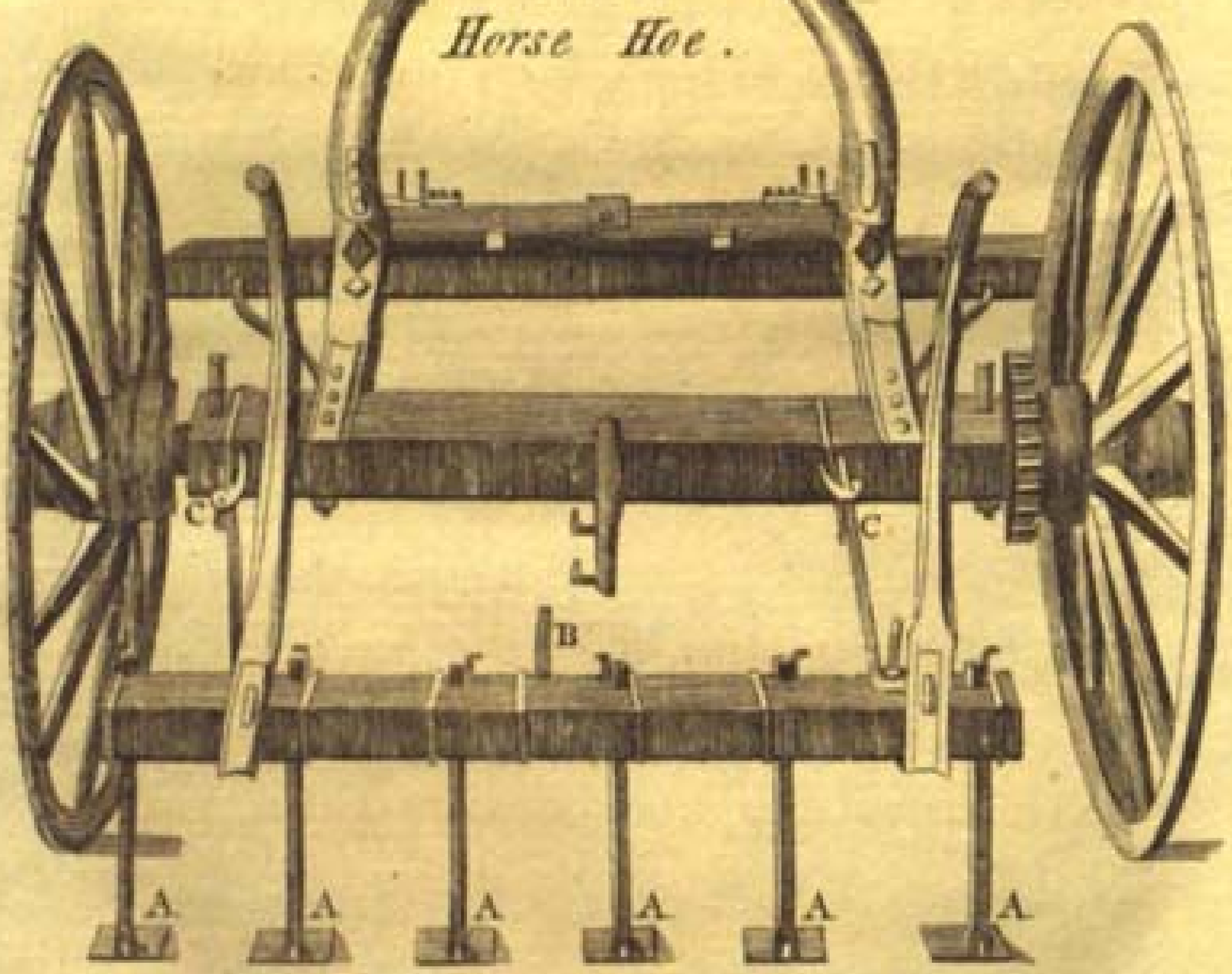


Fig. 3.




*Patent Horse Hoe.*



more ſhamefully neglected, than in the important purſuit of agriculture. Whatever tends to rectify this miſtake is highly deſirable, and by this mode of huſbandry the ſoil cannot be overcharged with grain, which is an error of twofold evil, as being alſo a waſte of ſeed; nor in the other extreme is it ſown with too ſcanty a portion, too light, or too heavy a moulding; in the ſame operation, by which the grain is left in the ſoil, it is ſufficiently covered, an evident ſaving in labour; nor in the wetteſt ſeaſons will corn be laid, which is ſown after this mode.

The furrow, in which the grain is depoſited, can be made to any depth, according to the nature of the ſoil; this is readily diſtinguiſhed by obſervation on the depth from the ſurface, at which the coronal roots ſtrike out in early vegetation. This remark holds good as to every mode of ploughing, and ought to be particularly attended to. The hoe, than which there is no machine yet invented of ſuch great effect in the modern huſbandry, comes here into full play; and if we only conſider that the ſalts of the earth, which are the food of plants, are ſo plentifully applied to their roots at every operation of this inſtrument, which removes the exhauſted ſoil, and ſupplies a new portion of revigorating matter, we muſt be ſenſible of its value and great importance.

In green crops, which are now ſo univerſally coming into repute, and on which the ſucceſs of both ſtock and tillage huſbandry ſo greatly depend, the hoe is the

main ſupport. Tillage huſbandry is alſo dependant on green crops, as they revigorate, after an exhauſting corn crop, ſtock huſbandry; as from them the ſureſt and moſt luxuriant ſupply of food is procured in winter and ſpring: hence follows, that to be a tillage farmer he muſt have ſtock, and to be a ſtock farmer he muſt have tillage, and the great ſecret of good farming is to let thoſe two purſuits be mutually interwoven; green crops are doubtleſs the ſure dependence of their mutual ſucceſs. The firſt and great conſideration to a farmer muſt be to encreaſe his dunghill; this inſures a valuable green crop, which meliorates and prepares the ſoil for the corn crop; the old mode of fallow is thus excluded, the ſhelter of the green crop producing in a greater degree the melioration of the ſoil, than the effects of the ſun or the atmoſphere on an expoſed fallow, which ſome judicious farmers now deny to be of material ſervice but the reverſe. A very eminent agriculturiſt aſſerts, the more that the ſoil is ploughed in ſummer, the more is the vegetable food exhauſted.

It ſeems now more generally to be underſtood and adopted, that two corn crops ſhould not be in ſucceſſion, and there is no occaſion for fallow; a green crop will reſtore and revigorate what a corn crop has exhauſted; ſo that a judicious intermixture is only requiſite to keep the ground in heart, and in continual yielding, even to two or three crops of particular kinds in

in the one ſeaſon, ſuited to particular ſoils, as clover, potatoes, &c.

No vegetable crop is more grateful in its return than the potatoe, with due culture; all the fertilizing effects of ſhade are produced, and it is now become of as great importance in the food of beaſts, as it has been the main dependence of the food of man in this iſland. It would be impertinent for me, who have had but little to do with experimental farming, to offer any remarks on the culture of this valuable root; I would refer my reader to the ingenious Doctor Maunſell's experiments and hints, and only beg leave to obſerve, that whatever tends to multiply their produce is deſirable, whether it is attained by ſhoots, by ſcooping, or by the various other experiments, which ſave ſo much food, that hitherto went to waſte.

Doctor Maunſell is clearly in favour of laying ſtrong ſhoots in drills, covered firſt with dung and then with clay, which latter is often applied as the ſtalk ſhoots up. This mode ſaves twelve barrels of twenty ſtone to the acre, which is the proportion of ſeed neceſſary; from theſe ſhoots on one acre one hundred barrels have been produced, and the parent potatoe neither hurt nor diminiſhed. The Doctor adviſes, that as the farmer opens his potatoe hole for his own uſe or for market, the ſtrong hale ſhoots only ſhould be preſerved, without cruſhing or ſpoiling them, and laid length ways on each other, covered with a little earth,

which will keep ſafe for a month in that ſtate, and the vegetation thus promoted: and he ſays, if planted early in the year, and tranſplanted in March, they will yield a good crop of early potatoes in May, by which means, with a little dung, a ſecond crop can be had the ſame year. How many millions of barrels of ſeed would thus be ſaved every year for the food of man and beaſt; how many millions of barrels encreaſed, and, of courſe, what an addition to the wealth of the nation?

How rapidly is ground brought into heart by green crops?—Let us appropriate a certain portion of land in this huſbandry for feeding ſtock in the houſe; the manure thus acquired will be ſufficient to cover double the quantity of land the ſucceeding year, and the ſoil thus employed the laſt year is now in high vigour for a luxuriant corn crop. This is a method, which is purſued by Mr. Foſter, whom I have ſpoken of in the preceding chapter, who thus makes a rapid and extenſive improvement: the produce of manure from one acre of green crop highly manuring two acres the ſucceeding year, and ſo in proportion to any extent he pleaſes thus to occupy.

It will thus appear very manifeſt, that ſuperior advantages reſult from ſtall-feeding than from permitting the ſtock to range their paſtures; in green crops it is undeniable, that half the produce is waſted and trampled in feeding off the field; and it is very clear, that ſtock turned into graſs lands in ſpring nip the blade ſo cloſe,

close, that, if a hot summer succeeds, the roots of the grass are burned; but the superior *thrift*, in every sense of the word, and more particularly in its allusion to the better condition and improvement of cattle, is very evident, when we see them so much sooner prepared for market in the stall, than they are on the best pasturage; if they require the more attendance, is not that repaid tenfold in the value of their manure? and as thus they are sheltered from the winter's blast, so also are they from the summer's sun and flies, which annoy them so extremely.

Let us extend our considerations on this subject to the utmost, which is the food for milch cows; we find on vegetable crops, even on the potatoe itself, that the milk is surprisingly increased; and the confinement of milch cows in great cities throughout the year, during which time a new calved cow will give milk, and thrive so well, as to sell out at near fifteen per cent. higher price than she was originally purchased for with her calf at her foot, proves that constant housing is not detrimental.

Nor with the other animals, which constitute the food of man, and which the farmer prepares for market, as the sheep, and the hog, will a partial confinement be less desirable; comfortable recesses and a sufficiency of proper food will forward them much more than a range of pasture, and cut off the possibility of numerous losses and casualties, to which they are exposed abroad. Without entering into the minutiæ of the quantum of stock

of

of each kind, to be appropriated to the number of acres, which would be only a copy from many judicious authors, I pafs to the next cafe, which is the management of the dunghill, that now fo rapidly increafes; the fite of this heap fhould be a level plain, as being moft favourable to fermentation, which ought to be moft particularly attended to; a due degree of air and moifture promotes this effect, and too much of either will oppofe it; thus, dung-pits, which are a refervoir for water, chill and deftroy the fermentation, or the falts, which are produced from it. In forming the dunghill, care fhould be taken not to compref it too much, as this excludes the air; and a covering over the heap is often ufed by Englifh farmers to haften the fermentation, and alfo to prevent the natural moifture of the dunghill being evaporated by the atmofphere. Some are fo exact in the management of the dunghill, as to erect a roof over the heap, and enclofe it with walls to prevent wafte, to pave the floor, with feveral channels, leading to a ciftern, which catches the moifture, with which they make various compofts for their feveral occafions.

Doubtlefs, it is the bufinefs of the farmer to increafe his dunghill by all means; the moifture, which flows from the heap, will quickly change many fubftances, as turf mould, earth, &c. to rich compofts; and it is well known, there is no richer manure, (for fome foils

the

the beſt of all) than turf mould, with which cattle have been littered.

