

STATISTICAL SURVEY
OF THE
COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON,
&c. &c.

The lower incidents reflect the
stabilized and improved

Figure 1 consists of two parts. The top part shows a graph with 4 nodes and 4 edges, labeled "Graphs with 4 nodes". The bottom part shows a graph with 4 nodes and 3 edges, also labeled "Graphs with 4 nodes".

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

STATISTICAL SURVEY

OF THE

COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON,

DRAWN UP UNDER THE DIRECTIONS

OF THE

ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY.

By ISAAC WELD,

SENIOR HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY;
MEMBER OF THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY; FELLOW OF THE GEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF DUBLIN, ETC. ETC.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED BY R. GRAISBERRY,
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1832.

SUBJECTS OF INQUIRY

FOR

THE COUNTY SURVEYS,

ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED BY

THE ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

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

AGRICULTURE.

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

PASTURE.

Nature of it,
Breed of cattle—how far improved,

Breed of cattle—how far capable of further improvement,
 Markets or Fairs for them,
 General prices,
 Modes of feeding—how far housed in winter,
 Natural grasses,
 Artificial grasses,
 Mode of hay-making,
 Dairies, their produce,
 Prices of hides, tallow, wool, and quantity sold.

FARMS.

Their size,
 Farm houses and offices,
 Mode of repairing them, whether by landlord or tenant,
 Nature of tenures,
 General state of leases,
 ————, of particular clauses therein,
 Taxes or Cesses paid by tenants,
 Proportion of working horses or bullocks to the size of farms,
 General size of fields, or enclosures,
 Nature of fences,
 Mode of hedge-rows, and keeping hedges,
 Mode of draining,
 Nature of manures.

GENERAL SUBJECTS.

Population,
 Number and size of villages and towns,
 Habitation, fuel, food, and clothing of the lower rank—their
 general cost,
 Price of wages, labour, and provisions,
 State of tithe, its general amount on each article—what arti-
 cles are exempt, and what charged by modus,
 Use of beer and spirits, whether either or which is increasing,

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

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 Royal Dublin Society, as soon as may be convenient, and which will meet with the fullest attention in a future edition.

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PREFACE.

THE present volume occupies the twenty-fourth place in the series of statistical county surveys of Ireland, originally instituted by the Royal Dublin Society, under the immediate patronage of the Irish parliament. That no greater progress, at the end of so many years, should have been made towards the completion of this important national undertaking, and that eight counties should still remain undescribed, is, perhaps, principally attributable to the inadequacy of the remuneration held out by the Society, in itself alone, offering little temptation to enter upon the laborious exertions, as well in the field as in the study, which are absolutely necessary to bring a county survey to a satisfactory conclusion. Neither has any distinction been made between the large or the small, the near or the remote counties. The Society, at the outset, appears to have depended upon persons

being found, who would volunteer their services, regardless of immediate recompense, and such expectations have not proved altogether devoid of foundation ; but, in the mean time, the surveys have lingered on to the present day.

As far back as the year 1799, upon the publication of my travels in the States of North America and the Canadas, I had been solicited by the persons who were then at the head of the Society, to undertake one of the surveys ; but after having had my mind so long occupied with the destinies of the giant regions of the new world, I felt no inclination to descend to the examination of an Irish county, and at once declined the proposal. That, at the end of thirty years, I should have undertaken a task which I had before rejected, may require a few words of explanation ; and I think, I may say, I was principally prompted to it, by the perusal of the able little book upon Ireland, by Mr. Bichenno, and the conversation I had the pleasure of holding with him at my own house, though to my regret, only during a very cursory visit. I had ample leisure also at the time, and felt a desire to avoid, in some measure, the obloquy which has been cast upon those, who, after years spent in foreign travel, in various countries, remain but ill acquainted with their own. Of the county of Roscommon and of Connaught in general,

I knew, in fact, little or nothing, from personal observation, having never set foot within their limits, excepting during a short excursion to examine the mining districts on the confines of Lough Allen.

I commenced my task in the summer of the year 1830 ; spent the principal part of the months of August, September, and October, in perambulating the county to and fro in every direction ; and, in the following winter sat down to arrange the fruits of my researches. But having been under the necessity of going to London for some months, on my own business ; and afterwards having gone thither, a second time, on a mission relative to the financial affairs of the Royal Dublin Society, the composition of the work was retarded ; and the printing was afterwards protracted considerably beyond the time usually required to bring such a volume to a termination.

I have spared no pains, whether in pursuing my inquiries on the spot, or in searching for information from sources already published : the latter, indeed, occupied much more time than I had anticipated ; and, to my mortification, without any very satisfactory results. That I may not have fallen into error, and also passed over many things unnoticed, I am not so presumptuous as to suppose ; but, pursuant to the notice

which appears prefixed to this work, I beg leave to say, that I shall gratefully receive any communications which may be offered, tending to illustrate the statistics of the county; and shall do my utmost to arrange them, in order to their being deposited along with this volume, in the library of the Royal Dublin Society.

I. W.

RAVENSWELL,

BRAY.

SURVEY

OF THE

COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON.

SITUATION—EXTENT—BOUNDARIES.

THE County of Roscommon, one of the five counties which compose the province of Connaught, is situated on the western bank of the river Shannon, and nearly in the centre of Ireland. Its extreme north lies in N. latitude $54^{\circ} 7' 27''$, and its most southern point in $53^{\circ} 16' 13''$: the distance between these two parallels of latitude amounts in Irish miles to about forty-six two-thirds, and in English statute nearly to fifty-nine one-third, which may accordingly be set down for the length of the county.

The breadth of the county is very unequal, and it diminishes to a narrow angle both at the north and at the south. Its largest continuous width from east to west is nearly in the parallel of Rooskeybridge, on the Shannon, where it reaches to about twenty-five Irish miles, somewhat less than thirty-two English. Beyond this line to the north and to the south the county becomes narrower, more particularly in the

latter direction: near the town of Athleague, upon the river Suck, the distance from that stream to Lough Ree, one of the expansions of the Shannon, does not exceed ten miles.

The meridian of Elphin, which is nearly in the centre of the county, is in $8^{\circ} 8' 31''$ W. longitude from Greenwich.*

The area of the county contains

	Irish Measure.		English Measure.
In square miles	575	..	932
In acres	.. 368,446	..	596,821

Which last may be subdivided as follows :

Arable acres	279,976	..	453,515
Bog do.	80,908	..	131,057
Water do.	7,562	..	12,249
	<u>368,446</u>		<u>596,821</u>

The northern frontier of the county, which, as already observed, is very narrow, not exceeding three miles in breadth, is bounded by the County of Leitrim; on the north-west the boundary is formed by Sligo; on the west by Mayo; on the south-west by Galway, or rather by the river Suck, which flows between the two counties, in a meandering course of nearly fifty miles, computing all its windings. But the most remarkable boundary of the County Roscommon is that on its eastern side, formed by the river Shannon and its extensive lakes; and although from the point where

* Vide the Grand Jury county map executed by Messrs. William Edgeworth and Richard Griffith, published in 1817.

the boundary line to the north meets Lough Allen, to the mouth of the river Suck on the south, which two points are not far from being under the same meridian, the distance, as already mentioned, does not exceed sixty English miles in a straight line, yet at least double that extent may be assigned to the frontier line, if all the windings of the river, and all the sinuosities of the shores of the lakes, are taken into account. About two-thirds of the boundaries of the county are defined by water.

The river Suck is only navigable for small boats, and that to a short distance from its mouth; whilst the Shannon during the greater part of its course, along the shores of Roscommon, is navigable for boats of burthen; but the navigation is frequently intercepted by shallows and falls, as will be more particularly explained in the section upon the rivers, and the utility of the navigation to the commercial and agricultural interests of the county; for the present the subject is merely one of boundaries.

By bridges across the Shannon, Roscommon communicates with the Counties of Leitrim, Longford, Westmeath, and with the King's County; and by bridges across the river Suck, with Galway.

DIVISIONS OF THE COUNTY.

Roscommon is divided into six baronies and half baronies, in the following order, beginning at the north:

Barony of Boyle,	{	Occupying the northern and north-western parts of the County; the principal town that of BOYLE.

Barony of Roscommon,

Lying to the south of the preceding one, and occupying the central part of the County: principal town **ELPHIN**.

Barony of Ballintobber,

This Barony consists of three separate detached portions: two of them bordering upon the Shannon, but disjoined by the intervention of the Barony of Roscommon: and the third, situated to the extreme west of the county, being separated from the other two parts of the barony, by the intervention of the half barony of Ballymoe. The county town, **ROSCOMMON**, stands within this barony.

Half Barony of Ballymoe,*

On the south-west of the county, adjoining the County of Galway.

Barony of Athlone,

Extending entirely across the county from east to west, near the town of the same name: principal town, **ATHLONE**.

Half Barony of Moycarne,

Occupying the extreme south of the county.

* In the engraved county map, by Messrs. Edgeworth and Griffith, the half barony of Ballymoe is not designated by name in large letters, like the other baronies, but its position may be assumed from the town of Ballymoe, on the borders of the County of Galway, and from the colouring of the map.

In the foregoing table, the baronies are placed in their geographical order from north to south, the better to render their respective situations understood. But in the county books, as well as in the marginal references of the county map, they are arranged differently, and stand thus :

Athlone,
Ballintobber,
Half Ballymoe,
Boyle,
Half Moycarne,
Roscommon.

On what principle the arrangement was originally made, I have not been able satisfactorily to ascertain. The division of Connaught into counties, and of Roscommon into baronies, was made in the time of Queen Elizabeth under Sir John Perrot. Athlone being then the place of the greatest importance, in the central parts of Ireland, and the residence frequently of the Deputy, was naturally placed the first on the list ; but why the half baronies of Ballymoe and of Moycarne, which contain no towns of note, and which, as their epithet of *half* denotes, are appendages of the divisions of another county, should be placed, the one before the barony of Boyle, and both before the barony of Roscommon, is not so readily explained. Ballintobber, which is the largest of all the baronies, comes the second on the list ; and this barony, it is to be observed, contains the town of Roscommon ; but whether it was fixed upon for the county town, from being one of the most central places, admits of doubt.

The barony of Ballintobber comprised the terri-

teritories of O'Connor *Dhunne*;* that of Roscommon, the territories of O'Connor *Ruadh*:† these were rival chieftains, but both of them were compelled to submit to the queen, and to surrender their Brehon titles. They executed indentures of submission, and accepted of re-grants to them and their heirs.

The barony of Boyle was formed at the same time out of the territories of M'Dermott of the Rock.

The following is a table of the contents of these several Baronies, according to a marginal note in the great County map already referred to:

BARONIES.	ACRES.				
	ARABLE.	BOG.	WATER	Total Irish.	Total English.
BOYLE . . .	65,137	25,548	3,598	94,283	152 7 23
ROSCOMMON .	48,700	6,629	1,686	57,105	92,501
BALLINTOBBER .	75,923	23,295	1,300	100,518	162,822
HALF BALLYMOE	13,333	1,001	56	14,390	23,309
ATHLONE . .	66,623	16,337	902	83,862	135,843
HALF MOYCARNE	10,170	8,098	20	18,288	29,623
Total in Irish Acres	279,976	80,908	7,562	368,446	
Total in Eng. Acres	453,515	131,057	12,249		596,821

These baronies are subdivided into parishes, and the parishes into townlands; arbitrary divisions containing no definite number of acres.

* *Dhunne*, or *Dun*, brown, so called from the colour of his hair.

† *Ruadh*, spelt also *Ruaidh*; that is, red-haired.

I must take this early opportunity of expressing my thanks to Matthew O'Connor, Esq., Barrister, brother of the late O'Connor DON, M. P. for the County of Roscommon, for his obliging communication of these and other interesting particulars.

The following tables specifying the parishes, the townlands, and the acreable contents of the parishes, are taken from the county books, which serve as the basis of the fiscal assessments upon the county.

I.

BARONY OF BOYLE.

Parishes.	Number of Townlands.		Contents in Irish Acres.	
Killnemanagh	..	15	..	1939
Killbryan	..	6	..	969
Ardcarne	..	39	..	5760
Tumma	..	27	..	2762
Killuken	..	26	..	2212
Killumod	..	12	..	1781
Eastersnow	..	22	..	1976
Killcolagh	..	12	..	1798
Taughboyne	..	56	..	9193
Boyle	..	43	..	6378
Killronan	..	34	..	2399
Creave	..	19	..	1891
Killmacumsey	..	32	..	2759
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		343		41,817

II.

BARONY OF ROSCOMMON.

Parishes.	Townlands.		Contents.	
Shankbill	..	28	..	2622
Bumlin	..	17	..	2273
Elphin	..	33	..	5532
Kiltrustan	..	28	..	3007
				<hr/>
				13,434

Parish.	Townlands.	Contents.
<i>Brought forward</i>	.. ..	13,434
Clonfinlough	28 ..	3025
Lisanuff	22 ..	2699
Killuken	22 ..	2511
Ogulla	24 ..	3002
Killhooly	21 ..	2296
Clooncraft	23 ..	1527
Aghrim	37 ..	3417
	<hr/> 283	<hr/> 31,911

III.

BARONY OF BALLINTOBBER.

Parishes.	Townlands.	Contents.
Killbride and Derran	36 .. .	7122
Killkeevan	50 .. .	6138
Tarmonbarry	— ..	1872
Ballintobber	16 ..	2646
Baslick	25 ..	5621
Killcorkey	11 ..	2847
Killtivan	21 ..	1597
Killmore	34 ..	3855
Killglass	37 ..	5024
Killgeffin	22 ..	2515
Roscommon	28 ..	3918
Cloontuskert	24 ..	1720
Killtollagh	43 ..	6128
	<hr/> 347	<hr/> 51,003

IV.

HALF BARONY OF BALLYMOE.

Parishes.	Townlands.	Contents.
Oran	18 ..	2506
Donamon	3 ..	586
Drumtemple	16 ..	1775
Cloonigormican	12 ..	3532
	<hr/> 49	<hr/> 8399

V.

BARONY OF ATHLONE.

Parishes.	Townlands.	Contents.
St. Peter's	6 ..	1442
Drum	24 ..	3352
Killtoom	21 ..	3770
Cam	30 ..	5352
Taughmaconnel	35 ..	5538
Dysart	14 ..	1836
St. John's	18 ..	3685
Taughboy	24 ..	2661
Taughsrara	27 ..	3147
Rahara	32 ..	2148
Killenvoy	33 ..	2781
Killmayn	42 ..	3759
Athleague	22 ..	3462
Fuerty	35 ..	5549
	<hr/> 363	<hr/> 48,483

VI.

HALF BARONY OF MOYCARNE.

Parishes.		Townlands.		Contents.
Creeagh	..	14	..	3276
Moore	..	19	..	5483
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		33		8759

SUMMARY.

Baronies.	Parishes.	Townlands.	Contents.
Boyle	13	343	41,817
Roscommon	11	283	31,911
Ballintobber	13	347	51,003
Half Ballymoe	4	49	8,399
Athlone	14	363	48,483
Half Moycarne	2	33	8,759
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	57		190,372

On casting the eye over the preceding tables, it will be immediately perceived, that there is a great difference between the acreable contents of the county, as noted in the margin of the county map, and the contents of the several baronies in the books according to which the assessments are levied on the county. To place this difference in a clearer point of view, the following table has been constructed:

Baronies.	Contents per the county map.	Contents by the county books for assessment.
	<i>Irish Acres.</i>	<i>Irish Acres.</i>
1. Boyle ..	65,137	41,817
2. Roscommon	48,790	31,911
3. Ballintobber	75,923	51,003
4. Half Ballymoe	13,333	8,399
5. Athlone ..	66,623	48,483
6. Half Moycarne	10,170	8,759
Total arable land	<u>279,976</u>	<u>190,372</u>

Thus, by the county books, it appears as if the whole superficial contents of the county only amounted to 190,372 acres ; a quantity less by 89,604 acres than the amount of the mere arable land set down in Messrs. Edgeworth and Griffith's map. Incorrectness in any one part of a statement necessarily creates doubts about the remainder ; and in these old estimates, although the whole contents are less, yet have they in some instances gone beyond the mark, and assigned more acres to certain townlands than they are known actually to contain. Thus, in the parish of Elphin, as I was informed by his Lordship the Bishop, there is an instance of county cess being levied every year for 600 acres, whereas not more than 500 acres can be ascertained as existing within the district described.

In treating of the taxation of the county, this subject will come more fully under notice. At present it has been introduced merely in reference to the superficial contents of the county and its subdivision. So also, in considering the ecclesiastical divisions of the county, discrepancies will be pointed out between

the preceding list of the parishes, and those named in the Ecclesiastical Register, and in the county map.

It is to be presumed that the subdivision of parishes into townlands, and the various different proportions of surface assigned to the latter, originally depended on the estimated quantity of profitable ground which each townland contained. Had the estimate been made with tolerable precision, or even with a reasonable approximation to precision, a curious and interesting basis would have been afforded for a comparison between the extent of profitable ground in former and present times. But the estimate of the contents of the townlands in general is admitted to have been made very inaccurately; and hence much inequality arises in the taxation of the county.*

SURFACE AND APPEARANCE OF THE COUNTY.

The mountains on the borders of Lough Allen, the Curlew mountains in the same district, the great sandstone ridge of Slievebawn, extending through the baronies of Ballintobber and Roscommon, and Slievealuyn in the west, afford sure indications that the surface of the county is not devoid of inequality and variety. Neither is it merely in the vicinity of the mountains that the surface is broken; but in various parts it is agreeably

* It is to redress these errors, and render the division more just, that in addition to, and in connexion with the great Trigonometrical Ordnance Survey, another one is carrying on simultaneously, to regulate boundaries, and make a new estimate of the value of the land.

undulated with hill and dale. Nevertheless, considerable tracts of flat ground intervene likewise, through which dull and sleepy rivers wind their sluggish course, frequently overflowing their sedgy banks and flooding the country to a considerable extent on either side. Some of the larger bogs also present flat surfaces of considerable extent, whilst others are diversified with all the inequalities of the hills upon which they repose. Along the river Suck, and likewise on the Shannon, there are extensive tracts of flat alluvial soil, and also vast plains of bog. The most remarkable of these are in the contiguity of Athlone and of Lanesborough. The latter was selected for the base line measured for the Trigonometrical Survey of the county, by Messrs. Wm. Edgeworth and Richard Griffith, the length of which amounted to 42,046 feet. It may be observed, however, that this tract does not present an uninterrupted even surface, but is crossed by several ridges of limestone gravel, so that in passing between Lanesborough and Roscommon, the old gaol, near the summit of the hill in the latter town, which is a remarkable land-mark on this side of the county, is in several instances obscured by the intervening ground.

Occasionally, roads may be seen passing for one or two miles, and even more, over nearly dead levels, whilst in far more numerous instances, they wind over hills, where ascents and descents occur of inconvenient steepness, and that also not in the immediate vicinity of the mountains.

Though rocks appear above the surfaces in various places beyond the mountainous region, yet they rarely rise to considerable height, or present large individual compact masses. I cannot call to recollection a single

instance, excepting it be actually amongst the mountains, where they form cliffs, or become remarkable objects in the landscape. Along the Suck, and along the river Shannon, south of Carrick, the shores in several parts are bold, and cliffs occasionally overhang the water; but these in general are formed of compact masses of limestone gravel and indurated clay; and although the bed of these rivers is traversed by ledges of rocks, which form bars in various places, yet these seldom appear above the water, and never rise to a height so as to become picturesque, or even prominent objects in the landscape. The rocks upon which the ancient castles and abbeys are based, invariably of limestone, present the same character of flat ledges, and where cut through for the formation of the fosse, or moat, are covered with vegetation and scarcely distinguishable from banks of earth.

In the northern parts of the county, amongst the mountains, scenery occasionally occurs, picturesque if not romantic in its nature. Certain parts of the banks of the Suck are also beautiful, and the shores of some of the lakes truly delightful. Indeed, there is scarcely any part of the county which would not be grateful to the eye, if it was but more generally wooded; but the want of timber is very observable. Yet in the neighbourhood of country seats, there are groves and plantations, which serve to show what the country might become if the same spirit which created them were more generally diffused. The freedom with which trees flourish, and the healthy and vigorous appearance of those which have attained considerable age as well as size, plainly indicate that they have found both soil and climate congenial to their growth.

Near some of the more distinguished residences, the extent of wood is very considerable, all of it, however, artificially planted. Amongst these, Moate Park, near the town of Roscommon, the seat of Lord Crofton; Strokestown, Lord Hartland's; Lough Glynn, Lord Dillon's; Rockingham, Viscount Lorton's; French Park, Mt. Talbot, &c., may all boast of some beautiful reaches of wood, and several fine individual trees. Excepting it be near Lough Meelagh in the northern part of the county, I am not aware, however, of having seen any trees, even of moderate size, which bore the appearance of original natural growth; but in some ravines, to the west of Castlerea, and also near the banks of the lower Suck, as well as near Lough Ree, scrubby thickets may be seen which seem to have sprung from old stocks, probably the remnants of former woods.

Of modern plantations, not made for ornament, in the immediate neighbourhood of the house or demesne, the most extensive are those of Viscount Lorton, at the base of the Curlew mountains, and of Mr. Wills, on Slievealuyn, near Ballinlough.

MOUNTAINS.

The highest mountains in the county are those of Ballieve or Brahlieve, and Slieve Curkagh, to the north, through the valley between which the river Arigna flows, subsequently emptying itself into the Shannon, immediately after the latter river has issued from Lough Allen. I am not aware of any published data from which the relative heights of these moun-

tains of Roscommon may be estimated, but they will probably be made known, together with many other interesting particulars, through the present Ordnance Surveys. Mr. Griffith, in his Survey of the Connaught Coal District, gives some grounds for supposing that the height of Brahlieve may amount to 1000 or 1200 feet above the valley at its base. I should be disposed to think it still higher; but every one knows how very erroneous the mere judgment by the eye often proves. Slieve Curkagh mountain, on the opposite or northern side of the valley, appears to be yet more elevated. These mountains rise conspicuously above all the other heights in Roscommon, and show their blue summits in the horizon from very distant parts of the county.

Next to these in height is the ridge of Slieve Bawn, which extends in a direction nearly north and south, within the distance of from two to four miles of the river Shannon. The most southern extremity of the ridge lies nearly in the same parallel of latitude as the town of Lanesborough, at the head of Lough Ree, on the Shannon. The ridge of Slieve Bawn may also be seen peering in the horizon from a very considerable distance, more particularly from certain places within the County of Longford on the eastern side of the Shannon. These mountains of Brahlieve and Slieve Curkagh, in the northern extremity of the county, in the vicinity of Lough Allen, and of Slieve Bawn, near the middle of the eastern frontier, are the only heights which appear to deserve the appellation of mountain, although it is not easy to say where the term hill should cease to be used, and that of mountain begin. The word *Slieve*, it may be here observed, signifies in the Irish language a *mountain*, so that the

application of that term to certain heights shows, tolerably clearly, the general opinion that was entertained of their superior elevation. The other highlands are for the most part distinguished by the epithet mount: as Fairymount, &c.

Nevertheless, Mr. Longfield, in his Survey of the Bog Districts, as published in the third Report of the Commissioners appointed by Parliament to inquire into the nature and extent of the bogs in Ireland, supposes the Fairymount which is situated near Lough-glynn, in the south-west angle of the barony of Boyle, to be the most elevated ground in the county. "There is one certain fact," he says, "namely, that a stream which rises in the eastern side of Fairymount hill, runs by Cloonshanville to Lough Gara, (a principal source of the Shannon,) and another stream rising on the south-west side of said hill, and running to Castle-rea, forms a principal source of the river Suck; which proves that Fairymount hill must be the highest ground in the County Roscommon, and as such I have chosen it for the chief point of observation in taking my trigonometrical angle." Now, that Fairymount is the highest land in that part of the County Roscommon, will admit of no doubt on examining the course of the streams alluded to; but it may be observed, that both the waters of Lough Gara and those of the river Suck fall into the Shannon considerably below the embouchure of the river Arigna; those of the Suck indeed at a distance exceeding that of the actual length of the county. The Arigna, moreover, is a rapid river, having several considerable falls in the valley through which it runs; whereas the Lung and the Suck are both sluggish streams. The

hill of Fairymount is a gently rising eminence, with cultivation extending to its very summit; whilst Brahlieve and Slieve Curkagh, as their names signify in Irish, are mountains in the real acceptation of the term; mountains which would be considered as such in any part of the world, with steep rugged sides, and broad perpendicular faces of rock near their summits, towering above the valley at their base.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION, AND MINERAL PRODUCTIONS.

The greater part of Roscommon is a limestone country, constituting a portion of that extensive tract of the same nature, which reaches in an east and west direction, nearly across the island, from sea to sea, between Dublin and Galway; and in a north and south direction, from Clonmel to Enniskillen.* The appearance and quality of this limestone varies very considerably in different places. The upper beds are commonly of a grey colour, and they abound with petrifactions, principally of madrepores, chamities, and archites. The lower beds, on the contrary, are more generally of a blackish colour, and the stone contains large portions of argillaceous and silicious earths, which frequently render it unfit for burning into lime. To this impure limestone, Mr. Kirwan gave the name of calp. Its strata are often accompanied with thin layers of Lydian stone, which occasionally are so numerous and minute as to give the rocks a striped appearance. The calp beds are commonly succeeded

* Griffith's Report on the Connaught Coal District.

by strata of black limestone of a crystalline structure and capable of a high polish; but in the northern parts of the County of Roscommon, the limestone of the lower beds, even where they come into contact with the sandstone, is found very frequently of a light grey colour, and also of a crystalline texture and susceptible of polish.

Rising up from beneath, and bursting, as it were, through these various beds of limestone, siliceous sandstone appears in several parts of the county, forming insulated hills. Of such character is the hill of Ballyfermoyle in the northern part of the county, and also the ridge of Slievebawn, already mentioned, as extending in a direction nearly north and south, within a short distance of the Shannon, its southern extremity being nearly in the same parallel with Lanesborough. The word *slieve* in Irish, signifies a mountain, and *bawn* or *bon*, white; Slievebawn therefore means the white mountain, so called from the white siliceous sandstone which appears through the heath and verdure in some of the breaks near the summit of the ridge. The sandstone likewise appears at the surface near Belanagar, stratified in very thin flags, which are used in that part of the county for roofing buildings. The Roman Catholic chapel in the village is covered with them. So also in the more western parts beyond Castle-rea, sandstone appears in various places, and limestone is comparatively rare, though it is seldom necessary to go beyond the distance of a few miles to procure it.

But by far the most interesting part of Roscommon, in reference to its geological construction, is the northern district of the county, on the confines of Lough Allen, where the series of rocks occur which constitute what is called the coal formation.

Before we enter upon a more particular description of these, it will be essential to keep in mind, that there are two distinct kinds of sandstone, materially different from each other, the first or deepest of which, known by the term of the old *floetz* sandstone, is found below the limestone; whilst the secondary sandstone, more immediately connected with the coal formation, lies above the limestone. The difference between these two kinds of sandstone is not so readily ascertainable by an examination of their respective textures and qualities, as by tracing the relative position and connexion of the beds to which they severally belong. For want of such examination of the beds and of their relative position, great errors have been committed in the search after coal, by making borings in the old sandstone, which itself lies below the rocks of the coal formation. Mr. Griffith, in different parts of his excellent Essays and Reports on the coal districts of Ireland, has pointed out various instances of the expensive mistakes which have been made in this way; and in conversation with some of the English miners who had been latterly sent over to this part of the country, I found several who were still anxious to be allowed to make trials for coal, by boring in the old and deeper sandstone, where it was quite idle to expect it.

Mr. Griffith, in his Report on the Connaught Coal District, describes the first or old *floetz* sandstone, as resting upon the primary rocks, chiefly of mica slate, and upon this sandstone rests the first *floetz* limestone, above which is found the series of rocks which accompany coal.

“The oldest *floetz* sandstone formation, is very unequal and irregular in its stratification. In some

places it forms lofty hills and even ranges of mountains; in others, it does not exceed twenty or thirty feet. This sandstone, which is in beds, and in colour red, grey, or yellowish-white, is sometimes, though rarely, interstratified with reddish or greyish sandstone slate. Where this happens it has been mistaken for sandstone of the coal formation; and many fruitless trials for coal have been made in consequence. The hill of Fairymount, to the south of Strokestown, has been supposed to contain coal; as also the hill of Ballyfermoyle, to the north-east of Lough Key, and close to the coal country. The sandstone of these hills is, however, separated from the coal formation, by a succession of beds of limestone exceeding one thousand feet in thickness.

“The distinguishing mark between the old floetz sandstone, and the sandstone of the coal formation, is, that the first is always below, and the second above the first floetz limestone. The old floetz limestone, in numerous places in the vicinity of the coal district, rises through the limestone, forming insulated hills.

“On viewing the coal country from the south,” says Mr. Griffith, “it exhibits a steep and straight ridge of high land, rising from 1000 to 1200 feet above its base, and extending fourteen miles in an east and west direction, but broken in the middle by the great valley of the Shannon, which flows through it directly *from* Lough Allen.* The summits of these ridges are universally flat, and are covered by shallow bog.

* There is evidently a mistake in describing the coal district as broken by the Shannon flowing *from* Lough Allen, because there is no coal to the south of the lake; but the lough itself breaks or divides the coal district.

“The strata of the coal formation are arranged with great regularity, and dip or incline conformably with the limestone on which they rest, and contrary to the declivity of the hill; but the continuity of the different beds is frequently broken by the strata of one part of a hill having fallen or slipped down to a lower level from that of the other. These slips frequently occasion a difference of the level in the same bed, of twenty, forty, or even one hundred yards. A knowledge of the precise direction and amount of the fall of these slips is of the utmost importance to the coal miner, otherwise they must lead to great expense, and possibly to the abandonment of the colliery.”*

Mr. Griffith computed that the whole of the coal country, in the vicinity of Lough Allen, lying within the edge of the limestone, contained about 114,000 Irish acres, and he has considered it to be divisible into four parts, two of which, situated to the north and east of the lake, it will be unnecessary to refer to, except in general terms, since they lie beyond the bounds of the County of Roscommon, and are, moreover, the least rich in coal. Of the other two parts, on the western side of the lake, the southern division, which is by far the most important, lies entirely within Roscommon, as well as a considerable portion of the fourth one. The relative positions of these last two will probably be best understood, by explaining, that they are merely separated from each other by the valley through which the river Arigna runs; that the valley is narrow; and that the mountains in which they are comprised, rise boldly from the valley on either side.

* Report on the Connaught Coal District.

The length of the southern division is put down at about nine miles, that is, from south-west to north-west, the direction of the ridge being in that course, and the average breadth at two miles. The ridge is straight, flat at the top, and steep on both sides. The strata, on the northern and southern declivities, dip contrary to their inclination, at an angle of from five to six degrees from the horizon, and form a flat dipping curve in the centre.

“Though the strata are nearly similar in the southern and western divisions,* they are not exactly the same in all parts, and a trifling difference will be found even within the short distance of twenty yards. Thus, a bed which is composed of soft slate clay, will gradually pass into sandstone slate; or thin beds of sandstone slate, will be found interstratified with a bed of slate clay. Beds of sandstone slate will also sometimes graduate into sandstone.”†

The following Table of the different rocks will show the order in which they occur, in these divisions of the district, commencing with the limestone, which lies below the coal series, and ascending regularly, ending with the bed of sandstone flag, which forms the uppermost stratum of the country.

* By the western division is to be understood the one which lies on the northern side of the river Arigna; the name is quite sufficient to designate it, although it does not extend as far to the west as the other division on the same side of the lake. It might perhaps more strictly be termed the northern division on the western side of the lake.

† Report on the Connaught Coal District.

TABLE OF STRATA.*

	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.
1. Limestone, thickness unknown.				
2. Black Slate Clay.—This bed rests on the uppermost bed of limestone. Beds of sandstone slate, and even thin beds of sandstone, are found interstratified with it towards the upper part. It contains numerous beds of clay iron stone, from half an inch to two feet in thickness. On an average the thickness is	600			
3. Greyish white sandstone, known by the name of the first or great sandstone	30	to	60	
4. Black slate clay - - - - -	9	to	20	
5. Grey sandstone - - - - -	6	to	10	
6. Sandstone with impressions known by the name of seat rock - - - - -	1	to	3	
7. Fire clay, called coal seat - - - - -	1	to	3	
8. COAL intermixed with thin laminæ of slate clay - - - - -	1	to	3	
9. Greyish white sandstone - - - - -	4	to	20	
10. Black slate clay - - - - -	6	to	15	
11. Sandstone - - - - -	12	to	15	
12. GOOD COAL - - - - -	2 6	to	3 4	
13. Grey soft slate clay, coal roof - - - - -	10	to	15	
14. White sandstone - - - - -	24	to	45	
15. COAL, upper bed - - - - -	8	to	— 9	
16. Slate clay in beds of various thickness and different degress of hardness, but generally soft and black. <i>These beds contain innumerable thin beds of clay iron stone</i> - - - - -	100	to	200	

* Report Connaught Coal District.

									Ft.		Ft.
17.	Blackish grey sandstone slate in thin										
	layers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	to	60
18.	Sandstone flag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	to	50

The peculiarity of the coal district, on the confines of Lough Allen, consists, in the seams or beds of coal all lying at a considerable elevation in the mountains; so that in ascending the mountains, the outer edges of the beds of coal, called by the various terms of the *out-going*, the *out-bursting*, *out-cropping*, &c., may be distinctly traced in various places, as well as the edges of the several strata which are connected with the coal formation. This is more particularly the case in some of the ravines which have been widened by the waters which rush down the mountain. But, for the most part, the outer edges of the strata of which the mountains are composed, are concealed by earth, and by bog, and by the heath, and various plants which clothe the surface. The coincidence of the strata, in regular succession, in those places where an opportunity has been afforded for examination, leaves no doubt of their extension throughout the whole of the mountains, *in the same order*; but the thickness of the strata, not excepting the seams of coal, is liable to great variation. The researches which have been made by the agents of the various Mining Companies which have been established amongst these mountains in latter years, have ascertained many points, which, previously, had been merely subjects of conjecture; or at best only deductions from the appearances of the coal and other strata in different parts of the district. Thus, as far as the latest examinations have extended, the principal seam of coal, put down in the table at No. 12,

as measuring from two feet six inches to three feet four inches, has been found to diminish as low as one foot four inches, and most rarely to amount to two feet ten inches and a half. At present, it is believed that if the average of this seam of coal, which is the principal one in the district, was set down at two feet, it would be rather a favourable view of what it, as yet, promises to afford. But it is still to be kept in mind, that the seam of coal, more particularly of the southern district, the one which lies to the south of the river Arigna, is what is called a *trough* coal; that is, the seam dips or bends downwards from the outer edges towards the centre of the mountain; and it is usually found that in the instances where trough coal occurs, the seams are thicker towards the lower part of the bend than they are elsewhere; further, as no actual trials have yet been made of the thickness of the seam in these parts of the district, it is possible that enterprise may yet meet with its reward.

Although the strata in these mountains lie in regular succession, they are nevertheless frequently interrupted by what are called slips, or faults, occasioned by portions of the whole series of strata, in certain places, having been split through, vertically; and the parts on one side of the crack or split having sunk below, or risen above the other. Such faults are common in all coal districts. If we could suppose that a part of the mountain had been suddenly deprived of its foundation, and that it consequently sunk down, of course fracturing the strata, at the borders of the part which gave way, some idea might be formed of the nature of these slips, or faults; or if we could suppose some protruding force to have been in ope-

vation, like the expansive force of vapours during earthquakes, which had heaved up the strata, altogether, in one particular place, appearances nearly similar might be produced. In some instances the edges of the strata, at the slip or crack, are comparatively even, having seemingly been severed by a sudden and powerful action; in other instances they are much broken and the fragments confusedly mingled together. The skill of the coal miner of course consists in knowing where to search for the continuation of the seam, when he finds it interrupted by one of these slips or faults. If well acquainted with the stratification of the district, and provided that the separation has been clean, he can readily tell whether to work upwards or downwards, in search of the continuation of the seam which has been lost: but where the edges are confusedly broken, and more especially where the first sinkings or trials happen to be made near the separation and amidst the fragments, the miner is liable to be baffled. From these few observations it must be evident to those who will be at the trouble of thinking upon such matters, that the foundation of skill in coal-mining, must be based upon the knowledge of geology; and that without a previous and most intimate acquaintance with the stratification of a district, mistakes of the grossest kind may be committed.

To enter upon an extended discussion of the mighty operations of nature by which these mountains have been split asunder to their inmost depths, does not fall within the province of a work like the present one; yet it is not possible to advert to the existing circumstances of the country, without offering a few observations on the subject. And in the first place,

seeing that these mountains, between which Lough Allen lies, as in a basin, are composed of strata, which, in the natural order of arrangement, belong to a formation which is only found above those rocks, or strata, which appear on the surface, in other parts of the neighbouring districts, an inquiry naturally arises, whether these latter districts, at any former period of time, were covered with the series of rocks which constitute the coal formation ; and if so, what has become of them.

The stratified formation of the coal mountains naturally leads to the supposition, that each layer or bed was the result of deposition from a fluid medium, probably water ; and the impressions of vegetables on the stratified shale, more immediately in connection with the coal, seem to put this matter almost beyond doubt. But let the depth or height of the fluid, above the present surface, the surface of the lake for instance, have been ever so great, it is difficult to conceive how so many different depositions, and these also made probably at distant intervals, could have taken place in one district, so as to amount to the bulk of mountains, without their having extended in a greater or less degree over other districts in the same country. The precipitous sides of the existing mountains indeed sufficiently explain, that the depositions could not have terminated abruptly there ; but that corresponding strata must have extended much farther over the adjacent country ; and it is equally clear, that if ever such strata had heretofore existed, they must have been swept away, since rocks, now on the surface in the lower country, are merely continuations of the strata which lie deep seated under the coal mountains.

The immense boulders, or rounded masses of stone, which are found dispersed over the surface, and, frequently, placed on the elevated summits of hills, to which, it is evident, from their totally different nature and texture, that they never originally belonged, afford proof of the tremendous power of the floods, which have swept them away from their primary positions, rounded off their edges and angles by attrition against other masses, and finally left them where they now stand. So also in the hills and beds of limestone gravel which are found accumulated in so many various parts of the island, abounding with pebbles of every size, the smooth rounded surfaces of these stones show evidently that they must have been rolled about and been rubbed against others for a long period of time, before the sharp and jagged edges which such stones present when recently fractured, could have been worn away. And here I may observe, that it is not a little remarkable, that whilst limestone gravel abounds in such quantities in Ireland, no such material is known in Great Britain; whence it is to be inferred, that the limestone strata, out of the debris of which this gravel was formed, stood in a more elevated position, and were more exposed to the action of the great floods, than similar strata of limestone in Great Britain; and this circumstance may account also for the scarcity of coal in Ireland, as compared with the beds of coal in Great Britain; since, as the coal lies over the old floetz limestone, it consequently must have been swept away in the first instance.

By what mighty convulsions, or by what mighty revolutions of nature these changes have been effected, is, however, a subject veiled in awful, and probably,

impenetrable mystery; the inquiry never fails to excite a most lively interest in every philosophical mind, at entering upon the path of geological research; but there are appearances in nature which baffle the most sagacious, and which, at best, are only attempted to be explained by plausible conjectures. Yet, in prosecuting inquiries of such a kind, discoveries are occasionally and accidentally made of the highest importance; and a close and rigorous investigation of facts, and a comparison of the appearances in one place with those in another, though they may fail to bring all the secrets to light, are nevertheless calculated to open new sources of information on a variety of points, which, at the outset, were not contemplated. The votaries, if not conducted at once to the direct object of their pursuit, are still gratified, as they proceed, by the acquisition of facts which become the foundation of future knowledge, and assist in developing causes which, at least, tend to an approximation towards truth. In the study of geology, nature offers astounding objects to our view, and impassable barriers seem to impede further progress; yet in no one science, within the last half century, have more rapid advances been made.

In treating of the inequalities and irregularities which are perceived on the surface of our globe, in hills and mountains, it has frequently been a subject of inquiry, whether the whole of the different strata, which have been formed at various periods, have been heaved up altogether, and simultaneously, in their entire mass; or whether a heaving up of the first formed strata merely took place, above or around which the later depositions were made. Within the county Roscommon, examples might be adduced to countenance

the supposition, that the sandstone had been heaved up alone, in the first instance; and that the limestone in a soft state, at a different period, had flowed round the hills thus already formed, penetrating into their hollows and recesses. But in other parts of the county it may be assumed from the appearances, that the whole series of strata, formed in different eras of time, had been heaved up together, and that where the sandstone now appears bare, it is attributable to the strata or beds which were the last deposited, and which once covered the surface, having been swept away.

That great changes have taken place on the surface of our globe, will appear obvious to the most ordinary observer; nor can there be a doubt, that many of the changes were effected by the agency of water; but when the immense thickness of the strata is taken into account, and also the different nature of the materials of which each is composed, it may be presumed, that a long series of ages must have elapsed before such vast depositions could have taken place, or their subsequent consolidation have been effected; probably also, the several depositions may have occurred, each at a very remote era of time from the other. As for the disruption of the strata, and the terrific revolutions which must afterwards have happened, mountains heaved up, vallies rent asunder, all that we know from our own limited experience of the mighty effects of earthquakes and volcanoes, are the veriest trifles in comparison of the convulsions which could have produced the marvellous appearances which we now behold; the mind is astounded in the attempt to figure to itself the power by which such awful and mysterious changes were effected; it feels its finite means of re-

search, and shrinks back, assured of nothing but its own insignificance in the vast and immeasurable scale of creation, and its utter inability to comprehend the cause of all these wonders.

In addition to the general observations I have made on the geological formation of Roscommon, it may suffice to state, that accidental variations in the strata occur, not merely in the coal districts, but in several other parts of the county. Thus, for example, between Mantua and Belanagar, there is a ridge which contains pale bluish striated flints, approaching in appearance to calcedony and agate, which are thinly dispersed through a tough compound stone, in which the calcareous matter predominates, of an ash colour and earthy fracture.

Clay, suitable for potter's use, and also for tobacco pipes, is likewise found in different parts of the county; in the vicinity of the town of Roscommon there are several small potteries, and, at Knockcroghery, manufactories of pipes. In the coal districts fire clay abounds, from which excellent fire bricks have heretofore been made for the use of the iron works.

The beds of slate clay, abounding with iron stone, have already been noticed in the tabular description of the strata of the coal district. Ironstone has likewise been found in the western parts of the county, where formerly it was smelted in small quantities.

Other incidental particulars relative to the mineral productions of the county will be noticed under the heads of the several baronies.

In various parts of the county there are valuable limestone quarries, some yielding a stone which may be esteemed true marble; such for instance, is that of

which Rockingham House, Viscount Lorton's, is built, which is of a grey colour when polished; and that of Roscommon Court-House, which approaches to black, in the same state. The only mines worked are those of coal and iron on the confines of Lough Allen, and as their history is one of peculiar interest, a section apart may be devoted to it.

COLLIERIES, IRON WORKS, ETC.

The beds of coal in the Connaught coal district, are, as already explained in the preceding section upon the geological formation of the county, situated at a considerable elevation in the mountains; and as the outgoings or outer edges of these beds were plainly to be distinguished in several places, so the existence of coal in the country could scarcely fail of being early known, though, for what length of time, must now probably remain a subject of vague conjecture. The abundance of wood which existed in former ages, affording at once the most ready source and the most agreeable kind of fuel; and the ample supply of turf which may still be found, both on the summits and sides of the mountains, and dispersed in the low lands, must have occasioned coal to have been regarded with comparative indifference. In fact, at the present day, turf continues to be the fuel of the cottage, and of the generality of the farm houses; whilst the principal part of the coal which has been raised, over and above what has been consumed in the iron works, or in the forges of the country smiths, has been sold for the supply of more distant places where fuel was less plen-

tiful. Some has passed down the Shannon,* but still more has been transported by cars and horses, particularly towards the county of Cavan.

Numerous traces may be observed on each side of the lake, of small workings which have been begun at the outer edges of the seams, where the coal was visible; but as the difficulties invariably increased on advancing into the mountain, these small and insignificant workings were generally abandoned after short trials. I saw some going on which had been only lately begun. The coal thus raised has been commonly used for the smiths' forges. The remains were also pointed out to me, amongst the mountains, on the western side of the lake, of operations on a more extensive scale, and of a singular nature, heretofore carried on by the peasantry. These had consisted in applying the power of water to tear off the roof or upper covering of the seam of coal. Of course it will be understood, that the covering in question was neither very thick, nor very compact. The place lay along a steep part of the mountain at the outer side, towards the lake, where the original covering of the coal had been worn away by the action of water, in the progress of ages, and in part, perhaps, by the inundations of the very stream whose concentrated force was now employed to sweep off the whole cover-

* I am indebted to the Directors of the Royal Canal, for the following account of the quantity of coal which entered their canal from Lough Allen during three years :

1829,	1st Jan. to 31st Dec.	5 boats,	184 tons 1 cwt. coal.
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1830,	do. to do.	19 do.	712 do. 2 cwt. do.
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1831,	do. to do.	9 do.	235 do. 18 cwt. do.
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Total -		-	33	1132 tons 1 cwt. coal.
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ing at one burst. The first step was to form a dam across the stream, in order to obtain a strong head of water; then, holes and trenches were made on various parts of the surface, to give the water more hold; and when all was prepared, the dam was suddenly broken down, and the torrent bore away all before it, leaving the coal exposed. Sometimes the coal itself was likewise torn away; but it was readily gathered up from amongst the fragments of the rocks and earth. This system of working, at once simple and ingenious, was, according to the information I received on the spot, the sole and actual invention of the peasants of the neighbourhood, who united together for the labour, and shared in the profits. But as it was only on certain parts of the mountain near the outer verge, and where the superior rocks had already been broken away, that it could be applied, so, it did not continue long in practice. The remains of their workings offered a very interesting sight to the geologist, inasmuch as the rock, on which the coal had been originally seated, was left fully exposed to the day, and consequently its varieties and undulations were all distinctly perceptible.

The discovery of coal in so many different parts of these mountains, naturally gave rise to hope, not only amongst the immediate proprietors of the soil, but throughout the country in general. No rigorous investigations into the thickness or extent of the seams appear however to have been deemed necessary; but that which had been seen was eagerly assumed as an earnest of the rich masses which remained hidden in the bowels of the earth. Industry and capital alone were supposed to be wanting, to add largely to the

increase of national wealth. The importance of collieries to manufactures was dwelt upon with zeal, and became a frequent subject of discussion in the Irish parliament. New laws were passed to facilitate the opening of roads to the mouths of the coal pits. An extensive water communication was also to be provided for the transmission of these ideal mineral treasures; and the river Shannon, which ran so immediately in the vicinity of the district, was forthwith to be rendered navigable in every part of its course, and made the channel of commerce through a vast extent of inland country. Thus, in the fond expectation of the enthusiasts of the day, Ireland was to become independent of Great Britain for her supply of coals; manufactures were to spring up; and, as a necessary consequence, *wealth was to follow in their train, and be diffused throughout a smiling land.* The sequel will show how much delusion there has been on the subject, and it is not yet altogether at an end.

The first great era in the mining history of this district, was the establishment of the iron works at Arigna, by three brothers of the name of O'Reilly, about the year 1788. Iron, indeed, had long before been made at the opposite side of Lough Allen, at the base of the range of Slieve-a-neeran, literally, in Irish, signifying the iron mountains, whilst the forests continued to afford supplies of wood for charcoal; but with the destruction of the woods, there, as well as in the many other parts of Ireland in which the smelting of iron ore had been commonly effected, the works were abandoned. The use of pit coal in the smelting of iron was comparatively of recent introduction in England, and was totally unknown or unpractised in

Ireland, until the O'Reillys had the spirit and boldness to venture on the attempt. Of iron ore there was no deficiency ; its quality was known of old to be excellent, and the iron which was produced at Arigna by the O'Reillys, both in castings and in bars, obtained the highest reputation in Dublin, and in every place to which it was sent. In my first visit to this country, I observed in several houses, specimens of their castings ; and in particular, a water trough in a smith's forge, which appeared to be extremely well made, and which, although light and thin, had stood out hard and constant use.

It was supposed that the O'Reillys had committed an error in commencing the manufacture of bar as well as pig iron, the process for the first being attended with difficulty, and requiring considerable capital ; and had they confined themselves merely to pig iron and to castings, perhaps their business might have gone on successfully. Be that as it may ; or, whether it was owing to any of the sudden alterations in the money market, and the consequent vicissitudes of trade ; whether to the want of capital at the outset ; or to the real unproductiveness of the concern altogether ; the undertakers found themselves involved in pecuniary difficulties. In the expectation of obtaining assistance, they procured an introduction to the wealthy and respectable house of Messrs. Latouche, bankers, and their wants were submitted to the firm. It has been represented, that the Messrs. Latouche were startled at the extent of the accommodation which was required ; yet they made a moderate, and what might have appeared a reasonable, if not liberal advance to the applicants. This accommodation, however, so

much below the actual wants of the O'Reillys, afforded in reality very little relief; and when the time came round for the payment of the bills which had been passed, there was an utter inability to meet their engagements. Under such circumstances, fresh accommodation was afforded by the bank, but with a similar result. Alarm naturally followed; the Messrs. O'Reilly to secure the debt, mortgaged their works and premises, which finally were brought to sale under the court of chancery; and one of the partners of the bank, hurried away with the opinion that money alone was wanting to render the concern most profitable, himself became the purchaser, and determined to have the works at Arigna carried on for his own account.

I well recollect taking a ride with that excellent and kind-hearted man, at a venerable period of his life, and on stopping before a large iron gate, in his beautiful park of Bellevue, being asked, whether I had ever before seen so costly a piece of workmanship? The gate was a spacious and a goodly one, but there was nothing extraordinary in its appearance. "I see you are hesitating Sir," said the good old gentleman; "and yet, I can venture to assert, that you never before saw a gate which cost the owner so much. That gate, Sir, cost me £80,000; for it is the only thing I ever got out of the Arigna iron works, in return for all my money expended there."*

"Perhaps," says Mr. Griffith, in his account of the Arigna iron works, as detailed in his report on the Connaught coal district, "the frequent change of

* The price paid for the works at the sale in chancery was £25,000.

managers, more than any other cause, tended to accelerate the failure of the undertaking; for the plans of each new master (that is of each new agent or manager of the works) were generally at variance with those of his predecessor; and the destruction of the old, and the erection of new works caused great additional expense. Some were undertaken which sound judgment would have disapproved; and others, most useful, injudiciously destroyed." "The construction of the great dam across the Arigna river, above the works, was of the former nature; as the destruction of the bank, on either side, was a catastrophe which might naturally have been expected, from the constant pressure of an immense body of water, aided, in time of flood, by the furious rapidity of a precipitous mountain torrent."

The works, in fact, after a great outlay, and the trial of many years, were abandoned on the part of Mr. Latouche, as a hopeless and profitless concern; but the liability to the rent to which the premises were subject, was not to be so easily got rid of, and they remained a dead weight upon hands. A caretaker was kept, at the place, merely to prevent the pillage and destruction, to which, otherwise, the works and buildings would in all probability have been exposed, from the country people. The suspension of the works took place somewhere about the year 1808, that is, about twenty years after their original commencement by the O'Reillys.

The Arigna iron works are situated near the mouth of the valley watered by the river of the same name, and on the right or southern side of the stream. The mountain, which begins to rise almost at the verge of the works, constitutes what Mr. Griffith calls his

fourth or southern division of the Connaught coal district; and it is unquestionably the most important one in the country, containing several coal pits, both on the side next to the valley, and also on the outer or southern side of the ridge. Two of the principal of these collieries had been leased to the undertakers of the Arigna iron works, both being situated on the side of the mountain which lies next to the Arigna river. The nearest one, called the Rover colliery, lay at the distance of about half a mile from the iron works; and the other, which was the largest and most extensive in the district, called the Aughabehy colliery, at the distance of three miles. A winding road led from the latter colliery to the works, not injudiciously laid out, but carried necessarily over parts of the mountain, occasionally rough, occasionally soft, and liable to be affected by rains and floods, consequently liable to be interrupted, and requiring frequent and expensive repairs: along this road the coal used to be conveyed on the backs of horses.

The Rover colliery belonged to the Archbishop of Tuam; that of Aughabehy, to Colonel Tenison.

These collieries which had been leased to the undertakers of the Arigna iron works, ceased to be used when the making of iron was given over; and, in fact, remained either closed or inaccessible, from the water which rose within them. But Colonel Tenison, whose royalties extended entirely across the mountain to the southern side, or outer face of it, towards the low country, kept pits open on his own account, for the sale of coal to those who came to purchase it, from a distance, especially from the county of Cavan.

It was during this state of things, and about the

year 1814, six years after the iron works had been discontinued, and whilst the collieries attached to the iron works lay neglected and abandoned, that Mr. Griffith made his survey of the Connaught coal district, the report upon which was published in the year 1818. Mr. Griffith was the first person, as far as I am informed, who gave a general view of the geological formation of the country, and his report is replete with valuable observations, which have enlarged the bounds of the science, and cannot fail of being highly interesting to every geologist and mineralogist who may visit the district.

But as I have already explained, there is apparently an error in the statement both as to the extent and the thickness of the principal bed of coal, numbered 12, in his table of the stratification; attributable, I believe, to the Aughabehey and Rover pits not having being accessible, at the period of his visit; and to erroneous information having been communicated to him on the subject, by persons who ought to have known better.

“The future prosperity of the Connaught coal district,” says Mr. Griffith, “may be said to depend entirely upon the produce of the bed No. 12, (called the three foot coal,) which though of moderate thickness, is fortunately of great extent. Its quality as fuel for domestic purposes is excellent, and if used for smelting iron, it is *amongst the best in the empire.*”*

* According to the analysis of Mr. Kirwan, 100 parts of this coal are composed of

71.42 carbon.

23.37 mixture of asphalt and naphtha.

5.21 grey ashes.

“ The thickness of this coal is *rarely less than three feet, or more than three feet four inches.*”

The western division, (that is the mountain on the western side of the lake and north of the Arigna river,) he supposes might contain a coal field of about - - - - - 1200 acres ; which added to the contents of the

southern division of - - - - - 2800 do.

gave a general total of - - - - - 5000 do.

“ From this calculation, making deductions for impurities of the coal, and loss by slips and undulations ; and estimating the produce at 7840 tons per acre, Irish, (that is, one ton for each superficial yard,) there would be thirty millions of coal, as the probable quantity which might be raised out of the southern and western divisions ; and supposing 50,000 tons annually were used in the country, and 10,000 tons more in the iron works, there would be a supply sufficient for the supposed demand for 500 years to come.—(Report, p. 29.)

In his examination before a committee of the House of Commons, 12th May, 1824, (*vide* vol. viii. 51, 1824,) Mr. Griffith repeats his opinion that “ there are three beds of coal in the Lough Allen district; the upper nine inches ; the second three feet ; and the third also three feet thick ; but the centre one is much the best.”—“ The quality of the coal is not so good as that of either Whitehaven or Newcastle ; it is a kind of medium between the open burning or quick blazing coal of Scotland, and the caking coal of Whitehaven : he considers it a very good coal for culinary and manufacturing purposes.”—To a question, whether the quantity of good coal in the Lough Allen district was

sufficiently known and ascertained before his visit? He answers, "That it was not known: there had been two or three collieries opened in it, but the extent of the coal field was not ascertained."—"He conceives there are 5000 Irish, or 8000 English acres still remaining of good three foot coal, which would yield above 30,000,000 tons."—"The coal is particularly exempt from water: being placed on a high level, the water in most cases may be drawn off by levels or tunnels."

In the same volume of the papers of the House of Commons, (viii. 32, 1824,) may be seen the evidence delivered 5th April, 1824, before the same committee, by John Leslie Foster, Esq. M. P., at present, a Baron of the Exchequer.

"Mr. Griffith has made several reports containing maps, sections, and delineations of the stratification of the several coal districts in Ireland, which I think it extremely desirable should be called for by Parliament, as they contain, in my opinion, more practical invitations for investment of British capital in Ireland, than any other I know to exist."

The practical invitations thus held out for the investment of capital in these collieries were not long of being accepted; for, before another year had revolved, the Arigna Coal and Iron Company, the Irish Mining Company, the Hibernian Mining Company, all joint stock companies, with large capitals and intelligent and enterprising agents, had entered into the field, and the country on the confines of Lough Allen, at once became the theatre of activity and industry.

The Arigna Company obtained possession of the old works, and the collieries attached to them, on the

south side of the river: and the two other companies began their operations in the mountains on the north side of the Arigna river, in the part which Mr. Griffith designated as his third or western division. The extent of the coal field in this latter part, as already explained, had been computed to contain 1200 Irish acres of three foot coal. Suspicions, however, soon began to be entertained by the agents of the companies, both as to the extent and as to the thickness of the coal; and the Hibernian Company, before they committed themselves by lease, prudently stipulated for permission to make previous trials. These trials ended in disappointment, and the Hibernian Company soon afterwards abandoned the field as one utterly undeserving of further attention.

The Irish Mining Company displayed more energy and more perseverance in the same district. The coal field of which they took a lease, had, at least to a certain extent, been already proved by the sinking of some detached pits, from which coal had been raised with profit for sale. The principal one was at Tullynaha, just on the verge of the county of Roscommon. Here, the new company constructed a large engine shaft on the most approved principle, and a steam engine was in a short time set to work. I was present in the year 1825 at the formation of this shaft; and in the summer of 1830, again visited the same place. The mountain, at the first period, was in the rude state of nature, and the only mode of conveyance for the coals, from the pits, down to the shores of Lough Allen, a distance of about two miles, was on the backs of horses, over the heath and bogs; but when I last saw it, there was an excellent road, and the coal was

brought down by carts of the ordinary kind in use throughout the country, carrying about one ton or somewhat more, each, and drawn each by a single horse: there was a gradual descent the whole way to the water. The agricultural improvements also, which had taken place near the lower parts of this road, on each side, served to show what collateral benefits may spring from mining industry, and the expenditure of capital amongst the people. The shores of Lough Allen likewise had undergone a great and important alteration. On my first visit they were in a state of nature; it was difficult to load a boat in any place at any time, and utterly impossible to do so if the wind blew fresh; now, there is a small dock or basin, where boats may lie in safety, and a quay, connected with the company's coal yards and stores, where they can be readily laden. This is the pleasing side of the picture; but there is an opposite one which must not be passed over unnoticed. The steam engine on the mountain, when I saw it in 1830, was no longer in use; it had gone out of order, and had been left in that state for more than a twelvemonth; the cost of reparation having been considered questionable, under the disappointment which had been experienced as to the thickness of the seam of coal: instead of improving as had been sanguinely expected, the seam had, when I was last there, rather grown worse, and the small coal-slack, or culm, bore an over great proportion to the good coal; a large heap of it appeared in the yards, for which there was but a very limited demand in the country; but the good coal was disposed of at a fair remunerating price, as fast as it could be raised.

To the Scotch mining agents who had been brought over to conduct the works, it was a subject of no small surprize, in the beginning, to find the attention of an extensive company, with a large capital, devoted to collieries which appeared so thoroughly insignificant compared with those in the country from which they came. In the sister island such seams of coal would scarcely be thought worth the working. It was scarcely less a matter of surprize to them, however, to witness the dexterity with which the Irish colliers could extract the coal from such thin seams, working in a recumbent position with wads of heath or grass to ease the hips and shoulders; but there is no laborious exertion which the Irish workman will not undergo, provided he is fairly paid in proportion to the labour he performs. In working these thin seams of coal, it is the practice to cut the whole of the coal away, and to fill up the vacuity, at intervals, with props, called pillars, to support the roof, which otherwise would be liable to fall in; the stones for the purpose are let down from above. Of course, passages of sufficient height for men to ply with barrows must be left, tending to the bottom of the shaft, where the coals are deposited, in readiness to be raised to the surface by aid of machinery. At Aughabehy, when I visited the place in 1825, a whim and horses were used; at Tullyneha, as I have stated, a steam engine was set up for the same purpose: but in 1830, at the latter place I found the coal brought up merely by a common windlass and buckets, worked by men.

As for the proceedings of the new Arigna company in this district, they are so involved with the extraordinary transactions connected with the formation and

management of the company in London, that to be properly understood, the history of the company must be read.

I have drawn out a sketch of it, but as it contains some details which might appear irrelevant to the immediate subject of this Survey, I have placed it in the appendix, instead of introducing it here.

Whatever might have been the private views of the parties with whom the company originated, there seems to be no question but that the formation of it was publicly avowed to have been based upon the reports which had been published of the capabilities of this mining district; and upon the promise of fair remuneration which was likely to attend the employment of capital, combined with skill and intelligence, in the working both the coal and iron. The company took possession of the premises at Arigna, in the course of the winter 1824-5, and in the following spring, I happened to visit the place for the first time. The buildings and offices, confined for the most part to an extensive yard, were then undergoing repairs; a mining agent, Captain Vivian, presided over the whole; and engineers, smiths, fire master, masons, miners, &c., all Englishmen, skilled in the business of their respective departments, were actively employed; and all, according to the usual habits of Englishmen, had contrived to make themselves comfortable, in the first place. It was like a little colony in a new country; and it was really pleasurable to behold the contrast which their several dwellings, from the good housewifery of their females, afforded to the ordinary habits of the people of the surrounding wild districts. But ardent spirits, *the liquid devil*, in the emphatic language of the late

Dean Kirwan, had already begun to exercise a baneful influence over the conduct of many of the people, and those not the lowest; whiskey was too cheap to be resisted, and those who should have set a better example, were amongst the first to succumb.

An immense heap of iron stone had been collected, at that time, near the furnace; but there was no provision of coal equal to smelting it. The old roasting kilns seemed to be in a tolerable state of fitness, and the walls of the original furnace, which was 44 feet in height and 12 feet in the bosh, were standing perfectly sound. The hearth had been taken up for repair and alteration, but as soon as that work should have been effected, it was intended forthwith to commence the making of iron; none whatever had as yet been made by the company at the time of my first visit. Such was the state of things in the spring of 1825. In the autumn of 1830, when I again examined the place, the appearance of the furnace was precisely the same; that is, it was without its hearth, which had been taken up a second time for repair. Iron, however, had actually been made during the intervals between my two visits; but after a very short working, either through neglect, ignorance, or wilful design, the furnace became gobbed, a term expressive of the charge put into it consolidating into a mass, without being sufficiently fused to permit the metal to flow, an occurrence seldom failing to injure the furnace; and in consequence of it, no more iron had been made up to the period of my second visit.

Such an accident might have arisen from an injudicious mixture of the materials for the charge, or possibly from an improper management of the fire;

but Henry Clarke, in his evidence before the committee of the House of Commons, attributed the whole to the sinister influence of some adverse party in London, operating upon the workmen, by whom the mischief had been wilfully perpetrated.

The whole quantity of iron made, which was between the months of November, 1825, and May, 1826, amounted only to 230 tons, 8 cwt., 3 qrs. of *pig* iron; and according to Mr. Twigg's report to the directors, the mere cost of the making amounted to £8 4s. per ton.

During the period that the works were in the hands of Mr. Latouche, to him ever a source of loss and disappointment, various expedients had been adopted to change or modify their character; and advice had been obtained from different iron masters who had been invited to the spot for the purpose. Mr. John Grieve, of Edinburgh, who examined the circumstances of the place in the year 1800, conceived that *pig* iron *ought* to be made there at a cost of £2 17s. 3d. per ton. Mr. Thomas Guest, of the Dowlais iron works, in South Wales, estimated that the cost *should* be £4 15s. per ton. But, notwithstanding such estimates, Mr. Latouche was unable to reap any profit, and, finally, abandoned the place in despair.

Mr. Griffith, at p. 71 of his Report, made during the period of abandonment, estimated the cost at which *pig* iron ought to have been made at Arigna, at £3 5s. 5½d. per ton; but with the aid of such improvements as he devised, the cost, as he calculated, might be diminished in a sum of exactly 3s. 0½d. per ton, which would leave the iron at £3 2s. 5d. per ton. We have seen the account of the real cost to the new

company in the first instance ; but what it may be for the future, after the works which have been recommended, with all the improvements, shall have been executed, still remains to be proved.

No more iron had been made at Arigna, up to the month of October, 1831 ; but active preparations were making for setting, not only the old, but likewise a new additional furnace at work ; and it was expected that iron would be again produced within a few more weeks.*

Thus, it appears, that in this great and promising mining district, the whole produce of iron in the course of seven years, and with an outlay, probably, by the new company, of more than £50,000, did not amount to 300 tons.

In the sketch which I have given of the history of the company, in the Appendix, it may be seen, that there had been, during the spring of the year 1826, a complete change at the board, and in the management of the company. The incorrectness that had been discovered, now led to doubts about every thing connected with the concern ; and even the value of the property which had been acquired was questioned. To clear up these matters, it was resolved forthwith to send over to the county of Roscommon, the most experienced English mining sur-

* Since the above was written, I had again an opportunity of visiting the company's office, in London, in the month of February, 1832, and was informed, that up to that period the smelting of iron had not recommenced. It had been determined, also, that whenever the smelting should go on, both the furnaces were not to be used, but merely the old one alone ; and that before this one should be set to work, a provision of at least 3000 tons of coal should be in readiness. The rail-way had been completed, and found effective. The coke had proved excellent.

veyor who could be procured, and Mr. Twigg, of Chesterfield, was selected for the purpose. His printed report, which bears on the title page the date of London, 1827, was put into my hands whilst I was in the county of Roscommon, and on the spot ; and it is from this, as well as from subsequent printed reports, with which I was afterwards favoured in London, that I have derived the further information which I now offer on the subject.

To every person at all conversant with such subjects, it must be evident, that the prosperity of iron works, depends, not merely on the abundance and excellence of the ore, but on the supply of fuel ; and at Arigna, the first and most important object of inquiry must needs be, the extent and thickness of the seams of coal. “ On reaching Arigna,” says Mr. Twigg, in his Report, “ I did not find that any previous trials had effectually been made, for proving either the quantity or the quality of the coal mines, within the coal district leased to the company. This, in my opinion, should have been done in the offset of the business ; as I presume, it was very well known that a *want of it* had formerly proved the rock on which the former proprietors had wrecked a large fortune. Actual proofs of the coal mines might have been made in much less time than has elapsed since the company first took possession of the works ; and the present state of the works is neither equal to the money, nor to the time which had been expended.”

He found, as he further adds, that the Arigna company had been getting coal from an old shaft, at Aughabehy colliery, that had been shut up by a former company near twenty years before ; and their reasons for

abandoning that part of the colliery, at the time, were, because the coal could not be profitably raised. And, by an examination of the books containing an account of the workmen's wages employed in that department alone, he shows, that on 795 tons raised at that shaft, by the Arigna company, there was only one-fourth of the quantity, which consisted of good coal fit for coking; which stood the company in 15s. 4d. per ton, on the spot; whilst the remaining three-fourths consisted of culm, worth, after deducting the royalty dues, only 3s. per ton. It was with this coal at 15s. 4d. per ton, and which, after being reduced to coke, Mr. Twigg valued at 30s. per ton, that the company had made the small quantity of iron which had been produced at Arigna, prior to his arrival there. Of course the iron could not fail of being dear, estimating its price merely from the cost of the materials used in the making.

But, added to the injudiciousness of the course of operations which had been pursued, there was reason likewise to condemn the very expensive establishment which had been formed and kept up at Arigna; and the following list which is given in the report, will serve to show how lavishly the affairs of joint stock companies were occasionally carried on in those times.

A LIST

OF THE AGENTS, ETC., EMPLOYED AT ARIGNA, AT THE TIME OF
MR. TWIGG'S FIRST VISIT.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Employment.</i>	<i>Where Employed.</i>	<i>Annual Salaries.</i>		
			£	s.	d.
Mr. John Vivian,	Chief Manager,	Iron works,	500	0	0
Mr. O'Beirne,	Principal Clerk,	Do.	92	6	2
Mr. Morton,	Second do.	Do.	46	3	1
George M'Dermott,	Storekeeper,	Do.	60	0	0
William Moran,	Furnace yard keeper,	Do.	48	0	0
Michael Deely,	Watchman by day,	Do.	18	15	0
Francis Gilhooly,	Do. by night,	Do.	18	15	0
Michael Deely, jun.	Watchman by day,	Do.	18	15	0
James Sweeny,	Do. by night,	Do.	18	15	0
Hugh M'Namara,	Stablekeeper & house	Servt. to Mr. Vivian,	28	0	0
James Dick,	Colliery agent,	Collieries,	100	0	0
Patrick Guyhen,	Do. clerk.	Do.	48	0	0
Robert Johnstone,	Do. do.	Do.	24	0	0
John Brenan,	Dep. colliery agent,	Do.	48	0	0
Michael Kervolsh,	Do.	Do.	50	0	0
Con. O'Donnell,	Agent,	Ironstone mines,	25	0	0
Michael M'Manus,	Do.	Do.	20	0	0
Edward Mount,	Watchman,	At the colliery,	18	0	0
Michael Deely,	Do.	Do.	18	0	0
Conor Judge,	Watchman & sales-	Rover colliery,	18	0	0
James M'Lochlan,	man,	Iron works,	18	0	0
John Brady,	Clerk furnace yard,	On mountain roads,	30	0	0
Francis Northall,	Road Overseer,	Iron works,	273	0	0
Mr. Walsb,	Furnace manager,				
	Employed to transmit				
	money from Dub-				
	lin to Arigna for				
	workmen's wages,		200	0	0
			1739	9	3

It may be expedient, before we follow Mr. Twigg further in his survey, briefly to state once more, that the mountain containing the coal fields, at the south eastern extremity or termination of which the Arigna

iron works are situated, consists of a ridge of rather narrow breadth in proportion to its length; that the coal appears at each side of the ridge; that the seam or bed of coal dips from the outer edges, at each side, towards the centre of the mountain, forming, what is technically called, a trough or swilly coal; that it is presumed to be the same bed which extends through the whole of the mountain, though disturbed and altered from its original continuity and position, in various places, by disruptions of the strata, which are called faults or slips; that the several collieries, and several denominations of mining grounds belonging to, or acquired by the Arigna company, are all situated in this one mountain; that the royalties belong to different proprietors, of which Colonel Tenison is the principal; and that his property extends entirely across the ridge, from the river Arigna, on one side, to the south or opposite side, next to Castle Tenison; that the Aughabehy district, which is one of the most, or probably the most, important, begins at the river Arigna, and extends for a considerable breadth, upwards, towards the crest of the ridge, its distance from the iron works being about three miles, and that the royalties belong to Colonel Tenison; that the Rover collieries are situated nearer to the works, the royalties belonging to the Archbishop of Tuam; and that as to the other collieries, some lie on the side towards the Arigna river, and some to the south, but all nearer to the works than Aughabehy.

“ Upon examining the mining ground at Aughabehy,” says Mr. Twigg, “ I found a large fault running across the mountain, upon a course north, six

degrees west, and south, six degrees east, from a point near an old shaft wrought by the former company: this fault throws down the strata several yards perpendicular into the west, or what is called in several mining districts, a leap down into the west.”*

“ On the north-east side of the before-mentioned fault, a small tract of the mining ground has been wrought; and the bed or seam of coal in that direction proved to be *very thin*.† Two coal shafts have been sunk at this colliery, on the leap down side of the said fault, and the bed of coal thus found has been proved to be of a much better quality and considerably thicker, than what the same bed or seam of coal was on the contrary or upleap side of the said fault.”

(p. 34.) “ I have closely and carefully examined the bed of coal at this colliery, at the face of the coal workings on the west or down leap side of the fault, as before described; and, in addition to this examination, caused two head ways or drifts to be cut into the bed of coal at the Chisel pit, in two different parts of the mine, in order to enable me better to get a fair average thickness of the bed, and which I found to be 2 feet 7½ inches: and the whole, except half an inch, is coal that will produce strong coke.”

* These faults had been already noticed by Mr. Griffith, and laid down on the map, illustrative of his Report, to the Royal Dublin Society, upon the Connaught coal district.

† In the year 1825 I descended into this colliery by the *whim*, which had then lately been set up by the Arigna company, and penetrated, accompanied by one of the English miners, into different parts of the workings, I had my rule and tape with me, and on measuring the face of the coal seam in various places, in no one instance did it reach to the thickness of two feet, and for the far greater part it was considerably less.—AUTHOR.

(p. 35.) “The bed of coal here dips at a very gradual declination towards the centre of the mountain, and I am certain that it is the same bed as breaks out at the surface of the land, on the south-west side of the mountain, in the direction from Aughabehy colliery towards Castle Tenison. This bed is what in several mining districts would be called a trough or dish coal, viz. dipping or declining from the surface of the land very gradually, in a certain direction for a long space, and then rising in the same direction, until the same bed made its way out on the contrary side of the mountain, at the surface.”

(p. 45.) Mr. Twigg states, that it was with difficulty he could get to see the bed of coal at Aughabehy; for that on his arrival there he found the colliery *full of water*; and it was not until some considerable exertions had been made, that the coal mine at Aughabehy was drained and put into a condition for his examination. As to the quantity of tons contained in the coal district of Aughabehy, “my opinion,” says he, (p. 46,) “is, that *if* the bed continues of the same thickness as it is at the points at which I measured it, that every acre, English measure, will produce at least 2550 tons of coking coal;* that is, *if* the bed proves upon an average of the thickness of that named in my report; but my opinion is, that no person can pretend to speak positively as to whether the bed will or will not be

* Mr. Griffith’s estimate of the produce in good coal, after making allowance for waste, &c. was one ton to each superficial yard of the seam; of course at that rate the English acre would have yielded 4840 tons.

Mr. Twigg takes it at	-	-	-	-	-	2550
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Difference, which amounts to 48 per cent.	-	-	-	-	-	1290
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the thickness, or more* than the thickness as heretofore named. In practice I find frequently a considerable difference in the thickness of one and the same bed of coal, at trifling distances, even in the same coal field, or colliery. On this ground I wish the committee (directors) to understand me, as answering, relative to the quantity of tons contained in *their* mining ground, as hypothetically, viz. not positive, for reasons heretofore given."

Mr. Twigg states further, that, after having carefully examined the mining ground leased to the company, that is to say, as far as could be done without boring or sinking in sundry parts of the royalty for actual trial, his opinion is, that in this part of the mining ground called Aughabehy, there is a tract of land containing the bed of coal equal to 160 English acres. It actually measured something more, but he takes it at this amount for safety; and if the coal held out of the same thickness yielding 2550 tons to the acre, this tract would consequently afford in all 408,000 tons of coals.

"My opinion," says Mr. Twigg, "also is, that the mining ground at Rover, leased to the company, will contain a very considerable quantity of coal, fit for the purpose of smelting iron from the crude material. It is the same bed of coal as the Aughabehy, but considerably altered in thickness and quality, by a fault or faults crossing the mountain; but my opinion is, that when the workings at Rover are carried across

* The word *less* appears to be wanting here; that is, no one can tell whether the thickness will be *more or less*. Mr. English, with much discrimination, calls it a *wavy* coal, varying materially in thickness; in some parts not exceeding 1 foot 4 inches.

the before-mentioned fault, that the coal will then be in a great degree similar to the Aughabehy bed, or perhaps equally as good. The quantity of acres of coal in the mining ground at Rover, of the same or nearly similar quality as Aughabehy bed, at present cannot be ascertained by any examination short of boring, or sinking, or both ; but I should think that a quantity not less than from 80 to 100 English acres, may be fairly calculated on at Rover.

“ I am certain that the beds of coal at Carananault and Derenavoggy, are the same as the bed at Aughabehy and Rover ; and it is very probable, that coal, fit for making coke for furnace use, may be found there, when the colliery workings approach nearer the centre of the mountain ; or at least as soon as the workings have crossed the line of faults that has so much altered the bed of the coal for the better, at Aughabehy.”—(p. 7.)

Quality of the Coal.—Mr. Twigg describes the coal as being of a bituminous quality, or what is generally called a coking coal, and that with proper management it will produce a coke sufficiently strong to bear a heavy blast and carry a sufficient burden, (p. 34 ;) and he gives this opinion both from experiment tried, on a small scale, and from his general practical knowledge.

I apprehend, however, that there is a very considerable difference in the quality of the coal, at different parts of the seam, and at different pits. We have already seen the account given by Mr. Twigg, that, of the coal raised at one of the pits by the Arigna company, not more than one-fourth was fit for making coke, and that the other three-fourths were merely culm.

So also, as I have already explained, at Tullyneha colliery, in the mountain on the northern side of the Arigna river, worked by the Irish Mining Company, there was a very large proportion of small coal, or slack, compared with that of the solid coal. Mr. Wm. Stephens, already mentioned, who had fixed himself at Arigna, with Mr. Latouche's permission, in the expectation of being able to make coke, advantageously, for the Dublin market, found the coal of the first pits he tried, utterly unfit for the purpose. Much of the coal which I saw burning in different houses through the country, assumed, after a while, the appearance of red hot cinders, without caking at all, and it fell readily through the bars of the grate. At Athlone, it was not held in much repute for distillery use; and Mr. Grantham informed me, that they could not employ it with satisfaction for the steam boats belonging to the Inland Steam Navigation Company, on the Shannon, and that they gave a decided preference to English coal at a much higher price. But there is ample demand at the pits for all the coal, whether it will coke or not, which the company can spare; and it appears from some of their latter reports, that a considerable quantity has been sold at remunerating prices.

Subsequently to the survey made by Mr. Twigg, the company took a lease, on very desirable terms, of another coal field, called the Gubberudda colliery, the coal being of the same quality as the Aughabeby bed, of which it may be said to form a part. It was reputed to contain about thirty acres of good coking coal. The lease was determinable on giving six months' notice. All these mining fields are on one and the same mountain.

The directors of the company, in their report of March 1830, state, "that they were enabled to close for this property, owing to the liberal manner in which Colonel Tenison met their proposal, for a reduction of the royalty to which he was entitled, upon all coal brought from other estates, and consumed at the works. That royalty was originally one shilling per ton; but with a view to assist the efforts of the directors, to make the works productive, Colonel Tenison consented to allow coal obtained from other estates, to be consumed on his property, to the extent of one-third of the total consumption, the company paying only a moiety of the former royalty."

"Colonel Tenison, further, at there presentation of the Board, conceded to the company the *exclusive* right to work the minerals on his estates; and by thus foregoing rights which weighed so much in public opinion, and by thus precluding the chance of all competition and future collision, has tended, in the opinion of the directors, very materially to enhance the value of the property."

Ironstone.—As to the quantity of ironstone existing in the mining ground, leased to the company, Mr. Twigg considered it as almost inexhaustible, and admitting of being delivered at the iron works, at an easy expense for many years to come. I may observe in this place, however, that the great quantity of iron stone here alluded to, and from which the works had heretofore been supplied, consisted of the stones found in the bed of the river, whither they had fallen down from the clay slate in which they had been originally deposited, in proportion as the outer edges of the latter gave way. It is extremely difficult to form an exact

computation of the quantity of any material thus lying scattered at the bottom of the stream; but, that the ironstone is extremely abundant, admits of no doubt; still, the quantity thus disengaged, and lying as it were to hand, will infallibly be exhausted, if there should be coal enough to smelt it, and should the works be perseveringly carried on. The only resources could then be, either these same beds of clay slate in which ironstones are loosely diffused, or the solid compact beds of ironstone which traverse the bottom of the Arigna river. The difficulties and the increased expenses which might devolve upon the undertaking in future times, have not escaped the present sagacious managers of the company; though the period may be far distant when the change shall be felt. But there is a great supply of ironstone to be obtained at the opposite side of the lake; and iron ore of a very valuable description is known to exist on the borders of the counties of Longford and Leitrim, not far from the Shannon, by which it might be conveyed up to Lough Allen.* In fact, iron ore is by no means a

* Since writing the above, I find the following passage in a Report of the directors to the company.

“ The superabundant supply of ironstone in the neighbourhood of the works, has rendered the opening of the ironstone mines unnecessary at the present moment. Your directors, however, have to report the acquisition of a desirable property of this description, in virtue of an agreement entered into with Mr. Nesbit of Derrycarne. The terms on which this agreement was drawn, were proposed by the company, with a due regard to the real interests of both landlord and tenant, and were handsomely assented to by Mr. Nesbitt. As the ironstone possesses different properties from that at Arigna, and as it is ready of access, and facilities are afforded by water communication, it is fairly presumed that this agreement will be found advantageous.

But the company have no want of ironstone in their own premises,

rare commodity in Ireland; it is the fuel, to make it available for useful purposes, which is deficient. The ironstone at Arigna is of the kind designated clay ironstone, commonly of a dusky red or brownish colour, ponderous, tough, and occasionally very hard, and found in rounded fragments from the size of a pebble to that of a bull's head, or even larger.

The *limestone* which is used as a flux in smelting the iron ore, Mr. Twigg also pronounced to be of the very best quality; of that indeed no doubt existed.

Fire clay.—This material so essentially necessary in the construction of the furnace, and for making fire bricks, and blocks, &c., according to Mr. Twigg's reports to the directors, existed in a bed in the mountain; but, says he "as it has not been *sufficiently tried*, little can be said on that head, and as far as appearances go, judging of texture, grain, and weight, I should think it *not* very good." Now, in the laboratory of the Royal Dublin Society, this clay had undergone comparative trials with the celebrated fire clay from Stourbridge, and it was the opinion of those who

and if equally sure of coal, and in the same proportionate abundance, their works would be infallibly prosperous. "The ironstone mines," says Mr. Twigg, in a subsequent Report, dated June, 1830, "have been examined, and the result extremely favourable. A greater variety of ironstones I have never met with, from which, by a proper admixture and proper management, I have no hesitation in saying, that pig iron of best marks and suitable for foundry works of every kind may be obtained." In a sub-Report from one of the agents on the spot, he states: "The iron mines begin in Rover, and continue for more than two miles and a half. I measured several of the beds to more than two feet thick, in some places laid bare in the ravines; and in the bed of the Arigna river we can get any quantity at a very short notice. The distance from the side of the railway will vary from 30 to 250 yards. There is enough to last two furnaces for 250 years."

were competent to form an accurate opinion, that the Irish clay from the Brahlieve mountain was not inferior to that of England. It was notorious that no other clay had been used in the operations carried on at Arigna by the O'Reillys, and under Mr. Latouche, and it had been found to answer most effectually the purposes to which it had been applied. One of the English workmen whom I found on the spot, who had been long engaged at different iron works both in England and Wales, told me that he considered the fire clay of first rate quality ; that it only wanted a little more grinding than the English clay ; and this man spoke with confidence, founded on long experience and intimate knowledge of the material. It was not, therefore, without surprize, that at my last visit to the works in the year 1830, I perceived several score of large casks of Stourbridge fire clay in the yard, which had been brought over from England at considerable expense. It seemed to be verifying the proverb of carrying coals to Newcastle.* I was informed, however, in London, that as the directors had determined to adhere strictly to Mr. Twigg's suggestions, and to leave the responsibility of success upon him, so, in such a comparatively trivial matter as bringing fire clay from Stourbridge, it was judged more advisable

* I was pleased to find, by the report of the directors to the proprietors, in March, 1830, that they had at last made a discovery of a second and superior bed of fire clay, on the Arigna estate ; which, as they say, " held out a pleasing prospect to the company of the works being rendered, at a future period, independant of so expensive an article as fire brick from England." There can be no doubt of the mountain affording abundance of most valuable fire clay, and in time the manufacture of fire bricks, &c. may form an important branch of the company's business.

to incur that expense, and to let Mr. Twigg be thoroughly satisfied, as to the excellence and durability of his materials, than to leave any excuse for failure: for not long after his first report, arrangements were made for confiding the whole management of the works to his care; and Mr. Vivian, the first resident manager, or as these mining agents are commonly called, Captain Vivian, was removed from his situation. Vivian was succeeded by a Mr. Partridge, from whom the company had high expectation; but, after a while, Partridge, in his turn, was put out, and a third person put in. One cannot reflect on such changes without calling to mind Mr. Griffith's evidence before the committee of the House of Commons, that the former failures at Arigna, whilst there were so many apparent causes why the works should have prospered, was to be attributed in a great measure to the want of consistency in the management; the managers being frequently changed, and persons not well skilled in the business having been employed; in consequence of which large sums of money had been unnecessarily expended.

In fact, it is sufficiently known to those who have had experience in mining affairs, how extremely difficult it is to procure the service of persons who are thoroughly skilled in such subjects, competent to the performance of all the duties they undertake, and confidential in the fullest sense of the acceptation. Nevertheless, let the cause of failure in reaping profit be what it may, it is but a common disposition on the part of those who suffer disappointment, to suppose that by a change of servants, matters may go on more prosperously; and it is only after repeated trials that

they become satisfied that one servant is not better than his predecessor; or that the evil is inherent in the very nature of the business. I must beg, however, that it may be distinctly understood, that these general observations are not meant to apply in any respect to the character or abilities of any of the agents who have been employed by the new Arigna Company. I never had any personal communication either with Captain Vivian or Mr. Twigg, and know nothing of the latter, but from his published reports to the board of directors. Neither of them was at Arigna at the period of my visits, although in the employment of the company.

For the improvement and extension of the works at Arigna, Mr. Twigg, after his first survey, suggested four principal measures, and these were immediately adopted by the directors of the company, and orders given for carrying them into effect.

1st. To complete the principal adit or level which had been begun formerly by the O'Reillys.

2nd. To establish the coke yards near the mouth of this level.

3d. To lay down an iron rail road from the coke yard to the iron works.

4th. To build a second smelting furnace in connexion with the one then existing, as the same establishment of agents would manage both.

As the seam of coal is situated at a considerable elevation in the mountain, and extends entirely across it, so that the outcrop or outgoing of the coal is visible on the verge of the mountain at each side, it could scarcely have escaped observation that a level or passage opened into the heart of the mountain, at a con-

venient distance below the seam, would answer the double purpose of a drain for the water, and a passage for bringing out the coals; and the O'Reillys had already made considerable progress in the undertaking before they gave up to Mr. Latouche, having advanced it 300 yards into the mountain. To bring up the coals to the surface of the mountain through a perpendicular shaft, was, of course, a useless expenditure of labour, that ought to be avoided, since the same coals, which had been raised, had afterwards to be carried down the hill again. Mr. Griffith, in his book, alludes to a project for making the horizontal passage the seat of a narrow canal, for the conveyance of the coals in boats, and no doubt such a measure would be quite practicable; and the only subject of consideration, the expense. Mr. Twigg proposed that the passage should be wide enough for a horse to work, and as this exceeded the limits which had been planned by the O'Reillys, for their level had only been 5 feet high and 4 feet 9 inches wide; the first part of the new work consisted in enlarging the old adit, which in every part was to be not less than 7 feet wide and 6 feet high.

In the report delivered in at the general meeting of the company in April 1831, it is announced, that

“The level at Aughabehy, a work of infinite importance as affording means of communication with, as well as unwatering the coal, has been carried to the extent of 522 yards, which will suffice for the workings of that and the Gubberrudda collieries for the immediate operations of the company.”—“It has not, however, been the lot of the company to escape the common fate of proceedings founded on estimate; the

usual discrepancy between the amount of these and the actual expenditure entailed, being considerable in the present case. The excess in many respects is to be accounted for, by the interposition of difficulties of which there were no just grounds for anticipation ; as, for instance, the level, where rock, not forming part of the regular stratification of the mountain, was found in the course of the driving ; and not only much impeded that work, but entailed such a very considerable additional expense, as to cause the cuttings in some parts to have amounted to *twelve pounds per yard*, instead of 25s. ; and in other cases, the hardness of the stone for furnace use cost three times the amount for dressing, of that of the stone of this country."

The sandstone of the country is of various degrees of hardness, and in some instances not only hard but extremely tough ; it is stated, however, that the unusual stone, foreign to the regular stratification encountered in cutting the level, was not sand, but *whin* stone, but I did not see any specimen to enable me to describe it more accurately.

The operation of coking, as every person must be aware, diminishes the original weight of the coal ; according to Mr. Twigg's estimate, the decrease is no less than 45 per cent. Of course if the process can be conveniently carried on near the place where the coals are first delivered from the mine, there would be a saving of that per centage on the carriage ; and at the distance of somewhat less than 300 yards from the mouth, there was a place every way suitable for establishing the new coking yards.

The whole length of the rail-way down to the iron works was computed at 5500 yards, and the report last

alluded to, announces, that 5,100 yards of it had been already completed, and that but little more work was required to render it available for the transit of coal, ironstone, &c.

“The nature of the soil through which the road passes, and a considerable space of bog, through which it is cut, with the depth of the excavations and heavy fillings, in some instances 24 feet, have rendered this work one of considerable anxiety and trouble. It has been represented as having withstood the late stormy season admirably, as, although the water in many places passed over it, no damage of any importance was sustained.”

Of course, on an inclined plane, with the advantage of an iron rail-way, coals could be conveyed far more easily and expeditiously, than by the old system of panniers on horseback: indeed formerly a considerable outlay was generally required in keeping the mountain roads in a passable state for the horses. Mr. Twigg estimated the probable saving at £5000 per annum. Besides, in using horses on hire, the company was exposed to imposition and combination, whereby the works might have been at any time stopped.

As to the rail-way, an anomaly not less remarkable than the bringing of Stourbridge fire-clay to these mountains which produced a material equally good, occurred with respect to it; since the iron, for the purpose, or at least much of it, was actually procured from England, and transported at a heavy expense, to supply the wants of this region, so pompously announced as teeming with iron and coal; and this also, after the works had been five years in the

possession of the company, and after their having actually set their furnace into action. The pig iron which had been made at Arigna by the new company, had been all sent off to Dublin and to England, to show what could be produced; although there was no doubt, from past experience, of the excellent quality of the iron which these works could be brought to yield; and when it became an object to form the rail road without further delay, the iron which had been thus sent away was brought back, or at least all of it that could conveniently be re-obtained, together with as much more as was necessary to complete the work. Whilst I was at Arigna in the summer of 1830, the castings were going on with great activity, and they appeared to me of a very beautiful description, each piece bearing in well formed sharp letters, the name of the Arigna Company. In these observations nothing can be farther from my intention than to impute mismanagement to the present board; on the contrary, I admire their perseverance, and am satisfied that their proceedings have been directed by prudence and economy, and from my heart I wish them every success. But the sending of fire-clay and of iron from England to this place, is not the less a remarkable circumstance which must be set down in the history of Arigna.

The iron rail road was considered by Mr. Twigg, as absolutely essential to the success of the business, which may readily be conceived, if, as stated, an expenditure of £4000 upon the road, was to occasion a saving of £5000 per annum.—(Report, p. 11.)

The estimates given in were for three and a half English miles of rail-way, at 70lbs. of iron per yard, amounting in all to $192\frac{1}{2}$ tons. Now, there was a good

deal of waste and refuse iron lying about the place, which, it was conceived, might be converted to use; cupelows for melting the iron were already erected, and by getting more iron, and employing the English workmen belonging to the company, it was calculated the castings could be produced at 26s. per ton; but if purchased, deliverable at Arigna, they would cost £12 per ton.

The first estimate was as follows:

	£	s.	d.
192½ tons of cast iron at 26s. -	250	5	0
Stone sleepers, including carriage, &c.	255	10	0
Cutting and forming embankments, bridges, &c., and laying the road	1400	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1905	15	0
Contingencies - - - -	90	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1995	15	0

The second estimate:

	£.	s.	d.
192½ tons of cast iron at £12 -	2310	0	0
Sleepers, as before - - -	255	10	0
Embankments, &c. - - -	1400	0	0
Contingencies - - - -	100	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4065	10	0

The company put their own men to the work, and the rail-way, after being nearly completed, was found, according to the report, to come close to the estimates. The fall was calculated to enable one horse to draw nine to ten tons.

We are now come to a part of the subject, avowedly indeed the most important of all, the quantity of iron

which may probably be produced, the cost of it to the company, and consequently the profits on the concern. This subject must, however, be approached with caution; and it is essentially necessary to bear in mind, that it is not upon the results of actual experience, but rather upon the estimates of the mining surveyors and engineers, who have at different periods been employed to examine the premises, and give their opinions thereon, that a judgment can be formed with any pretensions to an approximation towards the truth.

Mr. John Grieve, of Edinburgh, who examined into the circumstances of the place, in the year 1800, as I have already stated, gives the following estimate of the cost of making a ton of pig iron.

	£	s.	d.
5½ tons of raw coal, at 4s. 11d. -	1	7	0
4 do. iron stone at 3s. 8d. -	0	14	8
1 ton 3 cwt. of limestone, at 2s. 3d.	0	2	7
Contingencies, wear and tear, &c.	0	13	0
	<hr/>		
	2	17	3

The latter item at once shows, that this account is hypothetical; but it is still more so, in respect to the price put down for the coals; for that price was not the actual one at which coals were then deliverable at the works; but the price at which he supposes they might thereafter be delivered, *if* certain improvements as to the levels, means of carriage, &c. &c. were adopted, pursuant to his suggestion. In fact the collier's ton of coals—containing 22cwt., at 120lb. to the cwt., making 1 ton 3 cwt. 2 qrs. and 8 lbs., actually stood in 13s. 4d. at the time; equal to 11s. 3d. per

ton of the ordinary measure. The difference would amount to 6s. 4d. per ton, which on $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons would be £1 14s. 10d., making the cost of the ton of iron amount to £4 12s. 1d.

Mr. Thomas Guest's estimates, also already mentioned, were as follow :

	£	s.	d.
5 tons of raw coal at 6s. 4d. - - -	1	11	8
4 do. ironstone, at 6s. - - -	1	4	0
1 do. limestone, at 4s. - - -	0	4	0
Working furnace, calcining, coking, &c.	0	10	0
Incidental charges, wear and tear, &c.	1	5	4
	<hr/>		
	4	15	0

These estimates appear in the notes, or addenda, to Mr. Griffith's report on the Connaught Coal District.

Mr. Griffith's own estimate, at p. 71 of his book, stands thus :

	£	s.	d.
5 tons of raw coal at 7s. 6d. - - -	1	7	6
4 do. ironstone, at 3s. 4d. - - -	0	13	4
1 do. limestone, at 4s. - - -	0	4	0
Expense of coking, roasting, furnace-men, &c. - - -	0	10	0
	<hr/>		
	2	14	10
Contingencies at 20 per cent. - - -	0	10	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>		
Cost per ton of pig iron - - -	3	5	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
But with the proposed improvements which he has suggested, Mr. Griffith considers the iron could be made at - - -	3	2	5
	<hr/>		
Difference saved - - -	0	3	0 $\frac{1}{4}$

Mr. Twigg's estimate of the expense of making pig iron at Arigna, next falls under consideration. But here it must be explained in the first instance, that Mr. Twigg, in his report to the company, represented, that with all the improvements and economical arrangements which had been suggested, the charges must vary, at different periods of time, according as the coals should be worked in a more or less remote part of the mountain, and according to the distance from which it might become necessary to bring the ironstone.

Estimate for making one ton of pig iron of No. 1 quality.

	£	s.	d.
5 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons of best raw coal at 7s. 10d., the supposed average price for 21 years - -	2	3	1
3 tons 4 cwt. of ironstone at 4s. 10d. - -	0	15	5
1 do. limestone at 3s. - - - -	0	3	0
Workmen's wages for making No. 1 pig iron, as now paid to English workmen - -	0	13	3
Cost of engine sleek upon each ton of iron made; with agency and all other incidental expenses, including hearths, linings, and all wear and tear - - - - -	0	11	0
	<hr/>		
	4	5	9
If the limestone should be supplied by means of a rail way, deduct 1s. 11d. per ton -	0	1	11
	<hr/>		
	4	3	10

This estimate is of course in English money, the preceding ones were in the old Irish currency, but it was not material to reduce them.

No question seems to be entertained of the good quality of the iron which has been heretofore made at Arigna, and doubtless as good, if not better, may be made hereafter, considering what improvements in science and in art have taken place. But it may be questionable whether the pig iron, or the bar iron, should the manufacture of it be attempted, can be successfully brought in competition, into the great markets which are at present supplied from England, Scotland, and Wales. The Carron castings, for example, can by direct water carriage be conveyed to the port of Sligo, within a few miles of Arigna; and it is well known that they are poured in large quantity into Dublin, although the English and Welsh works are in fact nearer; for even where the articles are equally good, or nearly so, it is not always that proximity will influence the market. Cheapness, consisting in the compared rates of price and quality, will sooner or later bring customers, and liberality and exactness secure them. But it is quite possible that Arigna may furnish castings, which by means of the canals and the Shannon, may find their way to the central parts of Ireland, as well as to Dublin and Limerick; and the spirit, and perseverance, and liberality with which the company have carried on their works, must induce every friend to the extension of national industry, earnestly to wish them success.

As to the quantity of pig iron which could be produced from the two furnaces, old and new, the one 44 feet high and 12 feet in the bosh, the other 50 feet high and proportionately broad, if kept at constant work, Mr. Twigg calculated it at about 60 tons per

week, which would make 3120 tons in the year ;* and allowing $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons of coals for each ton of iron, the consumption of coal would be equal to 16,100 tons annually, which coal, it is to be observed, must all be of the best quality ; and if the acre produced 2550 tons of good coal, then the consumption would exhaust somewhat more than six acres of the company's best coal fields in each year ; but if the seams became thin, or the coal of indifferent quality, the exhaustion must proceed at a more rapid rate. Fuel for the steam engine, castings, &c. must also be taken into the account, all tending to exhaust the existing stock.

The following is an account of the assets of the Arigna Company, according to the statement laid be-

* I have already stated, that the company have judged it more advisable, since, to begin with one furnace alone ; of course not more than one half the quantity can be produced.

It may be interesting to compare such an amount of production with that of the iron works in Great Britain.

“ The quantity of iron annually manufactured in Wales, is about 270,000 tons, of which about three-fourths is made into bars, and one-fourth sold as pigs and castings. The quantity of coal required for its manufacture, on the average of the whole, including that used by engines, workmen, &c. will be about five tons and a half for each ton of iron. The annual consumption of coal by the iron works, will, therefore, be about 1,500,000 tons. The quantity used in the melting of copper ore, imported from Cornwall, in the manufacture of tin plates, forging of iron for various purposes, and for domestic uses, may be estimated at 850,000 tons. The annual quantity of iron manufactured in Great Britain is 690,000 tons.—*Trans. Soc. Nat. Hist., Northumberland and Durham, &c.*

If such be the immense consumption of coal and iron in this country at present, who can calculate what it will be in a few years, when the kingdom will be covered with rail-roads, and when we bear in mind that upwards of 4000 tons of iron have been laid down in the double line of rail-way between this town and Manchester, a distance of about 30 miles only.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

fore the proprietors, in April, 1831, and subsequently printed for distribution.

Arigna iron works, with furnaces, casting houses, and other buildings, steam engines, machinery, &c., &c.

Aughabehy, Rover, Celtinavena, Gubberrudda, Carananault, Derrynavoggy,	}	Collieries, with levels, railways, shafts, gins, &c. These are all situated in the one mountain.
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Rail road 5500 yards from Aughabehy colliery to the Arigna works.

	£	s.	d.
Ironstone in stock, limestone, and other materials	362	16	0
Pig iron scraps, &c.	477	12	0
Rail tram plates and sleepers	1833	10	10
Building materials, timber, &c. in stock	414	0	8
Sundry tools and implements	338	18	5
Farm stock	248	19	6
	<u>3675</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>5</u>

£	s.	d.	
11,033	9	7	—3 per cent. consols, Parliamentary fund.
822	12	8	—3½ per cents. invested under order of the Court of Chancery.

3,513	18	8	—3½ per cents. forming the proprietors' guarantee fund.
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	£	s.	d.
Cash, as per balance sheet	3,568	8	11
Arrears due as per last statement	10,462	0	0
On the 7th call on 1,064 shares	1,064	0	0
On the 8th call on 2,128 shares, 1st instalment	2,128	0	0
On the 8th call on 2,798 shares, 2d do.	2,798	0	0
Due by Mr. Joseph Clarke for half-a-year's dividend received by him	164	10	0

The great importance heretofore attached to this mining district has led me to dwell upon the subject longer than I otherwise would have done. I must now conclude, and in doing so must take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Mr. English, the intelligent, zealous, and active secretary of the Arigna Company, for all the information he so politely and obligingly afforded me on the subject, when in London, in the month of August, 1831.

BOGS.

According to the marginal note on the county map, by Messrs. Edgeworth and Griffith, of which a transcript has been given in a preceding page, the bogs of Roscommon amount to 80,908 Irish, equal to 131,057 English acres, occupying in proportion to the arable land about 29 parts in 100. They are dispersed over the face of the country in divisions of various size, from tracts of thousands of continuous acres, to small patches, which barely suffice to supply the neighbouring districts with fuel. It is rare to find four miles together without the occurrence of bogs, and they are met with in almost every variety of situation; on the summits of the coal mountains and the tops of the highest hills; on their sloping sides; on the banks of loughs and rivers, and in the depth of vallies. Several of the bogs on the uplands, are comparatively dry, and in their natural state often afford course pasturage, which answers for young and hardy cattle: but all the upland bogs are not dry, neither do they all yield pasturage: on the contrary, in situations where it might be least

expected, springs, swallow holes, and quagmires occur, dangerous in many instances to approach, and often absolutely impervious to man or beast. The depth of the bogs is various; from that of a few feet to upwards of seven fathoms.

As sources of fuel, the distribution of these bogs over the face of the country, may be regarded as a bountiful gift from providence, diffusing comparative comfort amongst many a poor family, which, without such an advantage, would suffer extreme misery. A distance of four miles intervening between the turbary and the residence, is considered in Roscommon, a subject of peculiar inconvenience; and a marked difference is observable in the condition of the peasantry who have a plentiful supply of turf at hand upon easy terms, and those who have to fetch it from such a distance, or to pay for it in money. But the fourth part of the surface of the land is not wanted for fuel, and even if it were, the value of bog is not impaired by draining and cultivation. The growth of the bog plants may be stopped, and consequently the increase of the mass prevented; but the turf from a bog which has been consolidated by draining, is more dense, and consequently of more value, and the cultivation of the surface neither lessens nor deteriorates what lies beneath. Are then these extensive wastes destined to remain in continued barrenness; or are they, by the ingenuity, industry, and perseverance of man, to be rendered subservient to his sustenance, and contributive to the general wealth and prosperity of the land?

The inquiry into the general question of bog improvement, is avowedly one not only of great interest in itself, but of great national consequence. Think only of the possibility of adding upwards of 130,000

English acres of productive surface to this single county of Roscommon. How many human beings who now languish in penury, and drag out a listless life of inaction and inutility, ending with the infirmities of premature old age, might be employed in useful labour, and thereby be rendered comfortable and happy, if the bogs were once reduced to a state suitable for cultivation.*

Now that bog soil will admit of permanent agricultural improvement; that it may be brought to yield corn and grass, and many of the most valuable esculent plants which nature has provided for the sustenance of man and beast, seems to be put beyond all doubt, by what has been already effected in various parts of Ireland, and numerous instances may be adduced of bog improvements within the county of Roscommon. But it is to be observed that the greater part of these improvements have been effected on bogs of comparatively small extent, so that the grand and interesting question of the practicability of reducing the large and deep bogs to a state fit for cultivation, yielding at the same time a profit to the undertaker, seems to be still at issue, notwithstanding the vast sums which have been expended under the commission of 1809, in obtaining information as to their nature, extent, and peculiar circumstances throughout the island.

* Mr. Sadler, in his able and luminous statement in the House of Commons on the subject of poor laws, showed that the defalcation of life in Ireland, after the age of forty, was, in proportion to the numbers born, and of those who attained to that age, most remarkable, as compared with the state of the population in Great Britain; the human system in Ireland after the prime vigour of life was over, seemed unable to support the hardships and deprivations to which it was exposed.

So much has been written upon the nature of the bogs, and the means of reclaiming them, that it is scarcely possible to touch upon the subject, without falling into repetition of what is already before the public. But repetition may surely be allowable where there is the least hope of its giving a fresh impulse to national improvement.

As conducive to this end, I have put together some of the principal observations which have been made by the engineers employed in this county, under the commissioners appointed for inquiring into the nature and extent of the bogs in Ireland, and the practicability of draining and cultivating them; more especially as these observations will furnish more accurate information respecting the bogs of Roscommon, than is obtainable from any other source that I am acquainted with; but as a great deal of extraneous matter not immediately relating to Roscommon, is of necessity introduced, it appeared to me better to transfer the subject to an Appendix, rather than to dwell upon it at large in this place.

The surveys of the bogs of Roscommon, under the commission appointed for the purpose by Parliament, were executed in the years 1812 and 1813, by Messrs. Longfield, Griffith, and Edgeworth, and the bogs were classed under four districts. The first by Mr. Longfield, called the Lough Gara district, comprised the bogs which lay in the vicinity of that great body of water, on the western frontier of the county, in the baronies of Boyle and Ballintobber. Mr. Griffith undertook the survey of two districts, the first comprising the bogs which discharged their waters into the upper Suck; the second, the bogs which discharged their

waters into the lower Suck, and into the Shannon. Mr. Edgeworth's, the fourth district, lay between the river Shannon and the ridge of Slievebawn, or the white mountain; Rooskey-bridge on the Shannon was the most northern part, and Lough Ree the most southern. The whole quantity of bog surveyed was upwards of 100,000 English acres; but the surveys, according to the regulation of the commissioners, were not to include any bogs of less extent than 500 Irish acres.

Notwithstanding the accuracy and intelligence of the engineers, and the confident and almost enthusiastic terms in which they represented the practicability of draining and improving the bogs, and the consequent profits attendant on the measure, yet nothing of any note has been effected since these surveys were made; at least nothing in pursuance of the plans which were then laid down and submitted to the commissioners and to Parliament.

The most remarkable improvements within the county, particularly those in the southern parts, in the vicinity of Athlone, and the largest plantation of timber trees upon bog, were effected before the commission was issued; these were referred to by the surveyors, in their reports, as examples of what might be done, and they still remain as the principal examples which are to be seen within the county on a considerable scale. Minor improvements have indeed gone on, in various places, and a season has never passed over without some accession of reclaimed bog, as it is called, to the arable surface of the county. On Lord Dillon's estate, near Lough Glynn, on the western side of the county, in the barony of Boyle,

where the tenants were allowed to extend cultivation at pleasure into the large bog near the village, as described by Mr. Longfield, in his Report on the Roscommon bogs, annual progress has continued to be made; and I there saw close to the village some small plantations of fir trees growing upon drained bog, as vigorously as ever I saw any trees of the same kind on firm soil.

A similar system of improving bog has been adopted in the same neighbourhood, towards Castlerea, on Lord Mount Sandford's estate, under the intelligent guidance of Mr. Owen Young, the agent. New well built cottages have been erected on the sound land in the contiguity of the bog, and the tenants have been encouraged to cultivate it, aided by master drains cut through the wetter parts of the bog, which have greatly tended to facilitate the improvements.

On the road between the town of Roscommon and Lanesborough on the Shannon, bog improvements may likewise be seen annually increasing, the work of cottagers, many of them adventurers who have been attracted by the cheapness of fuel, and the prospect of obtaining a settlement; though they are left to build their own miserable huts, and are made to pay very dearly for the permission to occupy. In fact, in almost every part of the county, wherever a road is carried over a bog, and wherever drains are made for keeping the road dry, which drains also serve to dry the bog, the peasantry, if left to themselves, will immediately fix, and build huts; and, as already stated, some will not only pay for the permission, but at a rate nearly equivalent to the rent of sound ground; the certainty of having fuel in abundance, being one subject of con-

sideration ; and the prospect of procuring an increasing extent of surface capable of producing food, merely by their own labour, another and still more important one.

In various places, also, on passing through the county, whilst the harvest was partly standing, partly in sheaf, I observed richer, cleaner, and heavier crops on the improved bog, than on some of the adjacent firm grounds. I do not mean to say better crops than the prime lands of Roscommon would produce, but better crops than what some of the light but not bad land yielded.

Now, if such circumstances as I have described, are consequent upon the opening of an ordinary road carried through a bog casually, who can doubt of a similar result, if roads were carried through the larger bogs, for the express purpose of their improvement ? Several spirited individuals have set an example to a certain extent, of what might be effected, but nothing has been done on a large scale, which involved much expense and outlay ; nothing whatever on any combined plan of united cooperation. All the bog improvements effected in Roscommon, when summed up together, are absolutely trifling and insignificant, when compared to the immense extent of bog which still remains in a state of nature, useless and neglected.

Amongst the late improvements of bog, some of the most considerable which came under my observation, were those on the Coote Hall estate, in the barony of Boyle, near the Shannon, purchased not many years ago by Hugh Barton, Esq. These were effected chiefly by opening and lowering the natural channels for the waters, pursuant to a plan devised by Mr. Longfield ;

but this part of the country was not included in any of the surveys which were executed for the commissioners. The great success of the undertaking, and the acquisition of a tract of nearly 500 acres of profitable surface, at an extremely moderate outlay, in comparison with the value obtained, excited attention in other parts of the county, and Mr. Longfield's* services were soon put in requisition to the same end in other quarters, more particularly towards the great bogs in the vicinity of French Park. But it seems strange, that with Mr. Longfield, with Mr. Griffith, with Mr. Nimmo, at hand, men individually so distinguished in their profession, and so extensively employed under the commissioners of the bogs; and moreover, whose subsequent avocations in the county of Roscommon, on matters of a different nature, must of necessity have brought them still closer into relation with many of the proprietors of extensive tracts of bog; it seems strange under such circumstances, with such advice, with such experience to guide and direct, so little should have been hitherto attempted towards the improvement of the bogs.

In the detailed descriptions of the baronies, there may be occasion to take notice incidentally of some of the bogs which they contain; but for the general view of the subject, I must beg leave to refer to the Appendix.

* Mr. Longfield's abilities have been long appreciated in the county of Roscommon, and I had the gratification of seeing many of his beautifully executed maps of estates in that county, more particularly those of Lord Mount Sandford.

LAKES AND RIVERS.

IN the table of the superficial contents of the county, inserted at a preceding page, it may be seen that the surface covered by water amounts to 7562 acres Irish, equal to 12,248 English; so that if the whole extent of arable or sound land be taken at 279,976 acres, the waters may be set down as bearing thereto a proportion of nearly $2\frac{7}{10}$ to 100. It is to be observed, however, that considerable portions of the waters, though comprised within the limits of the county, lie, nevertheless, beyond the apparent boundary. Thus along the whole eastern side of the county, from Lough Allen to the mouth of the river Suck on the south, the Shannon and its broad lakes seem to be the bounds of the county, whilst the real line of demarcation passes through the middle of the waters; the same observation will apply to the river Suck on the south western side of the county, and to that large body of water called Lough Gara. The waters, therefore, seem to admit of a division into two classes, those which, lying upon the boundaries, are common to other counties, and those which lie exclusively within the county. A glance at the map will serve to show, that the baronies of Boyle and Roscommon are more abundant in water than any of the others; neither does this arise merely from their contiguity to, and share in, the large boundary lakes, but from the number of internal lakes and rivers which they severally contain. The relative proportion of the water to the sound land, excluding the bogs altogether, in the several baronies, may be seen

in the following table, beginning with those which contain the largest quantity of water.

TABLE showing the relative proportions of water in acres and decimal parts to every 100 acres of land, exclusive of bog, in each barony.

	Land.	Water. Acres.
Boyle, - -	per 100 acres,	5.5
Roscommon,	3.4
Ballintobber,	1.7
Athlone,	1.3
Half Ballymoe,	0.4
Half Moycarne,	0.1

The waters are again divisible into loughs, turloughs, and rivers; but without the aid of the actual notes of the surveyor, it would be difficult to assign the extent of surface occupied by each.

TURLOUGHES.

The turloughs are temporary lakes, which usually commence in winter and disappear in summer, but they vary considerably in extent during different years, and sometimes continue during the whole of the summer, and even during a second year. It is in this respect that they differ from the pools which are so commonly formed, more especially in flat countries, by the winter floods, and which disappear with the returning spring.

The turloughs usually occupy shallow basins, and are invariably, as it is believed, connected with the limestone districts, where fissures in the rocks and

swallow holes commonly occur. So long as these vents remain open, the water runs off, and there is no lake; but when decayed weeds, aquatic plants, &c. are swept away by the first winter floods and borne towards the vents, the passages, by the accumulation of the masses, become stopped, and remain so until the vegetable matter is entirely decomposed by the returning warmth of summer. The water, consequently, having no outlet, soon forms the turlough.

That turloughs are occasioned in this manner, can admit of no doubt, because, the remains of the vegetable masses which had been accumulated around the swallow holes, may be seen after the water has been drained off. But it appears to me, that turloughs may also be formed by the vents or passages becoming stopped by back water from subterranean reservoirs with which they may be connected; and in the county of Longford, a turlough, so called, was pointed out to me, the rise and fall of which was evidently connected with the floods in the Shannon, although situated at the distance of a mile or two from the river, and separated from it by hills.

When the turlough happens to have a grassy bottom, the most luxuriant crops are obtained if the waters retire timely; on the other hand, losses and disappointment are sustained if the waters unfortunately continue throughout the summer. The great turlough of Mantua had remained full for such a length of time, that measures were once in agitation for opening surface drains to empty it. But nature, after occasionally making these deviations from her usual course, generally resumes her former ways, and sometimes, when least expected, the turlough, after

alarming the occupant of the soil, quietly parts with its waters. The turlough of Mantua is computed to contain 380 acres Irish, rather more than 600 English.

Another very large turlough, of more than a mile in length, lies still farther to the west, beyond Lough Glin. Other turloughs of various sizes occur in different parts of the county; but it would be useless to enumerate them: suffice it to state, that they are more numerous in the western and central parts of the county than elsewhere.

LOUGHS.

The term lough, seems to admit of a much more general signification than that of lake, since it is applied to mere ponds, as well as to bodies of water of miles in extent. The number of loughs in Roscommon is very considerable. Some of them neither receive nor discharge any stream, unless it be by subterranean courses; these are probably fed by surface water from the adjacent lands, or by springs, or land drains. Others, fed in the same way, discharge streams; and others again, both receive and discharge streams. In many instances, streams pass from lough to lough, connecting them into a chain of lakes for several miles together: these streams, however, are rarely navigable; though no doubt exists but that some might be rendered so, and made to contribute essentially to the convenience and improvement of the county.

The loughs admit of division, as already observed, into those which are wholly comprised within the county, and those which merely border upon its confines, and are shared by other counties. The latter are by far the largest. Such are Lough Allen, Lough

Bodarig, Lough Boffin, Lough Forbes, Lough Ree upon the Shannon. Of these, some are obviously mere expansions of the river: whilst Lough Allen and Lough Ree have all the appearance of individual lakes, which the Shannon may rather be supposed to pass through than to form. The description of these several bodies of water will fall with more propriety under the head of the river Shannon.

Lough Gara, on the western side of the county, computed to contain 2924 acres Irish, equal to 4736 English, is another of the great lakes which is only shared by Roscommon, with Mayo and Sligo; indeed, the latter county extends in part to each side of the lake, and appears like an interloper upon Roscommon, intruding beyond its natural boundary of the lake.

To attempt to enumerate all the loughs which lie exclusively within the county, would be a task not less useless, than it would be perplexing, considering that the name of lough is given almost to every pond, and that these abound in the country. The largest individual lake of Roscommon, is that of Lough Key, in the barony of Boyle. This lake receives the surplus waters of Lough Gara, as I shall presently explain more at large, and discharges its waters by a river, into the upper and lower loughs of Oak-port, which communicate with the Shannon. In the same barony there are two little lakes, Lough Skean and Lough Meelagh, the latter very picturesque, which also discharge their waters into the Shannon.

Farther to the south, in the baronies of Roscommon and Ballintobber, on the eastern side of the county, there are several chains of small lakes which discharge their waters into Lough Bodarig, on the

Shannon, by means of which, if the navigation could be opened along the connecting streams, a communication might be extended from the Shannon to a considerable distance into the interior of the country.

On the western side of the county, also in the baronies of Boyle and of Ballintobber, there are several lakes, the most considerable one of which is Lough Aeluyn, near the village of Ballinlough; at a little distance further to the north in the same district lie the lesser lakes of Lough Errit and Lough Glin, on the beautiful wooded banks of the latter of which, stands the mansion of Lord Dillon. In the more southern parts of the county, the only lough of any note is that of Funcheon, in the barony of Athlone.

In the account of the respective baronies, a more detailed description of these several lakes will be introduced, and it will be needless to dwell on the subject in this place, longer than just to give a general view of the course of the waters of the county of Roscommon. These all find their way into the river Shannon, but through very different channels. On the eastern side of the county, the course of the waters into the Shannon is very direct; but on the extreme west, the waters divide in a remarkable manner, one part descending to the south, and falling into the Suck; whilst in the same immediate neighbourhood, other waters run towards the north, falling into Lough Gara, and passing thence into Lough Key and Oak-port Lough, before they unite with the Shannon. On referring to the map, it may be observed, that in the district situated to the north-west of Castlerea, Lough Errit, Cloonagh Lough, and several lesser loughs, between which there is a chain of communication by

rivers, passing from one to the other, as well also as the detached lake of Lough Glin, pour forth their waters to augment the river Lung, which conveys them ultimately into Lough Gara, whilst those of Lough Aeluyn, in the same district, join the river Suck, and are conveyed southward into the Shannon.

But the nearest approach of the head waters of the streams which take this opposite course, on one side to the Suck, and on the other to Lough Gara, is observable at a few miles to the north-east of the town of Castlerea, between the sources of an auxiliary branch of the river Suck, and those of the river Breeogue, which though rising within view of each other, and destined ultimately to mingle in the Shannon, yet before they reach the point of union, run, the one near 50 miles, and the other not much short of double that distance in different directions.

The rivers Breeogue and Lung, which fall into Lough Gara, and the river Suck which joins the Shannon below Shannon-bridge, are the great outlets for the waters on the western side of the county.

The River Breeogue is but of inconsiderable length, measuring, with all its meanderings, scarcely more than ten miles from any one of its sources to Lough Gara, into which it falls on the southern side. It has three principal sources, one near Belanagar, another near Clonshanville, and the third in Lough Bally, one of the small lakes of this district. At Ballabridge, there is a fall of 2 feet 6 inches in 100 perches, but when Lough Gara rises, this fall disappears, and the back water occasions floods for six miles upwards from the mouth of the river. The river runs deep and slow, and it is from one to three perches broad. Breeogue

bridge which crosses the stream, within a little more than a mile of the lough, is a low winding causeway bridge, and the river, full of reeds and sedge, is there scarcely distinguishable from the plashes, through which it makes its reluctant way. There are no means of remedying the mischief occasioned by the floods of this river, and they are considerable for one of so short a course, except by lowering Lough Gara, which might be effected with very great facility as I shall presently point out. By removing the obstructions which occasion the fall at Balla-bridge, it has been suggested, that the level of Lough Bally might be reduced, and some fifty acres of comparatively profitless surface freed from water and converted to useful purposes.* At the same time the river might be made navigable up to Lough Bally for small craft, and might thus become useful for the conveyance of gravel in improving the bogs in the vicinity.

The River Lung derives a part of its supplies from sources within a very short distance of those of the Suck and of the Breeogue; others are situated in the county of Mayo. One of the principal of its tributary streams comes from Lough Errit, which discharges its water into Lough Orlor in Mayo, but which returns them back into the county of Roscommon, through Cloonagh lake. After leaving this lake, and passing under Annagoldagh bridge, the stream, at the end of a course of something less than four miles, sinks into the ground and disappears. The actual sinking is only observable, however, at seasons when the turlough or

* Report by Mr. Longfield on the Lough Gara Bog District.

temporary lake is not flooded. Another branch of this river coming from the county Mayo, also sinks into a gulf like a quarry hole. But at the distance of about a mile, these streams again appear, each rising from its own distinct fountain; after a short separate course they unite and form one considerable river.

These temporary sinkings of streams into subterranean channels, are common in several limestone districts, and there are several instances of the kind in the county of Roscommon. Springs of the clearest water imaginable also abound, issuing from the earth occasionally with considerable velocity, and in copious volume.

At some of the larger swallow holes, as they are called in the country, mills have been erected, the wheels being contrived to receive the water as it rushes with force into the abyss.

The Lung, like the other rivers of this district, has a very circuitous course, soon winding out of the county, and only returning to it to serve as a boundary.

The extreme length of the district through which it passes in Roscommon scarcely exceeds ten miles.

The latter part of its course is dull and slow, and it is affected even still more than the Breeogue river, if possible, by the rise of the waters of the lake. The mill of Lung, at a distance of more than three miles above the lake, is frequently stopped by the back water, and the inundations spread over a considerable extent of the low grounds. When the floods unfortunately occur during the hay season, which, in this district, seldom comes on until the corn is ripe, it is not unusual to see hundreds of hay cocks peering above the surface of the waters: sometimes, also, the grass is actually cut whilst under water. The same

thing happens on the banks of the Shannon, where I saw the mowers at work, laboriously wielding the scythe under water, which reached above their knees, whilst their assistants caught the grass as it was severed, and bore it on their shoulders to the nearest bank to dry.

The usual level of Lough Gara at midsummer was assumed by Mr. Longfield, in his Survey of the bogs of that district under the Parliamentary commission, as the standard to which all the others were made to refer. But there appears to have been an omission in the engraved maps, and in the accompanying printed reports, in not stating the height of the lake itself above the sea, or above any given fixed point. However, the height may be inferred from an observation which Mr. Longfield makes at p. 55 of his Report, relative to a certain bog, which is represented as being 140 feet above Lough Gara, and 220 feet above the level of the Shannon at Carrick; for the difference, or 80 feet, must of course be the height of the lough above the Shannon; and the Shannon at Carrick being 183 feet 6 inches above the level of high water mark in Dublin bay, it follows, that the height of Lough Gara, above the same level of high water mark, must be 213 feet 6 inches.

The most rapid part of the fall in the river which flows from Lough Gara, known by the name of the Gara river, or the Boyle water, occurs between the lake and the town of Boyle, through which it passes. Such a vast head of water as the lake affords, and at an elevation so considerable, could not fail of proving most propitious to the supply of a canal, were it ever deemed expedient to cut one through this part of the

country. The river also abounds with mill sites, where there would be found water power sufficient for any ordinary purposes. The mills at present upon it are of a very humble description, employed merely for grinding corn for the use of the neighbourhood.

Lough Gara, on its eastern side, is indented by numerous deep and narrow bays, between which there are corresponding long promontories, consisting of ridges of limestone. None of the latter are of considerable elevation, but they give variety to the scene, and if well wooded would render it very beautiful. The sides of some of these ridges are cultivated, and there are traces of incipient improvements in plantations; but others remain nearly in a state of nature. On the western or Sligo side, the hills rise with considerable boldness, not abruptly from the water, however, but at a little distance from it; speaking generally, the shores of the lake may be described as being in a rude and rough state. The highest lands are towards the lower end of the lake; whilst at its upper extremity, both where it receives the waters of the Lung and Breeogue rivers, and in other places, the shores are marshy and low, so that when the lake rises, as it commonly does, to the height of several feet above its ordinary level, after heavy rains, or on the melting of snow, the water is forced back upon the country, to the great injury of those who occupy the soil. And yet a most effectual security could be obtained against all these losses and inconveniences, simply, by lowering the bed of the river, which issues from the lake, so as to afford a better outlet for the superabundant waters; an operation, which, as Mr. Longfield pointed out so long ago as the year 1812,

might be easily performed, and at a moderate expense, since the distance from the lake to the brink of the first fall on the river is inconsiderable. In the whole county, indeed in no part of Ireland, probably, could so great an improvement be effected on such moderate terms; and nothing can exhibit more forcibly the deplorable want of co-operation for a useful purpose, than the continued existence of an evil which so many persons are interested in having removed. The vested rights in a mill and in an eel-weir at the head of the fall have been cited as an obstacle. But the mill is one of a very humble description, and might be purchased at a small price. Indeed the whole property is of so little value, that the tenant, as I was informed on the spot, had latterly suffered an ejectment to take place for the non-payment of an old low rent. Possibly it would be only speaking strictly within bounds to say, that the amount of one-tenth part of the losses which have been experienced in the upper country, in one single year, would more than pay for the fee simple of the ground on which the mill stands, with the mill itself, eel-weir, and all appurtenances included. But the difficulty consists in providing the funds, small as the required amount may be. The fairest course would obviously be to throw the charge upon the lands liable to be flooded: but supposing that an assessment could be levied, upon whom is it to fall, or by what means ought it to be fairly and justly apportioned? Is the tenant in possession to pay for the future benefit of his landlord; or is the landlord who has given a lease, to advance money, which for a generation to come will not produce him one shilling profit? The long tenures, and the numerous

and involved interests appear to be the great obstacles to operations of such a nature, and it is only by the interference of Government, or by some definite measures to be provided by the legislature, that there can be any prospect of seeing such great and important improvements carried into effect.

The river which flows from Lough Gara, has, as already observed, a very rapid course towards the town of Boyle. When swollen by floods, it rushes with violence through the place, but gradually abates of its swiftness as it approaches Lough Key, where it is absorbed. Under the same name of the Boyle Water, it re-issues from the lake augmented by the streams which have poured into it from the Curlew mountains. Here it becomes for a little way navigable for row-boats, or small craft; but below Knock Vicar Bridge, and below the upper lough of Oakport, near Coote Hall, it appears a mere rippling stream, which, in ordinary seasons, could scarcely be supposed to afford the only channel for all the waters which pour from Lough Gara and Lough Key.

THE RIVER SUCK.

Has several different sources, some of them in mountains beyond the verge of the county, and others amongst the highlands situated to the north, north-west, and north-east of Castlerea, within Roscommon. It unites with the Shannon at a short distance below Shannon-bridge. At its mouth the Suck has the appearance of a very considerable river, little inferior indeed to the Shannon; yet it is not navigable even to Ballinasloe, excepting for flat-bottomed craft of light burthen; small row-boats how-

ever, can pass above the bridge of Ballinasloe, and for a few miles higher. For a long time it had been a favourite project to open the navigation of the Suck up to Ballinasloe, and surveys of the river had been made with that view as far back as 1802 ; but an end was put to the speculation by the cutting of a canal, which has opened a communication between Ballinasloe and Shannon Harbour at the mouth of the Grand Canal, and thus connected the commerce of the country, with Dublin, and with Limerick by the Shannon navigation. This canal was executed by the Grand Canal Company, being a branch or extension of their still water navigation. It is carried on the south side of the Suck through the county of Galway, and almost the whole way through bogs.

Whether this work was more advantageous to the nation than the opening of the river navigation, I shall not stop to inquire. But it is not possible to pass over unnoticed the evidence given before the Committee of the House of Commons, by Mr. C. W. Williams, the active and enlightened promoter of steam navigation,* who has done more to facilitate and advance inland commerce, than all the boards of Inland Navigation, with the thousands of pounds which their establishment has heretofore cost the country. "If," says Mr. Williams, "the £40,000 granted for the Ballinasloe canal had been accompanied by an obligation to pay interest, it would not have been asked for probably. The company might have expended the money so as to produce more immediate profit. The Suck, for example, it is said, might have been made navigable to Ballinasloe for *half the sum*."

* Committee on State of Poor, 6768.

The Suck has been described as nearly analogous, in its character, to the Shannon; that is, the beds of each river are traversed by ledges, composed sometimes of limestone, but more commonly of compact limestone gravel, which damming up the waters, divide the rivers into long reaches, in many instances nearly on a dead level. But although the Suck expands in several places, more particularly in the broad vallies where the bottoms are boggy and marshy, yet it has no lakes like the Shannon. Over the shallows formed by these bars, and at the falls usually found below them, the waters run with considerable velocity, and in periods of floods with impetuosity; but in many of the reaches, for several miles together, the current is deep and smooth; in some few places almost imperceptible; in others rolling in circling eddies amongst the islands with which the river Suck abounds. The scenery amongst these islands, tufted with thickets and bordered with reeds and sedge, is occasionally pleasing; and it is still more so where the river winds, as it does in several parts of its course, under high banks covered with dense woods, or at the base of gently swelling grounds clothed with rich verdure, and enlivened by herds of cattle. But where the river pursues its way through the bogs and marshes nothing can well be imagined more ugly or dreary. Near its junction with the Shannon there are bogs of more than a mile in breadth, extending for a considerable distance along the margin of the river.

The most interesting parts of the Suck, as it appeared to me, are about Mount Talbot, Rookwood, Castlestrange, Curraghmore, where the banks, occasionally high, are diversified by considerable reaches of

woods and plantations ; the river also makes some very beautiful bends. Immediately above the bridge at Ballinasloe, the scenery is also pleasing, the stream gliding amongst tufted islands, with a brisk current, and keeping the gay painted little boats, riding at anchor before the town, in constant movement, swinging from side to side.

About Donamon, the breadth of the valley is considerable, and the bottoms being overspread with marsh and bog, the Suck is nearly lost to view, from the Roscommon side, or is only distinguishable where it dilates into pools, for lakes they do not deserve to be called. Donamon Castle, which stands on the Galway side, appears surrounded with woods, but the valley beneath is a dreary scene.

