

STATISTICAL SURVEY
OF THE
COUNTY OF CORK,
WITH
OBSERVATIONS

ON THE
MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT;

DRAWN UP FOR THE CONSIDERATION, AND BY DIRECTION
OF THE
DUBLIN SOCIETY.

BY THE REV. HORATIO TOWNSEND, M. A.

RECTOR AND VICAR OF THE UNION OF KILGARIFFE IN THE DIOCESE OF ROSK,
AND OF CARIGALINE IN THE DIOCESE OF CORK.

"Pater ipse, colendi
"Haud facilem esse viam statu't."

VIRGIL.

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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.



TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

HENRY EARL OF SHANNON, &c,

MY LORD,

WHATEVER diversity of sentiment may arise among my readers on perusing the various matter contained in the following pages, there will at least be none respecting my choice of a patron. In a contest for preeminence on the principle of *detur digniori*, your Lordship will have no competitor. The resident representative of the noble family of Boyle, so long honoured for its virtues, and so eminently distinguished for zealous and unremitting attachment to

the

the interests of this great county, justly enjoys the first place in the respect and affections of its inhabitants. Public as well as private considerations therefore direct me to your Lordship as the properest protector of an undertaking, the object of which is to promote their welfare. I have only to fear, that the work offered is unworthy the patronage it has been permitted to claim. The assistance, so liberally imparted by many respectable and intelligent friends, allows me to entertain a hope of having contributed something to the stock of useful information, though perhaps too little to justify the presumption of the present address. Whatever may be its fate with the public, my own gratification is most highly consulted in the opportunity here given of acknowledging the many and great obligations I owe to the noble house of Castlemartyr. To your Lordship

ship and your Lordship's most excellent
father I am indeed so much indebted,
that in the language of poetry, but with
the truth of prose, I may justly say,

Quod spiro et placeo, si placeo, tuum est.

With the profoundest respect, I remain

Your Lordship's most obliged

And obedient Servant,

HOR. TOWNSEND.

PREFACE.

A STATISTICAL Survey of the county of Cork, first in this island in point of extent, and hardly inferior in any other circumstance of momentous consideration, has been long desired. That it was not sooner undertaken, or by a person more competent to the task, has probably arisen from the nature of the work itself. The tediousness of minute inquiry, the length of time required for collecting information, and the variety of matter to be treated of, presented difficulties, which few were willing to encounter. Such as possessed sufficient diligence were afraid of wanting other requisites, and those, to whom talent was given, might have considered a composition of mere labour as an undertaking too dull for the exer-

cise of superior gifts. A work of this kind has indeed no great charms for a mind seeking either profit or praise from the exertion of its powers. The interest it excites, being local and temporary, encourages no very ardent hope of extensive perusal or permanent reputation. The limits of a prescribed course forbid the pursuit of gratification in the regions of fancy. Considered as a branch of historical narration, it is too confined and particular to arrest the attention of numerous and distant readers. The tourist, unconfined in his plan, rambles over subjects without method or restraint. If he pleases sufficiently to sell his book, for which he is often as much obliged to the pencil as the pen, his grand purpose is obtained. Like the butterfly, he takes his desultory course, passing over what he does not like, and collecting sweets from the flowers of his choice. As utility is not his object, so is it rarely his attainment. The business of the statistical surveyor is authentic information, the end of which is not amusement but instruction. A material difficulty, peculiarly operative in a county not abounding with serious readers, has been

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been removed by the liberal encouragement of the Dublin Society always anxious to promote the important objects of their patriotic institution. Under their patronage, the writer is not only secured from the event of an unsuccessful publication, but enabled to indulge the hope of a reasonable recompense. He enjoys also the pleasing consciousness of having endeavoured to contribute to the stock of useful information and the advancement of the general welfare. Under these circumstances this work has been undertaken with diffidence of adequate execution, but not without hope of useful labour. A long and intimate acquaintance with the general state of the county lent much facility to an undertaking, the moderate accomplishment of which did not seem to exceed the rank of ordinary talents. Though the chief merit of such works is, to be useful, their utility may be rendered more diffusive by the means employed to convey it. Something therefore has been admitted to engage the attention of the general reader, not always perhaps necessarily connected with the more immediate object of the work, but never desti-

tute of relation to it. He has to claim the indulgence of the reader for the repetition of similar modes and practices, hardly avoidable in Reports of this nature, where so great a sameness must necessarily be found. He deemed it a less excusable fault to be negligent than tiresome. After all he will probably be chargeable with many omissions, particularly in the accounts of individual management, every one of which it was impossible to describe without too great an extension of the work. He trusts, that this will be accepted as an apology for a silence not arising from want of respect, or oversight of merit, but from fear of prolixity. It is to be regretted, that the difficulty of procuring a competent artist, and his own ignorance of drawing, has precluded the accompaniment of, what this county peculiarly affords, picturesque views of many beautiful and romantic places. Though not essential to the main object of the work, they would form a very pleasing addition, possessing for the most part, among other recommendations, the grace of novelty.

SUGGESTIONS OF INQUIRY

FOR GENTLEMEN, WHO SHALL UNDERTAKE THE FORMING

OF

AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES

Situation and extent,

Divisions,

Climate,

Soil and surface,

Minerals,

Water.

AGRICULTURE.

Mode of culture,

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

Course of crops,

Use of oxen—how harnessed,

Nature and use of implements of husbandry,

Markets for grain,

Use of green food in winter.

PASTURE.

Nature of it,

Breed of cattle—how far improved,

Breed

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

FARMS.

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

GENERAL SUBJECTS.

Population,
 Number and size of villages and towns,

Habitation,

- Habitation, fuel, food, and cloathing of the lower rank—
 their general cost,
 Prices of wages, labour, and provisions,
 State of tithe, its general amount on each article—what
 articles are exempt, and what charged by modus,
 Use of beer and spirits—whether either or which is increasing,
 State of roads, bridges, &c.
 — of navigations and navigable rivers,
 — of fisheries,
 — of education, schools, and charitable institutions,
 — of absentee and resident proprietors,
 — of circulation of money or paper,
 — of farming or agricultural societies,
 — of manufactures, whether increasing,
 — of encouragement to them, and the peculiar aptness
 of the situation for their extension,
 — of mills of every kind,
 — of plantations and planting,
 — of the effects of the encouragement heretofore given to
 them by the Society, particularised in the list annexed,
 — of any improvements, which may occur for further
 encouragement, and particularly for the preservation
 of the trees, when planted,
 — of nurseries within the county, and extent of sales,
 Price of timber, and state of it, in the county,
 Quantity of bog and waste ground,
 Possibility and means of improving it,
 Obstacles to it, and best means of removing them,
 Habits of industry, or want of industry, among the people,

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

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

Churches—resident clergy, glebes and glebe houses,

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

Weights and measures, liquid or dry—in what instances assigned for measures—or *vice versa*,

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

CONTENTS.

CHAP. I.

	Page
<i>General Description</i>	1

CHAP. II.

<i>Structure of rock—bogs—geological divisions</i> <i>—climate—sands—sea</i>	34
---	----

CHAP. III.

<i>Inhabitants—their origin—character—peculiarities—population</i>	63
--	----

CHAP. IV.

<i>Antiquities, previous and subsequent to Christianity</i>	100
---	-----

CHAP. V.

<i>Ecclesiastical state</i>	159
-----------------------------	-----

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

<i>Present state of Agriculture in general</i>	180
--	-----

CHAP. VII.

BARONY OF IBAWNE AND BARRYROE.

SECT. 1. <i>General account</i>	226
2. <i>Particular account—modes of husbandry—working cattle—size of farms—leases, &c.</i>	246
3. <i>Towns—fairs and markets—plantations—schools—principal seats, &c.</i>	257

CHAP. VIII.

BARONY OF CARBERY.

SECT. 1. <i>General account</i>	295
2. <i>Particular account—husbandry—tax—rents, &c.</i>	309
3. <i>Towns—seats—curiosities, &c.</i>	323

CHAP. IX.

BARONY OF KINALMEAKY	359
----------------------	-----

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

BARONY OF COURCY'S	377
------------------------------	-----

CHAP. XI.

BARONY OF BEAR AND BANTRY	386
-------------------------------------	-----

CHAP. XII.

BARONY OF DUHALLOW.

SECT. 1. <i>General description</i>	399
2. <i>Modes of husbandry—size of farms</i> —labour, &c.	406
3. <i>Towns—manufactures—minerals</i> —seats, &c.	416

CHAP. XIII.

BARONY OF ORRERY AND KILMORE	443
--	-----

CHAP. XIV.

FERMOY, CONDON'S, AND CLONGIBBON'S.

SECT. 1. <i>General account</i>	449
2. <i>Modes of husbandry, &c.</i>	461
3. <i>Particular account</i>	471
— <i>Some account of Fermoy</i>	477

CHAP. XV.

KINALEA AND KERRICURRIHY.

SECT. 1.	<i>General account</i>	536
2.	<i>Modes of husbandry, &c.</i>	543
3.	<i>Towns—markets—manufactories—seats, &c.</i>	552

CHAP. XVI.

BARRYMORE AND KILNATALOON.

SECT. 1.	<i>General account</i>	571
2.	<i>Modes of culture—dairies—cattle, &c.</i>	577
3.	<i>Towns—principal improvements, &c.</i>	585
	<i>—Dr. Barry's account of Mr. Roche's improvements</i>	591

CHAP. XVII.

BARONY OF IMOKILLY.

SECT. 1.	<i>General account</i>	604
2.	<i>Tillage—modes and implements of husbandry—working cattle—manures—farms and farm-houses—labour, &c.</i>	610

SECT.

CONTENTS.

xix

Page

SECT. 3.	<i>Towns — manufactures — roads —</i>	
	<i>seats, &c.</i>	619

CHAP. XVIII.

MUSKERRY AND BARRETT'S.

SECT. 1.	<i>General account</i>	642
2.	<i>Modes of tillage</i>	649
3.	<i>Towns — manufactures — seats, &c.</i>	665

CHAP. XIX.

CITY AND LIBERTIES OF CORK	687
CONCLUSION	703

ADDENDA.

<i>General observations</i>	1
<i>Weather — influence of the moon</i>	14
<i>Canals — roads</i>	23
<i>Bees</i>	39
<i>Eggs and poultry</i>	43
<i>Analysis of manures</i>	46
<i>Observations on Mr. Newenham's work</i>	55
<i>Observations on a letter, &c.</i>	65
<i>Rental of the county</i>	78

Population

	Page
<i>Population of the principal towns</i>	78***
<i>Acreage of the county—agency, &c.</i>	78*****

APPENDIX.

<i>Letter from a Roman Catholic clergy-</i> <i>man of the diocese of Cork</i>	79
<i>Native grasses</i>	95
<i>Churches and glebe-houses built, re-</i> <i>built, and enlarged within the last</i> <i>30 years</i>	103

ERRATA.

Page	Line	of Note	<i>Batb</i>	read <i>Batb.</i>
20	5	of Note	<i>Batb's</i>	<i>Batb's.</i>
9	14	from top	<i>dunning</i>	<i>running.</i>
20	6	from bottom	<i>singular</i>	<i>irregular.</i>
31	15	from top	<i>in</i>	<i>on.</i>
45	4	from bottom	<i>contain</i>	<i>contains.</i>
72	5	from top	<i>mortal</i>	<i>rooted.</i>
98	11	from bottom	<i>regularly</i>	<i>materially.</i>
115	5	from bottom	<i>confirmation</i>	<i>conformation.</i>
145	4	from bottom	<i>Edward</i>	<i>Michael.</i>
158	10	from top	<i>harmless</i>	<i>houseless.</i>
—	5	from bottom	<i>possessors</i>	<i>possessions.</i>
159	2	from bottom	<i>the two latter</i>	<i>dele.</i>
172	1	from bottom	<i>assured</i>	<i>afraid.</i>
177	11	from bottom	<i>limitation</i>	<i>limits.</i>
180	2	from top	<i>statui</i>	<i>statuit.</i>
190	13	from top	<i>care</i>	<i>case.</i>
192	4	from bottom	<i>practices</i>	<i>practice.</i>
224	7	from top	<i>grassing</i>	<i>grafting.</i>
263	6	from top	<i>ingredient</i>	<i>same ingredients.</i>
294	8	from top	<i>enjoyed</i>	<i>engaged.</i>
296	4	from bottom	<i>black</i>	<i>bleak.</i>
304	11	from top	<i>considerable</i>	<i>inconsiderable.</i>
308	8	from bottom	<i>Dorreen</i>	<i>Dowreen.</i>
312	3	from bottom	<i>and</i>	<i>of.</i>
330	1	of Note	<i>is</i>	<i>this.</i>
348	12	from bottom	<i>dale</i>	<i>deal.</i>
351	1	of Note	<i>corps</i>	<i>crops.</i>
385	4	from bottom	<i>have</i>	<i>has.</i>
400	7	from bottom	<i>complete</i>	<i>compact.</i>
402	2	of Note	<i>a ten</i>	<i>ten.</i>
431	3	from top	<i>nakedness</i>	<i>nature.</i>
443	1	from top	<i>X.</i>	<i>XIII.</i>
454	9	from top	<i>prominently</i>	<i>promiscuously.</i>
—	11	from top	<i>there</i>	<i>in there.</i>
463	3	from top	<i>matured</i>	<i>manured.</i>
475	9	from bottom	<i>for</i>	<i>of.</i>
476	1	from bottom	<i>desire</i>	<i>derive.</i>
515	9	from bottom	<i>great</i>	<i>gravel.</i>
527	6	from bottom	<i>care</i>	<i>cure.</i>
528	11	from top	<i>wisdom</i>	<i>union.</i>
531	6	from top	<i>liberty</i>	<i>liberality.</i>
560	11	from top	<i>Hartie</i>	<i>Hastie.</i>
—	12	from top	<i>a very</i>	<i>every.</i>
21 of ADDENDA	14	from top	<i>added</i>	<i>aided.</i>

COUNTY LIMERICK

TIPPERARY

COUNTY

WATERFORD

COUNTY

MAP
of the
County of
CORK

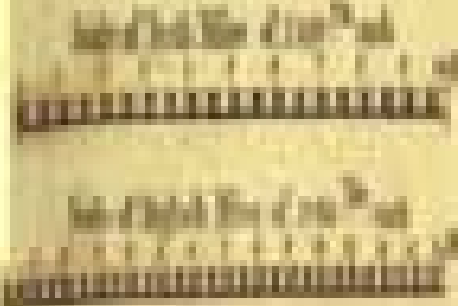
Abbreviations	
1. Aragon	1. Aragon
1. Aragon	1. Aragon & Aragon
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Abbreviations
of the County of
Cork

Colors	
Aragon	Aragon
Aragon & Aragon	Aragon & Aragon
Aragon & Aragon	Aragon & Aragon
Aragon & Aragon	Aragon & Aragon
Aragon & Aragon	Aragon & Aragon
Aragon & Aragon	Aragon & Aragon
Aragon & Aragon	Aragon & Aragon
Aragon & Aragon	Aragon & Aragon
Aragon & Aragon	Aragon & Aragon
Aragon & Aragon	Aragon & Aragon

Legend	
Aragon	Aragon
Aragon & Aragon	Aragon & Aragon
Aragon & Aragon	Aragon & Aragon
Aragon & Aragon	Aragon & Aragon
Aragon & Aragon	Aragon & Aragon
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Aragon & Aragon	Aragon & Aragon

ST. GEORGE'S



STATISTICAL SURVEY

OF THE

COUNTY OF CORK.

CHAP. I.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

THE county of Cork, comprehending all the south coast of Ireland, extends about eighty-five Irish miles from east to west, its greatest breadth being about forty*. It joins four counties, viz. Waterford on the north-east, Tipperary and Limerick on the north, and Kerry on the north-west, being

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* Computing from extreme points it measures somewhat more. The county has been since surveyed by Mr. Neville Beth, under the direction and for the use of the Grand Jury. The general outline is nearly the same in both, a pretty fair proof of faithful delineation. Mr. Beth's Map, which is on a large scale, seems to be the more correct of the two.—He has omitted to mark the longitude and latitude, as well as to give the acreage.

being considerably wider in the centre than at the extremities. It is situate in latitude $52^{\circ}13''$ on its north quarter, $51^{\circ}12''$ at Cape Clear the most southern part, according to Smith's observation made in 1747.

In so little variation of latitude there can be no perceptible difference of heat and cold, except what arises from local circumstances of higher or lower situation, or what is occasioned by the proximity of the ocean. Along the sea-coast winter is disarmed of its severity by the softness of the southern wind, which mitigates the rigour of frost, and seldom suffers the heaviest snow to remain many hours undissolved, except on the north sides of high hills. The sea breeze also tempers the summer's warmth by its refreshing breath, so that the greatest degree of heat as well as cold is found on the northern side of the county. The disparity, not very considerable at either season, seems to be greater in winter than in summer, as fruits and corn are found to ripen in all places of equal altitude, nearly at the same times, provided there be no material difference in the nature of the soils. With respect to climate, this county is remarkable for the mildness of its temperature, never experiencing those extremes of heat and cold, to which the same degree of latitude is subject not only on the continent, but even in England. The difference

is occasioned by our nearer approximation to the Atlantic Ocean, which loads this part of the Island with vapours, seldom indeed to be complained of in winter, but too often intercepting the maturing rays of the summer's sun. Cork, however, suffers much less in this respect than Kerry, and other counties on the western coast, whose loftier mountains involve them still more in cloud and vapour: in such as abound more in pasture than tillage, this humidity of atmosphere affords perhaps no cause of complaint. Here, where an abundant population is constrained to seek subsistence from agriculture, it is sometimes productive of serious injury. There is, however, reason to believe, that the climate has been materially improved by the reduction of its native forests, and the draining of bogs and swamps. Experience too has abundantly proved, that very good grain may be raised here, though generally inferior to that of a drier climate.

The soils of this county exhibit no great variety of kinds, and in a general view may be reduced to four.—The calcareous or that found in the limestone tracts.—The loamy soils not calcareous, by which I mean those deep and mellow soils remote from lime-stone, and generally occurring in the less elevated parts of the grey and red stone districts.—The light and shallow soils resting upon an absorbent bottom, as gravel and rubbly stone—and

the moorland, or peat soil, the usual substratum of which is hard rock or coarse retentive clay. Each of these kinds admits of several species differing from each other in degrees of fertility, but united by a general resemblance of their component parts. We have little of those deep strong clayey loams* so often seen in England, still less of sandy grounds, and no chalk.

Limestone lands exceed all the other descriptions in richness and fertility. Their natural herbage is more kind and nutritious, and they particularly excel in the production of wheat. When the stone approaches the surface, they are liable to injury from parching in dry and hot weather, but the upper soil, which is composed of a crumbling mellow earth, is always of superior quality. In low and flat situations, where the water drains slowly off, or the subsoil is more than usually retentive, their chief excellence is feeding; where that is not the case, they are eminently adapted to tillage. To this land may be truly applied the expression of Virgil—*respondet votis avari agricolæ*. There is another circumstance, in which this kind of soil, if not singular, is at least preeminent—which is,

* I use the word loam in the sense assigned by Dr. Kirwan, whose definitions are at once simple, perspicuous, and comprehensive. By loam he understands a soil moderately cohesive, that is, less so than clay, and more so than loose chalk.

is, that it never deteriorates. Other lands for the most part, when allowed to remain idle for a long time, have a tendency to relapse into what was probably their pristine state, a coarse and innutritious herbage. This, from the peculiar happiness of the texture, retains its strength and sweetness unimpaired. The best may perhaps be improved by judicious culture, but the bounty of nature is sometimes bestowed with a liberality, that leaves little for art. Marshes reclaimed from the sea are found to possess the same excellence, but these form no exception to the rule, being, from the quantity of marine shells they contain, strictly speaking, calcareous.

The soil next in quality is what I have denominated the loamy not calcareous, that is, not found on or with limestone. The best descriptions of this sort approach very near the former, as well in the composition and texture of the soil, as in their capability of production. Wherever the upper soil is mellow, of sufficient depth, and supported by an earthy base, neither too porous nor too retentive, it will be found to deserve the name and station here assigned. Slaty rock, when not too near the surface, is often found to be a good basis for fertile soil, as it is sufficiently open to let water pass without imbibing it too quickly. The best lands

lands in the southern part of the county are of the foregoing description.

The light soils differ from the preceding in possessing a much shallower arable surface, and resting on a more absorbent bottom. They commonly afford short sweet herbage, particularly adapted to sheep, and answer very well for tillage, producing the best corn in wet seasons. Their fault is, wanting vigour, and requiring frequent application of manure.

The fourth kind, called peat or moor soil, exceeds each of the others in quantity, as it includes bog and mountain. To this class must be referred several tracts of elevated land, which, however improved in appearance by culture, still retain sufficient traces of their origin. Though of inferior rank in the scale of fertility, they are however capable of much valuable produce. Unfit in general for the higher kinds of grain, they give good crops of grass, oats, and potatoes. These too are very various in quality according to the nature of the subsoil, and the depth of the arable surface, circumstances, upon which indeed the merit of every soil seems principally to depend. Rocky hills and lofty mountains alone present an insuperable barrier to human industry. Among the former are generally intermixed some patches of tractable soil, but from the latter nothing better can be ever expected than coarse summer feeding.

One species of moorland possesses capability of being converted into land of first rate excellence, I mean the turf bog. From the general appearance of these in the natural state, little hope of such advantage would occur to a common observer. Presenting to his view a wild waste, destitute of any useful plant, and inaccessible to man or beast, he would probably think it incapable of improvement, or, if reclaimable, not worth the pains. But experience has shewn, that there is no great difficulty in divesting them of their superabundant moisture, which is effectually done by opening a deep channel on the lowest outlet, and surrounding the bog with a drain sufficient to cut off the springs, that supply its moisture. After this operation the bog sinks, its surface becomes firm, and it is rendered capable of undergoing the process usually employed in reclaiming other moory soils. The vegetable matter, which formed the bog, and was prevented by its constant immersion in water from being converted by putrefaction into an earthy state, gradually becomes a bed of rich mould of such depth as to defy exhaustion. The effect of calcareous manure in improving moor soils is well known. Lime therefore or sea sand will be found of the greatest use upon this occasion. When they cannot be conveniently procured, any kind of gravel or gravelly earth may be used to advantage.

Deep
Bog
ted
ground

Paring and burning is also a necessary operation, partly for the manure afforded by the ashes, and partly for the purpose of destroying the seeds and roots of noxious plants. It is the custom of some improvers to begin the cultivating process with potatoes and oats, which usually produce great crops of stalks and straw. My practice has been to sow no seeds but that of grass, one of the few crops which cannot be too luxuriant*. Bogs of small extent are easily reclaimed in general; those of greater size, of course, present more serious difficulties. The process therefore will be more or less expensive according to circumstances, but there are few cases, in which the labour and expence will not be amply repaid by the succeeding profit. The increasing demand for fuel is a great bar to improvements of this nature, turf being in many places the most valuable produce of the land.

The substances generally made use of for manure † in this county, are dung, lime, earth gathered

* Hemp, a plant requiring a deep and vigorous soil, is recommended as peculiarly fit for reclaimed turf bog. The encouragement now offered for its cultivation will soon enable us to judge, how far it is suited to the various soils of this county.

† To manure signifies literally to improve by manual operation, and therefore Dr. Kirwan is scholastically right in defining manure to be any substance or operation, by which land is improved. This however does not accord with the general idea, which confines the signification of the term to the former means of improvement. No farmer I believe of any description considers himself as manuring his land, when digging, ploughing, or harrowing. These and other operations do indeed promote fertility, but by manuring is always understood the addition of some fertilizing substance, as dung, lime, ashes &c.

gathered from roads and ditches, sea sand, and sea weeds. Marle and limestone gravel, so common in other calcareous tracts of the Island, are rarely found in this. Cork supplies its vicinity with a variety of rich ingredients, such as soap-ashes, malt-dust, street-sweepings, &c. the great demand for which bears ample testimony to the industry of the neighbouring farmers. Lime is procured from limestone by calcination in two ways ; one from the standing kiln, in which large stones are placed so as to admit sufficient heat for that purpose from a fire of turf or furze kindled at the bottom, and kept burning for two or three days ; the other from the small dunning kiln, into which are thrown alternate layers of culm and pounded limestone. The lime of the former being unmixed with ashes, better burned, and more productive from the greater size of the stones, is in higher esteem particularly for distant demand. This kind of kiln is only made use of in those places where culm is not to be had, and is almost peculiar to Muskerry. Their size is nearly the same, and the produce of one burning*

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* Occasionally kilns of much larger size are used. Near the great bog of Annahaly west of Macroom, I understand that not less than 700 barrels of lime are the produce of one burning of a kiln. From a view to prevent too rapid a consumption of the limestone, which occupies no great extent of surface, the tenants are restricted to a certain number of kilns. They have ingeniously availed themselves of this mode to obtain the necessary supply, and counteract the parsimony of the landlord.

about 80, or from that to 100 barrels (a Kilderkin.) They are generally built near bogs or coarse land abounding in furze, of which as well as of turf they consume a great quantity, in consequence of which, and the increasing price of the stone brought frequently from great distances, the price of the lime is advancing every season. In the neighbourhood of the kilns it sells now at 2s. 6d. and 3s. per barrel, and rises in value in proportion to the length of the carriage. As a manure it is used very sparingly after exceeding those prices ; for other purposes it is frequently carried so far as to bring from five to six shillings. On these occasions the lime-burner contracts to deliver a certain quantity at a certain price, seldom less than thirty or forty barrels, and for this purpose he collects a sufficient number of cars from his neighbours. This of course is a summer trade, dry weather being indispensable for long carriage. Running kiln lime, where the stone and fuel are convenient, is sold much cheaper. There is some variation in the different quarries as to quantity, some of them affording a more compact stone than others, but the quality of all is remarkably pure. The calcareous tracts being all upon the north and eastern parts of the county, the south and south-west districts are wholly precluded from the use of lime as a manure. Nature however, with her accustomed consideration

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for the wants of Man, has provided for the inhabitants of the coast an abundant supply of a very cheap as well as excellent substitute in sea sand. The efficacy of this as a manure has been sometimes questioned, but the increasing use of it in all parts of the country within its reach, and the benefits ascribed to it by every farmer, have established its character beyond all possibility of doubt. The objectors were not probably aware of the quantity of lime or calcareous matter, which all the sands of this coast contain in greater or smaller proportions, according as they happen to be more or less composed of shells. The amount of calcareous matter in some is greater than that of many rich marles. Sand may be sometimes of use, though destitute of the calcareous ingredient, in improving the texture of a stubborn and tenacious soil. The efficacy of our sands, however, seems to be very exactly proportioned to their quantity of calcareous matter. Those of highest character among farmers are the coral sand* of Bantry Bay, and that of the red strand near Cloghnikilty. The former of these, which is in most estimation, was found upon chymical examination to be wholly calcareous†. The latter contained 66 grains, in the

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hundred

* This is improperly called sand, being really a coralline broken into small pieces by the dredges employed to raise it.

† See in Appendix an analysis of the sands of this coast.

hundred, of pure lime, a proportion sufficient to assign it a high rank among calcareous manures. A few other sands are found to approach pretty near it; the far greater number are very short of this proportion. Those, which contain least calcareous matter, are of a dark blue colour, and seem to be composed principally of muscle shell. The cockle, of which there are varieties, constitutes the greatest proportion of the rest.

Sea weed, an efficacious but very volatile fertilizer, supplies the farmers near the coast with large quantities of manure for their potatoe crops, the only purpose to which they ever think of applying it. Much of it is cut from the rocks in spring and the beginning of summer, and great quantities driven on shore by the winter storms. It seems to exhaust its powers in the one crop, a matter of the less importance as every season furnishes a fresh supply. Of this, as well as other manures, more copious mention will be made in the account of the districts.

The county of Cork presents a surface of very great variety, which but for the deplorable want of timber would be eminently beautiful. The prevailing character of the western part, which is bold, rocky, and mountainous, is wildness; the north and eastern parts are distinguished for their richness and fertility. The former loses little of its expression, though

though much of its beauty, from the want of trees ; the latter, notwithstanding its superior improvement, seems to be in this respect the greater sufferer. The majestic scenery of Bantry Bay, considered as a whole, presents a view, to the grandeur of which trees could make little addition. Particular parts of it would derive great beauty, as some of them do, from the embellishment, but in a general prospect of such an extent of water, rock, and mountain, wood is a feature hardly distinguishable. In tamer scenes, the presence of trees is indispensibly necessary to the constitution of rural beauty. From the few places, that possess them, one may easily conceive what richness of landscape would be produced by extended plantation.

Considering how this county once abounded with timber, it must be a matter of surprize as well as regret to find it in many parts so completely denuded. Had the destruction only taken place on arable lands, where shade might be injurious, and where wood occupied the place of more valuable produce, there would be less cause of complaint. Though the eye might be offended, the judgment would find no room for censure. But when we see the rage of devastation spreading its ravages indiscriminately, when we see the numberless glens, hollows, and steep sides of hills, filled by nature with trees, and obviously fitted for their production
alone,

alone, stripped of all that constituted both their value and their beauty, it is not easy to find words expressive of our feelings. Even in the best arable and pasture lands, trees are only injurious, when they stand too thick. In a separate and scattered state they are useful as well as ornamental. The blame of this deformity, and in a great measure the loss, must fall upon the landed proprietors, to whose indolence, neglect, or mismanagement, from time to time, this general destruction of timber is to be imputed.

Their lessees, having no property in the timber, were of course not interested in its preservation. The expence of protecting the young growth necessarily devolved upon the landlord, for whose benefit the wood was felled. It cannot be a matter of much surprize to find the interest of absentees sometimes suffering by neglect and mismanagement. Will it be believed, that resident landlords have been improvident enough to neglect the coping of the woods they cut, partly from indolence, and partly from the selfish consideration of not being likely to live for another cutting, thus sacrificing to a miserable thrift an object of much future importance to their successors, as well as to the country in general? This improvidence of a few has, however, been compensated by the diligence of others, who have not only preserved their woods, but made considerable

considerable addition to them. The general nakedness of the country is imputable to other causes. In most other countries trees are found to constitute a part of rural improvement, and every farm supplies a sufficiency for shelter, for ornament, and for use. Here unfortunately many unfavourable circumstances, and the long continuance of a bad system, have reduced the greatest part of the country to a state of nakedness. Until lately no tenant could call a tree, even planted by himself, his own. All the old leases sedulously specified, that not only the timber standing at the time of the demise, but what was hereafter to be planted, should be the sole property of the landlord; a clause the most discouraging to plantation, that could possibly be devised, as it extended alike to leases of short and of long duration. This however was not the worst, as it was an evil, which the liberality of landed proprietors might often be disposed to remove. The deadly impediment to this, as well as other desirable improvement, was the general custom of setting to middlemen, whose favourite policy was to give no leases, in order that they might be enabled to monopolize every advantage, that could accrue from the increasing value of lands. Perhaps too, as in America, the abundance of wood might once have been such, as to make it less necessary to plant than to destroy. From some or all of these reasons,

timber

timber is now become an article of too much importance to be longer overlooked. We may therefore reasonably hope, that plantation will meet that degree of encouragement, to which it is so well entitled. The nobility and gentry of this county deserve much praise for the attention they have lately bestowed upon agricultural improvement. The establishment of a farming society, though its beneficial influence can hardly be said to have yet reached the lower orders, has however done material service. It has excited a spirit of useful competition among the higher, and rendered rural economy a favourite and fashionable pursuit. The interests and comforts of the occupying tenantry, too long overlooked by their natural guardians and protectors, are now become objects of general concern. The advantages of a better system are daily opening to view, and from beginnings so auspicious we are warranted to augur the happiest results.

Though nature has bestowed upon this county a very unequal surface, yet has she preserved some order in her variety. The ranges of high and low land are observed to run nearly in the direction of east and west, if not with perfect regularity, at least with such a general tenour, as to stamp this their leading character. Thus in going for any length of way from north to south the roads are perpetually

petually crossing hills, whereas in travelling from east to west they meet much less interruption from acclivity, and might by judicious direction avoid it altogether. The principal deviation from general character is to be found in the Boggra mountains, a high and barren tract situate between the rivers Lee and Blackwater. These extend to a considerable distance in every direction, not rising into sharp or narrow summits like most others, but spreading out into an ample area of deep boggy surface. The longitudinal ranges of our high lands are so often intersected by glens and gullies, that even in going from North to South many of the steep hills, now so much complained of by travellers, might be avoided. Through these glens rivulets seek a passage to the lower grounds, and, flowing usually with a rapid descent, form after heavy rains many little cascades and waterfalls.

The limestone rocks run in the same general direction of east and west, and are hardly ever found in very elevated situations. The stone is remarkable for the purity of its calcareous produce, very little other matter entering into composition with it. Unlike that of Derbyshire, which the mining labour of two thousand years has not yet exhausted of its lead, it rarely exhibits any kind of metallic mixture. In the character of marble it seems entitled to more regard than it has hitherto obtained,

being for the most part compact, close-grained, and capable of a good polish. The quarries in the vicinity of Cork yield a grey marble, interspersed with white veins, and much used for common chimney pieces. The extensive limestone tract, on the north side of the Blackwater, affords a greater as well as a richer variety. I have seen many curious specimens found in different places, but that of Castle Hyde is the handsomest of any, that has yet been submitted to the hands of the workman. It is of a dark grey colour, with various shades, and a rich display of shells. Chimney pieces of this marble may be purchased in some of the stone-yards of Cork; the finest is in the possession of Mr. Hyde himself. It is probable, that the marble of this county will hereafter become a commodity of valuable requisition. Things derive an artificial value from their rarity or remoteness. The marble I have been describing would bring a great price, if it was only to be procured in Greece, or Italy. All our marble is of a mixed colour. Pure white is seen only in narrow veins, nor have any large blocks been yet found of a single colour. Here as well as in some parts of the county of Kerry, rivers often mark the limits of the limestone tract. The Blackwater, in its course from Millstreet to Fermoy, runs at the south side of the limestone for the far greater part of the way. Between Castlemore

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and Cork, a distance of about eleven miles, the course of the limestone is distinctly marked, first by the river Bride, and, after its junction with the Lee, by the latter river. During this space the limestone invariably adheres to one side of the channel, which it follows through all its windings, without once crossing it. The same circumstance is observable in the river Kenmare.

The western mountains of this county differ from the rest in form and aspect, being far more rocky and abrupt. Their steep and craggy sides, their frequent gaps and fissures, seem to shew that they have experienced some convulsive changes, though of what nature does not easily appear. The effects of one great terrestrial revolution are indeed abundantly apparent on the face of nature in this as well as other countries, but they are more observable on low than on high grounds. Our lofty hills may perhaps have been stripped of some of their earthy covering by the currents of the deluge, but it will not so easily account for the great irregularity of their figure. Shocks of earthquakes have probably been felt, and may have occasioned some variation in their forms. None of them, as far as I have been able to observe, exhibit any unequivocal symptoms of volcanic eruption. Whatever occasioned those irregularities does not seem to have altered the structure of the rocks, which, as will be hereafter ob-

served, is remarkably uniform. Be the cause what it may, the south-west quarter is almost entirely composed of immense masses of rock standing as barriers against the proud waves of the Atlantic, which for the greater part of the year are dashed against its shores by the force of the prevailing winds. A bulwark of inferior durability might indeed suffice for the safety of the coast, but such is the depth and turbulence of that vast ocean, that none, who have seen it raging, will be disposed to complain of a superabundant protection.

Of low grounds the most extensive tracts are those, in which limestone is found. The largest lies on the north side of the Blackwater, being upwards of twenty miles in length, from east to west, and varying in breadth from five to nine. This beautiful and rich extent, though comparatively speaking it may be called a flat country, is however agreeably diversified with gentle swellings, and contains but a small quantity of dead level land. Through the far greater part, the county preserves this character, every where presenting an undulating surface. Even the mountains are little more singular in their outline than the lower grounds, and a striking similitude exists between both in their respective vicinities. The Blackwater and Ballahowra mountains, which enclose the limestone district abovementioned, exhibit on their tops a gently varying outline, while

while the rocky mountains of the south-west correspond with the ruggedness of the neighbouring lands.

The limestone vale, in which the city of Cork stands, commences at Castlemore about ten miles west of the city, and continues its course in an easterly direction, until it reaches the sea near Youghall. Its breadth is inconsiderable at first, but upon reaching Imokilly it takes a wider range, affording a fine tract of some of the best cultivated ground in the county. One of the most singular of our limestone beds is found at Blarney, two miles north-west of Cork, where in a small and deep valley, surrounded by high lands, a narrow ridge of calcareous rock raises its head, running in the usual direction of east and west. In quality it seems to bear a greater affinity to the northern tract, from which it is so far removed, than to that of the Cork vale, its near neighbour.

Another small rock of limestone rises at Annahely, near Inchigeelah. As the direction of these veins is from east to west, by pursuing the line limestone may often be found, where it is not suspected to be. Annahely vein may possibly be a continuation of Castlemore.

Of minerals the catalogue at present is very defective, nor is the deficiency perhaps much to be regretted. Mineral must be very rich in produce

to compensate the injuries sustained by the operation of mining. Many persons, it is true, might thereby find employment, but of all employments it seems to be the least eligible. Iron, of which there is sufficient abundance, was formerly smelted here, and contributed very much to the destruction of the native woods. Lead ore has been found in many places, generally combined with quartz, and in small veins. Copper has more rarely appeared, though there is reason to believe, that it exists in some of our hills, from circumstances which will hereafter be mentioned.

Coal is perhaps the only fossil, the want of which is much to be regretted. The great and increasing demand for this commodity, as well as the quantity of money, of which the country is annually drained for the purchase of it, render it highly desirable that we should resort to our own stores. Unfortunately the only barony, in which it has been found, is so remote from the principal towns, that the discovery has hitherto been attended with little advantage. A long and expensive line of canal will be requisite to form a communication between Cork and the collieries. The quality of the coal, as it now appears, is by no means sufficient to justify an undertaking of so much cost. It is however highly probable, that a better kind would reward the labour of a deeper search. It is not indeed unreasonable

reasonable to believe, that coal exists in other places yet unexplored, though, from its never shewing near the surface, there is cause to fear that the strata are very low. Some perforations have been lately made in the south parts, but without the desired success. At present we labour under great ignorance of the subterraneous contents of this county. Where pits have been sunk in search of valuable fossils, and the business of mining extensively pursued, the different strata, to the depth of many hundred feet, are accurately ascertained. Here, where few excavations of any, and none of considerable depth have been yet made, the internal structure of the earth is unknown. We must therefore suspend our desire of being acquainted with its intestine possessions, until curiosity, or avarice, shall have opened its aged bosom.

The timber, with which this county was once so profusely adorned, appears to have been oak, fir, alder, birch, and yew. Those of the shrub kinds were, mountain ash, hazle, white and black thorn, holly, euonimus, and arbutus. Of this primitive plantation vestiges still remain of every kind, except firs, to the pristine existence of which we should now be strangers, but for the circumstance of their preservation in turf bogs. In these they greatly outnumber all the rest, from which it should seem, that low and flat grounds were, if not
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their only, at least their favourite places of residence. Oaks are frequently found with them, but generally at the sides of the bog, and near the rising ground. It can hardly be doubted, that all the native trees were enabled to continue the propagation of their species by seeds or offsets. Firs, we may presume, did so, as long as the ground, on which they stood, was favourable to the growth of the seed, and before too great an accumulation of the turfy matter took place. A judgment, formed from present appearance, would lead us to believe, that oaks occupied the sides of hills, and firs the flats. With these the other kinds, which were much less numerous, were occasionally intermixed. What seems most extraordinary in this case, is, that firs, in other countries, the chief inhabitants of high and cold situations, should here have made a contrary choice. The fact seems well established, and may perhaps amount to a proof, that our firs were of a peculiar species. Curious inquirers* may possibly, if any analogy shall be found to direct their

* Smith, in his History of Cork, says, that "the *Abies mas*, or common fir tree, grows wild on the rocky mountains, which divide this county from Kerry." Smith's knowledge of natural objects was generally borrowed, and frequently wrong. Our mountains produced no timber at so late a period, at least, as his time. The native woods were commonly in low situations, in glens and hollows, and on the sides of the secondary hills. I have had opportunities of seeing many natural woods, both in Cork and Kerry, none of which contained any native firs. There is abundant cause to believe, that no such trees have existed here for some centuries.

their judgment, hence be enabled to ascertain that species. The form and size of the cones may also assist in the discovery. These, however, are seldom found in an entire state from the circumstance of their position on the branches, which being exposed to the air soon went to decay. The trunk is the only part of the tree I have ever seen in good preservation. This often contains timber of superior quality in a much more perfect state, than that of any other bog tree, from the turpentine's power of resisting moisture. Oak comes out of a dark colour, and quite soft. The colour remains unchanged, but the timber hardens by degrees, and becomes very durable.

The county of Cork yields to none in the abundance as well as excellence of its waters, with which it is plentifully supplied by many rivers, and an incredible number of springs and rivulets. Here is also found a great number of small lakes, chiefly in the rough and mountainous parts of the country. There are several chalybeate springs, but no waters of medicinal celebrity, except those of Mallow, which resemble the Bristol waters in taste and temperature, and are reputed to possess the same qualities. The most considerable of its rivers is the Blackwater, which rises from mountains on the confines of Kerry, and running south for a short way, until it approaches Millstreet, then changes

its course, and pursues an easterly direction. Passing Fermoy, it enters the county of Waterford, after a short course through which it returns to the county of Cork, and discharges itself into the sea at Youghall. Inconsiderable in the beginning, it soon assumes importance from the great number of tributary streams and rivers, which attend its course. Few rivers afford a greater variety of rich and beautiful scenery. On one side a range of lofty mountains, on the other an extent of fair and fertile country, with the frequent advantage of plantation on both, exhibit a striking and happy contrast. Had nature been equally bountiful in other respects, the Blackwater might rank with the first rivers in the island, but the rapidity of its course denies the important advantages of extensive navigation. It can indeed hardly be called navigable, higher than the reach of the tide, though it contains a body of water sufficient, on a more level surface, to open a communication for light vessels from Youghall to Mallow.

Inferior in size, but superior in dignity, from the honour of supporting on its banks the second city of Ireland, the river Lee claims the next place in this description. This also has its source on the confines of Kerry, from a lake of very romantic situation, encompassed by wild and rocky mountains. After a course of about thirty miles,
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in an easterly direction, it arrives at Cork, where it is rendered navigable by meeting the tide. For the greater part of its progress, and until it reaches the limestone vale, in which the city stands, it forces a winding and irregular passage through hills, exhibiting a good deal of variety, and some spots of beautiful situation, though very inferior to the luxuriant scenery on the banks of the Blackwater. Here, however, the disparity ceases. From Cork downwards, the Lee may challenge a comparison with the most celebrated rivers of this, or the sister island, whether we consider the winding variety of its own channel, or the diversified richness of its cultivated shores.

Next to these in size and consideration, is the River Bandon, the source of which is in the Dunmanway mountains. This pretty river also runs eastward, divides the town of Bandon into two nearly equal parts, and passing by Inishannon, a village of uncommon beauty, finishes its course at Kinsale. To this the Ilan is not very much inferior, which, rising from the mountains above Drimoleague, runs nearly southward to the town of Skibbereen, below which it increases considerably, from the influence of the tide, and becomes navigable to the harbour of Baltimore. In this enumeration, it would be unpardonable to pass by the gently flowing Awbeg, immortalized by Spencer under the

poetical name of Mulla. It is one of the principal rivers, which flow into the Blackwater from the northside, being equally remarkable for the placid tenour of its course, and the beauty of the country, near which it passes. On the banks of this river, at a place called Kilcoleman, above Buttervant, the poet fixed his residence, and, it is said, composed the principal part of his *Fairy Queen*. Many of our rivers are honourably recorded in his lays, but his most frequent and favourite theme was the gentle Mulla. The soft verdure of its banks, and the dimpling eddies of its slowly winding stream, were most accordant with the mild manners of pastoral life, and the gentle disposition of the poet.

The only valuable fish in our rivers is the salmon, which are found more or less in them all. The Blackwater, where their course is least restrained, affords the greatest abundance; those of the Lee are distinguished for their superior quality and flavour. This river is remarkable also for another peculiarity, that of having salmon in high season at all times, though not always in equal abundance. Salmon quit the sea, to deposit their spawn in the rivers, after which they become spent and exhausted, and return to the sea to recruit. When taken in the river before spawning, they are said to be in season; after spawning they are unfit for use.

use. The general time of running up the rivers is in autumn, and winter, when the copious falls of rain afford them most facility of passage. A few run in spring, and summer, but, except in the Lee, the running of this fish is almost confined to particular seasons. This circumstance, and the peculiar quality of the Lee fish, seems to shew, that salmon do not range far from the mouth of the rivers they inhabit, and that every river has its own fish. It is probably owing to the rapid current of our rivers, that they do not produce the variety observable in other places. Eels and trouts are found in all, pike and perch only in a few. These, with salmon, compose the whole catalogue of their contents. In one of the lakes (Inchigeelah) is found the char, a fish of uncommon rarity. Eels and trouts inhabit most of the rest.

The general character of our rivers, as has been observed, is rapidity, a circumstance as unfriendly to navigation, as it is favourable to the erection of mills. Of this advantage a more than prudent use seems to have been made, particularly in the article of bolting mills, the number of which has greatly multiplied of late. Thirty years ago, I doubt if there were more than three of this description in the whole county, and they sent most of their flour to Dublin. The number now is not easy to be counted, and Cork is the principal market for their flour. The competition, however,

is very favourable to the supply of the city, as well as very conducive to the convenience of the farmer by affording him a near and ready market for his grain. The great number of mills has certainly lessened the profits of the miller's trade, but it shews an increase of wealth, and a spirit of expenditure, ready to embrace any occasion, which promises a reasonable reward to industrious speculation. Cotton mills have also been erected, one of which near Bandon, the property of Mr. Allman, is hardly inferior to those of the best English construction, in the extent of the works, and the elegance of the machinery.

The inequality of our grounds, and the number of our streams, offer other advantages, as yet too generally neglected. The benefit of irrigation, though not unknown, is not, however, much attended to, nor, as an art, sufficiently understood. Numberless streams, now suffered to flow uninterrupted in their descent, from their source to their exit, might in many places be diverted from their course, to the great emolument of the husbandman, to whom they present an opportunity of raising great crops of hay at no other expence, than that of cutting a small channel. This species of improvement, which may now be said to be commencing, will probably at no distant period come into general use, and our posterity will regard with
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some degree of surprize the blindness of their forefathers, in suffering such treasures of fertility to pass by them unnoticed. This, and the art of draining wet lands, simple also in its principle, though little understood, are among the very useful improvements our farmers have still to learn.

Last, though by no means least, in a general description of the county, is its coast, furnishing not only an abundant variety of most excellent fish for the wants of its inhabitants, but also a great number of safe and commodious harbours for their trade. The boldness of the shore, which, at a distance from the land, presents to the mariner's eye only an irregular mass of rocks, most agreeably deceives him, in his nearer approach, by a choice of havens. A number of estuaries, or strands alternately covered and deserted by the tide, supplies the farmer with rich banks of calcareous sand, and enables him to carry it some way up the country in lighters. The high rocks, which guard the coast from the foaming billows of the Atlantic, afford him by their produce something in the article of food, and a great deal in that of manure. Besides many harbours of inferior note, we reckon Cork, Kinsale, Crookhaven, and Bantry, in the last of which whole navies may ride. Ever provident to the wants of man, nature compensates in one way what

what she denies in another. In the south and southwest parts, where the rocky inequality of the ground renders artificial navigation impracticable, the sea, and its numerous indentures, give abundant facility of water carriage. The interior parts of the county, possessing a more level surface, afford opportunities of communication by canals, of which succeeding generations will probably avail themselves.

I shall close this section with the words of the celebrated Edmund Spencer, long a resident of this county, who, after pathetically deploring the desolation this country suffered from civil commotion, thus proceeds—"And sure it is yet a most beautiful and sweet country as any is under heaven, being stored throughout with many goodly rivers, replenished with all sorts of fish most abundantly, sprinkled with many sweet islands, and goodly lakes, like little inland seas, which will carry even ships on their waters, adorned with goodly woods*, even fit for the building of houses and ships, so commodiously, as that, if some princes of the world had them, they would soon hope to be lords of all the seas and erelong of all the world; and also full of very good ports and havens, opening

* Every thing remains of his description, except the woods, and in his view of them as affording inducement to the ambition of one, who would be master of the world through their means, perhaps the loss of them is not so much to be regretted.

ing upon England, as inviting us to come to them, to see what excellent commodities that country can afford; besides the soil itself most fertile, fit to yield all kinds of fruits, that shall be committed thereunto. And lastly, the heavens most mild and temperate, though somewhat more moist in the parts towards the west."

CHAP. II.

*Structure of Rock—Bogs—Geological divisions—
Climate—Sands—Sea.*

It has been observed in the general description of the county, that the ranges of high and low land run in the direction of east and west, not indeed with unvarying regularity, but with a very prevailing tendency to that form. The face of the country is extremely diversified, and though the greater lines of hill and vale take the course above mentioned, many of the smaller are seen to follow a contrary direction. But what variety soever may appear in the surface of the land and the shape of the hills, the structure of those primitive rocks, which form the base of the county is remarkably uniform. In the more lofty mountains a great part of the stone is siliceous grit; in the lower ranges of hills, and in all but the calcareous districts, the principal beds of stone are composed of shistus and
argillite.

argillite*. The position of these in their natural bed or quarry exhibits that uniformity of conformation, which appears so remarkable. All stones of the shistus kind are lamellar, that is, separable into flakes, the sides of which are sometimes a little foliated, but generally flat. In the argillite we perceive a greater variety of construction, but a general tendency to the same form. They generally come out in larger blocks than the shistus, but I have seen them in some quarries as regularly formed as a tile, and separable into very thin laminæ. Both these kinds of stone in their native bed are always observed to stand upon their ends or edges, the flat sides of the laminæ facing north and south. They do not however always stand upright, but sometimes inclining to the north, and sometimes to the south†.

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* Of these there are several varieties. The shistus tegularis, as well as many of the coarse and less tractable kinds, seem to have little more than argill and some iron in their composition. The argillite has frequently a considerable mixture of silex, as well as some iron. The siliceous ingredient renders them generally both hard and brittle.

† On the south quarter, and in what I call the greystone district, the rock generally hangs a little to the south. On the north quarter in the red or brownstone district it possesses a contrary inclination. This tendency to overhang seems to encrease in going northwards. The longitudinal direction is the same in both, but there is something very remarkable in their different tendency. In high ridges of rock the stone bends to the southward on the southside, and to the northward on the northside, the central laminæ preserving generally an upright position. This is frequently the case in the northern district, and still more so in the southern. Hence it should seem, that the primary position of these stones was upright, and that their inclining posture has been occasioned by subsequent causes, of which the three following seem most obvious. 1st. The pressure of a superincumbent force, as that of tem-

Where two layers of different inclination happen to meet, they form a natural arch, a circumstance frequently observable on the east or west ends of the quarry. Wherever rocks of this kind have been quarried or cut away on the north or south sides, they exhibit a fair, flat, and regular face. Where they have been opened upon the east or west ends, they shew an abrupt, broken, and irregular surface. The nature of this rocky structure may perhaps be more easily conceived from the following analogy. Suppose the trunk of a lofty tree to be sawed lengthwise into two equal pieces. Suppose these to be laid on the flat or sawed side, at a short distance from and parallel to each other, with their ends pointing east and west. They will then represent two ranges of hills enclosing an intermediate valley. The grain and direction of the wood will give an idea of those of the stone. When either are cut or opened at the ends, they shew the disposition of the layers, which form the matter of their respective bodies. When opened at the sides, they shew the longitudinal direction of the grain. Worked at the ends, the stuff comes

post and deluge. 2dly. The elevation of a hill by means of some force operating from below, and pushing it upwards, in consequence of which the sides overhang, while the central parts retain their position. 3dly. A sinking or subsidence at one of the sides, the result of internal commotion, which, depriving the rock of its accustomed support, may occasion a leaning to the vacant side. In sinking a quarry I have often found, that the laminæ of a rock, which appeared bending almost to a horizontal position on the top, were perfectly upright at a little distance below the surface.

comes off with difficulty in short and broken pieces; worked from the sides, it splits easily into large chips or flakes. It is for this reason that quarrymen, to raise stone to advantage, always work on the north or south sides of the rock. The difference in the cases is, that the layers of stone, though like those of timber they seem to have been formed successively, and to recline more or less upon each other, are much less regular in their formation than the coats of the tree. In one respect the regularity is in favour of the rock, which never deviates from the settled rule of direction. Though the trunk of a tree will shoot right upwards, if left to its natural course, it will grow obliquely, if diverted from it. But no instance of obliquity is seen in the direction of those rocks, which invariably pursue the same rectilineal course. The shape and direction of the hills is indeed very various, but those of the stone are always the same.