Clover is a moſt valuable crop; the farmer, who ſows wheat after it, will hardly wiſh for a further experiment: the ſoil is rendered particularly appropriated for this ſtrong grain, and the crop is luxuriant and remarkably free from weeds, and ſome have affirmed it is leſs liable to mildew, than the crop yielded after a ſummer's fallow. In the ſowing of this crop, it has been incontrovertibly proved, that the earlieſt ſown crops have the ſureſt and moſt certain yielding; perhaps this remark may only hold good, as ſuited to the quality of the ſoil, or the temperature of the climate, which is much rather to be accounted for in its variations, by the elevation of the ſurface, or the ſurrounding natural cauſes, [as wood, water, &c. than that any material difference can take place in the narrow latitude of the country.

Vetches are a very revigorating crop; how little are they cultivated in Ireland, or their effects known, when in ſo fine a ſoil as the Queen's County poſſeſſes, I was there informed, they were conſidered rather as an exhauſting crop, becauſe ſome unfortunate caſualties occurred to a ſpirited and judicious farmer, who introduced their culture. No crop ſo immediately renders a field a complete dunghill, or prepares it for any huſbandry; after a wheat crop is taken up, the ſtubble

ſhould,

ſhould have a little dung ploughed in, and winter vetches ſown, which yield a fine ſupply of green food, and by the time of their conſumption, the land is free for a crop of potatoes, &c. This valuable crop is alſo known by another diſtinction, that of tares, which, when ſown in ſpring, bring the land into fine preparation for a crop of wheat the following autumn. Rape, cabbages, and turnips are moſt profitable vegetable crops, and in drained bog, or moor which has been previouſly drained, have been very luxuriant; and I have never ſeen moor laid down in greater heart, or a better crop of each, than of turnips and rye graſs thereon, the ſoil having been well manured with a loamy limeſtone gravel.

Oats will, in every ſoil, yield abundantly after theſe crops, particularly in improved bog, which has produced many and ſucceſſive crops of this grain, without any apparent diminution, and without any other manure, but what was introduced with the original green crop. What an encouragement is here for the reclamation of the extenſive waſtes of this ſoil, which could ſo eaſily be brought into great profit: and, after a long return of this grain, when let out to graſs, what fine white clover does it naturally yield after lime, limeſtone gravel, burning, or other calcareous applications? Nor in the produce of the potatoe is it leſs grateful, and, in this particular, it effects a complete change in the ſeed of that vegetable, which is ſo neceſſary to be

changed

changed to prevent the degeneration, which it certainly tends to, when ſucceſſively ſown in the ſame ſoil.

Hence follows a courſe of crops, which has been recommended for this country.

| | |
|---|---|
| Potatoes, | Wheat, |
| Flax, | Vetches, |
| Potatoes, | Winter Barley, |
| Oats, | Potatoes. |
| Clover, | |

*Or in moory ground preparing for graſs.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Potatoes, | Oats, |
| Oats, | Potatoes, |
| Do. | Graſs ſeeds. |

I omit turnips, rape, cabbage &c. becauſe they have ſo little uſe here for theſe green crops, being ſcarcely at all diſpoſed of for fattening ſtock, as muſt appear from the preceding ſheets; but, ſhould they chuſe to cultivate rape for the ſeed, a mode of huſbandry which would tell here, let the laſt crop of the firſt claſs be rape, and alſo be the ſubſtitute for the latter crop of potatoes in the ſecond claſs.

In ſo ſmall a portion as a farmer in this country now occupies, the land muſt, of courſe, be judiciouſly divided, ſo as to yield a little of each; a due economy and regard to this management would greatly facilitate method and regularity, which are here as much wanted,

as they are eſſentially requiſite to ſucceſsful farming: they create a taſte for the purſuit of agriculture, and are the encouragement to its perfection; the management of the meadow muſt alſo come into due conſideration, which muſt be aſſiſted by ſurface dreſſings, but no richer manure of this deſcription has yet been applied, than irrigation, or the admiſſion of water to flow gently over the ſurface,

This hitherto neglected art in huſbandry has been but of late years introduced amongſt us, though its origin, in other countries, is very ancient. Nothing more valuable can be applied to a light dry ſoil;* if the after-graſs is intended for ſheep, great care muſt be obſerved, to put on that kind you intend for market; as quickly as they fatten on this graſs, they ſhould be ſold off; for, after they are fat, they aſſuredly tend to rot; and for the ſame reaſon, if you intend your paſture for ewes and lambs in the ſummer, you muſt irrigate only in the winter months.

In ornamental improvements, the netting or paling in the flock muſt be obſerved, to preſerve the plantations, and alſo that the graſs may be eaten cloſe, which in this ſeaſon has a more rapid vegetation, and more quickly ſprings without exhauſting the ſoil.

Any thing, that produces ſhade, will tend to aſſiſt the meadow; for this purpoſe potatoe ſtalks are a good manure,

* See the Queen's County Report, Page 77.

nure, and the duſt from malt has been known to be a much more revigorating ſubſtance than ſtable dung, though its virtues are exhauſted after a year or two at the moſt. One obſervation ſhould be attended to, to preſerve the hay as green and as ſappy as poſſible, and to draw it home to the haggard as ſoon as it is ſaved: thus the quantum of hay is ſaved, which now goes to waſte in the tops and bottoms of tramp cocks, the ground they ſcald and burn is preſerved, and the fine after-graſs is ſaved, which is generally trampled and cut to pieces in its beſt vigour, where the hay is uſually drawn off after the harveſt is completely got up.

The ſmaller the ſize of the graſs cocks, the quicker is the operation of ſaving the hay; by frequent turning, rather inſide out, and occaſionally joining two in one, the ſap and colour is much better preſerved, than by ſpreading it out and bleaching it, which is the moſt effectual method to deſtroy both.

No crop requires more particular attention in this county than that of flax, which is their main ſupport, indeed on which their very exiſtence depends; it is from this the rent is had, and from this the ſtock of proviſions is imported, which, doubtleſs, they have not a ſufficiency of at home, of any article, potatoes alone excepted. Nor is there any crop ſo injudiciouſly cultivated; it has been ſo from its earlieſt introduction here, and will continue ſo, as long as the weaver embraces

the

the buſineſs of the farmer, to the manifeſt injury of each of theſe ſeveral, and ſhould be, *diſtinct* callings.

I have endeavoured, in the beginning of the twelfth chapter of the Monaghan Survey, to point out the great defects in practice in that county in flax huſbandry; they exactly apply here, and I recommend the readiag of that part, which is ſelected from the moſt experienced writers, and which are ſo ſtrictly conſonant to reaſon. I cannot but repeat it here, that it is a groſs and evident bigotry alone, which weds us to the ridiculous cuſtom of deſtroying our ſeed, and thus truſting, every year, for our ſupply to nations, with whom we are at iſſue in the linen manufacture, who doubtleſs will keep the beſt materials for their ſucceſs at home, and ſend us the refuſe; beſides, we depend on the uncertain elements for the ſafety of that ſeed, and import it at double the coſt we could ourſelves rear it; and if we were more exact in our flax dreſſing, the very crop we rear for ſeed would alſo yield the fineſt thread, which is incontrovertibly proved in Flanders, and the Low-Countries, where they ſave all the ſeed, and make from the flax, which afforded that ſupply, the fineſt laces, which we nor any other nation ever yet produced any thing equal to.

How great, then, is the loſs to the nation on this one article; how conſiderable an acquiſition would it be to the poor man of this country, to explode it, when

the

the ſeed of his flax plot, if ſaved, would yield after the rate of ten pounds value per acre?

In countries, which enjoy the advantages from this valuable article, the ſeveral ſtages of flax-dreſſing are the employments of ſeveral diſtinct trades. The farmer never meddles in the dreſſing; to effect the culture properly is ſufficient for him, and in hackling alone they have from three to four operators, who are each confined to a particular degree of fineneſs; thus the fineſt of all paſſes through the hands of four hacklers at leaſt, and ſometimes more.

In a county ſo much under tillage as Cavan, and divided into ſuch very ſmall farms, when a clover patch is ſo deſirable for the peaſant's cow, it is a favourable circumſtance, that flax and clover agree ſo well together, though the intermixture of their culture is ſo neglected. In farming ſocieties, a ſmall premium offered for this deſirable improvement would ſoon ſhew the great benefit which would reſult from it, and would enſure its general adoption.

This conſideration leads to that of the miſerable ſtate of the peaſant's hovel, which it ought to be one of our firſt endeavours to improve, as it not only prevents the unhappy calamity of fever, which no ſeaſon, of latter years, has yet depreſſed, and which has raged with great peſtilence in this country: but alſo, by making the cabin neat, cleanly, and comfortable, it endears his

home

home to the peasant, and may serve to check the mania for emigration, which has had such a general influence through this province, and no where more strongly than here. How easily is this desirable improvement obtained, by the authority of the landlord, who should make it a binding clause in his lease? But as the hopes of reward will more generally prevail, than obligation, (even to our own interest,) this should also be the concern of a farming society, and very liberal premiums held out for such improvements, which would create an emulation productive of health and civilization.

If a due portion of their subscriptions were appropriated to such improvements, to parents rearing their children to industry, and to the furtherance of morality, then would of course follow a taste for the improvement of agriculture, which they will never think of until they are made comfortable at home, and shewn the way from acquired experience, to earn a competence and independence for themselves.

It is such desirable improvements, which will produce a respectable yeomanry, and truly civilize the ignorant peasant of Ireland; it is such, which will teach him the value of the constitution, whose dearest privileges he will then fully enjoy, and will more rapidly reform his mind virtually to due obedience and respect for the laws, than the terror and strength of military force, which now alone preserves us from the rapine and

licentiousness

licentiouſneſs of ſuperſtition, ignorance, diſaffection, and poverty.

Melancholy as is this picture, yet it is evident that a quick and rapid reform could be produced, were it ſeriouſly undertaken.

It is indeed worthy the moſt exalted conſideration, and is the duty and intereſt of every landed proprietor to promote, by every poſſible means; the reſources and wealth of the nation are great, and when the war required voluntary contributions, as remarkably liberal was the public ſpirit. In no inſtance could it be more eminently uſeful than in this, in which we ſhould, doubtleſs, have a bleſſing from that providence, which delighteth in works of charity, and proſpers the humane purpoſes of man. Do not theſe reflections lead to the deſirable wiſh, that the nations of the earth would rather ſeek to improve their agriculture, and to better the condition of their poor, than to extend their conqueſts, by which each of theſe important concerns muſt be neglected, and which tend to their general deſtruction?

## SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

The population of this diſtrict is very great; few town-lands, which have not from twelve to fifteen families,

milies, and ſome from twenty to thirty; and ſix ſouls may be rated to each houſe.

The Roman Catholics have in numbers a conſidera-ble majority.

The Preſbyterians are alſo very ſtrong, and thoſe of the eſtabliſhed church leſs conſiderable of any. I have never ſeen a country, where there are ſo many religi-ous ſects; in the town of Cootehill are no leſs than ſix different houſes of worſhip, beſides the pariſh church. The vicinity of this diſtrict has many villages, or rather market towns, where yarn and webs are the principal, or rather the only commodities. Proviſions very ſel-dom appear for ſale, as the weavers till juſt enough of land to afford them potatoes, oats, and the flax plot. Theſe articles of food are their beſt fare, with butter-milk; the butter and the hog are now ſent to market, which, before the war, were conſumed at home, but are now luxuries, which are only taſted on particular feſtivals.

The miſerable effects of the late years of dearth are very viſible in the dreſs of the lower order, who are wretchedly clad, and their children almoſt entirely naked; white and blue frizes are worn by the men, and the women are more commonly clad in cottons than in ſtuffs, which have been ſo flimſily made of latter years, as have almoſt entirely ruined that trade throughout the nation.