Several of the reaches of the Suck are liable to floods, productive of much mischief to the low lands on their borders : these are occasioned in part by the natural obstructions which impede the passage of the waters, and in part by the mill-dams and eel-weirs which are constructed upon it. The mill-dam at Ballyforan occasions back water in times of flood for a very considerable distance. By the removal of these obstructions, which doubtless might be effected, much valuable ground might be saved from inundations, which if they happen at certain periods of the year, are nearly destructive of the crops. But the removal of these natural bars is nevertheless an affair of moment which requires deliberation ; because it is possible that whilst one reach of the river was benefited, the evils might be aggravated on another. Of course their removal neither ought to be, nor would be attempted, without weighing the interests of all parties,

and paying the usual deference to vested rights. But the addition of profitable surface is always a question of consequence in every country; and with the increase of wealth and population, no doubt can exist of the subject being taken into serious consideration sooner or later.

The following Table showing the levels of the river Suck, above the Shannon at their junction, in various places from Ballinasloe up to Castlerea, has been constructed from the levels marked upon the bog maps. At the mouth of the Suck, the elevation of the rivers above high water mark at Dublin bay, is estimated at 104 feet.—

	Height in feet.	Course of river, Miles.
Ballinasloe	5	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ballyforan	22	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Shevin river	26	2
Mount Talbot	31	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Athleague	50	7
Castle Strange	51	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Castle Coote	61	2
Donamon	66	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ballyhaigue river	72	7
Castlerea	94	7
		<hr/> 49 $\frac{1}{2}$

Equal to 63 English Miles.

It may readily be perceived from this Table, and more especially from what has been said of the nature of the bars and falls, that the river Suck is likely to offer favourable positions for mills; and it affords a great supply of water at every season of the year. In fact there are several considerable mills upon it, as at Ballinasloe, Ballyforan, Athleague, Castlecoote, &c.,

and the immense quantity of water which goes to waste over some of their dams, shows how much more might be effected by means of this river, were it found expedient to apply its great water powers to the purpose of turning mills or other machinery.

The river Suck in nearly every part of its course is remarkable for its windings, some of which are really subjects of curiosity. Near Castle Strange, for instance, although the transverse distance between one part of the river and another only amounts to 132 perches, yet measured between the same places along the course of the stream, the distance is upwards of seven-fold, amounting to no less than 936 perches.* It makes another bend little less remarkable at Athleague, round the lands of Curraghmore. At the former place, it was proposed on one occasion, to cut a new channel for the river in order to facilitate the passage for its

* "The fall in the river between Mount Talbot and Castle Strange is 20 feet 9 inches, and in several parts of this distance, it is so gradual, and the river is so frequently obstructed by low banks of limestone gravel, that it scarcely seems to flow, and the flat meadows are so frequently overflowed, as to deteriorate their value considerably. This evil might be in part remedied by making a new channel, where the windings approach each other. In one place, near Castle Strange, the course might be reduced from 936 to 132 perches; but as a limestone rock intervenes, the operation would prove costly, unless there was a demand for the stones, for a bridge or other purpose.

"But there are valuable eel-weirs, and a mill at Athleague, liable to injury from such an alteration of the course of the river; so that the benefit gained in the increase and improvement of land, might be counterbalanced.

"To remedy these inconveniences, sluice gates were proposed, to be opened only in times of flood, and thus to divert the great body of water at such periods, from their former mischievous course.

"There is always more water in the river than what suffices for the mills."—*Griffith's Reports on the Bogs*, 4 Rep. 150.

waters, and obviate some of the inconveniences occasioned by the floods already noticed. The interests of the mill at Athleague were implicated in the project, but by placing flood-gates or sluices on the new cut, to be used only when they were required to let off an excess of water, it was conceived that the proprietors of the mills were not likely to be injured. These matters will all become subjects of inquiry with the general improvement and advancement of the country.

The following is a list of the bridges over the Suck, beginning with the lowest, at Ballinasloe, but not enumerating the smaller ones, of which there are several above Castlerea :

Ballinasloe,	Castle Strange,
Ballygill,	Castle Coote,
Ballyforan,	Donamon,
Mount Talbot,	Ballymoe,
Rookwood,	Willsbrook,
Athleague,	Castlerea.

These bridges are of very various character, many of them being mere causeway bridges with small arches, at intervals between the islands ; whilst others cross the stream where it is of considerable breadth, and present a very bold appearance. Such is the bridge at Mount Talbot, consisting of twelve rather high arches thrown over the river where it is about 230 feet broad. It forms a fine object in the landscape, backed by the woods of Mount Talbot, and viewed from below according to the course of the stream, is seen at a considerable distance.

The bridges of Athleague and Castle Strange, though only a few miles distant, are altogether of a

different description, being carried from island to island, and connected by raised causeways nearly on the one level. Of the same character is the bridge of Ballinasloe, the lowest one upon the Suck.

At Castle Strange the principal part of the stream passes under three arches of moderate span, and there are two other sets of arches, in each three, but comparatively diminutive.

At Athleague, passing from the left bank, there is first a long causeway with one arch sufficient for the water passing into the mill-race; then a bridge of six arches with starlings between; then more causeway; then one small arch; then more causeway; and finally two small arches; in all ten. The whole passage across the river is a winding one, obliquing downwards from the left to the right bank, and of considerable length, in proportion to the actual breadth of the water.

But the passage across the Suck at Ballinasloe is still more remarkable for the succession of bridges and causeways, the whole distance from the right to the left bank of the river along it being upwards of five hundred yards. In all, there are sixteen arches, but of very different dimensions, and placed at very irregular intervals, and several of them stand singly. The principal water-way lies under four arches, the two largest of which are about 16 feet in span, the others 14 feet and 12 feet. On the Galway side the arches are very small, and when I saw them were nearly filled with water up to the key-stones. This passage across the Suck at Ballinasloe, is evidently a very old one, for the castle, which in the reign of Elizabeth was one of the strong holds of Connaught, stands just at the beginning of it on the Roscommon side.

The Suck conveys down to the Shannon all the waters of the south-western part of the county of Roscommon, of which Castlerea, and the district for a few miles above it, according to the course of the streams, may be considered as the head. The longest stream, and which, on that account, might perhaps be considered as the Suck proper, comes from the verge of the county next Mayo, nearly west of Castlerea. This unites with the river from Lough Aeluyn, and afterwards other tributary branches fall in below the town of Castlerea. The rivulets which issue from the bogs and hills on the southern part of Fairymount, and which unite and form one stream above Lord Mount Sandford's demesne near Castlerea, might also be considered as sources of the Suck, and there are still others to the north-east of Castlerea in the direction of Belanagar, which after uniting together, likewise fall into the branch last mentioned. The several tributary streams, which have united into one above Lord Mount Sandford's demesne, run through it in a brisk lively course, and become highly ornamental to the scenery. Many of these streams have already been useful in turning mills in their progress down to Castlerea; and they perform the same service at that town, besides contributing very materially to the conveniences of distillers, tanners, and other manufacturers of the place.

But the Suck is still only an inconsiderable stream until, at Ballymoe, it is augmented by the junction of the Ballyheague river, nearly as large as itself, from the county of Galway, and again by another and longer river, the Shevin, coming from the same county, and falling in below Mount Talbot.

On the Roscommon side, below Castlerea, the Suck receives but few subsidiary streams, and none of any note except that which falls in about four or five miles above Ballinasloe, at Cregganacarnah, one of those dull streams towards its mouth, liable to be flooded by the rising of the waters of the Suck, and to occasion at times much damage. The country in fact which lies to the east of the Suck, between Castlerea and Ballinasloe is for a great part a dry limestone district, and its ridges completely separate the valley of the Suck from that of the Shannon.

It is remarkable however, that some of the sources of the Suck, a few miles above Castlerea, are only separated by a very narrow space from those of other streams which run in a quite opposite direction, to the northward into Lough Gara. And yet these same waters after a separate course of one hundred miles, finally mingle together in the Shannon, the great receptacle of all the lesser rivers in the central parts of Ireland.

The river Suck abounds with fish of the same description as the Shannon affords; but its eels, in the opinion of connoisseurs, amongst whom I must beg leave to declare, that I have no pretensions to be associated, are, as I have been informed, considered of a much superior quality, and they are now sent in considerable quantities to Dublin, by the canal, which furnishes at once an expeditious and cheap mode of conveyance.

THE RIVER SHANNON.

On the whole face of the globe probably no river exists of so large a size in proportion to that of the

island through which it flows, as the river Shannon, and were all the advantages which it is capable of affording, turned to the best account, by the industry and intelligence of the inhabitants, aided by capital, its influence upon the internal communication and commerce of the country could not fail of being very extensive. In its natural state, however, the Shannon has conferred fewer benefits upon the country it waters, than streams of far inferior magnitude which were more even and regular in their course, and at the same time easier of access along their banks. This will be more readily understood, when it is explained, that in the distance between Lough Allen and Limerick, amounting to about 120 Irish miles, equal to somewhat more than 152 English, no less than seventeen different falls or rapids intervene, amounting in all to at least 146 feet 11 inches in height; each of them operating as a positive impediment to the navigation.*

* The oldest map of the Shannon which I am acquainted with is that by Mr. John Cowan, engraved in Dublin, on a scale of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to an inch. It bears no date; but, I apprehend, was published about the year 1795. Tables of heights and distances appear in the margin. Mr. Williams, in his admirable little pamphlet upon the Navigation of the Shannon, (Westminster, 1831,) states, however, that the survey of the Shannon, executed by Mr. Grantham, during the years 1821-2, is, without doubt, the most valuable document on the state of that river in existence. "It cost the nation," he adds, "some thousand pounds; but most probably has never once been looked at since it was delivered to the Irish Government."

In the course of the last year, however, a series of lithographic maps of the Shannon, printed and published for the Irish Inland Steam Navigation Company, has appeared, purporting to be *accurately* taken from the survey made by John Grantham, Esq. C. E., by order of the Irish Government, under the direction of the late John Rennie, Esq. C. E. But neither on the general index map of the whole course of that river, nor on any one of the thirteen separate enlarged portions, is there any scale: neither is there

If, therefore, it be true, as set forth in the recent valuable pamphlet by Mr. Williams, "that nature appears to have done her part," it can only be said that she deals out very different measures of bounty towards different countries.

any written information as to the scale on which it is laid down. In the margin of the general map, a table of the heights of the falls, and another of the distances along the course of the river, appear; but these seem merely to be transcripts from Mr. Cowan's tables, excepting that Irish miles have been converted into English, and the fractional parts of $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch omitted in the heights. Mr. Cowan's map states the total height above Limerick at 146 feet 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the lithographic map, purporting to be a copy of Mr. Grantham's, at 146 feet 11 inches; but in neither is any thing said about high or low water mark. From Mr. Griffith's Report on the Connaught Coal District it may be deduced, (*vide* p. 16,) that Lough Allen, by barometrical observation, is 160 feet above the sea; and in the grand jury map of the county, the heights of the different reaches of the river are given, from Lough Boffin to the mouth of the river Suck.

Now in this same distance, according to Mr. Cowan's table, the difference of level is set down merely at 12 feet 7 inches; whereas by the county map it appears to be no less than 23 feet 6 inches. The variation between the two statements, which amounts to 10 feet 11 inches, will in itself go far to reconcile the conflicting accounts of the whole difference of level between Limerick and Lough Allen. The well-known professional abilities of Messrs. Griffith and Edgeworth, and the accurate instruments which they had at command, so much superior to what were commonly in use in Ireland at the period when Mr. Cowan made his observations, naturally inspire greater confidence in their statements. Mr. Cowan also appears to have confined himself to the immediate falls, where the canals were found to be necessary, rather than to the descent in the reaches of the river, where the navigation was not actually impeded; a circumstance which may also in some measure assist in explaining the cause of difference.

Though I have spent days, at different intervals, in endeavouring to obtain a view of Mr. Grantham's map, and have written several letters for the purpose, as yet I have never seen it; but probably may obtain access to it, after the opportunity is over of making the use of it I desired.

The history of this map, as detailed in Mr. Williams's pamphlet, (p. 34,) is not a little remarkable. It was made by Mr. Grantham, under

Perhaps this may be illustrated by a narration of the same writer at page 30. "An industrious trader and carrier on the Shannon, sent up his three boats of about 50 tons burthen each, from Limerick, with timber, deals, some wheat, and various other articles; they were to proceed to the upper Shannon, and to bring back return freights of native coal and produce. At the expiration of three months and five days, his boats had accomplished their journey, without any other interruption than such as the navigation presented. The distance *by land* up the river was 120 miles. It need not be stated, that what under other circumstances would have been profitable trading, eventually proved a loss." Yet the impediments at the several falls had all been obviated by collateral canals.

To describe with circumstantial detail the whole

the direction of Mr. Rennie, pursuant to the orders of Government, "not, however, as might be expected, with reference to the only object with which the consideration of that river ought to be accompanied—the improvement of its navigation; but, regarding its navigable properties as of secondary importance, the survey was directed to ascertain,—*the practicability of lowering its waters*, thus increasing the estates of a few proprietors, and improving the value of a few thousand acres of land. The effect of this measure would have been, to render the river useless, for ever after, as a means of internal intercourse; the depth of water being, at present, no more than adequate to the wants of the navigation; and in dry seasons barely so."

The estimates for the execution of this destroying process amounted to above £300,000; but the death of Mr. Rennie put an end to the project.

Mr. Williams adds, that "Mr. Grantham, in making this survey, saw the value of the river Shannon as a great vent for the surplus labour of so many countries; and to him is owing the first introduction of steam navigation on that river, in the year 1827."

course of the Shannon, from its source down to the ocean, does not fall within the province of this work. Yet a considerable part of it must necessarily come under observation, since out of the whole distance of 120 miles by the river, from Lough Allen to Limerick, more than 70 miles of the way lie under the shores of Roscommon. Little absolutely new can be expected on a subject upon which so much has been already written, and which in fact has engaged public attention for more than a century ; and I have merely aimed at giving, in a succinct form, a description of the river in reference to its natural state ; the character of its shores and the country through which it passes ; the improvements which have been made to obviate the impediments to its navigation, and the commerce on different parts of the line. To render all this as possible, more clear, I have taken each navigable reach of the river, by itself, from bar to bar ; by which means any one part can be easily referred to ; and the subject will be relieved in some degree from the confusion which might follow from combining the description of the whole together. Here, however, it may be observed, generally, at setting out, that the Shannon in its passage along Roscommon, affords striking examples of most of the varieties which distinguish that remarkable river ; from the deep and broad lake, where the navigation in bad weather is difficult and not devoid of danger, to the narrow rippling shallow ; from the bold and sweeping current, to the dull and sluggish stream whose progress is barely perceptible.

SOURCE OF THE SHANNON.

The source or head of the Shannon is commonly considered as being in a gulf or hole near the base of

Culkagh or Kuilkeagh mountain, at about six miles distance from Lough Allen, to the north-east, in the county of Leitrim. This gulf, although not exceeding twenty feet in diameter, is represented as being of such vast depth, that soundings with a line of 200 yards in length have not reached the bottom ; and Mr. Griffith, in his Report on the Connaught Coal District, tells us, that he has heard of this statement having been made by persons much above the common rank.* From the quantity of water which issues out of this gulf, and which at once forms a deep, dead, and sluggish river, it has been supposed that there must be a reservoir within the limestone rocks of the mountain, fed by subterranean streams.

In its course down to the lake, this river is joined by two others, the Owenmore and the Dowbally, which, as they come from a greater distance, and a greater height, might also have pretensions to be considered as sources of the Shannon ; but the gulf is generally mentioned in the country as the true head of the river. Its height above the lake is 115 feet, and above the sea 275, ascertained by barometrical observations.

LOUGH ALLEN.

		Irish miles	English do.
Length	..	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	8
Greatest breadth	..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	

Lough Allen is the first great lake which receives the Shannon ; or in other words, it is the first great

* I felt very desirous of ascertaining the truth of the statement by my own observation, and went to that part of the country, provided with the means of having soundings made ; but stormy, bad weather came on, which prevented me prosecuting the task, without devoting more time to it than I could well spare.

expansion of the river, if indeed this beautiful sheet of water, which possesses all the attributes of an individual lake, deserves to be regarded under such a point of view. Besides the water which is poured into it from the Shannon, it is supplied by various streams which descend along the sides of the mountains, all small, but during floods bringing down in the aggregate, probably as much water as the Shannon itself.

The river discharged by the lake towards its southern extremity, which there can no longer be any hesitation in naming the true Shannon, seems in ordinary seasons, insufficient to carry off all the superfluous water of so large a lake, fed by so many streams; but I am not aware of the existence of any subterranean passage having been suspected; although it is quite possible that there may be such a passage through the limestone rocks, in the country situated to the southward of the lake, as well as in that which lies above it towards the north.

Lough Allen is bounded on each side by mountains, steep, but not precipitous; several parts of their base afford slopes with tolerable soil, admitting of tillage. But although cultivation is on the increase; and along the shores, scattered cottages and small farm houses, many of them whitened, may be distinguished at intervals, as far as the eye can reach; although the little town of Drumshambo, likewise at the foot of the hills near the south eastern extremity, shows its clusters of houses, and its new church; yet, in the general scene, bogs, heaths, and rocks predominate, and the aspect of the country is one of rudeness and wildness. The want of wood is remarkable; a circumstance the more to be regretted, since there can be no doubt that the

hills formerly not only produced trees, but very large ones, judging from the size of the stumps and roots which may occasionally be traced; near some holy wells, not far removed from the banks of the lake, groups of trees may also be seen of considerable age, at the present day. On the south-western shore, within the county of Roscommon, there are, however, some groves of well grown fir trees near Mount Allen, which are conspicuous in the landscape; and young plantations, though on a very moderate scale, are rising around several of the houses. But plantations might be carried far up the mountains, and probably in such a situation, would afford more profit in the end, than any other employment of the soil, since the trees, when grown to a suitable age, might readily be brought down to the lake, and be conveyed along the Shannon and canals, to a market.

Lough Allen contains only one island deserving of the name; but several rocky points project into it, which in certain positions, from the lowness of the isthmus or neck by which they are connected with the mainland, have the appearance of islands.

The shores are not naturally favorable for the lading or unlading of boats; and with the exception of a small dock and quay, formed on the western side of the lake by the Irish Mining Company, for the purpose of shipping their coal, nothing has been done to improve them. From the want of safe places for mooring, or for refuge in case of squalls, the navigation of the lake is considered not devoid of danger, and consequently its waters are far less useful than they might be, and far less so than they probably will one day become, after harbours shall have been formed.

At the head of a narrow bay which forms its most southern extremity, a canal, constructed to avoid the rapids of the Shannon, unites with the lake; and here a small trading establishment has been formed, with some conveniences for mooring boats. But the passage from the lake to the canal up the bay, is difficult and intricate when the waters are low; so that under the direction of the most skilful boatmen, boats occasionally take the ground.

Close to this place, on the western side, a mass of limestone rock reaches nearly down to the water's edge, where some large kilns have been erected and worked with profit. Culm from the neighbouring collieries is commonly used in burning the lime, and it is conveyed up the lake by boats, and along the shores by horses to the upper country, which is devoid of limestone for several miles around.

The principal, indeed the only markets in this district likely to be influenced by the Shannon navigation, are, first, that of the little town of Drumshambo, in the county of Leitrim, within less than half a mile of the canal, to the eastward; and secondly, that of the village of Keadue, in Roscommon, about a mile and a half to the west of the canal. A market-house was in progress at the latter place, building at the expense of the landlord, Colonel Tenison, and the village, which consisted only of a few houses, was increasing: but Drumshambo had made very extraordinary advances from the year 1825,* when I first saw it, up to

* When I first visited Drumshambo in the year 1825, I was informed that the people were in a state of despondence and dismay, at the interruption of their trade in illicit spirits, by the vigilance of the new police; for it had been not unusual, some time before, to see several hundred kegs of smuggled

the period of my visit in 1830. Several cloth, and general shops had been opened in new-built houses; a new church gave an air of consequence to the place which it did not before possess; and the corn market was becoming yearly of more importance.

But although improving so rapidly, and with the Shannon canal in the immediate vicinity of the town, Drumshambo appeared in the year 1830, to have little or nothing to do with the inland navigation. The surplus corn sold at the market, all found its way by land carriage to the port of Sligo, where it was bought up by the resident merchants, for exportation, and many of the heavier articles of ordinary importation and consumption were got back by the

whiskey brought into the town for sale in open day, at the markets. Illicit distillation was not over at this period however; and the frequency of the practice may be judged of, when I add, that in one morning's excursion over the mountains, I saw no less than five stills, all busily at work in different places. I doubt that I should have observed them, so obscure and so well concealed were the spots which had been chosen for the operation, had it not been for the guide who accompanied me, and who, of his own accord, invited me to turn my spy-glass in the right direction. Fire, pans, tubs, still, were all in an instant distinctly under my eye. On asking the guide how he could have ventured to point out these doings to me, a stranger, who might give information, he replied with a roguish archness, "Oh! Sir, good care was taken to find out what was bringing you to the mountains, or may be you would not have been allowed to pass so peaceably over them." In fact all the people were in league. Possibly this remark might at the time have quickened my attention to the geological pursuits on which I was engaged; not that there was, however, any apprehension of danger, for where confidence is boldly placed it is rarely betrayed in Ireland. A few minutes afterwards we descried from the heights, a party of police spreading over the bogs below, as if in pursuit of game. "They are all wrong, they are all wrong," cried the fellow joyfully; and they did in fact make a totally false cast, and for a time lost all chance of capturing their prey.

same route. This traffic in corn was carried on in rather an unusual manner by the same persons who were actually engaged in transporting it across the country, and on their own account. The distance being only a single day's easy journey between Drumshambo and Sligo, the carriers had always sure intelligence of the supply and demand, and the relative prices at each place: and it was almost a settled rule between the carriers and the merchants, that the former were to receive at Sligo the same nominal prices which the corn had brought at Drumshambo; the profit to the carrier consisting in the difference of the weight of the sack at the two places respectively, the sack at Drumshambo containing 28 stone, whilst at Sligo it was computed at 24 stone only; in other words the cost of transport amounted to one-seventh of the value of the commodity, or $14\frac{2}{7}$ per cent., for one day's journey; or taking the price of oats at 7*d.* per stone, the carriage would amount to 13*s.* 4*d.* per ton, or 8*d.* per cwt. The common rate of carriage in money is from 8*d.* to 10*d.* per cwt.

From Lough Allen to Battle Bridge.

	Irish miles.	English miles.
Distance along the river	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	9
	Feet.	Inches.
Falls at Ballintrave Bridge,	5	3
———— Drumhariff - - -	8	8
———— Drumboylan - - -	3	10
———— Battle Bridge - - -	3	3
	<hr/>	
Total,	21 feet.	

The impediments to the navigation of the river, are obviated by a canal from Lough Allen to Battle Bridge.

The Shannon issues from the lake, not at its most southern extremity, but at a short distance to the westward of the bay which receives the canal. The shores at its exit are flat and marshy, but interspersed with some insulated rocks, tufted with bushes. The quantity of water discharged by the river, seems small, coming from the vast reservoir of the lake.

In the immediate vicinity of the lake, the river is traversed by its first bridge, called Ballintra or Ballintraive, remarkable in history for the passage of the French forces under General Humbert, in the year 1798, in their march from Connaught towards the county of Longford, where they surrendered.

The bridge proper is only about 80 feet in length, and it is divided into four arches, of which the central pair are the largest; but there is a causeway leading to it, full 90 yards long, perforated with tunnels, or small arches, to permit the escape of the water from the lake in periods of flood. A few small tenements as usual have been erected near the bridge: these stand on the county Leitrim side; the causeway is principally on the opposite one in the county of Roscommon.

In its course down to Battle Bridge, the Shannon receives the accession of two rivers on the Roscommon side; the Arigna, coming from the valley between the coal mountains, on the south-western side of the lake, a swift stream, loaded with dark mud, which discharges itself into the Shannon, within sight of Ballintra bridge; and the river Fiorish, which brings down the waters from two of the minor lakes in the barony of Boyle, Lough Skean, and Lough Meelagh. A third inconsiderable stream falls in on the Leitrim side.

The country on the Roscommon side of the Shannon, near the lake, is not much improved, neither is the soil rich ; for the most part it seems to consist of low alluvial ground, liable to under water, and abounding with beds of gravel. Further to the south, there are considerable patches of bog with limestone gravel hills interspersed through them, not only affording good soil on the surface, but within them the best materials for improving and fertilizing the bogs at their base.

A large estate of 4000 acres or more in this part of the country, extending down to Battle Bridge, came, not many years ago, by purchase, into the possession of Hugh Barton, Esq., since that time, the purchaser also of the fine estate of Straffan, in the county of Kildare. Several hundred acres of the bogs and marshes have been already drained with effect ; and in the hands of so wealthy a proprietor, far greater improvements may be readily accomplished, for which the place affords an ample field.

The country on the Leitrim side of the river, also interspersed with hills, produces corn, but is by no means rich.

Battle Bridge affords a passage from the village of Leitrim, (it scarcely deserves the name of town,) into the northern and western parts of Roscommon. The bridge is 150 feet in length, 13 feet wide, and consists of six arches. It is built of rather small stones, whose dark colour gives an appearance of age. The water rushes under the bridge with considerable force, but at a very short distance below, it assumes an even surface, rolling in a slow, and seemingly deep stream, between banks of clay.

The canal is carried from the lake along the eastern

or Leitrim side, and unites with the Shannon, in sight of the bridge at the lower side.

No one circumstance here gave indication of traffic.

On the Roscommon side, a small village of about a dozen cabins, commences at the foot of the bridge.

From Battle Bridge to the Canal near Jamestown.

	Irish miles.	English do.
Distance by the course of the river,	10 $\frac{1}{8}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$

Navigable without interruption for boats of burthen.

The rivers which fall into the Shannon above Battle Bridge do not appear to add very sensibly to its volume; but the accession of the Boyle Water, which brings down the overflowings of Lough Gara, further augmented on their way by several tributary streams, makes a decided alteration in its aspect.

Amongst the different schemes which have been proposed for the extension of inland navigation in connexion with the Shannon, one apparently of no great difficulty in the execution has been projected for making a communication, partly by means of the Boyle Water, nearly up to the town of Boyle.*

The shores at the junction of the Boyle Water, are

* Mr. Mullins, besides the several lines of valuable water communication suggested by him, alludes to this extension of the Shannon to Boyle; and observes that for a few thousand pounds, forty miles of additional navigation may be gained, into the most inaccessible parts of the county of Roscommon, where agricultural improvement is scarcely known; and from whence the peasantry annually migrate into England in search of that employment which they are not able to procure at home.—*Williams's Pamphlet*, 1831, p. 24.

low and overgrown with long rushes, which occasionally intercept the view of the hulls of the passing boats.

Lower down, the Shannon enters a valley, bounded on each side by hills, where it makes numerous windings, which form rather a pleasing scene as beheld from the heights on which the court-house of Carrick stands.

Carrick, the capital town of the county of Leitrim, standing on the left bank of the river, extends from the water's edge over the rising ground. Its progress within a few years has been very rapid, and it is still increasing and improving.

This was the first place in descending from Lough Allen, where the appearance of the boats gave any indication of activity in reference to the inland navigation. It is only within a very short time past, however, that any accommodation has been afforded for mooring them, or for lading or unlading. At present there are some small quays. Lying before these I saw several boats laden with the coal brought from Lough Allen, which, as I was informed, was generally in demand at Carrick; but by the addition of freight for the short passage of thirteen miles from the lake, to which must be added about three more across the lake, from the coal wharf at the foot of the mountain, say in all sixteen miles Irish, somewhat more than twenty English, the price was augmented from 7s. 6d., the first cost on Lough Allen, to 15s. per ton, the selling price of coals at Carrick, when I passed in the year 1830.

The bridge at Carrick is 100 yards in length, from bank to bank; in width fifteen feet, and is formed of eleven arches.

On the Roscommon side of the bridge, commencing nearly from the shores of the river, a long and straggling street winds up a steep ascent, containing about sixty-four houses, which might be considered as a sort of suburb to Carrick; but it must be recollected that the place is situated in a different county. No shops of any note were observable here, and the general style of the houses was much inferior to those of Carrick.

The great mail coach road from Dublin traverses this bridge, and avoiding the hills, now passes up the valley of the Shannon, near the margin of the river. It is a road of first rate quality, which opens an easy communication between the town of Boyle and its improving neighbourhood, down to the Shannon. But, as I shall presently have occasion to explain, Carrick, although the nearest place upon the river, participates less in the commerce of Boyle as connected with the inland navigation, than Drumsna, which is situated lower down, and at a greater distance.

The course of the Shannon immediately below Carrick, is smooth and majestic, winding under high cliffs of gravel, on the Roscommon side. A mile or two further down it dilates, forming numerous little bays and inlets, and encircling some small islands. Here the navigation becomes intricate, owing to the windings of the channel; so that boats pursuing the same course according to the stream, appear, occasionally, to be moving in opposite directions. The river again becomes contracted before it reaches the mouth of the canal.

The country south of Carrick, on the Roscommon side of the river, consists of limestone gravel hills,

rising in gentle swells, fertile, but all admitting of great agricultural improvement, although more advanced than the country higher up the river, above Battle Bridge; in the bottoms, marshes and bogs intervene, which occasionally extend to the margin of the river.

From the Canal above Jamestown to Drumsna.

Distance along the river $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles Irish.

Not navigable.

Fall, 6 feet.

After looking upon the expansions of the Shannon, below Carrick, where the large and heavy sail gives sure indication of the water being broad and deep, doubts might actually arise as to the identity of the river, when, for the first time, it is seen at Jamestown, changed to a shallow, rapid, and unnavigable stream. At this place it makes a bend to the north-west, in a direction quite opposite to any part of its former course, winds round a tongue of land, in form resembling a horse shoe, and then comes back again to the south-east, at Drumsna. A peninsula is thus formed by the river, the whole of which is occupied by a very beautiful demesne, part of the estate of Sir Gilbert King, Bt. The high road which traverses the isthmus between Jamestown and Drumsna, nearly in a straight line, forms the boundary of the demesne, on the land side. Standing upon the bridge at Jamestown, and looking down according to the course of the stream, a delightful scene opens of wooded hills, with the river flowing at their base and gradually losing itself amongst the trees. On the right bank, at a short distance from the

water, imbosomed in tufted groves, also appears the ancient mansion house, the original part of which is said to have been built by the first Protestant bishop of Elphin; and most certainly the site is admirable.* The peninsula lies within the county of Roscommon; but the two towns of Jamestown and Drumsna, are situated in Leitrim, at the opposite side of the river; some houses, in continuation of the former, extend beyond the bridge, along the road which crosses the isthmus; but there are only a few poor cabins near the river, at the isthmus side of the bridge of Drumsna.

The bridge of Jamestown consists of seven arches. The central part of it is flat, and 48 yards in length, leading up to which there is an inclined plane, at each end, of about 15 yards, making the whole passage about 78 yards; the width is 15 feet.

The bridge of Drumsna built upon eight arches, of which one is closed, is less regular in its construction than that of Jamestown; the fifth one, counting from the Roscommon side, is larger than the others. The whole length measured along the parapet is about 100 yards; the width 15 feet.

Along the whole line of the upper Shannon, no place presents a scene of greater activity during the shipping season, than the little town of Drumsna, a circumstance mainly attributable to the accommodation of a quay recently constructed, in length 120 feet,

* When I passed this place in 1830, the house and demesne had been let temporarily, I believe during a minority, and appeared to have fallen into the hands of persons who thought more of profit than of show, at least the ornamental part of the ground seemed to have been neglected; but this is no more perhaps than what commonly happens under similar circumstances.

and indented into the bank to the extent of 30 feet, so as to form a sort of half dock. The Rev. William Thompson, in his Parochial Survey of Kilmore, published by Mr. Mason in the year 1816, observed, that "if there was a spirited proprietor at Drumsna, a very extensive trade might be carried on; the banks of the river affording an excellent situation for building a good quay, for loading and unloading vessels; and the country producing great plenty of corn and potatoes." But whether a spirited proprietor was to be found at Drumsna or no, a Board of Inland Navigation existed the while, receiving thousands of pounds annually from the public purse. Nevertheless, half a score of years and more elapsed, from the time Mr. Thompson pointed out the expediency of such a measure, before a single step was taken to accommodate shippers. Mr. Nimmo, in his evidence before a Committee of the Lords in 1824, observed, "The Shannon has been made navigable into Lough Allen; but it is remarkable, that on the western coast of the broad parts of the Shannon, we have not a single landing place. The complaint was made to me last season; and upon examination I found it was a most desirable thing to make provision for landing places on *both* sides of the river. We have no quays or roads to the water at *any* part of the Shannon except at the bridges." This quay at Drumsna, the one which I have already mentioned as recently made at Carrick, and that other one made by the Irish Mining Company for the shipment of their coals on Lough Allen, are, however, the only conveniences of the kind which appear to have been provided on the whole line of the upper Shannon.

"The next great feature of the Shannon," says

Mr. Williams, in his pamphlet already referred to, p. 30, “ is the almost total want of those essentials and conveniences for trading, without which it is comparatively useless, viz., shelter harbours, piers, quays, and landing places, land marks and beacons; the want even of these latter during the winter half year, would render many convenient little harbours exposed to risks, delays, and injuries to the produce carried, sufficient to counteract all natural advantages, and ruin an otherwise profitable trading.”

“ In another point of view,” says Mr. Williams again, at p. 33, “ the navigations of Ireland are extremely deficient as compared with those of England, namely, in all that is essential to quick and profitable trading; as cranes, weighing machines, well appointed boats and barges, stores conveniently situated, tackle of all sorts, and the thousand aids and contrivances which human skill has devised for expediting business. On the entire 500 miles of *coast* of the Shannon, there was not, twelve months back, a single *crane*, an article which in England is as common as a waggon or an anchor.”

I was informed at Drumsna, that during certain periods of the shipping season, the banks of the river near this quay were daily crowded with drays and cars, giving to the place the appearance of a continuous fair or market. Yet there were no stores of the ordinary construction near the water. The corn was commonly discharged, at once, from the vehicles into the boats. Sometimes, however, when corn came down faster than was expected, or that boats were not sufficiently numerous, private habitations were hired at high prices for the purpose of temporary stores. It is

scarcely in the nature of things, that where so wide a field is presented for speculation there should not be many persons ready to avail themselves of it; and Drumsna is rapidly increasing in size and prosperity. The place is cheerful and airy, and the houses appeared to me neater and better than those of any little town I observed in that part of the country.

Drumsna stands at the head of the navigable part of the next reach of the Shannon, full two miles above the place where the canal falls in, which has been made to avoid the rapids of Jamestown; and hence it will be understood, that the canal does not traverse the isthmus by the shortest course from one navigable part of the river to the other, but at a place where the ground, as it is to be presumed, was more favourable for its construction.

Drumsna, as I have already observed, is the port on the Shannon to which a preference is given at Boyle, for the disembarkation of goods brought from Dublin along the Royal Canal. Carrick-on-Shannon is obviously a nearer landing place, and there is a first rate road between the two towns; but the difficulties, and consequently the delays incident to the passage of boats between Drumsna and Carrick, more than counterbalances the lesser distance of the land conveyance. I was informed at Boyle, however, that the Shannon navigation was seldom used, excepting for heavy goods; and even then for such goods alone as would withstand bad weather and rough treatment; for unless the drays were ready to take off the goods the moment the boats arrived, they were liable to remain exposed, since there were no convenient stores for their safe custody.

All this seems to imply an incipient and rude state of commercial intercourse. But inland navigation is yet to be considered under another point of view, namely, the actual benefit it offers, supposing the traffic to be conducted in the most regular and business-like manner. Now, as I was informed at Boyle, the freight from Dublin to Drumsna was usually at that time 1*s.* 2*d.* per cwt. or £1 3*s.* 4*d.* per ton,* and the land carriage from Drumsna to Boyle, cost, in addition, 5*d.* per cwt., making 1*s.* 7*d.* per cwt., to which might also be added, the charges of disembarkation, commission on the transit, &c. But the whole cost of land carriage direct from Dublin to Boyle was only 2*s.* per cwt., with the advantage of the goods being received at once from the venders or agents in Dublin, and being deposited at the doors of the purchaser in Boyle, almost to a given hour. The difference of carriage by land or water only amounted to 5*d.* per cwt.† With this difference of cost there must also be taken into account the nature of

* These must be considered as the prices for small portions of the tonnage in a mixed cargo. The freights to Drumsna from Broadstone, Dublin, as I was informed in 1832, were 16*s.* 8*d.*, only per ton, and according to the usual rates of land carriage in the county of Roscommon, as will be found stated towards the end of this section, 5*d.* per cwt. for the distance of ten miles between Drumsna and Boyle appears an overcharge.

† From the rate of freights having been returned to me at Boyle by the cwt., it may be implied that they had reference to commodities of moderate bulk merely. The charges for freight for a whole boat, or for a considerable part of its tonnage, were returned to me at Dublin by several different boat-owners, at 14*s.* per ton, from Dublin to Tarmonbarry, and 16*s.* 8*d.* from Dublin to Drumsna; it appeared to me also, from the spirit of rivalry which was manifested, that even a lower rate of freight might possibly be obtained.

the goods, some being liable to suffer from land carriage, and some from the casualties of a transit by water. In the great business of corn, however, the staple commodity of the country, conveyance by water will usually receive a preference, provided the cost be nearly the same; but I believe I am warranted in stating, that on the line of the canals, within a certain distance of Dublin, there has heretofore existed an active rivalryship between the land carriers and the proprietors of boats. Time and experience seldom fail to bring these, like other matters, to their just bearing.

Drumsna to Rooskey Bridge.

	Irish Miles.	English do.
Distance by water	8	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fall at Rooskey, 3 feet 6 inches, per Cowan's map.		
Height of Lough Boffin . . .	127 $\frac{1}{2}$	feet per county map.
Do. of river below Rooskey	123	
	<hr/>	
Fall	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ *	

Soon after passing the bridge of Drumsna, the river begins to flow in circling eddies, with a deep and even current, but it again expands into what are called loughs, at the end of a couple of miles. The two largest of these are Lough Boderig and Lough Boffin. They are less remarkable for their breadth, the widest part scarcely exceeding three quarters of a mile, than for the intricacy and variety of their coasts,

* Hitherto the levels have been taken from Mr. Cowan's map, but as at this part of the river they begin to appear in the county map, already alluded to, I have put down both statements.

indented by deep bays and inlets, and studded near some parts of the shores with islands. The land on the Roscommon side rises boldly from the water in several places, and is agreeably diversified, affording many delightful positions for country seats. The Earl of Roscommon has a seat here at Ballycomen; and farther to the northward stands a new lodge, belonging to the Marquis of Westmeath, with extensive young plantations. The effect of the few groves scattered around the houses of this district, serve as samples of what the scenery might be rendered, if planting and improvements became more general.

In Lough Boderig the Shannon again receives another supply of water under Carnadoe bridge, coming from a chain of lesser lakes in the interior of Roscommon, the lowest and largest of which is about three miles in length. Parts of the shores of these lakes are flat and boggy, but others are bordered by rising grounds. Were it possible to open the rivers which communicate between them, so as to afford an easy passage down to the Shannon, a considerable extent of shore would of course be connected with the navigation of that river, from which the inhabitants probably might derive not less pleasure than profit.

Below Lough Boffin the Shannon becomes once more, narrow, shallow, and unnavigable, and to obviate the obstructions, a canal of about three quarters of a mile in length is carried past the falls on the Roscommon side. A bridge of nine arches crosses the river at Rooskey, in which one arch appears much larger than the rest, but not placed in the centre. A little town has sprung up at Rooskey, the principal part of

which stands on the Roscommon side, and it comes in for a participation of the trade on the river.

Rooskey to Tarmonbarry.

	Irish miles.	English do.
Distance along the river . . .	8	10½
Fall at Tarmonbarry 3 feet 6 inches, per Cowan's map.		

Per the County Map.

Height of river below Rooskey . .	123 feet.
Do. at Lough Forbes	122
Do. below Tarmonbarry	116
Total fall	7 feet.

After passing the falls of Rooskey, the current again slackens, and becomes dull and sluggish, whilst at the same time the navigation is impeded in many places by immense quantities of reeds and bull-rushes, which spring up from the muddy shoals.* The sand-

* The intelligent author of a little pamphlet, which last year was printed, but, much to be regretted, not published, observes, that "no matter deserves more serious attention than the tendency of the Irish rivers to rise above their ancient level, and overflow."—"The river Inny," which unites with the Shannon in Lough Ree, "has within the last 50 years shallowed in some places three feet, and portions thereof which formerly were parts of that river are now lakes, the banks of the river being visible when Sir Pigot Piers wrote his Survey of Westmeath, (p. 39,) at the depth of ten feet from the surface of Lough Iron."

That the Shannon, in certain reaches, such as this one under present review, where the water is muddy, and where the depositions or shoals which are formed, soon become thickly covered with aquatic plants, may gradually assume a different level, seems highly probable. Those who are acquainted with the river Po, are aware, that its present bed is considerably elevated above some of the adjacent plains, and that the dikes or mounds originally constructed to confine its water and prevent inundations, have

stone mountains of Slievebawn, and the hills in continuation of the range, appear at the distance of some four or five miles from the river on the Roscommon side, and

from time to time, as the bed was raised by mud, of necessity been augmented, until at last, in certain places they have reached to a height which completely intercepts the view of the river.

But the Shannon, different from the Po, is divided into distinct reaches or levels, by natural bars across its course ; so that although one part may be raised, and the waters consequently spread by the accumulation of mud, another may remain for ages as it had been.

“ To gain land from the lakes of the Shannon, and render them navigable, it has been judged expedient not only to raise embankments on the low borders thereof ; but also to cut through the ridge of slate rocks at Killaloe, which last measure has been approved by *all the engineers* (vid. Report anno 1819, p. 105) who have examined that river from Lord Strafford’s administration to the present day ; but the misfortunes of that great man prevented what he had then resolved on ; and the advice which the late Mr. Renny and other engineers have given to the same effect, has not been acceded to.”

“ By either of the plans for making the Shannon subservient to drainage and navigation, without the other, much may be done ; but, by combining both embankment and removal of obstructions, much more improvement would be accomplished.”

“ By lowering the rocks at Killaloe, and contracting the broad parts of the Shannon by embankment, the current of that river would be accelerated and its channel deepened, whereby land would be gained, without losing depth of water for navigation.”

“ By this combination of arrangements, the embankment proposed would be accomplished at less cost, having to sustain much less pressure from the lake waters, when let down ten or fifteen feet below their present level.”

“ But before the combinations along the banks of this river shall take place, it seems necessary to remove the impediments which occur at Battle Bridge, near Athlone, at Jamestown, at Rooskey Bridge, and at other localities, to let down this river to the level which seems most conducive to drainage, and to the canals or railways which hereafter may be deemed necessary for conveying produce between the interior and the sea ports of Ireland.”—p. 59.

at their base lies an extensive tract of bogs elevated several feet above the level of the Shannon. These bogs are separated in part from the water by a narrow ridge of sound land; but after the river has dilated so as to form what is called Lough Forbes, the bogs become the immediate boundary of the lake on the Roscommon side. Nothing can be more dreary than this assemblage of bogs, marshes, reeds and rushes; but on the Longford side, the monotony of the scene is somewhat broken by the extensive young woods and plantations of Castle Forbes, bordering upon the lough in that direction.

The bogs in this district are represented by Mr. Edgeworth as easy to be reclaimed; and there are apparently few parts where planting would be more advantageous, owing to the contiguity of water carriage, either to Dublin or Limerick.

As usual, at the shoals of Tarmonbarry, a bridge, or rather two bridges, have been thrown across the river, connected by an island upon which an elevated causeway has been raised to accord with the level of the bridges. The one on the Roscommon side is 60 yards in length, with seven arches; that on the Longford or Leinster side 32 yards long, with four arches; the causeway extends 34 yards, the whole together forming a straight flat passage of 126 yards in length and 16 feet in width. The arches are all rounded, and nearly of uniform architecture, and between them angular starlings rise to the top of the parapet, where the inner side of each starling is indented, to afford a recess for the convenience of foot passengers. Altogether the structure has an imposing effect, and appears at once substantial and commodious.

On the Longford side, above the bridge, the ground bordering upon the river is extremely flat for a mile or two, beyond which the view is bounded by the woods of Castle Forbes. This flat consists principally of the island of Cloondragh, formed by the Shannon and by two branches of the river Camlin, one of which falls into the Shannon above the bridge and the other below it. At the island of Cloondragh terminates the Royal Canal, formed to connect the river Liffey at Dublin with the Shannon, but the junction is not effected directly with the Shannon itself, but through the medium of the Camlin. The docks, basins, and warehouses belonging to the Canal Company are considerable at this place, which is called by the name of Richmond Harbour, in honour of the Duke of Richmond, who, when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, was present at the opening of the navigation; but in common parlance, Tarmonbarry is a name more generally given, although in strictness it applies merely to the little village on the Roscommon side of the bridge. This last consists of eight houses of two stories, slated, six houses of two stories, thatched, and seventy-one cabins. The one occupied as a police station, was, as usual, much neater and cleaner than the rest, and afforded a pattern which might be followed with advantage by the native residents.

The principal improvements in the neighbourhood are naturally influenced by the inland navigation; houses have consequently increased on the Leinster side of the river, whilst the village of Tarmonbarry, which lies out of the way of the river or canal traffic, seems to have undergone but little change, and not to have participated in the busy scenes at the opposite side of the water.

The Shannon, at Tarmonbarry, passes under the bridge with great impetuosity, and appears capable of affording an immense and inexhaustible water power. There were some mills on the Roscommon shore, but of the most humble description; indeed from their frail construction, they rather appeared in danger of being themselves swept away by the flood, than of being able to resist it, or to divert any portion of it to profitable account.

On the Leinster side there were some mills of a very different description, but in connexion with the waters of the Camlin river. One of the largest of these, originally built for making flour, was undergoing alterations when I passed the place in 1830, preparatory to its being converted into a distillery.

The rapids of Tarmonbarry are avoided, in navigation, by using the two branches of the Camlin river and coasting round Cloondragh island, at the lower end of which there is a short canal, which communicates with the Shannon.

The communication by water between Richmond harbour and Dublin, along the canal, is frequent and regular: four merchant boats start in each week on fixed days; but the passage boats proceed no farther than the town of Longford, distant five miles.

From the facilities for conveyance by the canal, it might be supposed that the corn of the surrounding districts, on each side of the river, would naturally find its way to Dublin; yet on the Roscommon side, where the land under cultivation is peculiarly favourable to the growth of wheat, instead of being brought down to Richmond Harbour, it is disposed of at the market of Strokestown, somewhat more than six miles from Tarmonbarry, where buyers very commonly attend

from Sligo, to which port the corn is ultimately conveyed, by a land carriage of at least 30 Irish miles, 38 $\frac{1}{8}$ English.

Of course, if other circumstances were alike, the growers would be influenced in the choice of a market by the prices usually obtained, at one or other place; but here a positive impediment to the communication with the river and canal has been suffered for years past to exist, arising from the infamous condition of the road leading from Strokestown to Tarmonbarry. Yet, certain roads in the county of Roscommon were placed under the superintendence of the Board of Inland Navigation, for the express purpose of facilitating the passage down to the water; but instead of beginning at a commodious haven, and proceeding upwards into the country, thus rendering every mile as the work progressed really useful, roads in the interior, far away from the water, were first attended to, and the intervals left in a state next to impassable. An entire new line of road, however, had been laid out from Tarmonbarry, upon which numerous bands of workmen were busily employed at the period when I passed through the country. This road was to lead to Strokestown, and thence entirely across the county to the westward, being intended for one of the great lines of communication with the mail coach road from Dublin.

Besides opening a communication by the means of this new road, between Tarmonbarry and the interior of the county, a survey has been made for an extension of the Royal Canal beyond the Shannon, up to the town of Roscommon. The line was to pass through the bogs under Mount Dillon. The whole distance

would amount to about nine miles, and the difference of level would not exceed 40 feet.*

Another plan for opening a water communication between the town of Roscommon and the Shannon, was presented to me by Mr. Richards, of Roscommon, architect of the principal public buildings there, to whom I felt indebted for many kind attentions whilst I remained at that place. It consisted partly in employing the river Hine, one of whose head branches flows very near the town, and partly in making a new canal; the line to end at Lough Rea, into which the river Hine discharges itself. The distance of this course would be shorter than that from Tarmonbarry, scarcely exceeding five miles. But without venturing to offer any opinion on the practicability of the plan, it may be allowable to observe, that there is generally more certainty of success in making a canal, than in deepening a river. The one indeed in the hands of a skilful engineer, is almost a sure undertaking; whilst the attempts to deepen rivers are often baffled by circumstances which can neither be foreseen, nor provided against.

* The Directors of the Royal Canal obligingly sent me a copy of the plan; and I beg leave to take this first opportunity of returning my thanks to them in these pages, not only for this, but for several other valuable communications.

An advance out of the public fund latterly allotted by Parliament for the improvement of Ireland, might reasonably have been expected for a work of this nature: but the Commissioners, or the persons who had the control of it, refused, as I have been informed, to grant any part of it for this proposed extension of the Royal Canal into Connaught, unless the profits of the whole line of the Canal from Dublin to the Shannon, were pledged as a security for the repayment of the government loan; terms which the Directors rejected.

Supposing the plan to have been successfully executed, however, great advantages could scarcely fail of accruing from it, to the town of Roscommon; and a choice would be offered of going up Lough Ree and the Shannon, and profiting by the Royal Canal navigation; or of descending to Athlone and Shannon Harbour, and following the course of the Grand Canal to Dublin, or of going the whole way to Limerick by the Shannon; but then boats must be employed suitable to the navigation of Lough Ree, which at times is attended with difficulty, as will be hereafter explained under that head.

It is time, however, to let Mr. Richards speak for himself.

Extract from a letter dated

Roscommon, July, 1830.

“ I am most anxious to promote a connexion of navigation with the river Shannon to this town. In my humble judgment, it would be far preferable for national utility to the line of canal proposed from Richmond Harbour, independent of its comparative cheapness, for it could be accomplished for nearly one-third less in amount. It is quite unnecessary for me to state the advantages of a connexion with the river Shannon, since steam boats have been made use of on it. This town would partake of the advantage of a trade in the Grand and Royal Canals; as well as the Upper and Lower Shannon. I herewith send you a sketch of the proposed line, shewing the easy connexion also with the river Suck. In truth, nature has pointed out this useful work; as by widening and partly sinking a small river called the Hine (which

discharges itself into Crit Bay in Lough Ree) it would bring you within one mile of this town, by the aid of one lock near the Shannon; and a second lock would bring the level into this town. The supply of water would at all times be ample, which is had by streams that flow into this small river. The inhabitants are most sanguine to forward this work, and would give their support and pecuniary assistance towards it. An application has been made to Government, but there is no disposable fund for the purpose. Perhaps by a mortgage of the tolls to the Consolidated Board money might be procured, as I anticipate it would be productive on its completion. We now pay £1 per ton for our merchandize by the Royal Canal to and from Dublin, which could be delivered from Limerick at the mouth of this branch for 12s. per ton; a very considerable increase of trade might be expected by the facility of forwarding *live stock*, which forms so considerable a branch of the trade of this and the adjoining counties.

“Further, this town is ill supplied with water; and it is a peculiar circumstance, that a poll tax for that useful article exists here, the inhabitants paying one penny a week for the use of it; the supply being derived from a well, where a man is appointed to demand and receive it. It is also much in want of a cheap supply of fuel, the want of which to the poor I need not describe.

“Notwithstanding these wants, this town has much improved within my knowledge of it. The markets are large and plentiful; and a considerable corn market is established (although fettered by tolls) which finds its way to Dublin by the Royal Canal; and by carriers to Sligo and Galway.

“ I have made a detailed estimate of this branch.

Purchase of land and earth work	£3950
Masonry in locks, lock houses, bridges, tunnels, } harbours, quays	8950
	<hr/> £12,900

“ The river should be deepened to six feet and widened to 15 feet, with *lay-byes* at convenient distances.

“ The locks, bridges, &c. to be constructed so as to admit boats of the dimensions used on the Shannon, Grand and Royal Canals, to pass each other.

“ The principal proprietors of land in the immediate vicinity of this branch are Lord Crofton, Colonel Trench of Haywood, Mr. Jessop of Drury Hall, &c.”

Tarmonbarry to Lanesborough.

Distance by the river, 6 Irish miles.

Fall at Lanesborough, per Cowan's map, 1 foot.

By the County Map.

Height of river below Tarmonbarry, 116 feet.

Lough Ree 114

Fall 2

Between Tarmonbarry and Lanesborough, the Shannon has a winding course, passing for a great part of the way through bogs, but in other places under banks of firm land which extend between the bogs and the river. The great sandstone ridge of Slievebawn, at the distance of three or four miles from the river, to the westward, rises majestically from the bogs at its

base, and cultivation is yearly advancing higher towards its crest.

The shoals at Lanesborough are avoided by a short canal, and a bridge is thrown across the place which was once a frequented ford. Here, in connexion with the canal above the bridge, on the Roscommon side, a small dock or basin, faced with stone, has been constructed about 60 yards in length by 24 in breadth. When I passed, it contained several boats, but all either sunk or half filled with water, to preserve them from the sun, until the season for shipping corn should arrive. The inn-keeper at Lanesborough owned four boats; these were not in the dock, but had been sent to Mullingar on the Royal Canal for repair; such business being either not understood or not practised at Lanesborough. The common system of loading the boats, in the height of the season, is to pour the corn at once from the country cars which bring it, into the hold, where it is secured immediately by hatches or tarpauling. Of course fine weather is essential for this operation. Some small stores, however, but not of very recent construction, have been built near the dock. Adjoining the bridge on the Roscommon side, stands a mill turned by the waters of the Shannon.

The corn market at Lanesborough is a rival to that of the town of Roscommon, distant seven Irish miles, and growers who are dissatisfied with the prices at one, often pass forward to try the other. But here again, by an extraordinary instance of perverseness or neglect, the public road leading down to the water, had been suffered to remain in a most reprehensible state for some years past; and the hope of remedy from

the ordinary sources appeared so distant, that a special motion for inquiry into the subject was made in Parliament by the Marquis of Westmeath, in the session of 1831.*

The trade in eggs, the value of which for export, according to Mr. Williams, now amounts to £500 a day paid by England to Ireland, is carried on with considerable vivacity at Lanesborough and also at Tarmonbarry. The eggs are collected from the cottages for several miles around, by runners, commonly boys from nine years old and upwards, each of whom has a regular beat, which he goes over daily, bearing back the produce of his toil, carefully stowed in a small hand-basket. I have frequently met with these boys on their rounds, and the caution necessary for bringing in their brittle ware with safety seemed to have communicated an air of business and steadiness to their manner, quite unusual to the ordinary volatile

* Most certainly this was amongst the worst pieces of road which I ever travelled, yet it was not along the entire distance between Roscommon and Lanesborough, which was by no means bad on the whole, but merely at one place where a hill had been cut through to lower the road. This hill consisted of a mass of tenacious clay and limestone gravel, remarkably retentive of water, and the operation had been so performed, as to leave a deep hollow midway, with high walls on each side, through which no water could escape ; consequently a pond of mud was formed, and carriages sunk into it up to the axles. After we had laboured through it, my servant and myself stood wondering at our own condition and that of our vehicle, doubtful whether things could ever be restored to their pristine state. But as we gazed and wondered, up drove the day coach, or caravan, or by whatever other name it might be called, dashing and splashing, rolling and floundering, and at last crawling out of this slough of despond, one moving mass of mud, devoid of shape or form, baffling description. The transit was twice performed in each day, and cleansing seemed to have been given up as a hopeless or useless task.

habits of children in Ireland. I recollect one little bare-footed fellow explaining that he travelled daily about twelve miles Irish. His allowance, or rather his gain, was one shilling upon every six score of eggs brought in, the risk of purchase and carriage resting entirely upon himself. The prices vary from time to time at different periods of the year, but they are never changed without previous notice to the runners. In the height of the season, the prices at Lanesborough were from 2s. 6d. to 4s. per 120 ; but towards winter they rise to 5s. The eggs are packed in layers with straw, in such creats as are commonly used for the conveyance of earthen ware. Each creat will hold about 84 hundred of six score, that is, 10,080, the first cost being from £10 10s., to £16 16s. per creat. These are sent forward, on speculation, to Dublin, or occasionally at once to the English market, and a profit of £4 or £5 per creat, is considered a fair remuneration ; sometimes it is more, sometimes less, and there is risk in the trade. From Lanesborough the creats are sent overland to Killashee, the nearest place on the line of the Royal Canal, and forwarded by the fly trading boats to Dublin. At Tarmonbarry I saw several cars coming in laden with creats of eggs, from the neighbouring districts on each side of the river. The dealers at Lanesborough with whom I conversed whilst in the act of packing their creats, seemed quite surprised at my question, whether they ever used any artificial means of preserving the eggs, and could scarcely credit the account I gave them, of the possibility of preserving their freshness for a considerable time, by simply anointing them with any unctuous substance, such as butter or lard. But in this process

the whole of the egg must be carefully covered, and it should be done soon after the laying.*

The town of Lanesborough proper, stands on the Leinster side of the river, in the county of Longford; but the village on the Connaught side, which is only separated by the bridge, also in common parlance goes under the name of Lanesborough, though its right name is Ballyleague.

Lanesborough contains

67 cabins, thatched.

11 do. without chimneys.

4 new cabins, slated.

11 houses of 2 stories slated, including a school-house.

5 houses of 2 stories, thatched.

2 do. of 3 stories, new.

Ballyleague contains

43 cabins, thatched.

5 do. without chimneys.

2 houses of 2 stories, thatched.

2 new cottages of stone and mortar in progress.

1 long double cottage, ornamented with garden and flowers in front, neat and pretty.

* Mr. Williams appears to have been misinformed, (an unusual circumstance with him,) when he inserted the following passage in his pamphlet, p. 23, Note, anno 1831.—“ There cannot be a more striking proof of the backward state of trading intercourse on the Shannon, than that the articles of poultry and eggs are as yet unknown as a source of profit to the peasantry, and in extensive districts peculiarly favourable to their production. The importance of eggs alone as an article of export is considerable. As their produce no way conduces to rent, but being the result of the care and attendance of the females, the return goes to the purchase of conveniences and articles of dress.”

Complaints of want of encouragement from the lord of the soil were made at Ballyleague, which in many instances implies a want of capital on the part of the tenants, who wish to possess houses without having the means to build.

Lanesborough proper, stands on the estate of Mr. Luke White, who has laid down rules for the improvement of the town, and for the style and quality of the new houses, and the place is advancing under his auspices. It is to be lamented, however, that here, as well as in other places on the Shannon, some streets should not have been laid out along the river, and quays formed, instead of being carried away from the water, in continuation of the road across the bridge. Convenience surely might be derived from the contiguity of the river, and there could be no hesitation as to the more agreeable appearance of the place.

The bridge of Lanesborough consists of nine arches, the one nearest to the Roscommon shore, serving for the passage of the canal. The length is about 100 yards, and the breadth of way 15 feet. The angular starlings reaching to the top of the parapet, are indented on the inner side with corresponding angular recesses, affording retreats for foot passengers, the same as at the bridge of Tarmonbarry.

On the summit of this bridge, at the inner, and, according to the course of the river, the upper side, the following inscription appears, carved on stone:

“ This bridge was built in the year 1706, Sir Robert Newcomen, Baronet, and William Sheppard overseers for the county of Longford; when Mr. Sheppard was Sovereine of Lanesborough, and Mr.

Kelsmy* of the county of Ardmaugh Undertaker."

Above this inscription is placed the coat of arms of the Lanesborough family, carved in relief on stone, with the following words :

"The arms of the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Lanesborough, who gave one hundred pounds to *wards* this bridge."

How very desirable would it be, to have public edifices in every instance, marked with the date of their commencement and completion. Such a practice would save a world of trouble to inquirers in after ages, and afford an excellent key to the state of wealth and improvement at different periods. Hitherto I have been unable to obtain any satisfactory information, as to the date of several of the bridges, which connect the county Roscommon with the opposite shores.

LOUGH REE.

			Irish Miles.	English do.
Length	.. ..	about	14	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Greatest breadth	.. ..	do.	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Height of Lough Ree above the Sea, 114 feet per County Map.				

Lough Ree commences at a short distance below, but within sight of the bridge of Lanesborough, and terminates about a mile and a half above the bridge of Athlone, where the Shannon again assumes the character of a true river. A detailed chart of this Lough was executed some years ago by Mr. Longfield, in

* This name indistinct.

which not only the shores and islands are laid down with great care, but also the shoals and sunken rocks; and soundings are marked in a great number of places, more especially in the bays and inlets which it was supposed might hereafter become fit places for wharfs, as well as along the track which is usually pursued at present by trading boats between Athlone and Lanesborough.

The greatest breadth, which I have put down at five miles, is taken from St. John's Bay on the Roscommon side, to the mouth of the river Inny on the opposite shore; but at a short distance to the north of this line, the breadth does not exceed three quarters of a mile; and again at a place about three miles to the northward, the lake is contracted within similar limits, and further reduced to appearance, by the intervention of an island lying midway between the opposite shores. The greatest continuous expanse, forming the largest body of water, lies to the southward of a line drawn across the lake near St. John's Bay.

No mountains rise along these shores, to give grandeur and solemnity to the scenery, like those upon Lough Allen; yet fine swelling grounds, which in many parts might almost be classed as high lands, bound the lake on either side; and the intricacy of the shores, the broad bays and deep inlets, the rocky points and bold promontories, the numerous and diversified islands, form combinations of a delightful description, which render every part of the passage, whether up or down the lake, whether along one shore or along the other, interesting. Nevertheless, places occur more particularly towards the head of the lake, on the Roscommon side, where bogs ex-

tend down to the water's edge; but these are generally backed by rising grounds, so that it is only when passing close in under shore, that the deformities are seen; otherwise, these flats contribute to variety, and give more importance to the hills; and to the eye of the painter, their dark, sombre hue, often affords peculiar value in the landscape, contrasted with the blue tints or silvery lights upon the waters.

The greatest deficiency in the scene is the want of wood; and considering how many are the rugged head-lands, where the ground in its present natural and uncultivated state is of little or no value, except for rough pasturage, yet which if properly planted and fenced, would soon produce trees and yield considerable profit, it is lamentable to think, that more attention should not have been paid to a subject so intimately connected with the national wealth, and the consequent prosperity and improvement of the people. Timber likewise might be readily transported along the lake to a sure market.

Young plantations may be seen however upon a few parts of the shores, and still more on the distant hills; but chiefly for ornament near dwelling-houses. Here and there also, a few groves of full-grown trees remain standing, affording decided evidence that timber of considerable size and value may be produced on apparently light and rocky soil. The trees at St. John's, on the Roscommon shore, might be cited as an example. The rocky shores of Cashel, county Longford, Sir George Fetherstone's, covered with most thriving plantations, also afford irrefragable proof that profit as well as embellishment might be obtained even within the duration of a single generation.

Some of the islands also bear fine trees. The best wooded one is Hare Island, near the Westmeath shore, at the southern end of the lake, the property of Viscount Castlemaine, who has converted it into pleasure ground, and constructed a fanciful cottage residence embowered within the old trees.*

On the Roscommon shore, the most interesting place appeared to me to be St. John's, the description of which will come in under the head of the barony of Athlone.

The remains of antiquity, both military and ecclesiastical, along the shores of Lough Ree, are peculiar sources of interest, standing as monuments of the predilection which the ancient inhabitants of the country entertained for the confines of this beautiful sheet of water, whether in reference to the strength of certain places as military positions, or to the calmness and retirement which others afforded for the purposes of religion and devotion. Rocky promontaries were usually the seats of the former; and islands were selected for the church and the monastery. At Inch Clorin, off the shores of Cashel, already noticed, the ruins still remain of seven churches and monasteries; in one of which the cloisters and refectory may still be traced in tolerable preservation: some of the windows are in beautiful proportion.† The island at pre-

* Looking upon the tufted woods of this island from the main shore for the first time, I asked a labouring young man who stood by, if the trees were large? *Answer*, "Very large." "As thick as a man's body?" *Answer*. "As thick as a horse."

† The young architect who turns his attention to the Gothic, would do well to visit this island, and pass a few days in studying the forms and symmetry of windows, portals, &c.

sent is more commonly distinguished by the name of Quaker Island, so called from its having been for several years the residence of one of the society of friends, who held a pretty and profitable farm upon it; and who was wont, on all fitting occasions, to eulogize the salubrity of a spot where his strength had been renovated and a new term of life obtained. Imagination may readily draw the contrast between his cheerful cottage and the gloomy cell; between his simple life of useful labour, and the dark and mysterious ceremonials of the monkish inhabitants of former years.

The ecclesiastical ruins are, for the most part, clustered together towards the southern end of the island; but one church with a square steeple stands on an eminence, considerably away from the others, towards the centre of the island. Trees flourish here, and the ruins are shaded by some of tolerable size.

In my perambulation of a thousand miles and more through this midland district, no place so forcibly riveted my fancy as this island; nor do I recollect ever having seen a spot where retirement, without being beyond the reach of the rational gratifications of civilized life, could be more effectually or perhaps more agreeably realized; if but those two inestimable blessings, peace and permanent security, could be assured, without which, possessions can afford no enjoyment.

These islands belong to Longford; on the shores in its vicinity in the same county several interesting remains of high antiquity may be seen; and the old castle and enclosure of Elfeet or Elfeed, which stands almost close to the water, presents traces of more re-

gular military architecture, than is commonly observable in Ireland; the square towers which defended the enclosure at the four angles, were severally constructed so as to flank the curtain and the ditch of each side.

The military remains are also highly interesting, at St. John's, on the Roscommon shore, where the isthmus of a long peninsular point was fortified by a strong wall, still standing with square towers at regular intervals: and, near the point, a formidable castle occupied a rock, at the base of which was cut a broad fosse, which admitted the waters of the lake to flow round the castle from one side of the point to the other. Several smaller castles of less note may be traced along the shores.

The navigation of Lough Ree is by no means devoid of risk to those who are unacquainted with its sunken rocks and shoals; and the depth of water is liable to considerable variation. Thus, rocks which when the lake is full may be safely passed, are in dry seasons brought near the surface, and become perilous: whilst, on the contrary, rocks which at ordinary periods are distinctly visible, and consequently easily avoidable, become, when the waters rise, concealed without being covered to a sufficient depth to float a boat. For trading boats of burthen, the worst and most difficult part of the passage is near Lanesborough, at the entrance into the first bay or inlet, going downwards from the town, where the channel is narrow and tortuous; the passage becomes more troublesome in proportion as the waters fall; the bottom here is soft and muddy.

According to Mr. Longfield's survey, the greatest depth of water in the lake does not exceed 75 feet;

but this depth does not extend to any large portion of the lake, but is rather confined to holes or hollows in the bottom, such as usually occur in limestone countries; in many instances the soundings within a few feet are reduced to one-half.

It may readily be conceived from these circumstances, that the heavy boats commonly used on the canals and on the river, are but ill adapted to navigate the lake; those which ply both on the canals and upon the river, are provided commonly with moveable masts; and as the Upper Shannon affords no regular trackways for horses, the passage is effected partly by sails, partly by poling, which last, on the soft bottoms that so frequently occur, is very laborious. The passage of the lake is never attempted in these boats without a favourable wind; or the appearance of the continuance of easy weather. Lough Ree is, however, provided far better than Lough Allen by nature, with places of refuge; and safe anchorage is found in some of the deep and well sheltered bays. But along the whole Roscommon shore, there is not a single public quay for boats of burthen, and but few places naturally favourable for loading or unloading. Neither is there a public road leading down to the lake, excepting at the bay of Kilmore and at St. John's. No villages are scattered along its shores; nor does there appear to be any place interested in or connected with the navigation of the lake, except it be some miserable little hamlet or cluster of cabins, where the boatmen may perhaps land, to replenish their humble store of provisions or procure a glass of whiskey, probably illicitly sold. During different visits of several days each, to different parts of the lake, both along

the shores and on the water, and invariably with fine weather, I never saw, except in one instance, a boat of burthen upon its waters. Pleasure boats, however, are numerous, little fleets of which occasionally start from Athlone, and sometimes coming from different quarters, they rendezvous at some agreeable spot on island or mainland, where the parties disembark for refreshment or amusement. Boating is indeed a very common pastime along the whole line of the lake, but by far more general at the lower end, where the shores are the best inhabited.

The whole traffic of Lough Ree is confined, or very nearly so, to the intercourse between Lanesborough and Athlone, and *vice versa*. Manure, indeed, may be occasionally conveyed from Athlone, and a chance load of slates or foreign timber dropped along the shores; potatoes or corn may also be carried to or from one market to the other; but there can scarcely be said to exist any steady, regular traffic, except it be for the few cargoes of native coal brought down from Lough Allen; and this coal is neither in request for the distilleries and breweries of Athlone, nor for the steam boats on the lower lakes of the Shannon; the former chiefly consume turf, the latter, sea borne coal. In the canal harbour at Athlone, I saw a small steamer which had been brought thither on speculation, for towing boats along the lake; but up to that period it had not answered, the demands for its aid being too few and the rate of freights too low, to bear an extra charge. When the value of time, however, comes to be more justly appreciated, and traffic extended along these shores, steam boats, as towers, will in the natu-

ral course of events, be employed.* No part, probably, of the whole course of the Shannon, most certainly no part of the upper Shannon, affords so many advantageous positions for towns and villages, as the shores of Lough Ree; and were the example followed of Holland or Switzerland, those two regions of industry and perseverance, where the population spreads down to the lakes, the rivers, and canals, as affording the means of frequent and ready intercourse, the waters of Lough Ree might become enlivened with the sail and oar, and the cheerful notes of commerce be echoed from shore to shore. At present, except for the accidental appearance of the light skiff, wafted over the surface by the zephyr, the face of the lake is a scene of solitude, silence, and melancholy.

From Lough Ree to the mouth of the River Suck.

	Irish miles.	English do.
Distance by water ..	16 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{1}{4}$

Falls per Cowan's Map.

	Feet.	Inch.
At Athlone	4	0
Shannon Bridge ..	0	7
	<hr/>	
Total	4	7

By the County Map.

	Feet.	Inch.
Height of Lough Ree	114	0
River below Athlone	106	6
Above Shannon Bridge	105	0
Below do. ..	104	0
Total falls	10 feet.	

* The Inland Steam Navigation Company, as I have been informed, are already contemplating the establishment of cattle boats on the upper Shannon and upon this lake, by means of which access will be opened to new markets, and upon terms more easy and more sure than at present.

Lough Ree terminates in a broad and regular river, which flows with a smooth but rather swift current down to Athlone, distant about a mile and a half, measuring from a bay at the foot of the lake, or at most two miles from the lake proper. The water is clearer here than at any other part of the upper Shannon, attributable to the deposition of the muddy particles in the deep reservoir of Lough Ree. The current is somewhat more rapid as it approaches the town; but excepting it be during floods, when the rush becomes great, it may be stemmed without much difficulty by the oar; and light boats commonly traverse the stream very close to the bridge.

The river is here deformed by numerous weirs, constructed with wicker work and stakes, that appear some feet above the surface, for the purpose of catching eels, which abound in all parts of the Shannon. Vast quantities are occasionally taken after the autumnal and the first winter floods, which are deposited in reservoirs, and thence dealt out by the proprietors according to the demand. The Dublin market is largely supplied from this source.

Athlone occupies each side of the river; but with great natural advantages for the formation of quays, which might be made sources of convenience, beauty, and cleanliness, there is no passage along the water, and the buildings which reach down to it are huddled together in confused masses of unseemly appearance. In one part alone, on the Westmeath side, above bridge, a few diminutive terrace gardens extend between the rear of the houses to which they belong and the river. This disposition may in great part be accounted for, from the circumstance of Athlone having formerly

been a fortified town, and its walls and defences carried down towards the water's edge to prevent the lodgment of an enemy. As the system of defence, however, became changed with improvements in warfare, the walls were gradually allowed to fall into neglect, and were either pulled down, or buildings were raised against them. But in walking along the banks of the river above the town, on the Roscommon side, where an agreeable promenade in face of the artillery barracks, leads towards Ranelagh, one is naturally led to contrast the ugly and inconvenient position of the town, with that of other places, where quays and streets have been formed facing to the water; and to lament that some master power should not still be able to interfere and sweep away the ancient deformities, and in giving a different direction to the buildings, confer new life and vigour upon the place. Instead of the narrow, tortuous, and dirty streets, which now disfigure the town, and render it nearly a by-word for what is disagreeable, Athlone might then rise into one of the most beautiful towns in the whole island.

It is not a little remarkable, that at Athlone, the largest town upon the Shannon, after Limerick, and a military station of prime importance, the bridge should be one of the very worst upon the whole river, whether in reference to the accommodation of the passage across it, or the way it affords for the water. It is not merely a discredit to the town alone, but a positive stigma upon the nation. The breadth of the road does not exceed twelve feet, whilst the length of the bridge amounts to one hundred yards; consequently, carriages cannot pass each other without great difficulty, and when once fairly entered upon the bridge

there is no retreating. Being the only passage between the two divisions of the town, which are nearly of equal size and very populous, the mere crossing of the inhabitants of the place occasions a constant throng upon it; but on market days, and when there are fairs in the vicinity, more particularly during the great cattle fair of Ballinasloe, human beings, cattle, cars, carriages, are so closely wedged, that the passage becomes an affair of absolute danger as well as inconvenience. What might not the peril be to a military division, if ever there happened to be an occasion for a retreat across it?

But the mere throng of ordinary passengers through the town, is not the only impediment to be encountered in crossing over this bridge. Two merchant flour mills stand upon it, one at the commencement on the Roscommon side, the other absolutely over the arches, the doors of which, as usual, are beset with customers, sellers as well as buyers, buyers in retail too, and with the numerous horses, drays, and cars, necessarily engaged in the traffic. These, in the act of being laden and unladen, help to block up the way; yet nothing in comparison to the vehicles and animals, which having either had, or which awaiting their turn, are left standing at large without eye or hand to direct or control them; and, consequently, as may readily be conceived, when adrift, running foul of each other, and creating inextricable confusion for a quarter of an hour or more perhaps together, during which time the expectant and impatient passengers are accumulating at each end.

Neither is this bridge to be regarded less as a public nuisance, in reference to the restricted passage

which it affords for the vast body of water which flows down from Lough Ree; for the arches being only nine in number, and of the old construction of the time of Elizabeth, narrow in the span, with massive piers between, the bridge operates as a dam in time of floods, throwing back the waters upon the shores of the lake, where thousands of valuable acres are annually inundated to the great loss of the proprietors.

Supposing, however, that a bridge of a different construction were to be erected, as erected it certainly will and must be, sooner or later; it may become a question, whether, in providing a water way of larger dimension, the lake, under certain circumstances, might not be lowered more than was consistent with the convenience of navigation. A natural bank or bar, indeed, which runs across the river, just above the bridge, keeps up the waters, and regulates their height to a certain level, below which they cannot fall. But if, in order to let the water pass off more freely, it was deemed expedient to cut through this bar, it would be quite practicable to construct flood-gates or sluices, which might be closed when the water fell, or opened as it rose; of which numerous examples are to be found in other countries, more particularly in Holland.

The great fall in the river, constituting rapids, which, at certain periods, appear formidable, commences immediately below the bridge; this part, however, is sometimes fordable; and here it was, that King William's army crossed in defiance of the enemy who held that part of the town which lies on the Roscommon side, previous to the battle of Aughrim;

a hazardous and daring attempt, but which was crowned with the success its boldness deserved.

The obstructions to the navigation of the river at Athlone, are obviated by a canal of somewhat more than a mile in length, which passes on the Roscommon side, nearly in a straight line, forming a chord to the bend of the river: it lies entirely outside the town, and adds to the strength of the place as a military position. The most distant part of the canal from the river, measured from the bridge of Athlone, is about a quarter of a mile. Upon the quay bordering on the canal, at the part nearest to the town, there appeared at the different times I saw it, considerable movement, and several boats lay moored before it.

To the southward of Athlone the shores are flat, and very considerable tracts of bog occur, parts of which, nearest to the town, have been improved. In some instances, the bogs extend down to the water's edge; but more commonly ridges of alluvial land, thinly interspersed with hills of limestone gravel, intervene between the bogs and the river. Several low flat islands, covered with reeds and rushes, interrupt the course of the stream, and render it dull and sluggish. On some parts of the shores, the low lands, called callows, afford the most luxuriant growth of coarse grasses, which during favourable seasons yield ample returns to the proprietors; but when floods take place during the hay harvest, the difficulties of saving it become great; and after considerable pains and anxiety, the crop, owing to the injuries it has sustained from water, sometimes but ill repays the labour which has been expended in collecting it.

On these low lands, at the base of the limestone gravel hills, near the Seven Churches of Clonmacnoise,* on the King's County shore, I saw in the Autumn of 1830, men stripped nearly up to the hips, actually mowing the long grass as it stood full two-thirds under water; whilst others dragged it out, and carried it on their shoulders to the banks to be dried.

Near Clonmacnoise and on the opposite Roscommon shore, somewhat lower down, the limestone gravel hills rise very boldly, but removed from the immediate borders of the river. On one of these, on the latter side, a large moat forms a most conspicuous object in the landscape.

At the distance of $14\frac{1}{2}$ miles Irish from Athlone, the Shannon is traversed by the finest of its bridges, in the upper country, emphatically named Shannon Bridge, the length is 140 yards, and the number of the arches 16, across the river; besides two others thrown across the canal, which is carried close along the river, one arch being for the boats, and a lesser one for horses. The passage over the bridge, which is considerably elevated above the water, is perfectly level, and the way of ample breadth. This bridge unites the King's County with Roscommon, and is the great leading road from the former county to Bal-

* It has been already mentioned, that the island of Inch Clorin in Lough Ree, was celebrated for its Seven Churches. So also in the vale of Glendalough, in the County of Wicklow, there were Seven Churches; and I believe there are other instances of the same combination, though I am not aware whether any peculiar virtue or charm was attached to the number seven. In the neighbourhood of Clonmacnoise and of Glendalough, these places are more commonly designated by the appellation of the Seven Churches, than by any other name.

linasloe, where the greatest cattle fair in the island is held during the month of October. On the King's County side, a small town has started up, bordering upon the road in continuation of the bridge; but the Roscommon end of the bridge is occupied by a military work, which forms a *tête de pont*, capable of accommodating a small garrison. The public road winds between the barracks and fort, passing through a strong gate, and the place besides being defended by the guns of the fort, is protected on the Connaught side by an advanced redoubt on a rising ground to the north of the highway.

The river Suck, which forms the southern boundary of the county Roscommon, may be seen from this bridge winding between its bogs into the Shannon, to which river, at its mouth, it is little inferior in size, although reckoned merely a tributary stream.

The whole of the country from Athlone down to the mouth of the Suck, more particularly on the Roscommon side, is dreary, thinly inhabited, and without a single road of importance leading down to the water, excepting at Shannon Bridge. On some of the high lands which border upon the bogs, or rather which form ridges through them, a few small hamlets may be seen; but these can scarcely be considered as having connexion with the Shannon, or deriving any benefit from its vicinity.

The county of Roscommon terminates at the confluence of the Suck and the Shannon; such further notice, therefore, of the latter river, alone falls within the scope of this Survey, as may appear necessary to point out its relations with the commerce of the upper country.

From the mouth of the Suck to Limerick, the dis-

tance by water is about 47 miles Irish, equal to 60 English; but the difference in level occasioned by the several falls, amounts to no less than 107 feet $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

In the upper country from the mouth of the Suck to Lough Allen, a distance of $70\frac{1}{2}$ miles Irish, the difference of level, according to the same authority, amounts only to 39 feet 7 inches; but I have already observed, that from later, and it may be presumed more accurate observation, the fall is more considerable.

The tables of heights and distances will shew this in a more distinct point of view.

Besides the impediments to the river navigation occasioned by these falls, the intervention of Lough Derg, the largest of the lakes of the Shannon, afforded great difficulties and delays, until steam towing boats were established upon it, by the Inland Steam Navigation Company. By the spirited exertions of this Company, the navigation of the Shannon down to Limerick, has been reduced, at least in all ordinary seasons, nearly to a certainty.

The canals, to obviate the impediments on the river, were heretofore placed under the control of the Board of Inland Navigation; but after the discontinuance of that board towards the close of the year 1831, the canals and locks on the lower part of the river down to Limerick, were placed under the management of the Inland Steam Navigation Company; the others, between Lough Derg and Lough Ree, under the Grand Canal Company, and those between Lough Ree and Lough Allen under the New Board of Works.

The Grand Canal from Dublin, as may be seen

by the table, unites with the Shannon, at the distance of about six Irish miles below the mouth of the Suck; and a branch from this canal, within a few years past, has been carried from the opposite bank of the Shannon in Connaught, to south of the river Suck, up to the town of Ballinasloe; a part of which town stands within the county of Roscommon.

The length of this canal from the Shannon to Ballinasloe, is put down in the late lithographic map, already noticed, at 15 English miles, nearly 12 Irish.*

* Different opinions have been expressed respecting this canal; some condemning the line chosen, which passes for a great part of the way through bogs; and contending that a much cheaper and more generally useful navigation might have been effected, by opening the river Suck, already partly navigable, the whole way up to Ballinasloe. It is needless to explain all the contrarieties of evidence now that the work has been executed. But in favour of the canal it may be pointed out, that the new branch is separated from the old line merely by the breadth of the Shannon; so that boats can pass with certainty between Ballinasloe and Dublin, drawn by horses instead of depending on poling and sailing, for several miles both on the Suck and on the Shannon.

**SUMMARY TABLE of Distances, Falls, and Heights, above the Sea,
along the Course of the SHANNON.**

NAMES OF PLACES IN SUCCESSION DOWN- WARDS FROM LOUGH ALLEN.	DISTANCES.			FALLS.	HEIGHTS.
	<i>Irish.</i> MIL. F.	<i>Irish.</i> MIL. F.	<i>Eng.</i> MIL. F.	FEET. IN.	FEET. IN.
Lough Allen above the Sea . . . . .	...	...	...	...	160 0
Battle Bridge . . . . .	...	7 4	...	21 0	
The Shannon not navigable. The Canal from Lough Allen falls in below the Bridge.					
Carrick	5 4				
Head of Canal above Jamestown . . .	4 5				
River Navigable . . . . .	...	10 1			
Jamestown	0 3	...	...	6 0	
Drumsna	1 6				
River not Navigable . . . . .	...	2 1			
The Canal to avoid the rapids at James- town, falls in below Drumsna.					
Height of Lough Boffin . . . . .	...	...	...	...	127 0½
Rooksey . . . . .	...	8 0	...	3 6	
A Canal to avoid the rapids at Rooksey.					
Height between Rooksey and L. Forbes.	...	...	...	...	123 0
Height below Lough Forbes . . . . .	...	...	...	...	122 0
Tarmonbarry . . . . .	...	8 0	...	3 6	
Here the Royal Canal from Dublin joins the Shannon; its length 91 English, about 72 Irish miles.					
Distance from the Canal to Lough Allen	...	35 6	45 4		
A short Canal connected with river Ca- molin, to avoid the rapids.					
Lanesborough	6 0	...	...	1 0	
A short Canal to avoid the rapid.					
Height between Tarmonbarry and Lanes- borough . . . . .	...	...	...	...	116 0
Lough Ree	14 0	...	...	...	114 0
Athlone	2 0	...	...	4 0	
A Canal to avoid the rapids.					
Distance from Athlone to mouth of the Royal Canal					
	...	22 0	28 0		
Height below Athlone . . . . .	...	...	...	...	106 6
Shannon Bridge	14 4	...	...	0 7	
A short Canal to avoid the rapid.					
Height above bridge . . . . .	...	...	...	...	105 0
Below ditto . . . . .	...	...	...	...	104 0
Mouth of the river Suck	3 0				
Here the County of Roscommon ends.					
Amount of falls from L. Allen by Cowen's Map					
	...	...	...	39 7	
By other observations, L. Allen . . .	160				
Mouth of Suck	104				
<hr/>					
Difference of level feet	56				
Shannon Harbour	6 0				
Here the Grand Canal from Dublin joins the Shannon, its length 78 Eng- lish miles, about 61 Irish.					
Total distance from Athlone to the Grand Canal					
	...	20 7	26 4		
Limerick . . . . .	...	41 1	52 2	107 4½	
<hr/>					
Total from Lough Allen to Limerick		119 6	152 2	146 11½	

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The traffic upon the Shannon may be divided into three distinct branches, the first confined exclusively to the river; the other two connected with the Royal and Grand Canals. On the Upper Shannon, at present, the first branch appears to be the least extensive, and consequently the least important of the three. Amongst the interchangeable native commodities have been enumerated, turf, brick, sand, lime, flags, marble, slates, native timber, manures, kiln coals, culm, building stone; with potatoes, meal, flour, grain, and other articles of consumption.* But until the population is drawn more towards the banks of the rivers and its lakes, and until towns and villages arise, the mere river trade in these native interchangeable commodities will remain very limited. Coals, as already explained, are regularly brought down from Lough Allen to the town of Carrick, and also to Drumsna, and even to Athlone, in small quantities; and the slates from the banks of Lough Derg, near Killaloe, which are of excellent quality, might at once be conveyed from the quays near the quarries, to the upper country. Turf is brought to Athlone by water in large quantities, and on occasion a difference of price may cause potatoes and other articles of food to be carried to the same market. But along the shores of Roscommon, with the exception of the one article of coals, nature has dispensed her bounties with such an even hand, and the population is so much dispersed

* Williams, p. 23.

over the face of the country, that interchange in native commodities of the first necessity is on too limited a scale, to require the aid of the large boats in use for commerce; and as for small market boats, or for local purposes, similar to what are seen on lakes and rivers in some other countries, these are quite unknown on the upper Shannon.

The trade in connexion with the canals, consists principally in corn and butter for exportation, and in heavy and bulky articles from Dublin in return, such as sugars, iron, deals, slates, earthen ware, and British manufactured goods generally. This latter trade, in the county Roscommon, is shared, as already noticed, with the ports of Sligo and Galway, a circumstance which has been thought rather to indicate on the part of the inhabitants, ignorance of their natural resources, misapplication of power, and want of enterprize.

“The town of Roscommon,” says Mr. Williams, p. 27, “the capital of the county, lies within four miles of some deep bays of this great river; yet, although so close to water conveyance, leading to Limerick, or by the canal to Dublin, and so favourably circumstanced for the conveyance of bulky articles, the whole produce of a district of twenty miles in extent, and round this county town, except the little which is sent to Dublin, is conveyed, over bad roads and by inferior cars and horses, a distance of forty miles to the towns of Sligo or Galway, on the western coast of the kingdom, and getting back from those places its timber and other foreign produce.” Now if the people of Roscommon deal with Sligo and Galway, to their own loss and disadvantage, whilst Limerick and Dublin, which are open to them by the

Shannon and the canals, could and would take the produce of their lands and labour, and send back in return the commodities of which they stood in need, on terms more favourable ; then, indeed, must it be admitted, that Roscommon is the centre of dullness. But the inhabitants are not so destitute of capacity as to carry on trade to their own prejudice ; neither does their town stand in so obscure and remote a position as to preclude them from the sources of early intelligence. A stage daily passes from Roscommon to Killashee on the line of the Royal Canal, whence passage boats afford a cheap and ready conveyance to Dublin ; stage cars also daily communicate with Athlone, where a choice of public coaches is offered, which reach the capital within eight or nine hours. If then, with respect to such important commodities as timber and iron, the trade is divided between Sligo, Galway, and Dublin, (for Dublin actually comes in at present for a share,) it may be assumed that there is a rivalry between the merchants of those ports, and that the people of Roscommon draw their supplies from one or other of these places, according to the temptations which are held out. As for corn, and its transmission down to the coast, the course of the trade is well known to be influenced by the competition of buyers from different places. If those from Galway, or Sligo for example, find it to be their interest to offer higher prices than the agents from Dublin or Limerick, in the public and best frequented markets, the corn will go to Galway or Sligo, the cost of conveyance by the river, by the canal, or by land, to the sea port, being necessarily involved in the general account. Trade is seldom long in finding its true level and most advantageous channel.

So also when it is asked,* “How, without the facilities of water conveyance, that is, without inland navigation, bulky or weighty articles are to be introduced into the heart of a country, as sugars, salt, herrings, foreign timber, coal, iron, earthen ware, glass, and British manufactured goods generally,” the question may be resolved by the simple statement of the fact, that such bulky articles do find their way into the heart of the country without the aid of the rivers or canals, and always will do so in every country whatsoever, so long as the rate paid by the consumer affords a profit to the carriers and dealers.†

In making these few observations, I would request it may be understood, that it is far from my intention to impugn the general principles laid down by Mr. Williams in his pamphlet; on the contrary, I most heartily concur in them, and in expressing my admiration of the energy which he has displayed in advancing some of the most important interests of the country, merely offer a tribute in which every well-wisher to Ireland will readily join.

I have already explained in one of the early sections upon the Shannon, that the trade of the northern part of the county of Roscommon is intimately connected with the port of Sligo. The great leading road through the county, the mail coach line from Carrick-

* Williams's Pamphlet, p. 23.

† It is well known that in the United States of America, British and Foreign goods find their way for several hundreds of miles into the interior of the country solely by land carriage. It is not unusual there for waggon to be employed in journeys of five hundred miles or more in one direction, and as many in return. In America, at present, rail-roads appear to be more in favour than canals.

on-Shannon to Sligo, passes through the town of Boyle, the principal market of that part of the country, and affords the means of an easy intercourse, in a distance of less than 20 miles. The ports on the Shannon in connexion with Boyle, are, Carrick, distant $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles Irish, and Drumsna distant 10 miles; but as already explained, the preference is given to the latter of the two, though further removed and with an inferior road.

Tarmonbarry, the next principal port on the Shannon to the south, and the harbour of the Royal Canal, has also a rival in the sea port of Sligo. Strokestown market, at the distance of $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Shannon, is attended by Sligo buyers, and the corn conveyed thither by cars, a distance of 34 Irish miles, upwards of 43 English.

Lanesborough, still more south, on the Shannon, has to contend against Galway as well as Sligo.

Athlone, nearly equally distant from the mouth of the Royal and Grand Canals, is connected with the port of Galway by the great mail coach line from Dublin, one of the finest in the kingdom; the distance 40 miles.

Limerick, by the Shannon, is 61 miles distant. Here, therefore, a competition might be expected between Limerick with 61 miles of inland navigation, and Galway with 40 miles of land carriage, yet little business is done with Limerick. It may appear an anomaly also, that with the means of water carriage up to the very town, by each of the two great canals, the greater part of the heavy articles coming from Dublin to Athlone, are only brought a part of the way by water, as far as Ballymahon, on the line of the Royal Canal, and thence conveyed overland, a distance

of twelve miles, or thereabouts. In fact, by this short cross cut, a navigation of 12 miles to Tarmonbarry by the canal, and of 22 miles more by the Shannon, including the uncertain passage of Lough Ree is saved, in all 34 miles Irish, equal to $43\frac{1}{4}$ English.

But Athlone, like Boyle, communicates with Dublin by a direct land carriage of 55 miles, equal to 70 English; the lighter and more valuable goods for the shops being commonly brought by the stage coaches, and others by cars and drays. The convenience is felt here likewise of immediate and direct delivery from the warehouse in Dublin, to the warehouse in Athlone.

Rates of land carriage direct from Dublin to Athlone, by drays, &c., 1s. 6d. per cwt.

An Account of the Boats and Tonnage which entered into the Canal from ports of the Shannon situated below Tarmon-

Boats.	Tonnage.	Boats.	Tonnage.
98	2250	1	1
68	2701	14	14
88	3082	3	3
<hr/>		<hr/>	
254	8734	0	0

Annual average 84 boats, 2214 tons.

An Account of the Boats and Tonnage which passed from the Canal into the Shannon at Tarmonbarry.

Boats.	Tonnage.	Boats.	Tonnage.
116	1404	19	19
123	1446	6	6
103	1035	10	10
<hr/>		<hr/>	
342	3885	35	35

Annual average 121 boats, 1295 tons.

*The following Documents were obligingly furnished to me
by the Directors of the Canals.*

ROYAL CANAL.

An Account of the Boats and Tonnage which entered *into* the Canal from parts of the Shannon situated *above* Tarmonbarry.

From 1st Jan. to 31st Dec.	Boats.	Tons.	Cwt.
1829 ..	65	1873	5
1830 ..	53	1398	13
1831 ..	55	1542	0
Total in three years		4813	18

Annual average $57\frac{1}{3}$ boats, $1604\frac{1}{3}$ tons, 12 cwt.

An Account of the Boats and Tonnage which entered *into* the Canal from parts of the Shannon situated *below* Tarmonbarry.

	Boats.	Tons.	Cwt.
1829 ..	98	2950	1
1830 ..	68	2701	14
1831 ..	88	3082	5
Total in three years		8734	0

Annual average $84\frac{1}{3}$ boats, $2911\frac{1}{3}$ tons.

An Account of the Boats and Tonnage which passed *from* the Canal *into* the Shannon at Tarmonbarry.

	Boats.	Tons.	Cwt.
1829 ..	116	1404	19
1830 ..	123	1446	6
1831 ..	103	1035	10
Total in three years		3886	15

Annual average 114 boats, $1295\frac{1}{3}$ tons.

GRAND CANAL.

RETURN, showing the extent of the Trade on the river Shannon, *above Shannon Harbour*, as it stands connected with the Grand Canal, on the following branches, for *one year ending 30th June, 1831.*

FIRST.

Tonnage up and down between *Athlone* and the Grand Canal at *Shannon Harbour*.

Upwards.	Downwards.
1,203 tons.	1,187 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons.

SECOND.

Tonnage up and down between *Ballinasloe* and any parts of the Grand Canal east of *Shannon Harbour*.

Upwards to <i>Ballinasloe</i> .	Downwards to the Canal.
3,666 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons.	2,510 tons.

THIRD.

No tonnage conveyed up or down between *Ballinasloe* and *Limerick*.

FOURTH.

Tonnage conveyed up and down between places on the Shannon, below *Shannon Harbour*, but above *Limerick*.

453 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons.

ANDREW BAGOT,
Inspector of Trade, &c.

Taking then the average of the accounts of three years of the Royal Canal, and adding thereto the account of the one year of the Grand Canal, the total will stand thus :

Into the Canals towards Dublin.

ROYAL CANAL.

	Boats.	Tons.	Cwt.
From parts above Tarmonbarry	57 $\frac{2}{3}$	1604	12
below do.	84 $\frac{1}{3}$	2911	12
Total, Royal Canal	142 $\frac{1}{3}$	4516	4

GRAND CANAL.

From Athlone	1187 $\frac{1}{3}$ tons.		
From Ballinasloe	2510	3697	10
Total Tons		8213	14

From the Canals into the Shannon.

	Boats.	Tons.	Cwt.
ROYAL CANAL	114	1295	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
GRAND CANAL to Athlone	1203 tons.		
to Ballinasloe	3666 $\frac{1}{3}$	4869	10
Total Tons		6164	16 $\frac{2}{3}$

The trade up and down, at least as to the number of boats employed, might be supposed reciprocal, yet on the Royal Canal the difference in the number of boats appears in favour of the trade towards Dublin.

Into the Canal 142

Out of do. 114

28

On the Grand Canal I have no return of boats, but the tonnage is in favour of the contrary course.

	Tons.	Cwt.
From the Canals	4869	10
Into do.	3697	10
In favour of the trade from Dublin	1172	

LOUGH ALLEN CANAL.

Boats which have passed the canal in one year, ending 31st December, 1831.

No. of boats 47.

The locks on the Lough Allen canal are 70 feet in length, and have four feet water on the sills. Some of the trading boats carry about 50 tons.

The boats commonly used in the Royal Canal are suitable for the navigation of the Grand Canal, and *vice versa*, with the exception of a lock and bridge at Thomastown, which cannot be passed by every boat trading on the Grand Canal, and on the Shannon.

The most difficult part, as I have already mentioned, of the upper Shannon, is between Tarmonbarry (or Richmond Harbour) and Battle Bridge. Boats which can carry 50 tons in winter, cannot carry more than two-thirds of this burden in summer, when the waters are low.

In this view of the trade of the Shannon as connected with the canals, it is essential to keep in mind, that although the county of Roscommon participates in it, yet it is not practicable to ascertain to what extent. For example:

Drumsna is a port for the counties of Leitrim and Roscommon.

Tarmonbarry, for the counties of Longford and Roscommon.

Lanesborough, for the same.

Athlone, for Westmeath and Roscommon.

Ballinasloe, for Galway and Roscommon.

If to those ports on the Shannon, where some accommodations are afforded for trade, be added the banks of the canals at the falls or rapids of the river, along which it would be quite practicable to lay a boat, and to load it at once with corn, on the plan which is commonly pursued at Drumsna and Leitrim; that is, to receive the corn into the boats as it comes down, merely covering it from the weather by hatches or tarpauling, then on the Roscommen shore there might be enumerated the following places for loading:

Canal to Battle Bridge.

Carrick-on-Shannon.

Canal at Jamestown.

Drumsna.

Rooksey.

Tarmonbarry.

Lanesborough.

Athlone.

Shannon Bridge.

Ballinasloe.

But independently of rivers and canals the county Roscommon has the great advantage of two sea-ports, Sligo and Galway, from one or other of which no part of the county is farther removed than 40 miles Irish. The town of Roscommon, which stands so central, is nearly equally distant from each; and full one-third of the county towards the north, is not more than 30 miles from Sligo.

Now taking the prices of land carriage in the

county of Roscommon, at $6\frac{1}{2}d.$ per ton per mile,* and assuming 40 miles as the greatest distance from any part of the county, to one or other of the ports of Sligo or Galway, the greatest expense of conveyance to a sea-port would be 21s. 8d. per ton; and assuming the freights between Tarmonbarry and Dublin, along the Royal Canal, to be 14s. per ton, the difference, 7s. 8d. per ton, would merely compensate for land carriage, at the rate of $6\frac{1}{2}d.$ per mile, to the extent of $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the mouth of the canal on the Shannon, at Tarmonbarry. But at the shorter distances from Boyle, and the northern parts of the county to Sligo, the expense of land carriage, direct to Sligo, would be considerably less than that by land and river, and canal to Dublin.

These circumstances are sufficient to explain, why Roscommon trades with Sligo and Galway; and with the improvement of the roads and the increase of capital at Sligo and Galway, the trade may be fixed even still more firmly than it is at present.

This section upon the river Shannon has extended

* Prices of carriage at the following places:

		<i>Distances.</i>					
		Irish miles.		Price p. cwt.		Per ton per mile.	
				s.	d.	d.	100pts.
Roscommon	to Dublin	- 79	-	2	0	- 6	07
	to Galway	- 35	-	1	0	- 6	85
	to Sligo	- 39	-	1	0	- 6	15
Boyle	to Dublin	- 85	-	2	0	- 5	62
	to Drumsna	- 10	-	0	5	- 10	0
Castlerea	to Sligo	- 32	-	0	11	- 6	25
	to Dublin	- 85	-	2	6	- 7	05
Athlone	to Dublin	- 59	-	1	6	- 6	1

It seems remarkable, that the long carriage from Boyle to Dublin should be the cheapest, and the short carriage to Drumsna the dearest.

so much beyond the space originally assigned to it, that I must refrain from adding more at present, although there remains still a good deal to be said upon the general schemes of each of the great canals from Dublin, and the prospective advantages which were anticipated from their junction with the river Shannon. But as the subject will again naturally fall under review, in the Surveys of Longford and Westmeath, which I have also partly executed, though it is doubtful whether I shall be able to complete them, I shall defer the further consideration of it to a future opportunity.

ROADS.

The roads of Roscommon might be classed under four heads: those leading to the metropolis; those leading to the two nearest sea-ports, Sligo and Galway; those leading to the bridges of the Shannon, which may be considered as the ports on the river; and under this head, might also be included, the roads leading to Ballinasloe on the river Suck, which the new cut from the Grand Canal has converted into a port; and fourthly and lastly, the roads made for general communication through the county, which might be considered as all emanating from, or terminating at Roscommon, the county town.

Two great mail coach lines traverse the county; the one entering by the bridge over the Shannon at Carrick, and passing through the town of Boyle on to Sligo; the other entering at Athlone and passing on to Galway, through the town of Ballinasloe. These roads are of first-rate description; but the preference;

when I passed over them in 1830, was rather due to the former ; indeed, in no country did I ever see finer, and it has fallen to my lot to have travelled over some of the most celebrated roads of Europe. These two highways may be considered as the main branches, which, in their course through the county, receive others tending respectively towards Dublin, or towards the Atlantic Ocean.

A third main road, as I have already explained, in the section upon the river Shannon, has been planned and partly executed, which will pass nearly midway between the former two, entering the county by the bridge over the Shannon at Tarmonbarry, and traversing it in a western direction. This road was making with the aid of a grant from the Consolidated Fund, to be repaid by instalments out of the county funds. To explain the nature and object of it more particularly, it is to be observed, that the main mail coach road from Dublin, after having approached towards the river Shannon, as far as the town of Longford, there turns off to the northward, passing along the western bank of the river, by Newtown Forbes, Drumsna, Jamestown, to Carrick, where it crosses the river. The new line will be a continuation of the main Dublin road from Longford, directly across the Shannon at Tarmonbarry, and thence through the very heart of the county of Roscommon, on towards the county of Mayo. Thus, new sea-ports and a new line of coast, may possibly be brought into connexion with the interior of the island, and Roscommon will enjoy advantages in reference to sea, river, and canal communications, superior to what are possessed by any other county in the kingdom.

In treating of the river Shannon, it has been already explained what remissness there has apparently been, in not opening more ways down to the water; and still more, what culpable neglect in leaving some of the most important communications in a state next to impassable. The mistaken operations of the Board of Inland Navigation, to whom the care of some of the roads was intrusted, have also been pointed out; in their having commenced with parts of the road which lay farthest removed from the water, instead of setting out from the water, and thus at once rendering the road available for the trade of the river, in proportion as it gradually progressed into the country.

In the northern parts of the county, towards Lough Allen, several roads have been opened in latter years, to facilitate the communication with the port of Sligo, in the laying out of which Mr. Nimmo was employed; and their courses, as might be expected from so able an engineer, are judiciously planned. But whether the foundations of the roads and bridges were less perfectly executed than had been proposed, or to what other circumstances it may have been attributable, these roads do not continue in equally good repair in every place; and, with floods, many of the smaller bridges had given way, shortly before I visited the county. Generally speaking, the roads amongst the hills in the northern parts of the county are by no means so good as those in the middle and southern parts of the county. The roads are very rough also, in some of the western parts of the county, beyond Castlerea more particularly, where they pass beyond the limits of the limestone district. Limestone and limestone gravel, as generally known, afford materials of the finest quality for road making, some of

the harder silicious sandstone is also good; but where only the larger pebbles and boulders of quartz, grau-wacke, whin stones, &c. are found, tough and difficult to be reduced to a small size, the roads which have no other supply, must, without a heavy outlay, remain of necessity in a rough state.

The roads intersecting the county and affording a communication with the town of Roscommon, are numerous, and many of them are in a state extremely creditable to those who have the superintendance. Pains have also been lately taken in several parts of the county, to obviate the inconvenience of hills on the old lines, by turning the roads round their bases. But exceptions might be instanced, where there is still room for great improvements, and not only as to the general line, but as to the state of repair of the present surface.

The general improvement of the roads of the county has been very remarkable, however, within the last twenty years, and markets and towns have increased in consequence.

SOIL.

From the description of the geological structure of the county, which may be found in a preceding section, it may readily be comprehended, that Roscommon must afford a considerable diversity of soil; as, where indeed is there not a diversity in a tract of such an extent. The soils of the sandstone and the limestone districts, for example, are of a very different character, the preference being generally in favour of the latter, although not invariably so; for in some instances, soil of a richer quality is found in the vicinity

of the sandstone hills, than amongst the limestone. The best ground, however, in the county, producing those fine natural pastures, for which Roscommon has been so long celebrated, lies within the limestone districts; such, for example, are the rich fattening pastures in the vicinity of Tulsk and Kilcorkey, and the plains of Boyle to the south-east of the town; not plains, however, so much on account of the evenness of the surface, as the absence of trees.

It might possibly be supposed, that from the *debris* of the sandstone mountains, after the revolutions which appear to have taken place, considerable tracts of sand might have been left; but sands, in the strict sense of the word, are extremely rare in Ireland; and I am not aware of the existence of a sandy road, even of the length of a few perches, in any part of Roscommon, except it be in the immediate vicinity of Lough-aeluyn, in the western part of the barony of Ballintobber; and there, the sand seemed rather to have been washed up from the lake, and drifted over the adjacent lands by the winds, than to have been deposited from a watery medium, which has spread over the country.

Some of the sandstone soils, as in the vicinity of the Curlew Mountains, to the north-west of Boyle, are of a very poor description; but capable of great improvement from the admixture of lime, or rather from compost of lime and bog earth, which is to be had readily. Whenever capital comes to be applied more extensively to agriculture in Roscommon, an ample field lies open for its employment in improving the soil in this way: great improvements might likewise be made by draining, in almost every part of the county; and

not merely by the deepening of streams in the low grounds, but by making drains in the uplands, where cold, wet, and spewy ground intervenes, throwing up rushes and aquatic plants, in places which would scarcely have been suspected of producing them.

Bogs and boggy soils abound, as may be gathered from the table of the superficial contents of the county; and there are considerable tracts of low marshy ground on the borders of rivers.

On the mountains, dry patches covered with heath, occasionally intervene; but the surface of the mountains far more commonly is wet and boggy.

Rich deep loams are met with, as well as extensive tracts of very light, shallow soil, more particularly along the ridges which separate the waters of the Suck and the Shannon, where the limestone rocks are so sparingly covered, that the plough for considerable distances cannot be used at all. These tracts are commonly devoted to sheep feeding.

In fine, there is scarcely any one of the inland counties of Ireland, which affords a greater variety of soil than Roscommon. These general preliminary remarks having been made, what remains to be said upon the subject will fall with more propriety under the descriptions of the several baronies.

In the mean time it may be interesting to make a few references to the observations of Arthur Young, upon this county, written more than half a century ago.

“There are tracts of such incomparable land in the County Cork, that I have seen very little equal to them, except in Tipperary, Limerick, and *Roscommon*.”—Vol. ii. p. 271.

“ From Elphin, towards Kingston, especially near the latter, the soil ranks amongst the finest I have any where seen. It is dry, sound, mellow, sandy loam; deep and very rich, the herbage excellent. This tract lies within about four miles of the Boyle river, which flows into the Shannon; and is about 20 miles from the port of Sligo.”*—Vol. i. p. 308.

“ A great part of Roscommon, particularly from Athlone to Boyle, 30 miles long and 10 broad, is sheep walk. The soil is limestone. These sheep walks I had heard so much of, that I was eager to make my inquiries concerning them. They were some years ago divided into much larger farms than at present, for there were men who had 20,000 sheep: whereas, now 6 or 7,000 is the greatest flock.”—Vol. i. p. 298.†

CLIMATE.

Without a reference to meteorological tables formed on accurate observations, it would be difficult to come to any just conclusions on the relative difference between the climate of Roscommon and that of the adjacent counties; and I could not learn that any observations of the kind had been regularly registered. That there is a marked difference between the climate of the northern counties of Ireland, and those on the southern coast, will admit, I apprehend, of no doubt; but in estimating the nature of the climate of the county of Roscommon, the comparison is rather to be

* This includes part of the plains of Boyle.

† The roads which have been since made through the country, and the numerous markets which have been opened, have increased tillage in a very remarkable degree in Roscommon.

made with the counties which lie nearly within the same parallels of latitude, than with those which are situated farther to the north or farther to the south.

Dublin, Meath, Westmeath, and Longford, all to the east of the Shannon, lie entirely within the same parallels of latitude which include Roscommon; and Louth, Leitrim, the King's County, and Kildare, likewise to the east, and Sligo, Mayo, and Galway, to the west, partly within them. Now the elevation of Lough Allen is only 160 feet above the sea, and the coal mountains near it, which I presume to be the highest land in the county, have been computed about 1000 feet above the lake. The mountains of Roscommon, however, occupy a comparatively small part of the surface; and the remainder is but elevated above Lough Allen, so that the altitude of the surface above the sea, cannot be the cause of any great variations in the climate of Roscommon.

Mountains, however, will sensibly affect the temperature of the regions in their vicinity; and those of the adjacent counties of Sligo, Mayo, and Galway, may severally exercise a powerful influence over the climate of Roscommon, and render the sea breezes from the west, cooler perhaps than they would otherwise be. The evaporation from the vast extent of water, bog, and marshes, on the borders of the sleepy rivers, might naturally be supposed likewise to lower the temperature. These suppositions meet with a partial confirmation, from the opinions expressed by persons who had been long resident both in Roscommon and in Dublin, and deserving of deference, that the temperature is less mild in Roscommon than it is in Dublin, and that more rain falls,

particularly in the northern parts of the county, occasioned by the vicinity of the mountains, which attract the vapours coming from the sea.

The period of the maturation of the ordinary fruits, may likewise serve as a sort of guide to determine the difference of climate, after making due allowance for the influence of culture and soil; and in well cultivated gardens in Roscommon, I observed that certain fruits, jargonelle pears for example, and plums, were barely ripe, whilst the same kinds had already, for the most part, passed off in and about Dublin; a circumstance which serves to give confirmation to the opinions of the persons already mentioned, that the temperature in Roscommon is lower.

As for any conclusions to be drawn from the comparative period of the harvest, whether of corn or hay, these are liable to so many variations from the state of the soil, and different systems of agriculture, that it would only lead to error to use them. In the very same district, with the same soil and the same climate, superior husbandry and superior diligence, will almost invariably command not only better, but earlier crops; and a very remarkable instance in point, occurred in the town of Roscommon whilst I stopped there, new oats having by certain persons, few in number, been brought into the market a full fortnight before the general supply; and the period happening to be one of considerable scarcity, these persons obtained full half as much more for their produce, as they would otherwise have done. Their ground had been better tilled and sown earlier, and it is almost needless to observe, that the superior prices they received, must have operated more or less as a

bounty and excitement upon the exertions of others in future years.

In the hay harvest a difference still more remarkable is observable between the meadows of wealthy proprietors and substantial farmers, and those of the poorer classes; but generally through the county the hay harvest is weeks, nay months, behind that in the immediate vicinity of Dublin.

BARONY OF BOYLE.

WE may now proceed to a review of the several baronies, individually, commencing with that of Boyle, which occupies the northern part of the county, and taking each in succession towards the south.

The barony of Boyle, in size inferior to that of Balintobber alone, extends in its greatest length for 26 miles Irish, or 33 English, in a direction nearly north-east and south-west, from the confines of Lough Allen to the borders of the county Mayo, near Lough Errit; the greatest breadth in any part taken perpendicularly to the former line is little more than 9 Irish or $11\frac{1}{2}$ English miles.

The surface is divisible as follows:

	Irish Acres.
Arable land	65,137
Bog	25,548
Water	3,598
Total	94,283 or 152,723 English acres.

The coal mountains of Lough Allen, the Curlew Mountains to the north and north-west of the town of Boyle, and the hill of Fairymount in the south-western part of the barony, which last Mr. Longfield has supposed to be the highest land in the county, because waters flow from its base in opposite directions towards the river Suck on the other, have already been severally brought under notice.

These heights are all of the sandstone formation, to which may likewise be added the hill of Ballyfermoyle, situated at the distance of less than three miles from Battle Bridge on the Shannon, towards the north-west; the other part of the barony consist of limestone.

The largest individual lakes of Roscommon are situated within this barony, as Lough Key, Oakport Lough, Lough Meelagh, and Lough Skeen, besides others of inferior note.

No other part of the county affords such decisive indications of wealth and improvement, and yet in none are more lamentable pictures of destitution, ignorance, and poverty to be seen; in none, lands of greater fertility; in none of a much poorer quality; examples might be adduced of the very best and of the very worst roads; and whilst some parts of the surface rise into lofty hills and mountains, others are spread into dead flats, annually inundated to a ruinous extent by sluggish rivers.

The barony of Boyle contains the seats of some of the most distinguished landed proprietors of the county; of Viscount Dillon; of Viscount Lorton, the new and first Lord Lieutenant; of Mr. French, of French Park, M. P., whose family has for so long a time furnished a representative for the county in Parliament; of Colonel Tenison, of Castle Tenison. In the north several extensive individual estates might likewise be enumerated within the barony; for example, those of Mr. Lloyd of Croghan; of Mr. Barton, at Coote Hall, &c. &c.

As the beautiful demesne of Rockingham, the adjacent estates, and the town of Boyle, all the property

of Lord Lorton, are more remarkable for improvement than any other part of the barony, or indeed of the whole county, these may with propriety be the first brought under review, and a beginning be made with the town, since a knowledge of its position and circumstances will tend probably to render the other parts of the subject more easily understood.

The town of Boyle, the largest in the northern part of Roscommon, and one of the most considerable of the county, consists of two divisions situated at opposite sides of the river which flows out of Lough Gara, and connected by a low bridge of five arches. The old high road from Dublin to Sligo passed down from the brow of a hill to the bottom or hollow where the bridge is placed, and rose again on the farther side, up a slope of still greater steepness; and although with modern improvements, the new road from the capital has been latterly brought in, on an easy inclination, along the southern banks of the river, where the ground is favourable for building, and on the opposite side the way had been facilitated, yet the town still continues subject to the inconveniences attendant upon an original bad choice of position, or rather upon the accidental circumstances which gave it birth.

The following is an enumeration of the houses in Boyle:

On the Left or Northern Bank of the River.

247 thatched cabins.

84 small thatched houses having a second story,
or a loft with windows.

9 small slated houses of two stories.

10 larger slated houses of two stories.

15 houses of three stories.

9 houses of a larger and better description, of three and of four stories.

On the Right or Southern Bank of the River.

82 thatched cabins.

10 small thatched houses, having a second story or a loft with windows.

26 small slated houses of two stories.

12 larger slated houses of two stories.

15 houses of three stories.

Summary Total.

329 thatched cabins.*

94 small thatched houses having a second story, or a loft with windows.

* The term *cabin* is applied to houses of a single story, having one, two, and in some instances, as many as four divisions on the ground floor, which is the only one. There is seldom more than one fire-place, which is commonly in the largest or family room. Sometimes the walls are formed of clay, sometimes of stones. About thirty of these cabins within the town of Boyle, might be classed as destitute of chimneys, that is, of chimneys appearing above the thatch of the roof; but it was not easy to distinguish between those which had a hole cut in the thatch for the escape of the smoke, and those which had no passage for it but the house door or window.

In this enumeration of the houses at Boyle, and at other places, introduced in different parts of this Survey, I have not trusted to any other persons, but have counted for myself. My practice usually was, to rise very early, before many of the inhabitants were abroad, the better to avoid interruption, and to note down on paper, in columns prepared for the purpose, as I passed on, the houses in each street. How far my reckoning may agree with those employed on the population returns, remains to be

35 small slated houses of two stories.

30 larger slated houses of two stories.

9 houses of a larger and better description of three and of four stories.

The oldest part of the town stands on the north side of the river, and the original main street appears to have been the one leading from the bridge up the hill, being the line of the old Sligo road. The Irish quarter, which in corporate towns and boroughs ordinarily occupied the worst and meanest position, extended from the bridge, upwards, according to the course of the stream, yet not however, in the immediate vicinity of the river, but merely parallel to it. The more improved part of the town, containing the greater number of the new built houses, is situated on the southern side of the bridge.

seen. In several instances it is difficult to decide what should constitute a house ; that is, it is common in the country towns to see a shop, a hall door, and a window beside it, in one range, apparently forming one house from the style of the building and the uniformity of the roof ; and yet it may happen to be divided into two distinct tenements, occupied by separate families. On the other hand, two houses originally quite distinct, may be, and very commonly are, thrown into one, for the convenience of business, and the accommodation of a numerous family. Without entering into such houses, making special inquiries, and noting down whether two houses were to pass for one, or one house for two, it would be in vain to hope for accuracy.

There is yet another difficulty to be noticed. Many, indeed most of these country towns, terminate with straggling streets ; and single houses, or houses in groups of twos and threes may sometimes be seen extending to a considerable distance along the highway ; so that it is hard to pronounce where the actual town should be considered as ending ; the division of parishes or townlands may be assumed as a sort of guide ; but these, on the contrary, in some instances, intersect the very streets of a town, and become sources of embarrassment.

The origin, growth, and improvement of towns, in many instances open an interesting field of inquiry; for being commonly the seats of trade and of the mechanic arts, the points from which information, intelligence, and civilization radiate, their increase and prosperity not only give assurance of individual wealth, but serve in some degree as measures of the improvement of the surrounding country. Neither is it less interesting and important in cases of decline and decay, to investigate the circumstances which have occasioned alterations and reverses. And as it is only through the medium of accurate descriptions drawn at different periods of time, that a true estimate can be formed of their advancement or depression, so every account of the state and condition of a town at any given time, has its value; and to record information on such a subject becomes a principal object in a county statistical survey.

The origin of the town of Boyle is probably ascribable to the era when the rich and powerful abbey of the same name exercised its civil dominion over its own vast estates, as well as its yet more powerful religious influence over the surrounding districts. The numerous people who were inmates of these large monastic establishments, whether belonging to the order, or merely acting in menial and subordinate situations, had their relatives, their friends, their connexions; and in times subject to disorder, violence, and danger, when the weak would naturally seek for protection, many were likely to congregate around the abbey; and habitations for their accommodation, within a convenient distance, would gradually arise. Such may have been the beginning of Boyle. Indeed most

of the larger and wealthy abbeys had their dependant villages, and no reason appears why that of Boyle should have been an exception. Nevertheless, in the history of the wars of this country, where mention is frequently made of the troops which have been accommodated on their march, at the abbey of Boyle, and even of considerable garrisons which have been lodged in it as a military position, no notice is taken, as far as I am aware, of any town, although there might have been adjacent habitations and extensive dependancies, which all passed under the name of the abbey.

In the year 1603, the abbey, with some of its most considerable estates and possessions, were granted to Sir John King, the ancestor of the present Earl of Kingston and Viscount Lorton; and fifteen years afterwards another grant confirmed the former one, and conferred the right of holding courts Baron and Leet, with other privileges. Here the descendants of Sir John settled, and in the succeeding century they built a superb mansion, which exists in firm and substantial repair to the present day, but for many years past occupied as a barrack.

The residence of the new lord of the soil, naturally served as a point of attraction, and brought inhabitants; the rights and privileges of burghers, in a borough returning two members to the Irish Parliament were to be dispensed, and became further inducements to settle; neither did political motives cease to operate when the borough was extinguished at the period of the Union, since votes of 40s. freeholders were still of value at county elections, and few readier means of multiplying their number could be found, than in the disposal or division of lots in or around a town.

With the exception of the venerable walls of the abbey, I could not learn that any traces existed of old buildings indicative of a village or town in a different position from that of the present one; neither in the latter is there any thing which bears the appearance of antiquity, although in the old main street running from the bridge up to the church, which stands a little below the crest of the hill on the further side, many houses may be seen, originally meanly constructed, now hastening to decay. The new ground opened for building on the flats, so much more commodious, particularly on the opposite side of the river, has brought the old steep and inconvenient line of the former main street into disrepute. And yet beyond all comparison the best built private house in the town, one of cut stone, which from the style of the architecture, and its size, would do credit to any city in the dominions, has been built in this old street, and in a narrow part, but at the foot of it near the flat and at but a short distance from the bridge. This consists of a private house and an adjacent commercial establishment, of which more will be said presently.

Possibly a more distinct idea of the localities of Boyle may be conveyed, by stating, that the old abbey stood close to the water, on the left bank of the river, about a quarter of a mile or less below the present town bridge; that the residence of the Earl of Kingston, now the barrack, was built on the same bank of the river, but somewhat higher up the stream; and that the avenue of approach to the latter ran along the flat ground, parallel to the river, starting from the bridge. In the descriptions which were

written of the abbey half a century ago, it is represented as standing within the demesne or park of the Earl of Kingston; but the circumstances of the place have since undergone a total change. The precincts of the abbey have been invaded by public roads, and parts of the building demolished to enlarge the way; no traces remain of the demesne in which the abbey stood, nor other indication of pleasure ground formerly attached to the mansion, except it be along the side of the hill on the top of which the church stands, where some superb trees still remain, with grass and walks beneath. This place, separated, at present, from the barrack by the public road, which had been carried round the base of the hill to avoid the heights of the old main street, is enclosed by lofty walls; but on Sundays and certain other days, it is thrown open to afford a more ready passage to the church. It might be deemed a subject of regret, that so beautiful a piece of ground, affording such an agreeable place for walking, should not at all times be accessible for recreation; but we have still to wait, and I fear for a long time, before that state of civilization and refinement shall arrive, when public walks and lawns may be thrown freely open, as upon the continent, without risk of injury to a tree, or the spoliation of a flower, or even a leaf.

The best street in Boyle, indeed the only one which has pretensions to regularity, is that which arose several years ago on the line of the approach from the bridge to the old mansion house or barrack. On one side, the rear of the houses extends down to the water; on the other to the wooded hill just mentioned. Some of the houses here are large and lofty,

but the street is disfigured by others of an inferior description. Of the newly built houses on the opposite side of the river, which have started up within the last few years, several appear of two and of three stories in height, and of substantial construction. Hammered limestone is the most common material; but there is a choice of limestone of a finer description which will admit of being carved; and of sandstone, or freestone as it is more commonly termed. The new session-house, bridewell, and dispensary, placed on the south side of the town, are formed of this sandstone which is of a very agreeable colour; the office of Lord Lorton's agent at the opposite side of the river, is also built of the same material; whilst the large new house which I have mentioned, at the foot of the old main street, which was in an unfinished state when I visited the town, is built of pale bluish grey limestone, chiselled, which affords an even and very durable surface.

One of the greatest misfortunes at Boyle, and now hopeless of remedy, has been the extension of the town over an inconvenient surface; had the flats along the river been originally laid out for streets, and above all, had rows of houses been made to face the river, a town at once commodious and pleasing might have been erected. Another evil has been, the mixture of mean houses with those of a better description.

Few of the houses on the line of the streets of Boyle, indeed, with the exception of that new one near the foot of the bridge, already alluded to, it might be said none bear any traces of ornament, whether in their original construction or in the adventitious accompaniments of paint, shrubs, or

flowers. The broad and sloping spaces on the southern side of the bridge, and the narrow ways of the old town, are alike unfavourable to neatness; and although several towns are less cleanly, others might be cited where order is far better preserved.

The quarter known under the appellation of the *Irish town** presents pictures of human misery and debasement at once afflicting and disgusting to behold. Tenements were to be seen here in the year 1830, of a description so vile, that doubts might well be entertained, if they could be occupied at all by human beings; and certain am I, that in some countries, such places would be considered as too wretched for the meanest of the domestic animals: bent in roofs, seemingly ready to give way; ragged and leaky thatch; crumbling damp walls, overgrown with lichens; green without, and black within, from the soot deposited by the volumes of turf smoke which before it can find an exit at the door, rolls around the hovel, involving all things in one common obscurity.

It is impossible to survey the wholesome and vigorous improvements which have been made in and around Boyle, and they are many and striking, without feelings of regret that they had not been ushered

* In many of the ancient corporate towns and boroughs, certain quarters known by this name, were occupied by the so called mere Irish, in contradistinction to the more favoured inhabitants of a different *caste*. In walled towns, the quarters very commonly stood outside. These places, in some instances, preserve their name and their misery to the present day; in others they have undergone improvement, though the name is retained. The Irish town, for instance, on the Leinster side of Athlone, once situated outside the walls, is now an open and cheerful street, yearly becoming better.

in with the removal of these wretched hovels, which are a positive discredit to the town; and which from their filth and squalidness, are, in all probability, pregnant with disease, and therefore likely to be no less prejudicial to the health of the other inhabitants, than offensive to the eyes.

But objects revolting to the senses of one unused to them, often, through the mere force of habit, become matters of indifference to those who have had them continually under view; for habit reconciles mankind to a world of strange things. Neither would it be, perhaps, after all, a task of such very facile execution to get rid of tenements, where leases, and perhaps long ones exist, and where many different interests are implicated. It often happens, likewise, that the people, poor as they are, display great jealousy of their vested rights, as it is quite fitting that they should do; and also an attachment to the tenements which were occupied by their ancestors, of which persons moving in a higher sphere of life, are utterly devoid.*

The existence of the Irish town in the state it appeared during the year 1830, was a blot upon the town of Boyle; I must add, moreover, that it was not to that quarter alone, that cabins without chimneys were confined; on the contrary, in back lanes and yards off the

* I recollect being on a visit to the late Mr. Anderson, when he was building his town of Fermoy, and in his company going into several miserable smoky hovels, the inhabitants of which expressed the greatest sorrow at the prospect of these being pulled down, although Mr. Anderson had promised that they should have good, slated, comfortable tenements in lieu, and on the same terms. Mr. Anderson's language was, at once, that of kindness and reason; yet it seemed to afford them no real comfort, neither to reconcile them to the change.

old high street, as well as on the southern side of the bridge, many a hovel was to be seen no better provided. These are evils arising out of the injudicious and heedless system of letting town lots, which formerly prevailed in Ireland; granting leases merely to gain money, or to gain freeholders, without any restriction as to the subdivision of the ground, or the quality or character of the buildings which were to be erected: and hence, there is scarcely a town to be found from one end of Ireland to the other, which has not been disfigured, to the great loss of succeeding generations.

Some of these wretched tenements, built within yards and courts, will bring, as I was informed, 50s. per annum in rent, paid to middle and sub-middle men, who receive the proceeds weekly; an enormous return is thus obtained for the little capital which has been expended on their construction.*

From the existence of such wretched abodes, it may be naturally inferred, that there are many poor in Boyle; and indeed, in few places have I ever beheld a much greater number of mendicants in proportion to the size of the town, or of a description more revolting. The inn at which I lodged, situated at the foot

* "In all the suburbs of our towns," says Bishop Doyle, in his evidence before the Committee on the State of the Poor in Ireland, "there are cabins having no loft, suppose of 20 feet long by 12 wide, with a partition. I have not seen myself so many as seven families in one of these cabins, but I have been assured that there are many instances of it. I have known a lane, with a small district adjoining, in the town in which I live, to have been peopled by 30 or 40 families who came from the country; and I think that in the course of 12 months there were not 10 families of the 30 surviving.

of the bridge, afforded me a daily opportunity of seeing the throngs which beset the public carriages on their arrival and departure. Frequently have I counted upwards of fifty at a time ; and of all ages, from the infant in arms, to the decrepit being on crutches, whose years had outnumbered the usual span of human life. But the destitution and misery, the rags and haggard aspect of many of these hapless creatures, standing perhaps under torrents of rain, in expectation of a few halfpence to be dealt out, or possibly thrown for a scramble amongst the many, was not the most painful part of the scene ; it was the disgusting depravity, the indecent jests, and vile ribaldry of many of both sexes, but more particularly of strong able women with children in their arms ; and I regret to add, that such language in very many instances appeared to have more effect in opening the purse, and therefore was it used, than the silent wants of infirmity and age.

As the carriages drove off, a cry or shout was commonly raised by the throng ; of gladness from those who had received, of bitterness and reproach from those who had not. I recollect one morning early, a fine carriage, with four beautiful bays, handsomely appointed, driving up to the door, from which three young men alighted to breakfast. A gilded mitre shone upon the pannels. Rapidly did the intelligence spread, and an immense crowd of beggars gathered to share in the expected bounty. The carriage, at last, drove off, and the cries amounted to yells. Presently afterwards, came a fanciful little four-wheeled vehicle, bearing four clergymen ; but, as I was informed, not of the Established Church. Cries pursued them like-

wise on their departure, to the turning of the corner, and even beyond it. I was assured, that certain persons high in rank and station, were actually deterred from entering into the town of Boyle, excepting upon urgent occasions, by the crowds of beggars, and the gross language with which those were frequently assailed who did not respond, by the amount of their alms, to the expectations which had been formed. The shops also were infested, and through mistaken notions of charity, beggars were sometimes allowed to squat down within them, the more certainly to secure the parting penny.*

There need be no hesitation in pronouncing that beggary, in the shape I have described it, is disgraceful to the country where it exists, injurious to the public weal, and utterly at variance with all rational notions of a well-governed state. I shall not, however, stop to offer any further comments on the subject in this place, but reserve what I may find it expedient to state for a distinct section, in a future part of this work.

COMMERCE, ETC.

The commercial relations of Boyle are confined, it might be said, nearly exclusively to the port of Sligo,

* This forcibly reminded me of the Indians in the back settlements of North America, who used to come into the stores and sit down in the same manner, in expectation of sharing a glass of rum or a piece of tobacco ; but the Indians, or the savages as some will still call them, were by far the better clothed of the two, and incomparably more civilized in manner.

situated within twenty miles on the western coast, and to Dublin. Timber, iron, and the heavier and least valuable goods, are brought from Sligo; and the finer articles of British manufacture for the most part, though not entirely, from Dublin. The road to Sligo is one of first rate quality, and the carriage is commonly effected by means of drays, on the Scotch model, which convey from twenty to thirty hundred each, drawn by one horse. These drays have nearly superseded the use of the old Irish car on the roads; and are, likewise, much used for agricultural purposes.

