

STATISTICAL SURVEY
OF THE
COUNTY LEITRIM,

WITH
OBSERVATIONS
ON
THE MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT;

DRAWN UP FOR THE CONSIDERATION, AND BY ORDER

OF
The Dublin Society,

BY
JAMES M'PARLAN, M. D.



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1802.

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.

P R E F A C E.



The objects enquired after in compiling this Report, embraced so complicated a variety, and the sources of information were so various, that it was impossible agreement on all the points and perfection could be the result. It is to be submitted, therefore, to the principal gentlemen of Leitrim, for such correction and improvement as they may deem necessary ; out of which, after their observations shall have been returned, a selection is to be made for re-publication. I have adopted as an index the arrangement of the subject matter furnished by the Dublin Society.

DUBLIN, MARCH 1802.

SUGGESTIONS

ERRATA.

Page 28, line 5 and 6, from top, for it is well read it is seldom well.

*95, — 7, from bottom, for I shall undertake read I shall
not undertake.*

SUGGESTIONS OF ENQUIRY

FOR GENTLEMEN WHO SHALL UNDERTAKE THE FORMING OF

AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

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Climate,

Soil and Surface,

Minerals,

Water.

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—————how far capable of further improvement,

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 ——— of particular clauses therein,
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 ——— of navigations and navigable rivers,
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 whether the survey is published.
 Weights and measures, liquid or dry—in what instances are
 weights assigned for measures—or *vice versa*.
 The weight or measure, by which grain, flour, potatoes, butter,
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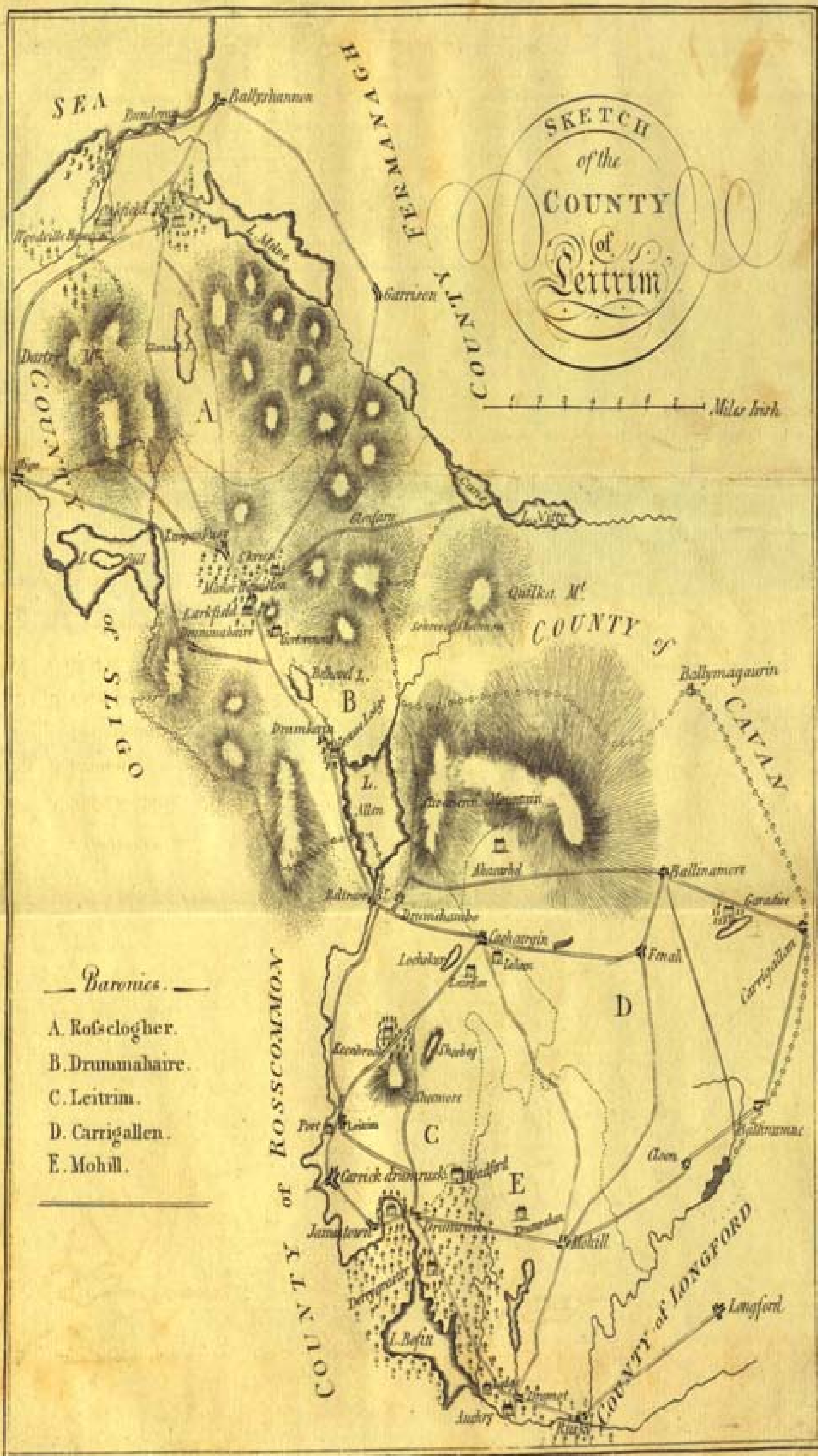
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STATISTICAL



SKETCH
of the
COUNTY
of
Leitrim

Miles Irish

- Baronies.
- A. Rosclogher.
 - B. Drummahaire.
 - C. Leitrim.
 - D. Carrigallen.
 - E. Mohill.

STATISTICAL SURVEY

OF THE

COUNTY OF LEITRIM.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

General Situation.

THE County of Leitrim makes part of a wide shelving slope, extending from the highest grounds in the county of Roscommon, in a north eastwardly direction, along the counties of Leitrim, Sligo, Donegal, and Derry, to those parts of the Atlantic Ocean, which terminate this slope. A great part of this irregularly gradual descent I have often rode in one day, sometimes up, and sometimes down, and can undertake to affirm, that it is not only visible to the naked eye, but distressing to the horse and horseman.

I am credibly informed, that a declivity not dissimilar to this expands itself from the counties of Cork and

Kerry to the north of this kingdom.—This contributes to demonstrate *the accession* of the terraqueous globe to a spheroidal shape, and may suggest a hint for some new inland navigation.

Particular Situation, Connection, Extent, and Figure.

As to those points I have consulted Salmon, Walker, and Crutwell.—In the actual investigation of the county, I found them false guides, which caused me to search more minutely for the truth of those particulars.

The figure of this county produces an irregular cone, the base of which is south, and seated in the county of Longford; the apex runs north into the bay of Ballyshannon, in the Atlantic Ocean. The south, and nearly an equal part of the western limits, is formed by the River Shannon, which meets the base at rather an acute angle, and divides it from Roscommon all the way to Lough Allen. Then the lake itself (just opposite to, and two miles eastward of the Arigna Iron-works in the county Roscommon) becomes the boundary of the two counties for four miles northward, where they first come into contact without the intervention of water, except a very small rivulet called Srooawn-an-Ionlaid, which they preserve for five or six miles to Glackandara. It then joins the county of Sligo, which accompanies it to the sea, forming the
northern

northern part of the western limits. On the eastern side of the sea Leitrim meets the county of Donegal in a distance of about two miles, which together with Fermanagh constitutes the northern part—but the southern and greatest part of the eastern boundary is the county of Cavan.

The length of this county, counting carefully from town to town as accurately as possible, through a country where some of the roads are neither marked nor measured, and allowing for the variation of those roads from a right line, is about 46 miles.

Its breadth at the base, from County-bridge, in the county Cavan, to the Shannon, is sixteen miles—the apex at the sea is only three miles broad between the two rivulets, Bundrows, which divides it from Donegal, and Brinduff, which there divides it from Sligo. But this apex, after receding about two miles from the sea southward, soon expands into considerable breadth, which is various in different parts, but may, I should think, be computed at a medium of sixteen miles, though Sir William Petty makes it about thirteen miles. But he did not, because in those days he could not, owing to forests, rivers, and marshes, go round its confines, or survey it accurately.

The centre of the county of Leitrim is distant from Dublin about eighty miles. It lies consequently in the seventh degree of west longitude, and fifty-fifth of north latitude.

If variety is a beauty, this county possesses it in an eminent degree—for it not only exhibits extensive tracts of some of the best and worst lands in the world, but exhibits them arranged in picturesque disorder, interspersed with hill, dale, wood, water, and mountain, forming some beautifully bold and grand landscapes.

The ride from Rusky to Carrick-on-Shannon, along the charming outlets of Drumsna, no traveller can pass without admiration and pleasure. The windings of the Shannon through a fertile country, the intrusion of the wooded peninsula on its course, the pretty coping of Shubeg and Shumore, as if designed by nature as a foil to the lofty grandeur of the more distant mountain of Sleive-an-Jaroin, are objects, which on the one hand arrest the avidity of every one's observation, while on the other the sloping ascent, the luxuriant and variegated swell of that part of the county Roscommon, called Teeraroan, seduces the fancy and the eye of curiosity to range it over and over.

In travelling northward by Lough Allen on either side of the lake, one observes the country, though tolerably good for tillage (as shall under its proper head be adverted to) to have a grey gloomy aspect, rising by a steep ascent from the verge of the lake for a distance of two, three, and four miles to the black mountains, which almost all around the lake terminate the visible horizon; I say *almost*, for even the gloom of this part of the country is relieved by partial beauties, particu-

larly

larly in different delightful views about the entrance of the Shannon into, and departure from the lake. Then leaving the lake and travelling northward towards the sea, the lands for five or six miles on either side seem to be but little, if any thing, of a better quality than those last described; however, in advancing, or rather descending northward, large portions of land of very superior quality appear dispersed about Dro-mahir, Manorhamilton, and Glancarr, and the face of the country is not less various and picturesque than the other parts.

The rides and views about Manorhamilton and Lurganboy are extremely pretty. Mr. Cullen's demesne is naturally beautiful, highly improved, and the young and old plantations arranged in a very handsome style.

It is highly interesting to see so much improvement, and such natural advantages about the little village of Lurganboy.

This village is situated in a romantic manner—the road strays from it through old woods and new plantations dispersed in as careless a manner as the windings of the river Boonid, which ornaments them. The lands are of excellent quality, and the whole scene, mountains and all, peculiarly pretty.

In advancing still nearer to the sea, a mixture of the best and worst lands still continues to diversify the country. But here scenes of superior design and dig-
nity

nity enrapture the beholder. The bay of Donegal opens to the view, while the allurements of Loughmelvyn seize the eye to gaze on its old ruins and wooded islands; and the stupendous mountains of Dartry and Banbulben rise into the clouds, as if eager to enjoy the surrounding scenery, which receives no small embellishment from Woodville, the handsome seat of Major Dickson, and Counsellor Johnston's villa on the banks of Loughmelvyn.

Divisions.

The only divisions, which to me appear necessary, are those of baronies and districts. The parochial subdivisions shall incidentally appear under the heads of Tythes and Population.

The baronies distribute themselves into five in number, which I shall enumerate in the order they are situated in from north to south. Beginning therefore at the sea, the first is

Rosslogher, which comprehends all the lower part of the county, and extends southward to Newtown and Manorhamilton. About those points commences the Barony of

Dromahaire,

Dromahare, which embraces all the middle parts of the county, and ascends southward as far as Dromshambo. Here commences to the eastward

Carrigallen, which travelling southward comprizes nearly one half in breadth of the county, and terminates in its base to the west of the county of Longford.

Leitrim, on the west of Carrigallen, runs parallel with it southward a few miles ; and there commences the barony of

Mobill, which runs the remainder of the journey southward, parallel with Carrigallen, on the east side of the county, and terminates in the common base Longford.

Those baronies have been (under a late act of parliament, in consequence of the increase of population, and consequent increase and multiplicity of business, which could not within the usual time be disposed of at the general assizes) divided into two districts for the trial and dispatch of civil bills, assaults, and other small offences by the magistrates of the counties ; for whose advice and assistance in points of law, which they might not be competent to decide on, a lawyer is appointed in each county, with a salary, to attend the sessions under the title of Assistant Barrister. Those two districts are

Manorhamilton, which comprehends the baronies of Rossclogher and Dromahare, and

Carrick-

Carrick-on-Shannon, which is composed of the baronies of Leitrim, Carrigallen, and Mohill. The session-towns are, for the district of Manorhamilton the town of that name, and for the district of Carrick-on-Shannon that town and Ballinamore.

Climate.

About the cause of the temperature in Ireland, and deviations from it in other parts of Europe, though in the same latitude, there is, I believe, but one opinion, that it proceeds from the exhalations of the surrounding ocean and seas, which at the same time communicate a genial warmth, and are perhaps no inactive agents in correcting any noxious vapours, that might have a tendency to the generation of plagues or insalubrity. But our having remained so long free from plagues might be attributed to the antiseptic and astringent nature of our bogs and marshes, whose exhalations must also be of that disposition; and perhaps still more to the great improvement in widening and enlarging our houses, windows, and streets. Our improvements also in cleanliness, that grand harbinger and preserver of health and spirits, cannot but influence the atmosphere, improve our climate, and banish or prevent all plagues and pestilence.

As to the particular climate of Leitrim itself, it is not only a little colder than the southern parts of Ireland, where the arbutus and the myrtle are indigenous, and the mildness of the whole year favours their vegetation, but it is also more subject to rains, owing to the great number and height of its mountains, which either dissolve by their vapours, or break into rain the clouds almost just emerging from the ocean.

Soil and Surface.

The soil and surface must exhibit the same degree of diversity, which the outward complexion of the country bore in its general description; large tracts of deep dark rich soil, on limestone bottom, are to be found in the neighbourhoods of Sheemore, Mohill, Dromahaire, and Manorhamilton.

But the greatest part of the county, not including the mountains, is composed of high steep hills and vallies—the tops and sides of most of those hills in the southern parts are surfaced with a thin stratum of hungry ferruginous loam, and this loam substrated with a hard gravel of the same complexion with the hill.

The vallies, which are generally watered with rivulets, are of a quality superior to the hills, deeper in surface, not so reddish, and much more fertile; as if those hills in some general deluge had been mace-

rated by water, which in subsiding carried to the valleys, and there deposited, like the overflowings of the Nile, all the fertility it dissolved. In fact, the light crust of fertile soil, with which those hills are now covered, seems to have been acquired since Noah's time only, calculating on all the nutritious matter deposited by rains, frosts, snows, decayed vegetables, &c. but deducting at the same time the average loss of those acquisitions by *heavy* rains and floods sweeping along the steep declivities of the hills.