The

The prices of their frizes, from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per yard, and they are very coarſe. The price of labour varies, as there is ſo little demand for hired men in the field. A labourer, for a day or two, is ſufficient to aſſiſt the ſmall farmer for his ſeaſon's work, for which he receives from ſixpence halfpenny to one ſhilling and a penny per day, with his diet; the gentleman, who has conſtant work for a labourer, pays the daily labourer or ſpalpeen from ten pence to thirteen pence per day, through the year. This ſeems to be the *appellation* of a daily labourer throughout Ireland, which argues the antiquity of this diſtinction from the cottier, and perhaps may be thus accounted for.

The cuſtom of hiring labourers to aſſiſt in the work of the farm was doubtleſs practiſed by the moſt ancient, as well as the preſent race of farmers; but we learn, that with them theſe aſſiſtants were only called in during the cutting of the harveſt, as each denomination of land had always as many men allotted by the chief of the diſtrict, to reſide thereon, as were ſufficient to cultivate it; and I have ſeen the remarks of ſome antiquaries, who ſay, ſo attentive were the natives to this diviſion of the farmers, that a law exiſted, binding their paſtors to keep ſtrict account of the increaſe of males on each town-land, whom, when arrived at a certain age, the paſtors were obliged to report, as being eligible to be ſent to reſide in a neighbouring land, which might be deficient in its number of working men, a caſualty

which often occurred, the country being almoſt in continual warfare; and he aſſerts, ſo careful were the legiſlators of the importance of the due regards to agriculture, and that on it depended the wealth of the ſtate, that by this law relating to huſbandry, the women were obliged to work in the field, when war or other neceſſity of their chief called their men from home.

In the Iriſh language *ſpal* is the ſcythe or the ſickle.

The *native huſbandman* was thence named the *ſpalp*, which ſignified the harveſt cutter, and this man was conſidered to have acquired the whole art of huſbandry, and held a ſort of diſtinction over the other labourers. When the preſs of harveſt ſeaſon arrived, and from the uncertainty of the weather they found it neceſſary to call in aſſiſtants or other ſpalps,[4] they ſuffered the younger or leſs experienced farmer to handle the ſickle, at whoſe firſt introduction a particular and pious ceremony was performed, and before its celebration he dared not to preſume to handle the ſickle, and he was termed the *ſpalpeen*, or the young and unexperienced harveſt-cutter. *Een*, in the Iriſh language, at the final of a word, always ſignifies ſmall, or rather contemptible, and to this day the ſpalpeen has that ſignification, even with thoſe, who do not underſtand the language. The working huſbandmen of Ireland are univerſally diſtinguiſhed, as the cottier, or the ſpalpeen; the wages and privileges of the former fully double thoſe of the latter, and it is well known, that herds of

men

men, called ſpalpeens, regularly come every harveſt from the counties of Cork, and Kerry, and parts of Connaught, into the corn counties of Leinſter, to reap the harveſt, and the farmers entirely depend on them. In this country there are no cottiers to the farmers, but the manufacturing cottiers, and with the gentry a few labourers have the uſual privileges of a cow's graſs and hay, houſe, garden, and turf-bog, and ſeven pence or eight pence per day through the year; this man lives comfortably with the induſtry of his wife and family. So great is the demand for labour during the turf-cutting, as the bleach-greens, which are numerous, conſume ſo much fuel, that all the women and children are employed in this ſeaſon; the former will earn from ſix to eight pence, and the latter from three pence to ſix pence per day.

The tithes cannot be ſaid to be at all oppreſſive here, except in the mode of collecting, which paſſing through ſo many hands, and leaving a profit to each, makes it ſevere on the poor man, whom the collector too generally extorts from. The glebe of Dromgoon pariſh, which is naturally not a bad ſoil, accords with the miſerable reports of glebe lands; no clergyman reſides in this pariſh, nor one inhabitant of the eſtabliſhed church.

The average of the tithe of the oat crop, which is the only corn crop cultivated, rates at ſix ſhillings per acre; flax ſix pence for any quantity, the ſame for hay; potatoes are tithe free.

The beverage of the lower order in this county has been always whiſkey, of which they diſtil large quantities, but moſtly without licence.

No county in Ireland has been more notorious for this illicit trade than Cavan; their ſtills and worms are made of tin, which every itinerant tinker can manufacture; perhaps the whole apparatus will be defrayed by the duty ſaved on one day's work, and they little value the ſurpriſal of a revenue officer, as ſo ſlight a capital ſets them up again. When they malt their corn, which is all of oats, a bag full is thrown to ſteep in a bog hole; it is eaſily concealed during the growing of the corn, as is before explained in the 7th chapter; and the county abounding with corn-kilns to dry their oats for grinding into meal, they run no riſque in drying the grain or in grinding it.

The corn-kiln ſeems peculiar to this county, is a ſemicircular hovel thatched, and has an hole to admit the fire below, like to the eye of a lime-kiln: in the centre are two beams, on which a hurdle is thrown; a ſtraw mat is placed thereon, to ſpread the corn on, to which the heat aſcends; two ſmall apertures are oppoſite each other in the ſides of the hovel to draw the air; one of theſe is always cloſed, when fire is applied.

In the late ſcarce years the private diſtillation in theſe parts was checked, as every man made it a point of duty to give information where he knew the ſtills were; but the laſt plentiful harveſt has again encouraged them:

them: I lately ſaw in Coote-hill no leſs than nine private ſtills, which were ſeized by one active officer in an evening's ramble, in that vicinity, and which was no uncommon thing there. The roads of this diſtrict little differ from the general report of the county, which is bad, very bad indeed; this is accounted for in ſome degree by the materials being ſo poor for road making; but a conſiderable ſhare of blame is, I think, attached to the allowing the collectors of the public ceſs to run into arrears and confuſion, and alſo to the mode of aſſeſſment, as the Grand Jury preſents only during the ſummer aſſizes, when the poor man is pooreſt, at the only ſeaſon when he is probably buying his proviſions and flax. It would doubtleſs be much better to preſent at both aſſizes, and make the largeſt aſſeſſment, when the peaſant can beſt ſpare the money.

The ſoil of this diſtrict varies from cold deep argil, heavy and ſtiff yellow clays, to a light, dry, and rather mountainous tilly ſtratum, covering a quarry of hard blue and green ſtone, which is called whin-ſtone, and is frequently met with in great blocks. Strong indications of lead are found in this deſcription of ſoil; and on the town-land of Mayo, the eſtate of Charles Coote, Eſq. is a mine, which has been proved to have been exceedingly rich, and was worked about fifty years ago with good ſucceſs: but the proprietor at that time, perhaps miſtaking it for a gold mine, was too ſanguine of its value, and choſe rather to ſhut it up, than

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to take the one-fourth of the ore, ready ſmelted on the ſpot, from two Engliſh miners of reputed reſpectability, who came from Falmouth to propoſe for it, jointly with a wealthy merchant of the city of Dublin, and whoſe propoſals now lie before me. The ſhafts, which had been ſunk, were framed and covered over, to prevent cattle from falling in, and ſince it has remained ſo.

The main vein lies in a flaty or rather gravelly rock, and has no clay about it; but between it and the rock of each ſide the ore is a ſoft ſoapy ſubſtance, in colour reſembling the ochre, that ſkinners uſe, through which a ſtick may be eaſily thruſt, and without meeting any oppoſition. The water ſpringing through this ſubſtance is of the like colour, and in the heart of this paſte is another ſubſtance much firmer, and of a grey colour, which the miners call ſpar; when burnt it reſembles brimſtone, and has a very ſulphureous ſmell.

In ſinking one of the ſhafts on the hill in this vicinity, for at that time many tons of ore were raiſed, they ſtruck on a rich vein of copper ore, at thirty-ſix feet depth from the ſurface; ſome of this ore was ſince aſſayed, and proved to contain about nine per cent of copper, and highly impregnated with ſulphur and verdigreaſe. The ore was in ſhape rather of angular points, and until broken reſembled a ſtone. Copper pyrites are frequently found in this town-land, but very poor near the ſurface.

When

When the rocks and boulders of the hard whinſtone appear, the ſoil is frequently ſiliceous, and argillite on the caſtern aſpect, and here are the ſtrongeſt mineral appearances; this vicinity would well deſerve a cloſe and minute mineralogical inſpection. As the duty is taken off the copper ſince the act of Union, it will doubtleſs be no ſmall ſtimulus to the working of the copper mines of Ireland, which it hitherto ſo conſiderably retarded.

A ſlate quarry is alſo on this eſtate, where ſome very durable and excellent ſlates have been raiſed, very near the ſurface, and at a ſmall expenſe; they are ſold at the quarry for one guinea per thouſand, and a conſiderable demand for them: I have ſent ſome of them to the Dublin Society, which may vie with ſome ſlates imported. A little more attention to the value of our own internal reſources, and leſs of the mania for foreign materials, and we may perhaps find ourſelves abundantly ſupplied as well at home.

There is no navigation in this county, though a very fine and important line preſents itſelf through this diſtrict, which will doubtleſs be adopted, if ever the long projected line of connection takes place between the Shannon and Lough Erne, and the line continued from thence to the Atlantic, by a navigation from Belleek to Ballyſhannon.

In this diſtrict the line is very favourable, from Ballybay to Coote-hill, for ſeven miles, which is the diſtance

tance aſunder; there is an extenſive lake, or rather deep river, for nearly the whole way, and one cut of about half a mile would make it perfectly ſafe and navigable, cutting through the weir of Coote-hill mill; one lock would be ſufficient for a ſtill navigation, and it would alſo have the good effect of ſaving ſeveral hundred acres of good meadow land from floods, which are now under water eight months in the year, and at beſt times yield but a ſtolen crop of hay. This extenſive lake is joined by the river Nappa, about two or three miles below Cootehill, and would ſerve as a capital head level; following this courſe to Belturbet, about ſixteen miles, the line is obviouſly pointed out, and at this latter town, which I have before ſpoken of, it enters Lough Erne. From thence to Belleek, above fifty miles diſtant, this famous lake waſhes the ſhores of ſeveral counties, which this navigation would ſo immediately benefit. I have heard it propoſed by a gentleman, who ſeemed to have taken great pains in exploring this line, to have the rock at Belleek cut down for ten feet, that is, reducing the level of the lake ſo many feet plumb water; by this means a great ſtrand would be gained, on which he propoſed the canal ſhould be cut. To paſs an opinion on this propoſal would be preſumptuous, as I am totally ignorant of the line without this county; but one good effect would accrue, that many thouſand acres of ſhore would be gained, and the beſt meadows in the county ſecured, whoſe

crops

crops are now but casual: the length of this line is said to be twenty miles from Belleek to Enniskillen, where the floods do immense damage, and by this means a passage for those waters would be effected, that are now so destructive. We should also take into account the shores of the many islands, which, I think, are rated at about three hundred and sixty-five, which are in the bosom of this lake; and doubtless a considerable quantity of land would be acquired, which might have one good effect, of affording employment to the multitude of emigrants, who annually abandon their country for America.

It is estimated, that one lock would only be requisite, on this line of fifty miles, from Belturbet to Belleek, by the cutting of the rock. The disadvantages in this case to be examined, are the destruction of the beauty of the lake, and also of the present line of navigation to Enniskillen; but this is of little other account, than for the conveyance of turf fuel, which only can be effected when the wind blows in one particular point; for, with any burthen they cannot work against the stream; and as to the destruction of the beauty of the lake, it should be of little moment, in comparison with the important advantages, which would be obtained, were it judged expedient to adopt it.

Nor would it be a work of that magnitude or impracticability, which might appear at first view; through the

arch

arched rock at Belleek the water of the Erne now flows; by widening and lowering this arch, the matter would be ſoon effected, and the lake lowered. This rock is limeſtone, and ſhivered by nature into layers and joints, of about nine inches diſtance, ſo that it would be moſt eaſily worked.

An immediate intercourſe would, by this navigation, (not to inſiſt in cutting the rock, which would certainly be the leſs expenſive mode), be eſtabliſhed with the principal parts of the nation, and the communication opened direct in the North, as well as the ſouth-weſt.