In the section on the river Shannon, it has been already explained, that Drumsna, and not Carrick, is the port on the river, where goods, shipped at Dublin for Boyle, to proceed by the canal and Shannon navigation, are usually deliverable. But many traders and shopkeepers at Boyle give a preference to the land carriage direct from Dublin, by means of which their goods, despatched from the warehouses of their correspondents, can be delivered at once at their own doors; thus avoiding the risks and delays of shipping on the canal at Dublin, the subsequent discharge from the boats on the Shannon, attended with costs of storage and commission, and the further shifting to the drays at Drumsna. Light fancy articles, and such as are in immediate demand, are brought down by the public coaches, which usually enter Boyle from Dublin, heavily laden, whether for that place or for Sligo.

Boyle is very fairly provided with shops; when I was there in the summer of 1830, at least nine of that general description, known by the name of cloth shops, were open, and more in the new built houses were in a state of preparation. None of these were

confined solely to the sale of cloth, but other branches of business were combined therewith, in different proportions and variety.

From one extremity of the island to the other, possibly, no establishment exists in a town of the same size, provided with so great a variety of articles, or on so extended a scale as the shop and warehouses of Mr. Mulhall, already alluded to, in the description of the new building of handsome cut stone, lately erected at the foot of the old main street, near the bridge. The retail shop, for its breadth, depth, and height, would be considered large even in a capital city; and an upper wareroom over it, of nearly similar dimensions, is laid out for the further display of goods, communicating with the divisions below, not merely by stairs, but by a broad circular aperture, bounded by a balustrade, by means of which parties in each story can hold intercourse. On the opposite side of the street, belonging to the same individual, stood a range of warehouses for more bulky and coarser goods. Woollens, cottons, silks, in all their multifarious forms; hosiery, haberdashery, perfumery; hardwares and soft wares; groceries and drugs; timber, iron, pitch, tar, with an endless list of *et ceteras*, were all to be had here, both wholesale and retail, in such abundance and in such great variety, as to leave nothing deficient which was likely to be required; and I was challenged to ask at a venture, and put the resources of this grand emporium to the test.

Really it is refreshing in this land of murmuring and repining, to see what may be effected, when industry and prudence, judgment and enterprise, go hand in hand. Yet it would not be fulfilling the task

I have undertaken, of representing, as far as I am able, the state of things as they really are, did I not mention, that in by far the greater number of shops I entered at Boyle, complaints were common of the stagnation of commerce and decrease of the country trade. It was an unvarying tale, that the peasantry who frequented the town were poorer than formerly; at least, that they did not spend money as they heretofore used to do. Now, that the peasantry have lost the benefits arising from the linen manufacture, which had, heretofore, spread extensively through this district, but which notoriously declined, must be admitted as true; and no other branch of manufacturing industry has yet supplied its place. On the other hand, the increase of shops does not support the position, that the demands of the country folk are less than they were; since it is quite idle to suppose, that shops would be opened without a prospect of customers; and it is evident, not only that the shops are more numerous than they used to be in Boyle, but from all I could learn, they are incomparably better furnished. Even whilst I staid there, preparations, as I have stated, were making for several additional ones in the new buildings, and generally on a scale superior to the old, excepting always, the grand magazine of Mr. Mulhall, the shop *par excellence*. The complaints then, if analysed, would probably amount to this; that the shopkeeper does not gain as largely as he used to do, in consequence of the increase of competitors. The prices of many articles, likewise, are lowered, so that there is not the same profit upon selling the same quantity that formerly was obtained. If those traders who belong to the same town were

invariably in each others confidence, of course it would be easy to calculate the extent of the capital which was turned in the year, and the increase or decay of trade might then be ascertained. But without such distinct information, the general observer can only draw his inferences from the outward appearance of business, the number of shops, and the style in which they are furnished.

One, and only one shop, appeared exclusively for millinery and haberdashery near the bridge, as usual a lounge for the younger branches of the military in garrison, where the whiff of the cigar was seemingly not prohibited of a summer's evening at the open doors. I merely note this, because it has appeared to me from long observation both at home and abroad, that the milliner's shop is a sort of test of the gaiety of a place. Wherever these magazines of female fashions abound, and are well provided with novelties, a sure inference may be drawn that gay ladies exist in the place, and pleasure is afloat. Whether, however, the converse of the proposition holds true, cannot be so easily determined, because amongst other complaints of shopkeepers at Boyle and elsewhere, the ladies were accused of supplying themselves with finery from Dublin, through the assistance of their friends.

Tradesmen of the ordinary descriptions are abundant in Boyle, such as carpenters, turners, wheelwrights, masons, stone-cutters, smiths, tinmen, tailors, shoemakers, coopers, &c., &c. Buildings are well executed. The most remarkable deficiency, as compared with towns of the same size, whether in England or on the Continent, seemed to be in furniture and cabinet wares. Individuals may be found capable of produc-

ing very good articles of this description, who perhaps work in private, but the only ostensible shop I recollect observing in all the county of Roscommon was at Athlone. The facility of getting down furniture from Dublin, especially by water carriage, which conveys it so smoothly, may be the cause that more is not made in the country. No regular coachmaker's yard was established in Boyle, nor was any of the finer sort of coach work executed; but there were workmen capable of performing any of the ordinary repairs.

I saw but one watchmaker's window in Boyle, and that on a very humble scale, merely as an appendage to other business. This seems to bespeak poverty; but the Irish are early risers, and count time by habit, with tolerable exactness. Yet the great value of time is, in general, still to be learned in Ireland.*

Coopers were chiefly occupied in the manufacture of butter casks and firkins, which are made of very thin wood, and proportioned with considerable nicety, not merely to a given weight of butter, but to a given tare, the difference of even half a pound in the weight of a cask being rarely observable; the weight of the cask is commonly marked on each by the cooper.

Common elementary books for children's use were on sale in several of the general shops, and in the principal street, nearly opposite to each other were two shops expressly for books and stationery; the windows of the one filled with caricature prints; of the other with bibles, religious tracts, and hymn books, of which

* In North Wales every little town, nay almost every village, has its watch and clock maker, because the clock and the watch are as essential parts of the cottage furniture as the *bed* itself; but in Ireland even the latter is occasionally deficient.

an ample store is always sure to be in readiness in the town of Boyle. Through the means of the booksellers and their correspondents, books may readily be obtained by the return of the coaches from Dublin, which pass daily. The mail performs the journey in about twelve or thirteen hours.

A weekly newspaper is published in Boyle.

Money and banking business at Boyle is done almost exclusively through the aid of the branch of the provincial bank established at Sligo, whose notes, as a natural consequence, are in general circulation at Boyle; those of the Athlone branch of the same bank, at the opposite end of the county, are also seen; the paper of the national bank here, as in every other part of Ireland, is as commonly current.

The staple articles of corn and butter find a ready market at Boyle, and a lively competition frequently takes place in the height of the season, between the dealers established in the town and those who come over from Sligo. There is an evident disposition amongst the principal traders in Boyle, to rid themselves, as far as possible, of the intervention of the wholesale merchants of Sligo, and to ship through the aid of brokers on their own account, as well as to import. The road between the two places is excellent, the distance not exceeding twenty miles, and the opportunities of communication numerous in each day, even putting out of consideration the independent means of conveyance.

The ordinary market for provisions is held in an oblong enclosure expressly constructed for the purpose, near the bridge, on the north-west side; it appeared as if meat and fish could be purchased

throughout the week, though by no means in the same choice and abundance, as upon the regular days. Fish is brought from the coast by individuals on a venture, and I saw lobsters in seeming plenty, and of fine quality. The lakes and rivers also supply fish; and beyond all comparison the finest and largest trout it ever fell to my lot to see in Ireland, was brought to Boyle from Lough Arrow, on the borders of Sligo; I can only compare it to what I have seen in some of the Swiss lakes.

Public Houses, though less numerous in Boyle than usual in towns of the same size, more especially having garrisons, exist nevertheless to an extent injurious to the health, morals, and best interests of the lower classes. The consumption of ardent spirits, and the consequent waste of time and money in these places, is an evil the more to be deprecated, the more closely it is examined.

Inns of different descriptions have been long opened in Boyle, but the head inn, Freeman's, situated in the immediate vicinity of the river, on the southern side of the bridge, is not only beyond all comparison the best inn in the county of Roscommon, but might pass for a good house of accommodation in any country whatsoever. It was built, as I was informed, expressly for an inn, about forty-five years ago, by the father of the present proprietor, under the countenance of the lord of the soil. It has two entrances, one a small hall door to the street, not convenient, owing to the fall of the ground; the other at the end of the house under a gateway; an arrangement peculiarly suitable to an inn, as it facilitates the packing and unpacking of carriages, and ingress and egress in bad weather.

In each story a central passage or lobby extends the whole length of the house, from which the apartments open on either side. The rooms are not lofty, nor yet very spacious, but sufficiently commodious for travellers' use. The sitting rooms were furnished with substantial mahogany furniture, and the carpets, paper hangings, &c. were good and fresh. All the bedrooms I entered were clean and comfortable. The one I occupied, to the front part of the house, had a neat new bed, and was kept with scrupulous care during my stay, the toilet table always nicely set out, plenty of neatly folded white towels, washing apparatus in variety and abundance, &c. &c.* Yet with the advantage of a river running close under the end of the house, no measures appeared to have been ever thought of for

* Owing to the kind and hospitable attentions I experienced at Boyle, I was but an unprofitable customer at this inn ; for I scarcely ever rose of a morning, or returned from an excursion, without finding a messenger in waiting with an invitation for breakfast or dinner. I cannot refrain from describing the circumstances under which this grateful intercourse began. It was late on a Saturday night when I entered Boyle for the first time. Torrents of rain fell the next day ; but towards evening the clouds dispersing, and some gleams of sunshine appearing, I sallied forth to look around me. Accident brought me near the church ; and observing preparations for evening service, and some very nicely dressed ladies just on the point of entering, I followed an example which in every clime and every age has exercised an influence more or less powerful. Service over, I had lingered behind in the church to examine some monumental inscriptions, when a clergyman, the Rev. M. J. Shaw, accosted me by observing that he presumed I was a stranger, and nearly in the same breath invited me to tea. It was impossible to refuse an invitation given with so much urbanity and frankness. We walked out under the old trees, and there I was presented to the rector, the Rev. Thomas Hackett, who joined the party, and with whose most amiable family I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted the next day. Such was the commencement of my acquaintance at Boyle.

raising water for any of those purposes which add so materially to the comforts of daily life. Indeed, certain deficiencies were just as reprehensible on Mr. Freeman's premises as in other inns of far inferior quality in the county of Roscommon.

The Church of Boyle, standing, as already described, near the old park, somewhat below the crest of the hill, is a capacious building, in good order; and commonly filled by a numerous and respectable congregation. It has undergone several reparations and alterations, both within and without, but not in the best taste of ecclesiastical architecture.*

* It is to be lamented, that in modern ecclesiastical architecture in Ireland, whether in reference to buildings wholly new or mere alterations, so little attention, in general, should have been paid to those forms and proportions, upon which beauty and symmetry were considered in past ages to depend, and which still continue to afford pleasure to the eye of cultivated taste. That these were not the result of a capricious and changeable fancy, but founded on fixed principles, can scarcely admit of doubt; yet every tyro in the profession now-a-days, who can twirl a pair of compasses, seems to think himself competent, without study, to design his so named Gothic, and truly barbarous architecture; and hence, the monstrous productions with which the land is disfigured, and the disgusting mixture of the styles of different ages, which have no relation to each other whatsoever. The poor monks, whom it has been so much the fashion to disparage, really appear to have had finer perceptions of what was beautiful in art, than many of those who have succeeded them in the direction of our public religious edifices. Amongst the new churches which have started up of late years in the central parts of Ireland, it has not been my fortune to have seen one, and a great many have passed under my observation, which did not offend in many particulars. The absence of simplicity, and the creation of numerous and false ornaments, as if purposely to increase expense, appears to be the great sin; and more particularly of the Established Church. Should doubts be entertained of the correctness of the latter part of this opinion, I beg leave to invite a comparison between the new church and the new Roman Catholic chapel (as I believe

The Roman Catholic Chapel, is an humble edifice in the Irish town. Probably, however, with the increasing wealth and numbers of the inhabitants of that communion, a better site will, in time, be found for a better building.

A Meeting House thirdly remains to be mentioned, pleasingly situated on a slope, near the foot of the park hill opposite the barracks. It was used, as I understood, heretofore, for the Methodists, but is at present less frequently opened than formerly.*

The old bridge of Boyle consists of five low and rather narrow arches, through which the river passes

it is called) at Newry, standing near each other at opposite sides of the same street.

* It was remarked many years ago in the *Quarterly Review*, that increased zeal and diligence on the part of the clergy of the Established Church, would probably be found the most effectual check to the progress of Methodism. Now, since that remark was written, it is notorious that a new era has arisen in Ireland, and that the junior clergy of the Establishment more especially have displayed an energy and activity in their calling, unknown at any former period. At Boyle, not only is the parish church more frequently used than was customary in the last generation, but clergy of the Establishment officiate in other places, school-rooms and the like, at prayer meetings and lectures, which are held during the evenings of the week-days. Lay preachers of the same communion are also busy through the neighbouring district, and the chanting of hymns in the congregations assembled in humble cabins on the road side, may commonly be heard in mid-day. During the few days I remained at Boyle, three public Bible or missionary meetings took place, at which the noble proprietor of the soil presided; and the carriages which stood at the door gave evident proof of the numbers and wealth of the attendants. That the religious enthusiasm excited by these various means, is likely to produce a powerful effect on the habits and manners of those who come within the influence thereof, will scarcely be denied. Of the ulterior consequences I pretend not to speak in these pages; I have only to record facts.

in a quick stream ; shallow and rippling in dry seasons, but when swollen by rains and floods from the lake, rushing with a violence which has on more than one occasion endangered the safety of the edifice ; and at present, it is said to stand in need of repair. For greater convenience, the abutments and piers were kept on a low level ; but a much better bridge might readily be constructed with fewer and wider arches, and withal, be more commodious than the present one. Below the town, between the barrack and the abbey, another bridge has been latterly thrown across the river, consisting of a single arch. This bridge opens a direct passage from the Dublin road, to the part of the town next the barracks ; by means of it the traveller might also pass on to Sligo, without coming at all into the town of Boyle.

On the upper side of the old bridge, on a low pedestal, nearly within reach of the passengers, stands a statue of King William III., smaller than nature, in an erect posture, a crown of laurel on the head, the order of the garter round the knee, and plated armour on the thighs. The last is but the imitation by the chisel of the sculptor ; but a defence of real iron was deemed essential to protect his Majesty of immortal memory, in his perilous position ; since it was notorious he neither had been, nor was ever likely to become, the favourite idol of *all* the people. The statue, in fact, is enclosed within a strong iron cage, or palisade work, which, if it serves to ward off the personal insults which might be offered to the monarch by the disloyal, obscures, at the same, the production of the sculptor, supposing it ever to have been calculated to command attention as a work of art.

The new Sessions House, constructed of pale yellowish sandstone or freestone, stands to the front of the street which runs from the south side of the bridge, on the slope of the hill, a position always unfavourable, but more especially so for a public building. A bridewell and district prison, including a keeper's house, all on the improved construction, were to be connected with it. The public dispensary was also to be managed within the building.

The estimated expense of the sessions court house in the county books, appeared to be £800; which sum was advanced from the consolidated fund, on the usual conditions of interest, at the rate of five per cent. per annum, together with a similar sum of £40 in annual instalments, to liquidate the debt; both to be levied on the county.

The bridewell and keeper's house were to cost £1126 11*d.* Irish money, equal to £1039 17*s.* 10*d.* British; which sum was also advanced, to be repaid in the same manner by instalments, together with interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum.

The old sessions house was to be yielded up to Viscount Lorton, in consideration of his Lordship having given the ground for the new building, together with a sum of £500 towards the expenses thereof. The old and decayed edifice, situated at the other side of the town, under the shade of the trees of the park, in the street or road which passes the barracks, performs, at present, multifarious parts, besides that of its original destination to affairs of law and police. The savings' bank, the charitable loan office, the infant schools, prayer meetings and Bible meetings, are all held beneath its roof.

The Savings' Bank, like similar institutions in other places, has been productive of much benefit at Boyle.

But it seemed to be a prevailing opinion, that more good, upon the whole, has been effected by the establishment in the year 1824, of a charitable loan, which is conducted by a society under the title of

The Boyle Society for distributing the Charitable Loan.

Viscount Lorton is the patron of this society, and the Viscountess the patroness.

The object of the society is to lend out, in sums not less than one pound, nor exceeding five pounds, such parts of the funds as the members may think proper, to industrious persons of either sex, on two sureties signing a promissory note, with the borrower, to be repaid with an interest of sixpence in the pound,* at the rate of one shilling for each pound per week, until the entire be discharged.—(Vide 4th printed rule.)

All applications for the loan to be made on the days of the meeting of the committee; and a printed certificate of the sobriety and industry of the applicant must be previously signed by two creditable housekeepers, subscribers to the fund, and by the persons who become securities. Each subscriber to be allowed to recommend two persons weekly, for every pound he subscribes. (Fifth rule.)

A fine of two-pence per pound to be levied for the

* Not pawnbroker's interest it is to be presumed, but at the rate of sixpence in the pound per annum, though this is not specified in the printed rule.

first neglect of payment; five-pence for the second; and any borrower in arrear for three successive weeks, to be rendered ineligible to receive a new loan.

No person to receive a new loan until the first one has been discharged; nor can a person who is security for another, receive a loan.

Any attempt to impose upon the Society precludes the person or persons concerned from relief by the fund.

The application for a loan to remain at least for one week under consideration.

The operations of the charity to extend to individuals residing within three miles of the town of Boyle.

Days of Attendance.

Northern division—Tuesdays.

Southern division—Wednesdays.

From ten in the morning until three in the afternoon.

The sums lent appear as follows for the year 1829 :

	Loans.	Amount.
Northern division	1272	£2746
Southern division,	922	£1857

From the establishment of this charity in February, 1824, to 31st December, 1829, there had been granted 7867 loans amounting to £16,971.

1136 families were assisted with 2194 loans within the year 1829, amounting to £4603, which was re-funded in about 44,000 repayments.

344 borrowers received the loan once.

526	do.	do.	twice.
266	do.	do.	thrice.

There were 55 defaulters during the year.

The present number of weekly payments about 900.

The present average weekly loan, £90.

The committee of 1830 consisted of nine gentlemen, who act in rotation; when I visited the office their places seemed to be any thing but sinecures.

I was informed that the management of a larger sum than £1000 would require much more labour than could be easily procured gratis; and to pay for the duties performed would in a great measure defeat the objects of the charity.

The Dispensary of Boyle, like all others through the country, is supported to the amount of one-half of the expenses by private subscriptions, and to the amount of the other half by a grant from the Grand Jury of the county.

The income for different years is as follows:

Amount of Grand Jury Presentments.					Total Income.
1827	£85	8	2	...	£170 16 4
1828	93	18	9	...	187 17 6
1829	73	3	9	...	146 7 6

It may be observed in this place, that Lord Lorton maintains exclusively at his own expense, a dispensary for the use of those living on the Rockingham estate, or in its immediate vicinity. It is situated near the Dublin high road, not far from one of the principal entrances to Rockingham Park, in a pretty house of two stories in height, in which the practitioner who attends to it resides.

Schools. Besides the infant school already mentioned, as held in the sessions house, where it is under the inspection of Mrs. Hacket, who resides in the glebe-house, nearly facing it, Lady Lorton has a large girls' school at Boyle.

Several schools not in any manner endowed, are kept within the town by humble teachers for their own emolument.

There is also a considerable and respectable school kept by Mr. O'Rorke, at which pupils are instructed in Greek, Latin, and English; the number of boarders amounting occasionally to ten or twelve, and the day scholars to forty or more.

Leases within the town of Boyle are granted by Lord

Lorton for three lives and a life in reversion after the death of the original three, to builders of good houses. In some cases thirty-one years are allowed after the expiration of the original lives.

That valuable houses will ever be built without the assurance of a term which will afford remuneration and security to the tenant for the money which he is about to expend, is not likely; neither ought it to be expected. But in granting long building leases, a landlord who is anxious either for the good appearance of his town, or for the general improvement of his property, can scarcely be too strict as to the covenants which are introduced relative to the size and construction of the houses and the alignment of the streets. A great part of the town of Boyle is held by lease against Lord Lorton, where without repurchase of the interest it seems hopeless to effect improvement.*

* Kingstown near Dublin, affords a very striking proof of the ultimate injury which may ensue to property from indiscriminate leasing. It might have been made a beautiful town; but at present, crowded with mean-looking houses, which, although facing the leading road, have the appearance, nevertheless, of having been promiscuously thrown together by chance, it will be a difficult, if not hopeless task, ever to reduce it to order, neatness, and regularity. How different are matters managed in and about Edinburgh. There, single lots are not leased until a general plan is digested for the improvement of the whole. The houses to be built must all be conformable to the uniform plan; one street is allotted to buildings of a superior description, another to the lesser and inferior; hence every thing appears in its proper and most suitable place, and a beautiful city is the result of the judicious combination.

Certainly Dublin is the better for the Commissioners of Wide Streets; but the arrangements are far behind those even of private individuals in Scotland.

The Abbey of Boyle cannot be distinctly seen at much distance, on any side, owing to its low and secluded position on the borders of the river. The best view of it, on the exterior, opens from an elevation on the high road leading past the barrack, along the base of the wooded park hill, near the entrance gate to Mr. Crofton's* house and demense. The part here seen consists entirely of the church and steeple, the latter rising in the centre, the north transept extending to the left, and the nave of the church to the right, under an angular point of view. No spacious or ornamented windows are observable, neither is there intricacy or variety in the parts; but the general effect of the ruins is solemn and imposing, and the lofty vaults of the circular arches, in three of the sides of the steeple, soaring above the tops of the adjacent trees, communicate an air of grandeur to the edifice which otherwise it might not be considered to possess. The steeple, is a square tower of about twenty-five feet in the interior, rudely built in the upper parts and terminating abruptly. An abundance of ivy fringes the summits of the walls, and although the trees which shade the ruins, are neither very large nor old, yet they are disposed in a manner which contributes essentially to the embellishment of the scene.

The ruins occupy the angular space immediately adjoining the intersection of the road coming from the town, and that branch of the Sligo road which traverses the single arch bridge recently thrown over the river; the latter cuts completely through the heart of the

* The agent of Viscount Lorton's estate around Boyle. The house is most agreeably situated on the park hill, backed by woods.

ancient precincts of the abbey, and runs within a few feet of the western window of the church. A stout and lofty wall on this side bounds the enclosure, and the ruins are accessible only by passing through the premises of a cottage *orné*, occupied by Captain Robinson,* who seems to hold the guardianship of the abbey. Permission to visit the place is I apprehend but rarely, if ever, refused ; still it must be applied for, a circumstance which if in any instance it prove a source of embarrassment, has tended, on the other hand, possibly, to the preservation of what remains of the ancient edifice.

The view of the ruins in the interior of the enclosure is altogether of a different character from that on the outside. Two or three gardens are passed through in succession bounded by lofty walls thickly overgrown with ivy, in which loop-holes, narrow lancet windows and niches, and the mutilated traces of arches, appear from time to time ; but it is difficult, in their present state, to trace the connexion which these walls had with each other, or to pronounce, without having a plan on paper of their respective lengths and bearings, whether the openings now occupied by the gardens, were likely to have been originally the courts or yards of the abbey, or merely the spaces produced by the demolition of the building. Narrow winding stairs are also met with in the walls, by means of which

* Captain Robinson served as a Lieutenant in the same regiment and the same company of which his Grace the Duke of Wellington was at the time Captain, a circumstance which neither led to promotion nor favour ; but in Viscount Lorton he had found a patron and friend. I merely mention this, because it was so often mentioned to me at Boyle, and in every body's mouth.

access may be had to the parapets, whence views of the adjacent country open, and the windings of the river may be traced at the base of the ruins. In one of the nearer gardens there is also a small room which appears to have been constructed in the lower part of an old tower or bastion, with a window overhanging the river, affording one of the coolest and most tranquil places of retreat which can be well imagined.

But the grand object of interest here is the church, occupying the whole of one side of an enclosed quadrangle, laid out like the others, into a garden, the view of which suddenly opens in its fullest perfection after passing through a small door. The level of this piece of ground is some feet above that of the floor of the church; but whether this is attributable to its having been raised by the rubbish from the ruins, or to its having been the seat of the cloisters, the central area of which was ordinarily more elevated than the surrounding covered ways, does not appear very satisfactorily. At present a grass plot occupies the middle part, around which there is a gravelled walk.

The church was built in the form of what has been termed the Latin cross, the steeple being placed at the intersection, and the two transepts north and south constituting the arms. These and the head-piece extending beyond the steeple are severally 25 feet in length each, and in breadth about 22. The main body of the church forming the stem of the cross is 131 feet long and 25 feet broad.

The lofty circular arches in the steeple already noticed, opened into the nave and into the two transepts; their height, as well as I could estimate without having instruments, appeared to be about 42 feet;

the fourth opening towards the head of the cross, consisted of a broad lancet arch, but much less elevated.

On the northern side of the nave, the walls appear to have been constructed originally with arches of different dimensions, but all of the lancet form, some of which sprang from pillars, whose capitals, together with the cut stone facings of the arches, are distinguishable: but these have been built up, evidently to avoid the danger arising from imperfection in the work, for there are cracks and bendings at this side in various parts of the walls; and indeed they would probably have given way in their whole length without the additional support of the buttresses which have been built up against them at the outside.

For what purposes these arches might have been originally intended, whether to open a communication between the nave and a northern aisle, or to lead into an adjacent part of the abbey, seems at present a question of doubt and uncertainty, since all traces of building on the exterior are obliterated. On the south side of the church, bordering upon the quadrangle now occupied by the garden, an aisle separated from the nave by arches still remains; but it appears to have been by no means an unusual arrangement, to have an aisle at one side, without a corresponding one at the other; of which a fine example may still be seen in the ruins of the church of the abbey of Roscommon.

Another instance of departure from regularity and uniformity of plan, is observable in the totally different construction of the arches on the south side, between the nave and the aisle, all of which are semi-circular, yet not all of the same span, nor supported in the same manner. The four at the east end next

the steeple, spring from massive circular pillars; the others are separated merely by portions of wall, levelled and slightly ornamented, with mouldings and slender pilasters.

The pillars eleven feet seven inches in girth, or three feet eight inches in diameter, and in height from the floor to the bottom of the capitals, ten feet eight inches, are composed of regular courses of cut stone, skilfully rounded and fitted with considerable exactness, the number of courses about thirteen or fourteen. The capitals and bases vary from each other, both in their ornaments and in their form, some being octagonal, others square; the ornaments in general are very simple;* but there are various rude carvings both on capitals and bases, of men and animals, dogs and lions, fleurs de lis, &c. These are generally cut in sandstone, but the greater part of the building stone was limestone.

The exterior wall of the aisle, on the south side next to the garden, is still wanting, so that these arches, with the intersections of others in the interior of the building, are all plainly visible from without; and at certain times of day, with the sun glancing obliquely upon them, they afford a very beautiful picture indeed. A large ash tree which grows within the church, and casts its arms above the ivied walls, contributes considerably to the general effect of the scene.

The western window of the church consisted of a single opening, lancet shaped, and but small. On the outside there are some traces of ornament, but

* It is to be lamented that none of our books of Irish antiquities afford any true delineations of the ornaments of any of the abbeys of Roscommon; neither do any of them contain correct ground plans of the buildings, or even of the ruins as they stand.

much worn down by time. The eastern window consisted of three narrow compartments, also lancet shaped, that in the centre being the highest.

The transepts, more particularly that to the north, contain some ancient slab tombstones, now for the most part loose; but once probably inserted in the pavement, of which no other remains exist. One of these, unusually narrow for its length, represents a crosier held by a left hand, gloved; the foliage on the head or scroll of the crosier is extremely well executed, and the whole well designed. There are some inscriptions also in the Irish character.

Upon the wall of the same, at the angle near the nave, the letters of the alphabet in capital Roman characters appear, cut in a range, whether for mere amusement or to serve the purposes of instruction, I could not learn; but before books were common, these letters might have been useful in their day for teaching.

In the nave on the north side, the burial vault of the King family is enclosed by a railing, which advances considerably into the church. On the wall above it, appears a white marble tablet, in a frame of bluish marble, with the following inscription:—

In the vault beneath,

the

NOBLE FAMILY OF KING

have

For Several Centuries

*RECEIVED SEPULTURE.**

* The family of King was originally of Fethercock Hall in Yorkshire. Sir John King, the first of its members on record in Ireland, in requital

It may not be uninteresting perhaps, to compare the the description which I have thus given of the state of the remains of the abbey, with that in the *Antiquities of Ireland*, published in the year 1791, under the name of Grose,* and edited by Dr. Ledwich, which however, for the greater part, has been merely transcribed from the *Monasticon Hibernicum*, by Mervyn Archdall, printed in the year 1786.

“The Abbey of Boyle was one of the finest buildings in the kingdom; it is situated at the back of the town, in the Earl of Kingston’s demesne. The whole struc-

of his military services, obtained from Queen Elizabeth a lease of the abbey of Boyle; and from King James I., he received numerous valuable territorial grants, and held several of the highest and most lucrative political employments.

His descendant John, who had received the honour of knighthood, was elevated to the peerage by Charles II., by patent, dated 4th September, 1660, under the title of Baron Kingston, on account of his zeal in restoring the monarchy; yet it appears that he had been an active partisan of Cromwell. This title expired with James, the fourth Baron, in the year 1761.

The 13th of July, 1764, Sir Edward King was created Baron Kingston; on 15th November 1766, Viscount Kingsborough; and on 25th August, 1768, Earl of Kingston. He died in 1797, and was succeeded by his eldest son Robert. The second Earl died in April 1799, and was succeeded by his son George, the present Earl.

Robert Edward King, the second son of the second Earl of Kingston, born in the year 1773, having distinguished himself as a military officer, was, in 1800 (the period of the Legislative Union with Great Britain) created Baron Erris of Boyle; and on 30th of May, 1806, Viscount Lorton, Governor and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Roscommon, and Colonel of its Militia; and in the year 1831 Lord Lieutenant of the county. A Lieutenant General in the army, &c. &c. &c. *Vide* Peerage.

* Captain Grose, though his name was used, appears to have had but little to do with these *Antiquities*, having died within a few months after he came to Ireland.

ture is uncovered, except the chancel and two side chapels; nor is it easy to examine its parts, being so encumbered with large trees, underwood, and thorns. The great arches which supported the tower were forty-five feet in height, but the ground is now so raised, as to cover all the bases of the columns.* One half the arches are supported by round pillars of cut stone, of various sizes, the rest are a group of small columns. All the spaces within these pillars are now filled up, so as to make a solid wall; this was probably done in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the abbey was converted into a place of defence. Some of the capitals are plain, others are ornamented with carving. The eastern window † was grand and beautiful. The cloister has been long changed into a barrack. The

* At present they are all cleared down to the floor, and there is no impediment except from long grass and weeds, in walking through the nave and aisles.

† None of the windows could have been either grand or beautiful. The eastern one consists, as I have described it, of three narrow lancet compartments.

The views of the abbey in the three plates published in the volumes of Antiquities above referred to, can, with difficulty, be recognized in any of these parts, even as having a relation to the place they are intended to represent. The great nave of the church is drawn with the arches open to the aisles on each side, which might, as I have stated, have been according to the original plan; but certainly not according to what the draftsmen could have seen in the year 1791, when Captain Grose arrived in Ireland.

In plate two, a straight bridge with five pointed arches, with a barrier across it in the middle, is represented as leading up to the abbey, very different from the existing state of things at present.

I made some sketches of the place myself, which I trust will be found more accurate if ever they should be submitted to the public.

stump of a round tower* stands near the abbey, proving it to have been an ancient ecclesiastical foundation, long before it came into the possession of the Cistercians."

In Mr. Archdall's *Monasticon*, extracts may be found from various authorities, relative to the annals of this celebrated abbey. To have transcribed the whole of these, would have been alike tedious and useless, since they contain matter that can scarcely be considered as of any moment at the present day; but I have culled out what appeared to be the most deserving of notice.

It must be premised, however, that the abbey, according to *Hibernia Dominicana*, was not originally founded at Boyle, but at a place called Grellechdina, A. D. 1148, and thence translated to Drumconaid, thence to Buinfinn, and finally to Boyle. It belonged to the Cistercian order of St. Bernard. Peter Mordha, a man of great learning, was the first abbot. He was promoted to the See of Clonfert, but was drowned at Port de Caneog, on the river Shannon, in Dec. 1171.

Ædh O'Maccain his successor, removed the establishment to Drumconaid, and was there succeeded by Maurice O'Dubhay, who continued at the place for three years and then removed to Buinfinny, where he remained for two years and a half, and at length *fixed his family* at Boyle in 1161, where the abbey was founded as an offset or daughter of the abbey of Mellifont,* and dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

* Of this I could discover no remains, neither could obtain any information where it had stood.

† The abbey of Mellifont stood in Louth in a sweet little valley. It was founded in 1142, and Saint Bernard furnished it with monks from his own abbey of Clairvaux.

A. D.

1174. The abbot Maurice O'Dubhay died, and was interred here.

1196. Conor Mac Dermot, Lord of Moye, took on him the Cistercian habit, and became a monk in this abbey.

1197. Cornelius Mac Dermot, King of Moylurg,* died in this abbey, in the habit of the order.

1218. The abbey church was consecrated.

1230. Died Donn Sleibhe O'Hionmainen, a reverend and holy monk; and principal master of the carpenters of this abbey.

1235. The English forces, under the joint command of Lord Justice Maurice Fitzgerald and M'William, encamped within the abbey walls, and sacrilegiously seized all the goods, holy vestments, chalices, &c., belonging to this monastery; and very irreverently stripped the monks of their habits in the midst of their cloisters.†

1243. In this year, Teig, the son of Hugh Croibdearg, after having taken prisoner Cormac Tomulty, forcibly brought his mother out of this abbey, and gave her up to Constantine O'Reilly. Teig then went with a few men, intending to hold a meeting with Constantine, by whose direction, and at the joint instigation of the English and Irish, he was treacherously seized, his son killed, and his own eyes put out.

1250. Died the abbot Donchad O'Daly: he was an eminent bard, and in the hymneal species was superior to all the poets of his time.

1262. The abbot Thomas M'Ferrall M'Dermot, made Bishop of Elphin.

* This comprised nearly the whole of the present barony of Boyle.

† In consequence of the monks having assisted the King of Connaught in his endeavours to dispossess the English.

1290. The abbott Laurence O'Laghnan made Bishop of Kilmacduagh.
1296. The abbot Malachy Mac Brun made Bishop of Elphin.
1302. The abbot Donough O'Flanagan made Bishop of Elphin.
1309. In this year was a great hosting to the assistance of William de Burgh in Connaught; they then proceeded to the abbey of Boyle, and destroyed a great quantity of corn in the country.
1315. Rory O'More pillaged the abbey.
1331. Maoilruany M'Dermot, Lord of Moylurgh, resigned his Lordship, and took on him the habit of the order in this abbey.
1383. Died the abbot M'Davit, a charitable and humane gentleman.
1444. The abbot Thady died in Rome.
1448. The abbot Cornelius promoted by the Pope to the see of Achonry.
- Tomultach M'Dermot was abbot at the time of the suppression.
1569. Queen Elizabeth granted this abbey and its possessions to Patrick Cusacke, of Gerrardstown, county of Meath. It was described as containing one acre of land, in which were the walls of a church and belfry, cloister, hall and dormitory; six gardens and orchards; six other gardens and orchards, and three messuages in the town of Boyle; 200 acres of arable, and 160 of mountain pasture in the townland of Boyle; besides three castles, 44 cottages, 540 acres of arable land, and 729 acres of mountain and rough pasture, dispersed in small parcels, under various denominations, chiefly given from the names of the chiefs of the several districts. (Chief Remembrancer.)
1589. Queen Elizabeth gave a lease of the abbey for 21 years, to William Usher, at a rent of £14 16s. 4d."

From the description of the premises in the grant to Patrick Cusacke, it may be inferred, that the church and belfry had already been uncovered, and in part ruined ; but the place, nevertheless, as may be learned from the next extract, afforded a strong military position, and the closing of the arches on the north side of the nave, might possibly have been effected about this period, in order to augment the means of resistance.

1595. “ The arch-rebel Tyrone had an army of 2,300 men in Connaught, made up of Irish and Scotch *islanders*, with which he besieged the abbey.”

In the 2nd, 4th, and 9th years of James I., inquisitions were held to ascertain the extent of the lands and possessions of which the last abbot had been seised, which amounted to 23 quarters, nine half quarters, and one cartron ; partly in the vicinity of the abbey, partly in other parts of the county of Roscommon, and in the adjacent counties of Galway and Sligo ; 24 eel wiers on the Boyle river ; all the tithes, great and small, of the said lands and eel wiers ; besides a moiety of the tithes, being the rector's part, of 13 townlands, and the fourth part or vicarage tithes of Isselyn.*

1603. Dec. 4. The abbey was granted to Sir John King.

* In the *Monasticon Hibernicum* by Mr. Archdall, (London 1786,) the names of the several denominations are given, as well as the authorities and sources from which his information has been drawn ; but they occupied too much space for insertion in these pages.

The term *quarter* seems to be an uncertain quantity, although it is still used in a few instances in the county books, as a subdivision of a townland. The cartron was the fourth part of the quarter, which is also a term still used. In the dictionary of Du Cange, a quarter is defined to be the fourth part of a *jugerum*, which last expressed the quantity of land which a man could plough in one day.

Jugerum pro jugerum. Jugeres, unius diei opus aratoris : latitudine

The abbot of Boyle does not appear to have been entitled to a seat in parliament; neither indeed was a seat assigned to any of the abbots or priors of the county of Roscommon, nor to any in Connaught, which seems remarkable. With regard to the abbey of Boyle, however, it may have been excluded on the principle of its having been merely an emanation from that of Mellifont, whose abbot was entitled to a seat. *Compend. an. Eccl. Hib. Romæ. 1690.*

ROCKINGHAM.

Rockingham house or castle, for it passes under both names, the superb residence of Viscount Lorton, is situated on the south eastern side of Lough Key, pedum 120, longitudine 240; jugerum habet passus 48, pedes 240, (passus 80.)

Quarteria, modus agri quartam juveri partem continens. Now $48 \times 80 = 3840$ square paces, or say yards; which amount would be nearly the quantity that a man might plough at the present day, with improved implements. The fourth part of this would be 960 yards, making the *quarter* something more than the eighth part of an Irish acre. This could not have been the meaning of the term *quarter* in Ireland. "By an inquisition taken 26th of Elizabeth, it was found, that a priory originally belonging to the Franciscans at Knock-vicar, near Lough Key, possessed a cartron, or one-fourth of a quarter, near the priory, and the moiety of another quarter in the parish of Ardkearne, the whole containing 40 acres of arable pasture and moor."—(ARCHDALL's *Monasticon*, p. 724.) If so, three-fourths of a quarter being equal to 40 acres, the whole quarter must have amounted to $53\frac{1}{3}$ acres, which is more like the truth: for multiplying the number of quarters found by these inquisitions, under James, viz.: $27\frac{1}{3}$ by $53\frac{1}{3}$, the amount of acres belonging to the last abbot of Boyle would be 1480: now the number mentioned in the grant to Patrick Cusacke amounted to 1269.

at the distance of somewhat more than two miles from the town of Boyle. The great Dublin high road from which the demesne is separated by a long line of lofty wall, bordered on the inner side with plantations, bounds it on one side, and the beautiful shores of the lake on the other. The whole confines of the lake with its numerous wooded islands, being the property* of the noble Viscount, might indeed be considered as appendages to the demesne; but the ornamental or dressed part extends merely between the lake and the great road, from which last there are two grand entrances. From the western extremity of the demesne, a shorter road leads to the town of Boyle, entering past the abbey; but in 1830 it was in very indifferent repair, offering one of the strongest contrasts to the great mail coach road, than which it is impossible to conceive a public way in a higher state of preservation.

Rockingham as it now exists may be considered as the creation of the present and first Viscount Lorton. Originally, or at least according to the representation in some former views of the place, the house appears to have had a dome of considerable size; but on the addition of another story this was removed; at the same time, the ground plan underwent alterations and the building was enlarged. The architecture is irregular, neither wholly castellated nor wholly Grecian. The entrance is under an Ionic portico of four columns, corresponding with which, a range of other pillars of the same order and proportion appears along

* I was informed, however, that one very small division of property extended down to the lake near the upper river, which did not belong to Lord Lorton; but for the acquisition of which negotiations had been carrying on, and either nearly concluded or likely soon to be so.

the walls of the house, producing from certain points of view a pleasing effect. An extensive orangery projects from the house on another side. One of the most striking features of the house, consists in its perfectly insulated position, no office of any description being visible; but the whole being surrounded by smooth shorn grass, interspersed with beds of flowers and ornamented walks. This arrangement has been effected, by having most of the offices of the basement story covered over, and subterranean passages carried from underneath the eminence on which the house stands, towards the lake in one direction; and in another towards the stables, which stand at a considerable distance screened out by trees; the covered passage, however, does not reach the whole way to the latter, but merely far enough to prevent the appearance of movement near the mansion.

The supply of fuel to the house, here consisting for the chief part of turf, was admirably managed. By means of a canal and lock for facilitating access to the bog, the turf was at once put on board a large boat, and conveyed to the mouth of the subterranean passage on the borders of the lake: hence, it was wheeled to a magazine room in the basement story, communicating with a perpendicular square shaft or trunk, where by means of machinery, a box containing the turf and made to fit the shaft, could be raised up to each story, and so delivered into store rooms appropriated to the purpose of receiving it.

Water was likewise diffused in the greatest abundance through every part of the house from the lake, brought in along the same subterranean way.

An arrangement here, relative to the chimneys in

case of accidents from fire, struck me as excellent. Each funnel was numbered with large figures on the outside above the roof; and at the side of the door leading out thereon, was suspended a wooden tablet with corresponding numbers, and a reference to the room to which each flue belonged. Thus, if a chimney chanced to take fire, it might be instantly ascertained by stepping out upon the roof to what room it belonged; or on the other hand, if fire was discovered in the room, the flue could be singled out above, and the necessary measures taken to prevent further mischief.

To enter upon a detailed description of this capacious and magnificent mansion, would not fall within the province of a work like the present one. Suffice it to state, that the building is executed in the most substantial style, and that its interior displays not merely the elegancies and luxuries which great wealth has every where at command; but at the same time, all those comforts and accommodations, which contribute so essentially to the enjoyments of every day life in a family residence. The material of which the exterior walls is composed, is neither more nor less than marble; of which every doubt is removed by a specimen of the stone, shaped into an ornamented form and polished to the highest, exhibited on the half landing of the grand staircase. Several of the chimney-pieces of the rooms in the upper stories, formed of the same material, show a fine polish. The stone was raised from a quarry on his Lordship's estate, at a few miles distance.

In the exterior of the house, it is simply chiselled and not polished; and in that state is liable to assume

during rain, tints different from its ordinary hue ; this, in perfectly dry weather, is rather paler than might be desired, but with moisture the surface becomes very dark.

Rockingham house is plainly distinguishable at Boyle, from the hill on which the church stands; not, however, from its summit, but only lower down, towards the Fair green. From this spot the house appears situated on an insulated eminence, backed by or cutting the sky, and not under the most favourable point of view ; but seen from the north, from the hills of Mount Prospect and Crisna, it appears to be standing in the midst of a forest, and finely relieved in the back ground by wooded hills.

The demesne of Rockingham consists of gently undulated ground, and its scenery is all of the softer kind ; smooth verdant lawns, graceful trees and groves, in some places insulated, in others stretching down to the margin of the lake and dipping their branches in the water. Few trees of great age or size are at present observable ; the largest probably are found in an old avenue of beech near some of the original offices. The lake constitutes a delightful appendage to the demesne and pleasure grounds, and few residences command in their immediate vicinity a richer view of wood and water. The best prospect opens from the upper windows, except indeed it be from the roof of the house, which having the command of a more extended field, where every part is agreeable, affords proportionably a more interesting scene.

Lough Key, as already mentioned, receives the river known by the name of the Boyle Water, flowing out of Lough Gara, which in its course is augmented

by several tributary streams from the Curlew Mountains; and these waters are in turn discharged by a river bearing the same name, which passes through Oakport loughs into the Shannon, above the town of Carrick. The greatest length of the lake taken in a north-west direction from the head of a bay near the house, is about two and a half miles Irish, somewhat more than three English, and in its greatest breadth is nearly the same. The shores are much varied by bays and inlets, and it abounds with islands; but like the beautiful demesne to which it belongs, its scenery is rather of that character which may be termed soft and beautiful, than bold or romantic; although along the northern and western shores under the Curlew Mountains, rocks are not wanting. The islands are in themselves sources of primary interest, and they appear to have proved not less so to the inhabitants of past ages, since upon several of them the remains of religious and monastic edifices are to be still seen, whose ruins, from the train of thought which they naturally inspire, tend to give peculiar zest to the scene. Some of these ruins are of considerable extent, but none of them appeared to me to possess any very picturesque forms; generally they were profusely overrun with ivy. The masonry had been but roughly and poorly executed, and few of the windows or portals are deserving of attention; yet here and there some remains of sculpture were to be traced, and in one chapel or church, I observed a rude representation in a carved stone, of the virgin and child. Neat walks and flower beds have been made within the precincts of some of these ruins, and seats placed beneath the shade of the overhanging trees near the rippling waters of the

lake. Nearly twenty islands are laid down in the great county map, whose names, as Church, Trinity, Hermit, Castle, Stag, Orchard Islands, &c. &c., give a clue to the several characters of each.

Mr. Archdall, on the authority of Conran, states, that the monastery or abbey of the Holy Trinity existed on Trinity Island as early as the year 700.

A. D.

1215. Clarus Mac Moylin O'Moilchonry, Archdeacon of Elphin, refounded the abbey, under the invocation of the Holy Trinity, for Præmonstre Canons.

1231. Dionysius O'Mordha, who had retired from the Bishopric of Elphin, died here.

1234. Died Geollioso O'Gibbellan, the holy anchorite of this island.

1284. The Abbot Gillyfa M'Enlyahana O'Conor was chosen Bishop of Elphin, and the King Edward I. granted his approbation in October, 1285.

1307. The Abbot Cahel or Charles was elected Bishop of Elphin; he kept possession of that see during the space of three years and an half, but through the opposition of William Birmingham, the Archbishop of Tuam, he was at length compelled to return to this abbey.

1466. The abbey was consumed by an accidental fire, occasioned by the negligence of a woman.

Inquisitions were taken in the 27th, 32d, and 36th Elizabeth, on the possessions of the abbey, which do not appear to have been considerable.

The abbey was an emanation from the abbey of Præmonstre in France.

A book of annals was kept under the title of Annals of Lough Kee, to which Mr. Archdall frequently refers.

Inchmacnerin, an island in Lough Key. St. Colomb

founded a noble monastery at Easmacneire, probably the same with Inchmacnerin, over which he placed St. Mochonna, his disciple, and betook himself to Britain, A. D. 563.*

By an inquisition taken 28th Elizabeth, this priory of canons regular was found seised of the island of Inchevickrynnne, a church, and two houses in ruins, with sundry lands on the shores of the lough, and woods and mountains, part of the Curlew mountains, with several vicarages and tithes. Some of the possessions were of great extent, but from the wild nature of the country, they remained concealed.—*Monasticon*, p. 611.

Castle Island in the south eastern division of the lake, at a moderate distance from the shore, is of a singular aspect, differing from any thing of the kind that I know of in these countries. With the exception of a little plot of ornamental ground containing a few trees near the landing, and a small inner court and garden bounded by walls, the whole of it is covered with buildings, so that a resident on the island could scarcely find more space for exercise than a sailor on the ocean; indeed, on board a ship of the line, the advantage would rather be in favour of the latter. The original castle, constructed as a place of strength, appears to have been gradually adapted by altera-

* The monastic order of the Culdees arose in Ireland in the sixth century; their founder, Columba, was born A. D. 522. They were distinguished for letters, and an inviolable attachment to their religion; but their institutes, which are stated to have been unfriendly to the cause of popery, were consigned as far as possible to oblivion, by their adversaries of the Church of Rome. The festival of St. Columba, or Columbanus, was not permitted to be kept in Ireland until 1741. *Vide* Ledwich's *Antiquities*, and various authorities there referred to.

tions at different periods, to the purposes of domestic life; and although when I saw it, the apartments were tenantless, yet the place appeared to me most attractive, and capable of affording, certainly a fanciful, but not the less a delightful and romantic abode.

The castle proper contains two superb rooms, one above the other, each 36 feet by 22, the upper one lofty in proportion; with large windows at each end which afford abundant light, and command rich and extensive views of wood, water, and the beautiful grounds of the demesne. The walls, seven feet six inches in thickness, give evident proofs of the purpose for which they were erected; and the full length portraits of doughty warriors in the habiliments of the olden time, and of their ladies fair, in stiff and rich brocades, declare no less plainly the wealthy and distinguished personages by whom these ancient halls have been trodden in former days.*

Every thing in and around the demesne of Rockingham partakes of order and elegance; neither is it merely within the precincts of the demesne that the

* The following is the description given of M'Dermot's Castle, in the *Antiquities of Ireland*, published under the name of Grose, vol. i. p. 85.

“ This castle stands in Lough Key, the island is circular, and fortified with a wall fourteen or fifteen feet thick, so that there is no landing on the island, but at a breach in this wall. It contains, with much wood, a square castle so covered with ivy that not a stone can be seen on the outside; and the inside is so ruinous, that no judgment can be formed of the mode of building or workmanship.

“ It obtained its present name from one of the ancient Toparchs of this country, who through jealousy, always confined his wife in this sequestered isle, while engaged in warlike expeditions. Her lover, however, despising every obstacle that sea and walls presented, swam frequently from the mainland to visit his insular fair one.”

eye is gratified, but beyond it the traces of active and energetic improvements are observable, new houses of a superior description, schools, plantations, &c. &c. On the high road from Dublin, bounding the demesne, and leading on to Boyle, handsome lodges strike the eye, appropriated to the chief herdsman; to the superintendant of the forest tree nursery; to the dispensary, in which a medical man constantly resides, for the express benefit of persons living on the estate, and the whole expenses of which establishment are defrayed by Viscount Lorton. Excellent houses were also arising on the confines of the estate, building by enterprising individuals, attracted by the liberal encouragement held out by his lordship. Really when one reflects upon the principles which some theorists in political economy have ventured to broach of late years, that absenteeism is not in itself an evil, it is difficult to maintain either one's temper or one's gravity. Let any person look calmly and attentively around him on the Rockingham estate, and afterwards compare it with what he will see on other estates, and around other noble demesnes within the same county, which are deserted by their proprietors; and if, in the condition of the country and of the inhabitants, he does not perceive a positive and decided difference—in the one, the wholesome appearances of prosperity and improvement which admit of no mistake—in the other, of backwardness, despondence, and discontent; then it can only be concluded that such a person must view things through a jaundiced and prejudiced medium; or see with eyes widely different from those of an ordinary observer, possessed of a sane mind and common sense.

On each side of the Rockingham estate, school houses of a handsome description, and on the most approved models, have been erected by the noble proprietor, and all are carefully superintended. Those for females are more especially under the direction of Viscountess Lorton. At the Erris school, distant about one mile from Boyle, the list of girls amounts to 77, of whom the average daily attendance is about 35. At the Errerona school, four miles from Boyle, the list contains 61 girls, of whom about 42 are in daily attendance. The boys' school is three miles from Boyle; the list contains the names of 48, the average attendance being about 29.

At different places, but more especially in these school houses, religious worship is celebrated on certain evenings of the week-days, with prayers, and hymns, and lectures, at which a clergyman of the established church officiates, specially retained for the purpose by his lordship, under the title of *moral agent* to the estate. I attended one of those meetings to observe its character, and found a small congregation of decent and respectable looking people, apparently the smaller farmers and their families, some labourers, and a good many young folk of both sexes. On the younger females the opportunity of dressing somewhat better than usual, and showing themselves off, appeared not to be thrown away, and when all was over, they sallied forth with cheerful countenances and a gay step; but the effect of the meeting on several of the elder persons appeared to show itself under very different emotions; sighs and groans had accompanied the prayers, and looks of pain and sadness testified at egress, the heaviness of heart which reigned

within. I inquired, and was informed that although the meetings were of course open to those of a different religious persuasion, yet that attendance was in no wise unduly urged, and that the Catholic labourers, of whom numbers were employed indiscriminately upon the estate, were left perfectly free and uncontrolled.*

* The circumstances which led to the appointment of the Rev. Mr. Shaw, the gentleman who at present fills the situation that has been mentioned, were of so extraordinary a nature, that it will be allowable to devote a few lines to the subject. He had previously held the small living of Kilmac-tranny, in the county of Sligo, situated on the confines of the county of Roscommon, near the Curlew Mountains. I visited the place, a small village, or rather hamlet, consisting of a few humble houses congregated around a church; two separate school houses for boys and girls; a small shop; a mill; and the parsonage house, which stood apart from the rest in a little lawn with shrubberies. Mr. Shaw had resided here for some years, watchful over the schools, and zealous in the extreme, not merely in the ordinary discharge of his ministerial duties, but in extending religious information throughout his parish. He fancied that he was beloved and esteemed; there were reasons for believing it; and he lived under the persuasion of being in the most perfect security. The delusion as to the latter, was, however, suddenly and fearfully dispelled. In the dead of the night the window of his bed-chamber was smashed to pieces by one tremendous blow from some ponderous instrument, and a man came stumbling through it into the room, overturning the toilet table in his way. Mrs. Shaw was awake at the time, but had heard no noise prior to the blow. Mr. Shaw slept profoundly, and when aroused, beheld a robust man, with his face disguised, standing at the foot of the bed with a massive pike in his hand, whose broad blade glimmered in the moonlight. His Christian fortitude did not forsake him; he raised himself, expostulated on the atrocity of breaking in upon the hours of sleep, and the privacy of female retirement, and appealed to the benevolent precepts of that religion in which he trusted they both believed. A horrible exclamation interrupted the parley; the ruffian said he knew as much about religion as himself; but that remonstrance was of no avail; an oath must instantly be sworn "that he would quit his cure the very next day, and never return to it whilst holly was green." A hundred men were within call, and resistance hopeless. The oath was enforced, and reminding Mr. and Mrs. Shaw of the fatal consequences which would ensue if

The estates of Viscount Lorton within the county of Roscommon, and in the adjoining county of Sligo, are of immense extent; they do not reach far, however,

any attempt was made at discovery, the ruffian descended by the stairs and left the house.

In what state of mind the remainder of the night was passed by this amiable couple, may be more easily conceived than described. With returning daylight the attack soon became known; neighbours flocked in, and the premises were examined with scrupulous circumspection. The ladder which still remained at the ruined window, was one of Mr. Shaw's own, taken from his yard; and no footsteps were observable about the place, beyond those of the single individual who was supposed to have carried it. A guard of police came in the course of the day to the protection of the family; and in a short time a proclamation appeared, with the offer of £1000 reward for the discovery of the perpetrator. It was evident that the person must have been one intimately acquainted with the premises, and the general circumstances of the family; and suspicion fell heavily on one individual in the parish. The event occurred in the month of October, 1829; but although the mystery had, in the minds of some, been readily solved, no certain information has been received on the subject from that day to this.

The window was purposely left in its demolished state for many weeks, and Mr. Shaw was earnestly solicited to maintain his ground, under the protection of a guard, to be continued for any length of time required. But the constant terror which the recollection of the apparition of that dreadful night left upon the mind, banished sleep, and brought on a feverish state of body, more particularly amongst the females of the family, against which it was in vain to contend. Life became painful under the circumstances; and no remedy appeared but to abandon the spot where so many days of peace and happiness had been passed. Mr. Shaw, unable to fulfil the duties of his ministry to his own satisfaction, resigned his living; and Viscount Lorton, in generous sympathy for his sufferings, took him under immediate protection, and placed him on his estate.

There would be more than the mere guilt of omission, however, to answer for, if I neglected to state, that the inhabitants of Kilmacranny of all persuasions, expressed their detestation of this cruel attack, and offered at the hazard of their lives to protect Mr. Shaw, if he would remain amongst them.

to the eastward of Rockingham, in the direction of the river Shannon, but on the opposite side run on I believe for several miles. They comprise a great deal of very rough, unimproved land, as well as some of the best soil in the county; of course the rate of rent can only be justly appreciated by knowing the quality of the land to which it is attached; but I was informed, and upon authority on which I am disposed to place implicit reliance, that his lordship's lands were invariably let, and that upon principle, at a lower rate than those of any other landlord in his neighbourhood.

In the vicinity of Boyle, sundry farms, containing each from 30 to 60 acres Irish, might be averaged, according to the information obtained on the spot, at 25s. per acre.

On the Curlew Mountains the lands are set, not by the acre, but by bulk, the farms there may be averaged at from 10 to 15 acres, and the rent at about 10s. per acre.

In the plains of Boyle which extend to the south of Rockingham, the three largest farms contain severally 160 acres, 220 acres, and 240 acres, or thereabouts, Irish plantation measure, and the average value estimated at 30s. per acre.

The town parks, or small allotments for the accommodation of the inhabitants of the town of Boyle, situated mostly to the south of the place, let from £3 to £3 10s. per acre, a rate certainly low as compared with those in the neighbourhood of other towns; in places far less advantageously situated, I have known town parks let at £7 the acre.

Several substantial houses, as I have already stated, were starting up in the vicinity of Rockingham, with

farms of fifty acres or thereabouts to each, rents about 26s. per acre on leases of three lives or thirty-one years.

The most considerable new house was one of three stories, lately built by Captain Duckworth, who has done so much to improve the town of Carrick-on-Shannon. It is situated near the high road between Rockingham and Boyle, and commands a very beautiful prospect of Lough Key, and the woods along its shores.

Rockingham is situated within the parish of Ardcarne, the church of which stands on an eminence near the Dublin high road, sheltered by trees: there the family of the noble proprietor commonly attend public worship, and one pew, according to usual custom, is eminently distinguished from the rest.

Ardcarne was formerly the seat of a celebrated nunnery; but although old walls still remain around the place, it is difficult to trace their connexion. The present church, which has been modernized within, might possibly have been attached to the nunnery: the tombstones of the contiguous cemetery show that it has been a frequented place of burial. It is extremely difficult to decipher the inscriptions, owing to the thick coats of white lichen which the stones contract, and these give to them an appearance of greater antiquity than they really possess. During the search of more than half an hour, I could discover few which dated farther back than fifty years; nor were any worthy of note, excepting one upon a remarkable tomb, standing upright, surmounted by a pediment, immediately facing the east end of the

church, bearing the date of 1688, of which the following transcript was all that appeared legible:—

IN IMITATIONEM ABRAH * * * * * ORMACVS DER
 MOT DERMITY SIBI ET CO * * * * RAHLINORÆ CREAN
 ROBOCKI TVMVLVMEREXIT * PRIT * M * * IVSORETVR
 HIS ANIMÆ FVERANT * * * * NC * * * * * N
 HIS ANIMÆ * * IVT HÆC * * * * *

Above the inscription stands a coat of arms in relief, surmounted by a tablet with emblems of the crucifixion.

Opposite the church of Ardcarne, the boundary wall of Rockingham turns abruptly off from the great road, along a minor one which leads to the northern part of the county.

On this latter road, just opposite to Rockingham, stands Oakport, a house with an extended front and numerous windows in one range, erected by the Earl of Kingston; but since alienated on a long lease. The situation is agreeable, near Oakport Lough, and well sheltered with trees.

This same road crosses the Boyle water at Knock Vicar bridge, where the wooded scenery along the banks of the river is extremely pleasing; but more particularly so above the bridge. An inscription at the inner side states, that the bridge was built at the expense of the county, in the year 1727.

JOHN FRENCH,	} Esqrs.	Mr. CHAS. MULLOY.
EDWARD DRURY,		Mr. JAMES SEILY.
OWEN LLOYD,		<i>Undertakers.*</i>

* This word partly obliterated, and doubtful.

The Coote Hall estate, commencing on the eastern side of Upper Oakport Lough, and extending from thence to Battle Bridge on the Shannon, and to the northward along the river, to the extreme confines of the parish of Tumna, passed a few years ago by purchase into the hands of Mr. Hugh Barton,* since that period the purchaser also of another vast estate in the county of Kildare, together with the house and demesne of Straffan, on the river Liffey, late the residence of Mr. Henry. I am not aware of the exact extent of this estate of Coote Hall, but O'Connor Don, late member for the county Roscommon, and father of the present representative, informed me, that he had been requested to view it with reference to an estimate of its value, and that he believed it contained from four to five thousand acres Irish.† The price asked at first was only £43,000, yet the estate had been refused on those terms. Afterwards, as its value came to be better considered, and more especially the political county influence which might possibly be derived through its means, a competition arose amongst bidders; the price advanced to £60,000, and the estate ultimately brought, as I heard from the same authority, the sum of £66,000. On the first

* One of the firm of the great house of Sneyd, French, and Barton, wine merchants, in Dublin. Mr. Sneyd represented the county of Cavan for a series of years, in several different parliaments. Mr. French is uncle of the present member for the county of Roscommon, and father of the treasurer of the county. The same agent who is employed for the estates of Mr. French, M. P., acts at present for the Coote Hall estates; hence, an inference may be drawn as to the probable circumstances of the political connexion in the county.

† The proportion of Irish to English, nearly as five to eight.

view of this estate, O'Connor Don informed me, he had by no means a favourable opinion of its capabilities in reference to mere agricultural improvement and profit; but the more he examined into the circumstances of it, the more valuable it appeared to him. I have already alluded to this estate in the description of the shores of the Shannon, and pointed out that it consists of hills, chiefly of limestone gravel, and abounding with good soils interspersed through bogs; and that by lowering some of the water-courses, and opening a free passage for the pent up stagnant pools in the bogs, several hundred acres of valuable surface had, by the present proprietor, been already brought into profitable use, now producing potatoes, and corn, and meadows, and sustaining the tread of cattle, in places which, but a few years before, could not be traversed by man without the risk of sinking up to the armpits. This improved bog and marsh land was valued in 1830 at from 10s. to 15s. per acre. Such changes are a positive blessing to the community: much, however, still remains to be done in the same way. In no part of the county have I observed bogs which seemed to my eye more generally to invite improvement, or where it could be more certainly executed with success, since in every part there were hills of gravel at a moderate distance, affording the best possible material for coating the surface, and affording growth to a new and different vegetation, after the waters should be drawn off.

Before the Coote Hall estate passed into the hands of the present proprietor, it had the reputation of being inhabited, at least in great part, by a lawless race, the consequence possibly of long neglect. Many

of the misdemeanours which disgraced the county, had been traced, as I was informed, to people from this quarter; and criminals flying from other parts had here found a ready and secure asylum. Under these circumstances, it had been deemed expedient to make *a clearance** of the ill-disposed, an operation certainly

* Where an estate is crowded with inhabitants, whose numbers, rapidly on the increase, promise not only speedily to consume that portion of the produce of the soil, which should pass to the landlord in the shape of rent, but even to render the sustenance derived from the whole aggregate produce insufficient for the future probable maintenance of the people who live upon the soil and are engaged in its cultivation, an awful question must arise as to the course which, under such circumstances, should be pursued. The rights of landlords are held indefeisible in the eye of the law, nay, not less valid than the divine right of kings; yet nature, on the other hand, has impressed on every living being of the creation, with man at its head, the great and primary law of self-preservation. In England, the principle, not less humane than wise, is admitted by the laws, that no man shall perish from want within the realm: not so in other countries. As for the contest between man and food; between numbers and the actual sustenance which the soil is capable of affording; although the case may be viewed as one merely hypothetical, yet it is not the less true, that people have, in many instances, increased to an amount extremely inconvenient and embarrassing to the lord of the soil; and hence the practice of thinning estates has been latterly adopted in various parts of Ireland; whilst Scotland, that country whose civil condition has been so proudly held up for admiration and imitation, is cited as affording an example of the benefit which will accrue from it hereafter. Forty years ago, however, the Earl of Selkirk described, in lively colours, the inhumanity and impolicy of the system then pursued, and proposed a sure and happy remedy, or rather an alleviation of the misery, in emigration to the British colonies: now, that emigration ought, if estates are over-peopled, to be facilitated by those at whose disposal accidental circumstances or good fortune have placed wealth and power, can scarcely admit of doubt; the measure is one neither attended with much difficulty, nor much expense; and those who go, will, in a few years, in the natural order of things, be incomparably more comfortable

effectual in its nature, but here only accomplished by calling on the military in aid of the civil powers; for the Irish ever evince a strong attachment to the place of their birth, and will cling, through the greatest possible privation, to the humble roof in which they have risen from infancy to manhood. The scenes which took place, as represented to me on the spot and in the neighbourhood, were of an afflicting description, and distressing in the extreme to those who had the superintend-

and more happy than those who remain. As to the great question of attempting to reform a numerous and vicious population, it may by several persons be considered as altogether chimerical and hopeless. Certainly, in many instances, the task may prove one of extreme difficulty, and no less vexatious than disheartening to those engaged in it: yet, that it is wholly impracticable, must be met with a positive denial; for, happily, evidence on the subject is afforded in the report of the late Committee of the House of Commons on the State of the Poor of Ireland, which places the matter beyond all doubt and suspicion.

The estate of Glenbeg, on the bay of Castlemaine in Kerry, belonging to Lord Headley, consisting of 15,000 acres, scarcely yielded any thing to its proprietor: it was an asylum for criminals, not pervious to a king's writ or a magistrate's warrant; the people on the coast were all wreckers; they lived in hovels without windows or chimneys: they were constantly quarrelling; they had no shoes or stockings; the district was almost wholly without roads, and not a wheel carriage was employed in the agricultural operations of the interior. In 1830 the people were well clothed; the houses were built of stone, with windows and chimneys; the old cabins having been converted into cow-sheds; the agriculture was superior to the best cultivated of the neighbouring districts; roads were established and wheel carriages were commonly used. The agent of Lord Headley tells how this great change was effected.

"The means adopted were generally an attention to the character of the people, and a constant desire, on the part of the managers of the estate, to avail themselves of the disposition of these people, to the improvement of the lands, and to the improvement of their habits and character; it was done with very little sacrifice of rent or money; but a constant and earnest attention to the object of improving the estate by the industry of the people."—*Quarterly Review, Minutes of Evidence, Com. H. Commons.*

ance and direction of the business. What became of the outcasts was not known; they had been expelled, and of course had to seek elsewhere for a new settlement. In their stead were retained as occupiers of the soil, such numbers only as were deemed sufficient for the cultivation of the estate under a new regime, and these were selected from amongst the inhabitants who appeared to be the most industrious, and who bore the best character; for all were not equally implicated in the charge of irregularity and impropriety of conduct, although aspersions had been cast very generally on the people of the estate. No holdings were permitted of a less extent than ten acres of land, excepting near the village of Battle Bridge; and new cottages built of stone and mortar, and covered with slate, soon replaced the wretched hovels which had formerly disfigured the land. Assistance, as I understood, was given to the tenants to build these cottages on an assigned plan; and the improved appearance of the houses, lands, and people, in general, was such, that without asking questions it would have been quite possible by such guides alone, to trace the limits of the estate, more particularly on the southern side, near the road leading from the village of Castlecoote to Battle Bridge, on the river Shannon.

Rents here were, for sound land, from 25s. to 35s. per acre. Near Battle Bridge, where a little village had arisen, which was expected to increase from its contiguity to the river navigation, lots facing to the road, with as much ground as sufficed for a potato garden, were rated as high as 50s. The supply of

fuel was ample, a circumstance which always enhances the value of land.

The sound ground on the hills was chiefly under oats and potatoes. Flax used to be grown here to a considerable extent, whilst the linen manufacture flourished, but the cultivation at present is very limited. Wheat is raised only in small quantities. The pastures were, to all appearance, very poor, and overrun with rag weed, owing to the mistaken practice which is so prevalent amongst the small farmers, here, as well as in other parts of the country, of taking the utmost from the soil in successive crops of potatoes and grain, and then leaving it to throw up grasses naturally. The ground under such circumstances, does indeed become covered with vegetation; but the unprofitable weeds seem to predominate over the edible plants, and the former, to render matters if possible still worse, are suffered to ripen their seeds. The benefits to be derived from laying down ground, whilst it is in good condition, (in good heart, according to common parlance,) is yet to be learned by the lesser farmers; and to set them an example of what may be effected in this way, and to provide them with proper grass seeds, would be a favour conferred on the country, by every proprietor or every agent who had the management of an estate, great or small.

In several of the new cottages on this estate I found the females spinning wool with great assiduity; and in one of the larger houses on the road side leading to Battle Bridge, occupied by an under or local receiver of the rents, or bailiff, there were looms crowded to excess, leaving, to appearance, scarcely space sufficient for the wants of the family, and all actively

employed in the manufacture of coarse flannels, and striped woollen and cotton stuffs, used by the inhabitants of the country for linings and under garments. The master weaver informed me he had been bred to the carpet business; but his sagacity led him soon to perceive what was the most profitable kind of weaving for his purpose. He gave the journeymen whom he employed very reduced wages, a mere pittance, but he fed them; and indeed the latter circumstance alone would, according to his account, have procured him more hands than he could employ, in the limited space allotted for his looms.

The south-western division of this estate, in the vicinity of old Coote Hall, and its dependant village, is still, to the extent of some hundreds of acres, held by lease against the purchaser; consequently, it is seen in its pristine state, and the contrast which it presents to the improved part is very striking.

The old Hall, situated on the summit of a hill of easy access, appears originally to have consisted of a large quadrangular enclosure, bounded by lofty walls, with towers for defence at each angle. The habitable part occupied nearly the whole of the eastern side; what remains of it is now a farm-house. The northern tower, which is a round one, still standing, with its conical roof, forms an appendage to the farm-house, and is habitable. The principal room, in the latter, seems to have been once the kitchen; but no remains of the olden time, in any respect interesting, were to be traced within it; and I was assured by the people that nothing worthy of notice, in that way, existed about the place; and that many an inquisitive person, who, like myself, had come to ask questions and to ex-

amine the premises, had gone away disappointed. The inhabited tower is probably somewhat lower now than it originally stood. As for the others, little remains of them but the stumps, which scarcely rise above the curtain walls. One of them had fallen with a tremendous crash, to the great terror of the inhabitants of the farm-house ; and to obviate the danger of similar accidents, the tall old chimneys of the house had been taken down. The great enclosure, which is about 100 yards square, contains large masses of ruined walls within its area, which were probably offices and places for lodging the retainers and defendants in former times, during periods of peril. The whole place at present presents a picture of decay.

From the terrace, in front of the building, an agreeable view opens of Oakport Lough, with the woods around the house already described as having been erected by the Earl of Kingston ; at the foot of the hill, crossing the river from the lough, an old straight bridge with seven or eight small arches, which though passable, has rather a ruined look, from the raggedness of its low battlements, forms a remarkable feature, and rather a pleasing object in the landscape.

The approach to the hall was, and indeed is still, up a straight inclined plane, nearly as regular as one upon a rail-way, the foot of which is barred by a wall with three portals in it, the centre one for carriages, and the two at the sides large enough for horses. This wall is surmounted by a pediment extending from end to end, the base of which is cut by the round arch of the central passage ; the lesser passages, also with rounded arches, are below it.

The village of Coote Hall, which commences nearly

on the northern side of the old bridge, consists of a collection of wretched cabins, straggling partly along the roads, partly up the hills; the whiskey shops and the forge, as having the most constant business, are the best looking amongst them. The appearance of the people, and more particularly of the elder women, most miserable; the men fierce of countenance. In walking over the hills, which rise in succession, I was overtaken by heavy rain, and stood for shelter under the walls of a cabin, the doors of which were closed, and defended within by a surly dog. Presently an old woman, with a remarkably fine girl of fifteen, came up, heavily laden with turf from the bog below, who unlocked the door and invited me in, and I was glad to warm and dry myself at the hospitable fire which was speedily made to blaze up with additional fuel. Presently entered an old man: he was of English descent, and a Protestant; his ancestors had followed the King family into Ireland during the wars. He held five acres of land on a lease made thirty years before, at the rent of 25s. per acre, which probably might be about the present value of the land; but he supposed that whenever it fell out of lease, the price, as usual, would be raised. He had had different wives, and a very numerous progeny; but all his children had died of consumption, with the exception of the girl before us, and another daughter who was married, with whom he had given as a portion one-half of his five acres.* He supposed he should have to divide or give up the

* The practice of dividing land in this manner is common, not merely in Roscommon, but in various parts of Ireland; and in the end is productive of poverty and misery to all the parties.

remainder when the next daughter was married. His little garden was fenced round with willows, extremely useful for making turf baskets ; but it contained only potatoes and cabbages, the latter, as commonly seen in such places, small and open in leaf, without a prospect of heart. Whether from unsuitable soil, bad seed, or imperfect cultivation, through the whole county I never saw to my recollection a fine full close head of cabbage in a cabin garden. This man was extremely intelligent, and his demeanor easy and prepossessing ; the daughter was also intelligent, and there was a frankness and ease in her manner, accompanied with great modesty, which I never saw surpassed ; she had good eyes, very handsome white teeth, and a clear skin, but was barefooted, and came up to the house black with turf mud. The cabin had no windows, nor other light except the door, but it had a good chimney, and the fire-side was most warm and comfortable.

On the Coote Hall estate there is, as I have already observed, turf in great abundance for the use of the inhabitants ; but in the new leases, the tenants are restricted from selling it off the land. In fact, in the district about Ardcarne church, and to the eastward on to Hughestown and that neighbourhood, a deficiency is felt of this important article, and in the few places about Coote Hall, where under old leases they still have the privileges of selling the turf, it is cut away with an unsparing hand.

I found people here passing from the old bridge laden with cleaves of turf on their backs, which they were carrying towards Hughestown, by Ardcarne, on the great mail coach road ; the distance which they

were taking it was about three Irish miles: all were barefooted. Men, women, and children were busy at the work, differently laden according to their strength.

A very intelligent stout man of middle age whom I found amongst a group, gave me the following information, which agreed very nearly with what I derived from other sources.

Turf, for sale, at the bogs is heaped up into single and double clamps.

The price of a double clamp, 4s.

Six double clamps will suffice for one cabin fire for the year; thus, the annual cost of fuel to the cottager amounts to 24s.

A double clamp would afford loading for four one horse cars provided with cribs; but it must be a good horse to draw such a load; it would be a safer course to divide the double clamp into five loads.

The hire of a horse and car for the day was estimated at 2s. 6d.

The hire of a labourer by the day, on casual employment, 8d.

To carry home a double clamp of turf, in a cleave, upon his own back, was to take this man three weeks at the very least. Thus, supposing the distance three miles, and two turns in each day, the whole journey to and fro, from his house to the bog, would be twelve Irish miles, somewhat more than fifteen English miles, which might be considered full and rather hard work for the day, and very indifferently paid for at 8d.

But if this labour be compared with the work which could be performed by a car and horse, it will be found to be of still less value than 8d. a day.

Thus, supposing that the horse and car could take two turns in the day as well as the man, and that the double clamp would afford loading for five horses and cars; it would then require two days and a half work for one horse and car, which at 2s. 6d. per day would amount to 6s. 3d.; so that here was this man walking fifteen English miles a day, for three weeks, or, Sundays excepted, for eighteen days, to earn equal to 6s. 3d. in horse hire; in other words, earning just $4\frac{1}{6}$ d. per day.

I noted down in my pocket-book the account as the man gave it; and having summed it up, and pointed out, that if he could earn 8d. by other labour, he was a loser by not hiring a horse; he coolly replied, that he was quite aware of the difference, but that the employment at 8d. was rare to be had, whilst by carrying turf, he was certain of earning something every day.

A double clamp of turf is estimated to contain a hundred ordinary cleaves: according to which computation at two cleaves per day, it would have required fifty days to bring home the clamp; of course if this man performed the work in eighteen days, he must have had a cleave much larger than the common size, which appeared to be the case; or must have occasionally made more than two turns in the day.

The following are the rules for making a double clamp; it is to be—

	Feet.
In length	12
In breadth at the base	6
Ditto at the height of five feet	4

And from that height upwards to be narrowed in

to the breadth of three feet: the total height, if regularly built, is somewhat more seven feet.

The weight of an ordinary cleave of turf, for a man, is estimated at ten stone, or 140 pounds weight; but much depends on the quality of the turf and its state of desiccation. Cleaves are made of various sizes, proportioned to the strength of those who are to carry them.

NORTHERN PART OF THE BARONY OF BOYLE.

The country which lies to the west and north-west of the Coote Hall estate, extending from the Boyle Water and Lough Key, towards Loughs Skeen and Meelagh, partakes of the character of that already described towards the Shannon. Insulated hills, varying considerably in extent and elevation, with bogs and moory bottoms at their base, rise on every side; and the roads pass in succession over rapid steeps and dead flats. From the crest of the hill occupied by Mount Prospect and the village of Crossna, a rich view opens of the lower country, in which Rockingham Castle and its fine woods and the lake appear in great beauty: thus Mount Prospect well deserves its name. So far, trees and hedge rows give indication of progress in agricultural improvement, and enliven and adorn the scene; but beyond the hill of Crossna they become rare, and the country appears in every respect more rude. The fences are formed either of stones rudely heaped, or of mounds of earth thrown out of the ditches, topped by a few straggling furze bushes. There are no gentlemen's seats; neither any farm houses indicative of large holdings. Yet in the vil-

lages and hamlets which start up along the principal roads, evident traces of improvement are observable, in new habitations, which although of an humble description, are, nevertheless, superior to what were constructed by the last generation. But it is to be lamented, that with every new cluster of houses, the whiskey shop invariably finds a place; and should there be no public house, the sale of spirits forms part of the business of the general village shop.

The principal produce of the land under tillage consists of oats and potatoes: the pastures are mostly rough, and the upland meadows always late; in a few places in the low grounds, I observed some successful attempts at irrigation, but on a limited scale. Butter is made for sale very generally.

Near Crossna, the sandstone formation first appears in coming from the south. It forms a ridge across the county, of an average breadth of two miles or thereabouts, commencing at Lough Arrow and extending eastward to the Shannon and beyond it. The hill, or rather mountain, of Ballyfermoyle, which has been already described in the section on the geology of the county, is nearly in the centre of this tract. The sandstone district is evidently poorer than the limestone soils on either side; but lime as a manure, which is procurable at a small expense, operates upon it with great effect; and the compost formed with hot lime and bog earth, affords a good return to the farmers: in many places it appeared to be in use.

In this part of the county, I observed no cabins of so poor a description as are to be seen further to the south; and the people appeared in general better clad. Yet beyond all comparison, one of the most

revolting pictures of poverty which I ever met with, struck me in passing through a small hamlet to the north of Crossna, where a woman and five children, not a family of itinerant beggars, came forth from a cabin to draw water, in a state actually bordering on nudity, and as filthy as if they had been rolled in the mire. The woman, young, and seemingly vigorous withal; but such looks! such sloth and sullenness!

As a set off to this picture I must describe another, near the large Roman Catholic chapel of Crossna, on the top of the hill, which I reached just as a numerous boys' school was breaking up. I stopped some of the elder boys, perhaps of twelve or thirteen years, to examine the copy-books under their arms, and to my surprise, found them to contain geometrical diagrams, drawn really with neatness and precision, and the explanations written in a clear and free hand. The boys appeared delighted at the opportunity of showing their performances, and voluntarily and with great respect, formed a circle around me, whilst I sat down on a rock. It appeared as if they had been chiefly taught by rote; but led on by their good behaviour, and the curiosity of trying whether they could be made to comprehend the rationale of what they had been about, I put some simple questions to them, helping them out at the same time with explanations; and it was pleasurable to perceive not only the quickness with which they began to understand the subject, but the satisfaction testified in their countenances, at the new sources of information which were thus opened to their minds, and expressed their thanks very earnestly at parting. With such materials to act upon, how can it be doubted, that a great

and powerful change might be effected in the people, were education properly directed to a useful end.

Castle Tenison.—After traversing this rude part of the country, the improvements around the demesne of Castle Tenison appear to very great advantage. Indeed as seen from some of the heights to the westward, which command a prospect of the lower country beneath for several miles, the demesne situated between the coal mountains on one side, and the country I have just described on the other, might almost be compared to the oasis in the desert. It is not only the most considerable place in this northern part of the country, but the only one which is distinguishable by much ornament or embellishments, whether in reference to the building or the grounds. The castle is a spacious and costly modern built edifice, of three stories in height, in form nearly square, with a round minaret tower at each angle: the whole embattled at the summit. For a castle, the architecture is, perhaps, too regular. The position is very pleasing at the western and lower end of Lough Meelagh, down to whose waters the demesne extends: the plantations are extensive, and made with judgment.

The only part of Roscommon in which I recollect having seen woods, which bore the appearance of being of natural spontaneous growth, was in the vicinity of Lough Meelagh. To the south of the lake, but not in sight of it, alder, ash, and oak, may be observed springing from the crevices of the rocks, which though not of great size or great age, are, nevertheless, of value in the landscape, and of value for the axe.

Lough Meelagh, on its southern shore, is bounded

by hills which shelve down gently to the water's edge interspersed with wood and lawn, amongst which stands a pretty country seat, Knockcranny. The head of the lake is shallow, and disfigured by immense quantities of reeds and rushes; but on passing round it by a place called Lough End, and following the road to the little village of Kilronan, on the northern side, a delightful and picturesque scene opens to view. The woods of the southern and western shores, which in several places rise from the water's edge to the crest of the hills, here present fine masses; beyond them are seen the towers of Castle Tenison; further to the right, the spire of the new church, surrounded with trees; and then, bounding the whole northern shore, the coal mountains with their steep sandstone cliffs almost overhanging the village. The mountains do not rise abruptly from the water, but are separated by a slope formed from the *debris*, over which a fine road is carried near the margin of the lake; along its whole course the shores appear varied by inlets and rocky points, some of which stretching a considerable way into the lake, bear trees that seem almost to spring out of the water. In still weather the reflections under these points are extremely beautiful.

The Village of Kilronan consists of straggling houses, some standing close near the road side, others removed from it towards the base of the mountains. Amongst them are several with second stories which bespeak more substance than is commonly found in the mere Irish village. The dingy hue of the inmates sufficiently explains the sources of their gains, the greater part being connected with the neighbouring collieries; and not merely as miners, but as carriers

and dealers for the supply of other districts. The sandstone is also wrought in various forms ; and the manufacture both of sandstone and limestone flags for tombstones is considerable. Good land about Kilronan was estimated at from 26s. to 30s. per acre.

The old Church of Kilronan, situated between the road and the mountain, and long since in ruins, has been for time immemorial one of the favourite places of burial in this district ; and not only is every part of the interior filled with gravestones, but scarcely a spot is to be found in the extensive cemetery adjoining, which has not been repeatedly occupied by the dead.

A Saxon portal in tolerable preservation leads into the church on the side next to the lake, the ornaments of which are different from any that I can call to recollection. They consist, in the representation of cylinders of about four or five inches in diameter, placed in pairs ; the first pair standing horizontally side by side, with the ends towards the front of the building ; the next pair transversely, with the ends facing the interior of the archway ; and so in alternation the whole way round : the effect is more pleasing than from any of the zigzag ornaments.

Carolin.—The cemetery of Kilronan has derived some celebrity from the interment of Carolin, one of the last of the Irish bards, and perhaps the most distinguished. His name is still fresh in the memory of the people of the surrounding country, and the spot is pointed out with confidence by the villagers, in which his bones had been deposited, although they have long since been jostled out of the place originally assigned as their last home, in the contentions for similar accommodations for other claimants. Still

some respect had been shown to his remains ; they were not absolutely scattered to the winds ; and a skull, supposed to have been the identical one that had been the seat of music and of verse, was placed in a niche within the walls of the old church, where, decorated as a mark of distinction with a black riband, it received, in grim and ghastly state, for many years, the adoration of the gaping crowds at the annual *patterns*. But oh ! most foul of deeds ; the skull was snatched away at last by the daring hand of a monger of curiosities. This was before the times of phrenology, so that the theft had not even the pretence of scientific research to palliate it. Whether, however, the cranium had ever actually stood on the shoulders of Carolin, seems altogether problematical ; though it is said the officiating grave-digger swore to its identity, of his own special knowledge.

Several sketches of the life of Carolin have, I believe, been laid before the public ; but being upon the spot where his memory appeared so fresh in the recollection of the inhabitants, I felt a curiosity to learn the particulars which oral tradition might have preserved concerning him ; and was referred, as one of the best sources of information, to a man of the name of Daniel Eardley, living on a little property, not far from the shores of Lough Allen, on the road to Arigna. His father had been an intimate acquaintance of Carolin, from whom he had frequently heard all that he was disposed to relate ; indeed, on the mention of Carolin's name, his countenance had brightened up, and many hours would have been consumed in the narration if I had possessed patience to listen to all that he had to tell.

Terence Carolin, the bard, was born in the county of Meath, but passed the greater part of his life amongst the gentry of the county of Roscommon, going from house to house, where he was ever hospitably entertained; he died at Alderford, a few miles from Kilronan, in the year 1741, at a very advanced age.

Carolin had a literary education, and had pursued his studies with diligence up to his eighteenth year; he then had the misfortune to catch the small-pox, and to lose his eyes. Previous to this calamitous event music had not engaged his attention; he turned to it as a solace in his misfortune, and began with learning the harp. The want of early practice, however, to supple the fingers, marred his progress on that instrument, so that he never was able to require rapidity of execution. What he attempted to play in public, nevertheless, was always performed with correctness and neatness. At twenty-one he began to compose; and his first essays gave such promise of success, that his masters recommended him to direct his whole powers to composition, rather than to vain endeavours to attain excellence on his instrument.

His first poem, a mock heroic one, was entitled "Shee-more and Shee-beg," occasioned by a quarrel between two gentlemen of the country, in which there had been *cannonading* amongst the factions on either side. It was set to music, and the reputation which it immediately acquired for Carolin, encouraged him to undertake other compositions of a similar nature. He was caressed by the gentry, and at each house wrote verses and composed music in praise of those of whose bounty he partook. Living thus in the midst of plenty and of good cheer, Carolin got gradually ad-

dicted to strong liquors, and at last became a confirmed drunkard. A day seldom passed over without intoxication. He drank spirits habitually without any admixture of water; lost the use of his limbs by his intemperance; and during the latter years of his life, passed almost his whole time in bed. The pernicious propensity to ardent spirits did not abandon him under these circumstances, and whenever those who were about him could be prevailed upon to administer to his cravings, he drank invariably to intoxication. Yet in this degrading condition, his muse did not altogether forsake him; and one of his most pithy epigrams was composed on the occasion of his having been found on the floor, in common parlance, dead drunk, after having fallen out of bed in his efforts to get at the bottle, which had been purposely placed beyond his reach. Eardley could repeat this epigram, which was in Irish, and said it contained a great deal of humour and drollery; but according to his ideas, it was utterly untranslatable into English; the pith and wit evaporated in every attempt that had been made to put it into another language. It alluded to the fall of heroes in the field, whilst for the first time a bed-ridden man had fallen in combat—in the combat of the bottle, &c. &c.

On his death, the most splendid wake was held which had ever been remembered in the country. Ten harpers attended night and day, who afterwards followed in the funeral procession, and performed a dirge over his grave. All the carriages of the country were assembled on the occasion, and ladies of distinction were emulous in their efforts to do honour to his remains.

Such respect to the deceased, argues the probable possession of some good qualities, independent of genius, to redeem the disgusting propensity to intoxication. Yet Eardley had but little to tell beyond the names of the families with whom he had lived, and whose kindness had been often repaid by extravagancies and waywardness on the part of the bard. There was too much of the parasite, as well as the drunkard also, in some parts of the description; and I became wearied of the history of adventures which bore so near a resemblance to each other. Should there be any person endued with more patience and more curiosity, Daniel Eardley, though old, may nevertheless still live to tell the tale for many years to come, and he may readily be found by the clue which I have given to his habitation.

With regard to the merits of the poetical productions of Carolin, they can be justly estimated by those alone who are thoroughly acquainted with the Irish language; it is to be lamented, however, that works which are mentioned with praise should not have been brought in some form of translation, within reach of the mere English reader.

Music, which is of all countries and of all ages, can be more generally appreciated, and many of the compositions which bear the name of Carolin are already before the public. The interesting subject of inquiry in respect to them is, whether they are actually the same as came from Carolin; or whether, in the transmission to posterity, they have undergone alterations from those by whom they have been noted down. Supposing them to be really and truly the same, then the merit and originality of Carolin as a

composer, will be tried best, by instituting a comparison with the music of the same era, whether in his own, or in the adjacent countries with which a communication was open. Now as Carolin died an old man in the year 1744, he must have been contemporary both with Purcell and Handel; for Purcell died in 1695, and Handel in 1759; nay, the latter was actually in Dublin during Carolin's life-time; and it is a circumstance not a little curious in the memoirs of Handel, that his *Messiah*, which had been at first very coldly received in London, was rapturously applauded in Dublin, where he himself introduced it; and that after the approbation thus bestowed, the oratorio became, but not until then, a favourite in England:—some proof this, that a taste for good music prevailed in Ireland at the time.

The greatest number of houses in the village of Kilronan is congregated near the old church, principally because it happens to stand in the contiguity of a holy well near the lake, which on the day of the patron saint, usually called the *pattern*, never fails to be visited by many thousands of people of both sexes. Gaiety and jollity have just as much to do with the assemblage on these occasions as devotion. Whiskey and music also conspire to make the buoyant hearts of the peasantry still lighter than they came; and, as the shades of evening draw on, scenes of licentiousness, as my informant saith, commonly ensue, over which it will be best to drop a veil.

In the southern part of the county another remarkable annual *pattern* used to be held at Brideswell, where immense numbers invariably congregated; but the clergy of the Roman Catholic church, aware of the

pernicious tendency of such meetings, have there succeeded in denouncing and proscribing them. The *pattern* of Kilronan, on the contrary, as I understood, continues in all its pristine glory.

Keadue.—The estates of Colonel Tenison afford additional proofs, were any wanting, of the benefits which a district may derive from a resident landlord; and at Keadue, when I passed it, a market-house was in progress, erected at his sole expense.

Keadue contains thirty-one cabins of two stories.

Four houses of two stories, thatched.

Three ditto, ditto, slated.

Two new larger and better houses were far advanced.

Keadue is the only post town in Roscommon to the north of Boyle. The Arigna iron and the coal works have improved the market; and a cloth shop had been established in rivalry to Drumshambo. There was no house deserving of the name of inn.

Drumshambo was the only place on this side of the country where the traveller could procure a decent bed or stabling for his horse. A chamber had been fitted up in the inn for the agent of the estate, which I found tolerable; but the rain poured down in torrents on my poor horse; and as for carriage, that had to withstand not merely the season's difference, but the reiterated attacks and rubbings of the horned cattle, enclosed with it in the same yard.

Keadue marks the northern limit of the tract of sandstone which I have described as being first met with at Crossna, to the south.

The northern parts of Roscommon have derived very considerable advantage from the roads, which of

late years have been opened, to the Shannon navigation, on one side, and to Sligo on the other.

In Mr. Nimmo's report to Lord F. L. Gower, dated 1829, speaking of the road past Cettinoveeny colliery and Drumahair, he says, "although little of their line is yet available, it is surprising to see what an improvement it has excited in the mountain district: numerous houses are rising on the road, and tillage rising to the summits of the hills." To the accuracy of this statement, I could bear evidence from what I saw during the subsequent year. Indeed oats were growing in great vigour on parts of the mountain, where tillage only a few years before had been considered impracticable.

It is difficult to arrive at an accurate knowledge of the value of mountain ground, as it is commonly taken by bulk, in which several persons join. Rough land near Arigna, held by several in partnership, was pointed out to me at 12s. and 13s. per acre.

The mountain roads through this district are of great importance in affording the means of conveying lime with facility from the lower country, where it may be had in abundance, to the hills, on which its effects are very remarkable for several years.

Although upon the coal mountains and others of the same elevation, not a tree is at present to be seen, yet it is evident, that woods have hitherto been extensive, and the timber of considerable size, in places which are now absolutely bare. In an elevated valley to the west of Mount Allen, now overgrown with bog, I saw oak timber of large dimensions taken out from the bottoms, where it is found in such abundance, as to be a source of considerable gain to those

who are engaged in the search. It is discovered by forcing spears or probes of iron through the bog; and by repeated soundings, the exact position of the tree is ascertained, after which it is dug out.

CURLEW MOUNTAINS.

These mountains situated to the north of the town of Boyle, extend in a direction nearly north-east and south-west, and form a boundary in part between the counties of Roscommon and Sligo. From the slope below the church of Boyle, leading down to the fair green, the mountains appear in full view, rising from the opposite side of the valley at the distance of a mile or mile and a half. Their height is but inconsiderable; houses may be observed far up their sides, and cultivation is annually approaching towards the crest: indeed nearly every part of their surface is applicable to tillage, pasturage, or planting. Two circumstances are particularly observable on casting the eye over the long range; the number and the smallness of the white cottages which are dotted over the surface, and the want of trees and hedges. Some extensive young plantations, however, have been made by Lord Lorton, one on the summit of a hill, for example, including, as I was informed, twenty-five Irish acres; but these scarcely serve to form an exception on such an extended range. The humble dimensions of the cottages and their numbers, bespeak small holdings; these may be averaged at from ten to fifteen acres; but the land is commonly set in bulk. I could not with my telescope, on surveying the face of the mountains at a distance, discover a single substantial

farm house with its offices or barns, forming a conspicuous homestead. Neither on approaching nearer, and at last getting upon the mountains, was there any illusion to be dispelled: the circumstances were as nearly as possible just what they had appeared to be.

Silicious sandstone in sloping beds, appears in several places on the face of the mountain, covered with shallow bog and heath; and the soil, for the greater part, is light and poor; yet evidently capable of receiving much improvement from draining. Plantations of forest trees, by affording shelter, would also be the means of effecting important amelioration. But occupied as these mountains are, at present, in small tenements, it is hopeless to expect improvements of an expensive nature; or any planting beyond that of a few of the more rapid growing and flexible trees, near the cottages which may serve to make creels and kishes for the conveyance of turf. Fuel is abundant, and the only difficulties consist in drying it.

The rents appear very moderate, in actual amount of money, occasionally below ten and seldom exceeding fifteen shillings the acre; but here, as in several other places, rents are estimated less by the value that is received, than the sum which is paid: for, to any person conversant in agricultural calculations, and capable of forming a true estimate of profit and loss, it must be evident, that much of the land to the south of Boyle, the plains, for example, of which parts are let for 30s. and 35s., would be cheaper at 50s., than the best parts of the surface on the Curlew mountains would be at 10s. But there is generally a satisfaction in having small sums to pay *out*, with an extensive

though rough surface to bring *in*. The average of Lord Lorton's rents on the Curlew mountains, does not, as I was informed, exceed 10s. per acre. Rough pasturage, oats, and potatoes, in moderate patches for home consumption, principally and commonly near the houses, are the chief products. Butter is extensively made, for which there is always a ready market at Boyle; and cattle are reared, which are usually sold young. The potato tillage is almost entirely performed by the peculiar sort of spade instrument called the *loy*, of which there are two kinds, the long-bladed, or narrow *loy*; and the broader, or short *loy*, which will be found described in the general account of the agriculture of the county. Oats are cultivated with the plough, though not exclusively so. It is a common practice, as I was informed, for several families to club together for the purchase of a horse, in the spring; and to lend these horses mutually for joint operations, in turns, in their respective fields. These horses are generally bought young; and after performing the spring work, are commonly sold at a profit. In fact, the work to which they are applied, serves in a great measure to break them in; and there is no want of hands to lead and drive, and compel them, by main force, if necessary, to the performance of their duty, whilst the experienced master holds the instrument which passes under the name of plough.

The roads amongst these mountains are very rough; and in many places, where they are carried across the ravines, inconveniently steep. Some of these, leading towards Sligo, appear to be considerably frequented; and it was satisfactory to perceive, along their lines, new buildings starting up, much superior to the old

farm-houses, constructed, for the most part, with stout walls of stone and mortar, and in some instances carried up to a second story. Such houses are very commonly destined to the accommodation of carriers in their passage to Sligo, supplying whiskey as a matter of course; besides having small shops slenderly furnished with such articles as are in the most immediate demand amongst the neighbouring inhabitants. Limestone is found on these mountains as well as sandstone; and on the crest of the ridge, more particularly on the Sligo side, the limestone occurs, frequently, in large disrupted fragments curiously piled up; whilst in other places it forms long mural precipices, remarkable for their straightness as well as perpendicularity on the sides of the ravines. The ridge is very narrow in parts; so that in the course of a few minutes walk, after looking down upon Lough Arrow in Sligo, which forms a beautiful sheet of water, a sight may be obtained on the other side of Lough Skeen and Lough Meelagh in Roscommon, with Castle Temon between them, adorned with its woods and plantations. The coal mountains rise directly behind the castle, extending to the east and west. These, along the slopes towards their base, are also dotted with white cottages, more particularly near the little village of Ballyfarnon, which stands on one of the roads leading to Sligo, and is the most remote village in the County of Roscommon, on the north-west frontier.

BOYLE TO LOUGH GARA.

The road from Boyle to Lough Gara passes out through that poor quarter which goes by the name of

the Irish town, and follows the course of the river, from which it is in no instance far removed, although the water is frequently concealed by the inequalities of the surface. Some parts of the road are very steep; and there are considerable descents as well as ascents; but the rise is, on the whole, towards the lake, which, as explained in the description of it, lies considerably above Boyle. The inequalities may be considered as the spurs or offsets from the Curlew Mountains, along the base of which the road runs, the crest being perhaps somewhat more than a mile or a mile and a quarter distant from the road.

The lands on each side of the road are under cultivation; but they are, on the whole, in a very rude state, and though divided, stand in great want of hedge-rows and of planting, if it were only to obtain shelter. The soil is shallow, light, and poor. Improvements are, however, going forward; and in some few places excellent quickset fences have been made. The farm-houses are, in general, of an humble description; but the cabins on the road side are by no means so poor as many which may be seen in other parts of the same county.

There are many very pleasing positions for houses, and some of these have been already taken for building, which, when surrounded by well-grown trees, cannot fail to improve, in the course of time, the appearance of the country.

From the heights on this road, very extensive prospects open across the river, and towards the plains of Boyle, to the south-east and south of the town. The town itself standing in the valley, with the river winding towards it, appears to advantage, and the old

trees in the park near the church, constituted a distinguished feature in the landscape. There are groves, as usual, near several of the country seats, or larger farm-houses, which are thinly scattered; but, in general, there is a marked want of trees and hedge-rows.

On a knoll terminating rather abruptly on the side next the river, at the distance of about one mile from Boyle, stand the remains of the old church of Asilin, or Isselyn, which, from the extent of the ruined walls about it, might be supposed to have been a place of consequence; but there are no traces of architectural ornaments, and the style of the buildings appears to have been of an humble description. A small Catholic Chapel occupies a part of the ancient site: and an extensive burial ground, the one principally used by the Roman Catholic inhabitants of Boyle, surrounds the ruins. There are some very large flag tombstones, but none of the inscriptions were remarkable; nor did any that I observed extend beyond the commencement of the last century: yet the place is one of great antiquity.

The river, just at the foot of the knoll occupied by the ruins, rushes over the rocks with considerable velocity, and at one place forms a small cascade, the noise of which is heard to some distance; in general the ground near the river is rough and stony, and the banks steep.

Mill-sites might be had on various parts of its course, and the abundance and regularity of the supply of water obtainable from the lake, and the considerable falls, would allow of their being established, were there occasion for them, to a very great extent.

Near the issue of the river from the lake there is one small mill and an eel-weir connected with the mill-dam, where the large body of water which goes to waste, affords undoubted proofs of what might be effected.

Cromlech.—At a short distance to the north of this mill, on the right hand side of the road going towards the lake, and not far off it, stands one of the largest cromlechs that I have seen in Ireland. The sloping upper stone is fifteen feet long by eleven broad; its greatest thickness two feet six inches, and its average thickness might perhaps be safely set down at eighteen inches. It is now supported by four upright stones, but, once, had a fifth. To this, the neighbouring miller, in an evil hour, took a fancy, judging it would make an admirable stone for his mill; and with much difficulty and labour he removed it from its place; but just as the operation was on the point of being completed, the stone, to the amazement and terror of the bystanders, flew into a thousand pieces; an occurrence which was interpreted as a judgment upon the miller for his audacious violation of this sacred work of antiquity. The people still look upon the cromlechs with a degree of respect, if not veneration, although they have no notion of their origin, or of the purposes to which they were destined.

I presume that the fracture and disruption of the supporter in this instance, might have been attributable to the weight of the upper stone shifting, and coming suddenly upon the upright pillar beyond what it was able to bear. The large upper sloping stone is silicious sandstone, much eaten and hollowed by the weather in several places; the pillars are silicious

conglomerate in a sandstone matrix, such as would have well suited the purposes of the miller.

THE PLAINS OF BOYLE.

The plains of Boyle are high limestone lands remarkable for their rich pastures, and their properties of fattening horned cattle. They are usually considered as commencing at Ardcarne, about three miles to the east of Boyle, and extending to the south of the line between these two places, as far as Eastersnow. The denomination is rather an undefined one, but the plains may perhaps be safely set down as containing from seven to ten square miles. The surface is any thing but plain, if evenness be the meaning attached to the term; but if *plain* be interpreted to signify the absence of trees, or natural obstructions of rocks or ravines, then it is strictly applicable. The surface in fact is very considerably undulated, but mostly of that character, which, in sporting language, is called fine galloping ground. Very considerable herds of cattle are fed annually on these grounds; they are bought at an age to receive their last summer's fattening on these grounds, and are then driven off to Ballinasloe, or others of the large fairs in the country, at which they are disposed of to buyers who carry them to the eastward; there, some are retained for winter stall feeding; some sent at once to the Dublin market; and others again are shipped immediately for England. The facility with which the transport is now effected, has induced some of the more adventurous graziers in Ireland, to send their cattle to England, on their own account,

thus pocketing the gains which used to be divided between the cattle jobbers and the Dublin salesmen.

Cattle boats are already established between Balinasloe and Dublin, by which fatted animals can be conveyed along the Grand Canal, in a given time, and with the least possible liability to accident; and no doubt, similar establishments will sooner or later be made at Tarmonbarry, for the transportation of cattle by the Royal Canal, from the northern parts of the county. Improvements of this nature are still in their infancy, and the country as yet scarcely knows its own resources.

Near to Boyle, as I was informed, there is not any gentleman or farmer on a large scale, distinguished by his style of farming; or engaged in stall-feeding, further than having three or four heifers kept on hay and potatoes, usually until February or March.

The three largest farms on the plains of Boyle, or close to them, are one of 240 plantation acres; another of 220 or thereabouts; and another of 160 acres. These farms are reckoned worth, on an average, 30s. per acre.

SOUTHERN PARTS OF THE BARONY OF BOYLE.

The great road from Dublin, entering the county by the bridge at Carrick-on-Shannon, and passing onwards to Sligo, through the town of Boyle, separates the barony into two great divisions, of which that to the south is by far the most considerable. From this main road, others branch off to the southward at Car-

rick, at Ardcarne, and at Boyle. The road from the latter place again divides into three other branches, one of which leads to Elphin by Croghan; the other to French Park; and the third one, intermediate between the other two, to Camlin. The country traversed by these roads, more especially after first leaving Boyle, is very agreeably varied with hill and dale, but it is extraordinarily bare of trees and hedge-rows; the common fences are stone walls or mounds of earth with ditches at their base. The road to Croghan skirts along the plains of Boyle, so much celebrated for the richness of their pastures. Here, until within a few years past, the ways were inconvenient from the number of ascents and descents; but several new cuts have been made to avoid the more difficult parts, by which the road, although it still must be considered as a hilly one, has been materially improved.

At the distance of about two miles from Boyle, on the eastern side of the road along the plains, two new and excellent houses, with fronts of forty feet, were in a state of progress, situated on gentle eminences. Not a tree, shrub, or bush grew near either; but the soil is rich; the ground pleasingly undulated; and both places may, in a few years, assume a very different aspect. These houses were extremely well built, of limestone with the doors and windows cased with brick, and they promised to be an embellishment to the district. The lands or farms attached to them, as I was informed on the spot, amounted to seventy-two acres for one, and thirty-two acres for the other, of the new English measure; allotments apparently small in proportion to the size and style of the building.

Eastersnow, at a short distance further to the south,

is considered to be the limits of the district commonly called the Plains of Boyle, on this side. The road here traverses a deep hollow, near the bottom of which, to the east, stands the church of Eastersnow; not unlike an English barn, in a lonely spot, surrounded with a few ragged trees. Here, as at Ardcarne, the gravestones are covered with white lichens which convey an appearance of age beyond what they in reality possess.

Nearly on the opposite side of the road to the west, Cavetown Loughs, bounded by hills, are seen, with plantations and improvements, and at the head of the large lough, a country seat. An obelisk, erected on the hills beyond the lake, forms a conspicuous landmark.

The village of Croghan, about half way between Boyle and Elphin, standing on the summit of one of the many ridges which the road traverses, contains about a score or more of small houses and cabins, tolerable of their kind; but the place will probably assume a different and more improved appearance when the leases shall have expired, as the whole is the property of Mr. Guy Lloyd, one of the most improving landlords of the county. If a position be taken on an eminence near the village, which commands an extensive view, on looking to the eastward, along the road leading down to the Shannon, the whole country as far as the eye can reach in that direction, appears studded with whitened cottages. These are the erection of Mr. Lloyd; in other words, he insists upon improvements being made by his tenants, and grants a liberal allowance for the purpose out of their rents. Amongst some trees, a little below the village, he was also building a new house for his own accommodation;

not however, for permanent, but merely occasional residence; since Mr. Lloyd is an Englishman, and possessed of large property in his native country as well as in Ireland. His estate in this neighbourhood, reaches nearly down to Carrick-on-Shannon, but is narrow in proportion to the length. I had had the pleasure of being introduced to Mr. Lloyd, and of dining in company with him at Boyle, only the day before I came on to Croghan; but, as sometimes perversely happens on such occasions, without having been informed where his estate lay, or of any other circumstances relative to himself, than that he possessed a large property in the county, which he was come over to visit. Mr. Lloyd was in the prime of youth; to appearance in the earlier stage of that prime. The mortification I felt at not having profited more of the opportunity which had been thus within my reach, may be more readily imagined, when I explain, that on arriving at Croghan, I found every tongue eloquent in his praise; and blessings invoked upon his head both by young and old. I was informed, on the spot, that Mr. Lloyd chose to be his own agent; that he came over generally twice in the year to receive his rents; that he had given back 2s. in the pound, spontaneously, out of the last half-year's rent; that in the time of scarcity he had sent meal to be distributed amongst the poor; that the people all loved him; in fine that their landlord was one who had no equal in the whole county. All with whom I spoke, and I conversed with many, concurred in the same account; and there could have been no object in describing to me, a passing stranger, whom there was little likelihood of ever seeing again, matters, differently from what they really were.

Did similar feelings exist between tenants and landlords, throughout the island, what a country would Ireland become! How different from its present unfortunate condition! The circumstances here also seem completely to disprove the opinions that have been so rashly advanced, that the Irish will not show gratitude for favours. The real value of what is called a favour should perhaps be examined in the first instance.

The following description of Croghan was pointed out to me in Guthrie's Gazetteer, printed in Dublin, by Wogan, in the year 1791:—

“ Croghan, a fair town of Roscommon; the fairs held Wednesday after Trinity Sunday, and the 28th day of October.

“ This was a royal residence, and the ancient capital of Connaught. It is situated near Elphin. The only remains of this ancient city are the *Naasteaghan*, where the States of Connaught assembled; and the Sacred Cave. Near Croghan stands Religna Riagh, or the resting place of the kings of Commac necuilt ola. It consists of a circular area of about 200 feet diameter, surrounded with a stone ditch greatly defaced. Several transverse ditches are within the area; also heaps of coarse stones piled upon each other, specifying the graves of the interred persons. From the construction of this cemetery, it appears to have been erected in the latter ages of paganism.”

No information relative to any of these antiquities was to be obtained, however, at Croghan; and on reaching the hospitable roof of O'Connor Don, the late member of the County Roscommon, I was informed, that the description applied to Rath or Riagh Croghan,

in the barony of Roscommon, a few miles from Belanegar; and not to the Croghan just spoken of, which, nevertheless, was the place of the fair. Further, that there was nothing remarkable to be seen even at Riagh Croghan.

As for the sacred cave, it might possibly have been there, but it would have been difficult to distinguish it, amongst the many caves which are to be seen in that part of Roscommon, which is all a limestone district. At Kilmacumshy,* about a mile and a half to the north-west of Elphin, several very extensive caves are likewise to be seen; but it is difficult to penetrate into them; as, in general, the bottoms are wet and full of mud. Not being prepared to examine them, I did not stop to make the attempt.

The village of Croghan, according to the boundaries marked in the county map, appears to belong to the parish of Killumod; but in the statistical account of the parish of Killuken, written by Archdeacon Digby, and published in the second volume of Mr. Mason's collection, it is there mentioned, as being situated in the latter parish: in fact, it stands near the bounds of separation between the two parishes.

* Mr. Edward Houghton was so good as to send me, amongst other things with which he favoured me, whilst I was engaged upon this work, a small pamphlet he had met by chance, entitled, "ΣΥΛΛΕΓΟΜΕΝΑ
" of the Antiquities of *Killmackumpshaugh*, in the County of Roscommon, in which it is clearly proved that Ireland was originally peopled
" by Ægyptians."—By Doctor Hasler, &c. &c., Dublin, 1790. It is dedicated to the Members of the Royal Irish Academy. A few minutes' reading, however, serves to disclose the nature of the work, a mere production of fancy, written in burlesque of the antiquarian researches of the Academy. I had heard of this book, before, in the County of Roscommon, and that it was written by a clergyman for amusement, during confinement from gout. The sale of it produced well.

Killuken parish stretches down to the Shannon at Carrick, that part of the town of Carrick being within it, which is situated on the Roscommon side of the river: the distance from Croghan to Carrick is about four miles and a half.

The Archdeacon describes the parish as having no mountains, but many gentle hills, round and detached, which are all pasturable and even arable; no woods; no thickets; no plantations. One small river which flows from the little lake of Knockroe, and after passing near the church of Killuken, falls into the Shannon near Carrick; fine springs of good water, every where; some bogs with moor on the road from Carrick to Croghan; and some marshy lands, which in winter are flooded, but in summer afford meadow or pasture. The only gentlemen's seats are near Croghan. No minerals nor any uncommon natural productions; no ruins of monasteries or religious remains; none of castles; but in a field on the road side, between Carrick and Croghan, stands a long stone setup obliquely, a reputed Druid's altar, called by the common people Clogh Con, *i. e.* the crooked stone, and thrown there according to tradition, by the giant Fin-mac-Coole,* the print of whose five fingers it bears, from a place in the County of Leitrim, distant seven miles.

Weaving of linen, drugget, frize, and flannel, for the use of the neighbourhood, carried on; but great want of employment for the people in general; and none for children, excepting in helping their parents

* Fin-mac-Coole was the giant of the coast of Antrim, who, according to tradition, usually found to be so correct, fabricated the Giant's Causeway; I was not before aware that he had wandered into Connaught.

to plant potatoes in the season, or to make turf. The mode of agriculture chiefly by digging with a very clumsy, long, and narrow spade, called a *loy*. The plough not used; partly because of the clayey wet soil; partly because of the poverty of the petty tillage farmers, who are unable to keep working cattle, or provide themselves with proper implements of husbandry; of course, the labour of raising crops without the plough is great and tedious. Large pasture farms are held by gentlemen graziers.

This account of the Archdeacon's was published in the year 1816; the state of rural economy remains very nearly the same; but there has been a great alteration in the rate of rents, which the Archdeacon describes as amounting to three guineas for the best land, 50s. for middling, and the poorest 40s. per acre; rents much beyond those of the present day.

In the village of Croghan and immediately around it, an additional value attaches to houses and land, from the circumstance of two large fairs being held there in the course of the year. A house well situated in the street, consisting of a large outer room or kitchen; an inner room; with lofts over both; together with seven acres of ground close behind it, were rented, when I passed in the summer of 1830, at £19 per annum. This rent was payable to a middle man; but when the lease should be out, there was a confident expectation on the part of the tenants in possession, that an abatement would be obtained from their excellent head landlord, Mr. Guy Lloyd.

The Archdeacon describes small schools for the children of the peasantry, as being numerous throughout the parish; and the usual prices per quarter,

3*s.* 6*d.* for such as learn accounts ; 1*s.* 6*d.* for spelling and for reading. Exactly the same prices were still usual at Croghan, where I saw one of the fullest schools that I had met with in the whole county. There are no public or endowed schools in the parish.

To the southward of the village of Croghan, the same description of undulated country, composed of hills of limestone and limestone gravel, is observable ; but towards the boundaries of the barony there are more trees, and many quickset hedges.

To the westward, in the direction of Camlin, the bogs which intervene between the hills become more considerable ; and they increase in size towards the limits of the barony and county, near Lough Gara.

The road from Boyle to the south-west part of the barony, abounds with hills like those near Croghan ; but the ascents and descents over them are longer : the country is equally bare of trees and hedges, and there are no large villages ; but in many places hamlets consisting of cabins scattered along the road side.

The Breeogue river has already been described as a dull sleepy stream, winding through marshes overrun with reeds and rushes ; at about a mile, or rather more, above its junction with Lough Gara, it is traversed by a low causeway bridge of considerable length. The road from Boyle to French Park passes over the bridge, and in its vicinity the houses first assume the appearance of a village. A Roman Catholic chapel stands on one side of the river, on a rising ground ; the church on the opposite side of the river. The cabins which skirt the road side, many of which appeared to have been recently built, were of a far better description than those of preceding years,

and afford decided evidence of the improving hand of an attentive landlord.

The extensive demesne and the woods of French Park soon catch the eye, and if approached by the western road direct from Boyle, where scarcely a bush or tree is to be seen, the effect of the first view is particularly striking; but on drawing nearer, the prospect is impeded by a boundary wall of more than usual height, which appears almost interminable; so that it is quite a relief at last to reach the grand entrance and obtain a peep of the park, through the tall iron pallisades of the olden style; not, however, the less dignified and imposing on that account. The gate lodge stands at the opposite side of the spacious public road, and not immediately facing the entrance; but the first stroke on the full-toned bell, brought a little barefooted damsel, bounding like a roe, and with as bright and sunny a countenance as ever I beheld, who unlocked the ponderous gate, spread it open, and again turned the key, and disappeared in an instant after I entered.*

The demesne of French Park is reputed to contain 900 acres Irish, equal to 1458 English: the grounds are gently undulated, and pleasingly ornamented in many parts with fine timber; but several of the older oaks, in the avenue, bare and ragged at the top, shewed symptoms of premature decay; though, whether attributable to the soil or to the power of the western blast, I am not competent to pronounce. The house, on the right of the handsome winding avenue of ap-

* I had letters for Mr. French, but was unfortunate in not having found him at home at either of the two several times I visited the place.

proach, stands rather in a low position; the lawn to the front of it has an easy ascent, towards woods which terminate the view at a moderate distance.

The house is built in the old massive style, of brick, which has assumed a heavy dead colour, partially tinged with lichens. The central compartment slightly advanced, is surmounted by a pediment, and a broad flight of low steps leads up to the entrance.

The wings, somewhat detached, advance beyond the line of the house so as nearly to form a court in front of it; and beyond the mansion the offices stretch out to a great extent.

There appeared, I think, amongst those who were left in charge, a more eager desire to shew me the fox hounds than any other part of the establishment. They are the only regular pack kept up in the county, and it is rare to see kennels more thoroughly well arranged; sleeping compartments, feeding compartments, nurseries, besides yards upon yards, all amply provided with water, kitchen, boilers, troughs, &c. &c. The hounds, amounting to about twenty-five select couple, were all black and white.

The farm offices are, perhaps, less compact than would be deemed consistent with convenience and economy, according to modern principles; but every thing at this fine old place is upon a grand and extended scale.

Within the demesne walls I saw excellent samples of drill husbandry, both in turnips and rape, &c.; and it is admitted generally, that the tillage at French Park, as far as it goes, is amongst the very best in the whole county.

A considerable tract of the contiguous part of the estate, amounting, as I was informed, to 1400 acres

Irish, or 2267 English, is leased to a brother of Mr. French the member, who feeds about 4000 sheep; these are all of the large Connaught breed, or with a mixture of the heavy English breeds; the dead weight of which will amount to 35 lbs. per quarter and upwards.

In various parts of this county, it is usual for the more extensive landlords to keep animals of fine breeds, as sires, for the improvement of the estate; and at French Park there were stallions, bulls, rams, boars, the latter of which, as I was informed, were freely lent to the tenants. Three boars, of a yellowish-white colour, were amongst the heaviest and largest animals of the kind which I ever saw. The best rams will bring £20 to £25 for the season.

The bulls of the long horned Leicester, and of the Devon breeds, are those most in esteem.

Hay-making was still going on here at the 21st day of August, which is the more deserving of notice as it shows that even where improved husbandry is understood and practised, the period is nevertheless late; yet compared with the hay-harvest in many other parts of the county, that at French Park might be considered as remarkably early.

Summer fruits already over in Dublin, were here barely ripe, a circumstance which may assist in explaining the nature of the climate.

Stall feeding cattle, excepting for mere domestic use, is not more in practice here, than in other parts of the county. Markets are distant, and after a long confinement, it is supposed that cattle are liable to suffer by the journey. The common system practised by graziers is to buy cattle in the spring, which may be fattened in the rich natural pastures during the

ensuing summer, and then sold, for the most part, at the great fair of Ballinasloe. Yet when the proposed new road from Tarmonbarry, which is to pass through French Park,* shall have been opened, and cattle boats established on the Royal Canal, it can scarcely be doubted, but that, sooner or later, the farmers and graziers of this county will discover the advantages which are to be derived from winter feeding, and enter into the practice.

The Town of French Park stands immediately outside of the demesne, but not in sight of the entrance. The roads from Elphin, Boyle, Castlerea, and Ballagherreen, in Mayo, join at the town, and the great new road already described, entering the county at Tarmonbarry, and crossing it to the westward, will also pass through the place and facilitate the communication with the Atlantic Ocean. The closest built part of the town is on the Elphin road; on that from

* "Of the improved county roads proceeding by loans from Government, that from Elphin or Shankill to Boyle, has made great progress, but the mail coach line from French Park to the canal at Tarmonbarry, has been a subject of great disappointment."

"This line was presented by the Grand Jury of Roscommon, in 1827; but the Commissioners of the Consolidated Fund had no money. Then an application was made to the Commissioners of Exchequer Bills, who had scruples about lending on a Grand Jury presentment. Then an act was passed providing for the purpose, but a new presentment was required, which was lost by a single vote at the Grand Jury; but at the following summer assizes it was carried unanimously. The Treasurer had been levying the instalment, but until assurances were had of their being able to borrow the remainder, they could not venture to apply them. The completing of this road is really a national object; for independant of its facilitating the intercourse across the province, its connexion with the Royal Canal would tend powerfully to the promotion of agriculture."—*Nimmo's Report to Lord F. L. Gower, 1829, xxii. 337, M.S.*

Boyle, coming across Breeogue bridge, the houses occupy only one side of the way, and the lofty demesne wall, overhung with trees, the other. The ground on which the town stands, and around it, is very flat. An open space between two of the roads, once probably the village green, is now the seat of the Roman Catholic chapel, to the building of which, Mr. French contributed £100, and his brother £40. Facing the same opening there was also a school-house,* and a sessions'-house, for the meeting of magistrates, with an office for the receiver of the rents of the estate, where attendance is given at fixed periods, but more particularly on the weekly market days.† Preparations were making for erecting a market-house, the want of which, with the increase of tillage, was felt as a great inconvenience.

French Park contained in 1830,

71 thatched cabins,

21 houses of two stories thatched,

5 do. do. slated.

The town, when I saw it, had but a mean appearance, and was neither neat nor orderly. Two new houses, however, of a description far superior to any that had been previously erected in the place, were

* This school had been a free one ; but owing to the death or the absence of its patrons, it was closed at the time I passed, for pupils ; an old woman merely remained in it as a care-taker. The children, females, then went to the Roman Catholic school, at which a price was charged for tuition.

† This is a usual system through the county, on the large estates ; Dr. and Cr. accounts are opened with the tenants, and the rents which fall due half-yearly, received by small instalments, in proportion as the produce of the land is converted into money.

nearly completed, intended for cloth shops ; or in other words, for shops of general business ; and the encouragement to builders of similar substantial houses, held out by Mr. French, together with the prospect of increased trade from the improved roads, promised to give an impulse to speculation. The alteration in the qualifications for the elective franchise could scarcely fail also of operating as an incentive to the building of houses of a better class, than those which sufficed to constitute a 40s. freehold. On the old system, there was a positive bounty upon mean houses,* which, it may be presumed, had its usual influence in this town, the property of a family, which for such a long series of years had furnished a representative for the county ; since no more ready means could well be devised for the increase of freeholders and strengthening county interest, than in the disposal of town lots ; and for which, in proportion to the lowness of the annual value that conferred privilege, the claimants would naturally become more numerous. Formerly it was computed that the freeholds in the town amounted to at least fifty, whilst at present they are supposed not to exceed seven or eight.

The town is a divided property ; belongs to two members of the same family.

Whiskey shops abound here as they do in other towns, to the degradation of the people ; and signs swinging before houses, pretending to be inns, promise accommodation to the traveller they are utterly

* I have to request that these observations may not be interpreted as expressive of any opinion on the qualification which *ought* to be required for the elective franchise. I merely wish to state my belief, that making the qualification depend on a freehold of 40s., has tended materially to deteriorate the character of houses and towns in *Ireland*.

unable to afford.* My servant, whom I had sent back with my horse to bait, had been unable, after two hours' search, to procure a feed of oats; neither was there at any one house, cheese, or any meat, except bacon, to be had. Yet there appeared to be considerable traffic on the road, and relays of posting jaunting-cars, of which several came up during the short time I remained in the town.

French Park enjoys the advantage of having excellent building stone, and, like Boyle, a choice of two kinds: silicious sandstone is found within a quarter of a mile of the town; and limestone in the very streets. The two new houses I have mentioned, preparing for shops, were built of the sandstone, which is of a warm rich colour, but coarse in grain. The chapel was built of the limestone. The sandstone is said to make the firmest building, though I am inclined somewhat to doubt that position; that a house constructed with it is likely to be drier, will, however, be admitted.

The price of quarrying the limestone, as I was informed, is 2s. for the quantity of stone necessary for the building perch, 21 feet in length, 5 feet in height, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick at the base, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick at the top; or 110 cubic feet, which comes nearly to three-pence per ton. The stone is easily raised, lies close to the surface, and comes out in pieces readily prepared for building.

The price of land at French Park is reputed to

* Whether the hospitality for which the mansion house of French Park has been so long distinguished, has been detrimental or otherwise, to the interests of the inn-keeper, is a question I pretend not to discuss; but I must state, that on my arrival there, a perfect stranger, in the absence of the master, the servants immediately offered me refreshments, and reluctantly permitted my horse to be sent away from the house to the town.

be rather higher than around other towns of similar size in the county of Roscommon; yet according to the returns given on the spot, *town parks* were rated at £3 per acre.

Land at one mile distance £2 per acre.

Land equally good some miles from the town, 30s. to 20s. per acre. The quality varies greatly.

In the town parks, after the ground has been well manured for potatoes, five crops of oats in succession are afterwards commonly taken without any more manure. Burning ground is strictly forbidden.

Mr. Wakefield, speaking of French Park in the year 1809, says, “Dean French laid a wager that eight tons of hay were not saved upon an acre; and he lost it.” But it is not explained on what description of ground the hay was produced. The flat lands in the vicinity of the Breeogue and other sleepy rivers in this neighbourhood, which commonly overflow, produce immense crops; but the grass is of a coarse description, as usual in such places.

Mr. Wakefield informs us, that at the same period, 1809, during the height of the war prices, the then Mr. French was hiring back from his own tenants, at two guineas per acre, land which he had himself let to them at 15s. per acre; and other land leased by his father at 10s. He had hired back, in this manner, on an expirable lease, 400 acres from one person, his own tenant, but not being able to obtain a renewal, had determined to get the most he could from the land; and having broken up a part of it, took two crops of potatoes, one of flax, and six of oats, all in immediate annual succession. This may afford some notion of the fertility of the soil in this vicinity; I have heard of land producing equally as much in other parts of the county.

Dean French, at the same period, had 50 acres let out by the year, to the poor, for potatoes, at the rate of $6\frac{1}{4}$ guineas an acre, if paid for by Candlemas; but if paid later, at 7 guineas; prices, it may be observed, very different from what I have put down as at present payable for town parks.

The high rents which were paid in those days met with a full equivalent in the superior value of produce; yet notwithstanding the present depression of prices, tillage is admitted to have extended very widely in Roscommon of latter years; and much of the land, which, when Mr. Wakefield passed through the country in 1809, was mountain, or rather upland, (for the surface in this neighbourhood cannot be said to rise into mountain,) rough pasture and bog, is now under regular tillage, producing potatoes and oats. The improvement of these tracts was mainly attributable to the liberal encouragement held out by Mr. French, who gave it rent free for seven years, besides timber to build cabins; and who, at the end of the term, granted leases if the land had been properly treated. Some excellent drains have likewise been cut in this neighbourhood, with a view to the reclaiming of bog in the lower grounds. These, as already explained, are of wide extent, and a field open for improvement for many years yet to come.

Clonshanvill Abbey. Within half a mile of the town, on low ground, on the verge of an extensive flat bog, stand the remains of this ancient establishment, founded, according to early and obscure tradition, by St. Patrick. Owing to the openness of the country and the evenness of the surface, the ruins are seen at a considerable distance, and their mass produces rather

an imposing effect in the landscape; but they are not very picturesque, neither are any of the antiquities of the place of a character to excite much interest. The ruins consist of the walls of a church with its steeple; the remains of a square building, which appears to have formed the habitable part of the abbey; and of some detached chapels within the cemetery. The church was eighty feet in length, with a transept to the north of thirty-six feet. The steeple is supported on pointed arches. What was once the chancel is now railed off and appropriated to tombs; amongst which, I believe, were those of the French family; but the new parish church has latterly been the place of sepulture.

In one of the small detached chapels, beneath the shade of two very large ash trees, which springing from the foundation of the walls on opposite sides, overspread a considerable part of the ruins, appears a tomb with the following inscription:—

“ Pray for the soul of Patrick French Fitz-Stephen, of Galway, Burges, who lived in this world 86 years, and deceased at his own howse in Dungar, and was buried here this 14 April, 1667.”

Above the coat of arms are represented in carved stone, emblems of the crucifixion—the ladder, hammer, nails, pincers, &c.

These are cut in sandstone.

The cemetery adjacent to the abbey, still much used, is walled entirely round, but accessible by a broad commodious stile, over which the corpses are conveyed.

One of the most remarkable remains of antiquity

connected with this place, consists of a cross, rising to the height of eleven feet above the surface, formed of a single piece of conglomerate sandstone flag. The arms are unusually short; and at their intersection with the stem, a plain circular disk was carved on the stone. If there ever had been any inscription, time has worn it completely away.

Mr. Archdall states, that the abbey, on its being re-built or new founded in the year 1385, by M'Dermot Roe, was dedicated to the HOLY CROSS. This may account for the erection of such a lofty cross. The tradition, however, connected with it in the country is, that it marked the limits beyond which a corpse brought for burial might not be borne until the monks came to receive it from the relatives and friends; after which it was conveyed in ceremony to the holy ground; the cross stands about two hundred yards from the abbey. In several instances, in Italy, I have observed limits assigned in the same manner to the approach, more especially to the approach of females, within a certain distance of the hallowed abodes of monkery.

This cross leans considerably from the perpendicular: how deep it is seated in the ground, does not appear to be known, and as an experiment to that end might involve the risk of oversetting and breaking the cross, it is to be hoped, for the sake of preserving this remnant of antiquity, that the subject may still be left in doubt and uncertainty.

Very little is known of this establishment. According to Mr. Archdall, Connedius, the disciple of St. Patrick, was the first *bishop* of it. M'Dermot Roe, in

1385, gave it to the Dominican friars, and when suppressed, it was granted to Lord Dillon.*

The South-Western part of the Barony of Boyle, stretching from French Park to the verge of the county, where it joins to Mayo, contains some of the most extensive tracts of bog in Roscommon: and yet here, surrounded by water, is situated the rich demesne of Lough Glyn, with its lake and fine hanging woods; the seat of Viscount Dillon.† The house large and massive, is not dissimilar in style to the front, from that of French Park. It stands on the northern bank of the lake. The main entrance is on the side away from the water; but from the rear a door opens to a long flight of steps leading out to the lawn, which slopes down to the lake; the door is in the centre, and the rooms on each side of it have angular bay windows, which are continued in the upper story. Viewed from the opposite side of the lake, the house has altogether a very grand appearance, em-

* In Grose, it is said to have been granted to Wm. Taaffe, who sold it to Lord Dillon.