In beds of stone, not possessing a lamellar conformation, it is less easy to discover an uniformity of structure. The great masses of grit, which form the bodies of our mountains, are composed of immense stones, the order of whose arrangement is more difficult to be traced. As far as any is discernible, it seems to agree with the principle, by which the former are governed. In the limestone beds we find blocks of various size, the disposition of which does
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not seem to be regulated by any fixed principle. But the limestone of our vales has evidently a different origin from that of the primitive rocks, into the composition of which no fossil of later production has been ever found to enter. In the circumstance of longitudinal direction, there is however a great conformity among them all, the limestone, as well as the others, running from east to west, with a breadth very disproportioned to its length.

Of the shistus and argillite, which form the principal part of our rocky bed, there are many varieties. Stone of precisely the same texture and quality is seldom found to occupy much space in breadth, though it may extend many miles in length. Those of the same genus are often broad, but each genus admits of different species. Thus a vein of house slate, which may be traced to great distances east and west, will sometimes possess but a few feet in breadth. On each side of this is generally found a shistus of coarser quality, of which also there are different species, varying in breadth, but possessing the same kind of longitudinal extent. The same thing is observable in the beds of argillite, many of which are found to accompany the shistus. It is remarkable enough that, in traversing the county from north to south, almost all its varieties of stone may be passed in a few hours, while, in the opposite direction, one may travel for a day upon the same kind

kind of rock. I have taken much pains to learn, whether this regularity of structure was universally prevalent, and could never discover any thing, that might be called a deviation from the general principle. In the course of the most assiduous investigation, I never found in one single instance a quarry of lamellar stone with its edges facing north and south. To a common observer rocks will often appear to run in this direction, but, upon examination, their structure will be found to accord with that of the rest. The promontories of the south coast often project from north to south, but the grain of their quarries runs across the line of their projection. Irregularities will often appear on the surface, but they are no more than the frequent appearance of disorder, which nature so abundantly exhibits, would lead one to expect. Fragments of stone are often seen lying in confusion near the places, from which they have been torn by tempest, earthquake, or deluge. The upper parts of the rocks are frequently shattered and discomposed from these and other causes, but at a little distance beneath the surface the regularity of their structure remains undisturbed. Whatever be the form or the direction of the hills, whatever external irregularities may appear in our rugged masses of rock, the same uniformity of structure, the same rectilineal direction, are every where found to prevail. The longitudinal

gitudinal course of these rocks is often interrupted by gaps and fissures, on passing which we commonly find, that the same kind of stone rises on the opposite hill. Short and narrow veins of white quartz are often found to cross the grain of the quarry, but I never met an instance of lamellar structure, that did not accord with the general disposition.

From the regular and systematic construction of so great a mass of rock as this county exhibits, there seems abundant reason to believe, that it proceeds from some great primary cause, the efficacy of which, if not universal, must at least extend considerably beyond the scene of present observation. As far as the recollection of a cursory view suggests, I think it may be traced through many parts of this, and some of the neighbouring island, though the hurry of incurious observation will not allow me to be positive. I do not know that this uniformity of structure has hitherto engaged the notice of philosophic enquiry, though if it be as extensive, as there is reason to believe, it could not well have escaped the search of a diligent observer, and might have furnished ample matter for ingenious speculation. Theories are commonly formed by recluse students, who philosophize more in the closet than in the field, and find it much easier to turn over the pages of the printer than to explore the book of nature.

Information of every kind has its value, but in describing natural objects a philosopher should derive as much as possible from his own senses. The subject under consideration affords matter for curious and perhaps important disquisition. But inquiries of this nature are foreign from the present purpose, which is not so much to amuse the fancy by philosophizing, as to display the works of nature as they are presented to our view.

To the formation of our turf-bogs I am inclined to ascribe a later date than is usually assigned, many persons being disposed to rank them among the effects of the deluge. Collections of matter so soft and spongy would, it is probable, have been either torn away by its torrents, or overlaid with alluvial strata. That there may be bogs so buried is not perhaps improbable, but most of those we now find seem to have had a much more recent origin. This will best appear by attending to the causes of their formation. The matter, of which they are composed, is a collection of aquatic or marshy plants, and their exuviae, prevented by constant immersion in water, from undergoing the putrefying process necessary to convert them into vegetable mould. The pristine state of such bogs was evidently forest. The trees grew upon the bed of clay*, which forms the foundation

* This is most commonly the case, but there are some remarkable exceptions. I am acquainted with a few bogs very differently circum-

dation of the bog, and of course preceded the formation of the turf. This clay, which often resembles marle in appearance, but very seldom contains any calcareous matter, is generally white, and of so close a texture as to hold water, a quality to which the bog primarily owes its existence. The usual situation of these forest bogs, (as I shall call them for distinction, turf being also found on mountains) is a low and flat piece of land, surrounded by elevated grounds. In size and situation they vary, some of them being surrounded by higher, and some by lower hills; some of them spreading to a considerable extent, and furnished with many outlets; other smaller, more closely encompassed by hills, and possessing but one or two narrow passages to discharge their moisture. The change from their primitive

stanced. The turfy matter of one of these (belonging to myself) gradually increases in depth from the sides to the centre, where it is still from 16 to 18-feet deep. It abounds with oak and fir trees, the former occupying the sides, the latter the middle. The present surface of the bog, from which five or six feet of turf have been cut, is not more than three or four feet above the area, on which the trees stood, and which appears to have been nearly on a horizontal level from side to side. The central trees of course grew in pure turf, the lowest range of roots being twelve or thirteen feet above the clayey bottom. I conjecture that the middle was originally lake, which being gradually filled with turfy matter became at length a proper receptacle for trees, some kinds of which (particularly Scotch firs) thrive well in peat mould. This is rendered more probable by a circumstance, often observed in such bogs, of trees lying with the head downward, a position not easily accounted for on any other hypothesis. The frequent tendency of small lakes to fill up by the gradual accumulation of marshy plants adds further strength to the opinion.

primitive to their present state may have been variously effected. The thing required was to make the water stagnate on the clayey bottom, for the purpose of producing those marshy plants, of which the turf is composed, and also for the purpose of holding them in a constant state of soakage. This generally appears to have been accomplished by the falling of the trees, whose solid trunks and thick branches amply sufficed to produce this effect. A great accession of matter was also derived from the trees themselves, by the gradual decay of their lighter parts. How those trees came to fall is a question of less easy solution. Some may have fallen by tempests, some by design, and some by natural decay. The marks of the axe, as well as of fire, both of which I have frequently seen, prove that art as well as nature had some share in their destruction. Dr. Darwin, quoting from the Philosophical Transactions, relates a curious report of Lord Cromartie, who in 1651, being then 19 years of age, saw a plain in the parish of Lochburn covered with a standing wood so old, that both leaves and bark had disappeared, which, he was informed by the old people, was the usual termination of an old fir wood. About fifteen years afterwards, when he revisited the plain, not a stick was standing; but the trees having fallen were overgrown with moss, and bog. Before the next century, he adds that it produced

turf.

turf. Smith, in his history of Cork, observes, that the Irish have a tradition, that those trees were planted by the Danes, after whose expulsion they were cut down by the natives to extinguish that badge of their servitude. The story is not likely to obtain much credit. Trees are no very obvious badge of servitude, and were, it is probable, much more obnoxious to the invaders*, than the invaded, to whom they afforded means of escape and protection. The tradition however, if it did exist, shewed that bogs were not considered to be of very remote antiquity.

Mr. Headrick, in his judicious Essay on the cultivation of waste lands, mentions a curious fact, which may assist in calculating the growth of bog. In one near Paisley a Roman causey was discovered by turf cutters several feet below the surface. The precise amount of the depth however is not stated. It is probable that the causey continued to be in use long after the departure of the Romans, and there is no doubt that it had been a deep bog for a long time, before it was resorted to for fuel.

Had we any mode of ascertaining the amount of each year's deposition of vegetable matter in bogs of this kind, it would enable us to form a judgment of their respective ages. Supposing the yearly increase

* By whom it is highly probable many of them were destroyed.

crease of surface to be only a quarter of an inch, and in a state of nature it cannot well be reckoned at less, a few centuries would suffice to form a bog of considerable thickness. It seems therefore unnecessary to have recourse to a very distant era, to account for effects, which later causes seem abundantly sufficient to produce.

Another circumstance may be added to support the opinion of a later origin. The bursting of bogs, an accident attended with very calamitous effects, would probably have been noticed by the early historians, had their antiquity been very great. For it is consistent with natural causes to believe, that such phenomena would often have occurred in ancient times, if those confined flats had been covered with turf instead of trees. The inhabitants, who had then no occasion for their fuel, would have suffered the bog to increase without molestation. Left thus to itself, the time must certainly arrive, when the swollen mass would become too heavy to support the burthen of its soft and spongy bulk. Overcharged with moisture after heavy falls of rain, it would at length burst, bearing every thing before it with a momentum irresistible. The elevation of a bog, by means of the water it contain, is hardly credible to those, who have not witnessed it. I am acquainted with one in the neighbourhood of Ross, which, in the memory of many now living, is known
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to have suffered a depression of 20 or 25 feet from the cutting away of turf from its sides. The depth of the centre, which still remains entire, is about fourteen. It is extremely probable that this bog, which has but one narrow outlet, would have burst at no very distant period from the time of that elevation, if it had been left to its natural course. The increase of its height, and the proportionate augmentation of its watery contents, must at last have forced a passage on that side, where it was most destitute of support. The same would doubtless have happened in many others. Happily the present demand for fuel, by opening sufficient apertures to discharge their moisture, has removed all apprehensions of that kind. Thus providentially does nature often afford to human industry the means of converting a nuisance into a blessing. The present concern is less for their increase than their diminution.

Dr. Kirwan and other writers take notice of two kinds of bog, to which they ascribe a specific difference, the black, and the red. As far as I have observed, the only difference is in age and compression, both being found here together, the red on the surface, the black near the bottom. Mountain turf indeed is mostly black, and seems to be chiefly composed of the exuviae of heath. That of low and flat grounds, formed of a much greater variety of marshy plants, is at first of a reddish colour, but

commonly grows black, as it advances in age. It is not very easy to account for the different coloured ashes produced by turf frequently in adjoining parts of the same bog. As the materials of both the white and the red ashes appear to be the same, the difference is probably owing to mineral impregnation. Chalybeate springs issue more or less from the hills, by which those bogs are surrounded, and I have lately learned that the country people ascribe the difference of colour to the effect of the iron. This however is not the only cause, as a slight mixture of earth with the turf will also make the ashes red. The turf, which produces white ashes, makes the brightest fire, another proof of its greater purity. To the red ashes as a manure the same author imputes a pernicious or at least an inconsiderable effect. The farmers of this quarter hold a contrary opinion, making use of both, but preferring the red. I do indeed know two instances of bog ashes (in the neighbourhood of Ross) being extremely injurious not only to vegetation, but also to the domestic animals, which love to make them their bed. For this the philosopher will easily account, by supposing, what is really the case, that the turf of both is impregnated with copper from some neighbouring springs. The knowledge of the cause may possibly hereafter lead to the discovery of a valuable mine.

The progressive augmentation of vegetable matter in our bogs seems to give strength to Dr. Darwin's opinion, that the earth receives continual increase from the recrements of vegetables. This however can only be the case in inaccessible bogs and morasses*, against the inordinate increase of which nature makes some provision by causing them to discharge their superfluity, when it becomes excessive. It is further to be observed, that this increment is daily counteracted by the wants and the industry of man. On other situations a decrease seems rather to take place, and occasional increment is balanced by occasional diminution. Where animals abound, the vegetable food, however assisted by their ordure and the putrefaction of their bodies, is barely sufficient to maintain them. In countries much peopled, it requires the ingenuity of the agriculturist to keep up the quantity as well as the vigour of the soil. The coldness of mountains prevents any material increase of vegetable matter upon them, some of which is also consumed by animals. In forests the exuviae of the trees seem to be no more than sufficient to support their growth. An excess of morass and bog seems therefore to imply a deficiency

* Different modifications of matter daily take place, but what is gained in one way must be lost in another. Perhaps it is most philosophical to suppose, that matter is neither capable of increase nor diminution, but through the immediate intervention of the deity by creating or annihilating.

deficiency of inhabitants, and affords additional proof that this country was formerly but poorly peopled. In another century there will scarce be a bog in the county of Cork. It seems therefore most consonant to reason to believe that, since the earth became the seat of animation, its quantity of matter has been nearly the same. The changes, that have taken place within the reach of history, are too trifling to establish any satisfactory proof either of increase or decrease, both of which are locally observable.

Geological Divisions.

THE geological divisions of the county may be ranged under four general heads, distinguished on the map by appropriate colours. 1st.----The calcareous districts, of which the principal have been already mentioned. These contain vast beds of marble and limestone, the supporting base of which is unknown. In the western extremity of the northern tract the coal appears, which, it is probable, will hereafter become an article of much greater importance than it is at present. From its approaching the surface in so many places considerably removed from each other, there is reason to believe that the quantity is abundant. The disadvantages of its situation

tuation, remote from towns and water carriage, have hitherto discouraged all attempts to explore a better quality than what the upper stratum affords.

2dly. The mountain districts. These are principally on the west side of the county, besides which there are two extensive ranges inclosing the great calcareous vale on the north side of the Blackwater. The northern range contains, with red argillite, siliceous breccia, none of which I believe is to be found on the south side of this line, either in the county of Cork or the still loftier mountains of Kerry. The stone of our highest hills, of which the principal ridge incloses Bantry Bay on the north side, consists chiefly of immense masses of siliceous grit. The secondary hills contain a coarse slaty argillite with veins of grit intermixed. The eastern mountains have generally a thick covering of clay mixed with small stones. Those of the west are more bare and rocky. Iron ore appears more or less in all; I have not heard of their discovering any other. Heath and sedgy grass are their chief produce.

3dly. The brown or red stone district, which is found to occupy all the northern side of the county, that is not calcareous. In travelling northwards from the sea, this stone first occurs on the south side of the calcareous tract, in which the city of Cork stands. The breadth of it here may be about a mile; the longitudinal extent is very great, as it accompanies
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the limestone through its entire course, after which it proceeds westward till it loses itself in the mountains. On the north side of the city this stone occupies the whole of that great and elevated tract, which lies between the vale of Cork and the Blackwater comprehending the principal parts of the baronies of Barrymore, Barretts, Kilnataloon, and Muskerry. Though red, of which there are different shades, be the general and predominant hue, it admits of some occasional varieties, both in colour and texture. Even in the same vein the red is not always continuous, but changes into a light colour without altering the texture of the stone. All this tract, as well as the calcareous districts, labours under the disadvantage of wanting house slates, the red stone, though a shistus and affording good flags, being very seldom sufficiently tractable for roofing. The quarries near Cork, where the colour is brighter than I have elsewhere observed, supply abundance of good stone for building, but generally hard to be worked, the laminæ or folds adhering very closely to each other. The position of these laminæ agrees with the general conformation already taken notice of, though it appears somewhat more irregular in its structure than the southern shistus.

4thly.—The grey stone district. This comprehends the far greater portion of that part of the county, which lies south of the vale of Cork. The

line of red stone, which I have stated as the southern limit of the red stone land, forms the northern boundary of the grey. The colour of its stone is in truth too various to be adequately expressed by a single name, but as that, which generally prevails, is of a light cast, I have chosen the term *grey* as fittest for a general appellation. This extensive tract, with a greater diversity of stone, presents many varieties of colour. Small detached stones of a reddish colour are sometimes seen on the surface, but scarce any red stone rock appears south of the beforementioned line. It contains several kinds of argillite, some of grit, a few veins of calcareous shistus, and a large proportion of slate. From the numerous quarries along the southern coast, Cork and most parts of the northern district are supplied with slates for roofing. Some of these are of a good kind, but the quality of the best is inferior to that of the slates imported from Wales. Large lumps of quartz, generally of a round shape, and sometimes weighing three or four hundred weight, are frequently found lying on the surface of the ground, particularly in the barony of Carbery. Having been of opinion from long observation, that quartz, which is more or less mixed with all our primitive rock, was only to be found in narrow veins, I was at a loss to account for the appearance of such great pieces of it. But near Ross there is a very curious and remarkable

markable rock, composed entirely of white quartz, the blocks of which are of great size and regular conformation. Part of the original structure seems entire, but much has been torn away by some convulsion of nature. Another remarkable circumstance, which frequently occurs in the same barony, deserves to be mentioned. Not only in low grounds, and under lofty hills, from which such stones may be supposed to have fallen, but even on high situations, and at a great distance from any overtopping hill, are found vast numbers of grit stones, several of them weighing two tons and upwards. Some of these are on the surface, others sunk in a bed of clay, formed, it should seem, from the decomposition of the subjacent rock, which is usually a coarse shistus entirely dissimilar from the stony burthen it so unaccountably supports. Of this district the eastern part has very much the advantage in depth and fertility of soil. In proceeding westward the ground becomes more stony and rugged, nor is it easy to find a field, however small, in which the rock does not somewhere make its appearance.

Bog and marsh belong principally to the mountain districts. In other parts, though not altogether infrequent, they are too inconsiderable to be distinguished on a map.

Climate.

Climate.

THAT the temperature of our seasons has undergone some alteration within the last 30 or 40 years, is an opinion generally received, and supported by very plausible grounds. One of the strongest proofs is drawn from the present general failure of some fruits, known to have ripened formerly in abundance. Peaches and nectarines, now commonly raised under glass, were little less plentiful in the old gardens than plumbs and cherries. The situation of those gardens was indeed more judiciously chosen, being placed in low grounds and well sheltered by trees, while the modern taste for prospect and lawn usually places both house and garden on a bleak eminence. Something of the difference may certainly be thus accounted for, but not, I think, the whole; for in many gardens, that have undergone no change, the failure is clearly observable. That some alteration has taken place seems therefore to be sufficiently ascertained, but I am inclined to believe, that it has arisen rather from temporary than permanent causes. A succession of unfavourable seasons has been often known to take place, and is sometimes
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noticed by historians. An actual increase of coldness in our climate would probably affect winter more than summer, which however does not seem to be the case. Our winters, though sometimes severe, are generally remarkable for their mildness, nor have we for many years experienced frost or snow as intense and copious as many we read of. Trees certainly appear to have grown in situations, where it would be very difficult to raise them now. But it should be considered, that in those times the whole country was a forest, and every one conversant with planting knows how powerfully trees shelter and nourish each other. A thick plantation will not only grow but flourish in places, where a single tree, or a few stragglers cannot be brought to raise their heads. Our grounds, deprived of their woody shelter, and exposed thereby to every chilling blast, are more sensibly affected by the cold; but this probably is the only essential difference between past and present. Whoever consults the report of ancient writers, and considers that *Glacialis Ierne* is an epithet of very long standing, will probably be of opinion, that our climate labours under no very injurious alteration. A few summers like the last would effectually redeem its character. The truth seems to be, that our seasons, in consequence of the moisture of the prevailing winds, are extremely irregular. In most other countries cold and heat, wet and

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dry, have their appointed periods, beyond which their influence seldom varies. In these islands and particularly in this, which is almost surrounded by the cloudy Atlantic, the seasons are much more unsettled.

Sands and Sea.

SANDS, in other countries frequently found in inland situations, are here almost confined to the sea coast. Small quantities are occasionally seen in pits intermixed with gravel and clay, and containing no calcareous matter, but all our extensive tracts of it are furnished from the ocean, and consist more or less of marine shells. The prodigious quantity of this employed for manure, and which does not appear to lessen its bulk, leads us to conclude that it is in a state of progressive increase. Its advances however, in consequence of the height of the ground along the coast, have been inconsiderable, the only place, where it has much encroached, being at the island of Inchidony near Cloghnikilty, several acres of which have been covered within the last 40 years. In other places no very material alteration has taken place within memory. As its progress

gress or retardation depend very much on the state of the winds, it is subject to occasional variations. The greater frequency of the moist southern gales, which drive it in on the coast, is powerfully counteracted by the drier and not less violent winds, that blow from north and north-west. A consideration of the present state of these sands may assist in forming a judgment of the prevalence of particular winds for the last half century. The consideration is of no great importance in itself, but may serve to shew how far an opinion, lately advanced respecting the increasing influence of the westerly wind, is founded upon fact.

It is observable, that the earliest writers ascribe the humidity of our atmosphere to this wind. Giraldus Cambrensis, whose native country was so little removed from our climate, calls this island the land of Zephyrs. Its general prevalence, a matter of ancient as well as modern notoriety, admits of no question. The point to be ascertained is, whether there be sufficient grounds to believe that this wind has of late years obtained a more than usual ascendancy. The subject of our present consideration seems to shew, that it has not. The principal sands on this coast are in the bays of Courtmasherry, Cloghnikilty, and Ross, the two former being most exposed to the south-east, the latter to the south-

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west.

west. I have already observed, that the greatest augmentation of sand lately observable has taken place at the island of Inchidony in the head of Cloghnikilty bay. The sand at Courtmasherry appears also to have increased, though in a less injurious degree. Near Castlefreke, at the head of Ross bay, where the greatest accumulation is, there has been little perceptible alteration for the last forty years. It should also be observed, that much less of the Castlefreke sand is used for manure than of the others. These facts furnish strong grounds for believing, that the south-west winds have within the period mentioned lost something of their ascendancy, and that the south-east have gained it. The augmentation of sands upon the western coast is, I understand, assumed as a proof of the increasing influence of the west winds. This however may have happened from an increase of the sand as well as the wind, and is probably ascribable to the former cause. It is the opinion of very intelligent philosophers, that the marine productions of the sea in coral and shells are rapidly augmenting. Observation shews, that this is the case on the southern coast; and it is reasonable to believe, that the sands of the western are augmenting in equal proportion. It is worthy of remark also, that the counteracting winds on that coast are those only, which blow from the

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the east, which are neither so frequent nor so violent.

Whether the sea be advancing or receding on our coasts, is a question of more curiosity than importance, as the lapse of many centuries has been attended with little variation. In the northern parts of Europe it is, according to some writers, thought to be retiring, and the same opinion has found supporters here. The reason assigned by Mr. Marshal (Rural Economy of Devonshire) whose opinions are sometimes pronounced with more confidence than consideration, seems very insufficient to justify the conclusion. He grounds his decision of the point on having observed, that the banks in some estuaries were deserted by the tide. This however may and must frequently happen, without any change in the sea, from the constant accumulation of mud and sediment, brought down by the rivers, whose course being checked by the tide obliges them to deposit on those banks their earthy burthen. When this happens at a distance from the sea, and in situations sheltered from winds and waves, the accumulation is more rapid, and the task of reclaiming less difficult. Romney marsh as well as many parts of the Low Countries, now most fertile grounds, were, it is true, once covered by the tide; but it must be considered, that the vigilance

of human industry is necessary to preserve its acquisitions, and that, without a sedulous attention to embankments, the sea would soon regain its property, at least in many of the places now possessed by man. It should also be observed, that the ocean frequently imposes limits on its own progress by those mounds of sand and gravel, thrown up in storms. The total loss and destruction of the Goodwin estate, now past the power of man to retrieve, affords a strong argument in favour of the contrary opinion, which receives further confirmation from a well known fact in this county, that turf and timber are found on many parts of the coast beyond the limits of the lowest tide. How this can be accounted for on any other principle than the encroachment and elevation of the sea, I am at a loss to conceive. Dr. Darwin observes, that a constant increase of calcareous matter is generated in the ocean from the production of corals and shellfish, which one might suppose would have a tendency to raise its waters by occupying so much of its space. He, however, draws a different conclusion, and supposes that its waters are diminishing from the quantity absorbed by the calcareous composition. As the life of man is too short to determine the point, it is a subject, on which doctors will long continue to differ.

Whatever

Whatever doubts may be entertained respecting the alteration of our climate's temperature, there can be none of its improvement in point of salubrity. This is to be ascribed to the diminution of stagnant waters, by the draining of bogs and reclaiming of marshes. Agues, formerly a very common complaint in many parts of the country, are now rare in any. The inhabitants are however subject to many severe and dangerous disorders, imputable for the most part to bad food and bad management. Damp houses, and wet cloaths, which are always suffered to dry on their backs, expose them to frequent attacks of fever, pleurisy, and rheumatism; while a strange unwillingness to acknowledge an indisposition, and look for timely assistance, makes them often fall victims to a complaint, that might have been easily checked in the beginning. Potatoes, which agree with them very well when in health, are improper diet in many disorders of the stomach and bowels. Want of cleanliness and care greatly aggravates the miseries arising from infectious distemper. The sound and the sick sometimes sleep in the same bed, commonly in the same room. The latter is often the result of necessity, but much of the danger might be averted by proper precaution, by washing and cleaning their houses and cloaths. A fever getting into a family not only runs through every member

member of it, but generally spreads into the vicinity. Indeed, it is no slight proof of the climate's salubrity, that, under such circumstances, a town or village should ever be without one. To the humidity of our atmosphere, so frequently performing the office of ablution, and washing those, who will not wash themselves, perhaps we are much indebted for the removal of such complaints. The driest seasons are observed to be the most unhealthy; this may in some measure be owing to a greater prevalence of easterly winds, which in many parts of Europe are found to possess some degree of malignant influence.

CHAP. III.

Inhabitants—their Origin—Character—Peculiarities—Population.

AN inquiry into the origin of a people, when directed by sound judgment, and deduced from sources of authentic information, never fails both to interest and instruct. To be descended from renowned progenitors, if not a just, is at least a prevailing cause of exultation to nations as well as individuals. This vanity, pardonable when restrained within the bounds of moderation and truth, becomes a fault as well as a folly, when it transgresses them. That this country was peopled at a very early period, there is abundant testimony to prove; that it never possessed that degree of civilization, which can alone give celebrity to a people, we may confidently venture to pronounce. A nation so circumstanced could not fail to have left some durable monuments of its fame, whereas all those of high antiquity

antiquity, which remain, are only memorials of the rude and barbarous. Where authentic records are wanting, deductions from fanciful analogies, and casual points of resemblance, must be admitted with caution; as illustrations they may be useful, as authorities they have little weight. Curious and amusing we must frequently allow them to be, but to be pleased, and to be convinced, are two very different things, and the ingenious disquisitions of the antiquary will often demand our praise, while they fail to obtain our assent. History and probability unite in representing these islands as having been peopled from the neighbouring parts of the Continent. Julius Cæsar, who first carried the Roman eagle into Great Britain, is the earliest writer that has described that country and its inhabitants. The similarity of the natives along the sea-coast to their neighbours, on the corresponding parts of the Continent, was noticed by him. The subject of their origin is more largely discussed by Tacitus, who accompanied another Roman general to the same station. To the inhabitants of Great Britain he ascribes a threefold descent, according with its approximation to the Continent, and evinced by their similitude in manners, features, and language. The south-west parts he supposes to have been peopled from Spain, the eastern from Gaul, and the northern from

from Germany. The inhabitants of Ireland, according to the accounts he had received of it, resembled those of Great Britain. It was therefore peopled nearly in the same manner, with this difference, that, while its south and south-west coasts might have received their inhabitants directly from Spain, the other parts were peopled through the medium of Great Britain. This account, probable in itself and supported by such testimony, agrees with the received and favorite opinion, that the inhabitants of the south and south-west parts of this county are of Spanish descent. The more modern relations of this derivation are mixed with fable and fiction, but the fact itself seems sufficiently established. But, however descended, the inhabitants of either island had little to boast of for a long time after the Romans became acquainted with them. That Ireland possessed no great celebrity in their days, is less evident from their writings than their actions, as it may be presumed, that an island of such extent would not have been overlooked by that ambitious people, had it been worth the conquest. The reduction, according to Tacitus, would have been easily effected, one of its chiefs, who attended Agricola, having assured him, that it might be accomplished by a single legion.

Its internal history after this period is but a disgusting detail of treacherous and petty warfare between contending native chiefs, or with ferocious Northern invaders, who seem to have had no other object of pursuit themselves, no other employment for their harassed dependants, than war and plunder. After the introduction of Christianity into these islands, the remote and less disturbed situation of Ireland for a long time afforded a secure retreat to its professors, in consequence of which monkish learning flourished here, and many religious houses were built, of which some monuments still remain. This was an æra, of which the Irish may with some justice be proud, though there is reason to think, that it was rather the pride of the Church, than of the people, and that neither learning nor refinement extended far beyond her walls. But what the monks wanted in useful, they made up in agreeable information by composing a number of legends, with no very scrupulous regard to truth or probability. Whether it is to be ascribed to their deficiency of instruction, or to the harassing inroads of invading enemies, or perhaps to both; certain it is, that in the reign of Henry II. the great body of the people were in a state very little removed from barbarous. The chiefs, indeed, lived in a degree of rude splendour, accompanied by their bards and harpers, the

the latter of whom are celebrated by an English writer, who was a witness of their performance, for uncommon excellence in the musical art. Even in the time of Elizabeth, Spenser, whose long residence in this country seems to have given him an affectionate interest in its concerns, drew a picture of the popular manners, by no means flattering to national vanity. That they have not yet wholly emerged from rudeness, will, however, be considered as no reproach, if we consider them as in their progress to a degree of civilization hitherto unattained. They only, who invest them with glory never enjoyed, and arts never possessed, convey a severe, though unintended censure upon their degeneracy. The progress of their advancement, since the means have been afforded, has, in reality, been very rapid; and perhaps no country can be named, in which improvement in the elegant, as well as useful arts, is more happily accelerating. That those means were long withheld by jealous and mistaken policy, must be a matter of regret; that there is such a general disposition to take advantage of them, now that they are offered, is a rational cause of exultation. Instead, therefore, of affording food to discontent by a mortifying display of former greatness, it should be the laudable object of the true patriot to represent them as having lost nothing,

that was worth retaining, and as possessing opportunities, which turbulence alone can disappoint, of acquiring an ample share of fame and prosperity, by a sedulous attention to the pursuits of industry. I would not however be understood, as representing the antiquities of Ireland to be unworthy the research of the curious; they afford matter of pleasant, as well as useful knowledge, and to the lover of his country are the more interesting, for the contrast they exhibit between its pristine and its present situation, for shewing, not what he has lost, but what he has gained.

In reading the account, which Tacitus has left of the manners of the ancient Germans, an author, whose peculiar sagacity, eloquence, and erudition were eminently qualified for the task, one is struck with many points of resemblance still discoverable between them and the natives of this country, a branch of the same original stock.* “ In every
“ house

* “ In omni domo nudi ac sordidi, in hos artus, in hæc corpora, quæ miramur, exerescunt. Sua quemque mater uberibus alit, nec ancillis ac nutricibus delegantur.—Dominum ac servum nullis educationis deliciis cognoscas—inter eadem pecora, in eodem humo degunt.—Quemcunque mortalium arcere tecto nefas habetur. Notum ignotumque, quantum ad jus hospitii, nemo discernit.—Cibi simplices—adversus sitim non eadem temperantia. Diem noctemque continuare potando nulli probrum. Crebræ ut inter vinolentos rixæ, raro conviviis, sæpius caede & vulneribus transiguntur. Sed et de reconciliantibus.

“ house the children, naked and dirty, grow up
 “ into that muscular form we so much admire.—
 “ Every mother suckles her own child, which is ne-
 “ ver delegated to maids or nurses. The master
 “ and servant are distinguished by no delicate dif-
 “ ferences of education—they live among the same
 “ beasts, and on the same floor. To deny to any per-
 “ son entrance into their house, is deemed a crime.
 “ Between the stranger and the acquaintance there
 “ is no distinction in point of hospitality. Simple in
 “ their food, they are intemperate in their liquor.
 “ To pass whole days and nights in drinking, con-
 “ veys no reproach. Drunkenness, as usual, causes
 “ many quarrels, which, seldom finding vent in
 “ words, more frequently terminate in death and
 “ wounds. Yet to reconcile enmities, and to make
 “ up alliances, merry meetings are again for
 “ the most part resorted to.” The striking co-
 incidence of this description with the present man-
 ners of our people might induce one to suppose,
 were not the original quoted, that it had been drawn
 upon the spot by a careful observer.

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*dis invicem inimicitias, et jungendis affinitatibus, plerumque in con-
 vivis consultum.”* This parallel is mixed with many circum-
 stances of dissimilitude in the original, for likeness can only be expect-
 ed in such things as have not been materially altered by new laws
 and modes of life, and a different religion.

The perpetual enmity, that subsisted formerly between rival tribes, when every petty chieftain lived in a state of constant hostility with his neighbour, established a spirit of contentious emulation, of which too many traces still remain. The chiefs, indeed, are gone ; the original and creating cause has disappeared ; but the effect produced has not as yet followed it. The former incentive to combat was the ambition of the leader ; it is now the superiority of the party. Places of public resort, and particularly fairs, are the scenes chosen for a trial of strength, as affording to the victors the fairest opportunity of exhibiting their prowess before admiring multitudes. They afford also a ready substitute for the spirit-stirring drum, in the no less necessary preparative of the valour-raising whiskey. Here they assemble in large bodies, generally armed with cudgels, but sometimes with weapons of a more deadly nature. The nature of the warfare is seldom very creditable to the gallantry of the combatants, who, generally avoiding a fair and equal engagement, seek only for an opportunity of surprising. Should a small number, or even an individual of the opposite party, unfortunately come in the way, they are threshed with as little remorse, and as much perseverance, as a sheaf of corn. No mercy is ever extended to a fallen enemy, who of-

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ten owes his life to the number of his assailants, too close and crowded to inflict a fatal blow.— Grounds of contention can never be wanting among people, in whose memory is carefully deposited the disgrace of a former defeat, and the dear hope of future vengeance. It is not uncommon to see persons of opposite factions live in the same neighbourhood for years, in apparent harmony, until some conflict between their respective parties calls forth the latent enmity, and ranges each man upon his proper side. Mutual indictments succeed, which, when both parties are tired of law, usually end in mutual reconciliation, to be followed at some future period by mutual hostility. Thus is the spirit kept alive, to the disgrace as well as injury of the country, the laws of which, though of late more regularly enforced, have not yet been able to eradicate it. By the inhabitants of countries long civilized, and to which similar outrages are unknown, such scenes of disorder are justly regarded with surprise and abhorrence. They cannot without astonishment behold a continuance of barbarous and sanguinary conflicts, in which neither party has any thing to gain, in which both have much to lose.— The philosopher, whose more enlarged views consider man in the abstract, will easily account for it on the principle of habit, the powerful influence of which

which on the human mind is justly called a second nature. To him it will appear, that they continue it as a custom, among many others, derived from a rude ancestry, whose descendants are not yet sufficiently liberalized to conquer deep mortal prejudices. Perhaps, he will discern in their untutored minds the seeds of that contentious spirit, inseparable, I fear, from humanity, which in the higher region of life assumes the splendid names of fame and glory. Disgraceful and absurd in petty clanship, it alters its nature as it ascends, and, when potentates contend, becomes exalted into "pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war." The hero of the sword will often find, at the end of his career, with infinitely more cause of remorse, as little ground for happy reflection, as the hero of the cudgel. Fortunate would it be for mankind, were the excesses of the former as easily restrained; but what shall bind the power, which over-rules law itself?

The turbulence of those petty disturbers is, however, considerably abated, and, by the progress of industry, and a vigorous execution of the laws, will, it is to be hoped, soon be entirely removed. Even now it subsists only in a few families, priding themselves on their collective strength and numerous affinities. When clanship subsisted in full vigour under the direction of rival leaders, there was not a
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man unattached, either from choice or necessity, to a party. At present, the far greater number of the people takes no interest in these ferocious family broils.

The inhabitants of this county are, in general, of the middle size; muscular in their limbs, and capable of enduring great fatigue. Continually exposed to wet and cold, accustomed to poor and simple fare, sleeping on a damp floor, upon straw or rushes, for few know the luxury of a bed, the common people are able to bear, without injury, what by others would be considered almost intolerable hardships. Men, as well as women, (the richer farmers excepted) perform all their journeys on foot, and never complain of fatigue, though often under the pressure of heavy burthens. Such as make a trade of carrying messages will continue their speed with unabated vigour, for almost any length of time. Fifty English miles a day is reckoned no very extraordinary performance for an active footman. In the western parts of the county the mail was often carried by pedestrians, who travelled at a very quick pace, and for very moderate hire. The women are, in general, as clumsy in their legs, as the men are well-formed; a circumstance that seems very remarkable, and may perhaps be in some measure owing to their carrying

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heavy burthens, and sitting so much on their hams. In childhood both sexes are equally well-limbed; the women, when young, have often comely faces, but, marrying early, living in smoaky cabins, and always bearing children, they soon get an old and withered look. In beauty of countenance, as well as neatness of appearance, both sexes are very inferior to the common people of England, but the most striking contrast between the inhabitants of the two islands appears in the superiority of the English in cleanliness, decorum, the order and decencies of life. *There*, in the dwelling of the meanest peasant, is found a degree of neatness and propriety, that, while it materially increases his comforts, gives a most pleasing idea of the happy state of civilization, to which the country is arrived. *Here*, their ideas of enjoyment seem to go no farther than bare subsistence; every thing within and without the dwelling is dirty in the extreme, and even among the richer farmers the comforts of cleanliness are for the most part disregarded. Poverty would be no excuse for such conduct, were it even confined to the poor, for cleanliness may be attained without cost. It is, in reality, ascribable to ignorance, to early habits, to a remnant of that barbarism, in which their forefathers were involved. An entire change in the manners of a people must
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be a work of time; but it is a change, which we may reasonably hope that time, by the diffusion of useful knowledge, and the gradual improvement of their manners, will at length happily effect.

In their disposition, the inhabitants of this county are lively and cheerful, grave and gloomy tempers being seldom found among them. They are fond of sports of every kind, and particularly of dancing, in which they commonly move with ease and alacrity, always keeping exact time to the music. They are not less remarkable for a continual flow of conversation, which is seldom intermitted, though there be but two persons in company. Half a dozen English farmers will drink their ale, and smoke, for hours with little interchange of words. When the glass goes round among an equal number of Irishmen, the difficulty is to find a listener. Except in towns, they seldom use any language but Irish, and even in some of the best cultivated districts most of the people can speak no other.— They are however willing enough to send their children to school, when an opportunity offers, though the little they learn there is frequently forgot soon after their return to their parents. In their native language they are generally clear and fluent in expression, though proverbially reproached as blunders in English, from their imperfect acquaintance

with its idioms. All these circumstances evince a possession of qualities, capable of conferring, under proper regulations, a very considerable portion of social enjoyment. When instruction shall have enlightened their minds, when their slovenly and rude manners shall have given place to a love of order and decorum, and when they shall have known how to value and enjoy the blessings of industry and peace, we may venture to say, that they will have no cause to envy the inhabitants of any country under heaven. To promote these desirable purposes, will be the steady object of liberal landlords, and a wise government.

Among other national failings, they are reproached with an addiction to thieving, and not without some cause. For this I can offer but one palliation, but it is a very strong one, poverty.—Though we must condemn the vice in the abstract, we cannot avoid making some allowance in the particular. Temptations are strong or weak, according to a man's wants; and it is not the general, but the relative value of a thing, that excites the strong desire to attain it. He, who would spurn at the idea of unjustly acquiring fifty pounds, might find his virtue staggered by an opportunity of acquiring a thousand. The poor man, who has not wherewithal to dress his supper, and sees a brood of children crying

round him for food, should not be too hastily blamed, though he steals a faggot from his neighbour's hedge. What originates in necessity, is often continued from habit; and what is frequently committed, comes at last to be considered as involving little criminality. The obvious mode of correcting this fault is to better their condition.

There are however other practices of this nature, admitting no apology, and to be accounted for on other principles. Sheep-stealing is still very common, and even cows are sometimes ventured upon by marauders, who generally drive their booty by night to a great distance from the place of capture. These depredations exhibit a remaining vestige of former manners. In past times of turbulence and disorder, stealing was a sort of trade, and many parties lived professedly by plunder. "The Irish," says Spenser, "almost all boast themselves to be
 " gentlemen, no less than the Welch, so that if one
 " can derive his descent from the head of a sept, as
 " most of them can, so expert are their bards, he
 " considereth himself a gentleman, and scorneth to
 " work, which he says is the life of a peasant or
 " churl, but thenceforth becometh either an horse-
 " boy, or stoocah, to some kern (common Irish sol-
 " dier) enuring himself to his weapon, and the gen-
 " tlemanly trade of stealing. So that if a gentle-
 " man,

“man, or any wealthy yeoman, have any children,
“the eldest perhaps shall be kept in some order,
“but all the rest shall shift for themselves, and fall
“to this occupation.” The trade having now fallen
into meaner hands, and become fortunately obnoxious
to its original encouragers, there is the greater
hope that we shall soon see it entirely discontinued.

The frequent intemperance of our people in the
article of drinking, as it materially affects the ge-
neral welfare, is not more a fault than a misfortune.
This is the common vice of the savage, who never
rejects an opportunity of intoxication; and I am
afraid, we must be content to allow, that in this re-
spect something of the savage is still discernible
among us. To remove the propensity to drink is,
perhaps, hopeless; all that can be done, is to give it
a more favourable turn, by substituting, as much as
possible, malt liquor for ardent spirits. The for-
mer affords the labouring man a wholesome and
refreshing beverage, and, even in large doses, seems
productive of little injury. The latter inflames to
a degree of madness, producing idleness, turbulence,
and riot. The degree of exhilaration, produced by
fermented liquors taken moderately, may not be
unpleasing; but the folly, the phrenzy, and the
nausea, occasioned by excess, ought in the estima-
tion of common sense to excite disgust and abhor-
rence.

rence. These, however, are not the worst, the most pernicious consequence of all being the destruction of health, that first of nature's blessings, without which there is no solid enjoyment of the rest. It is with great pleasure I here take an opportunity of remarking the happy reformation, that has of late years taken place in the manners of the gentry of this county. To make his guests drunk, was formerly reckoned by almost every entertainer a necessary part of his hospitality. Doors were often locked, to prevent the flincher's escape, and, when the host's head was a strong one, general intoxication was unavoidable. To modern manners these excesses are unknown, and the higher ranks of this country are now as much distinguished for moderation, as they formerly were for intemperance.

The population of this county is very considerable, and within the last forty years has increased in a degree, perhaps not to be equalled in any country, which has received so little accession to its numbers from extraneous causes. America experiences a yearly influx of adventurers, in consequence of the encouragement her immense extent of uncultivated territory affords, while our augmentation is owing to natural means alone. The peculiar difference between England and this island is, ~~that~~, there, the population appears most in the towns;

towns; here, it is chiefly in the country. Large towns drain the surrounding country of its inhabitants, not only by the encouragement they offer to workmen, but also by being themselves unfavourable to the rearing of children. Cork, indeed, by its admirable situation for trade, appears to have kept pace with the most flourishing cities of Europe; but, with a few exceptions, the other towns of this county seem to be rather stationary than progressive. In populous districts, small towns may find support from supplying the wants of the vicinage; large ones can only be maintained by commerce or manufactures,* neither of which have been as yet extensively established here. In England, the great demand for labour, in the different manufactories, employs all the superfluous hands, which can be spared from agriculture. Here, for want of such employment, farms are over-stocked, and every man becomes a tiller of the ground for his subsistence. The farmer, who has half a dozen sons, may, perhaps, for one or two of them find trades; the rest are provided for by an equal partition of his land. By such means, the farmers of this county are

* I should perhaps have added fashion, by means of which some towns have rapidly attained a considerable degree of prosperity. This sometimes fluctuating cause of advancement may, however, be ranked under the head of commerce, from the encouragement it affords to shopkeepers and artisans.

are, for the most part, reduced to petty cottagers ; a system that must continue as long, as the circumstances which occasion it. The inconveniences, that necessarily arise from grounds thus overpeopled, would, it might be imagined, give rise to a spirit of emigration, and induce some of the persons, so crowded together, to seek a better fortune in distant climes ; yet this is by no means the case. As long as subsistence can be procured, and in this respect their desires are very moderate, nothing can induce them to quit the favourite spot, on which they were born. Among a peasantry so circumstanced one would, at least, expect to find an easy supply of recruits for the army and navy, in both of which, setting aside the casualties of war, comforts and ease are enjoyed, far superior to any they possess. Yet from this class few recruits are obtained for either, the far greater number being procured in towns among dissolute tradesmen, and idle apprentices. It is difficult to say what constitutes the happiness of man : the condition of the labouring poor, as well as of these petty cottagers, seems very far removed from a state of felicity. Yet, except under occasional instances of harsh treatment from their landlords and employers, or, in the more distressing case of sickness, by which their families are reduced to extreme indigence from the

intermission of their labour, they are neither discontented, nor unhappy. Affectionately attached to their native soil, no idea seems really distressing but that of leaving it, and as long as this can be avoided, they bear without repining all the other evils of their lot. Thus it would appear, that happiness may sometimes be found in situations apparently most uncongenial; often vainly sought in wealth, and pomp, and power, it reposes in the hut of the patient and laborious cottager. Slavery alone, destroying every principle of dignity and independence, presents a situation absolutely incompatible with the attainment of happiness. It may have its comforts, it may even have its splendour, but he, whose only law is the will of another, can never be happy. The degree of liberty enjoyed by the meanest, under a government so mild as this, has no small tendency to strengthen their natural attachment to the soil. The poor man must work, it is true, but then he may change his master, and is not, as formerly, the vassal of an imperious chieftain. He feels no absolute compulsion, but what results from his own necessities, nor apprehends any edict, which shall tear him from the bosom of his family, and send him to fight even the necessary battles of his country. As far as circumstances will admit, he enjoys the same freedom of action as his superiors,

superiors, confined by no restraint, but what the laws impose for general security. Following the dictates of unsophisticated nature, he marries to gratify himself, and in a group of smiling children often experiences a delight unknown to many of his superiors. He has his days of rest, and his hours of recreation, and if his industry produces any fruits they are his own. This, it is true, is the fair side of the picture, but as it presents nothing, which may not be attained, that hope, which springs eternal in the human breast, encourages every man at the outset of life to flatter himself, that it may be his lot. If the morning brightness of the prospect becomes but too frequently clouded, even in conditions of fairer promise, it is no wonder that disappointment should often overtake that humble state, which possesses so little resource against the common calamities of life.

It is difficult to ascertain the population of ancient times—one thing only can be certainly known, that it could not have borne any comparison with the present. Without towns, agriculture, or commerce, the inhabitants of a country cannot be very numerous, because they cannot have the means of subsistence. In the earlier ages, neither arts nor agriculture could have made much progress among a people so restless and turbulent, and in a country

consisting of little else than mountain and forest.—Of that period there are no documents, whereon can be formed any probable estimate of their numbers. Later times afford more satisfactory grounds for calculation. From the ruins of the old parochial churches the curious might collect, with some precision, the number of inhabitants this county contained before the Reformation. Of most of these, which were very small buildings, sufficient vestiges remain to ascertain their original dimensions. Presuming that every church was sufficient to hold its parishioners, it would not be difficult to collect the probable numbers in each parish. Such a computation would make the former number fall very short of the present, too great, in many parishes, to be contained in ten of the old churches. Spenser, whose authority is unquestionable, so late as the reign of Elizabeth, represents this county as covered with woods, and the natives wandering with their flocks, like the ancient Scythians. From the same author's plan for the defence of Munster, not only against the Irish then hostile to the Queen's government, but also against an apprehended invasion of the Spaniards, may be formed some judgment of the native population. The number of soldiers required for this purpose he rates at one thousand, viz. "one hundred at Bantry, for internal and external

ternal defence; the same number at Castlemayne, a convenient station for keeping all Desmond and Kerry; at Kilmore, two hundred, to break the nest of thieves there, and answer alike for the counties of Limerick and Cork; another hundred at Cork, as well to command the town, as to be ready for foreign occasion; two hundred at Waterford for the same purposes; a like number in the country of the Burkes, near Arlo and Muskerry Quirk, to guard the passes, through which thieves carried their plunder to and from Munster; the remainder in Tipperary where, though not then, they might soon be wanted." When we consider the inadequacy of such a force in the same district, during the late rebellion, though so respectable a number of the natives were ranged on the side of government, it will lead us to conclude, that the whole of the population in his time must have been very greatly inferior to what it is now.

The present population of this county, though not easily calculable to absolute arithmetical precision, admits a degree of ascertainment so near the truth, as to answer all the purposes of the curious, or statistical enquirer. To my friend, Thomas Newenham, Esq. from whose laborious and diligent researches the public has lately derived most useful and important information, I am indebted for
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many valuable communications on this, as well as other subjects. The gross amount of houses in the county and city of Cork, as returned by Thomas Wray, Esq. inspector-general of hearth-money in 1791, was 76,739.*

From various calculations made in town and country, Mr. Newenham is induced to fix the ratage of population at six to a house, which, I believe, may be considered as a just computation. In some parishes within the city of Cork the average rate exceeded eight, in inferior towns he found it to be over six; and in Cloghnikilty I compute it to exceed seven. Five to a house is the usual computation of country residents, and, in general, it seems to be a fair ratage; Mr. Newenham's information shews, that in several places it falls below the reality. Including therefore town and country, we cannot

* Viz.	Houses.
	56,422—one Hearth.
	3,896—2
	1,584—3
	1,225—4
	811—5
	625—6
	381—7
	220—8
	107—9
	58—10
	117—Upw. of ten.
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	6,446

Houses.
2,344—New.
8,949—Paupers.

Total, 76,739

At 6 to a house460,434

cannot be far from truth in fixing it at six. The inhabitants of this county therefore, in 1791, may be considered as amounting to 460,434. Mr. N. in his Inquiry into the progress and magnitude of the population of Ireland infers from various documents, that it doubles in forty-six years. This calculation, he observes, will give a present population of 620,578, which, when the causes assigned for the late rapid increase of our people are considered, ought rather to fall short of, than exceed their actual amount.

The great increase of inhabitants in this county, within the last thirty years, will appear more remarkable from a comparison with other parts of the United kingdom. So many years have elapsed since I first travelled through Wales, a country in which, from its similarity in other respects, one might expect a similar advance of population. Yet this does not seem to be by any means the case. In passing through it about four years ago, there appeared little reason to believe, that the number of its inhabitants had received much addition. Some towns, particularly on the Bristol Channel, have been enlarged and improved, owing some part of their increase to the migration of Irish families during the rebellion, but the greater number seems to stand unaltered. In the country the style of agriculture appeared

appeared to have improved considerably, without much apparent increase of population. Yet I do not know, that Wales has been much drained of its inhabitants either by emigration, or the demand for labour in England, they being also remarkable for attachment to their native soil. Within this period, general appearances would induce one to believe, that the increase here has been fourfold at least.*

For this rapid augmentation the following causes may be assigned:—increased industry—facility of subsistence—the custom of marrying at an early age—the general aversion to emigration—and the happy use of inoculation for the small-pox.

Among the articles of Irish subsistence, the great staple commodity is potatoes, which now make the principal part of their food for the whole year.—Formerly the use of them was limited to particular seasons, oatmeal having been used in spring and summer. The method of raising potatoes from seed

* That our population has admitted an extraordinary increase within the number of years above mentioned, is evident to every eye so long accustomed to the view of the country. Mr. Newenham's ratio is however founded on grounds of much safer credit than mere appearance, and therefore, at least, with respect to the island at large, more consonant to truth and reality. In this county I am confident the increase has been greater. I think I do not exceed the truth in saying, that the present number of houses, in many places I am acquainted with, surpasses that of those existing forty years ago, in the proportion of four to one.

seed has produced a great variety, some kinds of which are found to retain their soundness to the ensuing season. This excellent root is daily getting into greater esteem in all parts of the empire, but the English, in general, have but an imperfect idea of its value. The potatoes of their growth are, for the most part, watery and ill-flavoured, while those raised here are pleasant, mealy, and nourishing.—They are boiled, without being cut or skinned, over a slow fire, and always eat while hot, being much less palatable when they cool. The labour, which the poor are able to undergo, frequently without any other kind of food, is abundant testimony of their strength, and such as can add a small quantity of flesh, fish, or milk, do not, and indeed need not, desire a better fare. The usual abundance of their produce secures to the most indigent the daily certainty of a full meal, without any art or trouble of cooking. In other countries to make provision for a family is so serious an undertaking, that marriage is seldom ventured on at an early age, or until a man has acquired a competence sufficient for its support. Here marriage is delayed by no want, except sometimes the want of money enough to purchase a license—to Providence and their potatoe garden they commit the rest. Children abundantly follow, for barrenness is almost unknown among the

lower classes. These prevailing causes of increasing population are further promoted by their love of home, and the universal custom of inoculating children for the small-pox, a disorder, which was once little less injurious in its ravages than the plague.

