

STATISTICAL SURVEY
OF THE
COUNTY OF SLIGO,

WITH
OBSERVATIONS
ON
THE MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT,

DRAWN UP IN THE YEAR 1801,
FOR THE CONSIDERATION, AND UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF
The Dublin Society.

BY
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Dublin.

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X

TO THE READER.

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

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

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

SUGGESTIONS OF ENQUIRY

FOR GENTLEMEN WHO SHALL UNDERTAKE THE FORMING OF

AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

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Climate,

Soil and Surface,

Minerals,

Water.

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PASTURE.

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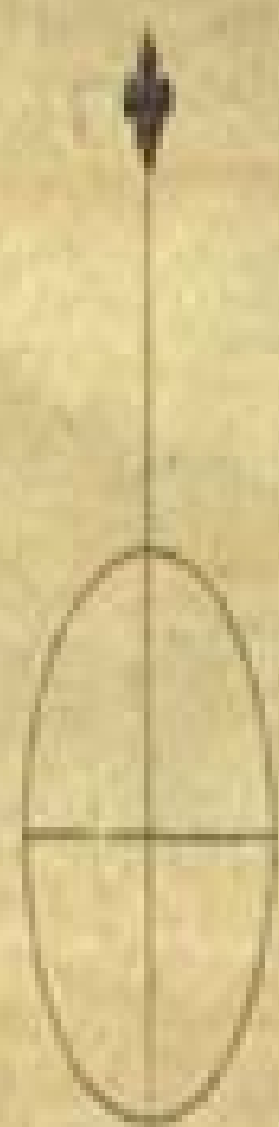
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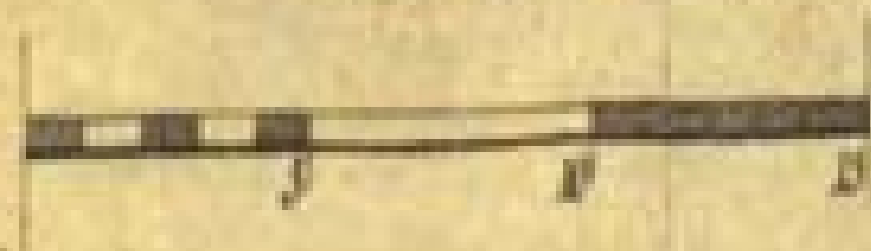
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COUNTY of SLIGO

Designed by J. Taylor at Dromedary near Dublin 1862



Irish Miles



STATISTICAL SURVEY

OF THE

COUNTY OF SLIGO.

CHAP. I.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

Situation and Extent.

SLIGO may be called one of the western counties of Ireland. It is bounded on the north by the Ocean, on the south by Roscommon, on the east by Leitrim, and on the west by Mayo. Its length from north to south is about 32 miles, and its breadth about 30. Sligo town, which is within about ten miles of the north extremity, is situated in 8. 26. W. long. and latitude 54. 13. N.

Divisions.

The county of Sligo is distributed into six baronies and thirty-nine parishes.

The baronies are Carbury, Tyrerah, Tyrerril, Corran, Liney, and Coolavin.

The barony of *Carbury*, from between Ballysadare and Sligo down to the sea, forms the northern extremity of the county; it is thirteen miles long, by about nine broad, bounded on the east by Leitrim, on the north and west by the sea, and on the south by the baronies of Tyrerril and Liney. Those two baronies, after running parallel with each other a couple of miles southward, receive and inclose between them the barony of *Corran*; then the whole three proceed southward together, and constitute the greatest and best part of the county, the barony of Tyrerril sketching along side of Leitrim, which is on the east, and Corran on the west to Roscommon county. Corran, as mentioned, is included between Tyrerril east and Liney west, and runs south to the barony of Coolavin, by which it is there bounded; and away this barony of Coolavin runs south-east from Corran, and from the main body of Sligo, among the counties of Roscommon and Mayo; by the former it is bounded on the east and south, by Mayo on the west. The barony of Tyrera runs upwards of twenty miles away from
the

the main body of the county to the river Moy, which there divides it from Mayo. It is about six miles broad in the champain part, and is separated south and west from Mayo and part of Liney, by the Ox and Foxford mountains.

Climate.

Very temperate; as to rain very changeable, so much so, that the best barometers prognosticate very uncertainly as to the event of wet or dry weather.

Soil and Surface.

FROM Bunduff to Grange the soil is either a thin turf-moss, on a freestone gravelly bottom, or a thin, sandy, gravelly loam, mixed with roundish white stones; cold and infertile, skirted with considerable tracts of bog.

From Grange to Drumcliff, the soil is in general light, sandy, gravelly, and moory in most parts, mixt with round stones on a strong gravelly bottom. It proves tolerably productive of potatoes, barley, and oats.

All round Maherow, the soil and surface is the same as last described, but less moory, deeper, and richer: which depth and richness encreases in proportion as one approaches the vicinity of Sligo, where in general the soil is good on limestone rocks and gravel.

But all through the most parts of the county of Sligo, is to be found the stratum called here *leaclea*, which is corrupted Irish for a *grey flag*; most commonly it is met within from nine to twelve inches of the surface, sometimes more and seldom less. It is perfectly impervious to, and retentive of water. Siliceous marle seems to be a principal ingredient of this concretion; it effervesces (but faintly) with acids; colour, a leaden grey, and when dug up, and exposed to the air and rain, resolves into friable stuff. This is a great bar to vegetation and tillage, but, where dug up and well incorporated with the soil, it improves it considerably, and becomes perfectly permeable to surface water.

In travelling from Ballyshannon to Sligo, along the sea-coast, by Grange, Carny and Maherow, through the above described soils, the sea on the right and on the left; the beautiful mountains of Benbulbin are a novel and pleasing variety; they rise to a height of perhaps a thousand feet above the sea, and in every variety of figure and aspect look, though in the end of October, green as a new billiard-table.

The seats of the Mr. Jones's, on the sea in Maherow, and Sir Booth Gore's, look pretty; and from thence the views of Sligo, Comyn, Knocknaree, and all the opposite coast of the bay of Sligo are far from being unhandsome.

But Hazlewood, the seat of Mr. Wynne, about two miles from Sligo, exhibits a variety of charming scenery; and the more the soil of this demesne is unfriendly to agriculture and ungrateful, the more it reflects honour on the masterly exertions of Mr. Wynne, who, as a farmer, stands unrivalled in this, and perhaps in most counties in Ireland.

The house, though built above seventy years, is spacious and fashionable, and altogether has in a great degree an air of magnificence; it is situated on a peninsula, stretching into Lough-gill, and surrounded every where by a handsome, tolerably fertile country, except on the south-west, where the wooded mountains seem to emerge from the lake, contrasting their sombre shades with the lively verdure of the lawns, and seeming in imperious boldness to assert a superiority of shew and beauty over the wooded islands, which are every where scattered on the lake. The peninsula and the whole extent of the demesne is luxuriantly wooded, and the drains and gravel-walks disposed with ingenuity and taste, to every advantage.

Just adjoining Hazlewood, the Rev. Richard Wynne is

is about to build at Hollywell; already the plantations are in great forwardness; the drives wind among them, along the windings of the lake shore, and are not only in themselves beautifully picturesque, but enjoy, in some of the finest views, all the charms of Hazlewood, and the surrounding scenery. The improvements of those two seats, when completed, will almost surround the whole lake.

The town of Sligo, the bay, mountains, and a well improved neighbourhood, look in different views extremely pretty; for instance, in approaching that town from Dromahare: but in coming from Manorhamilton, somewhere near Mr. Gilmer's, there is a point, where after emerging from the mountains the whole scene opens at once upon the view, and is indeed magnificent.

South of Sligo some of the lands in the baronies of Tyrerril, Liney, and Corran, are of prime quality, but agreeably interspersed with bogs and mountains. The soil of Mercury, Nymphsfield, and all round to Ballintogher, and to the west as far as Knockmuclely, and from Ballymote to the Curliews, and many adjoining parts of the county of Mayo, forming a scope of about 140 square miles, is with very little exception a deep rich productive soil, fit for every species of tillage or fattening sheep and the heaviest oxen.

The distant mountains coming into view, the distant views of the sea, and interspersion of lakes, rivers,

vers,

vers, towns, and gentlemens' seats, form the whole into what may be called a fine country.

Mercury, the residence of Colonel Cooper, lies within about seven miles south of Sligo; this demesne is equally convenient and handsome; the soil is deep and exuberantly rich; when connected with the Onion woods, the whole will consist of about 1200 acres. It is composed of small sloping hills of different shapes and sizes, swelling alternately with woods and verdant lawns; the river Unshion wanders in mazy windings through the whole, and imparts while it receives a great deal of ornament.

The river Marne, meandering by Chalons and through some of the finest parts of France, does not in the same distance embrace more charms than the Unshion does, descending from Lough-arva and Hollybrook, by Cooperhill, Mercury, and the Onion woods, till determined to die, as it lived, in pleasure, it expires in the beautiful cascade of Ballysadare, and there mixes with the waters of the ocean.

The house of Mercury stands in the centre of the demesne; it sees this river in a variety of pleasing views, and most of the woodlands it pervades. Mr. Cooper is about to modernize the approach; if judiciously laid out and continued through the Onion woods towards Ballysadare, it could be made to exceed any thing of the kind in Ireland.

Within

Within three miles of Mercury and above seven of Sligo, is Nymphsfield, the beautiful seat of Mr. O'Hara. The soil is here luxuriant, and the inequalities of hill and dale are extensively planted in a light novel style of Italian taste.

The site of the house is intended to be changed; the demesne is watered and highly embellished by the river Avonmore. The bridge over it, which makes part of one of the approaches, is equally remarkable for solidity and beauty; the bridge itself, and the river at different points, particularly hereabout, produce a combination of pleasing effects not easily described.

The views off Clayn-hill, including a great part of the demesne, the river, the distant hills of Knocknaree, Benbulbin, &c, the bays of Sligo and Donegal, and many parts of the adjacent counties are very fine indeed.

A few miles southward of Mercury, is another seat of the Cooper family, called Cooperhill; nothing can exceed the delightful situation of this superbly fine house on the river Unshion, or the quality of the grounds.

Then travelling southward towards Boyle, after five or six miles, one fetches the demesne of Hollybrook, and a very good house on Lough-arva, the source of the Unshion; it was built by the late General

ral

ral Polliot, and is to be immediately inhabited by a relative of his.

Some of the other seats of this fertile scope are Mr. Meredyth's of Cloonymahon, Mr. Duke's of Branchfield, Mr. Knott's of Battlefield, the very pretty demesne of Mr. Perceval of Templehouse, &c.

Still southward of this scope, lies the barony of Coolavin, not less conspicuous for wide tracts of rocky uncultivable and cultivable mountain, on a white freestone gravel and rocks, than for some lands of prime quality, such as Killarrat, Mr. O'Flannikin's estate, and some other grounds on the banks of Lough-gara, and elsewhere, fit for tillage in all its branches, and pasture for cows and bullocks of any weight.

Doctor M'Dermott, son and heir of the late Prince of Coolavin, who now inherits his father's titles and estates, resides in the family mansion-house of Coolavin, on the south-west banks of Lough-gara. It is a delightful retreat, enchantingly situated in the best views of this lake, its points, and islands.

The Doctor, Mr. Costello of Gortin, and the Mr. Irwins, are the principal residents of this barony.

The soil and surface of the barony of Tyrera shall be noticed together with all the other particulars belonging to it, as it is distinct from the rest of the county,

county, not only by its natural boundary, but also by its appearance and produce.

Minerals.

There is at Ballisadare a silver-mine; it had been worked and given up.

Lead mine.—On the estate of Sir Edward Crofton; it had been worked by a person, to whom he had let it, but was given up.

Iron ore.—In the mountain of Kilmacleve, in the barony of Liney; it had been worked by a Mr. Rutledge, till all the woods of the country had been burnt out, and carried to Foxford where he had iron works.

Iron ore—Is visible in the banks, where the road was sunk west of Dromahair leading to Ballintogher.

Coal, indications of—In several places in the mountains of west Loughgill.

On the north-west side of Maherow, lies the Serpent rock, so called from the great variety of its curious petrifications, representing fishes, serpents, &c. of different sizes, and beautiful shells.

Brick clay—Very fine and fit for pottery, where the Sligo road departs from Loughgill, proceeding to Ballintogher, and in many parts in that vicinage.

Manganese

Manganese—In many parts of the south-west mountains of Loughgill, is visible ; and in the beds of the rivers, iron ore and iron stone.

Copper mine—Is also in those mountains, and a variety of viscid clays of different colours, red, white, grey, green, &c.

Those, like most of the other mountains of Ireland, seem to teem with valuable ores and fossils, which, when more minutely explored, must under the auspices of the Dublin Society prove ultimately a source of great wealth to this country, particularly after inland communication shall have been opened by water, which is already in such active progress of forwardness.

Water.

Lough-gill, Lough-arva, Templehouse lake, Lough-talla, and Lough-gara, are the principal lakes ; the two last are remarkable for large high flavoured trout.

It is singular, that at one side of Lough-talla lake the trout are peculiarly bad, the head exceeding the remainder of the animal in size, while those on the other side are of excellent shape, size, and flavour.

The

The principal rivers are that of Sligo, Bonnet, Owenmore, Unshion, Coolaney river, Esky river, and the Moy.

Such of those lakes and rivers as are navigable, or can any way minister to navigation, shall be mentioned under that head.

CHAP. II.

AGRICULTURE,

Mode of Culture.

THE common mode of culture is with the common Irish plough and harrow, and with the loy, shovel, and spade, in soils that are too wet or too rocky for the plough.

Here the plough is sometimes worked by three horses a breast, but sometimes in the tandem way, one after another, to avoid spoiling the ridges.

At Hazlewood, the seat of Mr. Wynne, every species of husbandry and culture is done after the most improved methods. In no part of the county, where the retentive stratum, called *leaclea* interferes, can drilling be practised, until first by planting potatoes in the common ridge way and digging deep, this stratum has been worked up and incorporated with the rest of the soil; but afterwards it admits of drill work and every other species of useful management; this incorporation of the *leaclea* Mr. Wynne effects by means of the mine plough, which shall in its proper place be described.

In

In general the mode of culture is in every respect the same in this county as in most of the others of the kingdom.

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

This whole county may, strictly speaking, be called a tillage country, and together with Mayo is the principal granary and potatoe support of the manufacturing counties of the north, in times of scarcity.

But as there is to every general rule some exception, this admits of one, for throughout most parts of the county there are some spots very fit for, and appropriated to the fattening of cows, sheep, and bullocks. But still the quantities of potatoes, oats, and barley produced here are immense; some wheat too is grown after potatoes. Mr. Wynne grows peas, beans, vetches, and almost every variety of green and white crops, viz. Norfolk and Swedish turnips, carrots, potatoes, cabbages, rape, borecole, &c. all drilled.