† Sir Theobald Dillon, Knight of Costelloe Gallen, in the County of Mayo, was created the first Viscount Dillon in March, 1621-2.

Theobald, the seventh Viscount, who was an officer in the army, attached himself to the fortunes of James II. in 1690, and was outlawed; but the outlawry was reversed in favour of his son Henry, the eighth Viscount.

Henry, the eleventh Viscount, had been a Colonel in the French service.

Charles, the twelfth Viscount, in the year 1767, conformed to the Established Church, and subsequently laid his claim to the title before the Irish House of Lords, which was allowed in the year 1788.

Henry Augustus Dillon Lee, the present Viscount, succeeded to the title in Nov. 1813.

He was born in the year 1777; is a Colonel in the army, &c. &c. &c.

Has a son and heir, born 1810.—*Vide* PEERAGE.

bosomed amidst fine trees ; but the roof, which is on the old French system, much elevated, with double slopes, on different planes, injures the otherwise pleasing effect of the building. This blemish, long since condemned, was at one period on the point of being remedied ; but, at present, the noble possessor is an absentee, and the roof will probably continue as it is. The place remains under the care of his Lordship's agent, Mr. Strickland, an English gentleman, and a Catholic, who lives with his family in the house.

Amongst the woods on the southern side of the lake, are still to be seen the remains of the old castle of Lough Glyn, once a building of considerable extent and strength, defended at each angle by a tower. The western tower, in the latter part of the last century, still continued in tolerable preservation, and was used for the safe custody of prisoners until they could be conveyed to the county gaol ; but the building had been allowed gradually to fall into ruin, and the present mansion-house is said to have been principally built with the stones which it furnished.

The castle is said to have been founded by one of the Fitzgeralds of Mayo, descended from Honora, daughter of Hugh O'Connor, titular king of Connaught.*

The Lough is nearly an Irish mile in length. Its scenery is all of the softer kind ; smooth green banks, sloping down to the water's edge, or intermingled with trees : there is one island covered with wood, which breaks the continuous view of the lake, and gives considerable variety to the lines.

* Antiquities, Grose, 2—53.

The village of Lough Glynn skirting the public road, chiefly on one side, is separated from the demesne by a thick screen of plantations. Formerly the village stood much nearer to the lake; and the site is marked by two gigantic ash trees, which, according to tradition, grew in the centre of the street. At present these trees stand surrounded by those of the plantations, and without a guide to point them out, might pass unnoticed. The largest of them divides at the height of about eight feet from the ground, into four great branches, three of which grow rather upright; but the fourth one extends more in a horizontal direction. This arm in itself would almost form a large tree, and it is reputed to contain two tons of solid timber. The girth of the main stem, at six feet from the ground, wants only a few inches of thirteen feet. The second tree, though large and bearing the appearance of age, is less remarkable. It is, however, supposed that they are coeval, and about three hundred years old; but this seems to be somewhat questionable. Both trees are still flourishing. They were the only trees of remarkable age or size which I met with in Roscommon.

The pastures of Lough Glyn, more particularly on the side next the village, are of great fertility, and were stocked with very large cattle. An intelligent man who accompanied me as a guide, assured me, that if they were to be broken up and divided, to suit accommodation, for a crop of potatoes, the people would willingly pay as high as £9 per acre for the one year; that is, equal to £5 11s. 1d. per English acre; and if true, as he stated, that the ground would yield without any manure 250 cwt. of potatoes per acre, such a rent

might be very well afforded. According to the usual management of the small farmers, if old pasture ground, like this, was left at their disposal, it would be cropped with potatoes for two years in succession; and then sowed with oats, as long as it would yield a crop: five or six crops of oats would probably be obtained, besides the two crops of potatoes, and all without any manure.

The village of Lough Glyn contains about forty-four cabins, and four houses of two stories: the houses are superior to those commonly met with, and some had the appearance of being comfortable: there is a dispensary and a large Roman Catholic chapel near the demesne, at the back of the village. The parish church lies at some distance to the west of the village.

In the section upon bogs, I have already had occasion to mention the improvements which have been made upon the verge of the large bog here, close to which the village is situated. The inhabitants are allowed to carry their improvements into it, as far as they please, according to the breadth of the lots which they hold in the village. The improvements made by Mr. Robinson, a surveyor, on the bog, behind a pretty ornamented lodge which he occupies at the western end of the village, are every way worthy of being inspected, as samples of what may be effected, though only on a small scale. The trees planted on the bog were in a most flourishing state.

Some good houses had been latterly built at Lough Glyn, and one or two shops were in a state of progress; but complaints were general of want of employment and dullness of trade. Still, as I have already remarked elsewhere, new built houses and new shops do not indicate retrogression or decay.

Roads branch off from the village of Lough Glyn, into different parts of the County of Roscommon, as well as into the County of Mayo.

To the westward, at the distance of less than two miles, are to be seen the Turloughs, mentioned in the preceding part of this work; and also the sinking and subsequent re-appearance of the river Lung. The general character of the district, is that of insulated hills and ridges bounded by bogs; altogether it is a wild country.

To the north-east of Lough Glyn, rises the hill of Fairymount, considered by Mr. Longfield to be the highest land in this part of the County of Roscommon, as branches of the river Lung and the river Suck, which run in opposite directions, take their course from different parts of its base. The hill itself, however, does not appear lofty, as seen from the road near Lough Glyn; and cultivation has extended nearly to its summit.

A remarkable object of very remote antiquity exists, as I was informed, (for I did not see it, neither had I heard of it when at Lough Glyn, although twice there,) at a moderate distance from the deer park to the westward. It consists, as described to me, of a large circular massive fortification, formed with thick walls of stone, raised upon a round hill. Mr. Peacock, of Dublin, the ingenious artist, whose works are so highly creditable to the Irish school, and productive of so much pleasure and satisfaction, favoured me with a pencil sketch of the place, which represents the entrance to the fort at a considerable elevation above the base. From what I could learn, it was analogous in character to that of the round fortress

discovered in Kerry, of which a model stands at present in the passage near the Board Room of the Royal Dublin Society; excepting that it was not furnished with the numerous flights of steps which the model displays, intended, as it is supposed, to facilitate access to the summit of the wall, at any point which might be attacked. I have been informed, that circular fortresses of a similar character exist, but in very rare instances, on the coast of Clare.

BARONY OF ROSCOMMON.

It appears somewhat anomalous, that whilst the baronies of Boyle and Athlone contain and probably take their title from the towns of the same name, the barony of Roscommon has no connexion with the town of Roscommon, which is situated in the barony of Ballintobber.

The only towns in the barony of Roscommon are Strokestown and Elphin: Tulsk, a place of note in former times, and returning two members to the Irish Parliament, at present is no more than a small village, or rather hamlet.

The barony of Roscommon is bounded by that of Boyle on the north, and on its other sides is nearly surrounded by the barony of Ballintobber, except for a very short distance on the west, where the half barony of Ballimoe intervenes; and in two places on the east, where the river Shannon borders it, above Jamestown and below Tarmonbarry; but the whole extent of the river shore scarcely amounts to four miles.

The barony of Roscommon is computed to contain—

		Irish Acres.
In Arable Land	..	48.790
Bog	..	6.629
Water	..	1.689
Total	..	57.108
		Total English 94.153

The highest land in this barony, and which constitutes the principal feature in the landscape, is the mountain of Slieve-bawn, pronounced commonly Slee-bon, with the accent on the last syllable. *Slieve*, in Irish, signifies mountain, and *bawn* or *bane* white; an epithet applied probably in consequence of the whiteness of the silicious sandstone rock of which the mountain is composed. At a distance, however, little appearance of whiteness is observable, as the surface towards the summit is covered with bog, heath, and coarse herbage, and elsewhere is cultivated. It is only where quarries have been opened, or where the soil has been washed away by floods, that the rock is seen. There are no cliffs or precipices at all remarkable on this mountain; and, on the east side, towards the Shannon, a gradual slope extends nearly from the crest of the ridge, down to the edge of the flat bogs which stretch along the base, where cultivation is annually increasing, promising in time to reach to the very top of the mountain. On the verge of the deep bog, towards the base, several hamlets appear, and Mount Dillon, on an insulated hill, with some trees, forms a conspicuous object.

The western side of the mountain is more broken than the opposite one, and the pastures by nature seem to be of a better description. Some groves are scattered along the base near the habitations. Slieve-bawn is not limited to the barony of Roscommon, but extends beyond it, both to the north and south, in a long ridge; the highest part, however, which gives name to the whole, lies exclusively within Roscommon barony. The waters on the eastern side of the mountain are received into the Feurish, and borne by

that river into the Shannon, below Tarmonbarry ; whilst, on the western side, not only the waters from the mountain, but likewise all the streams which flow through the barony, are carried to the northward, where, after feeding several minor loughs, they are finally discharged into that broad part of the Shannon known by the name of Lough Bodarig. The great ridge of Sieve-bawn operates, in fact, as a bar to the direct passage of the waters, and turns them off to the north.

LOUGHS AND RIVERS.

The loughs of this barony are numerous, but several of them very small; not less than forty are laid down in the county map. Lough Drynane, situated to the north-east, one of the largest, is about two miles in length. On the eastern side of the barony, towards the Shannon, several of the loughs lie near each other, and being connected by short streams, appear from this circumstance larger than in reality they are. These loughs yield fish of various kinds, from which no doubt much more benefit might be derived, if attention was paid to the spawn and to the preservation of the fish until they had attained a suitable size for market ; but this is a subject at present almost wholly overlooked.

The rivers of the barony of Roscommon nearly in every instance are connected with the loughs ; either taking their rise from them, or flowing into ~~or~~ through them. Their courses are all short, few exceeding the length of six miles. Some of the loughs which receive streams, appear to have no outlet, though doubtless

there are subterranean channels, and these in all probability are the sources of the innumerable springs and wells which abound in the country; some of which, on issuing from the earth, flow off at once in copious streams; others bubble up with violence in their capacious basins; whilst others, in stillness and silence, merely fill the reservoirs which nature seems to have formed for the convenience of the inhabitants.

The water of the wells is generally clear and cool, and of delicious taste. What treasures, what sources of wealth, would such springs be in less favoured countries! whilst here, from their abundance, the people scarcely appear sensible of the blessings they enjoy. Often during the warm days of August, have we stopped to drink of these waters, and after slaking our thirst, have tarried on the spot to admire their depth and transparency: neither did we ever quit them without involuntarily turning to take a farewell look; my very horse would do the same, as if grateful for the refreshment which had been so bountifully furnished.

The great turlough of Mantua already mentioned, lies at the north-western extremity of this barony. In the section relative to the river Shannon and its navigation, the possible extension of the water communication, has been alluded to, which I venture to think, might be carried far into the interior of the county by means of the loughs and rivers which are already connected with the Shannon. But it is a melancholy subject of reflection, that even where the communication is already open by nature, so little use should be made of it; and that whilst in other countries, offering no greater advantages, towns and villages spring up on the shores of lakes and rivers, between which a

frequent intercourse is maintained, here, internal traffic, by water, is feebly carried on, or altogether unknown.

The want of timber for the cheap construction of small river craft is unquestionably one of the main obstacles to the improvement and extension of inland navigation on these rivers and loughs; nor is it perhaps to be expected, that small boats will ever become numerous, until an abundant supply can be had of native timber for being worked up on the spot; and until the inhabitants acquire sufficient dexterity by practice to build their own boats. Every one knows how readily young people acquire a knowledge of the use of tools, where they have frequent opportunities of seeing them used, and waste wood to exercise their hands.

Few districts in any part of Ireland afford higher incentives to planting than those in the vicinity of the lakes and rivers connected with the Shannon; not only on account of the lands being suitable for the purpose, but from the facilities which the water communication would afford for bringing the trees to market. Wood on cheap terms for domestic use, is undoubtedly one of the great wants under which Ireland at present suffers, and which retards improvement probably as much as any other single circumstance; witness the building of an ordinary cabin; the wretched perishable roof, the flimsy door, the paltry household furniture, all attributable to the scarcity of domestic timber.

BOGS.

The greatest extent of bog in any one place within this barony, is at the base of Slievebawn, on the side

next to the Shannon. Bogs, in smaller divisions, are dispersed very generally over the barony, so that no part can be considered as ill provided with turf; although it is not equally abundant throughout. Where black bog and limestone lie near each other, as they so commonly do, in this barony, nature may be considered as bountiful in manure, and tillage should go on prosperously. But still, amongst the smaller farmers, capital is wanting to reduce the rock to lime, and hence its employment is comparatively limited.

The surface of the barony of Roscommon is, on the whole, agreeably diversified with hill and dale, though, with the exception of Slievebawn, the hills are of inconsiderable elevation. Some extensive flats also intervene, consisting either entirely of bogs, or of moor and marshy ground on the banks of sluggish rivers.

The sandstone formation is confined to Slievebawn and its offsets; the other hills are composed mostly of limestone rock, or limestone gravel, mixed with a greater or lesser proportion of clay. The limestone rock appears in several places through the surface. Such circumstances indicate variety in the quality of the soil of the barony. In some instances, the hills are remarkably dry on the surface, affording admirable sheep pastures; in others they are retentive of moisture; and it is by no means uncommon to see stagnant water in shallow pools, in very high positions; as well as rushes, growing upon ground which otherwise might have been supposed to be quite dry. Drainage might readily be effected in these places, and the value of the land would consequently be increased.

But there is a general reluctance on the part of

the more humble classes of farmers to undertake works of this description: too often there is a deficiency of capital; and even when by diligence and by savings long continued, some capital is acquired, the same spirit of parsimony inspires a wish to preserve it in the shape of tangible money; and it is not sufficiently considered, that, if expended in the improvement of the soil, it would become more productive to them probably than from any other application. Landlords, in giving new leases, seldom look to the capabilities of the lands; or take into consideration the improved rents which might, and certainly ought to be obtained, by expending in the first instance, from their own purses, a sum of money in draining. In fact, the expenditure in too many cases is as little suitable to them as it is to their tenants. So that it is very rare to see any improvements of this nature effected, except by the gentlemen farmers, who either have long leases or who occupy their own lands. These are the persons with whom the most, if not all the improvements in agriculture originate; but although the good effects are obvious and open to all the world, it is incredible how rarely the examples are followed by the mere working farmer. Nothing is more common than the observations that such and such improvements have been made by gentlemen because they can afford to gratify their fancy; as if improvements which double the value of the lands, affording an immediate increase of crops, were merely a matter of fancy and private indulgence. A long period is probably yet to come, and it must be a period of continued tranquillity with assurance of the enjoyment of the returns from money expended, before the generality of the minor occupiers of the soil

will look to the benefit to be derived from sinking capital in the amelioration of the soil, or take into consideration that money so laid out, will as surely bring back a good profit, as if employed in a manufactory.

Doubtless, also, the produce of the soil might be considerably augmented by increasing the means of shelter. Near gentlemen's seats where hedges have been planted and preserved, and screens of plantations formed, the grass is more luxuriant, and the animals at pasture always appear more comfortable and thriving. The hawthorn grows well in every part of the barony; and it is seldom that the interval of a mile occurs, without the traces of hawthorn hedges which have been planted in former times. But it is altogether extraordinary to see, indeed I question whether there is to be seen at all, a continuous unbroken hedge of hawthorn round the fields of any of the lesser farms in the barony. Sometimes, for a perch or two together, continuous hawthorns may be perceived in the fences, growing in the most vigorous manner; and then, as many or more perches either quite bare, or only containing insulated bushes. In short, it would appear as if from the period of the hedges having been originally formed, no manner of care had been afterwards taken; if they grew, well and good; if not, the gaps were not filled up. All through this barony, as well as through the whole county, there are examples of these abortive efforts. Near the roads and in the vicinity of the cabins, it is indeed a matter of wonder, that a single hawthorn bush survives, considering how unsparingly they are mangled for the sake of firing. I have observed little urchins working

by the hour together, with the *loy* spade which they could barely wield, in endeavouring to sever a root and branch; which after being rubbed, and bruised, and hacked, the more powerful parent, at the end of the day, has come to wrench off and convey to the cabin to cook the evening meal.

Mere mounds of earth, or banks with a ditch at the base, from which the earth has been thrown up, serve for fences in several places; in others, where the limestone rock comes near the surface, the fences consist of dry walls, that is, walls built without mortar.

Were hedge rows and hedge row timber more general, the appearance of this barony would be very pleasing, owing to the undulations of the surface. The plantations and trees near the gentlemen's seats, often produce a very agreeable effect, and always have value in the landscape.

Country Seats.—The finest place in the barony of Roscommon is Strokestown, the seat of Lord Hartland, situated close to the town of the same name; none other approaches near it, whether in extent of demesne or grandeur of mansion. There are, however, several gentlemen's seats in the same barony, substantially built, and adorned with handsome demesnes well planted, besides many others on a minor scale.

The largest farms in the barony are devoted to grazing, and mostly to grazing bullocks, though many sheep are also fed; indeed, there are no large farms employed in any other manner than in grazing. Many of these farms contain from 300 to 500 acres Irish, and a very few extend beyond 1000 acres.

Grazing on the more extended system obtains principally towards the southern and western sides of the barony, although there are several large farms to the east and north-east.

The tillage system of the small farmer is, in general, of a very bad description. The potato field, as usual, swallows up all the manure which can be made or obtained; and sometimes, a second crop of potatoes immediately succeeds the first; then white crops are put in, as long as the land will yield them; when quite exhausted it is *let out* to rest. If the land will bear wheat, and there is a great deal of land about Strokestown suitable to it, wheat is put in after the potatoes, and oats after wheat. The practice of burning ground is not abandoned in this barony, many of the landlords permitting it, on account of their rents being then generally better paid. That burning may be a most judicious practice in many instances, will admit of no doubt. Arthur Young lays down the simple proposition, that burning will generally afford a fine crop of turnips, and that when a farmer has once got a fine crop of turnips, with live stock sufficient for their consumption, it will be his own fault and bad management, if he afterwards allows the land to fall into poor heart. But the system of burning, to obtain a white crop, not to be consumed on the land, is neither more nor less than an encroachment upon capital; and what with this system, and the ruinous course of tillage generally pursued, it is the opinion of many experienced persons in the barony, that the soil under tillage, and in the hands of the small farmers, is certainly less productive than it was some years ago. It seems, rather fortunate for the country

under such circumstances, that the grazing system should continue, and the fertility of the soil not be impaired in every instance.

The barony of Roscommon, like all other parts of the county, whilst it affords instances of numerous improvements in houses and cottages, and almost all those which have been recently built, are in a better style than the old, yet at the same time, it furnishes examples of the most abject misery, whether the housing or the clothing of the lower classes be considered. The very old and the very young appear occasionally only halfcovered, and with such shreds and tatters, that it is marvellous how these things, which do not deserve the name of garments, can be put off or put on; ingenuity must certainly be required in the operation, and a most intimate acquaintance with the position of the slits and rents. The worst cabins, as usual, are found in the vicinity of bogs, whither the poorer classes are attracted, by the greater facility of procuring at least one comfort of life, that of fuel. Every thing around these hovels, until the potato shews its green leaves, appears dark; the house, the soil, and even the garments of the women, consisting commonly of deep brown, accord so nearly in colour with the appearance of the surrounding objects, that on many occasions, the groups of females sitting before the doors, would be undistinguishable, were it not for their white caps of linen or muslin, which, if they do not preserve their original hue, are nevertheless still conspicuous. In the corn fields, or rather in the patches of corn, for no great continuous breadth of it is observable in this barony, I have seen scarecrows formed with upright logs of black wood from

the bogs, topped with a lump of lime or a white stone, which, at a little distance, were by no means inapt resemblances of women occupied in weeding.

Mr. Wakefield, who spent some time in Roscommon, about twenty years before I visited the county, gives an afflicting picture of the condition of certain parts of this barony, between Tarmonbarry and Strokestown, on the eastern slope of Slievebawn mountain, where a long straggling village extends along the road side, known by the name of Mahon's Yard. Now although the appearance of want and wretchedness, both in houses and garments, are by no means obliterated entirely, yet the circumstances of the place have undergone decided amelioration, and many compact comfortable cottages, with well built firm walls of stone and mortar, and neatly slated roofs, had been lately built; whilst several of the old cabins had undergone repair. The new cottages were indeed amongst the very best of the kind which I observed in the whole county. The estate has passed to other hands.

In one respect, indeed, no improvement whatever is visible, nay, matters are probably even worse than when seen by Mr. Wakefield; I allude to the road, which has been hitherto and still is the great leading one from Strokestown, the principal market town of the district, to Tarmonbarry on the Shannon, at the head of the navigation of the Royal Canal. There were holes in it so deep that carriages sank into them absolutely to the nave of the wheels; and where an attempt had been made to mend them, it had been done by rolling in, at a venture, huge stones, over which a spring carriage could scarcely pass without risk of breakage. I have already explained, however, that a

new line of road has been laid out to run through Tarmonbarry, where the Royal Canal joins the Shannon, and thence onwards to Strokestown and French Park. This will be the great future leading road through the central part of Roscommon, across the county. Several hundred men were employed on it, as I passed; the quarries were full of men; and stones, lime and sand for the bridges, gullets, &c., moving in various directions. The line is admirable, and from the specimen presented in the parts which have been already constructed, the most favourable opinion may be formed of its future excellence. But if, whilst the old road afforded the only means of communication between two important points of the barony, its reparation was neglected, it is likely to be still more so after the new line is completed; and the inhabitants along it, who are numerous, and who raise much produce for market, must be exposed to more inconvenience than ever. This old road, beyond all doubt, must be reckoned amongst the very worst in the whole county of Roscommon; and it is the more remarkable that it should have been left in such a state, because the leading roads which pass through this barony, are, in general, excellent; and considerable pains have been taken to improve them by new cuts to avoid the hills, or to shorten the lines, wherever such an operation could be performed with facility and at a reasonable expenditure.

The old road which I have mentioned crosses the ridge of Slievebawn, where it is considerably elevated, though not at the highest part of the mountain. From the crest, one of the most extended views opens, which I can call to recollection in the county of Roscommon; the windings of the Shannon may be traced for many

miles, in a bright silvery course amidst the deep dark browns and purples of the distant bogs ; the woods of Castle Forbes appear spread out below, as upon a map, with the town of Longford beyond them ; and we fancied that we could even see the white buildings on the elevated grounds near the moat of Granard, in the farthest part of the county of Longford, distant about 25 English miles ; but the telescope I carried was not sufficiently powerful to make me sure upon the subject. Descending along the western side of the ridge, a full view opens of the woods of Lord Hartland's demesne, and of several loughs ; but the distant prospect is interrupted by the undulations of the surface.

STROKESTOWN.

Strokestown consists of two streets, one of them of immense breadth, which intersect each other, agreeing in their direction nearly with the cardinal points of the compass. The one running east and west, commences at Lord Hartland's demesne, the grand entrance to which forms a barrier quite across it at the lower or eastern end ; thence it rises with a moderate slope, to the new church, situated at the extreme opposite end, on the highest ground in the town. This street is no less than forty-nine yards wide. The other, likewise on a slope, ascends from south to north, and though not equally broad, is nevertheless spacious, being twenty-one yards across ; so that in reference to the *alignement*, few places can compete with Strokestown for the airiness and imposing effect of its streets. Whether, however,

the plan is the most commodious which could have been devised, may admit of doubt; and left as the spaces are at present, on each side of the central carriage way in the larger street, in a state of waste, the general appearance of the place betrays the want of order and neatness.

Had the spaces been laid out in little gardens, with a path of approach to every two or three houses, some benefit might have been derived from the ground, and neatness preserved. The only persons who seemed to have any advantage from the wastes in front of the houses, were such as had to do with wood or timber, such as wheelwrights, coopers, &c., but the very circumstance of their trades being exercised in the open streets, was productive of confusion and disorder. That the airiness, however, contributes essentially to the health of the inhabitants can well be imagined; and I was informed that a very marked difference is observable between the salubrity of Strokestown and that of towns and villages, where, as but too commonly seen, the houses are crowded on each other, in narrow lanes and alleys, half filled with mud and dunghills. Still the place would not be less healthy if gardens occupied the spaces which are now waste and profitless.

Streets disproportionably wide have invariably the effect of reducing the importance of the houses, built on their flues, so that those of Strokestown look comparatively diminutive, although several amongst them, especially near Lord Hartland's gates, are much larger than are usually seen in towns of the same extent.*

* In a French book of Travels, published some years ago, an account is given of two young men entering London for the first time. Breathless with expectation, neither speaks until far into Oxford-street, when they

Strokestown contains—

Houses of two stories slated, 37

Houses of two stories thatched, 63

Cabins of one story thatched, 161

261

In the street called Elphin-street, from its leading to that place, five new excellent houses contiguous were nearly completed when I passed, the central one containing three stories, the others two; and the two houses on each side, corresponding with each other, so as to form the appearance of a regular whole. The lower parts were destined for shops.

The silicious sandstone, here, as in other places, called freestone, and of very beautiful colour, lies within a few miles of the town; but the blue flætz limestone which rests upon it, is found still nearer, almost close to the town, and being the least expensive, it is in more common use. The slates for these houses were brought a distance of 33 miles by land carriage from Sligo, into which place they had been imported from Wales.

Now, the distance from the slate quarries on the river Shannon near Killaloe to Tarmonbarry is about 71 Irish miles, with water carriage the whole way; to which is to be added that by land from Tarmonbarry to Strokestown, five miles. So that supposing the slates at each place to be alike, the competition in carriage lies between the voyage from Wales to Sligo,

exclaim, “How grand!” “How mean!” The one referring to the *alignement* of the streets and footways, the other merely at the houses. Were London ever to become a waste like Babylon, its pavements and its flagways would probably become the most striking remains.

round the north coast of Ireland, attended with a subsequent land journey of 33 Irish miles; and an inland navigation of 71 miles, with five miles of land conveyance. The latter at first view might appear by far the most advantageous; yet the slates are generally brought, not from Killaloe, but from Sligo. This, I conceive may be accounted for, by the trade having been established in the one course, for a length of time, prior to the introduction of steam boats on the Shannon; and it is not always an easy matter to divert it suddenly into a new channel. Something perhaps is also to be set down to the score of prejudice against our native commodities, and in favour of those of other countries. Yet the Killaloe slates are of first rate quality; and I have been myself present at the stripping of old roofs near the Killaloe quarries, undoubtedly covered with the native slates, which, after eighty year's exposure to the seasons, were scarcely at all impaired. They are harder and more compact than many of the Welch slates, and consequently more durable.

Timber for building is brought from Sligo, where it is sold at a cheaper rate than at Dublin; but iron is brought from the latter place by the Royal Canal.

Tradesmen of every description connected with building were numerous at Strokestown, and the work appeared well executed; but complaints of the want of adequate employment were general.

Although new houses, more particularly substantial houses like those I have mentioned, afford strong indications of prosperity; and although many cloth shops and general country shops have started up of latter years, provided with a much greater assort-

ment of goods than used formerly to be exhibited for sale, yet every thing at Strokestown does not wear the appearance of progressive improvement.

In the south-west division of the broad street, several houses have fallen to decay, indeed into absolute ruin. Whether the changes in the qualifications for the elective franchise may have had any influence upon the preservation of the minor tenements, I will not pretend to decide; but their original construction savours strongly of a connexion with the 40s. system, as there are long ranges of poor cabins, built nearly on the same plan.

The rent of one of these cabins, with one quarter of an acre of land immediately behind it, payable to the middle-man, amounted, as I was informed on the spot by the tenants, to six guineas; but when out of lease, the head landlord charges only £2 9s. 4d., so that here, as indeed in many other parts of the county, the people were anxiously waiting for the expiration of their terms under the middle-man, in the confidence of receiving more favourable conditions from the lord of the soil.

I was informed that no question was entertained of the new houses built upon speculation, being taken as soon as they were in a fit state to receive tenants, and at a price which might be considered to afford a fair remuneration to the undertakers.

I was informed likewise, that amongst the town's-folk, there were several who held property in the public funds; though not many who could command a thousand pounds.

Many of those engaged in trade were prospering; its principles were becoming better known, and the com-

mercial transactions were more steady and regular than heretofore.

Formerly there were three breweries at Strokes-town, at present there is not one. Perhaps three were too many; whilst one might have prospered. Their discontinuance, however, may be attributed in part to the facility with which strong beer is conveyed from Dublin, by the canal, to Tarmonbarry; in part to the cheapness, and consequently the more general use of whiskey. The sale of Dublin porter was commonly placarded in the shop windows, and what I tasted in the town was of the best description. As to whiskey, Mr. Heague, the head inn-keeper, and a man of substance, informed me, he remembered the time when it was sold for 25s. per gallon: now, it is to be had for a third of the price, to the immediate prejudice of the industrious and moral habits of the people; and to the ineffable injury of the country in general, notwithstanding all that the farmer may gain by the increased demand for oats and barley; or all that Government may gain by increase of revenue. Happy would it be if the prohibition of the laws of Mahomet extended to the land, and if intoxicating liquors were forbidden in every form: men and women, young people and old people would soon wear a different aspect, and all assume a better character.

The Markets held weekly at Strokestown are numerously attended, and give a lively and bustling appearance to the place. It is on these occasions that the great width of the streets, more particularly at the intersections, appear to possess any advantage; since it affords ample room for all the stands, and renders the pressure comparatively light, notwithstanding the great throng of people, although it is far from being

entirely removed in every part of the town; indeed, on leaving the place during a market day, it was not without great difficulty that I made my way up Elphin-street, although I had the assistance of the ostler of the inn, to open a passage for my horse through the crowd.

I have never seen in Ireland so picturesque a market as that of Strokestown; first, from the ample space which was afforded for the detached grouping of the people; secondly, from the relief of the figures by the buildings, and the rich woods of Lord Hartland's demesne; thirdly, from the colours of the dresses of the females, in which deep brown, almost approaching to black, and bright scarlet predominate. The scarlet cloak or mantle reaching nearly to the heels, is still worn by the older women; but the young have introduced a modification of the shawl, also of cloth and of vivid scarlet, which is drawn half over the back part of the head; and sets off to uncommon advantage the glossy deep black hair, which here is by far the most prevalent. The white frills of the caps and the white handkerchief swathed across the neck and bosom, also produce effect contrasted with the deep browns and greens, and the vivid reds.

Some of the girls wear their black glossy hair, however, in a manner stiff and formal, and very unbecoming. It is combed perfectly smooth both before and behind, being slightly parted on the forehead; but is suffered to hang down quite straight over the ears and behind the head; and is cut evenly round at bottom, in a line parallel to the shoulders. The cut and fashion is nearly the same as seen in portraits about the time of Holbein.

The fondness for finery amongst the female pea-

santry, and the eagerness with which they survey it in the shops and windows, almost surpasses belief. The evening of my arrival, I had dropped into a shop half millinery, half haberdashery, where a great deal of valuable information on the state of the neighbourhood had been very obligingly communicated to me; and on going away the next day, I wished to return my thanks a second time, and to buy a pair of gloves, and very excellent kid gloves were to be had; but such a throng of black-haired and scarlet clad damsels barred the way, that it was with difficulty I could reach the door; and as for the shop itself, there absolutely did not appear room within it for another human being: it was full of the same class of women, all eagerly intent upon examining the laces and edgeings which were held up before them at the counter, whilst a dozen voices at the same moment, opened in admiration of their quality, or in exclamations at their price. No female seemed disposed to buy without the approval not merely of her immediate companions, but of the many who were present. I looked at the scene for some minutes, but as it was utterly impracticable to get near the counter, the mistress obligingly handed over to me a bundle of gloves, with a request to take them into the parlour of the house for choice, where I was left to myself.

I have already hazarded an opinion, that shops for female dress and ornament afford a tolerably accurate criterion of the character of the place and neighbourhood; nor is it likely, that a shop so well provided as this one appeared to be, would have been found here, had there never been races at Ballynafad, or balls at the head inn. But the political enmities engendered

by the elections of 1830, had put a stop to the races for the year; and as for the balls, though once frequent and regular, the taste for them had, as I was informed, subsided; at least there had been none for two or three years. Of course, the persons who had heretofore profited by the gaities of the country, and who were prepared to administer to them, were not the most warm in eulogies on the altered and retired habits of the present day.

The race course of Ballynafad lies at the base of Slievebawn, about three or four miles to the south of the town: the races are supported by private subscription.

The weekly markets at Strokestown, like those of some other towns in Roscommon, assume the aspect of a minor fair, in consequence of the number of covered stalls or standings, in which itinerant pedlars and venders expose their wares—woollen and cotton cloths, silk handkerchiefs, ribbons, haberdashery, hardware, trinkets, men's ready-made clothes, &c. The country people are disposed to believe that goods can be purchased at these stands cheaper than at the regular shops, and possibly it may be so; but the difference more commonly consists in nominal prices, than in the compound ratio of price and quality.

The country people, besides the ordinary articles of provision, bring in linen, linen yarn, and tow, but the quantity is very considerably diminished of late; woollen stockings, flannels in the rough, not tucked; and a peculiar sort of stuff made with a thread, somewhat between the consistence of woollen yarn and worsted. These stuffs are dyed and dressed in the town, and whole pieces of various colours were sus-

pended on poles before the dyers' houses, waving in the air. The colours are generally of a sombre cast; dull greens and deep browns predominate. The women themselves, in many places, can dye the cloth which they spin, and I have seen occasionally some reds, dyed with madder and alum, of a tolerably good colour; but the bright scarlet cloths of which I have spoken, are not the production of the country. Linen and linen yarn are beaten out of the market by cotton goods, which are so much cheaper.

Soap, salt, and all the ordinary commodities of the lesser shops, are likewise sold at the stands in the market.

In the middle of August, 1830, the following were the prices asked in the market:

	s.	d.
Beef, (indifferent,) per lb.	0	2
Mutton of the best quality ...	0	3½
Bacon	0	3½
Fine Goslings, each	0	8
Apples, very poor, per hundred	2	6
Do. the best, but not fine, do.	3	4
Wool per stone, of 16 lb.	13	6 to 14
Woollen webs, per yard ...	0	9
Woollen stockings, per pair ...	1	6

There were eels and great quantities of the ordinary lake and river fish at market; indeed, if ever the art of breeding fish as in China, came to be practised in this country, there might, from the numerous loughs, be the greatest abundance of fish.

There was salt sea fish also on sale, and sloak or laver, a preparation of sea-weed, from Sligo.

The market of Strokestown is an increasing one, and wheat, to the amount of 7000 barrels, is sold in it during the year. This grain is by no means a general article of production in Roscommon; but the country near Strokestown is reckoned peculiarly favourable to its growth. Strange to say, the wheat is bought up chiefly for the flour mills of Sligo, no mills of the kind existing in this neighbourhood. Yet at Tarmonbarry, on the Shannon, there is an immense water power easy to be commanded. I have already mentioned, in describing the Shannon at Tarmonbarry, that the large mills at that place were about to be converted into a distillery. Of course it may be inferred that distilling was considered as the more profitable business.

Richmond Harbour, at the head of the navigation of the Royal Canal, and only about seven miles from Strokestown, naturally draws towards it a considerable portion of the corn which would otherwise be disposed of at the latter place; and when the new line of road is completed, perhaps even still more will find its way thither, for the supply of Dublin, or for export. At the time I passed the road between Tarmonbarry and Strokestown, its state, as I have already described, was execrable; it is also very hilly; the new road is to run nearly on a level over the bogs at the base of Slievebawn.

A Sessions House and a Bridewell, on the new construction, have been latterly erected at Strokestown. *A Dispensary* also is established on a scale suitable to the wants of the neighbourhood.

*The House and Demesne of Lord Hartland,** called

* Maurice Mahon who had represented the county of Roscommon in

Bawn, but passing far more commonly under the name of Strokestown, are situated to the east of the town, and somewhat below it according to the fall of the ground. Originally, the house was in the old massive style, so common in the country, with wings advancing at right angles considerably beyond the line of the front; but it underwent an alteration under the direction of Mr. Lyne, an English architect, who has contrived to give a light and pleasing appearance to the main or central part of the edifice; but the old wings with their heavy roofs which still remain, detract from the general effect of the whole. The entrance in the central compartment, is composed of an Ionic portico, with a flat roof surmounted by a ballustrade.

The demesne is most richly wooded; but there is less to admire in the larger masses, or in the groves and clumps, than in the forms and luxuriant growth of individual trees. The constant care which has been taken, for a series of years past, to exclude cattle, has saved them from the formality of the horizontal browsing line; and the broad branches feather down to the ground, in a manner very rarely seen. The boast, or show of the place, is a long straight row of lime trees, which form a separation between the ornamental part of the demesne and some outlying fields; they are of great height and richly furnished; but the forms of the individual trees cannot be distinguished, so that the effect is merely that of a colossal hedge, or stupendous wall of green, but certainly very striking and singular in its kind.

the Irish Parliament from the year 1782, was elevated to the peerage by the title of Baron Hartland, 30th July, 1800. He was succeeded by his son Thomas, the second Baron, 4th January, 1819; a Lieutenant-General in the army.—No issue.

I observed no trees remarkable for extraordinary age, or extraordinary thickness, although several were very large. A yew tree might possibly have been amongst the oldest: its branches spread out extensively; but as they issued from several collateral stems, and not from a single bole, it was difficult to form an estimate of its age. A very stately silver fir was also pointed out to me as one of the show trees of the place.

The gardens are extensive and in profitable order; but did not display many traces of modern refinements, whether in arrangement, or cultivation, or in improved glass.

Within a grove, at a short distance from the front of the house, the remains of an old church, roofless, and in part dilapidated, are dimly seen through the trees; some of the windows retain the ancient mullions, whilst others of modern workmanship have been supplied, but unhappily not strictly in accordance with the original style.

The area of these ruins has been selected for the site of a family mausoleum, consisting of a circular edifice, whose newness forms a contrast to the grey walls and thickly tufted ivy in the midst of which it stands.

The sight of monuments of death naturally leads to reflections on the uncertainty and mutability of human existence; but when obtruding upon the view, within a few short paces of the mansions of luxury and wealth, the mansions of those very persons who in the course of events are surely expected to pass from the bed of down to these same vaults of stone, standing so near, and ever ready to receive them, the feelings become more excited, and the mind is absorbed in contemplations of a deeper, and more intense description.

A burial vault might seemingly be more appropriately placed at a distance from the house, than within pistol shot of the dining parlour.

The demesne of Strokestown contains within its boundary walls 700 Irish acres, equal to 1133 English, and the deer park an additional number of 200 acres Irish, equal to 323 English. If a judgment might be formed from the luxuriant growth of the grass to be observed here, amongst which the *dactylos glomerata*, or rough cock's foot, seemed predominant, the soil would be pronounced of first rate fertility. Some parts of the demesne evidently require draining, and to the eye appeared to lie so low as to be deficient in the necessary fall; but an English engineer from the Arigna mining works, who had been employed to take the levels, maintained that there was no part of the surface which did not afford a fall of nine feet to the lowest reach of the river that flows through the demesne. This stream issues from a bog to the south of the town, and finally reaches the Shannon in Lough Bodarig, after a course of about six miles, during which it passes through two considerable inland loughs, below Strokestown. The inland navigation might seemingly be readily carried in this direction from the Shannon up to Strokestown, besides being extended by collateral cuts to the neighbourhood of the numerous loughs to the north. The river runs through the demesne neither in a rapid nor a dull course; in one part it is dammed up so as to form a small *cascade*.

The country for five or six miles around Strokestown is all the estate of Lord Hartland and of his mother, to whom General Mahon, the brother of his lordship, bequeathed his property. The rental of the

two divisions, according to the information I received, amounted to about £21,000 per annum. The highest rents on late settings are 30s. per acre, but they vary very considerably downwards, in consequence of the great diversity in the soil comprised in the mountainous and sandstone tracts. The new leases are for 21 years; the gale days in November and May; the November rents not called for until the June following; nor those of May until the next January.

Strokestown is situated on the verge of the parish of Bumlin.

Meal had been dealt out to the poor this year on Lord Hartland's estate; and I heard much of the charitable disposition of the female members of his lordship's family, and of the distribution of silver in all their drives.

Hay-making was going forward when I visited the demesne of Strokestown on the 21st August, but a great part of the grass on the more sound and upland parts still remained uncut.

Wheat, as already noticed, is cultivated around Strokestown. On my way from Tarmonbarry I had observed a good deal of it on islands through the bogs; but there appeared no great breadth of it in any one place: it is commonly sown immediately after the crop of potatoes has been dug out. After the wheat, two or three crops of oats are taken, all from the one manuring for the potatoes, and then the ground is sometimes laid down with grass seeds, in a state unquestionably too poor for the purpose; sometimes *let out*, in the phrase of the country, that is, left to nature to be clothed with grass of spontaneous growth, a process which is sure in time to be accomplished, though always more tardily than if the seeds were sown.

Country seats in the immediate neighbourhood of Strokestown are not numerous. I was informed that most of the gentlemen on this side of the county had been warm supporters and partisans of the great Dublin or National Farming Society whilst it existed. Sheep breeding is carried on to a considerable extent. The favourite race consists of a cross from the Leicester with the large Irish sheep. The long horned Leicester breed of cattle is found to answer best.

I was witness at Strokestown to a process, of which, heretofore, I may have been myself the dupe, for aught I know, in purchases I have made of sheep, since it can only be detected by careful handling. It consists in a second shearing, or rather trimming of the sheep, an operation performed with very great address, and upon which a considerable time is spent, whereby the points of the animal are not only set off to the greatest possible advantage, but made to appear much better than in reality they are. A person not up to the practice might be much deceived in the blood; for the sheep before and after trimming appears almost of a different race. The wool about the head, and about the tail, legs, and shanks, is all finely shorn down; at the same time the back is made to appear flat and broad, and the haunch full; and this operation is performed with so much skill that the shears can scarcely be traced. But to guard as much as possible against detection, the trimming takes place a few weeks before the great fairs, which allows time for the wool to assume a perfectly natural appearance. The sheep which I saw under the shears 21st August, were destined for the great fair of Ballinasloe, 11th October.

At Strokestown I found the true Italian long

snouted black pig, with very little hair. The breed had been introduced by Lord Hartland from Yorkshire, and was coming fast into repute in the neighbourhood. A dozen or more of these animals, full grown, were kept in the yard of the inn. Their most valuable quality consists in being easily maintained; in thriving upon grass, which they eat with much avidity; and lying down to sleep as soon as they have filled themselves. The breed has commonly had the reputation of being tender; but as pigs in Ireland, amongst the *cottiers* at least, are generally as well housed as the family, of which indeed they form a part, having unrestricted access to "kitchen, to parlour, and hall," the Italian breed may possibly be found an acquisition to the country.

The breed of short pigs with black head and hind quarters, and a white body, as if a cloth had been thrown across the back, is also extending into Roscommon; it appears to have come from the counties at the opposite side of the Shannon, Longford and Westmeath; in the former county, indeed, I scarcely saw any other kind of pig. The excessive fatness to which these animals are inclined, renders them less esteemed for private use in several families, than some other breeds.

The principal Inn at Strokestown stands in the lower part of the town, not far from the entrance into Lord Hartland's demesne. It is kept by Mr. Heague, who also farms about 400 acres, held on lease, in different divisions. His highest rate of rent 37s. per acre. The inn afforded accommodations with which I was perfectly satisfied; the table, however, chiefly remarkable for its abundance; good beds; and a breakfast room 50 feet by 20, not one bit larger than was desirable

during the heats of August; but of its temperature in winter I can say nothing. It may readily be surmised that this was the former ball room. Some years, however, had passed since it had been used in that way, to the ineffable regret of the poor housemaid, whose tongue, once set a-going, could not be stayed from repeating the names of all the fine people, of the beautiful young ladies, with their beautiful dresses, and the handsome young gentlemen, who, in former days, were wont to grace its walls; and she invited me to walk forward to a higher story and see the supper rooms, and the card rooms, and the refreshment rooms; but a deep drawn sigh was the only answer to my inquiry, how soon the rooms were likely to be again applied to the same purposes. Numerous are the instances in Ireland in which the country ball-room has been *desecrated*; so that this one appears merely to have shared a fate common to many.*

Whether the discontinuance of public balls and assemblies, may have been influenced by political differences, or have been the result of a gradual change of customs and manners, it is still expedient to mention, as in some measure perhaps explanatory of the alteration, that the churches are opened during certain evenings of the week; and that popular preachers of the establishment, most commonly from amongst the curates, pass from parish to parish, frequently exchanging places, to warm and excite the feelings of the faithful, and stimulate inquiries on the disputed

* The superb rooms of the county Court House in the town of Roscommon are still in use, however, for balls and assemblies; and whilst these pages are going through the press, the newspapers are describing the races at Roscommon, and the brilliant ball which succeeded them, in the spring of 1832.

dogmas of religion. These preachings or lectures appear to be attended, for the most part, by females, who, on such occasions, indulge perhaps somewhat more than usual in dress, another source of excitement influential in every region of the earth.*

Before I take leave of Strokestown, let me remark that I saw no cabins there, approaching within many degrees, to the wretchedness observable in some other towns of Roscommon; yet ample room nevertheless, is still open for improvement.

Some of the houses in the lower part of the large street, near Lord Hartland's demesne, are of respectable appearance; and, I was informed, that several persons in independent circumstances reside within the place.

ELPHIN.

The town of Elphin extends along the summit of a ridge, in a direction nearly east and west.

The cathedral, at the eastern end, is situated immediately upon the verge of this ridge, where its square steeple forms a conspicuous landmark, visible from certain points at the distance of several miles. This edi-

* "It was not the least consideration to the respectable ranks of the community in supporting the society, that they themselves received great advantages from its effects. Who could go into company without remarking the change which prevailed among all orders of people? Levity, and dissipation, and vice, were giving place to a more sober and modest bearing! and ladies, I now address myself particularly to you, the religious education of this country rests with female exertion, &c. &c. &c."—*Newspaper Report of Colonel Conolly's Speech, as Chairman at the Annual Meeting of the Hibernian Sunday Society, April 1821.*

fice, together with the bishop's palace and houses intermingled with trees, which seem to fringe the top of the ridge, on approaching by the low grounds on the south and south-east, give rather a favourable impression as to the nature of the place; but on winding up the hill, and getting actually into the town, the agreeable illusions are quickly dissipated. Rows of cabins, as disgusting as any that are to be seen from one end of the country to the other, assail the eye; walls decayed; roofs bent and sunken; thatch tattered; no windows; no chimneys; the turf smoke rolling slowly from the doors, or seeking its way through the chinks and crevices innumerable with which these hovels abound.

The appearance of the inmates corresponded with that of the miserable tenements; ill-clad, squalid, haggard, listless, and idle; in every countenance discontent strongly marked, and, in some, an expression a-kin to despair. I was assured at Elphin, and I saw no reason to doubt the authority, that several people perish in the course of each winter through want of clothing, nourishment, and fire.* In fact, at the time I passed, at the height of the hay harvest, able bodied men were soliciting employment, and offering to work for their mere food, which, as every one knows, is of the least costly kind. What then must the condition of the people be, when overtaken by the rigours of winter and unprovided with sustenance.

* I request it may be understood, that I do not vouch for the fact: but as it was distinctly stated to me, I think it a duty to repeat what I heard. That death ensues in several parts of Ireland from the want of the necessities upon which human existence depends, will scarcely be denied; and the same thing, I apprehend, happens in all countries where there is no regular or legal provision for the poor.

Immense numbers were employed in the bishop's hay fields, in the turnip fields, and wherever they could be set to work; far beyond what were wanted, indeed crowded to inconvenience; for his Lordship had directed that employment should be given to the utmost extent of which the farms would admit. But it must be obvious, that if an excess of hands be employed at any given period, in the ordinary work of a farm, less labour is likely to be required at a subsequent one; and to expend more money in labour than the produce of the crops will repay, is a system which, although adopted by a wealthy individual for benevolent purposes, yet in the ordinary course of affairs, must sooner or later come to an end. As a further proof of the excess of hands above the demand for labour, were any indeed wanting, groups of strong, active, young men, were to be seen from morn to eve, whilst I remained at Elphin, and that during harvest, amusing themselves with throwing weights, and leaping on the green sward by the road side, between the inn and the bishop's palace.

Girls, amongst whom were some really pretty and delicate, and of an age and frame of body seemingly but ill-suited to the task, sought a precarious and hard earned livelihood, in hawking turf about the town, in cleaves which they had carried on their backs from the bog, distant about two English miles. The ordinary weight of one of these cleaves was three stone or forty-two pounds; sometimes it amounted to more. The price *asked* for two cleaves was only $3\frac{1}{2}d$; but as demands of this kind ordinarily exceed the selling price, $1\frac{1}{2}d$. might be set down probably as the utmost price of a single cleave; from this was to be deducted the cost of the turf at the bog, the small surplus being

all the gains for bearing this heavy burden mostly up hill, and afterwards hawking it from house to house.

The town of Elphin consists of—

118 thatched cabins; the greater part poor, and several of the most abject description.

33 houses of two stories, thatched.

7 Ditto, ditto, slated.

4 good houses of a better description, partly built.

The main street or road through the town, somewhat winding in its course, but of ample breadth, may be considered as commencing at the cathedral church, and thence extending to the westward, where the Roman Catholic chapel stands at the part most distant from the cathedral.* Another street, or rather road, for there are only a few houses scattered along it, branches off to the north, just opposite to the cathedral, forming nearly a right angle with the main street. This is the high road to Boyle; and the bishop's palace stands upon it, within less than a quarter of a mile from the church. The palace is a spacious and comfortable country house, with a small lawn in front, decorated with shrubs, and separated from the high road by a sunk fence, beyond which a very agreeable soft view is discovered for several miles, over a country the nearer part of which is rather better clothed with hedges and hedge-row timber, than is usually observable in Roscommon. The Deanery house, situated a little beyond the western extremity of the town, on the road in continuation of the main street, is also a modern built, compact, country house, with a lawn in front, bounded by plantations.

* Bishop Law contributed largely and liberally to the building of this chapel; it is a commodious place of worship, but totally destitute of ornament, and not remarkable for neatness.

The Inn.—The former residence of the dean, at the angle formed by the main street, and the road leading to the bishop's palace, now serves the purposes of an inn; the *King's Arm's Hotel*, as the swinging sign pompously announces. A semicircular area or court spreading before the house, bounded by a parapet wall and planted with trees, amongst which a fine copper beech, and a well furnished ilex or evergreen oak, were remarkable for their agreeable shade, gave indications of the pains which had been bestowed in former times upon the embellishment of the place; and although the house was evidently old, its appearance was so different from the ordinary bare aspect of Irish inns, that expectations were raised of possibly finding accommodations there superior to what are commonly obtainable. Neither was it to be forgotten, that Elphin was the residence of the bishop; the seat also of his courts and of the various offices of the diocese, whither not only the clergy might be attracted on spiritual occasions, but likewise many of the laity on affairs connected with the temporalities of the church, for whom a resting place would be required, and thus custom afforded sufficient for the maintenance of a respectable and comfortable inn. But, like the first peep into the town, the first step beyond the threshold dispelled in an instant every agreeable illusion. Such floors! Such stairs! A generation might well be supposed to have passed over, since the operation of washing had been performed; and weeks or months since either broom or scraper had been applied. Chairs, tables, handles of doors, every thing which was to be touched, seemed loaded with a compound of grease and dust, from which the fingers recoiled, but

not until glove or skin had been inevitably defiled. Broken windows; floors in holes, what from the decay of time or the depredations of rats; paper hangings separated in entire sheets, and fallen in long curls from the walls; crazy tables, crazy chairs; and at every tread across the rooms, a vibration which seemed to threaten the safety of the whole edifice, and made it totter upon its foundation. Perfect stillness reigned within the hall, and the strokes of the knocker on the open outer door, resounded through the vacant rooms. No one came. A second and a louder peal brought a dirty little girl, who quickly disappeared, to bring a larger and a dirtier female; then both again vanished, to seek that important personage the waiter. Finally came a diminutive, slender-shanked old man, with all sorts of excuses for delay, and proffers of all sorts of service for the future; civility personified; bowing to the ground, to the imminent hazard of losing that old fashioned thing yclep'd a wig, which, according to the former usage of the country, rested upon, but neither fitted nor even covered the skull; and, indeed resembled any thing as much as the natural hair of man.

I had the honour of bearing letters of introduction for the Bishop, but his Lordship not being in Elphin at the time of my arrival, it became expedient to examine into the resources of the inn.

Bacon, and eggs, and chickens, are the current dishes of an Irish inn, during the summer season; only, it must be premised, with regard to the last, that the transition from the coop to the boiler is an evolution performed occasionally in double quick time, consequently not agreeable to every traveller, despite of hunger itself. I found at Elphin excellent light bread, good English cheese, and Dublin porter.

On examining into the extent of sleeping accommodation, no deficiency appeared in the house of what were called bed-chambers; all, however, dismal and filthy dens, with the exception of one small room, where, to my surprise, I found a tent bed lately done up with glazed pink calico hangings, and tolerably clean bedding; but not a breath of fresh air entered the room, and before ventilation could be effected, tools had actually to be sent for into the town, to undo the windows, which had been nailed permanently fast.

The Water at Elphin is delicious. A copious supply issues from a covered fountain in the middle of the street, between the inn and the church, where means are afforded of drawing off the water pure; whilst the overflow either goes to waste, or serves for the ordinary purposes of cleansing vessels or washing clothes, operations commonly performed in the public street.

The Shops at Elphin are very small, affording only a bare supply of articles of prime necessity; in some, however, attempts were making to keep a little finery for female wear. Strokestown, from being at present the principal market town of the district, commands the greater number of customers, and where they abound, more competition naturally follows amongst those whose livelihood depends upon supplying their wants. Within the last year the bishop has, however, instituted a weekly market at Elphin, and from the success of the measure, and the money already put into circulation in the neighbourhood, sanguine expectations are entertained that Elphin will, ere many years are passed, assume an appearance and character far different from what it at present exhibits. I have already explained that the principal part of the corn sold at



Strokestown is purchased for Sligo. Now, Elphin is about five miles and a half nearer to Sligo than Strokestown, the carriage of which distance, to and fro, may be avoided, to say nothing of the valuable time which may be saved by those who are in the habit of accompanying their corn to market, as all farmers are at these small places. Since the Sligo buyers come also in person very commonly, it must likewise be a convenience to them to find a market nearer to their homes. The formation of a new and even road between Strokestown and Tarmonbarry, at the head of the Royal Canal, will probably affect the market of Strokestown, and occasion some of the corn to be conveyed to Dublin; but supposing the corn to be drawn from Strokestown to Tarmonbarry, farther from the reach of the Sligo buyers, such an alteration in the course of trade might rather operate in favour of the Elphin market than otherwise.

“The establishment of buyers,” as Mr. Wakefield observes, “does more to increase the production of corn, than all the books which have ever been published, or all that gentleman farming has ever exhibited.”

New houses, as I have stated, are rising up in Elphin, and of a description superior to the old; whilst the demands of the market folks are already quickening the trade of the shops; but at the same time the traffic in ardent spirits, that accursed one which I must ever consider as baneful to the best interests of the country, has already augmented in a fearful proportion in Elphin, being carried on, not merely by the professed publicans, but by those who deal in commodities of a totally different nature; for the sale of spirits is found, most unfortunately, to as-

sist in the extension of the business of the general shop.

As yet no market house had been erected in Elphin, but it was in contemplation to build one. Here, as well as in many of the little hamlets through the country, it is common to see large beams fixed in the gable ends of houses, for the purpose of supporting scales; and the people who can afford to erect them, derive a profit from weighing potatoes and corn for their neighbours, and persons going to market; the charge is very moderate, and must needs be so where the competitors are so numerous.

Considering with what facility preparations for the establishment of a market may be made; and the beneficial consequences which invariably ensue, if they are successful, it may appear a matter of surprise, that so many years should have been allowed to pass over, without any effort at such an improvement; and that it should have been left for the present bishop to accomplish a task in which there was really so little difficulty. This, as well as other circumstances, might lead to inquiries on the management of church property in Ireland; but even were the subject perfectly compatible with the nature of this work, still, to enter into the many details necessary to illustrate it fully, would occupy more space than could be devoted in these pages. Yet I cannot refrain from offering a few remarks upon a subject which can scarcely escape observation—the absence, in general, of extended or enlightened improvements, in towns and districts which are the exclusive property of the Church.

Can it be deemed fit or becoming, that within the sight, within the very precincts of the cathedral of a

diocese, ranges of squalid and miserable hovels, such as in other countries would be thought unsuitable even for sheltering the very beasts of the field, should be allowed to stand, teeming with human beings struggling for a bare existence, in the midst of filth, damp, poverty, and disease? Is it to be supposed, that the mind can ever expand under such circumstances, or that a man will find his just and proper level in the scale of creation? Far from advancing in the race of civilization, here, the inhabitants seem to retrograde. Vice and demoralization are engendered by the difficulties under which the people labour; and then, astonishment is expressed that discontents should openly appear, and peace and public order be violated.

It will be averred, perhaps, that the evil is not attributable to the existing members of the ecclesiastical establishment, but to the mistaken disposal of church property in past ages; that bishops have no direct control over the lands which belong to their sees; that these have been long since leased out, and are held upon a system which virtually amounts to a perpetuity in favour of the tenants; and that to dissolve such contracts, were it possible, would shake the foundations of extended properties, and spread confusion through the country.

It is notorious that bishops' leases are commonly for twenty-one years, and that a great part of the emoluments of a see depends, not so much upon the amount of rent, as upon the fines which are paid for a renewal of the leases before their expiration; which renewals, in some instances, are systematically sought for and obtained every successive year, notwithstanding the cost of stamps and law expenses. It is known,

also, that where an unusual and increased fine has been demanded, and where a bishop, instead of yielding to the remonstrances of his tenants, has insured his life for the residue of the term, and thus established the certainty of obtaining one of two things; either a sum of money for the benefit of his family in case of his decease; or the advantageous disposal of the property, if he survives until the expiration of the leases, clamour and complaint have been the consequences. The chance of the duration of life for one-and-twenty years, after a clergyman has been raised to a see, added to the still further chance of his not continuing during the whole of the same period in the same see, naturally disposes a bishop to accept of renewal fines, rather than run his life against a lease, and the security to the tenant is in proportion great. Thus, notwithstanding the desire which may be felt for improvement on the part of the bishop, whether in the vicinity of his cathedral, or of his episcopal residence, it may in fact be out of his power to control the management of his lands, or of the properties which have been leased, and which consequently are under the direction of the tenants of the see. Legal control clearly he can have none; but there is the control and influence of high station and of wealth, of which examples are every day to be seen amongst private individuals; amongst men who feel ambitious to leave the estates they happen to have enjoyed, in a better condition than they found them; and that not merely for the immediate benefit of their own descendants, for sometimes such men do not enjoy the blessings of posterity, but from a real love and fondness for making things better,

and adding to the general improvement of their country.* Yet learned and distinguished as some of the prelates have been, who have filled this valuable see, surely a more lasting fame might have been acquired by the expenditure of the accumulations which have arisen from its emoluments, in improvements upon the town and country, than in the bequest of thousands and tens of thousands of pounds sterling to private friends, not relatives, to men who absolutely stood in no positive need of any accession whatsoever to their fortune. Compare such bequests with those of Primate Robinson† at Armagh, for the foundation and permanent endowment of a public library, observatory, &c. &c., and how widely different will be the sentiments they inspire. The memory of the one sinks gradually into the stream of oblivion, and is swept away with that of the countless myriads who have trodden on the face of the earth ; while the other, by raising a lasting monument of public utility, beneficial not only to his own country, but to mankind, leaves an honoured name, which in after ages will continue to be pronounced with respect and gratitude.

* I beg it may be understood that the observations I have thus ventured to offer, are not intended to apply to the present occupant of the See ; and at the same time I take the opportunity of expressing the obligation I feel to his lordship for his urbanity and polite attention to me, and the facilities which were afforded to me in prosecuting my inquiries in the county of Roscommon.

† Lord Rokeby.

SCHOOLS.

Elphin, however, has not been without benefactors, and to Bishop Hodson, in the year 1685, is to be ascribed the foundation of the diocesan school, for the support of which he bequeathed to trustees an estate,* one moiety whereof was to be appropriated to the school, and the other to the repairing and adorning of the cathedral; but the produce of the estate is very moderate, and insufficient in itself effectually to maintain the school, at least in the present establishment. The school is now under the care of the Rev. William and Charles Smith, father and son, and considered to be one of the best classical schools in

* 1685. By deeds of lease and release, made the 19th and 20th of June of this year, between Bishop Hodson of the one part, and certain trustees of the other part; the bishop remised, released, and confirmed, to the parties therein named, the towns, lands, and poles of Begly, alias Beglue and Killnecrosse, situate in the manor of Dromuck, in the barony of Clanchee, and county of Cavan, at the rent of one shilling at Michaelmas, if demanded; to hold, to the use of his lordship for life and after his decease, as to one moiety of the rents thereof to the maintenance of a grammar school in the town of Elphin, for teaching and instructing the children of the inhabitants of the said town; and for teaching such of the said children whose parents were poor, *gratis*: and as to the other moiety of the rents, to the supporting, repairing, amending, beautifying, and adorning the cathedral church of Elphin, as the bishop and dean and chapter should direct. Upon the demise of one or more of the trustees, the survivors are directed, by the appointment of the bishop and dean and chapter, to assign and make over their interest, right, and title, in the said lands, to such other person or persons, and their heirs, as the bishop, &c. shall think fit, in order to prevent the estate from coming into the hands of an infant or femme covert, who may be unfit to look after the trust enrolment.

the province. Several of the pupils have obtained high honours at the University. According to the returns in the Appendix to the Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into Education, printed amongst the parliamentary papers of 1826-7, this school then contained nineteen pupils, of whom ten were Protestants, and the remainder Catholics; of this number eleven were taught gratis. At that period, the emoluments of the master were stated at £128 per annum, derivable from the moiety of an estate bequeathed by Bishop Hodson,* amounting to £25, and from a subscription by the bishop and clergy amounting to £80; the bishop before that time had usually given £30 per annum.

The pupils at present are more numerous; and the arrangements made for increasing the accommodations for boarders in the house, have probably altered the scale of remuneration to the masters, very considerably. Not only were upper rooms devoted to dormitories, but one of the best parlours had been fitted up for the same purpose. The annual charge for boarders is twenty-five guineas, and four guineas at entrance.

The following is the report made upon the school by the Commissioners of Education Inquiry in Ireland.†

“In the diocese of Elphin there has long been an efficient and creditable diocesan school maintained in

* I was informed, that the extent of this estate is about 200 acres, and that on the expiration of the existing leases, there will, probably, be a rise in the rental.

† Fifth report, dated May, 1827.

the town of Elphin. The school-house is old ; but when visited by us, was in very tolerable repair, in which it had been put principally at the expense of the master. It has an endowment of fifteen acres of land contiguous to the town. It is also endowed with the moiety of an estate of about 300 acres in the County of Cavan, devised by the will of the Rev. Dr. Hodson, formerly Bishop of Elphin. We learn that this estate is at present held for the residue of two lives under a lease very improvidently made. From what has been stated to us, we think that the circumstances under which the lease was granted, may require the consideration of the Attorney General ; and will justify the recommendation that the estates annexed to the diocesan schools, should, like the estates of the royal schools, be vested in the Board of Education in trust for those institutions."

" We found in this school four boarders and about twenty day boys. Mr. Smith, the present master, is curate of Elphin and vicar general of the diocese."

At a subsequent period, they state that there were five boarders and twenty-three day scholars, of whom sixteen were free.

From the tenor of the bequest of Bishop Hodson, it may be perceived, that it is only the children of poor parents who are to be taught *gratis* ; and they are not admitted indiscriminately. Indeed, considering the nature and character of the school, and the system of education pursued, it would be impracticable, as well as injudicious, to receive pupils just as they came. Such, therefore, alone, are admitted on the gratuitous list, who have already distinguished themselves in the minor schools of the place, and who

give promise of profiting by the superior education of the diocesan school. The selection appears to have been made in many instance with judgment and liberality; for several of these poorer boys have obtained sizarships in Trinity College, Dublin; and the son of an humble shoemaker of Elphin, is now actually a scholar in the University, and eminently distinguished by his various acquirements. The system is obviously one calculated to bring forth the real talent of the country, and it is to be regretted, that similar opportunities should not be afforded in other places, to boys who excel the generality of their school-fellows, to obtain the means of a superior education. The number of free scholars continues the same as reported to Parliament by the Commissioners.

The building is a moderate sized comfortable house of two stories, situated at the western end of the town, and separated from the line of the main street by a small court or garden, planted with shrubs and flowers. The situation seems healthful and airy, and the windows of the upper dormitories command views over an extensive range of country, gently undulated and under cultivation. The house was erected, as I was informed, some time about the year 1770.

The school-room, an apartment of moderate size, and in the rough condition to which such places are commonly reduced by the wild inmates who usually occupy them, assumes upon occasion a higher rank in the diocese; for in it the bishop's court is held, in all the pomp which can be conferred by school-boy desks, school-boy forms, and old deal presses, shoved out of their usual standing-places against the wall,

and re-adjusted for the ceremonies of the law. What becomes of the pupils during the temporary occupation of their place of study, it is needless to inquire. Possibly they may be imbibing, the while, early lessons in ecclesiastical jurisprudence ; and learning what mighty consequences may ensue from little causes. Preparations were about to be made for the hearing of a tithe case, and I was anxious to be a spectator of the proceedings of the court ; but the prosecutor not having appeared in town, by the expected time, the officers of the court, after a short consultation in the street, returned to their several homes, and the school-room did not undergo the usual metamorphosis. Since the tithe composition act has been in operation, causes of this nature are rare: formerly they used to be very numerous.

Besides the diocesan school of Elphin, five others are mentioned by the commissioners in their report to parliament. Two for males, from which the masters severally received emoluments, amounting to £26 in one instance, and to £32 in the other. These were attended entirely by Roman Catholics ; and the master receiving the smaller emolument had the larger school: of course, his charges were lower, and the instruction given, as generally happens in such cases, may be presumed to have been of an inferior description. In the one school there were seventy-three scholars, of which forty-six were males : in the other sixty, of which thirty-eight were males.

Two other schools were for females exclusively ; the one affording gratuitous education to fifty girls, of whom forty-seven were Roman Catholics ; the salary of the mistress £20 per annum, the other a small

pay school, with ten pupils in a room, eight feet by seven feet, and the whole emolument of the mistress only £8 per annum. These small schools are continually undergoing changes; new ones starting up on speculation, and others dying off; so that the returns of the commissioners a few years ago, may afford a sufficiently accurate idea of their numbers and circumstances, as compared with the population of the place. But the great change and improvement at Elphin, has been in the erection of the parish school, also mentioned by the commissioners, in which were about sixty children, the numbers of Protestants and Catholics being nearly equal: the males forty, females twenty. A new cottage was built for the purpose, which cost £70. The Kildare-Place Society give £30 per annum, the Bishop £10, and the incumbent of the parish £5.

The Register Office of the diocese is in a thatched house, nearly opposite to the inn, where a small deal press in a front parlour, contains all the archives of the see. The registrar, Mr. J. H. Kenny, with more than ordinary politeness, unlocked it for my inspection, and offered his assistance in procuring any information of which I was in search; but I had already been given to understand, that examinations had been made by persons every way more competent to the task than myself, and that no documents existed of a general or very interesting nature, but merely what related exclusively to the property of the see. I had been told that there was an instrument in the office respecting an inquisition, ordered to be held in the reign of Elizabeth: but Mr. Kenny informed me that the oldest record dated only from 1671.

At the time of my being at Elphin, Mr. Kenny had no more in his power than to offer me a copy of the papers which had been then already presented to Parliament, and printed, relative to the tithe composition in the diocese; and these were avowedly imperfect, inasmuch as many of the books of applotment, owing to the slovenly way in which business is sometimes conducted, had not been deposited in his office.*

It may perhaps be fitting also to mention, as characteristic of the feelings on the subject in the county, that few wills are proved in the court of the diocese; and that families rather trust to the arrangements which can be made amongst themselves, than go through the process which exposes them to the payment of legacy duties. It is needless to say, that where security of property is at stake, the law is complied with; but wherever it can be evaded with tolerable safety, there is no scruple on the subject; and the amount of duty payable to the crown is very inconsiderable for so wealthy a diocese. The hardship of this tax, not to say the injustice, and wherever there is injustice, there is impolicy, has been often impugned. This is no place to enter upon the general question; but the few observations which I have made will be sufficient to show the opinion which is entertained about it in one county.†

* I shall leave the insertion of these documents to the last, in the hope of procuring the most recent and complete information on the subject.

† There is still another subject as connected with the laws of the land which I cannot pass over unnoticed. Mr. Kenny had been hastily and uncereemoniously dismissed from his office of registrar, and another person substituted in his place, who for some time filled the duties thereof. Mr. Kenny disputed the legality of the dismissal, and the hall of the Four Courts

Cathedral.—The cathedral church of Elphin, at the eastern end of the town, stands in the middle of a cemetery, separated from the main street by a wall, and planted with trees. The body of the church not unlike an English barn, except from its having on the north side, next the street, four round topped windows, is a modern building with a common eaves roof newly slated, little in harmony or keeping with the ancient steeple. The latter square, narrow, and tall, is considerably dilapidated; its summit ragged; and its sides in places disfigured by broken plaster. The interior of the church, however, forms a remarkable contrast to its external aspect, being perfectly neat and trim. The whole of the nave is fitted up with pews, between which there has been left a single central passage. Beyond these, to the east, as usual, appear the bishop's throne, and the several stalls and seats appropriated to the dean, archdeacon, prebends, precentors, &c., all inscribed with their respective titles. A semicircular fan light over the altar is the principal source of illumination. The whole length of the church is about eighty feet; its breadth twenty-eight.

The font, made of metal, and placed near the pulpit, in the vicinity of the seats for the dignitaries, is large

rang for a considerable time with the pleadings in the cause. The proceedings terminated in Mr. Kenny's favour, and his permanent right to the office was established, beyond all further question. But, alas! in what a lamentable state are the laws of a country, where right can only be established at an expense akin to ruin; and where a man, merely in defending his own possession, is driven to sacrifices of fortune likely to be felt in his family for generations to come. Why should not a loser, especially one who has wantonly commenced the litigation, be obliged to pay the whole and entire expenses to which he has exposed his unwilling adversary, as well as the mere taxed costs?

and well formed, consisting of a circular vase standing on a tripod.

No choir is maintained; but there are some singing children, who assist at the celebration of the ordinary weekly service of the parish, to which this church, for there is no other, is appropriated.

In the vestry, the following inscription appears, in gilded letters, carved on a tablet of stone inserted in the wall and covered with glass.

This Cathedral was new roofed and
Slated in the year 1823 under the
Direction of the Dean and Chapter:
The expense of which was aided by a
Donation from the Right Reverend
John Leslie then Lord Bishop of Elphin.

This, however, is not the only inscription in the vestry, and the cathedral of Elphin may claim the rare distinction of such an exhibition, as probably no other ecclesiastical edifice in the dominions of his Majesty can pretend to. In the main passage along the nave, according to ancient but abominable usage, numerous persons of distinction had been interred, and the passage was literally paved with the grave stones. In altering the church, it was deemed expedient to remove these stones; but that they might not be lost to posterity, all were carefully built into the walls of the vestry, where they now appear, covering the spaces on each side of the fire-place, and nearly half of one of the contiguous walls. But the conservative care of the very reverend the Dean, for to his department, such matters are, as I apprehend, usually referred, did not end here; and the faces of the stones were daubed entirely over with a thick coat of paint, black in the centre, at the edges bordered with white. Nothing can be

more thoroughly funereal and dismal. But if the inscriptions had been before difficult to decipher, from the wearing away of the stone by the repeated tread of passengers, matters were in no wise mended by clogging up the letters with paint as thick as black ball. In fact, without scraping, they are utterly illegible, in many places; as I found to my cost, after having spent near two hours of the evening, at the task, with a strong wax light, sometimes held by the sexton, sometimes by myself.

The following are amongst the inscriptions :

Here lieth the body of Edward King Doctor in Divinity consecrated Bishop of Elphin anno Dmni 1610 and continued Bp in that See until the eighth of March 1638 on which day and yeare he died at the age of 63. This Bishop much augmented the revenue of that see was a constant preacher of Gods word and a man of great sanctity of life.

Depositum Joannis Hodson

Nuper Elphinensis Episco

pi que obyt 18 Feb

anno Domini 1685

et ætatis suæ 77

Hic requiescat

In spe bea

tæ resur-

recti-

onis

M S

Exuviæ

Audoenni OVD....armiger

Quas in Elphineasi....recondi....

Supremis....ulis....

manebit

Certissimam fidem in Catholico

Fidelium resurgentium coeternum induendi

Natus est anno æræ Christian....

MDCXXIII

Denatus xviii Januarii anno

MDCLXIIII

Uxore Elizabetha Fitzgealdr

Cum sexi iberis superstite

Quæ doloris suæ atque amoris

pariter summi

Hoc monumentum

Viro moerens posuit

Tandem deposuit quicquid erat

Mortale Elizabetha supra scripta

.

.

.

.

. conjux

(The latter lines were quite illegible.)

The body of....

LVNCARE

and his wife Anne

Here lieth
the body of
Nathaniel
King
1636

Underneath this stone lyeth....
.....
of.....
Bishop of Elphin.

Whatever observations may be passed upon the emoluments of the higher dignitaries of the church, the salaries of the more humble servants of this cathedral will scarcely be impugned.

That of the clerk (Laird) amounts to £10 per annum.

That of the sexton and vergier to £8 4s. 7d.

The latter carries the verge, and walks before the Bishop in and out of the cathedral.

The title of the cathedral church of Elphin is as follows:

Ecclesia Catholica Beatæ Virginis Mariæ.

The see of Elphin is reputed to have been founded by St. Patrick, about the middle of the fifth century. The name of Elphin was supposed formerly to have been derived from a huge stone, called the stone of the giant Fin-mac-cool. Others, with more probability, says Ware, "interpret the name to signify a stone of a clear transparent fountain, *ail*, signifying in old Irish a stone, and *fin* or *fion*, white." Flaherty gives an account that this stone fell prostrate on the 9th October, 1675, and that the certain day and hour

of its falling was foretold by some person who called out witnesses to see it fall. Possibly this was effected by some contrivance of his, that he might gain the reputation of a prophet.—*Ware's Bishops*, 1, 628.

The see of Elphin was enriched a little before the arrival of the English in Ireland, and upon the union of the see of Roscommon to it, with many large estates. Several other sees, as Ardcarne, Drumclive, &c. were also united to it, but at what time is unknown. By these unions the see of Elphin was considered one of the richest in this country: and although its possessions had been scandalously alienated and its revenues reduced to 200 marks; yet, through the exertions of Bishop King, whom Lord Strafford, in a letter to Archbishop Laud, styles a truly royal bishop, in allusion to his surname, its ancient possessions were recovered, and the income of the see raised to £1500 per annum.

This diocese comprises the greater part of the county of Roscommon; a large part of Sligo and Mayo, and a small part of Mayo. It extends about thirty miles English from north to south, and varies in breadth from three miles to thirty.

Bishop King during his prelacy, built a castle at Elphin, with offices adjoining, for himself and his successors; and endowed it with lands which he had purchased.

In 1645 Bishop Tilson delivered the castle of Elphin into the hands of the lord president of Connaught, and during the usurpation of Cromwell, the see continued vacant and its revenues were sequestered: but on the restoration, John Parker, having

become bishop, applied himself to repair both the cathedral and the episcopal palace.

In 1685 Bishop John Hudson left by his will the sum of £566, for the purpose of erecting a new see house where the old castle stood near Elphin; but by an act of the 10th William III., permission was granted to remove the timber and other materials of this see house, to any other part of the see lands which he thought more appropriate for the residence of the bishops, subject however to the approbation of the archbishop of the province.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

Before I take leave of Elphin, there remains yet another subject connected with the place to be mentioned, to which the appropriation of a few pages will scarcely be considered as superfluous, since they relate to Oliver Goldsmith, the poet of Ireland, *par excellence*, I was about to say, and certainly so, beyond all hesitation, if we could by possibility forget the genius of the present day.

That the family of Goldsmith had long resided in Connaught, and in this immediate neighbourhood, admits of no doubt; neither is it questioned, that a part of his education was received at the diocesan school of Elphin; but it may seem extraordinary, that the birth-place of a man, celebrated as Oliver Goldsmith was during the latter part of his life, and whose family and connexions were numerous and well known, should have become, so very soon after his decease, a subject of doubt and uncertainty. Dr. Johnson, who

wrote the Latin epitaph inscribed upon his monument in Westminster-abbey, himself the friend of Goldsmith, and likely upon such a matter to have had communication with the surviving relatives, would scarcely have assigned the obscure hamlet of Pallice or Pallas,* in the county of Longford, as the spot, without having received what he considered accurate information; unless, indeed, it could be supposed, that he allowed himself to be swayed by fancy; and that whilst there was a shadow of authority to countenance it, he selected Pallas as a place, from its very name, befitting the birth of the poet, historian, and physician.† Indeed from the translation which has heretofore been made of the passage, “born at a place where Pallas had fixed her name,” it would appear as if some persons had considered it purely figurative.

The authority of Dr. Johnson, in the epitaph, was naturally followed by subsequent writers; but not in every instance; for in the sketch of Goldsmith's life in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, it is set forth that he was born at Roscommon; and that his father possessed a small estate in the county of the same name.

An extract from the books of Trinity College, Dublin, procured by the Rev. Dr. Thomas Wilson, a former fellow of the College, and communicated to Mr. Malone, threw still further doubts upon the subject, since it stated that he was born in the county of Westmeath.

* Natus in Hiberniâ Forniæ Longfordiensis

In loco cui nomen Pallas.

† Κλαίετε ποιήτην, ιστορικόν, φύσικον.

1744, Jun. 11. Olivarius Goldsmith. Siz. Filius Caroli Clerici. ann. agens 15. natus in comitatu Westmeath: educatus sub ferula, Mi: Hughes. admissus est. tutor. M. Wilder.

But this entry is generally allowed to be incorrect; and the error attributable to the circumstance of his father being at the time a resident of Westmeath, in the parish of Kilkenny West, of which he had been for several preceding years the rector, having succeeded the Rev. Mr. Green.

In the four volume edition of Goldsmith's works, 8vo. London, 1801, the original authority of the epitaph is adhered to; but coupled with the circumstance of the birth having taken place in a house which was lent to the young couple, by the Rev. Mr. Green, the maternal uncle of Mrs. Goldsmith, and who was, at that time, rector of Kilkenny West: this appears to have been given on the authority of Dr. Law, then Bishop of Elphin.

Again, in the memoir prefixed to the small volume of Goldsmith's poetical works, edited by Dr. Aikin, and published subsequently to the edition above alluded to, the birth-place is fixed differently from all those previously mentioned, and stated to have actually been at Elphin; coupled, however, with the same story of the house having been lent to the young couple by Mr. Goldsmith, uncle to the Rev. Mr. Green. But Oliver was not the eldest child of his parents; nor born until after an interval of seven years from the birth of his brother Henry, so that young as the couple might have been regarded, they must, at least, have been married for nearly eight years. It

is not mentioned in the memoir upon what authority this account is given.

Such a contrariety of evidence might well have suggested the expediency of instituting more rigorous inquiries into the subject; and at length, the Rev. George Mangin, in a little work, entitled an Essay on Light Reading, brought forward testimonies which appear to have placed the matter beyond a doubt. Mr. Mangin addressed himself with much earnestness to persons living in those parts of the country, which were reputed to be connected with Goldsmith's parentage, birth, and education; it may here be remarked, that none of the places are situated at a greater distance from each other than might be accomplished in a morning's ride, although they happen to lie in three several counties. Amongst others, he addressed the Rev. Dr. Annesley Strean, then incumbent of the parish of St. Peter's, in Athlone, but who formerly had been curate of Kilkenny West, in Westmeath; that is, curate of the very same parish which had been served by Goldsmith's father as rector; and afterwards by his brother the Rev. Henry Goldsmith, as curate, the curate "passing rich with forty pounds a year;" and it is not a little remarkable, that the same salary continued attached to the curacy in the time of Dr. Strean. It is scarcely to be supposed, that a person living upon the classic ground of Auburn, and himself the actual successor of the preacher of the Deserted Village, could have been indifferent to any circumstance connected with the history of the place, or the author of the poem; on the contrary, Dr. Strean appears to have felt great zeal upon the subject, and Mr. Mangin was fortunate in having

addressed himself to one who proved in the end so capable of affording just intelligence.

Dr. Strean, under the date of Dec. 1807, replies to Mr. Mangin, that two places contended for the honour of being the birth-place of the poet, Pallas, in the county of Longford, and Ardnaghan, in correct Celtic orthography *Airdnagubhan*, in English *Smith's Hill*, which is close to the town of Elphin; and he adds, that " notwithstanding he had travelled many miles to inquire of the bard's relations, as well as of some of the oldest inhabitants of the place who knew him and his family, *adhuc sub judice lis est.*" However, says he, the most authentic account is in favour of the latter place, where his ancestors had lived, and from the neighbourhood of which the poet's father had removed to Pallas, whilst Oliver was a boy; and where* he lived in his father's house till the age of eighteen or nineteen, when his father removed to Lishoy, in the parish of Kilkenny West, and there built the house afterwards celebrated by the poet."

But it seems not less strange than fortuitous, that during the very time, whilst Dr. Strean was penning these lines, a letter should have actually arrived from Mr. Robert Jones Lloyd, dated Smith Hill, of which the following is a copy; and it is only necessary to

* I shall not stop here to inquire into the various testimonies relative to this part of Dr. Strean's statements, but merely say, that at Pallas, which I visited, the tradition was, that although Oliver Goldsmith was born *there*, he was removed whilst still an infant to the new house at Lishoy. The site of the house is pointed out at Pallas; but the building has been long since pulled down for the sake of the materials, which were wanting for the completion of a new lodge at a short distance; the fruit trees of the old garden, however, were still in being and in bearing.

premise, although indeed it is stated in the letter, that Mr. Lloyd's grandmother, and Oliver Goldsmith's mother, were own sisters.

TO THE REV. DR. STREAN.

" Smith Hill, 24th Dec. 1807.

" DEAR SIR,

" The Rev. Oliver Jones was curate of Elphin, and also had the diocesan school of that town : he lived where I now live, a little more than half a mile from the church.* He had four daughters and no son. My grandfather, George Hicks, was married to one of these daughters, and consequently knew every circumstance relating to that family ; *and has often told me*, that the Rev. Charles Goldsmith, who was married to another of Mr. Jones's daughters, had a curacy somewhere near Athlone ;† and that Mrs. Goldsmith spent much of her time with her mother, Mrs. Jones, then a widow, and living at Smith Hill : that Oliver Goldsmith *was born here*, in his grandfather's house, that he was nursed and reared here, and got the early part of his education at the school of Elphin.

" My mother, the only child of the above George Hicks and Miss Jones, was contemporary with Oliver Goldsmith, and brought up in her grandfather's house. She also has often told me the foregoing circumstances ; and has shown me the very spot where the bed stood in which Goldsmith was born. From what I have always heard and understood, I never had a doubt on my mind, that Goldsmith was born here.

" I am, &c. &c.

" ROBERT JONES LLOYD."

* Church of Elphin.

† It is supposed that he was curate of the chapel of ease in the parish of Cloncalla or Forgeney, near to which Pallas is situated.

This letter of Mr. Lloyd's seems to put the question at rest: for though the parents might have been settled at Pallas at the time of his birth, yet it was and is but an ordinary occurrence for a daughter to seek the aid and protection of a mother during her confinement, and Smith Hill being within a morning's ride, the daughter might as naturally have gone to the mother's house, as the latter to her daughter's.

Mankind have attached an importance to the birth-places of eminent persons, beyond what the subject perhaps really deserves. As determining country, as determining citizenship, of course the place of birth of every individual is of consequence, for the laws have made it so; but whether Goldsmith drew his natal breath at Smith Hill, or at some five and twenty miles distance, near the beautiful banks of the Inny, and at the other side of the Shannon, is a mere point of ideal value to those who happen to live in the same place, and who fancy that honour and celebrity being attached to the spot, may by possibility be reflected upon themselves. It would be idle, nevertheless, to deny, that the sight of the birth-place of those who have been highly distinguished in an honourable and glorious career of life, is capable of exciting emotions in the mind, which would not arise from a visit to an ordinary place; and the verdant slopes and old trees at Pallas, during the hours which I strayed amongst them, afforded me a pleasure, under the idea of their being connected with Goldsmith's memory, which they most certainly could not have done, if the name of Pallas had never been mentioned in conjunction with his. I visited Pallas before ever I saw Smith Hill, and the evidence, the traditional

evidence which I had collected at the former place, had scarcely left a doubt on my mind of its having been that where Goldsmith was born. It was not until after my return to Dublin, that I read Mr. Lloyd's letter in Mangin's Essay; and it was with mortification, I found not only that I had passed Smith Hill comparatively unnoticed; but that amongst the letters of introduction which I had not used, there was one which would have opened a facile access to the very house in question. Circumstances needless to mention, prevented me from delivering it; and, indeed, if I had availed myself of every letter of introduction, and accepted of all the hospitable invitations which were sent to me, I might perhaps have been still lingering in the county of Roscommon, instead of penning these lines by my own fire side.

Doubtless it will be admitted, that a field of far more interesting inquiry than the one merely referring to birth-place, may be found in what relates to the education and early habits of the poet, the associations wherewith they were accompanied, and above all, the rural scenery amidst which Goldsmith passed his youth, and which appears to have left an indelible impression on his mind. But these are matters, which belong to the counties of Westmeath and Longford, and the particulars which I have collected I have reserved for another place.

It is enough to mention here, that Goldsmith received a part of his education at the diocesan school of Elphin, although it is not exactly known how long he continued there; but it was in other schools and other places that the powers of his mind were

developed. At Elphin, however, the most important probably of all the events of his life took place, his rejection, by Bishop Synge, on presenting himself for examination as a candidate for holy orders. Dr. Streaun informs us, the tradition ran of his having been rejected for appearing before the Bishop in the very unsuitable dress of *a pair of scarlet breeches*; but it has been averred also, that the reports of his conduct in college, which had not been of the most regular kind, had made an undue impression upon the Bishop. Be it as it may, it is generally admitted that soon after this rejection, he relinquished all ideas of the church, and with the advice of his friends, adopted the resolution of commencing the study of physic.

The example of his elder brother Henry was any thing but encouraging to an aspirant after church preferment; for with irreproachable conduct, and zeal and diligence in his profession, he never obtained more than a curacy of £40 per annum. Whether the flame of poetry would have remained smouldering during the leisure or the duties of a clerical life; whether it would have been utterly extinguished, or have burst forth with more brilliancy, are subjects of speculative inquiry. "If he had been rich," says Cumberland, "the world would have been poorer than it is, by the loss of all the treasures of his genius, and the contributions of his pen." That Goldsmith worked diligently during the latter years of his life, for actual hire which he received from the booksellers, is sufficiently known; but his principal poems, the Traveller, Deserted Village, Hunch of Venison, Retaliation, and others might be added, were surely not written in the spirit of gain, although they commanded an immediate

price when ready for publication. Notwithstanding the termination of the Vicar of Wakefield was looked forward to also, as a period when the immediate wants of the author were likely to be relieved by the money which it was expected to bring, it does not appear either that emolument was his aim in undertaking that work; a work in which true and genuine piety and humble resignation to the divine will, under the adversities of life, and the visitations of providence, are described in the most attractive colours; a work which not only has already exercised, but which probably will continue to exercise a greater influence over the moral feelings, more especially in female kind, than all the writings of all the learned and profound theologians which have emanated from the diocese of Elphin, since the days of St. Patrick, the founder.

TULSK.

Once the seat of an abbey, and of a powerful castle, and up to the period of the Legislative Union, a borough, returning two members to the Irish Parliament, is at present no more than a small straggling village containing about a score of dwellings. It contained one small shop, poorly provided, whiskey of course, always excepted; yet lying at the door in front, I observed sheet lead in rolls, and slates of excellent quality, which I was informed had been sent from Tarmonbarry, for sale on commission, a tolerable proof that new buildings or repairs were going briskly on

in the neighbourhood. A small stream passes through the village, over which there is a bridge.

The Abbey, situated at a short distance from the bridge, is merely separated from it by a piece of low waste ground, over which there is a free passage; and, on the opposite side of the building, an extensive cemetery spreads under the ruins, in which, though still in common use, the graves are few in proportion to the space assigned to them. Mr. Archdall, in his *Monasticon*, describes the abbey as still pretty entire, though in ruins. The walls of the church and of some of the dependencies of the abbey, are indeed still standing; but the only part which attracts attention at first view, is that on the side next the bridge, where two pointed arches, inserted in a massive wall and resting upon an intermediate round pillar, still remain in perfect preservation. Whether these arches were intended to open a communication with a small aisle, or with a chapel contiguous to the church, appears questionable; for openings into an aisle, of the length of the wall in which they are placed, it might have been supposed that a third arch, or even a fourth one, might have been found expedient; whilst a double portal, as a mere entrance to a chapel, appears to have been an unusual style of construction. Whatever might have been their purpose, the arches were admirably executed, as their complete preservation to the present day sufficiently testifies. The faces are bevilled and indented, but there were no sculptured ornaments; the pillar is built of stones laid in regular courses, much in the style of some in the abbey of Boyle. The capital is octagon, with rounded plain mouldings, projecting considerably. These arches are

not more than about eight feet in span, yet their effect in the ruin is striking; the proportions appeared to me very pleasing.

No other parts of the ruins are of a character to attract much notice, except it be the east window of the church, the stone casings of which were entire; but the mullions had either fallen out, or been wilfully removed. Several tombs had been erected within the walls of the church, the most remarkable one amongst which belonged to the Plunket family, with an inscription dated 1670.

Mr. Archdall says, that little is known of the history of this abbey; but it is supposed to have been founded by M'Duil or O'Dowel, as late as the fifteenth century, and to have been given to the Dominican friars.

The Castle is reputed to have been built about the year 1406, by O'Connor Roe. When the Earl of Kildare, in the year 1499, led his forces into Connaught, he threw garrisons into the four castles of Athlone, Roscommon, Tulske, and Castlerea.—*Ware's Annals*.

In Moryson's Itinerary, the castle of Tulske is also mentioned as one of the strong places in the county of Roscommon, which were maintained at the charge of Queen Elizabeth. The five principal castles at that period were those of Roscommon, Athlone, Tusk, Boyle,* and Ballinasloe.

Of the history of Tusk, and its gradual decline, whilst it preserved its rights of the elective franchise, I have not been able to obtain any satisfactory intelligence.

* As the abbey was fortified at this period, probably that may have been the place alluded to.

At the distance of two miles and a half from Tulsk, to the north-west, lie Rath Croghan and Relickna Riagh, places, which, as already mentioned under the head of Croghan, in the barony of Boyle, are remarkable for caves and ancient burial grounds, as well as for some rude remains, connected by tradition with the history of the kings of Connaught.

The country in the vicinity of Tulsk is reputed to afford some of the richest pastures in this fertile part of Ireland; not limited, however, to the barony of Roscommon, but extending into those adjoining. The farms, as already observed, are considerable; from three hundred acres, Irish, a quantity of land very commonly held by a single individual, up to one thousand acres and more. The best feeding lands lie high and dry, and both sheep and bullocks are fed by principally the latter.

These large grazing farms are commonly bounded by high walls of stone, in some instances built dry and loosely; in others wholly cemented with mortar, or partially strengthened therewith. Sometimes the traces of ancient hawthorn hedges, marked by insulated bushes in even lines, but at very remote intervals, afford proof that in former times the subdivisions of the land were more numerous; but according to the modern system, the cattle are allowed to take an extensive range; it is believed that they thrive in proportion to this liberty, and vast herds may be observed together, spread over the hills, where scarcely a tree or even a bush is to be seen. Habitations are few; their paucity affording a remarkable contrast to the numbers which are invariably found in the districts which are devoted principally to tillage. Yet after mounting

upon some of the bleak and dreary hills, where an extensive prospect is opened for miles around, many a spacious and solid mansion may be observed in the distance, sheltered and surrounded with its woods and plantations. The style and aspect of some of these houses convey an idea of wealth, from without; and within, there are some which are said to display to a very remarkable extent, the modern refinements in furniture and decoration.

In a few places where plantations of forest trees had been carried beyond the mere precincts of the house, towards the borders of the enclosures near the high roads, I invariably observed the cattle drawing near them in bad weather, and more especially towards evening, a circumstance naturally leading to the supposition, that screens might be planted with advantage, for the express purpose of affording shelter; but the herdsmen, attached perhaps to old habits, appear in general to think that open grounds are more favourable for fattening; and it is notorious, that cattle do thrive upon them in a remarkable manner. In the purchase of stock, however, at fairs, a thick skin, is one of the points particularly looked to, and always considered desirable; and where other circumstances are equal between the animals, will command a preference. The animals are supposed to bear the weather, when thus provided by nature with a stout hide, better than those which are more thinly covered.

The vein of rich fattening land which distinguishes the district about Tulsk, extends into the adjacent barony. It consists entirely of the limestone and lime-

stone gravel formation; but both to the east and to the west of it the sandstone appears, as I have already mentioned, though only at a considerable distance, as beyond Strokestown in the former direction, and in the latter towards Belanagar.

BARONY OF BALLINTOBBER.

This is the largest barony in Roscommon, and the seat of the county town.

The following is a table of its superficial contents.

Arable.	Bog.	Water.	Total.
75,923	- 23,295	- 1300	- 100,518 Irish Acres.
122,982	- 37,734	- 2106	- 162,822 English do.

The barony of Ballintobber appears remarkable on the map, not merely from its superior size, but from being separated into three distinct divisions, which do not touch each other in any one part. The most eastern of these divisions extends along the banks of the Shannon, from the demesne of Charleston, near Drumsna and Jamestown, to the mouth of the Feurish river below Tarmonbarry on the south, being enclosed between the river Shannon and the barony of Roscommon.

The western division of the barony is bounded by the baronies of Boyle, Roscommon, and Half Ballymoe, and extends to the extreme west of the county, on the confines of Mayo and Galway.

The southern division, which comprises the county town of Roscommon, likewise stretches along the Shannon near Lanesborough and Lough Ree; and is separated from the two other divisions of the same barony, by the intervention of the barony of Roscommon and the half barony of Ballymoe: the passage across the former, near the Shannon, is about two miles; but across the interloping part of the half ba-

rony of Ballymoe, the distance between the southern and western divisions of Ballintobber barony does not exceed one mile.

Examples of the disjunction of minor parts from the main body are not wanting, whether in reference to parishes, baronies, or counties; but the separation of a large barony into three detached parts, each respectively of considerable magnitude, is a more rare occurrence. And yet, if the original constitution of the baronies be reverted to, it may rather appear strange, that they should not be found more commonly divided.

“ The first subdivision of counties is into baronies. These appear to have been formed successively, in consequence of the submission of the Irish chiefs or captains who ruled over them; the territory of each forming a barony. This may, in some measure, account for the extreme inequality in size, between those divisions of subordinate jurisdiction and the manner in which parts of them are intermixed among each other.”*

The barony of Ballintobber, as already mentioned at page 6 of this work, was formed out of the territories of O’Conor *Dhunne*, and named after his powerful castle of Ballintobber, situated in the western of the three divisions; the grand remains of which are still to be seen.

For the space of 200 years Connaught was torn by the feuds and dissensions of the O’Conors.† They

* Report to the House of Commons, 1824, xx. 9, introd.

† For these particulars respecting the family of O’Conor, I have been indebted to MS. notes, obligingly furnished to me by Matthew O’Conor, Esq. Barrister, brother of the late O’Conor Don.

sometimes turned their arms against the De Burgos and the Berminghams: but the contests for the chieftainry principally engaged their passions, and their warlike spirit was exhausted in internal hostilities.

In 1305, Felim O'Connor, then elected chieftain, sided with Edward Bruce who was crowned at Dundalk, and acknowledged by all the Irish chieftains as their sovereign. With a tumultuary, half armed, and undisciplined force, he encountered a veteran army commanded by Sir William De Burgo and Richard Bermingham, captains of great experience in that age, and the result was disastrous to the power of the O'Conors. The name and race were nearly extinguished by the field of Athenree.

As the power of the O'Conors declined, and their territory diminished, their factions increased, and they split into distinct and hostile clans, deriving different names from territorial and personal distinctions. The O'Connor of Sligo and O'Phaley were so called from the countries they possessed. The O'Conors of Roscommon assumed the appellation of *Rough* or *Ruadh*, and of *Dhunne*, from the colour of the hair of two rival chieftains, both of the name of Tirloch, one having hair that was red, the other brown, *ruadh* or *ruaidh* in Irish signifying red, and *dhunne* or *dunn* brown. These rival chieftains carried on incessant hostilities against each other. One resided at Ballintobber Castle, and the other at Ballynafad Castle, the ruins of which are still visible near the modern town of Strokestown. Their animosities and rivalships were inherited by their descendants, and the country which now forms the county of Roscommon, was distracted by their party hostilities. In 1584, Sir John

Perrot, Queen Elizabeth's deputy in Ireland, marched into Connaught, formed that country into shire ground, compelled the chieftains to surrender their Brehon titles, and submit to the English government. They resigned their possessions into the hands of the crown; executed indentures of submission, and accepted of re-grants to them and their heirs, whereby their estates were to descend in future, according to the rules of the common law of England, instead of being *gavelled* according to the Brehon law and custom. Among others, Hugh O'Connor *Dhunne*, the chief of the sept of that name, resigned his castle of Ballintobber and the possessions of the clan to the queen; renounced the style and captaincy of the O'Connor *Dhunne*, and accepted of a re-grant and a knighthood from Sir John Perrott. Charles O'Connor Rae, of Ballynafad Castle, compounded in like manner for his estates. The country of O'Connor *Dhunne* was formed into the barony of Ballintobber, and that of O'Connor Rae, into the barony of Roscommon.

Hugh O'Connor *Dhunne* incurred the hatred of his sept for exchanging his princely title of *Dhunne* for an English knighthood, and of his countrymen for siding with the queen during the Tyrone war. He was besieged in his castle of Ballintobber by Hugh Rae O'Donnell, in 1590. A great gun planted on the hill of Ballyfinegan made a breach in the castle wall, and terrified the old chieftain and his followers to such a degree, that they surrendered at discretion. After some months' imprisonment he was liberated, and spent the remainder of an inglorious life in his old castle. He died at an advanced age, in the year 1632.

His son Callaugh succeeded to the possession of his castle and estates of Ballintobber. During the insurrection of 1641, he sided with the confederate Catholics, and mustered a force of 2000 foot and 200 horse. In 1642, with these troops he encountered some hundreds of veteran English soldiers, commanded by the lord president Ranelagh, Sir Charles Coote, and Sir Robert King. Superior arms and discipline prevailed over numbers. Precipitate flight saved the Irish from total destruction. The battle was fought near the castle of Ballintobber. Many of the run-aways found shelter within its walls, which were too high and too solid to be taken by a *coup de main*. The English, destitute of artillery, were forced to retire to Castle Coote.

Hugh O'Connor, the only son of Callaugh, died in 1762, without issue male, and the castle and estate of Ballintobber came into the hands of the Burkes of Ballydangan, in the county of Galway, through the female line. After the lapse of more than a century, a will, which had been made by a former Hugh O'Connor, was discovered among the papers of the late Lord Athenree, devising his estates to the male line of the family of Cloonalis, who were descended from Hugh, the second son of Sir Hugh O'Connor, who had been knighted by Sir John Perrot.

Alexander O'Connor of Cloonalis, brother of Dominick O'Connor Don, the head of the Cloonalis branch of the family, having discovered the existence of this will, regardless of the possession of the Burkes for more than a century, collected a mob of 400 or 500 of the retainers of his family in the year 1784, and seized upon the castle and estate of Ballintobber by

open violence. This outrage created a great sensation at the time. It was mentioned in parliament, as the commencement of an insurrection of the natives to regain their former possessions. Cavalry and artillery were forwarded from Athlone to dispossess this mob of a fortification in ruins; and upon the approach of the military, the disorderly mob and their insane leader took refuge in the bogs.

The Burkes immediately after, from apprehension for the security of their possessions, sold their title, at great undervalue, to the late and first Lord Hartland; and the castle and estates of Ballintobber are now the property of his son, the second baron.

The descendants of Sir Hugh O'Connor, relinquished the distinctive appellation of *Dhunne*, after the death of Hugh O'Connor, in 1662. In or about the year 1750, Dominick O'Connor, the head of the Cloonalis branch of the family, assumed the distinctive appellation of *Don*, being a corruption of the Irish word *Dhunne*, giving it more importance as sounding like the Spanish Don, and associating with the name the Celtiberian or Spanish origin of the Irish. Dominick O'Connor died in 1795, when his brother Alexander took upon himself the same title of *Don*. On his death in 1823, the Cloonalis branch of the family of O'Connor became extinct.

Owen O'Connor of Belanagare,* the descendant of

* In the first parliament, after the restrictions upon the Roman Catholics were removed, O'Connor Don was chosen representative for the County of Roscommon; and upon his death, in 1831, his son, Denis O'Connor, succeeded to the same honorable distinction.

The O'Conors of Belanagare and of Mount Druid, are the only remains of the Ballintobber family.

Charles O'Connor, the third son of Sir Hugh O'Connor, assumed the title of *Don* upon the death of Alexander O'Connor; and upon the death of Owen, in 1831, the title was taken by his son Denis O'Connor, the present representative in parliament of the county of Roscommon.

Castle of Ballintobber.—It may here be allowable, before we enter upon any further description of the barony, to devote a few lines to the remains of that magnificent castle from which it derived its name. The ruins are situated on the high road between Castlerea and Roscommon, at the distance of about four miles from the former and nine from the latter place, occupying the extremity of a narrow ridge, with rather steep sides. The surface of the country, in this neighbourhood, is undulated with ridges of a similar character, formed of limestone and limestone gravel, with hollows between them, occasionally of considerable depth; and in coming from Castlerea, the ruins appear in great majesty from the road, which runs along a parallel ridge, on the opposite side of one of these deep hollows or ravines.

The plan of the castle consisted of a quadrangular enclosure 270 feet in length and 237 in breadth,* de-

The family of O'Connor Sligoe became extinct in the person of Daniel O'Connor Sligoe, who emigrated with James II., and died in 1754, a Lieutenant Field Marshal, in the service of the empress queen Maria Theresa.

The family of O'Connor Roe is, by the tradition of the country, represented by Peter O'Connor, of Tumona, Esq. The last proprietor of the castle of Ballynafad was Charles O'Connor Roe, who emigrated in the war of the Revolution, and died Governor of Civita Vecchia, in the Pontifical States. A marble monument with a classical inscription was erected to him in the church-yard of Ballynafad, but it has been dilapidated by time and Vandalism.—MS. *Notes on the O'Connor Family.*

* Measured within.

fended by strong towers at each angle, and by two others, one on each side of the grand entrance, which opened upon an esplanade at the end of the ridge towards the east. The whole was surrounded by a broad fosse. On the south, and to the front, the fosse appears to have been constructed to retain water, and there still remains on the former side, enough to afford very beautiful and picturesque reflections of the old towers and ivied walls. On the two opposite sides, the ditches, deep, broad, and cut into the rock, are at present quite dry; but as they lie below the level of the water, it is possible that on occasion these also might have been flooded. There appears to have been once a drawbridge from the postern gate, opening out upon the crest of the ridge.

The grand towers, which are all polygonal, bear, from without, a strong resemblance to some of those of Carnarvon Castle in Wales; indeed it may be suspected that the architect, whoever he was, must have been acquainted with the plans of the Welch castles. No one tower, it is true, is comparable to the eagle tower at Carnarvon; nevertheless, the south-west tower at Ballintobber is a superb piece of architecture, and for its general effect, amongst the most imposing remains of antiquity which I can call to recollection in Ireland. There is a want of symmetry, however, in the construction of these towers, no two agreeing in the number and length of the sides.

This south-west tower presents six faces on the exterior.

The north-west tower five,

The north-east do. seven,

The south-east do. six.

The sides of the north-west tower are respectively, in length, beginning at the west curtain,

	22 feet 6 inches.
9	9
11	6
11	0
11	7

The south-east tower is about 30 feet in breadth, but all the towers were elongated towards the interior of the great court. In the plan of the castle published in the volumes of Antiquities which bear the name of Grose, this latter tower is represented as round; but this is not the only blunder. The circumstance, however, is the more remarkable, because whoever had once looked at this tower with attention, could scarcely forget the extraordinary beautiful effect of the reflection of the sides, with their varied lights and shades, in the waters of the fosse beneath, which generally present a smooth and glassy surface. During the few hours I remained at Ballintobber, I was tempted to look at it again and again, and scarcely ever saw a more interesting little *morceau* of the kind.

These towers, more particularly the two to the west, next to the ridge, had very substantial walls, through which in the lower parts there were loop-holes for defence; but the upper stories had windows, and apparently habitable apartments. The interior of each, is, however, in a ruinous state, seemingly the result of violence, although the exterior crust remains firm. The two, to the east, are completely gutted. In the north-west tower, some door-ways with lancet and flat pointed arches, in very pleasing proportion, remain in tolerable preservation; and a fire-place and

chimney-piece with arms, bearing date of 1627, appear on the walls of the third story; but the floors of the upper stories have been beaten away, and access consequently cut off.

The grand portal to the east, was protected by towers, rounded at the outer side, but elongated within like those of Beaumaris Castle in Wales; these are in a very dilapidated state.

The curtain walls between the towers were about 5 feet 8 inches thick, at the height of the great inner court of the castle, but of course much thicker at the foundation; they were provided, as usual, with loop holes; and flights of steps, which are still passable, led up to the banquette beneath the parapet.

These walls are all sound and firm, excepting on the southern side of the quadrangle over the fosse which at present contains water; where, from the regularity of the breaches, it may be conjectured that there had been originally a range of large windows belonging either to a chapel or hall; and, indeed, this supposition receives support, from the view of one of the towers, taken from the court, at the inner side, as published in the book of antiquities to which I have already alluded, and purporting to have been drawn by Lieutenant Grose; in which view, a large pointed arch is represented as entire, in the part of the south wall which now only shows rude breaches devoid of form. If, therefore, the drawing was not embellished from imagination, a practice too common at that period, but contained only a faithful picture of the arch as it then stood; its ruin, whether proceeding from violence or from the decay of time, and it is to the former that dilapidation is, in most instances, attributable,

must, of course, have taken place since the drawing was made, that is, within the last forty years or thereabouts. The southern side of a castle was often selected for the great hall, and these large windows opening to the mid-day sun, and commanding a view over an extensive and undulated country, probably at the time covered with woods, must have contributed essentially to render this part of the castle agreeable.

The great court or area in the interior of the castle, measuring from wall to wall at the inner side, 270 feet in length, from east to west, and 237 feet in breadth, presents an even surface coated with grass; sheep are occasionally enclosed within it at night; and I saw a very considerable flock, belonging to Lord Hartland, undergoing there the operation of paring the hoofs. Whether the present level of the area is the same as it was originally, before the castle was dismantled, seems to admit of doubt, from the circumstance of a passage at the great eastern gate appearing considerably below it; but it is possible that the entrance might have been by a covered way and an inclined plane, which led up to the area; and the sills of the doors, at the entrance of the towers at the angles, being nearly on a level with the area, rather lead to the opinion that the difference of height has never been very considerable between the past and former times. An alteration of level in such places is often occasioned by the rubbish of the buildings which have been thrown down, and afterwards spread; and the traces of demolition at Ballintobber are very evident. Here, however, as in other ruins, much mischief has been effected by pillagers, who came for stones as to a com-

mon quarry, and who generally selected those which were squared and chiselled in the first instance. Lord Hartland, however, has put an effectual stop to these depredations by an ordinance for which all admirers of antiquity should feel grateful.

It appears somewhat remarkable, that in the MS. notes from which the preceding particulars relative to the family of O'Connor have been extracted, not only is there an absence of information about the building of Ballintobber Castle ; but it is stated distinctly that no records whatever are in existence to trace the history of its erection. The tradition of the country merely assigns to it a date about the middle of the thirteenth century ; and Cathal Creudearag O'Connor, a natural brother of Roderic O'Connor, the last of the kings of the Irish race, has the reputation of having been the founder. He had supplanted the family of Roderic ; was elected king of the Irish of Connaught ; and carried on a successful warfare against the English, during a space of near forty years. But it does not appear that he resided at Ballintobber Castle. His son, Felim O'Connor was opposed by Torloch, the grandson of Roderic O'Connor ; an irreparable defeat, however, at Drúmrahy, near the Curlew Hills, extinguished the pretensions of the house of Roderic.

The old Irish did not, until long after the invasion by Henry the Second, erect castles or stone fortifications of any kind. Disdaining mounds, and ramparts, and towers, they regarded personal bravery in the field as the best defence against an invading enemy. The English immediately after their settlement in Ireland, erected castles, in the plains, to secure their possessions ; leaving the Irish nothing but the wild

and mountainous tracts. The natives would have perished for want of subsistence, if despair had not impelled them to invade the plains and re-enter their former possessions. The English garrisons, scattered and insulated, having no general system of defence, were, in many instances, surprized and cut off; and, in the course of half a century, the Irish regained a great portion of their former possessions. They also began to erect castles; and in the fifteenth century, the whole country was studded with stone fortifications, of a quadrangular form, having lofty towers at the angles, wherein the garrison and family resided. A watchman, stationed on the loftiest of these towers, gave the alarm on the approach of an enemy; when the cattle of the contiguous plains were driven into the enclosure of the walls, and the garrison repaired to their posts to repel an assault, or sallied out to attack the invader. Nothing was more common, in those days, than to see a clan, rich in flocks and herds, surprized by a neighbouring clan, plundered and left destitute of subsistence.*

The editor of Grose states, that the town of Ballintobber owed its rise to an abbey erected there by O'Connor, King of Connaught, A. D. 1216; but that the castle was of a later date, and the work of Sir John King! to whom the property was granted in 1605. This is a story widely at variance with the account already given; neither is it possible such obscurity could hang over a building comparatively so recent. Besides, the style is very different from that of Sir John King's time.

* Stanihurst de rebus Hibernicis.

Mr. Archdall makes no mention of any abbey or religious foundation at this place; but there was an ancient church, near the site of the present Roman Catholic chapel, the cemetery belonging to which, is crowded with tombs. Several of these date back for a century and a half.*

The springs from which the place derives its name, *Bally*, signifying in Irish, a town, *tobber*, or tubber, a well or fountain, burst forth below the cemetery at the foot of some trees, in several clear but shallow rills, very pretty to look at.

Ballintobber is at present a village, containing 26 dwellings, all cabins, except three of two stories,

* Several of the inscriptions are so long, and withal of such little interest to any except the immediate relatives, that simply to read them is a labour. Of some of the lesser the following may serve for samples :

Pray for the soule of
Thady Roirk who gav
ed this monument to
be made for his son
John Roirk who died
the 1st day of August

1699

and where the said
Thady R. is to be inte
rred.

Near the chapel,

Orate pro anima
Barnab et Magrat
et pro animabus
Omnium benefact
orium qui contrib
vere in sumtum
hujus capellæ an
no domini 1766

thatched, and one of two stories, slated. The village lies below the castle to the eastward. The ruins appear grand from behind it.

TOWN OF ROSCOMMON.

The town of Roscommon, the capital of the county, though not absolutely in the most central part of it, is yet within a few miles of being so; and in that respect more conveniently situated than many other county towns. The most remote verge of the county to the north, is distant about 31 miles; and the extreme south near Shannon Bridge, 23 miles; the western boundary is less remote; whilst on the east, the Shannon approaches within four miles of the town.

	Irish miles.	Eng. do.
To Dublin the distance is - - -	69½	equal to 88
Galway, the nearest sea port - -	40	.. 51
Lanesborough, the nearest place for lading boats on the Shan-		
non - - -	7	.. 9
Athlone - - -	15	.. 19
The latitude of the town is	53° 37' 30" north.	
Longitude - - -	8 8 30 west.	

Five roads radiate from the town, in continuation of the lines of the principal streets, two of which, at a short distance beyond the houses, divide into other branches; thus, Roscommon may be considered as a point from which roads diverge to all other parts of the county, or as one in which they unite.

The name of Roscommon is supposed to be a com-

pound, derived from the word *Ros*, which, in the Irish language, signifies a place agreeable and pleasing in itself, or enjoying a pleasing prospect; and from *Coman* or *Comanus*, the name of a saint who founded an abbey here, as early as the year 550. From the number of places to which this epithet of *Ros* has been applied, it appears to have been a favourite one; whence, an inference may also be drawn, that Ireland in early times was considered a pleasant and beautiful country. Thus *Roscoman*, since altered or corrupted to *Roscommon*, may be interpreted the pleasant place of *Coman*. Little, however, could the saint have suspected, that in conferring this name upon the humble spot which he had chosen for his abbey, it would afterwards extend to the surrounding district, and finally be attached to a civil division of the kingdom; which, although small in reference to the whole island, would nevertheless, in the course of time, contain within itself, more wealth, more intelligence, more power, than all Ireland could have produced at that early period.*

Another abbey, which appears to have eclipsed the humble one of Saint *Coman*, arose about the year 1257, founded by O'Connor, king of Connaught; and a few years afterwards a powerful castle was erected by the English under Sir Robert De Ufford. The remains of these edifices, vast and extensive in the days of their prosperity and glory, are still, in their ruined state, imposing and venerable.

It is remarkable that both these buildings are situated upon a flat, bordering upon grounds which but a

* The province of Connaught was not divided into counties until the 11th of Elizabeth.

few years ago were little better than a swamp; they have latterly, however, been drained, and are now productive meadows. Whether at any former period they had been already dry, it is of no moment to inquire, though very possibly they might have been; for the stoppage of the stream might have converted them into a marsh, as certainly as the opening of the stream has since restored them to fertility. The town of Roscommon, which probably arose in consequence of the building of the abbey and castle, and whose subsequent increase must have been favoured by the protection which they afforded, and the wealth they diffused, is not situated upon the flat, but upon a hill which intervenes between them.

The castle standing beneath and in the immediate vicinity of the hill, whence it might be easily commanded, appears to have been injudiciously placed according to the ideas of modern times: but it must be kept in mind, that fortresses have ever been constructed in reference to the state of the military science of the age, and the known means of attack and defence: and that places which subsequently proved weak before a few pieces of artillery, were, at the time of their erection, and perhaps long afterwards, most formidable in their strength.

On approaching Roscommon from the north, the relative position of the castle and town are plainly seen; the former to the right of the high road, separated merely by a small field or two, and the town in the distance extending up the slope of the hill. Straggling dwellings, along the road side, begin opposite to the castle, and continue at intervals up to the streets of the town. These are mostly cabins of a

very poor description; and the commencement of the town, on this side, presents none much better. From the castle to the heart of the town, the distance may be estimated at about a quarter of a mile.

Another and perhaps a still more distinct view of the castle and hill, though a distant one, is obtained, on approaching the town from the west, by the road from Fuerty. Here the castle is seen standing on the verge and at the head of the tract of low meadow ground, which has been already described, and which appears more extensive than from the other side: these low grounds reach nearly to the base of the hill. As the houses extend principally along the eastern and southern sides of the hill, little is seen of the town, however, from this position, except the top of the gaol and some chimneys; for the flats and base of the hill remain as bare of habitations as they probably were when the castle contained a garrison.

The road which has been mentioned as coming from the north, and passing the castle, forms the main street of the town; and having reached, not actually the highest, but very nearly the highest part of the hill, it descends in an easy and gently winding course downwards to the south. The highest spot built upon, is that occupied by the old gaol, which forms a remarkable land-mark for several miles, along the low grounds and bogs, which extend in the direction of Lanesborough and the Shannon.

This building, abandoned as a gaol, not on account of decay, but the want of sufficient space within its walls, is, nevertheless, lofty and capacious, and presents a broad front to the south. The main street, which runs past its eastern end, expands opposite to the front, into a large opening, forming what is often,

though so very erroneously called a square, but which might, according to French nomenclature, be with propriety designated a *place*.

In another part of this *place* and lower down the slope, stands the old court house, an insulated building, whose original destination has been superseded by a new and far more stately edifice, erected in the immediate vicinity of the new gaol. This old building now serves for various purposes ; as market-house, school-house, &c. &c. ; but, as I was informed, had been offered for sale to the Roman Catholic inhabitants, some of whom were of opinion it might be advantageously converted into a place of worship for their use. That it would be preferable to the present chapel, which is altogether inadequate to the accommodation of the increased and increasing population of the town and neighbourhood, admits of no doubt ; but it was a question whether the operation of gutting the interior and reducing it to a suitable form for worship, would not be attended with a heavier expense than the erection of a new building, in every respect more appropriate ; and most certainly, it would scarcely be possible to have a more unsightly edifice than the old building, with its heavy and ill-constructed roof.

The largest houses of the older part of the town stand facing the *place*, where several appear of three stories in height ; but the days of their pride are over, and some are fast hastening to decay.

The streets which diverge from the main one, are all poor : the best of them is that which leads to the new court house ; but it is winding, narrow, and the houses low. The most improved, indeed the only much-improved part of the town, is that which lies

on the slope below the new court-house; where some excellent houses of three stories, which would be creditable to any town, have been lately erected. These houses, which stand in a row, on the opposite side of the way from the court-house, have areas and iron pallisades in front, and in the rear small gardens with coach-houses and stables. The rents are about £45 a year each, and from the readiness with which they have been let, as soon as finished, an inference might be drawn, that the general absence of improvement was rather attributable to the want of capital wherewith to build, than to the want of occupants willing to pay a fair price for good accommodation.

These houses have been erected by Mr. Richards, the intelligent and skilful builder of the new court-house, who has left proofs of his taste and judgment, in several of the country houses within the county Roscommon, which he has designed or new modelled. It is really delightful to behold the improvements which can be thus effected by the spirited efforts of a single individual. At the same time, they afford a very striking demonstration of the benefit which may ensue from the expenditure of public money, and setting capital afloat in a country, where, previously, if it did exist, it was only stagnant. It is not always, indeed, that a contractor, or any of the various tradesmen who are employed under him, can or will expend their profits in the actual place where they have been acquired; so that although the country at large may be as much benefited, yet the direct effect of the expenditure may not be seen so distinctly. But here, at Roscommon, the result can be at once traced, in the start which the town has made, since the consi-

derable sums of money have been disbursed which were required for the building of the new gaol and court-house.

In no part of Ireland, perhaps, is a much stronger contrast afforded, than what this new part of the town presents, to the old and wretched hovels which may be seen in other quarters, more particularly in the outlets on the Lanesborough side. Nothing in the shape of human habitation can be conceived more abject; no chimneys; no windows; roofs sunken and apparently ready to fall in; rags, misery, and filth withinside; and without, dunghills up to the very doors, deposited in trenches hollowed out in lines parallel and close to the walls of the houses, and which by successive scraping, are rendered deeper and wider year after year. When cleared of the manure, these become so many receptacles for stagnant putrid water, emitting the most noisome effluvia, prejudicial, doubtless, in an eminent degree to the health of the poor people who are exposed to breathe the contaminated air. Yet the nuisance is one of their own creating, for the sake of the trifling gain which attends the collection of manure; and I was informed, that but few years have elapsed since the same practice extended to the main street of the town, and that it was only abated by the earnest efforts of a few individuals, principally of Mr. Richards, aided in some degree, but mildly, by the constabulary police. It is the inhabitants of the poorer class of houses who carry on this business; and when I mention that within the streets of Roscommon, there are no less than four hundred thatched cabins, of which sixty-one, according to my reckoning, were without chimneys,

it may readily be conceived, to what an noxious extent this system of collecting manure may have been carried.

But although the efforts of some of the upper classes, aided by the police, have been in part successful in moderating the nuisances of dunghills, yet the cleansing of the streets has not been established on a satisfactory system, owing to the claims of certain individuals, claims based less, however, upon absolute right, than upon the influence which official situation confers, to the manure collected from the sweepings of the streets; and who insist upon the heaps which are formed by their own scavengers being left standing, until it may suit their private convenience to have them removed.

The town of Roscommon stands exclusively upon the estate of the Earl of Essex, whose possessions, within the county, are reputed to contain 36,000 acres; but leased generally for long terms at very low rents.

According to my enumeration the houses of Roscommon town are as follows:

Houses of 3 stories slated	....	14
2 stories, do. best kind		9
2 do. do. second do.		12
2 do. do. third do.		20
2 stories, thatched	....	62
Cabins, thatched	....	339
Ditto, without chimneys	....	61
		<hr/>
		* 517

* By the returns of the enumerators of the census, as printed in the Parliamentary Papers of 1824, vol. viii., the number of houses in Ros-

In the lower part of the street which runs past the court-house, or rather indeed on the high road which is a continuation of it, yet still standing so immediately in the vicinage of the town, as almost to be considered a part of it, there are several substantial country houses or villas, with full-grown trees and orchards; but excepting in this one direction, no good houses appear in the suburbs. Within the distance of two or three miles, however, there are several country seats. The only cottage residence of the ornamental class which I observed, was one situated on a small knoll, on the immediate verge of the town, indeed almost within it, which was built by Dr. Lysaght, the physician of the county Infirmary, but occupied when I saw it by Mr. Carson. It forms a remarkably pleasing object, and one can only regret, that dwellings which afford such evident proofs of taste and refinement, should not be more common.

The wretchedness observable in many of the tenements which I have classed under the head of cabins, more especially in those without chimneys, is attributable in these, as in other towns, to the improvident system of leasing, which has heretofore obtained,

common town are stated at 494. But in these printed returns the different classes of houses are not distinguished; of course, no just idea can be formed from them of the real character of the towns. In several instances my enumeration varies very considerably indeed from that printed, and, as I have already stated, in general appears less. As I reckoned the houses with care, I can only account for the difference, by the official enumeration having included all the scattered cabins which stood near the town, belonging to the townland, whereas I only counted such as were within the town to *appearance*, forming a part of the streets. But I have already offered similar observations on the same subject.

without any conditions having been attached to the disposal of the lots, either as to the alignement of the streets or the quality of the buildings. Each lessee from the original one, under the landlord in chief, down to the last and lowest which has been created in a long chain of subletting, adopts that system which he finds most conducive to his individual profit, without the least regard to general improvement; and as the lots diminish, the buildings become meaner. To correct the evil effectually, at once, would be a task avowedly of difficulty, though assuredly not beyond the power of a nobleman, who is reputed to draw £16,000 per annum from his Irish estates; but by perseverance in a fixed and determined plan for the gradual improvement of the town, no doubt can exist, but that a great and desirable alteration might be in time effected. It is well known, how much the estates of the London companies, the estates of the Duke of Devonshire, of Lord Headley, &c. &c. have been improved, not merely in appearance, but in actual value, by a new and judicious system of management; and though leases may still be outstanding against the lord of the soil, yet it is well known, that whoever has rents to receive, necessarily has influence, which, exercised with temper and judgment, and coupled with liberality, might, in the progress of years, be made conducive to the amelioration of the place.

Whoever enters the town of Roscommon, may learn from the first person he meets, that the whole of it belongs to the Earl of Essex; and the inference is naturally drawn, that the wretched hovels without chimneys or windows which he sees before him, con-

tribute their miserable pittance, and so in fact they do, to swell the income of an absentee landlord.

Now, if a town similarly circumstanced as to the leasehold interests, and presenting the same appalling sights of want and woe, could be conceived as existing between Tyburn turnpike and Cashiobury park, in the midst of an estate belonging to one individual, from which a vast annual income was drawn; and if it was in the mouth of every body, that that same town was the sole property of a wealthy peer of the realm; let it be calmly asked, what would be the opinion of the English gentleman and the English gentlewoman upon such a state of things? Why the whole country would cry out shame upon it, and a change would infallibly be brought about. But the town of Roscommon lies far away in a remote province, and out of sight out of mind, as the proverb saith.

Putting aside, however, all considerations of moral feeling, it appears clear that a profitable employment for capital would certainly be found, in the repurchase of the lots and the hovels with which they are occupied; since the introduction of a better order of things would infallibly give increased value to other property in and around the town. That there is a demand for new and improved houses is evident from the rapid disposal of those which Mr. Richards has built; and many more buildings of a similar character might be expected to arise, if suitable situations for them were obtainable, out of the reach of such miserable tenements as at present disgrace the town.

Numerous shops appear on each side of the main street of Roscommon, and all the ordinary wants of life may be supplied within the town. I observed one

shop solely for Manchester goods, chiefly prints, which had lately been established by English people. The shops in their original construction were all small; and though, in a few instances, some in contiguous houses have been thrown into one, yet they still seem rather below than above the amount of traffic carried on. On the other hand, several of the old small shops are divided into two, and business of different kinds is carried on at opposite counters. The general aspect of trade struck me as inferior to that of Boyle; it is still further inferior to that of Athlone, which latter place, situated at a distance of only fifteen miles from Roscommon, with a good road and constant regular daily intercourse, draws off much of the custom for articles of luxury; since people are prone, even at some trouble to themselves, to frequent shops which afford the best and most extensive choice. There was no book shop exclusively at Roscommon, nor any books on sale, except such as related to the duties of religion, Protestant as well as Catholic, and the humbler classes of books of instruction for children and school use.

The ordinary Markets of Roscommon have of course improved with the increase of the town, and the expenditure of the numerous workmen who have been employed on the new buildings. The market is weekly, and held on Saturdays. Tolls are still levied.

On these days the town is generally much thronged, and the place assumes somewhat the aspect of a fair, owing to the numerous stalls, with canvas awnings, set up by the pedlars, which they carry about on drays, along with the chests containing their wares. Coarse cotton goods and ready-made clothes were amongst the principal articles exposed in these stalls. These were

brought commonly from distant places. Of more immediate home produce, there were friezes and coarse woollen stuffs and flannels, both dyed and undyed.* Strong shoes and brogues are also brought in considerable quantities. I observed several women with bleached linen, though seldom with more than a single piece, in their arms, which they sheltered from the showers of rain, under their scarlet cloth cloaks; but it was a painful sight to behold nearly the whole of these poor women, after standing the market from nine in the morning till near six in the evening, trudging homewards with their linen unsold; in fact, here, as in most other places, cottons are driving the coarse linens from the market, and the latter only continue to be made in very small quantities, beyond what are required for domestic use.

Amongst the articles manufactured in the immediate vicinity of Roscommon, may also be mentioned coarse pottery ware, consisting of pans, jugs, &c. These were mostly of a reddish brown colour, or of brown mixed with yellow, in rude patterns, or merely mottled, and considerable quantities were brought in to the markets. The clay of which these articles are made is not found on the spot, but brought in carts from the neighbourhood of the Shannon; neither is there any peculiar advantage from fuel. With the facility of carriage afforded by the canal, and with improved roads, it may be presumed that English earthen-

* The woollen articles made for home use are stouter, and in general broader than those made for sale. At Lanesborough, seven miles from Roscommon, I found the people sending their undyed woollens to Longford to be dyed and dressed; and on the other hand, the raw woollen webs are sent from the county of Longford into the county of Roscommon to be tucked.

ware will, in a few years more, completely supplant that of the country; and not only because it can be afforded on as reasonable or more reasonable terms, but because it is likewise much better manufactured. In fact, several of the small and rude potteries of the country, have, as I was informed, been already abandoned; but as long as there are any which afford a bare livelihood to the workmen, they will be continued, to the last, struggling for a precarious existence.

At Knockcroghery, in the barony of Athlone, a few miles distant from Roscommon, there are several manufactories of tobacco pipes, of which I shall have occasion to speak more particularly in the proper place. These pipes are occasionally brought in to Roscommon market; but in the shops they are held in disrepute, being much inferior to what may be obtained from Dublin, at a very small additional price.

The corn market of Roscommon has increased very considerably of late years, in consequence of the improvement of the roads, and the facilities afforded by the continuation of the Royal Canal to the Shannon. At Lanesborough, on the Shannon, which is only seven miles from Roscommon, boats, during the shipping season, are kept in the little basin there, purposely for receiving corn as it is brought down; but strange to say, although the road is on the whole good, one part of it, where a hill was cut down, has remained in a state next to impassable for several years; this circumstance has been already noticed under the head of the Shannon and Lanesborough. Buyers of corn are never wanting in Roscommon, and the prices seldom vary much from those at Lanesborough; the peasantry and small farmers, however, are generally

disposed to try both places, and seldom dispose of their corn until they have made inquiries or visited each place in person. Sometimes this wavering has its bad consequences; it is attended with loss of time, and after all, the farmers are obliged to sell for whatever their produce will bring, to answer the demands for rent.

A daily diligence plies between Roscommon and Killashee, a distance of about twelve miles, being the nearest spot at which the Royal Canal boats pass on their way to Dublin. A stage car also passes daily between Roscommon and Athlone, where there is a choice of public coaches for Dublin. But there is no coach, no direct communication, between Roscommon and Dublin.