Of peculiar customs, derived from antiquity, some remains are to be found. In addition to those already observed, the most remarkable is that of howling at funerals still practised in this county, by women only, a certain number of whom attend at every funeral, and, though often wholly unconnected with the deceased, break out at intervals into passionate shrieks of loud lamentation. The cries commence at the death of the person, and are continued occasionally until the grave is closed, except on the night before interment, called the wake, when the meeting has more the complexion of mirth than sorrow. The room, where the body is laid out dressed in white, is filled with people, regaling themselves with liquor and tobacco, and chatting on various topics, one of which is the praise of the deceased. Their attachment to this custom is so strong as frequently to expose them to great danger, no apprehension of infection from the most malignant disease being sufficient to prevent their crowding into the houses of the deceased. In every class of life, except where privacy is expressly

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ly enjoined, funeral honours are paid to the dead, who are always attended to the tomb by the people of the vicinage. This mark of respect is ambitiously sought for by more than the common people, and it is considered as conferring no small honour on the deceased, to say that he had a large funeral,

Another custom, evidently of pagan original, though tradition retains no memory of its cause, is that of lighting fires on every Midsummer's eve, now commonly done by boys, who play and shout around them. The sun, so naturally an object of adoration to the savage, claims the honour of this annual illumination.*

Witches and fairies were once great disturbers of public quiet, in this as well as other countries. The former have been long discarded, the latter are but barely remembered. The doctrine of omens, however, has still a large class of disciples, some of whom rank above the vulgar more in condition than in sentiment. Good and bad luck are supposed to attach to particular days, and many trifling things

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have.

* Holy wells, the patronage of which has long since devolved from the Naiads of the fount to the saints of the calendar, are still resorted to; the blessing of the saint, to which that of the priest is sometimes added, being supposed to impart much virtue to the waters.—The far greater number of attendants, however, are influenced by considerations, in which sanctity has very little concern. They meet to make merry, which in frequent interpretation is, to drink and fight.

have the credit of a similar designation. Though all are equally foolish, the result of some is beneficial. Few things offer stronger temptation of theft to the lower classes than iron and timber, yet plows and their tackle may remain in the field without any fear of being made free with, protected by the ill fortune supposed to attend that theft; farmers are less indebted to another omen, which represents it as unlucky to plow across old ridges.

Though the Protestants of this county are very numerous, the great body of the people, particularly the peasantry, are Roman Catholics. A recollection of the times, when their religion was predominant both in church and state, may naturally be supposed to cherish some seeds of enmity towards the ascendant party, which however, unless kept alive by artifice, or imprudence, will gradually fall to decay. Interest is man's ruling principle, and collectively taken they seldom sacrifice a certain to a speculative good. Security and comfort are the utmost objects of the people's ambition, who, if they enjoy these, will not be very anxious to inquire from what description of governors and landlords they proceed. Under such circumstances though rebellion may arise, it will never originate with the people. Artifice and inflammation may excite them to support it, but it will owe its birth

to other causes than their discontent or disaffection. Even under Elizabeth, when their condition was so infinitely beneath what it is now, Spenser does them the justice to observe, that "all the rebellions, which we see from time to time happen in Ireland, are not begun by the common people, but by the lords and captains of counties, upon pride and wilful obstinacy against government." The truth of this observation has been fully exemplified in the circumstances of the late rebellion. An abundance of turbulent leaders was supplied by the phrenzy of French revolution. By them every artifice, that could irritate the prejudices and inflame the passions of the people, was most industriously employed. The contagion of democracy was so widely diffused, that the steadiest friends of establishment began almost to despair of its security. Yet were the peasantry with difficulty induced to join a cause, so liberal in promise, and so confident of success. Their organization was generally slow, and frequently reluctant, and though they did fall into the snare, they were the last that were corrupted.

But the disorders of democracy carried their antidote along with them. The baneful operations of that spirit, now laid by the spells of a very potent magician, are powerful dissuaves from the desire of revolution. Other nations, at least, will listen
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with caution and distrust to the insidious doctrines of political reformation. What may be the future destiny of that country, which in so short a space has experienced such extremes, it is hard to say. Popular licentiousness, too unsteady to be permanent, naturally leads to single despotism. The abused authority of a despot may produce a change, but it will probably be only a change of masters.— This at least is the conclusion, which experience warrants us to draw from the common nature of a military government.

With respect to our own situation, there is every reason to think, that the impression made by those awful scenes has been tranquillizing and salutary. I am inclined to believe, that many persons, Protestant as well as Catholic, were imposed upon by the plausibility of republican principles, and induced to support the late confederacy from honest though mistaken motives. They must be blind indeed, whose eyes are not now completely opened. To the far greater number of its supporters the success of the conspiracy would have been more calamitous than the discomfiture. Nothing but invasion seems now capable of materially affecting our internal tranquillity. I see among the Roman Catholic gentry of this county a liberal and manly spirit of support to the common cause, the sincerity of which

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it would be preposterous to doubt. They would be chargeable with folly as well as duplicity to think or act otherwise. Security of property, and a government by established laws, are possessions too important to be risked, were there even a chance of improvement by the change. The state of modern Europe offers but one choice, subjection to the British constitution, or submission to a despot. It requires no depth of understanding to determine the preference.

Among the inhabitants of this county is a great intermixture of English blood; besides the followers of Strongbow, whose descendants have long ranked among the most powerful Irish families, the greater number if not all the towns were built and colonized by the English. To these may be added those adventurers, whose services were rewarded by conquered and forfeited lands. All these brought many followers, who, as well as the inhabitants of towns, gradually intermarried with the natives. In consequence we find abundance of English surnames in all parts of the country. Spenser observes, that in his time numbers of the English had by intermixture with the Irish adopted their dress and manners, and he complains of them as the most rude and intractable of any. Still, however, the principal names of the old Irish families remain,

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some of whose descendants retain a portion of ancient property. It has been supposed, that a strong motive for rebellion exists in the hope these still entertain of recovering the possessions of their ancestors, and that maps of the old divisions of property are for that purpose carefully preserved. That there are such maps, and that there may be such expectations, I am not prepared to deny, but I cannot think that much danger is to be apprehended from either. Besides that most of the present Catholic proprietors derive under titles, to which such claims would be very injurious, the difficulty, or rather the impossibility, of adjusting those claims forbids us to harbour any serious apprehension on that account. The Danes, at no very distant period, are reported to have had similar maps, and, on every marriage contract, to have settled an Irish portion on their children. After so many changes and such length of possession, the pretensions of both seem to be equally futile.

The lower orders of people have long been in the habit of paying very submissive deference to their superiors, ecclesiastical as well as civil; every person, calling himself a gentleman, not only expected immediate obedience to his mandate, but often for the most trifling offence, and sometimes for no offence at all, inflicted manual punishment,
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without the smallest apprehension of resistance on the part of the sufferer. The same mode of chastisement was frequently adopted by the priest, in addition to the more formidable correction of his spiritual authority. Prosecutions at law were never thought of being resorted to, but when the parties were nearly on a level. These practices were, in a great measure, derived from their former state of vassalage under petty chiefs, whose authority was altogether oppressive and unbounded. They are every day falling into disuse, as well from the improved manners of the gentry, as from the ameliorated condition of the people, whose spirit always rises with their situation. A condition so abject, though always to be deplored, had however some advantages to set in the scale against its evils. Coercion and restraint are necessary to keep the multitude in awe, and preserve the harmony of social combination. The most eligible subordination is that, which arises from a regular administration of justice, from cultivated minds, and decorous manners. But where laws are neither regularly enforced, nor generally understood, where the people are sunk in rudeness and ignorance, any restraint is useful, which keeps the impetuosity of untutored passions within safe limits. One of its worst consequences was that servility of mind, which abject

dependence always inspires. He that cannot throw off his servitude must endeavour to soften it; he will flatter where he despises, and profess attachment where he feels abhorrence. Accustomed to disguise his sentiments, and speak the language of falsehood, adulation and insincerity will at length become a part of his character. Thus nature may be reproached for faults, which were the offspring of situation and habit. Many traces of this character are still discernible among the common people.

The police of this county, if not as perfect as it may be, stands however on a respectable foundation. The appointment of an assistant barrister, with a power of trying civil bills, has been a great improvement to the administration of justice. The execution of the law is also regularly promoted by a set of regular constables stationed in every district. Before these changes took place, it was almost impossible to convey a prisoner to gaol without a strong military escort. To rescue a captive was an exploit, which an Irishman was as ready to undertake as the renowned Don Quixote himself, and with as little consideration for the motive of his arrest. It was sufficient for him that the man was a prisoner—the cause and the consequences he regarded as little as the knight of La Mancha.

In the present administration of justice there is no other cause of complaint, than that which arises from the great extent of the county, which under the present circumstances of increasing wealth and population ought certainly to be divided. The inconvenience, that many inhabitants must suffer from the distance of the towns in which it is administered, is too obvious to need enlargement. The expediency of a division was suggested a great many years ago, and though over-ruled at that time, when the business was comparatively trifling, would now probably meet the general wishes.

Upon the whole it may be observed that, though some strong traces of original feature remain, the people of this county are materially altered for the better. Their idle and dissolute habits, characteristic of all uncultivated people, have generally given place to the peaceful pursuits of laborious industry. They are for the most part comfortably clad, and, though sometimes bare-legged from choice, are seldom so from necessity. Even their love of liquor is daily taking a more favourable turn, and porter has become a powerful rival to whiskey. To their industrious exertions all parts of the county bear testimony, and, whatever an intelligent observer may think of their skill, he will see no great reason to reproach their idleness.

CHAP. IV.

Antiquities, previous and subsequent to Christianity.

THE antiquities of this county furnish the strongest internal evidence of the rude state of its early inhabitants. The first result of social union is fixed and commodious habitation. As wealth and luxury increase, buildings advance from convenience and comfort to beauty and magnificence.—Had any improved state of political society ever existed in a country possessing such abundant and durable materials for building, some vestiges of its works would still be discoverable. But of such establishments no distinct traces are to be found, even in the accounts of those, who would have us believe that such a state of civilization did actually exist. Nor can their disappearance be reasonably imputed to the destructive hand of time, when so many small and simple monuments of remoter ages are yet

yet remaining. The tranquil state of this country, never known to have been disturbed by inundations, earthquakes, or volcanoes, forbids us to account for their destruction by natural means. The devastation and injuries, which the inhabitants suffered from foreign invaders, is too recent to have left us without some knowledge of the places destroyed. Julius Cæsar was the first successful invader of British tranquillity, and Ireland continued unmolested for a long time after. The seaports of this county, too were known and occasionally resorted to in the time of Tacitus, from which circumstance it is reasonable to suppose, that this was one of the most improved parts of the island. Here then, had any respectable establishment once existed, we might expect to find some traces of it. But as all that remain are vestiges only of the rude and barbarous, we are induced to conclude that before the Christian æra, and for a great while after it, the inhabitants of this country were in a state of the lowest ignorance.

The most ancient monuments of human labour, for art seems an improper term for works so rude, are stone circles, trilithons usually called Druid's altars, raths, or circular mounds of earth, caves, and stone pillars. Of all these many are still remaining, raths being by far the most numerous.—

Tradition

Tradition, which preserves no memory of the rest, assigns the rath to the northern invaders, whose name it still bears, being commonly called a Danish fort.* Doctor Ledwich, to whose diligence in removing the rubbish of ancient history the curious are much indebted, describes a remarkable mound at New Grange, on the top of which a singular sepulchral monument was discovered. This he looks upon to be Danish, as well from its similarity to such works in the northern parts of Europe, as from some other circumstances. Barrows of this kind, which

* One of our most learned and ingenious antiquaries has assigned strong reasons for believing the rath to be of Irish origin. He thinks it probable, that the Danes may occasionally have made use of them, but observes that "when those injudicious antiquaries, who call them "Danish forts, find three or four together with their circles nearly approaching each other, as on Salisbury plain and in many parts of "Ireland, or when they find a rath situated at the foot of a hill which "commands it, how can they say they were erected for offence or "defence?"—Geo. Vallancey.

It will be remembered, that I am speaking only of raths found in this county, the form and circumstances of which differing extremely from those of Salisbury plain seem fairly imputable to a different cause. Our raths are never contiguous, and their common position is, not on commanded, but commanding situations. In places chosen for habitable purposes only, the near convenience of water seems to have been invariably attended to. Rathes are frequently found at a distance from it, so that there must have been some circumstance of more importance than even that necessary article to direct the choice of a situation. This was possibly the strength of the position. Another circumstance seems to prove, that they are not of very early origin, and that is their having no apparent connection with those heaps of burned stones so abundantly found here, with which in times of remote antiquity the natives cooked their food.

which are also found in England, particularly in the neighbourhood of Salisbury plain, were, he observes, monumental, erected to the memory of some king or chief, and sometimes probably as memorials of a victory. The form of our raths seems to indicate a different purpose. The mound, or barrow properly so called, is high and flat-topped, resembling a sugar-loaf deprived of its apex. The rath is in fact a circular fortification, agreeing with the barrow only in the rotundity of its figure. It is formed by a circular excavation, inclosing sometimes more; but generally much less than an English acre. The earth so raised, being thrown inwards, forms a bank or rampart, that conceals and shelters the inner part of the fort, which is seldom much elevated above the surrounding land. It is further protected and secured by the depth and breadth of the ditch, from which the earth of the rampart was taken.— There seem to have been sometimes one and sometimes two places of entrance, though possibly one of these may have been the work of later times. The situation of these forts is generally on high ground, and their position such as to command a communication with each other. In most, probably in all of them, is a vault seldom extending more than a few yards, about four feet wide, and too low
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to be entered except in a bending posture. This probably served, like the German caves described by Tacitus, as a repository for provisions, and an occasional shelter from very severe weather. All these circumstances seem to denote a place of defence as well as habitation, adapted to the circumstances of a people, who had conquered the country and wished to keep it in subjection. This is the general character of our raths, many of which are to this day no contemptible fortifications, but there are some, which, from their slight construction and very inferior size, seem to have been designed for domestic purposes only. The opinion therefore, that they were the habitations of the ancient Irish, though inadmissible in its full extent, may be partially true. Places of such strength as we find many of them to be, implying a state of contention and insecurity, are irreconcilable with the idea of a pastoral life, and the common condition of aboriginal inhabitants. It is therefore most reasonable to suppose, that they were first erected by the northern invaders, though the natives might occasionally have availed themselves of their use, or imitated the model.* They are most numerous
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* A few instances occur of square raths. One of them, which stands upon the farm of Cahirmore, near Ross, I examined minutely. It contains about one fourth of an acre, the area being on a level with

along the sea coast then, as well as at present, the most thickly inhabited part. Indeed their frequency is such as to prove a very considerable degree of early population, at least if we consider them to have been, what probably was not the case, occupied all at one time.

One cause of raths remaining so entire to the present day is the unwillingness of the country people to level them, not out of religious veneration, as some suppose, but from one of those unaccountable fancies, which places good or bad luck in unmeaning occurrences.

Of the Cromlech or Druid's altar religion has always claimed the exclusive appropriation, but circles and upright stones were monumental as well as sacred, sometimes constituting a temple, and sometimes gracing the hero's tomb. This, though it may at first appear to involve some confusion, is

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the surrounding land. The banks, that inclose it, are very different from those of the circular inclosures. Instead of being steep on the outside, and sloping gently inwards towards the centre, they are equally steep within and without. The present height of these banks is about nine feet, and their breadth not much greater than that of many field inclosures. There is no appearance of moat or deep ditch round it, only the ground immediately outside the banks is somewhat lower than the rest, apparently in consequence of having furnished materials for the inclosing. This is probably an ancient work, but its particular destination seems to be uncertain. There is another square rath, near Castlefreke, of much larger size, and differing from the common rath in nothing but its form.

perfectly reconcileable with truth and reason. The shrine of departed excellence, considered in all ages as sacred, afforded a fit place for the offering of vows and the invocation of the Deity. Tombs were therefore sometimes the origin of temples, and sometimes, in consequence of the connexion, temples became an appropriate situation for tombs. The relation of each to the other originated in the earliest ages, subsists in the present, and will probably continue to the latest. The religious monuments of our pagan ancestors appear to have had another use, serving, as sacerdotal and legislative functions were so often united, for the investiture of chiefs and the administration of justice.

The upright stones, so often found here, appear to have been monumental. In general there are two, within a very short distance of each other, and of unequal heights. These were obviously intended to mark the grave of some distinguished person.

The early inhabitants of this country felt a strong predilection for rotundity of form in their public works. Besides barrows, forts, and stone circles, a regard to that figure is also seen in the trilithon, the most ancient of all their monuments, the upper stone or impost of which comes as near to rotundity as the rude workmanship of nature would allow. This observation however is not, I believe, extensively

sively applicable to the trilithon, which in some parts of Great Britain is represented as of an oblong shape. Here, where it was very easy to have formed an oblong altar, stones of that shape being most abundant as well as most manageable, they seem to have been very assiduous in selecting the roundest.* The general prejudice in favour of roundity originated probably from a pious desire of imitating the form of the great luminaries, natural objects of wonder and adoration to the untutored mind.

On the estate of the earl of Shannon, near Cloghnikilty, are some curious remains of religious antiquity, which serve to shew, as antiquarians have often noticed, the sudden transition from pagan to christian worship on the same site. A little to the north of the town, on the lands of Temple Brien, are the ruins of an old church placed, as all of them seem to have been, within a small quadrangular inclosure. The dimensions, which may still be traced, shew it to have been very small, and the decayed state of what little wall remains proves it to be very ancient. On the north side of the church, and within a few paces, stands a curious pillar, consisting of a single stone, from fourteen to fifteen feet

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* By this is not to be understood the roundness of a sphere, but of a millstone.

in length, near five feet being under ground. It is about four feet in circumference at the bottom, and tapers gradually in rising, approaching almost to a point at the summit. The form is quadrilateral, but it has been rounded off at the angles, and there were formerly four stones indented in such a manner as to fit exactly the four corners of the pillar. One of these is still remaining. On one of its sides is the rude form of a cross, superadded by christian piety, if, as generally supposed, the pillar itself be of pagan origin. Of this there would be little doubt but for the appearance of art employed in its formation. Stone circles, altars, and other monuments of pagan erection in this county, appear to be the work of a people unprovided with any implement for stone-cutting. Incapable of gratifying their deities by works of elegance, they endeavoured to make them acceptable by a rude grandeur. For the exertions of art they substituted those of labour. But in this pillar, the present form of which cannot be considered natural, appear evident marks of an artist's hand. The situation of the place has other claims to antiquarian consideration. The quadrangular spot, within which the church and pillar stand, is placed nearly in the centre of a large oval inclosure, containing about four acres. This was once surrounded, like the
raths,

raths, by a wide ditch, of which some part is still remaining. On the north side is a cave running from east to west, the sides being supported by walls, and covered over with coarse slates or flags, which are so near the surface as to be sometimes disturbed by the plough. As far as one can see, it appears to be low and narrow, and is said by the country people to extend much farther than modern curiosity is willing to explore. Human bones are often found within the area of this singular inclosure. Near the church are the remains of a very small lime-kiln, supposed to be coeval with the church, and to have supplied lime for its use, some traces of which are discernible in the foundation, though I could not perceive any in the upper part of the walls, which are in a very mouldering state. Lime certainly was made use of here at a very early period, as appears from the abbey at Ross, a building of great antiquity, the remaining walls of which are still admirably cemented. Most of the old parochial churches of this neighbourhood were, however, built without it, as many houses still continue to be, not from ignorance of its use, but from the difficulty of obtaining it, no limestone being found in the southwest part of the county.

About four hundred yards south of the old church, is a circle of large stones, thirty feet in diameter, five
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of which only retain their upright position. A representation of it is given in Smith's History of Cork, as it stood in 1742, when visited by the Bishop of Clogher. His lordship, (he adds) who published a dissertation on stone monuments, considered it to have been a heathen temple. The number of stones then forming the circle was nine. The central stone, now hardly visible, in consequence of a fence which divides the circle, is of white quartz. Smith* says, "it is remarkable that no two stones of this circle fall in a line with that in the centre." They are indeed so placed in the plate, but not in the field, as the few now remaining will shew to any person, who takes the trouble of examining. The stones, which are dissimilar in size and form, seem to have been placed with no other peculiarity of contrivance than that of turning the flat side to the centre. Some of them were thrown down, in expectation of finding hidden treasure. The same avaricious curiosity once overturned the pillar, but it
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* His account is in many particulars so erroneous, that, if he did visit it, he must have written from a very imperfect recollection. This has led Dr. Ledwich into a mistake, who, however, is not accurate in his quotation. "Not far from the church of Temple Brien" (says Dr. Ledwich) is a stone circle with a central pyramidal pillar "—near the churchyard is another, and not far distant a third." This central pyramid happens to be a round white stone—the pillar is four hundred yards distant, and there is no third one. Smith certainly mentions three, but makes only one of them a pillar.

was replaced by the people of the neighbourhood, who entertain a religious veneration for the site of the old church, but have no respect for the circle, or conception of its former uses.

In the neighbourhood of Ross, near the village of Newmill, is another circle composed of similar stones, and nearly of the same dimensions. In this too there are five stones still standing, and so close to each other, that, if all were equidistant, more than nine must have been required to complete the circle. There is no trace of a central stone, as at Temple-brien, nor are they arranged in the same manner, some being placed with their sides, others with their edges towards the centre. This appears to have been a favourite scene of religious exercise, for within a few feet of the circle is a Druid's altar, and, at the distance of a hundred yards, an upright stone of the same kind as those that compose the circle. The upper stone of the altar, which has three supporters, is very ponderous, and bears some resemblance in its form to a skettle bowl. This is the only instance I know of a connexion between the circle and the altar, which are usually found remote from each other, as if the works of different ages. The point of priority I am disposed to assign to the altar, which, as will hereafter be shewn, appears to be among the earliest efforts of superstition.

tion. The direction contained, as Dr. Ledwich observes, in some of the northern codes, enjoining the erection of stone circles in honour of the deceased, is a strong reason for assigning them a later date. It is observable that, though many of the early churches were built upon pagan sites, we have no instance, here at least, of any standing near a Druid's altar. Groves, circles, and upright stones, seem to have marked the sacred spots, on which the churches of the first christian converts were placed. The ponderous trilithon, as of earlier date, might have fallen into some disuse before the introduction of christianity.

Near the village of Glanworth, in the barony of Fermoy, is a pagan monument, not more remarkable for its size than its singularity, no similar work being found in any other part of the county. A description and representation of it are given in Smith's History of Cork, both of which are erroneous. His inaccuracy here, as well as at Temple Brien, is the less excusable from the facility of examination both afford, situated as they are close to a public road. But Smith's curiosity seems to have been satisfied in most cases with the reports of others. This huge sepulchral monument, called in Irish, Labacolly, i. e. the Hag's or Witch's bed) is composed of two immense stones, supported on each side by a double

range

range of smaller ones. One of the incumbent stones, which is flat underneath, and rises on the upper side like a roof, measures about sixteen feet in length, six and a half in breadth, and three feet in thickness at its middle. This stone covers the west end, and retains pretty nearly its original position. The other, which is about half its size, has been displaced apparently in consequence of the supporters giving way. Perhaps it may have been disturbed by a search for treasure, which the common people still think is to be found there. The supporting stones, which resemble large flags, are regularly placed, the flat side being turned to the vault, which is still hollow and very spacious. It is about six feet wide, and in its original state might have been about twenty-five feet long. The vulgar notion of its being a giant's tomb, if not founded in truth, is at least not destitute of probability from its enormous dimensions. If intended for the repository of a single body, as was usually the case, nothing less than a giant could have occupied so great a space. The position is nearly east and west, which induced Smith to think it was erected after the introduction of christianity, but that form of sepulture was by no means peculiar to christians. At the west end is a very large stone closing the entrance to the vault. The

difficulty of construction is marvellously exaggerated by Smith, who says, the stones are of grit, and were brought from the mountains, which divide this county from Limerick. This indeed would have been a great labour even for giants, but the truth is, they are all limestone, the produce of the rock, on which they are placed. In breaking off a part of the largest stone to ascertain its quality, I procured a small fossil shell of the cockle kind, a circumstance the more remarkable, as fossils do not often occur in the stone of this neighbourhood. Indeed the difficulty of forming such a work, under any circumstances, was so considerable, that I am inclined to think the stones were never in a distant state of separation, and that the artists were a good deal indebted to the assistance of nature. Stones of great size are often seen torn from their native bed by natural convulsion, and placed in situations not very dissimilar from this. The regular arrangement of the side stones, however, bears every appearance of artificial contrivance, though a similar position is often found in the natural quarry. I have observed too, that the limestone of this district frequently possesses that disposition to lamellar structure, so universally observed in the schistus, and which accords with the direction of these stones. Mr. Hyde, on whose estate it is, and who

was so obliging as to accompany me there, procured some of the neighbouring peasants, with spades, for the purpose of exploring their foundation. But the place was so encumbered with stones and rubbish, that we were compelled to give it up, as too tedious for a short visit. Supposing, what might well have been the case, that the incumbent stones were found on the spot, resting on a bed of earth, it is not difficult to conceive how the work might have been accomplished without the aid of mechanic power. By a gradual removal of earth from the sides, the supporting stones might have been successively slipped into their present places. They had then only to excavate the vault, after which the upper stones would be found resting on the uprights. By some similar contrivance the Druid's altar was probably erected. At a little distance from the monument is a small hill, the regular roundness of which gives evident marks of artificial confirmation. This is further confirmed by its appellation being called the hill of Labacolly.

That this singular monument was sepulchral, and may be referred to a very remote antiquity, is all that modern curiosity seems likely to discover. *

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* In the Philosophical Survey of Ireland, published in 1777, the work too of an intelligent and liberal writer, is the following passage:

" A whimsical

The purposes of stone circles, trilithons, and pillars are too obvious to be mistaken. The uses of those long and narrow caves, which we sometimes find, are less easily ascertained. It has been said, upon the authority of some old manuscripts, that they were used as habitations, and an author is quoted, who represents the natives issuing from them discoloured by the smoaky confinement. To such

" A whimsical circumstance, relative to these Crom-liags, I cannot
 " omit. They are called by the ignorant natives Grannie's beds.
 " This Grannie is fabled to be the mother of Fimmacol or Fingall, and
 " of her, as well as her son, they have wonderful traditions. I have
 " heard songs in her praise, and was shewn in a stone the mark of her
 " foot, and have heard a huge rock called Fimmacol's finger stone.
 " The source, however, of the appellation, Grannie's bed, I conceive
 " to be a corruption of the original Irish name of these altars. Gri-
 " neus is, we know, a classical name for Apollo. In Camden's *Lunden*
 " we meet with an inscription, *Apollini Granne*, and *Grian* is a com-
 " mon name for the sun in Irish." One would think there was some-
 thing in the subject of antiquities, peculiarly calculated to confound
 the ideas, when we meet men of sense falling into such ridiculous
 mistakes. Granny's or hag's bed, instead of being an old Irish ap-
 pellation, happens to be no more than an English translation of *la-*
bacolly, the term sometimes given to ancient monuments of this kind.
 Of Fimmacol and his gigantic stature some traditional story still re-
 mains. I do not recollect hearing of his granny before. The same au-
 thor observes, that in very early times unhewn stones were representa-
 tives of divinity in most of the eastern nations. He is of opinion, that
 Druidism was established in this country, and that our stone circles
 were its temples. The existence of such monuments in England and
 Wales seems to strengthen the opinion. The variety of pagan forms of
 worship, which subsisted among people not far removed from each
 other, as in Gaul and Germany, seems however to render it doubtful.
 I question much, whether the pagan priests of this country were ever
 known by the specific name of Druids, though some of their ceremonies
 were doubtless similar to those of the neighbouring island. I do not
 know if it is certain that Druidism crossed the Tweed.

such an opinion it is difficult to give credit. The number is too small to allow us to consider them as places of general habitation. Natural caves might be occasionally resorted to for shelter, but it is extremely improbable, that a rude and idle people should undertake the tedious and troublesome work of excavation in a country abounding with wood, so easy and obvious a material for erecting dwellings. This improbability seems to amount to an impossibility in times when the use of iron, requisite for such works, must have been unknown. Besides, the wandering life of the natives, whose flocks required continual change of place, rendered an attachment to any fixed abode still more unlikely. Nor can we safely rely upon the authorities produced to support the opinion. Whoever chuses to consult Camden, who wrote in the time of Elizabeth, will see with what facility a grave and pious author may admit very extravagant relations as matters of fact.* Spencer's state of Ireland was composed about the same time, and in a very different manner. But Spencer related what he saw, Camden what he heard. Others with more probability have considered these caves as the work of pagan priests, who hoped by this gloomy kind of immersion

* See in Camden's account of Ireland a description of the Irish and their customs by — Gough, whose accuracy and credit are much commended.

sion to enhance the sanctity of their character. Tripods and caves were the places, from whence oracles were delivered of old, and they bear a striking, though not, as I know, noticed, analogy to our vaults and trilithons. At Ross Carbery, a very old seat of religious worship, are caves of much greater size and extent than that at Temple Brien. In these (at present closed up) were discovered many small chambers, bearing evident marks of fire, and connected by narrow passages. Some of them are very far beneath the present surface, but, not having been thoroughly explored, their number and extent is unknown. They certainly are very ancient, and it is difficult to account for works of such construction at so early an age upon any other than religious principle. Comfort and convenience might be attained with such infinite inferiority of trouble, that one can hardly believe them to have been constructed for private uses. A sacred designation will therefore be deemed most probable, especially when we consider how powerfully the exertions of men may be stimulated by religious influence. Where superstition prescribed the task, no difficulty was too great to be surmounted. The German caves, described by Tacitus, had no reference to religion: they, like the vaults of our raths, were of much smaller dimensions, and made for domestic purposes.

The subject of our pagan antiquities opens a field of disquisition for a short excursion, in which I must beg the indulgence of the reader. Let it not, however, be understood, that I set up for an antiquarian, or that I solicit a contest with any of the learned professors of that abstruse science. My only view is to correct some errors, into which a late writer appears to have fallen. To do this, will require no great share of ingenuity or learning. He has produced his authorities, and the question simply is, whether these authorities support his doctrine or not. The writer, to whom I allude, is entitled to great praise for the light he has thrown upon obscure subjects, as well as for the sound principles, on which his work is generally conducted. The acknowledged merit of his performance is an additional inducement to the rectifying some of those inadvertencies, from which no human composition is exempt.

In treating of the pagan antiquities of this country, Dr. Ledwich is extremely anxious to distinguish between the Celtic and the Scythic superstitions. That of the former is called pure druidism, the unpolluted worship of the groves, devoid of altar, image, or external symbol, and never stained with human blood. This he finds universally established among the Celts, the supposed aboriginal inhabitants

inhabitants of Gaul, Germany, and these islands. This pure, simple, and primitive form of worship was succeeded by the stone altars, circles, pillars, and sacrifices of the Scythians or northern invaders, who either abolished the druidic worship, or mixed their own superstitions with it. A want of due attention to this distinction has been, according to him, a great cause of perplexity to antiquarians, who, by keeping it in view, would have been enabled to preserve a steady course through all the obscurities of their journey. This is the system—we are now to inquire, whether it be as satisfactorily supported as it is clearly laid down.

Two very ancient writers, one of whom lived about fifty years before, the other about one hundred years after the christian æra, furnish the fullest as well as the earliest information on the subject. Julius Cæsar in his history of the Gallic war, where he commanded in person, gives a particular account of the Druids and their tenets, and Tacitus wrote a treatise on the manners of the Germans. From persons of such talents, erudition, and means of information, it is now vain to appeal. If they shall be found to support the system, it will of course be established; if their testimony should prove adverse, it must fall to the ground. The account given by Cæsar, the earlier of the two, is obviously unfavourable. He divides

divides entire Gaul (*Galliam omnem*) into three parts—one inhabited by the Belgæ, another by the Aquitani, the third by those called Celts, in their own tongue, and Gauls by the Romans. These last he represents as very superstitious, sacrificing human victims on many occasions, and sometimes with a horrible profuseness. For this purpose they constructed large wicker figures, which they filled with men, and then set fire to. Culprits were more usually the victims; when they were wanting, the innocent were substituted. They worshipped different gods, but chiefly Mercury, of whom there were many images. They also raised mounds of earth, in which were placed the consecrated spoils. The ministers of those sacrifices were the Druids. In this description we read of Celts, sacrifices, deities, mounds, images, and Druids, but not a word of unpolluted groves.

With respect to the Germans, among whom, upon the authority of Tacitus, Dr. Ledwich discovers Celtic purity and Druidic groves, Cæsar expressly affirms, that they had no Druids.* He represents

R

them

* Sir James Ware, a very unassuming and well informed antiquary, seems to have in this point misunderstood Cæsar, whom he represents as saying, that the Germans had neither priests nor religion—Cæsar only says they had no Druids. He quotes Cæsar's passage, respecting the Druids, as the best early account of that superstition.

them as differing much in their customs from the Gauls. Secluded by their inland situation from equal opportunities of commercial intercourse, their only pursuits were war and hunting. The deities they adored were objects of sense, the sun, the moon, and fire, early and obvious causes of wonder and worship to the savage mind. The nearer approximation of the Germans to a state of nature adds no inconsiderable weight to the testimony of Cæsar. Such is the account left us by that celebrated statesman and general; let us see, how Dr. Ledwich encounters an opposition so formidable.

The account given by Cæsar of the Germans Dr. Ledwich is satisfied to pronounce doubtful; his representation of the Druids he endeavours somewhat preposterously to invalidate. The Roman general, on this occasion, is considered as speaking more like a soldier than a scholar. He is represented as less studious of truth, than willing to assimilate the religion of the Gauls to that of the Romans. The grounds of such an assimilation are certainly not very obvious. It could be no great compliment to the polite priesthood of Rome, to be told that they were equalled by the barbarians of Gaul. Besides, it is not altogether clear that Cæsar wrote like a modern author, with a view to the immediate publication of his works. But let us see, how this charge of assimilation is supported. Some pas-

sages of Cæsar's account of the Druids' tenets are paralleled with corresponding statements of the religious opinions of the Roman priesthood, and from this it is implied that, while he professed to exhibit the Gallic superstition, he was in reality describing that of his own country. The correspondence of these parallels is not always very striking, and the points, where they do coincide, are only those general ones, in which it was hardly possible they should disagree. He might as well have been charged with an assimilation to the Jewish priesthood. A person acquainted with the Roman history will be inclined to think, that no two superstitions could well be selected, between which there were fewer points of resemblance. Cæsar, who had been invested with the office of Flamen at the age of seventeen, must have been well acquainted with the religious institutions of his country, when he wrote the commentaries. Any thing like striking similitude, it is probable he would have specifically noticed. In the material circumstance of sacrifices there was the greatest disparity between Roman and Gallic rites, and where shall we find any thing among the latter, like the Luperci, the Salii, the Sodales, the Corybantes, &c.? Admitting it fair to charge a writer with assimilation, who adduces points of mutual resemblance only, with what justice can such a charge

be made on one, who to some cases of general resemblance adds others of utter dissimilarity. To most readers such a relation must, I think, convey a strong impression, not of assimilating prejudice, but of judicious and accurate observation. He certainly so far assimilates, as to give Roman names to their deities, but this is well accounted for by Tacitus, in the phrase, *interpretatione Romana*. The Roman writers called the gods of other nations by the names of their own, according to the offices assigned to them. Dr. Ledwich justly censures the conduct of those, who, indulging an exuberant fancy, have exalted Druids, the barbarous priests of a barbarous people, into sages and philosophers. He quotes authorities, in one place, to prove their savage and sanguinary rites, and, in another, becomes the advocate of their pure religion and undefiled groves. In this part of his work, at least, he has imprudently deserted his own strong and safe ground of authentic document, and, in support of a favourite system, has assumed the license he had denied to others. Such is the danger of systematising, and so much easier is it to lay down rules than to follow them!

“ We know,” says Dr. Ledwich, “ that the Belgæ
“ conquered and colonized the Celts, three or four
“ centuries before our æra, and imposed on the
“ conquered their superstition and manners, and
“ also

“ also adopted some, that were Celtic.” This assertion, to the support of which no authority is adduced, is surely made in a manner too peremptory and unqualified. That the Belgæ overran a part of Gaul, there is full reason to believe, but without producing the effects imputed by Dr. Ledwich. It is related by Cæsar, who, previous to his expedition against them, had taken pains to be informed of their situation and circumstances, that the Belgæ were descended from German tribes, who, at an early period (*antiquitus*) had crossed the Rhine, and, expelling the natives, settled in a part of Gaul. Here, however, the conquest ended. No intermixture of the two nations took place, but, after the manner of barbaric invasion, one territory was dispeopled to make room for another set of inhabitants. The Celts were reduced within narrower limits, but it by no means appears, that their modes of life were affected by the Belgic irruption. Two or three centuries after Dr. Ledwich’s overthrow of their discipline, Cæsar found them in complete possession of a large part of Gaul. The Belgæ and they were then distinct and independent nations, differing from each other in language, laws, and manners. Cæsar does, indeed, incidentally notice the disturbances occasioned in Gaul by the inroads of their fiercer northern neighbours; but nothing

thing contained in his work is sufficient to authorize the assertion, that Gaul had been conquered and colonized by them. Dr. Ledwich's argument, however, will derive little advantage from the admission of his premises, for we shall presently find that those very invaders (the Germans), who before Cæsar's time overran the Celts, and introduced a foreign superstition, were in the days of Tacitus no other than a Celtic people themselves! Strange inconsistency, into which nothing but the delusion of system making could betray the understanding!

When an author is quoted with a view of employing his testimony in support of a question, or of shewing that he has misconceived a matter, his sense should be fully and fairly taken. How far this has been done in Cæsar's case, the reader will judge. We are next to consider, how the other historian has been dealt with.

“The Druidic groves,” says Dr. Ledwich, “are accurately marked by Tacitus, by his calling them
“*casta nemora*, undefiled, unpolluted groves. I rely
“on the idea annexed by the best Latin writers to
“the word *castus*, as meaning perfect purity, which
“could not be, did the Celtic priests stain their
“altars with human blood, a practice, of which the
“Roman writers speak with abhorrence. In de-
“scribing

“ scribing the religious rites of the Germans, Tacitus
 “ lapses into the error common among the ancients,
 “ that of not discriminating the practices of the
 “ different Germanic people, while to an attentive
 “ observer he incidentally makes such distinction.
 “ Thus in agreement with what he says of the an-
 “ cient religion and unpolluted groves of the ancient
 “ Germans, he adds, that they thought it inconsist-
 “ ent with the greatness of the gods, to confine them
 “ within walls, or give human representations of
 “ them. They consecrate groves and forests, and
 “ call by the names of their deities that secret recess,
 “ which they look on with reverence.”

Dr. Ledwich having known, that the Belgæ had
 subdued and colonized the Celts, and imposed upon
 the conquered their manners and religion, and
 having dismissed Cæsar, who lived fifty years before
 our æra, somewhat contemptuously, for not attend-
 ing to this important alteration, now discovers the
 perfect purity of Celtic worship in the account of
 a people, who lived one hundred years after it! So
 lucky a discovery to the support of a favourite sys-
 tem made the Doctor probably overlook the trifling
 circumstance of its oversetting his known fact of the
 aforesaid conquest and colonization. Both could
 not be true. Perhaps upon further examination the
 reader will be inclined to assent to neither. In the
 passage

passage quoted from Dr. Ledwich's work, it is somewhat remarkable that Tacitus should labour under the double charge of doing what he has not done, and of not doing what he actually has done. He is quoted as a describer of the pure Celtic worship of the groves, and he is represented as lapsing into the common error of not discriminating the practices of the different Germanic tribes. If I read him right, this is precisely the reverse of his conduct, but let him speak for himself.

The celebrated treatise on the manners of the Germans is divided into two parts. In the first he treats of them generally, in the second severally. The division is thus marked by himself. "*Hæc in commune de omnium Germanorum origine ac moribus accepimus—nunc singularum gentium instituta ritusque, quatenus a se differant, expediam.*" This at least promises discrimination. I believe we shall find him as good as his word.

Agreeable to the plan laid down, he gives in the first part the following general and brief account of Germanic worship. "Their chief god is Mercury, " to whom, on certain days, they think it even lawful " to sacrifice human victims. Common animals " serve to appease Hercules and Mars. Some of " the Suevi also offer sacrifices to Isis. How a " foreign deity came to be introduced, I have not
" discovered

“discovered, only that the emblem itself, formed
 “into the shape of a galley, shews it to be an im-
 “ported religion. But they think it inconsistent
 “with their celestial greatness to confine gods with-
 “in walls, or represent them by human figures.
 “They consecrate groves and forests, and give the
 “names of gods to that secret object, which is only
 “seen by the eyes of devotion.” This passage
 might have been justly quoted in proof of the gene-
 ral simplicity of their worship, but it proves no
 more. The express mention of human victims puts
 an end to all ideas of Celtic purity; and could the
 writer revive to peruse his commentator, he would
 probably be surprised at finding his authority relied
 on for the existence of Celts and Druids in a trea-
 tise, where neither of them are even mentioned,
 and in a country, where neither of them were to be
 found.

We shall now pass on to the particular descrip-
 tion of those tribes, in the discrimination of which
 he is said to be so deficient. It is only necessary to
 advert to such as exhibit any religious singularities.
 The first mentioned are the Semnones, who consi-
 dered themselves as the most eminent of the Suevi.
 “They assemble at a stated time, in a sacred” (not
 a very pure) “grove, where they form leagues, and,
 “having publicly immolated a man, celebrate the
 s “commencement

“ commencement of their horrid rites. This grove
“ none dares enter, except bound in token of sub-
“ mission to the deity, and if he happens to fall, he
“ is not permitted to rise, but must roll himself
“ along the ground.” The next notice of religious
particularity introduces us to Castum Nemus, the
grove of perfect purity, which, according to Dr.
Ledwich, could not be, did the Celtic priests stain
their altars with human blood. Having mentioned
the names of seven tribes, of whom the Angli (then
little conceiving the future importance of their
name) are one, Tacitus observes, that the most re-
markable circumstance is their worshipping in com-
mon Herthus or mother earth. “ There is in an
“ island of the ocean* a chaste grove, in which is a
“ consecrated car covered with garments, which the
“ priest alone is permitted to touch. He affects to
“ believe the goddess to be here personally present,
“ and with much veneration follows her car, drawn
“ by cattle. Scenes of joy and festivity take place;
“ war and arms are laid aside, and peace and repose,
“ then only acceptable, prevail, until the priest recon-
“ veys to the temple the goddess satiated with human
“ conversation. Presently after the car and gar-
“ ments, and, if you believe them, the goddess herself,
“ are purified by immersion in a secret lake. The

“ slaves

* Supposed to be the island of Rugen in the Baltic.

“ slaves, employed to minister at her rites, are
 “ instantly swallowed up in the same waters. Hence
 “ a mysterious and holy terror arising from their
 “ ignorance of what that being may be, which none
 “ can behold and live !” The last he mentions are
 the “ Naharvali, who possess a grove long sacred to
 “ religion. The presiding priest is dressed like a
 “ woman, but the gods worshipped are, *according*
 “ *to Roman interpretation*, Castor and Pollux. This
 “ is understood from the nature and offices of their
 “ deity; the name given to it by them is Alcis. There
 “ are no images, nor is there any vestige of foreign
 “ superstition, but the adoration is paid as to young
 “ men and brothers.”

From the foregoing translation of all that Tacitus
 has said of the German superstitions, the reader may
 judge, with what propriety he is quoted as an autho-
 rity for unpolluted Celtic groves, and Druidic wor-
 ship. His *casta nemora*, so confidently pronounced,
 on the authority of the best Latin writers, to mean
 the perfect purity of Celtic ritual unpolluted with
 human blood, is only to be found in Dr. Ledwich's
 quotation. To one grove alone he gives the epithet
castum, which, whatever meaning the author might
 affix to it, is wholly insufficient to support the sense
 assigned by Dr. Ledwich. No part of the ceremo-
 nies is in any respect druidic, and least of all the

conclusion, which, to crown the sacred ceremonies, drowns the poor slaves who attended them. Was Tacitus an historian of less gravity, one might suppose that the word *castum* was used ironically, the unusual festivities of the scene encouraging a belief, that chastity might have been dispensed with on the occasion. If Tacitus was really describing druidism, it must have been without his knowledge. Had he even discovered any similitude, or intermixture of that religion with the superstitions of the Germans, he would have been the more careful to note it, from the circumstance of Cæsar's having previously touched on the same subject.

The ancient grove of the Naharvali afforded another happy proof of Celtic druidism among the Germans. "What," says the Doctor triumphantly, "could this ancient religion be, which had no vestige of foreign superstition? It *must* be the religion of the primæval inhabitants, who were Celts, and that was the true druidic." Tacitus, however, had entered a caveat against this conclusion by his account of their worship, resembling that of Castor and Pollux, "which," says the Doctor, "it could not be without their images, and he also adds that the deity adored there was called Alcis. Here and in other places, Tacitus, as well as Cæsar before, wishes to assimilate the deities of other countries

"with

“with the Roman, and falls into direct contradictions.” This is really a perversion of the author’s sense, which is equally irreconcilable with the candour of a critic, or the knowledge of a scholar. Tacitus only says, that the worship paid to their god Alcis was so like to that of Castor and Pollux, that in Roman interpretation (*interpretatione Romana*) he was induced to call it so. Instead of incurring, he appears to have studiously guarded against a charge of assimilation, and as for the Doctor’s contradictions, I believe they are to be found, not in the text, but in the commentary.

One of the principal inferences drawn from the testimony of Tacitus is, that the Celts, by whom this religion was professed, were the *primæval** inhabitants of Germany as well as Gaul. Of the Celtic establishment

* I am aware, that the inference here drawn from Cæsar and Tacitus militates against respectable antiquarian authority ; but how is their testimony to be evaded ? The authentic history of Gaul, Germany, and Britain commences with the former ; for where are we to look for information, that can be depended on, prior to his ? Earlier accounts are involved in such darkness, and so much mixed with fable, that nothing, it may truly be said of them, is certain but their uncertainty. Celtic and Scythic, as general names distinguishing those swarms of population that spread over the south and north of Europe, may be admitted as convenient terms for antiquarian curiosity to employ in their researches, but they will be found to convey little real knowledge respecting the people. The learned and laborious compilers of the universal history candidly acknowledge the obscurity, in which the early accounts of Celts and Scythians are involved, and the frequent difficulty of discriminating between them. If the hypothesis of Celtic origin be admitted,

establishment we have already seen the account transmitted by Cæsar; it remains to examine the report of the Germanic origin delivered by Tacitus. This celebrated writer, after describing the situation and boundaries of the country, proceeds to an inquiry into the origin of its inhabitants. Some, he observes, affirm (*vetustatis licentiâ, with the license of an antiquarian*) that the Marsi, Gambrini, Suevi, and Vandals, were the true ancient appellations of the people. That the name of Germany had been recently added by a tribe, in his time called Tungri, who had crossed the Rhine, and expelled the Gauls. That they were then called Germans, and from them by degrees the country called Germany.

After

admitted, Greeks, Romans, Germans, and Gauls lay equal claims to it. It may be, and probably is true, that all descended from the same stock; but long before the time that certain history begins, they had branched out into an infinite variety of tribes, retaining perhaps some faint marks of primitive resemblance, but differing from each other in manners, customs, and language. The Belgæ overrunning the Gauls, or the Gauls the Belgæ, was, according to this opinion, only one Celtic tribe dispossessing another. In a general view of the question, it should seem that those, who called themselves Celts in Cæsar's time, had no better title to originality than their neighbours. Indeed, if we trace matters to the fountain head, what were Scythians themselves but a branch of the primitive stock? The authors of the universal history seem to think the title of Gomerians more appropriate to the Celtic people, as the descendants of Gomer the son of Japhet, from whose brother Magog they suppose the Scythians to be derived. This is going very high no doubt. But as a general name it seems preferable to that of Celts, who at the time, that certain history begins, were only one tribe of the Gomerian swarm.

After noticing some fabulous accounts of divine and heroic progenitors celebrated in the verses of their bards, he professes his assent to the opinion of those, who believe the Germans to be the indigenous inhabitants of the country, evinced by the great similarity, that prevailed through them all in size, figure, feature, and manners. This is the substance of his observations on the antiquity of the German people, in which we find as little notice of Celts, as we did of Druids in their religion. Surely there were no Celts in Germany, when Tacitus wrote. Had they been its primæval possessors, some memory of them must have been preserved among their bards and *antiquarians*, whom he represents as very fond of retracing the annals of their origin. The credit of a relation, composed upon the spot seventeen hundred years ago by the most acute of the Roman historians, is likely to maintain its ground against more formidable opponents than Dr. Ledwich.

Upon a review of the foregoing observations, a plain man, who has no antiquarian system to support, and whose sole object is information, will be inclined to think, that whoever undertakes to form a regular and consistent account of a primæval establishment of pagan worship must labour in vain. Let who will have laid the foundation, such local varieties would shortly arise, as to make it in a few years as difficult,

as it is immaterial, to distinguish the true original. It is idle to charge upon Cæsar and Tacitus a want of judgment to discriminate what, even with the advantages of their early information, it was impossible to have discriminated. They related what they saw or what they heard, and, if they wanted better documents for historical narration, with what hope shall modern industry think of supplying them? From their information it appears, that the Celts, those supposed forefathers of Germany, Gaul, and the British islands, were only one among a great many other barbaric tribes and nations, and that in point of antiquity, either as to their origin or their religion, they have no greater claim to precedence than their neighbours. Population, and its concomitant doctrines confessedly came from the East. Referring to the most ancient fountain of knowledge, we shall find that stone altars, images, and grove worship, possess equal titles to antiquity. The instructions of Moses to the children of Israel are decisive on this subject. “Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations, which ye shall go to possess, served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree. And you shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire, and destroy the names of them out of that place.”

“place.” Here we have a record, equally antient and authentic, of the early establishment of different forms of paganism, and, what is more appropriate to the present argument, it will appear from the same authority, that varieties of worship existed in the same nation. When Elijah challenged the heathens to a trial of skill, which was to determine who were the worshippers of the true God, he orders to be summoned, the prophets of the groves, four hundred, and the prophets of Baal, four hundred and fifty. The question of priority among these superstitions is left in an obscurity not to be removed, the sacred writers having been equally inattentive to discrimination. One only point seems to be established, that sacrifices of some kind appertained to every religious worship. Sacrifices necessarily implied altars, and these were, for the greater part at least, formed of stone. “As the Celts were unacquainted with metals,” says Dr. Ledwich, “they could not form stone temples and images, and therefore it is most erroneous to call stone circles and cromleches Druidic.” The stone circles and cromleches of this country appear evidently to be the work of a people ignorant of the use of metals, no impression of a tool being ever seen on them. His conclusion, therefore, is the very reverse of what should follow from his premises. The rudeness of those

those works is a strong additional proof of their great antiquity, and inclines one to believe that they were aboriginal. The northern nations, who overran this country at a later period, were surely acquainted with the use of metals. How did they else construct the vessels, that brought them, or the weapons, that insured their success? If, therefore, the argument drawn from the use of metals proves any thing, it is, that those monuments, the altars at least, were of earlier construction. With respect to temples, it is not improbable, that the gloomy shade of a grove might have been one of the earliest seats of religious adoration, as it afforded a kind of temple ready formed for the purpose. A laudable desire of doing greater honour to the deity would naturally excite to further exertions. To a simple people, unacquainted with architecture, and estimating the value of a work by the labour of construction, ponderous stone monuments would present a most obvious as well as a most acceptable offering. The ruder the work, the greater, most probably, its antiquity. Stonehenge, from its superior construction, should seem to be one of the latest monuments of this kind. Britain, in which druidism appears to have attained its most perfect form, abounded in wood, but in many places was deficient in stone. This might have occasioned a local predilection in favour of groves.