He this year had twenty-five acres of potatoes, all planted with the plough.

In the stretch of country, from Ballintogher to Knockmucklely, including the baronies of Tyrerril, Liney, and Corran, the soil, except the mountains, being mostly rich and deep is not considered so applicable

applicable to the culture of barley. Potatoes, oats, pasture, and private distilleries, are here the means of providing for the rents.

Course of Crops.

1. potatoes; 2. barley; sometimes, but rarely, wheat, frequently oats; 3. oats; 4. oats; and then the soil is let out without grass-seed, in which state it remains unproductive for years, unless manured again for potatoes.

In some places the soil is too poor for more than three crops; a fourth is never exceeded; and this chiefly in the baronies of Carbury Coolavin, and Tyrera.

In some very rich parts of the county, the course is 1. grass potatoes; 2. potatoes; 3. flax; 4. oats; 5. oats; 6. oats.

In Corran, Liney, and many parts of Coolavin, 1. potatoes; 2. oats; 3. oats. Sometimes flax is the second crop, sometimes the third, according to the nature of the soil, and the custom of the people.

Mr. Wynne has laid out a piece of ground within his demesne, as an experimental farm, in five divisions, on which he has the following rotation of crops: 1. wheat; winter vetches on wheat stubble; 2. rape transplanted into drills highly dunged, three feet asunder;

asunder; 3. potatoes dug out early, and succeeded by transplanted rape, to be fed off by sheep; 4. barley; 5. clover, followed again by, 1. wheat, and so on the same succession.

It is very astonishing, how slow the advancement is in this country of green, white, and after crops, and of house feeding, which contributes so essentially to agriculture, by the production of manure and the rapid improvement of the stock itself, from which it is collected.

Volumes could be written on this subject, but that could never promote the object; it is the example of the well informed and opulent, more than books, that must accomplish this work. To them, therefore, I beg leave to recommend every tract on this subject written by Mr. Hamilton, secretary to the Farming Society of Ireland, but particularly that entitled, *Sketch of a Farm*. It is in the second number of the Irish Agricultural Magazine, which may altogether be had of any of the booksellers for one shilling, and one number is published every two months, full of the most improved and useful papers on agriculture, collected from all the new publications and best farmers of the united kingdom, together with original productions of Mr. Hamilton's own.

From this *sketch of a farm*, I shall by way of a specimen extract one paragraph.

Of the management of the tillage land.

“ Each division of this, is in the first year of its cultivation to be subdivided into four parts, each of three acres, exclusive of headlands, which are to produce respectively potatoes, cabbages, borecole, and turnips; the potatoes and cabbages to be succeeded by a crop of rape, within the same year; and in the three following years, to undergo the progress of barley, clover, and wheat, with *after crops* of rape, rye, and winter vetches. But the four divisions are all to produce different crops in the same year; for instance, one division shall be under green crops, while a second is under barley, a third under clover, &c.”

“ The division, which is under green crops, in the first year of the process, shall be manured by the dung collected from the sheep-yard, and other stock.”

Mr. Young, and other eminent farmers, have found and taught, that fallowing is not only a useless but an injurious practice; this therefore saves lands from lying idle one whole year, as wheat may succeed potatoes, cabbages, clover, &c., and is a high and beneficial improvement in the course of crops, and such as gentlemen should miss no opportunity of inculcating by example to the inferior orders.

Use of oxen, how harnessed.

Some few gentlemen of this county work oxen, but none in the number, or style of Mr. Wynne; he has a great number at work, harnessed like horses; I saw them used in cars, carts, and ploughs; I noticed very particularly two wheel ploughs doing their work in a very masterly style, with a pair of oxen to each, managed by one man, who by the use of long reins, connected with bridle-bits in their mouths, guided them with the same ease as horses, and at the same time attended to the work of the plough; all without difficulty or concern.

One of those ploughs was that, to which the premium was adjudged this year at Ballinasloe; I never saw any work of the kind executed with such ease and perfection, as this ploughing.

Nature and use of implements of husbandry.

The common implements in this county, are the common Irish plough, a very bad instrument, leaving half the vegetative surface unturned; the harrow, which is equally imperfect, the pins being frequently made of wood; the loy, which may be described to be a spade, but longer and narrower than usual, with
room

room only for the right foot to work on; the shovel, some still made of wood, and plated and sharpened at the edge with a little iron; the shovels, however, made of sheet iron are getting so much into use, as very much to supersede the wooden ones; grape-fork; pitch-fork; wheel and slide cars; the latter are made without wheels, and are very useful in steep and soft countries, where wheels would run too fast, or sink into the ground; there is no particular or remarkable instrument here, more than what is in common use throughout Ireland, except at Hazlewood, where Mr. Wynne has a variety of implements, not only not used, but unknown in this country: I shall therefore give a particular enumeration of them.

The Beverstone plough, Leicestershire plough, one wheel Cumberland swing-plough, same on a large scale for deep ploughing; turnwrest plough, for laying down land: Leicestershire two-furrow plough: plough for making potatoe-drills: small plough, with expanding mould board for earthing drill-crops: the miner plough: as this implement is not very generally known, I shall give Mr. Anderson's description of it. See his Essays page 174, Waste lands.

“It is (says he) a strong plough, having a share only, without a mould-board for raising the earth, so that it loosens without turning up the soil; and to do this the more effectually, sometimes two shares or coul-

ters are added : this implement is made to follow the plough, in the same furrow, so as to penetrate to a considerable depth below the bottom of the furrow. I consider this to be one of the most useful implements, that have of late been introduced into the practice of husbandry, which every farmer, who has a soil capable of admitting it to work, should have :” and, I should add, requiring its application.

Here Mr. Anderson proceeds to explain the uses of this machine, very judiciously and elaborately ; it however ultimately resides in the well known principle, of breaking and opening a retentive subsoil, and mixing the whole into a previous productive loam, which Mr. Wynne does with a peculiarly good effect, as a great part of his demesne was originally a moor, lying on a retentive stratum called *leacklea*, which was described under the head of soil and surface : the ground is first ploughed with a deep plough and four horses, and then followed by the miner plough, drawn by eight oxen, in the same furrow.

An expanding horse-hoe ; Leicestershire scuffler ; a cultivator constructed by Mr. Wynne, for clearing drill-crops ; a barrow for drilling beans ; same for drilling turnips ; horse-rake for gathering weeds ; a hand hay-rake ; Fairbaine’s weighing machine ; a turnip slicer ; a potatoe washer ; Mr. Wynne’s plough, which gained the prize at Ballinasloe, constructed
from

from the Leicestershire, but narrower, and with a peculiarly well formed metal share; it performs excellent work with a pair of oxen, and goes very light: harrows of various sizes, well constructed, well constructed cars; good carts of various sorts well tackled, and horses well trained; timber and stone carriages; stone, wooden, and metal rollers, &c. &c.

A threshing mill, consisting of the threshing apparatus; two shakers; a fan; a second winnower; a pair of bruising cylinders; a steel flour-mill, and a straw-cutter. The building consists of three floors, in the upper story of which the threshing and shaking are performed; the second story contains the fan, winnower, cylinders, and wheat-mill, and has beside a granary.

The lowest walk contains the horse-walk, and a room where the straw-cutter is placed, and where the clean grain is delivered from a shoot. At right angles with the barn is a straw-house, thirty-six by eighteen, and thirteen high, with a granary over it, thirty-six by eighteen. The mill threshes, with three horses from three to four barrels of oats, according to the quality and length of the straw, per hour, and about two barrels of wheat.

Attendance.

Two men feeding,

One man at the fan,

One man super-

One man superintending the machine,

One boy driving:

One man is employed tying the straw in bundles, as the shakers discharge it into the straw-house.

A comparative view of the original cost of this machine, and the subsequent saving and economy, renders it extremely eligible for general use among substantial farmers.

I have this day seen at Hazlewood, in full work, six ploughs: one double plough drawn by three horses; four, drawn each by two oxen; and one, by one horse; beside a proportionable number of harrows. It was about two o'clock; the quantity of work done in the course of the morning was astonishing; each plough had only the attendance, I cannot say work, of one man, for they amusedly walked along side; the horses and machinery performed the labour in a superior style of ease and excellence.

Markets for Grain.

Sligo is the only market for grain, from whence very considerable exportations are made, of oats particularly, and some barley, for all parts of the Irish coasts, and sometimes to England. It is supposed to be the best market in Ireland for exportation of grain.

Use of green Food in Winter.

None used in this county, except by Mr. Wynne X
and some very few others; many, however, are pre-
paring to avail themselves of its vast utility.

CHAP. III.

PASTURE.

Nature of it.

THERE is in this county every possible variety of pasture, sour, sweet, light, heavy; some fit for rabbits and kids, some for the heaviest cows and oxen. Coolavin, which contains a vast deal of sour and mountain pasture, contains also some of the richest feeding grounds of Ireland. But the main body of the county, consisting of the baronies of Liney, Corran and Tyrerril, is mostly either a fattening or feeding country of very good quality; the baronies of Tyrera and Carbury being mostly fit for, and occupied in tillage.

Breed of Cattle how far improved, how far capable of further improvement.

Very much improved, and improving every day; there are some very large, and very handsome heifers
and

and oxen at Mercury, and throughout the county the gentry and opulent farmers have a long time had excellent cattle; but those among the mountains and among the poor are wretchedly bad, and, until the mountains and the state of the poor are first improved, not capable of much improvement.

Mr. Wynne and Mr. Richard Wynne have, at a very great expence, imported a bull and above thirty cows, of the improved long-horned Leicestershire breed; they are a very good size, small in bone, very broad in the back and rump. They have a number of fine yearling bulls, got, I have heard, by one of the best bulls in England, which came over in the cows bellies, and which must prove of great use, in further improving the breed of this county; they also have several fine calves of this year.

Mr. Wynne has a prodigious fine flock of new Leicester ewes, purchased from Robert St. George, Esq. which are this year tupped by a beautiful ram, hired of Messrs. Astley and St. George, at a very high price. Mr. Richard Wynne has a few very fine ewes of the same breed; he shewed me some year-old wethers, which had been fed on a light, rocky pasture, and were thick fat, where Irish wethers three year-old had scarcely flesh enough to carry their bones.

Mr. Wynne has also imported a ram and some very nice ewes of the South Down breed, purchased of Mr. Ellmar of Sussex.

Both

Both the Mr. Wynnes have a very fine breed of hogs, imported from Mr. Astley of Leicestershire; their colour is black, and a reddish yellow; they are very broad over the back, round in the carcase, small in the head and bone, the ears small and pricked, and the tails thin and curly. They have already sold a great number of young ones at high prices, and the breed is so universally esteemed, it promises to become very general.

Among the gentlemen and farmers there is still a capability of improvement, and that by a judicious selection of the best, and most generally approved points, whether within the same breed or family of cattle, or by a cross of superior or even equal excellence.

Markets or Fairs for them.

January 1. Bellaghy.

—— 18. Bannada.

—— 28. Tobercurry.

February 1. Ballymote. Linen.

March 1. Farniharpy.

—— 25. Tobercurry.

—— 29. Sligo Town.

April 19. Bellaghy.

May 3. Coolony.

—— 13. Newtown.

May 14. Bal-

May 14. Ballinacarrow.

——— 17. Tubberscanavan.

——— 20. Bunnidane.

——— 21. Beltra.

——— 22. Tobercurry.

——— 24. Templehouse.

——— 27. Farniharpy.

June 1. Cooloony.

——— 3. Esky.

——— 4. Castlebaldwin.

——— 7. Banada.

——— Dromore.

——— 8. Ballintogher.

——— 9. Bellaghy.

——— 14. Ballinacarrow.

——— Enniscrone.

——— 18. Cliffony.

——— 21. Ardnaglass.

——— 28. Tobercurry.

——— 30. Tubberscanavan.

July 5. Castlebaldwin.

——— Sligo town.

——— 28. Ballintogher.

——— 30. Templehouse.

August 4. Ballasadare.

——— 5. St. James's Well.

——— 6. Bunnidane.

——— 9. Cooloony.

——— 16. Tobercurry.

August 18. Ard-

<i>August</i>	18.	Ardnaglass.
————	20.	Beltra.
————	27.	Farniharpy.
<i>September</i>	3.	Ballimote. Linen.
————	6.	Castlebaldwin.
————		Cooloony.
————	18.	Bellaghy.
————		Enniscrone.
————		Tubberscanavan.
————	23.	Ardnaglass.
<i>October</i>	4.	Tobercurry.
————	5.	Cliffony.
————	11.	Bunnidane.
————	14.	Ballinacarrow.
————	18.	Ballintogher.
————	28.	Rosslee.
<i>November</i>	1.	Tubberscanavan.
————	3.	Castlebaldwyn.
————	6.	Cliffony.
————	8.	Templehouse.
————	12.	Ballasadare.
————	15.	Ballymote. Linen.
————	17.	Ardnaglass.
————	18.	Esky.
————	22.	Cooloony.
————	29.	Bunnidane.
————		Farnicarny.
————		Tobbercurry.

December

December 6. Newtown.

_____ 8. Ballintogher.

_____ 14. Ballinacarrow.

_____ Cliffony.

_____ 16. Cooloony.

_____ 30. Dromore.

General Prices.

Bullocks this year sold at Tubberscanavan, some for £.15 each; dry cows from 5 to £.10; fat and milch cows from 6 to £.15; very few, however, at so high a price as £.15; sheep from 25 shillings to two guineas each.

Modes of feeding, how far housed in Winter.

In general, cattle are housed from the middle of December to the middle of May, and fed with straw and hay; Mr. Wynne houses all his cattle during the winter, and feeds them with cabbages, rape, turnips, carrots, potatoes, cut straw, and sparingly with hay; in spring with vetches and rye.

Mr. Cooper and Mr. Duke house oxen, as do some others, who by so doing are the earliest in market; but those are only rare instances, as bullocks and dry cattle are seldom housed at all, but fed abroad in the sheltered grounds, when severity of weather requires it.

Mr.

Mr. Holmes houses the fat mutton for his table, and feeds them with oats and hay; until he did house, they always fell away in winter; I have seen this done in several instances with very good effect.

Natural grasses—Artificial grasses.

All the grasses of this county (consisting of those generally produced by the best and worst soils) are natural, except those of a few gentlemen, who sow clovers and rye-grass.

Mr. Wynne has this year introduced lucerne into his farm, and many sow common hay-seed, which is a mixture of the seeds of the indigenous grasses and weeds of their meadows, and very frequently from the number of weeds, which those seeds propagate, the practice is very injurious.