The waters of this diſtrict abound with immenſe pike, and in the rivers are excellent trout, perch, and eel; but they are well ſupplied with ſalmon from Ballyſhannon, with cod-fiſh from Carlingford, and herrings from Dundalk; the fineſt cod-fiſh is ſold in the ſeaſon, from three halfpence to two pence per pound.

There is no ſyſtem of education here; nor can it be expected, when ſo little attention is paid to agriculture, that there are any farming ſocieties. Manufacture is wholly confined to the linen trade; the high rate of diſcount between bank notes and guineas, (as in ſpecie every article is paid for) has occaſioned a heavy tax on the trade, and daily increaſes, as gold becomes ſcarce. The emigrating mania, which of late has raged ſo univerſally, has conſiderably contributed to the dearth of ſpecie, as each adventurer turned his property into money,

ney, which he took with him; for, latterly, the exportation of linen to that country was venturesome and discouraging. The increase of this scarcity of gold will at length have the best effect to the trade, in my opinion, as they must ultimately trade with bank notes: so that, though the imposition is at present a severe tax, its extravagance will soon work its own destruction. Much of this county is under absentee property, and so long as the landlords and their agens insist on their rents in specie, it will retard this desirable object to the linen trade, which is, at present, struggling on very unequal terms with every other branch in Ireland.

The mills of this county are numerous, and of three descriptions; of the first, or corn mill, every estate has one for the tenantry to grind their oats, and they are bound, under a severe penalty of five shillings per bushel, to grind their corn thereat, and pay the sixteenth grain of toll or mouter. There are numerous small mill-sites, and of course many such mills are erected, where they grind for the twenty-fourth grain, or a third less mouter; the hardship on the tenant is obvious, and the difference so considerable, that many people will send their corn several miles distant to one of the free mills. The rent of the mills rates from ten pounds to one hundred and fifty pounds per annum, according to the value of the concern, and the supply of water. In drying the oats, preparatory for grinding, two pence per

barrel

barrel is paid. The ſecond deſcription of mills are thoſe for flax, two of which are in this vicinity, and the proprietors earn from thirty to ſixty pounds per annum, which ſum is ſhared between the proprietor and the men, who work in this concern. One of thoſe mills, if well attended to, will beetle and ſcutch as much flax in one day, as can be thus worked by twenty-five or thirty expert hands.

The machinery is ſo ſimple and cheap, it is wonderful that many more of theſe mills are not erected, when ſo great labour and loſs of time is ſaved.

The third deſcription of mill are the bleach mills, which are very numerous; in the pariſh of Dromgoon, no leſs than fifty thouſand pieces of linen cloth can be finiſhed in one ſeaſon. In theſe mills are all the machinery of the waſh mill, rubbing boards, and beetling engines, drove by water, with connections to the boiling-houſes and drying lofts.

Plantations are only encouraged or attempted by men of fortune; the fences are ſo extremely bad, it is impoſſible to preſerve them from cattle; the lower orders are cruelly averſe to this ornamental and valuable improvemennt, and frequently deſtroy young trees, and quickſet hedges, before they are a month in the ground, fearful leſt ſuch improvements might raiſe the value of their lands, which are ſet on ſhort leaſes; timber, however,

ever, is not ſcarce, as extenſive woods are in the neighbourhood.

Fir rates, at from 1*s.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* per foot: aſh, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* oak and beech, from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*, and, if a long and good ſhaft, to 5*s* per foot, ſmall building timber for cabins, and for farming utenſils, rate much cheaper in proportion. Foreign timber comes very high, as at leaſt ſix pence per foot is added to the merchant's price, for carriage. Excepting the vicinity of towns, and bleach greens, turf fuel is plenty, and very cheap; according to the demand, the price varies from three to five pounds per acre; in a ſcarce neighbourhood, and at Rahain in the pariſh of Killdrumſheridan near Coote Hill, it is ſo high as ſixteen pounds per acre.

When they cut out their bogs, and level the ſurface, the land becomes more valuable than any they have, which they manure plentifully with aſhes. There cannot be ſaid to be any waſte ground in this diſtrict, for the farms are ſo ſmall, and the population ſo great, every patch is brought in with the ſpade, which is inacceſſible to the plough.

The great want ſeems to be, that of employment for the youth of both ſexes, for the greater part of the year, particularly in the winter ſeaſon: until twelve or fourteen years of age, they are entirely naked; this loudly

loudly calls for reform. The children are not prone to idleneſs, but they cannot get employment; few families there are, but have children enough to wind the quills for the looms, at which work they can earn from four to ten pence per day.

The Engliſh language is entirely ſpoken, indeed very few of the lower order underſtand the Iriſh tongue. There are no remarkable old buildings in this diſtrict, but almoſt every hill has a Daniſh fort, and on ſeveral of them are yet ſeen the veſtiges of a fortification; theſe would be beautiful ſituations to have planted in this county, whoſe ſurface is ſo extremely undulating.

The rate of their weights and meaſures differs conſiderably from thoſe of the neighbouring counties; meal is ſold by the cwt. which is one hundred and twenty pounds: butter, the like proportion: oats, fourteen ſtones to the barrel, of fourteen pounds to the ſtone.

Malt, twelve do. do.
Bere, ſixteen do. do.
Wheat, twenty do. do.

Flax is ſold by the ſtone, and has ſixteen pounds.

The weight of the barrel of potatoes fluctuates more than all others, as in many neighbouring pariſhes their barrel varies from twenty to twenty eight, to forty and forty-eight ſtones; but they are commonly ſold by bulk in the ſack: the balance, in this caſe, is clearly againſt the purchaſer, as the ſeller doubtleſs is not ignorant

norant of how much weight his ſack will contain: this fraud ought ſurely to be redreſſed; it, however, ſhews how well ſtocked this country is with this article, and how little of it comes to market, or the ſale would not be ſo neglected, or held in ſo deſpicable eſtimation.

The town of Cootehill, which is the beſt town in the barony, or, in the ſale of its markets, the moſt conſiderable in the county, ſtands nearly on the verge of Monaghan, and is on the eſtate of Charles Coote Eſquire, and immediately joins his demeſne at Bellamont foreſt. This town, but for its valuable linen market, would long ſince have been extinguiſhed, from the total neglect of its late proprietor, the Earl of Bellamont, though, doubtleſs, for the important reaſon I have aſſerted, and for combining cauſes, it ſhould and might be the beſt inland town in Ulſter. The advantages, which Cootehill poſſeſſes, ſeem now to be truly appreciated by the preſent proprietor, who has already improved it with ſeveral very handſome houſes, and the old leaſes being extinct, the tenants are obliged to build after an adopted plan, and meet every reaſonable encouragement; neat ſhambles have been laſt year erected, and a market-houſe is now building.

The vicinity being entirely deſtitute of quarry, and the clay yielding bricks of the beſt quality, it becomes

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an eaſy matter, in obſerving uniformity, to make this town very handſome. An excellent inn has alſo been fitted up, and ſupplied with poſt-chaiſes, a convenience which was here materially wanted; when ſuch an eſtabliſhment is completed at Bailyborough, of which it is ſhamefully deſtitute, the road from Dublin to Cootehill will be well accommodated.

The weekly ſale of linens in this market is eſtimated to average four thouſand pounds ſterling, but the webs principally are ſheetings, and with this town no market in Ireland can vie in this trade. Buyers from all the linen markets of Ulſter ſteadily frequent Coote-hill market. As to the laws reſpecting the linen trade, there is no place where they are more rigororouſly obſerved, or an infringement more ſeverely puniſhed.

The demeſne lands of this vicinity are very beautiful; the extenſive view of Bellamont Foreſt conveys every idea of magnificence, which ſo ſpacious a demeſne can poſſeſs in the natural diſpoſition of the grounds, and the undulation of the ſurface, and theſe irregularities create a thouſand charms in the change of the ſhade, from the extenſive groves, which have ſo great a variety, and produce ſuch pleaſing effects; but I ſhall have to ſpeak more minutely of this ſubject, in the cloſe of this chapter.

About one mile from Coote-hill, in the demeſne of Aſhfield, the ſeat of Theophilus Clements Eſquire, which was planted, and highly adorned by the late Colonel

Colonel Clements, and an excellent houſe built. In wood and water this ſeat is very well furniſhed: the young plantations have thriven admirably, and their effect is moſt pleaſing and happy. The grounds, like thoſe of many in this country, are but in a neglected ſtate of cultivation. About the ſame diſtance is Annalee, the ſeat of the Rev. Doctor Keatinge; in point of ſituation it is unrivalled; the lands are in excellent heart, and ſhew judicious care and management: two miles further is Tullavin, the ſeat of Wm. Moore, Eſq. This demeſne has alſo been well planted, and on which is ſome very fine full-grown timber; a better attention has been paid to agriculture, and no where in this county are ſuch excellent fences, admirably well quicked, and the hedge-rows planted with foreſt trees. The houſe is but a cottage on the ruins of an old caſtle, which with the adjoining ſhrubbery preſents the neateſt appearance, but Mr. Moore is preparing to build a capital manſion, correſponding with the value of this beautiful and well improved demeſne.

An extenſive garden of about four acres has been lately incloſed with a very good and lofty ſtone wall lined with brick. This garden is moſt elegantly laid out, and the beſt attention paid to it of any in the county; the fruit trees are in the higheſt perfection. A thick ſcreen of young timber protects it from the North and Eaſt winds, which blow here keen and ſevere. Within this demeſne are many Daniſh forts,

which are now beautifully planted, and the young trees have well ſhot up. The effects of theſe clumps in the midſt of the fields are ſufficient to ſhew, with what little expenſe and care ſo much of this neglected county might be brought to profit and beauty.

A rapid river runs at the foot of the demeſne, and is the ſame I have ſpoken of in the line of navigation; here the Nappa and the Annalee rivers unite, and thence flow to Belturbet. The fences and incloſures on this demeſne would conſpicuouſly appear, and deſerve the higheſt reputation in the moſt improved county in Ireland. How conſiderably muſt the effect be pleaſing here, where is ſuch a total neglect of this moſt important concern, and the wild ſurrounding commonage, for it deſerves no better diſtinction, highly ſerves as a foil to the beauties of ſuch improved and capital incloſures?

About one mile further on the Cavan road is Rakenny, the charming and antique ſeat of Henry Clements, Eſq. which yet gives a lively idea of the grand diſpoſition of demeſne lands and improvements in more ancient times, and which appearances are as yet carefully preſerved. The happy choice of plantation grounds is entirely favourable to the courſe of the river, and the great ſupply of water, with the rapidity of the ſtream, has found other courſes, which after meandering through the plantations have cut out ſmall iſlands, and unite again with the ſtreams of the parent river.

A communication

A communication is preſerved through all theſe plantations, by Chineſe and ruſtic bridges, which are thrown acroſs the ſtream, and the walks neatly gravelled; the views of the caſcades, and the ſound of their waters re-echoed through theſe groves, which preſent ſuch a variety of ſhade, with the fragrance of the wood-flowers along the walks, convey the moſt grateful and pleaſing ſenſations.

I muſt here obſerve a moſt excellent plan of roofing, which covers one of the ornamental cottages in this demeſne; the timber of the roof projects about ſixteen inches beyond the wall of the houſe, and conſequently is built of frame work; the thatch projects, of courſe, as much more from the timber, and the whole ſerves as a complete *parapluie* to the houſe, which cannot receive any wet. The houſe is all frame work, lathed and plaiſtered withinſide and without, and though built above ſeventeen years has not yet the leaſt appearance of damp or injury, and is as warm as any brick, ſtone, or mud walls I have ever ſeen. In this demeſne are three gardens, which are all well ſupplied, and one of them has the old terrace and other antique ornaments.