The

The reverence paid to the misletoe, and the pious formality, with which it was taken from the tree, have been minutely described. What was to be done in those places, where no misletoe was found? Stone affords so obvious a material for altars and monuments, that, where it could be had, it would probably be resorted to. If even among the Germans, whom Tacitus represents as an unmixed race of men, such differences of religion were found, how can we possibly believe, that any one form ever exclusively prevailed throughout these islands, the inhabitants of which are described in the earliest accounts of them as a mixed one? The common fault of antiquaries, and nobody censures it more unsparingly than Dr. Ledwich, is setting up systems, to support which the sense of authors is distorted, and the want of facts supplied from fancy. The efforts of an ardent imagination often amuse, and sometimes instruct in their very errors; to pervert an author's meaning is always reprehensible. Whoever, therefore, were the constructors of our stone monuments, we may confidently rank the greater number of them not only among the most curious, but also among the most early reliques of pagan antiquities.

Instead, therefore, of hoping with Dr. Ledwich, that perplexities will be removed by supposing one universal Celtic standard, there seems reason to

think, that they will rather be increased. An hypothesis not founded on truth, however ingeniously defended, must ultimately lead to error. Such ingenuity, as we have now been considering, will not make many converts. Different forms of superstition appear to have subsisted from the earliest ages, not only among tribes remote from each other, but even among contiguous. Druidism, or Celtic purity, if it ever actually existed, was probably no more than a local variety. The invention of it in Britain, if such an opinion be well founded, serves further to weaken its claim to primæval establishment. In this case it must be considered as a younger branch of the family, the continent having been first peopled. All that now seems practicable is, to collect the accounts of the earliest and most authentic writers, and to describe the yet existing monuments, not for the sake of constructing a system, but of obtaining the best information the nature of the subject will admit.

Another curious vestige of ancient manners, which very often occurs in this part of the island, is to be seen in those heaps of burned stones, on or by means of which the natives, at some period, cooked their victuals. Of the way, in which this was done, I believe no certain account has reached

us. Something like it, we are told, is practised at Otaheite, where they bake their meats by means of stones made hot, and covered over with leaves and earth. This mode was probably in use during the times of pastoral life, when they roamed in tribes with their flocks, knowing no enemy but the wolf of the forest. These heaps are often found in the neighbourhood of bogs, and frequently covered over with turf, the formation of which they probably preceded, being placed there for the convenience of the fuel, which the trees afforded. The stones, of which they are composed, are commonly small, seldom exceeding half a pound weight, and, when they lie in the way, are often made use of for repairing roads. From the great number of them still remaining, though, besides the road use, many heaps must have been levelled in tilling the ground, we may infer a very considerable degree of early population. They also afford a curious proof of the incorruptibility of charcoal, small pieces of which are still to be found in them, as sound and perfect as the stone they are mixed with. I have observed, that these heaps are always found close to water, an additional proof of their having been used for cooking.

Antiquities—Ecclesiastical.

To the rude monuments of the pagan æra succeed the ruins of ancient buildings erected since the introduction of christianity. These are of two kinds, ecclesiastical and civil, the former of which, from their priority, both in age and excellence, claim our first consideration. It will not, however, on the present occasion be necessary to do much more than mention them, as they are for the most part already described in Smith's history of this county.

The number of religious houses in this county, whose traces are discoverable in records, or in ruins, was once very considerable. Most of these were built since the invasion of Henry the second, and owe their existence to the descendants of the English adventurers. The city of Cork had no less than six, one of which is said to have been founded in the seventh century by St. Finbar, founder also of the cathedral. The buildings were completed by Gill-Æda, one of the succeeding bishops, whose name
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it bore, being called Gill-abbey. Of all those religious houses scarcely any remains are now visible, probably in consequence of being situated in a populous town, and affording, after their original uses had ceased, convenient materials for house-building. Under such circumstances it is unnecessary to detain the reader with an enumeration of their names or designations. Youghall had two founded in the thirteenth century by the Fitzgeralds, but presenting nothing worthy of particular notice. The oldest edifice of this kind is the abbey at Ross Carbery, a place celebrated, at a very early period, as a seat of piety and learning. The situation of this abbey was happily chosen. It stands upon a rocky, but verdant eminence, declining to the south, and partly insulated by the tide. In front is a strand of some extent, and beyond it the bay of Ross, sheltered on the east by the promontory of the Galleyhead. On each side of the strand, the land, which is very fertile, rises to a considerable height, sometimes abrupt, but more generally with a gradual acclivity. Even now the situation is fine; when the country was adorned with native woods, it must have been eminently beautiful. Of this venerable structure there remain only two side walls of what appears to have been a chapel. It was lighted from the ends, there being but one very small and narrow window,

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in the north wall, near the east end. On the south side is a low door, arched semicircularly, in what is commonly called the Saxon stile, but without any ornament or engraving. The workmanship, however, though plain, is neatly executed, being formed of freestone, well cut and fitted, and diverging or sloping to the inner part of the wall. The stile of the mason work, which seems to have been imitated in some of our old churches, is very different from that of the modern buildings. Each wall is composed of a double range of large field stones, having one fair or flat side, which being brought to the face of the wall, both within and without, gives it, at a little distance, the appearance of being built with hewn stone. In other respects the stones are of an unfavourable shape for laying, being of a lumpish and irregular form, except on the flat side. As none of them reach far into the wall, or have what masons call a good bed, it was necessary to its durability that they should be well cemented. This was effectually done by means a very strong mortar, composed of small stones, gravel, and lime, with which the central part of the wall is filled. There is no doubt of their being field stones, both because similar stones abound in the neighbourhood, and because they never rise from the quarry in that form. Persons acquainted with the varieties of ancient architecture may be
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able from this description to form some judgment of the probable age of this abbey. It is considered, and I believe justly, as of great antiquity, though I will not venture to say, that it has lasted since the days of St. Faughnan, who in the beginning of the sixth century is said to have founded both the abbey and the cathedral of Ross. In examining the inside, I found that the walls had once been incrustated with a thick coat or plaister of lime and gravel, of which only a very small part remains on the side facing the north, and where it was least exposed to the inclemency of the weather. The little, that does remain, shews that it was a composition of great durability, the general disappearance of which is another argument of the building's age. The cathedral, not far distant from the abbey, bears no particular feature of antiquity, though it is not improbable that some part of the walls may be very ancient. It is, however, remarkable for a very elegant and modern improvement, lately added by the dean and chapter, under whose direction a tower, standing at the west entrance, was raised, and a spire of hewn stone, fifty feet high, erected thereon. The work was erected by Mr. Edward Shanahan, of Cork, and does great credit to his taste and skill.

St. Faughnan and his successors, however, had their day, enjoying for a long series of years no in-
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considerable portion of ease and celebrity. The ruins of their establishment are viewed with some degree of reverence, but excite in the mind no other emotion. The term of their existence attained a fair extent of mortal duration; they fulfilled their ends, and are gone. The fate of similar establishments, undertaken with equal hopes and very superior means, appears to have been less fortunate. The village and neighbourhood of Buttevant exhibit an assemblage of religious edifices, sufficient at any period to have engaged admiration. The ruins of an abbey of friars minor, founded by Edward de Barry, in the reign of Edward the first, exhibit a fine specimen of Gothic architecture in the windows and arches, which remain. The mason work of all the buildings appears to have been executed in a superior stile, nature having afforded every desirable advantage in a supply of the best materials. The possessions of these religious houses were very considerable, one of them being said to have held 2060 Irish acres; but their most valuable property was in tithes. By a fatality often attending human affairs, the very circumstance, that was fondly considered as a permanent cause of prosperity, became a principal instrument of their ruin. Had the abbeyes been poor, they might have passed unnoticed by that rapacity, which wealth had little chance
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of escaping. Buttevant, however, felt the destructive hand of desolating power long before the general dissolution of religious houses, having been laid waste by one of the native chiefs during the contention of the houses of York and Lancaster, when the English interests in this kingdom suffered a temporary disregard. Since that time it does not appear to have flourished, so that the days of its prosperity, however bright, were soon passed over.

In the same part of the county are some remains of a preceptory of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, situated on the river Clydagb near Mal-low, formerly called Mourne, now Balinamona. This, which was also a rich establishment founded by an English gentleman, in the reign of John, was destroyed at the same time and by the same person.

The abbey of Timoleague was founded in the fourteenth century by the Mac Carthy family, one of whom, king of Cork, in the reign of Henry the second, was the first Irish prince, who swore fealty to that monarch. Of this abbey, which seems to have stood undisturbed to the time of the eighth Henry, the walls are still nearly entire. It is well built, and in the same stile with other foundations of that date, but possesses no peculiar elegance of stone work. The pointed arches of the doors and windows are neatly executed with a brown freestone, the place

of procuring which is, I believe, unknown, none of it being in the immediate neighbourhood of the abbey. The monks were of the Franciscan order, and the establishment, as appears from the number of apartments, pretty considerable. Its situation, though low, is very beautiful, the tide flowing up to its walls, and forming, when it is full, a very noble piece of water navigable for sloops to the harbour of Courtmasherry, distant about three English miles.

The abbey of Kilcrea, founded in the succeeding century by one of the same family, and for similar uses, is also in good preservation. As an establishment it appears, from its remains, inferior to the former; in point of architecture it has the advantage. This is to be ascribed to the superiority of the material, the lands at Kilcrea, as well as at Buttevant, affording limestone and marble. The situation of this abbey also is beautiful, being on the banks of the river Bride, in the centre of a rich vale, about eight miles west of Cork.

In the three last abbeys are great piles of human bones, for the collection of which it is not easy to account. Tradition, silent respecting two of them, reports that those at Buttevant were brought from a field of battle in the neighbourhood. This, if well founded, may account also for the other collections. It seems more consistent with the pious regard generally

nerally paid to the dead, that bones might have been thus formed into heaps, than that the adjacent graves should be disturbed for the purpose of making so mortifying a display.

Inisshircan, an island forming the west side of Baltimore harbour, contains the ruins of a small abbey for Franciscans, founded by one of the O'Driscolls shortly after Kilcrea, on whose model it is said to have been built. As to model, it seems more proper to say, that one served for all, the plan being nearly the same, the difference merely in size and execution. The situation of this apparently well chosen seat of pious seclusion from worldly cares was not, however, without its alarms, being exposed to danger from the side of the sea, at a time when the coast was ill protected from the attacks of any invading enemy. This was unhappily exemplified in 1631, when the town of Baltimore was plundered by Algerine pirates, who entered the harbour at midnight, and carried off a great number of the inhabitants.

To the foregoing catalogue of religious ruins are to be added the remains of the old parochial churches, which were formerly very numerous; every parish, however small, had one. These gradually fell into disuse after the reformation, being more than were required for the protestant inhabitants, by whom also
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several new churches were built. Their ruins shew them to have been for the most part very small, as well as simple in their construction. Lime was seldom used as a cement, notwithstanding which the stones, usually large, are so well laid as to insure great durability. Long as they have been built, there are few parishes, in which a good deal of the walls are not yet standing. A remarkable circumstance, for which I am unable to account, occurs in the small parish of Dizart, contiguous to the town of Cloghnikilty. The walls, within which the incumbent reads assent and consent on being collated to the benefice, and which have been time out of mind considered as the remains of an old church, are obviously those of a small castle.

The site of the cathedrals within this county remains unaltered. That of Cork, which was rebuilt in 1733, retains no vestige of its antiquity, except the gateway in the west end, over which there is a spire of very indifferent workmanship, which ought to be rebuilt. The cathedral of Cloyne, dedicated to St. Colman, by whom it is said to have been founded in the sixth century, is a plain Gothic building, built, like others of like date, in the form of a cross, with lateral aisles communicating with the main aisle by arches. Near this is a round tower, ninety feet high, the only one now remaining in
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this county, except that of Kinneah, which is about seventy. Another once stood near the cathedral of Cork, of which no trace remains. Dr. Ledwich's account of these singular structures renders any further observations unnecessary. There seems little doubt that they were first raised for belfries. Their situation, close to a church, shews them to have been among its appendages, and their form seems sufficiently explanatory of their purpose.

Though some of the old buildings, which have now passed under review, exhibit traces of former grandeur and elegance, yet, compared with the ancient buildings of the sister kingdom, we are compelled to acknowledge, that they fall infinitely short of the latter in size, beauty, and magnificence, an additional proof of the great inferiority of the Irish in civilization, in opulence, and in arts.

Antiquities—Civil.

Of ancient edifices, erected by men of opulence and authority, the remains are very numerous. Nor will their continuance surprise any person, who beholds the massy strength and durability of these structures,

structures, raised not as now for the tranquil enjoyment of elegance and comfort, but for security and defence. Their form is that of a square tower, generally very high, to compensate for the small size of the area by the number of the stories. Cold and gloomy within, they appear fitter abodes for captives than conquerors, and are distinguished by the very appropriate appellation of castles. Their appearance alone is abundant proof of the agitated state of a country, where such fortresses could be necessary to insure the preservation of life and property. Some, however, are of superior description, and not deficient either in magnificence or accommodation. The situation of these castles is generally bold and commanding, as the purposes, for which they were built, may easily lead one to conceive. A projecting rock, the brow of a steep hill, the side of a river or sea shore, are the sites generally chosen, as most easily capable of defence. Some of them, probably the greater number, had an inclosed yard flanked with smaller towers; others seem to have consisted of little more than the castle itself. There is also great disparity in their sizes, many of them being very small and of inferior workmanship. In general, the walls are well built, of great thickness, and so strongly cemented, that many have supposed the mortar of a peculiar composition. But it seems

to be the property of lime and gravel cement to improve in cohesion, as it advances in age. Donneen castle, though a very small one, deserves to be particularly mentioned for the singularity of its present position. It stands upon what is now a very small island in Ross bay, but which, when the castle was built, made part of the main land. The sea has since washed away the ground on the land side of it in such a manner, as to leave the castle without any foundation on the north side. The south side and part of the east and west walls are still standing. It was usual to build castles upon peninsulas, where the approach from the land side was very narrow, in order to make them more easily defensible; such, no doubt, was the case of this.

Such appears to be the stile of buildings erected by men of power and opulence, previous to the seventeenth century. Another mode began to prevail in the succeeding age, which to a considerable share of strength and solidity added a superior degree of architectural beauty and domestic accommodation.

Of these, whose plan bears some resemblance to the stile of English mansion houses in the time of Elizabeth, there were, I believe, very few. I know of but two, built nearly at the same time, about 1638, one at Monkstown, near Cork harbour, the other at Ballyvireen, a little to the west of Ross.



The former, called a castle, belonged to a family of the name of Archdeacon; the latter, which the common people know by the name of Ballyvireen-court, was built by Sir Walter Copinger, a man of great property and influence, who, according to local tradition, never inhabited it. Smith says it was destroyed in the rebellion of 1641.—the lands are now the estate of Lord Carbery. The walls of both are in good preservation.

Some of the old castles remain entire, and are still inhabited. The principal of these are Blarney, Macrump, and Lohort. The first belonging to Charles St. John Jeffries, Esq. is one of the finest buildings of this description, and was once the favourite residence of the earls of Clancarty, by an ancestor of whom it was built. It stands on a limestone rock, under which a river flows, and on the other side is surrounded by lofty trees, over which the castle proudly towers. To this, as well as to some others, a dwelling house, the addition of more tranquil times, has been joined, by which means its accommodation is not inferior to its magnificence. That of Macrump is also a stately building, lately repaired, and suitably furnished, by Robert Hedges Eyre, Esq. the present possessor. The castle of Lohort, a few miles north-west of Mallow, stands embosomed in trees, on a high and commanding

manding situation. Its foundation dates from the reign of John, but it has been rebuilt and kept in repair by the noble family of Egmont, who have long been proprietors. It differs from the rest in being rounded on the outside, and, instead of a wall, is surrounded by a deep moat, over which is a draw-bridge. The walls are of uncommon thickness, and it is battlemented at top, the height being 80 feet.

The castle of Kanturk, also the property of lord Egmont, is on a scale of greater extent and magnificence than any of the foregoing. The credit of this undertaking is due to one of the Mac Carthy family, who had great possessions in that quarter. A report made to queen Elizabeth of the danger, that might arise from so strong a fortress in the hands of a subject, put a stop to the work before its completion. The form is a parallelogram, 120 feet in length, by 80 in breadth, with square towers projecting at the angles.

It is to be regretted, that we have not more satisfactory information respecting the kind of edifices occupied by the native chiefs, on the arrival of Strongbow. * Most of the castles under consideration are known to have been erected since that

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period,

* Dr. Ledwich, as well as Sir J. Davis, positively asserts, that all the castles were of English original. If Smith's account be well founded, the assertion was made too hastily.—His authority is Sir James Ware.

period, and general circumstances might lead one to suppose, that the plan originated with the English adventurers, whose situation in a country, recently subdued, rendered strong fortresses a matter of necessity. It is recorded, however, that the castle of Tuam, which was called the wonderful castle, and visited as a curiosity, was built by O'Connor, king of Connaught, in 1160, a few years before Strongbow's arrival. Smith, from whom I take this account, relates another circumstance in favour of the Irish claim to priority. In removing part of the old wall at Castlelyons, formerly Castle Lehané from the family who originally possessed it, a stone was found with this inscription,—Lehané O'Cullane fecit, A. D. MCIIII. That the use of stone and mortar was known at a much earlier period than the reign of Henry the second, our religious structures sufficiently evince, and what was done from pious, might certainly be performed from other motives. Cork, in which the Danes are said to have settled (if they did not found it) in the ninth century, was by them surrounded by a wall. They, who could build well for security, would probably do so for comfort. No particular account of its ancient state has been transmitted to us. The description of a city so considerable as to be the capital of a kingdom, on the arrival of the English, might reasonably have been expected,

expected, if the invaders had not been more intent upon making conquests than recording them. Their silence on that head, however, seems to imply that, if there was nothing worth particular notice, there was also nothing very dissimilar from what they had left behind. The condition of Ireland, before the coming of the English, was similar to what had been the condition of Great Britain. It was divided into principalities, of which one was sometimes dominant, and of which many were always at variance. Such a situation in one island may naturally be supposed to produce what it did in the other, namely, places of defence and security, castles or fortresses of some kind. Though the superior military skill of the English invaders obliged the natives to seek shelter in woods and marshes, it will not from hence follow, that they were wholly unprovided with more regular fortresses. The expression of Giraldus Cambrensis, "*populus Hibernicus castella non curat*," seems pushed too far by Dr. Ledwich, in considering it to mean, that they were totally destitute of such things. That writer's account of this country, written for the information, and by the desire of his sovereign, is a valuable work, and may, with due allowance for the prejudices of a stranger and an invader, be considered as a faithful work. Among other things he celebrates
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the skill of the Irish in music, an art, which we cannot easily conceive to have been brought to the perfection he describes, among a wild people, inhabiting only woods and mountains. The general inferiority of the Irish to their invaders I am perfectly disposed to admit, but this circumstance of musical excellence implies a degree of civilization far beyond that of wandering hordes, or lawless savages. The simple reed or pipe might suit the open air, and accompany the harmless shepherd, but the harp was a domestic instrument, whose harmonious and complicated modulation required leisure, study, and accommodation. The chiefs, by whom those musicians were patronised, must at least be allowed the comfort of houses, and I see no reason for refusing to some of the more powerful the credit of superior buildings. Castles, no doubt, multiplied greatly after the arrival of the English, to the security of whose new possessors they were deemed essentially requisite. The Irish, however, if not original builders of such fortresses, must be allowed the credit of ready imitation, for some of the best castles are of their construction.

CHAP. V.

Ecclesiastical State.

OF the ecclesiastical state of the county, as not forming a regular subject of statistical inquiry, it is only necessary to speak in the abstract. To enumerate the names of all the parishes, with a particular account of the constitution of each benefice, would occupy many pages, without conveying any information of general or important utility. Those, who desire to be acquainted with the more minute details, may be gratified by a reference to the visitation books of the dioceses. Whatever more immediately relates to the present objects of inquiry, will appear more at large in the accounts of the baronies. A general view of the subject will form the contents of this chapter.

The county of Cork contains three dioceses, Cork, Cloyne, and Ross, the two latter formerly united in one see, now divided into two by the junction of Ross, which

which is very small, with that of Cork. In the Roman Catholic establishment, they also form two sees, with this difference, that Ross is added to Cloyne, a division positionally awkward, as they occupy the extremities, Cork being in the centre. The patronage of both is very considerable, most of the livings being in the gift of the bishops. Cork and Ross possess the greatest number of livings, Cloyne the richest. In point of income there is at present, I believe, no great disparity. That of Cloyne, which is the larger, is derived from land and tithes; the income of Cork arises, almost entirely, from land. The parishes of both, but particularly of the latter, are very unequal in size; occasioned originally by the circumstances of the endowments, and the value of the several lands. Though it is not to be supposed, that the parishes were ever divided with a strict regard to the value of the ground and the number of the people, yet they must have originally born a much greater affinity to each other in those respects than they do now. The size of the old churches, being very nearly the same, shews that the circumstance of population was a good deal attended to in parochial divisions, though the irregularity of their boundaries, and the occasional intermixture of their lands, sufficiently prove the operation of other causes. A

comparative

comparative view of their respective sizes affords no bad criterion for estimating their respective degrees of early improvement and population. The civil divisions seem to have been regulated on the same principles, and afford a scale for forming a similar judgment. Small parishes, and small plowlands, generally consist of grounds, which from superior fertility, or more advantageous situation, possessed a greater number of inhabitants, and a higher degree of cultivation. In those of larger size, quality was compensated by quantity. Increasing industry and population have introduced an inequality, very much to the disadvantage of the smaller divisions, in the article of taxation, the county cess being levied by the plowland. A new division of both would remove many inconveniencies.

Benefices are composed sometimes of single parishes, and sometimes of contiguous parishes united. This union is twofold ; by act of Council, in which case the combined parishes are permanently consolidated into one living, or by the act of the bishop, which, being discretionary, renders them separable upon the succeeding avoidance. When parishes were of little value as well as size, and the number of parishioners small, such unions were found expedient for the maintenance of the established clergy. Their late increase in value, in consequence

sequence of increasing cultivation, will enable the bishops to add to the number of their benefices, and provide more ministers for the church without diminution of the salaries. The present attention to its interests, on the part of the government and the hierarchy, is highly commendable, and, it must be confessed, highly necessary. Many parishes were without churches, and still more without glebe-houses. In consequence of very liberal encouragement, both these wants, so injurious to the interests of the protestant establishment, and so reproachful to its supporters, are likely, and that at no distant period of time, to be removed. Some new churches have been already built, and many more are in contemplation. The same vigilant superintendence extends to providing a competent number of glebe-houses, the most effectual, or rather, in a country like this, the only mode of insuring the residence of a parish minister. The real difficulty, which incumbents so frequently found, of procuring any habitation within their parishes, induced the bishops to overlook their living at a distance from them. The same allowance was frequently made to curates, whose humble means were still more inadequate to the purpose of providing a residence. The injurious consequences of this system, too obvious to need enlargement, can only be

be obviated by the erection of glebe-houses, whereby the residence of a minister will be necessarily insured to the parish. The expediency of such residence is, indeed, a matter of so much importance, in civil as well as religious consideration, that it should never cease to be an object of anxious solicitude. The example, the knowledge, and the instructions of a clergyman, operating with continual influence, within the sphere of his communication, cannot fail of being eminently useful to his uninformed and humble neighbours. One of the great causes of the ignorance and rusticity of the people arises from the want of those advantages, which are derived from the intermixture of a superior class. In many extensive tracts no such thing as the residence of a gentleman is to be found, and, where there is, the owner is not always qualified to improve them much, either by precept or example. To the Catholic pastor, whose assiduous attention to the duties of his office is generally very meritorious, they are often indebted for whatever portion of humanised instruction they do possess. Without meaning to derogate from the merit of their labours, I may be permitted to say, that the residence of a Protestant clergyman would be no mean addition to the comforts and the improvement of the people.

The tithes in this county, of which no inconsiderable part is lay property, are generally paid by a composition with the farmers, and never taken in kind by choice. The usual mode is to have them valued, previous to harvest, and to appoint days of meeting with the parishioners, for the purpose of letting them. Small tithes, or (as they are commonly called) small dues, viz. those of wool, lambs, &c. are for the most part relinquished, potatoes, corn, and hay being the titheable articles. Flax, cultivated extensively only in the south-west quarter, is commonly rated at four shillings per peck for the seed sowed. In some parts of the same district hay, unless the quantity be considerable, is not tithed. The prices of valuation vary, according to circumstances and situation, from six to fourteen shillings for potatoes; from six to twelve for wheat and barley; and from three to six for hay and oats. Tithe is generally highest in the neighbourhood of towns, particularly that of potatoes, for two reasons; first, because the crops are most abundant, in consequence of being more richly manured, and secondly, because the lower orders of tradesmen are anxious to purchase them for the subsistence of their families. There may be local exceptions, but the general estimate of the county, will, I believe, be found conformable to the rates abovementioned.

It is, however, necessary to observe, that this calculation is made for the years previous to January, 1809. The prices of grain are now (March, 1809,) so exorbitant that, if they continue, tithes must be expected to advance in a due proportion. Wheat being fifty shillings per barrel, an indifferent acre cannot be rated at less than ten pounds; a moderate one will be worth near twenty. Prices like this cannot indeed be expected, or desired to continue long. The effects, though apparently conducive, are really injurious to the interests of the farmer. They give a fallacious idea of the value of land, which no man thinks he can take too dear, under the idea of such prices being stationary.

From the foregoing statement it will appear, that clerical dues are not exacted with rigour or rapacity, and that many articles, which in England constitute no inconsiderable part of the incumbent's revenue, are here wholly unproductive. Woods, orchards, fruit and kitchen gardens, add nothing to the income of *our* clergy, though bearing crops of great value, and equally titheable with the others.

Of tithes, as affecting the industry of the people, it seems proper that something should here be said, though it is a subject, on which, for obvious reasons, I enter with reluctance. They have been so often and so loudly complained of, as oppressive to the people,

people, and inimical to agricultural improvement, that whoever ventures to question the position, will be charged with singularity, if not with prejudice. I take up the opposite opinion, however, upon better grounds than my own judgment, or that of many of the complainants, and appeal from the verdict of clamour to the tribunal of experience. I ask, therefore, is not the justice of that verdict daily condemned by truth and reality, by the very state and appearance of the country, and its inhabitants, by our knowledge of this plain fact, that the exaction of tithe has not obstructed the increase of some productions, nor the dereliction of it promoted that of others ? If these considerations are insufficient to set it aside, in the opinion of any disinterested person, let me be allowed to lead him to a place, where he shall behold, in the same vicinity, lands subject to tithe, and lands exempt from it. If he shall find, that the farms on the latter are in a higher state of improvement, that the houses are of better construction, and that the inhabitants enjoy more comfort and happiness, I am satisfied to give up the point. If he does not, he will, at least, be constrained to acknowledge, that the deductions of theory do not always agree with those of experience ; that confident opinions are often taken up upon

upon trust, and that it is much easier to make assertions, than to prove them.

I shall, however, be asked in my turn, are tithe-dealings never vexatious and distressing? Are not tithes a burthen to the people? Would not an exemption from that burthen be very desirable? Would not tillage increase, and more waste lands be reclaimed by its removal?

To the first of these questions I answer, that they frequently are, though the vexation, complained of, is by no means confined to the persons subject to the payment of tithe. In many instances fraud and injustice are practised, to deprive the tithe-owner of his legal rights. One of the most unpleasant circumstances of the tithe system is, its being, for the most part, a yearly dealing and recurring so often. In such multiplicity of contracts there must be much cause of disagreement, and it is less wonderful, that litigation should sometimes arise, than that it is not more frequent. Disputes and differences attend all dealings, and tithes must naturally partake of the common lot. But, generally speaking, there is no transaction, in which the debtor is less liable to suffer wrong. Knowing that the tenth of the produce belongs to another, for of this he was aware, before he took his farm, and sowed his crop, he can suffer no actual injury, though the
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whole of that tenth be taken from him. This, however, is very seldom the case, as the incumbent, to save the trouble and expense of drawing, is willing to compound for less than the actual value. I shall be told, perhaps, that petty farmers, who are unwilling or unable to go to law, will, when they meet a rigid tithe-farmer, whether lay or ecclesiastic, submit to an unreasonable demand for quietness' sake. Such things may certainly happen, for there is no dealing, in which unfair advantage will not sometimes be taken, but it may be fairly stated as a general truth, that among all the articles, annually bought and sold, none are so seldom purchased above their value as tithes.

Charges of extortion are often made without just grounds. A rector succeeding to a parish, which the age, indolence, absence, or mismanagement of his predecessor had suffered to fall below its value, is deemed unjust, as well as unreasonable, in endeavouring to raise it. Hence it happens, that what are called moderate rates in one place, are reckoned extravagant in another; so powerful is the force of custom, and so little are people disposed to make allowance for any act, however reasonable in itself, which militates against their habits or their interests.

To the second question, are not tithes a burthen to the people? I answer,—undoubtedly. So are taxes of every kind, and so are rents. But a burthen is not necessarily a grievance. Let us suppose a man to purchase an estate of £1000 per annum, subject to an annuity of £100. The annuity is a burthen to the estate, but not a grievance to the purchaser, in as much as he was previously aware of the encumbrance, and paid only for £900. Tithe is an encumbrance of the same nature, to which every man knows the land he purchases or takes to be subject, and regulates his prices accordingly. There is, it is true, this difference between them, that in one case the encumbrance is fixed, in the other it rises and falls with the value of money, and the mode of cultivation. Though it is no pleasant consideration for an improver to know, that the more he cultivates, the more he will pay, yet it is attended with this counterbalance, that his payments will be always proportionate to his ability. If the tax rises with good crops, and high prices, it will fall with the circumstances, that occasion their reduction. Farmers frequently become bankrupt by heavy rents,—I recollect no instance of a bankruptcy occasioned by tithes.

The third question is, would not an exemption from the burthen of tithe be very desirable? It certainly

would be extremely acceptable, both to the proprietors and the occupiers of land. Every farmer would wish to lighten his taxes, and every gentleman would be glad to raise the value of his estate. But, however natural these desires may be, it would be rather unreasonable to gratify them at the expence of others, who, whether we consider their general merits and public utility, or the validity of their claim to a species of property long and firmly established, seem to be equally entitled to legal protection in the enjoyment of their rights.

The last question respects the policy of abolishing tithes, with a view to the increase of tillage, and the improvement of waste lands.

From what has been already observed, I think it, at least, a doubtful point, whether tillage would be increased by the measure. The farmer's preference of tillage or pasture is regulated by other considerations than that of tithe. The nature of the soil, the convenience of the manure, the demand for the commodity, and the supply of his wants, are the circumstances, and the only circumstances, by which his conduct is regulated. A squire falling out with his rector may, to vex him, feed some acres he had intended to mow, or leave unbroken a field he had designed to till. But here it ends. The example is never followed by the farmer, who cannot afford to gratify

gratify his resentment at the expense of his interest. Of tillage, my own opinion is, that we have here too much, rather than too little, and that the thing to be desired is not its increase, but its amelioration. The quality of our tillage is frequently below par; the quantity of ground tilled, as frequently above it. Three fourths of our land, under better culture, would yield more produce to the farmer, though less to the incumbent, a circumstance which evinces, that the quantum of tillage suffers no reduction from the tithe system. In the injudicious repetition of corn crops so frequently observable, those, which conclude the course, are sometimes hardly worth the reaper's pains. A rigid exaction of clerical demand ought, one would suppose, to prevent a perseverance so unprofitable to the grower. That it has not done so, seems a pretty fair proof of the reasonableness of that scale, by which the value of tithe is estimated. The truth is, that tithe is seldom, if ever, taken into consideration by the farmer, and therefore has neither advanced nor retarded the progress of husbandry in this county.

Tithes have been also represented as a formidable impediment to the reclaiming of barren land, in consequence of which the legislature has granted a seven years' exemption to its improvers. To this well intended bill I have not the smallest objection,

jection, but I may be permitted to doubt the extent of its effects. Within my observation, at least, it cannot claim the merit of any utility. I have myself been an improver of waste land, which, I know, can be reclaimed with very little emolument to the clergy, without the aid of the bill; and were it otherwise, I am very sure, that all they could gain by the event would never have prevented any work of the kind, that was worth undertaking.

Upon the whole, though an exemption from tithe would be very acceptable, both to the owners and occupiers of land, there seems no good reason to believe, that it would be followed by any material improvements in husbandry, at least in this quarter. A view of the country will easily shew, that the payment of tithe has not prevented the extension of tillage, and the only advantage the poorer orders would derive from the exemption is, that, having fewer collectors of revenue to deal with, there would be fewer causes of litigation. This is certainly an object of some importance, though it would remove but a small portion of the disadvantages, under which they labour. However, as the tithe system has so many respectable opponents, and as it affords to the clergy a revenue of laborious and unpleasant collection, there can be no other objection to changing it than what arises from the difficulty of finding an adequate substitute. This, I am assured, will

will not be easily discovered, notwithstanding the confidence, with which some contrary opinions have been lately advanced. The subject has long engaged the attention of the wise, and will do so, I believe, a little longer, before the end be accomplished. For my own part, I must be content with expressing my wishes for the consummation of a plan, which, I confess, I have neither sufficient ability to devise, nor any very sanguine hope of seeing accomplished.

In the Statistical Survey of Kildare we are favoured with a scheme for reforming the tithe system, which, in the opinion of the proposer, is to do wonders. I am perfectly willing to allow the author (who may be satisfied with the praise of a good farmer, without setting up for a legislator,) full merit for fair intention, but I can allow him no more. The fathers of systems, like those of children, are too fond of their offspring to see defects, which are sufficiently visible to less prejudiced eyes. Medicines, professing to be infallible, betray too evident symptoms of quackery, to entitle them to much credit. This gentleman's claim to infallibility will not, I fear, upon examination, appear to be much better founded. The scheme is as follows :

“ Let the average value of all livings, for the
 “ last seven years, be ascertained. When so ascer-
 “ tained,

“ tained, let the parishioners, of every denomination,
“ be convened in public vestry. Let five intelligent
“ men, but not of the parish, be chosen to state the
“ value of each sub-denomination, and let the
“ average value of the living be apportioned in a
“ corn rent on each denomination; as, suppose
“ No. 1, is assessed £15, in its proportion of £500,
“ (supposed the average value of the living) and
“ that the middle price of wheat in the Dublin
“ market, during the preceding month of February,
“ was thirty shillings. Lot, No. 1, would then be
“ assessed with the annual payment of ten barrels
“ of sound fair marketable wheat, to be delivered
“ to the rector or impropriator, at his dwelling, on
“ every twenty-fifth of March for ever, giving a dis-
“ cretionary power to the rector, &c. to decline (by
“ one month's previous notice) accepting of said
“ ten barrels, but that in lieu thereof, he will receive
“ the sum of £22, 15s. two guineas having been
“ the average price of wheat, during the previous
“ month of February, in the Dublin market. And
“ in case of non-payment of said sum, in the course
“ of one month after such notice, that then the said
“ rector shall be at liberty to proceed by action at
“ law for the *speedy* recovery of said sum with costs,
“ &c.”

Plans formed upon local circumstances, as is commonly the case, will seldom be found capable of
comprehending

comprehending a general arrangement. It is not impossible that this scheme may suit the parish, in which the proposer resides, as well as some others, where the farms are on a larger scale, and the number of husbandmen not considerable. Even there, however, more difficulties than he is aware of may occur to obstruct its establishment. The farms must be very similar in size, value, and management, to admit its reception with any degree of facility. It is also probable, that some farmers would prefer taking their chance in the present mode to saddling themselves with a certain tax, which no change of circumstances could remove. Supposing this difficulty got over, and the arrangement made, what is the rector's security for its continuance? No. 1, (for instance) after going on smoothly for a few years, may come to be entirely changed, in the circumstances of value, division, and responsibility. It may be occupied by twelve persons instead of six, some of whom may be unable, and others unwilling to adhere to the plan, or it may fall from a state of cultivation to one of pasturage.

The occupiers, if they agree among themselves, may abide by the scheme, as long as they find it their interest to do so. Should it prove otherwise, the rector is left to find his redress in—a law-suit. With a tack like this to its tail, I shall not
hesitate

hesitate to say, that the present system, with all its objections, is preferable.

But, if it be found objectionable in cases of the most favourable description and easy attainment, what is it likely to be in the rest? Many of the parishes of this county are subdivided into lots of from five to twenty-five acres, occupied by small farmers, among whom it would be almost impossible to arrange the annual contribution of wheat or money. The difficulty too would be further enhanced by those frequent changes of property, that are constantly taking place upon little farms. Under the present system every man acts for himself, and, having nothing but his own little crop to compound for, can have no dispute on this ground with any but the rector. The difficulty of adjusting their several portions, under the new scheme, would introduce another party into the bill, and produce lawsuits among themselves. Other objections may also be started, but the foregoing are abundantly sufficient to shew, that it is a plan formed upon local circumstances and a very limited knowledge of the country; that, with the appearance of being simple, it contains the seeds of perplexity and litigation; and that, though there may be some places, where it might answer, there are few, in which it would be eligible.

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The same author, to shew his fertility in expedients, proposes another mode in the event of rejecting this. “What objection can there be, to
 “state by act of parliament the following rates, by
 “which the *tithe-owner would be paid, and the land-*
holder contented.” Viz.—Wheat per acre—8s.—
 “bere and barley—do.—oats—6s.—meadow—5s.
 “fleece—4s.—lamb—4s. and so in proportion for
 “all titheable articles.”

Very true, indeed, it is that land-holders, like Mr. Rawson, might be very well contented to pay a twentieth, a fortieth, or a sixtieth in lieu of a tenth, but it seems a little unreasonable to expect the same degree of contentment on the part of the tithe-owner. I admit, for many reasons, the expediency, the necessity of moderation on the part of the clergy; but moderation has its limitation, beyond which it loses its name, and becomes injustice and folly. Wheat has been little less for the last two years in Dublin market than fifty shillings per barrel, it is now at least three pounds, March, 1809. Eight barrels to the acre is no extraordinary produce for good land well cultivated, which is often found to yield considerably more. An acre, therefore, worth from twenty-four to thirty pounds is, according to Mr. Rawson’s unobjectionable rates, to pay the tithe-owner, in full satisfaction for his lawful tenth, one-

sixtieth part. Can any man, pretending to be reasonable, gravely sit down to propose such compensations? Can any man of sense and honour think himself justified in bestowing censures on the clergy for hesitating or declining to comply with such terms? To an established modus of prices there are many objections on the part of the laity as well as the clergy. If formed upon fair terms, it is objectionable to the former, because it makes no distinction between good crops and bad. Is it consistent with common sense or common justice, to affix the same titheable value to the poor acres of Cork and the rich acres of the county of Kildare? A rateage, formed upon one, must surely be too high or too low for the other. The advantage of the present system is, that it accommodates itself to all varieties of culture, fertility, and situation. This is an advantage of no trivial consideration, and what constitutes the main difficulty of providing an adequate compensation. I have bestowed some labour of reflection on the subject too, and the result of that reflection is, that it will be found, I will not say impossible, but extremely difficult to raise an equal income without imposing a greater, as well as a much more unequal burthen. The great object confessedly is, to diminish the pressure of that burthen on those, who are least able to bear it. The plans, that I have

seen

seen, are unfortunately chargeable with an opposite tendency.

Until this desirable compensation shall be accomplished, and I believe the clergy will not be found unwilling to make some sacrifices to its attainment, it may conduce not a little to mutual convenience, to extend the terms of letting, and, instead of yearly bargains, to let to the farmers for three, five, or seven years. This is already beginning to be practised, so much to the satisfaction of both parties, that one may hope the mode will soon become general. It will also be greatly facilitated by the improved state of the peasantry, most of whom now hold under leases, instead of being tenants at will. A substitution of this custom, in the place of a yearly dealing, would remove many of the objections now subsisting, and, if it could with safety be made obligatory on the parties, might, perhaps, remove the necessity of a new system altogether.

CHAP. VI.

Pater ipse, colendi

Haud facilem esse viam statui.

VIRGIL. GEORGIC.

Present state of Agriculture in general.

THOUGH the agriculture of this county, taken in the aggregate, labours under many defects, partly resulting from ignorance, and partly from poverty and depression, yet many instances occur of skilful practice and superior management. These, though not confined to, are most frequently found among those persons in the higher ranks of life, by whom husbandry is cultivated as much with a view to pleasure as to profit, and who, in this respect, exhibit a singular instance of the artist being excelled by the amateur. It is, indeed, reasonable to suppose that those, who pursue it as a profession, will derive more profit from the art, though they practise

tise

use it with inferior skill, because their attention is more unremittingly directed to the object of pursuit. The expence of stewardship must necessarily deduct a good deal from the emolument of a gentleman's farm, and he, that superintends his own works, will, of course, have a great advantage over him, who does not. Still, however, to such as engage in it with pleasure, and pursue it with judgment, the gratification will be great, and the profit by no means inconsiderable.* In addition to these incentives, we may reckon also the satisfaction a gentleman derives from the consciousness of his exhibiting a most useful example, and that too in the only case, where such example can be instructive. The other pursuits and pleasures of the higher orders can be viewed only with envy or with wonder; but their husbandry, if judicious, will find imitators, as well as admirers. Agriculture, highly esteemed among all

* Farming on a large scale, however successful in England, has been seldom found to answer here. Many have suffered by the experiment; I know of none, who can boast much of its emolument. The country is not yet sufficiently advanced in habits of regular and systematic industry to admit of such undertakings. Awkwardness, idleness, and dishonesty, all of which will occur more or less, are great obstructions to success in an extensive dealing, where much must be left to the diligence and fidelity of the persons employed. But in farming on a small scale, the task of superintendence is easy, and the practice of imposition difficult. This, therefore, is generally found as advantageous as the other is unprofitable. Large tracts under the grazing system may occasionally be profitable, but this does not deserve the name of agriculture.

all enlightened nations, has always kept pace with the advancement of knowledge, and the progress of civilization. In the most splendid æra of the Roman empire, it was the theme of Cicero's praise, and afforded to Virgil a subject for the most elegant and finished poem of antiquity. But no age can vie with our own in completeness of knowledge, or copiousness of instruction. The great variety of soils, manures, implements of husbandry, and modes of culture, affords an inexhaustible fund for ingenious discussion, so that, though every season raises a new crop of treatises from the press, the harvest never wants reapers. The mere farmer, however, like other common tradesmen, derives little or no immediate advantage from books. He learns his business mechanically, and improves his practice either by the efforts of his own ingenuity, or the instruction and example of others. The great advantage of literary communication is to diffuse knowledge among those, whose education and attainments enable them to appreciate its importance, to excite among the better sort an emulation to excel in this useful and pleasing art, and by their means to extend that knowledge to inferior practitioners. Thus, though it comes to the common farmer at second hand, its influence is not the less operative and important.

At once to exhibit the most striking contrast between skill and ignorance, beauty and deformity, between lands in a high degree of elegant improvement, and lands in a state of slovenly and unskilful husbandry is, perhaps, peculiar to Ireland. In travelling through the neighbouring island, though different practices obtain in different districts, a general similarity of cultivation prevails in each vicinage. The seats of the opulent are distinguished by superior buildings and extents of pleasure ground; but, as far as mere husbandry is concerned, the eye perceives no difference between the lands of the prince and the peasant. All equally conspire to present a rich and happy picture of successful industry and accomplished cultivation. Here splendour and squalidity, affluence and want are stationed side by side, and a wall or a hedge frequently divides a smiling and well cultivated demesne from a racked and naked farm. Improvement, however, is advancing, and in some places with rapid steps. Examples of superior skill gradually find imitators in those, whose situation is sufficiently comfortable and secure to excite their exertion and animate their industry.

The system of middle landlordship, which some years ago was almost universally prevalent, presented an insurmountable barrier to the exertions
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of humble industry. The tillers of the soil, that useful and laborious class of men who contribute so largely to the general stock, holding their precarious tenures at the will of a middle-man, resembled more the slaves of a West India planter, than the subjects of a free government. Landed proprietors, many of whom were absentees, found it convenient to let their grounds in large tracts to persons, who farmed them out in small portions to the common people. This custom, which circumstances might formerly, perhaps, have rendered expedient, became at length a sort of trade, and many persons, without the merit of any industry, exertion, or useful expenditure, amassed large fortunes from the single circumstance of taking farms. Though generally discountenanced at present by the more liberal spirit of the landed proprietors, the practice is by no means abolished, and farms still continue to be taken and managed in a similar manner. The value of land, which has been found to increase in a very rapid proportion for some years back, continues to hold out great temptation to this kind of land-jobbing. To the proprietor it offers a large rent without trouble, and they, who consider their estates only as a source of income, are without much difficulty induced to adopt a mode so conducive to their ease and convenience. Impressed with a conviction,

viction, that lands will continue to rise in value, as they have done hitherto, the land-jobber thinks he can hardly offer too high a rent, and, as there are usually many such competitors for every farm, the price of land has lately been raised to a very inordinate degree, which some of them, perhaps, may hereafter find to their cost. The general practice of these adventurers (some of whom give no leases) is to let for seven years at a rent, little and sometimes not at all exceeding that, which they pay themselves. Their own term is usually three lives, or thirty-one years. Judging of the future by the past, they presume, that the remaining part of their tenures will afford a handsome profit, and, as the speculation has hitherto been attended with success, it is by no means wonderful to find so many candidates for a prize, which requires no advance of money, and which appears to be attended with so little hazard. Besides the payment of his rent, the cottager was also frequently burthened with many heavy obligations of supplying his task-master with men and horses to perform his work, as well as eggs and poultry to supply his kitchen. The amount of the rent, we may justly suppose, was so regulated as to leave the tenant no more than a bare subsistence. Under such a system it was impossible that agriculture could flourish, or that the peasantry

could be happy or prosperous. The kind and friendly intercourse, that should subsist between landlord and tenant, between the person who owned the land and the persons who tilled it, was effectually destroyed by the interposition of the land-jobber, to whom was transferred all the influence, that proprietorship naturally confers, and who made use of it more for the purpose of oppressing than protecting. Even now that the pernicious nature of this system is fully understood, and that a more liberal conduct begins to prevail, some of the evils introduced by it are found to remain. The price, that farmers are obliged to pay for their lands, is commonly too high, and, though the land-jobber is removed, the rack rent continues. I shall be told, perhaps, that in several parts of Great Britain lands let at even higher rates than what we are accustomed to consider a rack rent.

But those, who make the observation, have not, perhaps, attended to some circumstances of great disparity in the cases. *There*, a farmer possessed of stock, implements, and capital adequate to his purposes, enters upon a farm already in a high state of cultivation, with houses, timber, fences, and all things ready for his use. *Here*, he generally comes to a naked farm without trees, without hedges, without house fit to shelter a human creature, and very often

often without sufficient means of supplying these as well as other deficiencies. Under such circumstances it is obvious, that the farmer may grow rich under a rent, which the latter would find it impossible to pay. The high prices, which our poor farmers are enabled to give, are only to be accounted for from their ignorance of the comforts enjoyed by the English, and the poverty, with which custom has taught them to be content. The entire profit of a moderate farm, managed as it usually is here, would hardly suffice to furnish the expences of a British farmer's domestic establishment. Though I believe the general truth of this statement cannot be questioned, I would not be understood as recommending an immediate and entire deviation from the present practice. Was the generosity of a landlord to make a considerable deduction from a tenant's rent, in order to enable him to live with more comfort, it is by no means improbable, that the abatement, instead of bettering his condition, might make it worse. By diminishing the necessity of laborious exertion it might encourage an idle and dissolute habit, and make him eventually less solvent than he was before. A bad system must be corrected gradually, and farmers, under the common circumstances of Irish peasantry, should be subject to such

rents as would enforce a necessity of labour, and at the same time allow a comfortable subsistence.

Justice also requires a few observations tending to qualify the indiscriminate reprobation of middle landlordship. Many persons stand in the apparent situation of middle-men, who are by no means deserving of the censure it has received. Gentlemen, who take farms, though with the avowed purpose of letting them again, may, however, be frequently considered as promoting very materially the interests of agriculture. It must be manifest, that I speak of those, who lay out considerable sums in the improvement of poor, barren, or waste lands, and who are thereby justly entitled both to profit and praise. Works of this kind are commonly above the reach of the peasant, and, where the distance or avocations of the proprietor will not allow him to undertake them himself, he cannot serve his estate or his country better than by employing such substitutes. Many persons also hold lands under long leases, which, creating more than a temporary interest in those holdings, enable them to be sufficiently indulgent to their under-tenants. Others, though less favourably circumstanced, are, however, often found to act with kindness and liberality. Permanence of tenure is so obvious an incitement to industry, that land-jobbers now, for the most part,

find

find their advantage in giving leases. But the system is a bad one, and should be abandoned. The middle-man cannot afford to be as indulgent as the proprietor. He must have his profit rent, which he enjoys at the expence, partly of the occupier, and partly of the proprietor, who thus pays a high agency for the receipt of his income, deprives himself of the power of encouraging and rewarding merit, and, without receiving any equivalent, transfers to another that influence over the tenantry, which should gratify his pride and uphold his consequence.

Dung, as Dr. Kirwan justly observes, is an appropriate manure for all soils. The best are made still better by it, and to the light and weak soils, which compose the greater part of the county, it is absolutely necessary for the production of rich crops. The want of this important ingredient is severely felt among the lower class of farmers, few of whom have a sufficiency of cattle to enable them to make much, and who seldom manage those they have in such a manner, as to derive any great advantage from them. Even among those of better description, the quantity of dung manure is by no means equal to what it might be from the housing and feeding of their beasts in farm-yards, properly constructed. The English farmer derives great advantage from his superior attention to this important article, as well

as from the folding of sheep, a practice, which the circumstances of this county forbid to be imitated to any considerable extent. He has also a much greater number of towns to resort to, from which he is supplied with a very considerable quantity of the best and richest manures.

A material cause of imperfection in our general husbandry arises from the want of proper implements. One of the greatest benefits ever conferred upon mankind was the discovery of that simple and well known implement, the plough, by which man, substituting the strength of beasts for his own, is enabled to execute with care and dispatch works too great and laborious for manual accomplishment. This admirable implement, though useful to all, attains its full effect only in the hands of the skilful. The common plough of this country is rude in its form, and defective in its execution. The handles are short and thick, the beam low, and bending a little to the right hand. Instead of standing upright, and making a fair and handsome furrow, the coulter and sock * are placed so obliquely as to oblige the ploughman to turn it to the left side in such a manner, as to keep the mould board entirely out of the ground. The office of turning over the sod is therefore

* The sock is commonly short and always pointed, without any wing to it.

fore performed, partly by the heel of the plough, and partly by the foot of the man, who is obliged to assist the operation by frequent kicks. Though they remove but little earth at a time, no part but the sock entering the soil, the draught is rendered difficult by the length of the chain. In ploughing old ground, an additional man is often required to keep the plough in the ground by leaning on the beam, as well as to free it from the weeds and briars, that collect upon it. Its greatest defect is ploughing lea, its best operation sowing seed. In very stony and rugged soils, which are frequent in the west of the county, it is less objectionable, as it seems peculiarly suited for encountering such difficulties; but lands of better description are deserving of a better implement. The introduction of the Scotch swing plough, now very much used in the neighbourhood of Cork and some other places, will probably soon supplant this old and awkward instrument, or confine its use to those rough and strong tracts, which, though not incapable of useful produce, do not easily admit of neat and elegant cultivation.