Mode of hay-making.

The general mode of hay-making here, is to let the swarth remain about twenty-four hours untouched, then to shake it out the next morning, and in the evening of the same day to put it into lap-cocks, in which state it lies till tramped; it is considered here the cheapest and best mode.

Sometimes

Sometimes hay, in proportion to the weight and juice of it, must be shaken out of the grass or lap-cocks once or twice, and made into hand-cocks, before it is tramped.

Dairies—their produce.

There are several dairies about Sligo, and the export of butter from that town is very considerable; last year it amounted to upwards of £.20,000. This vast encrease in the quantity, and export of butter, is chiefly owing to an improvement in the manner of making it up; formerly it used to be packed in crocks; latterly the country people have been compelled to make it up in well coopered casks, and this method has so improved the quality of the butter, as to rival any in the kingdom.

In the baronies of Liney and Carran, butter and pasture furnish the principal means of paying the rents.

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

Hides at present (December,) sell at from 2*d.* to 3*d.* per pound: tallow 9*s.* 4*d.* per stone: wool, the price

price of it this year, is eighteen shillings per stone of sixteen pounds.

The quantities of those articles sold it is impossible to ascertain, as there is no person employed, or no institution of noting them down. But Sligo being now a slaughtering exporting market, the quantities sold of hides, and tallow, must be proportionable to the extent of that trade, which is by no means trifling.

In the wool-trade, Sligo is the emporium between Connaught and the North, from whence numbers come to meet the Connaught sellers, and buy up large quantities of that article.

CHAP. IV.

FARMS,

Their size.

THEIR size is various, from 3 acres to 500; the poorest classes have very small holdings, not only three acres, but sometimes even less; as they advance higher in circumstances, the extent of their holdings upwards to five hundred acres, as mentioned, and even above it; not that individuals in general hold farms of that extent, but that unfortunately the tenures of lands are mostly as yet undivided, and a great number of tenants hold still in partnership wide tracts of land, and beside, because to the farms are commonly annexed wide appurtenances of coarse bottoms and mountain.

Farm houses and offices.

The few houses, that answer that description, are made of stone and lime walls, with two or three se-

parate apartments, and separate offices, all tolerably neat and snug.

Mode of repairing them, whether by landlord or tenant.

Always by the tenant. This is the fourth county I have examined, and in all the four not one instance occurred, where the landlord was obliged to repair.

Nature of tenures, general state of leases and particular clauses therein.

The nature of tenures is here, as in other parts of Ireland, to wit, fee simple, freehold, and terms for years. The general state of leases is being made for lives or years, or both; the particular clauses go to prevent alienation and waste, and sometimes, but very seldom, to give the tenant allowance for improvements, and reclaiming bogs and mountains.

Church, College, Bishop, and electioneering leases, are the bane of agriculture; they mar the profits and the prospects of the poor and rich, and loudly demand a parliamentary modification.

This is a matter of itself so clear, that any argument, offered in conformation of it, would only obscure the self evidence of the proposition.

Taxes or cesses paid by tenants.

Quit and crown rents are sometimes paid by the landlords, all the other cesses, church, grand jury, hearth, window taxes, &c. by the tenants.

Proportion of working horses or bullocks to the size of farms.

All the work of the small farms is done by horses; as to the proportion of horses to the size of the farms, one horse might be averaged to every ten acres; the petty farmers give and take a loan to help each others ploughing and harrowing, in most parts of the county.

Those, who about the town and neighbourhood of Sligo happen to have three horses, hire out those horses, and themselves, at one guinea per acre, for ploughing and harrowing.

In such parts as are distant from the sea, the average is about two horses to every ten acres, but

it varies in proportion to the distance for conveying the sea-manure into the interior.

General size of fields and enclosures.

In general small, but varying from two to four acres. Those however occupied by gentlemen, and large farmers, are extensive, sometimes from five to ten acres.

Nature of fences.

The fences of this county are walls, quicked ditches, and common plain clay ditches. The soil being in many places gravelly and friable, it requires alternate layers of stone and clay to face the ditches; some of those are made very large, for instance, by Mr. Holmes, which, though near the sea, grow quicks very well, particularly when shaded by trimmed broom.

Stone walls in many parts are the principal fences, the stones having been collected for the double purpose of clearing the fields and enclosing them.

Mode of Hedge-rows, and keeping Hedges.

The hedge-rows, if they may be so called, are planted, sometimes a single, sometimes a double, and sometimes, but seldom, a treble row of hawthorn, in the face of the ditches; plants of various sorts, such as ash, alder, oak, crabtree, &c. are mixed with the thorn, and grow very well.

Near the sea, particularly on the north and north-west, no plant will grow, unless well sheltered, except sycamore and elder, commonly called bore-tree; those repeated trials have proved to brave the storms.

As to any particular mode of keeping those hedges, I could observe none, except the common defence, which the ditch affords to its own face, by its back and excavation; nor does any other seem necessary in this country, where hedge-rows are hardly ever grown except in ditches.

Mode of Draining.

Draining is in general very little known or practised in this county.

Some of the gentlemen make open, and sometimes hollow drains of various sizes, according to necessity,
and

and particularly at the feet of hills, by which the fall of water and spue at the bottom is prevented.

It is in the mountains and bogs, that the greatest part of any draining, that is done, is to be seen, as the soil in general, except in Corran and Liney, is light, gravelly, and pervious; the stratum called *leaclea* requiring only to be broken instead of draining, and incorporated with the rest of the soil, to render it permeable and productive.

A great part of the demesne of Hazlewood had been very wet, but Mr. Wynne has effectually drained it, not only by breaking and uniting with the rest of the soil the stratum called *leaclea*, but also by cutting off springs at the sides of hills. I have myself been present at a very interesting operation; a large field had perhaps since the creation remained drowned in water; surface-drains had been made in various and different depths, without any good effect. Mr. Wynne determined to sink a drain at the head of this field, to come at the spring; penetrated through a stratum of rock, by quarrying to a depth of about seven feet; and then gushed out through this rock several large streams of clear water, which in all probability will effectually remove the evil.

Mr. Elkington has acquired such well merited celebrity in the art of draining that, though he cannot be pursued in all his directions, nor his method accurately detailed in such a publication as this, still to

make

make known the principles of his mode of draining must be gratifying and instructive.

I extract it from Mr. Johnstone, who, under the patronage of the Dublin Society, and for the consideration of the Board of Agriculture in England, published Mr. Elkington's approved method of draining, together with excellent tracts of his own on hollow and open draining.

He proceeds as follows, Chap. 2. p. 11.

“It is remarkable, that the principles, on which the draining of land depends, being so great a desideratum in agriculture, should have been so little known or attended to, or that the practice of it, according to these obvious principles, should have been so much confined, while improvements in the other branches of husbandry have been carried almost to the highest possible perfection.”

“However intricate or abstruse it may hitherto have been considered, even by those, who were otherwise well informed in the theory of agriculture, of which it forms the most important branch; yet it will appear from the following observations, to be founded on circumstances the most plain and rational, and which, when reduced to practice, produce those effects, which a simple knowledge of the cause naturally points out.”

“Wetness in lands proceeds from two causes, as different as the effects they produce.”

“It

“ It proceeds either from rain water stagnant on the surface, or from the water of springs issuing over, or confined under it. On clay soils, that have no natural descent, wetness is commonly produced by the first of these causes; but in a variety of situations it may proceed from the latter.”

“ The principles of Mr. Elkington’s art are so closely connected with the nature of springs, that without a knowledge of these, and the causes producing them, it is impossible to practise it with either success or advantage; for *surface-draining*, where the wetness proceeds from subjacent water, is only alleviating the effect, in place of removing the cause. It will therefore be necessary in the *first* place, so far to ascertain the nature of springs, and their connection with the formation of bogs, as to enable the practical drainer more easily to comprehend the theoretical part of Mr. Elkington’s system.”

“ From its general external appearance, and by the perforations, that have been made in it by quarries, wells, and other subterraneous pits, the earth is known to be composed of various strata, which being in their nature of opposite consistence are distinguished by the names of porous and impervious.”

“ Those strata, which from their more open composition are porous, and capable of receiving the rain water that falls on them, include rock, gravel, sand,

sand, and such marles as are of an absorbent quality. Clay, and a certain kind of gravel having a proportion of clay in its composition, which, by binding and cementing the small stones together, renders it equally close and tenacious as clay itself; with such rock as is of a close and compact nature, without any fissures in it, are the principal strata, that most resist the reception of water, and that are capable of retaining it on the surface, till exhaled by the sun, or carried off by suitable drains, and are termed impervious."

"Springs therefore originate from rain water falling upon such porous and absorbent surfaces, and subsiding downwards through such, till in its passage it meets a body of clay or other impenetrable substance, which obstructs its further descent; and here forming a reservoir or considerable collection of water, it is forced either to filtrate along such body, or rise to some part of the surface, where it oozes out in all those different appearances, that are so frequently met with. This is evident from the immediate disappearance of the rain water as it falls on some parts of the ground, while it remains stagnant on others, till carried off by evaporation, and from the strength of springs being greater in wet than in dry seasons; hence, after incessant rains, they are observed to break out in higher situations, and, as the weather becomes drier, give over running out, except at
their

their lowest outlets. The strength of springs also, or quantity of water which they issue, depends chiefly on the extent of high ground, that receives and retains the rain, forming large reservoirs, which affords them a more regular supply; thus bog-springs, or those that rise in vallies or low situations, are much stronger, and have a more regular discharge than those, which break out on the higher grounds, or on the sides of hills."

"Independent of these causes, there are certainly great springs contained in the bowels of the earth; otherwise how could the many rivers, that intersect it, be supplied with such vast quantities of water as they discharge, the rains falling on its surface, or the dews, that descend, not being adequate for that purpose? But as this may be considered among those arcana of nature, which have not yet been sufficiently explored, and lying at too great a depth to affect the surface, it comes not within the limits of the present enquiry."

"With the nature and causes of springs that of bogs is intimately connected; for, where springs breaking out in the manner above described run over a flat surface of clay, and cannot get off with sufficient rapidity, or are not confined to a narrow channel, the superabundance of water must cause the dissolution of all the coarse vegetables it produces, which, together with part of the natural soil itself, is formed
into

into a peat earth, every year encreasing in depth; and the extent of such bog or morass is according to the quantity of water, and to that of the flat ground, on which it is formed."

"The great object of Mr. Elkington's system is that of draining such bogs, by cutting off entirely the source of the springs, or subterraneous water, that causes the wetness, either by flowing over the surface, or by its being long confined under it. If the springs have a natural outlet, the object of the drain is to lower and enlarge it, which, by giving the water a more free and easy channel, will sooner discharge and draw it off, or will reduce it to a level so far below the surface as to prevent its overflowing it."

"Where the springs have no apparent outlet, but are either confined so far below the surface as to injure it by constant moisture, or by oozing out imperceptibly through any small pores of the upper soil, the object of the drain is to give a proper vent to that water, and to extract more quickly and more effectually what has before been pent up in the bosom of the soil. The object of the augre, which in many instances is the *sine quo non* of the business, is simply to reach or tap the spring, and to give vent to the water thus pent up, when the depth of the drain does not reach it, where the level of the outlet will not admit of its being cut to that depth, and where
the

the expence of cutting so deep would be very great, and the execution of it very difficult."

"According to these principles this system of draining has been attended with extraordinary consequences in the course of Mr. Elkington's practice, which shall be more fully explained in the after part of this report. By it not only the land in the immediate vicinity of the drain, but also springs, wells, and wet ground at a considerable distance have been made dry, with which there was no apparent communication."

"As the whole depends on the situation of the ground to be drained, and the nature and inclination of the strata, of which the adjacent country is composed, as much knowledge as possible must be obtained of these, before the proper course of a drain can be ascertained, or any specific rules given for its direction or execution. But all these circumstances will be more particularly explained in describing the parts of the operation, with which they are connected."

Mr. Johnstone, having detailed at large Mr. Elkington's method of spring-draining, then proceeds to observations on hollow and surface draining; from which I deem it very useful to take some extracts.

He proceeds page 125.

"This being a part of the draining system, not coming within the limits of Mr. Elkington's practice,

tice,

tice, and founded on principles different from those, that are applicable to the drainage of bogs, and other swampy grounds, injured by springs, I have thought it more proper to add it by way of appendix, than to have incorporated it with the preceding report."

"When the wetness of the field arises from rain-water, that cannot sink through a tenacious soil, and must, if there be no declivity, remain till evaporated, the principles, which govern the practice of Mr. Elkington, are not applicable; but in all cases (and such are very numerous) where the wetness proceeds from springs, a farmer ought certainly to examine his field carefully in order to ascertain, whether the evil proceeds from the above cause only, or whether it proceeds from springs; if from the latter, he should endeavour to discover if such springs are distinct and unconnected, or whether they do not flow from some *main one*, which being cut off would drain a considerable tract of land below the spot where it rises, as has been explained and exemplified in the latter part of Ch. 3."

"From want of attention to this necessary discrimination, it is very common in Essex, Suffolk, and other counties, where draining is very generally performed, to see many superfluous drains, marked out in directions, where they can have little effect,
and

and where a single one well directed would have completely dried the field."

"As the expence, which might thus be saved, is an object of consequence, too much attention cannot be paid to the enquiry."

Page 130—"Springs, that proceed from water, at any considerable depth in the earth, or which break out from the variation of certain strata in hills, which demand deep cutting, and the use of the augre to work their cure, according to Mr. Elkington's mode of draining, has already been treated of. Hollow drains, that come under the present description, are chiefly used to correct that wetness of soils, which results from rain, and which from flatness of surface, or its retentive quality, stagnates to the injury of both soil and crops. This is the most general nature of the evil, which these drains are intended to remedy, but by no means exclusively of that caused by land springs, whose seat apparently is below their depth. The wetness proceeding from such is in some cases removed by these drains, when deep enough cut, and properly directed; but in many others, from ignorance in the drainer, great sums of money are thrown away, for want of attending properly to the nature of the evil, and of distinguishing betwixt *surface-water* only, and the oozing of land-springs."

“In soils, that are so tenacious as to retain water on the surface, till evaporation carries it off, such as are found in Sussex, Surry, and many other counties, this method of draining has been tried, and found entirely to fail. The cause of this can easily be accounted for. Very stiff clay will hold water like a dish, and consequently the small portion of water, which each drain will carry off, is only what falls immediately above it, or what it can receive at top, when the ground on each side has a descent towards it.”

“Open trenches therefore, with the ridges and water-furrows properly formed and directed, is the only method, whereby the drainage of retentive soils can be accomplished.”