*There are two Inns at Roscommon; one of them, situated nearly opposite the Lanesborough road, from which the diligence to the canal starts, being lately built, is consequently fresher looking and perhaps somewhat cleaner within; but it is a small house. The other, which has the reputation of being the head inn, standing in the *place*, opposite the old court house, is much larger; but it is an old and crazy building. The floor of the bed-room which I occupied, on the second story, had two distinct levels, with a difference of at least eight or nine inches, occasioned by the sinking of the joists; and at each step the whole fabric shook. Its condition really appeared perilous; but reassured on the word of the chambermaid, that it would last out my time, because it had lasted out that of the pre-occupants, there appeared no help for it but to take the chance for better for worse, as weary travellers are obliged to do. In this decayed apart-*

ment, however, I found a really comfortable bed, and a toilet neatly set out; though here, as in other places, I suspect I might have been indebted to the directions given by my servant. The house afforded two tolerably well-sized sitting rooms; the one on the ground floor, for the general reception of guests, the other above for more select customers; both were very poorly furnished, with old things, neither in neat order nor cleanly.

It appears somewhat discreditable that the assize town of an opulent and extensive county, should not be better provided with public accommodation;* not only should there be a larger inn, but the persons placed in charge of it should be more competent to conduct the business. That bane of Ireland, *the liquid devil*, as Dean Kirwan emphatically termed it, and whose words cannot be too often, nor more appropriately quoted than again in this place, seemed to have penetrated into the inmost recesses of the establishment; and the principal waiter, the old servant of an old master, was cried up for feats, which, instead of meeting with indulgence, ought to have been universally reprobated.

The appearance of the lower classes in the town of Roscommon is not prepossessing, and mendicity prevails to a fearful extent. One morning, just as I had breakfasted, O'Connor Don, M. P., the representative of the county, at whose hospitable house I had been received a few days before, made his appearance. The

* On the Duke of Devonshire's estates in the south of Ireland, excellent inns have been built at his Grace's expense, in all the principal towns. The London companies have also totally changed the character of the accommodations which were formerly provided for travellers, on theirs.

news of his arrival brought immense throngs of beggars to the door; and the numbers were still further augmented by the intelligence, which spread like wild-fire, that his servant was flinging money amongst the people from a bag. Each shower of copper was hailed with shouts from men, women, and children, which echoed from one end of the town to the other; and the distribution continued for a considerable time. My horse had been in waiting for me in the street, but to pass the door was utterly impossible, and after considerable delay, it was with difficulty I effected my escape through the stable yard gate.

Another evil exists in the town of Roscommon, to an extent, of which I never saw a similar example in any town in Ireland, of the same size;—female prostitution. Its open and undisguised character rendered it impossible to be mistaken; and I was informed that in reality the evil was of far greater magnitude than it appeared at first view. In Castle-street, on the skirts of the town, there was actually a range of brothels, at the doors of which females stood, at noon day, to entice passengers, with gestures too plain to be misunderstood.

I heard this state of things accounted for, by the contiguity of Roscommon to the great military establishment maintained at Athlone, from which it is only distant a short morning's walk, and with which place a constant intercourse is kept up by these females. Another cause of the number of abandoned women, is attributed to the circumstance of the military pensioners, pursuant to the present regulations, receiving their allowance through the paymasters of the police, at head quarters, in the county

town. In the year 1830, their numbers amounted, as I was informed, to no fewer than 1120 men, and there were always persons on the watch to lead them into temptations. These men constituted a very formidable body, and were generally not only conspicuous, but often very troublesome, more especially at fairs. Since they have been brought more immediately within the control of the police, their conduct has been far more regular. No doubt, amongst those men, there may be and are many individuals who are deserving, sober, orderly, and well conducted; but amongst 1120 men, there will also be others not forgetful of the wild enjoyments of a soldier's life, whether on active service in a foreign land, or during the hours of idleness in a large garrison town at home.

Water, heretofore, used to be extremely scarce in Roscommon, and at present, the supply is by no means adequate to the wants of an increasing population. There are wells at the foot of the hill, and pumps behind some of the houses; but the great source of water, for the mass of the inhabitants, in the upper part of the town, is a deep well, in the *place* near the old market-house, which was represented to me as being about fifty feet deep. It continued open and liable to abuse from dirty vessels, until within a short time past, that it has been enclosed by a wall, and a watch placed over it, who is empowered to demand one penny a week for each house for which water is drawn; this tax, which was one imposed merely by common consent and acquiescence, was fixed as a remuneration, not merely for the watch, but for the expenses of deepening the well, and rendering it more generally useful.

A new Court House upon a very extensive and commodious plan, has been latterly erected at Roscommon, which was not yet entirely completed in all its parts when I visited the place. The principal front, facing towards a large enclosed area common to both court-house and gaol, is under a portico with four pillars, set in pairs; intended, apparently, for the ancient Doric order; but the entablatures are not correct, and the triglyphs are omitted, although the stone was peculiarly favourable for their being represented.*

This stone, of which the portico is built, found in the neighbourhood of the town and common in various parts of the county, is virtually marble. Several of the chimney-pieces composed of it within the

* It is to be lamented, that the ancient Doric, the favourite order of the Greeks, in the zenith of their glorious career in the arts, should be liable to such frequent abuse; and in no place that I know of, as I am sorry to say, more than in Dublin; from the colossal pillar of Nelson, and the portico of the Royal Hibernian Academy, down to shop fronts and hall doors. What a different object would Nelson's pillar have been, if its beautiful shaft had rested on the three steps, or triple plinth, instead of having been mounted on a hideous pedestal totally foreign to the order, and which literally blocks up the distant view of the street. As yet there is not a single perfect specimen of the ancient Doric in Dublin, as far as my knowledge extends. But there is a promise of one in the grand entrance of the Metropolitan Roman Catholic Church, in Marlborough-street. The nearest approach perhaps to a correct example, exists at the entrance to the Library of the King's Inn; but it is injured by the lateral circular niches, and is deficient in the pediment.

In the Library of the Royal Dublin Society, there are many beautiful drawings of the ancient Doric, from classical authority, presented by Mr. Henry Hamilton; and considering how easy that Library is at all times of access, and what facilities are afforded for inquiry, there is no excuse on the score of a deficiency of true models.

building are highly polished, and in that state the surface is very dark, almost black; but when only roughly chiselled, the stone is of a pale grey colour, which becomes instantly discoloured with a shower of rain. It is a compact granular limestone, with shells more or less dispersed through it.

The two courts, destined to the criminal and civil business, are of the same size, and arranged as nearly as may be in the same style; they were originally designed with lofty ceilings, in which three large apertures were formed for ventilation. But it unfortunately happened, that the reverberation of the voice, and of sounds in general,* in both of these courts, im-

* Nothing is more uncertain than the effect which the voice will produce in a new building; and it is well known, how frequently architects have been disappointed on that score, in churches, theatres, concert rooms, &c. &c. The most remarkable building in all Europe for absence of reverberation, is supposed to be the old theatre at Parma, originally an immense oblong quadrangular hall built for festivals, but subsequently converted into a theatre, and the stage part added, by throwing down one of the end walls, and elongating the building. From whatever part of the stage, and it is a very large one, a person speaks, the words, if articulately pronounced, but without raising the voice above the common pitch, may be heard with perfect distinctness in every part of the theatre allotted to the audience. This, I myself proved, reciprocally with a friend, in frequent trials, during the considerable time which we spent in examining the building. The theatre is not now in use, owing to some of the principal timbers having decayed. It is not arranged in the ordinary style of theatres. Many plans of this building have been made, and disquisitions written, with the view of developing its curious and singular properties. One of the latest and most ingenious was kindly presented to me by the author, on the spot, on being introduced to him, and in the actual binding with which it had been purposely decorated for the Emperor of Austria; but his Majesty not having come to receive it, as had been expected, the book found its way into my library.

peded, to a most inconvenient degree, the progress of public business; and when I visited the place, the floor of one of the courts had been already taken up for experiment sake, and raised some two or three feet, or more, above the original level.

The grand jury room in an upper story, is a superb room of about forty-five feet by thirty, finely lighted, and commanding an extensive view over the country. Continuous ranges of mahogany desks and drawers, in the centre of the room, afford extensive conveniences for each juror, and the foreman, in his allotted place at the head, is still more fully provided with accommodations.

The furniture of the court-house, much of which is of mahogany, extremely solid and of the best description, inclusive of carpets, window hangings, &c. &c. was rated, according to the information I received, at the cost of £1000, which appeared to me but a very moderate allowance for all that I saw. Besides the usual accommodations for the judges, a large room is appropriated to the bar, where they can dine; and in the lower part of the building there are very complete ranges of kitchens, with all the necessary fixed appendages for the exercise of the culinary art. On the ground floor, a large room is set apart for coffee and refreshment, and for the accommodation of persons in general, whose business at the assizes may keep them in attendance on the courts. The superb grand jury rooms are occasionally used for balls and public assemblies.

The great staircase to the grand jury room and upper apartments was not finished, so that I can say nothing of its character and effect: the lesser staircases and the passages leading from them, were very

commodious. The stones of the steps were formed of granite, brought from Dublin, which, as every one knows, who has had an experience of the difference, affords a much more safe and agreeable footing than fine grained compact limestone, especially after it has been somewhat worn down, and more particularly in moist weather.

To guard against the yielding or dampness to which this limestone is subject, the interior of the building is lined with brick; and this, in its turn, studded for the reception of plaster. Every part of the work, indeed, appears to be most solidly and soundly executed; and it is only to be regretted, that where such great expense has been occurred, a little more attention, even though it were accompanied with somewhat greater cost, should not have been devoted to general architectural design and effect. A beautiful building opens a source of delight and improvement to countless generations yet to come. Whereas one which is defective in symmetry, continues a perpetual eye-sore; and a constant subject of reflection upon the age and people by whom it was contrived.*

* Were it possible to have a board of public architecture, constituted out of men of real taste and science, uninfluenced by that bane of almost all such public institutions,—private jobbing, the benefit could not fail of being felt. No great public building ought ever to be erected without public competition for plans, designs, and specifications, confined within a given sum; and premiums ought, in all cases, to be held out to indemnify those who devoted their time to the subject. Thus might real talent find its level, if, indeed, there were competent persons to judge of it. As matters are conducted at present, in the case of court-houses, gaols, churches, bridges, &c. &c., it is quite painful to behold the number of ugly edifices which are yearly accumulating in the land.

Roscommon court-house, I understood, was not designed by Mr. Richards.

The courts are not solely appropriated to the service of the judges of assize; but are used even for the ordinary petty sessions of the local magistrates.

I was gratified at seeing in this court-house a very complete set of the new weights and measures, finely executed in brass, and fitted into chests made for their preservation; these had been brought over at the expense of the county, from the tower of London.*

Local Courts.—The Earl of Essex appoints a seneschal for Roscommon, who happens also to be one of the coroners of the county, and he holds a manor court. He can take cognizance of debts not exceeding £5, and his warrant can affect goods, but not the person. The fees of the court, as I was informed, were higher than those at the sessions; but his court was preferred in many instances, as affording more immediate despatch and relief.

Of the quarter sessions, of the several places at which they are held within the county, and in what rotation, together with matters relating to their jurisdiction, some information will be found collected under a separate section.

The new Gaol stands within the same enclosure, and at a very short distance of the new county court-

* The importance of having standard weights and measures to refer to, is sufficiently obvious. When a schoolboy in England, I recollect a trial in the courts, on the score of a sale of corn having been made by a bushel which was not the true Winchester bushel. In the nearest market town to us, Diss, in Norfolk, there was a brazen bushel, with the stamp, I believe, of Queen Elizabeth; another at Eye, in the same neighbourhood, of Henry VIII., and various others, all deposited in the churches, for the regulation of the measures of the neighbourhood. An active examination took place after the trial; but none of these ancient bushels agreed exactly, and new ones had to be obtained from Guild Hall.

house. An extensive flat space was purposely levelled to receive the whole, on the western side of the hill and close to its brow; and the fronts of each building face towards a large open area common to both, the gaol standing in the most distant part, and the court-house on the left or western side, near the entrance. A strong iron pallisade separates this open space from the street, and on the other sides it is bounded by lofty walls.

The outer walls of the gaol form an irregular polygon, which might be inscribed within a square of about 250 feet; but the front is symmetrical. The entrance is in the centre, and above it is the place for public execution.

The ground for the gaol cost in the year 1819, £1846 3s. 1d. former Irish currency, equal to £1704 2s. 10d. British.

The Inspector General of Prisons in Ireland, in the year 1824, describes this gaol as one built on the semicircular plan, consisting of eight divisions, with appropriate yards and work-rooms, a separate hospital and chapel, and ninety-one sleeping cells. There was a matron and schoolmaster, and the greatest attention was paid to the interior economy of the gaol. It was kept in a very creditable state of cleanliness, and the best effects arose from the zealous attendance of the board of superintendence. The want of employment for the prisoners was the most serious evil; on which subject, the Inspector suggested the breaking of stones for the yards and highways. A tread-mill had been erected.*

* Reports to the House of Commons, 1824, vol. xx. No. 294.

When I visited this prison in 1830, I heard that doubts had been started as to the legality of sending any persons to the tread-mill except criminals condemned to hard labour.—(AUTHOR'S NOTE.)

The report of the same inspector, in the year 1829, is less favourable.

“ This prison has not improved since the last inspection; nor is there any alteration for the better in those great points of prison discipline, which can alone finally decide the character of any gaol, viz. employment for every prisoner; minute classification by day, and a cell for *each* prisoner by night; the due execution of the sentence to hard labour; a well arranged school, whereby every prisoner shall receive daily instruction; and such a system of moral government established in every department, by the zeal and intelligence of the resident officers, and the inspection and support of the local inspector and chaplains, as would secure from the inmates a willing obedience, good order, and discipline, with some hope of reformation in many prisoners not yet hardened in crime. I regret to repeat, that but little progress has been made in Roscommon gaol in any of these points; and it becomes my duty to submit the subject to the serious consideration of the board of superintendence and the grand jury; as there appears to exist an opinion through the county, and amongst many of the officers, that the gaol is in high order. I did expect, and I expressed in former reports, that on the occupation of this new gaol, so much cleanliness and zeal appeared, that it would advance in all those points which should mark a public establishment, and prove an example to others; instead of which, it is manifestly deficient, and many of the neighbouring gaols are far superior in all their interior economy.”

“ It is right I should state, that *the board of superintendence have not found it convenient to meet within the last year*; and that this circumstance alone is calculated to prevent any great progress in gaol discipline. Many of the things I have stated as deficient, could only be provided for by

the board ; and blame cannot in those cases, attach to the officers. But even if they were provided, experience has proved, that without the controlling and directing power of a board, meeting periodically, correcting the errors, and giving a stimulus to the zealous efforts of their resident and non-resident officers, no real or permanent good can be effected."*

The inspector at the same period, notices the following matters as requiring to be immediately provided for :

1. Constant employment for every prisoner at stone breaking, or other work.

2. The tread-mill to be repaired, and the work duly enforced on it, according to the printed regulations : it was then useless.

3. A steam apparatus to be put up to secure cleanliness and economy : the cost about £20.

4. A prison dress to be provided.

5. A more constant inspection of the provisions and fuel to take place, to prevent the frequent complaints, and the encouragement given to a wide field of offers for contracts. The expense of the gaol for food and fuel then exceeded, for its average numbers, any prison in Ireland. The meal hours were irregular.

6. The legal mode of keeping the diet accounts to be adopted and persevered in ; as at the time there was no legitimate or sound check on the issue of provisions. The governor kept a private book ; but this was neither a legal, correct, nor useful mode of checking a public account, and not practised in other gaols. The local inspector ought to oversee and control all these things for the county.

7. The schools to be newly arranged by the chaplains and

* Report to the House of Commons, 1829, vol. xiii. No. 10.

local inspector, so as to give daily instruction to every prisoner, which was far from being the case at the time, and complained of by the prisoners. Monthly examinations by the chaplains recommended.

8. Permanent work to be found for the female classes; at the time, there was none whatever for them.

9. A more perfect classification of the prisoners to be required, and to be strictly enforced.

10. Some more cells were required, as the existing number was not sufficient, on the average of the prisoners in this large county, to afford one to each, which was both legal and useful.*

11. A code of by-laws to be made and printed.

When I visited this prison in the summer of 1830, it appeared to me, remarkably clean, well ventilated, and, as far as a casual inspection could enable me to judge, in good order; and I entered that opinion in a book which was presented to me, purposely kept for the observations of visitors; yet the gaoler, I ask pardon, the governor,† frankly told me that there were many little things which would not pass current under the critical eye of the Inspector-General. The whitewash on some of the steps of the stairs, for in-

* The Inspector-General observes, at this place, that if prisoners are allowed to sleep together, it lessens the punishment of confinement, and encourages vicious communications. A single cell at night, and full employment in the day, are essential to prison discipline, and tend to lessen crime.

† How much the world is prejudiced against names, although they are the true and real names, every one knows. Stouber in the Ban de la Roche, found the name of schoolmaster held in such contempt, that he was obliged to change it to that of *regent*. So also a superior class of men may be obtained for the care of gaols, if instead of gaoler they are dignified with the title of governor, which many a nobleman has been pleased to bear.

stance, was partially rubbed away by the tread of feet, they ought all to be thoroughly white.

The apartment of the debtors was the least satisfactory part of the interior which I observed; their common room was crowded, and the air consequently impure; but I was given to understand both here, and at Longford gaol, one of those held up as an example for discipline, that it is found impracticable to subject these unfortunate people to the strict regulations which can be enforced with regard to criminals.

The turnkeys, perhaps these may not be the modern terms, who conducted me through the various cells and compartments of the prison, were smart lads, handsomely and neatly dressed in close fitting blue jackets of fine cloth, with clean, newly washed white trowsers. On opening each grated door, the word was given in a loud voice, 'to fall in,' and the prisoners instantly ranged themselves in an even row, facing the passage, and remained there for our inspection until we left the room, and the door was again fastened upon them. In each room the prisoners were generally occupied with books; the only work carried on was without doors, in breaking stones; the tread-mill was still out of order; it was said to have been originally ill constructed, and never to have run smooth or even; it had only been applied to raising water, and that occasionally.

The system of solitary night confinement, each prisoner having his allotted cell, seemed not to have been adopted; on the contrary, there were generally two bedsteads in each cell, calculated to hold two persons each. These were formed of large cast iron in the shape of trays, perforated at bottom with numerous holes.

Classification appeared to be attended to, at least to a certain extent, and the untried prisoners were kept apart from those tried and found guilty.

The receding angles in the courts and the sinks were all supplied with pipes and cocks for the admission of fresh water.

Between the outer and inner walls, and not merely in the immediate vicinity of the governor's apartments, but extending, as I was informed, to a part of the debtor's place of exercise, gardens had been formed, which appeared in the neatest order, and abounded not only with luxuriant crops of esculent vegetables, but flowers. This ground was worked, I believe, by the prisoners, and rather contrary to that rigid system of discipline which has been recommended. As curtailing a part of the space which was originally laid out for the wholesome exercise of the prisoners, the existing disposition may appear objectionable; yet if a prisoner had the choice of an alley in a garden, or a barren space covered with gravel, for his walking exercise, can there be a doubt but that many would prefer the former. How must the sight of a leaf or a flower and the daily observation of their growth, relieve the tedium of confinement within the lofty walls of a prison. Indeed it may be a question, whether the extreme pains which are taken, at the present time, to promote the comforts of prisoners, in our new and spacious county gaols, may not render many of those who are liable to be brought within their precincts, comparatively indifferent to confinement. Certainly they get better food, better beds, and where a prison dress is provided, probably better raiment than they are in the habit of enjoying when at liberty.

That slight offences, where the measure of punishment is known, are committed with the express view of getting into prison and profiting by the allowance, has been ascertained, beyond all doubt, and more particularly in the case of females. Sufferers under certain diseases, the result of profligacy, who are refused admittance into the county infirmary, may be classed amongst the number; and there have been instances of such persons, after getting into prison, boldly telling the medical attendants that they had committed crime purposely to procure the relief which had been refused to them in another place, but which must now, pursuant to the laws, be granted.*

Whether it might have been for the sake of public convenience, or indulgence to the prisoners, but in either case not less a laxity of prison discipline, the breakers of stones, instead of being confined in their yards within the gaol, were allowed to work in the

* Since writing the above, a pamphlet has been put into my hands, dated 1831, by a barrister, replete with valuable information, and abounding with philosophic and patriotic remarks, out of which I cannot refrain from transcribing a few passages.

"One cannot but smile at the angry feeling of the lords of the soil, when any allusion is made to the introduction of poor rates into Ireland; these persons seem *not aware* that *both* have been, for a long time past, spreading over the whole country; for can our penitentiaries and gaols, with increased assessments for their maintenance, be regarded different from these, save in the name? Here Grand Juries have humanely provided all those arrangements which are wanting in the cottage, for decency, health and morals; and accordingly the peasantry of Ireland are cheerfully flying to these houses of refuge from the misery of their hovels. Here it is required by law that the minimum outlay for the peasant's daily food should be 5*d.* The consequence is exactly what had been anticipated; an alarming increase of poor rates for the rapid increase of mendicants in these poor houses."

open space, outside and in front of the prison ; and amongst those who were thus employed, some were pointed out to me as desperate characters. Even the county hangman, with hammer in hand, was engaged with the rest, in full view of that platform on which his deadly calling had been so often exercised. He seemed a sly, careless looking fellow, with more of good humour than ferocity in his countenance ; and yet it bore something at the same time of his profession, and seemed to betray a feeling, that breaking necks was an easier occupation than breaking stones, and far better paid for ; but perhaps this might be the mere effect of fancy, after having been told who and what he was. The outer gate in the palisade, which separated the place where these people were at work, from the street, stood wide open, and no guard over it, all which seemed favourable to an escape ; yet the governor assured me there was no apprehension of such an attempt being made ; of course he must have known his men well, and perhaps there were some trusty people on the watch. The military guards at this time had been withdrawn from the prisons, and the gaolers left to their own resources.

The safety of the entrance of the prison withinside, was secured by a guard belonging to the prison establishment, who sat with a loaded carbine in hand, in a sort of iron balcony elevated beyond the reach of those on the ground floor, and having full command of the great portal and of all who passed in or out.

In the governor's room, a large prison register book, with printed headings and lines, lay upon the table, in which a number is prefixed to the name of each prisoner when he enters ; and his fate may be followed,

as to trial, condemnation, or acquittal, by casting the eye along the lines.

In Longford gaol, which, as mentioned already, is one of the highest disciplined, besides the register book, a list is made out daily, of the state of the prison, as to the number of prisoners, offences, &c., and put upon a file; by means of which, and a reference to the books, the most exact information may be obtained as to the state of the gaol at any given period. In Roscommon gaol this practice is not followed.

The prison allowance for this goal in the year 1824, was

2lbs. of good bread made from flour of first quality,
1 quart of new milk,
for each man per day, amounting to 5*d.*

In 1826, there appears to have been an alteration, and the charge for bread and new milk was raised to 8*d.* per man per day.

One week the prisoners were to be kept on the bread allowance, and the next week on a mixed diet alternately.

Turf 15*d.* per box of 20 cubic feet.

Straw 2*s.* per cwt.

The salaries of the officers, &c. were as follows:

	£	s.	d.	
Local Inspector -	92	6	1	former Irish currency £100
Physician - -	73	16	11	80
Chaplain - - -	23	1	6	25
Do. Roman Catholic	23	1	6	25
Gaoler - - - -	369	4	7	400
Matron - - - -	27	13	10	30
Schoolmaster - -	27	13	10	30
Hospital Assistant	11	1	6	

Lunatic Asylum.—The old gaol which has been described as standing at the head of the *place*, on one of the higher parts of the town, has been converted into a lunatic asylum. When I went through it, about forty patients, male and female, were confined in it, amongst which a greater diversity of cases occurred than is usually observable amongst the same number, from the raging madman and madwoman, to the drivelling and senseless idiot. There were females, in solitary cells, with iron clasps round their bodies, and fastened with chains to the walls, sitting with only straw heaped up around them, to conceal their nakedness, all the clothes with which they had been supplied from time to time having been instantly torn to shreds. Men in iron handcuffs, who were allowed to follow us, and apparently quite harmless in their demeanour, yet who, when at liberty, committed the most ferocious acts of violence against their fellow inmates. Many were lying in bed in a state of stupidity, who, if roused from it, would only fling themselves on the floor, and there continue, if left to themselves. Others were sitting in cages of iron like wild beasts. Those who were harmless and manageable were left in large rooms well ventilated and warmed by moderate fires, and seemed to be quite at their ease, and some were even cheerful; but the generality had a look of sadness and suspicion, common, I believe, to these unfortunate people. The wards for the females were quite distinct and remote from these for the males. I was struck with the sight of a young and rather a pretty girl, whose whole time was spent, as long as she was left to herself, and she was seldom disturbed, in thumbing over the leaves of a Bible, beginning at the first page and turning them

rapidly, but regularly over to the end, then recommencing the same operation. The keepers, as far as a casual visit of the kind enabled me to judge, appeared kindly disposed to the unfortunate people under their charge; though perhaps not altogether so much aware as they ought to be, of their state being, in many instances, the effect of disease which might pass away. The female keeper was evidently very uneasy at the unmanageable violence of some of those committed to her charge, and spoke of them with fear.

The asylum is visited in course twice a week by the physician of the infirmary.

The Inspector-General of the prisons made the following report upon this asylum, a few years prior to my visit. "I again visited the old gaol at Roscommon, which is used for the county lunatics. It was very gratifying to see these helpless creatures provided with food, fuel, lodging and raiment, by the benevolence of the Grand Jury. The keeper appears a correct man, and I believe no undue restraint or coercion is used."

A plan was under discussion, whilst I remained in Roscommon, for the establishment of a general lunatic asylum for the province of Connaught; and Ballinasloe, on the confines of the two counties of Roscommon and Galway, had been designated as a place suitable for the purpose. Few greater benefits can be conferred on families, more especially those of the lower orders, who are so unfortunate as to have amongst their numbers persons suffering under this awful visitation of providence, than the institution of a receptacle for the insane, whereby they may be relieved from a charge, which not only occasions constant anxiety, but in se-

veral instances utterly incapacitates them from pursuing the ordinary vocations on which the daily bread of the family depends. If there are children, and many, the case is still worse; the hours of repose are liable to interruption, and alarms excited when sleep ought to be shedding its refreshing influence. Besides, in large establishments purposely constructed for the reception of lunatics, arrangements can be made, in every respect more suitable for their treatment, and for the trial of those remedies which may be deemed likely to conduce to the restoration of the understanding. Repose and privacy are of the first importance.* But in a place like the old gaol of Roscommon, with windows looking to the public streets, and persons passing in and out frequently through the day, the patients are always liable to be disturbed. The custom which so commonly prevailed in former times, of placing gaols and hospitals in the public streets, was every way objectionable, whether in reference to those within or to those without. What more distressing to peaceable inhabitants than the shrieks and cries of maniacs within hearing, except it be the sight of public executions, within full view of the windows of their dwellings? The drop, where criminals paid the forfeit of their lives, in front of the gaol, used to be in full sight of the best houses of the town.

The County Infirmary stands in the same street with the court-house, or rather on the road in conti-

* I have often heard my late and lamented brother-in-law, Dr. James Cleghorn, who, as State Physician, was a governor and visitor of Swift's Hospital in Dublin, observe, that he could always tell at his first entrance, by the excited state of the patients, whether a stranger had passed through the hospital, previously to his arrival.

uation of it, on the opposite side of the way and lower down the hill. It is a plain building of brick, symmetrical, and having rather a pleasing front. It consists of an original central house, more elevated than the rest, with wings which have been subsequently added; the whole is about 100 feet in length. Over the hall door, on a slab inserted into the outer wall, the following inscription appears:

THIS INFIRMARY
Was built for the poor of the County,
At the sole expense of
MRS. WALCOTT,
Sister of the late Lord Chief Justice Caulfield,
of Donamon,
1783.

The surgeon and physician of the hospital, Dr. Lysaght, did me the favour of accompanying me through the wards; and I was gratified (as far as it was possible to be gratified, where sights of human woe and misery are brought so directly before the eye,) in observing the arrangements made for the accommodation of the sick; the cleanliness and airiness of the apartments; and the general attention which appeared to be paid by the nurses. The poor invalids all turned, as I thought, with a look of gratitude towards Dr. Lysaght, as to a friend for whom they were indebted for something more than the mere skill of his hand and medical advice. He has had the rare merit of rendering the hospital of double the utility it was before his appointment, by getting fifty beds placed where there had been only twenty-five;

and, by his good management, accommodating the larger number of patients, without materially increasing the expenses to the public. Six beds are usually reserved vacant for emergencies, in which instant aid may be required; but when I visited the place all were full.

Fevers are not admitted into the hospital from without, and in case of their occurrence in the house, the patients are removed to an outer apartment, in a building allotted to the purpose, corresponding with the stables in the opposite wing.

I was informed, that inflammatory complaints are rare amongst the poor of Roscommon; inflammation of the bowels almost unknown; and that in the general hospital practice, bleeding is so seldom found necessary, that the young attendants scarcely have opportunities for acquiring the practice of this common branch of the profession. I was told also, that the Connaught people do not *stand* bleeding;* that not-

* Exactly the same observation has been made upon the Italians; that they will not bear much bleeding in medical practice: indeed an English army surgeon, who, after the war, had settled in Naples, where he had very extensive practice amongst the natives as well as foreigners, told me, he was thoroughly satisfied, that an Italian would not sustain, with impunity, the loss of one-third of the quantity of blood which might readily and safely be taken from an Englishman. In Italian medical practice, that is, amongst themselves, it is notorious, the greatest reluctance is manifested against drawing much blood, or even drawing blood at all. Several cases to the point have come under my own immediate observation, and I was interested in one, where an Italian physician had been content to order a draught of warm elder flower water, whilst an English surgeon, immediately afterwards, pronounced most copious bleedings to be essentially necessary, to procure relief: the latter was in the right; the patient was not an Italian.

An interesting inquiry naturally arises, as to the causes of this differ-

withstanding the apparent vigour of their constitution, syncope was induced by the loss of a comparatively small quantity of blood. Agues are rare: in

ence in temperament. That an explanation is to be found in the debility and effeminacy of the Italians is absurd; on the contrary, the Italians are amongst the most vigorous and athletic people of Europe; witness the enormous loads borne by the porters of Naples, Leghorn, and Genoa; and the activity displayed by another class of men when any of their wild, mad horses break away. But what seems to put their prowess and hardihood beyond all suspicion, is the fact, that in the terrific Moscow campaign, the Italian division of the army bore up against the hardships and deprivations, with more spirit, and actually sustained less proportionate loss of life, than any of the other divisions, composed as they were of people from various parts of Europe. All the ordinary implements of the Italians, whether for work or amusement, are made heavier than those either of the English or French; their hoes and picks; their billiard balls and cues; their fencing foils; &c. &c.; and as to cricket, it is child's play, compared to the vigorous exertions required in their manly game of *Pallone*.

Neither are the Connaught people behind the other inhabitants of the island, in hardiness of body and strength of limb. In numberless places where I have met them, to the east of the Shannon, wandering in search of harvest work, or moving towards England, I have heard the remark made again and again, that they were far tougher men at their work than the people of Leinster; that they were perfect *flints*. Near Kilbeggan, I met a young Connaught man, who, after toiling all day at his work, in excavating the new line for the canal, had received intelligence of his mother's death; and instantly set out to attend her funeral. The place was distant thirty miles Irish; yet he reckoned upon walking thither during the night, attending the funeral the next day Sunday, and returning on foot during the Sunday night, to be ready for work along with his gang, whom he could not abandon, on the Monday morning. From the boldness and vigour of his step, and I accompanied him for a mile or two, I could readily suppose that he would perform his task; he made quite light of it himself.

That the indisposition to bear blood-letting does not then proceed from the absence of strength of body, seems evident. But another question

the cases which occur, it was generally found, on strict investigation, that they had originated, not in the bogs, neither in their vicinity, but that they had been brought into the country by the people who had been at work during the preceding harvest, in the fenny and unwholesome districts of England, whither many of the Roscommon peasantry migrate for the season, attracted by high wages.

Dyspepsia, arising from bad food and from excess of eating* when potatoes are abundant, is prevalent, together with the diseases brought in its train, amongst which dropsy is frequent.

Scrofula, scurvy, and cutaneous diseases are also very common; and amongst these is one, which, from its prevalence and peculiar character in the country, goes by the name of the Connaught Button.†

presents itself; whether the people who so soon become faint upon the breathing of a vein in an hospital, are more liable to be put *hors de combat* in a field of battle. Is a Connaught man in an affray with the police, or in a fight for sport with his merry countrymen at a fair, reduced quickly to submission, if perchance, he gets a bloody nose? Was the well-known regiment of Connaught rangers composed of men given to fainting? That was not their character I believe in the peninsular war.

* I was assured that it is by no means uncommon, in times of plenty, for a labourer to eat fourteen pounds of potatoes at a meal.

† In the east, there is a disease known by the name of the Aleppo Button, to which every person is liable once during life, who has visited any one of the three towns of Aleppo, Bagdad, or Damascus. It is a hard tumour, which lasts with pain for a considerable time, and finally bursts, often leaving behind it an ugly scar. A person is not considered safe from the disease for two years after quitting these places, and a friend of my own was afflicted with it at the end of nine months, from the time he left Aleppo. It appears sometimes on the face, sometimes on other parts of the body. A certain lady of rank, distinguished by her adventurous travels in the east, could not be persuaded, on any terms, to visit

It consists of a single tumour, which may appear on any part of the body, and which sometimes is liable to be mistaken, owing to the place where it is seated, for a symptom of another disease to which it has no relation. It is considered to be contagious, and to be very commonly communicated by wearing the clothes of a person diseased; children are subject to it.

Where scrofula prevails, incurable diseases will ensue in a variety of afflicting cases. But no provision is made in the infirmary for the reception of the unfortunate beings, whose complaints are irremediable. The benevolence of praiseworthy individuals* has, however, led to the establishment of an asylum, humble indeed, for it consists merely of a few contiguous cabins, in which some alleviation is afforded to the sufferings of incurables, and it may be allowable to

any one of these formidable towns, after she had heard of the possibility of a scar on the face being the consequence.

* If it be asked who these individuals are, it may be answered at once, that they are *not* the *great* landed proprietors of the country, nor in general *landed* proprietors at all, although it is to be presumed, that many of these latter exercise their own private acts of charity in their own way to a liberal extent. In wandering alone through the town of Roscommon, just at the extremity of a street, which abruptly terminates near the abbey, I was struck with the sight of a row of neat slated cabins of a single story, and was informed, that these were built and given for use, *gratis*, to poor people, by Mr. Carson, who for a long time had been one of the county officers, and who now occupies the pretty ornamental cottage on the hill already described. Opposite to these houses, were two others for widows, principally supported, as I was informed, by the same charitable person, and the Protestant curate of the parish, the Rev. Mr. Day, the same who had been waylaid and shot, and was then absent to seek relief for the sufferings from his wounds.

mention, that the enlightened and humane physician of the infirmary is not contented with the mere contribution of his medical aid and advice.

These, assuredly, are amongst the unfortunate beings for whom relief should be immediately instituted, if ever public provision is made for the diseased and infirm. Burthens to their families, burthens to themselves, they are doomed to drag out a miserable existence without a hope of relief; and to death alone have to look for a termination of their sufferings.

Connected with the infirmary, or rather indeed forming one of its departments, and not amongst the least useful branches of its establishment, there is a dispensary for the relief of *externs*, to which immense numbers of people apply for relief. An apartment at the porter's lodge, with a protracted shed roof, is appropriated to the purpose, which besides its advantages in affording shelter to many, admits a free circulation of air, and removes the inconveniences which would otherwise be experienced from the assemblage of the crowd. According to the hospital returns of the last year preceding my visit, no less than 16,200 persons had been relieved with advice and medicine. It is a prevalent opinion amongst the people, and probably may be a just one, that the medicines dispensed at the County Infirmary are better in kind than those which are distributed at the minor county dispensaries. That patients are likely to receive better medical advice, and more skilful surgical assistance is obvious, since no practitioner is put in charge of a county infirmary, without the most undoubted certificates of his abilities and experience: whereas at the small dispensaries, the salaries and emoluments are

insufficient to command, in every instance, the service of distinguished men. Several of the minor dispensaries are, in fact, neither more nor less than humble apothecaries' shops, some of which, as I was informed, are notoriously served by men, who, whatever their abilities might have been, are now feeble and aged, and depend for their chief support on the small stipend which is received through the favour of the subscribers. The question, however, naturally arises, whether, if no more skilful or active person can be obtained, it is not, nevertheless, a benefit conferred upon the poor, to establish even such dispensaries as the funds will permit, and to place over them such persons as can be procured.

I cannot take leave of the infirmary without mentioning, that I saw on the person of one of Dr. Lysaght's out-door servants, an instance of a false nose which had been most skilfully constructed by his master; and I believe the same friendly office, if the patients had equal courage to submit to the operation, might be required for many another unfortunate person in the same district. The operation had been commenced by marking out on the centre of the forehead, a triangular piece of skin, one of the angles being next to the bridge of the nose. Incisions were afterwards made, and the piece of skin peeled off downwards; but without being detached at the angle next the nose, where it was purposely left uncut, that it might communicate life and growth to the other parts, in their new position. The triangle of skin was then reversed; the part at the angle next the nose already mentioned being twisted, but still preserving the connexion, and thus brought down, the

skin, was made to lap over the bone of the nose, which had been abandoned by the former flesh and cartilages, and being properly shaped, was attached on each side, (I believe by a suture) after a scarification on the parts to which it was destined to adhere. I will not bear testimony to the nose being as satisfactory a one as dame Nature usually provides, though I have really seen worse formed noses of her ladyship's own special fabrication; but, such as it was, it bore the appearance of being at least sound and healthy, and covered a vacuity, which if left exposed, would have been a hideous deformity. A triangular scar remained on the forehead; but the artful fellow had contrived to encourage the growth of a fanciful lock of light glossy curling hair, which completely hid it; and smiled with much self complacency when I complimented him on the valuable gift he had received at the hands of his skilful master. I was even given to understand, that the fellow had the impudence still to fancy himself a favourite amongst the women.

The following statement of the affairs of the hospital, taken from the annual printed accounts, may be considered, as I was informed, a fair average one of the current expenses:

ROSCOMMON COUNTY INFIRMARY.

Account from 5th January, 1829, to 5th January, 1830.

Dr.	INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.		Cr.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1829						
To Vested Balance	84	0 0	By Balance due Treasurer last Account		149	11 0½
Interest thereon to 20th November 1829, from Investment			Provisions		298	6 6½
Rents and Rent Charges	1	10 6	Wines, Spirits, and Malt Liquors		25	3 7
Donations and Life Subscriptions for the year 1829	92	6 2	Medicines		112	5 4
Annual Subscriptions for the year 1829	84	0 0	Fuel		57	9 2
Arrears of Subscriptions received during 1829	47	5 0	Soap		3	7 10½
Arrears of Rent, or otherwise received, during 1829	6	6 0	Candles		3	5 2½
Parliamentary Grant—for the year 1829, ex. Pells and Poundage	92	6 2	Repairs, Furniture, Bedding, and such like New Articles of same		4	14 2½
Grand Jury Presentments	89	1 10	Repairs on Building		49	15 4½
	600	0 0	Rent, £7 1s. 1d.—Insurance, Two Quarters, £9 5s. 2d.		40	12 6½
			Salaries, as per annexed detail		16	6 3
Contingencies, viz.			Contingencies, as per annexed detail		200	6 8
George French, Esq. Donation	1	1 0	Vested in Savings Bank		56	6 8
Roscommon Magistrates—a Fine imposed on Edward Banaghan			Balance due Public		84	0 0
Boyle Magistrates—a Fine	1	0 0			1	3 8½
Hampers, &c. &c. sold	0	5 0				
	3	12 6				
	5	18 6				
	1102	14 2			1102	14 2

Names, Salaries, and Emoluments of Officers and Servants of the Roscommon County Infirmary.		CONTINGENCIES, &c.—continued.		
OFFICE.	NAME.	SALARY.		
		£ s. d.	Brought forward,	£7 8 7½
Treasurer -	The Lord Bishop of Elphin -	0 0 0	Linen 2s. 6d.—Basket 1s. 2d.—Pitch 10d.	0 4 6
Surgeon -	Thomas Lysaght, Esq. -	100 0 0	-	1 6 0
Apothecary -	Mr. Casserly -	30 0 0	Carriage of Medicines -	0 7 2½
Registrar -	Mr. Edward Doyle -	28 0 0	Stamp 5s.—Cleaning Windows 2s. 2½d -	3 13 2
Matron -	Isabella Doyle -	13 13 6	Straw -	0 4 9½
Do. Superannuated	Margaret Cromie—one Quarter -	2 12 6	Tin Vessel 2s. 2d.—Night Caps 2s. 2½d.—Crock 5d. -	0 4 8
Porter -	Arthur Stanley -	7 10 9	Machine for broken Limbs -	0 4 8
Nursetender -	Winnifred Dagnall -	4 4 0	Linen, &c. -	0 9 8½
Do. -	Mary Connolly -	4 4 0	Lambskins, &c. -	0 5 0
Do. -	Mary Kirwan -	4 4 0	Carriage of Medicine -	1 1 3
Cleaner -	James Nolan -	3 15 11	Grave Digger, &c. -	0 5 0½
Barber -	Patrick Carroll -	2 2 0	Two Wooden Legs -	1 12 0
		200 6 8	Sundries, Linen, &c. -	0 8 2
			Stamps 4s. 4d.—Extra Nursetender 12s. 6d. -	0 16 10
			Carriage of Medicine -	0 17 0
			Needles, Pullies, &c. -	0 3 8
			Pitch, Hoop, and Basket -	0 4 4
			Mrs. Sweeny, as Nursetender -	0 10 0
			Lodging Extern Patients during year do. -	8 6 8½
			Carriage of ditto -	2 9 6
			Harrison, Sweep contract -	2 2 0
			Slator's contract -	2 10 0
			Gannon, for Pump contract -	2 1 0
			Plumber, for Water Closets and Pump -	6 0 0
			Tow and Peas -	1 6 4
			Carriage of Medicine -	0 10 6
			Lard during year -	10 18 8
				56 6 8

DETAIL OF CONTINGENT EXPENSES.		£ s. d.	
Peas 10d.—Mats 10s. 3d.—Paper 5s. 8d. -		0 16 9	
Lodging, Clothing, and Supporting Foundling Brooms 13s., Tow & Peas 4s. 11d., Basin 2s. 6d. -		1 14 8	
Carriage of Medicine 3s. 3d.—Flannel 7s. 6½d. -		1 0 5	
Printing yearly Account for 1828 -		0 10 9½	
Postage -		2 0 0	
		1 6 0	
Carried forward -		7 8 7½	

GOVERNORS AND GOVERNESSES OF THE COUNTY ROSCOMMON INFIRMARY.

<i>For Life.</i>		<i>Annual.</i>	
The Rt. Hon. Lord Hartland The Rev. Thomas Blakeney Christopher Davys, Esq. Thomas Mitchell, Esq. Robert Goff, Esq. Owen Lloyd, Esq. Edmond Kelly, Esq. The Lord Bishop of Elphin The Lord Viscount Lorton John Carson Sir Charles H. Coote, Bart.	The Hon. Robert King, M.P. St. George Caulfield, Esq. Robert Henry French, Esq. George Digby, Esq. The Rt. Hon. Lord Crofton Arthur French Esq., M. P. Thomas Conry, Esq. The Rt. Hon. Lord Mount Sandford Jerrard E. Strickland, Esq.	Lady Charlotte Crofton The Rt. Hon. Lord Ashtown William Trench, Esq. The Rt. Hon. Lord Clonbrock Colonel Tenison Oliver Grace, Esq. The O'Connor Don Colonel Lloyd Jeffrey French, Esq. Hugh Barton, Esq.	William Edwards, Esq. The Rev. Henry Hunt William Talbot, Esq. Messrs. Boileaus and George Edward Mapother, Esq. The Rev. Armstrong Kelly The Rev. Edward Day The Rev. Dean French The Rev. John Armstrong.
INTERN PATIENTS.		Extern Patients relieved with Advice and Medicine during the year - - 16,200.	
Number of Patients remaining in Hospital, 5th January, 1829 - - - - - Admitted to 6th January, 1830, being One year - - - - - Total Remaining and Admitted	Discharged Cured, Incurable, &c. &c. - - - - - Died, - - - - - Remaining in Hospital, 5th January, 1830 - - - - - Total Discharged, Died, and Remaining - - - - - 379	336 7 36 — 379	The Institution is supported by an Annual Grant of the County at large; an Annuity of £92 6s. 2d. bequeathed by the late Mrs. Walcot, charged on the lands of Rookwood, in the County of Galway; and Annual Subscriptions. We, the undersigned Governors of the County Roscommon In- firmary, have Audited the above Accounts of Receipts and Expen- diture for the year ending the 5th January, 1830, and find it correct, and a balance due to the public, amounting to £1 3s. 8½d. Given under our hands this 26th day of February, 1830. OWEN LLOYD, ROBERT GOFF, EDWARD MAPOTHER.

An Equitable Loan Society, on the same principle as that at Boyle, has been established in the town of Roscommon, and found to have been productive of much good. Small sums are lent to those who can give security, and the capital is received back with a moderate interest by small instalments. Here, likewise, the borrowers are found to repay the loans with much regularity, and the little sums thus lent, in many instances enable poor people to begin an humble line of traffic, and to provide for their families. Another open for the benevolence and activity of Mr. Carson was here afforded, through whose means the sum of £500 was procured to increase the lending capital, which altogether amounts to the sum of £700. On the institution of this society, applications for aid were made to the Earl of Essex, who liberally contributed, as I was informed, a sum of five pounds sterling.

No corporation for the relief of the poor exists within the county of Roscommon; neither any hospitals or houses of industry.*

The Charter School stands at a moderate distance from the town.

The Kildare Place Schools, in a small house in Church-street, contained 49 scholars. The situation was too closely in connexion with the church not to excite jealousy; certainly it had nothing of the character or appearance of a national school, suitable to such a town as Roscommon.

Private pay Schools, of which there were several for the lower classes, were most numerous attended, and reading and writing effectively taught.†

* Parliamentary Returns, 5th March, 1828.

† I found a lad of sixteen or upwards, at one of these schools reading

The London Hibernian School for females, here, as in every other place where I have seen them, was admirable. The mistress, young, well-dressed, well-mannered, and thoroughly capable of teaching: the girls, clean and neatly dressed, and deriving positive benefit from the example of their instructress.

The Established Church at Roscommon is respectably and very numerously attended. It contained an organ, but the instrument was silent in consequence of the objections made to the salary for the organist at the vestry, by the Roman Catholic voters; that they should be unwilling to pay for music to which they do not listen seems but natural.

The Barrack for the military detachment stationed here is situated at a distance of about half a mile from the town. The bugle was sounded through the streets of an evening to bring the men home. Where so many temptations to profligacy exist, discipline is with difficulty preserved.

The Castle of Roscommon, notwithstanding the violence to which it has been exposed, and the repeated efforts which have been made to destroy it, still remains a noble monument of the military architecture of past ages. Like that of Ballintobber, the plan consisted of a quadrangle, defended at each angle by a tower; and two others, in the longest side, towards the east, protected the principal entrance. The length, inclusive of the towers, is 223 feet, and the breadth

out Euclid, who, on examination, appeared utterly ignorant of the nature of the very first problem. The master said, the lad had read it over with him eighteen times; and that he would find out the meaning after reading it a few times more.

173. The towers are round* on the outer side, formed on a radius of about 19 feet, with about two-thirds of the periphery of the circle advanced beyond the curtain walls; whilst the inner parts towards the area or courts of the castle were terminated in various different styles. The towers of the gate-way, for instance, were connected with a rectangular edifice on the inner side, which, to judge from the remains of the windows, must have contained the principal habitable apartments of the castle; of the other towers, deviating from the circle, some presented a straight front.

In one respect a similarity of plan appears to have been adopted in the construction of all the towers; the lower parts having been devoted to defence and the accommodation of the garrison, and the upper parts to the officers and the superior inmates of the castle. In the former the walls were reinforced, and inner bulwarks and narrow passages afforded a safe retreat from the shot which might have been poured in through the loop holes. The roof of these parts consisted of thick vaults of stone, some of which remain entire to the present day; but others have been broken away, and the towers completely gutted, from the foundation to the battlements; yet the outer walls stand firm, bidding defiance to time and weather.

In the upper stories, the windows are airy and

* That the towers of Ballintobber Castle should have been polygonal, whilst those of Roscommon are round, is not more remarkable, than that the numerous towers of Caernarvon Castle should be all of the former description, whilst those of the neighbouring Castles of Beaumaris, Conway, and Harlech, should be round. The towers of Roscommon, more particularly on the entrance side, bear a striking similitude to those of Harlech.

even spacious, and the remains of fire-places are visible on the walls. The largest windows were not in the highest story but in the one next below it, which marks it as having been the place of most honor. The windows were all rectangular, divided for the most part by the Latin cross, simply; but in some there are two, three, and even four uprights, separating the windows into so many different compartments, in the style of the days of Elizabeth. Some of the mullions remain quite perfect, others have either fallen or been forced out. On the outer side they were ornamented above, with the drop mouldings, which have not unaptly been compared to the eye-brows. The vertical lateral returns did not descend below the line of the architraves of the windows. I observed no inscriptions, no letters, no dates, no sculptured ornaments in any part.

The grand entrance is not symmetrically placed in the centre of the eastern side, but nearer to the northern end by about eleven feet. The portal consisted of a pointed arch, which is still entire. It is not near so sharp, however, as many of the lancet arches which are seen in some of the ruins in the county of Roscommon, but preserves a medium character. From a few feet above the summit of the arch, to the lower part of the window of the upper story, the wall has been breached so as to leave a vacuity from tower to tower. All traces therefore of the machicolation are thus lost, if there ever had been one above the entrance, pursuant to the usual practice for the defence of the gates.

On the western and opposite side, there was another gate of lesser dimensions, which stood higher above the foundations, and which was constructed in a rectangular tower or bastion, 28 feet in width and ad-

vanced 25 feet beyond the exterior wall. This entrance is not directly opposite to the grand one, but placed still nearer to the northern end. I could perceive no traces of a barbican before either of them. If ever there had been a fosse, and it is to be presumed the castle was not originally planned without one, it has long since been filled up. At some distance, indeed, beyond the walls, remains of field works appear; but whether these were constructed for defences to the castle, or thrown up by assailants to facilitate their approaches, admits of doubt. On the eastern side of the castle, instead of military works, a large quadrangular enclosure extends along its whole length, bounded still by walls which have the appearance of being those originally constructed, although they look fresh. These walls are lofty, and at the angles there are small, low, round towers or bastions, easy of access. Whether this was a place appropriated for military exercises and tournaments; or for ordinary recreation, or for gardens or orchards, I am unable to explain. The place goes by the name of the orchard, but it might have acquired that name in after times, subsequent to the dismantling of the works of the castle. No traces of trees are at present observable; but there has been time enough for fruit trees to have been planted and to have decayed, since the days the castle was last occupied. When I saw the place the enclosure was under potatoes.

The curtain wall, between the north-eastern angle and the grand entrance, is rent by a very large breach, widest at the top, and the whole of the two original walls on the north and south sides were demolished, though since built up to enclose the area, and render

it available for farming purposes, as shutting up cattle, &c. The work of demolition seems to have been carried on in the interior of the castle, more especially; and that this was effected by blasting with gunpowder, there can be but little doubt, seeing what immense fragments of masonry have been disjointed and thrown down at the base of the walls, all disrupted from the parts facing the inner court. The north-western tower is still accessible by a winding flight of steps, as far as the top of the curtain wall, to the parapet of which there is an easy passage. Since the castle was destroyed as a defensible military post, it has been further exposed to injury, like other buildings of the same character, and in the same state, by the pillage of stones, which has been carried on, from time to time, those which were squared having been usually the first coveted, and the walls having been in several instances torn down to get at them. The stone is the ordinary blue limestone of the country, extremely durable, and the cement was of the best description; where the blast was applied, the stone appears to have split and to have parted in several places, instead of the cement.

Of the history of this castle, which must have been a formidable fortress, and a post of first rate importance, at many periods, in the long series of years through which it has existed, little satisfactory is to be learned, from any of the ordinary sources of information upon such subjects. The same dull and barren account is transmitted from one writer to another; and although the Annals* inform us, that the castle was

* Ware's Annals.

built at one period, rased at another, rebuilt, attacked, surprised, besieged, taken, time after time, yet in none of the many histories which I have looked into are any particulars given, at least as far as I have been able to find, illustrative of the nature of the military defences, or the manner in which the besiegers carried on their approaches; nor is a single incident mentioned in connexion with its various destinies calculated to rouse or to interest the feelings.

We are told that Sir Robert de Ufford, being Lord Justice, began to build the castle in the year 1268; but four years afterwards, in the year 1272, Maurice Fitz-Maurice being Lord Justice, the Irish broke out into a *cruel* rebellion, and rased and destroyed the castle of Roscommon.

Again, we are informed in the same Annals, that in the year 1276, that is four years afterwards, the castle of Roscommon was taken, and a great overthrow given to the Englishmen. But of getting repossession of the site, previously to this time, and rebuilding the castle, not a word is said; although it is clear, that after having been rased to the ground, there could have been no castle for the Irish to capture a second time, unless the English had built a new one in the interval. The annals of the next year, 1277, are not less extraordinary, for there, it is stated, that Sir Robert de Ufford being Lord Justice a second time, another rebellion broke out, (not characterised, however, in this instance, as a *cruel* one,) in which the Irish drew such a draught of men, that Thomas de Clare, together with his father-in-law Maurice Fitz-Maurice, the late Lord Justice, and all their forces were closed up in Slew-

bonny (Slievebawn mountain,*) and only escaped with their lives, on giving hostages to make satisfaction to the Irish, and in the mean while *to yield them up the castle of Roscommon*; conditions which, as the compiler of the Annals observes, were deemed hard, and prejudicial to the king's interest. The castle, of course, must have been considered a place of importance, and its defences probably had been materially strengthened since the preceding year, when it fell into the hands of the Irish; but in what manner the English had contrived to force the Irish out of it between 1276 and 1277, we are not told.

Again, we are informed, that in the year 1566, Sir Henry Sidney, being Lord Deputy, took possession of the castle for Queen Elizabeth, after its having been for 140 years in the possession of the *rebels*. Yet in the very next sentence, the writer says, the Irish did *not* hold it all this time, because the Earl of Kildare, who was Lord Deputy in the year 1498, took the castle of Roscommon in an expedition he made to Connaught, and *strongly secured it*.

Strongly, however, as it might have been secured, the Irish must have taken it again, and that perhaps ere much time had elapsed. From the year 1277, when the castle was surrendered to the Irish, to save the lives of De Clare and his English followers, who were hemmed up in the mountains, to the year 1498, when it was captured by the Earl of Kildare, there is a period of 221 years; and from 1498 to 1566, another

* The range of Slievebawn begins at the distance of about five or six miles from Roscommon Castle.

period of 66 years, making in all a period of 287 years ; yet when Sir Henry Sidney took it, the Irish are represented as having held it 140 years only. I have spent more time in researches amongst different authorities, with a view to reconcile these contradictions, and to fill up the gaps in the history, than the subject, in the opinion of some, will be thought perhaps to deserve ; and yet at the end have found myself nearly where I began.

The history of the castle after this capture by Sir Philip Sidney is also still involved in obscurity.

Sir Philip put Sir Thomas L'Estrange in command of it, with a garrison of infantry and twenty horsemen, and the castle made a very brave defence against the Irish in the year 1642. Yet it afterwards fell once more into the possession of the Irish, and continued in their hands until the year 1652, when it was delivered up to Colonel Reynolds, an officer of the parliamentary army, and to him probably was committed the task of demolishing its works, pursuant to the policy of Cromwell, not to leave any strong holds in the country of which the Irish might again possess themselves.

If a veil of obscurity hangs over the military and civil history of this castle, during a long series of years, its foundation, its progress, and its completion, are not less involved in darkness and uncertainty. The building, as we have seen, was begun by Sir Robert de Ufford, but rased to the ground four years afterwards by the Irish. No doubt they had viewed the erection of such a fortress with jealousy, and considered it as intended to awe them into obedience ; just as the castles of Carnarvon, Conway, and Beaumaris, in the

same reign of Edward the First, had been expressly constructed to curb the impetuous and turbulent dispositions of the natives of Wales.

But notwithstanding its having been rased, the foundations, which constitute so important a part of every massive building, might have been left undisturbed, so that when the English re-obtained possession of the place, the walls might have been reconstructed according to the original plan, and the work prosecuted with greater facility, than in the first instance, especially from having the materials still at hand. That it rose to be a place of strength, during the interval between the years 1272 and 1277, is evident from the Irish making its cession one of the conditions for sparing the lives of Thomas De Clare and his followers, who had fallen into their power; and having obtained possession, it appears that they maintained it for a period of many years. Are we to suppose then, that the walls and towers, of which the remains are seen, at the present day, in such perfect preservation, in certain parts at the outer side, were the identical works of the English between the years 1272 and 1277; or are we to suppose that they were erected at a subsequent period by the Irish chieftains, who held undisturbed possession, or rather who maintained their sway within the castle for more than one continuous century at the least.

If we are to credit the accounts of Giraldus, that in the reign of Henry the Second, the Irish had no buildings of stone, great progress must have been made in the arts, in the course of one century, to have attained such excellence in masonry, as the remains of Roscommon Castle exhibit. But it may be presumed,

that masons were brought over from England to execute the nicer parts of the works undertaken by the English, and that the native Irish were employed on the laborious and less difficult parts, just the same as the Welch were, at the several castles constructed in the reign of the first Edward. The Irish might have quickly learned from their masters the arts of hewing and carving stones, and of cementing them together, and consequently might have been fully adequate in a short period to build walls as massive and as firm as those of Roscommon Castle.

That the plan of the castle was brought over from England, will admit, I apprehend, of no doubt; and whoever has paid any attention to the architecture of the castles of Conway,* Beaumaris, or Harlech, all built nearly about the same period, and in the reign of Edward the First, will find no difficulty in tracing many particulars in which the castle of Roscommon agrees with them. The latter castle is indeed more simple in its plan, and the walls do not appear to have been embattled: but this might naturally have been expected, if, as stated, it was begun several years before the celebrated castles of North Wales. Further it may be remarked, that as the style and workmanship of the four great flanking towers, at the several angles, bear a striking similarity to each other, it is to be presumed that the castle was built on a well digested uniform plan; and no part of it that I could perceive bore any appearance of having been erected long before the other.

* Conway Castle was built in the year 1284, that of Beaumaris in 1295.

If there could be degrees in obscurity where all is involved in darkness, it might be lamented that a still deeper shade was spread over every particular appertaining to the usages and customs of the middle ages in Ireland. Many a beauteous lady, many a valiant warrior has doubtless past the portals of this castle of Roscommon, and trod the chambers of its lofty towers, whose ruined casements still look out unwearied upon the swelling hills or wide morass. But the history of these gloomy ages is merely a repetition of scenes of violence and bloodshed; of one chieftain exalted, of another overthrown; we scarcely know what arms were used, or how the fight was won; whilst of arts and commerce, and their various productions and supplies, and of the intercourse which existed between the different parts of the island, if indeed any did exist, we remain in profound ignorance.

It remains merely to say a few words of the general effect of the ruins in a picturesque point of view. From several positions they make a grand and noble appearance, more particularly on the eastern side, where the towers of the portal range in a commanding line with those at the angles; but there are neither mountains, nor woods, nor waters, to give relief. Perhaps the most striking point of view is on approaching from the eastward, along the old road known by the name of the walk, and which probably might once have been a walk embellished with trees, leading up to the castle, but is now a wretched road studded with wretched cabins. Yet a few stunted trees survive in the torn and ragged hedges, which overlapping each other at the windings of the road, shut out, in some measure, the bare and uninteresting parts of the landscape, but

leave an open between them for the castle, which is seen towering magnificently in the distance. In the evening, when the gleams of the setting sun are seen darting through the ruined casements and narrow loop holes, whilst the main body of the ruins remains involved in deep shade, the effect of the scene is more than usually impressive.

The castle belongs to the Earl of Essex, and the interior area, with some of the fields in the vicinity, are leased to a small farmer, whose humble habitation stands near the southern ruined wall of the castle. It was a service of some danger to approach the place, owing to the fierceness of the dogs, three or four in number, which were constantly prowling about the passage in front, performing probably the duty in which they had been instructed, that of preventing the access of strangers; and at each several visit we had regularly to commence a cautious and distant parley with the people.

The low meadows behind the castle, as well as those on the uplands, seemed to be rich and productive: but the cultivation of the parts under tillage was slovenly; and the want of hedges lamentable.

The Abbey.—The ruins of the abbey of Roscommon stand at the foot of the hill occupied by the town, in a flat meadow or lawn, behind some old villa residences on the road below the infirmary. The gardens of these houses open out towards the ruins. But another and public way of approach lies down a lane, from the parish church, which leads to a stile on the verge of the meadow, beyond which there is a foot path; and in this direction bodies are brought for in-

terment in the abbey, which is still much used for the purpose.

The stile is one of the most frequented spots about the town or neighbourhood ; for just withinside of it, on the margin of the meadow, lies a well, occasionally overflowing with clear and delicious water, whither the inhabitants come to draw as long as a drop is to be had. During a great part of the year the supply is ample ; and the reservoir, which is about six feet deep, and long and broad enough for a bath, not only remains full to the brim, but generally sends off a little stream. But in the course of summer, the water is sure to fail many times, to the great inconvenience of the neighbouring habitations ; for the deficiency of water in the town is general ; and so severely felt, that the very puddle, at last, becomes an object of contention.

Fine water was one of the essential requisites for a monastic establishment ; and it is possible, that the existence of this very spring, in former times, might, in some measure, have led to the choice of the site of the abbey. The full extent of the meadow lies, indeed, between the remains of the abbey and the well ; but from fragments of old masonry and carved stones, which have from time to time been discovered, on the line between the abbey and the rising ground of the parish church, there is reason to believe that the whole of the interval might have been covered either with buildings belonging to this, or to other ecclesiastical institutions. The original abbey of Saint Coman might, perhaps, have stood here amongst the number.

The building now known under the name of Ros-

common Abbey, is not that which was founded by St. Coman; but one of a much later period, founded by Phelim Mac Cashel Crovdearg O'Conor,* king of Connaught, about the year 1257, that is, about eleven years before the castle of Roscommon was begun by the English Lord Justice, Sir Robert De Ufford. Like many other ecclesiastical buildings, the abbey of which the remains are now standing, does not appear either to have been built wholly at the same period, or pursuant to one uniform plan. The ruins in the meadow belong exclusively to the great church; and though there are numerous remains of old walls in the gardens and orchards belonging to the villas which have been mentioned, it is difficult to decide upon their connexion with the abbey. The entire length of the church; from east to west, is about 137 feet; its width twenty-three; the western part, measuring fifty-four feet, seems to have been an addition to the original building, as well as the transept to the north. The peculiarity of the construction consists in this latter part being connected with an aisle to the north, by means of arches, whilst no corresponding one appears to have ever existed at the opposite side. The arches of communication between the nave and the aisle, varying from fourteen feet seven inches, to fifteen feet eight inches in span, are all of the broad lancet kind, and in pleasing proportion; they are four in number; the inner pair resting upon two intermediate circular pillars; and the outer pair, on the pillars on one side, and at the other on corresponding pilasters in the

* *Crovdearg*, in Irish, "red handed," an epithet given to the monarch, from the number of bloody battles which he had fought.

walls. The pillars are eight feet five inches in circumference, and in height ten feet from the base to the lowest moulding of the capitals. Like the circular pillars of Boyle and Tusk, they are composed of numerous pieces of stone, laid in regular horizontal courses, neatly jointed and accurately rounded: the capitals, which are also rounded, are formed of plain horizontal mouldings, varied by projections, and swelling out considerably at the top in graceful curves.

On the side of the nave opposite to these arches, the wall is solid, to the height of 20 feet; but, above that height, there are six extremely narrow and long lancet windows which still remain nearly quite perfect. Four narrow lancet windows, much of the same character, may also be observed in the northern wall of the chancel.

The principal entrance appears to have been at the west, over which are the remains of a once superb window. The mullions indeed are lost; but from what exist of the ornamental mouldings and segments next the casings, there is reason to believe that the window was richly ornamented and beautifully divided. On the outer side, rising from the spring of the arch, at either side of the window, as well from its summit, slender spire ornaments, richly wrought, may also be still observed. No other part of the actual building exhibits, at present, any traces of embellished workmanship, except it be a small door opening into the chancel on the southern side, with a pointed arch, above which there are carvings like those of the western windows. The eastern window was spacious, in proportion to the size of the building; but its mullions are all gone, and the shape of the arch alone visible

The same remark will apply to the window in the transept.

The primary walls were but rudely built; they rest, for the most part, on a foundation of limestone rock, from which, at the eastern end, they rise with a considerable *batter*. The interior was plastered with lime cement, which remains still whole and sound in several parts.

The most interesting object within the walls is doubtless the tomb of the founder, King O'Connor, who died in the year 1265. It is situated in the chancel on the northern side, near the place of the high altar, under an arch excavated in the wall, purposely to receive it. "The king," according to the description by the editor of Grose, "lies at full length, and *around* him are *gallowglasses*." But the *gallowglasses*, instead of being *around* him, are sculptured in relief on the perpendicular face of the square tomb, on the top of which the worn and mutilated statue of the king lies recumbent. As for the sceptre which the hand has been described as holding, that has been worn away, and it requires some stretch of imagination to make out even the hand. The head is mutilated and the features lost; and though at the feet there is something which appears to have been intended for an animal, yet whether it was dog or lamb, or the redoubtable lion which used sometimes to be introduced thus, in countries where no living lion ever existed, there is full scope for the fancy to conjecture. If, however, the statue of the poor king, peace to his manes, has been treated with such indignity, as to be, at present, little better than a lump of marble, the spirited representation of

the *gallowglasses*,* and the precision of the sculpture of the gothic ornaments of the compartments in which each one of the four stands, will amply recompense for a visit to the place. The figures are of three quarter lengths, all in the same attitude, in the act of drawing their formidable swords. Were it not for the size of the hilts, and the dimensions of the long, straight, and broad blades resting on the left thigh, the action would rather imply the unsheathing of a dagger than a sword; for the knuckles and back of the right hand are turned towards the spectator, with the thumb upwards, whilst the left hand grasps the sheath; so that if this had been the common mode of drawing the sword, another motion must have been required to place the weapon in its fitting position for use in the right hand. One might almost hold converse with these figures; at least they interested me, very much, and more and more every time I looked at them; not, however, by their countenances, for these had little expression, and were mutilated, but by the boldness and spirit of the action, and the peculiarity of the costume. Who could doubt that such fellows would have been all

* The *gallowglasses* were light troops who served on foot, and commonly wore shirts of mail. Spencer, in his account of Ireland, I. p. 188, describes them, in his time, as "bloody, cruel, swearers, licentious; yet sure they are very valiant and hardie; for the most part great indurors of cold, labour, hunger, and all hardnesse; very active and strong of hand; very swift of foot; very vigilant and circumspect in their enterprises; very present in perils; very great scorers of death." In another place, the same author writes: "I have heard some great warriors say, that in all the services they had seen abroad in forraigne countreys, they never saw a more comely man than the Irishman, nor that cometh on more bravely in his charge."

ready to fight as well as draw in defence of the great king of Connaught? The coat of mail, represented by horizontal wavy streaks, fitted closely to the body, and descended below the waist without plait or folds. On the head was a high cap, completely covering the ears, and fastened under the throat, from which depended an additional covering for the breast and shoulders, in shape like the *pelerin* or tippet of latter years worn by women and children. The stone in which all these things are represented is the grey marble of the country, which would have preserved all its original sharpness to the present day, had it not been for the wanton injuries which have been inflicted on it. Greatly indeed is it to be lamented, that no care whatever is bestowed on the preservation of such remains of the arts and of the customs of former times.

Lying scattered about the chancel, amidst heaps of loose stones, fragments of other sculptures may be seen, representing other *gallowglasses*, in attitudes slightly different, but still in the act of drawing swords; some of these were accompanied with winged angels, probably intended to represent guardian angels.

Amongst modern tombs I must not omit to mention a small marble sarcophagus, placed in the chancel by Mr. Richards, to the memory of an infant and favourite child, a monument at once simple and tasteful.

The interior part of this old church is still a favourite place for burial; and yet it is scarcely possible to imagine one less suitable for a public cemetery, since the rock lies close to the surface, without a sufficiency of earth either to receive or to cover the coffins. I saw several deposited amongst loose stones, which had been

just turned over for the purpose and then thrown back again. Sometimes coffins are prematurely removed to make place for others. On one occasion, happening to remain behind, after one of these funerals was ended and the people dispersed, a boy of fourteen or fifteen came breathless to the abbey, inquiring from me in great perturbation, whether the coffin of his sister had not been removed to make way for the one last deposited. I could only tell the poor fellow I saw no coffin removed; but, that several, heaped together, and lying as it were in the same grave, had been opened to view. The smell was extremely offensive in certain places. On another occasion, whilst I was alone, occupied with the *gallowglasses*, a tall woman, in a scarlet cloak, entered the church, and stalked about as if in search of some object, or doubtful where to fix. At last having determined, as nearly as the scattered stones would permit, the place where the grave ought to be, over which she was come to perform a mournful ceremony, she deliberately laid aside her conspicuous red mantle, fell upon her knees, pulled down her long raven locks, extended her arms, and beat her breast, setting up, at the same time, a howl which pierced my ears, and echoed through the ruins far and wide. My occupation took rather more time than hers, and I remained long enough to see her resume her cloak and walk smartly off, seemingly quite unconcerned. I know not whether she saw me, for the place was overrun with brambles, bushes, and long weeds, which formed a screen between us. During the many visits I paid to the abbey, I never found it a place of silence; for if people were wanting, crows and jackdaws never were; and the perpetual croaking and flapping of

wings amidst the dense foliage which overshadowed the old walls, might have led to the supposition that the animals considered man as an intruder in their dominions. Whether they watched for opportunities of preying upon the dead, I will not pretend to say; but it seemed by no means improbable, that they were ready to do so if a chance opportunity offered, as no doubt it must in the course of time.

The ruined church is the only part of the abbey which now remains, although, doubtless, there must have been extensive habitable buildings in its contiguity. These, probably, like other monastic remains, were pulled down for the sake of the stones, and the neighbouring houses may have been amongst those which were constructed from the spoils. Fine trees grow in abundance near the church and near these houses, and dispersed in graceful groups through the meadow, give interest and variety to the scene, and render the view of the ruins far more agreeable than that of the generality of old churches, which, for the most part, present only heaps of stones, without shade or relief.

The tradition of the country, that monastic buildings formerly spread between this abbey and the present parish church on the hill, and that a connexion existed between them, is countenanced by the accidental discovery but a few years ago, of some old foundations, and of sculptured stones, in gardens behind houses in the town. The steeple of the parish church contains an ancient door case, with a pointed arch, which constitutes the principal entrance at present; and in the belfry story there are also ancient windows; but whether these belonged originally to the

church, or were taken from some other building and placed as they at present stand, I was not able satisfactorily to ascertain. The steeple does not appear to belong to them, nor they to the steeple. The proportions are extremely pleasing; and it would be well if the builders or designers of our modern ecclesiastical edifices would be at the pains of looking at them with attention; or at other works of the same period not less worthy of imitation.

This abbey of king O'Connor, was founded for the order of Preaching Friars,* and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. In 1445, the friary having gone to decay, Pope Eugene the Fourth granted a bull, to encourage the faithful to contribute to its reparation.† Chapters of the order were held here in 1678 and 1682. The property of the old friary, however, containing the church, cloister, hall, cellars, orchard, gardens, with sixty acres of land, and the advowson of two rectories, with other messuages and tenements, *together with the Augustinian Abbey*, (which was the one founded by St. Coman,) had been granted to Sir Nicholas Malbye, knight, in the 20th year of the reign of Elizabeth.

Whilst engaged on the subject of monastic remains, mention may be made, in this place, of two other abbeys in the same barony of Ballintobber, situated within a short distance of Roscommon; the abbey of Derane, or Derhan, or Derham, two miles to the north-east; and that of *Clonthuskert*‡ on the

* *Dominica Hibern.* p. 257. The institution is there called *Cænobium seu domus Conventualis*.

† Grose, 2—72.

‡ I apprehend this is one of the words which might be used as a sort

flats, near the Shannon, seven miles to the north-east.

The ruins of the former, standing upon the summit of a bare hill, contain nothing deserving of notice, except the remains of a large window, which from the fragments of the tracery adhering to the frame, appears to have been of very beautiful workmanship; but the mullions have all fallen out. It was made of sandstone. An extensive cemetery adjoins the ruins, still in common use; raised quadrangular tombs, surmounted by single flags, were common in it, and some of the flags of very large size. The oldest inscriptions which I observed, were towards the commencement of the last century.

A man was in the act of erecting a cabin against the walls of the abbey, when I visited the place; and he had already planted the interior of the building with potatoes.

Derane is said to have been granted by O'Connor to a body of canons regular, who resigned their priory in Roscommon and retired hither; but according to Mr. Archdall, nothing is known as to the time when the abbey was founded or the grant made.

Clonthuskert Abbey stands close to the road side, on the way from Lanesborough to Strokestown. The cemetery is much used, and contains the tombs of several Catholic families of distinction; but as for the remains of the abbey, they have as much the appearance of having belonged to a mere farm house, as to

of test for ascertaining the power of pronouncing the Irish language. I found two girls on the spot who pronounced it with peculiar energy, and I made them repeat it very often; but all my attempts at imitation utterly failed, and only brought down on me the most provoking laughter.

an ecclesiastical establishment. Mr. Archdall, in his *Monasticon*, states, that it was founded by St. Faith-lec, in the early ages, for canons regular: and at the general suppression of monasteries, was granted on lease to Fryall O'Farrall, at a rent of £11 9s. 8d.

Value of land.—Town parks, near Roscommon, let from £3 to £4 per acre.

The average of good land in the neighbourhood is estimated at from 40s. to 50s. per acre, but the quality of the land about the town varies very greatly.

The estate of the Earl of Essex, reputed to contain 36,000 acres, if now out of lease, would bring, it is supposed, at least £36,000 per annum.

The estate of Lord Crofton, about 7000 acres, would also produce, if now to be let, 20s. per acre.

The central division of the barony of Ballintobber contains no other town but that of Roscommon, neither any considerable village except Ballyleague, on the Shannon, already described under the head of that river, as extending from Lanesborough bridge on the Connaught side.

The face of the country, in its general character, much resembles that of the barony which has been last described, consisting of insulated hills and ridges of limestone and limestone gravel, with bogs, and occasionally with tracts of flat sound ground at their base. In the northern part of this division, towards the extremity of the great sandstone ridge of Slievebawn, the grounds are more elevated and commanding than to the southward. Several country seats are scattered over the hills, some of which are adorned with woods, which make a considerable show at a distance. But other hills, as those more particularly on the north-

west, towards Castlerea, are remarkably bare of trees and even of hedge rows.

On the flat ground near the river Hine, on the road to Moate Park, the seat of Lord Crofton, which lies about two or three miles from the town, a little district commands notice for the neatness of the cottages, and the excellent quickset hedges and enclosures. It was formerly inhabited almost exclusively by quakers, but the place has been latterly deserted by the greater part of the friends, a circumstance attributable, as I was given to understand, to the decline of the linen and yarn business in which many of them had been engaged. They have left behind them, however, memorials of their industry, and of their love of order and neatness. What might not Ireland become if a similar spirit of improvement pervaded every part of the country. The apparent comfort of the dwellings, the fine timber trees which shade the public roads, and the rich and extensive woods of Lord Crofton's demesne, make the country appear beautiful, although its surface naturally is among the least interesting parts of the county.

In the midst of the flats here, I was struck with the singular appearance of a piece of ground rising near the road side, covered with limestone rocks, protruded through the surface, which, at a little distance, conveyed the idea of a cemetery thickly studded with tombs. The appearance was the more remarkable from the rock not being visible in other parts of the same neighbourhood.

Moate Park, the seat of Lord Crofton, is a magnificent demesne, and the hanging woods on the hills which rise in front of the house, but at a moderate

distance away from it, afford the broadest expanse of woodland scenery, which I can call to recollection within the county. This was the only place where I observed stacks of oak bark for tanners' use. On one side, the entrance into the park, from the town of Roscommon, passes through numerous successive rows of old hawthorn trees, which appear once to have belonged to hedges, but which now stand insulated. On the opposite side, the avenue runs through finely grown plantations, flourishing in the greatest vigour, with branches feathering to the ground in the most beautiful manner; a spacious green sward of unusual breadth is left between the road and the trees.

The house, which stands on the flat, modern and quite fresh-looking, is capacious, and the rooms large; but it was built at a period when the ornaments in vogue, both for interior and exterior decoration, were of a character less classical than what are now in ordinary use. It was not only uninhabited, but devoid of furniture when I saw it, and had a most melancholy appearance, heightened perhaps by the recollection of the beautiful and distinguished ladies who had heretofore been the occupants of the mansion.*

* John Crofton, Esq. of Ballymurry, county of Roscommon, Auditor General in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and who accompanied the Earl of Essex into Ireland, obtained large grants of land in the counties of Roscommon and Leitrim.

George Crofton, M. P. 1639, erected the Castle of Moate.

Edward Crofton was created the first baronet in 1661, which honour ceased with Sir Oliver the fifth baronet.

Catherine Crofton, an heiress, became representative of the family: this lady married Marcus Lowther 1743, who assumed the name of Crofton, and was created a baronet 1758. He represented the borough of

The eastern side of the central division of Ballintobber barony, bordering upon the Shannon and Lough Ree, has already passed under notice in the sections upon the Shannon and the bogs, in the preceding pages of this Survey. The sandstone ridge of Slievebawn reaches into it for a short distance, and an opinion has been long prevalent in the neighbourhood, that certain appearances near Fairymount, at the southern extremity of the ridge, gave indication of coal; but it has been explained, that these were deceptive, and the opinion not based upon an accurate knowledge of the geological formation of this country.

The bogs towards the Shannon are extensive, and considerable tracts here remain absolutely in a state of nature, without the least effort having been made to reclaim them; but where roads have been carried through the bogs, of which the instances are numerous, improvement and cultivation follow along their course. The great road, between the towns of Roscommon and Lanesborough, affords as many, and as striking examples as are to be seen in any part of the country, of what may be effected by the simple exertions of the peasantry. Their first efforts are directed to the formation of a small hut, chiefly composed of the dry upper sods of the bog, and these serve both for the walls and the roof. Some of these huts were

Roscommon in Parliament: and was succeeded by his son Sir Edward Crofton, who died Sept. 1797.

Dame Anne Crofton, his widow, was elevated to the peerage by the title of Baroness Crofton, Dec. 1797.

Her ladyship died in 1817, and was succeeded by her grandson Edward, the present Earl, who was born 1st Aug. 1806, is in the army. (Peerage.)

so small as barely to contain the few beings who sought refuge within them from the weather; and a much ruder state of existence it is scarcely possible to conceive; but still the inmates are better off than those who inhabit the hovels which I have described in some of the towns; for they have free and pure air around them, and fuel is abundant. A fire burns perpetually on the hearth, the heat of which, oppressive to persons unaccustomed to it, is, nevertheless, by these poor people considered one of the great comforts of life, even during the dog days. The little potato garden which is laid out, the first year, near the hovel, is commonly very rough, and the produce inconsiderable; but with each succeeding year it wears gradually a better appearance, and yields more, as ashes and manure are spread upon it. The patch of oats comes next, and willow fences are made round the enclosures. The rent charged and paid for some of these small tenements, on the bogs near the road side, amounts occasionally to two guineas an acre Irish.

With the exception of the sandstone at the tail of the ridge of Slievebawn, the common stone of the district is limestone; yet, although lime can be procured at a moderate expense, and although upon bog it constitutes one of the most valuable manures, it is but sparingly used on the smaller holdings; not that the cultivators are ignorant of its importance, but every outgoing expense is avoided, and in many instances of necessity.

The limestone and limestone gravel hills which are interspersed through the bogs, afford, as usual, excellent soil; and in the whole county, I cannot recollect a heavier crop of oats, than I saw on the slope between

the ruins of the abbey of Derrane and the bog at its base, in the hands of a small farmer.

Near the same place, in a small hamlet on the flats near the bog, one of the most efficient schools which I had met with, was kept by two young women, sisters, who had near four-score pupils, of both sexes; many of them read extremely well, and the writing was admirable. When the school broke up, they dispersed in all directions up the hills and across the bogs; and some, as I found, on afterwards meeting them on the roads, had come from a distance of several miles.

On the fertile uplands amidst the bogs in this district, several country seats appear, well furnished with trees.

The western side of the central division of Ballintobber barony contains but little bog, and the land, which lies in hills and ridges, is, in general, sound, dry, and fertile, and well adapted either to pasture or tillage. I saw considerable breadths of corn here, with a fair proportion of wheat; as well as very extensive ranges of pasturage. Country seats are much more rare here than on the line between the town of Roscommon and Slievebawn; and the want of trees and hedge-rows is very remarkable. From an eminence on the road, between the village of Ballintobber and Roscommon, commanding a view of wide extent, scarcely a tree was to be seen, which would have afforded a handle for a broom; near the better class of farm houses, however, little plantations are springing up. It seems surprising, that the inconvenience which must be felt from the deficiency of domestic timber for ordinary purposes, about a farm and country house,

should not have led long ago to more active exertions, on the part of tenants as well as landlords, and prompted both, to extend the plantations, or to introduce trees with thorn-quicks in hedge-rows. In these bare tracts of country, a ditch and mound, or low walls loosely built, without cement, serve for the fences of the smaller farms; but the extensive pastures of the richer graziers are bounded by walls of a firmer construction and greater height, and these serve as a tolerable certain indication of the different nature both of the application of the land and of the occupants. It is all a limestone country.

The Western Division of the Barony of Ballintobber, which forms the extreme west of the county, contains the towns of Castlerea and Ballinlough, and some considerable villages, as those of Castle Plunket, Belanagare, &c. A vein of fine feeding land, similar in character to that about Tulsk, extends along the whole eastern side of this division, from Belanagare at the north, to the village of Ballintobber, on the south. This district contains several considerable country seats, well wooded, and occupied by gentlemen, more or less engaged in grazing bullocks, and some of them very extensively so.

The western side of this division differs materially from the other, being comparatively a wild country, with extensive bogs; yet several of the insulated hills and ridges afford good land. The town of Castlerea is built of sandstone; near Belanagare thin sandstone flags are found, which are used for roofing. Castlerea is built of sandstone. Limestone is also found, though sparingly; but there it ends, or occurs only in boulders and ebbles for some distance towards the west.

CASTLEREA.

This town, standing contiguous to the demesne of Lord Mount Sandford, into which an entrance gate opens directly from the market place, owes its origin, probably, to the protection which was afforded, in former times, by the castle of the lord of the soil to his dependants and retainers. Of this castle, no remains exist sufficient to show either the nature of its construction or its extent; but near the offices behind the present mansion house, several old walls, which might have been parts of the towers of the castle, all thickly covered with ivy, still bid defiance to time, and may endure for ages yet to come, in their present state, unless intentionally demolished.

The town consists of one long street commencing at the market-place, and protracted beyond two bridges, over different branches of the Upper Suck, which, after passing the town, unite at a short distance below it, close in sight of the houses. The bridge over the eastern branch nearest to the market-place, consists of five arches, across a water way of about thirty-six yards; the second bridge, although the stream which it traverses is less, appears of more importance from being carried over a deep hollow between steep banks. The eastern branch of the Suck, before it crosses the street, winds in a placid stream through a soft valley in the demesne, shaded by well-grown trees, beneath which there are numerous agreeable walks and drives. But after leaving the demesne the stream assumes more vivacity, and runs with sufficient force to turn wheels for mills or machinery.

A distillery, a brewery, and a tannery, have been erected near its banks. The water is beautifully clear, and the view upwards from the bridge towards the woods of the demesne, extremely pleasing. Here, as in so many other similar situations, it might be lamented, that the bounties of nature should have been overlooked, and that instead of streets or quays laid out parallel to the river, where the command of water might have promoted both health and cleanliness, the town should rather have been carried on, away from the water; a circumstance at the upper end, near the market-place, productive of positive inconvenience. Carriages were sent to be washed, from the inn, which stands in the market-place, down the entire length of the principal street, to the bridge; and although the distance is not certainly of vast extent, nevertheless, it was enough to occasion loss of time and waste of labour.

Were new buildings invariably to be considered as indications of prosperity, and they evidently shew that capital is afloat, few parts of the country would be pronounced in a more flourishing state than Castlereagh and its neighbourhood. Nearly one-half of the southern side of the main street has been re-built, and new cottages for the peasantry are starting up on every part of Lord Mount Sandford's estate.

The new buildings, in the town, consist mostly of houses of two and three stories, one side being devoted to a shop and the other solely to a dwelling; but so arranged as to admit of being divided into two distinct tenements, or of being occupied by one family alone; and, hence, in enumerating the houses, it becomes difficult, as I have already observed, to pro-

nounce, without entering such tenements and asking questions, whether the house is to be counted as one or two: for with exactly the same external appearance, it may be, in fact, either. Reckoning to the best of my judgment, and aided by a few inquiries on doubtful points, the following is the sum of my enumeration:

10 houses of 3 stories slated, 1st class or quality.

6 do. 3 do. do. 2d class.

15 do. 2 do. do. 1st class.

33 do. 2 do. do. 2d class.

13 do. 2 do. do. 3d class.

26 do. 2 do. thatched.

68 cabins thatched.

Besides these houses which are strictly within the town, rows of cabins extend, on the cross roads, beyond its immediate apparent limits. On the road out by the chapel there were twelve cabins; on another, twenty cabins; the clusters of cabins sometimes continue at intervals to a considerable distance, and bear the appearance of a scattered village.

Various gradations in the quality of the houses and cabins are observable here, as well as in other towns; but I saw none of that wretched character which I have described at Boyle, Elphin, and Roscommon. Several of the thatched cabins are remarkably neat; and in one of these the public dispensary was held, open on two days in the week for the relief of the poor.

Trade in Castlerea appeared by no means to be in such an active state, as required the addition of many more shops to those already opened. None were very

extensively furnished; and the quality of the goods on sale seemed chiefly adapted to the wants of the humbler classes. But it is possible that the establishment of large shops, with superior wares, might command custom which had not before existed; since the experience of each succeeding year demonstrates, that new channels of trade may be successfully opened by enterprise and speculation, where commerce had never flowed before.

The new houses in the main street had been built for the most part by a capitalist, a rich farmer, on speculation. The rent of a two story house with a shop, was about £25 per annum; no garden; the cost of ground for garden 1s. per foot, measured along the front, and of the moderate depth of the building lots.

An opinion seemed to prevail in the town, that building had been carried to an extent rather beyond the immediate wants of the place.

At the time I visited Castlerea, considerable uneasiness existed, on the score of leases and tenure; for speculations had been commenced, merely on the promise of leases from the late young Lord Mount Sandford,* who had dominion over his estate by fine and recovery; but before these promises could be ratified, he lost his life in a fray, and his uncle, the present lord, by whom he was succeeded, already advanced in

* Theophilus Sandford having obtained extensive grants of land in Ireland, for his services as a captain in Reynold's regiment, during the civil wars, settled at Castlerea, in the county of Roscommon.

From him was lineally descended Henry Sandford, M. P. for the county of Roscommon, who, in 1750, married Sarah, daughter of Viscount Mount Cashel.

He had issue, (amongst others,) Henry Moore Sandford, who, in 1800,

years, is merely tenant for life, and his powers of leasing limited. It was expected that a private bill would be obtained to remedy these matters.

The distillery, and a malt house near it, were amongst these speculations, and the capital embarked considerable. That there was any real insecurity to the parties was not to be apprehended; but still, in the vicissitudes and uncertainties both of life and trade, and the possibility of the property changing hands, and being afterwards brought to sale, the want of a lease and a fixed tenure, might, and assuredly would, be made a ground for depreciation; and anxiety could not fail of being felt, until the tenure was placed beyond all suspicion.

The nearest distillery to this one, within the county, is at Athlone.

The bark used in the tannery was brought all the way from Dublin, and for a great part of the distance, of necessity, by land carriage. I have already observed that the only place, in the county, where I met with bark in stack, was in Moate Park, near Roscommon. The business did not appear to be extensive, and it cannot be presumed that the profits under such circumstances could be considerable.

I was informed that the town and neighbourhood was created a peer of Ireland, by the title of Baron Mount Sandford, of Castlerea, with remainder in default of issue to his brothers, and their male descendants.

He died December, 1814, and was succeeded by his nephew Henry, the second baron, born in March 1805.

This nobleman was slain in a riot at Windsor, 14th June, 1828; and dying unmarried, was succeeded by his uncle George Sandford, the third baron, who was born 10th May, 1756, and is not married.—*Vide Peerage.*

of Castlerea, in the year 1830, were by no means in so promising or so prosperous a state as they had been twelve years before, notwithstanding the new buildings and new establishments. Several families of consideration had removed from the place; death had also occasioned much alteration. If the mansion of the noble proprietor of the town were to be taken as a criterion of the change, this might readily be admitted; for it had a deserted look, and though not absolutely abandoned, is not often inhabited. The air was said not to agree with some of the family. But the mansion house was the only thing in or around Castlerea, which gave any outward indication of decline.

The new entrance to the demesne, with the agent's office facing the market, lately built, had all the air of freshness, and were pleasingly designed, but in a simple style and with more attention to utility than show. The same system of keeping accounts open with the tenants, and receiving the rents by instalments, which I have already noticed as usual on the great estates, obtains here; a large outer room or vestibule, well ventilated, is allotted to the reception of the tenants, and the communication with the office is effected by means of sliding windows, which obviates the necessity of bringing them further in, whilst by shutters, those within can remain at pleasure in privacy. To the more humble class of farmers, it is a great accommodation to have the power of thus lodging the money, at once, to their credit, which is received at markets and fairs, since it obviates the risk of losses from accident or other causes.

The estates of Lord Mount Sandford amount to 19,250 statute acres, upwards of 11,000, according to

the old Irish plantation measure. The maps of the whole, bound up in books, with well arranged references, executed on a uniform plan and in the most beautiful style by Mr. Longfield, were kept in the office, and I was favoured with a sight of them.

The improvements which have been effected on these extensive estates, and they are annually progressing under the able and enlightened administration of the agent, Mr. Owen Young, of Harristown, cannot fail of being attended sooner or later with beneficial results to the country in general.

Without asking a question, it would have been quite possible, in many instances, to trace the limits of Lord Mount Sandford's estates, by the superior appearance of the new cottages; for the old clusters of wretched cabins so discreditable to the land, were gradually disappearing, on every side, and in their stead neat and comfortable dwellings arising. A little manufactory of lozenge windows, and suitable doors, was kept busily employed at Castlerea, and these articles were given gratis to the tenants, besides timber for the roofs. But the re-modelling of the habitations was connected with another change upon the estate, of far greater importance to the country, and still more conducive to the welfare and happiness of the people, namely, the breaking up of the old system of copartnership, which prevailed extensively in this neighbourhood, as it still does in many other parts of Roscommon. According to this most objectionable system, originating in suspicion, and pregnant with wrong, quarrels, and oppression, a farm was leased in joint tenantry to a number of different persons, each of whom became individually responsible to the landlord,

not merely for his proportionate share of the rent, but for the whole. Thus, the industrious and well-conducted were made guarantees for the careless and negligent, since those from whom the rent could be most surely and readily obtained, were the first, in ordinary course, that were applied to for payment; for the security of the landlord had been one of the principal objects contemplated by the arrangement. As for these joint tenants, nothing but the strictest sense of honour and justice, and a willing submission to those who might be chosen from amongst themselves to direct the operations of the whole, could by any possibility preserve harmony; and it seldom continued to be long strictly preserved. The natural disposition of man to judge for himself, and to assert his independence, showed itself in numberless ways connected with the management of the land; and differences of opinion brought on contentions and disputes. The diligent were at the mercy of the idle; and even supposing that all were equally vigorous, healthy, and well-disposed at the outset, the casualties and accidents of life might occasion a variety of changes and misfortunes, attended by a numerous train of evil consequences which must be participated by the co-partners, let their own cautious and prudential behaviour have been what it might.

To extinguish such leases in copartnership, it is obvious that the consent of all parties concerned must be obtained, and that the refusal of one obstinate man might defeat the scheme. The worst conducted also were precisely those from whom the greatest opposition was to be expected, since they were the persons most interested in maintaining the existing state of things.

But in general Mr. Young had found that the business had gone on smoothly, and the more industrious of the people hailed the change as a blessing for which they would have willingly paid with all the savings and earnings of many years. The principal difficulty consisted in dividing the farms proportionably amongst the copartners, taking fairly into consideration, quantity, quality, and situation; and here it was scarcely possible to give perfect satisfaction to each individual. Able surveyors, however, had been employed in every instance, and the value of each parcel of land having been accurately estimated, the subdivisions were made on the principle of supplying in quantity what might be deficient in quality.

According to the former system, the houses of the copartners had usually formed a little hamlet, or were clustered close together, and this contiguity proved by no means productive of harmony, more especially amongst the female part of the population; on the contrary, where so many causes for difference were likely to arise, disputes continued without end. In the present temperament of the people, and the present state of public education, solitary and detached dwellings appear the most conducive to domestic peace and comfort, notwithstanding the many theories which have been started on the subject to the contrary.*

* On an estate which I visited in the county of Westmeath, where very great improvements had been effected, it had been found from experience, that whenever cabins were congregated together, it was absolutely essential to peace, to provide back doors to each, in order that those females who wished to avoid strife, might have the means of egress, unseen by their antagonists, who would otherwise sit for hours at the front doors, ready to renew a contention that had been once begun.

Mr. Young has also done much, as I have already observed, to promote the cultivation of the bogs in the vicinity of Castlerea; to which end comfortable cottages had been built on sound land, on their borders, and the people encouraged to proceed with the work of improvement. Where the water had impeded the progress, leading drains had been cut to facilitate its discharge. The circumstances of the bogs differ so very much from each other, that no general rule can be laid down on the subject; Mr. Young seemed to be of opinion, however, that, in most cases, bog improvements would be best effected by beginning at the edges; and certainly this appears a simple course, if the cottagers are to be left to themselves. But in reference to the larger bogs, the formation of roads to afford access, must be a primary measure. How effectually these can be made, has been exemplified in a notable instance in this neighbourhood, in one of Mr. Nimmo's roads, between Castlerea and Ballymoe, which he determined upon carrying through a bog in a straight line, although forewarned that there was a spring or quagmire in it, which would occasion trouble. It might easily have been avoided by a slight deviation; nevertheless, the road was marked out through one of the very worst parts of the bog, Mr. Nimmo having been bent, seemingly, upon showing what skilful engineering could effect. Numerous drains and counter drains had been first cut to dry the surface; then clay was laid down, and over it layers of stones. The road soon sunk at the bad place; but additional stones brought it again to a level, and this operation had been repeated several times. Mr. Nimmo had promised that, in the end, it would assuredly become firm;

and his word was in great part fulfilled, when I drove over the spot in 1830, but the sinking was not over, and more stones were likely to be wanted.

Whilst such admirable examples of improvement were offered on Lord Mount Sandford's estate, grateful to the eye of every traveller, grateful to the feelings of every person interested in the prosperity of the land, it was a subject of regret to find them utterly disregarded on other property in the same neighbourhood; not a property of much extent indeed, but still large enough to exhibit a melancholy contrast. Here small divisions had been made, some as low as half an acre, a quantity, considering the nature of the ground, insufficient for the support of a family, whilst employment to assist towards maintenance was avowedly precarious at every time of the year. The hovels which the poor people were building, as I passed, solely by their own efforts, were of the most abject description; the walls were formed, in several instances, by the backs of fences; the floors sunk in the ditches; the height scarcely enough for a man to stand upright; poles not thicker than a broomstick for couples; a few pieces of grass sods the only covering; and these extending only partially over the thing called a roof; the elder people miserably clothed; the children all but naked. What must the condition of such poor people be as their numbers increase; and that they will increase under circumstances not more propitious, experience has proved? The *promise* of a somewhat higher rent than could be obtained from a more respectable tenantry, was said to have been the inducement for this minute subdivision; but where the means of earning

money were so limited, such promises must have been vaguely given, and were little to be relied on.

Strange as it may appear, yet amongst the persons who thus lay the foundations of future distress and misery in the country, by the division of their lands in small portions to a needy tenantry, for the sake of a temporary present gain, were to be found some, who, in conversation, seemed to be possessed of enlarged and liberal views, and who could discourse most fluently on the abject condition of Ireland, and the means of her political regeneration. There can be little doubt, I apprehend, that it is, in general, on the lesser estates and properties, that the most frequent and ready examples might be drawn of severe measures towards the tenantry, and exactions of the highest rents.

Under the old system of joint tenantry, it was not uncommon to mark out the land into ridges, for each tenant respectively, to be cultivated, at pleasure; but in the new arrangement, each lot was to be distinctly fenced off by itself: Mr. Young informed me, that much as it was desired to supply the people with thorn-quicks for the purpose, a sufficiency could not be obtained in the country.* Nurseries were deficient.

The want of fruit trees is also remarkable in this part of the country: in the gardens of gentlemen, indeed, they are seen, but on ordinary farms, more par-

* The nearest public nursery ground to Castlereagh which I heard of, was at Castle Coote, in the parish of Fuerty. Considering the great want of thorns for hedges, and how much the country might be improved by shelter, it is to be lamented, that pains should not be taken to establish nurseries on every estate.

ticularly on those of the more humble description, they are almost unknown.

Bees also are little attended to, though food for them is abundant. No honey was to be had at any shop in Castlerea when I visited the place.

Weekly markets are held at Castlerea, and a considerable quantity of the meat, in those which I saw, appeared to have been brought in ready killed; there was also an abundance of live fowls; the prices rather lower than those which will be found in the general table for Roscommon. Butter was exposed for sale, both fresh and in firkins; the latter considerably below the rates which were quoted at the same time in the Boyle Newspaper. Jobbers generally attend, ready to buy or sell butter according to the state of the market.

Formerly a considerable quantity of linen yarn was sold in this market; but with the cessation of demand the supply stopped. At the time I was there, the demand had somewhat revived; but there was then no yarn to satisfy it.

Small plots of flax are still cultivated through the country; but now almost solely for home consumption. Spinning and weaving both of flax and woollens are well understood, and some of the women are adepts in dying. Deep brown for the gowns, and madder reds for the petticoats, are the favourite colours. Scarlet cloaks are worn by the women, but these are not dyed in the country.

With bright scarlet cloaks, and white muslin caps neatly got up, in many instances it is quite common to see the feet naked.

Although the estates under the management of

Mr. Young contain a considerable proportion of rough and indifferently cultivated ground, and, if the bogs be included, a surface but thinly peopled, yet it has not been judged expedient to invite inhabitants from other quarters, but rather to wait the event of the natural multiplication of those who are already settled. Here, as in all other places, a considerable diversity of character is observable amongst the people; and whilst some are distinguished for temperate and industrious habits, others manifest a very contrary disposition, and mar the plans which have been adopted for their improvement. Whenever a fit opportunity offers, such troublesome spirits are turned off the estates and sent out of the country.

Leases are not invariably granted on the new divisions of the land. In fact, the experience of the last fourteen years has demonstrated, that these are engagements binding on the landlords merely, and not upon the tenants. Had the war rents been enforced, many holders of lands must have been utterly ruined. Where tenants, therefore, have already met with indulgence from their landlords, no just cause of complaint can exist at their being invited to repose confidence for the future. If permanent improvements, however, have been actually made, or are dependent on leases being granted, the case becomes different; for it would then obviously be the height of impolicy to withhold them.

Several schools for the instruction of the lower classes, both male and female, are established at Castlerea, and well conducted. Those under the protection of the London Hibernian Society appeared to be the best.

A taste for literature is said to prevail at Castlerea and in the vicinity; and a more than ordinary proportion of the young men who enter Trinity College, as I was informed, obtain academical honours.

Several neat and pretty cottages and small houses, with garden and trees, which were to be seen in the neighbourhood of Castlerea, and, with the woods of the demesne and well furnished hedge-rows, gave an improved and pleasing appearance to the place. But this continues for a short distance only; and passing onward to the west, the country becomes bleak and wild.

Castlerea afforded a very tolerable inn, where, without any pretension or bustle, I was comfortably lodged and accommodated. There were two sitting rooms up stairs sufficiently furnished, though with old things. A large room, below, bore rather the appearance of a tap-room, but on two successive evenings, whilst I stopped in Castlerea, it was occupied by evangelical lay preachers, who held forth during some hours, as I was informed, for I was not in the house at the time, and to a very numerous auditory.

The sandstone of which Castlerea is built varies considerably in colour; some of it is of dull yellow, whilst more is of an ash colour, with narrow stripes of a darker shade. The limestone which Mr. Young had discovered near the town, was deeply seated, but I had no opportunity of observing its relative position to the sandstone; nor could I learn how it was circumstanced. Beyond the river Suck, to the westward, there was no limestone in the vicinity in the town, but in the parish of Kiltullagh, on the western verge of

this division of the barony of Ballintobber, it again occurs.

On the borders of a stream, which runs for a considerable way through ravines and hollows, below the road leading from Castlerea to Ballinlough, an old furnace for smelting iron was pointed out to me, but the traces of the ore were not abundant: many years have elapsed since it was used.

The roads between Castlerea and Ballinlough, on opposite sides of the western branch of the Suck, are hilly and extremely rough, owing to the hardness and toughness of the stones. The allowance of 6*d.* per perch for repairs, is insufficient for breaking them. In general the roads become better in proportion as they tend more directly towards the county town.

The sandstone in this district is of various colours, from deep reddish brown, ironshot, to pale yellow and white. Sandstone conglomerate with pieces of quartz, as large as common eggs, occurred in numerous instances on the road side.

Ballinlough is a village of forty-four cabins or small houses, none very good, none very bad. Though deriving its name from the Lough Aeluyn, it is a full half mile or more distant from it, and not in sight of the water. The houses stand in detached groups on uneven ground. The church, which is new, on a rising ground within the village, is pleasingly situated; and if the trees which have been planted near it were taken care of and allowed to grow, they would soon become ornamental; but cattle were browsing amongst them.

This village had a remarkably tranquil and almost deserted appearance; there was scarcely any thing in it

that deserved the name of shop. One small sign, a pair of shears, on the front of a poor house, marked the residence of a finisher and presser of the woollen stuffs worn by the female peasantry. Yet two schools, on opposite hills, were very fully attended; one under the protection of the London Hibernian, near the church, containing thirty boys and forty girls, of which the female branch above stairs, appeared, as usual, admirably conducted; the other school, a Catholic one, with upwards of sixty children of both sexes, was so confined in space, as to occasion distress in breathing on entering it, consequently very unwholesome. The boys whom I examined, at this latter school, read and wrote decidedly better than those of the same ages in the rival school on the opposite hill. I cannot refrain from mentioning the lessons at which I found classes occupied; in the first, St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians, chap. 3; in the other, Sir Robert Walpole's speeches, from Enfield's speaker; but from which of these, without note or comment, the minds of the children were likely to derive the most immediate improvement, I shall leave for others to decide.

Between the village and the lake, stands Willsborough, a small and old country seat, which makes an agreeable appearance on passing along the shores of the lake. Though the immediate borders of Lough Aeluyn are in no part much elevated, yet the scenery derives interest from the mountains of Mayo and Sligo, which are seen in the distance. Vast tracts of bog occur in this district.

The plantations of forest trees recently made by Mr. Wills on each side of the road leading from Castlereagh into Ballinlough, under Slieve Aeluyn moun-

tain, are amongst the most extensive continuous plantations in the county. The ground for the most part consisted of upland bog, covered with heath, and as far as a judgment could be formed at so early a period of their growth, the trees appeared to be in a thriving state. It is truly satisfactory to see plantations starting up in any part of a country which is so deficient in timber; but it is on the borders of the Shannon where planting apparently would turn to the most profitable account. Several farm houses on a small scale stand along the road side between Castlerea and Ballinlough, and on no part of Lord Mount Sandford's or of Mr. Wills's estates, did I perceive any of those wretched hovels which are so thoroughly discreditable to other parts of the county.

Few horses are kept by the farmers, and the tillage is of a very rude description. The land is light and hungry, and some parts much in want of draining; 12s. and 15s. per acre are ordinary rates of rent.

Near Lough Aeluyn, the tillage is better, and I observed considerable breadths of oats.

Belanagare, in the northern part of the western division of Ballintobber, is a small village, remarkable for an old seat of the family of O'Connor Don, M. P., already alluded to in the introductory observations upon the barony.

The village contains

1 house of 3 stories, slated,
2 houses of 2 stories, do.
9 houses of 2 do. thatched,
and a score or more of straggling cabins.

The large houses wore an appearance of decay,

and the place gave no indication of improvement or of commerce. The roads leading into the village were shaded by trees in the hedge-rows for a considerable way; and some of the old thorn hedges, clipped and preserved with great care, were amongst the most remarkable which I can call to recollection in the county.

The chimneys of the old mansion, mingled with the tall surrounding trees, may be seen above the wall which bounds the high way. It has long since been abandoned as a family residence, but the walls are substantial, there is still a roof standing, and in the decayed apartments, some labourers and dependants find lodging. It had been an irregular edifice, with numerous gables and tall chimneys; adjoining it was square of extensive offices. The garden in the rear contiguous to the house was still to be traced. Here the box which bordered the old walks had grown to the height of six feet, and nearly closed the passage; whilst some cherry trees had actually extended their branches through the ruined casements into the upper stories. Several of the fruit trees continued in bearing, and, as I was informed, were amongst the best in the neighbourhood, though the trees, in common with other things about the place, wore the appearance of age and of decay.

The O'Connor Don, who on his marriage had built a new house in the lodge style, in the immediate neighbourhood, during his father's life-time, told me, that, as events had turned out, he regretted that the old mansion had not rather been repaired; but decay has made such rapid advances that now it would be a work of difficulty and expense. Could modern comforts and accommodation have been combined with the

venerable remains of the old residence, certainly it would have been desirable that a place of such antiquity should not have been absolutely abandoned.

The Roman Catholic chapel of Belanagare bears an inscription, denoting that it had been founded by Owen O'Connor Don, in the year 1819. The roof is covered with thin sandstone slates, found in the neighbourhood.

The parish of Kilcorky, in which Belanagare is situated, also contains limestone, and its pastures are amongst the most celebrated in Roscommon. Gently rising grounds, intermixed with bogs, constitute the general character of the district; but on the borders of the streams which fall into Lough Gara considerable tracts of alluvial lands occur, producing rank grass, liable to be flooded by the back water from the lake.

Lands in the immediate neighbourhood of Belanagare were let, as I was informed, as high as two guineas the acre; a rate considered rather to be above the value.

Castle Plunket, the next and last village to be mentioned, consists of about two score mean looking cabins in one long street on a gentle slope. A gorgeous newly gilt sign at the end of the village caught the rays of the evening sun, and promised from a distance, entertainment for the traveller, but it was suspended from a mud cabin nearly as miserable as any in the place. The country about the village is bare of trees and the hedges ragged, but the woods of Milton, a country seat, on a slope, shelving down to a considerable turlough, at a moderate distance, had a rich appearance.

EASTERN DIVISION OF BALLINTOBBER BARONY.

This division, situated between the Shannon and the barony of Roscommon, comprises the three parishes of Killmore, Killglass, and Tarmonbarry, which have already passed under review in the section on the river Shannon. Tarmonbarry and Rooskey are the only towns, and the villages are inconsiderable; but hamlets, consisting of clusters of cabins, abound, more particularly on the sound land in the contiguity of the bogs. Between the northern end of the great sandstone ridge of Slievebawn and the Shannon, the bogs are extensive, and seem capable of easy improvement. If a few leading roads were cut through them to afford access, the people would soon be able to accomplish the rest, and thus a valuable accession to the profitable surface of the country be obtained in the immediate vicinity of a navigable river. In no part of the county that I am aware of, are more direct incentives held out for bog improvements.

To the west of the sandstone ridge lies the Lough of Gillstown, near two miles in length, with a road near its borders under the mountains. All this district would admit of great improvement, and might, with planting, and with better cultivation, be made a very pleasing country.

The sandstone does not extend beyond the river which conveys the waters of Lough Gill, and of other lakes in the barony of Roscommon, into the Shannon.

The parish of Killmore which occupies the northern part of this eastern division of Ballintobber barony, is one of those of which a statistical account is given,

in the second volume of Mr. Mason's Collection, No. 20. The volume was published in the year 1816; and the Survey which was executed by the Rev. William Thompson, A. M., rector and vicar, appears to have been made during the war. As these parochial surveys were instituted on a uniform system, pursuant to certain given heads, it has happened in this, as in several other instances, that many of the pages have been occupied merely with negative statements, as to what the parish does not contain. I have made a few extracts, however, from them.

“ The name of Killmore signifies the great Church Yard.

“ The extent of the parish is about five miles each way; the arable land 3633 acres; bog 678.

“ The Shannon forms a beautiful lake along its shores, called Lough Boffin.

“ The parish contains no mountains, but many gentle hills, ‘ fruitfully pasturable,’ without heath. Several good turf bogs are dispersed through it. The houses of the resident gentlemen have many trees about them, and some new plantations promise to add to the beauty of the landscape.

“ The number of slated houses in the parish only amounted to three; Sligo was the nearest port from which slates were brought; one house was covered with shingles.

“ Limestone found in every townland, and the quarries abundant.

“ The roads in general are kept in good order, and repaired with stones broken very small, which is esteemed the most durable mode of making them.

“ Some ruins near Ballycomen, a residence of the

Earl of Roscommon, supposed to have been a church, but out of the memory of any living person. Another old building on the townland of Kilbride, the estate of the Marquis of Westmeath, is said to have been a nunnery; but the opinion rests merely upon tradition: no remains can be traced of a monastery said to have been founded in 1232, for Augustine canons.

“ The number of families, rich and poor, amounts to about 602, amongst which are about 30 Protestant families.

“ The inhabitants in general keep cows, live tolerably well, and are healthy, many of them attaining the general age of man, and some exceeding it. The dwellings of the lower order are kept in a very slovenly manner, dirty and badly thatched; the greater part are built of stone; few are formed with mud walls.

“ The people dress in a style far superior to the line of life in which they are placed, particularly the females, who are fond of show, and comply with modern fashions as far as they can afford it. They are enabled to indulge in this propensity by their industry in spinning and in weaving coarse linens;* these they bring to market, and when disposed of, they purchase ornamented clothing with part of the profit. On Sundays and particular occasions they dress in cottons and muslins, but when employed in their daily avocations, they generally wear a suit of woollen, such as flannel or drugget coloured to their fancy.

“ The general food of the peasantry is potatoes.

* This was not the only parish in which the profits from the linen manufacture enabled the females to indulge in dress. With its decline, of course, their means are limited: yet the females, generally, are said to have improved in dress in this county.

During the lent, and a little before and after, salted herrings make an addition to the daily food. Flesh meat is seldom used in the cottages, except on remarkable occasions, as at Christmas or Easter, and then the only kind used is pork or bacon. Rents are too high ; * yet it is a melancholy fact, that they often spend their money on market days, to a degree of extravagance, in drinking and carousing, so that when the high rent of their land is called for, they are unprepared to answer the demand. The extravagant value that is now set on lands is the great grievance of which this country has to complain ; the proprietors are too eager for high rents. Many middlemen, by setting their lands at a very advanced rent, become *gentlemen*, and receive double for their lands what they pay to the head landlord.

“ English is the language spoken by the people in general ; they all understand Irish, but it is not so much used among them as formerly.

“ There are several schools where reading and writing are taught. The numbers who attend are more in summer than in any other season ; in spring and autumn the parents keep them at home to assist in the labour ; very few attend in winter. The teachers are badly paid, and seldom continue to keep regular schools. No distinction can be remarked between the treatment of children of different religious persuasions, except as far as relates to their catechetical education. The rates of tuition vary from 1s. 8d. to

* Mr. Thompson states the rents at two guineas, and as high as three guineas near the towns : these were the war prices, which no longer exist ; and with their discontinuance the middlemen have lost their profits.

5s. per quarter, according to what is taught. No library of any kind in the parish, which is a great want in any place so far from a large town.

“The usual mode of tillage on the small holdings is to turn up the land with a sort of spade called the *loy*, as horses for ploughing cannot be afforded. Gentlemen plough in the mode now usually practised with two horses abreast; the *old* method was with four horses abreast, the driver walking backwards between the two middle horses, but that mode is not so common as formerly.

“Good tradesmen of every description are to be found in the parish.”

Drumsna and Jamestown on the Shannon, which are increasing and improving towns, are the principal markets for the produce of this parish, and afford the supplies of those necessities which are wanted in return.

HALF BARONY OF BALLYMOE.

This division of the county is situated between the barony of Ballintobber and the river Suck; the other half of the barony of the same name belongs to the county of Galway. It contains—

	Irish Acres.		English Acres.		
			A.	R.	P.
In arable land	-	13,333	-	21,597	0 33
Bog	-	1,001	-	1,621	1 32
Water	-	56	-	90	2 33
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
		14,390		23,309	1 18

From a comparison of the contents of the several baronies in the general table, at the commencement of this Survey, it will appear that this part of Roscommon contains less bog and less water, in proportion to its arable surface, than any other of the great divisions of the county.

In its general character, however, there is no marked difference between this and other parts of the county which have already passed under review. The surface is undulated by hills, some being insulated, others connected in continuous ridges, with bog or flat bottoms between them of various extent. Several small turloghs occur in these bottoms. The streams, which are small and few, all find their way into the Suck, and along the shores of this river is found the greatest extent of bog. The highest land in the half barony lies, probably, along the ridge which extends to the south-east of the Castle of Ballintobber, whence,

in passing towards Oran, a very extensive view opens across the flats of the river Suck, into the county of Galway, where the woods which surround the Castle of Donamore appear to great advantage. On the Roscommon side of the river, the deficiency of trees and hedge-rows is not less remarkable than in many other parts of the county, excepting always, those which are seen in the vicinity of gentlemen's houses, of which there are several in this district. Limestone and limestone gravel abound, and the soil in many places is very rich. Tillage is evidently on the increase; but by far the greatest proportion of the surface is devoted to pasturage.

In the neighbourhood of Oran, I heard of complaints amongst the lower classes, of the difficulty of procuring land for their maintainance, and of the unwillingness of the large holders to divide their properties; but if the subdivision is to be attended with the increase of pauperism and misery, which is ordinarily observable in those places where the land has been let out in minute parcels, it can scarcely be a subject either of surprise or of regret, that there should be hesitation on following a system productive of consequences, in which the evil appears to predominate above the good. The subject is one, however, which involves a question of deep importance, as well in relation to individual happiness, as the general interests and prosperity of the country, on which I shall venture to offer a few observations in another place.

Good land rates from 24s. to 35s. per acre, a variation which implies a diversity in the quality of the soil although fertile. Old pastures, if allowed to be broken up, were valued at from £5 to £6, but such prices, of

course, could only be maintained for the first few crops; one or two crops of potatoes, one or two of wheat, and at least three of oats, would be taken in succession without manure from such lands, if delivered over to the peasantry; in short, the heart of the land would be worked out of it, to use a common phrase, and then it would be *let out*, that is left to nature to restore it: and nature in the end would restore it to its former fertility, but the process is one of time, and until completed, it is evident that such a system of tillage is neither more nor less than an encroachment upon capital.

There are no towns in the half barony of Ballymoe, neither a single large village. On the Galway side of the Suck, however, Ballymoe, an improving town, affords a market; as the town of Roscommon does on the other side of the half barony.

Although in the preceding description of the baronies, I have abstained from taking any notice of the parochial divisions, intending to reserve the subject for the section on the general ecclesiastical affairs of the county, yet it will not be inexpedient just to mention in this place, the discrepancies which appear in the enumeration of the parishes in the half barony of Ballymoe.

According to the books by which assessments on the county are regulated (*vide* p. 7 of this Survey) the half barony of Ballymoe is put down as containing four parishes, viz. 1. Oran, 2. Donamon, 3. Drumtemple, 4. Cloonegormican. In the grand county map three parishes alone are inserted, viz. 1. Oran, 2. Cloonegormican, 3. Ballynakill; and of these three Ballynakill appears a new one, whilst Donamon and Drum-

temple are omitted. In Dr. Beaufort's map, 1. Oran, 2. Cloonegormican, and 3. Drumtemple, are laid down within the limits of the county of Roscommon, whilst Donamon and Ballynakill appear on the western side of the Suck, within the county of Galway. In the Ecclesiastical Register no mention whatever is made of the parish of Cloonegormican, although its existence under that name is admitted in the three preceding authorities. These anomalies are attributable to the same parishes being known under different appellations, and Cloonegormican is recognised in the Ecclesiastical Register under that of Ardclare. No one of these parishes constitutes an individual benefice; Oran gives name to a union of five.

This place, formerly called Huaran Hichlabach, is held to be one of great antiquity. According to Mr. Archdall,* its church was founded by St. Patrick, and within it were deposited the remains of St. Cethegus, its first bishop. The old cemetery, adjacent to the high road, is still a favourite place of burial, and the reputation of its sanctity draws many pilgrims.

At a short distance from the ruins of the old church, and within the precincts of the cemetery, may be seen the remains of one of those round towers, whose original destination has furnished antiquaries with such a fertile topic for discussion, and which probably will continue involved in mystery for many a year yet to come.

The tower at Oran, about twelve feet only in height, seemed to me rather to wear the appearance of not having been ever completed, than of having

* Monasticon, p. 617.

fallen or been thrown down. The diameter of the interior is eleven feet three inches, and the walls are four feet six inches in thickness. The stones, laid in regular even courses, are extremely well cut, and fit closely. Those of the lower part consist of cellular and stalactitic limestone; whilst in the upper courses they are of a more compact texture. The quarry from which they are supposed to have been raised, is situated at a moderate distance on the slope of the hill towards the Suck. It has been said, that the stump of a round tower was standing within the last half century near the Abbey of Boyle; and at the distance of twenty miles from Oran, on the banks of the Shannon, in the King's County, may be seen the most curious remains of round towers which now exist in Ireland; not only standing insulated, as they usually do, but, one of them in connexion with and absolutely forming a component part of an ecclesiastical edifice.*

* In a little work which I published some five-and-twenty years ago, descriptive of Killarney and the surrounding country, a succinct account may be found of the different opinions which had been advanced respecting the origin of these extraordinary edifices; but although more has since been written on the subject, and researches are still going on, I am not aware that any additional light has been thrown upon the subject. That the towers were connected with the religious institutions of the people by whom they were erected, appears to me scarcely to admit of a doubt: and the great question to be resolved, is, whether they were of pagan origin, anterior to the introduction of Christianity, or erected subsequently. Supposing the former to have been the fact, then, might they in after ages have been converted to the uses of the Church; on the same principle that the heathen temples of Rome were converted into Christian churches, to wean the people gradually from their ancient worship, and still permit them to pay reverence to places which they had been accustomed to hold sacred. The skilfulness of their construction seems to militate against such high antiquity; more especially as it has been maintained, that the Irish up to

the time of Henry the Second, had no buildings of stone. Yet Giraldus Cambrensis speaks of round towers, to be seen in calm weather, beneath the waters of Lough Neagh, which, according to tradition, had overwhelmed an extensive and populous district. On the other hand, if constructed posterior to the introduction of Christianity, or according to some vague notions, during the time of the Danish invasion, it seems altogether unaccountable, that traces of similar edifices should not be frequent in the sister island. But the towers seem peculiar to Ireland: at least none which have been described as existing in other countries, are absolutely like any one in Ireland; whilst the generality of the Irish towers bear such a striking similitude to each other, as to leave no doubt of their having been erected by the same people, and probably much about the same period.

BARONY OF ATHLONE.

This barony, situated to the south of Ballintobber, occupies the entire breadth of the county, from Lough Ree on the Shannon to the River Suck. In size it ranks the third; the contents, according to the marginal note in the county map, being thus stated—

		Irish Acres.		English Acres.
Arable land	-	66,623	-	107,918
Bog	-	16,337	-	26,463
Water	-	902	-	1,461
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	-	83,862	-	135,842

The geological formation of this barony consists of limestone and limestone gravel,* the latter rising frequently into hills of considerable elevation, whilst in others the rock breaks through the surface at their summits; but in no place that I am aware of, does it form steep cliffs, or appear in remarkable masses, neither are the forms in any part of a picturesque description. The hills, for the most part, are irregularly dispersed, and, like others in Roscommon, separated in many instances by bogs and flat alluvial bottoms;

* In the Parochial Survey of Fuerty, in Mr. Mason's Collection, vol. i. p. 404, mention is made of a grit stone quarry at Crevernully, in that parish, of such peculiar solidity and hardness, as to have been successfully applied in forming grooves for the axle of the great water wheel of the flour mill at Castle Coote; and found to be more durable than metal. This, in all probability, is a part of the sandstone formation, which lies below the limestone, and which probably may yet be discovered in other parts of the barony.

but occasionally they form ridges to the extent of one or two miles, rarely more; and these have rather a tendency to a north-west and south-east direction, though some run in a contrary course, as for example, in the high lands to the west of Brideswell.

It may be observed, however, that the clusters of hills, which in the northern parts of the barony extend entirely across the country, from shore to shore, divide at a short distance to the south of the parallel of Mount Talbot, into two distinct though irregular groups, the one stretching to the south along the course of the Shannon, and the other along the Suck; not indeed in immediate connexion with the water, but separated from it by bogs or low alluvial grounds. These elongated groups are also separated from each other by bogs and marshy flats, which, extending in a north and south direction through the central parts of the barony, cut off the connexion between the opposite sides of the county, for several miles, with the exception of one road of communication between Ballinasloe and Athlone.

The highest lands appear to lie in the group of hills on the side towards the Suck. Here the limestone in many places breaks through the surface, in such continuous masses, as to give a decided colouring to the hills, which appear rather grey than green; but the limestone, nevertheless, rarely spreads far without patches of fine grass springing up in the intervals between it; and these afford a wholesome nutritious food for sheep, which are fed in abundance through these hills: indeed it would be scarcely practicable to apply the soil to any other purpose. The highest and the wildest part of this district lies to the

southward of Mount Talbot; and the hills onwards nearly the whole way to Ballinasloe, are rough and stony. The roads are ill formed and ill maintained, the ascents and descents being, in many places, very steep, and of considerable length. Ragged hawthorn hedges occasionally mark the bounds of property: but there are scarcely any trees, and the soil appears unfavourable to their growth. A plantation of larch, of some fifteen years' growth or more, facing to the west, near what was once a shooting lodge, but now a police station on the road to Ballinasloe, bore a most unhealthy aspect, the stems and branches being both thickly coated with yellow lichens, and every tree stunted.

The hills on the opposite side of the barony, towards the Shannon, are less elevated, less broken, consisting rather of immense accumulations of limestone gravel, than of rock, but having on their surface good soil in many parts to a moderate depth: nevertheless, the limestone rock also appears in several places above the surface, and is rarely deficient to any considerable distance for the purposes of building or calcination.

The most extensive bogs lie in the vicinity of the town of Athlone and along the shores of the Suck; but turbaries sufficient for the supply of fuel are dispersed very generally over the surface, though in a few instances they do not intervene for three or four miles together: places at such a distance from a bog are considered as inconveniently circumstanced for fuel.

The waters of Lough Ree and of the Shannon on one side, and of the Suck on the other, from one or

other of which no part of the barony is distant more than five miles, might, at first view, appear to offer many advantages that are not enjoyed by other divisions of the county: yet, as I have already explained, little benefit is derived from them even in their immediate vicinity: and although the interior of the barony is not destitute of rivers, loughs, and turloughs, yet on the whole, it is more arid than the other districts of Roscommon, and some few parts absolutely suffer from a deficiency of water.

The Granough, which is the largest river peculiar to the barony, from its sources in the parish of Cam to its union with the Shannon below Athlone, scarcely exceeds a course of eight or ten miles. The other streams are all considerably shorter. The range of hills on the side of the barony next to the Suck, separate its waters into opposite channels, those on the east finding their way into the Shannon, whilst on the west they have merely a short run into the Suck. Several of the interior streams on each side of the barony, are, however, applicable to the service of small mills for home use; whilst the Shannon and the Suck afford powerful and inexhaustible supplies of water for the larger merchant mills.

Some of the loughs and turloughs of the barony of Athlone are situated at a greater elevation in the hills, than are usual in the county of Roscommon; but although some are not absolutely devoid of pleasing natural features, and with planting might become objects of interest in the landscape, I am unable to particularize any one as deserving of notice in its present state. The largest lough called Funcheon, or more commonly Ballagh, nearly in the centre of the

barony, and about two miles long, contains some islands, with a large promontory, which is occasionally surrounded by water. To the east, this lough is bounded by hills; but the shores elsewhere are flat and marshy. Were the hills or even the flats adorned with woods, doubtless the lake would assume a very different aspect; but at present a more bleak or uninviting prospect than what the surrounding country exhibits, can scarcely be imagined. Lysterfield, at the distance of half a mile or thereabouts to the west, alone excepted, where groves as usual surround the house, and which, in a country so devoid of trees, possess more than ordinary value in the landscape.

Lough Funcheon receives two small streams from the north-west, but discharges none; the surplus waters are supposed to pass off into subterranean channels, through swallow holes at its southern extremity.

Although in the barony of Athlone no bullock pastures exist, equal in celebrity to those of the plains of Boyle, and of the districts of Tulsk and Kilcorkey, yet this circumstance is attributable less to the quality of the land, than to the inferior range and extent of the continuous feeding grounds. The sheep walks of the barony are of a very superior description, as indeed Arthur Young remarked, more than half a century ago. "The best sheep grounds in Roscommon" says Mr. Wakefield, "are on a limestone rock: the soil is very thin, and they will bear any degree of wet weather through the summer."

Tillage in this barony, as in other parts of Roscommon, is on the increase, notwithstanding the reduction in the price of produce since the peace; but

more so in proportion on the lesser than on the larger holdings: and although numerous instances might be cited, where the resident gentlemen have set the example of an improved system, much of the tillage husbandry is of the very rudest description. Amongst the hills on the side towards the Suck, I saw the harvest of considerable fields borne home on the backs of men, women, and children, in bundles proportioned to their respective strength; the carriers barefooted.

As the soil is more than usually diversified, from deep and fertile loams to the thinnest covering on rocks of limestone; from rich alluvial depositions in the valleys, to meagre and hungry gravel on the hills; so where such great variety obtains in the intrinsic value of the land, a material difference in the rate of rents follows as a natural consequence; but here, as in other parts of the county, it appeared to me, that the richest lands did not by any means command a proportionate price above those of a poorer description. Twenty and thirty shillings per acre for sound tillage land were usual prices, but the average of the barony must be far below this. I saw one farm of twenty-eight acres, and not absolutely deficient in tillage ground, which had been latterly let in bulk for £9 per annum; and some of the stony and light hungry ground would not be worth so much. Near Athlone, town parks producing good herbage bring £4 and £5 per acre, and I saw some small divisions of lands at a still higher rate, and which appeared to be better worth the rent than other lands let for as many shillings as these brought pounds.

Farms of one, two, and three hundred acres are not rare; but very minute divisions of land, more espe-

cially near towns and villages, are also common. In proportion to the minuteness of the subdivisions the condition of the people appears to become worse. In the vicinity of Athlone, hovels are to be seen of as wretched a description as could be found in any part of the country: though upon the whole, improvement is afloat, and the generality of the new cabins, in every part of the barony, are decidedly superior to those built by the last generation.

In certain parts of this barony, the hay harvest is more than usually late. On the 20th of September, in the central districts, I found the mowers still at work in the upland meadows. The lateness is, in some measure, to be accounted for by the meadows not being shut up until the spring is considerably advanced, sometimes not until April, and I have heard even of May day having been the period. If the incipient flowering stems are cut off by cattle in the spring, of course it will be late in the season before others are formed and brought to maturity.

I had the curiosity to examine the grasses of some of these late meadows, and found the following to predominate, and nearly in the order in which I have set them down:

Cynosurus cristatus—*crested dogtail*.

Anthoxanthum odoratum—*sweet scented vernal grass*, ripe, but not past its prime.

Dactylis glomerata—*rough cocksfoot*, barely ripe.

Holcus mollis—*soft meadow grass*, not yet ripe.

Mixed through these, but of short growth, appeared red clover, still fresh in blossom; various other grasses were to be found interspersed with these, but what I have mentioned were the most abundant.