Obvious as the advantage of the plough must appear to the most superficial observer, the labour of the spade, partly from custom and partly from necessity, is generally preferred. The lands of this
country,

country, as Mr. Young has observed, are so much encumbered with rock and stone, that many places are hardly manageable with any other implement. When to this is added the great number of petty occupiers, whose farms are too small to support, and whose means are inadequate to procure a plough and its appendages, the general predilection for the spade will cease to be a matter of surprize. With farmers of this description, the work of ploughing is performed by combination, some supplying the plough, and others the horses. Under these circumstances the plough is used sparingly, because it cannot be had without some obligation to a neighbour. But every man having a spade at his command, in the management of which continual exercise renders him very expert, endeavours, by making the most of it, to depend as little as possible upon another's assistance. It is true, this should have no influence upon the conduct of others less straitened in their circumstances; yet even among these the spade is too often made to supply the place of the plough, occasioning thereby an unnecessary waste of labour. Another general defect in practices is not working and mellowing the soil sufficiently for the several crops. Frequent ploughing would compensate by repetition for the imperfection of the performance. But a strange notion prevails

prevails among many, that much ploughing weakens the soil. The union of ignorance and absurdity is not indeed surprizing, but the art of farming seems now sufficiently advanced to correct so glaring an error as this. The opinion seems the more unaccountable, when we find it among persons so fond of the spade, an implement of superior efficacy in mellowing and pulverizing soils. The truth is, that the vulgar seldom make use of their understandings in examining questions of prejudice and custom. Old opinions are taken upon trust, and the son follows the footsteps of his fathers, in dutiful submission to their superior judgment. Farmers seem to consider the manures they apply, whether in the shape of dung, sand, lime, or compost of any kind, as the sole cause of fertilization, and think that, having done this, they have done almost all that was necessary.* But the plough and harrow are competent to very important purposes, besides merely turning the sod, and covering the seed. Their repeated operation destroys weeds, exposes by successive turnings every part of the arable surface to the fecundating influence of the atmosphere, and by mellowing and crumbling the soil increases very

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* Common farmers have no idea of more than one ploughing for each crop, except where fallows are in use. Barley and oats, as well as wheat, are sowed under the plough, the grain being scattered on the ground in whatever state it may be, previous to the ploughing.

materially its power of nourishing plants. The frequent use of the spade compensates in some degree for the sparing use of the plough, though their preference of that instrument is more the result of habit than of judgment. Potatoe ground, in consequence of so much spade work, is certainly in a good state for receiving grain. Where wheat is to follow, the general fault is letting the potatoes remain too long, and of course sowing the grain too late, frequently not till near Christmas, and often after it. In this part of the country, where the mildness of the winter admits almost a continual vegetation, November seems the best month for sowing this grain. When put in much earlier, the grass corn becomes too forward, and the growth of weeds is greatly encouraged. Their best tillage is wheat and barley, both of which usually follow potatoes on the south coast invariably. In the midland and richer tracts, barley commonly is sowed after wheat, and oats after barley. The culture of oats is commonly performed in a most slovenly and careless manner, particularly when it succeeds another corn crop. The seed is thrown on the stubble and ploughed in, frequently without the application of the harrow. The usual consequence is a thin growth of corn and a plentiful crop of weeds, which are often suffered to shed their seeds without any consideration

deration of the future injury they may occasion. Light harrows, sometimes with iron and sometimes with wooden pins, are often used, but few common farmers are as yet in possession of the roller. They are not, however, entirely ignorant of its use, and will borrow one when they can. After wheat and barley are sown, the common practice is to break the clods with a spade, an operation, which is called hacking, and performed with dexterity and dispatch. It would, however, be rendered wholly unnecessary by a proper use of the plough and harrow.

The crop of greatest importance to the common farmer, and which most engages his care and labour, is that of potatoes. The preparation for these is now pretty nearly the same in most parts of the county. Formerly, it was usual in many places to plough or dig the trenches only,* leaving the beds whole, on which, after the dung or manure was laid on, the potatoes were placed, and covered from the trenches with the shovel. The general practice now is, to plough the ground into beds of moderate breadth, leaving in the centre of each a rib or stripe unploughed, and turning over the sods from either side upon it. They are then dressed and levelled with a strong hoe, (vulgo graffane) a work, in which

* This is still the practice in the county of Kerry.

our people are very expeditious and expert. This is done in the spring, May being the principal month for planting potatoes. The seed is then stuck, (as it is called) that is, dropped into holes made with the spade, about eight or ten inches asunder. Boys, and in some places women, are employed in this business, as well as men, and do it very fast. The beds are then covered, by the shovel, with earth raised in the trenches, sometimes by the plough, but more usually the spade. Dung being the great staple manure for this abundant crop of general subsistence, (except in the vicinity of the coast where sea weeds are used) and all that can be procured being insufficient for the purpose, great pains are taken to assist its operation, and supply its place, by the intermixture and addition of other fertilizing substances. Paring and burning, a practice of great antiquity in the south of England, is still in pretty general use, notwithstanding the penalties, to which it is subject, and the usual unwillingness of landlords to permit it. Considerable quantities of potatoes are raised in this manner, particularly in the coarser or less improved parts of the country, where burning is considered, and justly, as one of the most expeditious and effectual methods of reclaiming waste lands. In the more populous districts, where burning is disallowed, or the lands

not suffered to remain unemployed long enough to collect a sufficient skin for the purpose, the farmers are very assiduous in collecting what they call old earth, that is, mould gathered from the sides of roads, ditches, &c. with which they cover the ground intended for potatoes. This has lately become a very general practice, and so high is the opinion entertained of its utility, that in many places no preparation is considered compleat without it. The second earthing of potatoes is seldom given until the plants are advanced considerably above the surface; which is much better than the mode, practised in some counties, of covering them the moment they appear. It may be thought perhaps, that their tender stalks are in danger of being injured by the operation. But, though expeditiously performed, it is done by the shoveller with so much dexterity, that not a plant is hurt*. A third earthing is sometimes, but very rarely given, and those, who practise it, entertain no doubt of its contributing a good deal to the increase of the crop. Apple potatoes, which constitute the main crop in all but moory soils, are usually suffered to remain too long in the ground. This is partly owing to their being plant-
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* The best time for this operation is the evening, when the plants close their leaves, which in the middle of the day they had unfolded to the sun. The peasants are often seen taking advantage of this circumstance.

ed very late, and partly to their continuing green, long after the stalks of all the other kinds have withered. Farmers think that, while any verdure remains on the head, the root continues to increase, and are therefore unwilling to disturb them before the beginning or middle of November, when, the days being short, and the weather often wet, the time of getting them out, from the tediousness of digging, is often protracted to a very late season. This is attended with double injury, from the danger of frost, and the delay of the wheat sowing. It is to be hoped, that the premature frost of 1807, which was so calamitously felt in this county, has given our farmers a lesson on the danger of procrastination, which they will not easily forget*.

The common management of potatoe crops, where so little is done by horses, and so much by men, is, no doubt, inconsistent with the principles of improved husbandry, the object of which is, to do the most with the least trouble. But, the present circumstances of the county considered, this excess of labour may, perhaps, be rather thought an advantage

* It may be useful to know, in case of being surprised by a frost, that the safest way is to let them remain in ground until it is past. Much of the injury done that year arose from digging them in the frosty weather. Very little of those, that were allowed to remain, suffered much injury. An effectual mode of preservation is to add fresh earth from the trenches. If that cannot be done, it is better to do nothing.

tage than an injury, from the employment it affords to numbers of people, who would otherwise have no occupation. A skilful husbandman, on a moderate sized farm, might certainly cultivate half a dozen acres of potatoes, with as little, or perhaps less labour, than is now employed about one. But such is the population of many districts, that a division of the lands into large farms, under the drill husbandry, would leave four fifths of the people without employment. The strength of beasts, skilfully applied, would in that case suffice for those works, which now, for want of any other demand for their labour, afford subsistence and occupation to a great number of inhabitants. How perversely circumstanced do we sometimes find the population of this island! In some places are seen prodigious tracts of unimproved, but highly improveable ground, inviting the hand of cultivating industry; in others, a swarming population, confining itself to a district, which affords to the majority but a meagre subsistence! Yet strange to tell, they are as unwilling to admit more hands in the one, as they are indisposed to diminish the superfluity in the other*.

Among

* Kerry and Cork abundantly exemplify this observation. The latter is, in many places, too much crowded with inhabitants, who, rather than go out in search of establishments, are every day multiplying sub-divisions, and making their little farms still less. The former is

poorly

Among the very reprehensible negligences of common husbandry, is the little care, that is taken to clear the ground and discourage the growth of weeds. Besides the immediate injury a crop must receive from the intermixture of so many vigorous rivals, which rob it of a large portion of due nourishment, a very small share of reflection might suffice to shew the expediency of employing a little pains to prevent that superabundant increase, which must necessarily follow their being permitted to shed their seeds. Against such enemies the farmer, who hopes to reap the reward of his toils, must wage eternal war. Potatoes are the only crop, to which much attention is paid in this respect. In corn fields weeds are often suffered to remain unmolested, and as to destroy them in any other places, the idea never seems to have entered into a single head. In consequence of this neglect, the whole country is so abundantly impregnated with the seeds of docks, thistles, charlock, and other noxious plants, as to enhance the labour of cultivation, and to diminish the quantum of valuable produce in a very considerable degree*.

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poorly peopled, in every sense of the word, the inhabitants being very inferior in skill and industry, and having much land to spare. But the Kerry men are said to view a stranger with so much jealousy as to render his admission a service of danger. There seems to be a very marked difference between the inhabitants of those counties.

* Few, even among the more intelligent farmers, seem to be aware of

An injudicious course of cropping is another material cause of injury to the soil, and loss to its cultivators. The common order of farmers have no idea of that various and ever-changing rotation, which the improved skill of modern industry has found to be so highly advantageous. Potatoes, the crop of their main subsistence, engrosses almost the whole of their manure, as well as of their labour. Corn follows this, as long as the ground is capable of producing it, after which it is left in a state of cruel exhaustion, to be recruited by the benignity of nature. Nothing is more common than to see in land of good natural quality crops not worth even the little* labour, that has been expended on

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them.

of the facility, with which weeds may be destroyed by persecuting them with repeated cuttings, and never suffering them to perfect their seeds. This they will endeavour to do, by making fresh shoots after every cutting, by which they at length become exhausted and die. Such as have very short roots, as ragwort, are easily eradicated by pulling, when the soil is moistened by rain. Those, which have long and tenacious roots, are best destroyed by cutting. Persons, whose labour is of little value, may be profitably employed in this work. Docks and briars of the most vigorous growth may be destroyed thus in the course of one season. It is for this reason, that no weeds are seen to grow in pleasure grounds regularly and frequently mowed. It is also an additional argument for early mowing of hay. When cut late, as the general practice here is, the ranker weeds have already perfected their seed, and of course receive no injury from the scythe.

* The culture of oats, and sometimes of barley, is as reprehensible for too little, as that of potatoes for too much labour. The whole process often amounts to no more than scattering the seed on the stubble, and ploughing it in.

them. But whatever be the quality of the ground, conduct like this is wholly irreconcilable with common rationality. That husbandman must be ignorant indeed, who does not know whether his soil be capable of producing the crop committed to it. If it be not, his labour is lost, and his land injured. Instead, therefore, of persisting in an endeavour to obtain crops, which it will not bear, he should alter his plan, and substitute another kind of produce. Artificial grasses, the use of which is in many places gaining ground, will by degrees correct this egregious waste of land and misapplication of labour. They grow freely in soils exhausted by corn crops, and, besides affording a valuable produce, contribute to restore the vigour of the ground.

The number of petty tenures occupied by indigent cottagers, and the frequent overflow of population on a small farm, are circumstances unfavourable to good husbandry. A farmer indeed often estimates his riches by the number of his sons, whose labour precludes any necessity of mercenary aid; but this lasts only for a short time. They marry at an early age, new families arise, a separation of interests takes place, and with it a partition of the farm. The same system still going on, future subdivisions are to be made, more or less productive of jealousy and quarrel. This is an evil, which

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can only be removed by a direction of their activity to other pursuits, by the increase of trade and manufactures, and a greater demand for labour. The operations of petty farming, though they must always exhibit an inferior stile of cultivation, may, however, by an increase of skill, and by means of instruction and encouragement, be rendered more adequate to the comforts of the people, and more conducive to the general good.

The general situation of the labouring poor is certainly very wretched, being seldom treated by their employers with that humanity and attention their useful labours so justly merit. A cabin and an acre of ground to plant potatoes in, generally held at forty or fifty shillings* per annum, under an obligation of working for the farmer at a low rate, (six-pence per day) form their chief means of subsistence. On these slender resources the labourer has often to provide for a wife and half a dozen children, who have no employment until they approach the age of puberty. The wife procures a little in some parts of the country, by dressing and spinning flax, in others by knitting, and in a few places, by occasional labour in the fields. Their houses are commonly most uncom-

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fortable,

* This is a common rate in the south district.—In the northern they pay a much higher rent, but are allowed greater wages.

fortable, from the neglect of the farmer, whose business it is to keep them in repair. Mr. Young, however, whose view of Irish agriculture evinces deep intelligence as well as observation, seems to prefer the condition of the Irish to that of the English labourer. The general ground of this preference is the facility, with which the former procures subsistence, and the liberty he enjoys of going where he pleases, unrestrained by the operation of poor laws. These have certainly great weight in the scale, and might turn it altogether in favour of the Irishman, if his employers could be brought to treat him with more kindness and liberality.—This may reasonably be expected, as the consequence of a better system. As the farmer improves in comfort and opulence, by experiencing the favour of those above him, he will gradually become more kind and liberal to those below him.

In the disposition of houses, as well as the divisions of the farm, we very seldom find much to commend. Instead of a central situation, convenient to the several parts of the ground, their houses are commonly placed on, or very near the boundary of the farm*. The fields are laid out

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* The cause of this seems to have originated in the love of society, or the facility of mutual defence. The inhabitants of contiguous farms,

from

from motives of present convenience merely, with little regard, in general, for regularity of form, or orderly arrangement; and, from neglect of laying them out by a line, much ground is often lost by the crookedness of the inclosures. Houses differ in size, according to the circumstances of the occupier, but they are all built, when left to the farmer's choice, on the same exceptionable plan, with an open chimney at one end, and a small room separated by a partition at the other. This is the bedchamber of the family, and serves also for a store-room. The walls are too low to allow an upper floor for habitable purposes, but a few sticks, thrown across at the feet of the rafters, form a receptacle for lumber. Glass windows are a luxury, to which cottagers rarely aspire; but, as light is an indispensable requisite, they contrive, by making two opposite doors, to have one always open for its admission. The thorough draft, occasioned by these, which are seldom so contrived as to shut close, makes the house very cold and uncomfortable in bad weather. The ventilation, however, may not be without its use, where so much dirt is suffered to accumulate, and so little regard

from one or both of these motives, live on the same spot, their houses being separated only by the fence, that divides their farms. The choice of such a situation, once perhaps arising from necessity, is now continued from custom.

regard paid to the cleanliness of the mansion.— Indeed it is impossible for any care to keep houses in any thing like decent condition, as long as the slovenly custom prevails of emptying every vessel upon the threshold, and making dungholes before the doors. It is, however, but fair to observe, that want of cleanliness is by no means peculiar to the lower orders, and that many, who lay claim to a higher appellation, commit the same faults without the palliation of the same necessities. Many houses may be found of two stories high, the windows of which have never admitted any air except through the chinks, and to whose floors the mop and sweeping brush are hardly more than annual visitors.

Few countries furnish a more general convenience of building good houses*. In many parts of the county, and particularly along the south coast, slates may be procured at a moderate expence, and stone abounds in all. The cost of employing the best materials will be amply repaid by the durability of the work, but the indigence of the generality of farmers compels them to make use of the cheapest. From the prevalence of custom, the example is followed by many, whose
circumstances

* Clay walls are still in general use, though stone, where it is convenient, is usually preferred.

circumstances sufficiently warrant the adoption of a better plan. Straw, however cheap at first, is in the end the dearest covering a farmer can use, as it requires to be so often renewed, and consumes so large a quantity of very valuable material. Slate houses, however, have of late been spreading fast, and would continue to increase rapidly, but for the unfortunate suspension of the timber trade, which is one of the greatest injuries this country feels from the present state of Europe. As good often arises out of evil, it may eventually be productive of beneficial effects, by a general encouragement of what we so much want, plantation.

In the article of farm-yards, our farmers are, if possible, more deficient than in that of farm-houses. The inconvenience of a bad and dirty house affects only the owner's comfort, but, wanting a farm-yard, he wants an indispensable requisite for the due exercise of his art. The few places, which deserve that name, besides being too small and confined, are either destitute of the proper offices for feeding and sheltering cattle, or very poorly provided with them. In their ideas of thrifty management our farmers run into strange extremes. By way of saving ground, they build their houses often upon the margin of a public road, in the channel of which a great part of their manure is washed
away;

away; and, upon the same frugal principle, they grudge a few perches to the use of a farm-yard, while whole acres are lost or unproductive, for want of a little diligence in destroying noxious weeds, or a little labour in making drains or removing stones. The size of a farm-yard must, of course, be proportioned to the extent and circumstances of the farm, but nothing, which deserves the name, can, with any possible justice to the occupier, dispense with one. Along the sea coast, large rents are paid by persons possessing little more live stock, than the poor beasts employed in the work of the farm, the manure, on which they depend, being supplied by the ocean. Farm-yards, and artificial grasses, would enable them to add some cows to their stock, and to recruit their exhausted lands by occasional manurings of dung. An improvement of this kind, which is in some places creeping into use, cannot fail to be of the greatest advantage to those occupiers, whose unremitting industry deserves to be rewarded by the enjoyment of more comforts than they at present possess.

The management of dairy land is in many places very defective. Grass in summer, and a sparing allowance of hay in winter and spring, are all the provision the dairyman thinks of making for his cows, which are never milked or fed but in the field.

field. Besides, he is generally overstocked, so that in an inclement season he may reckon himself fortunate, if he loses only a few of them. It must be obvious to every intelligent farmer, that with the advantage of a farm-yard, and the aid of turnips or potatoes, and hay for winter, and clover for summer food, the same farm would support a larger herd, and at the same time afford very valuable crops. Rape, which grows well in most soils, and is very easily cultivated, is also an admirable spring food. In the neighbourhood of large towns grains are used, which give a great increase of thin milk, that answers very well where butter is not made. Some years ago, the general management was as above described, but it has lately been much improved, particularly in the neighbourhood of Cork, as will appear in the accounts of that quarter.

The last thing to be noticed among the general wants of our farmers is that of a kitchen garden, which is a most useful, and ought therefore to be a necessary appendage to every farm. It is, however, so seldom seen, that a stranger might be inclined to suppose, that it was prohibited by law. Even among the richer farmers we see no garden plant but a few cabbages, and, if by chance one should come into possession of a farm provided

with a garden, it is soon suffered to go to ruin. Yet it is very certain, that a little garden, besides contributing to the supply of the kitchen, may also be turned to profit. Bush fruit is very easily raised, and sells very high, and pease, beans, onions, &c. are particularly grateful to the people, though they take so little pains to procure them. Some probably are prevented by the fear of depredation from their unprovided neighbours, who have no sort of objection to getting them at another's expence, but the principal cause of the want is, that custom is on the other side of the question. The potatoe garden is the Irishman's grand care, and with this he is content, not because he ought to be so, but because others are. Want of example is the great impediment to the enterprize of our countrymen, who have seldom any reason to give for what they do, but that the same is done by their neighbours.

With respect to weights and measures, the standard is now the same throughout the county, except in the article of potatoes, of which almost every district has its peculiar barrel. This sometimes consists of a certain number of kilderkins, in some places is measured by firkins, and in others by paniers. They are, however, easily reducible to a common standard, each firkin, panier, or kilderkin,

kin, being allowed to contain so many weights of potatoes, at 21lbs. generally to the weight. Corn was formerly, particularly barley and oats, sold by measure; it is now universally sold by weight. The barrel of wheat, the most generally regular measure throughout the kingdom, is twenty stone. This is subdivided into pecks and half-pecks, the peck containing two stone and a half. Barley and oats are also sold by the barrel, that of barley containing three kilderkins, of twelve stone each, that of oats the same number of kilderkins, at eleven stone each. Potatoes, when retailed in market, are sold by a measure called a weight, generally containing twenty one pounds, in Bandon, and a few other places, twenty three. Mr. Tighe, (Survey of Kilkenny) says twenty pounds are the proper measure, one pound being allowed for dirt. It is very probable, that the additional weight, required by the prudent Bandonians, might have originated from this consideration, but twenty one pounds, *i. e.* a stone and a half, appear to constitute a just and regular measure. The earliest, as well as most delicate flavoured of all potatoes, is that, long known by the name of the white kidney, of which there are some varieties. The finest kind is faintly tinged with a reddish colour on one end, and thence called the red-nosed kidney. It is a poor

bearer, requiring much manure, and thriving best in ground, that has been long out of cultivation. Hence it is in no repute with the common farmer, by whom it is seldom planted, except near great towns for the purpose of supplying the early market. We have a great variety of harvest and winter potatoes, estimated more or less, according to their aptitude for particular soils, the quantity and quality of their produce. The most generally valued, though not the greatest producer, is the apple potatoe, which far exceeds all other kinds in the important article of keeping. This quality it seems to owe to the hardiness of its shoots, and the long continued growth of the stalk. Other kinds quickly attain their full size, after which the stalks immediately quail and wither. The apple, which is seldom planted at an early season, retains its verdure till the arrival of frost, and in the south part of the county is sometimes green in December.

The general nakedness of the land arises in a great measure from the customary mode of fence, into which nothing of the tree kind is admitted. Still more rare is their occurrence in a detached state on any part of the grounds, except the immediate vicinity of a house. The difference between this country and England is so great in this respect,

respect, that to an Irish eye every English farm appears like a gentleman's pleasure ground. Our common inclosure is a bank, (vulgo ditch) from four to five feet broad at bottom, tapering to the top, and rising to the height of five, or five and a half feet. It is formed of earth dug from trenches at either side, and sometimes faced with sods, sometimes with stones. When well covered with furze, it makes a very close and warm hedge, affording a little fuel for the house, and good winter food for horses. To keep it in proper order, it should be cut every fourth or fifth year, at farthest. Too frequently, however, the most material part of the fence is neglected, and the bank is either suffered to remain quite bare, or but poorly provided with furze plants. For an omission so reprehensible no excuse can be made, as, both seed and plants being within every one's reach, the many advantages of so good a fence may be obtained with ease and celerity. The summer appearance of these hedges certainly admits no comparison, in point of beauty, with the greater height and livelier verdure of the whitethorn, but, when kept with care, they are the best of all hedges for winter. The Isle of Anglesea bears a very striking similitude to many parts of this county, in its general appearance. There, as here, the better sort of houses

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have a few trees round them ; the rest of the country is divided and inclosed exactly after the manner of this, which it also resembles in the rockiness of its surface and the quality of its soil. A Carbery man, transported thither, would hardly be prevailed on to think he was not standing on Irish ground.

Barns are never used here for any other purpose than threshing in, and, of course, are much less capacious than the English. Corn is kept in stack on circular stages, supported by upright and cap stones, an effectual defence against vermin. Stages are sometimes constructed on arches, the platform for the corn being rendered secure by flags projecting beyond the margin. Besides the recommendation of its security from vermin, this mode of keeping corn seems much better suited to the humidity of this climate, than housing it. The common farmer is often unprovided with either stage or barn. He makes his stacks on the ground near his house, and, as the weather permits, threshes his corn in the open air upon some dry spot, frequently the public road. As he seldom keeps it long in stack, little injury accrues from vermin, for which he is chiefly indebted to the vigilance of his cat. When not sold off immediately, it is kept in bags, and occasionally exposed to the air in fine weather

weather to prevent its getting musty. This is troublesome, but, being the labour of the wife and children, is not considered as adding much to the cost. Barley is generally sold from the flail; wheat and oats are kept much longer, sometimes to the ensuing season, if the farmer is rich, and does not like the present prices. Many of our husbandmen are great speculators. Instances are not uncommon of their borrowing money at great disadvantage, to pay the rent, rather than sell when an increase of price was expected, and an increase is always expected, when the prices are high. The farmer often suffers by his pretence to foresight, but the general result is salutary, inasmuch as it keeps up a more regular and gradual supply, saves a glut of the market and a consequent diminution of price to the vender, and also prevents the whole of the stock from falling into the hands of a few great purchasers.

The general mode of saving hay is censured for employing too much time and labour, and, I believe, the censure is for the most part just. It might be done with more skill and less pains than are frequently used. The difference between English and Irish practice is in a great measure imputable to the different value of labour, which, being much cheaper here, is, of course, less carefully husband-
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ed. I am, however, inclined to think, that partly from the moister nature of the climate, and partly from the greater succulence of the plants, our hay requires a longer preparation to fit it for the rick, than is necessary in most parts of England. There are, however, some faults much less excusable than a little superfluous labour of saving. One of these is suffering it to remain too long in the field after saving; another, the common practice of deferring the cutting to a late season, under the idea of obtaining a fuller crop. The former is a degree of slovenly management, that admits no apology; the latter frequently arises from the want of spring food, (the result of bad management too) and the consequent necessity of feeding the first growth of the meadows. The early growth is obviously the best hay, the stalk being then in full vigour and succulence. Late cutting, besides a great inferiority of quality, is liable to many objections, which even the acquisition of a greater quantity can by no means compensate. It is saved with much more trouble and expence from the difference of season; it occasions a very hurrying and injurious interference with other harvest business, and is the means of losing a valuable aftergrowth. There is, indeed, a kind of hay, which must necessarily be late, as long as the state of the land producing it continues unchanged.

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This grows on swampy grounds, which are so chilled by constant soakage, as to shew little symptoms of vegetation before they feel the influence of the summer's heat. Their produce is often abundant, but very rushy and coarse, rejected by well fed cattle, but useful to the support of the poor man's stock. Land of this description might be rendered very valuable by draining.

Agricultural writers have filled many a page with directions for saving and managing hay to the best advantage. So much must necessarily depend upon weather, situation, and many other circumstances, that a good deal must, and may safely be left to the judgment and experience of the farmer. Various, also, are the opinions respecting the degree of fermentation it should be suffered to undergo. The easiest mode of saving seems to be that now generally practised of doubling the cocks; that is, making it at first into very small cocks, and, as often as it is opened, making them larger. This is particularly adviseable in uncertain weather, as the hay can then be never exposed to rain, but in a protected state. The best general directions are, I believe, to expose it to wet as little as possible, to take care not to divest it of its nutritious juices by overdrying, and, as soon as saved, to turn it into the rick or mow where it is to remain.

The value of land, or rather, perhaps, the price of farm land, experiences such a progressive increase, that it is hard to form any fixed estimate of its state. The competition, occasioned by an overflowing population, in some degree contributes to the advancement, but the principal causes are owing to the diminution of the value of money, and the present exorbitant prices of provision. The former of these seems to have arisen from the substitution of paper for cash, the latter from the present state of political affairs. Both these causes, though unfortunately too likely to last, cannot always continue. The depreciation of money seems to rest upon the more permanent foundation, as it will probably be found difficult, if not dangerous, to bring it back to its former situation. A political change may be the event of an hour, and, whenever a peace shall arrive, provisions, at least corn, will undoubtedly fall, and with it the value of land. The common farmer never looks forward to a decrease. The judgment he forms of his capability is altogether directed by the present state of things, and, if this season brings him two guineas for a barrel of wheat, he may speculate, perhaps, on the chance of more, but never dreams of less from the next. We cannot, therefore, be surprized at the readiness, with which excessive offers are made by persons, whose habits of

life

life incapacitate them from judging soberly, but it is worth the land-owner's while to look a little farther into consequences, and not too fondly encourage a precarious, and very possibly an injurious speculation.

Except among men of property, by whom bullocks and spayed heifers are sometimes used, the working beasts of the county are horses and mules. The latter, which are, for the most part, of a very small size, the get of the common jack-ass, are principally found in the south and south-west part of the county. They are occasionally employed in draft, but chiefly for back-loads, and being easily fed, and very long lived, and able to endure great fatigue, are admirably suited to the purposes of a poor peasantry in a rough country. Their greatest fault is a vicious and intractable disposition, for which the owners generally find a sufficient corrective in hard work, and bad keeping. Formerly hay and corn were brought from the fields on slide cars, or crooks, (*vulgo loadeens.*) The latter of these is still used where the passes are very rugged, but the general improvement of the roads, by means of presentments from the grand jury, has introduced the wheeled car into all the better parts of the county. This implement, as generally used, is of very simple construction. The body consists of

little more than a pair of shafts, connected by a few cross bars. These rest upon a wooden axle-tree, fixed into the wheels and turning with them. The wheel, not spoked, but solid, is composed of three pieces of ash-plank, about three inches thick at the rims, and increasing in thickness towards the centre. The shafts are supported by a piece of cast metal, called a bolster, flat on the upper part, and semicircularly hollowed underneath for the axle to play in. These cars are capable of carrying a very considerable burthen, and move with ease in a forward direction, but are difficult to be turned. The common carrier's load is from nine to ten hundred weight, but they often carry much more, and that on very hilly roads, though the horses generally used are rather of small size. These cars have frequently nothing of iron belonging to them, except the bolster and shoeing of the wheels, all the tackle being composed of rope. The size of the car varies according to the circumstances of the country, in which the owner lives. On the lower and more level grounds, both horse and carriage are of larger size. The mountaineers, who carry turf and other articles to market from their loftier regions, exhibit a description of vehicle not much exceeding a child's gocart.

Of the peasantry in general, whatever be their circumstances, potatoes form the main article of subsistence throughout the year. The poor sometimes have nothing else, but the better sort always add something in the way of condiment, which they call kitchen. Along the sea coast they depend principally upon fish, which (shell fish excepted) is never eat fresh. It is, from custom, considered more palatable when salted, and, what is of more consequence, goes much further. The poorer people, who live very near the sea, collect different kinds of sea weed, which, when boiled, contribute something to the humble repast. The richer farmers in the southern district live very well. Besides pigs, of which all have more or less for their own use, several kill a beef at Christmas. Calves also, of which great numbers are sold immediately after birth, form no immaterial addition to the fare of poor house-keepers, particularly in towns. However uninviting their appearance, they are, in reality, a sweet and nourishing food. In the interior parts, milk is the general accompaniment of potatoes on the farmer's table. This is seldom used in its sweet and most nutritive state, being first divested of its cream for the purpose of making butter. It is then called sour or skim milk, and what remains, after supplying the house, is sent to market. Of this, as well

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as new milk, the consumption in Cork is very great. In most other towns, I believe, there is little sale for any kind but new.

Mr. Marshall, in his Rural Economy of the West of England, observes, that its management differs materially from that of the island at large, whence he is induced to infer, that it has had a separate origin.

Though this may very possibly be the case, it is, perhaps, more probable, that its secluded situation has been the means of retaining several ancient practices, long since supplanted by new modes in the more improved parts of the rest of the kingdom. Local varieties, indeed, must always have subsisted, nor is it likely that a general uniformity ever prevailed. It is, however, reasonable to believe, that in the simplicity of former times places of similar situation might have employed pretty nearly the same modes. In this country, where so much of old management still remains, a striking similarity to some of the west of England practices is still very observable. It is not, certainly, impossible that, as both are exposed to nearly the same parts of the continent, they might have derived their customs from the same source. But most of the corresponding modes take place in the interior parts of the kingdom, as well as on the coast. Hence
it

it seems reasonable to infer, that the similarity is imputable rather to general practice than particular colonization. In some instances the terms employed in both counties are the same.

West of England.

Houses built of clay, worked up with straw, provincially cob walls.

In situations exposed to westerly winds, the walls of dwelling-houses are frequently guarded with slates, put on scalewise to prevent the sea air from penetrating the walls.

Fences formed of mounds of earth, seven feet wide (often more) at the base, the sides being carried up with sods, and battered somewhat inward, to the height of seven feet, planted with oak, ash, sallow, birch, and hazle.

County of Cork.

Similar houses, very common here, and called clob walls.

Weather-slating used here in similar situations, almost universally.

Irish fences formed in the same manner, but commonly on a much smaller scale. Planted with furze by the common people, but on gentlemen's demesnes often planted with thorns and forest trees.

General

*West of England.**County of Cork.*

General use of back-loads for carrying hay, corn, dung, &c. in crooks, dung pots, and sacks.

In several parts of the south district, the same modes of conveyance are still in use.

Paring and burning, provincially called burning beat, the sod sometimes raised with the plough, sometimes with a sort of hoe or adze. A practice from time immemorial.

Paring and burning, commonly called grassing and burning, of equal antiquity here, and practised pretty nearly in the same manner. The burned heap is also called beat.

There are other similarities, as stacking corn in the field after it is cut; winnowing in the open air; beating wheat out of the ears by hand, for the purpose of saving the straw from being bruised, for thatching; and hacking the ground for the wheat crop. A circumstance of the greatest disparity is a clause in the landlord's lease, restricting his tenant from growing rape, hemp, flax, woad, weld, madder, or potatoes, except for his own use!

There is also an accordance between the southwest quarters of the two islands, in the seasons of sowing and reaping, as well as in the seasons themselves, which in both countries are from similarity
of

of situation subject to a superabundance of moisture. Wheat, in the west of England, is seldom in the ground before November, and sometimes not until the ensuing month. These are the usual months for sowing here, and for the same reason, that early sowing is a great encourager of weeds. Mr. Marshall imputes the ascendancy of weeds to the imperfect operation of their ploughs, which work nearly in the same manner with our own. Mild and moist winters are, however, extremely favourable to their growth, and, though better implements might reduce, it is, I believe, hardly within the power of culture to subdue them. Land is there burned for wheat and turnip crops; it is here commonly applied to the produce of potatoes, but in some places for wheat too. It is also a preparation for cabbage-seed, from which many of our farmers derive no inconsiderable profit. The harvest season is nearly the same in both. Wheat and barley cutting commences in August, and extends to September. Oats, in the higher lands, often not cut till October. The potatoe oats come in with wheat, when sowed early.

CHAP. VII.

BARONY OF IBAWNE AND BARRYROE.

SECT. I.

General Account.

THIS small barony, situated nearly in the centre of the southern coast, extends along the sea shore about fourteen miles, its length being much greater than its breadth. It is divided into two parts, East and West Barryroe, by the great strand of Cloghnikilty and the island of Inchidony, which, though apparently a continuation of this district, appertains to Carbery, its northern neighbour. The title of Ibane, (the fair country) belongs to the eastern division, a just attribute to its superior fertility, few parts of the county possessing a better tillage soil than is found here. The western side, with a greater proportion of coarse land, contains also some excellent farms. A range of high land runs with little interruption through its whole longitudinal extent, very inferior in quality to the less elevated grounds,

but

but generally arable. In the neighbourhood of Courtmasherry are several clay cliffs, from their whiteness not unlike those near Dover, but containing no calcareous matter. This is a circumstance of very uncommon occurrence, and, I believe, peculiar to this part of the coast. The base of these, and of the district in general, is an argillaceous slate, which for the most part approaches near the surface.

The population of this barony, in which there is nothing deserving the name of a town, is very considerable. The country in general is full of scattered houses, and in some of the more fertile parts, the roads have the appearance of irregular streets. According to Smith, it contains 32,905 English acres, and 146 plowlands. A late survey, which is deemed accurate, reduced the plowlands to 144, and the acres to 31,591. The population of East Barryroe is estimated at 10159 inhabitants, and 1698 houses; that of West, at 8,639 inhabitants, and 1404 houses. It is believed, however, that the actual number of both exceeds the computation, from the difficulty of obtaining a fair return, in consequence of the apprehension, entertained by the inhabitants, of its rendering them more liable to the tax duty and militia service. Even at this rateage

it exhibits a great population, verifying almost the supposed happy age of the poet, when

“ Every rood of ground maintained its man.”

Indeed the whole of its produce consumed within itself would be equal to the support of an immense number, as, besides a large export of potatoes, almost all its corn, with pigs and other articles, are sent to distant markets.

A material accession to the subsistence of the people arises from fish, of which the summer and autumn months usually furnish a good supply. The principal of these at present are hake, and, as every person near the coast is occasionally a fisherman, many are able, not only to furnish themselves, but to sell to fishmongers for the supply of other places.

The fishing season is from July to November. At the commencement of the wintry gales, the fish retire into the deep waters, and do not make their appearance again before the summer, when shoals of small fish, herrings, sprats, &c. approach the shore, pursued by the larger kinds, which feed upon them. Courtmasherry-bay was formerly a great resort for pilchards, mackarel, and salmon, by the first of which it has for many years been entirely deserted. The other kinds are daily diminishing

in number, and hardly repay the expence of pursuit. Whether this failure be owing to temporary or permanent causes, it is difficult to determine. That of salmon is easily accounted for from the various modes of destruction, to which they are exposed on ascending the rivers, and the very culpable disregard of the laws enacted for the preservation of the breed. When one considers the immense swarms of the other kinds, that fill the ocean, and the trifling diminution of that abundance by human art, there seems reason to hope, that their former abundance may be one day restored. Their gradual disappearance is become a cause of serious alarm, and induces the fishermen to despair of their return. Last season was peculiarly barren; the latter part of this has been somewhat more productive.

The internal consumption of potatoes, forming almost the whole subsistence of man, and no inconsiderable part of that of other animals, is necessarily very great. Pigs and poultry feed almost entirely on them, horses and cows very much. About eight tons of potatoes, per annum, may be allowed for the consumption of a house, the rich farmers consuming more, the poor something less. This will give a yearly consumption of nearly 25,000 tons. The potatoe most esteemed for flavour and durability, and consequently the most cultivated, is the apple.

apple. Of this there are three kinds, the common, the white, and the red. The last is the favourite at present, very generally the most productive, probably from being the produce of the newest seed, for it seems to be an inherent quality in all to degenerate. The facility of renewing them from the seed renders the general degeneracy of little consequence. New kinds are every day making their appearance, some of which keep well, though none comparable, in this respect, to the apple. It is generally observable, that they improve in flavour as they diminish in size.

Notwithstanding the great consumption of potatoes within the district, it is enabled to afford very large quantities for the use of other places. Dublin is the great market, but Cork, Bandon, and Cloghnikilty partake largely of its produce. The mode of sending potatoes to Dublin is thus managed. Two, three, or more farmers jointly freight a vessel, and, if their own stock of potatoes be insufficient, collect from their neighbours enough to make up the loading. One of the party, or some person in whom they confide, goes as supercargo, sells the potatoes, and on his return divides the profits among the several contributors, being allowed a certain commission for his trouble. It is supposed, and, I believe, not without cause, that the supercargo
does

does not always make fair returns. As there is no check upon his accounts, their only security is his honesty, which, it may be easily conceived, is not always proof against so tempting an opportunity of enriching himself at the expence of his employers. Trusts of more importance, though in the hands of his betters, are not always managed more faithfully.

Sometimes a rich farmer hires a vessel on his own account, and either superintends the sale himself, or deposes one of his sons. The freight varies according to circumstances, generally from thirty to forty guineas for a sloop of fifty or sixty tons. Larger vessels are procured on cheaper terms, but the delay, that frequently attends the sale of a large cargo, seems to render the smaller conveyance more eligible. The master's profit in these voyages is so considerable, that farmers are never at a loss to procure a vessel. The demand for the commodity in Dublin is, however, very fluctuating and uncertain. As the supply, in consequence of the variable weather in this climate, must necessarily be irregular, the market frequently experiences the extremes of want and abundance. The profits of the farmer, therefore, are always precarious. Sometimes he is fortunate enough to return with full pockets, and sometimes he has been known to desert the vessel, and leave the cargo to pay the freight.

freight. This uncertainty, however, is not found to destroy his hopes or diminish his ardour. It is a sort of lottery, in which, like other adventurers, each man hopes to be the favourite of fortune, and never calculates the chances against his success. Four shillings per hundred weight, in Dublin, afford a fair profit ; his good or bad fortune depends upon their exceeding or falling short of this standard.

The produce of corn is fully proportionate to that of potatoes. In and near this little district there are now no less than nine bolting mills, most of them upon a pretty large scale, and easily capable of manufacturing yearly from three to four thousand barrels of wheat each. A considerable part of their supply is the growth of this district. Barley is cultivated in pretty nearly the same proportion as wheat, each taking the lead occasionally, as the quantum of price influences the views of the farmer. The greatest part of the barley is bought up on commission for the Cork market; the rest goes to Bandon and Cloghnikilty, in which towns there are now extensive breweries. Of wheat also a very large quantity is annually purchased on commission, and shipped for Cork, at the harbours of Ringe and Courtmasherry. Sometimes, but of late less frequently, it has been sent to more distant markets. The oats raised here barely suffice for internal

ternal consumption, being seldom sowed in any soil capable of producing the other kinds.

This abundant produce is less ascribable to the superior skill of the cultivator, or the superior fertility of the soil, than to local causes, and favourable situation. The farmers certainly are generally commendable for a laborious and unremitting attention to their business, and the soil, in most parts grateful, is in some of superior quality. But neither the industry of the one, nor the goodness of the other, would under the present modes of Irish husbandry elicit a production so copious, unassisted by the circumstances of a fortunate situation. The sea, which enables them to send their superabundance to market, affords also the means of raising it. Besides calcareous sand, of which the strands on this part of the coast furnish an inexhaustible supply, a prodigious quantity of sea weeds is annually cut from the rocks, or gathered in the coves and harbours. This constitutes their main stock of manure for the potatoe crop, the quantity of dung made by the farmers being comparatively inconsiderable. During the winter months, they collect with unceasing diligence in all accessible places the weeds, which are torn from the rocks by the violence of the southern gales. When the storm subsides, the dissevered weeds float into the coves

and strands, some of which are so abundantly provided, as to afford a very considerable profit to the proprietors of the ground. A small strand at Donoughmore, between Courtmasherry bay and Cloghnikilty, lets for £60 per annum, besides supplying the farm. The weeds, thus gathered, are laid out upon the ground intended for potatoes, and so volatile is their nature, that they soon disappear, leaving for a while a sort of slime on the surface. When the supply is very copious, the ground sometimes receives a second covering. A proper dressing of these winter weeds is reckoned the best preparation for a potatoe crop. In addition to this supply, a great number of small boats are employed during spring, and the beginning of summer, in procuring the growing weeds. Each boat's crew consists of six men, provided with long light poles, furnished at one end with a sharp iron, bent in form of a hook. With these they cut the weeds from the rocks, as low as they can reach, and gather them into the boat, until her loading is complete. This kind is called ribband or red weed, to distinguish it from the black or bottle weed, of which, in other places, kelp is made. All kinds are reckoned good, but the potatoes, produced from those laid out in early season, are the best for the table. The price of a boat-load varies from fourteen to twenty-four shillings, which

which are its usual limits. Four loads are the complement for an acre. The men are paid, either by a share of the weeds, or by a stipulated hire, generally 1s. 6d. per head. The boats are often held in partnership, the proprietors forming part of the crew. The labour of this service is often very severe. They frequently row from Timoleague to the old head of Kinsale, a distance of seven or eight miles, spend two or three hours in cutting and gathering the weeds, a fatiguing work, in which they are necessarily wet from head to foot, and return the same length of way without rest or refreshment. The tide, however, materially assists the process, for, low water being the time for collecting, they go with the ebb, and return with the flood. It also frequently happens that, after arriving at the place of destination, a sudden change of wind disappoints the hopes of the day, for weeds can only be procured in smooth and clear water. This is, notwithstanding, a very favourite as well as necessary employment, and engages a great number of hands, from the first fair weather in spring to the beginning or even the middle of July. The usual mode of putting out those spring weeds is after the seed has been put in, and before the young plants appear, but it is by no means uncommon to spread them on the beds, after the plants have ap-

peared above the first earthing. Another part of the practice, the propriety of which is, at least, doubtful, is suffering the weeds to remain for a long time uncovered. Common sense should rather seem to warrant a contrary practice, in the hope of securing all the efficacy of a manure so extremely volatile; but, when they happen to disagree, custom is generally an overmatch for common sense. I have heard it said by farmers, that, when weeds are covered too soon, that is, before they appear quite exhausted, they swell in such a manner as to throw off a great part of the earth of the beds into the trenches. I should conceive such an effect to be salutary, instead of objectionable, and amply sufficient to repay, by so mellowing a process, the labour of replacing the disturbed earth. In one or two instances of departure from the common mode, I know the result to have been what unbiassed judgment would infer. The old practice, however, is generally followed.

This great annual supply of sea manure enables the farmers, who live near the coast, to divide their culture between corn and potatoes. In more inland situations the farmer depends upon one manuring for many successive crops. Potatoes commonly precede corn, which follows until the exhausted soil becomes incapable of further produce.

Here

Here* potatoes and corn succeed each other alternately, a system consistent with the principles of good husbandry, which forbids successive corn crops, but resulting from local circumstance rather than from judgment. The fault attending it is a too lengthened continuation of the practice. There are many tracts, which for twenty, thirty, or perhaps forty years, have supported this unvarying rotation, and, though the crops are still good, they would unquestionably be much better, were the land occasionally relieved from such a sameness of produce. In a country so tilled and peopled, the great wants are milk for the inhabitants, and fodder for the cattle. For the former, most of the poorer people depend upon a few half-starved sheep, and many, that rank as farmers, are not possessed of a cow. The culture of artificial grasses would refresh the worn out ground by a change, and make a valuable addition to the profits as well as the comforts of the farmer. These, which were absolutely unknown to the common farmers twenty years ago, are now creeping fast into use, and from the advantage acknowledged to attend them afford every hope, that they will soon be cultivated as extensively as their importance deserves. Of clover and vetches the import into Cork is very considerable,

* Fallows for wheat are rare, every where declining in use.

able, and the former is now sold in most of the country towns. Meadow-grass seed is become an article of traffic among the farmers, and I have seen many samples of it clean and well saved. There are few, who do not raise a little clover for summer feed, nor is it uncommon to see the occupier of a cabin and an acre or two, with a little patch of it adjoining his cabbage garden. Besides the inducement, derived from the want of the commodity itself in lands so destitute of herbage, the very state of the soil is an encouragement to the practice. In other places the profusion of natural grass obstructs the growth of the young clover. In these worn down lands it shoots freely, and with very little aid of manure produces an abundant crop. Sometimes it is pastured, but the general and best mode is to cut it, and give it to cattle in the house or the farm-yard. Where straw is wanting, sea sand is spread under them, and receives a valuable addition of richness from their excrements. Clover generally affords three cuttings; sometimes before, but more commonly after the first, they give it a dressing of ashes, dung, or sea sand, for which they are abundantly paid in the produce. I have known a farmer to feed eleven cows (some of them heifers,) and two horses, with the produce of two acres, from the middle of May to the end of September.

September. The seed was sowed in a worn out stubble of no superior quality, and on the first cutting gave a good crop. The cattle were fed in house, and littered with sea sand, which was used as a dressing for the second growth. This, it may be supposed, from such treatment, was superabundant, and the third was hardly inferior.

But such a style of farming among common farmers is yet rare. Their usual mode of giving respite to exhausted ground is, to leave it for a few years to nature. During that time it produces an abundant and unsightly crop of weeds, usually thistles,* docks, and ragwort, which are allowed to shed their seeds without molestation. Just about the time that it begins to collect a grassy surface, and become of some use as pasture, it is again invaded by the plough. How unaccountable a folly to make, as it were, a fallow for weeds, and to lose, for the price of a little grass seed, three or four years

* Furze is well known to afford a favourite food to many animals. Being a low shrub and easily within their reach, nature has armed it with thorns for protection, otherwise it would soon be extirpated. Observing that thistles had a like defence, and conceiving that it might originate from the same cause, I had some gathered and pounded, so as to destroy the prickles. In this state they were offered to well fed horses, who ate them in preference to almost any other food. Furze, now highly valued in many places, was once an object of as little regard. One would hardly recommend the culture of thistles, but, as they will come unbidden, it might be advisable to make the most of an unwelcome guest.

years of the most valuable produce land in such a country can bestow!

But though the farmers of this district, in general, from want of proper farm-yards and a right mode of feeding cattle, make but a trifling quantity of dung, they take great pains to collect another kind of manure for the potatoe crop, on which they set a high value. This consists of earth gathered from the sides of the high roads, from ditches, and indeed from any place, where spare mould is to be had. It is even become a frequent practice, to dig trenches in the field to be tilled, and spread the earth upon the adjoining parts. Some of the stuff so used may undoubtedly rank as a manure, but in many instances it appears to be an unnecessary waste of time and labour. When the earth, so applied, is of the same quality with the soil that receives it, a case that very frequently occurs, I cannot see what advantage is to accrue, save that of helping to rot the grassy surface, an operation, which would surely be much better performed by a proper ploughing. To this would also be added, if the ground was ploughed in proper time, the advantage of exposing the under parts to the meliorating influence of the atmosphere. The practice, however, is very justifiable in the cases of many petty farmers, who are not able to command a plough,

a plough, and it has the further recommendation of affording to some, that might otherwise be idle, a great deal of employment. A little alteration of management would convert what is often a doubtful, into a certain advantage. Instead of being used in this simple state, were the earth, so collected, improved by a mixture of sea sand and dung, laid in large heaps, and frequently dug and turned, in order to blend the ingredients, it would certainly form a most valuable compost. General opinion, however, is so much in favour of the present practice, that we cannot deny it the merit of some utility. Sea sand and sea weeds are frequently used in addition to this earthy covering, and probably constitute the most beneficial parts of the process. The weeds* are supposed, and I believe with truth, to exhaust their efficacy with the first crop. That of sand is principally directed to the corn, the quality of the grain being always highly improved by it. Indeed a large mixture of the calcareous ingredient seems absolutely necessary for producing the superior kinds of grain. Many plants seem to require but a small proportion of it. Grass will

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grow

* The advantage, that corn might receive from sea weed, is yet to be discovered. I know no instance of its being tried as a top-dressing for any kind of grain. It is always used for the potatoe crop, and, I have reason to think, extends little or no influence beyond it. I have found it to produce one good cutting of hay.

grow luxuriantly on many soils, into the composition of which a very slight quantity of calcareous earth is found to enter. But to wheat it seems an essential requisite. The stalk indeed will shoot with apparent vigour, under other circumstances, but the quality of the grain is always deficient, in proportion to its want of the calcareous principle. Hence we find in this county, that the limestone lands always produce the best wheat. It is also observable of this grain, that it rejoices in the absence of moisture, the driest lands as well as the driest seasons being most favourable for its production. Wheat, therefore, should never be cultivated on lands possessing a cold, wet, retentive substratum. Next to limestone grounds are those light and kind soils, resting on an absorbent bottom, of which a considerable part of this district is composed. Hence its superiority to all the western parts of this county, which, from the colder nature of the substratum, are far less adapted to the wheat culture.

Though the quantity of corn sent out of this barony, in which there is so much tillage, and so little consumption, is very considerable, the acreable* produce is not great. A heavy crop is seldom

* The measure used here, and in all the southern parts of the county, is the English acre.

dom seen, owing probably to the exhaustion of long cropping, and the small proportion the quantity of dung bears to the great extent of tillage land. The produce of an acre of wheat on the best grounds seldom, I believe, exceeds seven barrels. The average produce must therefore be rated much lower, probably at five. Bere, as well as barley, is still sowed here, chiefly on the higher and poorer soils. Where the ground is well dressed, the crops of both are good*.

The quality of the grain, (wheat and barley) in the more fertile parts of this district, is very little inferior to that of the limestone soils. This, I believe, is in a great measure to be attributed to their convenient situation for sea sand, the use of which is daily increasing through all parts of the country. The benefit of this manure is acknowledged universally, but some difference of opinion prevails, respecting the quantities in which it should be applied. Many farmers are afraid of an overdose, an apprehension, which a little consideration

will

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* Barley, when it comes well, is, I think, generally a heavier crop, in proportion, than wheat. Instances have been known of twenty kilderkins to the English acre. The average of good crops, however, does not, I believe, exceed twelve. Last summer, (1808) the wheat of Barryroe was not exceeded by any part of the county. This has been one of the most productive seasons known a long time, 120 sheaves seldom producing less than two barrels, and sometimes more.

will easily shew to be altogether groundless. I have heard them say, that much sand would, as they term it, burn the land, but I never knew one, who had actually found it to be the case. One experiment is worth a thousand assertions. Some of the richest land I am acquainted with has been reclaimed from the tide, and contains, probably, more calcareous sand in one acre, than is to be found, in the way of manure, in fifty. The greater part of the Netherlands, the finest tillage land in Europe, has been reclaimed from the sea, and is chiefly composed of sand. The rich banks of all our large rivers afford another instance of the utility of sand to the composition of a fertile soil. Sea sand, besides supplying the calcareous ingredient, is of great use, by its mechanical operation, in opening and mellowing the soil, and counteracting that tendency to cake and harden, which it so frequently possesses. The Magharee islands, near Tralee, are remarkable for producing excellent wheat. I understand that they consist almost entirely of sea sand. Marle is generally applied in vast quantities, and the effect is proportionate. Our sea sand, properly speaking, is a shell marle. We may therefore safely lay it down as a truth, that nobody puts out too much, but that most people put out too little

little sand. The association of sand with sea weed is very fortunate for the farmer. There is a sort of glutinous quality in the latter, which renders the application of sand absolutely necessary to preserve the texture of the soil, and prevent a too rigid cohesion of its parts.