It would be almost impossible to descend to a minute and particular account of all the varieties of soil to be met with even within a small compass of those hills, but in general it may be observed they are of a baritico-argillaceous quality, intermixed with sand and gravel, and very retentive of water; but from the form of the hills, this wet is easily drawn off by surface-draining and water-furrowing, with the utility of which, from necessity and experience, the people are very well acquainted. The natives call it a stiff, heavy, cold, and wet soil. In general also next to the surface succeeds a stratum of gravel, which, if uncovered, would not be a bad road, and under this again are quarries of various coloured slate, sometimes black, brown, &c. sometimes thick, sometimes thin, and almost always under all a yellowish, brownish, or blackish stiff argillaceous bottom; not unfrequently, however, without the intervention of either gravel or slate, a raw, ponderous,

derous, unproductive earth of various colours, most commonly a lilly reddish, succeeds to the vegetative surface.

In describing the soil and surface of this county, the moors, bogs, and mountains, which are numerous and extensive, should not be overlooked; but a particular account of them shall be given in a separate article, concerning their extent, quality, and the means of improving them.

Minerals.

Though we always cannot, and perhaps should not attempt to scrutinize the dispensations of Providence, it cannot be called exploring too minutely to observe, that the blessings, which are scantily bestowed on the soil and surface of Leitrim, seem amply recompensed in that rich redundancy of treasure concealed by that surface.

On the north side of Slieve-an-Jaroin, over Lough Allen, in the deep dingles, which ages have worn out by the cascading of the mountain floods, the iron ore lies scattered in abundance, and alternate strata of limestone are visible in the banks, evidently interposed by Providence as a flux for the metal. On the south and west also, on the estates of Mr. Peyhen and Mr.

Johnston, are thin strata of iron ore, and every indication of deeper and richer beds.

The ore of Slieve-an-Jaroin, Mr. O'Reilly informs me, is by far richer than that found on the Roscommon side of Lough Allen, and by a certain proportionate mixture of both, experience produced to him, when proprietor of the Arigna iron-works, grey and white irons of such quality as to emulate, if not exceed, those of any other country.

Of this iron ore thick strata, amounting nearly to quarries, are visible in the beds of the cataracts of Barnameena, on Mr. Lyons's property, called Boolynabinne, on Rathmore, Altnamion, commonly called Altnangenny, Altnafasana, and many other places.

At Ballinamore and Dromshambo, little towns within a few miles of this mountain, iron furnaces and works have been carried on till lately by Sir Charles Coote, and in my own time by Mr. Reynolds ; and the remains of several furnaces are visible on different parts north and south of the mountain, which seem to have been carried on formerly to great extent.

Iron ore is visible in many other parts on all the mountains round the lake, even in the interior of the champain part near the Shannon, a little south of Drumfna. In a word what we have seen, and the diffusion of chalybeate springs and ferruginous appearances indicate the existence of this ore in many other parts of the country, where it lies undiscovered.

On the estates of Mr. Johnston and Mr. Peyhen, south and west of this mountain, just under the regular rocky cornice near the top, a stratum of coal is visible. Mr. Johnston has worked it, he says, to advantage for his own and the public use. In surrouding the mountain it passes through Mr. Lyons's estate of Boolynabinne, and still farther eastward a couple of miles.

It is more an indication of deeper beds of coal lower down, or deeper into the mountain, than it seems itself capable of being very productive.

In the beds of many rivers, which run from the top of the mountain, and of those particularly on and about Ahacashel, the seat of Mr. Johnston, large and deep beds of pipe-clay and yellow ochre are to be seen, and different heavy smooth viscid earths, some intermixed with flint-gravel, and some with the finest siliceous sand.

The Munterkenny mountains west of Lough Allen, teem with inexhaustible stores of coal and iron ore.

Near the top of the mountain, a little down from and southward of where Mr. Johnston had worked the coal-pits above Ahacashel, a great bulk bulged from the middle of a spongy marsh of heavy smooth pea-green viscous earth, beautifully sparkling with yellow sand. Not far below the cornice, about two miles north west of the place last described, is a great abundance of yellow sand, whether pyritic, or of whatever other nature, I shall not attempt to interfere, as my
verbal

verbal directions were to send specimens to the Dublin Society of any mineral I met, without giving myself any further concern.

Within a quarter of a mile of Lurganboy, on the Sligo road, is a large quarry of lead ore.

On the north side of Binbo are deep pits, from which copper ore had been raised by the late Mr. Wynne.

About half a mile west of those pits, in the curious river called the Redstone river, are large beds of white and brownish chalks.

Here likewise are clays of different colours, blueish, green, yellow, pale red, a beautiful crimson, &c.—Those clays are tough as glue, smooth and unctuous to the touch, and in various degrees of coarseness, consistence, and induration up to stone. The sands, with which they are mixed, are very fine and siliceous.

Manganese is here to be found in great quantities, and the strongest indications of iron ore are every where hereabout conspicuous.

Throughout almost all parts of the county limestone and limestone-gravel are every where to be found; and marls, of different kinds and colours, are not far to be sent for.

The Redstone river is a singular, a rare curiosity. It runs through Mr. Wynne's estate. On his estate are also made all the Binbo discoveries, which his servants shewed me with much civility. The banks and bottom of this river exhibit all the variety of colours, which
diversify

diversify the clays, tinged and glowing from the pencil of nature. Even the bed of this river is bestrewed with stones, varying and glowing in still a more picturesque manner of colour and derangement.

There is every reason to be convinced those stones are composed of the clays, whose colour they reflect, whether by induration or petrification ; I should suppose the former, from the various degrees of it, as mentioned, which they prove in a ratio equal to their dryness in the bank.

The unexpected discovery of so strange, and so beautiful a phenomenon, is a seasonable relief to the sombre visage of the surrounding scene, and cannot but affect agreeably not only the senses and imagination, but the whole view, vale, mountain, and all, may afford ample matter of more serious reflection ; and what now strikes me on the subject, not deeming it a very irrelevant digression, I beg leave to offer in a few words, particularly, as mountains compose so large a portion of this county, and that my remarks in some degree extend to them all.

Binbo is a great black-looking mountain. It might be asked, to what end nature could have heaped up such a bulk to annoy the surrounding inhabitants.

I don't pretend to explore more deeply than what seems obvious and superficial, and of that nature, that is obvious to every plain observer, seems to be the various and the vast utility of those mountains. Binbo, for

for instance, the immediate object of those reflections, teems with abundance of all the necessary materials for pottery and porcelain manufactories. Immediately surrounding are fuller's-earth, lead, copper, and steel ores, with abundance of fuel and water.

As all those materials are not to met with high up in, but round the base of the mountain, I might be asked, why I should so much value the mountain for a boon it does not produce?—I could reply—It is visible those mountains had been not very many thousands of years back but one heap, which nature, in one of her affectionate paroxisms, burst and scattered into separate hills, anxious to leave exposed in the vallies for the good of mankind, the treasure she so long concealed. This, therefore, is not one, but a manifold advantage I derive from Binbo Hill, because, if it was not there, we should, to this hour, be deprived of all the wealth it exposes.

In prospect I also derive this benefit from Binbo—that as the surrounding valley produces abundance of the richest, and most appropriate manures, I view in advance a charming landscape, embellished by this hill in luxuriant bloom of cultivation and verdure, scattering abundant supplies of provisions around its base, among the lively bustle of trades and manufactories, and all the scenes of industry, population, and the busy buzz of commerce and society.

The northwest mountains of Ireland, of which those of my county make a part, produce another most salutary,

salutary, though, I believe, hitherto unobserved effect. It is this—the winds on the westerly coast of Ireland, almost incessantly, blow from the ocean. Every tree and bush along the coast, and as many as are exposed to the sphere of their action, even twenty miles away from the sea, are not only bent to the east, but either checked or stunted in their growth, and bear ample testimony to this part of my position. Those winds, not only warp the trees and bushes into premature decrepitude, but cause the grasses, and other unsheltered vegetables, to live and die dwarfs. But why?—Because those winds not only exercise their sharpness on them all, but prevent the fall of, and sweep away in a common vortex, *the dews*, so refreshing to the interior of the island, and every-where so necessary to vegetation.

This can only be redressed by the kind intervention of those mountains, *who* stand up to intercept the escaping clouds, and diffuse them into prolific showers on the parching plains, while they shelter others from winds and storms.

Water.

This county is not less remarkable for high and rich mountains, than it is for fresh and mineral waters.—I shall treat of them both separately.

Here are one principal lake, and one principal river, besides a great many subordinate ones of both kinds. Indeed the whole county, and every individual farm, is so well supplied with water, that one neighbour, in search of it, need never hardly trespass on the other.

The Shannon is the principal river. It is in Irish called *Sionan*, which means calmness, or suavity of aspect, or of any thing, to which it is a predicate. It is so called from the smoothness of its surface and equability of course, and is peculiarly and properly distinguished by that name from the other rivers in the neighbourhood of its source, and the first ten miles of its course, which derive their source from the broken clouds, and overflowings of some lakes on the tops of the surrounding mountains, and tremendously roaring cascade, in rapid torrents, through deep and wide dingles, which ages have excavated in the face of the rocks; and then rolling in prodigious volumes into the lowlands, and more level grounds, often sweep into eternity the careless passengers.

This river has its source in a pretty little plain, at the foot of Quilka mountain, which stands about four miles into the county of Cavan; not the famous Mr. Sheridan's Quilka, but another mountain of that name, which hangs over Swanlingbar. Near the bottom of this little plain is a spring, about twenty feet in diameter, from which issues the Shannon.

It is not small, as is generally thought, at or near its rise, but, on the contrary, is called by the natives, *Abhain-mhor*, or the large river, to distinguish it from the neighbouring ones, which, except in times of floods, are not only small, but their beds are sometimes dry; nor is its general course, as commonly supposed, from north to south; for immediately from the spring, except in a few trifling deflexions, it takes a western direction to Lough Allen, which it continues through that lake to Carrick-on-Shannon; but at Carrick-on-Shannon, after eluding the high hills of Leitrim, it takes a southern wind, sloping among the levels to the county of Longford—and there again, gets into a westerly track, which it pursues in a tortuous, but sometimes a southerly course, to Limerick.

Abhain-Naille.—The source of this river is five miles into Leacka mountain, which rises between Lough Allen and Manorhamilton. It is so called from St. Naill, or St. Natalis, who built a monastery in that strange situation, that is, on the top of this mountain. The antiquaries not being agreed upon the county, to which this monastery belonged, in search of it I traced this river to its source, which is in Leacka mountain lake, otherwise Killowmawn lake. This river is rather curious on this account—that the little lake, from which it issues, is on the highest summit of the mountain, without any slope or fall collective of any water, and still it is never dry, but rather abundantly supplied. It

is at the source about ten feet broad ; by the junction of some rivulets it soon acquires both volume and velocity, and rapidly dashes down to the Shannon, with which it *inofculates* at an obtuse angle, about a mile east of Lough Allen.

Duibhachar.—This river runs from Belhovel-lake to Lough Allen. It is at and near its source only small, but, in a journey of about four miles to Lough Allen, it receives at least a dozen rivulets, descending from the mountain and hills of Barradaaltdeag, or the tops of the twelve dingles, and, before it joins the lake, becomes wide and deep. This river, like the Shannon, makes a deceptive shew of going against the height, or from north to south ; but though it runs pretty much in that direction, and that the sea at Sligo is upwards of 100 feet lower than Lough Allen, Mr. Kirwan thinks to a certainty eighty, still the distance this river runs is only very partial; and even in that short distance it slopes among the levels, as the Shannon does, avoiding the ascending hills to effect its junction with the lake. As I feel this a stupid kind of writing, and I am sure it must prove much more so to the reader, and as those already mentioned are the only rivers of any note, except Boorrid about Dromahare, or that could even deserve consideration, even in case the Canal should be continued from Tarmonbarry to Sligo ; I therefore beg leave to refer to the map, which shall exhibit a minute delineation of the few remaining rivulets. For the

lakes

lakes also, being in number almost uncountable, I must, for the same reason, refer to the map, except two or three, that may come in the way of any inland navigation, or that in fact have any claim to particular observation.

Lough Allen is indisputably entitled to the first notice, as the receiver and distributor of almost all the current water of the county, and the embryo agent of any Canal, that can ever pass through it. And indeed, though definitions are very rare, *Lough Allen* is now not only described, but defined, as what is already mentioned distinguishes it from all the other lakes in the county. And there remains only to observe, that it stretches about seven miles in length, between *Dromshambo* and *Drumkerrin*, and that its medium breadth is about five miles. The storms on this lake are very boisterous, and the waves run mountain high. The collection of such volumes of wind between such high mountains must produce this effect. *Hugh Magowan*, a very experienced old fisherman, and well acquainted with the soundings of this lake, having for many years been employed in fishing and ferrying turf for a gentleman's house on the verge of it, was often heard to say, it was in many places unfathomably deep.

Clean Lough, otherwise called *Belhovel* lake, has very little worth remarking, except what mere existence gives every creature, and that in case of an inland navigation from the *Shannon* to *Sligo*, it may furnish some supply
of

of water. It lies about four miles a little to the north west of Lough Allen, with which it communicates by the river Duibhachar. It is not quite two miles long, and scarcely one broad.

Lough Melvyn, in Dartry, is a very pretty lake, ornamented with wooded islands and old ruins. It is scarcely two miles broad, about four in length, and runs partly into the county of Fermanagh. It is within two miles of the sea at Bundoran.

Lough Gill, that charming paradise, does not all belong to Leitrim; indeed it almost all belongs to the county of Sligo, so much so, that little more than a bare right to view and mention it remains to us. This lake is by nature extremely romantic and picturesque, and its banks and borders so highly improved, particularly by Mr. Wynne, that without exaggeration it may be considered one of her most enchanting *chef d'œuvres*. I should suppose it about five or six miles in length, and about two broad; the wing of it, which touches Leitrim, comes in at Newtown.

Lough Coffin is only a small expansion of the Shannon, just south of Dromsna.

Paradise Lake, on which is Paradise, the charming seat of Mr. Percy, is not an inconsiderable piece of water, and will, together with Newtowngore lake, and some other small ones in that neighbourhood, prove useful to the canal, which is talked of, from the county of

of Cavan to the Shannon. They lie between Ballinamore and Killishandra, in the county of Cavan.

Mineral Waters.

The mineral waters of this county are cold springs, of two sorts only, chalybeate and sulphureous, of which the principal is

Dromsna Spa.—It is a sulphureous spring, within half a mile east of that town, issuing from the verge of a small lake, every way unnoticeable, except that it here contributes to complete a beautiful landscape, and form one of the prettiest vallies imaginable. The ride or walk to it among woods and rows of trees is delightful—from among those you discover the Shannon winding to the southward, through a fine wooded country, while the lofty mountains on the north and west terminate a charming *coup d'œil*.

Meelock Water.—Here, in the middle of a mountain, Dromsna and Tena, is a spring producing a water much stronger than that of Dromsna. A scorbutic patient came there from Swanlingbar, staid a month, drank four quarts every day, which proved more aperient than the Swanlingbar water, and cured him.

Athimonus.—Here, half a mile from the former, is another spring of the same kind.