Although the barony of Athlone contains considerable tracts of open country, bare of trees, yet gentlemen's seats are interspersed through it, around which, as usual, groves and plantations afford shelter, and embellish the scenery. None of these are upon so extensive a scale as some in the baronies which have been already reviewed; yet substantial and handsome residences are not wanting. Amongst them, Mount Talbot, upon the river Suck, might be mentioned as perhaps holding one of the first places: of late years the house has been enlarged and castellated, under the direction of Mr. Richards, of Roscommon, and the effect which has been produced to the front is very pleasing. The towers are square and massive; and diversified, without being broken, as so often seen, into those minute and insignificant parts which are utterly destructive of grandeur and dignity. An arcade, extending from one side of the house, or rather castle, with open arches, through which a view is discovered of the garden and pleasure grounds in the distance, has a happy effect. The building stands upon an elevated bank over the Suck, with a slope in front shelving down to the water, but so much covered with trees as to impede the view; neither is the house visible at a distance, owing to the woods which surround it, although, if opened, it could not fail of affording a fine feature in the landscape. Trees grow with great luxuriance here, and the ilex was amongst the most flourishing in the plantation, though no one had yet attained a large growth. Immediately below the house, the Suck is traversed by a rather lofty bridge of twelve arches, across a water way of about eighty yards.

A small village extends down to the bridge, along the slope on the Roscommon side, the houses of which, though good, are by no means so well built or so pleasing as some that are scattered along the road side on the upper bank. I was informed, that the wishes of the proprietor rather militated against the increase of this place, so near his residence, otherwise, probably, a town would soon arise. The fine trees and hedges bordering upon the road, the breadth and excellence of the road itself, and the neat cottages scattered along it, render the approach to Mount Talbot peculiarly agreeable, from whatever side the traveller arrives, for its improved aspect affords a striking contrast to the bareness and openess of the districts in its neighbourhood.

The vicinity of Athleague, however, and more especially Castle Strange, at the distance of a few miles higher up the river, abound with plantations; and the windings of the Suck under the hills, are, in many parts, extremely beautiful.

Along the range of hills which border upon Lough Ree, at the opposite side of the barony, delightful positions also abound, commanding extensive views of the lake. These hills, more rounded along their summits than the heights towards the Suck, are not in themselves picturesque; but in the valleys or hollows between them, extending down to the heads of the bays and inlets with which the shores of the lake abound, soft and sequestered scenes occasionally intervene, which, under the guidance of taste, might be converted each into a little paradise, if peace, and tranquillity, and security, should ever bless the land.

Although the barony of Athlone contains nume-

rous little hamlets and scattered habitations, yet, if the town from which it derives its name, the principal one indeed in the county, be excepted, it has no place of any note, nothing that can be considered beyond a village, and amongst these not one that can be called large.

Athleague, the most considerable place on the side next the Suck, contains—

1 house of 3 stories, slated.

2 ditto 2 ditto ditto.

12 ditto 2 thatched.

25 cabins do.

The houses commence at the end of the long winding causeway bridge, already mentioned under the head of the river Suck,* extending downwards along the flat on the right bank of the river, whence a cross street or road ascends a hill, in rather a rapid course. Near the river stand some large insulated mills, with undershot wheels, worked by a branch of the stream, turned off for the purpose a little way above the bridge. Their exterior appearance, though employed, was that of decay: and some malt houses at the commencement of the town, which, I was informed, had been once connected with the mills, and in active operation, were now totally abandoned and devoted to other purposes. The appearance of the place was quite dead; no shops, no movement. A small inn, bearing rather a neater aspect than what is commonly seen in such places, tempted me to stop, but the whole place did not afford a feed of oats for my horse.† The

* Page 97.

† Oats were scarce throughout Roscommon, in the summer of the year 1830.

woman of the house, of unusually good address, said she had come hither from the town of Roscommon; and regretted the change, since there was no business stirring on the road.

Several neat small houses, surrounded with trees, stand on the banks of the Suck, near Athleague.

Farther to the north upon the Suck, at Castlecoote, flour mills had been erected formerly by Archdeacon Caulfield, which were considered to produce some of the best wheaten flour in the kingdom. Probably much of their reputation might have depended upon using the fine white wheat, for which the county of Galway has been celebrated.

Castlecoote and Fuerty are small villages. I heard of a nursery at the former place, where forest and fruit trees were on sale, but did not see it.

These are the only places worth mentioning on the western side of the barony.

In the central parts are the small villages of Brideswell and Milton Pass; and on the eastern side, towards the north, at a short distance from Lough Ree, Knockcroghery.

Knockcroghery, distant from the town of Roscommon about five miles to the south-east, stands on the slope and at the top of a hill. The approach to the village across a small stream, which falls into Galy Bay on Lough Ree, about a mile distant, is rather pleasing, and the street up the hill is spacious and airy. On the stream stood a mill with adjacent stores, but they were in a neglected state, and bore an appearance of decay. With this exception, however, the village of Knockcroghery is prosperous, owing to its little manufactory of tobacco pipes, which gives

employment and brings in a moderate income to several families.

The village contains—

- 1 house of 3 stories, slated.
- 2 ditto of 2 stories, thatched.
- 2 ditto ditto, in a state of decay, and about two score thatched cabins.

The best houses are situated at the top of the street near the fair green, which occupies the crest of the hill. Here one of the most considerable fairs in this part of the county is held on the 25th of October, annually.

Further on, a new church, standing on an eminence, and school-houses, had been erected, which contributed very materially to the improved appearance of the place.

The rooms were not yet ready for the reception of the children when I visited the place, and in the meantime they assembled for their lessons in the nave of the church. The school was one of those connected with the Capel-street Association, and appeared to be extremely well-conducted, the teachers diligent, and the children clean and well mannered. Could the same system be extended without exciting religious animosity; or rather, could those of a different religion be induced to adopt for the education of the children of their own people, a system combining attention to manners, and neatness of dress and person, with moral and lettered education, the effect could not fail to be seen in the altered and improved appearance of the rising generation. But many are the difficulties to be overcome, before general education pro-

mises to be established on a perfectly satisfactory system.

The origin of the manufacture of tobacco pipes, which has been established for a considerable time in this village, is attributed to the accidental settlement of a man acquainted with the process, from whom others gradually learned the art and mystery. It is somewhat remarkable, that the village in itself affords nothing peculiarly favourable to the manufacture; the clay not being found nearer than two miles, and fuel not being so cheap as in several other parts of the country: so that whatever benefit the village has derived from its pipes, has been won solely by the skill and industry of the inhabitants. Yet they have been far from doing all that might have been done under existing circumstances, and the want of enterprise in improving the manufacture is obvious at the first glance. It has been checked and thwarted also, even in its present humble state, by the same spirit of combination, the same jealousies, which have been found so prejudicial to manufacturing interests in other places, where the people have had the character of being more civilized and more enlightened. For example, women will not be allowed to work at all, excepting in some very slight and unimportant parts of the process. I attempted to use a few words in argument, and explained not only how many, but how many very nicely dressed women I had myself seen employed in different branches of the manufacture in Holland, and the low countries, where such superior pipes are made; but the master's son warned me, that it was useless to speak upon the subject, and

that no choice was left, but to accede to the terms of their journeymen, or to abandon their kilns.

The whole manufactory of Knockcroghery tobacco pipes is confined to about eight kilns, which belong to a somewhat smaller number of masters, and occupy about twenty-four journeymen moulders: the average produce was stated as amounting to about five hundred groce per week; but occasionally they turned out a thousand groce per week, and this latter quantity was no more than the average weekly produce some years ago. The price at present is only one shilling per groce of twelve dozen, formerly it used to be half a crown; but if £25 per week, the produce of five hundred groce at a shilling, were regularly brought into the village, it can very readily be conceived, that the few families who are engaged in the business must be placed comparatively at their ease; and this seems to be confirmed by the general appearance of the interior of the houses and the clothing of the people, although neatness forms no feature in the domestic arrangements, and not one of the tenements exceeds a thatched cabin: but these cabins are elongated beyond the usual size, and contain three or four ground apartments.

The pipes are of the most humble description, short in the stem and small in the bole; yet in quality, the ware seems to be as tough and as white as that of the pipes of superior size and workmanship from other countries. In the larger towns even of the county of Roscommon, they are held in low estimation; and their chief consumption is for wakes, where the low price, and the small quantity of tobacco required to fill them, insure them a preference. They

are commonly packed in small creats, and purchased by pedlars who hawk them through the country.

I had procured a guide to conduct me to the place where the clay is raised, near Kellymount; but such torrents of rain began to fall, that I was obliged to abandon the project. The accounts given me by the potters all agreed in representing the clay as found in irregular beds, at different depths from the surface, resting upon limestone gravel, containing large pebbles frequently, and occasionally fragments of sandstone; below the limestone gravel, was usually found stiff yellow clay. When the bed of pipe clay was exhausted, searches were made for a new one, by throwing over the superincumbent earth into the former hole. Each potter paid the proprietor or occupant of the soil twenty shillings per annum for the liberty of taking clay for his own individual use.

After having been examined and washed, the clay is made up into small cakes or loaves by hand, and put to dry, in a sort of stove, or in a warm place near the kitchen fire: and when arrived at a proper state of desiccation, these are broken down to fine powder and passed through a sieve; after which the clay is tempered with water and prepared for use.

The moulder having placed a heap of the clay before him, draws off a sufficient quantity for one pipe at a time, and then having one such piece in each hand, rolls them with a simultaneous movement on a board, in order to form the rudiments of the heads and stems. The pieces thus rudely shaped, are laid apart in separate heaps of half a dozen each, and when a sufficient number is prepared, he begins the operation of passing a wire through the stems, and

placing the rough formed pipe into the mould. It must be evident, that the operation of drawing the clay and rolling it into its first rude shape, if performed by the moulder, is so much time mispent, since it might be executed just as well by women or children: in the manufactories I visited in Holland, each moulder had his boys beside him, and children of nine or ten years old were quite competent to the work.

The moulds, being filled, are placed edgewise in a sort of long vice, made of wood lined with iron, the screw of which, with very wide threads, constructed so as to bring the sides of the vice rapidly together, is turned by means of a handle like that of an augur: at first it can be readily twirled round, and the necessary force for pressure is only required at the last turn. When the mould has received the proper compression, a punch is let down, which, by a very simple contrivance, exactly hits the bole part of the mould, placed upwards to receive it: and then by the power of a lever acting upon it, the clay is forced out of the bole, and the cavity of the pipe made in an instant. The operation of filling, pressing, and discharging the mould, was performed in my presence, at the rate of five times in two minutes: and a moulder who is moderately steady to his work, can turn out from seven to eight groce in a day, during the ordinary hours of working; but more might be done with exertion.

After being moulded, the pipes are passed in the usual process through the hands of finishers, and finally are packed into the burning kilns, which hold about 140 groce each.

The size and the mean and ill-formed shape of the

pipes, are consequent, in the first instance, upon the construction of the moulds: and yet the defects seemed to rest not nearly so much on the incapacity of the makers of these moulds, although they are the work of the smiths of the country, as upon the want of enterprize in the potters, in not ordering moulds which would produce pipes of the full size and shape of those which command a preference in the shops of the towns. The moulds, and all the machinery, are wrought by the country smiths with very great precision: they use iron and steel for the purpose; but if it were necessary to have brass castings, either for patterns on the bores, or to give a graceful bend to the stem, plenty of artificers might be found within the limits of the county to execute them, in a manner perfectly satisfactory. The iron moulds cost about 25s. each pair: they last for several years, but ultimately become worn and imperfect: the vice screws last only for about two years without repairs.

During the speculative period of 1825, and the formation of joint stock companies, persons found their way to Knockcroghery, to examine into the circumstances of the place, and ascertain whether there might be sufficient inducements for establishing a manufactory on a larger and better system: but after several days spent in inquiries and inspection, the project was entirely abandoned.

I must not leave *Knockcroghery* without informing my readers, that the pronunciation of the name, in the mouths of the natives, is far from being attended with those uncouth sounds, which the power of the letters would imply, a circumstance most unusual in Irish

utterance ; in fact, the word is pronounced as if neither the primal k, nor the ck, nor the g, existed.*

Brideswell is a small village scattered along the borders of a level green ; on the farther side of which stands an old building, with the well from which the place takes its name. Heretofore it used to be remarkable for pilgrimages to the holy waters, and the annual *pattern* or festival of the saint patroness, was the most frequented one at this side of the county, and only rivalled by that at the holy well of St. Ronan, in the north, near the mountains of Lough Allen. Tents and booths, to the utmost extent which the village green could accommodate, were erected for carousal, and during several days and nights together, drinking and dancing went on merrily, the devotees being alike regardless of the glare of day or the shades of night. The idleness, dissipation, and profligacy, occasioned by these meetings, and the baneful effects which followed as a necessary consequence, and were felt through an extended district, at last induced the Roman Catholic clergy, jealous more especially of the character and moral conduct of their flocks, as contrasted with the demeanour inculcated in the lessons of the new Protestant teachers, to forbid altogether

* I hope this information may not damp the pleasure of those who have read (and who has not?) or of the many who may hereafter read the admirable tale of *Ennui* by Miss Edgeworth ; neither check the almost irresistible smile which the repetition from the lips of the uninitiated, of the euphonical cognomen of her celebrated horse is calculated to excite. " Its he that will go with the speed of light, plaze your Honour. Sure is not he *Knockecroghery*? And didn't I give fifteen guineas for him, barring the luck penny at the fair of *Knockecroghery*, and he rising four year old at the time."—*Ennui*, p. 63, original edition.

these assemblages on the saint's day ; and their mandates had been implicitly obeyed during the two years which preceded my visit. Nothing can more decidedly shew the great influence of the priesthood, than the ready compliance of the people with their orders to abandon festivities, which, during a long series of years, had been hailed both by old and young as a source of annual delight and enjoyment. Neither was the mere loss of pleasure the only one to be taken into account, for the owners of the tents and booths made considerable gains ; by opening their houses, also, the inhabitants of the village very commonly received more money than sufficed to discharge the annual rent. I heard several persons on the spot lament the poverty to which they had been reduced by the change ; yet there did not appear to be the most remote disposition to revive the festival, in opposition to the injunctions which had been promulgated from the altars.

The old building on the far side of the village green, next the well, appeared, from without, to be nothing more than an abandoned dwelling house ; its small square windows being without glass, and open to the air : but on entering a passage, whence an arched door at the gable end leads into the building, the large single apartment which it contained seemed rather to have been designed for religious worship ; and a tabular mass of stone at the end was evidently intended for being dressed up on occasion as an altar. When I saw the place, however, it was quite bare and empty, and the stone walls in their original rude state.

Facing the entrance of this building, at the oppo-

site side of the passage, another door way leads to an enclosure, which was constructed for a bath; it is open to the air above, but bounded by walls of a height amply sufficient to exclude the view from without: the length is about twenty-five feet. The water, which is beautifully clear, bubbles up in copious supply from various parts of the floor, and finds egress through breaches in the foundations of the walls. Whether this bath was ever much deeper, or whether the floor, now strewed with coarse rough stones, was originally smooth or flagged, are mere matters for conjecture: if the lower apertures were closed, probably the water might now be retained to the depth of some feet. On the outer side, next the village, a reservoir receives the water from the bath, affording an abundant supply for the use of the inhabitants.*

Over the door way, leading into the bath enclosure, appears a coat of arms neatly carved on stone, and in

* On entering the village of Brideswell from the north, totally unaware of what I was to meet there, but judging from the name, that it probably contained a holy well or remarkable spring, I was surprized, on being informed by some masons, at work at one of the first houses I came to, that there was no remarkable well whatever at the place. I had not advanced many paces, however, before I was convinced by the numerous tubs and vessels overflowing with the finest water, and all coming from the same quarter, that there must be some mistake, and the source was discovered without difficulty. I cannot account for this circumstance; for in general, indeed it might be said almost invariably, the people are well informed as to all subjects of curiosity and interest in their country, and are civil and communicative to strangers. There was obviously a mistake; and I only mention the circumstance, to show how travellers may sometimes be misinformed, notwithstanding their having visited places and made inquiries.

tolerable preservation, with the following inscription: "built by the Right Honourable Sir Randall Mac Donnell, first Earl of Antrim, 1625."

The arms are quarterly; first, a lion rampant; second, a cross crosslet held by a hand; third, a lymphad or galley; fourth, a dolphin nayant. The minutiae of heraldic distinctions have not been nicely preserved, otherwise the arms are the same as at present borne by the family. Sir Randall Mac Donnell was descended from the Lords of the Isles, and created Earl of Antrim in December, 1620.

It was not without good and sufficient cause that the bath was erected, and tradition assigns it to a vow made by the Earl, during a period of mortification, when he was without progeny to inherit his newly acquired honours. The waters of St. Bride had been recommended for his pious lady, and their efficacy was established beyond all suspicion; for in due time, after bathing and drinking under the guidance of the holy servants who administered at the well, the Countess was found to be in that happy state which ladies love, who wish to please their lords. The springs of St. Bride are reputed not to have lost, during the lapse of ages, any of their pristine efficacy; yet their virtue probably does not exceed that of other baths and watering places, celebrated for the marvellous cures which have been operated in cases long considered hopeless.

The building is shaded on the side next the Green by one or two remarkably fine old trees, which I am disposed to set down as amongst the very oldest which exist in the county.

TOWN OF ATHLONE.

The position of the town upon opposite banks of the river, connected by a bridge of the time of Queen Elizabeth, has already been briefly described in the section upon the Shannon, in a preceding part of this Survey.* The name is supposed to imply the *ford of the moon*. *Ath*, in the Irish language signifying ford, and *luan* the moon. The Rev. Dr. Streaton† states, that the place is still commonly called by the Irish, *Blahluin*, a corrupt abbreviation of *Baile*, a town, *ath* and *luan*; whence he infers, that the town was dedicated to the moon in the ages of paganism; and this has been in some measure confirmed by the discovery, only a few years ago, of several lunettes and crescents of gold, in a bog not far from the town, which for want of a purchaser of antiquarian taste, had been sold to a jeweller in Dublin, for a sum of £858. Ireland formerly abounded in gold.

The English erected a powerful castle here to command the ford, as early as the reign of King John; and the continual efforts afterwards made to strengthen the works, according to the existing state of the science of defence, even up to our own days, seems to have established the importance of the place, in a military point of view, beyond all doubt. Standing on the direct road between Dublin and Galway, it protects the passage of the Shannon, at the only place where it can be forded in a distance of thirty

* Page 154.

† Author of the Parochial Survey of St. Peter's, Athlone, published in Mr. Mason's ii. vol. p. 44.

Irish miles. Its central position, moreover, marks it out as a fit depot for arms and ammunition; and heavy stores can be transmitted by water, not only along the river, north and south, but by the canals which communicate with Dublin.

After the foundation of the Castle, walls, in process of time, were thrown round each division of the town, on the land side; and these appear either to have been considerably augmented and repaired, or to have been principally built in the reign of Elizabeth, along with the bridge, since her arms and initials carved in relief in stone may be seen over several of the old gateways, and on various parts of the walls, both at the inner and outer side. The Earl of Essex, according to tradition, frequently lodged in the castle during his sojourn in Ireland, and hence, several of the letters were dated which he addressed to the Queen.

The oldest remnant of the military works of past ages, appears to be a tower on the Connaught side, in form of a decagon, constructed probably for the *keep* of the castle, which had been built by King John, on land belonging to St. Peter's Abbey; and for which compensation was granted. The many disasters to which this tower has been exposed, and the repeated reparations it has undergone, have, in a great measure, destroyed the aspect of antiquity; and of late years it has been coated with pebble dashing and whitened; yet the peculiarity of its shape and its position, announce that it stands probably on the original foundation, whilst its massive walls afford internal evidence of their consisting in great part of the primary edifice. "It is built," says Dr. Streat, "on a high rising ground, like to, though higher

and wider than a *Danish* fort or moat, which seems to have been originally formed for the purpose." A similar description had been given of it, long before Dr. Streat's account was published. Yet its site differs materially from a moat, in not being equally or evenly insulated, on every side; in fact, the mound or platform on which the castle stands is rather to be considered as a spur or offset from the hill, at present occupied by the upper part of the town, which, consisting principally of limestone gravel, might have been readily shaped to receive the building. On the lower side, towards the flat next the bridge, the mound is sustained by a stupendous wall, whilst on the side towards the hill, the castle is overlooked by the houses in its vicinity.

The great tower stands at present insulated in the court or area of the castle, as it probably did, formerly, in its capacity of a keep; and, indeed, it might still answer for a retreat in case of attack or surprise: but its ordinary purpose is that of a barrack, for the lodgment of the troops. On the verge of the side next the lower town, the platform is occupied by dwellings for the officers of the castle, the walls of which, rising above those which sustain the mound, add to their imposing appearance on the outer side. In other parts, the platform is surrounded with modern works mounted with cannon, calculated not only to command the approaches from the Connaught side, but to sweep the bridge itself. The place still retains the name of castle, and it constitutes an important *tête de pont*. The entrance is on the side next the river, from the slope of the street which winds up the hill, from the foot of the bridge to the upper town; and the passage

to the summit is protected by various barricadoes with loop holes; and finally, near the platform, by a fosse with a drawbridge, which is amongst the last of the works, and but recently executed. Strong circular towers, mounted with cannon, at irregular intervals in the outer walls, add to the formidable appearance of the place; of these, some probably stand on the original foundations of the castle, but they have lost their look of antiquity by the reparations which have been made with fresh blue limestone, &c.

The account of the attacks upon Athlone, in the years 1690-1, as related by Story, affords such a lively picture of its military position and its general localities, that as the best means of conveying an idea of the nature of the place, I have been tempted to offer a few abridged extracts from his volume:

“Immediately after the battle of the Boyne, Lieutenant General Douglas was sent against Athlone, which held out in favour of James, under the command of Colonel Richard Grace, an experienced officer, who had served his master for many years whilst Duke of York, and on whose skill and fidelity every reliance was to be placed. His garrison consisted of three regiments of foot, and he had besides, in and around the town, nine troops of dragoons and two of horse. Doubtful, however, of being able with this complement of men effectually to defend all the works, he came to the resolution, as soon as he was fully assured of the premeditated attack, to abandon and destroy the town on the eastern or Leinster side of the river, the part usually known by the name of the English town. The houses were accordingly set on fire. To strengthen the position on the Connaught side, Grace ordered some of the arches of the stone bridge, erected in the reign of Elizabeth, to be thrown down; and redoubts and breast-works

were raised on the elevated grounds above the castle, and also near the river.

“ Douglas took with him ten regiments of infantry, three regiments of horse, two regiments of dragoons, accompanied by twelve field pieces and two small mortars. He erected his batteries on the Leinster side of the river; but after playing upon the castle for eight days, found he could make no impression on the place, and withdrew his forces. In his dispatch to the Earl of Portland, he writes: ‘ I have done my best endeavours at Athlone, but all my powder is shot off except three barrels, and it has become absolutely necessary to retire. This place, I do assure your Lordship, *is of the greatest importance of any in Ireland.* I intend to march to-morrow, lest my stay here without powder for my cannon, might occasion misfortune to my train.’* ”

“ It was towards midsummer of the following year, 1691, that the main division of William’s army, under De Ginckell, sat down before Athlone, and he had to begin by first carrying the English town, that is, the town on the Westmeath or Leinster side; for the Irish, on the retreat of Douglas, had resumed possession of the works, which had not been destroyed along with the town, and these moreover, prior to the arrival of De Ginckell, had been considerably strengthened. Douglas had been reproached for not having destroyed the works of the English town when the place was in his hands, the preceding year; but, in fact, he had neither means nor time to accomplish the purpose.

“ With the powerful heavy train which De Ginckle

* Leland stigmatizes this resolution of the General as inglorious. But the account of the siege of the place, in the subsequent year, serves to show, that the retreat of Douglas was not without just reason; and whoever has read with attention the history of some events in the last Peninsular war, may learn how little glory is to be obtained from persevering in attacks upon strong castles, without heavier guns than field pieces.

brought with him, breaches were made in the course of two days in the walls of the English town, and the besiegers entered ; but the Irish did not retire to the bridge without fighting, and the killed and wounded were numerous on both sides. Many were forced into the river.

“ June 20. The same evening twelve guns were brought within the walls ; and during the following day a battery for five twenty-four pounders, and a floor for six mortars, were begun near the foot of the bridge.

“ June 22. At six in the morning the batteries began to play on the north-east side of the castle, (on the Connaught shore,) where it was weakest, and by seven in the evening a large breach appeared in the walls.

“ June 23. The guns and mortars continued firing all night, and with such success, that by five in the morning, the whole side of the castle was beaten down, and the Irish had to make a hole in the walls on the West side to pass in and out ; though in a day or two, they had no business there at all.

“ In the evening, tin boats, floats, and other materials, were brought to the aid of the besiegers, with two more regiments.

“ A prisoner was brought in, who was the only man out of sixty-four who escaped with life from a mill on the bridge, which had been fired by our grenades.

“ June 24. Three new batteries were raised ; one of them outside the walls opposite a battery erected by the enemy, and the other two within the walls, the one above, the other below the bridge.

“ We began now to contrive methods of passing the river, and a lieutenant of horse was commanded with a party to a ford towards Lanesborough, where the General was informed there might be an easy and undiscovered passage for most of our army, whilst our cannon amused the enemy at the town. This party went, and found the pass according to information ; but though positively ordered to return as soon as the river had

been passed, yet such are the powerful charms of black cattle to some sorts of people, that the lieutenant espying a prey at some distance, must needs be a scampering after them, by which means our design was discovered, and the enemy immediately provided against it, by throwing up strong walls at the other side.

“ The same night, two batteries were raised by the enemy above the castle, the one near the river, the other on a rising ground at a greater distance, mounting in all seven six pounders. These fired into the English town amongst the old walls, where the soldiers lodged, but did little damage: but some of our regiments which were encamped near the river, were obliged to withdraw to a greater distance.

“ Our battery of six twenty-four pounders, below the bridge, played on the enemy's breast-works on the other side, and ruined most of the houses, so that few were left standing. The enemy were forced to quit most of their trenches, none appearing but a few behind the castle.

“ June 26. Spent in firing from seven batteries upon the enemy's works, where a great many were killed in endeavouring to repair them.

“ Thirty waggons, laden with powder, came to us; and that night we got possession of all the bridges, except one arch on the Connaught side which had been broken down.

“ We repair another broken arch in our possession; all night our guns and mortars play most furiously. For the design of passing the river at the ford * being frustrate, the General and the other great officers, resolve to try what can be done in forcing our way through Athlone itself: and therefore, we labour hard to gain the bridge; but what we got here was inch by inch, as it were, the enemy sticking very close to it, though great numbers of them were slain by our guns, and this service cost us great store of ammunition.

* The ford at Lanesborough.

“ June 27. This afternoon one hundred cars came from Dublin to the camp, laden with cannon balls, and all that day our guns and mortars fired without intermission. We also raised a battery of five guns in the meadow below the town, to stop the way the enemy had on that side of coming into the town. In the evening, our men burned the breast-works the enemy had on their side of the broken arch, with throwing their granadoes: for most of these being made of fascines, and the weather being hot, they soon dried and easily took fire. That night we wrought very hard on the last arch in the enemy's possession.

“ June 28, Sunday. By the morning, our beams were laid over the broken arch, and partly planked: which the enemy perceiving, they detached a serjeant and ten men out of Brigadier Maxwell's regiment, being all bold and daring Scots: these were all in armour, and came over their own works with the design to ruin our's; but were all of them slain. Yet this did not discourage as many more from setting about the same piece of service, and they effected it by throwing down our planks and beams, maugre all our firing and skill, though they all lost their lives as testimonies of their valour, except two who escaped amongst all the fire and smoke. This made us resolve to carry on our work by a close gallery on the bridge, which was done. But all the last night and that morning, the enemy were hard at work, in repairing some old and making new trenches in the meadow opposite to our new battery. Our guns playing very briskly, especially at a place called *Connaught tower*, which stood on the north side of the castle, and was so solid, that it took more time to bring down * than any one part of the castle.

“ In the afternoon, a council of war, wherein it was con-

* By bringing down, is here to be understood, probably merely bringing down a part of the wall.

cluded, that next morning we should attempt passing the Shannon. One party to go over the bridge, a second to pass upon floats and pontoons, a third to go over the ford *below* the bridge, where the horse were also to pass and second the foot. Accordingly, at night, orders were given for all to be in readiness by six o'clock the next morning.

“ June 29. Our men were ready, and marched to the town wall, where they stood at their arms: but before the boats could be drawn into the town, it was ten o'clock, and all the morning we observed great bodies of the enemy march into the Irish town, the Irish being assured of our design by some deserters. Whilst preparations were making on both sides, the grenadiers of both parties that defended the breast-works on the bridge, were throwing *hand granadoes* at each other. The enemy's granadoes set fire to our fascines that lay close on the broken arch, where our gallery was, which suddenly flamed so violently, that our men could not endure the fire and smoke. By this time it was past twelve o'clock, and the generals finding the attack upon the town that way like to cost so many lives, they deferred it until new measures were consulted on; all that afternoon our guns continued firing.

“ June 30. Our cannon continued to play without ceasing; and in the *afternoon* another council of war held, wherein the difficulties of staying any longer were represented, all the forage for many miles round being consumed; on the other hand, by removing, a way would be left open for the enemy even to Dublin itself; and again, to make an attack upon the town, and not to succeed, would be of more fatal consequence. However, the Duke of Wirtemberg, and the Major Generals Mackey, Talmash, Ruvigny, and Tetteau, urged, that no brave action could be attempted without hazard; and considering the goodness of our own men and the faintness of the enemy, in all great attacks that had been made upon them, they stood up for the probability of the attempt, proffering themselves to be the first that should endeavour to force

the enemy's works in their own persons, (particularly General Talmash, was very forward and instrumental in promoting of it.)

“ The detachment ordered the day before, was still in readiness, and the General gave orders that they should be brought down before six o'clock, the usual time for relieving the guards, that the enemy might not suspect our design. Two officers in the interim, came over from the enemy, who swam the river, and assured the General now was the time, as the enemy thought that we were at a stand what to do, after their having destroyed our works upon the bridge, and likewise that it was impossible to attempt the passing the river in the face of all their works, and their army so near: further, that three of the most indifferent regiments in the Irish army, were only then on guard, the rest being all very secure in their camp.

“ All these circumstances concurring with the inclinations of our brave commanders, the signal for the passing the river was to be the tolling of the church bell. About 2000 detached men were now ready, and Major General Mackey to command them; Major General Talmash went a volunteer with a party of grenadiers.*

* Sir John Dalrymple, who quotes from the MS. memoirs of General M'Kay, gives a different account. He says, “ M'Kay the Scottish General, alone remonstrated; partly from the caution of age, and partly from its positiveness; for he had from the beginning declared, that the passage of the river ought to have been tried at other places, and not in the face of a town and an army.

“ In the distribution of service, the command of the passage of the river was General M'Kay's right: but De Ginckell, unwilling to trust the care of it to one who deemed its success to be impossible, gave the command to Talmash. M'Kay complained to Talmash of his want of respect in taking it; but the latter shewed he deserved the command, by begging M'Kay's permission to attend him as a volunteer.

“ M'Kay went on foot by the side of his men. Molloniere, Tettau, the Prince of Hesse, followed. Talmash (the English General) attended

“ The ford was a little to the left of the bridge, over against a bastion of the enemy's, where a breach was already made; and the river having been tried there, some days before by three Danes, who boldly ventured in the face of all the works, and the vollies which were fired at them, and that at noon day, and found passable, at six minutes past six o'clock, Captain Sandys, and two lieutenants, led the first party of sixty grenadiers, all in armour, and twenty a-breast: these were seconded by another good body, who all took the river with amazing resolution, the stream being very rapid and deep; at which time, our great and small shot began to play from our batteries and works; and the enemy fired as thick as possible for them, upon our men who were passing the river, who forced their way through *fire and smoke*, and gained the other bank. Others laid planks over the broken part of the bridge, and others laid the bridge of boats, by which our men passed over so fast, that in less than half hour we were masters of the town and all the trenches, except one beyond the town; for the Irish being amazed at the suddenness of the thing, and the resolution of our men, began to give way, and soon after made the best of their way towards their camp.

“ At our men's first entering the river, an express was sent from the town to Monsieur St. Ruth, then in the Irish camp, who, when he heard the news, said it was impossible that the English should pretend to take a town, and he so near with an army to succour it. When assured that the English were actually possessed of the place, he ordered several detachments to beat them out again; but became sensible of the oversight in not demolishing those fortifications of Athlone next his camp, for now the English had the command of

every where as a volunteer. The Duke of Wirtemberg having lost a horse, was carried over on the shoulders of his grenadiers.”—*Dalrymple's Memoirs*, Pt. 2. B. 6.

these works, still entire, and turned his own guns upon the detachment.

“ Being outdone in so considerable a matter as the loss of Athlone, St. Ruth was resolved to retrieve his loss or die ; and therefore, he used all the means possible to strengthen his army, and find out a convenient place of advantage to try his fortune in.*

“ The loss of the Irish army during the last great attack, was admitted to amount to 500 men, and during the whole siege to 1200 men.

“ Colonel Richard Grace was amongst those who fell ; and it has been supposed, that the success of the besiegers was, in a great measure, attributable to St. Ruth having withdrawn from the town the troops upon which Grace most relied, and given him in their place three very inferior regiments, on the very day of the grand attack.

“ The siege had cost us 12,000 cannon bullets, 600 bombs, nigh fifty tons of powder, and a great many tons of stone shot out of our mortars.

“ July 3. The General commanded his army to begin repairing the works of Athlone, which were strangely shattered by our cannon, and not one house left whole in all the town ; especially the castle, which was beat down to the ground on the south-east side ; as was also the tower within it.”

Story was an eye witness of much that he describes ; yet if the walls of the castle, and the great tower had been beaten to the ground, they must have been soon re-edified, since in the year 1697, the place again became a principal depot for military stores and ammunition, as may be inferred from the following

* Aughrim, a few miles beyond Ballinasloe, in the county of Galway, was the place chosen, and here St. Ruth lost his life and his army, in the battle on the 12th of the same month of July.

account of a terrific storm which occurred at that period.

A true narrative of the prodigious storm, &c. &c., that happened at Athlone, between four and five o'clock on Wednesday morning, 27th October, 1697, as it was unanimously declared before the Sovereign and Governor of the said town.*

“ First a dreadful shower of rain, as if a whole cloud had fallen in the street; which, being forced by a violent wind, made a prodigious noise as it fell; after the rain a dreadful and terrible clap of thunder; next ensued a thick darkness, that continued for the space of half a quarter of an hour; then broke out continued lightning, without ceasing, so that heaven and earth seemed to be united by the flames, which was more terrible to the guards than all that had happened before; and ended with three claps of thunder in a fiery cloud from the north, and, running violently through the air, stopped just above the castle, and at the last three claps, in the twinkling of an eye, fell a wonderful great body of fire or lightning out of the said cloud, in figure round, *directly upon the castle*; and in a moment after the magazine took fire, and blew up two hundred and sixty barrels of powder, one thousand charged hand grenades, with eight hundred and ten skains of match which were piled over them; two hundred and twenty barrels of musket and pistol balls, great quantities of pick-axes, spades, shovels, horse shoes, and nails, all which blew up into the air, and covered the whole town and neighbouring fields, by the violence of which, the town gates were all thrown

* The narrative at length may be found in Dr. Streat's Survey of St. Peter's parish, in Mason's iii. vol. I have not only abridged it, but have altered the places of some of the paragraphs, to render them more strictly consecutive.

open: the poor inhabitants who were generally asleep when this tragical scene began, awakened with the different surprising misfortunes that befel them, some finding themselves buried in the ruins of their own houses; others finding their houses in a flame over their heads; others blown from their beds into the streets; other having their brains knocked out with the fall of great stones, and breaking of hand grenades in their houses. These stupifying disasters within doors, made most of these poor amazed mortals fly to the streets for shelter!

“A terrible blast of high wind suddenly shook and stripped the guard-house, by the terror of which the guard fled to the door and windows, where, to their great astonishment, they saw the air full of different shapes of fire, ready to fall upon their heads; great quantities of match that were blown up, occasioning these different figures in the air, which being followed by great thunder claps, made a great many of the helpless inhabitants, with reason, believe it was the day of judgment: and therefore, for some time, minded nothing but their prayers, without using any other means for the preservation of themselves or neighbours. In the mean time, the lighted match falling on the thatched houses, burned to the ground the greater part of what the thunder and the blast had left standing, yet little remained of the whole town, but a few poor cottages without the gates. God’s great care of the inhabitants was very wonderful in this disaster, there being but thirty-six wounded and seven killed in the whole town.

“There are above a hundred families that have been sufferers in that great misfortune; and by the most moderate computation, their losses amount to five thousand pounds, which, considering they lately suffered by two sieges, must, undoubtedly, reduce them to great extremities, unless speedily relieved.”

At the present day, scarcely any traces remain of the walls or gates which defended the town on the

Connaught side of the river; but on the Leinster side, one of the principal entrances to the town, near the water, lies through a gateway in one of the old square towers, and the walls extend to a considerable distance in the same direction, though obscured by buildings.

The military defences of the place, now all upon the Connaught side, besides the castle, which forms a *tête de pont*, consist of advanced forts and redoubts outside of the town, to defend the main approaches along the great road from Galway by Ballinasloe. The canal made to avoid the fords of the Shannon, adds considerably also to the strength of the works, and the bridges across it are defended by palisade barricades. The bogs are a sufficient protection to the place along the river to the south, on the Connaught side.

Barracks. These occupy an elevated position on the banks of the river above the bridge. The principal entrance is from the town, at a short distance from the castle, scarcely exceeding the breadth of the street. With the large courts or squares for exercise, they are computed to cover at least fifteen English acres of ground. The two first squares are, the one about one hundred yards the other one hundred and ten yards, by a hundred and eighty; and the larger inner square about two hundred yards by a hundred and sixty. Beyond these lie the artillery quarters. The buildings do not extend entirely round the squares. Besides the barracks for the troops both horse and foot, there are detached houses within the enclosure, for the accommodation of the officers of sundry departments, and also, store-houses, ordnance yards, armoury, hospital, &c. The

armoury, which occupies a detached building, is fancifully arranged and maintained in the most exact order: arms of various kinds for about fifteen thousand men, are usually kept there. The muskets belonging to eight regiments of militia of the central counties, were ranged by themselves in one compartment, and the space which they occupied, appeared quite small compared to the whole. A master armourer and two assistants were constantly employed. It required about sixteen months to revise all the arms in regular course; and by the time the examination was ended, it was generally found expedient to begin it over again.

The military hospital is now situated on the high ground, and away from the river. Dr. Strean remarks, that the medical staff had found, heretofore, that the troops, on arriving at the barracks, were very commonly affected with diarrhœa; but, since this was not a disease which prevailed as an epidemic at Athlone, its occurrence was attributed to the situation of the general hospital, which heretofore was placed so close to the river, that, in winter, the walls were washed by the current, and, in summer, exposed to the effluvia arising from putrid animalculæ, and aquatic vegetables, when the waters receded.* The most peculiar

* As a great part of the town of Athlone is situated upon low ground, equally exposed to the influence of miasmata from the water, it might be presumed, that diarrhœa, if produced from such a source, would be prevalent there; yet Dr. Strean says it was not, and speaks of his own positive knowledge. "Fevers," he adds, "of the low nervous type, properly denominated typhus, are sometimes epidemic in the heat of summer and autumn, which seem to arise rather from the neglect of the people in not keeping the houses and persons clean, than from any other causes. Whilst

disease, latterly prevalent amongst the troops quartered here, consisted, as I was informed, of ophthalmia, arising, as it was believed, in great measure, from the glare of light reflected from the gravel and walls, without any relief. It was not uncommon to find sixty or seventy men from one regiment, affected at the same time. In other respects, the airy and elevated situation of the barracks, might be supposed favorable to general health.

The Bridge. In a former part of this Survey,* a brief description has been given of the bridge, and the inconvenience which is experienced from its narrowness, in a place of such great and continual thoroughfare, pointed out. It may be expedient to advert again to the same subject; but in the mean time, a curious monument, illustrative of the history of the bridge, must not be left unnoticed. This consists of a number of sculptured tablets of stone, of various sizes, inserted, not without due regard to symmetry, in a wall of about nine feet in breadth, rising above the parapet of the bridge, on the southern or lower side, and surmounted with a pediment, ornamented with mouldings. Some of the tablets also are decorated in the same way, and the borders richly embellished. They contain figures in relief, supposed to be portraits of persons who were engaged in the construction of

a great portion of the military in the temporary hospital died, the inhabitants of the town remained free from their contagion, and consequent mortality." He thinks the current of the river might carry off the effluvia generated to the south, below the town, whilst no wind except the south, which rarely prevails here, could convey infection to the town. This opinion seems to militate against the former one. However, the military hospital, as I have stated, has been moved to the upper ground, away from the water.

* Page 155.

the bridge; the arms of Queen Elizabeth; various devices, mottos, and inscriptions; and beneath these, in one large compartment, ranging at top with the parapet of the bridge, and reaching down to the road, an inscription in large Roman capital letters in relief. The following is a transcript of it, as far as can be effected, through the medium of ordinary types:

THIS BRIDGE OF ATHLONE FROM THE MAINE
EARTH UNDER THE WATER WAS ERECTED AND MA-
DE, THE NINTH YEAR OF THE RAIGN OF OUR MO-
ST DERE SOVERAIGNE LADIE ELIZABETH, BY THE
GRACE OF GOD QUEEN OF ENGLAND FRANCE &
IRELAND DEFENDER OF THE FAITH ETC. BY THE DEVICE AND OR-
DER OF SIR HENRY SIDNEY KNIGHT OF THE MOST NOBIL
ORDER, THE 2^o DAIE OF JULIE, THEN BEING OF THE AYGE OF 38
YERE, L PRESIDENT OF THE COUNSEL IN WALIS AND MA-
RCHIS OF THE SAME, AND L DEPUTY GENERAL OF THIS HIR
MAJESTIS REALM B. AND, FINISHED IN LES THEN ONE YEAR BI
THE GOOD INDUSTRIE AND DILIGENCE OF SIR PETER LEWVS
CLERK CHANTOR CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH IN DUBLIN, AND STEWARD TO THE SAID L DE-
PUTIE, IN W^t YEARE WAS BEGONE AND FINISHED THE FAI-
RE NEWE WOURKE, IN THE CASTHEL OF DUBLIN—BESIDIS
MANY OTHER NOTABLE WORKS DONE IN SODRI O-
THER PLACIS IN THE REALME; ALSO THE ARCH REBEL
• ANE ONEVL OVER THROUEN HIS HEAD SET ON THE
GATE OF THE SAID CASTEL. COYNO AND LIVRY ABOLISHED
AND THE HOLE REALM BROUGHT INTO SUCH OBEDIENCE
TO HER MAJESTIE AS THE LIKE TRANQUILITIE PEACE AND
• • • • •
WHICH IN THE MEMORY OF MANE HATH NOT BENE SENET†

• Shane O'Neil.

† Some slight variations may be observed between this transcript and that inserted in Dr. Streat's Parochial Survey, already quoted. If erroneous, I must apologize for the imperfection of the copy, made by myself upon the spot.

The letters and words run into each other, and being liable to be bespattered, and consequently obscured by the mud thrown up from passing carriages and horses, it is not without considerable trouble and difficulty that the inscription can be read. Much to the discredit also of the taste of the town's folk, who tolerate the practice, printed bills and notices are daily stuck over the face of the tablets, so as occasionally to obscure altogether the most interesting parts of the monument.

Amongst the tablets in the upper part, appear the following inscriptions:

“ In the reign of our Sovereign Lord King George II. 1730, this part of the bridge being four arches in y^e center was undertaken and built by Benjamin Price at the expense of the Right Hon. Lady Katherine Jones and the Corporation of Athlone, the Hon. Col^l. St. George, Sovereign.”

The work was compleated y^e year following Willm. Handcock Esq. Sovein. Gustavus Handcock Esq. Supervise.

Mr. John Plumer and Mr. Edwin Thomas, Overseers.†

The lower central tablet, one of the largest, contains a half length figure in relief, headless from damage, holding in the right hand a drawn sword erect, whilst the left rests on the hip: it appears clothed in plate armour. In the upper corner, on the right, appears a coat of arms encircled with a garter. And in the lower corner, on the same side, these letters:

* I have copied this inscription from Dr. Streat's Parochial Survey; as the original, if it still existed in its place, was entirely concealed by the printed placards stuck over it.

*** INVI
DIANOTI
OB

Above this, on a tablet curiously bordered, are the arms of the Queen, with her initials E. R. at top, and on the outside of the frame, but separated by it, the words—

GOD SAVE QWEN ELIZAB.

Below the tablet the following mandate:

GEV. TO. CESAR. THAT. W
IS. CESABS. AND. TO. GOD
THAT WHICHE IS. GOIS.
MAT 22.

To the right of the half length figure, in a tablet eighteen inches high by twenty-one broad, a man armed *cap-a-pie*, in plate armour, standing, holding in the left hand a halberd or battle axe, and in the right a broad arrow head; a dog sits at his feet: his name and designation, separated into two parts by the extended right arm, appears thus:

ROBARTS
DAMPORT
AN. OVER
SEER OF THY
S WORKYS

But the subject which has given rise to the most curious conjectures, is one contained in a tablet, two feet six inches high and two feet wide, next to the Queen's arms, on the left or Leinster side. It con-

sists of a man in a clerical gown, with a girdle round his waist, his right hand held out as if in the act of firing what has been taken for a pistol, but if so, most rudely represented. On each side of the figure, which is in relief, the following words :

Petro	Lewys
Clerico	Domus
ntæ	Dispensal
hujus	opis. P.

which Dr. Strean thinks may be read thus :

“ Petro Lewys clerico, domus nostræ dispensatori : hujus operis Præsidi.”

He adds the following description and tradition :

“ In the above compartment of the monument is the figure of the person therein mentioned in his gown ; in his right hand, there is what is said and might be supposed to be a pistol, if the part which represents the barrel were not twisted like a rope. On this pistol there is the figure of a rat, in the attitude of biting the thumb which holds the pistol. The traditional account of the subject of the compartment, is, that the above mentioned Rev. Peter Lewys, was an English monk, who conformed to the Protestant religion, and on coming to Ireland was appointed chanter of Christ Church. Being a man of superior abilities, when the bridge of Athlone was building, he was sent by Sir Henry Sidney, deputy of Ireland, to superintend this and other works then carrying on there. Here and wherever he went, a rat followed and haunted him by day and by night : however anxious to rid himself from so troublesome an attendant, he could neither escape from nor kill it : where he travelled, it travelled ; and where he slept, it slept, continuing its persecution to the last of his days. One day, having preached in the Church of St. Mary's, of Athlone,

after he had descended from the pulpit, all the congregation excepting the clerk having withdrawn, this rat made its appearance, when Mr. Lewys presented a pistol, with which he was always prepared to shoot it; but such was the sagacity and quickness of this unaccountable animal, that it avoided the shot by leaping on the pistol, and biting the thumb which held it, thereby inflicting a wound, which, from the laceration of the nerve, being succeeded by a lock-jaw, not long after terminated in his death.

“ However ridiculous this tradition, as the relation of it may possibly excite inquiry, and thereby lead to the true history of the subject, it is given as received from the oldest inhabitants of the place, among whom, there are some who do not refuse it credit.”

Besides these several tablets composing the monument proper, a small stone, sculptured in relievo, appears inserted in the outer wall of one of the mills on the bridge towards the Leinster side, representing a boar, to which a tradition is attached, that it marks the place where a wild boar was killed, after a long chase and desperate conflict.* But with more justice, I suspect it may be supposed to have formed a part of some coat of arms, for besides the boar, there is a serpent and fragment of a garter border. Probably after having been removed from its original place, it may have been built into the wall from fancy.

As to the state of the passage across the river, prior to the erection of this bridge in the days of Eliza-

* I am not aware of wild boars having been indigenous, or of ever having been common in Ireland. My friend and neighbour Sir G——C——, imported one from Italy, and sent it a present to the Earl of K——, in whose extensive demesne it was expected to find a suitable range: but its first exploit having been to rip open an ass, it quickly fell out of favour.

beth, no very distinct information appears to exist. Enough has been said of the ford, to shew, that the communication, by its means alone, must have been at all seasons precarious, and in winter for the greater part impracticable. But a bridge of some sort was probably built very early; for according to Mr. Archdall, who quotes from King, in the year 1279 King Edward I. granted to St. Peter's Abbey the weirs and fisheries of Athlone, and also *the tolls of the bridge*.

Corporation. Athlone is a corporation and borough, created by King James I., consisting of a sovereign, two bailiffs, twelve burgesses, and an unlimited number of freemen; who, before the Union, returned two members to parliament, but since that period they only return one.

By their charter the corporation is empowered to hold a court every three weeks, for the recovery of small debts not exceeding five pounds; and the sovereign to decide summarily for any debt not exceeding five shillings. "It is also empowered to hold that species of court denominated *Pié poudré* or *Curia pedis pulverizati*; and a most useful sort of court this is, as it is calculated for administering justice for all injuries done during the fair; but extends no farther, and is thus framed to promote and protect the trade of the place where the fair is held. By deciding disputes as speedily as dust can fall from the feet; or before the litigating parties could have time to wipe the dust off their feet."*

Tolls, &c. The tolls and pontage (that is, a distinct toll for cattle passing the bridge) are vested one

* Parochial Survey of St. Peter's.

half in the corporation of the town, and the other half in the incorporated society for promoting charter schools.† Dr. Strean observes, that “ a legal and spirited opposition to the *extortion* practised in the collection of tolls, in some other towns, has been made with success; which, (the extortion it is presumed,) though it loudly calls for correction and punishment in many places, he has never known to require animadversion in Athlone.” Few years, however had passed over from the time, when this passage was published, until the animadversion upon the tolls at Athlone became as severe, and as loud as in any other town in the island; and the most decided opposition was made to payment. Here, as in other places, the question was raised, whether tolls could of right be levied, if the purposes for which they had been originally instituted were neglected. The bridge, it was contended, was totally inadequate to the present state and actual wants both of the town and of the country. The means afforded for weighing potatoes and corn in the market, for which tolls were also charged, whatever they might formerly have been, were then quite insufficient for the despatch of business, with the increased markets, and increased quantities of grain, more particularly the thousands of barrels purchased by distillers and brewers. Cars, horses, and drivers, were commonly detained to a late hour, and in winter too, by the imperfect tedious manner in which the business was performed. Investigations took place, and a suit at law was instituted to try the

† Parochial Survey of St. Peter's.

right; but in the mean time, the populace, apprized of what was doing, became impatient; might was set up against right, and scenes of violence took place of the most revolting nature. In the contentions between the people, who were bent upon forcing on their cattle without payment, and the toll collectors who repelled them, cudgels were used on both sides, and the unfortunate animals which were the mere immediate objects of strife, not unfrequently had their horns beaten off in the fray. At last, by mutual consent, a termination was put to these outrageous proceedings; the tolls were modified or abolished; and to ease the more humble classes, the distillers and brewers agreed to pay certain rates on the corn weighed in their own scales, on their own premises.

Whatever the benefit derived from good and sufficient highways may be, public convenience is yet more concerned where there are deep rivers to traverse; for without a bridge a journey may be impeded, and a bad one ever becomes a primary subject of complaint. That, at Athlone, has long been condemned by every person who has had the misery of being obliged to cross it on a crowded market day; neither has its most inconvenient narrowness been overlooked by the local authorities. Various plans for its improvement have been suggested, and one in particular for enlarging the way, at an estimated cost of £9000, had, as I was informed, been submitted to the grand juries of the adjacent counties, with an invitation to contribute to the expense; but so long as an unapplied fund existed, or ought to have existed, derivable from tolls levied on the score of pontage, it was conceived unfair

to levy a new tax for the same purpose on the counties; and the invitation was refused on every side.

From the inscription on the monument on the bridge, as given in the preceding pages, it plainly appears, that in the year 1737, the four ruined arches of the bridge had been repaired, at the expense of the corporation of the town, and of the Right Hon. Lady Catherine Jones.* And if the cost, as may be presumed, was then defrayed out of a particular revenue for the purpose, enjoyed by the corporation, the accumulation of that revenue during a period of nearly ninety years, ought seemingly to have supplied a fund amply sufficient for the construction of a bridge of the first order. Be the circumstances, however, what they may, the public suffers materially from the state of the bridge; and, if the local constituted authorities have neither the power nor the inclination to remedy the grievance, it is high time for the government of the country to interfere, and cause a better communication to be opened through a district, admitted to be amongst the most important in the whole island.

Houses, streets, &c. The town of Athlone is separated by the Shannon into two not very unequal divisions, which stand in different parishes, different counties, different provinces; and although the distinction of English and Irish town is now obliterated, yet that of the Connaught and Leinster side is still

* Of the noble family of Ranelagh. Richard Lord Ranelagh had made the incorporated society trustees for a considerable donation of property, and half the tolls, as already stated, went to the society: hence, apparently, the connexion of the name of Lady Catherine with the corporation, in the inscription communicative of the restoration of the arches of the bridge.

commonly maintained. The town on the Connaught and Roscommon shore lies within the parish of St. Peter, in the diocese of Elphin. A celebrated abbey, dedicated to St. Peter, called Monasterium de Innocentia, and belonging to the Benedictines or Cistercians, was founded, according to Ware, in the year 1214,* near the river; of which scarcely a vestige remains. If so, it was only two years subsequent to the foundation, namely, in 1216, that King John gave a grant of four *carrucates* of land in fee at Lagscueth, in exchange for the site on which he erected the castle of Athlone; besides certain perquisites. The present church is supposed to stand within the former precincts of the abbey.

Dr. Strean enumerates in this part of Athlone ten streets and fifteen lanes: but these are so irregular and so blended into each other, that it is difficult to pronounce in many instances where they begin or end.

On passing into the Connaught town from the bridge, and advancing straight forward, a considerable flat space nearly on a level, first appears, on one side of which, alone, to the south, there are houses, whilst the other is occupied by the lofty walls which sustain the castle mound. In this open space, a weekly market is held, and it is rarely destitute of stalls during any of the intervening days; but the principal meat market, which is well provided with shambles, is situated within an enclosure, on the banks of the river, in the lower part of the town. A passage opens from it to the water, a circumstance highly conducive to

* Ware Monast.—Archdall's Athlone.

neatness and cleanliness, and which can leave no valid grounds of excuse for their non-observance.

The houses which front to the open space below the castle walls, contain the principal shops on that side of the river. Those for hardware appeared superior to any on the Leinster side, and there were besides, some considerable cloth shops; but the other part of the town was, on the whole, better provided with shops for fancy articles. In no part of Ireland, as far as my own observation extends, have I seen more urbanity, or more civility and attention to customers, than in the shops of Athlone: perhaps this may be in some measure attributable to the frequent intercourse with the officers of a numerous garrison; but I pretend not to pronounce that it is so.

On the low ground, behind this place, the streets are obscure, and bounded in great part by the lofty walls of the distilleries, tanneries, &c.

Here, for a while, I was puzzled with an inscription on a circular arch, leading into a large yard, the key-stone of which bore a sculptured head, with the initials I. B., one letter on each side: above this was another head, with the words ST. PETER'S PORT; and engraved on the stones of the arch, the following distich:

O may not
Satan's
agents enter

Will o' Wisp
& Jacky
the printer

After several inquiries, I learned that the words had been carved by order of a former proprietor, upon having established his right at law to the premises, against certain parties designated by the nick names

of Will o' Wisp and Jacky the printer, who had endeavoured to evict his interest.

The Roscommon or Connaught division of the town of Athlone may be considered as consisting of two parts, the one extending along the flats, nearly on a level with the bridge, the other covering the hill above the castle, and these are connected by various winding irregular streets along the slope; the two leading ways run one on each side of the castle, which stands perfectly insulated. Along that nearest the river, there are houses on one side alone, the fronts facing the castle, the rears extending down to the water; these are intersected by some short lanes or passages, the veriest sinks of abomination that can be imagined. The principal entrance into the barracks from the town, is from this latter street. Facing the esplanade of the castle on the upper side, a row of houses connects the two leading ways up to the hill. All these houses are laid out with shops below. The buildings along the slope next the river are old, and generally of small size, those on the esplanade better; but the largest and firmest built houses, which appear also to be amongst the oldest, are situated on the flats, in the vicinity of the church. Throughout the town, a total absence of symmetry is observable, whether in reference to the style of the houses or the alignement of the streets; and the mixture of poor and indifferent houses with those of a better description, is utterly destructive of neatness. The streets are badly paved, and the ways ill maintained. The best private houses of Athlone, and the only street having pretensions to cleanliness, are situated on the Leinster division of the town; on the same side stand the only two houses

which deserve the name of inns, and these are very indifferent, although the business is considerable.

On the Connaught side, on the flats, stand the two distilleries with their extensive corn stores; one of the two breweries; the tannery; and on the hill, the post office, the sessions house; and as already described, the barracks.

The Sessions House is a wretched place, discreditable to the town, not merely on account of the poor accommodation, but its filthy state. It was used when I saw it as a potato store; the dock was filled with vegetables, and the court strewn with putrid leaves.

The following is my enumeration of the houses in the Connaught division of the town.

67 houses of 3 stories.

2 do. do. of superior quality.

157 do. of 2 stories, some of these thatched.

7 do. do. of superior quality.

211 cabins of a single story, mostly thatched.

But several rows of cabins which had been latterly built, were all slated. New houses of two and three stories were in progress, principally along the line of the main street, on the top of the hill leading out to the Ballinasloe road. These were all fitted with shops in the lower part. Narrow lanes and closes abound, in which cabins of the meanest description are huddled together, inhabited by people whose appearance gave indication of the lowest state of civilization. The looks of the men and women were sallow and unhealthy; their only covering rags; the crying and wailing, scolding and beating, at once betrayed suffering and ill temper; whilst the violent expressions of

passion were interrupted, at intervals, by wild songs and merriment of the coarsest description.

The dirt and filth of these places are disgusting in the highest degree, and can scarcely fail of being injurious to the general salubrity of the town. After walking for a while through the crowded and narrow streets, it is quite a relief to enter into the squares of the barracks; to behold one place at least, where neatness, order, and cleanliness prevail, and to find pure uncontaminated air to breathe.

The houses are built generally of limestone. Bricks, however, are abundant, and very cheap. Excellent clay for making them is found on the banks of the Shannon, two miles below the town, and also turf for burning them. Ten and twelve shillings per thousand was an ordinary price; but it fluctuates from eight shillings to fifteen.

The Roman Catholic Chapel, on the slope of the hill, rather to the westward, stands in an open space, which is supposed to have been within the limits of the ancient abbey: it is a capacious edifice. There is a minor Roman Catholic chapel in the same neighbourhood, but in an obscure situation, attached to the house of a religious order.

Public houses. The public houses on the Connaught side of the town, by my enumeration, amounted to forty-two. Dr. Streat, who wrote his Survey of St. Peter's parish some ten or twelve years before, estimates them at thirty-three. In the whole town, inclusive of both sides of the river, I was informed, that there existed a short time before my visit, at least one hundred houses, licensed for the sale of spirits. Great profligacy of every description prevails in those of

the more humble description, and the difficulty of preserving discipline amongst the troops, more particularly amongst the Irish regiments, is, consequently, found to be in general, very considerable in these quarters.

Mendicity prevails in and about Athlone to a lamentable extent, but more particularly within the town. According to Dr. Strean's opinion, the donations and bequests made by pious men to the poor of both the parishes of the town, have tended decidedly to augment it. He thinks that beggars come not only from every part of Ireland, but from England and Scotland, and that several settle in the town to become entitled to the charity. Athlone being one, indeed the principal of the great passes across the Shannon, between Connaught and Leinster, brings many poor people through it, in search of better provision for themselves and families; and the numbers of the destitute are further augmented by the soldiers' wives and followers, with their children, who are left behind when the regiments are ordered on foreign service; besides the widows and children of those who die in the garrison. These evils, as Dr. Strean seems to think, might, in some degree, be diminished, if the grand juries exercised the powers vested in them by the 11 and 12 George III.—“to erect corporations in every county for the relief of the poor, and build houses of industry for vagabonds and sturdy beggars.” “If these powers,” he adds, “which the wisdom of the legislature has furnished, were brought into operation, the most salutary effects might be produced in this town; and the means of still greater improvement might be afforded, by freeing it of a multitude of

common prostitutes, who, in the face of the sun, infest the streets, as well as the hedges and ditches about the town, not only to the destruction of the morals of the present as well as the rising generation, but even in violation of common decency: vice not hiding its deeds in darkness, but boldly stalking abroad in open day." Evils of this description are, however, more or less prevalent in all garrison towns, and where the troops are numerous and frequently changed, may, unhappily, be considered as almost irremediable.

Customs. "The respect to Sunday and every regard for it, is considered at an end as soon as public prayers are over; and the remainder, as matter of course, is dedicated to amusement,—to ball playing, dancing, &c."* "There are dances," says Dr. Strean, "called cakes, on account of a large cake of eighteen or twenty inches diameter, which is laid on a circular board of nearly similar breadth, elevated on a pole six or eight feet high, or not unfrequently on a churn dash. In the spring and summer this cake is ornamented with garlands of flowers, and in autumn crowned with apples fancifully arranged. At the end of the dance, this cake in early days, was usually given to the best female dancer, to be divided by her, as she thought fit, among the company; and the judgment was generally given not in favour of the most elegant dancer, but of her who held out longest. But this mode of deciding who is to gain the cake, has been changed for one less conducive to emulation, while it is productive of greater immoralities than were originally attendant

* Survey of St. Peter's Parish.

on those meetings : for the young fellow who has procured money enough for the occasion, takes down the cake at any time of the evening he thinks fit, throws it into the lap of any girl he chooses to mark out as his favourite, carries her and the cake into the public house, contiguous to which the dances are always held, where he treats the company, after dividing the cake, and getting as many to join him as the strength of his purse, inclination for drinking, and other sports or vices have attractions for ; these spend the night in carousing to intoxication, and in uncontrolled dissipation. The cake is usually provided by a person who sells beer or spirits near the place of assembling, whether licensed or not, to whose sole benefit the assemblage redounds." At these dances the young of both sexes meet in vast multitudes, and seldom without incurring some expenses, which, though slight, the earnings of the day labourer, or apprentice, or journeyman, are not adequate to defray : hence, as Dr. Strean surmises, arise misdemeanours of various descriptions to procure the means of participating in these illicit indulgences, which, from step to step, lead the unfortunate victims on to burglaries, robberies, and other outrages on society.

" Though there are some," adds Dr. Strean, " who, looking no farther than the simple act of dancing round a pole on those occasions, are pleased to call it an innocent amusement, which ought not to be disturbed ; yet will any one who considers the consequences of such assemblages, so far deceive himself and others, by calling them innocent, while they are the baleful sources of such vices as flow from them, ramified into numerous branches of moral turpitude

and political evil? Whether they do not produce distress, poverty, and want, may easily be understood."

No person, however, will contend, that the lower classes ought to be deprived of amusement; and the great object should be, to keep it within rational limits, and to direct it if possible into a harmless course.

"Another custom" says Dr. Streaun, "is usual within the parish of St. Peter's of Athlone.

"On the eve of St. Martin, one of the great saints, whose day still continues to form an important epoch in the calendar, the 11th day of November, every family (more particularly in the country part of the parish) kills an animal of some kind or other; those who are rich a cow or sheep, others a goose or turkey; while the still poorer, who cannot provide an animal of greater value, kill a cock or a hen, and sprinkle the threshold with the blood, and do the same in the four corners of the house: this ceremony is performed to exclude every kind of evil spirit from the dwelling where the sacrifice is made, till the return of the same day in the following year. Does not this," adds the Rev. Doctor, "look like a continuance of the command given to the Jews (Exodus, xii. 3, et subseq.) 'to take every man a lamb, &c. and kill it in the evening: and to take of the blood and strike it on the two side posts, and on the upper door post of the houses.'" Dr. Streaun considers this as a remnant of Jewish sacrifices, carried down into Christianity; but if so, the custom should be much more generally diffused through the country than it appears to be. The subject would lead into a very wide field of discussion, if pursued with earnestness and diligence, but it is

enough in this place merely to have mentioned the custom, without searching into its origin.

I must still make one more quotation from Dr. Streat: "another custom or religious adoration is that of praying to the moon,* the first time that luminary is seen after its change. This seems to be a mixture of Jewish and heathen worship, of which Selden de Diis Syriis speaks, as related in the *Addimenta M. Andr. Beyri*, p. 80, where he quotes a French author, saying of the inhabitants of Ireland, 'Ils se mettent à genoux en voyant la lune nouvelle; et disent en partant à la lune, laisse nous aussi sains que tu nous as trouve.' Here is still retained a piece of the religion of the Phœnicians, who at one time peopled Ireland, who worshipped the sun and moon, and all the host of heaven. And did not the Jews also offer burnt sacrifices, and drink offerings, in the new moons?"

Parochial Funds. Besides the collections made in the churches on Sundays, there are two charitable funds: one the interest of £50, bequeathed by Robert Sherwood, who died an inhabitant of the parish; the other arises from land granted by an ancestor of Lord Castlemaine, by deed dated 9th June, 1705, the rent of which is to be distributed by the representative

* If Athlone really derived its name from the moon, and had ever been dedicated to that luminary, it is quite within the range of probability, considering the continuance of other customs through a long series of ages, that prayers might still be offered to it: but of its ever having been generally customary in Ireland, to pray to the new moon, I am not aware. As the new moon marks a new period, it may, however, be usual, just as it is at the beginning of the week, to offer a sort of wish or prayer, as perhaps it might be called, for prosperity and health during its continuance.

of the donor to certain poor of the parishes of St. Peter and St. Mary, who shall be recommended by the ministers and churchwardens of said parishes jointly. The amount of the donation is, at present, thirty pounds per annum.*

Business, in general, was admitted to be decidedly on the increase in the town of Athlone, although complaints were common of less profits being made now, than formerly. The many additional shops opened, sufficiently explain both these circumstances; commerce must have extended to afford them support, whilst individual profits may have diminished in consequence of the great competition.

The people, on the whole, more particularly females, are allowed to be better clothed now than heretofore, owing to the low prices of cottons, &c.

Goods, as I have already explained, are brought from Dublin by the canals, and also by direct land carriage. A very considerable carrying trade takes place between Athlone and Ballymahon, on the Royal Canal.

Athlone was the only place within the county of Roscommon, where I observed a cabinet maker's warehouse, and I heard of none other.

Felt hats are still made in the town, and the place was formerly celebrated for their manufacture; but with the facilities of conveyance and the cheapness of British goods of a superior description, many of these coarse articles of home manufacture are in less demand.

I was unable to obtain a satisfactory account of the

* Dr. Streat's Survey.

quantity of spirits made at the distilleries; their working varies considerably, according to the price of corn; when I visited the place they were at a stand. A steam engine of twenty horse power, set up in one of those distilleries, was found to be worked best with turf. The provision of turf was immense; the heaps larger than several houses together of three stories. Coal was used occasionally: and two thousand tons of it had been once stored to shew what might be done, and prevent the combinations that were forming to raise the price of turf.

Turf is sold by the box of twenty cubic feet $4 \times 2 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, the usual price 40s. for a hundred boxes.

The government, for barrack use, are charged commonly 60s. for the hundred boxes; but for this price turf is obtained of a better quality than that employed in the distilleries.

Although artificers in various branches are numerous in Athlone, and their native skill is improved by association with the ingenious men who are occasionally found in the English regiments composing the garrison, yet with the exception of the distilleries, those great, lucrative, but *baneful** manufactories, none other of any importance are carried on in the town.

The shops which are numerous rather than extensive, are almost wholly furnished with British goods, brought over through Dublin.

* See in the concluding part of this Survey an explanation of the term.

The facility with which things of every description can be procured from Dublin, whether by the Royal Canal, *via* Ballymahon, or by carriers direct, or by the coaches, connected with the prevalent opinion, that superior articles can be obtained there, induce many persons to supply their wants from the metropolis, through the assistance of friends; a practice militating against the interests of the shopkeepers, and against which they are naturally prone to complain. But another solution might probably be found, in the deficiency of capital amongst the country traders, and consequently in the limited assortment of goods on sale.

I saw no bookseller's shop in Athlone; none which gave any indication of a taste for intellectual pursuits, or for the more refined arts or elegancies of life; and according to the information I received on the spot, for I do not presume to speak from personal experience, during the single week I remained in the place, such pursuits are rare.

The great extent of flat ground, consisting principally of reclaimed bog, bordering upon the Connaught side of the town, renders it ill calculated for villas; and whatever the neighbourhood affords of a pleasing description in this way, is rather to be sought for at the other side of the river. Yet there are some very beautiful positions on the western shores of Lough Ree, at a few miles distance from the town.

The suburbs, consisting mostly of poor cabins, extend to a considerable distance beyond the canal, along the Ballinasloe road.

Temporary lodgings at Athlone for the accommodation of strangers, are neither good nor abundant,

although it is always the seat of a large garrison: the inns are very indifferent.

With respect to provisions, the markets are abundantly supplied: and the town is considered, on the whole, one of the cheapest places in the county.

Common schools for English, writing, and arithmetic, exist in sufficient numbers: but the want of good classical schools was felt and lamented.

ST. JOHN'S.

The position of St. John's upon a long point, extending to the south-east, on the shores of Lough Ree, has been already briefly noticed in the account of that lake;* but as its military antiquities were likely to excite more interest, after those of Athlone had passed under review, the description of them has been reserved for the present place.

The earliest of the buildings founded here, appears to have been a priory for Knights Hospitallers, or cross bearers, during the reign of King John; according to some, by his express commands.† Mr. Archdall states, that the place was known under the various names of Randown, or Rinduin, Teach-eon, and St. John's; but the latter name is the only one now used, and it has extended to the parish, in the county books, and the grand county map: but in the Ecclesiastical Register, no mention whatever is made of St. John's, and the parish is inserted under the

* Page 150.

† Archdall's Mon.—Ware's Mon.—Ware's MSS.

title of Ivernoon. I am unable to explain the cause of these discrepancies.

Besides the priory, there was a church dedicated to the Holy Trinity in the town of Rinduin; a powerful castle near the end of the point; and a fortified wall across the isthmus, which still remains in an extraordinary state of preservation. The distance between Athlone and St. John's is about seven miles Irish or nine English.

The castle occupies a rocky eminence, rising abruptly from the water on the northern side of the point, on the border of a small inlet, known by the name of Safe Harbour, where, as it is to be presumed, the armed vessels, heretofore said to have been employed upon this extensive sheet of water, might have remained moored in security under the walls of the fortress. But the highest ground on the point, is a promontory at a short distance to the east of the castle, on the summit of which stand the remains of a round tower; not one of the ancient ecclesiastical edifices, but of different dimensions, although its original use may equally admit of doubt and speculation; since it might have answered the several purposes of a watch tower, or a windmill, or a place of recreation. Its diameter, within, is about fourteen feet, and the walls are four feet thick. The entrance and the window opposite to it, face to the water, on different sides of the point, commanding most pleasing views up and down the lake. The window, surmounted by a flat rounded arch, about seven feet in height, is more spacious than usually seen in such a building, affording ample light to the chamber. The sides of the promontory were covered with a thick coppice of hazel,

tangled with briars, through which it was extremely difficult to force a passage when I saw the place.

The ground between this promontory and the eminence occupied by the castle, is low and marshy: water probably once flowed over it.

The castle was built nearly in the form of a P, the tail of the letter being short in proportion, and this part was occupied by a spacious apartment, consisting either of the chapel of the castle, or of a hall for banqueting or assembly. In the head of the letter, next the upright stem, stood the keep, a lofty, massive, and most formidable edifice; with a court before it to the east, which was defended along the curve by a strong wall, with banquette and parapet, and ditches of great depth on the outer side, facing towards the low marshy ground, already described, as lying between the tower promontory and the castle. The line represented by the stem of the letter, stretching in a direction across the point, is in length about two hundred and forty feet, and protected at the base of the fortress by a fosse of unusual breadth, and of such depth as to countenance the supposition, that it was planned originally with the design of letting in the water from the harbour, in order to insulate the castle: but the bottom is now dry, the level having been altered by the rubbish which has fallen into it from the ruins. Nearly in the centre of this line, appear the remains of abutments both on the castle and outer side, which probably belonged to a drawbridge, as there is a small gateway opposite to it, in the castle wall.

The keep, as beheld both on the land side and from the lake, presents a very imposing mass, its

outer walls being entire, and its great tower rising to a very considerable elevation: but the edifice on the land side appears almost shapeless, owing to the extraordinary luxuriance of the ivy with which it is overrun, originating from two vast flatted stems which spring up at the base of the walls, just over the long fosse. I had the curiosity to measure them, and found the one to be four feet six inches, and the other seven feet five inches broad, presenting, though with many sinuosities, an undivided face of bark from side to side, and still growing with great vigour. I cannot call to recollection, having seen a more vast and uninterrupted mass of ivy foliage.

The great tower is about fifty feet broad next the fosse: in the upper story, traces of windows appear through the ivy, and of small watch towers at the angles. Like the other great castles of the county, it was evidently destroyed by violence, and nothing short of the powerful effects of gunpowder could have cast down the prodigious fragments of massive masonry, which stand insulated in the inner court. The view of the castle is extremely pleasing from the water, and more particularly so when the sheltered harbour beneath its walls receives a little fleet of the beautiful sailing pleasure boats, which are used upon this lake, the gaiety of whose ensigns and painted sides forms a remarkable contrast to the sombre tints of the ancient ivied walls, and the grey rocks on which they repose.

At a short distance from the place of the draw-bridge, over the great fosse on the land side, appear the remains of a church, the one, it may be presumed, which was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, in

the commencement of the thirteenth century, by Clarus, archdeacon of Elphin. Its walls are in sufficient preservation, to shew the dimensions of the building; but no windows or door-ways exist to give any idea of its style. The length of the nave is sixty feet, of the choir thirty-three feet; the width of the former twenty-four feet, and of the latter eighteen. This church probably stood in a conspicuous part of the town; but not a trace that I could perceive, remains of any other building within it; and the whole space between the castle and the fortified wall across the isthmus, was, when I saw it, under pasture fields, divided by stone fences.

The fortified wall, according to my hasty measurement, is five hundred and sixty-four yards in length, from water to water, its distance from the castle fosse being seven hundred yards. Nearly in the middle of it is an arched gateway, with its defences still tolerably entire, twenty-four feet deep, and presenting a front of twenty-one feet: between this gate and the water at either side, there are square towers, at unequal intervals of from sixty to ninety yards, advanced about thirteen feet beyond the line of the walls, and being in breadth about fifteen feet: in the interior the dimensions are about eight feet six inches. These towers, doubtless, afforded stations for the archers; and also facilitated the access to the parapet and banquette of the wall. Whether there ever had been a fosse on the outer side, I am unable to say; the probability is, that there was; but if so, the ground has been levelled, and the rank luxuriance of the vegetation has obliterated its lines. The building of the wall, however, appears in many parts to have

been hastily executed, and cement to have been sparingly used, yet it still remains a most interesting monument of the military works of past ages.

On the outer side of this wall, nearly where the point is connected with the main land, the rude remains of other ecclesiastical buildings may be seen, which evidently have been in use much later than the church, and a burial ground connected therewith seems still to be one of common and frequent resort. The soil is shallow and rocky, and the abominable practice of leaving bodies imperfectly interred, is common here as in similar places. The smell was very offensive. A custom also obtains, of which I do not recollect to have seen traces in any other place, of leaving on the graves the rude biers, usually formed of saplings or green boughs, on which the bodies have been borne. I should suppose, that at least a score of these lay quite fresh about the place, and nobody thought of removing them.

Near this burying ground, appeared the lofty walls of a spacious garden, with some beautiful trees, and at the head of a bay, on the southern side of the point, a modern mansion house, one of the most pleasantly situated on the whole shores of Lough Ree, or indeed in the whole county, its contiguity to the cemetery alone excepted; and there is no avoiding such an evil, since the lower classes are regardful, even to superstition, of the place where their ancestors have been deposited, and a passage for access, must, of necessity, be left open. When I visited this district the house was empty, and either passing or likely to pass into the hands of new proprietors.

The place generally was very prettily wooded; the

space included between the fortified wall and the castle, must also have had, not many years since, some very grand trees, if a judgment might be formed from the stumps, which still remained nearly even with the surface.

As to the past history of this very interesting place, it is involved in a mysterious and perhaps now impenetrable obscurity.

Mr. Archdall, on the authority of Ware's MSS. states, that the English strongly fortified the castle of Rinduin, in the year 1226; and, according to anonymous annals which he quotes, Phelim O'Connor plundered and pillaged the town in the year 1237. Harris, in his second volume, states, that in the year 1334, John de Funtayns was constable of the castle, with an annual fee of £40 sterling, a large sum for those times, and which serves to mark the importance of the fortress.

Such are the only details which I have been able to find, although I have made many searches and many inquiries. In the county itself, I could learn absolutely nothing. The editor of Grose asserts, that there are no memorials whatever existing of this old structure, the castle, although "its elegantly picturesque situation must delight every eye." That it was constructed in reference to naval power on the lake, seems highly probable; for as there is no place along the shores which affords more secure anchorage, and more easily protected, so, whoever had possession of the castle, must have held, in all likelihood, the superiority on the waters. The peninsula also, must have been a delightful position for a town; but in being

remote from a leading highway, an essential qualification for commercial prosperity was wanting.

Other ruins, but in a style different from those of St. John's, being the remains of an old mansion house, stand conspicuous on an eminence near the bay of Kilmore, about two miles to the southward. They contain numerous chimnies and gable ends, all firmly built; and the windows give indication of the apartments having been large and extensive. The place must, in its day, have been one of consequence, but all around it is now bleak, and the only habitations poor cabins.

On the opposite side of the barony of Athlone, about a mile to the north-west of Athleague, on the side of a valley watered by the Suck, ruins not very dissimilar in character may be seen from the high road: but in the latter, some attention had been paid to defence, as a rounded tower is connected with one of the angles. Both edifices were substantially built of the blue limestone of the country, which is compact and durable.

HALF BARONY OF MOYCARNE.

This division of the county is the smallest of the six, with the exception of Ballymoe half barony. The following is a table of its superficial contents, constructed from the marginal notes of the grand county map.

Arable.		Bog.		Water.		Total.
10,170	-	8,098	-	20	-	18,288 Irish acres.
16,472	-	13,117	-	32	-	29,622 English do.

Hence it appears, that the proportion of bog to arable ground, is considerably greater than in any of the other parts of Roscommon, whilst that of the water is less. And yet, as this half barony is bounded along fourteen miles of its frontier at the least, by the river Shannon and the river Suck, it is evident, that if half the breadth of these rivers were measured in, the water must amount to much more than is set down: it is to be presumed, therefore, that the twenty acres merely comprise the waters in the interior of the half barony.*

The half barony of Moycarne is traversed by two of the most important roads in the whole county, the

* An Irish acre contains 7840 square yards, which, multiplied by 20, gives 156,800 square yards.

An Irish mile contains 2240 yards, which, multiplied by 14, gives 31,360 yards.

Now $31,360 \times 5 = 156,800$ square yards: but the average breadths of the Shannon and the Suck are far beyond ten yards.

one leading from Ballinasloe to Athlone, the other to Shannon bridge; both of them principal and direct highways between the western coast and the capital; and consequently, in a military point of view, connected with the safety of the kingdom, on the side where it has been deemed the most open to invasion. Lough Ree, and the bogs along the narrower parts of the Shannon, oppose a formidable barrier to the progress of an enemy, and it is only by means of these two roads and of Athlone and Shannon bridges, that a direct passage could be effected to the east across the river. Each bridge, as already explained,* is defended on the Connaught side by a *tête de pont*, and on the roads of approach there are advanced batteries and redoubts.

The surface of the country, generally, in Moycarne, is flatter than in other parts of Roscommon, and these two leading roads, which are maintained in admirable order, run upon a very even line; yet undulations are not wanting, and in the central parts of the half barony, some hills intervene in the midst of bogs. These consist principally of accumulations of limestone gravel; but the limestone rock also appears through the surface in several places.

Gentlemen's seats are scattered through it, more particularly on the elevated grounds in the centre, and in the vicinity of the two great roads; and plantations of forest trees and hedge-row timber, all of which appeared in a remarkably flourishing state, abound near them, in a larger proportion than in other parts of the county. It was in this barony as already explained,

that I met with the best sample of plantation upon mere bog. Towards the Suck, on the road to Shannon bridge, I observed one of the few places which gave indication of natural woods, springing up from old stools.

On this same road also, for the first time within the county of Roscommon, I saw tobacco under cultivation. Two small enclosures were filled with it, and the plants promised well. It had only been lately introduced into that neighbourhood,* by a person holding a very small portion of land; but although such a circumstance bespeaks more intelligence and more enterprise than are commonly displayed by people in the same sphere, the general cultivation of the ground in the small tenements, is, in no wise, superior to the ordinary practice of the country. The resident gentlemen here, as in other parts of the county, set the example of the best tillage and the best stock; but improved systems are commonly considered beyond the reach of those who have little or no capital, and such is the condition of nearly all the small farmers.

There is no considerable village in Moycarne, though several of a lesser description, and many hamlets, are interspersed through the hills, near turf bogs, whence fuel can be procured at an easy rate.

Ballinasloe, on the river Suck, is the chief mart, both for the sale of commodities of home produce, and the purchase of the ordinary articles in demand. The

* I had written a few observations upon the cultivation of tobacco, and on the general policy of growing it in Ireland, but as the question has been already settled by a prohibition, it would be superfluous to introduce them at present.

general position of this town has been already explained under the head of the river Suck,* the two parts being separated by a succession of bridges, and by causeways across islands, amounting in total length to five hundred yards, from side to side of the river. The main body of the town lies within the county of Galway, whilst the part belonging to Roscommon appears rather like an extended village. Yet the castle which gave name and formerly importance to the place, is situated on the Roscommon shore of the river. The principal part of the houses belonging to the county of Roscommon, stand on one of the islands: these may be classed as follows:—

4 houses of 3 stories, slated.

2 ditto of 2 ditto, ditto.

3 ditto of 2 ditto, thatched.

6 cabins thatched.

A large mill and malt houses.

To the east of the river, scattered along the high road, there are also about two score of cabins and small houses.

The remains of the castle, which was one of the strong holds of Connaught in the time of Elizabeth, stand on the Roscommon main shore, on flat ground, close to the margin of the river. The walls, as now seen, probably constituted merely the outer defences of an enclosure, within which the *keep* was situated; they form a square of about ninety yards, with round towers at the angles; and the fosse on the land side still affords a channel for the water, which flows in from the river, and is constantly running. A neat

house of moderate size, facing the road, is constructed on the line of the walls of that side, the offices and the gardens of which lie within the ancient enclosure. The place goes by the name of the Ivy Castle. A bridge across the fosse with two small arches, leading up to the gateway into the back offices, affords a pretty little subject for the pencil; and the old walls and towers extending along the river side, covered at top with ivy, and at their base nearly washed by the clear eddying current, have a very pleasing effect: the height of the walls and towers, however, is inconsiderable.

The great fair of Ballinasloe, the transactions at which exercise a powerful influence not merely over the adjacent and midland counties, but affect even the dealings for cattle in the metropolis itself, is held entirely on the Galway side. The black or horned cattle are exhibited in an extensive space, purposely reserved for the fair outside of the town, but partly bordered by houses, whilst a place within the park of the noble proprietor of the town, at a moderate distance, is allotted for the sale of sheep. Horses and other animals, as usual at great fairs, are likewise brought in for disposal, and formerly wool was sold to a great amount; but the establishment of factors in Dublin and other great towns, has changed the course of that trade. Dealers in various commodities, and tradesmen of different callings from the metropolis, also bring their goods and productions to the fair; and shops and warehouses in the town are ceded to them for the occasion, the prices paid being usually very high. Lodgings both in private houses and at the inns are in great demand, and must be, generally, be-

spoken in advance, whilst the charges are greatly augmented beyond the ordinary current rates at other periods.

This great fair, which is held in October, differs considerably one year from another, as to the quantity of stock sold.

“ The greatest number of sheep sold at any fair in Ballinasloe since 1790, was in 1828, when 86,374 were disposed of. The number sold at the last fair (1830) was 66,874. The largest number of horned cattle disposed of since 1790, was in 1824, when 9,058 were sold. At the last fair, 5694 changed owners.”—*Newspaper report of the fair.*

It has been computed, however, that about 100,000 sheep, and 25,000 head of horned cattle, are very commonly brought in for sale.

The town of Ballinasloe, which is amongst the most improved and improving in Ireland, is, at all times, a rival to Athlone; and the great choice of articles afforded at the fair, naturally induces persons within its reach to defer their purchases until that period.

Having thus taken a review of the baronies individually from north to south, I shall now introduce a series of Statistical Tables, preparatory to a summary of the principal subjects of this Survey.

CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT.

Although Elphin is situated nearly in the centre of Roscommon, and the diocese extends into the adjacent counties of Sligo, Galway, and Mayo, yet the whole of the parishes of Roscommon are not comprised under its jurisdiction. Kilronan, to the north, is in the diocese of Ardagh: Moore, Drum, and Killtullagh, belong to that of Tuam: Creagh and Taghmaconnell to that of Clonfert. These intermixtures, which occur also in many other parts of the country, have been the cause not only of great confusion and uncertainty, but of frequent dispute and litigation.

In the following pages will be found sundry tables illustrative of the Church Establishment.

I. TABLE.—Shews the benefices and the parishes of which they are composed, and whether rectories or vicarages, or both. These derive their names from the nature of the tithes to which they are entitled: and when the same parish appears under the head of different benefices, in the one it will be found as a rectory, in the other as a vicarage. A rector may be a layman; but the vicar must be an ecclesiastic. The term *impropriate* implies, that the *rectorial* tithes are lay property.

Some of the benefices are composed of parishes situated in different counties; but none are introduced into the table excepting those of Roscommon alone. The table has been formed principally from the Ecclesiastical Register, bearing the imprint of the year 1830; but the contents of the parishes, taken from the county books already referred to at p. 7 of this Survey, have been added: these contents are re-inserted as

often as the names of the parishes occur, whether as rectories or vicarages.

The number prefixed to the benefices serve merely for the purpose of reference.

II. TABLE.—Contains an alphabetical list of the parishes, with their different names; also a short notice of their positions and references to the benefices to which they belong.

III. TABLE.—Contains a list of the parishes of which the tithes have been compounded for. They are inserted in the same order in which they appear in the returns printed by order of the House of Commons, and as that arrangement may possibly shew the order in which the several compositions had been registered, I felt unwilling to alter it. The parishes marked with an asterisk, however, form an exception. These do not appear in the first returns to parliament, not having been then compounded for, or at least not registered; the names and rates were obligingly communicated to me by the register of the diocese, being all that had been added to the original list up to midsummer 1831: and as they were comparatively few in number, I have inserted them in the places to which they seemed to belong.

IV. TABLE.—Contains the vestry assessments for the year 1827, taken from the returns of the House of Commons, as they appear printed amongst the parliamentary papers. The list, however, seems imperfect, as all the benefices with churches are not named. It is the only table of the kind, however, which I have to offer. I have added to it the contents of the parishes; and inserted an average of the rates.

V. TABLE of grants from the Board of First Fruits for churches and glebe houses in the county of Roscommon.

VI. TABLE.—Glebes in the county of Roscommon.

VII. TABLE.—Relative to the whole diocese of Elphin.

VIII. TABLE.—Relative to First Fruits, do.

IX. TABLE.—Incumbents, residents, &c. county Roscommon.

DIOCESE OF ELPHIN.

The Lord Bishop.

The Dean.

Precentor.*

Treasurer.

Archdeacon.

PREBENDARIES. †

Ballintobber.

Killgoghlin.

Tibohine.

Killcooley.

Tirebrine.

Tarmonbarry.

Killmacallane.

Oran.

CONSISTORIAL COURT.

Vicar General.

Registrar.

Apparitor.

Proctors—*none*.

Diocesan schoolmaster.

* The precentor or chantor is generally, though not always, the first member of the chapter : to him devolved of old the care of the choir service, and he presided over the singing men, organist, and choristers ; provided books for them, paid their salaries, repaired the organ, and kept the seal of the chapter and chapter books.

† Prebendary, a *præbendo*, either from the assistance they are ~~paid~~ formerly to have afforded the bishop in matters of church government ; or from the assistance the church affords *them* in meat, drink, and other necessities.—*Ecclesiastical Register*.

Benefices.	Names of Parishes.	Rectory or Vicarage.	Churches.	Glebe Houses.	Reputed Patron.	Extent of the Parishes.	
						Ir.Acr.	E.Acr.
1	<i>Corps of the Deanery.</i> Elphin Ogulla	R R	one —	one —	The King.	5532 3002	13,823
						8534	
2	<i>Corps of the Precentorship.</i> Shankhill Killmacumsey Killcorkey Killcola Creeve	R R R R R	none <i>vid.</i> 7 — 3 — 20 — 7	none — — — —	The Bishop.	2622 2759 2847 1798 1891	19,303
						11,917	
3	<i>Corps of the Archdeaconry.</i> Killuken Killbrine Kilcorkey Ardcarne	R V V R	one — — one	one — — one	The Bishop.	2212 969 2847 5760	19,094
						11,788	
4	<i>Corps of Killgoghlin Prebendary.</i> Bumlin, part of Kiltrustan Clonfinlough, part of Lisonuffly	R R R R	<i>vid.</i> 22 — 22 — 24 — 22		The Bishop.	2273 3007 3025 2699	17,824
						11,004	
5	<i>Corps of Tirebrine Prebendary.</i> Aughrim	R	<i>vid.</i> 23		The Bishop.	3417	5525
6	<i>Corps of Killmacacallane* Prebendary.</i> * This place is in Sligo, but <i>vide</i> Ballynakill.				The Bishop.		

Benefices.	Names of Parishes.	Rectory or Vicarage.	Churches.	Glebe Houses.	Reputed Patron.	Extent of the Parishes.	
						Ir. Acr.	E. Acr.
7	<i>Corps of Killcooley Prebendary.</i>						
	Ardclare or Cloona- gormican	R	one	none	The Bishop.	3532	
	Killcooley	V	—	—		1798	
	Creeve	V	vid. 2			1891	
	Killuken or Killuccan	V	— 3			2511	
	Shankhill	V	vid. 2			2622	
	Killmacumsey . .	V	— 2			2759	
	Tumna	V	none	none		2762	
						17,875	28,953
8	<i>Corps of Tibohine Prebendary.</i>						
	Tibohine or Artagh .	R & V	one	one	The Bishop.	9193	14,891
9	<i>Corps of Ballintobber Prebendary.</i>						
	Ballintobber	R & V	none	none	The Bishop.	2646	
	Baslick	V	—	—		5621	
	Killkeevan	V	one	one		6138	
						14,405	23,332
10	<i>Corps of Oran Prebendary.</i>						
	Oran	R	one	one	The Bishop.	2506	
	Drimtemple	V	—	—		1775	
	Ballynakill, part . .	V	—	—			
	With others in Gal- way						
11	<i>Corps of Tarmonbarry Prebendary.</i>						
	Tarmonbarry	R	one	one	The Bishop.	1872	3032
12	Killenvoy	V	one	one	The Bishop.	2781	
	Killmean	V	—	—		3759	
	Porterin	V	—	—		3685	
	Ivernoon	V	—	—			
	Raharrow	V	—	—		2148	
						12,373	

Benefices.	Names of Parishes.	Rectory or Vicarage.	Churches.	Glebe Houses.	Reputed Patron.	Extent of the Parishes.	
						Ir. Acr.	E. Acr.
13	Killgeffin	V	one	one	The Bishop.	2515	4073
14	Roscommon	V	one	none	The Bishop.	3918	
	Killbride	V	—	—		7122	
	Kilteevan	V	—	—		1597	
						12,637	20,469
15	Killglass	V	one	one	Contested.	5024	8138
16	Athleague	V	one	one	The Bishop.	3462	
	Fuerty	V	one	—		5549	
	Another parish in Gal- way	—	—	—		9011	14,596
17	Killmore	R	one	none	The Lauder family.	3855	6244
18	Killtoom	V	one	one	The Bishop.	3770	
	Camma	—	—	—		5352	
						9122	14,776
19	Mount Talbot	V	one	none	The Bishop.	3147	
	Tessaragh	V	—	—		1836	
	Disert	V	—	—		2661	
	Taghboy	V	—	—		7644	12,382
20	Eastersnow	V	one	one	The Bishop.	1976	
	Killeola	V	—	—		1798	
						3774	6113
21	Killnamanagh	R & V	one	none	The Bishop.	1939	3140
22	Bumlin, <i>vide</i> No. 4	V	one	one	The Bishop.	2273	
	Killtristan	V	—	—		3007	
	Lisonuffy	V	—	—		2699	
						7979	12,924

Benefices.	Names of Parishes.	Rectory or Vicarage.	Churches.	Glebe Houses.	Reputed. Patron.	Extent of the Parishes.	
						Ir. Acr.	E. Acr.
23	Aughrim Cloonaff Killumod	V R & V V	one — —	none — —	The Bishop. The Bishop.	3417 1527 1781	10,893
						6725	
24	Clonfinlough Clontuskert	V V	none —	none —	The Bishop.	3025 1720	7686
						4745	10,331
25	Boyle Ballynakill With six others in Sligo	V	one — — —	one — — —	The Bishop.	6378	2236
26	St. Peter's, Athlone	P C	one	one	The Bishop.	1442	
27	Lough Glyn	P C	one	one	The Bishop.		
28	Creagh Taghmaconnel . . . <i>These in the Diocese of Clonfert.</i> Another parish in the union, not in the Co. Roscommon.	R & V R	one — — —	none — — —	The Bishop of Clonfert.	3276 5538 8814	14,277
29	Moore Drum <i>These in the Diocese of Tuam.</i>	R & V V	none —	none —	The Archbp. of Tuam.	5483 3352 8835	14,310 9925
30	Killtullagh <i>In the Diocese of Tuam.</i>	R & V	one	none		6128	
31	Kilronan <i>Diocese of Ardagh.</i>	R & V	one	one	The Bishop.	2399	3886

TABLE II.

Containing an ALPHABETICAL LIST of the PARISHES of the County of Roscommon, as named in the GRAND JURY COUNTY MAP,—IN DR. BEAUFORT'S Ecclesiastical MAP,—in the ECCLESIASTICAL REGISTER,—and in the COUNTY BOOKS.

* * The letter B. with the numbers, refer to the BENEFICES in the preceding Table.

Ardcarne.—Barony of Boyle, east of Lough Kee. B. 3.

Ardclare.—Appears in the Ecclesiastical Register, B. 7, but not as a parish elsewhere: it is the name of a townland on which the parish church of Cloonegormican stands. *Vide* Cloonegormican.

Artagh.—*Vide* Tibohine.

Assylin or *Asilin*.—*Vide* Boyle.

Athleague.—Barony of Athlone, on the Suck. B. 16.

Aughrim.—Barony of Roscommon, between Elphin and Shannon. B. 5 and 23.

Ballintobber.—Barony of Ballintobber, western division, south-east of Castlerea. B. 9.

Ballyleague.—*Vide* Clontuskert.

Ballynakill.—Is laid down in the grand jury county map, in the half barony of Ballymoe, east of the Suck: but in Dr. Beaufort's map appears to the west of the Suck in the county Galway. No mention of such a parish is made in the county books. B. 10 seems to include this place: whilst the places of the same name, B. 6 and 25, lie out of the limits of the county Roscommon.

Baslick.—Barony of Ballintobber, western division, west of Elphin. B. 9.

Boyle.—Barony of Boyle. B. 25. Formerly called Asilin.

Bumlin.—Barony of Roscommon, Strokestown. B. 4 and 22.

Cam or *Camma*.—Barony of Athlone, centre. B. 18.

Cloonaff, or *Cloonoff*, or *Clooncraff*, or *Clooncraft*.—Barony of Roscommon, to the east. B. 23.

Clonfinlough.—Barony of Roscommon, to the south. B. 4 and 24.

Clontuskert, or *Cloontoskert*, or *Cloontwiscar*.—Barony of Ballintobber, southern division, Shannon, Lanesborough. B. 24.

Cloonigormican or *Clonmagormicum*.—Half barony of Ballymoe: appears in the grand jury map and the county books, but not in the Ecclesiastical Register: it is there called Ardclare, from the church having been built on the townland of that name. *Vide* Ardclare. B. 7.

Creagh or *Creeagh*.—Half barony of Moycarne. B. 28.

Creeve or *Creave*.—Barony of Boyle, to the south-east. B. 2 and 7.

Donamon.—According to the county books is situated in the half barony of Ballymoe: in the grand jury county map, the name is not inserted: Dr. Beaufort places it to the west of the Suck in the county of Galway.

Drum.—Barony of Athlone to the south Shannon. B. 29.

Drumtemple or *Drimtemple*.—In the half barony of Ballymoe, according to the county books; but the name is not inserted in the engraved copy of the grand county map. Dr. Beaufort places it to the west of the Suck, near the town of Ballymoe. B. 10.

Dysert, *Dysart*, or *Disert*.—Barony of Athlone, on the river Suck. B. 19.

Eastersnow.—Barony of Boyle, near centre. B. 20.

Elphin.—Barony of Roscommon. B. 1.

Fuerty.—Barony of Athlone, on the Suck. B. 16.

Ivernoon.—Mentioned in the Ecclesiastical Register, but neither in the grand jury county maps nor county books, nor Dr. Beaufort's map: it is the same parish as St. John's, or included in it. Barony of Athlone, on Lough Ree. *Vide* St. John's and B. 12.

- Killbride*.—Barony of Ballintobber, middle division to the north. B. 14. In the county books called also Derran.
- Killbrine* or *Killbryan*.—Barony of Boyle, Lough Kee. B. 3.
- Killcola*, or *Killcolagh*, or *Killcollagh*.—Barony of Boyle, to the south. B. 2. and 20.
- Killcooley* or *Killhooley*.—Barony of Roscommon, to the south. B. 7.
- Killcorkey*.—Barony of Ballintobber, western division, to the north. B. 2 and 3.
- Killenvoy*.—Barony of Athlone, Lough Ree. B. 12.
- Killgeffin*.—Barony of Ballintobber, southern division, to the north. B. 13.
- Killglass*.—Barony of Ballintobber, eastern division. B. 15.
- Killgoghlin*.—Is the title of a prebend, but not a distinct parish. B. 4.
- Killkeevan*.—Barony of Ballintobber, western division, Castle-rea. B. 9.
- Killmacumsey* or *Killmacumshy*.—Barony of Boyle, to the south. B. 2 and 7.
- Killmean* or *Killmain*.—Barony of Athlone, Lough Ree, to the north. B. 12.
- Killmore*.—Barony of Ballintobber, eastern division, to the north. B. 17.
- Killnamanagh* or *Killnamanna*.—Barony of Boyle, Lough Gara. B. 21.
- Killronan*.—Barony of Boyle, to the north. B. 31.
- Killteevan* or *Killtevin*.—Barony of Ballintobber, southern division, Lough Ree. B. 14.
- Killtoom*.—Barony of Athlone, Lough Ree. B. 18.
- Killtrustan*.—Barony of Roscommon, east of Elphin. B. 22.
- Killtullough* or *Killtollagh*.—Barony of Ballintobber, western division, extreme west. B. 30.
- Killuken*.—Barony of Boyle, on the Shannon. B. 3.

Killuken or Killuccan.—Barony of Roscommon, to the south.

B. 7.

Killumód.—Barony of Boyle, Shannon. B. 23.

Lisonaff or Lissonuffy.—Barony of Roscommon, Shannon.

B. 4 and 22.

Lough Glynn.—Barony of Boyle, to the south-west, is laid down as a distinct parish in the grand jury county map, but does not appear in the county books, neither in Dr. Beaufort's map: in the Ecclesiastical Register it is mentioned as a perpetual cure. B. 27. It seems to be included in the county books within the parish of Tibohine or Taughboyne.

Moore.—Half barony of Moycarne, Shannon. B. 29.

Mount Talbot.—Barony of Athlone, next the Suck. B. 19.

This appears as a distinct parish in the Ecclesiastical Register, but not so in the county books, nor in the grand jury county map, nor in Dr. Beaufort's map. It seems to be included in, or to be united with, the parish of Tessaragh, otherwise Taughsrara, or Tesrara.

Ogulla.—Barony of Roscommon, south west of Elphin. B. 1.

Oran.—Half barony of Ballymoe, on the Suck. B. 10.

Porterin or Porterun.—Barony of Athlone, is mentioned in the Ecclesiastical Register as united with Invernoon and Kilmaine, B. 12; but appears neither in the county books nor in the grand jury map: it is probably included under the head of St. John's.

Raharrow or Rahara.—Barony of Athlone, centre. B. 12.

Roscommon.—Barony of Ballintobber. B. 14.

St. John's.—Barony of Athlone, Lough Ree, is not mentioned in the Ecclesiastical Register, the same as Ivernoon. B. 12.

St. Peter's.—Athlone. B. 26.

Shankhill.—Barony of Roscommon, north-west. B. 2 and 7.

Taghboy or Taughboy.—Barony of Athlone on the Suck. B. 19.

Taghmaconnel.—Barony of Athlone, on the Suck, to the south. B. 28.

Tarmonbarry.—Barony of Ballintobber, eastern division, Shannon. B. 11.

Templeneilan.—Appears in Dr. Beaufort's map, but is not named in the grand jury county map, nor in the county books, nor in the Ecclesiastical Register. It forms a part of the union of Killbride and Killteevan, B. 14, and is now called Roscommon.

Tessaragh, or Tesrara, or Taughsrara.—Barony of Athlone, on the Suck. B. 19.

Tibohine, or Tibohen, or Taughboyne.—Barony of Boyle, French Park. B. 8. This parish has also the name of Artagh.

Tirebrine.—The title of a prebend, but not a distinct parish.

Tumma or Tumna.—Barony of Boyle, Shannon, Battle bridge. B. 7.

TABLE III.—THE COMPOSITION, &c.

Names of Parishes.	Reference to the Benefice.	Payable to the Lay Impropr- iator.	Payable to the Incumbent.	Total Payable.	Contents in Irish Acres.	Rate per Irish Acre.	Lay Impropriators.
Elphin - - - }	1	£. s. d. 2½	£. s. d. 223 9 2½	£. s. d. 2½	5532 }	s. d. 0 8½	
Ogulla - - - }		.. .. 0	92 8 0	315 17 2½	3022 }		
Killukin - - - }	3	.. ..	101 7 8	101 7 8	2212	0 11	
Ardcarne - - - }	3	Not compounded supposed value £300.					
Killcorkey - - - }	2 & 3	Not compounded, supposed value £70.					
Ardclare - - - }	7	Not compounded, but some agreement, sup- posed value £160					
*Killcooley - - - }	7	.. ..	112 4 9	112 4 9	2296	0 11	
*Killuccan - - - }	7	78 8 0	71 1 0	149 9 0	2511	.. 8½	Earl of Cork.
Shankhill - - - }	2	.. ..	92 6 2	92 6 2	2622	0 7½	
Killmacumsey - - - }	2 & 7	.. ..	92 6 2	92 6 2	2759	0 11½	
Creeve - - - }	2 & 7	.. ..	92 6 2	92 6 2	1891		
Tumna - - - }	7	Not compounded, supposed value £70.					

Names of Parishes.	Reference to the Benefice.	Payable to the Lay Impropriator.	Payable to the Incumbent.	Total Payable.	Contents in Irish Acres.	Rate per Irish Acre.	Lay Impropriator.
Tibohine - - -	8	£. . . d. . .	£. 347 s. 1 d. 6½	£. 347 s. 1 d. 6½	9193	s. 0 d. 9	
Tarmonbarry - -	11	£. . . d. . .	£. 228 s. 0 d. 0	£. 228 s. 0 d. 0	1872	s. 2 d. 5¼	
Killgeffin - - -	13	£. 79 s. 10 d. 9¼	£. 79 s. 10 d. 9¼	£. 159 s. 1 d. 6¼	2515	s. 1 d. 3	Lessees of Visc. Kingsland.
Boyle - - -	25	£. 166 s. 3 d. 0¾	£. 147 s. 13 d. 10	£. 316 s. 13 d. 10¾	6378	s. 0 d. 11¼	Viscount Lorton.
Cloontwisker } Cloonfinlough }	24	Not compounded.					
Killenvoy - - -		£. 13 s. 16 d. 11	£. 170 s. 15 d. 4	£. 184 s. 12 d. 3¼	3025	s. 1 d. 2¼	Lessees of Visc. Kingsland.
*Killmean - - -		£. 65 s. 0 d. 0	£. 65 s. 0 d. 0	£. 130 s. 0 d. 0	2781	s. 0 d. 9¼	Lord Clonbrock.
Porterin - - -	12	£. 63 s. 7 d. 0	£. 63 s. 7 d. 0	£. 126 s. 14 d. 0	3759	s. 0 d. 9¼	Ditto.
Ivernoon - - -		£. 18 s. 0 d. 0	£. 18 s. 0 d. 0	£. 36 s. 0 d. 0			Lessees of Visc. Kingsland.
Rahara - - -		£. 60 s. 0 d. 0	£. 62 s. 14 d. 5	£. 122 s. 14 d. 5	3685	s. 0 d. 10	Lord Clonbrock.
Roscommon - - -		£. 58 s. 0 d. 0	£. 66 s. 5 d. 9	£. 124 s. 5 d. 9	2148	s. 0 d. 10	Ditto.
Killbride - - -	14	£. 147 s. 13 d. 10	£. 73 s. 16 d. 11	£. 221 s. 10 d. 9	3198	s. 0 d. 11¼	Earl of Essex.
Kilteevan - - -		£. 150 s. 9 d. 0	£. 150 s. 9 d. 0	£. 300 s. 18 d. 0	7122	s. 0 d. 11¼	The Sandys family.
*Kiltoom - - -		Not compounded.					Earl of Essex.
*Camma - - -	18	£. 65 s. 0 d. 0	£. 90 s. 0 d. 0	£. 155 s. 0 d. 0	3770	s. 0 d. 9	Incorporated Society.
Dysert - - -	19	£. 85 s. 0 d. 0	£. 110 s. 0 d. 0	£. 195 s. 0 d. 0	5352	s. 0 d. 9	Incorporated Society.
		£. . . d. . .	£. 18 s. 9 d. 2¼	£. 18 s. 9 d. 2¼	1836	s. 0 d. 6¾	Incorporated Society.

Names of Parishes.	Reference to the Benefec.	Payable to the Lay Impropr. tor.	Payable to the Incumbent.	Total Payable.	Contents in Irish Acres.	Rate per Irish Acre.	Lay Impropr. iors.
Tessaragh - }	19	£. 41 s. 4 d. 7½	£. 61 s. 16 d. 11	£. 103 s. 1 d. 6½	3147 }	0 6½	Incorporated Society.
Toghboy - }		38 15 4½	58 3 1	96 18 5½	2661 }		Ditto.
Athleague - }	16	90 9 2½	135 13 10½	226 3 1	3462 }	1 0½	Unascertained.
Fuerty - }		156 18 5½	83 1 6½	240 0 0	5549 }		Thomas Mitchell.
Bumlin - }	4 &	100 3 5	185 0 4	285 3 9	2273 }	2 1½	Lessees of Visc. Kingsland.
Killtrustan - }	24	.. ..	312 10 0	312 10 0	3007 }		
Lisonuffy - }		.. ..	258 9 2½	258 9 2½	2699 }		
Kilmore - }	17	.. ..	184 12 3½	184 12 3½	3855 }	0 11	
Eastersnow - }	20	30 8 0	30 8 0	60 16 0	1976 }	0 7½	Viscount Crofton.
Killcola - }		32 6 1½	32 6 1½	64 12 3½	1798 }		
Aughrim - }	5 &	.. ..	190 0 0	190 0 0	3417 }		
Killumod - }	23	.. ..	42 0 0	42 0 0	1781 }	0 11½	
*Cloonaff - }		.. ..	100 0 0	100 0 0	1527 }		
*Killnahanagh	21	41 0 0	41 0 0	82 0 0	1939	0 10	
Killbrine - }	3	Not compounded, reputed value £70.					
Oran - }	10	Not compounded.					
Ballynakill - }	10						

Names of Parishes.	Reference to the Bench.	Payable to the Lay Improprator.			Payable to the Incumbent.			Total Payable.			Contents in Irish Acres.	Rates per Irish Acre.	Lay Impropriator.
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.			
Ballintobber -	9	Not compounded, reputed value £600.											
Baslick -													
Killkeevan -													
Killglass -	15	Not compounded.											
St. Peter's Athlone -	26	Salary paid, £97.											
Diocese of Tuam.													
Killtullagh -	31	Not compounded.											
Moore -	29	12	0	0	212	10	0	224	10	0	5483	0	8½
Drum -		..	..	..	90	0	0	90	0	0	3352	
Dioc. of Clonfert.													
Creagh -	28	135	0	0	135	0	0	3276	0	7½
Taghmaconnel -		..	..	..	147	13	10	147	13	10	5538	
Dioc. of Ardagh.													
Killronan -	30	Not compounded.											
		Total compounded for						£6463	2	0	134,721	0	11½
		In English Acres									218,225	0	7
													Average rate per Irish Acre.
													Average rate per Eng. Acre.

	Acres.
The whole contents of the parishes, as stated in the county books, amount to - - -	190,372
Deducting from which, the contents of those compounded for - - - - -	134,721
	<hr/>
There remain - - - - -	55,651
	<hr/>
If these were charged at the same average rate of $11\frac{1}{4}d.$ per Irish Acre, the amount would be - - - - -	£2676 12 2
Add the amount compounded for - - -	6463 2 0
	<hr/>
At which rate the whole value of tithes for the county might be taken - - -	£9139 14 2
	<hr/>

TABLE IV.

Vestry Assessments for the Year 1827, extracted from the Returns to the House of Commons.—Vol. xxii. 1828.

	£. s. d.			Acres in the Parishes.	Reference to Benefice.
Union of Elphin . .	116	9	7	8543	1
Killuken	48	3	0	11788	3
Union of Aughrim .	56	7	4	6725	23
Tibohine	23	8	0	9193	8
Killenvoy	101	19	8½	12373	12
Killgeffin	40	0	0	2515	13
Ardclare	43	9	4	17875	7
Tarmonbarry . . .	28	5	6½	1872	11
Union of Roscommon	194	14	11	12637	14
Athleague	31	5	6	9011	16
St. Peter's, Athlone	62	1	0	1442	26
Killkeevan	131	4	10	6138	9
Boyle	79	14	6	6738	19
Add	24	0	0		
Credit last year	10	14	3		
	£13	5	9		
Tessaragh	41	8	10	7644	19
Kiltoom and Camma	31	11	0	9122	18
Eastersnow and Kil-					
cola	27	10	0	3774	20
Killmore	72	12	3	3855	17
Killglass	55	11	1	5024	15
Creagh	121	15	5¾	8814	28
More and Drum . .	19	0	3½	8835	9
	£1326	12	2¼	153,918	

Average rate 2d. per Acre.

TABLE V.

An Account of the Sums of Money granted by the BOARD of FIRST FRUITS, towards the building and re-building of the following Churches and Glebe Houses in that part of the Diocese of Elphin, which lies within the County of Roscommon.

ECCLES. REG.

	Churches.	Gifts.	Loans.	When finished.	Glebe Houses.	Gifts.	Loans.	When finished.
		£.	£.			£.	£.	
1	Eastersnow . . .	150			Boyle . . .	100		1805
2	Kilgeffin . . .	200			St. Peter's . .	100	312	1810
3	Killuken . . .	50			Ardcarne . . .	100	310	1810
4	Elphin Cathedral	300		1759	Kilglass . . .	400	400	1813
5	Tessaragh . . .	423		1766	Athleague . .	400	214	1815
6	Camma . . .	390		1785	Killuken . . .	400	240	1816
	Tarmonbarry . .	800		1814	Deanery . . .	100		1816
7	Tibohine . . .	800		1815	Tarmonbarry	400	344	1817
8	Boyle . . .		1000	1814	Bumlin . . .	450	200	1813
9	Kilkeevan . . .		2500	1819	Tibohine . . .	400	340	1820
10	Kilnamanagh . .	500			Lough Glyn	450	50	1822
11	St. Peter's, Ath-							
	lone . . .	500	300		Eastersnow . .	450	94	1821
12	Kilgeffin . . .	600			Kilnamanagh	450	120	
13	Strokestown . .		1000		Aughrim . . .	450	200	
14	Bumlin . . .		1700		Kilkeevan . .	100	825	
15	Killenvoy . . .		1500					
	<i>Diocese of Clon-</i>							
	<i>fert.</i>							
	Creagh . . .	162	800	1818	Creagh . . .	962		1818
	<i>Tuam.</i>							
	Killtullagh . . .	500		1788				
	Ardagh, province							
	of Armagh.							
	Kilronan . . .	500		1788	Kilronan . . .	400	328	1816

TABLE VI.

GLEBES in the County of Roscommon.

Parishes.	<i>Eccles. Reg.</i>			Acres.
Elphin and Ogulla				250
Shankhill				
Kilmacumsey				
Killcorkey				63
Kilcola				
Creeve				
Killuken	13
Tibohine	20 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tarmonbarry	16 $\frac{1}{4}$
Killenvoy	11
Boyle	20 $\frac{1}{4}$
Aughrim	18 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kilglass	5
Ardcarne	20
Eastersnow	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kilcola	21
Killtoom	20 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bumlin Union	10
Kilnamanagh	16
Athleague Union	43
St. Peter's, Athlone	6
Creagh	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kilronan	30
Total				610 $\frac{1}{4}$

TABLE VII.

DIOCESE OF ELPHIN.*

Estimated extent of the diocese in acres	-	420,150
Average of each benefice	-	12,004
Ditto of each parish	-	5,386

Number of Acres belonging to the See of Elphin.

	A.	R.	P.
Arable and pasture	22,776	2	15
Bog and unreclaimable mountain	8240	1	31
† Glebe lands	815	0	1
			31,832
In English measure, acres	-	-	51,562
Benefices, number of	-	-	35
‡ Ditto, with churches	-	-	29

* Although in strictness, the diocese of Elphin only falls under notice so far as the county of Roscommon is connected with it, yet I have introduced the above synoptical table of the state of the whole diocese, as tending to illustrate the general subject. It is taken from the Ecclesiastical Register, 1830, p. 261, and from returns to Parliament.

† Returns of Register, House of Commons, Parliamentary Papers, 1824, vol. xxi.

‡ The number of ruined churches within the county of Roscommon, as laid down in the grand county map, amounts to 45; independent of those belonging to abbeys and monastic institutions. This might lead to the supposition, either that the county was more populous in former times, or religion in a more flourishing state; on which subject some excellent observations appear in Archdeacon Barton's Parochial Survey of Adamstown, in the county Wexford, strictly applicable to Roscommon.

“ There are the ruins of several churches of very small dimensions, which would give the idea of a thickly inhabited country in former

Benefices without churches	- - - -	6
Ditto, with glebe	- - - -	20
Ditto, without	- - - -	15
Ditto, with glebe houses	- - - -	22
Ditto, without	- - - -	13
Number of parishes	- - - -	78
Ditto, of which the rectories are inappropriate	- - - -	44
Churches	- - - -	32
Glebe houses	- - - -	24
Incumbents	- - - -	37
_____ of those styled dignitaries	- - - -	5
_____ of those styled prebendaries	- - - -	8
_____ of those styled parochial clergy	- - - -	24
Curates assistant	- - - -	13

times: but I should suppose that these were the mere confessionals of every little cluster of houses, in which the general population distributed itself for the purpose of society and security in barbarous times. The clergy also were non resident, being missionary from the bishop or superior of some neighbouring convent, at the great festivals or other stated seasons."

Mr. Archdall in his *Monasticon*, enumerates within the county of Roscommon, 51 religious houses, abbeys, priories, monasteries, &c.: but of these nearly one-half were only known from obscure documents and tradition.

TABLE VIII.

Diocese of Elphin, First Fruits.

Number of <i>Dignities</i> rated and contributing to <i>First Fruits</i> - - - - -	4
Ditto, <i>never</i> rated and <i>not</i> contributing - - - - -	1
Number of <i>Benefices</i> rated and contributing to <i>First Fruits</i> - - - - -	18
Ditto, do. but <i>not</i> contributing - - - - -	9
Ditto, <i>never</i> rated - - - - -	13
Valuation of <i>Dignities</i> contributing - - - - -	£121 7 8
Benefices, ditto - - - - -	67 16 4
Amount of <i>Benefices</i> <i>rated</i> but <i>not</i> contributing	43 0 11

Period of Valuation—28 Elizab. and 5 Car. 1.

Total received from the First Fruits within the County of Roscommon in the diocese of Elphin, during the following ten years :

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1811.	Killenvoy -	10	13	4			
	Oran prebendary	2	0	0			
	Templeneylan ditto	1	5	6			
	Archdeaconry -	0	13	4			
	Ballintobber -	0	13	4			
					15	5	6
1812.	Nil.						
1813.	Killenvoy rectory	5	6	8			
	Killmeen, ditto -	5	6	8			
	Buharrow, ditto	6	0	0			
	Ballintobber preb.	0	13	4			
	Tirebrine - - -	1	10	8			
	Athleague vicarage, 1st,						
	2d, 3d, 4th bonds	5	6	9			
					24	3	4

				£	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1814.	Bishoprick	-	-	0	0	0	103	18	4

1815. Nil.

1816. Tarmonbarry rectory and

vicarage - - 0 0 0 4 0 0

1817 to 1819. Nil. from August 1812, to December

1820. Artaugh prebendary 2.0000

Ardcarne rectory - 4 0 0

Bishopric, 1st bond 25 19 6

0 81 2013 31 19 6

TABLE IX.

*Produce of First Fruits within the County of Roscommon,
from August 1812, to December 1830.—*PARLIAMEN-
TARY PAPERS 1830-1, vol. vii.

Diocese of Elphin.

1 Bishop	-	-	-	£103	18	0
1 Precentor	-	-	-	1	10	0
6 Prebendaries	-	-	-	12	16	8
6 Vicars	-	-	-	31	6	8
				<hr/>		
				£149	11	4
18 Rectors	}	-	-	-	not taxed.	
18 Vicars		-	-	-		
14 Vicars		-	-	-	not liable.	

Diocese of Tuam.

1 Rector	}	-	-	-	not taxed.	
2 Vicars		-	-	-		

Diocese of Clonfert.

2 Rectors	-	-	-	-	not taxed.	
2 Vicars	-	-	-	-	not liable.	

Diocese of Ardagh.

1 Vicar	-	-	-	-	not liable.	
---------	---	---	---	---	-------------	--

—
Total 72 admissions to dignities, benefices, and parishes,
during 18 years.

TABLE X.

*From Returns to the House of Commons, 1824.—Vol. xxi.
No. 246.*

INCUMBENTS IN THE DIOCESE OF ELPHIN WITHIN THE
COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON.

Incumbents resident	-	15
Ditto, non-resident	-	11

The incumbents non-resident are as follows:

Benefices.		
1. Killuken	} permitted :	Incumbent resides in a glebe house $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles distant: a curate resides.
Killcorkey		
2. Shankhill, precentorship, exempt		Has no cure of souls.
3. Clonfinlough, preb. No. 2, ditto		Ditto.
4. Kilgeffin	}	No glebe or glebe house; but the duties discharged by incumbent and two curates.
Killukin		
5. Oran, preb. No. 4, permitted		Sick, no glebe house.
6. Terebrine, preb. No. 7, exempt		No cure of souls.
7. Clonfinlough	}	No church or glebe.
Clontuskert		
8. Kilmore		In Elphin whilst glebe is building; no fit place in parish.
9. Ardcarne, permitted		On account of age and infirmity.
10. Kilnamanagh		No glebe house.

Benefices.

11. Aughrim exempt . . . The vicar general of diocese
lives within a $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile ; glebe
house building.

Lough Glynn vacant.

BENEFICES IN THE COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON, BUT NOT IN
THE DIOCESE OF ELPHIN.

Tuam.

Killtullagh R. V. non-resident No reason assigned.

Moore R. V. }
Drum R. V. } non-resident No reason assigned.

Ardagh.

Kilronan, resident

Clonfert.

Creagh V. }
Taghmaconnel V. } No return.

CONCLUSION.

In the preceding Tables I have brought together, in a succinct form, the principal documents latterly published relative to the state of the Established Church within the county of Roscommon; but having done so, I abstain from offering any comments thereon.

TABLE XI.

Resident Clergy, &c.—PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS, 1824,
vol. viii. p. 152.—*Vide* note from same.*

ROSCOMMON.		RESIDENT CLERGY.						
Baronies.	Parishes.	Parts of Pa- rishes.	Townlands.	Acres.	Established Church.	Roman Ca- tholic.	Presbyte- rian.	Other Dis- senter.
Athlone . . .	14		342	48,483	8	11		47
Ballymoe half B.	3	1	58	8,399	1	2		11
Ballintobber . .	13		428	51,003	10	18		93
Boyle . . .	13		434	41,817 ^a	9	16		78
Moycarne . . .	2		33	8,759	0	4		7
Roscommon . .	11		335	31,911	5	6		27
	56	1	1,630	190,372	33	57		263

* By Strafford's Survey.

* " The preceding Tables have been digested from the returns made by the enumerators, when called upon to prove themselves qualified, by their local information, to execute the duties prescribed for them under the Population Act. The first two columns, entitled Parishes and Parts of Parishes, are corrected from a return previously made by the bench of magistrates, through the peace clerk specifying the names of the baronies, parishes, and townlands; or other subdivisions of their respective counties. The returns of the peace clerks differ in several cases from those of the enumerators, as the former were drawn up according to the civil divisions of the county, by which the assessments for local taxation are made: and the latter partly according to the same divisions, and partly according to the ecclesiastical arrangement. In some cases also, the enumerators returned the parishes according to the Roman Catholic divisions, which frequently differ from those of the Established Church. Several parishes are also at times returned under the single name of the union of which they form a part. Difficulties likewise occurred in cases in which parishes were situated in different baronies. It has been therefore found useful to refer to other authorities for reconciling these differences; and it is

thought that the precautions thus taken, have rendered this part of the Table generally accurate.

“ The table of townlands also presented similar difficulties. In some counties, the minor sub-denominations are mixed up with the townlands ; in others, plough lands or other names are substituted for them ; and in some counties, no information of any division less than that of baronies could be obtained. The statement of acres was often made in the same county, by some enumerators according to those taxed ; but by others, according to a modern survey. Sometimes they are estimated by the Irish, and sometimes by the English or by the Cunningham measure : the difference was therefore great and frequently irreconcilable.

“ In making the return of clergymen, the enumerators were instructed to confine themselves to those actually resident, the object of the inquiry being to procure the names and addresses of that class, whose influence and local information, were hoped to be (and actually in many places proved to be) highly valuable towards effecting the objects of the legislature. The instructions were generally adhered to, though a few instances occurred in which the enumerators returned the names of the incumbents of the parishes, or of those generally, though not actually, resident. It is, however, conceived, that the inaccuracies thence arising are inconsiderable.

“ In the returns of schoolmasters, some omitted the names of the itinerant or hedge schoolmasters : whenever these omissions were discovered, means were taken for their correction : so that in this case also, dependance may be placed on their general accuracy.

“ Notwithstanding the inaccuracies that must occur in consequence of the causes above stated, the result will, in most cases, particularly with respect to the clergy and schoolmasters, be sufficiently correct for deducing practical conclusions of immediate utility, until more accurate information be furnished from the returns of the enumerators, which contain the name, age, and occupation of every individual in Ireland ; and are now arranging and digesting in order to be laid before parliament. With respect to the typographical divisions of the country, the deficiencies in the Table serve to point out the necessity of an accurate survey being formed, by means of which those important points may be satisfactorily and definitively ascertained.”

TABLE XII.
POPULATION, &c.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS, 1824, vol. xxii. p. 358.

I. ATHLONE BARONY.	HOUSES.		People.
	Inhabited.	Building.	
^a St. Peter's Parish . . .	516	....	2891
^b Athlone, part of town . .	515	....	4259
^c Drum, parish . . .	764	....	3918
^d Camma, do. . .	646	....	3426
^e Taughmaconnel, do. . .	604	....	3225
^f St. John's, do. . .	545	....	2940
^g Kilmain, do. . .	437	....	2392
^h Kiltomb, do. . .	730	....	3906
Dysart, do. . .	275	5	1445
ⁱ Taughsrara, do. . .	617	2	3329
^k Taughboy, part of do. .	388	....	2086
^l Rahara, do. . .	266	4	1420
^m Killenvoy, do. . .	385	4	2143
ⁿ Fuerty, do. . .	977	5	5325
^o Athleague, part of do. .	490	3	2733
Athleague, part of town .	77	....	418

^a In St. Peter's parish, a charity school of 20 boys.

^b This part of Athlone in St. Peter's parish.

^c Drum, also called Edardruim parish, a village called Drumglass in it, of 30 houses and 150 inhabitants; another Carricknaughten, 23 houses and 164 inhabitants.

^d In Camma parish, Pullagher village, 32 houses and 149 inhabitants.

^e In Taughmaconnel, the largest village is Carrarea, 31 houses and 145 inhabitants.

^f In St. John's, called also Ivernoon parish, Ballinhedge, the largest village, 30 houses and 137 inhabitants.

^g In Kilmain, Brackna village, 37 houses and 154 inhabitants, and Ballinphal village, 30 houses and 148 inhabitants.

^h Kiltomb, called also Miltown pass parish, largest village Curnaseer, 54 houses, and 277 inhabitants.

ⁱ Taughsrara, called also Tessararagh parish, Mount Talbot village, 27 houses and 185 inhabitants.

^k Taughboy, Jamestown village, 27 houses and 126 inhabitants, remainder of the parish in Killian barony, county Galway.

^l In Raharagh parish, Gurtnamansagh village, 37 houses 170 inhabitants.

^m In Killenvoy parish, Knockcroghery village, 33 houses and 180 inhabitants.

ⁿ In Fuerty parish, largest village Emla, 20 houses and 169 inhabitants.

^o In Athleague, remainder of parish in Galway.

II. BALLYMOE HALF BARONY.	Houses.	Building.	People.
Oran parish	302	....	1686
^a Donamon, part of parish .	107	....	573
^b Drimtemple, do.	290	....	1523
^c Cloonigormicon parish . .	426	....	2503
III. BALLINTOBER BARONY.			
Kilbride parish	1084	....	5997
Clontuskert, do.	462	....	2396
Coscommon, do.	719	....	3836
^d Clonebern village	53	....	268
Roscommon town	494	....	3015
^e Kilkeevan parish	1703	7	9094
^f Ballintober, do.	424	1	2152
^g Baslick, do.	563	3	3227
Kilcorkey, do.	443	....	2546
Kilmore, do.	826	1	4656
Kilglass, do.	1487	1	8015
Kiltullagh, do.	1112	....	6053
Kiltevan, do.	389	....	2344
Tarmonbarry, do.	601	4	3465
Kilgeffin, do.	608	2	3110

^a Remainder of parish in Galway.

^b Remainder in Galway.

^c In Cloonigormicon parish, the village of Corrindoyne, 32 houses and 186 inhabitants.

^d Clonebern, *alias* Long Walk, in Roscommon parish, charter school of 23 girls in the parish, not in list of charter schools.

^e In Kilkeevan 1 male, upwards of 100 in it, Castlerea town 197 houses, and 1143 inhabitants. School of Erasmus Smith's foundation, 10 boys and 7 girls.

And free school, 140 boys and 30 girls, under patronage of Hibernian Society.

Also, a school for 50 girls, who are clothed and instructed in reading, writing, and needle work, supported by Mrs. Sandford.

^f School for 34 boys and 21 girls, supported by W. R. Wills, Esq.

^g In Baslick parish, village of Castle Plunket, 31 houses, and 160 inhabitants.

IV. BOYLE.	HOUSES.		People.
	Inhabited.	Building.	
Killenamanagh parish . . .	427	2	2357
^a Taughboyne, do.	2296	15	12393
Loughglen village	41	....	227
^b Ardcarne parish	991	3	5684
^c Boyle, do.	1345	4	7774
^d Boyle town	467	2	3407
^e Creeve, part of parish	385	....	2303
^f Kilmacumsey parish	370	....	2075
Kilbryan, do.	184	....	1064
Kilcola, do.	354	....	1908
^g Eastersnow, do.	246	....	1539
Tumna do.	643	2	3614
^h Killucan, do.	461	1	2483
ⁱ Killumod, do.	275	....	1490
Kilronan, do.	914	....	5057

^a Taughboyne parish, also called Tibbohine and Artagh, and includes the ecclesiastical parish of Loughglen. In it is an Hibernian school of 25 boys and 25 girls, and a charity school of 88 girls.

^b In Ardcarne parish, Lord Lorton supports a school of 38 boys and and Lady Lorton one of 53 girls. Lord Lorton also supports a school of 40 boys and 30 girls, on the townland of Drimeonille. One female upwards of a 100 years old in this parish.

^c In Boyle parish, Lady Lorton supports a school of 4 females.

^d In Boyle town, a charity school of 8 girls, and a free school of 112 boys. Also, a military school in the barracks.

^e Remainder of Creeve in Roscommon barony.

^f In Kilmacumsey parish, a charity school of 22 boys and 10 girls, and another of 17 boys and 13 girls.

^g In Eastersnow parish, a charity school of 60 boys and 20 girls.

^h In Killucan parish, 1 male upwards of 102 years old.

ⁱ In Killumod, 1 female upwards of a 100 years old.