“It is necessary to lay it up in ridges, properly placed, and to cut small open drains across the ridges, where requisite, communicating with each other, and with the furrows, and thus all the water-furrows operate as drains.”

“The water, as it falls upon the ridge, immediately makes its way into the furrows, and runs along them while there is descent, and, if it is stopped in any of them by the ground rising, is conveyed by the drains, across the ridges, into some other furrows, where there is a descent, along which it marks its way into some ditch, or water course, at the extremity of the field.”

In

“ In Essex and in Suffolk, where it has been found advantageous, the soil is a wet poachy loam, more or less mixed on the surface with vegetation mould; under that in some places a *raw hungry loam*, and in others a clay-marle.”

“ On these soils the effect is very great; for the upper stratum, where the moisture is chiefly lodged, being in some degree porous, the water is easily extracted from it by means of the drains; the understratum being also of retentive quality, their depth does not require to be great.”

“ When Mr. Young of Clare observes, that the improvement by these drains is great on clay soils, he certainly means soils of this description.”

“ I know from experience, that in clayey soils it will answer perfectly well, that it is the most expeditious, and the least expensive, as well as the most durable improvement of any in the whole system of agricultural economy, &c.”

“ *By what rules their directions are marked.*—For many years back, the farmers have not made a proper distinction in fields, that had a declivity, between tracing their drains *with the slope*, or directing them *obliquely across it*; the best farmers are now attentive to this important point, and studiously mark the directions of their drains *obliquely*. They are also careful to give them just the fall sufficient to carry off the water, in a gentle, but not a rapid current, by
which

which means they are less apt to choke or *blow up*, as it is sometimes called, whereby spots in the field have apparently an artificial spring formed."

"Upon fields that are level, or nearly so, great numbers of which are found in the western counties of England, it has been a common practice, and not an improper one, if the wetness proceeds solely from rain, to mark the drains regularly at a rod (sixteen and an half feet) or thereabout, across the land from ditch to ditch; or if the drains, from any small inequality of surface, will flow only at one end, then to stop short or discontinue their length on one side of the field, as soon as the ditch operates in laying it dry."

"Where the slopes of a field vary and fall in different directions, the farmer should attend to such variations, and direct his drains so as to cross obliquely the upper side of each declivity."

"It is a general rule not to conduct too many drains to the same mouth or outlet; for if much water flows in any drain, from having thrown many lateral branches into one drain, the latter must not only be made larger and deeper, but will even then be liable to fail; and a failure of that kind affects so much a larger space of ground, by impeding the course of so many other drains. On this account it has been found better to make the drains detached, rather than to connect too many of them together,

which occasions much water to be conducted to one mouth."

"Cases will however occur, in which, from the position of the ground, it may be necessary to join several side branches (wings) into one main drain; on this subject Mr. Vancouver, in his Agricultural report of Essex, has the following judicious remark.

"If the field, proposed to be drained, lies greatly on the descent, every care should be taken to make the drains bear sufficiently horizontally: in the first place to prevent a too precipitant fall of the water, by which the bottoms of the drains would be worn uneven, and a temporary obstruction occasion them *to blow*; and secondly, because the more perfectly horizontal is the field, so that it lies level free, and affords a sufficient fall for the water, the less occasion will there be for the same number of drains, as would be required in a soil of equal closeness on the side of a hill. The drains in the field that lies nearly level, drawing equally well upon each side; whereas those on the hang of a hill, drawing only from the higher sides of the drains, and consequently requiring them to be made much nearer or closer together."

Manner in which drains are partly opened with the plough, p. 140.

The method practised by Mr. James Young of Clare, which he has described himself from very ample

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ple practice, is deserving of attention; he says; when I have marked the drains in a field usually a rod asunder, I draw two furrows with a common foot-plough, leaving a *baulk* betwixt them, about fifteen inches wide; then with a strong double breasted plough, made on purpose I split that baulk, and leave a clean furrow fourteen or fifteen inches below the surface. But where the depth of the soils requires it, for I like to touch the clay, by a second ploughing I sink it to eighteen or twenty inches; it is then ready for the land-ditching spade, with which I dig fifteen inches deep a drain as narrow as possible." *Annals of Agr.* V. iii. p. 164.

“The method followed by farmers, who do not possess ploughs made on purpose for the work, is this. With their common plough drawn by four or five horses, and usually stirring about four or five inches deep, they turn a double furrow, throwing the earth on each side, and leaving a baulk in the middle; this baulk they raise by a second bout in the same manner. Then they go in the open furrow twice with their common double breast plough, getting what depth they can; after this they shovel out all the loose mould and inequalities to the breadth of about a foot; and thus having gained a clean open furrow, the depth varying according to the soil and ploughs, but usually about eight or nine inches, they dig one spit with a draining spade, sixteen inches deep,

thus gaining in the whole twenty-four or twenty-five inches; but as this depth is seldom sufficient, when necessary they throw out another, or even two other spits, which makes the whole depth from thirty to forty inches."

Depth and width.

"The depth is various according to the nature of the soil, the situation of the field, the expence the farmer is willing to incur, and a diversity of other circumstances; many years ago three feet was the common depth in most soils, but for twenty years past they have seldom exceeded thirty or thirty-two inches."

"Main or receiving drains are always a little deeper than the others, having more water to convey, and farther to carry it; the deeper they are dug in pervious soils, the farther they will operate in reducing the moisture to a level, where it can less injure vegetation: but when the spade reaches an impervious soil, through which water will not percolate, there is no occasion for making the trench any deeper; a few inches however in the clay, as a safer channel for the water, is of advantage."

One general rule is never to be departed from, which is, that the depth must be sufficient to prevent the impression of the feet of the cattle from affecting the

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the position of the materials used in filling them. This must particularly be observed of horses walking in the furrow while ploughing, as they then tread four inches, and perhaps more, below the surface of the ground ; add to these four inches, nine or ten more for the materials ; and when the drains are only twenty-four deep, there will be nine or ten inches of soil to bear the weight of the horse in the act of ploughing ; this, as the earth has been stirred seems certainly too little, and should apparently ascertain, that twenty-four inches is by no means a sufficient depth. If by going thirty inches down a tenacious soil is not too deeply entered, a greater depth in a more porous one is not only requisite, but ought to be greatly preferable."

"In all the modern drainages in the eastern counties the farmers have been very solicitous to cut them as narrow as possible, by which means a great saving is made in the materials used in filling them, such as bushes, poles, spray, or straw ; but if brick or stones are used, of course this rule cannot be adhered to. However, there is no occasion for the width being greater than one foot, if the stones are only coupled at bottom, or thrown in promiscuously, or more than sixteen inches, if laid in the form of a conduit. Whatever the depth of materials may be, the mould, that covers them to the surface, should never be less than one foot thick, or rather more in all tillage fields. In pasture land gravel, if at hand, especially

pecially if the soil is very tenacious, is preferable to the mould thrown out, which may be spread in any adjoining hollow."

Tools employed.

"The instruments, which have been long in common use in the eastern parts of the kingdom, are extremely simple."

"While the depths of drains were more considerable than at present, three spades were in use to succeed one another, lessening in breadth gradually in such a manner as to form a regular contraction to the bottom; but of late years cheaper and easier methods have been pursued. By previous ploughing, all the spades, except the lower one, have been laid aside, and where a greater depth than common has been required, not more than two have been used. The scoop which is pushed or drawn along the bottom of the drain, to clear out the loose mould and prepare it for the materials used in filling, varies in size and breadth according to the width of the drain. The draining spade, which is also of different sizes, is represented in the plate. It is a common spade, tapering at the lower extremity to various breadths, as occasionally necessary for the formation of different drains."

"As to opening *hollow* drains by the *plough only*, I
pass

pass over as expensive, and for many reasons never probable to come into practice."

"*Materials, with which they are filled*—are stone, wood, straw and stubble, heath or ling, and bricks made for the purpose."

If stones taken from quarries are to be used, and the drain formed like a conduit at bottom, the trench is made wide enough to contain two side stones about six inches asunder and the same in height, with a cap or flat stone laid over, which covers and secures the passage, through which the water passes. These drains are more expensive than where the stones are thrown in promiscuously, but are the only ones applicable to springs, which may be prevented from injuring large tracts of lands by cuts comparatively short; but in Essex and the other eastern counties, when hollow drains are filled with stones, it is usually with flints from chalk, or with stones from gravel-pits, or gathered off the field."

Very small stones do not answer well for any but very short drains, in which little water is conveyed, and any size requires a greater width at bottom than wood or straw, and consequently renders the expence of cutting greater."

"Whether the stones be large or small, they should be very clean, and free from any clay or earth, that may adhere to them, and put in carefully, so as not to tumble down any of the earth of the drain, which might

might be apt to choke up the interstices betwixt them."

"Upon the subject of filling drains with wood, Lord Petre thus expresses his opinion."

"The drains filled with wood, and covered as usual with straw or rushes, are preferable to stones or any other materials; the reason is, as the wood decays, the water continues to pass: when filled with stones, and the drains stop up, which must be expected to take place in time, the earth becomes quite solid round the stones, and, as they do not decay, the filtering of the water is for ever obstructed: not so when bushes or wood are used; continual filtering and draining are then for ever to be perceived, and by repeating the operation a second time, cutting the drains transversely of the old ones, the benefit of the filtering through the rotten wood is secured, and the spewing up of old, broken, and damaged drains corrected and carried off. Moreover, as bushes form a much greater number of cavities than either stones or poles, they are less able to stop up, and encourage filtering more than larger and more solid bodies. A load of bushes containing 120 faggots will do about 360 rods, and a load of straw containing 120 bottles the same. The load of bushes is generally worth about fourteen shillings, and the straw fifteen shillings per load; I therefore calculate this expence
at

at about twelve shillings per acre, ditches a rod apart."

"Richard Preston Esq. of Blackmore, a correspondent of the Board, prefers, on twenty years experience, blackthorns to every other material for filling."

"There is also another method of filling with wood, by suspending the faggots or bushes on cross billets, set on end in the bottom of the drain, as represented by number 5 in the plate."

"This kind of drain has been successfully practised in Berwickshire, where it is said to have continued running for thirty years,"

It has also been attempted at Livingston, the seat of Mr. W. Cunningham, but is not approved of there; for it is said, that the feet of the cattle, in ploughing, went down and deranged the billets, that supported the brushwood, and consequently put a stop to the discharge of the water; but this has been owing to the want of a sufficient depth of earth above the wood, which was not more than six inches. This kind of drain is however much recommended by the writer of the Agricultural report of the county of Caermarthen in Wales. He says, "the completest method I have yet known, is to cut the strongest willows, or other aquatic brushwood, into lengths of about twenty inches, and place them alternately in the drain, with one end against one side of the bottom, and the other leaning against the opposite side:

side: having placed the strong wood in this manner, I fill the space, left between them on the upper side, with small brushwood, upon which a few rushes or straw being laid, as before mentioned, the work is done." Willow, alder, asp, or beech boughs are exceedingly durable, if put into the drain green, or before the sap is dried; but if they are suffered to become dry, and then laid under ground, a rapid decay is the consequence."

"Respecting filling drains with straw, the following observation by Mr. Vancouver, in his report of Essex husbandry, merits attention. "When the soil is a very close and retentive clay, the drains should be made proportionably near to each other, shallow, and filled with straw only, it being totally unnecessary to use wood, or any more durable material upon lands, where the sides of the drains are not likely to crumble in; upon a soil like this the drains should seldom exceed three or four yards apart, and twenty inches deep, or such a depth as may be the most conveniently obtained, by first opening the drains with the plough, shoveling the bottom of the lowest furrow, and then digging one spit only, with the hand-ditch-spade, and which, materials included, will cost about 2s. 6d. per score rods."

Drains formed in this manner through the tough and retentive clays, will be found in a short time, after the work is finished, to have formed over the
straw,

straw, with which the drain was filled, an arch of sufficient strength to support the incumbent weight of the soil, and the casual traffic of the field. In twelve or eighteen months it may be observed, that the straw, being of one uniform substance, is all rolled and carried away, leaving a clear pipe through the land in every drain, into which the passage of the water may have been facilitated by a due attention to the filling of the drains with the most friable and porous parts of the surface the field might have afforded."

"The latest and best improvement in filling hollow drains with straw, is that of twisting the straw into a rope described in the following passage, concerning some improvements in Essex."

"The most prominent feature of the improvements is, a new method of filling land-drains; the common practice is to tread in loose straw, but Mr. Bedwell has invented a method of winding it into a hard rope, as large as a man's arm, which he forces to the bottom of the drains, and finds by experience, copied successfully by his neighbours, to convey the water off more readily, and to have much longer duration; at the same time the quantity of straw consumed is not encreased, and the operation of filling is accelerated. After the cattle have picked it over, he finds the straw tougher, and in better order to wind, than when quite dry and fresh. The figure
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in the plate is a representation not of Mr. Bedwell's, but of a more simple moveable machine, for twisting the ropes to be used in the above manner. See Foote's reports of Middlesex."

"The next material to be noticed is bricks, made for the purpose, but being very expensive, and perhaps unnecessary, I shall waste no time about them.

Mode of filling.

"There is one circumstance in filling the drains, attended to particularly by farmers, who are solicitous to have the work well performed, and that is to contract with their men only for digging and leaving clean, in order that filling may be done by men paid by the day, as a greater security that it should be executed with all possible care, and is usually attended to by the farmer himself, or some confidential servant; this is a rational practice, and merits being followed. Mr. Young of Clare observes in the paper quoted before. "It is an invariable rule with me, never to suffer the man, who digs, to cover up the drains; but it is left open for me or my bailiff to examine, and then it is well filled up to the shoulder with wheat-stubble, cut and stacked for the purpose, immediately after the harvest, and a small

small stick or two at the outlet, to prevent its being stopped by any external accident. Lastly, with a common plough, I turn a furrow of the upper soil or mould upon the drain, taking care not to turn in any of the dead soil, raised by the land-ditch-spade, which ought always to be laid on the outside, and scattered over the land. It is right not to let the drains lie open any length of time, lest they get injured by wet or frost; my general rule is to fill them up every day."

After various calculations about expence, that of land-draining an acre of land is stated as follows, p. 160.

	£.	s.	d.
" For cutting and taking together an acre of wheat stubble, generally sufficient for an acre of drains,	0	2	0
Digging eight score rods of drains,	0	13	4
Filling them up with stubble,	0	2	8
Extra work with the common spade, on an average, a day's work for a man,	0	1	4
	<hr/>		
	£	0	19 : 4

" Mr. Majendie informs the Board, upon minute and particular calculation, that underdraining one acre, the drains at one rod apart, including wood, straw, and all the incidental charges, amounts to an expence of from 40s. to 45s. per acre,

Of sod or pipe drains.