There

There are, beside those enumerated, several springs of the sulphureous family about Dromshambo, Castlecargan, and other places, so that it appears this sort of water circulates through a great extent of the country, as the Seltzer water does for *many many* miles along the Rhine and surrounding interior of the country.

Cavan Spa. This issues from the southern neck of a peninsula, called Gobacowan, which runs into the north extremity of Lough Allen. It has a strong ferruginous scum and taste, and is clearly pellucid. The lake water sometimes inundates this spring; when it does not, the shore stones immediately surrounding it are of a dark copper colour. I myself have known this water to relieve some diseases of the stomach and bowels, chiefly those arising from indigestion, acting not only as a common diluent, but peculiarly so in consequence of the digestive salts, which waters of this class generally contain.

The effect of this water was no doubt promoted by its aperient power, a pint of it generally being equal in effect to an ounce of Rochelle salts; and finally by its tonic powers to prevent a return of those crudities.

Oakfield Spa.—This is on Counsellor Johnston's estate, within a couple of miles of the sea. It is of the chalybeate class, and not dissimilar in effect to the last described.

A G R I C U L T U R E.

Mode of Culture.

The mode of culture is with a long narrow spade, commonly called a loy. This machine they prefer to ploughs, and assign many reasons for doing so. The hills, of which the whole county is nearly composed, are very steep, beset with stones; and, notwithstanding the soil being in general gravelly, so tough and retentive of wet as to render ploughing objectionable. They also complain of a scarcity of horses, but above all they assign, as a peculiar inducement, the abundance of crop yielded by the loy-culture, compared to that of the plough. In some of the more level parts ploughing is in practice, and in some others they unite both, first ploughing, and then mincing and dressing with the loy.

The soil being in general of the stiff argillaceous kind, wherever it is so, the potatoes are planted by dibbling with the *steeven*. In a few places they plant by spreading

spreading the cuts on the dung or green turf, and then digging up the furrows.

And in still some fewer places near the sea, where the soil is light and friable, they plant the potatoes by drilling with a one-horse plough, particularly in stubble and old potatoe ground.

From the middle of April to the middle of May is the common time of planting potatoes, and very little earlier than of sowing oats; as the coldness, the clamminess, and wet of the soil require the vegetative inspiration of heat to be productive.

The manner of preparing the soil for oats is censurable, particularly when seldom it is ploughed; but even, when prepared with the loy, it is seldom sufficiently worked or minced; for, after sowing the seed and harrowing, which the poor people here often do by trailing green bushes along the ridges, whole banks of those ridges remain unbroken, and the vegetation appears, as if the ground had been drilled, or the seed dibbled in irregular ranges.

Extent of it, and of each species of grain sowed.

The extent of agriculture in the county of Leitrim is very limited, either in potatoes or grain, except what is done by one gentleman, Mr. Irwin of Drimsilla, who
has

has annually about ten acres of potatoe tillage, with the usual succession of other crops. He very much to his honour, after paying three pounds for manuring with lime every acre of his rushy, heavy, wet, vitriolic gutter, supports a large family very decently on the fruits of his profits and industry. I say, except what is done by this gentleman, very little more, than what is intended for home consumption, is ever cultivated. And as to the different species of grain, they are as limited in variety as in quantity. The only variety of grain, except oats, of which there is generally abundance for home consumption, extends to a little barley, less rye, and still a lesser quantity of wheat, and those only in a few demesnes of a few residing gentlemen, or a few pet fields of very few farmers, and therefore are disentitled to any notice in general calculation.

Course of crops.

Potatoes are the first two crops, then flax one crop; to the flax succeed oats for one, two, three, or more years, according to the goodness and permanence of the soil and manure.

I am sorry to observe, that in some southern parts, and those chiefly in the parishes of Mohill and Cloone, where a great deal of the soil is a light hungry till, they get but one crop of potatoes, one of flax, and one of oats ; but when they sow a second crop of oats, it is well worth the reaping.

The poor tenants, who are stinted in lea or grazing ground, after having the usual rotation of potatoes, flax, and oats, put their little manure on the same exhausted fields, which repay them with the course and abundance of crops they had before : and so went on this return and renovation as long as some grey heads, who assured me of it, remembered.

In some places a crop of oats succeeds the potatoes, where the soil is apprehended to be too rich for flax.

As little remains to be said of the course of any other crop, except those already mentioned, as there was to be noticed of the extent and variety, in which they are cultivated.

Use of oxen, how harnessed.

Oxen are used only by two gentlemen in all this county ; they are used in every species of work like horses ; Mr. Irwin's bullocks are harnessed with wooden yokes

yokes so rounded as not to injure them, but in other respects like horses. Major Dickson's oxen are worked and harnessed like horses; his are bought for about four pounds each, worked eight or nine years, after which time and long services they sell fat at £.25 each. Horses, to be able to work in winter, must be fed with hay and oats, and after becoming aged get every day less valuable. The bullocks require no oats, work as well, and continue to improve till sold at six times the sum they were bought at. Hence it is clear, the use of them deserves encouragement, and every preference to horses for the purpose of slow work.

Nature and use of implements of husbandry.

Plough, loy, shovel, spade, grape, pitchfork, flane, harrow, rake, fork, and steeven, are the usual implements in use here among the inhabitants.

The *plough* is the common Irish one, drawn by one, two, three, or four horses, as the weight or depth of the soil requires. The *loy* is a sort of spade of uncommon shape, having room only for the right foot to work on, about four inches broad at the lower end, tapering to a breadth of five or six inches to where the foot comes on, which is a distance of about eighteen inches from the lower extremity, with a handle about five feet long.

The

The part of it, called the handle or haft, is fashioned from solid wood, which slips into an iron socket edged and fitted to the timber in a strong and permanent, though simple manner.

This sort of machine is admirably well adapted to the weight and tenacity of the soil. A broad short spade, pushed into this ponderous gluey stuff, must remain there, as if in a locked vice, whereas this narrow one fits to its own breadth a portable weight, and the long handle answering as a *lever*, and the back (where the foot comes on, supported by the outside of the foot) as a *fulcrum* in the operation of digging, very much facilitates the labour.

Shovel is the same as used in Dublin, and throughout the kingdom.

Spade used in the gardens, the same as every where.

Grape is a three pronged fork with a handle, which is used for gathering, filling, and spreading dung.

Pitchfork a two-pronged fork, such as those in other parts, for pitching and working at hay, and other uses.

Slane, the two-sided spade used in cutting turf.

Harrow, rake, fork, are the same as those used in England, and in other parts of Ireland; the harrow, it must be said, is of an inferior quality.

But the *Steeven*, I believe, is rather unique in its form, and a mere denizen of Leitrim, which, like the loy, necessity suggested to the invention of the inhabitants.

They

They could not but easily observe, that in those stiff grounds the tender shoots of a potatoe could not as freely vegetate, as through a hole made for them and filled with broken friable mould; they therefore invented, and use this implement for dibbling the potatoe cuts. It is made of a pole about four feet long, and three inches in diameter, within about nine inches of the lower extremity, which tapers to a point; a resting and working place is fixed for the foot, to press the steeven into the potatoe-ridge. Into a hole thus made the potatoe-cut is let fall, then the mould, and so work away.

Markets for grain.

It has been already observed, how little more grain is here grown, than what is intended and necessary for home consumption. It necessarily follows, how few the markets must be to dispose of the casual surplus of this consumption.

Mr. Irwin the chief dealer in that article sends, I have heard, the greatest part of his grain and potatoes into the county of Cavan, on the border of which he resides. Carrick-on-Shannon is the chief grain and provision market, it being the chief garrison town, but it is mostly supplied from Roscommon county, on which
it

it borders. The only other towns, where any quantity worth mentioning is bought or sold, are Mohill, Carrigallen, Ballinamore, and Manorhamilton.

Use of green food in Winter.

None used. And this is the more to be regretted, as experience has long since proved, in many parts of the continent, the vast benefits arising from feeding cattle in the house. And even in England, from the Report of the West Riding of Yorkshire it appears, that a field of four acres fed ten cows the summer half-year, the same field having been cut four or five times. The urine of the cows was preserved in reservoirs, and carried to the field, which was besides dressed with manure in winter.

The winter feeding, which by degrees, it is to be hoped, will make its progress into this county, would prove highly useful; considering, according to Doctor Anderson, the prodigious quantity of manure produced by house-feeding.

Pasture.

Nature of it must be as various as the soil, surface, and outward complexion of the country, in the different
accounts

accounts of them appeared to be various. In many of those parts, already described as of a quality superior to the rest, the grasses and herbage are peculiarly delicious. Mr. Gilbert Roycroft, and a few others, produce beef and mutton as fat and nice-flavored as any where to be met with ; and coarse and wet-looking as the worst parts of the county appear, the common consent is, that the pasturage is very productive of excellent milk and butter.

Breed of Cattle, how far improved.

That particular breeds of cattle are peculiar to particular countries is certain. I myself remember to have seen in Hungary, which is a remarkable grazing country, and driven from it into others, whole herds of oxen, between whom or any two of whom I should hardly be able to discriminate in large rawboned, cross-made ugliness, and exact identity of colour, being all that of a dun mouse. I am speaking of about us here in Europe ; for, if we travel into the east or west continents, or high northern or southern latitudes, disparities will appear in the same genera and species of all the animals common to those countries, much wider than I first thought of, to prove my assertion. I have known a farm, called Kilnagarn, in this county, to turn

any of the cow kind fed on it for three years to a dun colour. That a peculiar breed of cattle were the original natives of this county and island, is demonstrable from those analogies, and from facts ; and that that breed was, till its late admixture by the introduction of English cattle, of very high antiquity is equally certain, and this is a good reason for admitting the poorness, in size and in shape, of the Irish breed, when first refreshed by the English blood. For all nature, the animal, vegetable, and *perhaps* mineral worlds dwindle into degeneracy, unless relieved by what is vulgarly called a cross. The same seed repeatedly sowed in the same field, manure it ever so highly, decays. The herbs and grasses not decaying by a long lapse of years in the same field, is no argument against, but a confirmation of my proposition ; for their connubial and promiscuous intercourse invigorates them, and diversifies insomuch, that not only the same class, order, or genus, but the same individual subdivisive variety, by this sexual commerce, will reproduce thousands of other varieties not inferior to their ancestors in size, bloom, and beauty.

Trees and shrubs, originally the same, vary in size, figure, and fruit, according to the different soils and climate they live in, and are reanimated, reproduced, and productive of new varieties, by parting the roots, inoculating, grafting, &c. which is evidently nothing else than a species of that cross so refreshing, and so improving to nature, which cross, supposing it always
of

of the best kind, is perfectly immaterial, whether it had been selected from and within the same breed or family, or from any other, particularly if of a superior kind, or even equally good.

Hence it follows, that a small degenerate breed for want of a cross peculiar to Ireland, to take Leitrim alone under particular consideration, both from its smallness, variety of soil, and of course variety of cattle, would be impossible.

How far improved.

Very far indeed; by the introduction of English cattle for many years into Ireland, the breed is so far improved, as to emulate those of England.

The Board of agriculture admits, that no breed of England, horses, cows, or sheep, are so “early ripe and
“valuable, or perhaps so beautiful as when mixed with
“those of France, Spain, Arabia, and the Indies.” All the knowledge and experience of America in that line admit the benefit of crossing, and the same acknowledgment may fully and fairly be made by Ireland, of the vast improvement received by the mixture of English cattle.

I have seen in England some of their finest cattle; I have also seen their models of improved breeds as executed

cuted by Mr. Garrard for the Board of agriculture. And neither in their still nor animated life have I seen any thing to exceed, for size and beauty of all the points, the cattle of gentlemen and farmers of this country, who make breeding and feeding their care.

Smallness of bone does not seem to be so *general* a favourite here as in England; and why a sheep or ox carrying a double quantity of meat should not be approved, for having a double proportion of bone to carry it, very many persons, extensive and experienced in that line, with whom I have conversed, are astonished,

How far capable of further improvement.

That there is a ne plus ultra in the capability of improvement, we must conceive. This we certainly have not hitherto arrived at; I have endeavoured to analyze the grand principle, on which this improvement depends; to wit, crossing and mixing of breeds and making the best selection, whether *in* or *out* of the same family; and the best means of effecting this amongst the poor, is, the landlords procuring good bulls for their tenantry, and enabling them, as much as possible, to feed them and their get well, and also, to effect that gradually, to introduce and encourage the rearing of artificial grasses and house-feeding.

A certain

A certain gentleman of considerable experience in breeding, and whom I highly respect, has been so *engaged* by Mr. Bakewell's doctrine of breeding within the same family, selecting always from the best, that he told me, if I published my opinion, he would publicly write against it; if he does, it will, I am sure, be with the dispassionate manners of a gentleman, and a candid and fair discussion of the subject.

For my part I acknowledge, I am not much attached to any particular opinion on the subject, and am only led by such arguments and observations, as hitherto seem to me to be the most conclusive.

This gentleman wished, I should erase every word I had written on this subject, and adopt and write his opinion as my own. *That* for the present I must beg leave to decline, but shall not deprive the public of an idea and a practice, which he values so highly, and shall therefore give his description of both in his own words, and leave the public at full option to decide for themselves. They are as follows:

“ It is generally believed, that the original breed of cattle, peculiar to this county and to Ireland in general, were black cattle, similar to those of the county of Kerry and North Wales. Few of them unmixed are found in this district; they have been altered by the admixture of bulls from England of various breeds, and their descendants, without any judicious selection, and very few good cattle are any where to be seen.

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The mode of improvement, recommended by the most skilful breeders in England, is applicable to this country, viz. a selection of males and females of the same breed possessing the most valuable qualities, from whose offspring the best are again to be chosen and bred *in and in* with the best of the same breed, but not crossed with a different breed, which is reckoned to mongrelize and produce degeneracy."

One, and only one word more on this subject; it is only to observe, that a selection *out* of the same breed seems to have been designed by nature, from the original laws and intercourse of the animal and vegetable creation. And if even now a selection from the best of the same breed only was to produce good young, the benefit of good cattle must remain exclusively to the rich, and even among them to the few amateurs of *in and in selection*. I also feel impelled to mention, what I am informed of, that some of the most celebrated breeders of England select promiscuously the best of any family *out* or *in* for breeding. And the noble and beautiful herds of oxen and sheep, to be seen in the counties of Meath, Westmeath, Roscommon, &c. though having bone in proportion to their weight, and bred with no nice selection *out* and *out*, prove, that Ireland is the land of beef and mutton, as well as of potatoes.

Markets or fairs for them.

In the annexed list of fairs, those of Leitrim, Carrick, Mohill, Cloon, Rusky, Dromot, Dromahare, Manorhamilton, and Lurganboy are the principal ones for milch cows, dry and young cattle in summer, and for fat and other cattle in the end of autumn and winter.

General prices.

Dry cows are bought at from four to ten guineas, and sold at an encrease of price, so that the feeder will have from two to three guineas for the grafs. Indeed, they seldom arrive at so high a price as ten. The milch cows from five to ten guineas, sometimes more, and seldom so much. Heifer and bullock year-old calves sell from thirty shillings to three or four pounds, seldom so much; two year-olds from three to six pounds, and so on, according to their age and goodness.