Nor has Mr. Clements been leſs attentive to the reclaiming of his lands; forty acres of bog have been lately capitally drained, and the main cut is twelve feet by fourteen; this promiſes to be moſt excellent ground; by widening and deepening the river much bottom

meadow has been recovered and drained, and is now the ſoundeſt ſheep-walk, and the moſt fertile ground in the pariſh; nor in ſheep-walk only is it occupied, for cows are here fatted to five or ſix cwt.

The manſion on this demeſne is very old and low, ſituate in a vale, between the ſhelter of woods and hills; it a very long and ſpacious building, entirely correſponding with the ſyſtem of the day when it was erected; to which is annexed every ſuitable office in diſtinct and ſeparate ſquare courts, well incloſed.

The ſmall plantations contiguous to this demeſne, for which Mr. Piers received the Dublin Society's premium, are but in poor and ruinous order; and his nurſery, which was eſtabliſhed for the ſale of young trees, is now diſcontinued.

The Daniſh forts are numerous in this vicinity; not many years ago, when one of them was preparing for plantations, above one thouſand pounds worth of gold coin was found, and alſo a large gold *fibula* buried in an iron pot. The neareſt houſe of note, or caſtle, at this time was in the mean village of Ballinacarig, of which there is now ſcarce a veſtige, though it is recorded to have been a ſpacious building, and ſurrounded with a fortification, compriſing a foſſe, towers, and baſtions.

The country from Coote-hill to the bounds of the barony may be valued at 30*s.* per acre, ſome of it is ſet much higher; very little or none of this diſtrict has

been

been under wheat culture: Mr. Clements has attemped it with ſucceſs, and cleared ſeventy-five pounds from two and an half acres, but this was in the ſcarce ſeaſon, when that grain had ſo high a price. The oat acre yields twelve barrels of fourteen ſtone, from twenty-two ſtones of ſeed. Of barley, four-rowed, twenty barrels has been the produce, and of potatoes the moſt abundant return. So excellent is this ſoil for this valuable crop, that from ſix to eight guineas per acre will be eaſily had for potatde ground, which is very high in this diſtrict. Meadow is very ſeldom ſet; the hay is ſold in the cock in bulk, and may be rated at the average of 50*s.* per ton. Flax ground will ſet for eight guineas per acre.

In the houſes through all this country the linen manufacture is carried on, and few of them are without two or three looms employed.

Bog is however very ſcarce, and ſets at eight guineas per acre, and all in this vicinity will ſoon be exhauſted; fuel, of courſe, is very dear.

The pariſh of Kill is now divided; the late diviſion is called Aſhfield, where a new and very neat church has been lately built by Mr. Clements of Aſhfield, and to which are annexed twenty acres of glebe. To the old pariſh of Kill three hundred acres of glebe are ſubjoined. From Rakenny to Clones, an excellent bridge croſſes the river, and the roads are in tolerable repair.

South

South of Coote-hill lies Bellgreen, the seat of Thos. Brunker, Esq. The fences here are well quicked and inclosed; a considerable tract of land has been well reclaimed and well improved; a very excellent family house has been erected on an elevated and commanding site, and on the bleach-greens adjoining this gentleman has expended considerable sums in mills, which are well supplied with water. The inhospitable glebe beyond the river is capable of yielding much profit, were it in eligible hands, and also could afford considerable ornament to this demesne. I have already had occasion to make honourable mention of Mr. Brunker's indefatigable and happy exertions in draining, in the Monaghan Survey, which have also been pursued here with the like success.

About a mile further is the seat of Thomas Powell, Esq. where the linen manufacture is also considerably and extensively engaged in.

I shall now conclude this baronial survey, with a more particular account of Bellamont forest.

This grand demesne contains above one thousand acres of land, nearly five hundred of which are covered with woods of full-grown timber, which encompass lakes of great beauty; and were the area of these extensive sheets of water to be taken into account, a very considerable portion of acres, which they cover, would be annexed to the return.

The

The whole of this immenſe range of ornamental grounds are incloſed by a thick ſcreen, and a particular care has been had to preſerve every appearance conſonant to ſo ſpacious an incloſure, and all confined ideas were abandoned in their formation.

Nor can there be conceived a ſurface of ſuch various undulation, or more pleaſing inequalities for the choice of plantations, which, with the happy combination of water, and extenſive proſpects, are ſo ſtrikingly picturesque, and beautifully diſpoſed for the higheſt finiſh of ornamental improvements.

The venerable groves of oak crowning the ſummits of conical hills, which are overtopped by the more elongated, and almoſt mountainous range, clothed with the lofty pine, afford the moſt pleaſing contraſt in ſuch varied ſhades, and are reflected in the ſpacious lake, which waters the borders of thoſe woods.

Remarkably happy for this ſublime view, the ſite of the manſion was choſen, and on the oppoſite ſide the proſpect is as rich and captivating, furniſhed with all the ſylvan ſcenery and magnificent decorations of Dawſon-grove, which are highly enlivened by the hoſpitable flags of the proprietor of that princely demeſne, which ſplendidly wave over his charming improvements.

There cannot be two demeſnes, which more happily unite, or more reciprocally contribute to the beauties of each other; and, as the view of either manſion is completely ſhut out from the other, the whole immenſe

range

range of improvements and ſpacious woods, extenſive lakes, and elegant plantations, would to a ſtranger appear as the one demeſne.

From the front of the houſe of Bellamont Foreſt, though all the charming proſpect is preſented, it is rather *mal-apropos*, that the principal and very grand ſuit of rooms are confined to, and lighted from the rere, where the water-views, with which this demeſne abounds, are entirely ſhut out, on which account ſome connoiſſeurs are of opinion, that the houſe is not exactly in the beſt ſituation. This manſion is built of brick, with a portico of cut ſtone after the Doric order, ſupported by four pillars more plain than embelliſhed, and elevated on a flight of fourteen ſteps, thirty feet wide.

The caſing of the window frames is alſo of cut ſtone, to correſpond with the portico; and the centre window of each ſide of the houſe, (which is a regular ſquare), is arched at top, and ornamented with light pillars of cut ſtone.

The houſe appears from the exterior view to have three flights of apartments, though it has two floors only.

The entrance from the portico is a lofty hall, thirty three feet by thirty, which is ornamented with ſtatuary in regular niches; the ſtudy and breakfaſt parlour are at diagonal extremities, as are the two flights of ſtairs, which are concealed by doors, and immediately oppoſite the hall-door is the ſaloon of the like dimenſions

of

of the hall: the walls of this very beautiful apartment are adorned with ſome excellent portraits, and a full length picture of the late Earl, in his robes of the order of the Bath, and a correſponding one of the Counteſs of Bellamont, both painted by Sir Joſhua Reynolds. The likeneſſes are extremely well preſerved, and the painting eſteemed as very good; and in this apartment is one of the beſt hiſtorical pictures, which Ireland can produce, the ſubject being the ſuicide of Dido, in which all the figures are at full length, ſuppoſed to have been executed by Raphael. Indeed, every thing in this fine picture commands admiration, and the diffierent paſſions, which that extraordinary cataſtrophe muſt have created in the court of that queen, are happily executed; though the poet's beautiful deſcription is, in moſt reſpects, very ſtrikingly repreſented, yet the artiſt has a little deviated from the exact delineation we ſhould expect from Virgil's deſcription, but perhaps has not, in this inſtance, exceeded the licence, to which the painter is entitled, and which would doubtleſs not be adopted by ſo incomparable a judge as Raphael, if he was not ſenſible of its ſuperior effect. This picture was purchaſed in Italy by the late Earl's father, for one thouſand five hundred guineas, and was eſteemed a great bargain. Several other very capital paintings, as alſo ſome very fine pieces of ſtatuary and valuable antiques, were alſo purchaſed by that gentleman; and he had ſcarcely furniſhed this manſion therewith, when an unfortunate

fire

fire, which conſumed the houſe, deſtroyed them all, except this one picture. The chimney-pieces, which are alſo Italian and very valuable, were preſerved, as they fortunately had not been put up. The eating parlour and drawing-room, at the oppoſite extremes of the ſaloon, are of exactly the like dimenſions, and enriched with pillars; all theſe principal rooms are very lofty, and the ceilings are highly embelliſhed with ſtucco.

That a ſuperb appearance might be preſerved in the loftineſs of theſe apartments, the reſt of the houſe is ſacrificed, and in the centre floor are two ſmall rooms only, which are over the ſmall ſtudy and breakfaſt parlour; they are very low, and ſerve as dreſſing rooms.

The attic ſtory has a good ſuit of dormitories, but they are alſo low; the fine proſpects theſe ſuits of rooms command are the moſt to recommend them; indeed the whole houſe ſhews the folly of oſtentation in the lower apartments, which has quite ſpoiled every other room. This manſion cannot, therefore, be juſtly called a good family houſe: nor can it be ſaid to be as extenſive a manſion as is ſuitable to ſo ſplendid and ſpacious a demeſne. Its figure being a ſquare is alſo hoſtile to the appearance it ſhould command, and oppoſes any improvement of the addition of wings, which, if of another plan, might yet be added to a happy and pleaſing effect.

The cellars and ſervants apartments were, until the late rebellion, entirely out of ſight, from the exterior view, as the area was arched, flagged, and grated,

which

which conſiderably added to the correctneſs of the ſtyle of the architecture; but it was at that time judged expedient to take this away, and open the area as a defence to the houſe. From theſe lower apartments is a very capital ſubterraneous paſſage to the offices, long enough to bring fuel, &c. to the houſe on cars; this paſſage winds round the great range of offices and farm yard, which are diſtributed in large ſquare courts; amongſt theſe is an excellent riding-houſe, and a very ſpacious arched ſtable. The whole are concealed from the view of the houſe, being erected under cover of a hill, which is thickly planted with full grown timber; this ſite was judiciouſly choſen, and the deſign altogether very well executed. The woods of this demeſne are the veſtige of the ancient foreſt of the country, and this place is famous for having been the principal reſidence of the O'Reilly's, who were formerly the lords of the county of Cavan, then diſtinguiſhed by the denomination of *Breſny*; tracts of theſe woods were ſeverally cut out ſince, at different periods, and again copſed up, but one plot ſhews to have ſurvived many centuries. In this the oak is the only tree, whoſe vigour ſeems not to have decayed with his years, and here are ſome of the fineſt and groſſeſt of this timber which I have ſeen.

This noble tree, of all other timber the moſt valuable, is likewiſe of all the moſt generous in rural ſcenery, and branches here with a luxuriance, which creates the happieſt effect, and furniſhes the ſpacious lakes with reflected beauty.

Diamond-

Diamond-hill, ſituate at nearly the extremity of this demeſne, and bounded by a ſpacious lake, is a very lofty eminence, which is richly ornamented with timber, and compriſes all the beauties of the Foreſt and of Dawſon-grove, together with a great extent of country and diſtant improvements; with ſome amateurs of ſylvan ſcenery, this hill is ſaid to command the favourite proſpect. The new approach will be very handſome when the bridge is finiſhed; though, in the preſent line to the houſe, the incorrect idea of receding from the object we mean to approach was adopted, we muſt pardon the defect, if not approve it, from the ſublime and beautiful diſplay of rural charms, which at once burſt on the view through numerous viſtas, as the long hill is aſcended. The effect of this ſcene is more eaſily felt than can be well expreſſed: the aſcent of the hill is rather tedious, and too barren of ſcenery until the ſummit is gained; the contraſt is then as great as its effects are moſt ſudden and tranſcendently magnificent, as from hence is almoſt a perpendicular fall to the great lake, which is not diſtinguiſhed, until the woods of Dawſon-grove, which lie beyond it, are firſt taken in: from this view the eye is charmed with floating objects in various directions, and here is comprized the richeſt proſpect of foreſt waving over the ſpacious river, expanding into lakes of the ſmootheſt ſurface, whoſe banks are charmingly indented by the generous hand of nature. Within the demeſne, a ſpa has lately been

been diſcovered, which in taſte exactly reſembles the waters at Swanlingbar, and ſeem full as powerful; the ſtrong ſmell peculiar to theſe waters led to the diſcovery in a hard froſt, when the waters of the lakes had ſeveral feet of ice, yet was not this ſtill ſtream at all frozen; the waters were uncommonly clear and cold, and were covered with a thick mineral and copper-coloured ſcum.