“Various methods have been devised of saving the expence of materials in the filling of drains. The sod or pipe drains are undoubtedly the least expensive of any, and may be of considerable benefit on some soils, but their duration and safety, in supporting heavy cattle or horses, in the act of ploughing, cannot be very much depended on, unless where the opening is at a considerable depth from the surface, and when the upper mould becomes incruusted, or forms an arch.”

“The method of executing them is, by digging a trench of a certain width and depth, and then by taking out the last spit with the narrow draining spade; a shoulder is left on each side, on which a sod or turf, dug in grass-land, is laid grass side downwards, and the mould thrown in over it; it is said, that such drains will continue hollow, and consequently discharge well for a great number of years. The mode of executing them has been well described, and the tools represented by T. B. Bayley Esq. in the valuable Georgical Essays, published by Dr. M. Hunter, of York, p. 437. Octavo edition.”

“Another simple mode of making pipe drains has been successfully attempted, but it is better calculated

lated for the purpose of an aqueduct, than for drying the soil."

A drain is dug to the necessary depth, narrow at bottom, in which is laid a smooth tree or cylindrical piece of wood, ten or twelve feet long, six inches diameter at one end, and five at the other, having a ring fastened in the thickest end: after strewing a little sand on the upper side of the tree, the clay or toughest part of the contents of the trench are first thrown in upon it, and then the remainder, which is trod firmly down: by means of the ring and a rope through it, the tree is drawn out to within a foot or two of the small or hinder end, and the same operation repeated. A gentleman, who has tried this experiment, says, "this clay pipe has conducted a small rill of water, a considerable way under ground, for more than twenty years, without any sign of failing."

"On sheep pastures, a very simple mode of carrying off surface water may be effected in this manner. After turning up furrows through the hollow parts of the field, where the water is apt to stagnate, let a man with a spade pare off the loose soil, leaving the inverted sod or grassy side about three inches thick: this done, let him turn the sod over into the furrow, by which means three or four inches will be left in the bottom of the furrow, sufficient to discharge a considerable quantity of water, which will readily subside into it.

A great

“A great extent of ground may soon be gone over in this way, and where the furrows choke or grow up, the same operation can be repeated, at very little expence; this is particularly adapted to sheep pastures, injured by surface-water.”

There are some further observations and directions, relative to the drainage of stiff, clayey, retentive soils, but in substance are contained in the foregoing pages; I shall therefore conclude this subject, with the observations of some experienced and celebrated writers on the general utility of draining.

Already the benefits producible by Mr. Elkington's mode, have been mentioned. Mr. Johnston says, page 177. “Of all the improvements by which intelligent husbandry has enhanced the value of land, to the equal benefit of the owner, occupier, and the public, there is not perhaps another, from which so many advantages have been derived at so moderate an expence.”

“Soils, that are wet from rain or from spring water, are equally unproductive, till laid dry; seasons of tillage are lost, if the land is in an arable state, and in very wet years its produce is scanty and precarious; but, when *well drained*, all other exertions of good husbandry are attended with beneficial consequences, and take full effect. The farmer thrives on the same farm, on which his predecessor was ruined;

ruined ; of its effects on grass-lands, Lord Petre observes : “ the land after being drained, not so much chilled by the long continuance of the winter water on the surface, produces earlier vegetation in the spring ; the grass is rendered of a better kind ; the white clover is encouraged, which seldom fails in Essex, and in Hertfordshire, to chequer the land-ditched fields with its sweet appearance.” And again : “ tillage land is much more manageable ; it dries gradually and early in the spring ; the bad effects of lands being caught full of water, when the parching winds in March suddenly harden the surface of wet grounds, are prevented, and the earth breaks kindly ; this in a short time alters the very nature of the soil ; the weeds and grasses change their colour ; every plant, that grows, loses the appearance of rankness ; the corn encreases in quantity and weight ; and every benefit a farmer can wish, is more or less the consequence of this first of all improvements, in proportion as the soil draws well or ill.”

Respecting the further advantage of the practice on arable land, he likewise observes. “ The great advantage of land-draining is, we can plough earlier in the spring, and later in autumn, and it certainly makes the land tilth easier, and the land can be kept clean with less expence ; but it is too much for the farmer to expect his return the first crop ; I believe

lieve I have known some particular piece, that has paid the expence in two crops ; it certainly is a very beneficial improvement to the farmer.

Mr. Young of Clare says : “ I have a field, that used to be so wet and poachy in the winter, as not to be able to bear the weight of a sheep : I land-drained and fallowed it, then sowed it with wheat without any manure, and had a crop equal to half the value of the land.”

In speaking of the improvements in the county of Essex, Mr. Vancouver has the following remark on the importance of draining. “ There is no improvement, to which the heavy land-husbandry of this county owes so much, as to the fortunate introduction and continuance of the practice of hollow draining. The means of melioration, and the consequent sources of fertility thence derived to the soil, over and above what it formerly yielded, are not more important and valuable in the present day, than permanent and precious, as they must prove in their consequences hereafter. The few instances of invincible blindness to the beneficial effects of this excellent practice go no further than to prove, that, where the work is not properly executed, it never ceases to fail in producing the desired effect.”

Nature of Manures.

Every where in abundance there are to be found, or not very inconvenient, limestone and gravel, and in most places marle. All along the sea coast all the sea-weeds are used as manure, and, when laid early in winter on the ground, prove excellent manure, and produce dry potatoes; but when laid on just before planting the seed, the potatoes are always wet.

Burning, liming, and the use of shelly sea-sand; those proved and excellent manures are only just now by the example of a few gentlemen creeping into use.

One article of public police I must take the liberty of animadverting on, and that is the law against burning. It was enacted in times of general unacquaintance with chemistry and farming. Both one and the other having opened their eyes a little, and though but just emerging from darkness, the farmers particularly inveigh most bitterly against this law, and petition a repeal of it. Experience has almost made the motion in the imperial parliament, seconded by the county of Mayo, which during the last years of scarcity would positively have perished, if the law against burning had been enforced.

A repeal, however, of the act may not be so conducive to the common welfare, as a certain modification of it, by which tenants, wishing to burn, should be restrained to a certain course of crops, so as to let out the lands in better heart than when burned; and burning under those restrictions would indubitably benefit the land-proprietors and the tenants.

CHAP. V.

GENERAL SUBJECTS.

Population.

IN this county there are, according to Mr. Bushe's reports (which hitherto are the best authority) 11,509 houses, and the number of inhabitants about 60,000; but this must according to himself vastly underrate the population; he does not calculate on so much as six to a family, which could safely be done, if not more; nor are hospitals, charter schools, barracks, &c. included.

The collector of taxes in this county has informed me officially, that in Sligo town alone there are upwards of ten thousand inhabitants.

It follows then pretty clearly, that the population of Sligo and of Ireland is vastly more than ever it was stated at.

Number

Number and size of villages and towns.

Twenty-one is the number of towns in the county of Sligo; the size of them very small; and the towns every way inconsiderable except Sligo.

Sligo consists of about seven or eight streets, composed of tolerably decent houses, some very good. The town is situated on the bay of Sligo, on both sides of the river, which runs from Lough-gill to the sea, and communicates by means of two bridges. It is itself too lowly situated to be called pretty, though it contributes to form some beautiful views and landscapes. It has been considered rather unclean and unhealthy; but it is, by the kind interference of the lord of the soil, shortly to be paved, cleansed, flagged, lighted, &c. to the great comfort and satisfaction of the inhabitants. It has ten thousand inhabitants, and is of no small importance in the general export and import trade.

Habitation, fuel, food, and clothing of the lower rank—their general cost,

Habitation still not unfrequently poor indeed, but in a state of improvement. Here, as in such others of the counties as I have seen, and, I believe, as in all

all the counties of Ireland, the brute and human beings inhabit the same huts, full as often as they are divided by partitions or separate houses; the walls of the poor huts are made of green or heathy sods, roofed with some rubbish of sticks, and thatched with heath and straw, or rushes in alternate layers.

The police of the country is extremely defective, in not *quickly* devising some means for improving the habitations of the poor, by the badness and misery and dirt of which (I assert it from my own observation) one fourth part is lost of the population and consequent prosperity of Ireland.

The cost of one of those hovels may be from 30s. to 40s.; the cabins walled with stone, and thatched with straw, may cost about five guineas, and upwards with a bit of an office to ten guineas.

Fuel is turf; its cost from 20s. to two guineas, perhaps more, in proportion to the distance it may be to be carried.

Food — Chiefly, almost entirely potatoes, with some oaten bread, flummery, milk, eggs, butter, but mostly fresh or dried herrings and other sea-fish. The cost varies according to the price of provisions; the average expence of supporting a family, six in number, calculating on the price the articles of their support would bring, if sold at market, and having a couple

couple of cows and a proportionate number of acres, may be about twenty pounds.

Cloathing.—Still not very good, but also in a state of improvement. It is composed of frize of their own manufacture, a suit of which will cost about thirty-five shillings. But, as the fathers of families and settled men never can imagine a suit complete, or being decently dressed without a great coat of the same stuff, which they wear in all seasons and weathers, this increases the expence nearly one half of the whole. Including, however, shoes at 5*s.* 5*d.*; shirts made of three and a half yards of linnen at 16*d.* per yard; frize stockings at 18*d.*, and hat at 3*s.*; the suit, exclusive of the great coat, swells to £.2. 6*s.* 10*d.* But most of the young and trades-people wear red and striped waistcoats of finer quality than frize, corduroy breeches, and worsted or cotton stockings.

The women are at home dressed in flannels and druggets manufactured by themselves, a suit of which may come to five or six and twenty shillings; but on gala days, on sundays, at weddings and dances, the young women, and upper classes of the housekeepers, wear red cloaks, striped linen, and cotton gowns, cotton stockings, cambric caps and handkerchiefs, and green or red stuff petticoats: the cost of every particle worn on that day is about £.2. 12*s.* 5*d.*

Price of Labour and Provisions.

Near Sligo the price is one shilling or thereabout per day, without food, except in harvest times.

Cottiers in general are allowed six pence the long days, five pence the short. They pay, according to the quality of the land, different prices. It may be said they get for three pounds an acre of good ground and good grass for one cow, together with a cabin and turf-leave. Considering all the advantages, this may be said to be a good price for labour. In some parts the cottiers get eight pence per day, but pay proportionally high for their land, house, and grass.

Those, who are not cottiers, but are occasionally employed, get in harvest eight pence with breakfast and dinner, and in winter six pence per day: those last are seldom employed, except for getting up the potatoes.

In public works, such as making roads, 1*s.* 1*d.* per day is the common hire.

The price of provisions fluctuates so much, that it cannot be ascertained. Last year 9*s.* 9*d.* the eight-stone hundred of potatoes, and from fifty to fifty-five shillings

shillings the eight-stone hundred of oaten meal, were the current prices.

This year potatoes are sold at 1s. 4d. the hundred, and oaten meal at from eleven to twelve shillings.

State of tithe, its general amount on each article, what articles are exempt and what charged by modus.

All sorts of grain, flax, wool, and lambs, are charged one tenth part in kind or money; meadow is not quite so much, and potatoes are exempt.

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

For the last two years the use of both one and the other ceased almost entirely, owing to the dearness of provisions. The use of beer continues still to decrease; that of spirits is encreasing in a direct ratio with the cheapness of provisions.

State of Roads, Bridges, &c.

Every where throughout this county the roads and bridges are in a very good state, with not very many exceptions.

Ten miles of a mail-coach road very broad and level, and directed towards Boyle, so as to avoid hills, are already made. The remainder of the line to Boyle is presented and paid for. The mail-coach undertakers, after it is finished, will no doubt vie in contracting for keeping horses and every accommodation for running a mail coach from Dublin to Sligo.

Of Navigations and navigable Rivers.

There is as yet no navigation in this county. Mr. Wynne has had an accurate survey made of an eligible line for a canal from Lough-allen to Lough-gill, which is navigable, and communicates by a navigable river with Sligo, with a view to a navigation from that town to the Shannon. By this map it appears, that the distance from Lough-allen to Belhovel-lake (the summit level) is something less than three miles and three quarters; rise thirty-five feet. Belhovel-lake is about one and a quarter mile long. From Belhovel-lake to the navigable river Bonnet at Friarstown the distance is about four and a quarter miles; fall about 140 feet. The canal to be cut is about eight miles, to form a connection between the town of Sligo and the Shannon.

From Lough-allen to the sea below Limerick the distance is 178 miles, and only twenty miles from
Lough-

Lough-allen to Sligo, of which twenty-eight miles only require excavation, to open an intercourse in various directions, from sea to sea, through the interior of this kingdom by water.

This being an object so easily accomplished, and of such vital importance to the nation, it is to be hoped, the directors general will take it into consideration, and as such represent it to the imperial parliament.

The river Moy is navigable for ships of considerable weight, from the sea six or seven miles up, to Ballina and Ardnaree.

The river of Sligo, which is an emanation of Lough-gill, is navigable from that lake to the town.

The river Bonnet is in some parts navigable, and, in case of a canal from Lough-allen or the Shannon to Sligo, will be very useful.

Of Fisheries.

There is at Sligo a considerable salmon fishery, Mr. Cullen and Mr. Martin proprietors.

On the river Moy, which for many miles divides Sligo from Mayo, there is a great salmon fishery, and many, but of much less note, on some other rivers communicating with the sea; Owenmore, Glanamoy, &c. The herring fishery, on this as well as all the
northern

northwest coast, had been till the years 1783 or 1784 of very great importance; since then it failed entirely.

A few herrings are still caught during the summer fishing.

Many suppose, that young small herrings are caught under the name of *sprats*, which lessens the numbers of those fish, and frightens the survivors away from the coast; and to this practice is by many attributed the failure of the herring fishery. An enquiry therefore seems necessary, whether those fish are really *sprats* or young herrings. Cod, turbot, haddock, &c. &c. are caught on this coast in great abundance.

State of education, schools, and charitable institutions.

The state of education in this county is on a very mean footing, rather on no footing at all.

At Sligo there is a charter school regularly conducted for sixty children; its number is now almost complete.

At Knocknarea there is a school for twenty children, endowed (I have heard) by a Mr. Nicholson.

Miss Jones gives £.20 a year to a schoolmaster in the parish of Skreen. This man teaches in his own house, and employs the children, 'tis said, more
with

with his domestic labour than with learning. Such a donation, small as it is, should be placed under the management of some gentlemen in the country.

The late Rev. Mr. Valentine endowed a school with £.30 a year for fourteen boys ; it is regularly kept ; the boys learn reading, writing, and arithmetick.

There is at Sligo a county infirmary, very well supported by voluntary subscriptions. These are the only charitable institutions I could hear of in the county.

Of absentee and resident proprietors.