Modes of feeding.

By grafs in summer, hay and straw in winter.

Here

How far housed in winter.

In general housed from about the middle of December till May; but many, who are a little in the grazing line, do not house their two, three, or four year old cattle; and the strong vitriolic, almost perennial, rushes and grafs are admirably well calculated for this purpose. Those cattle, unless in very severe weather, neither require nor get either hay or straw.

Natural grasses,

Vary according to the soil. The moors, bogs, and mountains, beside being covered with heath, moss, waterflag, prickly bogruss, common clubruss, bullruss, &c. are seen to grow cotton-grass, moor-grass, small matweed or mat-grass, grey, turfy, silvery leaved and heath hair-grasses, earthy hair-grass, water hair-grass, hard and sheep's fescue grasses, and many others of the moor and aquatic kinds. The tilly, gravelly, and coarse soils grow most of the panic-grasses, meadow and daniel grasses, some of the fescue grasses, many of the bent brome, and in the improved fields some of the
oat,

oat, barley, and wheat grasses. But in the grounds of superior quality are to be met, beside a rich profusion of all the trefoils, clovers, vetches, daisies, and almost all the herbs valued for the brute creation, the most esteemed grasses for pasturage and meadow. The sweet-scented spring grass, the meadow, soft creeping, and sweet-scented grasses, enrich and perfume the fields. Here are the meadow, foxtail, and tall oat-grasses without awns, yellow and soft ditto, the smooth and hairy-stalked brome grasses, flote, darnel, and meadow fescue grasses, the best of the darnel and melic grasses, rough-stalked, wood and great meadow-grasses, with many others too tedious to enumerate here, as I am sure a general description was looked for rather than a systematic and minute account.

Artificial grasses.

None, except perhaps the promiscuous produce of the hayloft thrown along with some grain into a field, and that same only by two or three gentlemen.

Mode of haymaking.

The hay is shaken with the hands from the swarth, then turned with a fork, then sometimes on the first,
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often on the second day, made into very small lapcocks; the third day it is shaken out, turned once or twice, and made into large cocks, and on the fifth or sixth day into meadow or tramp-cocks. However, this is not all sometimes without interruption, and of course exception, according as the weather answers.

Dairies, their produce.

No dairies at all in this county, unless we call by that name a few little milk-shops in Carrick-on-Shannon, and some of the other towns. Their produce must therefore be unnoticeable, though considerable quantities of butter are sold by the petty landholders, who don't eat it themselves.

Prices of hides, tallow, wool, and quantities sold.

Hides sell from 2*d.* to 5*d.* per pound; the quantity sold yearly, is about 4,886 hides, kips, runners, and calfskins; about 3,320 of those beef hides; tallow sells from 3*s.* to 5*s.* 2*d.* per stone; the quantity sold yearly, about 7000 stone. The average price of wool is 17*s.* per stone, and quantity sold annually about 12 packs.

Farms.

Their size, in general, very small—and be they ever so small, almost always in common, among a number of tenantry; from twenty to forty and fifty acres is the common size, not including bog and mountain, of which considerable tracts often belong to those small farms. This account, however, *dont* refer to the few grazing and fattening farms, which are more extensive. Some few of the landlords begin to subdivide the farms, and deal them out in separate portions to the tenants, a practice, which always proves highly beneficial to the lord and tenant.

Farm-houses and Offices

Must and do bear a proportion to the above description of the farms themselves; they are long and narrow, and but too often agree with an ancient, and perhaps, not inaccurate account, written in verse, and called, *Western Isle, or Gillo's Feast*. In describing Gillo's house, it was said,

“ At one of th' ends he kept his cows,

“ At th' other end he kept his spouse ;

“ On bed of straw, without least grumble,

“ Nay, with delight, did often tumble ;

“ Without

“ Without partition, or a skreen,
“ Or spreading curtain, drawn between,
“ Without concern, exposed they lay,
“ Because it was their country's way ;
“ And, when occasion did require,
“ In midst of house a mighty fire,
“ Of black dried earth, and swinging blocks,
“ Was made, enough to roast an ox,
“ From whence arose such clouds of smoak,
“ As either you or me would choak ;
“ But when the scorching fire burn'd clear,
“ The rolling smoke did disappear.—&c. &c.

In fact, this account is too often, to this day, not undescriptive of many of the poor cabins—but truth also requires to declare, that those hovels are getting fewer by degrees ; chimneys, partitions, and separate cow-houses, sometimes ornament the little dwelling, and this cow-house, and sometimes a bit of a barn, form the whole extent of the offices.

It was, I believe, in the reign of King Charles the Second, that an act of parliament passed in England, prohibiting, in the strictest manner, the building of any more wooden houses in that country ; they were never so great a nuisance, as the pestilential sinks of filth, which, to this day, pass for human habitations in this country ; they contaminate the air, and destroy the health of all, who are doomed to such a residence—they positively demand more loudly, and more seriously, the interference of the legislature, for alteration and
improvement,

improvent, than ever did all the danger attending King Charles's wooden houses; for death is at once a *coup de grace* to the victims of conflagration, while the mephitic of filth, slowly and insensibly infusing its poison, induces a torpor, a seemingly natural indolence, a consequent idleness, and misery, until, at length, the rankling gas has subdued the nerves, and terminated life, in a putrid dissolution, spreading far and wide, in its aerial diffusion, pestilence and death, and entailing on the remnant survivors of its devastation, sickness, idleness, and famine.

Mode of repairing them, whether by Landlord or Tenant.

The repairs are always by the landlord, never by the tenant.*

Nature of Tenures.

Here, as throughout the kingdom, fee-simple Freehold, copyhold, and leases for lives, or years.

General State of Leases.

Leases are generally made for three lives, or thirty-one years; very few for any longer time, and sometimes but for one life, often not the best, nor the youngest.

* This is very unusual in Ireland.

Particular

Particular clauses therein,

Generally exclude setting, felling, or alienation of any kind, without the lessor's consent. The tenants are sometimes, but seldom, obliged by a particular clause, to sand, gravel, or otherwise manure, a certain portion of their tenure, on condition of proportionate allowance in the rent—there are no other particular clauses in any currency.

Rents and Taxes paid by Tenants.

The light, hungry, foxy, tilly grounds, described in some of the southern parts, pay from ten to fifteen shillings per acre; many farms in those parts have never been surveyed, and pay small bulk rents.

In the middle and lower parts, where the grounds are coarse and rushy, with a thin stratum of aluminous gravelly surface, from 15s. to 20s. per acre is the common rent. In other parts, according to the goodness of the soil, the rent rises to thirty, and towards 40s. per acre, about the towns still higher.

Quit and crown rents are generally paid by the landlords. The contingent county, or grand jury cesses, are, in general, 3½d. per acre; on account of the expences of a new jail, which is now in the progress of building,

building, they amounted last year to 7d., and this year to 9d. per acre.

Proportion of working Horses or Bullocks to the size of Farms.

No bullocks, as mentioned, worked, except by two gentlemen, and the proportion of horses is impossible to ascertain with any degree of exactness, on account of the mixed co-partnership, in which the tenants hold their farms, some of whom are too poor to keep one horse. The man, who holds a proportion of the farm, sufficient to support four or five head of cattle, large and small, most commonly in the latter end of autumn, or in winter, purchases a year or two year old colt or filly, which he sells out in the course of the ensuing summer, at some profit, after having the spring work, to wit, harrowing and basketting out his manure.—Stronger or older horses they seldom have, or require, as I dont know many farms, which, even in conjunction, keep a plough, that work being done by the loy (or spade).

General size of Fields or Enclosures,

Depends on the extent of the farm, and number of co-partners ; and, as the size of no two farms in the
county

county most probably is the same, the fields and enclosures must be different in extent. As to any such regular division of fields or enclosures, as we see about Dublin, and in England, no such thing is to be met with, in the county of Leitrim—for even those, who have a great deal of good lands for grazing, neglect this most laudable practice of dividing and enclosing, and it is only in a few demesnes, of a few gentlemen, that any thing of the sort is to be seen.

Nature of Fences.

The fences are in general a drain from four to six feet wide, and raised or backed at one side with clammy plastic aluminous earth, to a height of three or four feet. This sort of ditch, as it soon hardens almost into brick, becomes strong, and answers all their purposes of fencing, except where there are sheep; in which case, they top the ditches with a layer of fods, and under each sod place a small tuft of some brush, or underwood, such as haw-thorn, black-thorn, or bramble, and thus, for the season, guard against the invasion even of the sheep. The stone walls are so few, and those only about a few gentlemen's houses, as to exclude them from notice. In the front of the ditch just described, some lay young hawthorn plants in the digging of it, which in a few years prove a very good fence.

Mode of Hedge-rows and keeping Hedges.

The common mode of hedge-rows has been just described under the head of fences. In building up the ditches, they lay in front of it, within about three feet of the top, a single row of young hawthorn plants, which, as the ditch commonly fills with water, and that from above they are out of the reach of the cattle, generally thrive very well, and in the southern parts of the county, where they are chiefly to be seen, are extremely useful to the husbandman, as they remain a perpetual fence, a shelter for cattle, and very much ornament the face of the country.

But the few rich farmers and gentlemen build strong double-faced ditches, with double rows, at each side, of hawthorn and crab-tree, and interspersed with ash, elm, beech, and other forest trees, and sometimes a row of some of the latter on the top of the ditch. Those ditches always preserve themselves, and the plants from cattle, as they are wide and deep, and most commonly filled with water.

Mode of Draining.

In the county of Leitrim, little indeed can be said of that branch of husbandry, just as little, as the knowledge

ledge and practice of it ought to be universal, as productive of immense scopes of verdant and dry fields, in lieu of black mountains and quagmires, and that at a very trifling expence, as shall appear under the head of improvement of bogs, &c.

Ancient Rome, and ancient England, notwithstanding Mr. Preston's assertions, knew the benefit and practice of surface and hollow draining, as also did France and Italy; and the county of Leitrim most probably may date, from very early periods, all the knowledge, or practice they at this day possess of draining. It extends simply to the removal of the rain-water, which is retained on the surface of their stiff tenacious soil, and stiffer and more tenacious understrata; this they effect, by rounding the ridges, whether of potatoes, or corn, so as to give a fall to the water into the furrows, which they take care to keep clear, for the water to run through, and to cut other open surface drains, sometimes at top, sometimes at bottom, or sometimes through the middle, or other parts of the field, where the water may find the easiest descent or escape; and this practice, I find, accords with that of Sussex, Surry, and many other parts of England, where the soils are of a similar nature.

It would be impossible, within the compass of such a little tract as this, satisfactorily to describe the new discoveries and improvements, in the draining of every sort of land, particularly by Mr. Elkington—nor would

it serve any useful end, to increase repetition on repetition, and volume over volume. Elkington himself, Johnston, and others, are as open to the public to read, as the description of the county Leitrim will be. It is not merely for those, who can purchase books, the Dublin Society are making those compilations ; it is chiefly, I have no doubt, for the lower orders of the people, among whom, it is to be presumed, intelligible easy pandects will be dispersed, collected and arranged in a familiar manner, and composed of all that is substantial and useful to the husbandman.

However, as Mr. Elkington has acquired such well-merited celebrity in his line, I shall beg leave to enumerate the three principles, on which he founds his theory and practice.

First, upon finding out the *main-spring*, or cause of the mischief, without which, nothing effectual can be done. *Secondly*, upon taking the level of that spring, and ascertaining *its subterraneous bearings*. And, *thirdly*, by making use of the augre, to reach or tap the spring, when the depth of the drain is not sufficient for that purpose. It should, however, not be forgotten, that upwards of thirty years ago, sod or pipe-draining was known and practised in the county of Leitrim, by a few individual gentlemen. It was introduced by the late Mr. Tenison, who also introduced among his own tenantry and others, and thereby enriched them, the practice of liming and sanding. His memory claims

every tribute due to the truly benevolent and worthy man, in all the bearings of the words.

As this fod or pipe-draining is the simplest, and the cheapest, as it excludes the idea of filling with either stone, straw, wood, or stubble; and as, in a country, where there is little danger of their being choaked, or spoiled by heavy cartage, or ploughing, those drains will, I am pretty certain, remain as durable and useful as the more expensive ones, they therefore claim here a particular description.

The method of executing fod or pipe-drains is, by digging a trench, of a certain width and depth, and then, by taking out the last spit with the narrow draining spade, a shoulder is left on each side, upon which a sod of turf, dug in grass-land, is laid, grass-side downwards, and the mould thrown in over it.

The method and tools for executing those drains, have been well described by T. B. Bayley, Esq. in the valuable georgical essays, published by Dr. Hunter of York. In Lancashire, nearly in the same manner, by leaving shoulders to the drains, about a foot and a half from the bottom, and laying over these cross pieces of dried peat, or turf, several extensive bogs have been drained; the practice having been lately introduced, their durability cannot be ascertained in such wet soils.

Mr. Keon, of Keonbrook, has, to my own knowledge, by means of pipe, or fod-draining, reclaimed some extensive fields, which were so sour, rushy, pouchy, and

wet,

wet, as to be quite a nuisance; and converted them into beautiful grassy plains, which, for many years, have remained perfectly dry.

Mr. Percy, of Paradise, has reclaimed a very extensive, and fine demesne, by hollow (but I think he told me) filled draining—and this demesne was of the fourest, rushiest, and worst of qualities.

As the knowledge and utility of draining cannot be too often repeated and inculcated, I must add a very few hints relative to such species, as seems most adapted to the soil of Leitrim.

It shall be only briefly to observe, that though, in general, the very uppermost stratum is of a retentive, impervious nature, for which their own common practice of open surface-draining can be of any use, yet, to this general nature of the soil there are exceptions, as some are, at the very surface, porous, pervious, and absorbent of rain, sometimes to a considerable depth; sometimes even the understratum is chiefly composed of rock, absorbent marles, sand, gravel, or some other pervious stratum. Sometimes the next understratum is clay, gravel cemented with clay, or some other tenacious impenetrable bed.

The whole secret then lies in cutting the drain down through this impenetrable bed, which retains the wet, and by oozing, or otherwise, throws or retains it on the surface.

Great

Great care should be taken to direct those drains in an oblique manner, to give just sufficient fall to carry off the water in a gentle current, by which means, they are less apt to choak, or *blow up*.

In the western counties of England, where the wetness proceeds chiefly from rain, and the fields are nearly level, they mark the drains regularly at a rod ($16\frac{1}{2}$ feet) a rod and a half, or two rods asunder, across the land, from ditch to ditch.

It is a general rule, not to conduct too many drains to the same mouth, or outlet, lest a burst, or blow up, and, of course, a general derangement be the consequence.

The depth is various, according to the nature of the soil, and many other circumstances. Many years ago, three feet was the common depth in most soils; but for the last twenty years, it has seldom exceeded thirty, or thirty-two inches. The deeper they are cut in pervious soils, the more they will operate in removing the moisture; but, where the spade reaches an impervious soil, it is enough: a few inches, however, into this impervious bed will be a safer and more permanent channel for the water.