The deer-park poſſeſſes all that wildneſs, which is ſo ſuitable in ſuch an incloſure, and ſo highly correſponds with the *contour* of this demeſne. Theſe lands are ſituate very high above the other grounds, in paſture and variety of ſhade and ſhelter are excellent for deer, and have been celebrated for producing the fineſt veniſon.

On the whole, whether we view Bellamont foreſt in the early bloom of ſpring, while nature is not yet completely unfolded; or in ſummer, when the rich luxuriance of the groves is as inviting to the eye, as their ſhelter, and the cooling breezes from the lakes are grateful to the other ſenſes; or in autumn, when the rural ſcenery is crowned with all that variety of colour, which creates ſuch innumerable ſhades; or in winter, when the more ſilent ſnow-ſcene, clothed in a thouſand beauties peculiar to itſelf, huſhes all nature to repoſe, and is contraſted with the awful ſound of the tempeſt, whoſe unhoſpitable blaſts are loudly reechoed through the groves; we are loſt in admiration at the wonder-

ful works of nature, and we muſt admire this delightful ſeat, which is ſo little indebted to art for its numerous charms, and whoſe beauties muſt have an eminent and particular eſtimation among the demeſnes of Ireland, ſo long as the laviſh and unreſtrained hand of the former muſt hold her juſt pre-eminence over the mimic powers of the latter, which are never more deficient than in her attempts to copy from ſo fair an original.

CHAP.

# CHAP. XII.

## RELATING TO THE COUNTY AT LARGE.

## RURAL ECONOMY.

### SECTION I.

### *Labour.*

IN this, as in the neighbouring county of Monaghan, labour is little in demand, as theſe counties are ſubdivided into ſo numerous ſmall farms; the loom, not the buſineſs of agriculture, being the main dependance, and each family is generally equal to cultivate the lands they hold. The average value of labour from the cottier is ſeven pence per day, and from the ſpalpeen or hired labourer, ten pence; the woman's labour in the field, five pence to ſix pence; but her aſſiſtance is only required in harveſt, or in the digging out of the potatoe crop.

## SECT. 2. *Provisions.*

The principal support being potatoes and oatmeal, of course these articles are cheap, as they are so very plentifully produced, and the nine-tenths of arable land is under their culture. Wheat-meal is dear, and flour is imported from Louth, Longford, and Meath. Beef and mutton rates full as high as in Dublin market.

Poultry are seldom seen in such perfection as in Dublin market, and could be cheaper supplied there, if we take the condition of the fowl into account. The Dublin poulterers regularly stroll through this county, and considerably tend to encrease the high price of fowl. Geese in very bad order sell for 2*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 8½*d.* per pair; turkeys in like order, 3*s.* to 4*s.*; ducks, 20*d.*; barn-door fowl, 20*d.*; chickens from 6*d.* to 1*s.* Of fish, such as pike, eel, and trout, they have abundance in their own lakes, and hawkers regularly supply them with cod-fish, from three halfpence to two pence per pound; salmon, herrings, &c. are brought here in abundance.

Wheat will average 30*s.* per barrel; barley 18*s.* to 20*s.*; oatmeal 12*s.* per cwt. and potatoes 2*d.* per stone, for seven years rates, the two years of extraordinary scarcity not taken into account.

The

The average return of the wheat acre may be ſeven barrels, but very little is cultivated; of oats twelve; of barley twelve; of potatoes one hundred and forty barrels, reduced to twenty ſtones per barrel; of potatoe land, four pounds per acre; of flax land, ſix guineas; and the average value or preſent rents of Cavan do not exceed 20ſ. per acre; but it muſt be conſidered, that all theſe advantages in point of fertility of the county, and in cheapneſs of rent, tend to the ſervice of the linen manufacture, as not one-tenth part of Cavan is ever looked to for the purpoſe of making money by farming, but merely to produce the flax and the proviſions for the manufacturers.

## SECT. 3. *Fuel.*

In general, fuel is in the greateſt abundance, and of a very fine kind. It can be reared on the bog on an average through the county, for 10ſ. the hundred ſtatute kiſhes, rent and labour inclufive.

The tracts of bog are ſo numerous they are contiguous enough to the reſidence, and the expenſe of carriage makes but a ſmall addition to this rate.

# CHAP. XIII.

## POLITICAL ECONOMY.

### SECTION I.

### *Roads.*

This county is extremely ill ſupplied with materials for road-making, and in the old lines there was no judicious ſelection for roads, but the moſt formidable hills were encountered, if in the ſtraight direction. The new lines ſhew, that much of the hills can be avoided by winding through the vallies; but in the general reports of the county roads, it muſt be confeſſed that they are injudiciouſly made and worſe kept.

### SECT. 2. & 3. *Fairs and weekly markets.*

The fairs of Cavan are principally for young cattle, from yearlings to three years old, both black cattle and horſes.

The

The markets have no grain expoſed to ſale, of proviſions oatmeal principally, and are only remarkable for the ſale of yarn, flax, and webs.

The average ſale of linens manufactured and ſold in Cavan County may be rated to value ſeventy thouſand pounds, and above twenty thouſand more goes to market without the county; ſo that nearly one hundred thouſand pounds worth is manufactured within the county. Some years this export has been increaſed, before the emigration to America of the manufacturers, and when there was a ſteady and briſk demand for our linens.

## SECT. 4. *Commerce and Manufactures.*

Some eſtimate may be formed of the ſubject in the foregoing clauſe, by the following return of the capability of the ſeveral bleach-greens of the county; but it muſt be obſerved, if, of the webs which are finiſhed here, many are purchaſed in foreign markets, much more of the webs of this county's manufacture are alſo purchaſed by other bleachers.

## THE COUNTY BLEACH-GREENS.

| *Place.* | *Proprietors.* | *Number of webs bleached.* |
|---|---|---|
| Cootehill market, | Meſſrs. Thos. Eyre Powel, | 16,000 |
| Ditto, - - | Brabazon Brunker, | 12,000 |
| Ditto, - - | Thos. Brunker, | 8000 |
| Ditto, - - | Sam. Cunnyngham, | 8000 |
| Ditto, - - | Joſeph Browne, | 4000 |
| Ditto, - - | John Lee, | 5000 |
| Ditto, - - | William Spear, | 8000 |
| Ditto, - - | R. George, | 4000 |
| Killeſhandra, - | J. Beniſon, | 10,000 |
| Ditto, - - | A. Pallas, | 8000 |
| Ditto, - - | Wm. Neal, | 4000 |
| Ditto, - - | J. Sloane, | 4000 |
| | Total pieces, | 91,000 |

As a conſiderable number of theſe pieces are ſheetings, we cannot rate the ninety-one thouſand pieces, great and ſmall, at leſs than 30*s.* per piece, and at this valuation the eſtimate of capital employed, when the greens are full, will appear to be forty-five thouſand five hundred pounds.

The principal grievance, which yet oppreſſes the trade, is the high rate of diſcount between ſpecie and bank

bank notes; but this will, of courſe, ſoon find its *quietus*: nor is it a ſecondary cauſe of the ſmall demand for our linen in foreign markets, that ſo much miſchief has been done to webs in the bleaching by ſome quacking practitioners in chemiſtry, who ſhould be well experienced in that art, before a regular and approved ſyſtem, which has ſucceeded in a due courſe of time in the proceſs of whitening our linens, ſhould be innovated by new modes, which are haſtily adopted from their quick operation, and which for ſaid reaſon ſhould above all others be moſt ſuſpected.

CHAP.

# CHAP. XIV.

# GENERAL TABLES.

## SECTION I.

*Table of the average rates of meadow, potatoes, flax-land, and wages.*

| BARONIES. | Rate of potatoe and flax land per acre. | Rate of meadow per acre. | Wages. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tullagha, | from 3 to 4 guineas | from 3 to 4 pounds | 7*d.* per day through the year. |
| Tullaghonoho, | from 4 to 6 guineas | from 4 to 6 guineas | 9*d.* ditto. |
| Clonmoghan, | from 4 to 5 guineas | from 3 to 4 guineas | 9*d.* ditto. |
| Loughtee, | from 5 to 7 guineas | from 6 to 8 guineas | 1*s.* ditto. |
| Caſtleraghan, | from 4 to 5 guineas | from 3 to 4 guineas | 9*d* ditto. |
| Clonchee, | from 4 to 5 guineas | from 3 to 4 guineas | 9*d.* ditto. |
| Tullaghgarvy, | from 5 to 8 guineas | from 4 to 6 guineas | 1*s.* ditto. |

By the rate of meadow is meant the value of the hay yielded per acre, as it is moſt uſually ſold by bulk in the cock.

## SECTION II.

### TABLE OF THE AVERAGE OF TITHE IN EACH BARONY.

| BARONIES. | Rates per acre. | | | Meadow and Flax per Quantities. | Average value of arable and pasture together. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Wheat. | Oats. | Bere and Barley. | | |
| Tullagha, - - - - - | 6s. od. | 4s. 6d. | 6s. od. | 0s. 6d. | 10s. od. |
| Tullaghonoho, - - - | 8s. od. | 6s. od. | 8s. od. | 1s. od. | 20s. od. |
| Clonmoghan, - - - | 8s. od. | 6s. od. | 8s. od. | 0s. 6d. | 15s. od. |
| Loughtee, - - - - - | 10s. od. | 8s. od. | 10s. od. | 1s. od. | 30s od. |
| Caſtleraghan, - - - | 8s. od. | 6s. od. | 8s. od. | 0s. 6d. | 15s. od. |
| Clonchee, - - - - - | 8s. od. | 6s. od. | 8s. od. | 0s. 6d. | 15s. od. |
| Tullaghgarvy - - - | 8s. od. | 8s. od. | 8s. 0s. | 0s. 6d. | 20s. od. |

Potatoes are univerſally free; by the average value is meant the worth of the good and bad lands together, but ſome of theſe lands are ſet above their value, others far below: however much higher rents than this valuation could be had from ſolvent tenants.

## SECT. 3. *Table of Towns and Villages.*

| BARONIES. | TOWNS. | VILLAGES. |
|---|---|---|
| Tullagha, | Ballyconnell, M. P. 3. | Ballymagowran,<br>Bawnboy,<br>Derryolim,<br>Largy,<br>Swanlingbar,<br>Woodford, |
| Tullaghonoho, | Killeshandra, M. P. 3. | Arvagh,<br>Kilmore,<br>Scraba, |
| Clonmoghan, | Crofsdoney, | Ballinanagh,<br>Ballintemple,<br>Kilgolah,<br>Kilnaleck,<br>Mount-Nugent, |
| Loughtee, | Ballyhaise, M.<br>Belturbet, M. P. 3.<br>Cavan, M.P. 6. | Arghill,<br>Ballinacarig,<br>Butler's-bridge,<br>Stradone, |
| Castleraghan, | Virginia,<br>Ballyjamesduff, | Daly's-bridge,<br>Kill,<br>Mullogh, |
| Clonchee, | Bailyborough, M. P. 6.<br>King's-court, M.<br>Shercock, M. | Muff,<br>Wiltown, |
| Tullaghgarvy, | Coote-hill, M. P. 6. | Ballinacargy,<br>Red-hills,<br>Tullyvin. |

M denotes a market—P a poft-town, and the figure marks the number of days, on which the poft comes in from Dublin.