SECT.

SECTION 2.

*Barony of Ibane and Barryroe—Particular
Account—Modes of Husbandry—Working
Cattle—Size of Farms Leases, &c.*

THOUGH in a district, abounding in tillage, the plough must necessarily be much used, yet here, as in most other places, the spade is the favourite implement of the farmer. This he principally employs in the culture of his most important, as well as most laborious crop, potatoes; though the soil, in general, is such as to admit the whole process to be, at least, as effectually, and much more cheaply performed by the plough. The necessitous circumstances of the cottager oblige him to resort to the only implement he can freely command, but the wealthier farmer, who has a plough and horses, half their time unemployed, is not so easily excusable. Admitting the bad method to be somewhat

somewhat more productive, the advantage of the drills must nevertheless be greatly superior, when it is considered, that what manures two acres indifferently in the bed way, will manure three acres well in the other, and that the saving of labour is still greater than that of manure. But great want of judgment often appears among the Irish, in the distribution as well as the appreciation of labour. An experienced agriculturist cannot behold without surprise a farmer with half a dozen labourers, toiling for a fortnight, (while his horses are doing nothing) to perform a piece of work, which his plough and harrow could accomplish in a couple of days. A man will refuse five shillings, at his door, for the load of potatoes he intends to sell at the next market for five shillings and five pence; not considering, that he is thereby rating the labour of himself and his horse at no more than five pence for the time he employs in going to, and returning from market, which generally occupies the greater part of the day.

With the exception, however, of too sparing a use of the plough and harrow, the husbandry of the better description of farmers, as far as relates to tillage, is well managed, and the crops good. By the frequent and dexterous use of the spade and hoe, the soil is well prepared for the reception of
seed.

seed. Single harrows are sometimes used, but rollers, I believe, are not in the possession of any common farmer, though the advantage of them is not altogether unknown, for I have occasionally known one to be borrowed. Industrious and hard-working people are found in all parts, the best land and the best farmers being in the eastern quarter. Clover, the use of which is spreading fast, is there more largely cultivated, though they have not yet attained the knowledge of a clover lea. The average produce of a good acre of potatoes is from seven to eight tons. It will sometimes rise to twelve, which, I believe, is seldom exceeded. But the apple potatoe, which here forms the main part of the crop, is not the most productive kind.

The working cattle of this district are small horses and mules. Some of these are bred in it, but the greater number bought at the neighbouring fairs. One often sees very pretty ponies among the richer farmers, valued at from fifteen to twenty-five guineas. They are always in good condition, and frequently matched against each other in racing for pretty smart wagers. In summer they are fed with clover, and occasionally pastured along the sides of the corn-fields. In winter their chief food is chopped furze, and they appear to thrive better on it than on any other. They also, as well as cows, often
share

share with the pigs the leavings of the farmer's table, mixed with the water, in which the potatoes have been boiled. It will seem remarkable that, though vast numbers of cars pass through this district, carrying sand farther up into the country, very few are used in it. Many of the cross roads, indeed, are very bad, and altogether impracticable for wheels, but there is also a good deal of fair road, repaired by presentment. The general custom, however, still prevails of carrying burthens upon horses' backs, potatoes in sacks, and sand in small paniers, or a sort of half-round wooden box, called a dung-pot. For carrying corn in sheaf, they employ an implement, called a *loadeen*, shaped like a W, which is described by Mr. Marshall, as still in use in Devonshire, and the south-west part of England, which bear a striking resemblance to the old usages of this country, and seem to have experienced less agricultural innovation than the rest of the island. Paring and burning, a practice of great antiquity, is also common to both, and executed very nearly in the same manner. The custom of carrying loads on horses' backs bears sufficient internal evidence of its origin, as it must have preceded the making of regular roads, and the construction of cars. The first species of this implement was without wheels. I myself recollect, when hardly any

thing but sliding cars were used, even by the gentlemen, in this quarter of the country.

Though milk is in great demand, the populousness of this barony does not admit of much dairy land. There are, however, some small dairies, which are considered to yield good profit. When the demand for milk happens to be less urgent, as is sometimes the case in the fishing season, the dairyman makes butter. Milk sells in summer for three halfpence, in winter and spring for two pence and two pence halfpenny per quart. Farmers of every description keep a few ewes, as well for themselves as for their labourers, from which a small supply of this useful article is obtained. The poor lambs fare badly in consequence, being put off with a very small portion of the parent's aliment. The pasture in general is excellent for sheep. Indeed the same may be said of the far greater part of the county, all the dry and kind lands of which agree admirably with this valuable animal, whose many and important benefits to man are almost as ill requited here as those of the labouring horse. In youth it is stinted to half food. When grown up, it is compelled by the severest bondage of fetters to remain on the barest fields of the farm. During the winter, the sheep alone is denied the occasional shelter of a shed, being exposed to every blast, without even the

the comfort of one good bellyful. How they are able to support life under such circumstances as we commonly find them in this part of the county, is surprising. Yet the number of them kept in this manner is very considerable. A few lambs are fatted for market; the rest, except what the farmers may require to keep up their stock, are sold off at the summer fairs. Those of Timoleague and Newmill (both in this barony) are much resorted to for lambs.

The general rate of labour here is low, nine pence or ten pence per day to out-labourers, six pence to those who live upon the farm. For a house and acre, the former generally very bad, the annual rent is from thirty to forty shillings. In corn-harvest, and time of digging out potatoes, the price of labour rises considerably, sometimes to one shilling and six pence per day, and food.

The size of farms admits of all the variety, that can be found in a country, where none are large. The generality of those held by a single farmer are small. Such as exceed thirty acres are often held in partnership, a kind of tenure objectionable in many respects, yet not ill suited to the circumstances of a poor tenantry, whose chief riches consist in their labour. Two or more families, each bringing a little, are enabled thus, by combining

their forces to accomplish what they were individually unequal to. This species of tenure is further promoted by their common law* of inheritance, which divides the land of the father among his sons. The daughter's portion is generally paid in money, though sometimes the son-in-law obtains a sub-division of the farm.

It is not easy to form an average estimate of the prices of farm-land, where so many causes concur to make a variation in the rent. Lands differ very much in actual value, from the circumstances of convenient and inconvenient situation, high and low ground, rough and smooth. From thirty to forty shillings per acre seems to be a fair value for good arable ground, under general circumstances. Peculiar quality of soil, or convenience of situation, often raises it higher, but such cases are rare. A great part of the lands of this district are rated high enough at the former price; much of it certainly is worth thirty-five shillings, but, a few favourite farms

* So much are they attached to this apparently equitable law of equally dividing the property of the father among the sons, that in the case of joint-tenants they never take advantage of survivorship, but suffer the father's part to go to his sons. I have known many instances, where the surviving lessee might have availed himself of that benefit, (of which also he was well aware) but none in which he did. They are often ready enough to take even unfair advantages of each other in their dealing, but this seems to militate too strongly against their notions of right and wrong.

farms excepted, forty shillings may be considered as a very high rent for a working farmer.

The usual leases, some years ago, were for three lives or thirty-one years. Landed proprietors were then in the habit of letting large farms to middlemen, by whom they were again let to occupying tenants, at rack rents, sometimes for short terms, and sometimes by the year. To the mutual advantage of landlord and tenant, this system has given place to a better, and landed proprietors now, for the most part, let to occupiers only on leases of one life, or twenty-one years. The possession of a tenure, which secures the profits of their labour, added to the expectation of being continued in their farms, if they conduct themselves well, stimulates their industry, and strengthens the attachment, which tenants naturally feel for a beneficent landlord. It tends also very materially to prevent that waste and injury so often committed, towards the termination of a lease, from the uncertainty of who shall come next. The tenant, who knows it will be let to the highest bidder, without any regard to the claim of long residence, considers it his interest to discourage competition, by rendering the farm as uninviting as he can. To landlords, who shew a benignant regard to the comforts of their tenantry, and a liberal wish to encourage and reward their industry,

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the conduct of farmers will be just the reverse. They will recommend themselves to favour by unremitting exertion, and by shewing the confidence they place in the liberality of their landlords. Of this disposition, the natural result of judicious encouragement, I have of late observed with pleasure many instances.

The only manufactures in this district are those of frize (coarse woollen cloth) and linens, chiefly of the coarser kinds. The former is mostly for home use, every person that possesses, or can purchase a little wool, making some for clothing. The superfluity is exposed to sale at fairs. The linen business I shall have occasion to speak of more largely in the account of other baronies. All that seems necessary to be observed here, is, that flax is more cultivated in the western part of the barony, though the quality of the soil is generally inferior. It is extraordinary, that the culture of this valuable plant should be so slow in extending itself. As long as I can remember, the limits of the flax district have been pretty nearly the same that they are at present. From Cloghnikilty, westward, every occupier of land raises some flax; in proceeding eastward from the same place, the cultivation gradually diminishes, and in a short time totally disappears, a striking proof of the powerful influence of old habits,

bits, and the difficulty of inducing new ones. One might at least expect, that it should reach Bandon, the merchants of which are the principal buyers in the linen market.

The great population of this district has at length so reduced the supply of turf, that in some parts fuel is extremely scarce, and in all, except the north-west quarter, very dear. The poor, in consequence, are much distressed, being obliged to substitute furze, briars, and every kind of weed that can be employed for the purpose. Collecting these is a principal employment of their children. The summer demand, which only requires a sufficiency to boil the pot, is easily satisfied, but the want of fuel in winter is the want of a most essential comfort. The situation of the mountaineer is, in this respect, infinitely preferable. The import of coal into this part of the country is, in consequence, daily increasing.

The principal landed proprietors are, the earls of Shannon and Bandon, lord Carbery, the representatives of the late Hugh Smith Barry, and the Rev. Edward Synge, D. D. There are many smaller estates, but very few on which proprietors reside.

The far greater part of the district is in the occupancy of common tenants. Lord Carbery's is
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the only large estate, that possesses the advantage of an owner's residence.

The farms being small, their subdivisions or fields must be small also. The general size may be about two, or from that to three acres. The hedges, as in most parts of the county, are formed of furze, growing on the top of a high and narrow bank, commonly called a ditch. The centre of this bank is formed of clay, the sides being sometimes faced with sods, and sometimes with stones, as either material happens to be most convenient. A furze hedge, kept in good order, makes a secure and warm inclosure. It derives additional value from the advantage it affords of food for the cattle, and fuel for the house, as well as from the facility, with which it is raised. The seed is easily collected, grows freely, and in three or four years makes a strong fence. Farmers, however, too frequently neglect to avail themselves of an advantage so easily attained.

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SECTION 3.

Barony of Ibane and Barryroe.

*Towns—Fairs and Markets—Plantations—Schools—
Principal seats, &c.*

BARRYROE, with many hamlets, has but one place called a town, its title to which appellation is bestowed, more through common courtesy than common right. The natural advantages of Timoleague were, however, such as to justify the founder's expectation of future prosperity. It stands at the western extremity of Courtmasherry-strand, upon the river Arigadeen,* navigable for sloops as far as the town, and for lighters about a mile and a half higher. Situated in a fertile and populous country, and possessing so considerable a degree of maritime † convenience, a much better condition than its present might be looked for without in-

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* The silver stream.

† Courtmasherry has one of the best harbours on the coast of Ireland. It is very easy of access, and will admit a small sloop at low water.

dulging any thing like sanguine expectation. Its contiguity to two † powerful rivals, enjoying the advantage of antecedent establishment, will probably oppose considerable obstruction to its future advancement, though not sufficient to preclude the attainment of some prosperity under a system of liberal and judicious encouragement. The present wretchedness of its state arises from the circumstances of the proprietorship. It is the joint property of the children of the late Lord Riversdale, and, as I understand, to be sold, when the youngest is of full age, a period which has but lately arrived. Should the purchaser unite inclination with ability, it will afford him an ample subject for useful and profitable expenditure.

Though it is probable that Timoleague never possessed any considerable degree of population or affluence, there is reason to believe, that it once enjoyed a better condition. The circumstance of its being a market town shews, that it had been a place of creditable distinction. The markets have long since fallen into disuse, except for a few winter months, during which a good number of pigs † are exposed

* Bandon and Cloghnikilty.

† These are for the far greater part the common white breed, long-legged and flat-sided. They are not so easily fed as the round short-legged breed, but are considered to have an advantage in the quick-

exposed to sale on Thursdays. The origin of the town may, perhaps, be dated from the establishment of the abbey, one of the largest foundations in the county.

The leading roads through this barony, which are repaired by presentment, are generally in pretty good order, the bye-roads altogether as bad. Hence, the continuance of the ancient custom of carrying burthens on horses' backs. Fairs are held in the eastern and western extremities, at Timoleague and Newmill. They are generally crowded with buyers, sellers, and idlers. Small-sized cattle, chiefly cows, horses, pigs, sheep, and lambs are the principal articles.

The only natural wood of any extent is on the Timoleague estate, near which is a pretty seat of the Rev. Armiger Sealy. The best grown plantation is that of Courtmasherry, made about forty-five years ago by the late Lord Shannon, whose taste and judgment lent new graces to a place naturally beautiful. Of the old mansions few have any trees remaining, except Mr. Lucas's, at Richford's-town, and the Rev. Mr. Harris's, at Barry's-hall.

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ness of their growth. Mr. Rawson (Survey of Kildare) asserts their inferiority in this respect, which, I believe, is contradicted by the experience of this county. The superiority of the English breed, some of which have been lately introduced, must however be universally admitted.

The Rev. Edward Synge, D. D. has made some progress in improving a fine estate, at Lisle, which came into his hands, on the expiration of a long lease, in a very worn out condition, having long been in the occupancy of rack-rent tenants. These poor people, impressed with the idea of that system's continuance, could with difficulty be prevailed upon to make any offer for their grounds. Unacquainted with the liberal ideas of the proprietor, they conceived that the information, thereby obtained of the land's value, would only be employed for the purpose of enhancing its price. They were soon convinced of the contrary, and Doctor Synge has now the satisfaction of beholding a comfortable and thriving tenantry. The completion of his plans, one of which is the erection of a handsome mansion-house, has been hitherto prevented by the discouraging circumstances of the times.

Lord Carbery's efforts towards establishing a plantation in a place altogether destitute of timber have been equally judicious and successful. Adopting the true plan of doing the business effectually, by raising his own trees, he has made very extensive and flourishing nurseries. In these, from which his lordship has already planted pretty largely, he has now a copious assortment of shrubs and forest trees, which will enable him to attain the great desidera-

tum of his situation, sylvan beauty. Some parts of his demesne are, indeed, from their proximity to the ocean, and exposure to the westerly winds, very unfavourable to the growth of trees. Many situations on this coast present a similar obstruction to an improvement so desirable, and an absolute war with nature must be a vain and unavailing labour. But more may often be done, than people are aware of, by close plantation, and a selection of the more hardy kinds. High lands exposed to the prevailing winds may be fairly given up as impracticable, but the irregularity of our grounds always affords a sufficiency of room for taste and judgment to display their skill, both in useful and ornamental plantation.

There is little land in this district, that can strictly be called waste. Every arable spot is the object of laborious, though not always of skilful cultivation. All that can be called unproductive, for want of reclaiming, are some portions of wet ground, and exhausted turf-bogs, more or less improveable by draining, an art little known to the common farmer. For this species of improvement, the subject of least encouragement is the worn out turf-bog. The benefit of atmospherical influence is peculiarly observable in all this country, and seems to attach to every kind of soil. Of this every ditch, or com-
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mon inclosure, exhibits daily and abundant proof. In forming the bank, the upper soil of the trenches, which is always the best, is laid under, while the top is composed of the barren clay at bottom. In the course of a few years this clay becomes, from the simple circumstance of being exposed to the air, a mellow, crumbling, fertile earth, often used for manure, while the buried part, which had been the best, is converted in its turn to a state of infertility. Very useful information may be drawn from this circumstance, displaying so clearly the great benefit to be derived from the influence of the atmosphere. Whether a winter or a summer exposure be most conducive to fertility, does not so easily appear. Both are probably attended with advantages. The clayey bottom of a turf-bog, so long water-soaked and deprived of the air's benignant influence, requires great length of time, and labour of culture, however carefully drained, to impart to it any material degree of productive vigour. Of this I can speak with some confidence from my own experience. The large roots often found in this clay, into which it would be impossible for them to penetrate in its modern state, shew that it had been once a soil of no mean fertility. Even in the turf-bog itself I have observed the same effects to take place. The upper surface of bog, when drained,
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and properly dressed by burning or rotting the sod, and mixing with sand, gravel, or earthy mould, immediately becomes a most fruitful and productive soil. If the upper surface be taken away to any considerable depth, the same effects will not follow, even by the application of the ingredient. The deeper turf, though apparently of exactly the same nature with the superficial, shews evidently, that it labours under the want of some fertilizing influence communicated by the proximity of the air. Whether this be invariably the case, I shall not pretend to assert; that it is locally true, I have experimental knowledge. The subject seems worthy of more philosophic consideration. If the fact shall be established, it will, perhaps, deduct something from the received efficacy of the carbonic principle, and shew that something more, than commonly imagined, is necessary to the constitution of a fertile soil. The under part of the turf, composed as it is of vegetable matter, seems to be not less provided with carbon than the upper. If this was the main cause of fertility to the one, it seems reasonable to believe, that it would be equally efficacious in the other. Dung, however, which is thought to operate by its carbon, would, I am certain, be the readiest fertilizer in those cases. Atmospheric influence will eventually

tually produce the effect, but in a much greater length of time.

In west Barryroe is a tract of high waste land, called the common mountain. Lands of this description are rarely found in this country, and, where they do exist, the right of commonage is little attended to, probably in consequence of its little value. Of this disregard, the common under consideration affords some curious, and, perhaps, singular instances. Encouraged by the general neglect of common rights, the neighbouring peasants are every day making encroachments upon the moor. Finding their first trespasses unnoticed, they began to build houses on it, adding one or more little fields to every habitation. When the leases of their farms expired, these self-created possessors of land continued to enjoy the dissevered portion of the common, without let or molestation. The first trespassers were probably those, who possessed some right of commonage; the example soon came to be followed by others, who did not. They built and inclosed, as choice or ability directed, and continue in quiet possession of the places so occupied. It is not unlikely, that on the strength of the precedent, as nobody seems disposed to resist the encroachment, the whole common will be parcelled out in the same manner. The
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title to these petty estates of one, two, or three acres seems now firmly established, and, as the claimants of commonage are themselves among the encroachers, will probably remain so. The mountain seems to be considered by the people around as in a pure state of nature, convertible into private property by the simple process of forming an establishment thereon. It is complained, and probably not without cause, that this facility of independent possession affords too much encouragement to idleness and intemperance. Paddy loves his ease as well as his betters, and it is no great wonder, if they sometimes abuse it, that his more untutored mind should fall into the same error.

The parishes of this district are in general very small, a proof, perhaps, of its early populousness and cultivation. For the most part they are formed into unions, and, as the inhabitants are chiefly Roman Catholics, there are few churches. Some of the parishes are annexed to the benefices of the neighbouring barony. The tithes are managed in the usual way, and at the same rates with those of the adjoining district. One of the parishes (Abbey-mahon) is tithe-free, that is, the tithes are the property of the landlord, the Earl of Shannon, who lets land and tithe together. His lordship allows a yearly stipend for the performance of occa-

sional duties. This parish originally belonged to the abbey of the same name, on the dissolution of which it became lay property. Timoleague church has long been in ruins, but is now to be rebuilt. It has no glebe-house, and has for many years been without a resident rector; but there is a resident curate. It is remarkable that the same gentleman, the Rev. James Harris, who commenced his ecclesiastical career with this very curacy more than thirty years ago, should still retain possession, unaffected by the various changes of bishops and rectors, which have taken place within that period.

This district is very poorly provided with schools, considering its wants; for, the far greater number of the common people speak only Irish. In the wild and mountainous tracts, that divide the counties of Cork and Kerry, every bare-legged peasant converses fluently in English, while in the populous and well cultivated country, adjacent to the southern coast, the prevailing dialect is Irish. One should suppose, that a superior stile of cultivation, and the frequent opportunities of marine intercourse would have produced a contrary effect, but the fact is as here stated. The cause seems to arise from their different habits of life. The inhabitants of the sea coast follow a course of laborious industry, which, by employing the children at an early age,
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allows little time for any other pursuit. The life of the other is comparative idleness. Their children, having nothing to do, are sent to country schools, where a little education is cheaply obtained. Knowledge thus generally diffused is easily kept up, particularly by an unemployed race, who are fond of society, and studious of conversing with strangers. Though there are but two parochial schools in the district, and those badly attended, there are some kept by Roman Catholic teachers, where children are instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Many of these returning at an early age to their parents, who want the benefit of their labour, soon forget the little they had learned. Numbers even of the richer and more industrious farmers are entirely ignorant of any but their native language.

In the mineralogical catalogue of this barony, no article has hitherto turned to account except slates, of which there is great abundance. Considerable quantities are sent to Cork in boats and small sloops. Their general defect is an intermixture of iron, which, on being long exposed to the air, changes their colour and promotes their decomposition. This is one cause of their inferiority to the Welch slate, which also exceeds ours in the firmness of its texture. With very few exceptions,

the colour of the slates of this coast is blue ; those of Wales are of a darker hue, with a little intermixture of purple. At the Galleyhead, and in one or two places farther south, there is a narrow vein of liver-coloured slate, more durable, but less tractable than the blue, the laminæ of which are smoother and more easily separable. In many quarries they may be raised to any size, but the general practice is to break them into small and thin flakes, as a lighter covering for slight roofs. The general fault of our quarrymen is, running too much on the surface, partly to save the labour of sinking, and partly to escape the trouble of keeping them free of water, which is generally found at a small depth. The best are thus left behind ; for, the quality always improves in descending. It would hence appear, that the actual merit of our slates remains to be yet ascertained. In one or two instances I have seen so great a difference between the surface and the slate at a little distance below it, as would encourage one to hope, that a deeper sinkage would produce very prime quality. Doctor Synge raised some of great size and good description at Lislee, and will probably hereafter be induced to continue his work. At present the business is in the hands of very poor and very ignorant operators.

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On many parts of the south coast, and particularly in the promontory of the Galleyhead, are several quarries of the finest building stone imaginable. They are a species of slaty argillite, soft enough to bear the hammer, though of a texture sufficiently firm for long duration. Their situation in the quarry is very compact, yet they are easily separable by means of their joints, which, though very close, do not adhere to each other. They lie in regular blocks of a flag-like shape, and may be raised to any size of length or depth. The fronts or faces are regularly squared, and almost as smooth as polished marble. Lord Carbery's house is built with stone of this description, and exhibits the handsomest walls of natural stone to be any where found. In a situation of more convenience they seem worthy to become an article of traffic; at least, they might be profitably employed for ballasting. In summer it would not be difficult to ship them from the east side of the Galley-head in a little cove, called Derk, once famous for the smuggling trade. The regularity of their shape renders them as manageable as brick, and their polish is much superior to that of any cut stone.

Some appearance of coal on the land of Donoughmore induced its proprietor, the late Hugh Smith Barry, Esq. to direct a search. An experi-
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ment had been made at some former period, but without success, the workmen, as it was supposed, not having gone to a sufficient depth. An expert miner from Cornwall, Mr. Charles Carne, was employed for this purpose. After boring in two or three places to the depth of sixty, seventy, and eighty feet, without meeting the desired object, the death of Mr. Barry put an end to his labours. Enough, however, seems to have been done to satisfy curiosity and destroy hope. Very little coal, I fear, will be found on the south side of the river Lee. If coal, as generally supposed, be among the alluvions strata, there can be no great hope of finding it in a country abounding with primary rocks, every where approaching the surface. Mr. Carne's hopes of metallic discoveries were much more sanguine.

He affected to perceive a striking analogy between this country and that, from which he came, and having heard of a copper mine at Dunmore, near Cloghnikilty, that had once been worked, went to visit it. The report he made was so favourable, and his promises of success so confident, that several gentlemen of the vicinity were prevailed upon to become partners in the undertaking.—Means were immediately provided, on terms very favourable to the promoter, who subscribed nothing but

but his skill, while the other partners put down their money. He was also allowed a handsome salary for his trouble. Every succeeding week's report inflamed more and more their hopes of success, and the company for a considerable time, reposing with confidence in the artist's promises, enjoyed their golden dream. But the appetite cannot long subsist on the unsubstantial food of promises. Doubts and suspicions began to rise, and some of the ore, being sent to Cork and Dublin for examination, proved to be pyrites, a composition of sulphur and iron, with little or no intermixture of copper. A small vein of lead ore, of good quality, was discovered in the mine, but too inconsiderable to be followed. The design was therefore abandoned, after an expenditure of about £500. I am, however, willing to believe, that Mr. Carne was himself deceived; for, though expert in the operation of mining, he was no mineralogist. But he was justly censurable for proceeding so far upon uncertain grounds, as well as for holding out hopes, which no appearances were sufficient to justify. The Dunmore mine had been opened many years ago, with what success it is unnecessary to mention, but the failure was imputed to other causes than the defect of the mineral.

To the admirer of nature's more wild and eccentric productions the interior parts of this district present nothing remarkable. In tracing the rocky outline of its coast, however, he will meet with abundant matter for wonder and contemplation. The height and boldness of its cliffs, the number of its coves and indentures, and the surprising variety of its rocky forms, furnish inexhaustible subjects of awful entertainment. On Dr. Synge's estate near the Seven heads is a cliff, called Coolum, the perpendicular height of which cannot be less than three hundred feet. This, once the dwelling of the eagle, is now in possession of the falcon, whose formidable courage allows no bird to approach his favourite residence. The indifference, with which the natives climb several of these precipices, is little less astonishing than the precipice itself. Places apparently inaccessible, and which a stranger cannot even behold without terror, present to their habitual exercises neither danger nor difficulty. Scenes of this kind, however, are not peculiar to this district, the whole extent of our rocky coast presenting similar wildness and equal intrepidity.

Among the more remarkable artificial curiosities is one of a singular nature, lately discovered in a bog near Castlefreke. Of this Lord Carbery was kind enough to furnish me with an account, which

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I cannot relate better than in his own words. “ In the summer of 1803, by the side of the river Anahincha, which separates the baronies of Barryroe and Carbery, and near the place where it discharges itself into the sea, a farmer, in scouring a trench, perceived the end of a piece of timber, which, upon further examination, he discovered to be part of a large cistern* or tank, composing a regular square of seventy-two feet. The bottom was paved, and the sides constructed with oak in the following manner.”

“ Along each side of the cistern were laid three pieces of oak, twenty-four feet long each, about five inches thick, and sixteen inches broad, spliced together by an oblique joint rudely cut. Along the centre of each of these beams were three mortises, in which were placed upright three pieces of oak about four feet long; the centre piece of these was broader at top than at bottom, and acted as a key, the two side pieces being made to extend, at the surface of the flat beam, somewhat beyond the mortise. The mortises were so near, that the outside uprights of one touched the outside uprights

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* Something of a similar nature was discovered nearly about the same time, and at no great distance from this, but it has not been so clearly described. It was not much below the surface, and was probably constructed about the same time, and for the same purpose.

of the other, the whole thus forming a complete wall. On one side there was an opening, as if for a sluice."

"The whole area was filled with turfy matter, which had grown about eighteen inches over the highest part. The higher parts of the upright timbers had suffered much from decay, the grain of the wood being perpendicular, and the roots of rushes having grown into them; but the beams underneath were perfectly sound, and so hard, that it was extremely difficult to work them with any tool."

From the slightness of its covering it is reasonable to conclude, that the work was of no very ancient date. A neglected cistern in a situation like that, adjacent to a boggy stream, would in a small number of years be overwhelmed with mud or turf. The precise object of its construction is not easily ascertained. It is not improbable, that it might have been used for tanning hides. Something of similar contrivance is employed for pounding and washing ore previous to smelting, but there is no appearance of any metallic substance having ever been raised in this quarter.

The principal seat in this barony is Castlefreke, the residence of Lord Carbery, situate at its southwest extremity, and commanding a grand view of

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Ross bay, and the various projections of the coast from thence to the Toe-head. The aspect, which is southern, is the best for this climate, but the ground falls too much at the east and west sides, (particularly the latter) to admit of sufficient shelter from plantation. The house, which was erected not many years since by the present noble possessor, is spacious, well planned, and incomparably well built, notwithstanding which it experiences in bad weather many inconveniencies, from which more humble dwellings of very inferior construction are exempt.

As an agriculturist Lord Carbery is honourably distinguished, as well by his exertions to promote the general interests of husbandry, as by the skillfulness of his own practice and the benefit of his example. He has made considerable improvements in draining deep swamps, formerly unwholesome as well as unproductive, but now covered with a rich coat of luxuriant herbage. Some of these he has also planted. Alders thrive here remarkably well, and are recommended by his Lordship as peculiarly excellent for nursing and sheltering other trees. The platanus, a very beautiful tree, also grows well. He has found very great advantage in the way of shelter for young trees and shrubs from broom hedges. The broom grows

most rapidly, even in the most exposed places. It is not very long-lived, but, by the time it begins to decay, its pupils have attained sufficient strength to protect themselves. Observations drawn from his experience will be found particularly worthy the attention of those, whose situations are much exposed, as Castlefreke demesne had great difficulties of this nature to encounter.

Lord Carbery's farming is conducted upon the most improved principles of modern art, without unnecessary parade or very expensive machinery. He uses the Scotch swing plough, and occasionally bullocks or spayed heifers. He has got into the breed of Devon cattle, which, though not the best milkers, are from their size and hardiness very fit for this country. The situation of his land does not, I believe, admit the advantages of irrigation.

The only threshing machine in this part of the county is at Castlefreke.

In the year 1786 I obtained the living of Cloghnikilty, through the recommendation of the late Earl of Shannon, whose bounty, as well as that of his successor, exceeding alike my merits and my expectations, has continued to flow not only without interruption, but with increase. Among other favours, the benefice being destitute of any suitable residence, his lordship was pleased to accommodate

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me with his villa at Courtmasherry, consisting of a house, and upwards of a hundred acres including the woods, a most acceptable acquisition to one wholly unprovided with house or land. The gift was still further enhanced by the uncommon beauty of the situation, on which the taste and judgment of its noble proprietor had conferred additional graces. The demesne consists of a projection of land, elevated but not high, washed on one side by the bay, on the other by the harbour of Courtmasherry, from which the tide flows over a large strand up to the town of Timoleague. Near the point of the peninsula his lordship had erected a handsome octagonal building, commanding a most extensive view of the river and country on one side, and of the bay of Courtmasherry and the ocean on the other. In this delightful retreat, which professional as well as domestic considerations have since induced me to leave, I passed many happy years. I had there the first opportunity of practising on a small scale, but sufficiently suited to my situation, an art, which, even in theory, had always been productive of entertainment. Without introducing new or expensive implements, as one of my objects was to shew the people that important improvements were attainable without cost or parade, I commenced my innovations. For the slow and laborious

laborious process of the spade I substituted the method of drilling potatoes with the plough, at which, after a little awkwardness at first, the labourers became very expert. I found drills of three feet answer best for the coarser kinds, of two and a half for the others. These, I believe, will suit any tractable soils. Where the land is deep and rich, it may be right to have them at greater distances. This deviation from established practice encountered less objection from its novelty, than from its supposed deficiency in point of produce. My neighbours, who had been accustomed to see their beds crowded with young plants, (for they always use too much seed) derided the idea of a full crop from the thin appearance of mine in their infant state. But towards the end of autumn, when the plants had furnished, they beheld with great surprise my field as completely covered with stalks as any of their own. The produce of the drills, which they often came to see during the ploughing out, was acknowledged to be at least equal to that of the best beds, and the general size of the potatoes was much larger. The advantage of the drill method in the saving of labour and manure was obvious and indisputable. Some of my neighbours adopted the method occasionally, and confessed that there was every reason to be satisfied with the result.

result. That I had not more imitators, or that the practice has not been continued, I impute to general circumstances rather than to any dislike of the mode, or objection to the novelty. The small size of the farms, the number of the people, who have little other employment than their spade affords, and the general use of sea weeds, which cannot be had in time for drilling, all conspire, in conjunction with the prejudices of old custom, to keep up their attachment to the ancient practice. It is observable, however, that the transition to drills militates less against general sentiment here than in most other places, as all good farmers raise their potatoes in very narrow beds, and give them a heavier covering of earth than usual. But the cultivators of large farms, and particularly gentlemen, whose labourers so seldom do them even common justice, will always find a material advantage in the drill method. I found, that four acres of potatoes might be raised for the expence of one, and that the dung of two would suffice for the four, exclusive of a material saving of seed, and a superior preparation of ground for the ensuing crop. In recommending drills, I of course suppose the soil to be sufficiently deep and mellow, without that incumbrance of stones and rock, which in this country so often deranges

deranges and impedes the plans and operations of neat and profitable husbandry.

The culture of artificial grasses was attended with more extensive and permanent effect. Clover seemed to be unknown in that neighbourhood at the time I speak of. Many of the people, who came to see mine, admiring the quickness and luxuriance of its growth, were prevailed upon to purchase a small quantity of seed for trial. In a country so destitute of cattle-food, from the extent of its tillage lands, the great advantage of a clover crop soon recommended itself, and from small beginnings gradually spread into general use. One main advantage of this crop, however, still remains to be attained. My practice was to plough it in, after the second cutting, for wheat, of which it never failed to give an abundant crop. The idea of a vegetable manure seemed so repugnant to general notion, that even the encouragement of successful example in this instance failed to produce imitators. Indeed, though carefully managed, and very productive in consequence, clover is seldom cultivated by our common farmers but on a small scale, and in very inconsiderable quantity. Instead of wheat they plough it in for potatoes, considering these to be the fittest preparatives for a corn crop. It was introduced into the western part of the barony,
and

and I believe much about the same time, by Lord Carbery, who took more active measures to insure its success by procuring the seed for his tenants. Though its progress was at first slow, from that general reluctance, with which the common people receive any novel improvement, it has been gradually gaining ground, and extending itself even to the remoter quarters of the west. Vetches are less known, though a crop of great value, and possessing a superior advantage in the facility of saving the seed, which, as now sold in the shops, is too dear to be purchased for general use.

I must here take occasion to animadvert upon that reprehensible precipitancy, with which the passing tourist sometimes gives to the public the imperfect gleaning of a hasty journey, as the result of certain knowledge and authentic information*. In the annual review of 1807, I find the following quotation from Mr. Weld's View of Killarney and some parts of this county. "Sir John Freke (now "Lord Carbery) was at great pains to point out "to the people the impolicy of this system, and "strongly urged them to sow clover instead of ne- "glecting the ground. No seed, it was answered,

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"could

* Such conduct has not escaped the notice of the diligent and patriotic author of the View of the natural, political, and commercial circumstances of Ireland. See the preface to that instructive and valuable publication.

“ could be procured in the country. He himself
 “ took the pains of importing it, and distributed it
 “ in small quantities amongst the petty farmers.
 “ It was carefully sown. Each individual was de-
 “ lighted with the result, and expressed the great-
 “ est obligation to the baronet for his valuable
 “ communication and friendly assistance. But,
 “ strange to tell, notwithstanding the most decided
 “ advantage had been gained by this new system
 “ of husbandry ; notwithstanding, also, a quantity
 “ of seed had been imported for sale into a neigh-
 “ bouring town, *not one of these people would repeat*
 “ *the experiment.* To find a solution* for the mo-
 “ tives of this conduct, so militant against the com-
 “ mon principles that regulate the feelings of man-
 “ kind, may appear an arduous task ; but the truth
 “ is, that the lower classes of the Irish cannot al-
 “ *once* banish from their recollection the traditions
 “ of ancient oppression, and are with difficulty
 “ persuaded, that any measure, *decidedly beneficial*
 “ to them, can be adopted or recommended solely
 “ for their advantage. They are prone to suspect
 “ some sinister purpose in every *effort to improve*
 “ *their*

* To find a solution for difficulties, that exist only in the au-
 thor's imagination, is an undertaking savouring somewhat of Quixot-
 ism : it reminds one of the renowned knight's ingenuity in creating
 giants for the purpose of conquering them.

“ their condition, by which ultimately they may be
 “ compelled to pay a higher rent, or toil more labo-
 “ riously. Influenced by this prevailing principle,
 “ they appear unwilling to deviate from the beaten
 “ track, in which their forefathers trod, and often
 “ assume an appearance of misery and poverty to
 “ enjoy, as they imagine, a proportionable degree
 “ of security !”

When the foundation is laid on sand, the super-structure must necessarily fall. In the foregoing passage it is hard to say, whether text or comment betray most marks of ignorance and misconception. The account of this district, communicated by a person born in its vicinity, long acquainted with the language and manners of the people, and twenty years a resident agriculturist, sufficiently exposes the falsehood of a statement, which indeed it would be almost impossible to credit, were there no other controverter than its own absurdity. Mr. W. passed one night at Castlefreke on his way from Cork to Killarney, and might possibly have mistaken the dreams of the pillow for the conversation of the parlour. Short as his stay was, the advantage of such an intercourse was sufficient to have corrected any errors of previous misconception. He might there have learned, that Lord Carbery's endeavour to extend the culture of clover was not

equal to his wishes, but he would have learned nothing more. His Lordship imported some seed, which he offered at reduced prices, and was much disappointed by the backwardness of the people to take advantage of so kind an act. This, however, was very far from being a rejection upon principle. The fact is, they were not then sufficiently acquainted with its use. They might also have felt it awkward to go to such a place to buy, for I find no similar complaint among the sellers at the neighbouring town of Cloghnikilty, where they bought seed, and continue to do so still. The general indisposition to adopt new practices is easily accounted for, without having recourse to far-fetched and fanciful suppositions, libellous of the people, and incompatible with common understanding. It is by no means peculiar to the Irish, but found among the lower tribes of every country, as the natural result of attachment to ancient usage and established custom*. It is absurd as well as erroneous to suppose them actuated by any other motives, than those arising from the common prejudices of an ignorant peasantry.

* If a Muskerry gentleman was to offer flaxseed to his tenants gratis, it would probably be rejected, not from any fear of bettering their condition, but because it is a species of culture, with which they are unacquainted. The objection to clover, where it does exist, is precisely from the same motive, inexperience of its use. In Carbery flax is cultivated largely from the circumstance of long usage, and the more so, because it does very materially improve the condition of the cultivators.

peasantry. I know of no enviable æra, to which they can revert with feelings of regret for the comparative inferiority of their present state. I would ask Mr. Weld to point out a period, when the peasantry of this country enjoyed more security of property and person, and consequently more encouragement to the exercise of a profitable industry. Their state of vassalage under the native chiefs, however gratifying to the pride of the leaders, was ill calculated to promote the comforts, or better the condition of the people. It is not there we are to look for the revival of their blasted hopes, or the recovery of their long lost happiness. No period in the history of Ireland, since the time of the second Henry, will, I presume, be brought into competition with the general degree of comfort and security enjoyed under the mild and beneficent administration of his present majesty. From the indigence and depression of the rack-rent cottager, indeed, nothing in the way of enterprize or improvement can be reasonably expected, but many, if not most occupiers now hold by lease, which enabling them to enjoy the fruits of their industry affords a sufficient stimulus for exertion. That they so seldom follow the example of such an agriculturist as Lord Carbery, arises (as his lordship well knows) not from any unwillingness to improve their land

or their condition, but from an idea that the practices of such a man are above their reach, that the expence of his management is beyond their means, and that he cultivates as much for pleasure as for profit. From each other they readily catch any species of innovation, which is recommended by its utility. For this reason the most effectual mode of diffusing new practices is to encourage them in one or more of the most intelligent among themselves. Upon this principle farming societies now act, and there seems abundant reason to hope, that a conduct so judicious will be ultimately crowned by success.

The apprehension imputed to them by Mr. Weld, of being obliged to toil more laboriously in the event of their adopting the improved method, is preposterous, the main object of those improvements being to raise greater produce with *less* labour. Were it, however, otherwise, it would not operate against a conviction of utility. Their labour under their own system is sufficiently severe. Is it consistent with reason to believe, that they, who freely labour for little, would not more freely labour for much? "But they fear," adds he, "that this will raise their rents." A little reflection will shew, that the quantum of produce, not the quantum of rent, is the regulating principle. Else why does a farmer more willingly offer £3 per acre for one farm,

farm, than 10 shillings for another? The fertility of a farm, instead of forbidding, invites competitors. Is it not reasonable to suppose, that a farmer will be as willing to *make* his ground rich, as to *find* it so? At the conclusion of a lease, which he does not expect to have renewed, he may think it good policy to exhaust the ground for the purpose of lowering its value. This indeed often happens, and may be prevented by more liberal conduct on the part of the landlord, but in other cases the system of exhaustion is only the result of imperfect knowledge, and injudicious management. Will one of those *sensible* people, (as the reviewer calls them) who declines the adoption of the clover crop, through fear of improving his land, reject the offer of a good dunghill, which would improve it still more? Whoever makes the experiment, under the expectation of a refusal, according to Mr. Weld's hypothesis, will find himself sadly disappointed. The objection, therefore, is not to the certainty, but to the uncertainty of the event, not to the actuality of improvement, but to the precariousness of innovation.

Had the work, alluded to, been that of a common journalist, it should have passed without observation, but issuing from the press, under the respectable introduction of M. R. I. A. a title possessing no
common

common claim to scientific distinction, it was impossible to let it go unnoticed. The rectification of an error will always be kindly received by a candid mind, and I am persuaded, that Mr. Weld will rejoice to find that he has been mistaken, that clover, so far from being discontinued, is rising in repute, notwithstanding its increase in price, and that the people of this quarter are not altogether so destitute of common rationality, as to reject an offered improvement from the apprehension of its bettering their condition.

For a single error or mistatement the hasty traveller may expect some indulgence, but a second of the same nature it is as hard to excuse, as to account for. Mr. Weld informs his readers, that at Reen, near Bantry, where a plough had never been used, the clergyman of the parish accommodated the inhabitants with one, which they viewed with all the astonishment that novelty excites, accepted with the gratitude due to the introducer of so excellent an implement, but, after mature reflection, rejected upon the same grounds as the others had dismissed the clover. Though my unacquaintance with the spot did not authorize an immediate contradiction, I had very strong reasons for refusing it belief. Those, which regard the motive of rejection, have been already stated. The wonder it

was

was reported to have raised, added not a little to the incredibility of the tale. There are in this county many rugged tracts, where ploughs are little used, none, to which they are actually unknown. The poorest tiller of the rudest soil must have often seen, though he may have never used one. The custom of migrating to the eastern parts of the county, every year for work, is sufficient to make the implement familiar to their sight, even supposing it a stranger to their hands. But I have better authority for contradicting the report made by the member of the Royal Irish Academy. The very gentleman, whose authority was relied on for information, the Rev. William Hodnet, resident at Reen, and rector of the parish, assures me that the use of this implement is increasing, and that there are now eight ploughs, where, twelve or fifteen years ago, there were but three. The infrequency of its use in a district so rude, mountainous, and stony, can, indeed, be no great wonder, and may be accounted for on principles more consonant with truth, and more accordant to common sense.

Among the curiosities of this district I should have noticed the discovery of some ancient silver coins, by some labourers employed in levelling an inclosure at Castlefreke. They were wrapped in a small bag, probably of leather, which mouldered

into dust on being taken up. Though the metal is not pure, they have suffered little injury from time, and retain their impressions very distinctly. Edmund and Edelstan (or Athelstan) are plainly legible on some of them. Lord Carbery, who shewed and traced the letters for me, being from home at the time, was only able to procure a few of the smaller coins. As there was probably no regular intercourse between the islands in that age, his lordship supposes that they were brought here by Anlaff, a powerful chief, who, it is recorded, fled into Ireland, to escape the pursuit of Athelstan. It is remarkable, that the names of Athelstan and his son, Edmund, are on the same piece, though it does not appear from history, that they reigned together. It might have been a compliment to the heir apparent. Athelstan died in 941. Some coins of the same date have, I understand, been found in one of the more northern counties.

A circumstance relative to the housing of sheep, omitted in its proper place, will conclude this section. The management of Mr. Kenney, the original practiser of this method, is detailed in the account of Muskerry. It was adopted by Lord Carbery, under whose direction a regular and satisfactory account of the mode employed, and the successful result of the experiment, was kept and transmitted

mitted to the Cork Institution, in the following terms.

“ December 26, 1808, twenty common Irish weathers, of the mountain breed, three years old, in very low condition, and worth about fourteen shillings each, were put into house, at Castlefreke, to feed on potatoes. The process used was as follows :”

“ The house was spread over with sea sand, which was changed twice a week, and produced a considerable quantity of most valuable manure. The potatoes were * cleanly washed, and cut into troughs, allowing a weight of twenty-one pounds for four sheep, per day. They were given in equal quantities, morning and evening; a few small bundles of hay were hung up in the house, which they usually consumed after eating the potatoes. They were turned out every dry day, on a bare pasture near the house, and particular care was taken to have them brought in on the approach of rain, wet weather being at all times injurious to sheep; but, particularly when they are to be housed, turning them in with wet fleeces is a bad practice.”

“ On the 23d of February, 1809, one of them was killed, weighing fourteen pounds per quarter, and producing nine pounds of suet. Others have since
2 P 2
been

* Mr. Kenney considers this operation unnecessary, in which case there will be a saving of labour.

been killed, equally good, though some weighing less, and those, that remain, are all fit for market. Though all were not fat as soon as the first, that was killed, they may be averaged as all fit for market in twelve weeks."

"The estimate of the expences, and the value, when fat, rated by the price of the neighbouring market, is as follows :"

EXPENCE.				RETURN.			
£. S. D.				£. S. D.			
A score at 14 shillings,	14	0	0	Value of one sheep killed, weight 52lbs. or 13lbs. per quarter, being the average weight of those killed, at 6d. per pound,	1	6	0
420 Weights of white potatoes, at 3d. per weight, the wholesale price, at which they were bought	5	5	0	Suet 8lbs. being the average produce of those killed, at 1s. per pound,	0	8	0
12 Cwt. of hay, at 3s. per cwt.	1	16	0	Wool and skin,	0	4	0
12 Weeks bare pasture,	3	0	0				
12 Weeks labour of a man and boy, who could have attended two score, at 1s. 4d. per day,	5	12	0				
The drawing of sand amply paid by the manure it produced,	0	0	0				
	29	13	0				
				Profit	8	7	0

The foregoing account would be highly valuable, though it had nothing more to recommend it, than the proof it establishes of the practicability of fatting

ting sheep in winter and spring, one of the great desiderata in the management of this useful creature. In the usual mode of treatment the feeder thinks himself well off, if he is barely able to keep them up in those seasons. The profit on large sheep, it should be observed, which fatten much more kindly than the small, would be considerably greater. In the present instance, considering them as an article of sale, the gain is somewhat overcharged, as the butcher must have his profit, and no sheep of their size and description would bring any thing near thirty-eight shillings per head. On the other hand, it is observed, that a bare pasture for twelve weeks is overrated at three pounds. I think it hardly deserves to be included in the estimate, as the sheep confer a benefit, by their manure, nearly, if not fully equal to the value of what little they take from it. So that upon the whole the balance may be considered as fairly stated. Among the benefits arising from sea sand may be properly enumerated its use as a litter for cattle, in which it is, perhaps, superior to straw. To be employed to the greatest advantage, it should be laid out upon the land immediately from the house or yard, while it retains the rich juices imbibed from their excrement. These would otherwise be soon washed away by the rain out of a matter so porous and absorbent.

Want

Want of sufficient straw is often a great detriment to the farmer's dunghill. Those, who live near the south coast, can never be at a loss for an adequate substitute.

In the account of this district, and its western neighbour, I have been more than ordinarily minute, from the circumstance of their never having enjoyed the notice of an agricultural writer.

CHAP. VIII.

BARONY OF CARBERY.

SECT. 1.

General Account.

CARBERY, though lopped of some of its ancient possessions, is still the largest of our baronies, and not inferior in size to some counties, its breadth being in many places considerable, and its extent, from east to west, little less than forty Irish miles. For the convenience of civil regulation it has been divided into four parts, now called baronies, but for the present purpose it may suffice to consider it as one. The surface is various and irregular every where, with this difference between the eastern and western parts, that the former, though uneven, are generally arable and sometimes fertile, and the latter rough, rocky, and mountainous, with, however, an occasional intermixture of productive land. Rugged

as it is, it abounds, a few of the higher mountains only excepted, with inhabitants, great numbers of whom are poor, but most of them industrious. Courcies and Kinalmeaky form its boundary on the east and north-east, Muskerry and Bantry on the north and north-west; its southern boundary is the ocean. Much of this great tract was originally forest, as appears from the quantity of timber found in its numerous bogs, some native woods still remaining, and frequent vestiges of trees in several places.

However unfavourably situated in general for the production of timber, from its exposure to the nipping sea winds, few countries could boast a more copious covering of trees than this once possessed. Spencer, whose descriptions were drawn from nature, calls one of its rivers, "the pleasant Bandon crowned with many a wood." Much as they have been reduced, the epithet still is not inappropriate, there being several woods on, and near its banks. This, however, is comparatively an inland situation, sufficiently favourable to the growth of trees. Nature, nevertheless, was equally bountiful to places of more forbidding aspect, few of which, except the black promontories and lofty hills, are even now without some traces of their original state. Some of these situations are occupied by productions more necessary to the support of man, and in others, where

where the growth of trees was tardy and reluctant, they were not, perhaps, worth preserving. But in a region of such inequalities numberless places are to be found fit only for timber, and destitute of it only from neglect. I do myself recollect several flourishing woods, which are now no more, because the proprietors were too indolent or too penurious to take any pains, or lay out any money for their preservation.

In the woods yet remaining the trees are principally oak and birch, the former being most abundant. The chief contents of the bogs are fir, with some mixture of the other kinds. Oak seems to have occupied the greatest part of the high and hilly situations, fir of the low and flat. It is remarkable that, though nature seems to have selected the oak for the most exposed situations, there are many kinds of forest trees much better qualified to endure the severity of our prevailing winds. The common pinaster seems least affected by their influence, and is therefore a most valuable tree for sheltering plantations. The Scotch fir, and most kinds of the elm are extremely hardy. The ash and sycamore, very favourite trees with the planters of the last century, are somewhat inferior in hardiness. Many other kinds grow well enough under protection, but are less able to bear the inclemency

of an exposed situation. Of those that love a moist soil, alder and platanus, the latter of which has been lately introduced, seem the most flourishing. Though few have more tender shoots than the oak, or are more sensibly affected by noxious winds, nature is not to be too lightly blamed for her preference of this valuable tree. The disadvantage it labours under in this respect is amply compensated by another quality, in which it is singularly pre-eminent, the persevering vigour of its root, which scarcely any injury, natural or artificial, is able to destroy. However frequently cut or browsed, however high or unfavourable the situation, on which it grows, such is the nature of its roots, which find sustenance in every soil, pierce the hardest clay, and force a passage into the crevices of rocks, that it continues to live under circumstances the most unfavourable, and such as no other tree could overcome. Many old stumps of oak still remain alive in rugged and untilled grounds, where nothing of a wood has existed for more than half a century, and where the shoots of every summer are cropped by half-starved cattle. In many places little more would be necessary to restore the wood than to inclose it. Perhaps it is to this quality, rather than to any preference of nature, that we owe the prevalence of oak in our present woods. The existence

ence of the pine in this island would be unknown but for its preservation in bogs, and it is reasonable to believe, that a greater variety subsisted in times of remote antiquity, of which the more enduring kinds only remain to the present day.