One rule should be invariably observed—that is, that the depth should be sufficient to guard against the weight of cattle, or carting, that might injure the position of the materials used in filling the drains, or the pipes, or fods, if finished in that way.

In all the modern drainings, the farmers cut them as narrow as possible, as a saving in the materials used for filling them, such as bushes, poles, spray, or straw; but, if brick or stones are used, this rule cannot be adhered to. Heath, black thorn, willow, alder, asp, or beech boughs, *green*, are found very durable.

As to the methods of surface-draining by strong ploughs, I say nothing about them, till we first have the ploughs.

Neither shall I say a word of the invention for draining land in Essex, as described in the Agricultural report of that county, as it requires both horses and machinery, which we have no prospect of for years to come.

Those hints, which I have chiefly selected from Mr. Johnston, who collected them, and many other useful observations, from communications transmitted to the Board of agriculture, I have taken the liberty of introducing here; and which, though done in a detached inaccurate way, may, I hope, prove of some use, if works of this kind shall at all reach the poor, or be made intelligible to them. As to the prodigious benefits arising from draining, in general, it is impossible to say enough.

Mr. Young, of Clare, says, "I have a field, that used to be so wet and poachy in the winter, as not to be able to bear the weight of a sheep. I land-drained and fallowed it, then sowed it with wheat, without
any

any manure, and had a crop equal to half the value of the land."

Mr. Vancouver, in speaking of the improvements in the county of Essex, has the following remark on the importance of draining:—"There is no improvement, to which the heavy land husbandry of this county owes so much, as to the fortunate introduction, and continuance, of the practice of hollow-draining; the means of melioration, and the consequent sources of fertility thence derived from the soil, over and above what it formerly yielded, are not more important, and valuable in the present day, than permanent and precious, as they must prove in their consequences hereafter, &c."

Nature of Manures.

The manures are here rich and abundant; as the greatest part of the county is composed of hills and vallies. There is, I venture to believe, scarce a single valley, or flat, in the whole county, that does not teem with gravels of different kinds, limestone gravels, or limestone, marls of all colours and proportions of chalk, argill, and flint. This, however, is not without exception—there are two little districts of the county, called Ballynagleragh and Glenfain, destitute of limestone; and it is pleasant to see, that the whole county have
got

got into so animated a spirit of improving, and manuring, that those districts ferry and cart the limestone, from three to four miles ; and, after all the consequent expence and trouble, have enriched themselves, particularly in Glenfain, by those industrious exertions, and, the application of this manure, according as experience has directed them. It is, however, much to be lamented, that they have not hitherto known any thing of the method of working turf and lime into composts, with or without the other substances, so much recommended by the Agricultural reports, Society of Amsterdam, Young, Headrik, &c.—nor is it possible, within the limits of this little work (though ever so condensed) to comprize any thing like the particular directions, necessary for the application of particular manures to the different soils. Mr. Kirwan's inestimable essay on this subject, particularly chap. 6th. which treats, “ *Of the manures most advantageously applicable to the different soils, and of the causes of their beneficial effect in each instance,*” cannot be too much recommended for brevity, clearness, and utility, not only to the lettered, but the unlettered husbandman ; and it is for this reason, I so much admire the sixth chapter, not that every word of the whole essay is not intitled to individual admiration. It is, again I must repeat it, some manual of this kind, both brief and intelligible, and dispersed among the people, that will do more service, than all the voluminous productions of the Society.

Water is by one gentleman (Counsellor Johnston, of Oakfield) used as a manure, by irrigation, or rather occasional inundations ; it enriches his grounds, whether for grazing, or tillage, to an incredible degree.

Turf-ashes are in the greatest use here, as a most excellent manure—various are the opinions about it—Mr. Headrick condemns it, and says it reduces the soils it is laid on to a *caput mortuum*. In many parts of England, it is in the highest esteem—an acre of bog has been sold, near Newberry, for £.200, to burn. In Leitrim, for the last twenty years, experience has proved, every species of ashes, red, yellow, white, &c. a most excellent manure. Here again, it is impossible to sketch out into the various kinds of soils, to which turf-ashes, or its different kinds are applicable.

Putrid Water, of stagnant pools, ditches, and steeping of flax, it is much to be regretted, are here totally neglected.

Sweepings of roads, ditches, and river weeds, are sometimes collected and used as manure ; but, if these were mixed with earth and lime, and suffered to ferment, they would prove of much greater value.

Sea-weeds, shells, and gravel, are used with great advantage, in the small part of the county, that joins the sea.

The necessary ordure, we are told, is considered the most valuable of all manures in China—and that their laws prohibit the waste of it. Some fine sifted coal-ashes,

ashes, or fresh slacked lime, thrown down the necessities, would correct and prevent any offensive effluvia, and increase the quantity, and value of the compost. By this means also, its removal would be rendered perfectly inoffensive to the workmen.

Sweepings of streets and coal-ashes.—Those are proved to be a most excellent manure, though the parish of Marybone, but a few years ago, paid to the scavengers £.500 a year for removing them. But now the scavengers pay the parish £.1,050 per annum, for the liberty of carrying them away.

Mud, and sea sludge are here collected, and prove of the most enriching quality as manures.

Urine, of all kinds, unfortunately is here totally neglected, although, with turf-earth, and other substances, it would form an enriching compost.

Dunghills.—Those are here managed in the most uneconomical, disorderly, destructive manner. They are either heaped up high, so as to lose their best juices, or scattered about almost totally uncollected, while their rich brown fertilizing essence rivulets away, or evaporates in the open air.

Here it would be in vain to recommend all the nicety of brick reservoirs, set in terras-mortar, &c. as suggested by Mr. Bayley, and addressed to the Agricultural society of Manchester, in 1795.

But any poor man could easily dig one pit, for his dunghill, near the cow-house, and another contiguous

to it, to which there might be a fall for the urine of his horse and cows, and the draining of much water from the dunghill. This he could easily believe and learn, must be a high improvement to his dunghill, thrown every day with a shovel on it, and there covered with a layer of turf-earth, or good soil; and to see this regularly done, is a duty which, without any expence, might be imposed on the constables, and to have the dunghills placed, at least, sixty yards from the cabins.

Horse and Cow-dung.—Though according to an aphorism of Mr. Kirwan's, it "*is a proper ingredient in the appropriated manures of all sorts of soils,*" as it supplies the carbonaceous principle, it is here, as we have seen, most lamentably mismanaged, so as to require the interference of some fostering benevolence to set them right.

Fallowing is not at all practised here.

Of draining, enough has been said already. *Of paring and burning* under another head.

GENERAL SUBJECTS.

Population.

Fortunate indeed, that, according to Smith on the Wealth of Nations, poverty and population are synonymous. A half-starved Highland woman (he says) will frequently

frequently bear twenty children, while a pampered fine lady is incapable of bearing one. Barrenness, so frequent among women of fashion, is rarely heard of among the lower orders—luxury in the fair sex, while it cloy the passion of enjoyment, seems always to weaken, often to destroy the powers of generation.

But “poverty,” he says, “and extreme misery and distress in Scotland impede population,” and as an extreme degree of either luxury or misery is generally unknown in this county, and as our poor are tolerably paid in wages, which he looks upon as a great promoter of population; prosperity, therefore, as far as it arises from population and a fitness for encreasing it, we may count as our own.

The prodigious increase of population, which ought, but from some fatality does not at this day exist in Europe, may easily be conceived, upon recollecting the millions and myriads, which inoculation has added to our numbers; and from the calculation of Sir William Blackstone, who is ever strictly accurate in all his assertions, every one must have, in the tenth collateral degree, 262,144 relations—and at forty degrees upwards one million of millions of ancestors.

As to the population of the county of Leitrim, I have been as accurate as possible, having taken the number of the families in each parish from the books of each individual parish clergyman, and multiplied each

family

family by *five*, which gives a total number of inhabitants in the whole county of 76,630.

Number and size of Villages and Towns.

The number of towns are nineteen—the most considerable of them are Carrick-on-Shannon, Carrigallen, Mohill, Ballinamore, and Manorhamilton. Those contain each about eighty houses, large and small, most of them truly very small. The subordinate towns are Dromshambo, Drumkerrin, Georgia, Newtowngore, Lurganboy, &c.—Those, and some others, contain from fifteen to twenty houses, and a few of the towns have, for instance Bundrows, only two or three houses.

As to villages in this county, the houses don't at all cluster together; and though all the tenantry are in co-partnership, they build their houses asunder, on separate parts of the same farm. I don't know a village in the county, but one, viz. Castlefore, containing from thirty to forty houses—it lies between Ballinamore and Cashcarrigan.

*Habitation, Fuel, Food, and Clothing of the lower rank.—
Their general Cost.*

The habitations have been described under the head of farm-houses and offices. The cost of these habitations,

tions, as now built, together with a little barn and cow-house, will amount to from five to ten or twelve pounds.

The fuel is turf, which they have everywhere in convenient abundance. The cost for a single hearth they seldom calculate—it might amount to about three guineas.

The general food is potatoes and oaten bread, with butter and eggs, with great feasting of pork, beef, and mutton at Christmas and Easter. The cost cannot otherwise be ascertained, than by knowing, that a labouring man, on a co-partner's division of twelve acres of land, for which he pays 20s. per acre, will support a family of five, six, or more, on the above food—consequently, the average cost of supporting each individual of the family, would be 40s. per head; but then, if credit is given for the spinning, working, and industry of the wife and children, this cost might arise to about 4l. a piece.

The clothing is remarkably neat, clean, and strong. The coat is most commonly of frize, which is made up for about 20s.—the breeches always corderoy, and some fancy waistcoat, are made up for about 20s. more; the hat, shoes, shirt, and stockings come to 16s.—so that the whole suit is made up for £.2 : 16s.

Price of Wages, Labour, and Provisions.

The wages for labour is from 4d. to 6d. per day, which they are allowed out of the rent of some small quantity of land, which they hold, together with a cabin, at about 40s. per acre, and 40s. for the grafs of each cow—those are called cottiers—but those, who are called on to work occasionally, receive 6½d., sometimes more, per day, beside breakfast and dinner.

The price of provisions fluctuates every year, and often within the same year. The common price of one hundred of potatoes, (eight stone) is from 1s. to 2s. though, this year, it amounted to five or six. A hundred of oaten-meal generally sells at from 8s. but, this year, exceeded 30s.

They seldom, in this county, want provisions, and most commonly dispose of their redundancy to the counties of Sligo and Roscommon, at the markets of Carrick-on-Shannon and Sligo.

Use of Beer and Spirits, whether either, or which is increasing.

Even before spirits had risen to the prodigious price they now bear, the use of them was rapidly declining
in

in this county, infomuch, that at fairs, markets, and patron congregations they finish their business at the former, pray at the latter, and then chat and dispute, without battery, bloodshed, or drunkenness, which but a few years ago disgraced the meetings of those people—but, since the price of spirits has become so enormous, the people have most perfectly recovered their senses, and almost totally left off the use of them. The use of beer is rather increasng, but those, who have not plenty of milk have, it seems, by some inspiration, acquired a knowledge, and the truth of Hippocrates's aphorism, which pronounces "*pure running water the most salubrious beverage.*"

State of Roads, Bridges, &c.

Some of the roads, particularly near the residence of gentlemen, are in very good order; but, in many other parts, particularly in the parishes of Cloon, Mohill, Inishmacrath, and Killarga, they are shamefully broken and bad. The bridges are in good condition; there seems to be one necessary at Fenah.

State of Navigation, and navigable Rivers.

There is but one navigation, and one navigable river in this county. Upwards of twenty years ago, the

old Navigation company opened a canal from near Longford to Battle-bridge, which is within three miles of Lough Allen, and about the same distance of Carrick-on-Shannon. A few locks only, and some trackways, are wanting to make this a complete canal. This was done for the purpose of opening a communication between Lough Allen and Limerick, which, all to about three miles, is effected, and even the greatest part of the excavation for those three miles finished. Slates, military baggage, and various articles, are now conveyed by water from Carrick-on-Shannon to Limerick. This canal will meet the Royal canal at Tormonbarry.

The only river, which in a great part of its course through the country is navigable, is the Shannon. The Royal canal, it is hoped, will in a few years have arrived at Tormonbarry, which, by the old navigation canal, *may* communicate with Lough Allen; and as this lake, according to levels already taken, is upwards of one hundred feet, Mr. Kirwan says, to a certainty eighty feet, higher than the sea at Sligo—but little, if any doubt remains, of a direct water communication between Dublin and that town, before any considerable lapse of time.

This opens a brilliant prospect for the working and improvement of all the ores, clays, and collieries of Leitrim and Roscommon, for the mutual interchange of the redundant productions of Leinster and Connaught,

naught, and for the social and enriching intercourse of every species of commerce.

Of Fisheries.

There are none in the county, except the catching of a few salmon at Bundrows, here and there a few eel-wiers, and everywhere the common rod and net-fishing of all lakes and rivers. The lakes and rivers are here, literally speaking, all alive with various sorts of fish—pike, bream, trout, salmon, eel, &c. but particularly perch, which any little boy, with tolerably good implements, may catch loads of, from the beginning of May to the end of September—but their rods and hooks are in general so coarsely prepared, as to undeceive the fish, and they come home often empty-handed; I speak from experience, and say, that from the immense abundance of those fish, which can be caught by the means of *fine hooks, lines, flies, baits, and nets*, in a very short time, that in hard times, such as the two last summers, it would by no means be degrading to public attention, to have boys a little instructed in the art and implements of fishing. It is impossible, that a little boy, decently appointed, with a fine hook, line, and good bait, could spend three hours at Lough Allen, without catching perch enough to suffice a family of five or six for one day.

State of Education, Schools, and charitable Institutions.

The state of education amounts to this and no more, that I believe it may be said, without exception, that every father in the county sends his children to a neighbouring school, where they learn to scrawl a little writing, to read as they are taught, and some of the rules of arithmetic. Some make considerable proficiency in those branches, and turn out smart pedlars, shopkeepers, and dealers. There are some of them now in Dublin, who have realized considerable properties.

In the town of Jamestown there was lately built a decent school-house, by the Earl of Montrath, endowed with £.40 a year, which will soon rise to £.60, intended as a free school for the poor of the neighbourhood.

In the parish of Kilasnet there are, from time immemorial, four acres of good land for the support of a parish school.

There is no infirmary, or charitable institution, though Mr. Latouche offered to the Grand Jury to contribute £.500 for that purpose.

Of Absentee and resident Proprietors.

Not one individual, except three or four, of those, who have considerable properties in this county, resides with-

in it. Lord Leitrim, Lord and Lady Southwell, Right Hon. Theophilus Jones, Lord Clements, Mr. Tottenham, Lady de Clifford, Mr. William Rowley, Mr. Clements, Minor St. George, Lord Besborough, Right Hon. David Latouche and brothers, Lord Granard, Mr. Wynne, Mr. Crofton, Counsellor Carleton, Mr. White, Mr. Madden, Minor Keon, all have very large properties here, and not one of them resides.