ABSENT.

Alborough, Lord

Burton, William

Brown, Robert

Clerkwell, Lord

Crofton, Sir Edward

Dundas, Lord

Flannikin, O'John

Gore, Sir Booth

Jones, Miss

Keogh, Mr.

Lill, Mrs.

Ormsby, Owen

Palmerstown, Lord

Savage, Mr.

Tottenham, Robert

RESIDENT.

Cooper, Mr.

Crofton, Sir Malby

Duke, Robert

Duke, William

Fenton, Michael

Fenton, John

Fenton, Abraham

Fenton, William

Gore, Captain

Hamilton, William

Hilles, Robert

Holmes, Lan.

Irwin, Captain

Jones, Captain Thomas

Jones, Ormsby

Jones, Thomas

Leech, James

Meredith, Joseph

Nisbett, Charles

O'Hara, Charles

Ormsby, Thomas

Phibbs, Owen

Percival, Minor

Parke, Major

Webber

Webber, Daniel

Wood, Charles

Wynne, Owen

Wynne, Rev. Richard

Of circulation of money or paper.

Money and paper are equally current, and just now the gold begins to appear more than for a few years back.

Of farming or agricultural societies.

In this county there are none, nor will there soon, I fear, be any, although the motives, which I suspect for retarding or obviating them, ought easily yield to the national and local advantages obviously derivable from them, and even to the fashionable though well founded rage, which fortunately pervades the whole kingdom for these institutions.

Of manufactures—whether encreasing.

The chief manufacture of this county is in the linen line. It has encreased and continues to encrease

crease rapidly. There is now at Sligo a linen-hall, regularly and extensively conducted by Mr. Holmes. Very large sums of money are every week laid out here in the purchase of linens.

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

The linen trade has been very much encouraged by several gentlemen of this county.

The late Mr. O'Hara about twenty-five years ago built houses for about eighty weavers, got them looms from the Linen-board, and gave them very cheap bargains of land. Those people have ever since resided, and gave one of the first springs to the trade in this county. They being protestants, Mr. O'Hara got from the Board of first fruits every necessary assistance to purchase a glebe, and build a church for their accommodation.

Forty-five years ago there were not five pieces of linen sold yearly in the county of Sligo: then Mr. Knox and the late Mr. Wynne encouraged the weaving trade, and procured the weavers looms, houses, and every accommodation.

The Ballymote factory was erected by the late Lord Shelburne about forty years ago, who expended considerable sums of money in building good

houses for 120 looms, which houses and looms were given free to the weavers. The late Hon. Thomas Fitzmaurice continued to encourage this manufactory, and took all his rents, amounting to about £.7000 a year, in linen.

A minority having occurred, which in about three years will terminate, the houses were let to a tenant, who employs about 130 looms, but are falling into decay.

As to the peculiar aptness of the situation for their extension, few countries are more favoured by nature, having in most parts abundance of fuel and water.

The strong indications of coal, and the great number of minerals already discovered, render this county much adapted to the extension of manufactures.

Of mills of every kind.

There are in this county about 200 common corn-mills, three flour-mills, and eight bleach-greens, all supplied and worked extensively.

Of plantations and planting.

Those are extensively done and doing at Mercury, Nymphsfield, and Hazlewood, the seats of Mr. Cooper, Mr.

Mr. O'Hara, and Mr. Wynne. At Templehouse a good deal has been done and is doing for Minor Percival. Mr. Holmes, Mr. Meredith, Mr. Duke, and some others are contributing much to ornament the county by planting.

*Of the effects of the encouragement heretofore given
them by the Society.*

Mr. Wynne obtained a premium in 1787, for enclosing and planting ten acres. This plantation is in the best state of growth and preservation.

Mr. O'Hara a premium for ten acres in 1798; that too is in luxutiant growth and excellent preservation.

But Mr. George Dodwell's plantations of ten acres for which he obtained a premium in 1798, is destroyed. Some changes occurred in that family, which caused their removal from that seat, and the consequent ruin of the plantations.

*Of any improvements, which may occur for future
encouragement, and particularly for the preservation of the trees when planted.*

There are in Europe few countries, which have a richer or more improved look than part of what

was the Austrian Netherlands and other parts of the *ci devant* United Provinces, although in general planted only in hedges, and on the road sides. Many parts of Ireland being at present very bleak, and among them some parts of this county, it cannot well be conceived, how great the improvement would be, of planting trees along the road sides, at such distances as not to injure either the road or themselves. A mound of earth and stones would perfectly preserve them from cattle, and each town-land could be charged with the care of them, on penalty of replacing every plant, that may be either cut or damaged; and the general superintendance might be charged on the petty constables, without any additional expence. What a public and beautiful ornament would not be plantations of this kind along the great mail-coach road, which is now in progress through this county? And this all could be done by the Grand Jury, at an expence so small as not to be spoken of.

To preserve the trees when planted, good fencing and shelter are the only requisites.

Experience has proved near the sea coast, that alder and Canada-poplar are fast growers, and excellent protection to tender plants.

Sycamore and elder stand any blast, and are consequently an excellent skreen; so is broom.

Of nurseries within the county, and extent of sales.

I could hear of none within this county but two, one of Archbold's near Oakfield, and the other of Archbold's junior at Ballytivnan. The extent of sale is great, but considerable quantities of plants are imported from the Leitrim nurseries.

Price of timber and state of it in the county.

There is no timber of any consideration in the county, except Mr. Cooper's, Mr. Wynne's, and Mr. O'Hara's.

Mr. Wynne sells Irish firs at fifty shillings the ton, and small timber for common use of the country from one shilling to two or three.

Mr. Cooper has small timber sold at the Onion wood at the above prices, and some smaller timber for making hurdles and covering cabins at bulk prices.

The only importation is from Norway and Memel in deals; the square is sold from £.3 to 5, 6, and £.6 10s. the ton. It will, it is thought, soon be considerably lower.

Quantity

Quantity of bog and waste ground.

This seems to be at least one third part of the whole county; but that cannot with any degree of accuracy be ascertained, till the survey of it, which is now in progress, shall be finished.

Possibility and means of improving it.

There are parts of those mountains quite destitute of any surface-soil to cover the rocks; they consequently remain irreclaimable, till time will have covered their nakedness with some depth of surface. By far, however, the greatest part of them is improveable, and the means, namely limestone, limestone gravel, and marle, are dispersed through the country. Draining, paring, and burning are necessary accessories to this great work,

Obstacles to, and best means of removing those obstacles.

Ignorance of the method of reclaiming, and want of capital among the poor, are the principal obstacles.

A want of roads into the mountains, for passing, repassing,

repassing, and conveying manure, is a great obstacle.

But of all the obstacles in the way of reclaiming bogs and mountains, short leases and tythes are the most insurmountable, by which the harvest of the poor man's life is reaped in his old age by his priest or his landlord.

I should fondly wish to be capable of suggesting any means of removing these obstacles.

The ignorance of the peasantry could in a great measure be removed by the establishment of cheap schools, teaching nothing else but two catechisms, one of christianity, the other containing the plain rudiments of farming. This, together with the example of the rich, would very much contribute to the removal of that species of ignorance, which stands in the way of agriculture.

As to want of capital, it could be alleviated, if not removed, by the formation of a society lending out money without interest, to be repaid by instalments in the different counties; or by the Dublin Society, under the auspices of parliament, taking great tracts of mountain, and letting to tenants, with proper encouragement for reclaiming.

The obstacle arising from a want of roads, could every where be removed by the Grand Juries.

And as to the grand obstacles of short leases, and pressure of tythes, those can only be removed by the
benevolence

benevolence of the great land-proprietors and the clergy, unless parliament should graciously interfere, and endeavour to reconcile all parties by some line of mutual accommodation.

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

The people all through this county are inclined to be industrious; and any apparent want of it is more owing to ignorance of the modes of manuring and of husbandry, and to want of due encouragement, than to any actual disposition to be idle.

The use of the English language, whether general or how far increasing.

The greatest part of the common people speak bad English. Common schoolmasters and their schools are to be found dispersed every where throughout the county. It may be said the English language is in a progressive, though slow and bad state of improvement.

Account of towers, castles, monasteries, ancient buildings, or places remarkable for any historical event.

ROUND TOWERS.

In the county of Sligo there is but one round tower. It stands, or rather its remains stand near

Drumcliff;

Drumcliff; it is the coarsest and least handsome I have seen.

Antiquity of them.

They are certainly of a standing prior to the general establishment of christianity in Ireland; for this reason, that of all the churches, monasteries, abbeys &c. built in and since the time of Saint Patrick, there are very few, of which there is not some account either written or traditional; but there is no account at all of the precise time of the building of those towers, unless we take as proof the vague conjecture of some, who convinced themselves merely from the general but unfounded report, that prior to the arrival in Ireland of Henry the Second there were no stone buildings in this country. It follows therefore clearly, that the antiquity of those towers must be very high and very remote. And as they are evidently and avowedly of eastern origin, two facts seem to demonstrate each other; viz. that Ireland is the *Ultima Thule* of the ancients, with which the Phenicians had intercourse in the way of commerce; and that, pending or in consequence of it, their round towers were introduced here, which, according to Bryant and other antiqua-
rians

rians of repute, served for the double purpose of heathen worship, and defence.

Indeed the construction of them seems to manifest their being designed partly for defence; for I have observed, by sometimes getting up to the door, which is never lower than about twenty feet from the foundation, that they consisted of seven stories, each about ten feet asunder. On a level with this door there is a regular set of parallel indentures all round the inside of the wall, which shews there had been beams across and a floor there; about ten feet higher a similar set of indentures appear, and almost on a level, but rather higher, a very small window; and so on regularly to the seventh story. The door, it may well be supposed, which was always very small, was built up so high for the purpose of being inaccessible to marauders and plunderers; and the windows were so remarkably small as hardly to be seen through.

The entrance we must conceive to have been by a ladder, which might be drawn up or let down occasionally.

Castles.

It is said, that from Moy to Strand in Tyrera there had been twenty-four miles, twenty-four mills, twenty-

twenty-four rivers, and twenty-four castles. But this story, I believe, was more founded in the fancy of ancient times so fond of rounding numbers, than in truth. The rivers are not so many in number, some mere little rills: the mills are not extant, and, I am pretty certain, never were to that extent: and the castles are mostly down, or not to be heard of or seen.

A great part of the ruins of Castleconnor, Rallee, Lackan, Rosslee, and Ardnaglass are still extant.

The ruins of Tanrago Castle, said to have been built by the Mac Swines, are scarcely visible. No trace of its history known to Mr. Wood, who lives there.

Ardnaglass castle—Was possessed by the Mac Swines, and that of Lackan by the Firbes's.

Ballymote castle—Just near the town of that name is 150 feet square, sixty high, and flanked and quoin-ed by towers six feet broad in the wall, with a strong rampart and parapet all around. The front is very regular, and the whole of this ruin equally handsome and strong.

It was built in the year 1300 by Richard De Bourg second Earl of Ulster. This castle and that of Sligo, being in the hands of the Irish, made a considerable stand against the reduction of that part of Ireland. But Ireton, having joined with Sir Charles Coote, retook them in 1652.

Bahy castle—Tradition gives the building of it to the M'Donoghs.

Newtown castle—View by Cocking in 1791. He does not say by whom built. It has nothing to excite the curiosity of one accustomed to see such ruins, and never seems to have been of much importance. Some say it was built by the O'Rorkes, others by the Parke family.

Ballynafad castle—Near the town of that name, was not built by the M'Donoghs, as Mr. Grose erroneously states. It was built by Captain John St. Barbe, according to an inscription on Mr. St. Barbe's tombstone in Abana church, who died A. D. 1628.

O'Gara's castle—Was built by that family, on the south-west extremity of Lough-gara. The design and workmanship very mean.

Memleek castle—View by Cocking in 1791. Mr. Grose's account states it to be situated *in the middle of bogs*, and only a part of one square tower to remain, nor does he say a word of its founder.

It is strange indeed, how such gross errors could be palmed on or endured by the public.

Memleek castle is situated three miles west of Cooloony, surrounded by *fine dry lands*. *Here is no tower, either round or square*. The walls of the whole building *are still entire*, forty-six feet long by twenty-five broad; and in some parts (in the usual way of many old castles) divided into two thick laminae,

laminae, through which stairs wind to the top. It was built by T. B. O'Hara.

Monasteries.

Achonry.—A very small village in the barony of Liney, situated fifteen miles south-west of Sligo, and an Episcopal see now united to Killala. The Dynast of the territory of Luigny granted Achadh-conaire called also Achadh-chaoín to St. Finian of Clonard, where he erected an abbey, and appointed his disciple St. Nathy, commonly called Cruimther Nathy, or Nathy the priest, to be the first abbot, whose feast is celebrated August the 9th. The abbot Robertagh Mac Naserda, who was made bishop of Kildare, died A. D. 874.

Agharois.—A religious house of this name was founded by St. Molaisse A. D. 571, which is probably the same with

Akeras.—Alias Kilmantin in the barony of Tyrra. Here was a priory of Canons regular, founded in the year 1280 by the family of M'Donald.

Conat O'Siagal was prior of Akeras, abbot of Ballysadare, and chaplain to Manus O'Donnell, and on the 23d. of March 1544 was consecrated bishop of Elphin.

An inquisition held found, that the prior was seized of the church, with a steeple built in the form of a castle, and a quarter of land of every kind adjacent thereto, of the annual value of 5*s.* Irish money; the vicarage of the church of Dromyard, besides the curate's stipend of the value of 3*s.* 4*d.*; the vicarage of Kilmacselgan of the like value; the vicarage of Corcagh, of the same value; all situate in the barony of Tyrera; the vicarage of Aghumllys in the barony of Carbury, with a quarter of glebe land belonging thereto, and a small island in the high sea, of the value of £.15 sterling; and the grange of Magherakilterny, containing half a quarter of land of the new measure, or one quarter of the old measure, in the barony of Lurge and county of Fermanagh.

Note—The several sums of money in this inquisition are all understood to be Irish.

Ardnary—In the barony of Tyrera, on the banks of the Moy, situated eight miles from Foxford. A monastery for Eremites, following the rule of St. Augustin, was built here in the year 1427.

Ardseinlis—Near Slieu Bagna in the barony of Tyrera. St. Patrick built a nunnery here for St. Lalloca, who was sister to St. Mel. We know nothing further of this or the preceding abbey.

Athmoy.—Clarus Macmoylyn O'Moillchonry, Archdeacon of Elphin, built this church to the honour
of

of the Holy Trinity for Praemonstrates, or White Canons, whom he brought from Loughkee. He died in the year 1251. At the suppression its possessions were granted to Robert Harrison, who assigned the same to William Crofton.