The grounds adjoining the sea coast are cultivated, and their produce disposed of, so nearly in the same manner with those of Barryroe, that it is unnecessary to enter into a minute account of them. The principal difference is a general inferiority of soil in the lands, and of skill in the inhabitants of this district. The parishes of Ross and Miros are the most distinguished for fertility, the other parts of the sea coast containing a large proportion of rough, rocky, and barren land. The neighbourhood of Ross produces good wheat, but barley is the principal, and till lately was almost the only grain raised upon the better soils of this part of the district. About thirty years ago, a large boulting mill, (the first built in this barony) was erected on the estate of Richard Townsend, Esq. at the head of Castle Townsend harbour. Wheat was then so little cultivated in the vicinity, that the proprietors supposed they should be obliged to resort to Barryroe for a supply. But the encouragement of a home market soon procured them an ample provision. The success of the undertaking induced others to fol-

low the example. Samuel T. Wright, Esq. in conjunction with Mr. Clarke built another on the same estate, near Skibreen, and Messrs. Jervois, of Brade, erected a third at the head of Glandore harbour. The last is but recently finished, the other two are in constant employment, and abundantly supplied with corn from the neighbouring farmers, though the quality of the grain is very inferior to that of the eastern crops.

The most comfortable farmers, in general, are those, that live in the interior parts at some distance from the sea coast. Population being there less crowded, land is obtained on more reasonable terms, and every occupier has enough. To a greater plenty of milk, an important article of subsistence, they add the advantage of fuel, in many places still sufficiently abundant. Turf, however, from the great and increasing consumption, is diminishing fast, particularly in the eastern part of the district, where bog is less frequent. Their greatest inconvenience is want of manure, lime being too expensive, and sea sand very far removed. Large quantities of this are carried up the country, to the distance of several miles, from every strand and cove along the coast, where it is found. It is sometimes raised in deep water with dredges. Lighters are employed in all the rivers, that admit any length of navigation, and

and, by shortening the land carriage, enable the more distant farmers to use a greater quantity. Cloghnikilty had not a single lighter fifteen years ago, or quay for landing on. There are now three large quays, each of which has several lighters constantly at work during the summer months. The trade, however, is so far from being overstocked, that it is thought more might find employment. Lighters usually hold from fifteen to twenty ton, the price from eight to ten shillings. The quantity drawn from the head of Courtmasherry-bay is equally considerable. But of all the places resorted to for this kind of manure, the greatest quantity is drawn from a narrow sandy beach, on the east side of the Galley-head, called the Red-strand. This contains a larger proportion of shell than any of the rest, from the colour of which the sand takes its name. It is computed, that there are not less than twelve or fourteen hundred cars annually employed in drawing this sand, some of which goes to the distance of ten, twelve, and even fourteen miles. The proprietor of the strand receives a shilling a-year for each horse from all but the neighbouring farms, which are free of the strand. Distant farmers, by whom it is obtained with so much labour, use it very sparingly. Instead of being spread from the heap with shovels, it is frequently scattered by hand

from

from a bowl dish, like seed. The efficacy of this sprinkling, however, is said to be very great, particularly in ground long untilled, or but newly reclaimed. The reason probably is, that such lands, from a long state of inactivity, possess a considerable share of vigour, which a slight stimulus suffices to call into action. Their chief want is that of the calcareous principle essentially necessary to the composition of a fertile soil, which this sand supplies.

Besides the common sea weeds abounding upon most parts of the Carbery coast, a particular kind lately discovered, or at least lately employed as a manure, deserves to be mentioned. It is taken up with dredges in Rincolisky-bay, adjoining the estate of Samuel Townsend, Esq. one of the few gentlemen, in that quarter, who have paid much attention to agricultural improvement. It is used like other sorts as a manure for potatoes, and found to produce a much more abundant crop. Being confined to one part of the bay, the quantity procured is not very considerable. From its close and matted texture, the common people have given it the name of wool, but it seems to be a species of sea moss (lichen).

The island, well known to mariners by the name of Cape Clear, as a remarkable landmark for outward

ward and homeward bound vessels, being the southernmost point of the Irish coast, is within the precincts of West Carbery. It contains about 1400 acres of land, some of which is very elevated, and the far greater part extremely rough, shallow, and infertile, wholly incapable of producing trees, and furnished by nature with a poor covering of heath and creeping furze. The comforts even of fuel, so generally found in rude and dreary regions, are here wanting, the inhabitants being compelled to resort to the most convenient shores of the neighbouring bay for a supply of that necessary article. Under all these disadvantages it supports a population, computed to amount to at least 1200 souls, who are so far from considering themselves in a desolate or unenviable situation, that they fear no punishment so much as an expulsion from their favourite island. Its inconveniencies, however, are counterbalanced by some circumstances of a favourable nature resulting from a maritime situation. Besides their occupation as fishermen, which was formerly a more profitable business than at present, they have frequent opportunities of a little traffic with homeward bound vessels, as well as of emoluments derived from pilotage. One of their chief disadvantages in this respect, is the want of a safe station for their boats, which, from the necessity of

hauling

hauling them on shore in bad weather, are of a size too small for the purposes required. This defect might be remedied, by building a pier on the north side, least exposed to the fury of the waves, and which, it is thought, might be accomplished at no very great expence. The island is the property of William Wrixon Becher, Esq. who, it may be presumed, will be as willing to promote the execution of such a work as he is competent to judge of its practicability.

The produce of the island, though not considerable, under all the circumstances of its natural state, is insufficient for the subsistence of the inhabitants, who are obliged to add to their stock of potatoes by purchasing from without. They have a few cows and some sheep of very small size, and lately a few horses, employed, I believe, in drawing seaweeds; for, their cultivation is all performed by the spade. The only grain they raise is barley, which is consumed within the island. They also raise and manufacture flax, the quality of which is said to be remarkably good. The very unsheltered state of the island, naked, and exposed to every raging blast, obliges the inhabitants to secure the thatch of their houses by an interwoven covering of straw ropes, the ends of which, as they hang over the leaves, are rendered steady by depending stones.

They

They are also frequently overlaid with old netting.*

The inhabitants of this sequestered region, seldom visited by others, and which they seldom quit themselves, but for the occasional purchase of necessaries, or the sale of their fish or liquors, differ little from those of the neighbouring shores. Their habits of life necessarily render them a hardy race of men, and, though in general stature not larger than others, the island has been always remarkable for one or two families of uncommon size and strength. I remember, several years ago, a young man, only eighteen years old, of athletic form, and upwards of six feet high. His grandfather, known by the name of the strong man of the cape, was not less than seven feet, with bone and muscle fully proportioned to his uncommon height. The name of the family, was, I think, Cadogan.

The island, a parish in itself, is attached to the living of Affadawn, from the rector of which Mr.

2 R

Becher

* The peculiar violence of the gales, by which this island is assailed, may be conceived from the following circumstance. All the signal towers on the coast are necessarily placed upon very exposed situations, and of course built in the strongest manner. That of Cape was so rocked and shook by a tempest, a little after its erection, that the lieutenant of the tower, familiarized as he was, by his profession, to the raging of the storm, was so alarmed as to entertain serious thoughts of abandoning his post.

Becher holds the tithes, for which the people settle with him in the payment of their rents, a circumstance of ease and convenience to all parties. The inhabitants are all Catholics, and have a resident pastor of that church.

On the south-west part of the island, and in an elevated situation, is a pretty large lake, said to possess in a very eminent degree the quality of cleansing, in a short time, any vessel, however dirty, immersed in it. Smith says, that some of it, being transmitted to Dublin for examination, was found to contain a small quantity of natron. That it may possess the quality ascribed to it in some degree, is not improbable, but popular rumours of this nature are not always to be depended on. A small lake on Mount Gabriel was long said to be unfathomable, and the same author informs us, that it had been tried by a line of a hundred fathoms. The Rev. Philip French, some years resident at Skull, near the mountain, very reasonably doubting of the fact, had the curiosity to examine it himself, and found that the greatest depth did not exceed many feet.

Like most parts of the south coast, this island abounds with excellent but useless quarries of building stone, and fine dark-coloured flags. These are sometimes taken to Cork as ballast, and sold there.

Their

Their boats are too small for the conveyance of slates. The inhabitants are commended by Smith for their exemption from the vice of stealing, from which praise I fear something must be deducted, on the score of their wanting temptation.

Frize is here manufactured, as in other places, for domestic use. The want of a tucking mill, the island possessing no stream capable of turning a wheel, has obliged the inhabitants to have recourse to a singular expedient. The business of the field*, or the fishery, engrossing the attention of the men, the operation of tucking has devolved to their fair associates, who perform it in the following manner. Upon a square hurdle, to keep the cloth from the dirt of the ground, eight women take their seats, four opposed to four, at such a distance as that the extended legs of one set just reach the drawn up feet of the other. The frize, placed between, is pushed alternately by each party, with as much force as they can exert, against the feet of the other, until by frequent repetition of this laborious process the piece is sufficiently tucked. Partly from the necessity of keeping the frize wet, and partly for the convenience of having their limbs at

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liberty

* In the season of digging potatoes, several of the inhabitants migrate to the eastern parts of the county for employment. They travel for the same purpose, more or less, from all parts of west Carbery, and from Bear and Bantry.

liberty in this laborious exercise, the fair operators find it necessary to disencumber themselves of superfluous clothing. The work is therefore always performed in a state of half nudity, nor does the approach of a curious stranger suspend their labours. Unconscious of any thing extraordinary in a situation too common to excite any surprise among their own tribes, their simplicity very naturally supposes, that it will be viewed with equal indifference by others.

On a projecting part of this island are the ruins of a castle, built, as many were, in a situation only approachable at one point, and by a most dangerous and narrow pass, washed on both sides by the ocean. In its present state it is hard to conceive, how any person could think of building a mansion, the very access to which was perilous in the extreme; but it is probable, that the incessant warring of the waves has narrowed the original passage. In a short time it will probably resemble that at Darneen, and be wholly severed from the island. It belonged to the family of the O'Driscolls, once of great power in this district, and of whom some respectable branches still remain.

SECTION 2.

*Barony of Carbery.**Particular account—Husbandry—Flax—Rents, &c.*

AS the husbandry of this district involves no management of peculiar or remarkable importance, it will not be necessary to enter much into the detail. Potatoes and corn, under the usual modes of Irish culture, constitute the main articles of its produce. Along the coast sea weed is the great manure, on which a dense population depends for subsistence. In the interior parts they have frequent recourse to paring and burning, and in all places whatever dung they can make is appropriated to the same purpose, aided by an ample collection of mould, dug from the sides of the roads and fields. In addition to these, sea sand is universally used in greater or less quantity, according to the convenience

nience of situation. It is, however, esteemed so necessary an ingredient, that no farmer considers himself as doing justice to his land without it. Clover and grass seeds are gaining ground, though slowly, many fields, after a severe course of cropping, being still left to nature and weeds to recruit. Clover is seldom sowed but in very small patches near the farmer's house, to supply summer feeding for his horse ; and, what may seem remarkable, it is more cultivated on little than on large farms. Implements of husbandry, and working beasts are the same with those of Barryroe*. The back or interior parts of this barony contain a great deal of coarse moorland and mountain, of which the hand of industrious cultivation is every day changing the appearance. Some thirty or forty years ago, population and culture were almost confined to the sea coast. A few scattered hamlets excepted, the inner parts presented nothing to the view but bogs and wilds, overgrown with heath and furze, with some woodlands. Within that period, population has advanced with such rapidity, that both furze and

* With this difference, that cars are much more in use in the interior parts of this barony. When the roads, or rather pathways, are rugged, as along the sea coast, and the distance short, back-loads are employed ; but those, who carry sand to any considerable distance, and who can make but one or two turns in the day, find it necessary to employ cars, one horse then doing the work of three.

and heath, as well as wood, have almost disappeared, and hills, once deemed unfit for any thing but coarse summer feeding, are cultivated to their very tops. The cattle of this district, except those possessed by gentlemen, are of a small size, seldom weighing more than three hundred and a half weight, and frequently not more than two. The breed is now a mixed one, of various colours; formerly they were all black. In the more remote and mountainous parts of the district this colour still predominates, but few, I believe, of the pure native breed at present remain. They are, in general, very good milkers, eight pottles, or sixteen quarts a day, being no uncommon produce from a cow of three hundred weight. The usual price for a new milch cow of this description, is from eight to ten guineas. Small beasts of all kinds are preferred by the farmers, as better suited to the circumstances of the country, more capable of enduring hardship, and more easily subsisted. The original race, both of cows and horses, was, I believe, very small. The present diminutiveness of size is less owing to nature than to ill treatment. From the time of their birth to their attaining a serviceable maturity, they are allowed little more than what is barely sufficient to support life. Foals fare something better than calves, in being allowed all the milk of
the

the dam, which however is much reduced by hard labour, from which neither pregnancy nor nursing exempts her. Heifers, bred on tillage farms, are generally sent for a year* or two to graze on the mountains, where some of them perish from inclement seasons and bad food. Yet under these circumstances great numbers are bred here, many of which are bought at the fairs, sometimes by the graziers of other districts, and sometimes for exportation. The sheep of the district, in general, are small. In the eastern part, the pastures of which agree with them very well, they have received much improvement from the intermixture of the Leicester breed, introduced lately by some of the gentlemen. In the wilder parts of the west, where the ground is rough and rocky, they are of very diminutive size, and so nimble as to require a high wall to confine them. By the common people they are always kept bound with double fetters. These small sheep do not fatten so kindly as the larger-sized, but, when in condition, are much prized for delicacy and flavour.

The kind of wheat now in general use here, as well as throughout the county, is the red lammas.

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* They are sent in the spring, and brought home in the beginning of winter. When sent too early, they often suffer by bad weather. The great profit of mountain pasture throughout the county is from hirelings of this description.

In the middle and western parts of the barony, however, is still to be found the small bearded wheat*, which formerly was the only species cultivated. The grain of this is well coloured, and, though on a general comparison very inferior to the lammas, it possesses some local advantages, that seem to render it worth preserving. It thrives on very poor soils, and seems to receive little injury from blight or moisture. Rye, a grain at present unknown, was formerly cultivated particularly on reclaimed moorlands. Black oats is now their usual crop. White is commonly sowed in the lower grounds, both kinds being very indifferent in quality. Potatoe oats, lately introduced, are spreading fast, but they require a richer preparation than the old grain.

There is, however, one very profitable branch of industrious cultivation, for which the inhabitants of this barony have been long distinguished, and from which they derive no inconsiderable part of their support. Flax, in many parts of the county hardly known, in others only sowed for the immediate use of the farmer, is here cultivated as an article of merchandize. Every farm produces a proportional

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quantity,

* Farmers in general are not sufficiently attentive to the choice of their seed. Two or three kinds are often seen mixed in the same field. The blue cone wheat has lately made its appearance here. It grows vigorously, and produces a full crop. The grain is large and well coloured, but the flour of inferior quality. It is of course getting into disrepute.

quantity, and those, who have little or no land of their own, often hire a small spot to sow their seed in. It is, I believe, always sowed after potatoes, and generally in the best part of the ground, which is carefully dug and dressed for the purpose. The work of breaking, dressing, and preparing it for the hackle, is done by women, who also spin it into thread of different degrees of fineness, according to the occasion. In consequence of the employment thus constantly afforded them, females are seldom seen, as in other places, engaged in any external works of the farm. The trade of weaving, of course, is very general, as well throughout the country as in towns and villages. Country weavers often become farmers on a small scale, and, though some writers approve this union of occupations, as less injurious to health than the confinement of the loom, I am inclined to think, with Mr. Young, that it spoils both trades. The spade and plough are improper implements for the nice hands of such an artist, and the mechanic, whose attentions are so often diverted by other objects, has no business with land. The sedentary trade of a weaver is, I believe, unfavourable to health, but it is rendered still more so by the too frequent custom of spending in the alehouse those hours, which should be employed in exercise and recreation. If the occupation

pation be materially exceptionable on this account, let it devolve to the women, for whose degree of muscular power, and habits of life, it seems more peculiarly fitted. This idea has been already started, and there appears no reason why the plan may not be ultimately successful.

As a trade, the business both of weaving and spinning is entirely confined to coarse linens and yarn. A good deal of fine linen* is manufactured by the better sort of housekeepers for their own use, but the far greater quantity of market yarn, as well as all linens exposed to sale, are coarse—Vitry, and bandlecloth. These are sometimes sold bleached, and sometimes unbleached. Considerable quantities of this Vitry are manufactured by substantial farmers, who, in addition to their own stock of flax, lay out a good deal of money in market yarn, which they employ weavers to work up. Several of these farmers have a little establishment of looms upon their own land, which they keep in constant employment. The weavers are generally paid by the piece, at so much per yard, according to the quality, and receive their wages partly in cash, and partly in articles of subsistence. To the business of manufacturer the farmer also adds that of bleacher, which, it must be confessed, he exercises in a manner equally illegal and reprehensible, by a profuse

* This, though less glossy and pleasing to the eye than the Northern linens, is of excellent quality, and wears remarkably well.

as well as undisguised use of caustic lime. The object of bleaching, as far as colour is concerned, is thus easily attained; but the cloth is destroyed by the corrosive quality of the lime. There are, it is true, penal statutes in abundance to prevent abuses of this nature, and a few examples of punishment might perhaps put a stop to so pernicious a practice. But who is to undertake their enforcement? Magistrates, who would act upon information laid before them, think it perhaps invidious or unbecoming to turn informers themselves. The attention of the Linen Board is engaged by the more important concerns of the North. We have here, I believe, but one inspector for this and the neighbouring counties, the proper execution of whose business would require a considerable salary, and a competent number of effective assistants. One would suppose that, even without the aid of preventing measures, a practice so destructive would find its own remedy in the discredit of the article, or, at least, that the reduction of price for goods so damaged might induce the bleacher to adopt a better mode. They still however continue to be bought chiefly, I believe, for foreign market, and by contractors, perhaps, who are not always too solicitous about the quality of the goods. As long as this is the case, the practice will continue, unless prevented at home.

A considerable

A considerable quantity of coarse linen is used in the country for bags and other domestic purposes, but this is never submitted to the bleaching process.

Besides these private and illegal bleaching places, which are very numerous, there are some bleach-greens conducted by men of character and judgment, but all, I believe, on the old method. One of the first large establishments of this kind was formed at Dunmanway, by Sir Richard Cox, more than fifty years ago, whose laudable and spirited exertions for the improvement of his town, and the encouragement of the linen manufacture, are honourably recorded by Smith in his history of this county. Though something still remains to mark the genius of the founder, a long train of unfavourable circumstances, depriving the place of its natural guardian and protector, has reduced it to a state very different from the hopes and expectations, with which those patriotic designs were undertaken. Dunmanway now exhibits a melancholy though not, I fear, a singular instance of the evils arising from neglected interests and the absence of the proprietor.

The next establishment of a public bleach-green in this barony was formed under the auspices of Richard Earl of Shannon, a nobleman, whom I
could

could with equal gratitude and delight indulge myself in commemorating, did not recent recollection render it as unnecessary to record, as I find myself incompetent to do justice to his virtues. About thirty-five years ago, his lordship appropriated twenty-five acres with a house, for this purpose, subject to a small rent, by a lease for ever. It has since passed through different hands, and is now in possession of James Sadleir, Esq. The great command of water it enjoys, being situate on the Arigadeen, one mile north of Cloghnikilty, induced one of the proprietors (Robert Pratt, Esq.) to erect a bolting mill on the site. In addition to this Mr. Sadleir, the present tenant, carries on the cotton business extensively, having brought machinery from Manchester at a considerable expence. Something is still done in the bleaching way, but the new works have almost superseded the original intention.

At Balinascarthy, in the same neighbourhood, another bleaching-green was established shortly after by Sampson Stowell, Esq. which did a good deal of business for several years. The convenience of a fine stream of water, presenting a hope of more profit from a mill, has occasioned a similar deviation from the original plan.

Mr.

Mr. Stawell, whom even a travelled education, and a mind capable of relishing the most refined pleasures of polished life, could not detach from those duties and attentions, which every man owes to the country that gave him birth, has exhibited other proofs of his regard for its welfare. Besides a general attention to the interests of his tenants, over whom he admits no middlemen, he claims the merit of having contributed materially to the encouragement of agriculture in his neighbourhood, by the erection of a large bolting mill, which is still worked under his own direction. This and the Castletownsend mill, which preceded it but a very short time, were for a long while the only mills of this description in this extensive barony. The example has since found many imitators.

Along the sea coast, and where the population is crowded, farms are generally very small, and from the general custom of subdivision among the sons of the occupier every day becoming still smaller. In these situations, and more particularly on those lands where no leases are given, the houses are very wretched. In several parts of the barony, however, and especially on the grounds, that have been more lately reclaimed, farms are of a larger size, and farm-houses of a better description. Slate houses are often seen, sometimes built by the landlord,

landlord, and sometimes by the tenant. Of these the number would be much more considerable, from the general convenience of slate quarries, but for the deplorable want of timber.

The value of farm-land, in a country so circumstanced, is not easy to be ascertained. In the rougher parts of this barony, which comprehend the far greater portion of west Carbery, land lets not by the acre but the *gneeve*, which is the twelfth part of a plowland. As the plowlands vary very much in their size, the subdivisions are, of course, proportionably unequal. Arable land in all places brings a high rent, thirty and thirty-five shillings per acre being now readily offered for ground, that, a very few years ago, would have been considered dear enough at eighteen or twenty shillings. In many places the rents are still higher, and, while butter, pork, and corn hold their present prices, the farmer may be able to pay them. These, however, must be considered as temporary, and, though they may continue longer than the lovers of peace could wish, the time of their depression must sometime arrive. Under a better mode of agriculture, even higher rents might be paid; under the present exhausting system, it seems highly probable that they will fall. The advantage, arising from the culture of flax in this barony, affords a most instructive subject

subject of reflection to the rest. By means of this most valuable plant, which occasions no material reduction of its corn produce, numbers of industrious people find constant employment, and the value of the land is considerably augmented. The rents of West Carbery, considering the quality of the soil, are certainly higher, and, I believe, in general better paid than in most parts of the county, in consequence of the culture of flax.

The usual leases are for three lives, those of thirty-one years being discontinued since the extension of the elective franchise. Sometimes the lease is for one life or thirty-one years, whichever lasts longer, and some landed proprietors, who let only to occupiers, have adopted the mode of letting for one life or twenty-one years. Where no material expenditure is required for building or reclaiming, this, under a liberal landlord, who makes it a part of his system to prefer the industrious occupant, is perhaps the best lease for both. A term, like this, of moderate duration increases the landlord's influence, and keeps up his income in a fair proportion with the rising value of his estate. To the farmer it affords a tenure of sufficient permanence for the encouragement of industrious exertion and the secure enjoyment of his honest gains. It is also a species of tenure less calculated to at-

tract the cupidity or excite the competition of the landjobber. Where much expence is to be incurred, either in buildings, or reclaiming and inclosing waste lands, a longer lease must necessarily be given, or a competent part of the expenditure defrayed by the landlord. Upon this plan the Earl of Shannon now acts, and from the proofs already obtained of its efficacy in stimulating the industry, and satisfying the wishes of the people, I can have no hesitation in recommending it to general adoption.

SECTION 3.

*Barony of Carbery.**Towns, Seats, Curiosities, &c.*

EAST Carbery contains the towns of Cloghnikilty, Ross-Carbery, Iniskean, and Dunmanway, besides some villages, the principal of which are Kilbrittain*, Ballyaneen, and Ringe. Cloghnikilty, the most considerable in size, industry, and opulence, owes its rise and advancement to the noble family of Boyle, of whose liberal and munificent spirit this country displays so many instances. It is a corporate town, possessing a sovereign, recorder, twenty-four burgesses and freemen, with the privilege of holding sessions for the preservation of the

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peace,

* Among the territorial divisions, introduced by the English, was that of cantred or hundred, now, for the most part, fallen into disuse. Kilbrittain was one of these. It is now considered, I believe, as a part of East Carbery.

peace, and a court of record for the recovery of debts under £20. The charter was granted by James I. to Sir Henry Boyle, lord of the borough, by whom and his successors the sovereign is nominated, the burgesses annually electing three of their number, from which the lord of the borough selects one. The liberties extend one mile round in all directions. Before the union it returned two members to parliament, and would probably have retained its privilege, had the test of qualification been determined by the number of inhabitants. The town, and an extensive estate surrounding it, are now the property of the Earl of Shannon, under whose auspices, as well as the encouragements set forward by the late earl, it is likely to become a flourishing place. By the present discontinuance of the Baltic trade many projected improvements in the building line have been suspended, to the great disappointment of the undertakers, as well as the very serious injury of the tradesmen and poor labourers. Fortunately, however, before this took place, several new houses and some works of public utility and importance were accomplished. A porter brewery, the plan of which is remarkable for compact and convenient arrangement, and upon a scale of considerable magnitude, was built by
Rickard

Rickard Deasy, Esq. and Co. The business, carried on with spirit, and conducted with care and prudence, fully answers the expectation of the proprietors. Another establishment highly conducive to the benefit of the rising generation, as well as the interests of the town, to which it is likely to bring some respectable residents, is a classical school. This owes its existence to the liberal spirit of the present noble proprietor, who has built for the purpose a spacious house with appropriate appendages of garden and play ground enclosed with a ten-foot wall. The management of so important an institution, requiring a combination of talent and diligence, has been committed to the care of the Rev. Henry Wilson Stewart, who seems fully equal to the arduous task. The best proof of qualification in such cases is the prosperity of the establishment, and this already bears honourable testimony to the master's exertions. The improvement of the boys in manners, as well as learning, has already given such general satisfaction, that within a very short space the number of boarders has increased from twelve to forty. Exclusive of internal advantages, the school is recommended by a healthful situation and the convenience of sea bathing.

Cloghnikilty

Cloghnikilty * has made a rapid progress in population, industry, and opulence, in the course of the last twenty-five years. Within that time have been built extensive quays, large corn stores, and a great many good dwelling-houses. Before that period there were few shops, and those, for the most part, so dear and ill-furnished, that most articles of common requirement were procured from Bandon and Cork. Now there is hardly any thing necessary for domestic use and accommodation, that may not be had on reasonable terms in the town. For the greater part of the year, the markets are well and cheaply supplied with butcher's meat, poultry, and fish. The profits of the retailing trade must be very considerable, that can enable shop-keepers to pay such heavy rents, as they frequently do, for central and convenient situations. Thirty and forty pounds

* The great advantages, arising from chartered magistrates and local jurisdiction, are here very apparent. Sessions of the peace, which some years ago had almost fallen into disuse, are now regularly held every quarter, in consequence of which peace and subordination are strictly maintained. This very necessary reformation of its police is, in a great measure, due to the spirited and active exertions of its present recorder, John Townsend, Esq. A power of internal taxation, to a limited degree, for paving and lighting streets, and other useful works, would be an important addition to all such towns. This has been lately obtained for some others. Cloghnikilty has, indeed, been paved by an expenditure of the income derived from the tolls, formerly appropriated to the use of the sovereign and the pay of the officers. But, as the support of the establishment is expensive, something more would be required.

pounds per annum are sometimes given for a very narrow and uncomfortable tenement, merely for the advantage of having a small shop in front. Larger and more commodious concerns let proportionally higher. The rent of the best modern built dwelling-houses, of which there is now no inconsiderable number, is from thirty to eighty pounds.

Cloghnikilty derives many important advantages from external circumstances also. The surrounding country is, for the most part, fertile, much cultivated, and extremely populous. From the nature of its situation it must always have a numerous population to supply, who will, of course, resort to its markets for the disposal of their produce, as well as the provision for their wants. The proximity of the ocean, though not attended with all the circumstances, that favour other maritime situations, is, however, of prime and permanent importance. The tide flows up to its quays, navigable for small sloops and lighters, and though the great accumulation of sand at its mouth renders ingress and egress often difficult, and sometimes dangerous, the harbour is, at high water, accessible to brigs and sloops, and, when attained, a station of perfect security. The channel from the harbour to the town, the distance of which is about a mile, has received some improvement lately, and is capable of much more. The trade of the port consists chiefly in the export
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of corn and potatoes, large quantities of which are annually sent to Cork and Dublin. The returning vessels bring goods of various kinds occasionally, chiefly those of a ponderous nature, as bricks, tiles, earthen ware, &c. but the more regular conveyance of shop articles is by land-carriage from Cork. This will be greatly improved and facilitated by the new line of mail-coach road already laid out, from Cork to Skibbereen, the commencement of which is to take place in the ensuing summer. Cloghnikilty has also been for many years one of the principal markets for the sale of coarse linens and linen yarn, the chief buyers of which are the Bandon merchants, who regularly attend the weekly market on Fridays, and the yearly fairs held on the 25th of March, the * 29th of September, and 1st of November, old style. The average expenditure on these articles, including the fairs, on the days preceding which the greatest sales take place, is about seven hundred pounds † per week. The last two years,

* The two last of these fairs are remarkable for the sale of turkeys; about twenty years ago, they sold from one shilling and four-pence to two shillings per couple; they are now from three shillings and six-pence to five shillings. There is also a turkey fair at Kilbritain.

† Smith, who wrote his History of Cork in 1750, says that thirty pounds has been known to have been laid out on a market-day, but that twenty pounds was the average expenditure. The difference marks the great increase of population, for flax was then as much cultivated individually as at present.

years, however, in consequence of wanting the usual supply of American flaxseed, are to be excepted from this calculation. The deficiency of the article, during this period, has been severely felt, particularly by the weavers, numbers of whom, thrown out of their usual employment, are reduced to the greatest distress. The farmers, however, seem disposed to guard against future disappointment, by saving their own seed, a measure which has received great encouragement from the parliamentary bounty obtained by Mr. Foster, than whom none better understands, or has more actively promoted the interests of Ireland. The prosperity of a town supported and encouraged by such a patron, and deriving strength and stability from natural as well as adventitious advantages, seem to rest upon a secure and lasting foundation. The number of houses exceeds four hundred and fifty, that of the inhabitants is near four thousand. The public buildings are, a church, a Roman Catholic chapel, a barrack, and a court-house. The church has been lately new-roofed, and rendered more roomy by the addition of a gallery, notwithstanding which it is hardly sufficient to contain the congregation, frequently amounting to four hundred persons. The chapel, erected by general subscription, is a spacious and handsome building. The barrack is capable of

containing two companies of foot, but seldom occupied by more than one.

Ross Carbery, a town of great antiquity, has been more celebrated in former times as a seat of learning than of trade, though tradition assigns it the benefit of a harbour, * which has been long since choaked with sand. It is situated on a rocky eminence, projecting to the south, and nearly surrounded by a strand. In the centre of the town is a pretty large square, with four narrow streets diverging from its angles. There are some new slate houses, but the greater number are of very inferior description. It is chiefly inhabited by weavers, whose trade, for the reasons above mentioned, now scarcely suffices for their support. It had formerly a barrack with a regular fortification for one or two companies of foot, the lease of which government did not think proper to renew, though it appears to have been an eligible situation. On the east stands the cathedral, adorned with a new spire, and embosomed in trees, a very striking and beautiful object to travellers approaching from that side. The town belongs

* is, I believe, may be safely numbered among the many misrepresentations of tradition. That the accumulation of sand has made the station worse, is very obvious. But that it never possessed a good harbour, is manifest from the state of the rocks, which remain unaltered. The strand is the only part, that could have formed a secure station, and that was once a turf-bog.

belongs to Lord Carbery, who holds it under the see of Ross, a circumstance that renders it an object of inferior concern. His lordship entertains a design of building a new town, adjoining the old one, on a part of his own estate. This, however, like other projected improvements of the same nature, must await the revival of the timber trade. Ross has a weekly market on Wednesdays, and three fairs, in which a considerable number of pigs, lambs, sheep, and small cows are exposed to sale. There is also a good deal of linen yarn sold here. The bay of Ross, in fine weather, affords plenty of fish, chiefly haddock and bream, which are commonly very cheap. Provisions of all kinds are for the greater part of the year sold at reasonable prices.

Dunmanway stands near the head of the river Bandon on a small flat, encompassed by lofty hills, in the glens and hollows of which there are still some extensive ranges of oak woods. Though in a country too remote and wild to encourage any hope of ever becoming considerable, the convenience of fuel and water seems to render it no ineligible situation for a small manufacturing town. The causes of its decline have been already mentioned. Something, however, has been lately done. In-

duced by the command of water, Messrs. Hayes and Jagoe erected bolting mills there a few years ago, which have been since worked with spirit and success. It is the estate of Henry Cox, Esq. now resident in N. America.

Iniskean, a small town belonging to the Duke of Devonshire, is about six miles lower down on the same river, pleasantly situated at the north side of a flat and fertile tract, * reaching from Bandon to the vicinity of Dunmanway. In Smith's time it was particularly remarkable for the distillation of whiskey, a liquor then little used in any part of the county, and wholly unknown to the south quarter. Here also is a bolting mill, the management of which has not been uniformly serviceable to the country, or creditable to the proprietors. The proximity of Bandon renders it improbable, that Iniskean will ever rise much above its present mediocrity.

At the head of the principal seats of this barony is Kilbritain, belonging to Sampson Stawell, Esq. situated at its eastern extremity in what was formerly called the cantred of Kilbritain. The house is a spacious and handsome building, having been enlarged and modernized by its present possessor. It

* This is one of the largest dry tracts, not calcareous. It is composed chiefly of gravel, the alluvial produce of the neighbouring hills.

It commands a view of Courtmasherry-bay, from which the tide flowing up in a narrow channel washes the southern extremity of the demesne. The eminence, on which the house stands, is severed, on the east and west sides, from the surrounding hills by deep glens, richly furnished with wood, which in some places rises almost to their tops. The variety of its grounds, and the quantity of its timber, joined with the advantage of a sea view, present a display of beauties rarely combined in one assemblage.

A little to the east of Kilbrittain is Barleyfield, the seat of Robert Sealy, Esq. The house, built a few years since by the present possessor, is large and commodious, the demesne well laid out and adorned with a good deal of flourishing plantation. There are other gentlemen's seats in this part of the barony, which it is less necessary to particularize.

On the northern quarter, the principal places, deserving to be mentioned, are Conorville and Palace Anne. The former, when occupied by the late Roger Connor, Esq. who for many years supported a stile of expensive hospitality, contained a spacious mansion-house, with an ample range of complete and appropriate offices. It has since suffered much dilapidation, and is at present possessed by

Mr,

Mr. Gillman. Palace Anne, an early seat of a branch of the Bernard family, possesses a considerable quantity of timber, and is altogether a respectable old place. It is at present inhabited by the representative of that branch, Arthur Beamish Bernard, Esq. Both these seats are situated on the north side of the river Bandon.

Advancing southward, the country in general is fertile, and well cultivated, with an intermixture of gentlemen's seats, the principal of which is Mount Beamish, much improved and enlarged by its present possessor, the Rev. Samuel Beamish.

In the neighbourhood of Cloghnikilty are some old, and some new mansions. The chief of the former is in the island of Inchidony, for a long series of years a principal seat of the Hungerford family. Of the latter, the most deserving of notice is Wellfield, the seat of the Rev. William Stewart, a gentleman honourably distinguished in this quarter for spirited and judicious improvement. It stands upon a part of the Earl of Shannon's estate, taken by Mr. Stewart, a few years since, on a lease of three lives. It was then in a rude and impoverished state, with a good deal of wet and waste ground, destitute of trees or proper inclosures. By draining, dressing, and inclosing, it is now a very handsome, as well as productive farm, with the addition

dition of an excellent house, offices, garden, and plantations. Mr. Stewart keeps a large and well managed dairy, Cloghnikilty, which is hardly a mile distant, affording a ready market for the milk. From the proximity of the town he derives another advantage in the article of street dung, which is brought to the farm by the returning cars. By this, and the quantity of manure the housing of his cattle affords, he is enabled to raise great crops, without impairing the vigour of the land, which is thus kept in a state of amelioration.

In the neighbourhood of Ross Carbery are also some ancient, and some modern mansions. Of the former, which are still inhabited by the representatives of the old families, the most remarkable is Banduff, the seat of William Morris, Esq. The house, which is old, and joined to a castle of still greater antiquity, stands upon a rock, rising in the centre of a small romantic vale, surrounded by steep and lofty hills. Of the trees, which were formerly very abundant, many still remain, among which are a yew, and some beech of great size. A very singular circumstance occurs here of a rookery in a grove of laurels.

Of the new houses the principal are one, built by Mr. Smith, at Downeen, where that family has been long settled, and another, at Derry, by the writer of
this

this account. The demesne, on which the latter stands, has an agreeable variety of hill and dale, and, enjoying the advantage of a sea view, will, when the projected improvements are complete, possess no inconsiderable share of rural beauty.

The towns of west Carbery are Skibbereen and Castletownsend, Baltimore, once a place of more note than either, having long since dwindled into the village state. Skibbereen, without patronage or encouragement, has, from the mere circumstances of its situation, become populous, thriving, and wealthy. Like Cloghnikilty, its trade with Cork is chiefly carried on by land carriage, though it has the advantage of a navigable river, on which lighters can approach to the town, and sloops to Abbey-strowry bridge, about half a mile below it. The general prevalence of westerly winds renders the communication by sea always uncertain, and often tedious. Here are bolting mills, porter and beer breweries, and but lately it possessed an extensive distillery of whiskey. It has a crowded market on Saturdays, and four yearly fairs, at all of which, besides the other usual articles of merchandize, very large quantities of coarse linens and yarn are exposed to sale. The circumstances, to which this town owes its rapid advancement, are, a great and increasing population in the neighbouring districts,

tricts, and the want of any rival to share with it in supplying their wants. The great demand for shop goods in a short time enriches the retailer, who then, enlarging his scale, becomes a merchant, and employs his capital in enterprizes of more expence and magnitude. The general appearance of the town, however, is not very indicative of either riches or comforts. The middle part has some good houses, but the approaching streets, or rather lanes, hardly passable in winter, are lined with rows of thatched cabins of the worst and dirtiest description. The town stands on the south side of the river Ilen. On the north side is a considerable tract of good level land, with which there is at present but little communication. A bridge thrown across here would afford an opportunity, which the proprietor will probably hereafter embrace, of improving and enlarging the town, as well as increasing most considerably the value of the estate. Half the old town belongs to William Wrixon Becher, Esq. and half to Samuel Townsend and Samuel Wright, Esqrs. That part on the west side, called Bridgetown, is the estate of Richard Boyle Townsend, Esq. who is also proprietor of the land on the north side of the river.

Skibbereen was originally called Stapletown, a name not very happily exchanged for its present appellation.

Castle-Townsend, the first and principal seat of the family, whose name it bears, was nothing more than a neat and well built village adjoining the mansion-house, on the west side, until improved and extended by its late possessor, Richard Townsend, Esq. a commissioner of the revenue, and many years a representative of this county in parliament. A new custom-house was built here for the district of Baltimore, in place of the old one, which stood at Bridgetown, and such was the encouragement Mr. Townsend gave for building, as well as the desire of being near a man beloved, admired, and respected in a degree, which only those who knew him can justly appreciate, that in a short space of time a new town arose, numbering among its inhabitants more persons of respectability than are usually found in such a situation. In this respect it still continues to maintain its character, even under the disadvantage of the present proprietor's seclusion from his country and friends, a circumstance, whether arising from actual or supposed necessity, always to be lamented! There are many genteel families, some permanently, others occasionally resident, who live in pleasant and friendly association. This, however, seems to be the utmost of its attainment, being ill calculated for a town of any importance from the general nature of the neighbouring lands, which are

very

very rocky and coarse. Good pasture and meadow land are hardly to be had at any price, and provisions are for the most part very dear, fish excepted, of which in fine weather there is commonly a sufficient supply. The situation is too sequestered to admit much trade. Something, however, is done, chiefly in the corn business, by Thomas Townsend Somerville, Esq. who has the best house here, and, next to Mr. Townsend's, the best demesne.

Baltimore was once a borough town, governed by a sovereign and burgesses, under a charter granted by James the first, from whom this island derived many political regulations. This distinction was probably obtained by the celebrity of its port, at a time when the inner parts of the country were little cultivated. The cause of its honours was, however, as sometimes happens, the occasion of its ruin. In the year 1631, two piratical vessels from Algiers entered the harbour at dead of night, the crews of which, not satisfied with the plunder of the town, carried off a great number of the inhabitants. Their treacherous conductor, a Dungarvan fisherman, was afterwards executed, but Baltimore never recovered the effects of the disaster. Though the corporation fell into disuse, it still continued to send members to parliament until the union. The superior advantages of Skibbereen's more central situation leave it

without much hope of any material advancement. Baltimore, with a considerable tract in its vicinity for the most part very rugged, is now the property of Lord Carbery.

Crookhaven, if the excellence of a harbour were alone sufficient to confer prosperity, might hope for no common share. But the remoteness of its situation, and the rocky rudeness of its shores forbid it to expect any other advantages, than what may arise from an occasional intercourse with vessels putting in there from contrary winds.

There are several seats in West Carbery, the principal of which belong to the families of Becher and Townsend, allied to each other by early intermarriages. The demesne of Castle-Townsend, which embraces both sides of the upper harbour, or, as it is commonly called, the river, possesses a diversified richness of scenery, of which the pencil, not the pen, may give an adequate idea. The river, alternately contracting and expanding its winding channel, now collects into a narrow streight, now spreads into an extensive lake. The hills, which rise from its shores at either side, sometimes rocky and abrupt, and sometimes with more gradual acclivity, are for the most part thickly wooded. The form of their summits, differing in character, corresponds in variety with the lower grounds, some of them
bold,

bold, rocky, and majestic, others of an interesting appearance, though less strongly marked. The harbour of Castle-haven, with its venerable castle, a large island at its mouth, many bold projections of rocky coast, and the ocean immeasurably extended beyond them all, present themselves in different points of view from several parts of the grounds. Indeed one of the most singular beauties of the place is the perpetual change of prospect, which almost every change of situation presents. A new approach now making through the demesne, on the west side, exhibits successively all these varying views with happy effect. Some of the timber is old, the greater part is due to the taste and judgment of the late proprietor, and much has been added by the present possessor and his amiable lady, whose absence has not diminished the interest they take in its concerns.

Affadown was once the principal seat of the Becher family, from whom it passed to the Hutchinsons, and in the course of the last forty years has experienced many owners. It has at length reverted to the original family, being now possessed by Henry Becher, Esq. (second son of Mr. Becher of Hollybrook.) It has a well inclosed demesne, deer-park, and gardens, and is still a respectable old place.

Appertaining

Appertaining to the same family, are Hollybrook, the seat of Richard Becher, Esq. and Creagh, pleasantly situated on the east side of the Ilen, three miles below Skibbereen, the seat of William Wrixon Becher, Esq. Both these gentlemen possess very considerable estates in this barony. William W. Becher, a very accomplished young man, is eldest son and heir of William Wrixon, Esq. of Ballygiblin, in Duballow, between which place and Creagh he holds a divided residence. The latter estate he inherits from his maternal uncle. *

Whitehall, the seat of Samuel Townsend, Esq. stands on the east side of Rincolisky, or Roaring-water-bay. It enjoys every advantage of land and water, but from the nature of its situation is unfavourably circumstanced for the growth of trees. The upper part of the ground commands one of the grandest prospects to be found any where, an immense expanse of water extending from Cape Clear on one side to the Mizen-head upon the other. The depth of this great bay is proportioned to its breadth, its shores are diversified by many jutting points and headlands, on several of which are ruined castles, and its ample bosom is inlaid with a great number

* The late Henry Becher, Esq. a gentleman of the greatest hopes, whose premature death, in the year 1783, in consequence of a gunshot wound accidentally received, was most sincerely as well as deservedly lamented, and by few more than the writer of this article.

number of verdant islands, of different sizes and shapes. The cape forms a fine termination to the land view on the left, and the rocky summit of Mountgabriel appears to great advantage in the back ground on the right. Some of the islands are large, and contain a great many inhabitants; others small, and used only for summer feeding, are remarkable for the richness of their pasture. Exclusive of these considerations, they are extremely useful in breaking the force of the sea, and forming many secure stations for vessels.

There are several other seats old as well as new, in west Carbery, of which few are sufficiently interesting to require a particular description. A bare catalogue of names and places can convey little information of importance, and none of entertainment. Of the new houses, the most deserving of mention seem to be Newcourt, the seat of Becher Fleming, Esq. handsomely situated on the Islen, two miles below Skibbereen, and a large and commodious dwelling house on the harbour of Glendore, built by William Limrick, Esq. colonel in the East India service, and lately returned after a long residence in that country.

In enumerating the houses of this barony, it would be improper to pass unnoticed those of the clergy, the increase of which, now unfortunately
suspended

suspended through want of timber, is so important to our church establishment. Glebe-houses lately built are those of Affadown, Creagh, Kilmeen, and Kilmaloda in the diocese of Ross, and of Ballymony and Rathclareen in the diocese of Cork. These are inhabited by their respective incumbents, and have been all built within the last twenty-five years. The plan and construction of the new houses, with their offices and accommodations, place them among the best description of what may be called the second class of habitations in the county. There are few parishes without some glebe-land, though in general the glebes are small, curtailed and lopped, probably from time to time, by neighbouring landholders, to whom the frequent insecurity of the times as well as the absence of the incumbent afforded too much opportunity.*

In several parishes tithes are divided into rectorial and vicarial. Of the former, some belong to lay proprietors, and others to different dignities and prebends. The tithes, of course, are sometimes held by tithe-farmers, and sometimes managed by the incumbent. In consequence of increasing culture and increasing prices for the produce of the land,

* The Carberies, according to Smith, contain thirty-nine parishes, (part of some running into other baronies) and 196321 plantation acres; plowlands 766, viz. 366 in East, and 400 in West Carbery.

land, benefices have of late risen greatly in value, particularly in those places, which have come latest into cultivation. In an extent of country varying so much in the nature and quality of soil, situation, and produce, it is difficult to form an average estimate. Generally speaking, a *good* acre of potatoes brings from ten to twelve shillings, of wheat from eight to ten, of barley nearly the same, of oats from five to seven, of hay (which in some parts, particularly of West Carbery, is not tithed) from four to six. Flax, when the other tithe is taken by the occupier, is usually charged by modus of two shillings for each half peck of seed sowed. When the farmer's tithe is taken in kind, the flax goes with it. In some places, particularly near towns where the tradesmen often purchase tithes as a provision for their families, the rates are higher. In many places also, where the crops are poor, the rateage is lower.

Protestant parish schools are few in number, and for the most part ill attended; but there are many petty schools in the country as well as in the towns and villages, kept by Roman Catholic teachers, and, instruction being obtained on easy terms,* generally full of scholars. Reading English,

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writing

* Young children pay about 2s. 6d. or 3s. per quarter for learning to read. Writing and arithmetic are charged much higher.

writing, and arithmetic are the branches taught, the qualifications of the master excelling most in the two last. Irish is the language, in which the common people usually converse, several of them being unacquainted with any other. English is most spoken in towns and villages, where almost every inhabitant understands it, as do the better order of farmers in general. The use of it seems to be rather increasing.

Of waste lands*, mountain and rock excepted, the quantity is much less than from the frequent ruggedness of the land might be expected. Almost every practicable spot of dry soil is in a state of cultivation, producing occasionally potatoes and corn. Appearances of waste and neglect are often seen, which are rather the consequence than the want of cropping, I mean fields let out after an injudicious course of exhausting crops. The species of land, most rarely attempted to be reclaimed, are

swamps

* There is one description of waste, which, however little it may enter into present contemplation, will probably hereafter constitute an important object for industrious enterprize.—I mean the strands. These I look upon to be reclaimable at an expence altogether trifling, when compared with the value of the acquisition. That, which surrounds the island of Inchidony near Cloghnakilly, contains some hundreds of acres. The elevation of its surface would require little height of wall, and the great shelter of the situation would render any embankment secure. One of the greatest obstructions arises from the number of contiguous proprietors. The other strands are equally practicable.

swamps and turf-bogs; farmers in general being very inexpert in the art of draining. Works of this kind are seldom undertaken but by gentlemen, and none better reward the labour and expence. In the interior and less populous parts of the district there are many considerable tracts of this description, some of which must be shortly resorted to for fuel, the smaller bogs near the sea coast being almost exhausted.

Of valuable minerals little as yet appears. Iron is sufficiently abundant, but useless for want of means to smelt it. Lead and copper are probably contained in the bowels of many hills. A small quantity of the former has been found at the Leap, on the estate of Samuel Jervois, Esq. the quality of which seems to be good. Copper certainly exists in a hill on the east side of Glandore harbour, evinced by the ashes of a small turf-bog, which are so impregnated with that metal as to destroy all vegetation within their reach. The farmers are obliged to remove them from their yards with great care. This may hereafter lead to some useful discovery*. On the estate of the gentleman above-

2 Y 2

mentioned

* In the neighbourhood of Castlefreke there is another small bog of similar description, but rather more strongly impregnated with that mineral. I have seen at Lord Carbery's a half-burned turf entirely incrustated with copper.

mentioned Mr. Carne, undertaker of the Dunmore mine in Barryroe, lately discovered a narrow vein of calcareous shistus, which produces a dark-coloured lime. It does not seem likely to turn to much account. I found a small vein of the same kind among the cliffs at Courtmasherry.

To many parts of this barony nature has been sufficiently prodigal of wild and romantic beauties, in many places much impaired by the destruction or diminution of the native woods. The scenery about the Leap at the head of Glandore harbour, where a good deal of timber still remains, is extremely beautiful. The Ilan in its very winding course from Skibbereen to Baltimore, notwithstanding the general nakedness of its shores, exhibits a great dale of agreeable and striking variety. One of the most remarkable places, which wants nothing but wood to render it as beautiful as it is singular, is a salt-water lake about three miles south-west of Skibbereen, called Loughbine. It is surrounded by hills of different forms and heights, one of which, more steep and lofty than the rest, adds much grandeur to the scene. Near the middle is a small island, rendered more picturesque by the ruins of an old building. The hills encircle it so closely as to hide all appearance of communication with its source. The outlet, which is at a considerable distance

tance from the sea, is very narrow, the tide ebbing and flowing over a stony bottom with great violence and rapidity. It produces scallops, and oysters alike remarkable for their diminutive size and the excellence of their flavour. The circumference is about two miles, nearly circular, and the depth in some parts fifty fathom. From this circumstance it should seem to have been caused by some natural convulsion or subsidence of the earth, as the mere wearing and attrition of the waves could never have occasioned so vast a depth. The fresh water running into it is very inconsiderable. The surrounding lands are the estate of Lord Carbery.

To those, that are fond of nature's wilder works, of "caves and cliffs in fell confusion torn," the rocks and promontories, that guard the coast, afford abundant food for wonder and contemplation. On South Downeen, the seat of Richard Smith, Esq. are some deep and narrow chasms, perpendicularly steep, and of considerable extent, into which the sea forces a passage at bottom.

On another part of the same grounds, at the foot of a very high and romantic cliff, a small ope appears, which is closed, when the tide rises, but at low water may be entered by a small boat. This leads to a stupendous excavation in the solid rock, the sides of which are in some places perpendicu-
larly

larly steep, and the overarching roof of great height. The depth of the water beneath, the extent and altitude of the cave, which, never admitting the light of day, can be only viewed by candles or torches, and the loud reverberation of the lowest sounds, are well calculated to inspire awe and admiration. From this great cave are passages, which lead to others, the inmost recesses of which remain to be explored; for, the apprehension of being shut in by the watry door forbids the curious visitant to prolong his stay. Grand as it is, few people are ambitious of such a mausoleum, and a sudden shift of wind to the south would certainly lead to such a conclusion. The country people relate marvellous stories of the extent and magnitude of the inner parts, but evidently the fictions of fear-wrought fancy. Though all have *heard*, none have *seen* the wonders so described.

Upon the whole, the agriculture of this district is in a state of advancement. Among the common farmers clover, almost unknown twenty years ago, is very frequently cultivated, though in small patches, for summer soiling. Grass seeds are sowed by many, and often saved for sale. The potatoe crops are frequently good, and, where most carefully cultivated, hardly inferior to those of any other part. Eight, ten, and twelve tons are sometimes produced
from

from an acre. These are generally followed by wheat or barley, winter fallows becoming every day more rare. Full crops of barley are frequently seen, but the average of the wheat produce is inferior, in quantity as well as quality, to those of the east and north-east parts of the county. I believe it does not often exceed four bags per acre*.