Major Dickson does reside, as also Counsellor Johnston, Mr. Nesbett, Mr. Cullen, Mr. Peyton, and Mr. Percy, besides about a dozen gentlemen of from three to seven or eight hundred a year.

Of circulation of Money or Paper.

In small transactions money is the currency—in large ones paper—but in neither large nor small is paper objected to. It is as current as gold.

Of Farming or Agricultural Societies.

Of those we have none. The example of the united kingdom at large, it is hoped, will soon transfuse its influence into this county, and induce the gentlemen of it to engage in an association, everywhere so productive

productive of benefits the most incalculable to the interests of farming, and economical husbandry.

Of Manufactures, whether increasing.

The chief manufactures here are bleach-greens, of which there are four considerable ones. Some of those follow the method of boilings in pot-ash, and exposure to the air. One, I have been told, in particular, has launched into the new method of alternate steepings in sulphuret and oxymuriate of lime, with alternate washings and dryings, but not without a general cry of complaint against its effects, owing, no doubt, to the ignorance and mismanagement of its conductors.

A very large cargo of linens, bleached in this manner, has been very lately returned from Jamaica to Dublin, and thrown on the hands of a northern gentleman who sold it—law was at first resorted to, but ultimately the affair was referred to three gentlemen, well versed in that trade, and they awarded (the linens having proved quite rotten, though beautifully white) the Northern manufacturer to refund the price of the cargo, and every expence attending the freight, amounting to near £.3000

This, it is hoped, will be a lesson to ignorant and inattentive adventurers—the recital of which here, it is hoped,

hoped, will be excused, when a branch of trade, so vital to the interest of the nation, is the subject.

The weaving trade is carried on in this county to a considerable extent.

Coarse potteries are very numerous about Leitrim and Dromahair. They are carried on so extensively as to have gained an ascendancy over the wooden ware, which is become so scarce and dear, as to have fallen almost into disuse. Manufactures, it may be said, are on the encrease.

Of encouragement to them, and the peculiar aptness of the situation for their extension.

No encouragement, of a public or private nature, that I could learn, has been given to any manufacture of this county. As to the peculiar aptness of situation for their extension, much has been said—so much indeed, under the different heads of mines, minerals, mountains, clays, canals, collieries, &c. &c. that a repetition of them here must prove fulsome to the reader.

Of Mills of every kind.

There are only two kinds of mills here—common mills for grinding oaten-meal, and tuck-mills. Of the former,

former, there are about fifty in the county—of the latter, which are for thickening frizes, flannels, &c. about half a dozen. There is a mill at Dramott, with which they grind wheat and oats.

Of Plantations and Planting.

Living persons, who saw it, told me, that about one hundred years ago, almost the whole county was a continued undivided forest. From Drumshambo, I used to hear them say, to Drumkerrin, a distance of nine or ten miles, one could travel the whole way, from tree to tree, by the branches.

All those forests must have been burned for fuel of every sort, as the bogs, even at this day, are only begun to be nibbled at, about the edges, for turf. They were certainly used as fuel for the numerous iron-works about *Slieu-an-Jaroin*. I myself have seen, at Mr. Reynolds's iron-works, near Drumshambo, about thirty years ago, heaps of charred timber, as large as any three houses in Dublin; and thus has ancient indolence neglected the succession of coppicing or planting, and disrobed a country of native charms, which would certainly render her extremely picturesque and romantic.

About thirty years ago a spirit of reviving, and renovating the face of the country, fortunately succeeded to that of indolence, devastation, and want of taste. It

was

was not till twenty-five years ago, that a registry had been kept of the plantations made within the county; and out of that registry, kept by the Clerk of the Peace, I have taken the following list of trees, planted for the last thirty-one years :

For Mrs. O'Donnell, of Larkfield, in	1770,	72,591
Henry Seily, Esq. Grouse-lodge,	1770,	40,940
Wm. Bailly, Esq. at Cavan, &c.	1770,	1,300
Pierce Sympson, Esq. Drumsna,	1774,	10,200
F. Johnston, Esq. Gortormone,	1776,	700
Robert Grogan,	- - - 1777,	184
Patrick Cullen, Esq. Skreen,	- - - 1777,	1,203
Ditto,	- - - 1780,	1,920
Ditto,	- - - 1781,	6,436
Ditto,	- - - 1791,	1,929
Thomas Law,	- - - 1795,	978
Con. O'Donnell, Esq. Larkfield,	1797,	1,990
Mary Shanly,	- - - 1798,	113
James Elliot,	- - -	4,700
Total		<u>145,384</u>

The trees planted were ash, planes, fycamore, beech, larch, elm, fir, eastern planes, white ditto, laurels, palm-trees, oaks, chesnuts, Weymouth pine, poplars, philerea, silver fir, arbutus, laurustinus, alder, plumb-tree.

Beside those already mentioned, the other few gentlemen, who do reside, cannot be said to be backward in taste and extent of planting.

Of the effects of the Encouragement hitherto given to them by the Society, particularized in the List annexed.

The list contains only an account of premiums given to two gentlemen, Mr. Nesbitt, of Aughamore, and Mr. Lowther, of Bonnybegg, for planting Danish forts.

The time since the premium had been granted to Mr. Nesbitt, having exceeded ten years, has slipped beyond the cognizance of the Society. Mr. Nesbitt, however, having been dead some years, and his family not having resided there, the place has totally fallen into ruin and decay, and the plantations also.

Mr. Lowther's plantations, on the Danish forts, are in the highest vigour, bloom, and preservation. I have visited them every one—enough cannot be said of Mr. Lowther's care and preservation of them.

Of any Improvements, which may occur for future Encouragement, and particularly for the Preservation of the Trees, when planted.

Most of the high roads in Holland and the Low Countries are planted with double rows of trees, at
such

such a distance from the road, and from each other, as not to be injurious to either. It looks extremely beautiful and ornamental—it is also useful.

The additional trouble to the road-makers, of putting down those plants, is not worth mentioning, and the grand juries would find the addition to the county cesses a mere trifle, to contract with a nursery-man for supplying the necessary number of plants.

This, ever since I had been captivated with the charming effect of this kind of planting in Holland, often and often occurred to me, as a very cheap and very easy method of enlivening the face of some of the gloomy bleak parts of this country.

As to the preservation of trees, when planted, they only require shelter, and safety from cattle—hedge-rows or quick-growing trees will shelter them—and if detached, as those along the roads, a few stones built about them to a certain height, with, or even without mortar, will effectually secure them from cattle.

Of Nurseries within the County, and extent of Sales.

There are four large nurseries for trees and forest-trees in the county, which sell trees to different parts of Leinster and Connaught, in very great quantities.

Price of Timber, and State of it in the County.

The state of timber in the county is this, that the great woods of Woodford, belonging to Mr. Gore, are cut down, and now felling, (almost sold); that except a few trees, about Drumsna and Garadise, and some young and old plantations at Keonbrook, the only woods remaining are those of Major Dickson's, at Woodville, and some good trees and coppice-woods of Mr. Wynne's, near Lurganboy.

The common price of timber is as follows:—For mill-shafts, whether oak or beech, from 4*s.* to 5*s.* per square foot.

Oak poles from 2*s.* to 3*s.* per foot.

Crooked timber for boat-building, 3*s.* 6*d.* per foot.

Small mill timber, 3*s.* 6*d.* per foot.

Ash, by the square foot, when it squares two feet fit for hoops, from 5*s.* to 8*s.* per foot; generally 3*s.* 3*d.* per foot, when it squares from twelve to twenty inches.

For ribs and rafters by the hand and bulk:—Alder, 1*s.* per foot, twelve inches square.

Elm, 1*s.* 7½*d.* per foot, any square.

Deal, 1*s.* 6*d.* per foot, any square.

Beech,

Beech, for cogs, 3s. 3d. per foot, twenty inches and upwards square.

Mr. Percy has lately sold 1000 of his oak and ash trees, and a small alder wood.

Quantity of bog and waste ground.

According to the length and breadth, which Sir Wm. Petty gives the county, that is, 48 miles long, and 13 broad, it contains, of course, 644 square miles, of which 322 are bog, water, and waste ground. As from every observation I could make, not more than one-half of the surface of the county is green ground, and, deducting 36 square miles, which I compute to be the area of all its water, there remain 286 square miles of bog and waste ground, in the county.

Possibility and means of improving it.

Those have clearly resulted from the theory and experience of England, Holland, Ireland, and Scotland. Our own countryman Mr. Kirwan's aphorism on boggy soils claims every preference, and of course a recital in this place.

“ *Bogs,*

“ Bogs, or boggy Soils.”

“ When these are well dried by sufficient drains, the nature of their soil should be explored by analysis, and an appropriate manure applied. In general, they should first be burned, if capable of that operation, then gravelled. If their upper parts contain a sufficiency of the carbonaceous principle, as often happens, they need not be burned. Limestone gravel will answer best, or lime mixed with coarse sand, or gravel, because, in general, they are of a clayey nature. If more sandy, lime may answer well, or calcareous marle; the preference in these cases must be decided by analysis.”

Mr. Johnston, in his Appendix to Elkington on draining, says—“ If the bog is deep of peat, and very soft, so as not to be fit to carry horses for ploughing it the first year, a crop of *turnip broadcast* may be got by sowing the seed among the spread ashes, harrowing it with a light harrow and roller, drawn by men. The turnip should be eat off with sheep, and the ground will next year be so much consolidated as to admit the plough.

If the surface is not pared and burned at all, a course of fallow even for two years will be necessary, to reduce

duce the soil to a proper mould, in the last stage of which the lime or other manure may be applied, &c.

Johnston also recommends, 'clay-marle, sea-sand, mixed with shells; a thin sprinkling of lime will cause white clover and other sweet grasses to spring up, but of all others, he says, limestone gravel is preferable.

Extract of an Essay, which gained the prize of a gold medal from the Agricultural Society of Amsterdam.

In talking of wastes, heaths, and untilled grounds, this Essayer says—"This land must be often ploughed, especially if it be of the fenny kind, beginning in spring, then allowing it to rest five or six weeks; let the ploughing be repeated, so on to the sixth or seventh ploughing, as it may be judged to require; the following spring, when it will be tolerably laboured, and have felt the benign influence of the air and sun, if it be of the wet kind, in that case ten sacks will be sufficient (of peat ashes) for the morgen, equal to two English acres." This shews what an excellent manure is turf-ashes, properly applied to those sorts of lands.

Mr. Headrick has published a learned and elaborate treatise, on the cultivation of waste lands and bogs. The following facts call for particular attention

on:—He recites page 101, “That Mr. Smith has a field of deep bog, part of which was dressed with lime, part with stable dung alone, part with dung and lime united; and these were applied in different proportions to different parts of the field; part of it was pared and burned in the usual manner, and to some parts of the last lime was applied. When I saw the field several years ago, (Mr. Headrick continues) some time after it was thrown into pasture, the limed parts were easily distinguishable by a close sward of sweet herbage, in which white clover predominated; and it was easy to discriminate those parts, which had received a great portion of lime from those, which had got a small dose, by the superior closeness and richness of the herbage. Those parts, which had got both lime and dung, carried a ranker herbage than those, which had got lime only, though of the same quality with the former. The parts, which had got nothing but dung, and those, which had been pared and burnt, appeared puffy and blistery, and carried only a tuft of grass here and there; but there were innumerable tufts, or rather patches of sorrel, and in some places, this plant occupied the whole surface. Now this field was never sown with grass seeds, but was left to gather such plants as nature might produce.

At present, after laying more than seven years, the limed parts are covered with a rich close sward of natural grasses, abounding with white clover, and

never

never were observed to throw up any forreline plant, while the dunged and burnt parts are wholly occupied with heath, which has lately induced Mr. Smith to dress these parts with lime."

Now from these recited instances, which I have myself seen verified in very similar cases, from Mr. Kirwan's theory, from Johnston's directions, from the acknowledged fact, that the effect of lime applied to bog is to neutralize the gallic acid, or tanning principle, which resists putrefaction and fertilization; indeed, from the united experience of England, Ireland, and Scotland, that part of the Society's enquiry, viz. The possibility and means of improving bog seems to resolve itself into this general and simple principle—that is, *First to drain, and then in the tillage to manure the bog with either lime or limestone gravel.*

I know, as observed in another place, two considerable tracts of country in the county of Leitrim, the inhabitants of which have grown rich by carrying limestone near four miles, and applying it burned, without any other addition to red bogs and mountain, in the process of cultivating potatoes and oats.

I said however, *general principle*, because I know, though lime alone succeeds so remarkably well, it may, under certain circumstances, and according to the nature of the bog, answer better next with sand or gravel; different marles may be of considerable ser-

vice, and in order to be critically right, analysis is necessary for the accurate determination of the proportion of sand, lime, or different species of marle applicable to the different sorts of bog.

But generally, substantially, practically, and even theoretically speaking, as lime and limestone gravel, under no circumstances whatever, deceive the husbandman, but always produce him off the red mountain redundant crops, they may justly, of course, be offered as a plain solution to the enquiry of *possibility and means to improve bogs.*

Obstacles to it, and best means of removing them.

No obstacle to improvement, in general, seems now to reside in the indolence, or want of native spirit, and exertion in the people of this county.

The efficient obstacles to the improvement of bogs, and mountains of this Island, are two in number; they appear rather remote, and hide themselves from common view, but are obviously exposed to the eye of discrimination and research.

Those two efficient obstacles are *superfluous grazing*, or fattening of cattle, more than is necessary for the interior consumption of the Island; and *expatriation* of the vigorous and working part of the natives by recruiting and wars.

Superfluous

Superfluous grazing pampers the bullock on all the rich soil of the nation, while it robs man, the real owner, of his right; it pampers and enriches the individual grazier, while thousands are starving for want of the wide tracts, occupied by his unwieldy herds.

But this superfluous grazing, it may be objected, should rather, as it really does, drive swarms of unfortunate beings to barren skirts, and into the black bogs and mountains, where eventually they must reclaim them or die. It does, no doubt, but under what circumstances? in those bogs they reluctantly throw up a kraal-like hovel, and spiritless and comfortless, unexperienced and untaught, they dig and work out a half starved existence, while the wet and filth of the half-open half-thatched hovel produce colds, rheumatisms, fevers, &c. Two thirds of the family obtain the wished for grave, and the remaining third squalid, emaciated, and disabled by consumptions and rheumatisms, wander out the remainder of existence in beggary and pain; I speak from facts, to which I have been too often a witness.

It is under far other circumstances than those, that a diminution of grazing would produce the occupation and improvement of bogs.

If this country had not for many years been exhausted in population, by expatriation, banishment into mountains, and consequent misery and death, to
what

what additional myriads would not our numbers have long since encreased? it would only annoy any reader to expatiate on the consequences of the encrease of population. Every one knows, that prosperity and it are synonymous; the arts and sciences, trades, manufactures, and wealth would have long since arisen to every achme of perfection; those trades-people and manufacturers, as in the North, which teems with people and industry, would come to any price for a few acres of good land, which would soon induce the grazier, finding it so much his interest, to leave off grazing, and suffer *man* at length to occupy his own fields and assume his native empire over the *brute*.