V. MOYCARNON BARONY.	Houses.	Building.	People.
Moore parish	665	10	3766
^a Creagh, do.	477	8	2819
VI. ROSCOMMON BARONY.			
^b Cloncraft parish	575	5	3215
^c Creeve, part of parish	20	....	101
Shankill, do.	363	....	2138
Elphin, do.	830	....	4540
^d Elphin town	245	....	1369
^e Ogulla parish	264	....	1609
^f Kilhooly do.	348	....	1957
^g Bumlin do.	595	....	3201
^h Strokestown town	224	....	1518
ⁱ Clonfinlough parish	681	....	3678
^k Lisanuff do.	676	....	3568
^l Killuken do.	500	....	2678
Kiltrustin do.	542	3	3038
Aughrim do.	670	4	3884

^a Part of Ballinasloe is in the part of Creagh, containing 16 houses and 84 inhabitants, remainder in Galway.

^b Clooneraff, also called Cloonaff.

^c Remainder of Creeve in Boyle barony.

^d The bishop and dean of Elphin support a charity school of 10 girls, and the Hibernian Society one of 36 girls.

Also, a school of 55 children, of which the bishop and dean pays for 24 in the parish.

^e In Ogulla parish, Tulsk village, 32 houses and 214 inhabitants.

^f In Kilhooly parish, a school of 50 girls, supported by the Hibernian Society. One male upwards of 100 years old.

^g ^h Bumlin, called also Strokestown parish, and Strokestown, alias Bumlin. A school supported by Lady Hartland, 6 boys and 23 girls.

ⁱ In Clonfinlough parish, village of Calavackin, 49 houses and 224 inhabitants. One male in parish upwards of 100 years old.

^k In Lisanuff parish, village of Erra, 54 houses and 198 inhabitants. One male upwards of 100 years old.

^l In Killukin parish, a charity school of 50 girls.

TABLE XIII.
POPULATION, &c.

BARONIES.	HOUSES.				PERSONS.		
	Inhabitants.	Families.	Uninhabited.	Building.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Athlone . . .	8232	9478	178	23	23415	22441	45856
2. Ballymoe half	1125	1215	18		3147	3138	6285
3. Ballintobber	10968	11519	288	19	29984	30150	60134
4. Boyle . . .	9399	10482	152	29	26589	26786	53375
5. Moycarne . .	1142	1241	110	18	3306	3279	6585
6. Roscommon	6553	7028	538	12	18078	18416	36494
	37399	40960	1284	101	104519	104210	208729
OCCUPATION AND SCHOOLS.							
BARONIES.	OCCUPATIONS.				SCHOOLS. Pupils.		
	No. of persons employed in agriculture.	No. of persons employed in trade, manufacture, and handicraft.	No. of all other persons not in the other classes.	Total of occupied persons.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Athlone . . .	7649	2309	3172	13130	1294	628	1922
Ballymoe half .	1470	1620	361	3451	235	85	320
Ballintobber .	13224	13472	2629	29325	2377	962	3339
Boyle . . .	11980	12043	2677	26700	1788	1040	2828
Moycarne . . .	1337	392	317	2046	211	74	285
Roscommon . .	7283	6555	1657	15495	1076	517	1595
	42943	36391	10813	90147	6981	3306	10287

TABLE XIV.

POPULATION, &c. AGES.

BARONIES.	Five and under.	Five to Ten.	Ten to Fifteen.	Fifteen to Twenty.	Twenty to Thirty.	Thirty to Forty.	Forty to Fifty.	Fifty to Sixty.	Sixty to Seventy.	Seventy to Eighty.	Eighty to Ninety.	Ninety to Hundred	Hundred to above.	Unascer- tained.	Total popu- lation.
Athlone . .	7.832	6047	5255	5171	8.474	54.79	3.381	2.759	1065	303	65	14		11	45.856
Half Ballymoe	1015	834	812	812	1.109	719	461	390	93	35	4	1			6.285
Ballintobber	9389	8882	7.600	8.024	10.141	6960	45.82	3.152	1.037	295	58	8	1	5	60.134
Boyle . .	9.219	7.500	6.645	6.858	9.068	5.907	3686	3.091	975	325	63	13	4	21	53.375
Moycarne .	1.070	975	849	804	1.073	773	443	424	120	40	3			11	6.585
Roscommon .	6.116	5.007	4.577	4586	6205	4035	2550	2228	802	309	59	12	3	5	36.494
	34.641	29.245	25.738	26.255	36.070	23.873	15.103	12.044	4092	1307	252	48	8	53	208.729

TABLE XV.

POPULATION, &c.

	County of Ros- common.	All Ireland.
Contents in Irish plantation acres	346,650	11,943,000
Contents in square miles . . .	541	18,633
Number of houses in 1813 . . .	30,254	
Number of do. in 1821 . . .	37,399	1,142,291
Increase of houses between 1813 and 1821	7,145	
Average of acres to each house	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Average of inhabited houses to square mile	69	61
Number of inhabitants in 1813	158,110	
Do. do. in 1821 ^a . . .	208,729	^b 6,801,827
Increase of inhabitants between 1813 and 1821	50,619	
Average number of acres to each inhabitant	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Average number of inhabitants to each square mile	385	365

^a According to the returns of 1831, the population of Ros-

common was - - - - - 239,903

Of all Ireland - - - - - 7734,365

N. B. With the exception of sixteen parishes in Kerry and one parish in Cork, of which the returns are outstanding.

^b *Parliamentary Papers, House of Commons Committee, 1824, Survey of Ireland.*—Vol. viii. p. 57.

Examination of R. GRIFFITH.

Q. Do you conceive it would be expedient to include upon the proposed map of Ireland, the present houses occupied by the peasantry of the country ?

A. I think it important that nothing should be put upon the map which is liable to a rapid change, and consequently I would make a selection of the houses. I would not put a house in under a certain class.

Q. In point of fact, have any instances come within your knowledge, in which very rapid changes in the houses of the peasantry have taken place?

A. There has. When making a Survey of the county of Roscommon, great pains was taken to mark down every cabin; and in correcting the map two years afterwards, I found that in many parts the houses had been thrown down, and new ones built in other places: and consequently, we had to make considerable alterations in the map.

Q. On the whole, did the number of houses appear to have increased or diminished?

A. I think they appeared to increase; but in the county of Roscommon the appearance of increase was unusually great, owing to a great change of system, from tenants holding a farm in common, to each individual holding a farm of his own. Each of the tenants built a house on his farm, and the old villages were thrown down. This was in the years 1814-5-6.

Q. Have you had any occasion to ascertain what may be the cost or value of the houses occupied by the peasantry of Ireland?

A. That will, in a great measure, depend on the price of timber: the expense will vary from £5 to £7.

TABLE XVI. *a.*

EDUCATION, &c.
 APPENDIX TO THE FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS
 OF EDUCATION INQUIRY IN IRELAND, DATED MAY 30,
 1825.—*Parliamentary Papers*, vol. xii. p. 858, 1825.

COUNTY ROSCOMMON.

1. THE PROTESTANT RETURN.

Population according to Census of 1821	-	208,729
Total in Education	- - - - -	10,871
Number of Schools	- - - - -	238
Protestants of Established Church	- - - - -	973
----- Presbyterian	- - - - -	-----
----- Other denominations	- - - - -	-----
Roman Catholics	- - - - -	9,898
Males	- - - - -	6,747
Females *	- - - - -	3,882

2. THE ROMAN CATHOLIC RETURN.

Population according to Census of 1821	-	208,729
Total in Education	- - - - -	14,175
Number of Schools	- - - - -	270
Protestants of Established Church	- - - - -	872
----- Presbyterians	- - - - -	-----
----- Other denominations	- - - - -	15
Roman Catholics	- - - - -	13,288
Males	- - - - -	9,092
Females	- - - - -	5,071

* *Note from the Report.* It is observable that neither the amount of males and females in education, nor the amount of the children distin-

TABLE XVI. *b.*

FROM THE SECOND REPORT BY THE SAME COMMISSION,
DATED 16TH SEPTEMBER, 1826.—*Parliamentary Papers*,
1826-7, vol. xii. p. 32.

PROTESTANT RETURN.

Number of Schools	- - - - -	243	
Add from Roman Catholic returns	- - - - -	66	
		<hr/>	309
Scholars of the Established Church	- - - - -	928	
Add from Roman Catholic returns	- - - - -	113	
		<hr/>	1041
Presbyterians and other dissenters	- - - - -		
Roman Catholics	- - - - -	9998	
Add from Roman Catholic returns	- - - - -	3264	
		<hr/>	13262
Religion not stated	- - - - -	265	
Add from Roman Catholic returns	- - - - -	78	
		<hr/>	343
Males	- - - - -	6688	
Add from Roman Catholic returns	- - - - -	2249	
		<hr/>	8937
Females	- - - - -	3834	
Add from Roman Catholic returns	- - - - -	1164	
		<hr/>	4998
Sex not stated	- - - - -	669	
Add from Roman Catholic returns	- - - - -	42	
		<hr/>	711
Total	- - - - -	11191	
Add from Roman Catholic returns	- - - - -	3455	
		<hr/>	14646

guished according to their respective creeds, accurately agree with the total number in education. This results from the circumstance, that the returns have, in some instances, omitted to distinguish the sex, and in others the religion of the children, and have stated only the total number in education.

TABLE XVII.

EDUCATION.

APPENDIX TO THE SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS
OF EDUCATION INQUIRY IN IRELAND, OF THE STATE
OF SCHOOLS, &c. AT THE END OF THE YEAR 1824.—
Parliamentary Papers, vol. xii. p. 44, 1825.

COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON.

DENOMINATION OF SCHOOLS.	Number of Schools.	Scholars.
The Association for Discountenancing Vice	2	47
Board of Erasmus Smith	1	45
Kildare Place Society	14	453
London Hibernian Society	17	723
Sundry other institutions and societies .	3	72
Wholly maintained by individuals . .	9	383
Roman Catholic Schools maintained wholly or in part by subscription . .	9	776
Pay Schools not comprehended in the above	263	12,462
Total	318	14,961
Deduct schools, &c. repeated as deriving aid from more than one society . .	9	315
By the Protestant return	309	14,646
By the Roman Catholic return	309	15,459
Summary Pay Schools	263	12,462
Endowed or aided do.	46	2,184
	309	14,646

Thus it appears, that the *pay* schools are in proportion to

the *aided* schools, as 100 to 17.4, and the scholars in the same as 100 to 17.5, which for the sake of round numbers may be called nearly as 6 to 1.

Number of schools in which the Scriptures were read	78
Do. do. not read	114
Do. in which it is not stated whether read or not	117

TABLE XVIII.

EDUCATION, &c.

NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOLS.

EXTRACTED FROM THE APPENDIX TO THE SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION INQUIRY,* DATED SEPTEMBER, 1826.—*Parliamentary Papers, House of Commons, 1826-7, vol. xii.*

ROSCOMMON TOWN. p. 1304.	TEACHERS.				SCHOOLS.		CHILDREN.				Scriptures read or not.	Patronage, Funds, &c.	
	Male.	Female.	Protestant.	R. Catholic.	Emoluments.	Free or not.	Nature of Place.	Male.	Female.	Protestant.			R. Catholic.	Total.
	Male	—	Prot.	—	£5 and parish clerk.	Free	County court house.	26	—	—	—	—	This is the parish school, the Rev. T. Blakeney pays £5.—Kildare-place Society. London Hibernian Society, and Kildare-place Society. None. None. None. None. None. Parish priest and com. of subscribers. None. None. None. None. None.
		Fem.	Prot.	—	£4	Free	Do. in upper room.	41	28	13	41	41	
	Fem.	—	—	R.C.	1s. 8d. per quarter, £5 income.	Pay	Thatched cabin, £2 10s.	10	20	30	30	30	
	Fem.	—	—	R.C.	1s. 8d. to 5s. per quarter.	Pay	Room 12 feet by 8 feet.	1	11	3	9	12	
	Male	—	—	R.C.	£30	Pay	County court house.	29	16	6	39	45	
	Male	—	—	R.C.	£15	Free	Roman Catholic chapel.	70	30	100	100	100	
	Male	—	—	R.C.	£16	Pay	Room 14 feet by 12 feet.	30	20	3	47	50	
	Male	—	—	R.C.	£35	Pay	Cabin, rent £5.	30	10	10	30	40	
	Male	—	—	R.C.	£20	Pay	Two rooms, cabin.	30	15	3	42	45	
	Male	—	—	R.C.	1s. 8d. to 7s. 6d. per quarter.	Pay	Room.	53	20	3	70	73	
	Male	—	—	R.C.	£70 to £80	Pay	Two rooms, thatched cabin.	35	—	8	27	35	None.

* The Commissioners in this Report appear to have been solicitous of obtaining more detailed accounts of each school, with a view of removing the discrepancies which occur in the preceding returns: but the Catholic and Protestant accounts are still at variance, and there are several omissions. A few of the Tables relative to the principal towns of Roscommon have been copied, just to elucidate the general plan.

Roscommon Towns, Continued.	TEACHERS.				SCHOOLS.	CHILDREN.				Scriptures read or not.	Patronage, Funds, &c.			
	Male.	Female,	Protestant.	R. Catholic.		Emoluments.	Free or not.	Nature of Place.	Male.			Female.	Protestant.	R. Catholic.	Total.
County Goal	Male	Fem.	—	R.C.	1s. 8d. per quarter, £5 income.	Pay	Thatched cabin.	10	20	—	30	30	None.	
		Fem.	—	R.C.	1s. 8d. to 5s. per quarter.	Pay	Room, 12 feet by 8 feet.	1	11	3	9	12	None.	
		Fem.	—	R.C.	2s. 6d. to 5s. per quarter.	Pay	Do. 12 feet by 9 feet.	31	4	4	31	35	None.	
		Fem.	—	R.C.	£7 to £8	Pay	Do. 11 feet by 11 feet.	13	12	1	24	25	None.	
		Fem.	—	R.C.	£8	Pay	Do. 15 by 14 feet.	13	12	7	18	25	None.	
		Fem.	—	R.C.	8s. per quarter. £30	Pay	Do. 13 by 10 feet.	2	5	1	6	7	None.	
	Male	—	Prot.	R.C.	£30	Free		50	6	6	44	50	Kildare-place Society; Master paid by the county.	
ATHLONE.														
St. Peter's parish	Male	—	—	B.C.	£17	Pay	Two rooms.	23	5	—	28	28	None.	
Connaught-street	Male	—	Prot.	—	£60	Pay	Rented house.	23	18	18	5	23	None.	
Castle-street	—	Fem.	—	—	£70	Pay	Same house.	—	28	16	12	28	None.	
Ditto	Male	—	—	R.C.	£50	Pay	Stone house.	45	25	6	64	70	None.	
Boston-street	Male	—	Prot.	—	£12	Pay	Ditto.	18	3	18	3	21	None.	
Queen-street	Male	—	—	R.C.	£26 10s.	Pay	Hired room, 17 by 12 feet	30	10	6	34	40	None.	
Bastion-street	Male	Fem.	Prot.	—	£56	Free	Large House.	18	—	18	—	18	Charter school of Incorporated Society.	
Ranelagh	Male	—	—	—	No salary.	Free	Barrack room.	30	6	25	11	36	Read	
Barrack	—	Fem.	—	—	£10 16s.	Pay	Room 9 by 7.	—	10	2	8	10	None.	
Castle-street	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	Read	
BOYLE.*														
Parish school	Male	—	Prot.	—	£15 with a house.	Free	New house, cost £140, of which government gave £80.	—	—	—	—	—	Read	
Ditto	Male	—	—	R.C.	£12 12s.	Free	Thatched cabin, cost £10.	65	—	—	65	65	Not	
Lord Lorton gave £30 towards the house, and £30 more was subscribed by Kildare-place Association: Association for Discountenancing Vice. Parish priest and committee, subscriptions and collections at chapel.														

* Since this return a large infant school has been established in the town of Boyle.

Lord Lorton gave £30 towards the house, and £30 more was subscribed by Kildare-place Association: Association for Discountenancing Vice. Parish priest and committee, subscriptions and collections at chapel.

Boyle, Continued.	TEACHERS.				SCHOOLS.		CHILDREN.				Scriptures read or not.	Patronage, Funds, &c.		
	Male.	Female.	Protestant.	R. Catholic.	Emoluments.	Free or not.	Nature of Place.	Male.	Female.	Protestant.			R. Catholic.	Total.
Newbridge -	-	Fem.	Prot.	-	£30	Free	Good slated house, cost £350.	60	40	20	20	60	Read	Viscountess Lorton built the house, and entirely supports the school. Parish priest and committee: house built by subscription.
Town of Boyle -	-	Fem.	-	R.C.	£16	Free	Comfortable house, cost £80.	4	60	-	64	64	Not	
Crescent Classic Boarding -	Male	-	-	R.C.	£90	Pay	Good house, cost £200.	16	-	13	3	16	Read	
Clover Hill Clas- sic -	Male	-	-	R.C.	£16 16s.	Pay	Room in his father's house not good.	26	20	12	34	46	Read	
Grange -	Male	-	-	R.C.	£12	Pay	Poor cabin £7 or £8 value.	26	12	6	32	38	Read	
Chapel-lane -	Male	-	-	R.C.	£30	Pay	Thatched cabin.	35	25	10	50	60	Not	
The Green -	-	Fem.	Prot.	-	£15	Pay	Hired room.	9	17	17	9	26	Read	
Ditto -	-	Fem.	Met.	-	14s.	Pay	Ditto.	2	6	8	-	8	Read	
Kellystown -	Male	-	-	R.C.	£10	Pay	Poor cabin cost £2.	20	10	-	30	30	Not	
The Green -	Male	-	-	R.C.	£35	Pay	Thatched cabin.	45	15	20	40	60	Not	
The Green -	Male	-	-	R.C.	£40	Pay	Ditto, value £20.	45	15	10	50	60	Not	
Deer Park -	Male	-	-	R.C.	£14	Pay	Miserable cabin.	18	12	4	26	30	Not	
Corrigan-row -	Male	-	-	R.C.	£20	Pay	Chapel, thatched.	40	20	1	59	60	Not	
Ballyfarnham -	Male	-	-	R.C.	£8 8s.	Pay	A cow-house.	17	8	-	25	25	Not	
Tullenstown -	Male	-	-	R.C.	£20	Pay	Thatched cow-house.	50	10	6	54	60	Not	
STROKES- TOWN.														
Church-street -	Male	-	-	R.C.	£10 per annum.	Pay	His own house.	5	2		7	7	Not	None.
Ditto -	Male	-	-	R.C.	£20 do.	Pay	Ditto.	43	30	14	59	73	Read by Prot.	None.
Ditto -	-	Fem.	-	R.C.	£3	Pay	Ditto.	8	8	2	14	16	Not stated	None.
Bridge-street -	-	Fem.	-	R.C.	£7 10s.	Pay	Ditto.	20	20	9	31	40	Not stated	None.
Elphin-street -	-	Fem.	-	R.C.	2s. 6d. to 4s. 2d. per quarter.	Pay	Ditto.	5	20	5	20	25	Not stated	None.

STROKESTOWN, Continued.	TEACHERS.				SCHOOLS.		CHILDREN.				Scriptures read or not.	Patronage, Funds, &c.	
	Male.	Female.	Protestant.	R. Catholic.	Emoluments.	Free or not.	Nature of Place.	Male.	Female.	Protestant.			R. Catholic.	Total.
Elphin-street -	—	Fem.	Prot.	—	£14	Free	Lodge in Strokestown demesne.	27	7	20	27	27	Salary paid by Lady Hartland, sole patroness.
Ditto -	Male	—	—	R.C.	£25	Pay	Own house.	40	20	5	55	60	None.
Ditto -	Male	—	—	R.C.	£16	Pay	Ditto.	14	17	6	25	31	None.
Ditto -	Male	—	—	R.C.	2s. 6d. to 10s. per quarter.	Pay	Rented house, £6 per annum.	34	6	8	32	40	None.
Ditto -	Male	—	Prot.	—	£12	Free	Own house.	29	11	19	21	40	The parish gives £8 and the Rector £4.
Town of Elphin	Male	—	Prot.	—	£19	Pay	Newly slated house, cost £70.	40	20	25	35	60	This is the parish school. The Kildare-place Society gave £30 towards repairing the school house. The Bishop of Elphin gives the master £10, and the incumbent £5, and both contributed to repairing the house.
Diocesan -	Male	—	Prot.	—	£128. 11 boys free	Pay	A large airy house.	19	—	10	9	19	This is the diocesan school; the master receives from a bequest £25, and the bishop and clergy have hitherto paid £30 per annum, but this year have augmented it to £80.
Female poor -	—	Fem.	—	R.C.	£20	Free	A tolerably good house, wants repairs to extent of £18.	—	50	3	47	50	The London Hibernian Society. The Bishop of Elphin pays the mistress £10, and the dean £2.
	—	Fem.	—	R.C.	£8	Pay	Room, 8 feet by 7 feet.	—	10	—	10	10	None.
	Male	—	—	R.C.	£26	Pay	Room 15 feet square.	46	27	—	73	73	None.
	Male	—	—	R.C.	£32	Pay	One room.	38	22	—	60	60	Not stated.

TABLE XIX.

THE LONDON HIBERNIAN SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS IN COUNTY
ROSCOMMON.1830. *Year ending February 1831, per Report.*

Day Schools	-	35	-	2063 Pupils.
Sunday and Adult				
Schools	-	40	-	931 Pupils including such day school pupils as attend.
Irish Classes	-	10	-	169 Pupils.

SCHOOLS FOUNDED BY ERASMUS SMITH, ESQ.

The only school established in the County of Roscommon by
the Governors of these schools is situated at Castlereagh.

1830.	Nov. 1.	Number of Scholars	-	67
1831.	Nov.	Ditto	- - -	62

TABLE XX.

SCHOOLS UNDER THE LADIES' HIBERNIAN FEMALE SCHOOL SOCIETY, IN THE COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON, FOR THE YEARS 1830-31.

Names of the Schools.	Post Town.	Average Attendance.
Ballymurry	Near Roscommon	16
Ballinlough	Castlerea	58
Castlecoote	Near Roscommon	60
Castlerea . . . . .	....	47
Rockby Park	Near Roscommon	23
Roscommon . . . . .	....	48
Ditto Infant . . . . .	....	58
Smith Hill	Elphin	57
Camlin	Boyle	47
Killuken . . . . .	....	34
Knockadoo	Boyle	30
Kilglass	Ruskey	16
		<hr/> 494

Total, 14 schools—540 in attendance.

TABLE XXI.

A LIST OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON, IN CONNEXION WITH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIETY FOR IRELAND, IN THE YEAR 1831, WITH THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARS IN EACH, AS STATED IN THE LAST RETURN SENT TO THE SOCIETY.

Schools.	Parishes.	Number of Scholars.
Aughrim No. 1	Aughrim	14
Knockvicar	Ardcarne	19
Oakport . . . . .	....	14
Boyle	Boyle	57
Lady Lorton's . . . . .	....	60
Strokestown	Bumlin	77
Elphin, No. 1	Elphin	80
Elphin, No. 2 . . . . .	....	93
Smith Hill . . . . .	....	31
Eastersnow	Eastersnow	21
Castlecoote	Fuerty	43
Castlestrange . . . . .	....	4
Rockby Park . . . . .	....	8
Ballymurry	Kilmain	9
Holywell	Kilbride	22
Mountpleasant . . . . .	....	16
Castlerea	Killevin	177
Killenvoy	Killenvoy	84
Killuken	Killuken	42
Roscommon	Roscommon	92
St. Peter's Athlone	St. Peter's	50
Total, 21 Schools containing		1013

N. B. It is to be remarked, that returns had not been received from all of the above Sunday schools during the year 1831.

TABLE XXII.

SCHOOLS CONNECTED WITH THE EDUCATION SOCIETY OF KILDARE-PLACE, 5TH JANUARY 1832.
COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON.

No.	Schools.	Situations.	Scholars on Roll.	Observations.
1	Tarman, Female	Within half a mile of Castleroa,	80	Miss Galbraith correspondent.
2	Derragra . . .	Seven miles E. of Boyle,	72	Venerable Archd. Oldfield, do.
3	Killumod . . .	Three miles N. E. of Elphin,	34	Rev. John Lloyd do. Children gone to other schools while master training.
4	Drimalga or Tully . .	Four miles N. E. of Ballinasloe,	33	Rev. James Anderson, correspondent.
5	Camlin . . .	Four miles E. of Boyle,	52	Miss Irwin, do.
6	Kilnamana . . .	A mile and quarter N.E. of French Park,	54	Rev. Charles Smyth, do.
7	Fuerty . . .	Three miles N. E. of Roscommon,	96	Rev. John Flanagan, do.
8	Roscommon Male	In Church-street,	75	Rev. Edward Day, do.
9	Kiltoom . . .	Four miles N. of Athlone, main road to Roscommon,	Closed	Rev. J. Armstrong, do. House burned by incendiaries.
10	Ballyglass Female	Six miles West of Castlereagh	..	Rev. H. Fleming correspondent. School about to commence at inspection, July 1831,
11	Brickfield . . .	Townland Aughagad, parish of Fuerty	..	Rev. John Flanagan,

TABLE XXIII.

TABLE SHEWING THE AMOUNT* OF THE GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS, WITH THE AVERAGE RATES PER ACRE FOR THE WHOLE COUNTY.

Years.	Irish Currency.			Per Acre.	
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
1820	17,900	9	11½	1	9½
1821	21,261	18	9	2	2½
1822	18,756	15	4½	1	10½
1823	17,228	9	5	1	9½
1824	16,687	5	7½	1	8
1825	20,115	19	9½	2	0½
Irish	£111,950	18	11		

Here the accounts in Irish currency end.

Years:	British Currency.			Per Acre.	
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
Brought on	103,339	6	8½		
1826	19,810	17	8	2	1
1827	21,433	8	4½	2	2
1828	21,334	19	7	2	1
1829	28,240	18	11	2	10
† 1830	20,954	17	8	2	0½
	£215,114	8	11		

* This table was formed from the printed statements at the end of the Grand Jury query books, for each half year: whilst the following one is copied from the treasurer's accounts, as they appear in the returns made to Parliament.—(Vol. iii. 1826, *House of Commons*.)

The variation between them, may possibly be attributable to the one merely stating the allotments, the other the money actually brought to account; but I am unable to explain the exact sources of difference; neither is it of importance to the general subject.

† Pursuant to an order of the House of Commons, the Secretary of

the Grand Jury makes the following distinction in the presentments for the year 1830 :

Amount of presentments imperative on the Grand

Jury	£14,200	1	4
Ditto, ditto, over which a discretion is used	6,754	16	4
	<u>£20,954</u>	17	8

TABLE XXIV.

SHEWING THE HEADS UNDER WHICH THE PRESENTMENTS OF THE GRAND JURY ARE DIVIDED, WITH THE AMOUNTS OF SAME FOR SIX YEARS.

Descriptions.	Former Irish Currency.						British Currency.					
	1823.			1824.			1825.			1826.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. New roads, bridges, pipes, gullets, quay walls, or cutting down hills and filling up hollows, &c.	738	12	11½	789	10	3	1,111	13	11½	2,417	5	8½
2. Repairs of roads, bridges, pipes, gullets, or walls	3,024	5	0½	4,275	14	9	5,610	17	5	5,460	14	6
3. Court and session houses, erection or repair	1,052	3	10	1,020	0	0	15	8	4	—	—	—
4. Gaols, bridewells, houses of correction, building or repairing	1,200	0	0	262	11	1½	671	0	2	—	—	—
5. All other prison or bridewell expenses	1,897	0	9	1,804	11	5	2,458	7	0	2,266	6	7
6. Police and police establishment, payments to witnesses, &c.	3,781	0	0½	3,492	12	0½	3,831	16	8	3,076	14	11
7. Salaries of all county officers not included as above	3,350	19	8	2,594	1	1	2,096	9	9	2,964	4	0½
8. Public charities	4,035	4	8	933	13	3	1,049	13	3	970	8	2
9. Repayment of advance to government	1,000	0	0	1,575	4	0	1,717	6	0	2,337	12	1
10. Miscellaneous not included in the above	791	3	8	707	2	2½	1,328	6	8½	594	18	5
Total	17,870	10	7½	17,455	0	1½	20,701	19	2½	20,088	5	5½
							Deduct represented					
										21,741	14	3½
										309	14	10
										21,431	19	5½
										21,323	17	2½

TABLE XXV.

TABLE OF THE GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS, SHEWING THE ASSESSMENTS ON EACH BARONY FOR EVERY 100 ACRES, DURING SUNDRY YEARS.

Yrs.	Athlone.			Ballintobber.			Ballymoe.			Boyle.			Moycarne.			Roscommon.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1820	7	19	6	10	19	4½	9	14	8	9	6	8½	7	1	7½	9	2	5½
1821	9	17	6	11	5	9¾	12	1	6½	11	18	10½	8	12	11¼	12	2	4½
1822	8	10	9½	9	2	9	8	11	7½	11	4	0	8	0	2½	10	19	7½
1823	8	5	3	9	8	9½	8	9	8½	9	1	3	8	0	6¾	9	14	8
1824	7	7	5½	9	2	8½	8	0	9½	9	17	8½	6	17	10	8	15	6½
1825	9	1	1¼	6	1	6½	9	17	11½	13	0	4½	8	10	9½	10	13	8
Thus far Irish currency.																		
1826	8	17	4½	9	11	7	8	4	7	13	2	7½	9	7	6½	11	5	2½
1827	10	10	7½	10	19	0½	10	15	8	13	1	1¼	8	19	4¼	11	1	2¼
1828	9	8	9	10	14	4	9	0	10	14	0	2¼	8	19	2½	10	9	7½
1829	12	6	8	14	4	4½	14	2	2½	17	18	4	12	17	7½	13	11	11½

TABLE XXVI.

TABLE SHEWING THE SPECIAL LEVIES* ON EACH BARONY, ACCORDING TO THE GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS.

	1820.			1821.			1822.			1823.			1824.			1825.			1826.			1827.			1828.			1829.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Athlone .	27	4	10	26	11	6	17	11	4	64	6	1	32	5	6½	80	9	11½	16	9	6	235	16	7	356	2	7½	106	12	1
Ballintobber	52	6	5	42	3	8	234	7	6	20	12	7	23	6	1	4	8	7½	105	4	0	8	1	9	82	5	1	82	8	0
Ballymoe	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Boyle .	8	12	10	—	—	—	74	10	0	715	0	0	15	0	0	37	3	8	0	1	6	16	10	0	54	6	1	19	10	0
Moycarne	75	13	10	6	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	0	0	10	0	4½	21	10	3	2	6	4	11	6	10	84	12	11
Roscommon	38	11	0	5	0	0	—	—	—	5	0	6	180	5	0	—	—	—	38	14	7	42	14	3½	84	4	7½	6	0	0

4 L

* These are included in the accounts of the general assessments. These special levies cover, amongst other matters, the damages which result from malicious acts, as burning, trampling of corn or flax, injuring cattle, &c.

TABLE XXVII.

CONSTABULARY ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE COUNTY ROS-
COMMON, IN THE YEAR 1828.

	Number.
Chief Constables - - - - -	6
Constables and Sub-constables - - - - -	170
Horses - - - - -	23

CHARGES.

	£	s.	d.
Pay of the Chief Constables and others	5463	1	0
Lodging, allowance to the Chief and other			
Constables - - - - -	885	15	3
Clothing and Saddlery - - - - -	295	14	7
Commissariat allowance - - - - -	397	17	6
	<hr/>		
Total - - - - -	£7042	8	4

Returns to House of Commons, 1829, vol. xxii. 452.

TABLE XXVIII.

CRIMINAL OFFENCES.

NUMBER OF PERSONS COMMITTED, CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL OFFENCES IN THE COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON, IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS.

1822	-	-	-	490
1823	-	-	-	385
1824	-	-	-	412
1825	-	-	-	445
1826	-	-	-	535
1827	-	-	-	424
1828	-	-	-	456

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

1827	-	-	-	591
1828	-	-	-	521
1829	-	-	-	460

Returns to House of Commons, 1829, vol. xxii.

1828.

Number of prisoners under mesne process, committed in

the year 1828 for debts under £20 - - - 38

For 20 and under £50 3

— 50 ——— 100 2

— 100 - - - 2

Under judgment recovered - - - - none

For costs of suit - - - - none

1829, 1st January.

Number of debtors in gaol for debts under £20 - - 5

above £100 - - 2

Proportion of debtors to gross number of committals 1 to 13

Total cost of maintaining prisoners in 1828 £1382 5 7

Debtors alone - - - - £106 6 5

Total expenditure for the prison during 1828 £2599 7 3

Returns to House of Commons, 1829, vol. xxii.

TABLE XXIX.

From Returns to House of Commons.—1829, vol. xxii.

COST OF CHARITABLE ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON, AS PRESENTED BY THE GRAND JURY IN THE YEAR 1828.

					£	s.	d.
Loughglynn Dispensary	-	-	-	-	69	5	4
Boyle do.	-	-	-	-	93	18	9
Croghan do.	-	-	-	-	26	1	0
Keadue do.	-	-	-	-	51	1	0
Ballyleague do.	-	-	-	-	57	7	0
French Park do.	-	-	-	-	46	6	5½
Elphin do.	-	-	-	-	77	15	10
Tulsk do.	-	-	-	-	40	17	0
Castlerea do.	-	-	-	-	69	13	5
Strokestown do.	-	-	-	-	450	0	0
Athlone do.	-	-	-	-	40	0	0
					<hr/>		
					£577	5	9½

The above sums are granted upon the principle of an equal amount having been received in private subscriptions, for the support of the several dispensaries.

County Lunatic Asylum	-	-	-	£225	8	8
* County Infirmary	-	-	-	500	0	0
				<hr/>		
				1302	14	5½
Add the private subscriptions	-	-	-	577	5	9½
				<hr/>		
				£1880	0	3

There is no corporation instituted for the relief of the poor, or for punishing vagabonds or sturdy beggars, pursuant to the acts 11 and 12 Geo. 3. cap. 30,—nor any hospital or house of industry for the relief of the poor, built in pursuance of said act in the county of Roscommon.

MICHAEL FOX, *Clerk of the Peace.*

20th March, 1828.

* The private subscriptions to the County Infirmary and the funds belonging to that institution, are stated at page 434, for the year 1829.

TABLE XXX.

LICENSES FOR THE SALE OF SPIRITS, GRANTED TO PERSONS WITHIN THE COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON, FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE PEACE.

			Licenses.
In the year 1823	-	-	123
1824	-	-	154

About this time there was a reduction in the amount of charge for the license, which accounts for the great increase in the subsequent years.

1825	-	-	294
1826	-	-	250

Up to this period, the collectors had been in the practice of granting licenses without strictly attending to the qualifications which were required—(55 Geo. 3. cap. 19.) On the new system being introduced, the licenses became fewer for the first year, but again increased.

1827	-	-	182
1829	-	-	397
1829	-	-	323

County of Roscommon,
to wit.

} As the offence of selling spirituous
liquors by persons not sanctioned by
the approbation of the magistrates,

and who have not received the necessary certificate from the clerk of the peace, prevails *in this* county to a very serious and injurious extent, the attention and co-operation of the magistrates is respectfully called to the circular published by the commissioner of excise, with a view to correct that evil.

M. Fox, *Clerk of the Peace.*

26th February, 1828.

TABLE XXXI.

CORONERS' INQUESTS.

CORONERS.	Number of Inquests.	Charges.		
1827— <i>Spring Assizes.</i>		£.	s.	d.
Bernard O'Connor - - - - -	8	11	4	0
James Flanagan - - - - -	6	8	8	0
Edward Whelan - - - - -	7	9	16	0
Michael M'Dermott - - - - -	6	8	8	0
Rev. John Little, a Magistrate - -	2	2	16	0
<i>Summer Assizes.</i>		—	29	
B. O'Connor - - - - -	4	7	0	0
James Flanagan - - - - -	9	15	15	0
Edward Whelan - - - - -	7	12	5	0
Michael M'Dermott - - - - -	4	7	0	0
1828— <i>Spring Assizes.</i>		—	24	
B. O'Connor - - - - -	6	7	17	6
James Flanagan - - - - -	7	9	3	9
Edward Whelan - - - - -	6	7	17	6
Michael M'Dermott - - - - -	13	17	0	3
<i>Summer Assizes.</i>		—	32	
Bernard O'Connor - - - - -	8	20	4	5
1 Geo. 4. c. 28—£2 10 6¼				
James Flanagan - - - - -	5	12	12	9
Edward Whelan - - - - -	1	2	10	6¼
Michael M'Dermott - - - - -	4	10	2	3
1829— <i>Spring Assizes.</i>		—	18	
B. O'Connor - - - - -	11	17	5	11¼
James Flanagan - - - - -	9	14	2	4
Edward Whelan - - - - -	5	7	10	10
Michael M'Dermott - - - - -	4	6	5	6
<i>Summer Assizes.</i>		—	29	
B. O'Connor - - - - -	9	14	11	0
Michael M'Dermott - - - - -	3	4	17	0
Edward Larkin - - - - -	2	3	4	0
Edward Whelan - - - - -	8	12	18	0
James Flanagan - - - - -	4			
		—	26	

TABLE XXXII.

NUMBER OF CIVIL BILLS AT THE QUARTER SESSIONS, CO.
ROSCOMMON.

BOYLE.

	1827.	1828.	1829.
January - - - - -	555	588	658
April - - - - -	713	813	1124
July - - - - -	650	449	641
October - - - - -	604	744	992
Total - - - - -	2522	2594	3415
<i>Athlone Division, held occasionally at Roscommon.</i>			
	1827.	1828.	1829.
January - - - - -	326	284	329
April - - - - -	409	381	527
July - - - - -	338	322	500
October - - - - -	198	409	414
Total - - - - -	1271	1396	1770

Civil bills are said to be increased by the petty sessions.

The following Table will serve to show the rotation of places
at which the quarter sessions are held.

TABLE XXXIII.

QUARTER SESSIONS, AS PROCLAIMED IN THE COUNTY OF
ROSCOMMON, FOR THE YEAR 1830.

Division of Athlone, at Roscommon, Friday, 8th January.

Division of Boyle, at Boyle, Wednesday, 13th do.

Division of Athlone, at Athlone, Tuesday, 13th April.

Division of Boyle, at Castlerea, Saturday, 17th do.

Division of Athlone, at Roscommon, Tuesday, 6th July.

Division of Boyle, at Strokestown, Saturday, 10th do.

Division of Athlone, at Athlone, Wednesday, 13th October.

Division of Boyle, at Boyle, Monday, 18th do.

Division of Athlone.—Comprises the barony of Athlone, half barony of Ballymoe, and half barony of Moycarne, and the parishes of Templeneilan, otherwise Kilbride, Roscommon, Kiltewan, Kilgefin, and Ballyleague, otherwise Clontuskert, being part of the barony of Ballintobber.

Sessions held at Athlone and Roscommon.

Division of Boyle.—Comprises the baronies of Boyle and Roscommon, and the remainder of the barony of Ballintobber.

Sessions held at Boyle, Castlerea, and Strokestown.

TABLE XXXIV.

PETTY SESSIONS.

AT A MEETING OF MAGISTRATES ON 11TH JAN. 1828, THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS WERE NAMED FOR HOLDING THE PETTY SESSIONS, PURSUANT TO 7 AND 8 GEO. 4. C. 67.

Clogher,	Roscommon,	Ballintobber,
Belanagar,	Athlone,	Killmore,
Croghan,	Rahara,	Lanesborough,
French Park,	Ruskey,	Elphin,
Boyle,	Keadue,	Mount Talbot.

Names of Magistrates assembled.

A. French,	Fitzstephen French,	Daniel Kelly,
T. O'Connor,	Owen Young,	Dominick Corr,
O'Connor Don,	Denis O'Connor,	Owen Thos. Lloyd.
Westmeath,	Henry Fry,	

The following parishes, parts of parishes, and townlands, excepted from the operation of the said act, and not included in any district of said county, at the request of the magistrates who attend the petty sessions at Tusk, there being only two magistrates resident in said district; the sessions being held weekly, and it being very uncertain that both magistrates can at all times attend.

Tusk Petty Sessions.—Parish of Elphin, fourteen townlands.

Do.	Ogulla, all except two townlands.
Do.	Killuken, sixteen townlands and manor.
Do.	Kilcooley, the entire.
Do.	Baslick, ten townlands.
Do.	Cloonigormican entire, except townland of Runamede, Ballymacurly, Highlake, Ballyglass, Ballinturly.

Castlerea Petty Sessions.—Entire parishes of Kilkeevan and Kiltullagh, and the remainder of the parish of Baslick, not included in the Tusk district, excepted, there being but one magistrate resident.

TABLE XXXV.

COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON.

TRESPASS RATES.

At a General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, held at Boyle, on Monday, the 20th day of October, 1828 :—

Ordered, by the Justices of the Peace then and there assembled, by the powers vested in them by act of parliament, that the following be the rates of trespass, to be paid for each and every of the following kind of cattle, beasts, and fowl, which may be found trespassing within said county.

Pursuant to 40th G. 3. c. 71.	Common Pasture.	In meadow, waste, and fattening grass.				In corn, peas, rape, vetches, & green crop, or potatoes.			
		By Day.	By Night	By Day.	By Night	By Day.	By Night	By Day.	By Night
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Each and every horse, gelding, mare, mule, ass, bull, cow, bullock, heifer, and pig; to pay for the	First offence	0 10	1 3	1 8	2 6	2 6	3 9	2 6	3 9
	Second do.	1 8	2 6	2 6	3 9	4 2	6 3	4 2	6 3
	Third do.	2 6	3 9	3 6	5 3	6 0	9 0	6 0	9 0
	Every other	2 6	3 9	3 6	5 3	6 0	9 0	6 0	9 0
Each and every ram, sheep, lamb, and calf; to pay for the	First offence	0 3	0 4½	0 6	0 9	1 0	1 3	1 0	1 3
	Second do.	0 6	0 9	1 0	1 6	2 0	3 0	2 0	3 0
	Third do.	0 10	1 3	1 8	2 6	3 6	5 3	3 6	5 3

Each goat to pay for every offence of trespass in plantations, pursuant to the statutes

For any other trespass

Each goose

Each duck, or other fowl

If the parties sustaining the damages by trespass shall think that the damage done exceeds the above rates, then it may be ascertained by appraisement. And all persons who do not occupy any land, keep cattle, and graze them on the sides of the roads, are liable to pay treble the above rates of trespass. And all owners of swine not having an iron ring or staple in the nose, are liable to pay treble the value of the damage done by such swine.

Provided always, that his or their portion of the mears and fences between his or their lands and the land next adjoining, are in good and sufficient order and repair: and that any person neglecting or refusing to repair such mears and fences shall have no remedy for any involuntary trespass committed by the cattle of the proprietor, occupier, or tenant of any neighbouring land, for any trespass on his or their land, occasioned by his or their default.

GEORGE FRENCH,
ROBERT ELWOOD,
J. ROBERTSON,
OWEN T. LLOYD, } *Justices.*

M. FOX, *Clerk of the Peace.*

TABLE XXXVI.

VALUE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY PASSING UNDER PROBATE AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION IN THE
DIOCESE OF ELPHIN.

Years.	Household Goods.			Leasehold Pro- perty.			Mortgages, Bonds, &c.			Stock in Trade.			Other Personal Property.			Total in each court or district.			Total in the five Years.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1819	177	18	6	883	0	0	34	10	0	170	0	0	138	6	4	1403	14	10			
1820	317	19	9	1,647	8	9	176	7	8	1283	15	0	396	9	6	3792	0	2			
1821	8	0	0	473	10	6	291	16	9	556	8	3	98	10	10	1637	18	11	11,306	16	9½
1822				499	12	0	965	0	0	194	19	0	980	17	9	2991	3	9½			
1823				140	0	0	703	8	1½	349	4	6	108	8	3	1481	19	0½			

Returns to House of Commons, Parliamentary Papers, 1824, vol. xxi.

Stocks or funds, nil.

Public companies, nil.

TABLE XXXVII.

OF PRICES.

1st column, taken from Arthur Young's Tour 1779
 2d ditto, from Wakefield's Ireland, as returned
 to him by Mr. Ross Mahon - - - - - 1811
 3d ditto, from returns separately made to the
 author, by two gentlemen in the town of Roscom-
 mon, of the current rates - - - - - 1830-1

	1779.			1811.			1831-0.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Labourer per day - -	0	0	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	..	..	0	0	8
Do. by the year with diet	..	..	..	6	0	0	4	0	0
Do. per day, in harvest	0	0	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	1	1	0	2	0
Do. in towns and neigh- bourhood - - - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	10
Women, by the year, if spinners - - - -	..	..	..	3	0	0	..	..	..
Women per day - - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	6
Boys do. - - - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	4
Carpenter do. - - -	0	1	9	0	2	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	2	8
Common mason do. -	0	1	9	0	2	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	2	2
Stone mason do. - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	2	6
Slater do. - - - -	..	..	..	0	2	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	3	0
Workmanship, per slaters' square of 100 square ft.	..	..	..	0	6	6	0	5	5
Building common stone walls in mortar, per perch of 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet	..	..	..	0	1	6	0	1	3
Rough stones, per ton -	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	8
Bricks, per thousand -	..	..	..	0	15	0	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0 \ 15 \ 0 \\ \text{to} \\ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \end{array} \right\}$		

^a Employment even at these low rates is uncertain, and multitudes are unengaged in every part of the county : in shipping corn, where exertion and dispatch are required, a shilling a day is on emergency given, but not more.

^b Fine clay is found near the banks of the Shannon in several places ;

	1779.	1811.	1830-1.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Lime per barrel, 4 cubic feet - - - - -	0 0 9	0 1 7½	0 1 3
Oak timber, per foot -	0 4 10½	0 3 0
Ash do. do. - -	{ 0 2 2 to 0 3 9½	0 2 6
Elm do. do. - -	0 1 6
Pine timber, American, per ton - - - -	3 15 0 ^c
Pine timber, Baltic -	5 5 0
Do. home growth - -	2 15 0
Red deals - - - -	10 0 0	} ^d
White do. - - - -	7 10 0	
Bar iron, per cwt. Swedish - - - -	1 8 0	0 8 0
Do. English - - - -	1 1 8	
Iron workmanship, per lb.	0 0 1½
Smith, per day - - -	0 3 0 ^e
Shoeing a horse - - -	4 0 0	0 2 6
Slates, Bangor, Wales, per ton - - - -	3 10 0 } ^f
Duchesses, per thousand	12 10 0
Countesses, do. - - -	10 5 0

and also beneath certain bogs which have been cut out and exhausted: the art of brick making is improved, and in some places carried on to a great extent. Dublin is largely supplied by bricks brought down the canal; but not as yet from beyond the Shannon.

^c A rivalry exists, as already explained, between the ports of Sligo, Galway, and Dublin; and Limerick might also come in for a share of the trade. In Moycarne half barony, near the Suck, Scotch firs of thirty inches girth at the but, were selling in my presence at 20d. each, but this was supposed to be far under the real value.

^d As length, breadth, and thickness differ, the prices must vary.

^e In large establishments, it is usual to engage a smith by the year, and to pay him in kind, that is, in accommodation of house or land, grazing of cows, &c.; besides this, he is usually placed near the high road, and allowed at leisure to pick up money by chance custom. The lesser farmers also often contract with smiths, to do all their work at a certain rate per annum, the farmers themselves purchasing the iron which may be required for each job.

^f Although slates of excellent quality, of immense size, and moderate

	1779.	1811.	1830-1.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£. s. d.
Hire of a car and horse with driver, per day	.. ..	{ 0 1 8 to 0 3 3	
Do. dray and do. do.	.. ..	.. ..	0 2 6 ^g
Wheat, per barrel of 280 lbs. - - - - -	.. ..	{ 1 14 1½ to 2 0 0	1 9 0
		{ 0 8 0	1 14 0
Oats, per barrel of 196 lbs.	.. ..	{ to 0 14 0	0 7 0
		{ 0 1 0	0 14 0
Potatoes, per cwt. - -	0 1 10	{ to 0 3 0	0 1 2
		{ 0 0 3	0 1 8
Beef, per lb. - - -	0 0 2½	{ to 0 1 0	0 0 3
		{ 0 0 3½	0 0 6
Mutton, do. - - - -	0 0 2½	{ to 0 0 9	0 0 3
		{ 0 0 5	0 0 7
Veal, do. - - - - -	0 0 3½	{ to 0 0 9	0 0 5
			0 0 7
Bacon, do. - - - - -	.. ..	0 0 10	0 0 4
			0 0 7
Turkeys, each - - -	0 0 10½	{ 0 1 8 to 0 3 3	0 1 6
			0 1 8

price, are procurable at Killaloe, on the banks of the Shannon, I did not find that they were in common use in Roscommon. A prejudice exists against Irish commodities, in many instances, yet the Killaloe slate is far more durable than most of what comes from Wales, and at the same time very light.

^g Although the dray has not entirely superseded the car, yet it is coming yearly into more general use.

^h The urgency of the demands for rent, more especially when arrears have accumulated, force tenants early into the market, and by the competition, prices are lowered at the beginning of the season.

ⁱ The price of butchers' meat varies greatly with the different seasons of the year.

	1779.			1811.			1830-1.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Geese, each - - - -	0	0	8½	0	1	1	}	0	0	8		
								to				
								0	1	0		
Chickens, per couple -	..	..		0	1	8	}	0	0	8
								to				
								0	0	10		
Rabbits - - - -	..	..		0	1	6	}	0	0	10
								to				
								0	1	0		
Eggs, per dozen - -	..	..		0	0	6	}	0	0	4
Fresh sea fish, per lb. -	..	..		..	..			0	0	3
River or lake - - -	..	..		..	..			0	0	4
Eels - - - -	..	..		..	..		}	0	0	4
								to				
								0	0	6		
Salt herrings, per barrel	0	15	0	..	..		}	1	8	0
Do. per hundred - -	..	..		0	8	8				
Do. for two - - - -	..	..		..	..			0	0	1½
Do. cod or ling, per cwt.	0	14	0	..	..		}	1	17	4
								0	0	6		
								to				
Butter, fresh, per lb.	0	0	5½	seldom sold			}	0	0	7		
								0	0			
Do. salt - - - -	..	..		..	..		same			
Milk, sweet, per quart	..	..		0	0	2	}	0	0	2
Do. buttermilk, do. -	..	..		..	..			0	0	2½
								0	0	10		
Honey, per lb. - - -	..	..		..	..		}	to		
								0	1	0		
Whiskey, per quart, Irish measure, by retail -					0	1	9
Ale, do. do. - - -		0	0	3				0	0	5
Porter, do. do. - - -		0	0	4				0	0	3½

^k The price of fish depends on the supply: when much is brought in at once, the price, of course, falls: river and lake fish may be occasionally had at half the price inserted.

^l With good roads and numerous markets, the price of salt butter of equal quality ought not to vary much; and yet there is considerable difference in different places.

^m This price shews its scarcity.

	1779.	1811.	1830-1.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Turf, per box, 20 cubic ft.	0 0 9 ^a
Hay, per ton - - -	2 0 0
Brogues, per pair - -	{ 0 6 0 to 0 7 0 0 8 0	{ 0 5 0 to 0 7 0 0 7 0
Strong shoes - - -	{ 0 10 0 to	{ 0 8 0 to
Woollen stockings, the pair	0 1 6
A car, mounted - - -	3 15 0	
A dray, with side boards	6 6 0 ^c
A plough - - - -	0 12 0 ^p
CATTLE AT BALLINASLOE FAIR, 1830.			
Heifers, 3 years old, in a large lot, each - -	13 6 6
Do. in a much larger lot	12 13 0
A lot fit for Smithfield, but not so large in bone, each - - - -	9 16 9
Tups, 6, average weight 25 stone each - -	31 10 0
1 do. each - - - -	21 0 0
2 do. each - - - -	15 0 0
26 average each - -	10 10 0
Lambs, ordinary kinds in the county, per score	{ 8 0 0 to 12 0 0
ROAD MAKING.			
3765 Irish perches, equal nearly to 15 miles Eng-			

^a Turf is considered rather dear in the town of Roscommon.

^c Wheelwrights are generally established in or near the larger towns, but occasionally in country parts also. Amongst them may be found excellent workmen; but the stock of timber on hands always scanty; barely sufficient for present demand.

^p The common Irish plough is constructed chiefly of wood: the proportion and form varies; a maker is spoken of, as having a *knack* of turning out a handy plough. In many instances the farmer supplies both wood and iron; paying merely for workmanship.

	1779.	1811.	1830-1.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
lish, 21 feet broad, to be kept in best order with gravel or stones, between Athlone and Ballinasloe, per perch, annually - - - -	0 0 11
3227 Irish perches, from Drumsna bridge to Sligo, per perch, annually	0 0 11
N. B. These are the two great mail coach lines across the county.			
Repairs of sundry roads in central parts of the county, per perch, annually - - - -	0 0 4
			to
	0 0 6
Estimate for making the new line from Tarmonbarry, by French Park and Lung bridge, to county Mayo, in 1828, £11,444 3s. 3d. being in length about 24 miles Irish, per mile £476, or 30 English, per mile £381			
N. B. This an estimate only, with several new bridges to be built.			

CHARGES AT INNS.

	s.	d.
BOYLE.....Breakfast	1	6
	2	0
Dinner	2	6
Bed	1	6
ATHLONE....Breakfast	1	6
Dinner	1	8
Bed	1	0

		s.	d.
ELPHIN.....	Breakfast - -	1	4
	Dinner - -	1	6
	Bed - -	1	0
STROKESTOWN..	Breakfast - -	1	8
	Dinner - -	2	0
	Bed - -	1	0
CASTLEREA....	Breakfast - -	1	6
	Dinner - -	1	8
	Tea - -	1	0
	Bed - -	1	0
	Hay for twenty-hours, per horse - -	1	8
	Oats, per peck - -	1	8
	Port and Sherry, per bottle - -	4 5	0 6

TABLE XXXVIII.

NUMBER OF STAMPS FOR THE NEWSPAPERS OF ROSCOMMON.—*From Parliamentary Papers.*

	In 1827.	1828.	1829.
Athlone Herald - -	5175	....	....
Roscommon and Leitrim Gazette	4000	5000	7000
Roscommon Journal - -	....	....	3000

TABLE XXXIX.

FAIRS IN THE COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON, AND THE DAYS
WHEN HELD, EXTRACTED FROM THE PUBLISHED LIST
OF FAIRS IN IRELAND.

Ardsallagh, Jan. 1, May 16, July 30, October 19.

Athleague, July 11, Sept. 24.

* Athlone, Ascension day, St. Bartholomew, Aug. 24,
March 21, first Monday Sept.

Ballinlough, Sept. 29.

Ballintobber, Aug. 25.

Ballyfarnon, Feb. 7, April 12, May 21, July 6, Aug. 28,
Sept. 19, Oct. 22, Dec. 20.

Ballyleague, June 11, Oct. 29.

Ballymurray, May 10, Aug. 15, Oct. 22, Dec. 17.

Ballynafad, Aug. 37.

Belanagar, March 7, May 16, Aug. 1, Oct. 1, Nov. 7.

Belonlagh, May 31, July 5, Oct. 31.

Boyle, March 6, April 3, May 30, July 25, Oct. 1, Nov. 26.

Brideswell, Feb. 13, Aug. 8.

Castle Plunket, May 17, Aug. 13, Oct. 11.

Castlerea, May 23, June 21, Aug. 23, Nov. 7.

Castle Sampson, May 7, Aug. 6, Sept. 19, Dec. 6.

Coote Hall, May 18, Nov. 14.

Croghan, June 13, Aug. 16, (three days,) Oct. 29.

Danyan, May 25, Aug. 6, Nov. 9.

Elphin, May 3, Dec. 8.

French Park, May 21, July 12, Sept. 21.

Fuerty, May 16, Aug. 4, Nov. 21.

Glinsk, Sept. 18.

* Two fairs in Athlone on the Leinster side, in January and in March.

Grevisk, July 9, Aug. 16, (three days.)

Keadue, Feb. 19, April, 2, 16, June 4, 7, July 20, Aug.
24, Oct. 16, Nov. 14, Dec. 24.

Kilcorkey, March 17, May 3, Aug. 3, Sept. 29.

Kilmean, July 12, Oct. 28.

Knockcroghery, Aug. 21, Oct. 25.

Leckcarrow, March 17, June 27, Sept. 27, Dec. 20.

Loughglyn, May 25, July 30, Sept. 12, Oct. 15.

Miltown Pass, May 1, July 23, Sept. 22, Dec. 20.

Mount Talbot, May 8, June 14, Nov. 1, Dec. 21.

Newmarket, May 2, June 26, Oct. 5.

Rockfield, May 14, Sept. 28.

Roscommon, Whitmonday, June 4, Dec. 5.

St. John's, July 5.

Strokestown, May 15, June 19, Oct. 16, Nov. 13.

Tarmonbarry, Feb. 7, May 7, Aug. 17, Nov. 2.

Tulsk, Friday before Whitsunday, April 16, June 1, Aug. 18.

TABLE XL.

POST TOWNS OF ROSCOMMON.

Athleague,	Boyle,
Castlerea,	Elphin,
French Park,	Keadue,
Mount Talbot,	Roscommon,
Strokestown,	Tulsk.

Letters to and from the northern parts of the county are conveyed by the Sligo Mail, which passes through Carrick-on-Shannon and Boyle; whilst those of the southern parts go by the Galway mail which traverses the county between Athlone and Ballinasloe. From these leading lines, cross posts emanate; but although they approximate, coming from north and south, they do not in every instance meet; and letters not only between the opposite extremities of the county north and south, but between places not very remote from each other, are transmitted, by sending them altogether out of the county towards Dublin, as far as Kinnegad, within 29 miles of the capital. Here the main roads to Sligo and Galway divide; and the mail bags from the northern and southern parts of Roscommon being mutually exchanged, are re-conveyed back to the same county by the returning mails on the different lines. Thus, a letter which originally may not be more than 10 miles perhaps from the place of its destination, may have to make a circuit of 100. Such arrangements are matters of expediency, dependant upon the extent of the intercourse, the consequent revenue and the charges which accompany it: I have heard several complaints however in Roscommon, about the delays on the cross posts.

GRAND JURY COUNTY ROSCOMMON.

1820.

Spring Assizes.

Hon. Gen. Stephen Mahon,
William Talbot,
Sir Robert King,
Arthur French, M. P.
Thomas Tennison,
William Wills,
Lieut. Col. Owen Lloyd,
Thomas Mitchell,
Owen Lloyd,
Owen O'Connor,
John Conry,
Denis Kelly,
John Ferrall,
Thomas M'Naughten,
William Molloy,
Lieut. Col. Wm. Caulfield,
Robert Goff,
Jeffry French,
Jerrard E. Strickland,
William Kelly,
Francis Lynch,
Edward Mapother,
Michael Balfe.

Summer Assizes.

Arthur French, M. P.
Thomas Tennison,
Sir Robert King,
Thomas Mitchell,
Owen Lloyd,
Owen O'Connor,
Dennis Kelly,
John Conroy,
Thomas M'Naughten,
Daniel Farrell,
Jeffry M. French,
John Mitchell,
Francis Lynch,
Thomas Conry,
Jerrard E. Strickland,
Michael Balfe,
Mulloy M'Dermott,
William Kelly, Jun.
John Irwin,
Robert Jones Lloyd,
William Reeves Birch,
Edward Mapother,
Oliver Hodson.

GRAND JURY COUNTY ROSCOMMON.

1821.

Spring Assizes.

Daniel Kelly,
 William Talbot,
 Thomas Tennison,
 Lieut. Col. Owen Lloyd,
 Owen Lloyd,
 John Caulfield,
 John Conry,
 O'Connor Don,
 Robert Goff,
 Daniel Farrell,
 Thomas M'Naghten,
 Colonel John French,
 Dennis Kelly,
 Thomas Mitchell,
 Edward Mapother,
 John Mitchell,
 Edward Kelly,
 William Kelly, Jun.
 Thomas Conry,
 J. E. Strickland,
 Mulloy M'Dermott,
 Robert Elwood,
 Robert Jones.

Summer Assizes.

Hon. Stephen Mahon,
 Arthur French, M. P.
 Daniel Kelly,
 Thomas Tennison,
 William R. Wills,
 Owen Lloyd,
 O'Connor Don,
 Lieut. Col. William Caulfield,
 John Conry,
 Denis H. Kelly,
 Daniel Farrell,
 Thomas M'Naghten,
 Colonel John French,
 Oliver Grace,
 Edmund Kelly,
 Jeffry M. French,
 William Kelly,
 Edward Mapother,
 Thomas Conry,
 Jerrard E. Strickland,
 R. Jones Lloyd,
 John Mitchell,
 James Irwin.

GRAND JURY.

1828.

Spring Assizes.

Arthur French, M. P.
 W. C. St. George French,
 William Talbot,
 Thomas Tennison,
 Daniel Kelly,
 Colonel Lloyd,
 Hugh Barton,
 O'Connor Don,
 Daniel Ferrall,
 Colonel Caulfield,
 Robert Goff,
 Denis H. Kelly,
 Thomas M'Naghten,
 Jeffry M. French,
 William Mulloy,
 Thomas Conroy,
 Morgan Crofton,
 J. E. Strickland,
 Owen Young,
 Arthur Browne,
 Michael Balfe,
 W. D. Kelly,
 Edmund Kelly.

Summer Assizes.

Arthur French, M. P.
 Thomas Tennison,
 Daniel Kelly,
 William French,
 O'Connor Don,
 Oliver D. J. Grace,
 Robert Goff,
 Daniel Farrell,
 Thomas M'Naghten,
 John Caulfield,
 Jeffry M. French,
 William Mulloy,
 Raymond Pelly,
 Theobald Dillon,
 Thomas Conroy,
 Arthur Browne,
 Morgan Crofton,
 Owen Young,
 J. E. Strickland,
 William Kelly,
 Arthur Achmuty,
 Henry Fry,
 James Lyster.

GRAND JURY.

1829.

Spring Assizes.

Robert H. French,
Colonel William Talbot,
Thomas Tennison,
Daniel Kelly,
Colonel Owen Lloyd,
Hugh Barton,
O'Connor Don,
Oliver Grace,
Thomas M'Naughten,
Michael Balfe,
Colonel William Caulfield,
Theobald A. Dillon,
Jeffry M. French,
William Mulloy,
Thomas Conroy,
Morgan Crofton,
Arthur Browne,
Owen Young,
William Lloyd,
Edward Mapother,
Gilbert Conroy,
James Lyster,
Edward Mitchell.

Summer Assizes.

Fitzstephen French,
Colonel Tennison,
William Wills,
Daniel Kelly,
Hugh Barton,
Robert French,
O'Connor Don,
William French,
Robert Goff,
Oliver Grace,
Francis Lynch,
Thomas M'Naughten,
Edmund Kelly,
Jeffry M. French,
William Mulloy,
Arthur Browne,
Morgan Crofton,
Thomas Conroy,
J. E. Strickland,
Owen Young,
Henry Fry, Jun.
James Lyster,
Robert Elwood.

GRAND PANEL OF THE COUNTY ROSCOMMON.

Spring Assizes, 1828.

Arthur French, M. P. French Park.	Jeffry M. French, Toomona.
Hon. R. King, M.P. Rockingham.	William Mulloy, Oakport.
Hon. S. Mahon, Strokestown.	Lieut. Col. Raymond Pelly, Ballybride.
William French, Clooniquin.	Thomas Conroy, Strokestown.
Sir Richard St. George, Tully.	Morgan Crofton, Boyle.
William Talbot, Mount Talbot.	Jerrard Strickland, Loughglyn.
T. Tennison, Castle Tennison.	Owen Young, Harristown.
Wm. Robt. Wills, Willsgrove.	Coote Mulloy, Hawstown.
St. Geo. Caulfield, Donamon.	Arthur Browne, Newtown.
Daniel Kelly, Cargens.	Edw. Mitchell, Castlestrange.
Colonel Owen Lloyd, Rockville.	Theobald Dillon, Mount Dillon.
Hugh Barton, Coote Hall.	Francis Lynch, Lowberry.
O'Connor Don, Belanagar.	Michael Balfe, South Park.
Daniel Farrell, Beechwood.	William Kelly, Turrock.
Colonel William Caulfield, Benpown.	Edmund Kelly, Kiltombe.
Oliver Grace, Mantua.	James Lyster, Lysterfield.
Robert Goff, Cararoe.	Edward Mapother, Kiltreevan.
Denis Kelly, Castle Kelly.	Arthur Aughamuty, Kilmore.
Guy Lloyd, Croghan.	Edward Mills, Fairymount.
Thos. Mahon Naughten, Thomastown.	Robt. Jones Lloyd, Smithhill.
	Henry Fry, Frybrook.
	Thos. Geo. Digby, Drumdaff.

ROBERT HENRY FRENCH, Sheriff.

GRAND PANEL COUNTY ROSCOMMON.

Spring Assizes, 1829.

Hon. Robert King, M. P. Rockingham Castle.	Colonel William Caulfield, Donamon Castle.
Arthur French, M. P. French Park,	Denis H. Kelly, Castle Kelly.
Robert Henry French, Kiltullagh.	Theobald A. Dillon, Mount Dillon.
Fitzstephen French, French Park.	Edmund Kelly, Kiltoom.
Sir Richard St. George, Tully.	Jeffry M. French, Toomona.
William Talbot, Mount Talbot.	Coote Mulloy, Hughestown.
Colonel Tennison, Castle Tennison.	Henry Fry, Frybrook.
William Wills, Willsgrove.	William Mulloy, Oakport.
St. George Caulfield, Donamon Castle.	Thomas Conry, Strokestown.
Daniel Kelly, Cargens.	Morgan Crofton, Abbeyview.
Colonel Owen Lloyd, Rockville.	Arthur Browne, Abbeytown.
Hugh Barton, Coote Hall.	Owen Young, Harristown.
O'Connor Don, Belanagar.	Thos. Geo. Digby, Drumdaff.
Daniel Farrell, Beechwood.	William Lloyd, Rockville.
William French, Clooniquin.	Edward Mapother, Kiltievenan.
Robert Goff, Carraroe.	Gilbert Conry, Cloonashee.
Oliver Grace, Mantua.	John Dillon, Johnstown.
Francis Lynch, Lowberry.	Barth. Mahon, Clontree.
Guy Lloyd, Croghan.	James Lyster, Lysterfield.
Thos. Mahon Naughten, Thomastown.	Edw. Mitchell, Castlestrange.
Michael Balfe, South Park.	Robert Elwood, Ballymore.
	Barth. Mahon, Strokestown.
	Peter O'Connor, Toomona.
	Henry Hughes, Beechwood.
	John Irwin Camlin.
	Richard W. Bond, Bondville.
	Charles Blakeney, Hollywood.

THOMAS JOHNSTON BARTON, Sheriff.

GRAND PANEL COUNTY ROSCOMMON.

Spring Assizes, 1830.

A. French, M. P. French Park.	Denis O'Connor, Mount Druid.
Hon. Robert King, M. P. Rockingham.	Morgan Crofton, Abbeyview.
T. Johnston Barton, Coote Hall.	Jarrard E. Strickland, Lough- glyn House.
Sir Rich. St. George, Tully.	Geo. Plunket, Mount Plunket.
Daniel Kelly, Caragens.	Peter O'Connor, Toomona.
Wm. Robt. Wells, Willsgrove.	Thomas Conry, Strokestown.
William Talbot, Mount Talbot.	Barth. Mahon, Clontree.
T. Tennison, Castle Tennison.	Owen Young, Harristown.
The O'Connor Don, Belanagar.	John Dillon, Johnstown.
Robert Goff, Cararoe.	Coote Mulloy, Hughestown.
St. Geo. Caulfield, Donamon.	James Lyster, Lysterfield.
Hugh Barton, Coote Hall.	Henry Fry, Jun., Frybrook.
William Lloyd, Rockville.	Edw. Mitchell, Castlestrange.
Robt. H. French, Kiltullagh.	Arthur Browne, Abbeytown.
Francis Lynch, Lowberry.	Robt. Jones Lloyd, Smith Hill.
Guy Lloyd, Croghan.	Gunning Plunket, Kinnard.
Daniel Farrelly, Beechwood.	Owen Lloyd, Cloonashee.
Thos. Mahon Naghten, Tho- mastown.	Richard W. Bond, Bondville.
William French, Clooniquin.	A. Achmuty, Kilmore House.
J. Martin French, Toomona.	John Irwin, Camlin.
Michael Balfe, Southpark.	Robert Elwood, Knockadoe.
John Caulfield, Cloonfinla.	John Kelly, Scregg.
B. Newcomen, Camla House.	Barth. Mahon, Strokestown.
William Kelly, Turrock.	Mulloy M'Dermott, Tubber- patrick.
Edmund Kelly, Killtombe.	John Irwin, Rosebora.
Edward Mapother, Kiltreevan House.	Henry Hughes, Beechwood.
	John Mitchell, Coolmine.

O. D. J. GRACE, Sheriff.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Agriculture. That tillage has been very considerably extended during latter years in the county of Roscommon, and that a much greater quantity of food is now raised than at any former period, will scarcely admit of doubt. But the general system of agriculture, excepting on the lands held by wealthy individuals, remains still in a very imperfect state, and the smaller farms are cultivated in a manner at once slovenly and wasteful. To say nothing of the deficiency of produce attributable to bad ploughing,* un-

* Under the head of the Curlew Mountains, p. 274, I have noticed the rude system of ploughing in use there; young unbroken horses being employed, each of which is compelled to its work by main force; but this practice is one of advanced civilization, compared with what formerly obtained in the county. "In Roscommon," says Mr. Wakefield, vol. i. p. 380. "I heard of horses being yoked by the tail, but I had no opportunity of seeing this curious practice. I was, however, assured by Dean French, that it is still common with two year old colts in the spring. And the Rev. Mr. Elliott, a clergyman of the Established Church, in the county of Fermanagh, said he had seen it as late as the year 1808." "The old odious custom (observes Leland, 2—486,) of ploughing by the tails of the cattle, or using the short ploughs as they were called, had been forbidden by an act of the state. Their superiors were little attentive to teach the poor a better method; nor were the king's officers solicitous to force them from their barbarous custom: they contented themselves with levying the penalty, from which they themselves derived the principal advantage."

skilful sowing, want of manures, and an utter inattention to the alternation of green crops with those of corn, potatoes alone excepted, the loss upon what the land actually does yield is considerable, from bad and careless stacking, and the general want of barns. The stacks are commonly made very small, resting upon the earth; for in a country so bare of timber and hedgerows, boughs and bushes are scarce articles. If wet weather comes on and continues long, much of what lies below, next the earth, perishes, by attracting moisture; from the want of a broad and firm basis, the frail structure is liable likewise to be swayed by the wind, and the tops and sides losing their original form, and being no longer capable of throwing off the rain, still more damage ensues. To such losses are likewise to be added, the depredations from vermin, rats, mice, and small birds, whilst the corn remains out of doors.

As for barns, in the English and continental acceptance of the term, they are literally unknown. The floor of some out-house, or perhaps even that of the family room, may be used for threshing; but a vast proportion of the grain is beaten out in the open air, very commonly near the road side, where there happens to be a dry spot. These observations, it must be understood, apply to the small holdings; but upon such is raised a considerable quantity of the corn which is thrown into the market from the county of Roscommon.

As a natural consequence of this bad system, it follows that poor people are anxious to have their corn threshed out, as quickly as possible, after it has been brought home; and if the weather, upon which

so much depends, should favour their operations, then a considerable quantity is brought into the market at once, and the buyers well know, how to take advantage of the glut. They have no sure means of holding it over without the risk of loss; and moreover, being commonly in arrear for rent and pressed by the agents, they become still more desirous of converting the produce of their land into money.*

The common plough of the small farms is constructed on a bad principle, if principle at all there be to guide the workman, since for the most part it is put together by guess, and whether the instrument works well or ill is a matter of chance. Mr. Wakefield remarked, that few of the ploughs which he saw, had either cat's head or swill yard; so that if it was necessary to plough deeper than the instrument from its original set would admit, an extra person was employed to press upon the beam; and most ploughs were accompanied by an attendant with a spade to turn back the earth, which after the plough had advanced, would otherwise revert to its former bed; and the shovelling of trenches was always practised, whether the plough or the spade had been employed. Ploughing was merely marking the land with fur-

* Moryson, in his Itinerary, written in the reign of Elizabeth, says, that amongst the Irish, it was deemed discreditable to hold over their corn, and not to have it all consumed by Christmas.

Different as may be the causes, the effects are nearly the same at present, and perhaps most of the corn disappears from the county with the beginning of a new year. In the Summer of 1830, it was with great difficulty in several places that I procured oats for my horse; and at many of the baiting places there were none whatever. But the Summer of 1830 was a period of more than ordinary scarcity.

rows, and even this was executed so badly, that he ascribed the produce of corn much more to the spade than to the plough.

These observations are still strictly applicable to tillage in Roscommon at the present day; but as I have already explained, on the lands of the principal resident gentry, examples may be found in nearly every part of the county, of excellent tillage, with Scotch ploughs of the most approved construction, drawn by a pair of horses, and driven by the ploughman.

Where the breadth of corn is small, it might be supposed that *sowing*, upon which the evenness and product of the crop so much depends, could be executed in greater perfection: but the converse is more commonly the case, and the want of extensive practice here as in other instances, occasions the work to be far less ably performed.

The *spade*, in the usual English acceptation of the term, is utterly unknown in Roscommon, excepting it be in the gardens of the upper classes, and even there it is rare. Its place is supplied by an instrument called the *Loy*, common, as I am informed, in every part of Connaught. This consists of three distinct pieces; an iron blade, which is made with a socket as broad as itself; a thick and stout wedge or block of wood, which fits into the socket, and serves to receive the foot in the act of digging; thirdly, the handle which is braced to the wooden wedge and the blade by bands of iron. The handle, consisting of a straight rounded pole, varies in length, and the instrument is distinguishable accordingly by the terms of the long and the short *loy*: another distinction also arises from the blade, according to its being

broad or narrow. The long loy operates as a sort of hand plough. The blade forming a curve with the handle, the convexity being at the back, is first inserted into the earth by the pressure of the foot; then the end of the long handle is drawn downwards, in order to loosen the clod; after which the workman pushes the blade under the surface, for two or three feet, or even more when the ground is light; and finally, he upsets and turns over the clod, laterally, not unlike the work of a plough.

The loy is an implement in very general use, in the bordering counties as well as in Connaught.—Rude in construction, and probably the invention of an early age, it has been handed down with little alteration from father to son, and the people reluctantly give it up for the spade, which is of so much more utility, in the general purposes of cultivation. It appears quite absurd to one who has been accustomed to the broad English spade, to see attempts made to perform such work as the removal of earth, or loading of carts, with the loy. But for turning up a light soil where rocks abound, and the plough cannot be used, the long loy, in the hands of an able workman, is an implement at once powerful and efficacious, which might be introduced with advantage in other places where it is at present unknown.

The block of wood which forms the connexion between the handle and the blade, and at the same time serves for the tread of the foot, is placed on the right side; and Irish labourers generally, even whilst using the English spade, are accustomed to dig with the right foot alone, and to employ the right hand as the fulcrum, contrary, I apprehend, to general English

practice. Another peculiarity of Irish digging implements, such as the spade, shovel, loy, &c. is, that for ordinary use, they are invariably provided with longer handles than are customary in England, whereby the labourer is enabled to maintain a more erect position than can possibly be preserved in using the short handled English spade; and hence, in no part of Ireland is it usual to meet with such bent down bodies and curved backs, as are commonly seen amongst old men in England, who have been long occupied at spade labour.* Every traveller may have an opportunity of verifying this observation, along the public roads.

The *stiveen*, or *steeveen*, is another implement employed in Roscommon, and which, I understand, is seen not merely in Connaught, but in some of the adjacent counties to the east of the Shannon. Its chief and almost only use is in setting potatoes. It consists of a short pole, sharpened at the lower end, which answers the same purpose as a garden setting stick; but to increase the power, a cross piece is inserted at a convenient distance from the point, to receive the tread of the foot. After having been forced into the ground with the foot, it is usually turned round, so as to widen the hole prepared to receive the set, or cutting of the potatoe; a boy or girl is commonly

* Even in the county of Dublin, I find, in garden digging, that my labourers invariably give the preference to the deep narrow spade, with a long and straight pole handle, when offered the choice between that and the regular English garden spade; a circumstance which shews what habit will effect; for the strength of grasp absolutely necessary to turn the blade edgewise, when there is merely a pole handle, is just so much effort unnecessarily expended.

employed to drop the cutting into the hole, which done, the hole is earthed up by a few pushes of the steeveen. Potatoes can be planted very evenly by this method, and the cross piece for the foot also regulates, with considerable exactness, the depth.

In certain districts of Roscommon, as in other places, where spade husbandry prevails, it is usual for people to exchange labour reciprocally, and to unite in considerable numbers in the fields of individuals in rotation, more especially for the purpose of planting or digging out potatoes. These congregations of workmen give vivacity to the labour, and are ordinarily scenes of much cheerfulness.*

As for the comparative advantages of spade and plough husbandry, under certain circumstances, a subject which of late has excited considerable attention, since there are not any other peculiarities that I am aware of which distinguish Roscommon, I shall not enter upon a detailed discussion, but merely offer a few general observations which seem incidental to the subject.

Whatever may be the supposed advantages of spade husbandry, in reducing the land to a fine sur-

* I have observed the same custom in the orange gardens at Sorrento, on the shores of the bay of Naples, where the ground at the latter end of autumn, is turned up with a broad forked hoe, used like a pickaxe. Occasionally, as in Ireland, an animating shout is set up by the whole body. Their vivacity is not the only point of resemblance between the Irish and Neapolitans. My friend, Mr. S——, who had resided for many years in Italy, was forcibly struck on first coming to Ireland, with their similarity of manner.

face, and the spade, as Mr. Wakefield remarks, supplies the place of three common instruments, the plough, the harrow, and the roller, (he might have added more,) yet it cannot have escaped the most ordinary observer, who has ever watched the operations of a well-constructed plough, or the improved implements which have been invented to facilitate the various operations of harrowing, scuffling, cleansing, rolling, sowing, &c. &c., that a much greater quantity of ground can be cultivated in a given space of time, by the aid of machinery, than without it. No nation, it has been said, which has once acquired a knowledge of the plough, ever abandoned its use. In fact, in agriculture, as in manufactures generally, commodities may be produced by means of machinery, at a cheaper rate than can ever be effected by mere manual labour. Yet the grand problem still remains to be solved, under what system of agriculture and what division of land,* the greatest number of human beings can be maintained, with most comfort and most individual enjoyment.

It might be supposed that under spade husbandry, and with the attention and efforts of a family which had little else to do, directed to the cultivation of a small plot, the crops would be evener and cleaner,

* The benefits which have been derived latterly in England, from distributing small portions of land to labourers, might, at first sight, appear to countenance the Irish cottier system, but the two systems are based on a very different principle. In England, the land is given to the labourer already receiving hire, and who only works on it during leisure hours, which would be otherwise unprofitably spent: but the Irish cottier is dependant on his little holding for his main support; employment as a hired labourer being altogether uncertain, and seldom lasting for more than a very small portion of the year.

and the produce greater, than upon the large farm. That in many cases this may be true, may be readily conceded: yet it appears to me, nevertheless, that in Ireland very generally, and in the county of Roscommon beyond all doubt, the average crops of the small holdings are inferior, both in quantity and quality, to those produced on land of similar character, cultivated by the best farmers on a large scale. Manure, on the application of which so much depends, may certainly be obtained in ample quantity for some of the small holdings situated on road sides; but if they are numerous, the supplies will be proportionably less; and if each be left to depend on its own immediate resources, the power of raising manure, even with the help of the pig, seems to be inferior to what can be effected on larger holdings, cultivated by those possessed of capital, sufficient to purchase cattle for stall feeding, and who have within themselves the means of supplying food in abundance from the land. Rotation of crops can be more readily and more advantageously adopted, also in the large than on the small holdings; and this, in itself, will materially aid the production of finer and more abundant crops. The subject, however, is one which will admit of much discussion, and which, if pursued as it ought to be, would open a wide field for practical inquiry and research.

In drawing a comparison between the produce of small and large holdings, supposing cultivation to be carried to the highest in each, it is not in the county of Roscommon that satisfactory examples could be found on either side. In the body of this work, I have already, in numerous instances, directed atten-

tion to the slovenly and wasteful system which prevails so widely, of *letting the land out*, as it is termed, that is, leaving it to nature to recover, after having been exhausted by repeated successive crops of corn, until it will yield, in fact, no more, to repay the expense of seed and cultivation. Nothing can exceed the miserable aspect of the ground thus abandoned, which soon becomes covered with noxious, or at least useless weeds, partially intermixed, however, with grasses from which the half starved cows and calves pick a scanty sustenance. It seems to be totally overlooked, that these weeds still help to exhaust the soil, and by robbing it of nutriment, to impede and delay the accomplishment of that bountiful work which is expected from the hand of nature, and which is rarely denied,—the restoration of fertility. Yet it has been inferred by many persons, and not without apparent foundation, that the fertility of the soil by such treatment, is undergoing a gradual and fatal diminution; consequently, that the capital of the country is annually on the decrease. How much the country might gain, on the contrary, by the relinquishment of this wasteful and semi-barbarous practice, and by the introduction, in its stead, of the cultivation of green crops and artificial grasses, alternating at proper intervals with those of corn, may readily be imagined.* Could the practice of

* That the Farming Societies of Ireland, under the patronage of government, did much during their short existence to extend agricultural knowledge, and to improve practical farming, will scarcely be denied; nevertheless, in an abject fit of economy, the grant from parliament was withdrawn, and the country still remains in a half cultivated state. So far from reducing the grants to such bodies as the Royal Dublin Society,

summer stall feeding be ever generally introduced, along with the culture of artificial grasses, it would be little to say, that the land might be brought to yield double its present actual produce; and comfort and ease be diffused amongst a people now labouring under all the evils of penury and want. Numerous little tracts have been published on these subjects, for the use of the cottager in Ireland, yet the hints given, still continue to be considered as visionary by the many, if indeed they chance to peruse them; although in a country where unemployed hands abound, summer house feeding might seemingly be pursued with the greatest prospect of success.*

the Cork Institution, the Farming Society, &c. &c., I feel a thorough conviction, founded upon mature reflection, that £100,000 per annum, would be *profitably* expended in support of such societies all over Ireland. Look at the existing state of the country! does it require no artificial assistance? Does the human mind stand in no need of cultivation? Half the turbulence of the island is owing to the people having nothing valuable to employ their thoughts and fill up their time.

* Many are the parts of the continent, in which the milch cows are invariably kept in the house during the whole of the Summer. In our own towns, we know it is an every day practice, and why there should be any objection to pursuing it in the country, provided the system is proved to be profitable, would be difficult to explain. The quantity of dung produced from Summer stall feeding is immense, whilst in the open pastures, as Arthur Young has pointed out again and again, the greater part of the manure is carried away by birds and insects, or the succulent nutritious particles are dried up by the sun and lost by evaporation in the atmosphere. The cattle are not tormented by flies, and will maintain themselves in far better condition in the house. In Berne, in Switzerland, where this system is carried possibly to as much perfection as in any part of Europe, and where I had full opportunity of observing it during a residence of two years in that country, not a cow is to be seen at grass in the fields of the lower regions, excepting just at the conclusion of the

The extensive grazing farms in Roscommon present a very different picture of fertility from the exhausted *let out* tillage land. In the former, nature displays her richest verdure, and imagination can scarcely figure to itself more productive pastures. But even here, exceptions must be taken to the indolence of man ; since, to an extent that could scarcely be

season, when the growth of grass is too short and scanty to be cut advantageously with the scythe. The fine cheese of that canton, an esteemed marketable commodity in almost every part of Europe, is made largely from stall fed cows, as well as from those which are carried to the elevated pastures of the Alps for the short summer season. In the lowlands the *mistwasser* manure water, is sprinkled over the surface, by means of large casks and perforated water troughs, immediately after each cutting of the scythe, which makes the grass spring up again in great vigour, in a very short space of time.

At Sorrento, on the bay of Naples, where I also resided long, veal of high repute, and scarcely inferior to that exhibited in the London markets, is produced from cows also entirely house fed ; nay, fed too in very great part from the leaves of trees, fig leaves, walnut leaves, and others of a harsh nature, but which the animals, nevertheless, from habit, will devour greedily. In Switzerland, before trees have fallen into the sear and yellow leaf, even those of the forest, more particularly the ash, are made to contribute to the sustenance of cattle ; tall ladders are erected against the trees, and the leaves are gathered into sacks, and brought home on drays drawn by hand. The women and young people are principally employed in this operation.

In Westmorland, on cutting the coppice woods, it is common to bring sheep to the spot, and to throw the boughs to them, from which they eagerly pick off the leaves : even in pasture fields, I have seen sheep give a preference to the leaves on the boughs which have been thrown to them.

Few persons acquainted with rural affairs have failed of an opportunity of observing the quantity of manure made from cattle which are housed in the Winter ; as much or more may be produced by Summer feeding ; and the animals, particularly cows, can be maintained in better condition than in the open pasture.

credited, thistles are allowed not only to remain year after year in patches through the ground, but annually to increase and spread, so as to become absolutely a plague in the land. Frequent are the instances of sheep being blinded by their punctures, whilst grazing amongst them. I saw many so blinded myself, and was told it was considered quite as an usual occurrence.* These thistles are very commonly a perquisite of the herds, who make some gains by burning them and selling the ashes; a custom as impolitic as can well be imagined, since so far from checking their growth, it is absolutely a bounty held out on their propagation.

Where a country presents such a diversity of surface as Roscommon does, in rough upland, moor, rock, bog, &c., the quality of the soil must, of course, vary considerably; and hence, it becomes extremely difficult to form any estimate approaching to accuracy, either as to the average rent of land or its produce. The subject lies beyond the reach of any single individual, and is alone ascertainable by the joint observations of many persons, such, for instance, as are, at the present period, in the act of being collected by the boundary surveyors employed by government, in connexion with the great Trigonometrical Survey of the island. In the preceding pages, I have noticed the price of land in various parts of the county. In some instances, where rough land is taken in bulk at a gross

* It was in the county Westmeath, that I first observed thistles in unusual quantities; and on proceeding to the westward, they seemed to increase in height, and strength, and number. With the prevalence of westerly winds, the seed cannot fail of being wafted from Connaught to Leinster.

rent, the acreable value does not exceed perhaps 5s. or 6s.; whilst in the immediate vicinity of towns, the rent rises to £3 and £4. On large farms of several hundred acres together, 20s. and 25s. per acre are very usual prices; considerable farms are held also at a higher rate, at 30s. and 35s., and some even higher. But from all the information I could obtain, it seemed questionable, whether in any part of the county, 500 contiguous acres would bring the highest of these rates at the present time.

During the last war prices rose much higher, and it was not uncommon to hear of three guineas per acre.

Prior to the war of 1793, farms including some of the richest grazing land in the county, had been let at 12s. British the acre on long leases; such holdings became sources of fortune, by merely reletting at the current prices of the day.* But the reaction which ensued after the conclusion of the war, operated, as is well known, to the prejudice of all those who had speculated in land during the period of high prices; so that many of the middlemen lost the entire income, previously derived from this source. The tenant, unable to pay the rent, was ready to give up the land;

* There are some parts of Roscommon, says Mr. Wakefield, where graziers possessing an immense leasehold interest, have, in many cases, been enabled to become purchasers of the fee; as their property in the land, from the rise of prices, is frequently much larger than that of their landlords. There are many persons of this description, who, with a mixture of leasehold and freehold, have from £1500 to £5000 per annum.

Whilst I was in Roscommon in 1830, one of these wealthy graziers died, whose property in cash, in well stocked farms, in leasehold interests and estates in fee, was estimated at little short of £100,000, entirely won by his own enterprise and intelligence in his business within the county.

but in being returned, the loss of rent was not the only one which was sustained, since, in general, the land was exhausted and injured by bad cultivation.

Land, like other commodities, is influenced by the action of wholesale and retail dealings; the more numerous, and consequently the more minute the subdivisions, the higher, in ordinary cases, will the price become to the last holders or the consumers. But if it be admitted, that, on the small holdings, where the means of improving the soil by judicious culture are generally deficient, the produce is really less in proportion, then the rents to which they are subject will press still more heavily on the occupiers. The converse may in some cases be true; and the small garden be brought to yield more in proportion than the farm. But, as I have already stated, from all that passed under my own immediate observation, in the season of harvest, I have little hesitation in adopting the opinion, that the cottage gardens or small holdings in Roscommon yield considerably less, according to an acreable rate, than large farms if well cultivated.

Mr. Wakefield, in the year 1811, formed the following Table of the produce of land in tillage in Roscommon, and also of the average of Connaught. This was the period when farming was pursued with the most vigour, and when the best returns were obtained.

	lbs. Avoirdupois.
WHEAT. . After potatoes, sown in October, reaped in September:	
Seed, 14 stone per Irish acre,	
Produce, 8 barrels of 20 stone	2240

lbs. Avoirdupois.

BERE..... After potatoes, sown in Oct. and Nov.
reaped in August :

Seed 12 stone.

Produce, 16 barrels of 16 stone - 3584

BARLEY.... After potatoes, sown in March and
April, reaped in August :

Seed 12 stone.

Produce, 15 barrels of 16 stone - 3360

OATS..... After potatoes or other corn, sown
March and April, reaped in Aug.
or Sept :

Seed 24 stone.

Produce in poor soil, 10 barrels of 14
stone - - - 1960

Produce in good soil, 16 barrels 3136

POTATOES.. On lea burned, or dunged, or on oat
stubble, planted in May, dug
Oct. and Nov. :

Seed 128 stone.

Produce, 20 barrels of 8 cwt. - 17,920

AVERAGE OF CONNAUGHT.

	Seed lbs.	Produce lbs.	Proportion of seed to produce.
Wheat . . .	222	2.024	1 to 9.1
Bere . . .	169	3.584	1 to 18.2
Barley . . .	244	2.765	1 to 11.3
Oats . . .	308	2.749	1 to 8.9
Potatoes . .	2144	22.289	1 to 10.3

The highest quality of pasture land in Roscommon, consisting for the most part of old natural herbage, is reckoned to support a bullock to the acre; on other lands in the same county, an acre and a half will be required; and on some grazing farms, forty bullocks

are allotted to a hundred acres. The long horned Leicester seems to be the favourite race in the county of Roscommon.* The great graziers supply themselves, mostly at fairs, with cattle for Summer feeding, and raise only a few head themselves of some superior breed. It is common also, to have brood mares on the large grazing farms, and several fine horses of good blood, which will bring high prices, are still bred in the county, although inferior, in the opinion of many, to those of former days, when racing and hunting were more in vogue. At the October Ballinasloe fair of 1830, some of the French Park stud were set up at £300, and £270 refused. Large prices were, at the same time, refused for the horse called St. Patrick, esteemed to be the highest leaper in Ireland. Several other high priced horses were produced at the same fair.†

No dairies on a large scale exist, as far as I am informed, in Roscommon; but butter making is carried on more or less in every part of the county. A cow is considered good, which in the season of her profit, will yield one hundred weight of butter, and rear at the same time a calf.

In the contemporaneous account of the same fair of Ballinasloe, already alluded to, it was admitted

* Mr. Wakefield speaks of the very fine long horned cattle which existed in Roscommon at the period of his visit, and observes, that the continued importation of cattle into the county from England, under the idea of improving the breed, could only arise from a desire of complying with the fashion of the time.

† Newspaper report of the fair.

that the sheep sent thither from the county of Roscommon, were far superior to those raised in the adjacent counties; attributable not less to the greater skill and intelligence of the Roscommon breeders, than to the dry and wholesome nature of their sheep walks.

The favourite sheep of the county, is a cross between the large old Connaught breed and the Leicester, which produces an animal little inferior in size to the former, with a greater disposition to fatten in a short space, and with less waste or offal on the carcase.

At the Ballinasloe fair above alluded to, tups were exhibited for sale of the weight of 25 stone each, as already noticed in the Table of prices, p. 641.

Rents derivable from land, here, as in most other parts of Ireland, are usually so much clear gain to landlords; no allowances for buildings or repairs, or keeping up stock, according to the custom of other countries, being demandable of right: the tenants are left to build their own houses and maintain them at their own cost; and hence it is, that the farm houses and the cottages of the peasantry are of so humble a description. On some of the larger estates of Roscommon, however, a new and different system has arisen, and the tenants have been assisted in their buildings and improvements. On the estates of Viscount Lorton, of Lord Mount Sandford, of Lord Hartland, of Mr. French, of Colonel Tennison, of Mr. Wills, of Mr. Lloyd, of Mr. Barton, and several others might be added, which, from their number, it will be pardonable if not mentioned specially, the buildings of the peasantry have assumed a new and improved aspect, through assistance from their landlords; and

were public peace and good order permanently established throughout the land, each year would probably be marked with progressive improvements, and the real resources of the country would be drawn forth: but in the present feverish, restless, discontented state of the people, the country is thrown back instead of being advanced; and barbarism threatens once more to resume its odious reign.*

The public burdens falling upon the tenants, consist of the grand jury and vestry cess, and tithes, and these comprise the whole of the direct taxes. The average amount of each may be seen in the preceding Tables, under the respective heads. That the first, in some instances, falls unequally on the land, has been already explained. It arises from old usage; but the remedy is preparing in the new survey and valuation of Ireland, by means of which, doubtless, the assessments will hereafter be more equally and justly distributed.

* When I visited Roscommon, in the Summer and Autumn of 1830, tranquillity reigned throughout the county; and as this was an alteration from a very different state, which had been gradual and progressive for the few latter years, hopes were entertained, by some, that it might continue. But others took a very opposite view of the subject. "As to the quiet subsisting among us," said my correspondent at Boyle, in December 1830, "we, here, do not think any reliance can be placed on it; for information, derived from different sources, establishes beyond doubt, that in general, the lower orders are completely organized; and a spark would produce an explosion. I reckon it among the fearful signs of the times, that local disturbances excited by leaders, discontinue at once, when policy requires apparent quiet; but that like the followers of Roderic Dhu, in Scott's poem, their's also, on occasion, will start from the heather, as if at a whistle." In fact, in the following year, the disturbances in Roscommon, were just as rife as they had been in the adjacent southern counties whence they had evidently emanated.

To estimate the fair and just proportion of agricultural produce, which, in the shape of rent, ought to be paid by the cultivator to the proprietor of the soil, is a subject of difficulty, even in countries where a similarity of local circumstances prevails to a wide extent; but where the quality of surface and soil varies so materially as it does in the county of Roscommon, within short intervals; and where the value of produce is affected by the means of conveyance, and the remoteness or contiguity of markets, the difficulty will be found still more considerable.*

It will scarcely be denied, however, that rent, to be equitable, ought not to be oppressive; nor ever to exceed such a proportion to the actual produce of the land, as, when deducted therefrom along with other charges, would fail to leave for the tenant a return of his outlay, together with a remuneration for his time, labour, and capital. The amount of such remuneration, indeed, is, and probably ever will be differently estimated

* "Rent, considered as the price paid for the use of land, is naturally," says Adam Smith, "the highest which the tenant can afford to pay in the actual circumstances of the land. In adjusting the terms of the lease, the landlord endeavours to leave him no greater share of the produce than what is sufficient to keep up the stock, from which he furnishes the seed, pays the labour, and purchases and maintains the cattle and instruments of husbandry, together with *the ordinary profits of farming stock in the neighbourhood*. This is evidently the smallest share with which the tenant can content himself without being a loser, and the landlord seldom means to leave him more. Sometimes indeed the liberality, more frequently the ignorance of the landlord, makes him accept of less; and sometimes, too, though more rarely, the ignorance of the tenant makes him undertake to pay somewhat more, and to content himself with somewhat less than *the ordinary profits of farming stock in the neighbourhood*."

in different countries. Half a century ago, Arthur Young declared, that an English farmer must starve where an Irish one contrived to live ; in other words, accustomed to certain indulgences, considered as essential to his comfort and ordinary way of life, he would not patiently submit to a deprivation thereof ; nor sit down to cultivate land which did not promise to afford the profits and advantages he had usually enjoyed.* In many parts of North Wales, the profits of the farmer are small, and he lives frugally and even on hard fare. So also in parts of Switzerland, the diet of the people is poor ; yet are they contented, and surpassed by none in strength, industry, and courage.

That the Irish peasantry and the lesser farmers also live poorly, is notorious to every one who has travelled through the country, and not shut his eyes to what was passing before him. But when the fertility, and the capabilities, and the general circumstances of the land are considered, together with the current amount of rents and charges, a question will arise, whether much of the poverty which is seen in Ireland, be not the result of imperfect tillage, ensuing from want of capital and want of knowledge, rather than the mere effect of high rents and high public charges. This, I am well aware, is not a popular subject of inquiry in the present state of the times ;

* Mr. Coke, of Norfolk, has been represented as deriving pleasure and satisfaction, from seeing his tenants indulging not merely in the comforts, but in the absolute luxuries of life, as carriages, pleasure horses, &c. Whether such indulgences were won by superior skill and knowledge of farming, and the investment of capital ; or were only the fruits of the difference between low and high rents, is another question, which it will not perhaps require much penetration to solve.

yet is it, not the less, one which ought to be pursued, if truth be aimed at. A few shillings per acre more or less, not amounting to the value of a single barrel of oats, will occasion the rate of rent to be considered as high or low. Yet whoever knows any thing of land, must be aware, that there will be a difference of at least ten times the amount of the value of a barrel of oats, between the produce of land cultivated to the highest, and land cultivated in the ordinary wretched manner, which is seen in the course of every mile or two that one travels within the county of Roscommon. In fact, the bulk of the farmers are actually not aware of the real value of the land which they hold;* or of what it might be brought to yield

	Square Yards.
* The Irish acre contains - - - -	7840
The English acre - - - -	4840
Difference - - - -	<u>3000</u>

The proportion for small calculation, may be taken as 8 to 5.

	s.	d.
The average of Grand Jury Cess, per acre, in Roscommon,		
for the three years 1827-8-9, amounts to nearly -	2	4½
Average of tithes, per acre - - - -	0	11½
Vestry Cess, not exceeding, per acre, - - - -	0	2
Total charges per acre - - - -	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>

Now, estimating the fine rich limestone land of Roscom-

mon, at a rent, per acre, of - - - -	£1	15	0
And adding charges as above - - - -	0	3	6
The whole would come to, per acre, Irish -	<u>£1</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>6</u>
Or per acre English - - - -	<u>£1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0½</u>
If the rent be taken, per acre, Irish, at - - - -	1	5	0
Add the public charges as above - - - -	0	3	6
Total, per acre, Irish - - - -	<u>£1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
Total, per acre, English - - - -	<u>£0</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>

These amounts may be compared with what is ordinarily charged for

with improved management; and what, if possible, is worse, there is a disinclination to learn from those who could best instruct them,—intelligent strangers from Great Britain, who are ordinarily regarded with jealousy.

Although complaints on the score of high rents are usual in Roscommon, as where indeed in Ireland are they not, yet it might be argued, that as the hiring of land and the agreement to pay for it a certain rate of rent, are voluntary acts on the part of the tenant, he has no positive right to call that a hardship or oppression, to which he has previously given an assent; more especially as in very many, if not in most instances, it is possible, if the rent be really more burdensome than was expected, to yield up the land to the proprietor; but notwithstanding complaints, tenants are prone to cling pertinaciously to their holdings.

In the lettings made in latter times, upon some of the great estates in Roscommon, much liberality has been displayed on the part of the landlords; and I have already explained, that, in many instances, the rate of rent has been considerably under what might have been obtained, had the land been held up to the highest public bidder. But the dealings between the

prime ground in England, or Scotland, or Wales, keeping in mind that the amount set down covers all rent and charges. On the other hand, in England and Wales, and very commonly in Scotland, the farm buildings are maintained at the expense of the landlords, the cost of which is so much to be deducted from the rents payable in those countries.

The localities of Roscommon in reference to markets, roads, canals, &c., have been already explained.

very poor and the very needy,—hunger pressing on one side, rapacity on the other,—assume a totally different character, and deceptions are often mutually practised; those who have to grant being eager to take advantage of their position, just as the usurer will do, over those whose urgent necessities, the offspring, it may be, of uncontrollable passions or extravagancies, compel them to resort to his aid. Small holdings are taken not merely here, but in various other parts of Ireland, by wretched people, solely in the hope of drawing a temporary subsistence from the soil, without reflecting upon the means which may come within their reach to discharge the rent; whilst the greedy lessor watches the growth of the crop, ready, when the moment shall arrive, to pounce upon his division of the prey.

I apprehend it may be laid down as a general principle, that whilst the rents of the small holdings, let and sublet over and over again, are unquestionably greater, in proportion to the minuteness of the divisions; so likewise are the severities which are exercised in collecting the rents: consequently, that the people in reality suffer more when they hold from the classes, of a rank little above themselves, than they do when holding from the superior landlords. Hence, the odium which has been attached to middlemen. The evils of the system of subletting have been generally admitted, yet have the measures, nevertheless, which the legislature has adopted to impede and prevent an injurious practice, been condemned and reviled; and after all, it certainly does appear somewhat inconsistent with the just and liberal maxims of English jurisprudence, to divest individuals of the

power of disposing of their own property, as to them may appear best.

As this subject is a general one, rather than referring to the county immediately under review, I shall abstain from pursuing it further, merely observing at parting, that the evil is one of long standing, arising from former mistaken notions, as to the management of landed estates; and that the proprietors of the present day, instead of being reproached as they have been, should rather be commiserated, as now suffering from the errors or sins of the fathers, which have been visited upon them, in the usual course of sublunary affairs.

Employment for the people. Although the best interests of the state and the prosperity of the land are admitted, on all sides, to be connected with the profitable employment of the people, yet does this important object still remain, at the end of centuries, a desideratum continually spoken of, never attained. That more hands are now occupied in Ireland than at any former period, is evident; yet it may be a question, whether with the great and rapid increase of population, there may not, at the same time, be more also that are unemployed. To declaim upon the evils which have ensued from wrong management, is a far easier task than to point out sure remedies; hence, though it is agreed on by all, that the state of affairs has been and still continues defective, and consequently, that *something* ought to be done to assist and relieve the people; yet what that *something* should be which is to amend and improve, still continues involved in doubt and obscurity, notwithstand-

ing all the reports of boards and commissions, and the voluminous evidence which has been printed by the House of Commons, during the latter sessions, on the state of Ireland and its poor.

Whatever imputation* may in former times have been cast upon the idleness of the people, it is now acknowledged, from the unanimous testimony of those who have profited by their labour in England, Scotland, and Wales, that, in all circumstances, where hard work is to be done, whether in digging canals or docks, bearing burdens, reaping harvest, or any other of the multifarious occupations in which strength and exertion are required, the Irish are never backward in tendering their services; neither when a task is set before them, and punctual payment assured, are they prone to flinch; but, on the contrary, to pursue it with perseverance and steadiness until the accomplishment be effected, and the reward of their labour fairly earned.†

* “I do much admire,” said King Henry the Seventh, in a discourse with Walter Fitzsimons, Archbishop of Dublin, in the year 1493, “I do much admire, my Lord, at my subjects of Ireland, why they do so oft rebel against their prince; and that they have not improved my Lordship there all this while, since our ancestor’s conquest; the country being, as is reported, a fruitful soil and a place for good trading.”

The Archbishop replied, “I signified it unto your Highness in my letter, amongst other things, the greatest and chiefest thing that not only impoverisheth this your Highness’ Lordship of Ireland, as also causeth so many stirs and jars with them, is *idleness*.” “There are so many stragglers and poor, that it is more charity to put them to work, than to sustain them with victuals.”—*Passage from Sir Thomas Cotton’s Antiquities, collected by Ware.*

† I was informed at Liverpool, that on clearing out the old dock there, preparatory to laying the foundations of the buildings which have since been erected on the same site, it was usual to find those of each nation

Neither is the industry of these people unattended with frugality and thrift; on the contrary, it is notorious, that by far the greater part of those who have been successful in their harvest campaigns, bring back to their own country the hard earned fruits of their labour, to provide for their offspring and families; or share with relations in distress. As in seeking for better fortune in another land, more enterprise is displayed, so also there may be amongst such men more energy in their ordinary pursuits; yet amongst those who remain at home, no lack of expert and active hands is felt, whenever employment comes to be offered; and if that employment consist of task work reasonably paid for, it is seldom that complaints have to be made on the score of diligence. Excellent workmen in all the ordinary mechanic arts and domestic trades, are, as I have already observed in the preceding pages, to be found in the principal towns of the county of Roscommon; but in every branch and occupation, and above all in the extensive class of field labourers, the supply of hands greatly exceeds the demand, and as a necessary consequence, idleness and distress follow.

“Neglect of the cottage,” writes an enlightened barrister, in the year 1831, “is the chief cause of the

associated in separate gangs, for certain tasks. The English gangs were the first to give in, on account of the heaviness of the labour and the smallness of the earnings. The Scotch and Welch held out somewhat longer, but also threw up the work in their turn; whilst the Irish, although their galled hands even dropped blood, from the efforts of wheeling their heavily laden barrows, braved it out to the last, glorying in their triumph over their less persevering competitors, as each party retired from the laborious scene.

miseries of Ireland. Hence is it, that the lower classes have sunk first into mendicity, and then into the vices that it generates; and hence it is, that on the failure of adequate subsistence, they have ventured to commit the most alarming atrocities in open day."

Whatever be the interpretation given to the word neglect—and it is one which admits of many significations—it seems evident, that no great amelioration in the condition of the inmates of the cottage can be effected, or even reasonably expected, until the means are discovered, either by the ingenuity of the people themselves, or the exertions of those above them, whereby their labour may be turned to a profitable account. The idleness which prevails is not aversion from labour, but absence of employment: since in every quarter of the county, men, women, and children, will eagerly start forth to earn the most trifling pittance.

As to manufactures—no capitalist would risk his money in a new country, where his proceedings were to be dependant on the dictation of individuals, issued out of caprice or out of craft, and his property consequently insecure. Neither are manufactures on an extended scale ever likely to spring up in any country, unless aided by natural advantages, or encouraged by the peculiar disposition and character of the people, in which docility may perhaps be set down as a principal attribute. Water powers unquestionably there are within the limits of the county, applicable to various important purposes; but as to the immense fields of minerals in the northern parts of it—where thirty millions of tons of fine coal, suitable to every possible use, were supposed to lie disregarded within the bowels of the earth, together with

beds of iron stone, capable, with the aid of capital, of converting this district into another Carron ; we have seen all these delusions dissipated in the course of a few short years.*

The decline of the linen manufacture, which at one period had made considerable advance in this county, is another instance of the disappointment which may ensue, where expectations have been raised on a fallacious foundation. So long as this vaunted manufacture was maintained at national cost, so long did it continue apparently to thrive and prosper ; but from the moment that the artificial system which upheld it was withdrawn, it began perceptibly to decline.† Mr.

* Since the account in the preceding pages of the collieries of Roscommon was written, the Irish Mining Company, the most enterprising, perhaps, of all the companies which were formed in Dublin in the year 1824, have given up their collieries on the confines of Lough Allen, owing to their having proved if not absolutely profitless, at least not worth the further attention of the Company.

† In the declamations which have been of late indulged in on the decay of Irish manufactures, the real causes thereof, whether from ignorance or design I pretend not to say, seem to have been totally overlooked. The linen manufacture was one altogether of artificial creation, and for a series of years supported by bounties paid out of the public purse, to those who were engaged in it, to indemnify them, it might be averred, for continuing to carry on a business which would not have paid for itself. Magnificent marts, under the name of Linen Halls, warerooms, and offices, were provided for the brokers and merchants, at the public expense : spinning wheels, *ad libitum*, were distributed from one end of the country to the other, gratis ; and looms, on similar terms, whenever demanded through the proper authorities ; not only was every article which could be considered as useful to the manufacture, admitted free of duty into the country, but there were bounties on the importation of the seed from which the raw material was to be raised ; turnpike gates were to be generously thrown open on the roads leading to the markets ; and to crown

Wakefield describes the large quantities of flax which were cultivated in Roscommon in the year 1811; whilst in 1830, only a few patches were to be seen thinly scattered through the county: and sufficient yarn was not then spun within it to supply even the very moderate demand for that article, which had latterly revived. I have described the instances which fell under my own immediate observation, of women who had stood the market the whole day, returning home with their few pieces of linen unsold. Mr. Wakefield, in contrasting the prices of 1779 with those of 1811, shows that the wages of the weaver had not increased in proportion with the general prices of commodities; and he adds, “we may now discover why the boasted linen manufacture of Ireland, the favourite object of the public, as well as of every Irish minister, has not reflected back on the people that happiness, which the

all, the merchant was to receive a bounty per yard on the exportation of the cloth, in itself alone, amounting to a great and ample profit on the whole manufacture. Linen cloth of the value of $6\frac{1}{2}d.$ and not exceeding $1s. 7\frac{1}{2}d.$ per yard, was entitled on exportation to America, to the islands, the continent of Europe, &c., to a bounty of $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per yard; that is, to a bounty nearly of from 8 to 25 per cent.; whilst foreign linens, on importation, were subject to a duty of 25 per cent. on the value, besides an additional one of $6\frac{1}{2}d.$ per yard. On the same principles of prohibitions and bounties, the Dublin market might in time be supplied with lemons of domestic growth; and wine of sound merchantable quality, if not claret and champagne, be produced from the grapes of our hot houses,—at what cost I pretend not to say. But every tyro in the science of political economy is aware, that national wealth does not accrue from raising a commodity at home at ten-fold the price for which it could be procured abroad; any more than private wealth will accrue from a man’s persisting to make, within his own family, an article which could be purchased at the next shop for a tenth part of the price which it has cost him to produce in his own house.

great amount of its total in pounds, shillings, and pence, delusively points out. All articles have risen in price except the wages of the manufacturer.* But if the linen manufacture had to struggle with difficulties, whilst aided by bounties, it is evident that when deprived of them it would be likely to succumb.

Other domestic manufactures which I have described, as being generally carried on throughout the county, such as the coarse stuffs for women's gowns and petticoats, of which some are dyed with considerable skill, in madder red, and deep brown, are gradually yielding to the less costly articles which can be procured at the shops; and which, from having been manufactured on a large scale, can be offered at a lower price. Such is, and probably ever will be, the difference, as Mr. Babbage has so clearly pointed out, between articles *made* and articles *manufactured*, or in other words, articles produced in large quantities with the aid of machinery. Were restrictions in such matters to begin, and the natural current of trade to be impeded, there would be difficulty in conjecturing where they would stop or what the result would be: for on the same principle that the fabrics of Dublin might be refused on the western side of the Shannon, the produce of Roscommon might be refused on the eastern side, or the commodities of one village be rejected by another. No one possessed of common sense could

* Vol. ii. 234.

PRICES.

	Day Labourer.			Weaver.			Potatoes.			Potatoe ground.				Rent.		
	s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1779	-	0	6½	1	2¼		0	2½		3	8	6		0	11	0
1811	-	1	0	1	3		0	3½		8	13	2		1	7	1

desire to see such a state of things : the folly of restrictions would soon become apparent if they were attempted, and the people, after a period of suffering, would probably be the first to call out for free trade.*

* That the importation of British manufactures into Ireland, is viewed by several persons with extreme jealousy, and that pains have been taken to foment discontent on the subject, and to persuade the working classes, that their condition would be far better if every article were made at home, and all foreign goods prohibited, is sufficiently notorious at the present day. But it should be kept in mind, that Buonaparte in the zenith of his power, and the height of his hatred against England, could not with all his cordons of troops and *douaniers*, prevent the introduction of English goods into France. Neither could nor can England, with all her naval power and her numerous coast guards, prevent French goods from being smuggled into England. French gloves until lately were not only positively prohibited from importation ; but to have a single pair in possession, exposed the party to a penalty of £200. Yet it is perfectly well known, that even when the war raged most deadly, French gloves were always procurable in London. The milliners perhaps did not sell them openly ; but on a given hint, a messenger was never wanting, by whose means the prohibited articles could be procured in secret and delivered to order. What inference is to be drawn from all this, but that people will, in spite of restrictions, deal wherever they can do so to the best advantage, or the most for their own interest. It has been asserted, that the smuggling trade into France from England, at the present day, is greater than in the opposite direction, and hence it is supposed to be beneficial to us ; as if the advantages of trade were not, in every instance, reciprocally beneficial. Just so between Great Britain and Ireland, any attempt to restrict a trade which people found it beneficial to carry on, would prove abortive. Smuggling notoriously took place in former times, when duties were payable upon British manufactures ; and if rumour is to be credited, in no place to a greater extent, than at the custom house quay of the metropolis, under the very noses, to use a trite phrase, of those who were paid by the public to prevent it ; and who, therefore, could not possibly be supposed to have connived at mal practices. Besides, that such persons were proof against corruption, although it came under ever so tempting a form, is as certain as that in those halcyon days the honour of the land stood immaculate.

In no parts of Ireland, as I apprehend from what I have myself witnessed, does more misery exist than in those where attempts have been made to establish and to force manufactures which have afterwards failed. The temporary employment thus afforded, by giving rise to delusive hopes, only renders the condition of those who have indulged in them, the more pitiable, when they discover their error. Nearly analogous in result, is the partial employment afforded by temporary public works ; whilst they continue, some of the people undoubtedly are benefited, but, when over, those who have congregated near the spot, are often left totally destitute of support.

Agriculture alone appears to offer a sure and stable source of occupation for the people of a county circumstanced like that of Roscommon ; and that it would prove beneficial, for a race even far more numerous than is at present spread over the surface, were the improvement of the land pushed to the highest degree of which it is susceptible, cannot admit of a doubt. Scarcely is a field to be seen, as I have already on more than one occasion observed, the demesnes of the noble and gentlemen alone excepted, where it is not evident, that labour might be expended with a profitable result, in fencing, and hedging, and planting, and draining. Roads likewise might be improved, with permanent advantage to agriculture and to the people ; new communications opened with the Shannon, and quays and harbours established on its banks. To crown all, upwards of eighty thousand Irish acres of bogs remain to be improved, which, if roads and a few drains were cut through them as a preliminary measure, and the people, were it practi-

cable, left to themselves, would infallibly be brought under cultivation within the course of a few years, and food be thus afforded not only to the present inhabitants, but for countless generations yet unborn.

It seems to have been overlooked in great part through Ireland, how much the production of the land might be increased by the propagation of fruit trees, the apple and pear, the plumb and the cherry; which whilst they yield a grateful food as well as liquor, with each successive autumn, are still, augmenting annually in size, and promising ample supplies of valuable and durable wood, for domestic use, above all for furniture, at a future period.* If generally planted near cottages, the abundance of fruit would render it less an object of attraction, and the loss by theft be proportionally diminished. The keeping of bees is likewise neglected, the profit of which is only known to those who have tried it.

* In Switzerland, that country which I am fain to refer to for examples of what is excellent in rural economy, vast tracts may be seen planted with fruit trees, having comparatively small intervals left between them, in rows, for the cultivation of corn, which is reckoned the least profitable part of the produce. Pears divided into quarters, and exposed to moderate heat in ovens, may be easily preserved in a dried state in sacks, during the greater part of the winter, and are considered in that state nutritive and palatable. From plumbs as well as from cherries, is prepared the celebrated *Kirscheswasser* or brandy, but not cherry brandy, in our acceptance of the term, since it is a simple spirit, produced by distillation from the bruised and fermented pulp of the fruit. How important dried plumbs are considered as articles of food, may be judged of from the fact, which I can vouch for, that in a season of scarcity, the distillation from plumbs was actually prohibited by the government of Berne, in order that so much positive nutriment might not be wantonly expended, in fabricating spirits which might be dispensed with.

But although improvements in agriculture, and the increase of profitable surface would be attended with the production of more food, and apparently afford greater facilities for the amelioration of the condition of the inhabitants; yet, if their numbers continued augmenting in proportion, it by no means follows, that the mass of the people, in future generations, would be better provided for than those of the present day; or that the awful prediction would not be fulfilled, that *the poor shall never cease out of the land*. But who will dare on that account to say, improvement should be neglected, or the natural multiplication of the species be restricted by human laws and regulations? Here lies the knotty problem; to check the growth of pauperism, yet still to leave that of man as free as nature ordained it. But it seems a self-evident proposition, that the system which has been pursued within this county, as well as in other parts of Ireland, of subdividing lands amongst the junior members of the family, whenever the length of the lease would admit thereof, has contributed, as much as any one measure that has ever been devised, to the double purpose of multiplying people and multiplying poverty: and were an agrarian law to be adopted, and the finest and richest lands within the county to be distributed in lots of twenty acres, free of all rent and charges, each to a youthful, vigorous, newly married couple, poverty nevertheless under the conti-

- * The poorest peasant in the poorest soil,
The child of penury and heir to toil,
Early from radiant love's immortal light,
Steals one small spark to cheer his world of night;
Dear spark! that oft through winter's chilling woes,
Is all the warmth his little cottage knows.

uation of the old system, would infallibly ensue, and that, probably, in the course of the second or third generation. Take, for example, a supposed increase of four only in a family, a moderate allowance; the 20 acres would be reduced in one generation to five; in the next, on the same system, and supposing the same increase to one acre and a quarter; and in the third, to little more than one-fourth part of an acre to each; a division, which, if the individual who holds it weds, dependent on the produce, without other resources, will, as surely as he exists, bring him into a state of abject misery.*

This is not an imaginary picture; on the contrary, examples may be seen of the evils which have arisen from subdivision, in almost every part of this county, where long leases have afforded opportunity for the practice. The misery which ensues from it is really

* In the evidence before the committee of the poor, Mr. Thos. Wyse, Jun. says, that he thinks, where there is proprietorship, land will admit of very minute divisions, as on Mount Lebanon and in Tuscany; but where land is held under a landlord, with little or no profit and at an insecure tenure, then the subdivision is an evil and a curse.—(6906.)

Whether, however, there be proprietorship or not, repeated subdivisions into minute portions, will infallibly bring on poverty. In Tuscany and in Switzerland, the progress may be less rapid, because in these countries, the prudential check upon marriage operates very powerfully; but in the end, the result is the same. In some parts of Berne, where lands are divided in gavel kind, inheritors continue to cling to minute portions of land, with all the pride and fondness usually connected with paternal property; although so far from affording a maintenance, it will sometimes scarcely yield remuneration for the cultivation. Difficulties, of course, ensue; they soon become irremediable; and then the land is sold to some wealthy individual, who commonly purchases at a cheap rate; but whose landed acquisitions in their turn are subdivided, and in process of time re-sold; thus the changes go on in a regular rotation.

appalling, and I have pointed it out in various parts of the preceding pages.

If it can be supposed, however, that the pictures of wretchedness which I have drawn, have been overcharged, I might appeal to sundry parts of the evidence laid before the committee on the state of the poor of Ireland; but the more direct testimony of the highest political personage within the county, of Viscount Lorton, the Lord Lieutenant of Roscommon, himself a resident, and the most extensive proprietor of land in the county, may suffice to remove every doubt upon the subject. It appears in a newspaper report of his Lordship's speech delivered to the house of Lords, in July 1831, on the presentation of a petition for a repeal of the legislative union, from the trades of the town of Boyle.* “My lords, it has devolved on me to present a petition from a body of men so distressed, yet so deserving, that I feel particularly concerned at not having it in my power conscientiously to support their wishes. These poor people have been led to imagine that the measure would be a panacea for all their wants; and have therefore strongly urged me, *as proprietor of the place*, to lay their address on your lordships' table, and I have considered it my duty to acquiesce. My lords, I would exhort your lordships, as an act of policy, common justice, and humanity, to institute an immediate inquiry into the causes of the

* Boyle was formerly a borough, returning two members to the Irish parliament; but disfranchised at the period of the union. Compensation in the usual course, to the amount of how many thousands of pounds it is needless to inquire, was granted for the loss. Not however to the borough itself; not to the burgesses; yet do these appear here to have been the real sufferers by the change.

dire distress which pervades Ireland; *a distress very far beyond what your lordships can have any idea of.* I do not mean to allude to the dreadful famine and pestilence of certain districts, though *no doubt aggravated by the general bad system*, but to the misery and distress which are to be met with *at all times and in all places.*"

Herein then consists the anomaly, unparalleled, probably, in any other region of the earth, that a nobleman of high political station and great wealth, a resident in the country, and one of the most active and vigorous improvers, liberal and benevolent, as I have always heard, in his dealings with his immediate tenants and dependants, should nevertheless have occasion to appeal to one of the branches of the legislature, and invoke his fellow peers in the name of common justice and humanity, to inquire into the causes of the misery and distress admitted to exist, and that too upon his own estate. No doubt the system must be bad, where such evils can continue; and so deep-rooted, that before remedies can be applied, inquiries must be instituted to learn from what sources they have been derived. In the instance more immediately under notice, a principal cause of the distress may doubtless be traced to the injudicious practice of granting leases for long terms, for political purposes. Thus with the reputation of being landlords-in-chief, the proprietors have in fact lost the power and control which naturally belonged to them; being little more than receivers of rent charges on their own estates. A large proportion of the present race of landlords in Ireland are in this way suffering for the sins of their forefathers; and no small part of those sufferings doubtless consists in the obloquy which has been cast upon them

for not rectifying a system, which it is utterly out of their reach to accomplish, excepting by repurchasing the interests of the several and often numerous tenants who hold under the original lessees. Where the wealth of the parties, however, would admit of such re-purchases, I have ventured to express my belief, that it would redound to the profit not less than to the personal character of the landlord in chief, to re-acquire dominion over his property, more particularly in towns, where abuses and tyranny are exercised by the under tenants, in their capacity of immediate landlords, and generally in an inverse ratio to the extent and value of the holdings.

Not less anomalous is the extraordinary contrast, which nearly every different part of this county exhibits, between occasional scenes of the greatest woe, and improvements which would be creditable to any nation under the sun. Indeed, if new buildings are to be taken as a test of national prosperity, and, according to the position of Arthur Young, they are the surest test of all, then might Roscommon compete with many parts of England; and certainly, in proportion to its area, be found to outstrip any provincial district in France or the neighbouring continental countries. In every town new houses are arising, superior to the old; in every part of the county, cottages more airy, more light and larger. Gentlemen's seats, with a few exceptions, are also improved; Rockingham proudly towering at their head, and ranking with the first-rate private edifices in the island. Roads have been made better; new lines of communication opened; internal commerce extended; shops established where none had existed before; and each town, in the aggregate, supplied with general commodities to a far greater

extent and in far superior style to what had ever been remembered at any former period.

It has always been easier to point out defects than to supply remedies. Thus, while the condition of the far greater part of the peasantry is admitted on all sides, to be bad, the inquiries which have been instituted, have done little more than to trace the existing evil to the erroneous systems in the management of landed property which have heretofore obtained in Ireland; which still continue; which it will be extremely difficult to alter; and which, if altered, must of necessity be a work of time. Whatever pains may be taken through the means of education to raise the character of the labourer in his own estimation, as well as in that of society, if he still finds himself in the pitiable state of being unable, by his utmost exertions, to earn a fair support for himself and his family, his condition must remain abject. “Where neither industry nor economy can improve his prospects, a man,” as it has been observed, “will become discontented, unprincipled, ungovernable; or, he will become careless, submissive, and desponding; effects, which, however widely they differ from one another, are equally unfavourable to the reputation and prosperity of the country.”—“Field labour *ought* to yield a *cottage* maintenance, at least equal to prison allowance, else the latter is a premium for crime.* Here it is required by law, that the minimum outlay for the prisoner’s daily food shall be 5*d.* whilst a fourth part thereof

* Pamphlet by a Barrister, 1831

could not be earned by the honest industry of the same individual throughout the year."

It answers little purpose, however, to specify what field labour ought to produce. Whenever the supply greatly exceeds the demand, the price will necessarily be low; besides it will be hard to persuade a landholder that he ought to employ more labourers than he actually wants; or pay for them at a rate not only unattended with any advantage, but productive, possibly, of positive loss.

The subject is one, which, if followed up, would prolong these pages to an extent incompatible with the nature of the work. I must, therefore, abstain from pursuing it much farther; yet I cannot abandon it without a few brief observations on some of the opinions which have been laid before the public.

"The landlord," says one, "the natural protector, should first stretch out his hands, and with benevolence in his looks, remove the fear of the tyrant and taskmaster; but unfortunately the reverse of this is the case. No practical reform can follow, until the landlord learns to feel disgraced and humbled in his own eyes, when his tenants are so miserably clad, housed, and provided for; when the wretched cabin, 'with all its looped and windowed raggedness,' bespeaks the habitual wretchedness of its master; and when the absence of all that is essential to the common wants and decencies of life, explains feelingly and forcibly that prostration of human nature which levels the poor being with the beast."

Now the part of tyrant and taskmaster is not, I venture to say, played by any of the great proprietors in Roscommon. On the contrary, on all the great

estates, where the land is, or has lately fallen into the power of the proprietor-in-chief, a totally different system prevails, as the improved cottages and farm houses sufficiently testify. It is by the petty landlords, that the mischief is done; themselves under-tenants to others, perhaps three or four deep, and in many instances, but little removed from the condition of those whom they oppress and grind. To talk of benevolence and protection to such people is to talk to the winds; for it appears to be a melancholy truth, that those in the lower ranks, who have themselves suffered under others, so far from having their compassion excited when they come to rule, are frequently the most pitiless and remorseless of all task-masters. I have already, however, ventured to express my humble opinion, that in all cases where practicable, efforts ought to be made by the landlord-in-chief to rescue his property from the fangs of those who have abused it. But with the best inclination and the command of wealth, repurchases, as it is well known, cannot always be effected; and legal difficulties often interpose insurmountable obstacles to prevent their accomplishment.

Much might also be said on the opposite side, and proofs be adduced, that several of the ills from which the lower classes suffer, have been brought on by themselves, in various instances. Far be it from me wantonly to cast reproaches on the poor; yet, many of the complaints which are made in the land, bring to mind the fable of Hercules and the waggoner. It is not enough to pray for help, the shoulder must at the same time be put vigorously to the wheel.

The condition of the labouring poor naturally leads to the subject of poor rates, upon which so much has been of late submitted to the public, that even if my space allowed of it, I am not aware that I should have any thing new to adduce. Neither are there any peculiarities in the circumstances of the poor of Roscommon, that I know of, which can help to illustrate the general question.

The grand jury of the county appear to have viewed the possible introduction of poor rates with very great alarm, and the following resolutions stand recorded upon their books:

SPRING ASSIZES, 1829.

“ That the best encouragement to industry, is the protection of liberty and property.

“ That the introduction of poor laws into Ireland, would be equally injurious to the rich and to the poor; by occasioning the excessive taxation of the former, and discouraging the industry of the latter.

“ That all the useful parts of the poor laws have already been introduced into Ireland, by the establishment of dispensaries, and county infirmaries, and lunatic asylums.

“ That though the introduction of poor laws might be excusable at the time they were enacted, when political economy was so little understood; yet it would now be quite unpardonable, when that branch of knowledge has been cultivated with so much success.

“ That the careers of England and Ireland are not at all parallel; liberty and property having been protected for above a century and a half in England;

whereas the constitution of Ireland cannot be dated before 1782, when the commercial restrictions were removed, and the benefit of the *habeas corpus* act given to the country.

“That the effect of the poor laws has rather increased than diminished pauperism in England, as appears by the small sum originally expended at their introduction; and the enormous sum of £8,000,000 now required for their support.

“That our representatives be instructed to oppose the introduction of the poor laws in every stage.”

Some other resolutions of the grand jury of the county Roscommon also stand recorded, which, not having been inserted in a more proper place, I shall introduce here.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY
OF ROSCOMMON.

SUMMER ASSIZES, 1822.

“That for the tranquillity and happiness of Ireland, it is expedient to substitute for the present precarious and vexatious mode of supporting the clergy of the established church, a full and liberal equivalent fairly assessed and levied. That we are the more inclined to express this our opinion, because we are satisfied that a fair commutation of tithes is not only practicable, but that it is essential to the stability, independence, and dignity of the established church, and to the general interest of the country.”

SUMMER ASSIZES, 1823.

“Taking into consideration the depressed state of the landed interest, that a reduction of 25 per cent. in all cases not provided for by act of parliament, be deducted from all presentments hereafter to be levied for salaries and other emoluments payable to the public officers of the county.”

ANNUAL SALARIES OF SOME OF THE COUNTY OFFICERS NOT BEFORE MENTIONED :

	£	s.	d.
Treasurer,*	323	1	6
Clerk of the Crown,	323	1	6
Clerk of the Peace,	323	1	6
Secretary of the Grand Jury,	184	12	2

SPRING ASSIZES, 1825.

“That the establishment of joint stock banking companies of extensive capital,† having branches or agents in the county, upon the plan of the great

* It had been customary for the Treasurer of the county, to retain a considerable balance in hand :

In 1827, the balance was	-	£18,679	17	8½
1828,	-	18,452	3	11½
1829,	-	18,599	6	2½

This system has been since terminated, and the balances ordered to be paid over.