Ballindown—On Lough Arrow or Garah, in the barony of Tyrerril, and seven miles north of Abbey Boyle. The family of M'Donogh, lords of Corran and Tyrerril, founded a monastery here in 1427, to the honour of the Virgin Mary for nuns of the order of St. Dominick. And an inquisition of the twenty-seventh, Queen Elizabeth found their possessions to consist of a church and cemetery, with half a quarter of land of every kind, annual value 6*s.* 8*d.* English money. These said possessions were granted to Francis Gofton, who assigned the same to Edward Crofton. Many parts of this building are yet extant, but none are objects worthy of remark.

As to the name of the lake, on which this monastery is built, there is a confusion in terms. Mr. Archdall, who has compiled the completest Monastic Record now extant, and from whom I copy those descriptions, quotes Bourke as his authority for the name of this lake. I myself, from my local knowledge of those names and places, can vouch, that the name of the lake, on which this monastery was, is Lough-Arrow, now commonly called Lough-arva, situated nearly, as described, north of Boyle.

The

The other lake, Lough-Garah, which caused the confusion, is much nearer to Boyle on the west of it.

Ballinley—Near the rivulet of Ballinley, in the barony of Tyrera, are the ruins of this abbey; but we know nothing further of it.

Ballymote—In the barony of Corran and five miles east of Achonry. In this town the sept of Mc'Donogh built a small monastery for Franciscan friars of the third order.

At the suppression it was granted to Sir Henry Broncard, who assigned it to Sir William Taaffe Knt.

This building still remains at the end of the town, and does not seem at any time to have been of a larger extent than at present. The workmanship is in general good, and the east window remarkably curious.

Ballysadare—In the barony of Tyrerril, and situate at the mouth of the river Unshion, four miles south of Sligo. St. Fechin, the founder of Fore abbey in Westmeath, erected a monastery here, which was endowed with a noble and beautiful estate called *Tearmann Fechin*.

A. D. 1158 died O'Duillenan, dean of this abbey. He was a skilful antiquary, and a judge and chieftain of the country.

In 1179 Easdara was burnt by the men of Moylisha and Maylterary.

1188. It

1188. It was consumed by fire.—1230. Died Giolla Coimheadth O'Duillenan, abbot.—1444. The abbot of this monastery, who was son of Melachlin Fitzcormac M'Donogho, went to Rome with William O'Etegan, Bishop of Elphin, and died there in that year.

1450. Died the abbot Edmund.—1544. The abbot Conal O'Shiagal was made bishop of Elphin.

By an inquisition taken 29th Queen Elizabeth, the abbot was found seized of a church, partly thatched, a dormitory, and the ruins of two other buildings; three cottages with their curtilages or gardens; a cemetery in a state of ruin and of little value; three small quarters of land of every kind, with their tithes &c. situate in the town-land of Assadara; seventy acres of arable and pasture, with the tithes &c. annual value 26*s.* 8*d.*; the rectory and vicarage of the parish of Ballysadare, commonly called Templemore, containing three parts of the tithes in the land called the Termon lands, annual value, beside the curate's stipend, 13*s.* 4*d.* all English money; the vicarage of Enagh in the barony of Tyrerril; the vicarage of Drumrat in the barony of Corran; the vicarage of Kilnegarvan in Mc. Jordan's country; all which, beside the stipends of the curates, were of no value.

26 August, 30th Queen Elizabeth, a lease of this abbey for the term of twenty-one years was granted to Bryan Fitzwilliam, at the annual rent of 53*s.* 4*d.* The ruins of this abbey still remain.

Benada—On the river Moy in the barony of Liney, and about five miles west of Achonry. Here we find a friary of Eremites following the rule of St. Augustin, which was dedicated to Corpus Christi, and founded A. D. 1423, through the industry of a brother of the order, called Charles.

An inquisition taken the 11th of King James, found the possessions of this friary to consist of half the quarter of Knockglass, with the tithes of the same. The fine ruins of this building still remain, with a steeple of hewn mountain-stone.

Bile—In the territory of Lugne, i. e. barony of Liney. St. Fechin built an abbey here, which in a short time became, and now is a parish church.

Caille—We know not the situation of this place, but are told, that St. Muadnata, the daughter of Nadfraich, and sister of St. Molaise of Daminis, was honoured at Caille in North Connaught, in the barony of Carbury.

Cailleavinde—This monastery in Carbre was founded by St. Fintan, a disciple of St. Columb's.

Cashel—A village in the barony of Corran, between the rivers Unshion and Oenmore, and six miles south of Sligo. St. Bronan or Bronius, a disciple of St. Patrick's, was bishop of Cuiliorra or Cashelirra, and died 8th January A. D. 511. St. Biteus, the son of Assicus, another disciple of the Saint, was also bishop here.

Cloghermore—Situate in Carbury to the east of the barony, and bordering on Lough-gill. This was a burial place of note, and is said to have belonged to a nunnery, but of what order we are not informed.

Clonymeghan—In the barony of Corran, and formerly a village of note. Pope Innocent the Eighth, by a bull dated 16th December 1488, granted a licence permitting Eugene M'Donogh to found a monastery here for Dominican friars. But we find in the registry of these friars now in Sligo, that Bernard M'Donogh, the son of Dermot of Ballynedan, called the prior, and a reader of divinity there, founded the monastery of Clunimilian, which afterwards became a cell to that of Sligo.

By an inquisition taken 27th Queen Elizabeth, this monastery was found seized of a quarter of land of every kind, called Ronyroge, with the tithes &c. value 13s. 4d. English money, which were granted to Richard Kyndelinshe.

The church was dedicated to St. Dominick; and some of the ruins are still to be seen.

Court—In the barony of Liney, and three miles west of Achonry stands this village, where O'Hara built a small monastery for Franciscan friars of the third order.

By an inquisition taken 29th Queen Elizabeth, this abbey was seized of a church covered with thatch, a cemetery, a dormitory, and two other houses thatched

ed in like manner, all which were in a state of ruin, and of no value, with two quarters of land near this monastery, one called Cavan Ardawer, and the other Carron in Tawny, containing eighty acres of arable and pasture &c. part of the possessions of this abbey, annual value £.1. 6s. 8d. sterling. But when this inquisition was taken, the said lands were in the possession of Roger Ballagh O'Hara a priest. King, page 108.

This abbey was granted to Richard Kyndelinshe. The steeple and several fine ruins of this building still remain.

Craobhgrellain—A religious house situated, as we are told, in the territory of Siolmuiredhaigh in Cair-bremor, and county of Sligo, was founded by St. Finian of Clonard, some time before the year 563; and St. Grellan, the son of Nasfraich, a disciple of St. Finian's, became his successor. This place is now unknown.

Druimderdaloch—Long since buried in oblivion, was also founded by St. Finian in the country of Jbhn-Oillilla, now barony of Tyrerril.

Drumlías—The abbey of this name was said to have been founded by St. Patrick. Here is an error, for there is no such abbey or place in Sligo. In my report of Leitrim it is placed, where it ought to be, about a mile east of the town of Dromahair in that county, but it is now converted into a parish church.

Druimnea—

Druimnea—In Gregaria, a territory adjoining Lough-Gara, where an abbey was founded by St. Patrick, which with the former is now unknown.

Drumcliffe—In the barony of Carbury, and three miles north of Sligo, is now a desolated village, although in former times it was a town of some note, and an episcopal see, which has been since united to that of Elphin. In the year 590 St. Columba founded a celebrated monastery at Drumchliabh, and appointed his disciple, named St. Thorian, or Mothorian, to be the first abbot.

921, Died the abbot St. Thorannan; he was also abbot of Benchor, and is honoured here on the 12th of June, as abbot and patron saint. Same year died the blessed abbot Maoilpatrick Mac Moran, who also was abbot of Ardsrath.

930, died the abbot Moyngall, the son of Becan,
1950, died the blessed Flannius O'Becain, archdeacon of Drumcliffe, and a learned and celebrated scribe.

1029, This year Ængus O'Hœngusa, archdeacon of Drumcliffe, with sixty other persons, perished by an accidental fire in an island called Inislann, in the territory of Carbury.

1053, died Morchad O'Beollain, archdeacon of Drumcliffe.

1177, died Murrough O'Bollan, comarb of Drumclibh and St. Columb.

1187, The

1187, The abbey was spoiled in this year by M'Moyloghlin king of Meath; but the wrath of heaven pursuing him, he was killed in a fortnight after.

1123, died Amlave O'Beollain, archdeacon of Drumcliffe, a man of extraordinary erudition, and in general esteem for piety, wisdom, and unbounded hospitality.

1252, died in this abbey Mailmaidoch O'Beollain, comarb of St. Colomb, a venerable and hospitable man, and in universal estimation in England and Ireland.

1308, Rughruidhe, the son of Cathal Roe O'Conor, spoiled and plundered the territory of Cairbre and Drumclibh.

1330, died the abbot Maoiliosa O'Conel.

1362, died O'Beollain, comarb of St. Columb.

1416, This abbey was set on fire by a set of plunderers, and the abbot Maurice O'Coincoil perished in the flames.

1503, died the abbot O'Beollan.

This monastery is now so demolished, that little in the descriptive way can be said. The parish church is built on part of the old foundation.

Drumcolumb—Situated in the barony of Tyrerril, and a little to the north of Lough-Gara. This church owed its origin to St. Columb, and St. Finbar was abbot of it. Drumcolumb is now a parish church, and the original founder is the patron.

Drumratt—

Drumratt—In the barony of Liney and near Ballysadare. St. Fechin founded an abbey here; and we meet with a St. Enan of Drumratha, who was one of the flock of St. Brigid. Cellagh Hua Maolmidhe provost of Drumratha, died A. D. 1016. This is now a parish church in the diocese of Achonry.

Echenach or *Enaceich*—This church was built by St. Maneus, one of St. Patrick's disciples in Tirolil. In process of time it became a parish church, where the saint was honoured on the 5th of November. Probably this is the same with Kilmacoen near Sligo.

Emlaghfadd—An ancient town six miles south of Sligo, and one from Ballymote, where Richard Earl of Ulster built a castle about the year 1300. We can learn little of its monastic history, save that St. Columb built the abbey of Imleachfoda, as we are told in a magnificent style; and St. Enna or Ennius, a disciple of the founder, was abbot here.

Enachaird—The saints and sisters Odnata, Talulla, and Muadhnata lived about the year 580, and were honoured in Enachaird, which is now unknown, but was probably situated in Carbury.

Gleann dallain—In the barony of Carbury. St. Osnata, who lived in the time of St. Columb, is honoured here on the 6th of January.

Innismore—An island in Lough-Gill and barony of Carbury. St. Loman founded the church of Innismore in the time of St. Columb.

In the year 1416 this abbey was destroyed by an accidental fire, in which the valuable manuscripts of O'Cornyn, together with the short book of that family, and many other rare curiosities perished.

This island, commonly called Church-island, is about two miles in length, and in some places half a mile broad. The church stands at the east end of the island; and in former ages it was the burial place of the parish of Calry. In a rock near the door of the church, is the cavity called *our lady's bed*, which is said to be favourable to women in pregnancy, who fondly imagine, that by going into it and turning thrice round, saying at the same time some prayers, they shall not die in labour. This rock and the remainder of the church are now covered with ivy.

Innismurray — An island in the great western ocean, and about five miles from the main land of the barony of Carbury. In early ages there was an abbey here dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and governed by St. Dicholla, the son of Meinida, who died A. D. 747.

This island was destroyed by foreigners, but we are not informed at what period.

807, The Danes, or Gentiles, as called by our annalist, made good a landing in this year, and with their accustomed barbarity set fire to this very poor abbey.

Our monastic annals close here; but from a gentleman, who visited Innismurray in the summer of 1779, we are enabled to give the following description:

“ This island is a rock rising from the sea with horrid precipices toward the ocean, but shelving gently like steps on the side opposite the main land. It contains about 130 acres of a shallow soil from four to five inches in depth, which serves to feed some sheep, a few cows, and five or six horses; the remainder of the island is a mere rock. The habitable part contains about forty or fifty people, children included, who live in five houses, with as many barns adjoining them. They intermarry amongst each other, and when the land is overstocked with inhabitants, they seek their fortune on the great island of Ireland. They are one community, and live by selling their fish on the main land. They speak Irish only, one man bowed beneath the weight of years excepted, and boast their having had this island in possession upwards of seven hundred years.

What is called the abbey is an enclosure of dry stones, from five to seven and eight feet thick. It is impossible to determine, whether it is round or oval, more rude inelegant workmanship never was seen. There are a few cells under ground, which receive their light, some by a hole at the top, others by loop-holes at the sides; they are dark and horrible dungeons.

There

There are also two chapels built with mortar, and quite in a gross state, as is St. Molaisse's cell, which has a stone roof, and where the saint's statue is preserved. One of the chapels standing by itself has an extraordinary window, the arch of which is one rough crooked stone just in its original shape. Here is an altar, called the cursing altar, which is covered with round stones, and northwest of this stands the altar of the Trinity.

The neighbouring inhabitants say that, if a man, who is really wronged, turns one of those stones, and at the same time curses his adversary, the wish, whatever it is, will fall upon him if guilty; but if otherwise, the curse recoils on the person, who denounces it. This keeps them in such awe as to prevent rash imprecations. There are several small enclosures with a stone in the centre, and some springs, each of them consecrated to a particular saint.

A statue of their patron saint Molaisse very rudely carved in wood, and painted of a reddish colour, is still preserved here. The abbey was erected conjointly by this saint and Columb; but the latter, being of an impetuous and fiery disposition, could not accord with the mildness of Molaisse, and betook himself to the main land, leaving the other in peaceable possession.

In this island at this present time there is but one family, I mean one inhabited house; and the children, the daughters particularly, of whom there are a great parcel grown up, seem to wish for more.

In the chapel there is carefully kept the half burnt skull of a Scotchman, with the hatchet he brought along with him to destroy the statue of their saint, and which, they say, immediately took fire on his making the first stroke, and consumed the poor Scotchman, leaving the half burnt skull only as a monument of his intended sacrilege.

Kilchairpre.—In the territory of Tirfiachra, which adjoins the river Moy. St. Carpreus, the son of Breacan, founded this church about the year 500.

Killaraght.—In the south east part of the half barony of Coloony and situate on Lough-Gara. St. Patrick built a nunnery for St. Athracta, sister to St. Coeman. She received the veil from the hands of St. Patrick A. D. 470; and her feast, as patroness, is celebrated here on the 9th of February, or more probably on the 11th of August. This is now a parish church in the diocess of Achonry.

In the county of Sligo there is no such place, nor I believe in Ireland as the *half barony of Coloony*. It was no doubt intended to have stated the fact, as it is, that Killaraght is in the barony of Coolavin.