Under all those circumstances population would soon encrease to such numbers, and with such tenfold rapidity, as to oblige the inhabitants to resort to the cultivation of bogs and mountains; not crippled by ignorance, despondency, misery and disease, as in the first instance, but flushed with spirits and wealth, and instructed in every knowledge of improvement, that science could infuse into the experience and practice of agriculture, they would reap abundant and cheap harvests.

Short and precarious leases are no doubt a material obstacle; but as to the idea of long leases, which might encourage the tenant to improve, it need not be entertained. Individual landlords will pursue their

old

old habits and interests, so much so, that from that source I am certain nothing can be expected, unless the legislature graciously interfered, and enacted leases either for ever, or very long terms, to be made to mountain tenants.

Habits of industry, or want of it among the people.

Every species of industry they know any thing of, or can learn, has obtained complete ascendancy over indolence, idleness, drunkenness, and dissipation.

Use of the English language, whether general or how far encreasing.

The use of the English language is quite general in this county; very few of the old people, who don't speak it; the children are all sent to school; any of them addressed in Irish will always answer in English.

Account of Towers, Castles, Monasteries, ancient Buildings, and places remarkable for memorable events.

As the pettiest *toparchs* in ancient, and even down to modern times, were called kings, it being the only title of distinction they had been acquainted with; so also it appears, that a petty hut composed of hurdles, was styled a palace, a fort, &c.

The

The king paramount or monarch's house, was called in Irish Moidhchuarta, or the visiting plain; the Munster and Leinster palaces were called Lungmuimhneach, and Lung-laighneach; but the Connaught palace was designated by the name of Coisfirchonnachtach, which, with very little paraphrase, may be translated the Hospitable Hall of Connaught; a name peculiarly characteristic of that part of the country. But hurdles and scraws, in all human probability, were the materials of those castles; for Doctor Keating in his account of Turgesius, that last lascivious tyrant of the Danes, bestows those names upon his residence; it is at this day visible; I myself know it, having visited his fort, the remains of which are still extant on the high hill, which to the westward hangs over Mrs. Pollard's charming villa, on the beautiful Loughlane, in the county of Westmeath: not a vestige of either stone, brick, mortar, or any material necessary for erecting a castle is here to be found, except a great ditch and foss; and we may easily conclude, from the facility, with which Maoilseachluin, King of Meath, burst into this castle, for his entrance was not all owing to finesse, and rescued his beautiful daughter uninjured from the embraces of this hoary lecher, from which followed the extermination of the Danes, that those names of forts, castles, palaces, &c. according to their modern meaning, had been misapplied to those royal habitations. In still much later times

times the Irish had no walled or stone castles, according to Roger Hovedon, who says, that Henry II. in the year 1171, built a palace of smooth rods near St. Andrew's church, without the city of Dublin, when he, with the kings and princes of Ireland, celebrated the festival of the nativity of our Lord*.

When Roderic O'Connor, in the year 1162, built a castle at Tuam, it was then called the wonderful castle; even in England, the castle of Pembroke, built by Montgomery, under Henry the First, (see Giraldus Cambrensis) was built of small rods; and Agard tells us, that, prior to the Norman conquest, very few and very weak were the castles of England, but that, immediately consequent thereon, they became, for the purpose of external and internal defence, not less numerous than strong. An account, therefore, of any very ancient castles in the county of Leitrim is not to be expected; the few, of which any remains or account exists, are the following.

Dromahare Castle.

Now so called, was not built by the O'Rorkes, as is generally supposed, and stated, no doubt by mistake, by Grose, V. 2. p. 55; for we find, that in 1626, the Duke of
Buckingham

* It will appear in the Report of Mayo, that castles, churches, and christianity, existed in Ireland, in the first century of the christian era.

Buckingham made a grant to his brother, Sir Edward Villiers, of 6,500 acres of arable land, and 5,114 of wood and bog, in the barony of Dromahare, which had before been granted to the Duke, 5th of January, 1626; and the same was conveyed, by patent, to Sir William Villiers, on the resignation of Robert, Earl of Nithsdale, and his brother James Maxwell, 5th Sept. 1628, to hold in capite for the service of one knight's fee, and the rent of 38*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*; the premises being erected into the manor of Dromahare, with many large privileges, and a clause of building, within four years of said last date, a castle, sixty feet in length, twenty-four in breadth, and thirty-two in height, with a bawn of four hundred feet in circuit, inclosed by a wall of fourteen feet high. The ruins are of the stipulated extent, and exhibit nothing curious, but the antique air, peculiar to buildings of that period. It is very pleasantly situated, in view of the Bonnet river. But this, so far from being O'Rorke's castle, seems to have been, in all probability, the destruction of the real.

O'Rorke's Castle or Hall,

Which is situated a little lower down, and nearer the river, for it may well be believed, that the ruined state of this hall must be owing to the stones having been used in the building of this castle by Sir Wm. Villiers.

Villiers. This castle however, from a view of the remains of its ruins, must have been strong and spacious: the remaining windows, according to the custom of those times, are high, narrow, and dark, and to a modern observer throw a gloom on its memory. There is a very true representation of it in Grose's Antiquities, taken from an original drawing by Begari, in the collection of the Right Hon. Wm. Conyngham.

That O'Rorke's hall is more ancient than Sir William's castle, requires no further proof than to recollect, that since the period of 1628, the O'Rorkes built neither halls nor castles; the Pope's Bull of the kingdom to Henry the II. sanctified by all the clergy, convoked at Waterford, having many centuries before, together with the necessary submission of Roderic, laid the foundation of foreign conquest, and for the constant possession, which it is well known the Villiers's and their assigns have enjoyed since their first obtaining it.

Jamestown Castle.

Here a castle, charmingly situated on the banks of the Shannon, was built by Sir Charles Coote in the year 1623, to whom this town and large estates in Leitrim were then granted; very little of the ruins of this castle remain. It was in the year 1645 taken by

the Earl of Carlingford after the discharge of a few pieces of canon; in 1689 the Enniskilleners took Jamestown under the command of Colonel Lloyd, after a brisk fire from the enemy. However, the Irish marching against it in great numbers under Sarsfield, the garrison abandoned it, and retreated to Sligo.

Castle of Long-field,

Was built by the O'Rorkes; Major Martin Armstrong, after the battle of Cavan, took possession of it. He had two daughters, one of whom was married to Mr. Johnston of Ahacashel's ancestor; this castle seems to have been strong, but of coarse ugly workmanship, if we may judge by the one gable of it, which remains; it stands two miles south of Newtowngore.

Castlefore,

Between Fena and Cascargan, is situated on the edge of a deep marsh, about 100 perches east of the road; it seems to have consisted of three irregular sides, and three bastions, one of which is still about half entire with a profusion of portholes. It was built by Colonel Coote, towards the middle of the 17th. century, and during the unhappy rebellion of that
period

period was plundered and burned by the treachery of a female servant.

Castle John,

On an island of Loughskur, built by John Reynolds in the reign of Queen Elizabeth ; there is a good view of it in Grose.

Cloncorrick Castle,

Built by the O'Rorkes ; it is dressed out and added to, so as at present but little to resemble a castle : it lies within half a mile of Carrigallen. It was here John O'Rorke son of Thady, the last of that family, who lived in any degree of splendor, resided and continued to reside, until in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, being envied by certain favourites of that Queen, he was at a court of claims, held at Carrigallen, deprived of his estates and bastardized on the evidence of Abbot Macaward ; this is to be seen in O'Cornyn's life of Bryan O'Rorke. O'Cornyn bestows on the abbot epithets the most opprobrious, which from his character as an historian, and a gentleman, may well be supposed to have been fully and fairly due to the rev. abbot.

The remains of two Castles,

Are extant on the banks of the Leitrim part of Loughgill. That, near the south extremity, is said to have been built by Durach O'Rorke; the other on the west by the Parke family; neither of them exhibits any thing uncommon except their situation on that beautiful lake, and being surrounded by hills and mountains nearly resembling those of North Wales.

Castle Car,

Was built by the O'Rorkes in the district called Glancar, about three miles northwest of Manorhamilton; it is a very unique grotesque figure, being seven feet broad in the wall, though only 42 feet in length, by 30 broad, and 30 high, or thereabout; the very few and very small windows are of the loophole family, one only excepted, which may be about 4 feet square, and all irregularly placed.

Dungarbery Castle.

Within a quarter of a mile of the sea; there is only one arch, over which is a gable remaining; it seems

to have been of some extent, and was built by Lady Isabel Clancy, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Woodford House,

Is built on the ruins and site of one of the O'Rorkes castles.

Manorhamilton Castle,

Situate on a gentle eminence, adjoining the town of that name, was built by Sir Frederic Hamilton, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; it measures 105 feet long by 93 broad, and seems to be about 40 feet high, surrounded by a strong wall, and four bastions, one at each corner. It was, beyond comparison, the largest, strongest, and handsomest, in the county, being beautifully quoined and corniced at each of the stories with hewn stone; the stones, of which it is built, are intermixed with micaceous particles resembling some ore.

Druidical Altars.

Of those I met but two in the county, one very large, within half a mile north-east of Fena, another

at

at the road side, on the demesne of Letterfyan. The natives call them **Leaba Dearmud is Graine*, or Darby and Graine's bed, who they suppose must have been King and Queen, whose bed could have been, in very early times, ornamented by such a canopy or stone tester, while others must have been content with leaves and bushes to repose among.

The different anecdotes and memorable events, relative to many of those ancient buildings and places, although prescribed by the Dublin Society as a subject of recital, I must beg leave to decline relating in full extent, as such, no doubt, was the tacit meaning of the Society. For, though every liberal man must despise the cause, from which too many of them arose, and must lament this charming country having so long continued a scene of devastation, and the melancholy victim of tyranny, bigotry, and party intrigue, they will, I believe, on reflection easily conclude, that hiding those barbarous traits in the back-ground of any picture of this country, converting the daggers of assassination into implements of husbandry, and treachery and dark designs into harmony and social order, accords best with the interests and ideas of the nineteenth century.

MONASTERIES

* I have to thank a gentleman, who perused this manuscript, for informing me, and his decision in points of this kind is indisputable, that the real meaning of the word *Leaba* is not *bed* but *Altar*, from the Chaldee *Lebab*, a flame.

However, the common vulgar acceptation of *Leaba* is *bed*, probably from the similitude the form of it bears to that of an altar.

MONASTERIES.

Those monastic ruins, castles, &c. I have visited every one, and have either agreed with, or differed from the ancient authorities on those subjects, as far as ocular proof, or very authentic information rendered it necessary.

Archdall, if I may judge by his *Monasticon Hibernicum*, never, certainly never, visited those places; he quotes at random from others, who, like himself, are all frequently erroneous.

As to the antiquity of buildings of this sort, finding the best writers are not agreed, and seeing, that the same mist, which a long lapse of ages diffuses over all subjects, involves this in the common cloud, that point therefore I shall undertake to decide, and shall proceed to describe such of them as I can find any account of, either written or traditional.

Crevlea.

Called also *Ballyruarc* and *Carrickpatrick*. I cannot omit observing, what a bastard mongrel those words are, neither English nor Irish, but a corrupted mutilation

tion of both. Though I take them from Archdall's *Monasticon Hibernicum*, page 408, the real name is *Craoibbliath*, which means the *Grey branch*, of the three orders of St. Francis, for whom this house and church were built. They are commonly called Grey Friars; the other two names are not less corrupted.

This is in the barony of Dromahair, near the town of that name, and situate on the river Bonnet, which falls into Loughgill, in the centre, as usual, of the finest and most fertile plains of the county. It was built A. D. 1508, by Margaret O'Brien, otherwise O'Rorke, daughter of Lord O'Brien, and wife to Eugene, Lord O'Rorke, in her viduity. She died in 1512, and was interred here. Mr. Ware says in his MSS. v. 14, that this building never was finished. The walls of the church and convent are still nearly entire. There are several curious figures on the walls and over some graves of the Murroughs, the O'Connors, a very ancient family, the O'Rorkes, &c. The great O'Rorke lies at full length on a tomb over the burial ground of his family. This building is of the same extent with the Abbey of Sligo, but is considered inferior in the execution of the workmanship.

By an inquisition held in the reign of James the II. the last abbot was found to be possessed of the following lands:—One carrucate, or quarter of land, and the rectory of Krellew, containing two carrucates of glebe land; the rectory of Cloonloher, one carrucate;

the

the rectory of Dromleis, two carrucates of glebe, and many others, forming a great extent, and all the tithes of the same, valued at 40s. annually.

In the foregoing account, we see the names abbey and abbot made use of, which must clearly be owing to mistake, or want of acquaintance with the difference between abbey and monastery, abbot and guardian; the institutions were and are totally distinct. The guardians so called preside as superiors in monasteries and convents over certain religious orders; the abbot, to whom more wealth and consequence attached, ruled the abbeys.

Fionagh,

In the parish of Fena, near the village of that name, is an old abbey built by Saint Caillin, in the east end of which is a window of curious workmanship; it is not unlike, but larger and handsomer than that in the north gable of the church belonging to the old man's hospital; and in the west end, which is vaulted, divine service had been performed for the protestant inhabitants, until a church was erected for that purpose a few years ago, a little higher up the same field; this place was celebrated in former ages for its school of divinity, and was the general resort of students from all parts of Europe.

Saint Caillin was bishop and abbot of Fena in Breifne in the lifetime of St. Columb. Tr. Th. p. 449. Joth O'Raddaghan, a truly good man, died A. D. 1377. Annal. Loughkee.

It is to this day confidently traditioned by the neighbouring inhabitants, that, when St. Caillin began to build this abbey, an evil spirit pulled down by night what was erected by day; the saint enraged at this opposition resolved to check his mischievous activity, and having blessed some ropes had them drawn along the top of the building, to prevent his approach; but Satan more wicked than wise attempted to break the holy barrier, and got so entangled among the chords, that he could not disengage himself, and afforded a pleasant spectacle in the morning to the monks, who did not dismiss him without due castigation.

To perpetuate the memory of this triumph of Saint Caillin's, there is a line engraved in high relief about the middle of the east gable, which reaches from north to south, representing this miraculous rope—and on the north side, about twelve feet from the ground, is also engraven, in high relief, a figure of the evil spirit, on the wall, with part of the chord in his mouth.

The only resemblance this figure bears to any known animal, is to something of the canine genus. It is drawn as if stealing to the north east corner, where it has seized in its mouth one end of the great chord, all fours, at full pull to tear away the rope, and by the visible

sible violence of force expelling excrements in abundance, indicating reproach for, and defeat in his attempt.

Jamestown Friery.