SECT.

## Section 4.

*Alphabetical List of Fairs.*

Arvagh (25th March) (1st May) (8th June) (1st Nov.)

Bailyborough (17th Feb.) (17th May) (15th June) (17th Aug.) )14th Oct.) (17 Nov.)

Ballyconnell (13th Feb.) (17th March) (16th May) (24th June) (29th July) 29th Sep.) (25th Oct.) (3d Dec.)

Ballyhaise (1st March) (18th May) (13th July) (30th Aug.) (6th Nov.) (13th Dec.).

Ballyhiland (21st May) (7th June).

Ballyjamesduff (7th May) 17th July) 26th Oct.) (21st Dec.)

Ballymagowran (23dFeb.) (23d May) (12th Aug.) (4th Oct.) (22nd Nov.)

Ballynacarrig (12th Feb.) (12th May) (6th Aug.) (22nd Nov.)

Ballynagh (24th March) (10th April) (5th June) (5th Aug.) (3d Oct.) (21st Dec.)

Belturbet (10th Feb.) (21st May) (12th June) (21st July) (4th Sep.) 17th Nov.)

———Race (17th May) (3d June).

Cavan (1st Feb.) (14th May) (14th Aug.) (25th Sep.) 12th Nov.)

Cootehill (12th March) (9th June) (12th Sep.) (6th Dec.)

Crofs-

Crofsdoney (5th April) (27th May) (26th Aug.) 17th Nov.)
Doobally (26th May) (15th Aug.)
Kilgoguy (5th Feb.) (25th May) (3d Aug.) 5th Nov.)
Kilgolah (17th Jan.) (17th March) (26th April) (27th Nov.)
Killeſhandra (28th March) (22nd June) (24th Aug.) (8th Nov.)
Kilnaleck (2d Feb.) (13th May) (11th June) (10th Aug.) (1ſt Nov.) (17th Dec.)
King's Court (23d May) (18th June) (1ſt Aug.) (19th Sep.) (8th Nov.) (4th and 24th Dec.)
Largy (22nd May) 22nd July) (22nd Sep.) (19th Nov.)
Mount-Nugent (1ſt June) (21ſt Oct.)
Muff (12th Aug.)
Redhills (1ſt Jan.) (24th May) (24th July) 24th Oct.)
Scraby (10th Feb.) (15th May) (1ſt Aug.) (11th Dec.)
Shercock (16th May) (2d June).
Stradone (23d March) (24th June) (16th Aug.) (16th Oct.) (18th Dec.)
Swanlingbar (1ſt Feb.) (30th March) (12th April) (18th May) (9th June) (27th July) (13th Oct.) (27th Nov.) (21ſt Dec.)
Tullyvin (9th March) (4th May) (5th July) (26th Aug.) (11th Dec.)
Virginia (12th April) (9th July) (23d Sep.) (21ſt Nov.)

## SECTION 5.

### *ALPHABETICAL LIST*

OF THE

### PRINCIPAL LANDED PROPRIETORS.

ADAMS, Cosby Esq.
———, James Esq.
———, O'Reily Esq.
———, Rev. Allen Noble
———, Rev. Benjamin
———, Stewart Esq.
Annesley, Rev. Dean
———, Right Hon. Earl of
Armstrong, —— Esq.

BAKER, John Esq.
———, Robert Esq.
Barry, Colonel John
——, Thomas, Esq.
Battersby, ——, Esq.
Bell, Andrew Esq.
——, Richard Esq.
Benison, John Esq.
Berry, Thomas Esq.
Betty, William, Esq.

Blackwood,

Blackwood, James Esq.
————, Richard Esq.
Blashford, —— Esq.
Booth, Richard Bell Esq.
Brooke, Rev. Richard
Brunker, Thomas Esq.
Burrowes, Alexander Esq.
————, Robert Esq.

CALDWELL, Sir John Bart.
Campbell, Wm. Esq. representatives of,
Canning, George Esq.
Carson, Thomas Esq.
Clements, Henry Esq.
————, Theophilus, Esq.
Coghill, Sir —— Bart.
Coote, Charles Esq.
Copeland, John Jones Esq.
Corbet, Patrick Esq.
Corlismore, —— Esq.
Corry, Thomas Charles Stewart Esq.
Cosby, Major
Cottingham, Reverend Doctor
Crawford, James Esq.
Crofton, Sir Hugh Bart.

DAVENPORT, Simon Esq.
Dawson, Townly, Esq. representatives of,
Deane, —— Esq.
De Blaquiere, Right Hon. Lord

Doughty

Doughty, Robert Esq.
Doyle, George, Esq.

ELLIOTT, John, Esq.
Ellis, —— Esq.
——, Gore, Esq.
Enery, ——, Esq.
Ennis, Thomas, Esq.

FARIS, Alexander Esq.
——, —— Esq.
Farnham, Right Hon. Earl of
Fleming, Arthur Esq.
——, Thomas Esq.
——, —— Esq.
Foster, Henry Esq.

GAVEN, —— Esq.
Gosford, Right Hon. Lord
Grisson, William, Esq.

HARMAN, Ralph, Esq.
——, William Esq.
Hassard, Jason Esq.
Headford, Most Noble Marquis of
Hinds, Walter Esq.
Hodgson, Sir Robert Bart.
Hume, Robert Esq.

JACKSON, Mrs.
Jones, Humphrey Esq.

Jones,

Jones, John Moutray Esq.
Irwin, Richard Esq.
——, William Esq.

KELETT, Robert Esq.
Kilmore, Reverend Dean of
———, Right Reverend Bishop of

LANAUZE, ——— Esq.
Lanesborough, Right Hon. Earl of,

M'CARTNEY, Miss
———————, Mrs.
Magrath, Luke Esq.
Maxwell, Henry Esq.
Mayne, Edward Esq.
Mee, —— Esq.
Montgomery, George Esq. representatives of
Moore, Garrett Esq.
———, William Esq.
Morton, Charles, Esq.

NESBITT, Colonel Thomas
———, Rev. Albert
Nixon, George Esq.
——, Humphrey Esq.
Newburgh, Arthur Esq.
———s, minors Esqrs.
Nugent, Christopher Esq.

Nugent, Colonel
———, Oliver Esq.

O'REILY, Anthony, Esq.
———, James Esq.
———, —— Esq.

PALLIS, Christopher Esq.

Percival, —— Esq.
Pleydell, Jonathan Morton Esq.
Powell, Thomas Eyre Esq.
Pratt, James Esq.
——, Rev. Joseph

RADCLIFFE, —— Esq.
Richardson, Sir Wm. Bart.
———, Wm. Esq.
Roberts, Rev. Edward S.
Ruxton, Wm. Esq.

SAUNDERS, Major
Saunderson, James Esq.
———, Francis Esq.
———, Robert Esq.
Singleton, John Esq.
Smyth, Mrs.
Sneyd, Nathaniel Esq.
——, Rev. William
Somerville, —— Esq.
Southwell, Hon. Colonel

Spencer, Joſhua Eſq.
Stanford, John Eſq.
Staples, Sir Robert Bart.
Stephens, Willliam Eſq.
Story, Rev. Joſeph

TATLOW, John Eſq.
Thornton, Perrott Eſq.

VEAITCH, John Eſq.
————, —— Eſq. repreſentatives of
WATERFORD, Moſt Noble Marquis of
Whyte, Francis Eſq.
Wills, —— Eſq.
Wynne, Owen Eſq.

YOUNG, James Eſq.
————, John Eſq.

CHAP.

## CHAP XV.

## FARMING SOCIETY.

THERE had not been any farming ſociety in Cavan, at the time I was collecting the materials for this ſurvey; however I now learn, that a ſociety is eſtabliſhed at Bawnboy, of which Mr. Sneyd is preſident, who repreſents the county.

So important are the advantages reſulting from the meetings and communications of experimental and judicious farmers, that they ſhould meet every encouragement. No part of Cavan is leſs engaged in manufacture, than the vicinity of the members of this new ſociety; nor are there any lands ſo favourably diſpoſed for improvement, if we conſider the ſmall rents, and the valuable change, which is wrought on the ſoil of this hilly region by a ſmall application of lime, and a little perſevering induſtry. The encouragement now held out by the farming ſociety of Ireland, to the minor eſtabliſhments, will be doubtleſs no ſmall incentive to us to cultivate our lands, and bring into immediate profit thoſe valuable reſources, which have lain too long neglected,

glected, though poſſeſſing capabilities enough to procure true wealth and independence.

The utility and important benefits, which reſult from the correſpondence with ſocieties of agriculture, are clear, becauſe by their different reports of ſoil our theory is perfect againſt the time, when we ſhall have occaſion to put into practice the knowledge we have acquired from their communications; for, although the firſt principles of agriculture will hold good in every country, yet the true methods of their application muſt vary, according to the nature of the ſoil. The more extenſive are thoſe ſocieties, the greater knowledge will be acquired, and the more rapidly it will be diffuſed.

Vain indeed would be the exertions ofthe experimental farmer, and uſeleſs would be the valuable tracts of huſbandry, which are offered to the public, if a general and laudable ſpirit of emulation in the culture of our lands, and in the improvement of our ſtock, did not almoſt univerſally prevail, which the wiſe and enlightened government ſo meritoriouſly encourages, and which, that their example may be more effectual, are almoſt individually and extenſively engaged in.

Under ſuch auſpices, agriculture muſt flouriſh, ſcience muſt be enlarged, and the lethargy, which too long ſealed up our ideas, of this moſt important of all concerns, is at length diſpelled; and in the happy hours of returning peace we muſt expect, that the legal bonds and reſtric-

tions

tions, which have hitherto preserved all those absurd and ridiculous customs, to which we have too fondly been attached, and which have too long oppressed the fertility of our soil, will give way to the real interests of the nation, which are and ever will be inseparably interwoven with the prosperity of her husbandry.

## CHAP. XVI.

## CONCLUSION.

FROM the neglect of the valuable and extenſive tracts, which now deſerve no better diſtinction than inhoſpitable, unpopulated, and barren waſtes, this county does not raiſe corn ſufficient for its own ſupply, though the ſoil is capable of ſo high improvement, as to yield full one-third greater produce.

Nor would it be an unfair calculation to aſſert, that the rentals might be fully increaſed in the ſame proportion, if the ſpirit of induſtry, which muſt firſt ſpring from the landlords themſelves, would more generally prevail: until their example leads the way, ſuch an alteration might be dangerous to the manufacture, and particularly ſo to the proprietor. The great misfortune to this county is, that nature has denied that revigorating manure of lime, which ſo powerfully changes the ſoil; a navigation only could ſupply a ſufficiency on eaſy terms.

Flax culture is miſerably followed; draining is totally neglected: a little attention to incloſures, which ſhew ſo little care, is now particularly required; nor ſhould the better repairs of the county roads be a ſecondary conſideration.

I now

I now beg leave to make my beſt acknowledgments to the gentlemen of this county, who have ſo kindly aſſiſted me with their intelligent and polite communications, and with every wiſh for the proſperity of this county,

I have the honour to be,

Their moſt obedient,

And very humble ſervant,

CHARLES COOTE.

*AN Account of Premiums adjudged by the Dublin Society, for Planting in the County of Cavan, since the Year 1786, where security has been given to preserve the same for ten years from the date of the grant.*

| *To whom* | *For what.* | *Acres.* | *Date* | *Report of present state.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| William Faris, | Fencing coppice woods. | 25 | 1789 | In good preservation. |
| Ditto. | Ditto. | 18 | 1790 | Ditto. |
| John Young, | Ditto | 16 | 1790 | Ditto. |
| Rev. Wm. Moore, | Planting Danish forts, | 40 perches planted<br>40 perches inclosed | 1790 | Ditto. |
| John Piers, | Ditto | 22 perches planted<br>22 perches inclosed | 1790 | Very bad, almost quite destroyed |
| Henry Foster, | Inclosing plantations, | 11 | 1791 | In great heart and vigour, well protected, and capitally inclosed. |
| Humphrey Nixon, | Ditto | 10 | 1791 | In good preservation. |
| Thomas Butler, | Copsing woods | 12 | 1793 | Well inclosed, but cattle are now admitted, which do much damage; the copse was otherwise thriving. |
| Henry Foster, | Inclosing plantations | 13 | 1794 | Mr. Foster's plantations are in the fullest vigour. |

The inspection of this Report was made in 1801, 1802. } CHARLES COOTE.