Kilmacoen.—Two miles south of Sligo in the barony of Carbury; it was formerly called Rosred-headh. Flannndubh, a dynast of the family of the Hy-fiachrii, gave to St. Diermit that whole tract of land lying between Droiched Martra and Brugh-chinnslebhe towards the west, and from Murbhuch
of

of Rosbrin to Aillchoidhin, and the saint in return gave Flanhdubh his benediction, which blessing extended to his latest posterity.

Kilmacoen is now a parish church in the diocese of Elphin.

Kilnemanagh.—This ancient abbey in the territory of Luigne, now Liney, was founded by St. Fechin. Breasal the son of Angne was abbot here, and died A. D. 842. This house existed till the general suppression, when it was granted to Richard Earl of Clanrickard.

This also is a parish church in the diocese of Elphin.

Kilrasse.—Five miles south-east of Sligo in the barony of Tyrerril. Clarus Mac Moylin O'Moillchonry, archdeacon of Elphin, founded the church of the Holy Trinity at Kilruisse in 1233, for canons of the order of Praemonstre, and made it a cell to the abbey of Loughkee. The founder died in 1251.

Knockmore.—In the barony of Tyrerril, and near the bounds of the county of Roscommon. A friary was erected here in the 14th century by O'Gara, and, according to some writers, for Dominican friars: but the tradition of the place informs us, that it belonged to the Carmelite friars, and the ruins of O'Conor's castle, still remaining in this village, seem to indicate, that he was the founder.

Skrine,

Skrine.—In the barony of Tyrera, and about eight miles west of Coloony, Tipraid, prince of the Hy-Fiachrii, granted Knocknamoile to St. Columb. It was afterwards called *Scrinium Santi Adamnani*.

This is now a parish church in the diocese of Killybegs.

Sligo.—The capital of the county, and a seaport, market and borough town. In the year 1245 a castle was built in this town by Maurice Earl of Kildare, and in 1271 it was destroyed; but in 1310 the castle was rebuilt by Richard Earl of Ulster.

A. D. 1252, a monastery was founded here, under the invocation of the Holy Cross, for friars of the order of St. Dominick, by Maurice Fitzgerald, who was Lord Justice of this kingdom in the year 1229, and retained that office from 1232 to 1245.

Some writers erroneously attribute this foundation to O'Connor Sligo.

A. D. 1257, the founder Maurice Earl of Kildare died.—In 1270, O'Donnel destroyed this town by fire.—1360, the town was destroyed by fire.—1394, M^cWilliam Burgh spoiled and burned this town.—1414, about twenty friars resided in the monastery at this time, when it was wholly consumed by accidental fire, and all its sacred edifices were destroyed; but Pope John the 23d, by a bull dated January the 17th in the following year, granted many indulgences to all visiting this house on certain festivals;

festivals; likewise to those, who contributed to re-found it; and from this era we are to date the foundation of the present building.—1416, the monastery was rebuilt by Bryan M'Dermott M'Donchaidh.—1454, Bryen M'Donogh, sole monarch of Tiroilill, (now barony of Tyrerill) was interred here.—1562, January 28th the prior Eugene O'Hart was made bishop of Achonry. In the following year he assisted at the council of Trent, and died in 1603 at the age of 99 years.

At the general suppression this friary was granted to Sir William Taaffe Knt.

The few ruins of this spacious and beautiful monastery evince its former splendour. Three sides of the cloister are still to be seen, covered with an arched roof. The arches and pillars are of extraordinary workmanship, and a few of the pillars are ornamented with sculpture. The great east window is beautiful, and the high altar, adorned with relievos in the gothic style, is now so overwhelmed with bones and skulls, the quantity, as we are told, being sufficient to load a small vessel, as to prevent a minute description. The nave is spacious, with a passage round it in the nature of a gallery, and supported by pillars of stone, about four feet distant from each other. In the corner to the right, as one looks to the altar, is the tomb of O'Conor, with the figures of himself and lady, and an inscription now almost

almost defaced. Here are also several vaults and cells, and the tower in the centre is pretty entire, except the battlements. This great and curious monument of antiquity seems to have fallen a prey rather to the devouring teeth of time, than to the hands of man, although Cromwell is said to have done some injury to it.

Snamhluthir—In Carbre Gabhra (Carbury). An abbey was founded here by Columban or Colman, the son of Echodius, a disciple of the great St. Columb, and, as we are told, his charioteer. We know nothing further of this abbey.

Temple-House.—On the river Owenmore in the barony of Liney, and ten miles south west of Sligo, we find Teach-temple, or the house of the temple, which was founded for Knights Templars in the reign of King Henry the 3d; but on the final overthrow of this order it was given by King Edward the 2d to the Knights Hospitallers.

In Archdall's *addenda* the following possessions belonged to some of those religious establishments on the general suppression. What makes them at this day singularly curious, is the smallness of value, in those days, of wide tracts of country.

Ballymote.—Inquisition, 27 Queen Elizabeth, finds that this friary near the castle of Ballymote was totally ruined and destroyed by rebels; and the said friary did belong to the aforesaid castle, together with

with a small quarter of land, called Carron-Temple, and the moiety of another quarter, called Carrow-Icale, with the tithes of the same.

Knockmore.—Inquisition, 12 January 36 Queen Elizabeth, finds that this friary in O'Gara's country, when dissolved, was seized of a quarter of land, with all the tithes thereof, annual value, beside reprises, 6s.

Sligo—Inquisition, 27 Queen Elizabeth, finds that this friary contained a church, steeple, and cemetery, and a quarter of land of every kind, with the tithes thereof, annual value, beside reprises, 13s. 4d.

A fishing wier, annual value, 3s. 4d. made parcel of the same possessions, which, together with the said friary, was then in the occupation of certain priests, who had formerly been friars of this monastery.

Whether the county has been actually surveyed, when, and whether the survey is published.

The county is at this time under actual survey, the map of which will be engraved before the republication of this report.

Weights

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

The dry weights and measures are by the ounce, pound, stone, and barrel, avoirdupois; the hundred, peck, and sack. Liquid measures the same as throughout Ireland, gallon, quart, pint, &c.

Weights are no where assigned for measure, but measure is sometimes assigned for, and substituted to weights. At Sligo for instance potatoes are sold by the peck, which is substituted to, and always supposed to contain half a hundred. Oaten meal is sold by the peck, which must always contain a weight of ten pounds.

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

The weight, by which those articles are sold, is, as mentioned, by the pound, stone, and barrel avoirdupois, to which the measures already mentioned are frequently substituted.

A sack of oats contains twenty-four stone; barrel of barley fourteen stone; but those, though bulk names,

names, are all weighed, as is every article throughout the county, except small quantities of meal, potatoes, &c.

BARONY OF TYRERA.

This barony being in situation a separate wing of the county, and the last part of it I had seen, prevented my incorporating an account of it with the general report of the rest..

Situation and Extent.

It is situated on the north-west of the county, and is twenty-four miles from the strand, which divides it east from Corran, to the river Moy on the west, which at that point divides it from Mayo. It is in breadth from three to six miles between the sea, north, and the Ox and Foxford mountains, which bound it on the south.

Soil and surface.

The soil is light and gravelly. It had originally been a moor, and many parts of it are so still, sub-
strated

strated with what is called the leaclea. Under the general head of soil and surface this leaclea was described. In most parts of this barony it has been by a long succession of tillage incorporated with the rest of the soil, which by that means was rendered useful and pervious. Those strata of vegetative gravelly soil and leaclea are generally incumbent on a limestone, but sometimes on clays and freestone gravelly bottoms. In many parts it is rocky, or bestrewed with stones.

There are some situations in this barony extremely fine. The prospects from Sir Malby Crofton's, Tanrago, and some other seats in that part of the barony are of superior grandeur, including an islanded arm of the sea running to Ballysadare, the verdant and lofty hills of Benbulbin and Knocknaree, and a well improved country in the neighbourhood of Sligo. A little more to the north the eye sweeps over the great arm of the Atlantic, comprizing the bays of Sligo, Donegal, and Killibegs, beyond which appears that stupendous promontory, Telling head, and some of the improvements and gentlemen's seats of the county Donegal, backed by a great range of mountains.

Farther westward, the seats of Captain Jones, the Mr. Fentons', and some others improve that part of the scene. And in approaching the Moy and Mayo, the seats of Mr. Nisbett, Mr. Kirkwood, the river

Moy, Killala beyond the Moy, and an arm of the sea full of islands and broken sankbanks, including Castleconnor, Moyne abbey, the very beautiful round tower at Killala &c. are to a stranger full of novelty and pleasure.

In pursuing the Moy to Ardnaree the country looks very well, but about Ardnaree and its junction by a bridge with Ballina it is remarkably pretty, particularly the beautiful seat of the Rev. Archdeacon King.

Sulphur and chalybeate springs issue from the mountains, indicating mines, which most probably exist in them. The common spring and river waters are peculiarly pure and good.

The river Moy, which, as mentioned, divides in those parts this county and barony from Mayo, is the principal river. There are beside a great many of inferior note descending from the mountains, and running into the sea.

Agriculture.

The mode of culture is with the common Irish plough, drawn by two horses, and the short loy. Ploughing and harrowing both are done in so defective a manner, as to lose to the tiller one good
third

third of the crop, the plough not entering the earth more than five inches deep; and both labour and time are supposed to be lost, if all the lumps are broken by harrowing. Many of the rocky and stony parts do not admit the plough; the loys, of course, and spades must be substituted.

The extent of tillage in Tyrera is very considerable in potatoes, barley, and oats. The soil is capable of producing wheat, but it is very little cultivated; and they assign, I should think, a very flimsy reason, viz. the inconvenience of flour-mills, none being nearer than Sligo, though Sligo is perfectly accessible to them by land and water.

Their course of crops is 1. potatoes; 2. barley; 3. oats; sometimes the third crop is divided between oats and as much flax, as it may be their convenience to grow or manufacture.

Implements of husbandry are the same as in the other parts of the county, of very inferior quality. Markets for grain are Sligo and Ballina, to which they send, sometimes by sea, and sometimes by land. In this barony no oxen are worked, there is no green feeding in summer or winter.

Pasture.

In general poor, inclined to moory, and light; fit only for sheep and small neat cattle. But in some
few

few places, chiefly belonging to Mr. Nisbett and Mr. Kirkwood, some heavy cattle are fatted.

The breed of cattle is very little improved here. Some pains have been taken to propagate English breeds introduced by Anslow Gore Esq.; but since his death this has been a good deal neglected. As to capability of improvement, I conceive it to be always proportionate to the soil, which in general is not favourable. The markets and fairs are those of the neighbouring parts of Sligo and Mayo; the general prices are, for fat bullocks from eight to fifteen guineas; cows from five guineas to twelve; sheep from one to three pounds; milch cows from eight to twelve guineas; year-old calves from one to three guineas; and two-year old from five to seven guineas.

The mode of feeding is with grass in summer, and hay, straw, and potatoes in winter. The cattle are always housed in the winter nights and severe days, from Christmas to the middle of May.

No grasses but the natural produce of the fields, moors, and mountains. Mode of hay-making as in the other parts of the county.

No dairies. The prices of hides, tallow, and wool, as in the other parts, and the quantities sold very trifling.

Farms.

Tenants, it is to be lamented, still take and hold large farms in common from one to two or three hundred acres. Middling farmers hold individually from one to two hundred acres. Common rent will average 12s. per acre. Some farms do not exceed three acres, on which a poor man rears his family and one cow, for which they pay from 30s. to 40s. an acre, the rent of which they pay by growing and selling barley, and manufacturing a little flax also of their own growth.

But some few gentlemen hold very large tracts. Mr. Nisbett has one farm containing 8500 acres of mixed pasture, adapted to the feeding of light cattle, and some other farms, amounting to 1000 acres, fit for fattening heavy cows and bullocks. Mr. Kirkwood too holds some large farms of a fattening quality.

Farm-houses and offices I hold to mean those belonging to a medium class of persons, between a gentleman and the common tenantry; of this species there are, if any, very few. Repairs of all houses are always done by the tenants.

The common tenures are lives or years, or both. It is strange enough that, while one gentleman in-

forms

forms me, that the tenures generally are honest freehold leases of three lives, another assures me, that one life or twenty-one years is the currency, and that what is called duty-work, that feudal remnant of vassalage, is here by separate clauses still retained, imposing on each tenant twelve days work, twelve horses, beside duty-yarn, duty-duck, duty-ben, &c. and the mill of the landlord to be resorted to by the tenant. A medium, however, between those accounts may probably come nearer to facts.

Taxes are as throughout the rest of county. There are no bullocks worked here, and the proportion of horses is about one to eight acres. The size is from six to twelve acres, owing to the number joined in the same farm, and its consequent extent. The fences are walls and ditches; walls, some coped and dashed, some dry; the ditches very bad, owing to the lightness and friability of the soil. There are no hedgerows, except on the demesnes of a few gentlemen; and very little draining, and that in the common open way. There is abundance of lime, limestone-gravel, and white and grey marle, all over the face of the barony. The country people have got into a method of making a compost of earth, bog-soil, dung, and gravel, which answers extremely well. Sea-weed along the sea shore, and for two or three miles into the interior, is the common manure.

General Subjects.

This barony is thickly peopled, as appears under its proper head. The villages are innumerable, as all the common tenantry hold in partnership, and the houses are collected in clusters forming so many villages. Esky is the only town, and that consisting of very few houses. The habitations of the lower rank are very poor, agreeing with the general description already given. The fuel is turf, which in some parts is of so friable a nature as to require being worked into a plastic adhesive mortar with the hands and feet, before it is shaped into forms for drying and burning. Food—potatoes and milk, herrings, sea-fish, eggs, butter, cabbages, &c. Those, who reside near the sea, are in seasons of scarcity very much relieved by collecting cockles, muscels, cranna, dullisk, sloak or le-vre &c.

The tithe paid is one tenth part of corn; no small dues. Tithe-farmers are generally employed, who frequently disagree with the tenants in the setting of it; a cant there is advertised, at which the neighbours assemble and eagerly cant each others bit of bread.

Cottiers get six-pence in summer per day, and five-pence in winter, paying twenty-five shillings an acre for land, and the same for each cow's grass; those,

who are occasionally employed, get 1s. 1d. per day without food.

The use of beer and spirits is decreasing, a stop being put to distilling and malting.

Roads and bridges are in very good order. Paper and money are equally current. No farming Society.

The chief manufacture here is that of linen and yarn, which together with kelp are manufactured extensively: no encouragement to either. No planting to be mentioned, no nursery. The people are very industrious, and inclined to be so, but for want of knowledge and example, have no desire of improvement.

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