† The provincial bank of Ireland has no establishment within the county of Roscommon ; but there is one, as I have already explained, at Sligo, which affords great facilities to the money transactions of the northern part of the county ; and another in the town of Athlone, on the Westmeath side, which is not less serviceable to the southern part.

banks of Scotland, appears eminently calculated to promote the prosperity of this county, by the security they will give to the public, against the failures which have been found so injurious to many individuals, and the facility that will be afforded to commercial transactions, in places remote from the great establishments of the capital."

Education.—The tables in the preceding pages afford a tolerably correct view of the state of the schools dependant on various societies instituted for the purpose of promoting education during latter years; but the private schools, and more particularly those of the Roman Catholics, are less accurately described, as the documents relating to them are of an older date, and considerable alterations have since taken place; generally, however, as I think, it may be safely stated in favour of extension both as to schools and scholars. I have extracted from the reports of the commissioners of education inquiry, a few columns relative to the schools in the principal towns; but it would have occupied too much space, without answering any proportionally valuable purpose, to have given the state of schools from the same authority, throughout the whole county. I was in the habit of entering schools of all descriptions, whenever I met them, and examining a few of the children; and it appeared to me, that, as far as reading, writing, and arithmetic went, they were in general very fairly taught; but in a great many schools there was an absolute want of really useful and instructive books, adapted to the capacities of

those of tender years.* In one very large school, I found Sir Robert Walpole's speeches, the class book, for boys under eleven years of age; and in another, held in the chapel of Tarmonbarry, Lord Chesterfield's Letters. At the latter, I selected a boy of about fourteen, the picture of health, clad in a comfortable frize coat, and made him read a passage aloud, relative to propriety in dress, which he had been conning over. When done, I asked for some explanation of what he had read, but found him incapable of giving any account of it whatever. I repeated the experiment three or four times, by making the boy read the same passage, which he did very distinctly and well; but it still remained apparently utterly incomprehensible to him; as, indeed, it well might, since the matter was totally foreign to his conceptions. The catholic schools are very frequently held in chapels, which, in the summer, possess a decided advantage, in respect to air, and consequently health, over the excessively crowded small rooms, in common use for schools for the lower classes. The mere erection of commodious places of instruction, more particularly in the larger towns and villages, would be a positive benefit to the country; and if properly regulated, these might be made to afford daily lessons on the score of neatness and comfort. In some of the schools, and as I have

* Certain schools under the immediate patronage of societies, are to be excepted from these remarks. The utility of many of the little books printed by the Kildare Place Society, is generally admitted, and not only in Ireland, but in England, where they are in demand. But it is notorious, at the same time, that a prejudice exists against these books in the minds of certain persons, merely from their having been printed by the Society in question, whilst their contents remain unknown.

remarked, where it might be least expected, mathematical classes are instituted, and the intelligence manifested by the pupils, in several instances, far from being inferior, deserved, in my humble opinion, to be rated rather higher than *par* in comparison with that of the same description of children in some neighbouring countries. In fact, there is no lack of intelligence could but the grand object be effected, of pouring in useful instruction. It is lamentable to think, however, what bitter altercation there has been, on this subject in Ireland, between different sects and parties; yet, the very altercation has undoubtedly had the desirable effect of stimulating education, at least so far as the diffusion of reading and writing extends; the benefits whereof having been once felt, parents will send their children, in spite of all restraint, to some place or other where instruction is to be obtained.*

* I was myself one of the founders of the Society for the Education of the Poor, since, better known under the name of the Kildare Place Society: that is, I was one of those who attended the first meeting, which was called at the Royal Exchange for the formation of the society; and was nominated a member of the first committee, on which I served whilst I resided in Dublin; but having moved to my present house in the country; and afterwards, on the peace, having gone to the continent, where I passed several successive years, I totally lost sight of the society; and on my return, found it existing under a widely different form, patronized by government, and enjoying a large income from the national purse. My original subscription had constituted me a member for life; but from the time I left the committee I took no part in the proceedings, neither had I any knowledge of them beyond what was possessed by the public in general. It was the custom of the original committee to meet at an early hour, eight o'clock in the morning, at a house in the Liberty; and I well recollect, communicating to my friend, the late Mr. John Maquay, and one or two others, before we sat down to business, my opinion of the necessity of proceed-

The schools which generally gave me the most satisfaction, were those of the Ladies' Hibernian School Society. The mistresses invariably were neat in their dress and persons, and the appearance of the girls was improved by the example; the writing good; the reading good; and the needle-work, and occasionally the embroidery, showed considerable ability.

"Education," says the barrister,* whom I have so often quoted, and with so much satisfaction, "has been for some time extending its influence in Ireland;

ing on broad and liberal principles, if we ever hoped to extend the benefits of education to the mass of the people. I expressed my doubts, whether the rule laid down for the introduction of the Testament into every school, might not raise opposition on the part of the Roman Catholic clergy, and mar our projects. Mr. Edward Allen, a Quaker, one of the most benevolent of men, was appealed to; and he, having instanced the school in School-street, as affording an example in point, that the reading of the Testament, daily, in school hours, as part of the lessons, did not in any wise prevent the attendance of Catholic children, no more was said at that time on the subject, since past experience was deemed a surer guide than theory. And it is not a little remarkable, that the society was in existence and in operation for full eight or ten years, before objections were publicly raised against its principles. Neither is it less deserving of note, that the schools of other societies, avowedly and openly bent on proselytism, were not opposed in the same manner; but continued, the while, to be attended by the children of Catholics, while those of the Kildare Place Society were run down. Certainly the latter received aid, and large aid from the national purse; a circumstance which constituted a material difference; and since those who contributed largely to fill it, had clearly, in justice, a right to claim their share in the disbursements, the desire to participate, operated, doubtless, as a powerful incentive to the opposition. Of the Kildare Place schools in this county, and indeed of all which I visited in the midland counties, I must say, that neither from the extent of accommodation nor the number of scholars, did they bear the appearance of national schools.

* Pamphlet, 1831.

and if timely accompanied by arrangements for bettering the dwellings, food, fuel, and employment of the peasantry, will secure national peace and prosperity ; but without these last will not produce either the one or the other.

“ Schools have been provided where the humbler classes are taught to read, write, and calculate ; and also taught that the Bible contains all the precepts necessary to guide them in their sacred and social duties. Thus instructed, and no farther, they have ventured to think themselves competent to form opinions, on the duties of the higher classes ; and become so headstrong as to doubt that the proprietors have a right to do what they please with their own.

“ While the higher classes, by spreading these schools, are bestowing on the humbler classes intellectual strength, they seem not careful enough to direct its energy to those useful arts, by which toiling multitudes are to gain their subsistence.”*

* The most complete system of education, as far as I am aware, which has been ever put in practice for the lower or working classes, appears to be that devised by M. de Fellenberg, for his poor school at Hoffwyl, situated within an easy ride of the city of Berne, in Switzerland. A warm enthusiast in the great cause of humanity, M. de Fellenberg was bent on solving the problem, whether general education could not be blended with profitable manual employment ; and he had succeeded in establishing the important fact, that, with judicious and careful management, the labour of school boys, directed to agricultural pursuits, could be brought, if not entirely, yet within a very near approach, to defray the expenses of their clothing, maintenance, and education. His establishment as well as his office books, were open to the inspection of intelligent strangers, and he had a pride in affording information on the subject ; if not always in person, for the applications were numerous, at least through some of those who were employed under him. I had been specially in-

Absentee rentals.—These, as I was informed, in 1830, had been computed a few years before to amount to about £82,000 per annum. It is not easy, however,

introduced to M. de Fellenberg, and my long residence at Berne gave me frequent opportunities, not only of visiting Hoffwyl, but participating of his conversation in private for hours together, both in his grounds and at his table. It was essential, however, to the success of his scheme, to have a master at the head of his poor school, not less an enthusiast than himself; and he had been fortunate enough to find one, not merely well qualified to teach, but who was ready and willing to brave the seasons' difference, and participate in the labours of the field; one of the regulations for out door work, being, never to wear either hat or other covering on the head. Whilst they plied the hoe or spread the dung, or in any other task which congregated the boys near the master, instructive conversation opened the understanding, and gave more zest and more value to the lessons which were received in the house. A short time after rising in the morning, previously to going into the fields; another brief interval after dinner; and the whole of the evening, were the periods allotted for literary instruction: and not only did the boys read and write, and calculate admirably; but they had some knowledge of botany and mineralogy; were acquainted with general history, and geography; and above all, with what related to their own country. The grace before dinner, sung with great precision, and apparently with genuine piety, was one of the most affecting ceremonies I ever beheld. The main object in the moral education of the boys, was to instil principles of love and gratitude to the great author of nature; and of benevolence to our fellow-creatures, coupled with the most rigorous regard for truth, honour, and justice. M. de Fellenberg did not consider instruction from the clergy as essential to the success of his plan, though his pupils were in the habit of attending the parochial church; hence, in the usual course of such matters, jealousy and suspicion were excited, and reflections cast on the principles of his establishment, which led to a private commission of inquiry on the part of the government:—the result was, that M. de Fellenberg was allowed to proceed in his useful career, since his general establishment was reported to bring much money into the canton.

Various mechanic arts, more particularly those connected with the

to procure accurate intelligence on such a subject. The estimate in question had been made during the period of the distresses which had pervaded the county, in common with other parts of Connaught, when numerous public meetings had been held, amongst which, those for the distribution of the aid in money from England, had brought persons together from nearly every part of the county. Individuals interested on the subject of absenteeism, had taken this opportunity of instituting inquiries relative to the rentals of proprietors not resident within the county, and the result on summing up the several amounts

manufacture of improved scientific agricultural implements, were carried on at Hoffwyl, and the boys were practised at them, and taught early to work on principle. The poor school was filled in main part with orphans, or with such as were absolutely given up by their relations and connections, with an engagement of non-interference. When I was last at the place, the elder pupils were beginning to be in demand, as land stewards in Germany, a situation for which their education qualified them in a very peculiar manner. The conduct of the boys had invariably been exemplary, and they bore the best possible character in their neighbourhood. It was most gratifying to witness their manly, frank, yet respectful bearing towards their patron, whilst the latter always treated them with kindness and benevolence.

* The largest estates in Roscommon, belong, as I am informed, to the following proprietors, and nearly in the following order; but I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the statement:

Viscount Lorton,

Lord Crofton,

Lord Mount Sandford,

Lord Hartland,

The Earl of Essex,

Mr. French, of French Park.

Besides these, there are many other extensive individual properties within the county, some belonging to residents, others to absentees.

returned to them, was found to be as above stated. Some well-informed persons, however, with whom I conversed on the subject, and who had not seen the estimate, thought it overrated, when I first mentioned the gross amount; but after making a few calculations, from their own positive knowledge, admitted it might be true. "It is not the simple amount of the rental being remitted to another country," said Arthur Young, in treating of this subject long ago, "but the damp on all sorts of improvement; and the total want of countenance and encouragement which the lower tenantry labour under. The landlord, at a great distance, is out of the way of all complaints; or, which is the same thing, of examining into or remedying evils. Miseries of which he can see nothing, and possibly hears as little, make no impression. All that is required of the agent is to be punctual in his remittances. This is a general picture."

"I am willing to believe," says Mr. Wakefield, "that many of those who have estates so circumstanced, would not intentionally do what was morally wrong; but a wide distinction is to be made between positive and negative virtue; and he who neglects to ameliorate the common lot of humanity, where amelioration is possible, cannot be said to be perfectly blameless. We were not born for ourselves alone. He who improves landed property renders an essential service to the public; he multiplies industry, which increases the resources of the country; and what is of greater importance to a generous mind, he substitutes comfort and ease, for indigence and misery, and thus contributes towards extending the general happiness of mankind."

Antiquities.—The principal castles and monastic ruins have been described in their respective places; but there are several remains of small castles scattered through the county, apparently undeserving of notice in their present state; although it is possible that if the records of private families were forthcoming, and could be examined, the history of many of them might be replete with interest.

The ruined churches laid down in the county map, several of whose cemeteries are still used, amount to thirty-five.

Raths abound in the northern and middle baronies, but are more sparingly distributed in those of the south. No less than 474, according to my reckoning, are marked upon the county map. The people generally regard them with veneration, and it is held to be unlucky to plough or cultivate them, yet there have been found persons hardy enough to venture upon the trial, and who have derived excellent crops from the soil, without having hitherto suffered any of the calamities to which they may have exposed themselves by the audacious act.

The Rev. Mr. Short, in his account of the parish of Fuerty, mentions a rath, called the fort of the two earls, which, according to tradition, was cut through to settle a dispute.

In the parish of Toghboy, at Jamestown, on a rocky eminence near the road side, I observed two raths in an unusual position, being situated so closely to each other, that the circular trenches touched. Possibly there may be more instances of the kind; but this was the first which I recollect having seen.

Some interesting papers have been latterly written on these remains from former ages, but I have no space to refer to them, or to offer any opinion of my own on the subject.

Throughout this Survey, I have wished to avoid touching upon the subject of politics, nor should I have departed from my plan in the present instance, excepting from a conviction, that a brief view of the state of parties within the county, was calculated to reflect light on its internal civil condition.

The Catholic party is strong in Roscommon; hence in 1830, on the first general election after the removal of the civil disabilities, the O'Connor Don was returned to parliament, along with Mr. French, the former member, whose family had long furnished one of the representatives of the county. The Hon. Mr. King retired.

In July, 1831, on the presentation to the house of Lords of the petition already mentioned, from the trades of Boyle for a repeal of the Union, the Marquis of Westmeath said: "that he thought it right to take this opportunity of calling their Lordships' attention to the declaration of the gentlemen of the county of Roscommon, with respect to the subject to which the petition related. The declarants stated, that in consequence of the excitement which had been raised in some parts of Ireland, on the subject of the repeal of the Union, they felt themselves called on to declare they were decidedly averse to the repeal, and determined to adhere to British connexion. The meeting

at which the declaration had been made, was attended by forty-one magistrates, and represented property to the amount of £120,000 per annum; whilst the opposite meeting, in favour of repeal, was only attended by four magistrates, and represented property only to the amount of £4000 per annum."

In the following winter, on Viscount Lorton* having been appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county, an address, as usual in such cases, was presented to his Lordship, on the part of the nobility, clergy, and gentry, &c.

On the 2d Jan. 1832, a counter declaration was published in the newspapers, containing, amongst other matter, the following words:

"That notwithstanding the address to Viscount Lorton, on his appointment as Lord Lieutenant of the county, purporting to be from the nobility, clergy, gentry, and landed proprietors, we feel it a duty to reiterate our resolution, that we view with indignation the appointment of a nobleman who has always been the enemy to reform. That the opinion of the great majority of landed proprietors, as well in number as in property, is decidedly hostile to this ap-

* It has been already explained, that Viscount Lorton is the most extensive landed proprietor within the county; and also that he is pre-eminently the most active and vigorous improver, dispensing more money than any other resident, and leaving traces of that expenditure, not merely in works of embellishment, but of real utility, obvious to every observer, and which will not readily be effaced. His Lordship's public political character as a *tory*,—and in opposition to the ministry by whom he was appointed, is likewise known to all those who have paid attention to the proceedings of parliament, or the discussions of certain public meetings in the metropolis.

pointment; and that it is in direct opposition to the middle classes of society in this county, and the entire body of the people."

Signed,

O. D. J. Grace, of Mantua, late High Sheriff of the county.

Edward O'Connor, of Belanagar, son of O'Connor Don, M. P.

Daniel Kelly, of Cargens, Chairman.

Patrick Taaffe, Edmund Kelly, Secretaries.

Richard Irwin, of Rathmile.

James Balfe, of Runamede.

George Plunket, of Mount Plunket.

Gerard E. Strickland, Lough Glyn, agent of Viscount Dillon.

Thomas Dillon, of Creta.

Valentine Irwin, of Rathmile.

Edward Mapother, Kiltreevan House.

George Harkan, of Rose.

Fitzstephen French, of French Park, brother of the member for the county.

James Comyn.

Nicholas Hussey.

Edmund Henry Naghten, High Sheriff of the county.

APPENDIX.

THE ARIGNA IRON AND COAL COMPANY.

AMONGST the histories of the Joint Stock Companies, which arose in the year 1824, that year, so fertile in speculative projects, as to have been significantly called *the bubble year*, no one, perhaps, affords particulars of a more extraordinary nature, than that of the Arigna Iron and Coal Company. The affairs of the Company, as may be well remembered, became the subject of parliamentary inquiry, and a voluminous Report was drawn up by the Committee of the House of Commons, which sat upon the occasion, occupying the principal part of the third volume of their Parliamentary Papers for the Session 1826-7. It is from this Report that the following account has been principally extracted, and to it that the references have been made.

It has been stated in the text, that the Arigna Iron Works were originally established about the year 1788, by brothers of the name of O'Reilly, the first persons in Ireland who attempted to make iron with pit coal; that iron, both in pigs for casting, and in bars, was produced of excellent quality, but that their works in the end were not found profitable; that pecuniary assistance had been obtained from the house of Messrs. Latouche, Bankers, in Dublin; and finally, that the premises, after having been mortgaged, as security for the money advanced, were sold, together with all the standing materials, under a decree of Chancery, for a sum of £25,000. Mr. Peter Latouche, one of the firm of the banking-house, became the purchaser, and the iron works were continued on his private account, under a persuasion, that capital alone was wanting to render them extremely productive; nevertheless, after a considerable ex-

penditure of money, and various trials under new and different managers, the works still continued unprofitable, and at last were abandoned, as utterly worthless. The premises, however, being subject to a head rent, which could not be avoided, persons were left in care of the place, merely to prevent depredation and pillage, but it would have required a stronger and more vigilant guardianship to have preserved the property untouched; and a considerable part of the iron and metal, as well as the wood-work, gradually and imperceptibly disappeared. In these circumstances, Mr. William Stephens, formerly of Dublin, and now of Rose-Cottage, on the banks of Lough-Allen, at the head of the canal, which connects the lake with the navigable part of the Shannon, proposed to take charge of the place, on the condition of being allowed to occupy the house of the former agent, and to raise what coal he might be able to extract from the nearest pits. The agreement was one of experiment and caution, and not permanently binding on either side, though hopes were entertained, that if satisfactory results ensued, a new arrangement might be made for a definite term, to the mutual advantage of the parties concerned. Mr. Stephens had proposed to himself, not merely to raise coal for the supply of the carriers or dealers who hawked it through the more distant parts of the country, but to make coke for the supply of the Dublin market, which, at that period, received none except from England, for the Gas Light Companies had not then been established. He was disappointed, as I heard from himself, in the quality of the small quantity of coal which he raised for the purpose, out of the old pits which lay the nearest to the iron-works; but still unwilling to relinquish his original project, he took a lease of another colliery, Tullynaha,* on the opposite mountain, at a fixed annual rent, in money.

* This is the same colliery which I have described as now held and worked by the Irish Mining Company, to whom Mr. Stephens transferred his interest, not, however, at an increased money rent, but on the reservation of a tribute of a certain sum per ton, on the quantity of coal raised, which,

It was during the period that Mr. Stephens was feeling his way in the prosecution of these different attempts, that the attention of the public was suddenly arrested by the numerous schemes for the formation of Joint Stock Companies both in England and in Ireland ; and it so happened, that about the same period, a certain person of the name of Flattery, an architect or builder by profession, being then engaged on some works in the county Leitrim, near the river Shannon, was recommended by Mr. Walsh, an agent of the Latouche family, living at Drumsna, to direct his attention to the coal of Lough-Allen, with the view of ascertaining whether the lime of which he stood in need for his buildings, might not be burned on much cheaper terms with that coal, than with turf. Mr. Flattery accordingly visited Mr. Stephens at Arigna, to inquire into the quality, and first cost of the coal, the rates of conveyance, &c.

Those who enter upon speculative pursuits, are but too prone to indulge in buoyant hopes of success, and occasionally derive pleasure from communicating, and perhaps from magnifying to others with whom they come into contact, the extent and advantages of their undertaking. This is so commonly observable, that the disposition may almost be considered as an inherent part of human nature.

Whether Mr. Stephens, however, may, upon this occasion, have made Mr. Flattery acquainted with the encouraging prospects which appeared to be opening upon his pursuits, or

since the field of coal had been pronounced to be so extensive, and the seam so promising, he doubted not, would in proportion as it should be worked by an enterprising and wealthy Joint Stock Company, prove far more productive than it was ever likely to be in his own hands, and afford him a large excess above the fixed money rent to which he was himself liable. It may be mentioned here, however, that the reserved tribute on the coals raised by the Irish Mining Company, did not equal the amount of the rent to which Mr. Stephens was subject, and he was obliged, subsequently, to make an appeal to the generosity of his landlord, to relieve him from his obligations ; an appeal, as I understood, not made in vain.

whether he was entirely silent on the subject, is a question of no moment. Mr. Griffith's Report had already been before the public for some years, and the vast and enticing field for enterprise and skill which this district had been there represented as affording, not only in regard to coals, but also to the production and manufacture of iron, had been a common topic of conversation in the country. Mr. Flattery had his eyes and his wits about him. He saw what there was at Arigna; he knew what was passing in the world, and with that promptitude and decision, in which great actions commonly have their foundation, he procured, through Mr. Walsh, an immediate introduction to the Latouche family, and in a space of time remarkable for brevity, obtained a lease of the whole of their coal-fields, and of the Arigna Iron Works.

The tenure of Mr. Stephens, avowedly conditional, and uncertain in its duration, was passed over by Mr. Latouche, as if it had never existed, and possession having been obtained, Mr. Flattery hurried off to London, there to give further effect to the schemes which he had conceived, and which thus far had been so rapidly carried into execution.

The lease to Flattery, executed by Mr. Peter Latouche, bore date 1st May, 1824; the reserved rent was £150 per annum, and certain conditions were attached, hereafter to be explained, but not one shilling was paid in advance; neither had any demand even been made in consideration of the existing buildings, implements, or materials on the premises, which were all given over to the new tenant just as they stood; yet, on reaching London, whither he immediately went, Mr. Flattery modestly estimated his interest in the lease at the sum of £100,000. To talk in general terms of the nature or value of such a property, was, however, doing nothing. The Joint Stock Company schemes were afloat—the object was to get one formed expressly for working the Arigna Mines. Mr. Griffith's Reports on their importance, and his evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons, had been published, and

Flattery carried them in his hand; but as in getting up these Companies, it was all in all to have the scheme countenanced by some person or persons of reputation and character in London, so Sir William Congreve was fixed upon as the person most suitable for promoting the adventurous project, and stamping his impress on the value of these works, which had been the ruin of the first undertakers, and the source of very great loss to the last.

Mr. H. D. R. Beaubien, brother-in-law to Sir William, gives the following account of the progress of this business, in his evidence :

“ Mr. Flattery came to me in the month of May or June, 1824, and requested me to introduce him to Sir William Congreve, telling me he had mines that would be very productive, if they were well worked. He, at the same time, produced many papers, and amongst those papers, was a book written by Mr. Griffith, in which he speaks in very high terms of the mines at Arigna. I showed those papers to Sir William Congreve, who said he should have no objection to embark in such an affair, if he thought it would be really productive. As he did not know any thing about the mining business, he referred the matter entirely to Messrs. Henry and Joseph Clarke, who made a favourable report about it.” *

The desired introduction did take place, and after sundry explanations, minutes of several different agreements or arrangements between Sir William Congreve and Flattery, were made, although none were of a definitive nature, or absolutely binding. Conferences with the Clarkes also followed, at some of which, Flattery was occasionally present, and the idea seems soon to have been adopted, that a company should be formed, of which Sir William Congreve and the Clarkes were to be the leading members; that such company should purchase the Arigna property, and that a considerable portion of the purchase

* Report of the Committee, &c. 239.

money should *in some way* be divided among Sir William Congreve, the Clarkes, and friends. The Clarkes were desirous that they and Sir William Congreve, alone should partake of the profits. Sir William, on the other hand, was for dividing them amongst all the friends who took part in forming the company, and also insisted on such an arrangement, as should afford himself and friends a majority at the board. There was a dispute which terminated in a rupture between the Clarkes and Sir William Congreve; and the latter, on the 23rd September, 1824, embarked for the Continent.*

In the course of the conferences which had been held between these parties, Sir William Congreve had applied to another of his brothers-in-law, Mr. Schneider, a merchant of opulence in the city of London, to become a party in the undertaking, and the proposal was entertained for a time by Mr. Schneider, who doubted, however, whether it might not be expedient, in the first instance, to work the mines as a private concern, and without the machinery of a company. But in the supposition that a company should be formed, he felt no objection to the division of a portion of the purchase money of the property among the chief promoters of the plan, provided always, and this be deemed indispensable, that the measure should be adopted with a distinct knowledge of it on the part of the company and the public. But it appeared to him, that there were conclusive obstacles to any purchase at all, unless some arrangement could be effected with Messrs. Latouche and Colonel Tenison, in respect of the rights reserved to them, such rights deeply encroaching on the title to the property. On the 8th October, 1824, Mr. Schneider signified that he declined any further concern in the project.†

* Report of Committee, p. 4.

† Report, *ib.* p. 12. "Viewing the concern as a man of business," says Mr. Schneider, in his evidence before the Committee, "I should say it was worth nothing. I would not have embarked a penny upon such an undertaking."

The difficulties which Mr. Schneider, as an intelligent man of business, had perceived, were more particularly explained by the opinion of English counsel.

Mr. Latouche was but a lessee himself, and the original lessors had reserved the mines of iron, merely subject to the rights of the lessee, to get iron for the works. The lessors had also reserved the right of erecting mills outside or behind the limits of the lands in the tenure, only so as not to prevent the water from running to the lessee's mill. The power to dig coal also seemed to be confined to the coal to be consumed by the lessee on the premises. Such reservations, it was evident, might limit the operations of the proposed company, and also afford opportunities for the establishment of formidable rivals.

Mr. Latouche had also reserved in the lease to Flattery, the power of taking at any time, within ten years, a share, not exceeding one-third of the profits of the iron works and collieries, on his paying up a proportionate share of the actual expenditure or outlay on the premises, to be estimated in the manner directed in the lease; and moreover, if the business of smelting iron was not effectually established on the premises, within two years from the date of the lease, or should afterwards cease to be carried on, the lease was to be void, and Mr. Latouche might re-enter.

These were objections which naturally lessened the value of the property in general opinion, but Mr. Flattery still insisted, that if not worth what he originally demanded, viz. £100,000, it must be worth at least, from £70 to £80,000. When the Clarkes observed to him, that the works had been too long in abeyance, had lain too long dormant, and that the public would naturally look to that sort of thing;* Flattery explained, that it was in consequence of the want of a canal, and that one had been cut, through the instrumentality of the Irish government, within a mile of the place, at the expense of £20,000; so that

* Report. Evidence of J. Hinde, p. 253.

the works were now in as desirable a situation as any thing in Wales, Scotland, or England ; and he adhered to his demand of £70 or £80,000, though told how impossible it was to expect to reap such advantages from a property for which he had in fact, given nothing. The estimate which began at £100,000, and which thus afterwards had been lowered to £80,000, and to £70,000, was subsequently reduced to £10,000, and a fifteenth part of the profits.

“ Flattery,” (says Mr. John Schneider in his evidence,*) “ brought forward the thing full of deception. He would have turned the brain of any one not up to the thing. In fact, he had no power of establishing that which he represented. Having got this agreement from Mr. Latouche for nothing, during the spirit of speculation of the times, it was thought a very good thing for him to come over with it in his pocket, and propose it to a society. £10,000 was a fortune to him. He was a man of straw; a man who had nothing. He was of course, extremely urgent to get this thing forwarded—to get money into his pocket—it was a wind-fall. The Latouches were worn out, and were glad to get it into the hands of any person.”

Notwithstanding the rupture which had taken place between the Clarkes and Sir William Congreve, and the apparent suspension of the project, the former contrived to keep Mr. Flattery in treaty, and through Mr. Holroyd, the Solicitor both of Sir William Congreve and of Flattery, the negociation was reopened with Sir William, who was then at Brussels, about the middle of October, 1824. The parties instantly came to an agreement, on the basis which Sir William had proposed before ; he himself to be chairman, and to name five others for directors, while the Clarkes were to nominate three directors, besides themselves, and the profit on the purchase was to be divided among all the directors, and the other principal promoters of the company.†

* Report. Evidence of J. Hinde, p. 295.

† Report, &c. p. 5.

The following is a copy of the last part of that agreement, which bore date 30th October, 1824 : *

“ And whereas the said mines were originally purchased by the said Sir William Congreve, Joseph Clarke, and Henry Clarke, of the said Roger Flattery, for the sum of £10,000, and subject to other charges, as is particularly mentioned in the conveyance thereof, which was, by the direction of the said parties, made to a nominee on their part ; and whereas the said Sir William Congreve, Joseph Clarke, and Henry Clarke, by their nominee as aforesaid, have agreed for the sale of the said mines, for the sum of £25,000, to the said company so intended to be formed ; and it has been agreed, that the sum of £15,000, being the difference in the said purchase monies, shall, when received, be divided in manner hereinafter mentioned, that is to say,

“ To John Hinde, - - - - - £1,000

To ——— Beaubien, agent to Sir Wm. C., 1,000

To the Agents of the Clarkes, - - - 2,000

To Sir Wm. C. and the Clarkes, each £2,000, 6,000

And the remaining £5,000, either to be divided

between Sir Wm. C. and the Clarkes, or

amongst the directors generally, Sir Wm.

C. being one.

“ Witness, THOMAS HOLROYD, for SIR WM. CONGREVE.

“ HENRY CLARKE, for JOSEPH CLARKE and self.”

On the same day, 30th October, 1824, Mr. Flattery put his name to a memorandum, by which he agreed to assign all his interest in the Arigna Mines to John Vivian, and H. I. B. Hinde, for £10,000. It was further stipulated, that a company should be formed, and that Mr. Flattery should receive one-fifteenth of the profits, besides one thousand shares, to be disposed of within three months. Henry Clarke, who managed

* Report. Appendix, No. 7, p. 498.



this matter, paid Flattery £150 to bind the bargain, and also gave him an engagement to take certain machinery off his hands, at a price. *

It is now time to make the reader somewhat better acquainted with Mr. Flattery, and the following letter, the original of which was handed in to the Committee of the House of Commons, † and here copied *verbatim et literatim* from the Report, will sufficiently answer for the purpose.

TO MR. WALSH OF DRUMSNA.

“ London, 30th November, 1824.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ I received your letter, and is much obliged for the enclosed, which I hand Sir William : he said you were very kind, and he hoped he would be able to have the honor of calling on very soon : *the* are differing amongst *themselves* very much ; and I fear it will be hard to make them agree. I have not *sighnd* any thing for them yet, tho’ I have *humbaged* them out of £250, and got them to send *of* the work of the engine, which comes to £1,000. I have now a pull on them, and will make them do *whates rite*. We are to have a meeting on Thursday next, and if there is any thing particular settled, I will let you know. The shares is all bespoke, and some *deposts* paid in. The sum to be paid me is £25,000, of which they are all to be paid for their trouble : this is the delay seeing to settle this.

“ I am, dear Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ R. FLATTERY.”

* Report, p. 5. The deed which was founded on this agreement, was not executed until the 15th December, 1824, although it bore the date of the 30th October, of the same year.—*Holroyd’s Evidence*, p. 133.

† *Ibid.* Appendix, p. 176.

We must now go back to the Messrs. Clarke, who lost no time after the execution of the agreements of the 30th October, neither abated in their activity to form the company. On the 5th November, a meeting was held by invitation from Henry Clarke, when drafts of the necessary deeds were approved of, and the Solicitors were desired to complete the agreement for the purchase of the works from Flattery, at the price of £25,000, besides one-fifteenth of the future net profits, and a further sum of money for the materials on the premises.

The Committee, in their Report to the House of Commons,* observe upon these deeds which had been submitted to them, "that the one from Flattery, by a double leap, passes over, not only Sir William Congreve and the Messrs. Clarkes, but also their alleged trustees, Vivian and Hinde; not one of these five persons was named, or even hinted at; no allusion made to any intermediate transaction; none to any previous arrangement or agreement; and this, notwithstanding a long train of recitals relative to other matters. Flattery conveys the property directly to the company, as the deed states, for a consideration of £25,000; he acknowledges in the body of the instrument, that he has received a sum of money to that amount, and endorses on the back of it a receipt to the same purport. The instrument not only omits that which is true, but it suggests that which is directly and palpably false."

It is further observed by the Committee,† that "the language used in the minute books of the directors, is in exact consonance with the deeds, and speaks of the purchase of the works from Mr. Flattery, as having been made for a consideration of £25,000; and the whole of the £25,000, to appearance, was discharged by the company in checks, made payable to Mr. Flattery, and so entered on the books, although not one of such checks ever came into Mr. Flattery's hands." In fact, Mr.

* Report. Appendix, p. 8.

† *Ibid.* p. 8.

Flattery, as it will appear in the sequel, had met with his match at the game of *humbug*.

The first meeting, consisting of a few of those who had been fixed on for the directors of the company, took place, as already mentioned, on the 5th November. The next, and a most remarkable one, was held on the 15th January. In the interval, a prospectus had been laid before the public, and soon afterwards, another one containing some few alterations. It had all along been an object to bring out the company with *eclat*,* and Sir William Congreve, in a letter, had expressed his conviction, that with the power and the patronage he should accumulate, he would be able to do so, though there might be some flaw in the title.†

“*Copy of Prospectus, No. 2.*”

ARIGNA IRON AND COAL COMPANY.

CAPITAL, £300,000, in Shares of £50 each.

PATRON,	- -	The Most Noble the Marquis of Conyngham.
TRUSTEES,	- -	Peter Moore, Esq., M. P.; Samuel M. Barrett, Esq., M. P.; Thomas Dunston, Esq.
DIRECTORS,	-	Sir William Congreve, Bart., M. P., Chairman; John Bent, Esq., M. P.; James Brogden, Esq., M. P.; Joseph Clarke, Esq., Henry Clarke, Esq.; John Dunston, Esq.; Joseph Mac Lean, Esq.; William Morgan, Esq.; Timothy F. Power, Esq.; Aubone A. Surtees, Esq.; John Schneider, Jun., Esq.
AUDITORS,	- -	Matthew Surtees, Esq.; John Wilks, Esq.
STANDING COUNSEL,		John Adams, Esq., Serjeant at Law, and W. Bol-land, Esq.

* Report. Appendix, No. 8, p. 501.

† Report, p. 12 and 13. “It ought surely,” say the Committee, “to have occurred to the parties, that to bring out with *eclat* an undertaking, grounded on insecure titles, was to bring it out with false colours; and that to accumulate around it the aids of power and patronage, was only to augment the means and mass of public delusion.”

SOLICITORS, - Messrs. Wilson and Holroyd, 47, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields; William Healing, Esq., 20, Lawrence-Lane.

BANKERS, - - Messrs. Bosanquet, Pit, and Co., 73, Lombard-street.

" This company has been established for the purpose of pursuing, upon a grand scale, the coal and iron works which occupy a field of many thousand acres, on both sides of the river Arigna, and of Lough-Allen, in the counties of Leitrim and Roscommon, abounding in excellent coal, iron ore, and other minerals; limestone, clay of various kinds; and every thing requisite for carrying on to the greatest extent, the manufacture of pig and bar iron, and cast and wrought iron wares of every description. The works were commenced several years since, by authorities derived under two Acts of Parliament made in the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, and a large capital has been employed in the mines and erections, most of which are available to the continued uses of the company. The bad state of the roads, and the absence of water carriage, were severely felt by the former proprietors; but these inconveniences have been overcome by the recent construction of excellent public roads, and the completion of the river and canal navigations, by order of his Majesty's Government. These, passing into and through the premises, have opened communication by water to Dublin, Cork, Limerick, and other sea-ports, and to the inland towns of Ireland, and have reduced the rates of freight and carriage from the former price of £4, to the comparatively trifling cost of 12s. per ton.

" This undertaking, the only iron smelting works in Ireland, has become an object of national importance, by reason of the great field it affords for the employment of vast numbers of the people, in the beneficial application of an extensive capital. The premises, and their products, coals, iron ores, and other minerals, have been examined by several eminent metallurgists, smelters, engineers, and miners, well acquainted with such business; and the quantity of minerals pronounced to be almost inexhaustible, whilst the quality is equal to any in the United Kingdom, for the purposes desired, (*vide* Report ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 21st June, 1824, No. 445, and a Report made to the Dublin Society, in 1814,) and labour is cheap in proportion. Upon these considerations, the present company has been constituted, with a capital of £300,000, in shares of £50 each, on which shares, a first payment of £5 each is made at the time of subscribing, and the remainder is to be paid to the treasurer in several proportions, as the same might be called for by the directors, and the progress

of the works may require, thereby assuring from such aggregate fund the easy continuance and success of the undertaking, conducted as a great public work, which in the hands of an individual was found too unwieldy and inconvenient to be accomplished ; and it is presumed that the several shareholders will reap an ample profit, if not a very large interest, on their money advanced, which cannot be doubted, when the rapidly increasing demand for cast and wrought iron wares of all sorts, and the generally flourishing state of the iron trade is considered ; pig iron being upwards of £9 per ton, and which (as appears from the Reports before alluded to) may be made at Arigna, and delivered on board ship, at or about £5 per ton, and other articles and wares in proportion.

“ The company hold the premises under the authority of the said Acts of Parliament, for lives renewable for ever, at the option of the company, on the payment of 1*d.* for each renewal ; and the property may therefore be considered equal in value to a freehold estate, *as it is subject only to a quit rent, and small toll dues.*”

“ The affairs of the company are to be managed by the chairman and directors, until a deed of regulation which has been prepared for the purpose, under an Act of Parliament, shall be passed for the government of the whole concern ; which Act will be applied for forthwith, and it is presumed will be obtained, Parliament having already passed two Acts relating to this property : and application having been successfully made to his Majesty’s Government for the promotion of these works, and the improvement of the country around them, and good roads and canals and river navigations accomplished in consequence. The Corporation of Dublin have remitted their dues, as a further encouragement, and all requisite arrangements are in progress for adding to, and putting the machinery and premises into a state of order for pursuing the business upon an extended scale of operations, tending to a speedy return of profit.”

In connexion with the prospectus, the following abstract was published :

* From the description already given of the tenure, it will be perceived, as the Committee have observed in the Report, p. 12, that “ the interest of the company was far from approaching to that freehold tenure, from which the prospectus, with an apparently scrupulous nicety of distinction, pronounces it to differ only by the payment of a quit rent and small toll dues.”

It may also be remarked here, that there is a manifest error in the description of the property belonging to the company, which did not extend to the opposite side of the Arigna river, and still less to the opposite shores of Lough-Allen.

ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE

Given before the Select Committee on the Survey and Valuation of Ireland, 12th May, 1824, and ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 21st June, 1824.

“ MR. RICHARD GRIFFITH, Civil Engineer, and Professor of Geology, and Mining Engineer to the Royal Society of Dublin, examined :

“ The coal fields are eight in number in Ireland. Of these, the Connaught, or Lough-Allen district, is the most valuable, occupying large portions of the Counties of Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim, and Cavan. It rests upon limestone ; the upper stratum, which is five hundred feet thick, rises abruptly from the limestone, and consists of layers of shale, and argillaceous ironstone, alternating. The shale, by exposure, disintegrates, and the ironstone rolls down. It is particularly exempt from water, being on a high level. There are three strata of coal ; the upper nine inches thick ; the middle (which is the best) three feet, and the lower three feet. The centre stratum has been worked by Colonel Tenison, and the Archbishop of Tuam, and the coals (which were raised by a windlass) sold at the pit for 7s. 6d. per ton ; they may be sold for 5s. with a profit. There remain five thousand Irish acres, or eight thousand English acres of the centre stratum, which would yield thirty millions of tons of coals. Below the coal are many thin beds of argillaceous ironstone. There is at present no steam-engine or rail-road, but an intended one is laid out by Mr. Nimmo.

“ There is an abundant supply of iron ore, and coal, for working to any extent, superior in quality to any in England. Five tons of coal were sufficient to smelt one of cast-iron, of the best quality at Arigna, at the time ten tons of coal were used for one of iron, at the Carron Works ; less would now be required.

“ The Arigna Iron Works (to which the coals on the lands of Colonel Tenison, and the See of Tuam above-mentioned belong) were discontinued in 1808 ; failing for the want of consistency in the management ; and there was no opportunity of navigation existing to other parts of Ireland. The Shannon navigation was not at that time completed. Navigations are now opened with the cities of Limerick and Dublin, and a canal recently opened into Lough-Allen. The conveyance may be expedited by steam-vessels, to tow the boats.

“ The peasantry of the neighbourhood are a quiet and well-behaved set of people, and there is no impediment to the investment of British capital, and it possesses advantages, from the quality of the ore, over the works in Shropshire, &c. &c.”*

The second meeting of the directors took place, as I have stated, on the 15th January, 1825. The attending members being General Joseph Mac Lean, Messrs. Bent, Dunston, Surtees, and the two Clarkes. On the table, before each of the directors present, Mr. Henry Clarke, without any warning or preface, laid a small paper parcel, each of which, on being opened, was found to contain a sum of £1047 in bank-notes and sovereigns. Few words passed. Mr. Bent asked, with surprize, "What is this?" Something was said about remuneration for management; that the money was his own property; and he, as well as the others, were desired to pocket it without further questions. Mr. Dunston arose, and proposed that the fractional sum of £47 should be thrown into a fund to purchase a piece of plate for Henry Clarke. Similar sums were reserved for Mr. Schneider, Jun., and for Mr. William Morgan, who were both abroad; the payment to the latter having been withheld, until Mr. Morgan should himself return.*

With the exception of the persons immediately engaged in concocting this transaction, not a single individual was produced (according to the Report of the Committee) who knew, or even suspected the secret; and the money was pocketed without inquiring as to the exact source whence it proceeded.†

The affairs of the company, to use a common phrase, now went on *swimmingly*; and the following table will serve to show the estimation in which the scheme was held by the public, it being merely necessary to state, for explanation, in the first instance, the meaning of the following marks:

* Report, pp. 8 and 9.

† Yet, there was not a total absence of uneasiness, not to say of compunction, on the occasion. General Mac Lean wrote to Sir William Congreve, to inquire whence the money arose, observing, that the sum was a much larger one than he ever expected; and on returning to his own home, he told his wife, from whom, as he stated, he concealed nothing, what had happened, saying, "By God! I will not touch a farthing of it until I know more about it;" and he ordered his broker to have it invested for him in the funds.—*General Mac Lean's Evidence*, p. 234.

. Designates the shares upon which a deposit had been paid of - - - £5.

.. Those upon which there had been paid in all £7.

∴ Those upon which there had been paid in all £12.

TABLE,*

Showing the current Prices of the Shares.

1824.				1825.			
Dec. 22	£ 3	premium.		April, 7	£ 7		..
1825.					14	6	..
Jan. 4	5	@ 6	.		21	5	..
	7	9		May, 9	5		..
	10	9 @ 22	.		25	4	..
	11	21½ @ 24	.		27	2½ @ 3¼	..
	14	16 @ 18	.		31	4½	..
	15	19 @ 21	.	June, 2	11		..
	17	19 @ 18	.		6	5	..
	18	18 @ 17	.		16	6	..
	21	14 @ 13	.		22	7	..
	24	11 @ 13	.	July, 6	4		..
	28	11	.		14	3½	..
Feb. 2	13	@ 14	.		18	4	..
	4	13 @ 12	.		28	3	..
	11	11	.	Aug. 11	2		..
	12	10 @ 11	.		25	½	..
	18	12	.	Sept. 13	1½	disct.	..
	21	14 @ 13	.		20	1	disct.
	25	12½	.	Oct. 24	2½	disct.	..
Mar. 7	11½		.	Nov. 10	4	disct.	..
	8	13	.		23	4	disct.
	9	12	..	Dec. 22	2½	disct.	..
	21	10	..		29	3	..

The Report of the Committee states, that the distribution of the shares, as well as the arrangements of the establishment, were committed to Henry Clarke, without control, hindrance, or inspection; and that the Committee had found it impossible to obtain with any correctness, a list of the original share-

* Report. Appendix, 463.

holders. The individuals who subscribed the deed of settlement, were all entered as if they had been the first holders, though many had purchased their shares at a high premium. Mr. Henry Clarke's management, in feeding the market through the medium of brokers, aided by the influence of the delusive representations which the prospectus of the company afforded, and by the dazzling effect of the names of persons of station and eminence associated in the undertaking, produced results, which even at that period of epidemic speculation, could scarcely have been anticipated. It was confidently asserted, that through such means, a sum not less than £25,000 must have been realized by the manager and his immediate friends.*

It was during the height of the paroxysm, January, 1825, that Mr. Peter Latouche, nephew and heir of the old gentleman, went over to London, and negotiations were immediately opened with him on the part of the company, to purchase out the reserved rights. The sum of £12,500 was offered to him, but *refused*, and he returned to Ireland, stating, that his expectations were exceedingly greater; that they, the Latouches, had laid out about £100,000 at Arigna, and that but for their being altogether dispirited by their *former want of success*, and the general want of energy in Irish agents, if they could have imagined the thing could have been got into shape, so that it would have gone on with any degree of energy, they would not have allowed their lease to go, and that it was worth a vast deal more money.†

The activity of Mr. Henry Clarke was not limited merely to the proceedings in London. A mining captain, engineers, smiths, fire-masters, &c. &c. had been sent over from England to the works at Arigna, and in April, 1825, Mr. Clarke, himself went over to inspect their progress. "I found," says he, in his evidence, pp. 56, 57, "the works to consist of a plot of about six

* Report, pp. 13, 14.

† *Ibid.* H. Clarke's Evidence, p. 39.

acres of ground, covered with massive walls, mostly wanting roofs—mostly wanting floors, fit only to be compared to an enormous monastic institution, in a state of great decay. After a lapse of twenty years from the last working, the people were all in a state of great wretchedness and poverty—a Catholic population; and the directors having given me authority, I felt it my duty to conciliate the neighbourhood in the first instance, and therefore I immediately put myself in the way of the priest, and asked him his advice for the best course of proceeding, so as to benefit the neighbourhood as much as we could, whilst we were in the pursuit of the business; and the result of that communication was, that there had been some little plunder committed since our possession, which was then of only two months date, and that the priest had such influence upon the people, that they brought in the articles which had been stolen. I found that they had no chapel within eight miles for the celebration of their worship, and I made a proposal to the priest, that I would certainly move the directors, on my return, that a chapel should be erected on the property, of which, the priest for the time being, might have the administration. This was communicated to the Catholic bishop of the diocese, and he was very well pleased with it.* We immediately set to work to restore the buildings, &c. &c.” Yet Flattery, in his evidence before the Committee, Appendix, p. 123, expresses his belief, that the Clarkes had no more intention of working the mines at Arigna,

* It was very soon after the period of this visit, which Mr. Clarke describes his having made to Arigna, that I happened myself to go down for the first time, to this country, where I spent several days in examining the state and circumstances of the mineral district. Captain Vivian, the chief manager at Arigna, was then absent in England, but there were several respectable master-workmen, all English, who were engaged on the renovation of the works, and they were then putting a new hearth into the furnace. These people, as Englishmen commonly do, under such circumstances, had soon contrived to make themselves comfortable, and the order and neatness which their wives and females had established in their severa

or of carrying on the company for the benefit of the shareholders, than he had of carrying away the house in which they then stood.

It may have been seen, that by the agreement which had been entered into, Flattery was to have had £10,000, besides 1,000 shares in the company, and one-fifteenth of the profits. Now, 1,000 shares, if they could have been disposed of at the premium set forth in the table, during the month of January, 1825, would have been a fortune in themselves. But sudden wealth arising from speculative sources, seldom brings tranquillity or content, and Flattery grasped at more. He wanted to be the agent of the company in Ireland, at a salary of £1,500; made several new claims, and gave the directors a great deal of trouble. "I considered him," says Mr. Bent, who was one of the directors, "very litigious and troublesome, and I for one, did treat him very unceremoniously, I will say ungraciously," and this for reasons which he assigned. But Flattery had made two false steps which were irretrievable, and which, perhaps, only met with the consequences they deserved. He had made himself a party to a deed, in which considerations, evidently known to be untrue, had been inserted, and for no right or proper purpose; and he had acknowledged the receipt of money, although it had never actually come into his hands. He thus gave a hold over him to those with whom he was engaged, and it was made use of. "In the whole course of my life," says Flattery in his evidence before the Committee, p. 119, "I never came before so *ingenious* a man as Mr. Henry Clarke." The reader may give

houses, might have served as an excellent example to the neighbourhood, if there had been any disposition to follow it. One of the old shafts at Aughabehy had been re-opened, colliers set to work, and a horse-gin erected for raising the coals; but there was no stock of coal on hand at all proportioned to the immense heap of ironstone which had been collected in the yards near the furnace. The company actually began to make iron in the month of October following. The chapel, which had been projected, together with a comfortable residence for the priest, were also in due time erected.

what interpretation he pleases to this word, for it has many significations. According to his own further evidence, at p. 123, he declares, "that the whole of what he ever received was as follows, viz.—£6,250 worth of shares, and £3,750 in money, making £10,000, besides a sum of £3,500 which he consented to take in payment of an account of £7,115, which was disputed." These two sums of £3,750, and £3,500, in themselves, appear to be a tolerably good return, on a speculation of less than a twelve-month's duration, and where not a shilling of capital was required to be advanced; but the shares charged to him at a nominal value of £6,200, were of a fluctuating description. It is clear, from the table, that their value in the market, entirely depended on the time at which they might be offered for sale; and before they could be marketable, the deposit of £5 per share must have been paid. According to the evidence of Henry Clarke, (p. 56,) Flattery did not pay the calls on the shares that stood in his name, and wished to evade them; the directors were of opinion that he ought to pay, and called upon him so to do. In consequence of that, Flattery proceeded to the court of Chancery, for an injunction against the directors. The court dismissed his application, and he then came to the directors, desiring, that they would give him time to pay.

We have seen, that Mr. William Morgan, a director of the company, for whom one of the little paper parcels containing £1,047, appeared to have been reserved, was absent from the meeting of the 15th January, when these pretty things, were distributed, and he did not come back from the Continent, where he had been all the while, until the 6th of June, 1825. Flattery had been watching for his return, and having obtained access, not only opened to him his own griefs and disappointments, and the ill-usage he had received from the Clarkes, but gave Mr. Morgan an account of the transactions relative to the £15,000 which had been detained out of the purchase money

charged to the company, and divided wrongfully amongst the directors. Mr. Morgan, who, during his absence, had not before received the slightest intimation of these doings, was very indignant at what he heard, and went immediately to the Clarkes to ascertain the truth of the account. "I called," says he, "on Mr. Henry Clarke, and stated Flattery's story. He seemed to treat it with great *sang-froid*; then laughed at it, and stated the improbability of the story; and ended by saying, 'it was entirely a fiction, a vile invention;' or, as he expressed it, 'a wile invention.' It was the first time I had seen the man."*

Mr. Morgan then communicated the matter to Messrs. Bent and Brogden. The former of these gentlemen, it will be recollected, was the person, who, on receiving his money parcel at the board, exclaimed, "What is this?" and appeared desirous of inquiring more into the business, when he was stopped by Henry Clarke, and told to pocket his money, which was his own property; and a confused notion, as it appears on the evidence, was in reality entertained by some of those who had received the money, that it arose from profits on the shares, or extra shares reserved for the directors, which had been turned to profit in the market by the dexterity of Henry Clarke, to whom so much had been confided. It was determined, however, by these three gentlemen, that an inquiry should be forthwith instituted at the next meeting; and when that meeting did take place, Mr. Bent arose and addressed the board:

"Before we proceed to business, it is necessary to state, there are reports of a nature to effect the characters of every person sitting round the table." Henry Clarke immediately said, "This cock and a bull story of Mr. Morgan's about Flattery, there is not a word of truth in it, and really, it is losing time to attend to that man. Flattery only wants us to buy his

* Report. Evidence of William Morgan, Esq., p. 43.

one-fifteenth of the profits, at a very extravagant price ; he wants us to give him £80,000 for it."*

A proposal was then made for calling a public meeting of the share-holders on the subject. The votes at the board were even, and Sir William Congreve, who was in the chair on the occasion, with the power of giving the casting vote, declined voting.†

After this, at a subsequent meeting of the board, very angry words were spoken, when Joseph Clarke attempted to explain and simplify the whole transaction, as follows :—"That A and B had purchased the mines from Flattery for £10,000 ; and that A and B had afterwards directed Flattery to sell the same property to the Arigna Company, for £25,000 ; that afterwards A and B gave over to the Clarkes the £15,000 gained by this transaction, to be divided amongst the directors of the company, in proportion to their respective merits. Gentlemen, the dirty job which you are all complaining about, has been thus made, and it is from this dirty sum (looking significantly at those who had received) that you have received your £1,000, Gentlemen."‡

The sensation which was produced by this inquiry, and by the explanation, quickly extended to the share-holders ; and from the rapid depreciation which the table of the prices of the shares exhibits about this period, it is sufficiently evident, that the company had fallen into disrepute. The transaction was already publicly spoken of ; but those of the board of directors who had wished for a general meeting of the share-holders, were constantly outvoted on their proposing that measure.

There were certain of the share-holders, however, Messrs. Hitchens, Moxon, and others, who boldly stood forward as the advocates of investigation ; and in consequence of a requisition in writing, sent to the directors, under a clause in the company's Act of Parliament, a general meeting of the company was,

* Report, p. 431. Evidence of William Morgan, Esq.

† Ibid. p. 435.

‡ Ibid. Evidence, pp. 433, 434.

after some delay, called on the 5th December, 1825. At this meeting, which was a stormy one, the affair of the £15,000 was made a matter of public accusation against the Messrs. Clarkes, Sir William Congreve, and others of the directors, and a proposal was made for removing them from the direction. This proposal was, however, negatived.

Yet, at a subsequent general meeting, held on the 30th May, 1826, at which period more light had been thrown upon the affair, all the directors were removed, with the exception of

MR. SCHNEIDER, JUN.,	{ Who had taken no concern in the company.
MESSRS. MORGAN, BENT, and BROGDEN,	{ Who were held to be uncontaminated by the fraud.
GENERAL MAC LEAN,	{ Who had already resigned on the 17th December, 1825.
SIR WM. CONGREVE,	{ Who had resigned 16th February, 1826.

On his resignation, Sir William Congreve published a letter, which appeared in the Times Newspaper, 22nd February, 1826, stating, "that he came into the concern with the full conviction that it was calculated to do good to a very extensive Irish peasantry in the neighbourhood of Arigna; at the same time, also, with a belief that it must be a profitable undertaking to the subscribers; and further, with a view of deriving an honorable benefit to himself, his family, and friends, from the peculiar circumstances under which it was proposed to form the company, viz. that the owner of the mines came forward to dispose of them on such reasonable terms to those who would undertake to form a company, that they might fairly and honorably lay a considerable profit upon the first purchase, without charging to the company more than the real value of the property, and not more in fact, than had been paid for these premises some years

before, when property of the sort was less valuable :^{*} and he further adds, “ If, therefore, I now deem it expedient to resign, I beg it may be understood, that it is not under any feeling that I have done ought to incapacitate me from the chair ; or that I have in any way lent myself to the injury of the company, since it is not denied, that the property is worth more than the company have paid for it, and that every subscriber knew on the face of the deed, that £25,000 was there charged, &c. &c.”

Nearly at the same time, a bill in Chancery was filed by Messrs. R. Hitchens, Moxon, and Parker, on behalf of themselves, and all the share-holders of the company, against all the original directors ; against R. Flattery, and against Messrs. P. Moore, Barret, and T. Dunston, to whom, as trustees of the company, Mr. Flattery had conveyed the original property, praying that the £15,000, with interest, at the rate of £5 per cent, might be refunded to the company. The proceedings had been instituted in the Vice-Chancellor's court, but several years passed over before the cause was brought to a hearing. In the report of the directors to the proprietors, at the meeting held 1st September, 1831, it is, however, announced with very great satisfaction, that since the last meeting, the chancery suit against Messrs. Clarke and others, for the recovery of the £15,000, had been determined in the company's favour, and the defendants condemned in principal, interests, and costs. Of this sum, £2,067 18s. 3d. had been received by the company, out of court, in further liquidation of the sum due, making about £6,000 already obtained ; and the Master in Chancery, to whom the amounts were referred, had certified, that the further sum of £12,373 0s. 1d. was due for principal and interest, up to 8th August, 1831.

The Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, from which I have drawn the principal statements descriptive

^{*} Mr. Latouche had acquired the Arigna property under a sale in Chancery, and paid £25,000, to which was to be added, the value of the works afterwards erected.

of the formation of the company, and the division of the spoil, is a very voluminous one, containing no less than 514 close printed folio pages, and it was no small labour to wade through it, and to select the materials which I have here put together. There are many curious little details in it which may amuse those who take an interest in such subjects, particularly as to the concoction of the scheme for dividing the £15,000; for many different projects had been devised to effect the purpose, and warnings had been again and again given by the legal agents and advisers, of the difficulties which must attend it. To describe all these circumstances, would be unnecessary, it is enough to have shown the principles upon which the company had been formed, and the conduct of those who had the management of its affairs during the first year and half.

With the removal of so many of the original directors, and the appointment of others in their stead, a new board may be said to have been created, and with it arose a new era in the history of the company. It seemed now as if doubts existed on every subject connected with their affairs; the value of their lease, the capability of the mining ground at Arigna, all began to be suspected. To arrive at the true knowledge, therefore, if possible, of the circumstances of the place, a mining surveyor was selected, Mr. J. A. Twigg, of Chesterfield, and sent over with a list of questions, which he was required to answer specifically, besides giving his general remarks on what he observed. His Report, dated July, 1826, was printed in London the following year, and I have referred to it in the text, not; however, following the course of the questions and answers, *seriatim*, neither adhering to the general arrangement, but using it merely as it served to illustrate subjects under review; and here it may be observed, in conclusion of this Appendix, that the opinions of Mr. Twigg were of a favourable nature, that is, he expressed his belief, that under judicious management, and with a vigorous attention to economy in the outlay, there might be a fair remuneration for a moderate capital expended on the works, during a limited number of years; but the wild

notions which had been encouraged in the prospectus of the company, received no countenance from him. The new directors indeed observed, that Mr. Twigg's opinions, favourable as they were, had been expressed with that caution which is habitual to men who hazard professional reputation, on the advice which they give officially.

No. II.

ON THE BOGS.

THE warrant by which the Commissioners were appointed to inquire into the nature and extent of the bogs in Ireland, was issued on the 15th September, 1809; and in the following year, to June, 1810, their first Report to the House of Commons was ordered to be printed, containing in an Appendix, a Sub-report on the practicability of improving a large part of the Bog of Allen, by Mr. Griffith, who appears to have taken the start of all his compeers.

It was not, however, until some time afterwards, and subsequently to the printing of a second large volume of Reports, that the engineers were ordered across the Shannon. In passing, therefore, into the county of Roscommon, where the first operations to the westward of the Shannon began, they entered upon their respective tasks, not only with the full advantage of their own personal previous experience, but with that which might be derivable from the observations of their fellow-engineers, in the printed Reports of the Commissioners.

The following general description of the bogs to the west of the Shannon, appears in the fourth volume of the Reports, p. 112.

General Description of the Bogs West of the Shannon.

The bogs on the western side of the Shannon, are for the most part similarly circumstanced with those situated on the

eastern side of the river. Like them, they are surrounded by abrupt ridges, which pen up the waters in the bogs, and where drains have not been made, cause, at present, a great increase both in their height and extent. On examining the interior of these ridges on the eastern and western side of the river, a considerable difference is observable in the size and state of their component parts. It appears from the reports of all the engineers, that the ridges eastward of the Shannon, consist of limestone gravel, either fine, or mixed with clay, forming, what is properly called manuring gravel; whereas the base of the ridges to the *west* of the Shannon, is composed either of stratified limestone, dipping according to the slope of the hill, or of large masses of limestone, loose, and independant of each other. These masses, though apparently removed from their native bed, are almost always angular at the edges, and present no marks of having been rolled, as is the case universally on the eastern side of the Shannon, even where very large masses occur. These rocks are generally covered over with clay, and with small limestone gravel. Where the limestone gravel is *not* found, the waters from the adjoining land or bog, flow in amongst the loose rocks, and having passed the hill by a subterraneous channel, burst forth with great violence at the opposite side, and not unfrequently form *jets d'eau*. In wet seasons, when these channels are insufficient to give free vent to the whole of the waters which flow to them, extensive temporary lakes are formed, called turloughs.

The bogs of the county of Roscommon were classed for the purposes of the survey, into four districts. The first, called the Lough-Gara district, from being situated in the vicinity of the great lake on the north-western side of the county, was confided to Mr. Longfield. This district is comprized within the baronies of Boyle and Ballintobber; the largest bogs lying to the south of the lake, towards the extreme west of the county.

The two districts of the lower and upper Suck, were given to Mr. Griffith; the former, comprising all those bogs which discharged their waters into the river Suck, between Mount-

Talbot and Creggan, and into the river Shannon, between Lough-Ree and Lough-Derg; and the latter, or second district, comprising such bogs as discharged their waters into the river Suck, above Mount-Talbot, between that place and Castlereagh.

The fourth, and last district, was allotted to Mr. Edgeworth, consisting of the bogs which lay between Rooskey-Bridge, on the Shannon, to the north, and Knock Croghery, near Lough-Ree, to the south. These, for the most part consisted of bogs lying between the river and the ridge of Slievebawn, *anglice* the white mountain.

But though all the bogs of Roscommon which were surveyed, were included under these districts, yet the districts themselves, with the exception of Mr. Edgeworth's, were not confined exclusively to Roscommon, but embraced parts of the adjacent counties; and as the boundaries are not in every instance marked on the bog-maps, it is impracticable to mark with precision, how much bog belonged to each county; however, the following table which I have ventured to construct, will probably be sufficiently near to the truth, to give a fair idea of the extent of bog surveyed within the county of Roscommon, under the Commissioners.

	Acres Irish.	Acres English.
Lough-Gara district, -	28,395	46,000
Lower Suck do. -	22,334	36,177
Upper Suck do. -	7,584	12,284
Shannon do. -	7,392	11,974
Total, -	65,708	106,435

But, by the county map, the total amount of bog

appears to be, -	80,908	131,057
Deduct as above, -	65,708	106,435
Leaves not surveyed, -	15,200	24,622

It may be observed here, however, that no bogs were to be surveyed, according to the regulations of the Commissioners, which did not contain at least 500 acres; and it has already been explained, that the bogs are dispersed very generally over the face of the county, differing considerably in size; in fact some of them consist merely of patches of a few acres only. These are sometimes of great value, on account of the fuel they yield, in *neighbourhoods where it is scarce*, and agricultural improvements are then seldom thought of, until the bog is cut away; but from the injudicious course in which the operations are carried on, solely in reference to procuring turf, it not unfrequently happens, that deep unequal holes are left, and mounds between them, which had previously served for passages, by means of which, the waters was pent up, and reclamation, as it is called, ultimately becomes a difficult and expensive business, even upon a small scale.

Mr. Longfield's Report on the Lough-Gara district, is dated May, 1812.

Mr. Griffith's Report on the lower Suck district, is also dated 1812, and that on the upper district, April, 1813.

Mr. Edgeworth's Report, is dated May, 1813.

The Report of Mr. Longfield appears in the third volume of the Reports of the Commissioners to Parliament, and the others in the fourth and last volume.

I merely give these dates, as they may serve to illustrate the progress of the inquiry; but for more full and satisfactory information on the subject, reference must be had to the detailed observation of the Engineers who were employed by the Commissioners, not only here, but in other parts of Ireland.

Mr. Longfield divided the Lough-Gara district into eleven denominations, as follows:

	IRISH ACRES.			ENGLISH ACRES.		
	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
1. Bogs north of the road from Annagollagh-Bridge to Erritt, and extending to Orler, Tavrane, Culliagh, Lisadaly, &c.,	5,256	3	0	8,515	0	9
2. Bogs west of the road from Cloonallis to Carrobeahy, extending to Ballinlough, Cloonkan, Taghnarra, &c. - -	3,857	1	0	6,248	0	18
3. Bogs east of the road from Cloonallis to Carrobeahy, extending to Ballindrimly, Kilgorrive, Loughglyn, Cloontorvart, - - - -	4,152	1	0	6,725	3	34
4. Bogs on both sides of the river Lung, from Cloontorvart-Bridge to Lung-Bridge, and extending to <i>Ballaghaderreen, in the Co. Mayo</i> , -	2,103	0	0	3,406	2	2
5. Bogs of Leitrim, Cloonfad, Fairymount, Cluggernagh, Mullin, &c., - - -	1,600	0	0	2,591	2	38
6. Great bogs of French-park, and Castlerea, extending to Tully Baslick, &c. and including the bog of Ballyglass,	4,275	0	0	6,924	3	6
7. Bogs from Bella to Mantua, and extending to Belanegar, Cloonshanville, French-Park, &c., - - - -	3,459	2	0	5,603	3	11
8. Bogs on each side of the Breeogue-River, and extending to Kilnamanagh, Knockglass, Camlin, Lacken, Lugnguir, &c., - - - -	2,341	1	0	3,792	1	30
9. Bogs north and south of the river Lung, extending from Lung-House, and near the town of Ballagh-dareen, to Lough-Gara, &c., - -	2,322	0	0	3,761	1	2
10. Croghan-Bogs, - -	466	0	0	754	3	14
11. Drimmer, Drummin, and Ballinville-Bogs, - -	588	1	0	952	3	19
	30,421	1	0	49,277	1	23

NOTE.—In the general table (p. 3) at the commencement of the third Report of the Commissioners, the number of English acres in this district, surveyed by Mr. Longfield, is set down as 83,689, and this error is carried forward in all the subsequent statements.

All the bogs in this district, as I have already observed, are not within the county Roscommon, but lie in part beyond the boundary lines, between that county and those of Mayo and Sligo. I have ventured to deduct 3,277A. 2R. 3P. from the parts situated in Mayo and Sligo, which will leave the amount for Roscommon at 46,000 English acres.

The following Summary of the Expenses of the Drains and Improvements for this District, is transcribed from the concluding part of Mr. Longfield's Report, in the Third Report of the Commissioners, p. 58 :

	Main, minor, and Surface Drains.	Improvements on Rivers, making Naviga- ble Cuts.	Proposed Roads.	Total Cost of proposed Works.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
First Division, -	14097 17 8	4814 14 1	1622 8 0	20534 19 9
Second do. -	10352 7 0	1616 8 5½	858 0 0	12826 15 5½
Third do. -	12358 17 3½	784 19 0	975 0 0	14118 16 3½
Fourth do. -	5471 13 7	654 13 5	97 10 0	6223 17 0
Fifth do. -	2193 4 5	157 1 0	470 14 7	2821 0 0
Sixth do. -	13709 17 0	165 9 7	1942 4 0	15817 10 7
Seventh do. -	8900 0 6	439 15 7	468 0 0	9807 16 1
Eighth do. -	6053 6 4½	135 6 9½	234 0 0	6422 13 2
Ninth do. -	6094 5 2	940 3 5	616 4 0	7650 12 7
Tenth do. -	1574 16 5	—	—	1574 16 5
Eleventh do. -	1551 10 5	—	—	1551 10 5
Former Currency,	82357 15 10	9708 11 4	7284 7 0	99350 7 9
In English Mo- ney, }	76022 11 8	8380 4 5	6723 14 5	91126 10 6

The total expense of the improvements then being £91,126 10s. 6d. British, whilst the eleven divisions contain 30,421 Irish acres, equal to 49,277 English acres; the cost of the proposed drains, &c. &c., would amount to £2 19s. 10d. per Irish acre, or £1 17s. 2d. per English acre.

“ On summing up the whole of the estimates, it will be found,” says Mr. Longfield, “ they amount to the sum of £99,350 7s. 9d. former Irish currency, for making the necessary navigation, main, minor, and surface drains, together with deepening rivers, and making roads, being something more than 40s. (Irish currency) per acre, for completing the proposed works, which will reduce the whole to a state fit for to receive the further agricultural improvements, of gravelling, liming, or burning ; after which, it is but reasonable to suppose the fee of every acre would be worth at least £20, being twenty years’ purchase, at 20s. per acre ; therefore, supposing the gravelling or liming to cost £8 per acre, in addition to the £2 for draining, there will remain a profit to the improver of £10 more, provided he is already possessed of the fee of the bogs to be reclaimed.”

The above estimates are in old Irish currency, reduced to English money, the amount will be as follows :

Estimated value of the improved bog,	}	£18	9	2
per English acre,				
Cost of drains, &c.		£1	17	2
Do. of gravel or lime,		7	7	8
		<hr/>		
			9	4 10
		<hr/>		
Profit to the improver,	-	9	4	4

Thus, according to the foregoing estimates, the improvement of bog, including lime or gravel, would cost at the rate of £9 4s. 10d., to say nothing of the expense of getting rid of the coarse surface, and preparing it for future tillage or meadow, which would probably amount to some pounds more.

With regard to that part of the estimate which comprises the cost of making *navigable cuts*, it is to be observed, that Mr. Longfield did no more than to follow the general instructions given by the Commissioners to their engineers, as printed in their first Report; and indeed they appear to have given Mr. Longfield particular credit for the attention which he had paid to this part of the subject.

“ In laying out his drains, Mr. Longfield has always kept in view the employing them as small canals for the conveyance of gravel or manure through the bogs. He has also made provision for carrying into effect a system of irrigation, the efficacy of which he considers to be great in the reclamation of bog.” — *Second General Report*, p. 7.

The following are the instructions alluded to :

Instructions, &c.

No. 5. “ In laying down the situation of main drains, the engineers are to consider, not merely the general inclination of the bog towards the rivers, or such other natural outlets, as may best answer for their drainage, but to keep in view the further object, where practicable, of converting their main drains, either immediately or ultimately into channels of navigation, for the conveyance of the future production of the bog, and for the providing for the connexion of these navigable drains where convenient, with the great lines of navigation already subsisting; where this is not possible, they are to consider how these different drains may be united to other canals, which may be formed hereafter. In laying down the situation of any navigable drain, the engineers are to attend to the situation of such manures, as may be most suitable for the bog.

6. “ Where the main drains are likely to be used as canals, they are not in any instance to be less than 14 feet broad at bottom, and 5 feet deep from the water surface. The breadth and depth of the main drains, and of the catch-water drains, must be proportioned to the quantity of water which they are to discharge.

7. “ As there are no districts which are more liable to the inconvenience of a total want of water in dry summers, than level tracts of marshy ground, when once their drainage is effected, care must be taken in laying down the direction of the main drains, to allow them, where practicable, to be occasionally

dammed up, so as to raise the water within two feet of the surface, for the purpose of promoting vegetation, and that the catch-water drains, in like manner, should supply water on the surface, for the use of cattle, or for the purpose of irrigation ; where that mode of improvement shall be deemed advisable, and in situations where a sufficient supply cannot be procured by these means, the engineers are to consider where reservoirs may be most advantageously constructed, to be supplied in time of flood from the catch-water drains or rivulets in the vicinity of the bogs.

8. "Where locks may be necessary, the dimensions which the Commissioners recommend, are

	Feet.	Inches.
Length - - - - -	70	1
Breadth, - - - - -	7	3
Depth over sill of gates, - - - - -	4	0

20. "The probable value of the land when reclaimed, and the mode of culture which may be best adopted for it.

"It is impossible," says Mr. Longfield, (3rd vol. Reports, p. 15,) "in so great an extent of district, containing bogs so different in their circumstances and capability of drainage, to lay down any precise system, applying equally to all bogs, whether *high, low, shallow, deep, wet or dry*, all which considerations must be distinctly attended to in carrying on the proposed works with economy and effect." However, to give some idea of the general system, he briefly states the plan which appears to him best calculated to attain the desired object. First, opening the natural ventage streams. Secondly, main drains to be laid out pretty central in the lowest vales of the wettest bogs, and also, lines of catch-water, or land drains. Thirdly, minor drains to fall into the main drains, in such direction, as to obtain the best fall of surface. Fourthly, surface drains. The direction and course of all these to depend on the nature of the ground, and to be varied at the discretion of the

engineer, but still looking to the division of the bog into parallelograms of ten acres, to be again subdivided into lesser ones, of $2\frac{1}{4}$ acres.

“Thus much,” says he, “I can myself answer for; that I have not found any one bog of 500 acres in the districts committed to my charge, which could be cut or carved into a regular system of drainage, forming either extensive squares or parallelograms, without evidently running counter to these natural ventages, and thereby stemming or turning their courses.”

In laying out his main drains, he therefore follows the vales of nature, which are almost always marked by the greatest irregularities.

In summing up his opinion upon the Lough-Gara district in Roscommon, p. 15, Mr. Longfield says, “that considering the subject in general, he has not met with any country where the reclamation of bog could be carried on with such prospect of success, or with superior advantages.”

BOGS OF THE UPPER AND LOWER SUCK DISTRICTS.

The bogs which were committed to Mr. Griffith's survey, consisted, first, of those which discharged their waters into the river Suck, above Mount-Talbot, between that place and Castle-rea, called the district of the upper Suck. Secondly, of those which discharged their waters into the Suck, below Mount-Talbot, between that place and Creggan, and into the river Shannon, south, between Lough-Ree and Lough-Derg.

Mr. Griffith, in his Report, p. 112, *Fourth General Report*, says, “These bogs may be divided into two distinct classes; those which verge on the Shannon and Suck, *below* Ballinasloe, and those on the Suck *above* Ballinasloe, together with the bogs on a much higher level, which are separated from the lower ones by ridges of limestone, or limestone gravel. The chief

distinction between these bogs is, that those on the lower level are much deeper, their depth varying from 20 to 44 feet, and have less fall than the upper ones; that the *bottoms* are frequently 10 feet below the ordinary *surface* water, in the rivers Suck and Shannon. Yet, there is in every instance sufficient fall from the surface of the bogs, for the discharge of the waters, the fall being in general from 10 to 30 feet from the surface of the bog, to the surface of the river.

“The upper bogs are comparatively shallow, varying from 6 to 20, and rarely exceeding that depth. The fall from them is very great, generally 60 to 70 feet in a mile. In many places, they are studded with islands, composed of loose quarry, and limestone gravel. Draining would be less expensive than in the lower bogs.

“The substrata of the bogs to the western of the Shannon, undulate more than those to the eastward of the river; this irregularity frequently causes great variations in the depths of the bogs; in very many places in the interior of the largest bogs, the sub-stratum approaches so near to the surface, that if the bog were drained, the simple effect of its subsiding would be to discover valuable and sometimes extensive portions of land, with a thin coating of bog, which in many instances would be found barely sufficient to form a proper soil, when mixed with gravel from beneath.”

The composition of the upper and lower bogs is stated to be exactly the same, and similar to that described in his first Report, particularly in the section of a turf-bank at Temahoe, which exhibits for 38½ feet a regular gradation from spungy moss to a compact mass, resembling pitch, or pitch coal.

These bogs are severally classed in the following table; the names attached to them having been arbitrarily given in several instances, merely to mark their general locality. The numbers correspond with those in the bog maps, and the printed reports; the vacuities being occasioned by abstracting those numbers which denoted bogs, situated beyond the boundaries of the county of Roscommon.

DENOMINATIONS.	Acres Irish.	Acres English.	Cost of Drainage.		
			£	s.	d.
FIRST PART,					
<i>Being the lower Suck District.</i>					
2. Cullagh bog, - - - - -	1055	1709	2310	4	2
3. Corrine do. - - - - -	320	519	457	8	9
5. Clonburne do. - - - - -	1040	1685	2390	19	10
6. Falty do. - - - - -	420	681	960	6	7
7. Johnstown and Creggan do. -	6285	10179	13934	7	5
8. Athlone do. - - - - -	550	891	706	10	0
9. Creagh do. - - - - -	1085	1758	2041	11	2
10. Killcashel and Thomastown	2950	4779	6284	8	0
11. Brideswell do. - - - - -	1515	2454	3097	6	5
12. Curraghmore do. - - - - -	1634	2646	2780	12	9
13. Ardkeenán do. - - - - -	695	1126	1539	7	9
14. Clonulty do. - - - - -	392	635	607	10	7
17. Ballyforan, Creagh, and } Derry do. - - - - - }	1083	1754	2173	8	2
20. Clondragh, Feevagh, and } Derry Cahell do. - - - }	3310	5361	7123	16	7
	22334	36177	46407	18	2
SECOND PART,					
<i>Upper Suck District.</i>					
1. Foxborough and Carrickfield,	3126	5063	5777	2	9
2. Annagh and Willsbrook, -	2719	4404	5510	0	0
3. Harristown, and Snipe-hill, -	711	1152	1103	0	0
10. Corbally and Leabeg, - -	1028	1665	1957	0	0
	29918	48461	60755	0	11

The cost of drainage put down in the preceding table, and which is stated in former Irish currency, merely comprises that of making surface and minor drains, and of opening the natural channels of the streams, which in most instances, in this district, answer all the purposes, as Mr. Griffith observes, of main drains. The whole cost would thus average at the rate of £1 17s. 5d. British per Irish acre, or £1 3s. 1d. per English acre.

It is to be observed, that in the tables of estimates attached to these two Reports, no item for navigable cuts appears.

They had become questionable by this time; they added considerably to the expenditure, and were not essentially necessary to the improvement of bog.

Mr. Griffith says in these Reports, that he still adheres to the same system of drains which he recommended in a former Report on the district of the river Barrow. The first class, or main drains, which were to run in the lowest situations, were to be 14 feet at top, 2 feet at bottom, and 12 feet deep. The minor drains were to be 9 feet at top, 1 foot at bottom, and 8 feet deep. The rest to be 6 feet deep, 1 foot at bottom, and 5 feet deep, and the surface drains, 4 feet deep, 1 foot at bottom, and 3 feet deep.

Crop drains were to be carried at proper intervals, at right angles to the others, and of the same dimensions; and the bogs, where they admitted of it, were to be divided into rectangular patches, 280 yards long, by $93\frac{1}{2}$ broad, equal to about $3\frac{1}{2}$ Irish acres. But the natural streams supplied so effectually the place of the proposed main drains, that few or none were required in these districts.

BOGS BETWEEN ROOSKEY-BRIDGE, AND KNOCK CROGHERY.

Mr. Edgeworth has not entered into many minute particulars relative to the bogs of his district, in Roscommon. There is very little difference, he says, between them and those bogs which he had surveyed in Longford, and other counties. They are formed by the same causes, contain nearly the same vegetable matter and subsoil, and are reclaimable on the same principles. Their general average depth to the stratum of blue clay, or marle beneath, is about 30 feet, but there are some upwards of seven fathoms deep. The highest level of any of them above Lough-Ree, is 114 feet, and the lowest 29 feet. He is of opinion, on the whole, that little more is necessary for the improvement of these bogs, than surface draining, and covering

the bog with a stratum of earth, which latter operation he thinks best performed by means of little carts or waggons, or moveable wooden rail-ways. He is against canals, which are attended with a two-fold expense, in lading and unlading boats, and carts also; whereas, with carts, roads, and rail-ways, gravel, clay, &c. may be conveyed with the one operation, to the place of its ultimate destination.

The estimate which he gives of the expense, is founded on the supposition, that the machines and rail-ways would last four or five years, being the time necessary for the improvement of 1200 acres of bog, so as to make land worth 30s. per acre; it is as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Wear and tear, and share of capital, per acre,	0	8	0
Draining, - - -	0	10	0
Turning up surface, - - -	2	13	0
Digging, and filling clay, - - -	2	13	0
Carrying out clay on moveable rail-way, - - -	1	14	0
Spreading clay, and shifting the rail-way, - - -	0	10	0
Damages for gravel-pit, - - -	0	7	0
	<hr/>		
	8	15	0

Equal to £5 8s. British, per English acre.

But the whole passage must be quoted.

“ I consider the plan that is here recommended, as the first stage of improvement, and I believe it would make the bog worth 25s. or 30s. per acre. Substantial and intelligent farmers, would, for half as much more, double its value; poor tenants, on the contrary, if they were allowed to have more than a garden, and as much land as would support a cow with grass and hay, would soon wear out what had been done. Reclaimed bog must be attended to. If red ashes are to be found below the surface, and lime in any form be within reach, the bog may be made worth four pounds per acre.*

* Written during the war and high prices.

“ I have stated, that the first stage of improvement of a bog, which is by far the most difficult of any, may be accomplished for £8 15s. the Irish acre, equal to £5 8s. per English acre. I am well aware, that this appears to be a very low charge, and not unlike those estimates which sanguine or interested engineers hold out to induce the public to pursue some favourite scheme of the projector; but what is here laid down is taken from the common prices of work, and from repeated experience of the machinery that is to be employed. Wherever I have been consulted as an engineer, I have never been unwilling to undertake the work in question, according to my own estimate, with a reasonable addition to cover accidents, and to give an adequate compensation for my trouble, and for the interest of the money which must be advanced. I should, therefore, stipulate for one-third more than my estimate, were I to undertake the improvement of any considerable quantity of bog.

“ To those who are conversant with large undertakings, this will appear no unreasonable security against the losses and disappointments which never fail to occur in carrying on the best concerted projects. Few great buildings, docks, fortifications, or *canals*, are executed for less than double the original estimate. Something new or unforeseen happens, some alteration of the plan, or deficiency of the materials is discovered, and when the work has advanced for some time, it is found better to complete it at an increased expense, than to abandon it altogether.

“ As I never was more thoroughly convinced of the feasibility of any project, than of that upon which I now offer my opinion, I hold myself ready to undertake the reclaiming of one thousand Irish acres of a bog, of a middling quality, that is to say, between what is most easy, and what is most difficult, in this district, for £11,600 Irish, which is one-third more than the amount of the foregoing estimate. At the same rate, one thousand English acres would cost £7,800 British. If a

considerable number of acres of bog were thus undertaken by persons who could give good security for the performance of their contracts, the improvement of the bogs of Ireland would of course soon follow."

It may be allowable to compare these estimates and proposals with those of Mr. Nimmo, who, although not engaged upon the bog surveys of the county of Roscommon, was, as it is sufficiently well known, very extensively employed by the Commissioners in other counties. The reasons for comparing them are two-fold; first, because the system of light surface draining is recommended; and second, because the estimates are accompanied with an offer similar to that of Mr. Edgeworth's to undertake the execution of the works at a stipulated price.

"With respect to drainage," say the Commissioners, in their Fourth Report, p. 6, "Mr. Nimmo's opinion is, that surface draining is alone adapted to the reclamation of bog. He proposes catch-water drains, to intercept the water from higher grounds, and then a system of shallow drains to deliver the surface water of the bog into the natural streams, and so contrived, as to further, if need be, the business of irrigation. These drains will, of course, vary in dimensions and number according to the wetness of the bog; but he thinks, that in no case ought they to exceed six feet in depth. The drainage, Mr. Nimmo states, may in general be effected *at the rate of 12s. 3d. only, per English acre.*"

But Mr. Nimmo must now speak for himself:

"Upon the whole," says he, "I am so perfectly convinced of the practicability of converting the whole of the bogs I have surveyed, about 150,000 acres, English, into arable land, and that at an expense which need hardly ever exceed the gross value of *one year's crop* produced from them, that I declare myself willing, for a reasonable consideration, to undertake the drainage of any given piece of considerable extent, and the formation of its roads, for the sum of one guinea per acre, and to prepare the same for the reception of *any* crop for £10 per

acre, which is little more than seven years' purchase of the rent it would then afford."

One of the principal features in Mr. Nimmo's communication to the Commissioners, consisted in the application of irrigation to the improvement of bog-soil, wherever the circumstances would permit, and in general mountainous and hilly tracts seldom fail to prove favourable for such an operation.

The Commissioners, indeed, in the seventh article of their Instructions to the engineers, had reminded them of the importance of forming dams where practicable, for the purpose of supplying water for cattle, moisture to promote vegetation on the dried bog, which without it might perhaps prove to be absolutely barren, and to facilitate irrigation on the ordinary principles of its application to water meadows. But as far as I can find, it does not appear to have attracted the attention of the Commissioners, until the subject was more immediately brought under their consideration by Mr. Nimmo, in the year 1811, that irrigation would interrupt the growth of bog, and finally reclaim it.

"It is observable," says Mr. Nimmo, Fourth Report, p. 31, "that in all the rivers and streams which intersect bogs, the accumulation of bog on their banks is prevented, and its place occupied by rich succulent pastures, at least in all places where the water runs with tolerable rapidity. Where, on the other hand, the stream is scanty and sluggish, the bog, whether the cause or the consequence of this condition, has grown to the water's edge, but even then, the bog is shallow at the water's side, in comparison of its depth a little way off."

Now, the mere fall or slope is not the only cause of this, since bogs extend a great way up mountains, and to their very summits; therefore, merely sloping the surface of the bog, without altering the supply of water, is not enough for the perfect reclamation of bog.

Neither are these grassy borders attributable to drainage merely, since the edges of turf banks, although very dry, are the

most sterile spots which can be pointed out in the whole bog field; and hence he concludes, that the mere draining of the bogs, or at least deep draining, is not enough for their reclamation. In fact, these dry banks amongst turbaries, are not more fertile than so many pieces of cork.

Neither are these pieces of good pasture on the borders of streams attributable to moisture only, since there is abundance of moisture in the interior of the shaking bogs; but that moisture consists of water whose passage is choked, which is nearly stagnant, and which passes off by evaporation, or by very gradual soakage. Hence, although vegetation is abundantly rapid under such circumstances, yet, *that* vegetation does not consist of esculent grasses, but of unprofitable aquatic plants.

In fact, stagnant waters afford growth to one description of plants; constantly running waters to another. Where water overflows temporarily, and afterwards leaves the surface exposed to the action of the sun and the atmosphere, another and more valuable description of plants will soon make their appearance, and predominate over the pre-occupants of the soil.

Mr. Nimmo, therefore, proposed irrigation, strange as he said it might appear, for the improvement of those very bogs which were then useless, from their excessive wetness; but then, such irrigation was to be connected with a system of drainage to be previously executed, without which the effects of running water could not be justly appreciated.

“ I have met with a few, and but very few places, where the method of turning the water on the bog has been attempted. The most perfect example was near Killarney, where a common peasant, seeing perhaps the effect of a stream from a hill upon the bog below, turned it over a few acres, by means of little channels, of two or three inches deep, and thereby, not only procured abundant crops of hay, but has so far ameliorated the bog, as to admit of its bearing carriages. Originally it had been a dangerous swamp.

“ Those natural hollows where the water is constantly soak-

ing, continue little better than quagmire, while the banks between them which are only wetted in flood-time, are quite firm, and afford good pasture, though formed over a considerable depth of bog."

Similar observations upon the effect of running water upon bog, are made by other engineers, as by Mr. Longfield, in his account of the district of the river Lung, in the county of Roscommon, dated May, 1812, p. 11, *Third Report*.

"It happens," says he, "in this district, that all the rivers connected with it, issue from the bogs which form the subject of this Report, and consequently the sources of them can be traced to their different summits, even after we pass that point where they become unworthy of the name of either river or stream, and are marked only by a slough or swallow-hole, or by what is more frequent, a *green vein through the bogs*, produced by the irrigation of the scarce perceptible water-course. This constant irrigation has always the effect, even in the *deepest red bog*, of promoting the vegetation of herbage, and stopping the vegetation of the bog moss. Hence it is, that the red bog on each side not being checked by irrigation, is always considerably higher, and therefore discharges the surface-water of it into the course of those veins which thereby have become the natural ventage of the bogs.

"These are the same description of veins, which (to the east of the Shannon) are denominated *cushes*, but in the western counties, they are called *askeys*. They are, beyond all manner of doubt, the natural ventages of the bog-waters, and in carrying on any system of bog drainage, we must be guided by the efforts of nature."

In fact, vegetation is invariably influenced by the quantity as well as quality of the moisture from which it derives its sustenance. The cold damps which exhale from glens shaded from the sun, will give rise to a different description of mosses, from those which are found in places exposed to its light and heat. On the north and south sides of trees standing in

exposed uplands, different kinds of lichens will appear. Stagnant waters produce one kind of aquatic plants, running waters another, and a temporary flooding, and a subsequent exposure to the atmosphere, favour the growth of plants which would be wholly destroyed if continually inundated. Thus, a certain quantity of stagnant water in shallow clay and marle bottoms or basins, where the overflow is checked by natural barriers, affords nourishment to the bog-mosses, and they continue to grow, and to increase both in height and breadth, whilst the same circumstances continue favourable to their existence and nourishment.

“ I think,” says Mr. Bicheno, “ it may pretty safely be asserted, that the formation of bog is going on at present, for two existing species of sphagna, the obtusifolium and the acutifolium, with hypnum cuspidatum, and the roots of an eriophorum, may be distinguished undecomposed in the upper parts of the red bog.”*

Mr. Griffith, in the fourth volume of the Bog Reports, p. 112, gives an interesting account of the positive growth of a bog in the county of Roscommon.

“ In the bog of Killcashiel, one of those of the lower Suck district, in the county of Roscommon, I had an opportunity of observing the annual increase in height or growth of a bog for twenty years, which in the spot where I noticed the fact, was about two inches for each year. This may seem an extraordinary increase, but the situation appeared to be particularly favourable to the growth of moss. The circumstances were these :

“ Twenty years before, the water from a small lake situated close to the edge of the bog of Killcashiel had been drawn off by a drain cut from the lake, to a stream which ran beyond the edge of the bog. It had been intended to improve both the bog

* J. B. Bicheno, Esq., F. R. S., Secretary of the Linnæan Society, author of “ Ireland, and its Economy,” an eloquent and interesting little volume.

beneath the water, and that which immediately adjoined the banks of the lake; but the improvement had not been followed up, and the drain had been suffered in part to close. The bottom of the lake was thus exposed to air, whilst the bog below remained still highly saturated with water. Moss immediately began to vegetate, and it continued annually to increase in height, for that period. It was in consequence of a bank for turf having been opened at the place, that a full opportunity was afforded for observing the annual growth of the moss; and owing to the variety, intertexture and colour, it was as easily calculated, and with as much accuracy, as the age of the Scotch fir, by the concentric rings observable in a transverse section of the tree."

"We have, however, made but a small step towards reclaiming a bog, when we have got it drained. It is merely converted into a heathy moor, which will, by degrees, afford pasture for sheep, or even heavy cattle, but it is so open and porous, that the grasses which it bears abundantly in spring, are frequently destroyed by the droughts of the summer. To render it a permanent meadow, and fit for agriculture, some much more expensive operations are required. The fibrous texture must be destroyed, and the bog converted into vegetable mould."*

"Top dressings of gravel, clay, or sand, may be laid on when they can be conveniently got; they correct the porosity of the bog, which is one of its greatest defects. Clay, in particular, seems to act very powerfully on bog, after being burned or roasted.

"The conveyance of these top dressings over the bog, is attended with much expense, since a layer of one inch in thickness cannot well be applied under 6*d.* a cubic yard, or £5 9*s.* per acre, even with the most favourable means of transport, and in many cases would perhaps cost three times that sum.

"Bog-stuff itself, which has been thoroughly broken up by running water, is as valuable a soil as any other.

* Nimmo.

“ But I am perfectly convinced,” continues Mr. Nimmo, in the conclusion of his Report, “ from all that I have seen, that any species of bog, is, by tillage and manure, capable of being converted into a soil fit for the support of plants of every description, and with due management, perhaps, the most fertile that can be submitted to the operations of the farmer. Green crops, such as rape, cabbages, and turnips, may be raised with the greatest success on firm bog, with no other manure than the ashes of the same soil. Permanent meadows may be formed on bog, more productive than any other soil. Timber may be raised, especially firs, larch, spruce, and all the aquatics, on the deep bog, and the plantations are fenced at little expense ; and with a due application of manure, every description of white crops may be raised upon bog, and I know of no soil from which they can be extracted without it.”

Amidst these different systems for draining the bogs, and bringing them into a state of cultivation, and a variety of others might have been mentioned, all calculated on the face of them to effect the great object in view with certainty and with facility, there would be a remissness in passing by totally unheeded observations which have been made on the opposite side of the question, by persons who have had opportunities of seeing a great deal of what has been attempted, and what effected in different parts of the country.

“ I must beg leave,” says Mr. Wakefield, vol. i. p. 104, “ to ask these gentlemen to explain the purposes of these main, minor, and surface drains ?—Are they to carry off the water retained by the bog ? If so, I contend that no drains of *any* size will produce that effect. I have seen thousands of drains, and never could perceive the bog in the least drier, even at the short distance of two yards from its edge. But admitting, for argument sake, that it would, can the Commissioners point out with what beneficial effect it would be attended ? Will any one doubt that it would render a bog a mass of dry inert vegetable matter ? and unless some means were discovered

of bringing it into a state of putrefaction, one might as well attempt to cultivate an immense wool-pack.* By a main drain to carry off the *bottom* water, something indeed, in *certain cases*, may be effected, but here, in my opinion, every benefit of drainage ends.

“The Commissioners have had estimates made of the expense of draining, surface covering, cultivating, and raising a succession of crops. This part of their labour has excited my astonishment, for *until some large bog is effectually cultivated*, no certain data can be obtained, to serve as the foundation of any estimate.

“There can be no doubt, that if a bog be buried under any kind of beneficial staple which can be obtained, it is possible to bring it to a state of cultivation; but the question is, *what will be the cost, and how much the permanent profit?*”

Mr. Wakefield says he has seen in various parts of Ireland, and more particularly in the county Galway, about Woodlawn, numerous small patches of bog, consisting of two or three acres, reclaimed by covering them with limestone gravel; but such spots amidst hillocks of calcareous earth, are very different from *miles of deep bog*, in other places.

So in Mr. Tighe's Survey of Kilkenny, the opinion of Mr.

* If any method could be discovered of rendering moss more retentive of water, it would be of much advantage; but to use means for facilitating the departure of its water, is adding to its greatest defects. Under draining, trenching the soil, and every operation whatever, which has a tendency to drain the moss of sap, beyond merely relieving the surface stagnant water, is highly injurious to the soil, and will not remedy its defects.—AITON on Moss Earth, p. 114.

So Mr. Townsend, in his Report to the Commissioners, Appendix x, p. 158, Third Report,—“It appears to me a matter of the utmost consequence, to guard against extreme drainage, and to proceed with it cautiously, on whatever plan may be adopted, otherwise there will be far more difficulty in procuring water hereafter, than in getting rid of that which at present lodges on the surface of the bogs.”

St. George upon the reclaiming of bog is introduced, and prefaced with the observation of his being one of the most useful practical men in the empire.

“ I have seen bog reclaimed in many parts of the Kingdom by men of fortune, and adjoining towns by people who had the power of getting manure of different kinds, gravelling with limestone, &c., a course, by which a small quantity of bog, in a particular situation, may be reclaimed; but I think in most places the farmer's time and manure would have been better laid out in the improvement of upland, as it would have cost him less by far to have made a much more permanent profit.”

Neither are such opinions rare; on the contrary, I have known several persons whose judgment was generally respected, living in districts abounding with bog, and where bog improvements were made from year to year on a small scale, express their belief, that such improvements were purchased at a dear rate—in other words, effected by a great expenditure of labour, which might be applied to far more profitable purposes.*

The Commissioners, in their Fourth and last Report, p. 13, state, that it had been earnestly pressed upon their consideration, that some great public experiment should be tried, that might demonstrate to the nation, either that the scheme of improving the bogs of Ireland was *hopeless* or *practicable*, since nothing but such a plain and indisputable proof of the practicability and profit of reclaiming bog was wanting to turn the attention of individuals and *large companies* to this mode of enhancing private fortunes, and of increasing national wealth.

* If there was really a choice of purposes, and that the labour was applied to the one least profitable, it might be a subject of regret that it was misdirected; but if there was no choice, nor any demand whatever for this labour in the market; if the hands employed on bog improvements would have been idle, if they had not been so occupied, there is surely a gain to the individuals which they would not otherwise have reaped, and an augmentation of the national wealth, although purchased at what might be considered a dear rate.

To this end, it was proposed, that they should recommend to the Legislature, the establishment of a new Board, with the necessary powers and funds for making an experiment upon a grand scale, in the reclamation of some large bog in the vicinity of the capital; and further, to enable them to lend money to persons willing to undertake the improvement of their bogs, upon receiving proper security for the repayment of the principal, by instalments, on the principle already sanctioned by the Legislature, for the erection of churches and glebes, and for the improving the great lines of mail road communications. But on a contemplation of the difficulties connected with the practical details, they could not bring themselves to agree to such a proposal. The expenses of the preliminary experiment, if conducted by such a Board, might, in their apprehension, afford an example highly discouraging, and no less fallacious, if considered as a measure of the necessary expenses attendant on such a plan, when superintended by the vigilance of private adventure.

Now, that public Boards seldom carry on their works as economically as private individuals, whose own interests are more immediately concerned, seems to be admitted on all sides. But the experiment which was called for, was not one merely of profit and loss; it was one involving the *practicability* of draining and improving the deep and extensive bogs. It is to be observed also, that although the Commissioners declined to propose the measures which were suggested for making the grand experiment, yet, they appeared anxious, nevertheless, to controvert the opinion that they declined interfering on account of the real impracticability of the scheme, and maintained that no inference to that effect was to be deduced from the circumstance of the great bogs having been left in a state of abandonment up to the present time.

“It may, perhaps, be inquired,” say they, “why all these bogs have not long since been improved? Or it may be asserted, that their present desolation in the midst of so much

apparent inducements, is in itself a sufficient proof that such premises must be practically fallacious."

"We are convinced, however, that this circumstance must be otherwise accounted for, and that it is not to physical obstacles that the present situation of those wastes is principally to be ascribed.

"The arable lands around the extremity of each bog, belong pretty generally to a great variety of proprietors; the mearings of whose estates, it is generally admitted, must be contained within the area of the interior of the bog, but the precise situation of which is seldom ascertained. The external boundary of the bog forms a turf-bank, the interior is a quagmire; in its present state, inapplicable to any other purpose than the affording a very scanty summer pasture to a few wandering cattle, who are turned in to seek for it, at the risk of their being lost. The cultivators who occupy the contiguous farms, have usually annexed to the enjoyment of the lands, a right of turning in their cattle on the part of the bog adjoining to their respective farms, and when they are tempted by hunger to wander further, reciprocal convenience forbids it being considered as a trespass. These farmers have usually terms of lives or years in their holdings, too short to tempt them, even if possessed of capital and skill, to enter on the permanent improvement of the bog, while they are yet abundantly sufficient to render such an operation impracticable for the landlord. The landlord has demised to the tenant a vague possession of what he considered of little or no value; the shortness of the tenure obliges the tenant to leave his holding in its unprofitable state, but were the landlord to propose to improve it, the tenant having a present right to prevent him, that right would become valuable, just in proportion to the extended exertions of the landlord, and would inevitably be set up by the tenants."

In 1825, that year so fertile in Joint Stock Companies, or as some were pleased to call them Bubble Companies, and but

too many appear to have deserved the name, a company for the improvement of the bogs in Ireland arose in Dublin. There was no lack of respectable names, neither did capital seem wanting, but obstacles were experienced in the attempts to procure an Act of Parliament suitable to the objects of the company, indeed essentially necessary to the success of their proposed undertaking, and the company was consequently dissolved. The main one consisted in the difficulty, if not impracticability, of procuring, as the Commissioners before pointed out, such an undisputed title to the bogs upon which the operations were to be carried on, or leases for such a length of time as might afford a rational probability of advantageous profits to the company, for the employment of their capital. Without some legislative provision to enable adventurers to acquire the absolute property of the soil, as in the case of churches, glebes, canals, or works of public utility, it is idle to suppose that capital would ever be embarked in such an undertaking.

Some of the obstacles to bog improvements which have been alluded to, are, however, likely to be remedied by the great trigonometrical survey at present carrying on, and the concomitant one of the boundaries, by which the limits of the various properties intersecting the bogs are likely to be ascertained, and companies of adventurers, if any such should hereafter be formed, enabled to ascertain with whom they would have to carry on their negotiations for possession.

In the session of Parliament (1830) a bill was introduced, and ordered to be printed, to facilitate the improvement of Bogs in Ireland, but with the press of business, on the expected dissolution of Parliament, it was not carried forward; probably, however, amongst other measures intended for the amelioration of the state of Ireland, it may be revived. The provisions of it appear to have been formed partly on those of the English Act of Sewers, and partly on the principle upon which grants were usually made in Ireland for the improvement of mail

coach roads, bridges, county buildings, &c. &c. By the Act of Sewers, as it has been stated, a local body of Commissioners is formed for each district, upon the application of two-thirds of the owners of estates. These Commissioners appoint a jury of twenty-three persons also, without pay, who, on viewing and examining the land, present the necessity of main drains, the cost of which is levied by an acreable cess on the district. So by the new bill, when two-thirds of the proprietors of a bog agreed upon the expediency of having it drained, the remaining third was to be compelled to join in the expense of the measure. The plans and estimates of private engineers were to be scrutinized by government engineers; the parties were to enter into bonds for the repayment of the monies advanced, and Commissioners were to watch over its due application to the purposes for which it was granted.

Now, if the means proposed for the draining and improving any given bog of great extent, were of such a nature as not to admit of any doubt or question of success; if like the scheme for draining an extensive marsh suffering from back water, where nothing was wanting but to remove the bars or impediments to the natural outlet of the waters, to exempt it from liability to floods, or the accumulation of stagnant waters, and by exposing the soil to the action of sun and air, thereby obtain a new and better growth of sweet and nutritious herbage; under such circumstances it would be but reasonable and right that the minority of one-third should be obliged to yield and join in the plan of general improvement, to which, otherwise, their refusal might prove an insurmountable obstacle. But with regard to the operations upon bogs, which are undeniably of a more hazardous nature, and where the return of profit on capital expended is notoriously liable to many and great casualties, the obligation of contributing to the expense, or of being bound up for the repayment of the amount after a certain period, whether the scheme succeeded or not, might to some,

indeed to many individuals, prove a source of very great hardship and oppression. It might be a very agreeable game for the rich, but for the poor or embarrassed in circumstances, might turn out one of absolute ruin.

Was there a superabundant capital afloat in the country, for which it was difficult to find employment, doubtless the scheme of draining and improving the large bogs would attract more notice than it does at present, and it is in reference to such a state of things apparently, that Mr. Wakefield gave his opinion, that the bogs in the course of time would be reclaimed; but it is not hazarding too much to say, that if there was more capital disposable at present for agricultural purposes within the county of Roscommon, it is not in the draining of bogs that the best employment for it would be found; and that more immediate advantages might be derived from applying it to draining, cleaning, fencing, and otherwise improving the condition of the sound land; but probably there is even a still more profitable employment for it at present, as there notoriously has been in times past in Roscommon, in investing it in the purchase of live stock for fattening and sale, than in any application towards the mere improvement of land. And yet, if reliance were to be placed on some of the statements of the profits of bog improvements which have been laid before the public, they appear to afford as great a return for capital, as could naturally be expected from any ordinary investment. Take for example, the *Dr.* and *Cr.* account which appears at p. 117, in the fourth Report of the Bog Commissioners to Parliament, given by Mr. Griffith, seemingly on the authority of Mr. Hodson, of Hodson's-Bay, county Roscommon, a few miles from Athlone, near Lough-Ree.

The bog on which the improvements were effected is part of the great bog of Curraghmore, traversed by the road leading from Athlone to Roscommon, and in some places is 30 feet deep. It is similar to the common red bog of the district,

but drier, in consequence of the drains coming through it for making the road.

The drains consisted of *discharging* drains, 4 feet at top, 3 feet deep, 1 foot 6 inches at bottom, which cost 6d. per perch of seven yards; and of *surface* drains, 2 feet at top, 1 foot at bottom, and 1 foot 6 inches deep, which cost 3d. per perch.

The following is a statement of the account of reclaiming and cultivating during four successive years :

Dr.

Cr.

APPENDIX.

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Dr.				Cr.			
FIRST YEAR.				FIRST YEAR.			
Draining per acre, -	-	-	-	28 barrels of potatoes, common kind, generally white potatoes, 42 stone per barrel, at 10s. -	-	-	14 0 0
Drawing out, and spreading 600 loads of limestone-gravel, each load 6 cwt., at 3d. per -	-	-	-	Total first year, -	-	-	14 0 0
Drawing 60 loads of stable dung, -	-	-	-	SECOND YEAR.			
Planting potatoes, -	-	-	-	40 barrels of apple potatoes, of 42 stones each, at 14s. per, -	-	-	28 0 0
Digging and gathering do. -	-	-	-	Total two years, -	-	-	28 0 0
Seed, 4 barrels of 16 stone each barrel, 42 stone, at 10s. -	-	-	-	THIRD YEAR.			
Contingencies, -	-	-	-	8 barrels of rye, 20 stone per barrel, at £1 -	-	8 0 0	-
Total expense first year, -	-	-	20 6 10	2 tons 8 cwt. of straw, at 2 guineas per, -	-	5 10 0	-
SECOND YEAR.				Total three years, -	-	-	13 10 0
Drawing out 200 loads of gravel, -	-	-	-	FOURTH YEAR.			
Do. 30 loads stable dung, -	-	-	-	Meadow sets per acre for -	-	5 0 0	5 0 0
Planting potatoes, -	-	-	-	Total amount of crops for four years, -	-	-	60 10 0
Digging and gathering do. -	-	-	-	Total expenditure four years, -	-	-	38 13 10
Seed, as above, -	-	-	-	Profit, -	-	-	21 16 2
Contingencies, -	-	-	-	Besides leaving the bog so valuable, as to bring in a considerable rent afterwards; a rent of £5 per acre, per annum, as meadow, for three years, or 30s. per acre, on a lease of 21 years.	-	-	-
Total expenses second year, -	-	-	11 9 0				
THIRD YEAR.							
Levelling potato ridges, and sowing rye, -	-	-	-				
Sowing hay-seed, -	-	-	-				
Seed rye, 1 barrel of 20 stone, -	-	-	-				
Eight barrels of hay-seed, at 4s. -	-	-	-				
Reaping and threshing, -	-	-	-				
Contingencies, -	-	-	-				
Total expenses third year, -	-	-	6 18 0				
FOURTH YEAR.							
Meadow, no expense, -	-	-	-				
Total four years, -	-	-	38 13 10				

N. B.—This amount is in the former Irish currency.

The great improvement in this instance was obviously effected by the abundant coating of gravel which the bog received, and wherever there are equal facilities for laying out a similar covering, it is possible there may be similar return. Upon the accuracy of the statement I feel reluctant to cast the slightest suspicion, but if from an expenditure of £31 6s. 10d. in the course of two successive years, there was a return of £42, yielding a profit of £11 6s. 10d., and further returns at the end of the four years, producing on the whole a gain of 56 per cent. on the capital expended during that time; moreover permanently improving the surface to the extent of 30s. per annum, for 21 years; in other words, creating an estate where no estate—at least no productive estate—existed before, it really does appear marvellous, that any bog whatever should be left uncultivated in this district; and yet there are numerous bogs not less favourably circumstanced, still existing in all their original wildness. If it be admitted that there is no mistake, no fallacy in the statement, then the inference must of necessity be drawn, that there is a most extraordinary want of capital and credit in the country, or that the Irish, whether landlords or tenants, are the most unenterprising agriculturists, not only in the empire, but possibly in all Europe.

As to that part of the statement which rates the value of the improved bog at 30s. per acre, it is to be kept in mind, that rents are lower at present than at the time when the computation was made; but it is not on that score that apprehension of fallacy need be entertained, if dependance may be placed on the following seemingly corroborative testimony delivered by Mr. Nicholas Fanning, one of the directors of the Grand Canal Company, before the Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the state of the poor in Ireland, in the year 1830.

“The Grand Canal,” says he, “on the line from Dublin to Shannon Harbour, runs through a line of very bad ground; it also runs through *bogs*, and to a great extent through the Bog of

Allen. That which was unprofitable ground before the canal was cut, has now become ground of excellent tillage, occupied by very comfortable farmers. The bog that was quite impassable, called *Wet Bog*, has now become great part of it pasture land, and there is considerable improvement in other parts. That improvement has been effected by the drainage produced by the canal, and by the facilities afforded for transit by the canal. The effect on the bogs near Robertstown, was a subsid-ing of from *thirty to thirty-five feet*, and that portion of it immediately in the vicinity of Robertstown, *originally valued (to the undertakers of the canal) at one farthing per acre, is now let for tillage at from 30s. to 40s. per acre.*"

If these statements be correct in all their bearings, how is it possible to think of them without feelings of regret, not to say astonishment, at the supineness and apathy which appear to prevail on the subject of bog improvements, in a country where thousands and tens of thousands of able bodied men are earnestly supplicating for employment, and supplicating for food, who, with very moderate assistance would soon put beyond all doubt, the practicability of raising from these wastes, not only food for their own families, but for generations yet unborn.

There is scarcely any part of the county of Roscommon in which instances might not be pointed out of bog successfully reclaimed, or turned to useful purposes, although if the acreable amount was summed up, it would be a mere trifle hardly deserving to be carried to account, in comparison with the vast extent which remains still in a state of utter inutility. The most considerable improvements, I believe, are those in the vicinity of Athlone, in the great bog which lies to the west of the canal, and which now presents a very extensive surface of flat meadow, and pasture land, intersected by ditches or drains, which when I saw them during a very rainy season, were full nearly to the brim. In a few parts these grounds were slightly poached by the treading of the cattle ; but the produce of grass

was considerable. There were several roads opening a communication with the fields. Mr. Griffith, in the year 1812, estimated the improved part of this bog at 260 acres, which at that period was let at from three to five guineas an acre. This was at the very height of the advanced prices, and they are now lower; but the contiguity of the land to the town gives considerable value to it. The average depth of this bog was 25 feet, and Mr. Griffith expressed his belief, that encroachments would be annually made upon it, until the whole was brought in. The improvements have gone on as he predicted, but I was not able to procure any survey, to enable me to say how much is now actually reclaimed; the whole extent of the bog was estimated at about 800 acres English.

Between the road leading from Athlone to the town of Roscommon and Lough Ree, there are also several small farms on boggy soil, which has been improved by covering it with limestone gravel, and which appeared to bear good crops.

The great depression of the agricultural interest in this, as well as in every other part of the country, since the Reports of the Bog Commissioners were presented to Parliament, has most probably prevented individuals from availing themselves of several of the hints, as well as many of the valuable surveys of the engineers. The only extensive recent improvements which I heard of, have been effected upon the Coote-Hall estate, near Battle Bridge, upon the Shannon, purchased a few years ago by Mr. Hugh Barton,* pursuant to the able plans laid down by Mr. Longfield. At present, a part only has been carried into effect, but 500 acres or more will probably be reclaimed in some few years. Here I saw promising crops both of potatoes and oats upon a surface, which, as I was assured, and I saw no

* Who has since purchased the fine and extensive estate of Straffan, on the banks of the Liffey, county of Kildare, late the property and residence of Mr. Henry, where a new and superb mansion is said to be springing up.

reason to doubt of its being a fact, would not have supported the weight of a man three years before.

The success which has attended the operations planned by Mr. Longfield in this quarter, has led to the contemplation, as I am informed, of others upon a more extended scale, amongst the great bogs in the vicinity of French Park. Under the direction of the same able and intelligent surveyor and engineer, a scheme was spoken of for draining the great Turlough, near Mantua, between Elphin and Belanagar, and therewith much boggy and marshy ground to the extent probably of some hundreds of acres.

Mr. Longfield, in the year 1812, describes several good drains having been then cut by Dean French, in the bogs of Killenmanogh and Carroreagh, and also parts of the demesne of French Park, having been improved so as to bear good meadow, and in several instances additional progress has been made; so also at Camlin, by Mr. Irwin, and at Belanagar, by Owen O'Connor Don, and the examples thus afforded have encouraged several others also to attempt improvement.

To particularize every instance of bog improvement throughout the country, were such a measure indeed possible, would be a task not less useless than tedious. In fact, encroachments on a small scale are making annually, in a variety of places, but more especially where the bogs are traversed by public roads, not only on account of their affording access to spots which otherwise could not be approached without difficulty, but on account of their actually contributing to the drying of the bogs, through the means of the drains cut along their lines at each side, in order to render the ground more firm and fit for the reception of the gravel or other material with which it is to be covered.

Numerous examples of these minor improvements may be seen along the road between Lanesborough-Bridge on the Shannon, and the town of Roscommon, commencing usually with the erection of a hut, for to call it a cabin would be be-

stowing by far too dignified an appellation, humble as every one knows these habitations to be. The length occasionally does not exceed eight or nine feet, and its breadth is proportionably narrow. The walls are formed of thick sods cut from the bog, placed with the face downwards; the roof of sods, of a broader, thinner, and finer texture, which in process of time, receive a coating of heath or of potatoe stalks. When newly raised, these walls are as dark as the bog on which they stand, and occasionally they continue so for a considerable time, indeed within, without, and around, it is one continued scene of black mud, through which the naked feet sink more than ankle deep. In other instances, the grasses at the edges of the sods sprout out afresh, and the hut presents a uniform coat of green, scarcely distinguishable from a bank, or mound of earth, covered with sward, except for the thing misnamed a door-way, which I have observed in more than a single instance, so low as only to admit of a passage by nearly doubling the body, and almost crawling on the knees.

The preparation of a potato garden soon follows, indeed sometimes precedes the erection of the hut. The mound or ditch-bank around it, is planted with willows, wherewith to make baskets and kishes. Cultivation extends yearly; patches of oats, and sometimes of rye repay for the labour of the improver, and if he can procure enough of bog to work upon, a meadow in its turn is created; a cow, the first symptom of prosperity in a peasant's family, is purchased, and the original hut gives way to a cabin, more suitable to the wants of human beings.

I entered a great many of these tenements, and was informed that some of the adjacent bog, after partial improvement, was let as high as two guineas an acre. The advantage of fuel *ad libitum* is one of the main inducements to take it.

When the rights of property in the bog are not well defined, or boundaries doubtful, as sometimes happens, even near the roads, trespassers (*squatters* as such folk are aptly termed in

America) seldom fail to take advantage of the circumstance, and several of these also commence the labour of reclaiming, as it is termed.

The improvement of bog, on the principle of giving it to the peasantry rent free for a certain period in its original rough state, appears to have been contemplated in this county many years ago, particularly on Lord Dillon's estate, near Lough-Glyn. Near his lordship's demesne there is a long village on the borders of the high road which crosses near the head of a bog, and to each tenement a strip of the bog is allotted, of equal breadth, but of uncertain length, which each occupier may improve at pleasure, and considerable advances have in consequence been made into the bog. At the foot of the limestone hill of Aughtatour, between Lough-Glyn and Castlerea, there is another bog which was also given out to the peasantry by Lord Dillon, the circumstances of which, in the year 1812, are thus described by Mr. Longfield.

“The people commenced by building cabins in the driest part of the bog, which was of the coarse red kind, next the land, and by cutting away the bog as fast as their means would admit. During the progress of their operations it was discovered, that the under stratum being about eight or ten feet below the surface, was composed of limestone gravel of the best description, suited to the purposes of bog improvement. It was therefore suggested, that *pits* should be made in the bog for the purpose of raising this manuring gravel to the surface, which was accordingly adopted, and the system continued with such good effect, that they soon completely reclaimed ten or twelve acres, which, from being as bad sponge bog as any in the country, now produces as good crops of potatoes, oats, and hay, as any upland in the neighbourhood.”

Mr. Young of Harristown, the very intelligent and active agent on Lord Mount Sandford's estates in this county, near Castlerea, has also adopted the same principle, except that he builds, or mainly assists in building, very superior cabins for

the tenants, placing them on the sound land, on the verge of the bog, after which these people soon make encroachments and improvements upon it.

Now I think it can scarcely fail to strike the mind of any person who reads these statements, and who at the same time may happen to be acquainted with the system of the poor colonies in Holland, that there appears to be a most ample field open in Ireland for the establishment of similar colonies on the verges of the bogs, if not absolutely within them, and unquestionably with far greater advantages to the colonists, in as much as bog soil is more productive than the shallow heaths of Holland, and it might be added, than the heaths of Devonshire, where experiments to the same effect have been made in latter years.

“A soil covered with peat,” said Sir Humphrey Davy, “is a soil not only covered with fuel, but likewise with manure. It is the excess only of manure which is detrimental, and it is much more easy to destroy it than to create it. To cultivate a bog, is a much less difficult task than to improve a sand. If there is a proper level to admit of draining, the larger the scale the less must be the comparative expense. The trials which have been made by private individuals, and which are stated in the different Reports, prove not only the feasibility of the general project, but afford strong grounds to believe that any capital expended upon it, after mature and well digested plans, would in a very few years afford a great and increasing interest, and would contribute to the wealth and prosperity of Ireland.”*

Having thus touched, however, upon the subject of colonization, as possible to be connected with the improvement of the bogs, I should but ill discharge my task, if I omitted to notice some of the objections, and they sound most formidable, which have been raised against the exposure of human beings in these inhospitable wilds, at the perilous risk, not of the loss of health merely, but of life.

* Letter to the Commissioners of Inquiry, &c.

“Drive swarms of unfortunate beings,” says the author of the Survey of Leitrim, “to barren skirts, and into the black bogs and mountains, where eventually they must reclaim them or die: it does reclaim them no doubt, but under what circumstances? In these bogs they reluctantly throw up a krale-like hovel, and spiritless, and comfortless, and inexperienced 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 and 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.”

Were such to be the consequences attendant upon colonizing the bogs, heartless indeed must be that man who should venture to propose such a measure. But the misery which is here depicted, arises less from the natural unhealthiness and difficulties of the situation, than from the destitution of the unfortunate people who are exposed to hardships without the means of overcoming them. Drive forth even vigorous and healthy people, at an inclement season of the year, into plains as fertile as Providence ever bestowed upon man, and their fate will be calamitous, if they have neither shelter nor fuel. Sickness will overtake them, and diminish their number, just as it is known to thin the ranks of an army exposed to damp and cold, ten-fold more in the course of a campaign, than all the conflicts with the enemy, inclusive of pitched battles.

I have certainly seen on the borders of bogs, and within this county, families apparently in as wretched and deplorable a state of destitution, as it is possible for the imagination to paint. I have seen men, women, and children cowering over a fire at the end of a half-built or less than half-built hovel, exposed to drifting rain, with little expectation of having a roof completed over their heads before the severities of winter reached them. But what would the condition of these poor people be in a dis-

trict without fuel? It was the certainty of being able to procure firing, and in abundance, which drew them to the spot; and amidst all their destitution, I have still observed, in many an instance, the smile playing on the lip, and the word of merriment going round, for the Irish peasant will still be cheerful under circumstances which would break the hearts of another race.

But Lord Dillon's, and Lord Mount Sandford's tenants, who are placed on the verges of bogs, are not in this forlorn condition. Far from it; indeed, many of the new cabins of the latter would be an ornament and a credit to any estate in the realm, and the health and strength of the occupants are evinced in the successful prosecution of the labours of the field:

“No people whatever,” says Mr. Aiton, and he has been quoted again and again as the author, who of all others was best acquainted with the properties of bog-soils, “no people whatever are more healthy than those who live in the most extensive or wettest mosses,* while among the inhabitants of all low, damp, and fenny places, where stagnant water, which has not been impregnated with moss or peat, prevails, intermitting putrid fevers, putrid sore throats, and other malignant diseases, are very common. Wherever peat is used for fuel, and especially in the low smoky houses, which abound in the *muir* country, vast quantities of the peat smoke and peat dust pass into the lungs of the inhabitants, with the air they breathe, as well as into their stomachs with their food and drink, yet their health is no way impaired thereby. Many people live in the midst of much stagnant moss-water, yet they are healthy, and live to as great ages as the inhabitants of the driest and warmest soils. The antiseptic quality of moss, extends to all water in which peat has been infused. Captain Cook found moss-water good and wholesome after being kept long on ship-board; even in warm climates it had never become the least putrid.”†

* The Scotch term for bogs; and it may here be observed once for all, that a bog is altogether different in its nature from a fen or marsh.

† AITON on moss-earth. Glasgow, 1805, pp. 66-71.

These observations upon the bogs have extended very considerably beyond the limits which I had originally proposed to myself, and I feel that it is necessary to bring them to a close, although a great deal yet remains to be said upon the subject. I cannot dismiss it, however, without speaking of the very great success with which planting has been carried on in bog-soil, and of which there are several striking examples within this county. Whatever differences of opinion there may be respecting the profits and advantages of cultivating bog, none it appears to me can exist on the score of planting. Its practicability is put beyond all doubt, by actual experiment; and perceiving how well it has succeeded, one cannot but lament that other experiments on the cultivation of the bogs, on a grand and systematic plan, should not likewise have been made so as not to leave this desirable object any more a subject of discussion or doubt.

On the northern edge of Corrine Bog which discharges its waters into the lower Suck, between Ballinasloe and Shannon Bridge, "some Scotch firs," says Mr. Griffith, "have been planted irregularly near the edges of old turf-banks; they have thriven well, though no care appears to have been taken of them. The average depth of the bog is 20 feet." This was their state in 1812.

Now in the year 1830, that is eighteen years afterwards, as I passed, they were felling these very same trees, and perceiving that they had grown on decided bog, I stopped to examine the circumstances of the place, and the quality of the wood. It was as hard and compact I think as any fir I ever saw of the same dimensions, and the trees were well proportioned, though rather slender and somewhat drawn up, owing to their having stood close. These trees were bought up with great avidity by persons who had come from a considerable distance for the purpose. It was to be lamented that such healthy and thriving trees should have been felled prematurely, as these undoubtedly were; but some circumstances of pecuniary embarrassment had

arisen, connected, as I was informed, with litigation, which, as every one knows, have frequently brought far nobler trees to the ground.

At Mr. Young's near Castlereagh, I observed a screen plantation near his lawn, growing upon bog, in which firs, beech, ash, birch, all seemed to flourish in great perfection. The common laurel grew here in great luxuriance. Screen plantations to keep out the view of bogs, are very common in various parts of this county, as well as on the other side of the Shannon, and I have seldom observed plantations with fewer unhealthy or diseased trees. The Scotch fir seems to thrive the best in general, although, as I have stated, other trees will also do well. The most extensive recent plantations which I observed, were on Mr. Wells' estate, near Ballinlough.

Mr. Griffith (p. 57, 2nd vol. Reports) gives his opinion, that Scotch fir appears to grow better than any other tree on *red bog*, and he describes his having seen it growing on very wet bog with considerable luxuriance. "In the bog of Portarlinton, (Queen's County,) half a mile to the west of Derry-ounce, an ancient fir tree, of considerable magnitude, is this moment growing in the middle of one of the wettest quagmires I have met with. The bog in this place is 19 feet deep. With much difficulty, and much hazard, I contrived to make my way to the tree, and found that the roots had spread in a horizontal direction to a very great distance around. Within the limits of these roots, the bog was perfectly dry; a very small distance beyond them, it was so wet as to render the walking on it without the assistance of planks, nearly impracticable."

I must also adduce the testimony of Mr. Longfield on this subject; 2nd vol. Reports, Appendix vi. p. 95.

"There are many plantations, particularly on Lord Charleville's part, King's County, which are in a thriving state, both on the verge, and in the *deep red bog*, near the Glash Bridge. This part, which I am certain was not less than from 10 to 15 feet deep, when the improvements were commenced about 18

or 20 years ago, is now covered with trees of different descriptions, chiefly fir deals, many of which would square from 6 to 9 inches; and his lordship assured me they were planted in the *actual red bog*, without any compost or earth balls."

"There is another circumstance which I observed in this place, which must remove any remaining doubt touching the practicability of being able to cover a great part of those useless tracts with profitable plantations, which is, that the trees I have just mentioned, planted by Lord Charleville, are actually growing within a few feet of the depth of the ancient timber produced by the same bog, and which is now several feet under the present surface; the stumps and roots, however, may be seen in the side of the plantation ditch, and many of them were necessarily cut away, and raised in cutting the drains on each side of the road, where the roots appear considerably above the understrata; which proves that this ancient timber must have grown on a stratum of the bog, without receiving any nourishment from the clay and gravel."

Mr. Aher, 3rd vol. *Reports, Appendix xii.* p. 93, describes a turf-bank in the Queen's County, exhibiting three successive growths of trees above each other.

"The first, or oldest growth, is in contact with the gravel, the stem and roots occupying a space of eighteen or twenty-four inches in height. They are separated from the second or middle growth, by a stratum of very compact black peat, called stone-turf, three feet in thickness; the roots and stems of the middle growth extend about four feet in height, over which there is a stratum of fibrous peat, of a light brown colour, about eighteen inches thick. On this a third growth appears, not more than about two feet in height, which is covered with moss, grass, rushes and heath, for about nine inches in depth. The stems of this growth are sometimes visible above the surface."

"The stems or trunks of the first or oldest growth of these trees being from ten to twelve inches in diameter, are saturated

with water, and completely unflammable ; the wood is so soft, that a trunk may be easily cut through by a spade, and the entire of its composition is so altered, except the *bark*, that the species of tree is scarcely discernible, yet the bark that remains still attached to the trunk, appears to be uninjured by time."

"The second, or middle growth of trees, which are the largest of the three, have their stems about eighteen inches in diameter, at about 20 inches from the root ; they are in a high state of preservation, and retain a great degree of inflammability. Some of the trunks are found lying horizontally near the roots, but the former are by no means as numerous as the latter."

"The third, or surface roots, which are perfectly sound, have all the appearance of a recent growth, yet no tradition remains amongst the oldest inhabitants of the country of the existence of those trees in a living state. They appear from their dimensions not to have attained a great age, the diameter of the stem being only from four to five inches."

Thus we have proofs of the capability of bog-soil to afford growth to trees, not only in the flourishing state of the plantations now standing, which have been made in latter years, but in the dimensions of the old trees found within the bog, which appear to have grown on bog alone. Had merely those bogs which I have described as lying in the district surveyed by Mr. Edgeworth, on the banks, or within a moderate distance of the Shannon, been planted, what supplies of valuable wood might have been drawn from them, and wafted along the waters of that extensive river, to districts now in the utmost want of timber, and entirely dependant on the supplies from a foreign land.

Whether then we look to the bogs as to surfaces capable of being cultivated, and brought to yield abundant crops of food for man or beast, or of being planted with trees, and furnishing inexhaustible supplies of timber for every domestic purpose, in either case, the supineness and indifference which has been

displayed on the subject, and still continues, is undoubtedly a ground of national reproach. Let us hope that in the efforts to improve the country, and develop our internal resources, the possibility of converting these unsightly and profitless wastes to valuable uses, may not be overlooked. "That the bogs in Ireland," said Mr. Wakefield, "*will be reclaimed and cultivated as wealth encreases, there can be no doubt.*" But surely it is not the want of wealth which is the present impediment, but rather a want of energy and activity. The public purse has been liberally opened when there have not been half the incitements, in reference to future profits or the augmentation of national wealth. Nervous, but unemployed arms, are to be seen in every quarter, and nothing seems wanting but the impulse of enterprize.

In the latter Reports of the Commissioners, a description is given of the improvements which were then carrying on in *Chat Moss*, between Liverpool and Manchester. These were upon an extensive scale, and no want of capital was experienced to give to them the utmost effect, and yet the result had not been of a profitable nature; on the contrary, the losses, as I was informed several years ago proved very considerable; and connected with other disappointments which the parties had sustained, led to the sale of the property; still the moss or bog was unquestionably left in a state far superior to what it had originally presented. Latterly, with the advantage of the Liverpool and Manchester rail-way, running directly through the moss for some miles, a new impulse has been given to its improvement. The present system, however, is very different from the one which had been formerly pursued, and far less expensive in its nature. Gradual desiccation, by shallow surface drains, shallower in fact than any that were proposed by the engineers employed under the Commissioners in Ireland, seems to have been found the most efficacious course; and to give more effect to these drains, the rough vegetable surface of the bog is pared away, and laid aside for after use, in forming compost for manure. The

bog or moss is thus left bare, and, except where it is scored, smooth. The rail-way affords the means of conveying earth and manure from Liverpool or Manchester, at a moderate expense, and when the moss has been reduced to a fit state to receive it, ways are made for laying it out, by means of boards fixed on transeverse bars, to impede their yielding or sinking, over which the stuff is wheeled. This plan seems not to be very different from that which Mr. Edgeworth had already suggested. The result has been satisfactory, as I understood, to the present undertakers ; one of whom, Mr. Reid, appeared to feel such confidence in what was going forward, that he came over to Ireland to inquire more particularly about the circumstances of our bogs, and I had the pleasure of receiving him, and conversing with him upon the subject, in the Secretary's Office at the Royal Dublin Society. Mr. Reid expressed a very earnest desire to show me, upon the spot, the nature and progress of the latter works at Chat Moss ; and I must take shame to myself for not having availed myself of his invitation, during any one of the four times that I have since crossed the Moss ; but I was bent on other pursuits at the time ; besides, every person who has heard of the rail-way, is aware that descending and ascending is not an affair at the option of a traveller, who is flying along it in a steam-carriage.

From the facility which steam has afforded to locomotion, both on land and sea, Chat Moss may now be readily seen ; and persons who possess extensive bogs, or others who may desire to engage in the project of converting them to profitable use, might possibly find their time not mispent in crossing the Channel, examining into the circumstances of the place, satisfying themselves thoroughly as to the efficacy of the plan that is pursued there, and forming an estimate from what they see and hear of the probable profit or loss.