## *References to and Explanations of the Rev. Mr. Cooke's newly improved patent Drill Machine.* *

The ſuperior merits of the preſent improved machine, compared with the old one, conſiſt

1*ſt*. In the wheels (B. B. fig. 1.) being ſo large, that the machine can travel on any road without trouble, or danger of breaking; alſo from the farm to the field, &c. without taking to pieces; requiring only half the draught which the old machine requires.

2*dly*. In the coulter beam (C. C. fig. 1, with all the coulters) moving with great eaſe to the right or left, on a principle of the pentagraph, by which means the drills may be made ſtrait; and where lands or ridges are made four feet and a half, or nine feet and a half wide, the horſe may always go in the furrow, without ſetting a foot on land, either in drilling or horſe-hoeing.

3*dly*. In the ſeed ſupplying itſelf regularly, without any attention, from the upper to the lower boxes, as it is diſtributed.

4*thly*. In lifting the pin M on the coulter beam to a hook L on the axis of the wheels; by which means the coulters are kept out of the ground at the end of the land, without the leaſt labour or fatigue to the perſon, who attends the machine.

5*thly*

* For Plate, See Page 224.

is elevated or depreſſed accordingly, ſo as to render the diſtribution of the ſeed regular; and the ſeed being covered by a lid, is ſcreened from wind or rain.

Theſe are ſome of the advantages appertaining to the above improved drill; which, though conſiderable in the proceſs of drilling, are as nothing, compared with thoſe, which ariſe from the uſe of the horſe-hoe; of which it may ſuffice to ſay, that from eight to ten acres are commonly hoed in one day, with one man, a boy, and a horſe, at the trifling expence of ſix pence or eight pence an acre, in a ſtyle far ſuperior to, and more effectual, than any hand-hoeing whatever; alſo performed at times and ſeaſons when it is impoſſible for the hand-hoe to be uſed at all.

# APPENDIX.

# APPENDIX.

## *Further Conſiderations on the State of the Poor.*

AMONG the various ſubjects, which have been conſidered, I feel it neceſſary to ſay a few words more on the moſt important concern of all, which is the condition of the poor; for it will require little thought to convince us, that the wealth, the happineſs, and the peace of the nation, muſt depend on an amelioration of their truly deplorable ſtate.

Too little indeed have their miſeries occupied our attention, than which no grievance more particularly requires redreſs, as well on the ſcore of ſound policy, as in obedience to the dictates of humanity.

I ſhall venture a little reaſoning on this ſubject, and endeavour to ſhew, how much it is the intereſt of the *community* in general, as well as of the *landed proprietor* in particular, to heartily engage in ſo important a concern; for ſurely the welfare of that claſs of people ought to be conſidered, *whoſe labour and induſtry are our main dependence, and whoſe comforts inſure peace, proſperity, and content at home.*

From

From our preſent cloſe connection with the ſiſter country, their intereſts are now deeply interwoven with ours, and we ſhall doubtleſs ſoon ſee their earneſt exertions for the improvement and civilization of Ireland; and it cannot be denied, that the preliminary ſtep muſt be the correction of the greateſt nuiſance, which ſurely is the unhappy ſituation of the poor.

I ſhall be very brief in theſe remarks, which with great zeal and diffidence I venture to offer, nor will I attempt a particular recapitulation of ſorrows; ſuch a melancholy picture would only ſerve as a national reproach, for I do not here confine myſelf to any particular place, but allude to the condition of the poor throughout Ireland: I ſhall only ſay, in beholding their poverty we ſwell the magnitude of our own neglect, in not having long ſince redreſſed it.

It is evident, that we either had not the means of affording this redreſs, or that we have been cruelly deaf to the calls of humanity.

The former theſis will not be eaſily demonſtrated, and as the latter will hardly meet inveſtigation, let it, in charity, be obſcured in the ſhade of that policy, which we muſt reſort to; for the critical moment is arrived, when we are obliged, for our own particular intereſt, to adopt meaſures for the relief and civilization of the poor, or conſign the taſk into the hands of a Britiſh legiſlature, who will feel the imperious neceſſity of enacting poor rates, and in their formation may

juſtly

juſtly retort as ſeverely on the rich, as *they* have hitherto ſhewn a ſupineneſs towards ſuch a laudable inſtitution. In England, this ſalutary meaſure has become a ſerious burthen, by the admiſſion and ſufferance of abuſes; we have the advantage of diſtinguiſhing thoſe evils in the formation of *our* poor laws, and of ſteering clear of them; and without a hearty co-operation of the wealthy and induſtrious part of the community, to work out and ſupport a fit and proper eſtabliſhment, all thoſe evils and burthens would alſo gradually creep in upon us.

As I truſt the importance of this meaſure already occupies a good deal of attention, ſo various methods or plans muſt be in contemplation; but I think the leading ſtep to its accompliſhment might be, by the legiſlature inveſting grand juries with power to levy a ſum of money for the commencement of the buſineſs; it would moſt probably be ſucceſsful, if all individual emolument, or, in other words, if *jobbing* was ſteadily baniſhed in the formation of the ſyſtem; and a certain ſmall levy on every capable perſon of the community, (within certain ages) would be a very fair mode of aſſeſſment to complete the fund. I very earneſtly recommend a ſerious peruſal of Mr. Pew's advice* on this ſubject, from which ſufficient hints might be collected to form a plan truly effective, without being at all burthenſome or partial to any claſs of people.

The

* See page 53 in this book.

The wages of the peaſant are not in a fair proportion to the increaſed value and riſe on the produce of the land; on a judicious reform in this particular much depends, and, it ſhould be attempted with great caution; for, although a very conſiderable increaſe is requiſite, yet it ſhould be gradual and progreſſive; for if too liberally and too ſuddenly extended, it will certainly have a contrary tendency, and only increaſe his diſſolute manners, which might enable him to be laviſh in diſſipation, of courſe encourage idleneſs, and would ultimately injure more than relieve his wife and children.

The beſt means might be gradually effected by increaſing his wages by a little, and let him not touch that increaſe, which ſhould be handed over to the collector by his employer, and have as little as poſſible to do with pariſh officers. To depend on theſe gentry, as in England, is a miſerable reſource; or to ſuffer the inhuman practice of farming out the poor, would be only adopting greater evils, to correct a comparatively leſſer one; and I believe it would be better for the community at large in that country, to have theſe poor laws totally repealed, and depend on a general regular contribution for their ſupport, than to allow a continuation of the abuſes, which have crept in, and have now eſtabliſhed a legal impoſition of greater burthen by far than tithes and many other taxes added together. The idea of farming out the poor is a reproach to a nation,

the

the baſe of whoſe conſtitution is freedom, and it is no leſs a diſgrace to humanity.

Let not the expoſition of evils in a ſyſtem, which was founded in charity, be pleaded as a bugbear to the eſtabliſhment of a ſimilar plan, no leſs merciful than politic; the magnitude of theſe evils is ſo conſpicuous, that they can be avoided, and the baſis of the new ſyſtem ſhould be *general and impartial contribution*, ſo that every individual in the community, capable of employment, ſhould be obliged to ſubſcribe a certain weekly ſum towards that fund, which would then become their own property, and to which they would have a legal claim in the hour of diſtreſs.

It requires but very little conſideration to know, that the wages of the peaſantry are inadequate to their ſupport—how frequently may we ſee a poor labourer, with five, or ſix, or more children, who with his wife are entirely dependent on the miſerable pittance of from ſix pence to ten pence a day, out of which every article of life muſt be procured, his wife being occupied in the care of ſo numerous an infant family? It is then on him alone they all depend; and are his utmoſt exertions in the time of health adequate to procure them food? But, ſhould ſickneſs overtake him, how truly deplorable is the ſituation of that wretched family, who muſt either beg or ſteal for a miſerable exiſtence? for the boaſted conſtitution of this country affords them no protection. The afflicted father is too poor to contract

debts,

debts, which it is impoſſible he ſhould be able to repay; hence the ſource of rebellion and diſcontent; hence rages the mania for emigration; hence it is, that the children of the peaſant, which are in other countries his wealth, are his incumbrance in this; and hence it is, that our great population is the ſource of our national poverty.

Let it not be aſſerted, that the national pride would reſiſt the benefits, which might be derived from this ſalutary propoſed meaſure; I know that the peaſants of Ireland have a commendable pride, and that many of them would ſuffer the moſt poignant diſtreſs, rather than be indebted for their relief to charitable inſtitutions; but in their applications to an eſtabliſhment, whoſe funds are ſupported by their own contributions, there could be nothing derogatory to their pride, and they only reſort to the general ſtock purſe in the day of want.

It is by the adoption of ſuch a plan, that the preſent miſerable ſituation of the induſtrious peaſant would be made truly comfortable; every claſs of the community would ſoon be pleaſed, that there was an obligation on them to contribute to the general ſupport; for the ſalutary effects of the meaſure would be quickly felt, and gratefully acknowledged.

Nor would the collection of theſe ſums be any troubleſome matter, nor ſcarce any expenſe attending the eſtabliſhment; one officer to each pariſh would be

quite

quite sufficient, and the person, who gives the employment, ought to be empowered to stop the weekly proportion of each person's wages, which should be handed to the treasurer, who would give security for the trust, and pay interest for the money remaining in his hands. A committee of the parishioners should be chosen at regular periods, to inspect the funds and disbursements, which should be reported every meeting.

Let us now consider the happy change, which such an institution would soon effect; let us behold the peasant, after his daily labour, returning to his comfortable fire-side, and enjoying the cheerful countenances of his happy family; he feels his home now endeared to him, which was lately the seat of sickness and squalid poverty; when thus the necessaries of life are supplied, and the sweets of comfort and independence tasted, civilization will rapidly follow with commendable emulation, and that ignorant and gross superstition, which is now the idol of the poor, will fall before the light of reason, which will soon prevail even with the children of the present generation; for it cannot be denied, that the love of learning is one of the strongest features in the national character.

Independent of the pleasing feelings resulting from such an institution, as would better the condition of our fellow-creatures, we will find also our best policy to adopt it, by doing away the necessity of perhaps a more rigid system, the burthen of which may fall entirely on

one

one claſs; for that ſomething muſt be done very ſpeedily, is ſelf evident.

I now ſubmit my imperfect ideas on this ſubject, and would only ſuggeſt the propriety of county meetings, to take the matter into serious conſideration, and to inſtruct their repreſentatives to apply to parliament for their aid, towards the attainment of ſo great and important a concern; and which aſſiſtance will be ſurely granted. In our reduced repreſentation, and in the happy hour of returning peace, there is leſs of politics to agitate us; let us therefore beſtow ſome attention on our internal maladies; how far conſtitutional it may be to propoſe teſts to the candidates at elections for ſupporting popular meaſures, I do not preſume to ſay; but if ever a teſt was excuſeable, it is ſurely in ſo humane and neceſſary a cauſe, as the emancipation of the poor: I truſt it would find no oppoſition, as it would doubtleſs meet the views of every candidate, who is warmed by that patriotiſm, which he is ambitious to have the power of cultivating, and of every gentleman, who is zealous in the cauſe of humanity, which in this inſtance his co-operation would truly ſerve.

FINIS

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