Burke says, there had been a Franciscan friery here, which was only remarkable for being the place, where the Roman Catholic prelates assembled, 6th of August, 1650. The forces of parliament were everywhere successful, and the affairs of the King and Catholics wore a rueful aspect. The Duke of Lorraine, on all occasions, professed his attachment to both, and declared that he was ready to assist them, on the mortgage of any considerable town, with men and money. The Lord Lieutenant ordered Lord Taaffe, Lord Athenry, and Mr. Geoffry Brown to treat with him, and to offer Galway in mortgage. But the Duke had far other projects—he wished, by his pretended zeal, to induce the Pope to legitimate children, which he had by a favourite mistress. The Pope, for the advancement of religion, and the Catholic cause, soon granted his prayer, and the Duke no sooner accomplished his object, than he played the trick of some modern allies, and deserted his contracted faith.

The clergy, without consulting the government, met at Jamestown, and nominated commissioners to enter

into a treaty with any foreign power, who was ready to aid them.

The curious reader may not be displeased to see their names and titles.

Hugh O'Reilly, Archbishop of Armagh, John Burke, Archbishop of Tuam, John Culinan, Bishop of Raphoe, Eugene Swiney, Bishop of Kilmore, Francis Kirwan, Bishop of Killala, Nicholas French, Bishop of Ferns, and Proctor to Thomas Fleming, and close relative, 'tis said, to the present member for Roscommon, Anthony Geoghegan, Bishop of Clonmacnois, Walter Lynch, Bishop of Clonfert, and proxy for Edmond Dempsey, Bishop of Leighlin, Arthur Magennis, Bishop of Down and Connor, and proxy for the Bishop of Dromore, James, Abbot of Cong, Thomas Kernan, Abbot of Boyle, Charles Kelly, Dean of Tuam, Bernard Egan, Proctor for the provincial of the Dominicans, Richard Kelly, Prior of Rathbran, Thady Egan, Provost of Tuam, Luke Plunket, Chaplain to the Leinster army, &c. John Dowly, Abbot of Kilmanock, Walter Enos, Apostolic Protonotary, Treasurer of Ferns, and proxy for the Provost of the collegiate church of Galway.

Annaughduff.

In the barony of Leitrim, near Loughboffin.—An abbey was erected here A. D. 766, which is now a parish

parish church.—*Mon. Hib. Conry.*—The only vestige of the abbey is a few curious stones, in the south gable window.

Clone.

Near the river Clone, in the barony of Mohill, Saint Frioeh, or Froech, about the year 570, founded an abbey, at Cluanconmacne, in the territory of Muinte-reoluis, and county of Leitrim, which was formerly in great repute. The founder is also the patron of the house, which originally was called Cluancholluing. It is now known by the name of Clone, and is a parish church, in the diocese of Ardagh—*Tr. Th. p. 452. AR. S.S. p. 344.*—The abbey stones are visible in the windows, and some of the church wall is composed of what originally made part of the abbey.

Dromleas.

Said by *Tr. Th. p. 180*, to be on the borders of Lough Gill. It is not there, but about five miles south east of it, in the county of Leitrim. There is now not a trace of any such building. The Protestant church of Dromleas was probably built on the site of it, within a small
mile

mile south east of Dromahare. The MSS. notes to Ward say it was built by Saint Patrick, who placed Saint Benignus over it.

Kilnaille.

We find a religious house of this name in Breifne, but are doubtful whether to place it in this, or in the county of Cavan. Saint Natalis, or Naal, was abbot here, and died A. D. 563. His festival is observed on the 27th of January.—Calendar, quoted by *Mon. Hib.*

The ruins of this abbey, I find, are in the county of Leitrim, situate in the centre of a green field, on the verge of Killowmawn lake. This whole scene, contrary to the general situation of houses of this kind, lies on a wild extensive black mountain, about five miles south of Manorhamilton. Curiosity, as well as duty, led me to view this scene. The lake, on which I am now fishing, produces a profusion of black trout, from a small size to 20lbs. weight and upwards, of exquisite flavour. If they should refuse the bait or flee, they can be caught by basketfuls, in a rivulet issuing from the lake. This, most probably, was the inducement to build this monastery in so strange a situation, and most probably also, it was built by monks of the Carthusian order, who, according to their rules, abstain totally from

from eating flesh-meat, and settled here for the convenience, abundance, and excellence of the fish.

Moy Abbey,

At the village of Newtown, on the borders of the county of Cavan. It was very small. No account or tradition of it.

Corrogh Abbey—Tarmon Abbey,

Both on the western borders of Lough Allen. In Tarmon Abbey resided nuns, until defiled and expelled by Cromwell's soldiers. Two ladies, of the name of Magauran and O'Rorke, then presided. They were both women of singular beauty and piety. Tradition is silent about the others.

Leitrim.

This village is situate on the Shannon, within two miles and a half of Carrick-on-Shannon; and, though not the capital, it gives name to the barony and county, from which we may infer, that Leitrim was once a place

place of note. St. Mc. Liegus, son of Cernac, was Bishop of Leathdroman, and his festival is observed on the 8th of February.—*Æt. S. S.* p. 223, and *Ward*, p. 165.

The small remnant of any ruins now at Leitrim resembles more a military fortress, than any clerical building—one was, most probably, converted into the other; and if the town ever was of any note, it is now, and has been for many years, so unpeopled and deserted, that scarce one remains there to tell any thing about it.

Mobill.

Situate in the barony of the same name, and diocese of Ardagh. Saint Manchan, the patron of the Seven Churches, built an abbey here for canons regular, in the year 608, and died in the year 652. Many glebelands, vassal's fees, tythes, &c. were given to this church, which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary—*Usher*, p. 969, *Æt. S. S.* 332, 333, and *Ware*, *Mon.*—On the dissolution of this abbey it was found, that two carrucates, commonly called cartrens of land, each containing eighty acres, and called Byscadenan and Cowleban, together with Gortifad and Drominchoe, one cartren, were part of the possessions of this abbey, and of the annual value of £.2 : 6s. : 8d. Irish money.

Chief Remembrancer.

On part of the site, just near the river, and of the stones of the abbey, is built a handsome protestant church.

Coolkille.

There was here an abbey, two miles north of Fena, said to have been built by Colomkil. It is on a smaller scale than those of Fena. No further account remains of it.

Doiremelle.

On the banks of Lough Melvyn, in the lower Breifne, a nunnery was founded by Saint Tigernach for his mother, Saint Mella, who died before the year 787. He also erected for himself the monastery of Killacidh.—*AA. S.S. p. 796.*

Oilean iona Inse,

Or the island of *Inse*, which is the genitive case of *Inis*, an island. This little island contains five or six acres, and is situate near the entrance of the Shannon into the northern extremity of Lough Allen. On this

stand the remains of a church—the nave measures fifty feet by thirty. The windows and ruins of the aisles seem to be proportionate. All that tradition informs us about it is, that it was built by Saint Beoy, to whom many spring-wells in that neighbourhood are consecrated, where his festivals are celebrated to this day, with much piety, and no small degree of mirth, on the 8th of March.

In former times, however, this island and church must have been held in profound veneration; for the parish now called Munterkenny was anciently, and sometimes to this day, is called, in Irish, the parish of the Island. It was, time immemorial, the burial-place of all the country surrounding that part of the lake, and many were the perils and hardships attending those interments—for much sooner would their friends suffer the remains of the deceased to get putrid on the shore, expecting a calm hour, or boldly brave the stormy waves, in a crazy little boat, to reach this land of promise, than suffer the interment to take place in any other ground; until, early in the last century, a good old man, of the name of Mc. Parlan, built at his own expence the walls and gables of a church on terra firma, at Kilbride, and had the ground consecrated, in order to induce the neighbours, by those outward signs of sanctity, to forget their aquatic superstition. But, notwithstanding all his exertions, and those of many others since his time, so strongly still does the prejudice remain,

main, that I myself have known, for days together, the coffins to have remained on shore, covered with sand, and the good old neighbours sitting around them, smoaking and dramming, and, exposed to the stormy elements, indulging in all the blended luxury of friendship and grief, until at length a returning calm interrupted the blissful reverie, and the lessening boat, expressive of the long and last adieu, had closed the scene.

Of many instances, in Pagan times, of this watery devotion on the Continent, it may not be deemed incurious to observe, that Tacitus tells us the Batavians worshipped an island on the Rhine. This superstition the Firbelgs, who came from that country, probably introduced among us. That the Firbelgs did come from that country, the very name *vir belgicus* demonstrates. All the Germans, high and low, give to the letter *v* the sound of *f*—and to *g*, the hard sound of that letter in the word *gallop*; so that their and our sound and pronunciation of the name precisely agree—as also does this superstition, which they left us, and which for ages so vigorously flourished throughout the kingdom. Witness the islands of *Loughkee* and *Loughderg*, which is to this day (contrary to some written accounts of it) visited and prayed on with such peculiar fervency—our present *Inis*, or *Oilean-na-Inse*—the Island of Tarry, &c. &c.

Whether the County has been actually surveyed, when, and whether the Survey is published?

This county has been actually surveyed by Sir Wm. Petty, in the year 1683. The survey is published.

Weights and Measures, liquid or dry; in what instances are weights assigned for measures, and vice versa?

There are in this county two sorts of weight, one by which gold, silver, and medicines are sold; it is called *troy-weight*. The other, by which all other things, wares, merchandize, &c. are sold; it is called *avoirdupois weight*. The avoirdupois pound contains 7000 grains; the troy pound only 5760, that is, less by 1240 grains. The pounds are also differently divided; the avoirdupois pound has 16 ounces, the troy twelve; fourteen pounds avoirdupois make a stone.

The liquid measures are those common in measuring wines, spirits, &c. the gallon, which contains four quarts, the quart two pints, the pint sixteen ounces, the ounce eight drams.

Weights are now in all cases and instances used and assigned for measure, but measure is hardly ever assigned for weight, except in selling very small quantities of grain or meat, and then the pint, quart, or gallon, are the measures used.

*The weight or measure, by which grain, flour, potatoes,
butter, &c. are sold.*

They are all sold by avoirdupois weight, fourteen pounds to the stone. In some parts of the county the number of stones to the barrel varies, and the stones also vary in the scale of different grains, but it is avoirdupois all through.

ALPHABETICAL

ALPHABETICAL LIST
OF THE
NOBLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN,

WHO HAVE LARGE PROPERTIES WITHIN THIS COUNTY,

And have no places of Residence therein.

BESBOROUGH, Lord

Clements, Lord

Clifford, Lady de

Clements, Mr.

Crofton, Mr.

Carleton, Mr.

Granard, Lord

St. George, Minor

Jones, Right Hon. Theophilus.

Keon, Minor

Latouche, Right Hon. David, and Brothers.

Leitrim, Lord

Madden, Mr.

Rowley, William, Mr.

Tottenham, Mr.

Wynne, Mr.

White, Mr.

RESIDENT

RESIDENT GENTLEMEN OF PROPERTY.

ALPHABETICALLY PLACED.

ALGRO, Lewis, *Glanboy.*O'Brien, Mr. *Drumraban.*O'Beirne, Mr. *Jamesstown.*

O'Brien, Robert,

Conyngham, Bryan, *Porte.*Crofton, Duke, *Mohill.*Carter, John, and brothers, *Dromlease.*Cullen, Rev. Mr. *Skreeny.*Crofton, Mr. *Lurgan.*Dickson, Major, *Woodville.*Gore, John, *Woodford.*Irwin, Richard, *Dromsalla.*Johnston, Counsellor, *Oakfield.*Johnston, Robert, *Headford.*Johnston, Robert, *Abacasbel.*Johnston, Andrew, *Addugold.*Johnston, Francis, of *Gortormone*, and brothers.Johnston, John, *Friar's-town.*Keon, Mr. *Keonbrook.*Lawder, Edward, *Clover-hill.*

Moreton, Johnston, Mr.

Percy, Mr. *Garradise.*Reynolds, Mr. *Letterfyan.*Simpson, Mr. *Drumsna.*Shanly, Mr. *Willyfield.*

MONTHLY

MONTHLY LIST
OF FAIRS
IN THE
COUNTY OF LETTRIM.

Taken from Watson's Farmer's almanack for 1801.

JANUARY.

Castlecarrigan	-	1st.
Dromahare	-	Ditto
Dromod	-	Ditto
Mohill	-	8th.
Leitrim town	-	22d.

FEBRUARY.

Drumkerrin	-	11th.
Cloon	-	12th.
Drumshambo	-	Ditto
Mohill	-	25th.
Newtown	-	Ditto

MARCH.

Dromod	-	28th.
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APRIL.

Cloone	-	6th.
Mohill	-	9th.

MAY.

OF THE COUNTY OF LEITRIM.

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M A Y.

Carrigallen	-	7th.
Manorhamilton	-	8th.
Ballinamore	-	12th.
Carrickdrumrusk	-	Ditto
Lurganboy	-	15th.
Dromod	-	16th.
Drumshambo	-	18th.
Longfield	-	Ditto
Drumsna	-	20th.
Newtown	-	25th.
Tullaghan	-	Ditto
Cloon	-	26th.
Drumkerrin	-	27th.
Jamestown	-	28th.

J U N E.

Mohill	-	4th.
Drumshambo	-	12th.
Cloon	-	13th.
Dromahare	-	16th.
Drumsna	-	22d.
Lurganboy	-	Ditto
Castlegarrigan	-	24th.
Newtowngore	-	26th.
Dromod	-	29th.

Q

J U L Y

JULY.

Manorhamilton	-	1st.
Mohill	-	2d.
Jamestown	-	8th.
Cloon	-	10th.
Drumshambo	-	16th.
Drumkerrin	-	18th.
Dromahare	-	21st.
Mohill	-	31st.

AUGUST.

Tullaghan	-	4th.
Carrigallen	-	10th.
Carrickdrumrusk	-	11th.
Cascarrigan	-	14th.
Dromod	-	15th.
Lurganboy	-	21st.
Drumsna	-	25th.
Newtown	-	Ditto
Cloon	-	26th.

SEPTEMBER.

Mohill	-	10th.
Cloon	-	29th.

OCTOBER.

Drumshambo	-	6th.
Drumsna	-	7th.

Manorhamilton

OF THE COUNTY OF LEITRIM.

115

Manorhamilton	-	7th.
Carrigallen	-	8th.
Longfield	-	10th.
Dromod	-	12th.
Newtowngore	-	15th.
Dromkerrin	-	19th.
Lurganboy	-	23d.

NOVEMBER.

Cloon	-	2d.
Dromahare	-	Ditto
Tullaghan	-	5th.
Ballinamore	-	12th.
Mohill	-	Ditto
Dromshambo	-	16th.
Manorhamilton	-	19th.
Carrickdrumrusk	-	23d.
Newtown	-	25th.

DECEMBER.

Leitrim town	-	1st.
Mohill	-	3d.
Dromod	-	5th.
Drumsna	-	14th.
Tullaghan	-	15th.
Jamestown	-	21st.
Drumkerrin	-	23d.
Carrigallen	-	25th.
Longfield	-	28th.

English

English Linen fairs.

BRISTOL.

March 2d.

September 1st.

CHESTER.

July 6th.

October 10th.

FINIS.