Among gentlemen farmers the improvement has been still greater. Their lands, in general, are more skilfully as well as more carefully cultivated than formerly. Draining and irrigation are beginning to be known and practised. Clover and grass seeds are in great use, cattle more housed, and farming implements of better description. Furze hedges are still the usual mode of inclosure with all.

That general conclusions should not be drawn from particular premises, is a logical maxim, which those, who are most bound to observe, are sometimes the readiest to forget. The varieties of soil, situation, and numberless other circumstances attending

* It should be observed, that an average estimate of crops in this country gives an erroneous idea of the actual fertility. Crops in general are good or bad, not so much from the nature of the soil as the nature of the husbandry. Some grounds indeed seem to be unfit for wheat and barley; all tractable soils under proper management will give great crops of potatoes and oats.

tending agriculture, are so great, that writers on this subject should be particularly cautious in drawing inferences and laying down rules. Every person, conversant with books of husbandry, must have observed many instances of positive* assertion, founded on doubtful or erroneous grounds, and certain conclusions deduced from uncertain premises. Things almost incredible are hastily stated as facts, without considering that the effects, imputed to one cause, might have originated from another. One says that lime is the best of all possible manures, another that it is the worst. Both may, perhaps, be locally right; certainly both are generally wrong. It has been lately asserted, that the presence or proximity of the barberry is pernicious to wheat, and the fact is considered as fully ascertained from the test of sufficient experiment. That such an effect may be within the power of nature, I am not prepared to deny, but it comes in much too questionable a shape for ready assent. An effect so extraordinary, so improbable, and so revolting against common experience, can only be established by a series of the most incontrovertible proofs. That the wheat in its vicinity might have been re-
peatedly

* See the preface to *Essays on agriculture and planting*, mentioned in the account of Courcy's, in which are some very just strictures on writers of this description.

peatedly blasted, we may freely admit; but might not this have happened, though the shrub had never existed? As long as the effect can be otherwise accounted for, I must certainly be excused from joining in condemnation of the poor barberry. One instance of its innocence falls within my own knowledge. In the neighbourhood of Ross I lately took notice of a few barberries, growing in a hedge on the south side of a small field*. The situation, of course, was such as to favour any influence they could have on the crop, the wind blowing so frequently from that point. The field has been for years under a continual rotation of potatoes and wheat. To my question, respecting the general quality of the latter, it was answered, that the crops were uniformly good. Last summer it was under wheat; and as it often came in my view, I had an opportunity of being fully satisfied, that these barberries, at least, had done no harm. Blights are here observed to attend particular situations. Wheat is the only grain, that appears to suffer much, and we are accustomed to attribute the cause not to the mysterious influence of poisonous plants, but to the more obvious and probable operation of chilling winds and an unfriendly soil. Even these, however, are not the sole agents. Unfavourable situations

* It had formerly been a garden or orchard.

situations and indifferent soil sometimes produce a good crop, while places better circumstanced suffer occasional injury. A complete developement of the cause is probably beyond the attainment of human sagacity. What has been here said, tends only to suppress the extravagance of hasty judgment ; one would by no means discourage that ingenuity of research, which may ultimately lead to useful discovery.

Another instance of gigantic effects from pigmy causes appears in the account, given to the public, of some scores of sheep dying suddenly, in consequence of having fed one night upon a pasture irrigated in the autumnal season. The fact of their death I shall readily admit, presuming it impossible that the author could misrepresent or be mistaken in that point, but I am by no means disposed to agree with him as to the cause. No person here is a stranger to the pernicious effect some of our moist pastures have upon sheep, by introducing or breeding in the liver insects, which at length consume it, and destroy the sheep. But the disease, though it appears to be incurable, advances gradually to the animal's dissolution. They even thrive for a while, and fatten upon the pasture, which ultimately proves mortal. That an herbage, so naturally produced, should operate not only as
a deadly

a deadly but an immediate* poison, seems more than problematical. Autumn is the very time, when our streams and rivers are most apt to overflow and irrigate their banks ; but who ever heard of a sheep being poisoned by it ? Here again I must urge my own experience, in direct contradiction to the supposed fact. At Courtmasherry I was, for many years, in the habit of irrigating a large meadow, sometimes mowed and sometimes pastured. Except during the time of mowing and saving hay, the irrigation never ceased, unless from want of water, which flowed most copiously from September to May. Sheep of every description, Leicester and common, ewes and wethers, were constantly fed on it, without any perceptible difference between spring and autumn. I do not say, that what did not happen at Courtmasherry might not have happened elsewhere, but I think I have said enough to justify my disbelief of the fact. What adds to the wonder is, that vernal irrigation is admitted to be salutary. That the same cause operating in the same manner should produce opposite effects in different seasons, may perhaps be

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true,

* Is it possible those sheep may have died, as cows sometimes do, from an overdose of very succulent herbage ? Sheep are particularly fond of the grass produced by irrigation.—So indeed are all cattle. Perhaps they died of the shepherd. One is disposed to prefer any thing to so improbable a cause.

true, but is not very probable. But if there be argument for it, there is also argument against it, in consequence of which I would recommend to agriculturists not to lend too ready an ear to marvellous and extravagant relations, to consult their own judgments, and to admit nothing, which militates against common sense, as fact, before it be established by proofs too clear to be controverted, too plain to be mistaken. I have now sheep feeding on the same watered meadow, without apprehension of their dying by any thing but the butcher.

Before I conclude this section, I must introduce my reader to a set of fishermen, of whom, probably, none but those, who reside in their vicinage, have ever heard. Among the peculiarities attending this fishery are the implements employed, which are all agricultural. Ross strand, and the great sandy beach near Castlefreke, are the scene of these curious and uncommon operations. A species of small eel, from six to twelve inches in length, with a sharp snout, and almost transparent body, inhabits these sands in prodigious abundance. They are a very nice fish for the table, in flavour somewhat resembling the smelt. In the beginning of the summer they make their appearance on the coast, and are then taken with small nets of very
close

close mesh. In the months of September and October, they come higher up upon the sand, for the purpose of spawning. The velocity, with which they pierce through the sand by means of their slender bodies and pointed noses, is surprising; for, unless immediately secured, they work down and are out of sight. When the tide has retired, the peasants collect in great numbers on the strand, with shovels and baskets, and seldom fail to return with a full load, the men turning up the sand, and the women and boys collecting the fish. Night as well as day is employed in this operation. I think I am within bounds in saying, that I have this season, in which they have appeared in unusual abundance, seen a thousand persons at one time engaged in this work, exhibiting a most curious and entertaining scene. Sometimes they stand up to the middle in water, and scraping through the sand, with an old reaping-hook fastened to the end of a stick, throw them on the shore. They are sold in the markets of Cloghnikilty, and, while the season lasts, contribute materially to the subsistence of the poor. The Cloghnikilty and Courtmasherry strands also supply them, but in less plenty. These strands also produce great quantities of cockles, together with a fish resembling a large muscle, but opening at the side instead of the end. The former inhabits
the

the sandy, the other the muddy parts of the strand. At Courtmasherry, famous for those of large size, there is a second sort of cockle, with a smooth shell, which lives in deeper water, and is seldom found but when thrown in by storms. In the memorable gale of December, 1796, vast heaps of these were driven on shore in a naked state, deprived of their shelly covering by the uncommon fury of the tempest.

CHAP. IX.

BARONY OF KINALMEAKY.

KINALMEAKY, a small barony, once forming a part of Carbery, which it joins on the north-east quarter, contains 5 parishes, 62 plowlands, and 19273 acres plantation measure. So late as the beginning of the seventeenth century, it was a mere wild, overgrown and encumbered with woods and bogs, affording shelter and security only to wolves and robbers. Though, like the rest of the country, pretty generally reclaimed, and containing a great number of inhabitants, many parts are still coarse and rugged, and retain traces of their wild and woodland state. The hilly parts, which constitute the far greater proportion, are for the most part poor, shallow, and stony. Some of those near Bandon on the north side, the Duke of Devonshire's

shire's estate, have, from the convenience of the town's manure, and the persevering industry of its inhabitants, received a degree of improvement, of which they seemed almost incapable. On the west side of Bandon the land rises for the distance of three or four miles with gradual acclivity, the upper parts of which consisted entirely, until within a few years back, of bog and moorland. A considerable part of this tract is the estate of Thomas Poole, Esq. by whose judicious encouragement a dreary waste is daily becoming productive and well inhabited land. He gives leases of twenty-one years at a low rent, builds good farm-houses, and allows the tenants for the first seven years a sufficient quantity of sea-sand. Under such encouragement tenants are never wanting, improvement proceeds rapidly, the face of the country experiences a happy alteration, and both landlord and farmer find their account in it. Grounds, originally not exceeding five or six shillings per acre in value, become well worth twenty-five or thirty shillings.—The first process is paring and burning for potatoes. It is afterwards sanded, and produces good crops of corn, sometimes wheat, but generally oats and barley. Mr. Poole's father was the first person, by whom irrigation was practised in this part of the county, at least to any extent worthy of notice.

In

In the management of this he was very judicious and successful, though it was the only species of agricultural improvement, that seemed to engage his attention. At a considerable distance from his house, in the tract of boggy land abovementioned, he began his watercourse, which, collecting a great number of springs in its passage, conveys a large stream of water to the demesne, the far greater part of which is completely commanded by it. The peculiar advantage of this stream is, its retaining nearly the same quantity of water at all seasons, a circumstance very rarely occurring, and particularly remarkable as well as fortunate on a situation so high as his. The consequence has been an unfailing abundance of luxuriant grass, both for meadow and pasture, produced from ground not much indebted to nature for goodness either of soil or situation. Mr. Poole's example, as it may naturally be imagined, found imitators, and the person, whom he employed and instructed in executing his works, made a good deal of money afterwards by his skill in forming watercourses. With respect to the modes of irrigating, much must depend upon the situation and circumstances of the land. The great object is to procure the water; it will be more or less productive, according to the skill and attention of him who applies it, but it

must be very ill managed indeed, if it does not amply reward the labour of the employer.

Though a large proportion of this barony is coarse and rough, there are some places of a very different character. As far as it is watered by the river Bandon, the land on each side is generally fertile and often beautiful. At a little distance from this, on the north side, is a narrow tract of low land, some of which appears to be of very good quality. As this seems to be a continuation, with some interruptions, of the vale running from Carigaline westward through Ballinhassig, Riggsdale, and Anagh, I have sometimes thought limestone might be expected, upon sinking pretty deep.—The grounds in many places, particularly at Anagh, and about Kilpatrick, have something of the look of limestone land, which they nearly equal in verdure and fertility. The road from Bandon to Cork, on the north side of the river, being difficult to pass from the number and steepness of the hills, particularly between Bandon and Kilpatrick, a new line has been lately laid out under the direction of the Duke of Devonshire's agent, all that part of the country being the estate of his grace. In cutting through the side of a hill, a little to the westward of Kilpatrick, two uncommon kinds of stone were discovered, contiguous to each other. One is a
red

red argillite or argillaceous shistus, some of it so soft as to serve for marking like red lead. The other is a very dark-coloured shistus, of a harder texture than the red. In the top of the quarry, which is the only part yet examined, both kinds are loose and shivery, coming out in very small pieces, but of a pretty regular form, such as most kinds of our shistus and argillite possess. Both are used as materials for making the road, which is kept in good order. The dark kind, when worn into powder, becomes as black as coal dust, and is itself not very unlike the slate, that accompanies coal. I think, however, that limestone is more likely to be found in its neighbourhood, and I recollect to have lately observed a quarry of shistus precisely similar, a little to the west of Tralee, rising in the midst of a limestone vale. It is there also used for repairing roads, the dark colour of which was the cause of my taking particular notice of it. I think it might be worth while to make some perforations in this quarter; at least, it seems to offer something worthy of a more skilful as well as a more minute examination.

On the south side of this district the farmer's principal manure is sea-sand, brought from Court-masherry strand. On the north side they make use of lime, the stone of which is supplied from the

neighbourhood of Kilcrea. Their general management so much resembles the adjoining parts of Muskery and Carbery, that it is unnecessary to detail it.

Of this barony, the town and environs of Bandon*, or, as it was originally called, Bandon-bridge, afford the most interesting objects of enquiry. The state of a district, circumstanced as this was at the beginning of the seventeenth century, seemed ill calculated to encourage the hope of establishing a large and commercial town. The difficulties indeed were such as no ordinary mind would venture to contend with, or could indulge any prospect of surmounting. They vanished, however, before the genius and enterprize of the first, but better known by the name of the great, Earl of Cork†. His discernment remarked the advantages of its fine river and central situation, and his princely fortune and liberal spirit, aided by great political influence, enabled him to attain the full accomplishment of his plan. Under his auspices quickly arose a spacious, handsome, and well fortified town, containing two churches, two market-houses, and a great number of industrious inhabitants. The result was equally creditable

* Bandon is the name of the river. The Irish name of the town is Drohid, which signifies bridge.

† His Lordship purchased the ground from the Bechers, to whom the grant was made.

creditable to his judgment and his munificence. Bandon, thus firmly established, continued to maintain its character, and, as the times became more tranquil and secure, extended its streets, and demolished its walls. The distracted state of the country compelled his lordship to adopt a policy, apparently illiberal, but enforced by necessity, and justified by the event. Protestants alone were admitted, to the exclusion of all other religious sects, whose jarring passions and animosities, forbidding at that time any hope of harmonious co-operation, would soon have brought ruin upon his infant establishment. The force of deep and early impression long prevailed, and to this day the inhabitants of the old town are of the same description. The other parts are chiefly inhabited by Catholics, for whom a very handsome chapel has lately been built by general subscription.

The old town is the estate of the Duke of Devonshire, who possesses a considerable portion of the great property, which formerly belonged to the earldom of Cork and Burlington. The east suburbs, called the Irish town, with an estate annexed, belongs to the Earl of Shannon, and the Earls of Cork and Bandon possess that part, which stands upon the west side.

Many

Many improvements have been lately made, and others projected by the duke, whose large estates in both islands display abundant instances of his grace's unsparing liberality. Of the former the principal are, a handsome court-house, in which county sessions are held, some excellent new dwelling-houses, forming part of an intended square, and a spacious quay on the south side of the river. His grace's agent has also built some small houses, which, though very superior in appearance to houses of the same description, are not considered as of convenient construction for the purposes of the inhabitants, who are chiefly weavers, the lower apartments being too confined for their looms. Among the projected improvements are, I understand, a second bridge, and a corresponding quay on the north side of the river. The bridge will be an important addition, as well for an approach to the new buildings, as for the convenience of the town, the increased size and population of which require a second means of communication between the north and south sides.

Here are two weekly markets, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, the former on the north, the latter on the south side of the town. Saturday's market is by far the best, and one of the largest in the county. It is also one of the most reasonable,
butcher's

butcher's meat being cheaper than in Cork or Kinsale. The difference often amounts to two-pence in the pound. The cattle slaughtered are not so large as in Cork, but the quality is generally very good. Bandon has also three good fairs.

The town was incorporated, through the interest of the founder, by James the first. The corporation consists of a provost, thirteen burgesses, and twelve common council men. It returns one member to parliament.

The first branch of business established here, and which continued for a long time to flourish, was the woollen. The industry of the inhabitants has since been variously directed under the influence of fluctuating demands, and changing fashions. Most articles of shop business may here be procured on reasonable terms, some of them the manufacture of the place. The inhabitants generally respectable, and frequently opulent, are remarkable for sober demeanour, and diligent attention to their respective pursuits. It seems remarkable, that in a town of such consideration, and apparently well situated for the purpose, the banking business should never have been undertaken. It is probably ascribable to the prudent character of the people, more inclined to seek moderate profits on secure grounds, than to engage

engage in speculations of more rapid emolument, but at greater risques.

The following is a brief account of the present state of its manufactures, for which I am indebted to a very intelligent gentleman, George Allman, Esq.

The linen manufacture, principally tickens, in which several are engaged, who purchase the yarn chiefly at Skibbereen and Cloghnikilty.

Woolcombing, and the camblet and stuff trade, in which a considerable number of persons are employed.

Blue dyeing, carried on pretty extensively. This business is also followed in the principal towns of Carbery. Blue is the favourite colour of the country people, who manufacture their own frize, and send it to the towns to be dyed.

Tanning flourished here seven or eight years ago. It is now on the decline, principally owing to the extravagant price of bark, and in some measure, it is thought, to the mode of levying the duty. The English manufacturer, who has also the advantage of superior skill, is thus enabled to meet the Irish in his own market. This business was formerly much more extensive as well as profitable than at present. Thirty or forty years ago there were two large tan-yards in the town of Ross Carbery. Bark,
then

then abundantly supplied by this country, was sold for four or five pounds a ton. It now brings twenty pounds, and is commonly imported.

The manufacture of blankets and coarse woollen cloth carried on by a few.

Porter and beer breweries, by Messrs. Sealy, Cornwall, and Hunt. The brewing business is considerably on the increase, in consequence of increasing riches as well as numbers among the country people. The suspension of the distilleries, and the consequent rise of spirits, have also greatly promoted the consumption of malt liquors.

The cotton business, which was in its infancy about twenty years ago, made a very rapid progress for ten or a dozen years. It then began to decline, and is now reduced to a very low state, being unable to provide employment for more than between two and three hundred persons. The diminution of so much useful labour is much to be regretted, as well as the (I hope only temporary) disappointment of those spirited and expensive undertakings, to which that business gave rise.

The cotton mill, lately erected by Mr. George Allman and sons, highly distinguished for ingenuity, as well as enterprize, merits a particular description. It is one hundred and thirty-four feet long, thirty-four feet wide, and fifty feet high. There

are five floors, all underlaid with sheet iron to diminish the risque from fire. It is capable of containing ten thousand spinning spindles, with all the machinery necessary for supplying them with prepared cotton, by which thirty hundred pounds of it may be spun per week. The number of persons, necessary for attending the work, is from two hundred and fifty to three hundred. The motion, that sets them at work, is communicated by an iron wheel, of forty feet in diameter, so equally and admirably constructed as to be set going by a moderate stream of water. Adjoining to this, Mr. Allman has built an excellent dwelling-house. The entire works have cost a very considerable sum, the precise amount of which I have not been able to ascertain.

Mr. William Allman, brother to the proprietor of the above, has since built a cotton-mill upon the Earl of Shannon's estate, at the east side of the town, for the same purpose, but of inferior dimensions.

Bandon, like most other towns of early date, was provided with a barraek, which was one of the few in this quarter erected for the reception of cavalry. It was generally occupied by a troop of horse. Of late, Bandon has become a more extensive military station, and is now capable of accomodating a
large

large body of forces. Besides a large building, the property of Messrs. Biggs, and originally used as a bolting mill, an extensive and handsome range of houses has been lately built for this purpose by Mr. George Kingston, a gentleman much distinguished for his spirited exertions in the building line. With an abundance of good common stone, the neighbourhood affords some quarries of fine freestone, the best specimens of which appear in Mr. Kingston's works. It is an argillite of a light-brown colour, without the ferruginous stain, which most of the others possess, and, being of an even and short-grained texture, bears the hammer remarkably well. Stone of this kind occasionally occurs in the south quarter of the county, and was made use of in constructing the coins and arches of abbeys and castles. For these purposes it was often brought from a great distance.

In addition to the trade above mentioned, the timber business was also carried on here extensively, the prices exceeding those of Cork only in the difference occasioned by a land carriage of four miles. Coal, timber, and heavy goods, imported for the Bandon merchants, are landed at Collier's quay, a little below Inishannon, on the Kinsale river, to which vessels of considerable burden can approach. The road from hence to Bandon, being nearly flat,

suggested the idea of a canal, which for some time engaged the attention of the persons most interested so warmly as to afford a hope of its being speedily as well as spiritedly undertaken. For a further account of the scheme see *Addenda*, article *Canals*.

Though this barony affords little for description in the article of fine seats, the little it does give is of the first class. Castle-Bernard, the seat of the Earl of Bandon, long celebrated for the variety of the grounds, and the beauty of the woods, is now in a high state of elegant improvement. The latter have been considerably enlarged by new plantations, the thriving state of which daily adds increasing richness to the scene. It is situated within a very short distance of Bandon, on the west side, but so circumstanced from the rising of the ground in that quarter as to suffer no inconvenience from its proximity. The park, through which the river flows, exhibits a select and uncommon assemblage of rural charms. On either side the hills, richly adorned with timber of different age and size, rise in various forms, and with varying degrees of acclivity. In passing between these the river, changing its accustomed mode of running in a single channel, spreads into several branches, as if willing to prolong its stay in so favourite an abode. After forming a great number of verdant islets, it again collects its waters, and flows towards the town in its wonted manner.

A public

A public road running between the house and the park, though well concealed by a screen of trees, deducts something from its beauty as a whole, which would be more complete, were this little blemish removed. This, perhaps, might be done without inconvenience to the public, by changing the direction of the road to a valley on the south side of the grounds.

That part of the demesne, which stands out of view of the pleasure grounds, and is more peculiarly appropriated to agricultural purposes, exhibits the best, if not the handsomest inclosures to be found any where, being divided into large fields under the secure protection of ten feet walls. The old mansion, though a large building containing several convenient and some spacious rooms, falling below Lord Bandon's ideas of a seat suitable to such rank and fortune, his lordship has lately built a superb house at a short distance from it. Under all these circumstances, it is by no means wonderful, that his lordship should be much attached to Castle-Bernard. Besides the regard one naturally feels for the place, that gave him birth, reason as well as experience teaches, that a man of fortune can nowhere be of so much consequence or of so much utility as in his own country. The brilliant scenes of the metropolis, and the variety afforded by change
of

of scene and situation, are so seductive, that those, who possess the means of enjoyment, are seldom able to resist their allurements. Our often deserted country must therefore feel peculiarly indebted to those, who do.

In a work, chiefly intended to display the state and progress of our agriculture, no instance of particular regard to its interests should pass unnoticed. The occurrence of such regard in men of rank and fortune, however meritorious, can excite no surprise, as it is among those pursuits, to which their habits of life more peculiarly lead. When presenting itself among the recreations of the softer sex, and appearing as an appendage to virtues and accomplishments of the highest class, it necessarily demands a warmer tribute of respectful acknowledgment. The countess of Bandon, to whose liberality the Cork Institution professes the greatest obligations, adds to her pecuniary bounty, for the encouragement of agriculture, the benefit of her example. A farm adjoining the demesne of Castle-Bernard, occupying such portion of time as can be spared from more important duties, is cultivated under her ladyship's direction. The culture of rare and beautiful plants, and the management of the green-house and pleasure garden, elegant and rational pursuits have lately much engaged the attention of the fashionable

fashionable fair. In these Lady Bandon, who possesses a very valuable collection of plants, particularly excels. An extension of such taste and judgment cannot fail to improve the coarser but more useful culture of the field.

There are several other seats in the neighbourhood of Bandon, the principal of which, on the south side, is Richmount, a handsome seat of John Sealy, Esq. On the north side, the most conspicuous for the size of the house, and the elevation of the ground, is Mount Pleasant, the seat of Henry Baldwin, Esq. The house, which seems rather more than necessarily large, has as yet but a naked appearance from want of timber. The land is naturally poor, and, though trees thickly planted will rise on more unfavourable situations, they require a good deal of time to produce much effect.

Kilmore, * the seat of Robert Popham, Esq. is well situated at the foot of a hill, which, rising immediately behind it on the north, affords shelter and warmth to the lower grounds. The house is good, and the offices spacious and convenient. The circumstances of the land, both as to quality and situation, are such as a farmer could wish, and Mr. Popham's stile of agriculture shews, that he is perfectly

* This is a leasehold under the Duke of Devonshire, who has a large estate in this quarter, the north side of Bandon.

fectly competent to take advantage of them. The goodness and the quantity of his crops, the surest test of agricultural skill, place him high among the first ranks of farmers in this part of the county.

Killinear, an old seat of the Ware family, situated in the north-west quarter of this barony, has been greatly improved by Mr. Spear, the present proprietor. The natural quality of the ground here is for the most part very poor, but from the advantage of being well wooded, and carefully dressed, looks extremely well. The preservation of some of the native woods, which happened to occupy grounds unfit for any other purpose, has been a fortunate circumstance.

Not least deserving of mention among the habitations of this district, is a new and very elegant glebe-house, lately erected by the Rev. Ambrose Hickey, rector of the parish of Moragh. It is pleasantly situated on the north side of the river Bandon, near the centre of a fertile vale, extending from Castle-Bernard to the confines of Dunmanway. This is the second house of the same kind, for which the diocese of Cork is indebted to Dr. Hickey. Before his advancement to Moragh, he built the glebe-house of Ballymony, a few miles west of his present residence. Both of them do much credit to his taste as well as industry.

CHAP. X.

BARONY OF COURCY'S, *

Commonly called Courcy's Country.

THIS is the smallest barony of the county, containing only two parishes, and thirty-seven and one-half plowlands. It lies between Kinsale harbour and Coolmain-strand, being nearly insulated by that strand on the west, Kinsale river on the north, and the sea on the south. Some of the lower grounds along the river, and adjoining the sea shore, afford a light and fertile soil producing good crops of potatoes and corn, raised with the same manures, and under a similar course of management with those

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of

* This barony takes its name from the respectable family of De Courcy, ennobled at a very ancient period. The present head, who resides at Kinsale, from which he derives his title, has still a good property in it. It contains, according to Smith, 3573 acres.

of Barryroe. The higher parts are in general very unproductive, being covered with a light and shallow surface of poor argillaceous earth, or clay mixed with slaty rubble. Their natural produce is a dwarfish kind of heath and low creeping furze,* commonly called Irish, to distinguish it from the more vigorous plant, known by the name of French furze.† The amount of exported produce, consisting of potatoes, wheat, and barley, is nevertheless very considerable. The communication of this barony with Kinsale, the market-town, is by means of a ferry, sometimes dangerous, when the wind blows violently down the river, but generally safe from its land-locked situation. A second boat of smaller size plies for the purpose of conveying passengers, when the weather is too tempestuous for the large one. In this latter, horses, cattle, and goods of various kinds are conveyed, particularly on market-days, when it often exhibits a very crowded and miscellaneous cargo. Cows, sheep, pigs, poultry, potatoes, and corn, with their several owners, promiscuously jumbled together, encumber the boat so much, as to raise in the unaccustomed spectator a very

* *Genista spinosa minor*.

† *Genista spinosa major longioribus aculeis*—this is the sort used for fences and fodder, the other being both an useless and very troublesome plant. The smaller kind is, however, occasionally made use of, when the other cannot be had.

very serious alarm for their safety. I do not, however, recollect any instance of evil accident, though the boat has sometimes been in a situation of danger. The breadth of the river, at the ferry, is about a quarter of a mile. The tolls are very moderate, and, I believe, the property of Mr. Kearney.

One of the severest wants, under which the people of this barony labour, is that of fuel, turf being no longer among its productions. What they consume of this article is procured in a great bog between Courtmasherry and Cloghnikilty, from which it is drawn by horses to Timoleague, and thence conveyed in boats to Courcy's. But some of the inhabitants have taken very commendable, as well as uncommon pains, to provide a substitute for turf by the culture of furze, the manner of managing which is conducive to other purposes of utility, and might be imitated in many places with great advantage. On some of the high and poor lands between Coolmain and Garretstown, they plant parallel rows of furze in their fields, leaving a pretty wide interval between. In about four years these rows attain the height of five or six feet, and, as they occupy very little room, rather increase than diminish the produce of the intervals by the benefit of their shelter. When arrived at proper maturity, the furze is cut for fuel and for fodder, and by leaving every

second row until its neighbour grows up, and so cutting them in regular rotation, the shelter may still be preserved. In soils considered as too valuable for this practice, and where shelter is less required, the object may be sufficiently attained by, what is too seldom seen among common farmers, a due attention to their hedges. The discovery of this expedient may, I believe, be traced to no very distant source. Among the many benefits conferred upon his country, both in a private and public character, during a long residence in it, the respectable proprietor of Garretstown claims its grateful acknowledgment for the services he has rendered to agriculture, both by precept and example. James Kearney, Esq. the gentleman alluded to, justly conceiving that the operations of an intelligent mind might be competent to objects of more important and extensive utility, than the mere practice of husbandry, however excellent, appropriated a part of his demesne to the purpose of making agricultural experiments. These were continued for a series of years under his own immediate superintendence, in the course of which many kinds of manure, and modes of culture were successively tried. Planting, and the knowledge of trees best suited to this climate, and most valuable for their respective purposes of use and ornament, formed also a part of this

this interesting and amusive occupation. The result of his labours was given to the public, in 1790, in a pamphlet intitled *Essays on Agriculture and Planting*, founded on experiments made in Ireland. Of the information, communicated by these essays, I have occasionally availed myself, and might with advantage to this work interweave many of its passages. It is, however, probable that most of my readers are already acquainted with the book, and to such, as are not, I recommend it as a very instructive treatise. The use of French furze for fuel and fodder, and its particular adaptation to the kind of ground described above are there strongly urged. To the rich fertility of midland tracts the quickset hedge is doubtless most appropriate. Were they fenced and planted as they might be, this humble shrub might well be left for the use and comfort of our naked shores and bleak hills. In situations of this nature, though its advantages are not unknown, they are as yet too little regarded. The hardiness of its constitution, the quickness of its growth, the warmth of its shelter, and the double benefit arising from its fodder and fuel, are recommendations, that cannot be too frequently urged, or too warmly enforced.

Garretstown is a fine old seat, adorned, notwithstanding its elevated situation and proximity to the
 sea,

sea, with a good deal of wood, some of which is native. But the gradual rising of the ground on the west side of the house is a favourable circumstance to the plantations, some of which, for the purpose of affording shelter, advance pretty high upon the hill. Mr. Kearney stands almost single at the present day in his partiality to the ivy, a very beautiful plant indeed, but obnoxious to planters from its supposed enmity to trees. Among the Romans, he observes, it was held in great esteem, and planted round the trees in their pleasure grounds. "I know it is said," I here quote from the pamphlet above mentioned, "that ivy prejudices the growth of trees; "I cannot say that it does not, but this I know that "some of the largest trees I ever saw were covered "with ivy. Allowing, however, what I much doubt, "that it injures in some small degree the growth of "trees, is it unusual with men of fortune to sacrifice something to ornament? Can suffering a "few trees, which stand in view of a house, or on "the skirts of a wood, to cloath themselves with ivy "be attended with any loss, that should make us "deprive ourselves of one of the finest verdures, that "any climate can produce? Are grounds under "shrubberies turned to the greatest possible advantage, or do we consult our interest in planting "horse

“horse chesnuts, the most unprofitable of all timber, where oaks and elms would grow?”

These observations, though out of the common road, are unquestionably just, and will probably restore this plant to some of the favour it once enjoyed. The injuriousness of the ivy is founded upon the supposed severity of its constriction, by which the freedom of the sap's passage through the bark is obstructed or retarded. But it should seem, that nature has given it a power of expanding with the growth of the tree; otherwise, either the vesture of the ivy would burst, or the tree quickly perish, neither of which, we know, ever happens. I have observed that, where a thick coat of ivy has been taken off, the bark, which it had covered, discovers no marks of injurious constriction, but generally looks more fresh and fair than that of the other trees. The inference I would draw is, that, though one would not encourage it among young plantations, it may be safely admitted to trees, after they have attained a tolerable degree of maturity.

At Coolmain, on the west quarter of the district, Eustace Stawell, Esq. has a residence pleasantly situated as to prospect, and but little elevated above the level of the water. But the prevalence of the south-west winds, to which it is much exposed, has been very inimical to the progress of his plantations.

tions. Mr. Stawell deserves honourable mention for the general stile of his farming, which is founded on approved principles, and conducted with judgment and spirit. There are some pretty and improved spots on the north side, near Kinsale river, where the soil seems to be of better quality than in most other places. Coolmain affords a good argillaceous freestone for building, some of which was used in the octagon at Courtmasherry. It is not improbable, that the neighbouring abbeys of Timoleague and Abbeymahon were supplied from the same quarries. The southern cliffs afford abundance of good slate, occasionally sent to Cork and Kinsale in the summer months. The well known promontory, called the old head of Kinsale, projects from the eastern part of this barony. It is much the longest of all our headlands, and, being furnished with a good light-house, forms a material point of direction for the harbour of Cork and Kinsale. Near the outer extremity stand the ruins of a castle, easily defensible against a large force from the narrowness of the approach. Situations of this nature, devoid of every recommendation, save the single one of defensibility, were never overlooked, and they give a melancholy picture of the state of the times, in which they were built. As ruins, they have doubtless a fine effect, partly arising from their

own grandeur, and partly from the pleasing reflection of their present inutility. Every friend to peace and happiness will therefore devoutly wish, that they may never appear in any other condition. The inner part of this promontory is low, and from the incessant dashing of the sea may, perhaps, hereafter be insulated. It produces good barley and potatoes. The outer part is high, coarse, and rocky. The violence of the waves, by wearing away some softer veins of rock, have made a subterraneous perforation from side to side, which in calm weather may be passed in a small boat. I have not heard of any metallic discoveries in this district.

CHAP. XI.

BARONY OF BEAR* AND BANTRY.

A STRIKING and remarkable contrast is exhibited here, as well as in Great Britain, between the east and west sides of the island, the latter of which contains an infinitely greater proportion of high, rocky, and mountainous surface. In proceeding from Imokilly westward, the country gradually increases in altitude and ruggedness, until it attains the ne plus ultra of both in the barony of Bear and Bantry. The singular and excessive wildness of this district is, however, occasionally relieved by the fertility of some spots, and the beauty and grandeur of others. The bay of Bantry, from almost any point of view, exhibits one of the noblest prospects

on

* Pronounced Beer. The barony contains, according to Smith, 195 plowlands, 84,132 acres, of which he reckons 15,911 unprofitable. There are five or six parishes, which now constitute three benefices, on which their respective incumbents reside.

on a scale of romantic magnitude, that imagination can well conceive. The extent of this great body of water, from the eastern extremity to the ocean, is about twenty-five miles, the breadth, including the islands, from six to eight. It contains, besides some small, two very large islands, differing extremely from each other in quality and appearance, but perfectly suited to the respective purposes of their different situation. Bear island, very high, rocky, and coarse, standing a little within the mouth of the bay, braves the fury of the western waves, and forms, by the shelter of its large body, a most secure and spacious haven. Safe in its more retired situation at the upper end of the bay, the island of Whiddy presents a surface of gentle inequalities, covered by a soil of uncommon richness and fertility. The grandeur of the scene, in which this noble expanse of water bears so conspicuous a part, is greatly enhanced by the rugged variety of the surrounding mountains, particularly those on the west side, which far exceed the rest in altitude and boldness of form. Among these, Hungry-hill, rising with a very steep ascent from the water, raises his broad and majestic head, easily distinguishable from a great distance, and for surpassing all the other mountains of this county in height and grandeur. The effect, produced by such an assemblage

blage of objects, can hardly be conceived, and is impossible to be described. The mind filled and overborne by a prospect so various, so extended, and so sublime, sinks beneath its magnitude, and, feeling the utter incapability of adequate expression, rests upon the scene in silent and solemn admiration. The soul must be insensible indeed, which will not be moved by such a contemplation to adore the God of nature, from whom such mighty works proceed. Large as the ground of this great picture is, it comes within the scope of human sight, a circumstance, upon which the powerfulness of its impression materially depends. A greater extension of the parts, by throwing them far from view, would diminish their effect, and a reduction of their scale would lessen their grandeur. Much and justly as Killarney is celebrated for the varied beauty of its scenes, no single view it affords can vie with this in sublimity of character and greatness of effect.

But all pretensions to admiration do not rest upon the impression made by the whole, several of its parts being highly deserving of regard for their beauty or their singularity. In viewing a gigantic figure, the first and most powerful emotion is excited by its bulk; when the operations of wonder begin to subside, we desire to examine the proportions,

tions, and derive pleasure from the expression of features, and the symmetry of limbs. Among the tamer beauties of the scene, the island of Whiddy catches the spectator's eye, strikingly contrasted, as it is, with the barren wildness of the hills at either side. This island, the inhabitants of which are said to be remarkably well shaped, contains about 1000 acres; several of these are capable, in their state of natural fertility, of fattening the largest bullocks. It belongs to Lord Bantry, who, besides a deerpark, keeps some of it in his hands for pasture. Among the singularity of its circumstances* one deserves to be mentioned, as a case without parallel, perhaps, in any other part of the kingdom. The inhabitants, to whom a lease is as yet unknown, have continued to hold their farms under his lordship's family, for sixty years, without any alteration of rent!

The second division of that great French armament, which threatened these shores in 1796, came to anchor on the north-west quarter of this island, and though they remained a long time in expectation of being joined by the rest, it is very remarkable

* Since the above account was written, an advertisement has appeared in the newspapers, specifying the lots, and inviting proposals. The present property is, it seems, in Lord Longueville, but it is a part of the Bantry estate.

able, that neither hostile nor curious motives induced them to set one foot upon the shore. Their boats too were often seen rowing about in the bay, probably for the purpose of taking its soundings.—The station they occupied, and the course by which they entered, are commanded by the higher parts of the island, where the principal works for the defence of the bay have, in consequence, been constructed.

The island, on which there are many inhabitants, and much tillage, is well watered, containing, besides springs, a pretty large fresh-water lake. There is one also of salt-water, remarkable for eels of great size. A spaniel swimming there, in pursuit of water-fowl, is said to have suddenly disappeared, the prey, as it was supposed, of those voracious fishes. The fact of his being drowned is sufficiently established; the immediate cause of his death may admit of some question.

All the good soil of the district, however, is not confined to Whiddy, the lands adjoining the head of the bay being also distinguished for verdure and fertility. On the shore at Bantry are found several detached fragments of lime-stone, of dark colour and hard texture, not unlike some veins of the Duhallow quarries. A gravelly hill on the north side of the town appears to contain a good many of them,

them, but the rock they belonged to has nowhere appeared. The roundness and attrition of these stones shew, that they have been brought from some distance, torn from their native beds by tempest or deluge. The parent rock may possibly lie in some part of the bay, at too great a depth for present discovery. From the encroachments, known to have been made by the ocean on several parts of the coast*, it is not unreasonable to suppose, that some of our deep bays might have been originally vallies. One of the Skeligt† rocks on the Kerry coast is said to be composed of limestone, and might once have been connected with the land, from which at present it is very remote. There are in that county some calcareous tracts extending towards the sea, with one of which this rock might formerly have been joined. On the north side of Bantry bay is a calcareous shistus, similar from its description to that of the Leap in West Carbery. It produces a brown lime, and has been used for cement by Mr. Hutchins

* On the south coast, turf and bog timber are often torn up and thrown in by storms. The bay of Ross is known to have turf under the sand, at a great distance from the shore.

† On this rock the gannet breeds. It is accessible in fine weather, and resorted to every summer by some peasants, who derive a considerable profit from the feathers, fat, and flesh of the young gannets. It is remarkable, that this bird has been never known to light upon any other rock, though they frequent all parts of the coast.

Hutchins of Ballylicky. This is the only desideratum of limestone here, the coral sand supplying all its purposes as a manure.

But the place, most celebrated for combining the softer graces of the waving wood with the wildest rudeness of mountain aspect, is Glangarriffe (the rough glen) situated, on the north side of the bay, at the head of a small harbour or cove. The hills, that inclose this romantic glen, rise in great variety of rocky forms, their sides and hollows being covered profusely with trees and shrubs, among which the arbutus, rarely found to adorn our native woods, appears in a flourishing state. Here, as at Killarney, nature seems to have been at wanton variance with herself, and, after exciting a war between two rival powers, to have decided in favour of the weaker party. Among stones of immense size, thrown together in the wildest confusion, and apparently forbidding the possibility of useful produce; among bare and massive rocks, that should seem destined to reign for ever in barren desolation, arises a luxuriance of sylvan growth, which art would hardly hope for in the happiest situations. The extent of this woody region, which winds through the mountains for some miles, is very considerable. Iron was formerly smelted in this neighbourhood, when timber was more abundant and less valuable.

A river

A river, abounding with salmon and sea trout, runs through this glen, in dry weather, (as Johnson observes of a similar situation) "fretting over the asperities of a rocky bottom," when swollen with rains, rolling a torrent of frightful magnitude into the bay. It is passed by a good stone bridge, attributed to Cromwell, and still bearing his name, though it should seem, that nothing to be gained on the west side of the river could have been worth the trouble of the undertaking. The usual mode of visiting Bearhaven, even now, is by water, the voyage from Bantry, with a tolerable fair wind, being made in four or five hours. The distance by land along the old pass, which I have traveled, was thirty miles; but, expedition being impracticable from the ruggedness of the way, the time required to perform it, even for an active traveller, was from ten to twelve hours. The distance has been reduced, and the communication greatly facilitated of late, by a new line of road.

From Glángarriffe westward, some places excepted that skirt along the margin of the bay, to the furthest extremity of the Durzey islands, the ground is coarse, mountainous, and rocky beyond description. Population, however, even here has made great advances, and with it the tillage necessary to its wants. Rude as it is, the produce of the rents

is now very considerable, which may, in some degree, be imputed to the influx of money arising from the labour of the new works. Some of the mountainous tracts are certainly capable of much improvement, and every arable spot within reach of the bay enjoys the advantage of sea manure. But a great proportion of this quarter seems doomed by nature to everlasting infertility, as far as culture is concerned, being incapable of any thing beyond a poor summer pasture for small and hardy animals.

The last of nature's uncommon and astonishing displays, that remain to be mentioned, is the water-fall or cataract of Hungry-hill, in comparison with which O'Sullivan's cascade at Killarney, and the water-fall at Powerscourt near Dublin, shrink into insignificance. The eye, accustomed to the various wonders of Alpine scenery, may doubtless view this stupendous fall with less emotion; but what will the lowland inhabitant think of a river, tumbled from the summit of a mountain, elevated more than 2000* feet above its base, and almost perpendicular in its ascent? In the first part of its progress, the side of the hill is so steep as to suffer the

* For the strict justness of this measurement I do not pretend to answer.—I have taken it from Smith. As far as one may judge from appearance, he cannot be much mistaken.

the water to fall from a vast height, unimpeded by the rocky projections, which the spreading base of the mountain opposes to its descent in approaching the bottom. It thus assumes the double character of fall and cataract. At the back of this great mountain are several lakes, one of which supplies the water of the fall. This grand and singular spectacle, often to be plainly distinguished from the town of Bantry, fourteen miles distant, appears in full majesty only after heavy falls of rain, sufficiently frequent in this district to give the inhabitants numerous opportunities of seeing it in all its glory.

From a district of this description little will be expected for the catalogue of towns, fine seats, or cultivated country. The remote situation of Bantry, notwithstanding its proximity to such a bay, seems to preclude it from emerging above the obscurity of a little country town. The original cause of prosperity, and which would now be capable of conferring it in no ordinary degree, has long ceased. In the beginning of the last century, the bay abounded with pilchards, the catching and curing of which gave, even at that time, wealth and employment to numbers, as many remaining vestiges of the houses employed for this purpose sufficiently attest. Before Smith's time (1750,) they

they had deserted the bay, but herrings and sprats remained in great profusion. These advantages, however, were not enjoyed exclusively by Bantry, for all the southern coast possessed a similar abundance. The gradual disappearance of all these kinds has at length left the coast destitute of any thing deserving the name of a fishery. As the cause of their departure is inscrutable, it seems fruitless to speculate upon the possibility of their return.

The greater part of this district was once in the possession of the O'Sullivans, who had many seats and castles on the bay. There are still some very respectable descendants of this family, one of whom, settled in Spain, is said to derive a title from Bearhaven. The principal residents of the name live, I understand, on the Kerry side of the hills.

The chief seat of the district is Sea-court, Lord Bantry's residence, pleasantly situated near the town, on the south side of the bay. The plantations appear to thrive well about the house, which, though commanding a fine view of the bay, is low and well sheltered. The peculiarity of the soil on some parts of the demesne is deserving of notice. The higher parts, which from their steep and sloping form should appear to be very dry, are for the greater part of the year extremely wet and spewy, not in consequence

sequence of an impermeable rock approaching the surface, but from a deep substratum of yellow retentive clay. The productive soil, that forms its surface, is very shallow, and rarely dry even in summer, yet the quality of the pasture is remarkably kind, and, strange to tell, peculiarly favourable to the feeding and fattening of sheep. I know no instance of any thing similar, but this seems to be the region of wonders.

Along the head of the bay, on a low tract of land, narrow in dimension, but of extraordinary fertility, are some pretty seats. The most deserving of mention, for the beauty of the situation and the goodness of the house, is one lately built by Simon White, Esq. known by the more modest than appropriate appellation of, the Cottage.

To the west of Lord Bantry's is a considerable extent of good farm land, and most places, the rude and intractable hills excepted, attest the laborious hand of humble industry. The general style of agriculture and kinds of produce resemble those of West Carbery. On the sea coast barley, in the inner parts oats are the usual successors to the crop of potatoes. Flax is also cultivated in considerable quantity, and sold at the Bantry fairs, where, besides numbers of small cows and sheep, they sell a great many ponies, bred on the range of mountains

tains, that separate this district from Kerry. There are many tracts of bog and moorland very capable of being reclaimed, but above the ability of the common occupier, who has neither skill nor capital adequate to such undertakings. A great encouragement to works of this nature is afforded by the coralline of the bay, the supply of which appears to be inexhaustible. It has long been in the highest esteem as a manure, and the intelligent agriculturist will be fully enabled to appreciate its merit, when he is told that it is purely calcareous. Could they contrive to raise it in larger pieces, it would admit of being burned, and answer all the domestic as well as fertilizing purposes of limestone.

There are varieties of stones, ochres, and clays, found here, but I know of no metallic veins ever discovered. In the island of Whiddy is a quarry of soft black slate, which communicates that colour as freely as black-lead. There is no indication of coal.

CHAP. XII.

BARONY OF DUHALLOW.

SECT. I.

General Description.

THE barony of Duhallow, which forms the north-west quarter of the county of Cork, contains, according to Smith, 253 plowlands, and 105,748 plantation acres. On the south it extends to the Boggra mountains, crossing in that direction the river Blackwater, which marks its western limit for a considerable distance above and below Mill-street. On the east it joins, and is a good deal intermixed with, the barony of Orrery and Kilmore. It reckons thirteen parishes, all of which, however, are not exclusively contained in it.

This barony differs in some remarkable circumstances of geological structure from the rest of the county.

county. The principal of these are its coal-beds, of which a particular account will be given in a subsequent chapter. Of stone it seems to contain only two kinds, argillite and limestone, both of which, but particularly the latter, possess some peculiarities. In the limestone quarries of the east and south-east parts of the county, it is not easy to perceive any regular order of formation. The blocks seem to lie in a state of accumulation, without any fixed or determinate arrangement. Here, in many places at least, they are placed in regular layers, tier over tier, not in a horizontal, but an oblique position, and all dipping, in one direction, to the south. The argillite has a similar inclination, and it is observable that quarries of every kind, on the north side of the county, hang in the same manner. This is also the precise direction of the coal-beds. The layers of limestone are of different thickness, some of them containing blocks of very large size, and close complete texture, resembling in colour and quality the Kilkenny marble, but not so dark. In the neighbourhood of Ballyclough are very fine quarries of this stone, which make handsome pillars, and are much used for tombs. They seem capable of a fine polish, and would doubtless answer well for works of nicer sculpture.

In

In the other calcareous districts, the limestone tracts are for the most part continuous and unmixed, preserving a pretty regular breadth for the distances, to which they extend. Here limestone and argillite are more irregularly mingled; and, what is also uncommon, limestone is sometimes found in eminences, and brown stone in hollows. The more lofty ranges of land, however, according to the rule nature has generally observed in this quarter, contain no limestone, with the exception of two quarries found among the mountains, west of Newmarket, a circumstance of very fortunate as well as singular occurrence, from the opportunity they afford of fertilizing the neighbouring moors.

The western part of this barony consists of high moorland and mountain, all of which, except, perhaps, the more lofty parts of the latter, seems very capable of improvement. It is much less stony and rugged than the southern hills, the subjacent rock, which is generally a dark brown argillite, seldom approaching the surface. In some places deep turf-bog is found, but the more usual soil is a shallow turf resting upon a stiff heavy wet clay. One of the greatest obstructions to its improvement at present is the want of good roads for the carriage of limestone, and occasionally of fuel.

The eastern part of the barony is less elevated, and contains a large portion of very superior land, some well adapted to tillage, and all of it to pasture. It consists principally of alternate ranges of argillite and limestone, running parallel to each other in the usual direction of east and west. Though nature has been more lavish of her gifts to the latter, the former are for the most part capable of a high degree of fertilization, which is much facilitated by the convenient proximity of the limestone. Culm, most abundant in the western parts, but found also in the eastern, is employed for the purpose of burning lime. It is raised at the pits for about three shillings and six-pence per barrel, and the lime comes dearer or cheaper according to the distance, that either article requires to be drawn. In the limestone tracts the culm is carried to the stone; in the argillaceous the stone is drawn to the neighbourhood of the culm. In general, a barrel of culm will produce seven * or eight barrels of lime.

The argillite of this district contains, if not the only, by far the largest portion of stiff heavy clay to be found in the county. In other moory and mountainous tracts, some of which are sufficiently wet, the moisture generally proceeds from springs,

* According to the construction and size of the kiln. Those of best form produce a ton.

springs, which being carried off by proper drains, the texture of the soil undergoes an immediate change, being converted often from very wet land into dry. The clays here are of a different quality and texture, very deep, heavy, and wet from their great retentiveness of moisture. As, however, their wetness, though not wholly occasioned, is frequently much increased by springs, draining must of course be often expedient. Where the deep tenacity of the clay is the sole cause of superabundant moisture, the remedy must be sought in appropriate management, the application of opening manures such as sand and gravel, and laying out the land in high ridges. As far as I have been able to observe, the operation of draining will be found extensively useful, most places seeming to owe a part of their moisture to springs. The springs here, however, do not like most others appear to rise from rock, situate near the surface, but from deep beds of heavy clay. It is not therefore improbable, that Elkington's ingenious application of the augre, which the greater part of our wet grounds do neither require nor admit of, may on these be successfully employed. The common mode of surface draining, by cutting a number of shallow channels, as is sometimes practised here, has some effect in relieving the superabundant humidity, but is incompetent to the effectual

tual performance of the work. The complete reclaiming of these soils must be expensive and troublesome, but they possess a degree of vigour, that will abundantly repay both the labour and expence. The contiguity of the limestone and argillite is reciprocally beneficial to both, the calcareous principle being abundantly supplied by the former, while the latter repays the gift by its constant supply of water, which the limestone lands in summer so frequently want. The absorbent cavities of the limestone may also be sometimes usefully employed in carrying off the superfluous moisture of the clays, when there happens to be no convenient outlet for the drains.

With respect to timber, this barony is upon the whole better circumstanced than many others, though the nakedness, so generally complained of, is in several parts but too apparent. From the description given of the soil, and its inland situation, it is unnecessary to add, that it is for the most part very favourable to the growth of trees. Gentlemen's demesnes are commonly well planted, and on many of them appears a good deal of young and flourishing timber. Handsome hedgerows, and well inclosed fields are also often seen, and, where some demesnes of this kind happen to be near each other, the effect produced by their contiguity is highly pleasing. The most beautiful part of the barony in
this

this respect is that, through which the Black-water flows, a little above the town of Mallow, presenting a richness of prospect, that need not shrink from comparison with any inland scenery in this kingdom. On each side of this fine river are seen a great number of handsome seats, variously circumstanced, but all surrounded by rich plantations. On its south bank, boldly stationed upon a limestone rock, stands the old castle of Dromineen, the ruins of which are well contrasted with the spire of Newbury church, at a little distance above it. On another side, the lofty mountains of St. Hilary are a fine set off to the richness of the lower grounds. Beautiful from any point of view, it is, perhaps, seen to most advantage from Dromore, the seat of John Newman, Esq. which constitutes itself one of the most striking features of the scene.

SECTION 2.

*Duhallow.**Modes of Husbandry—Size of Farms—Labour, &c.*

EXCEPT in the coarse northern parts bordering on Kerry, where they use only the spade and shovel, partly on account of the soft boggy nature of the soil, and partly from the still prevailing influence of ancient usage, the mode of preparing land for potatoes resembles that in general use throughout the county. After being ploughed into beds of three or four feet breadth, the ground is hacked and dressed by the hoe, and the potatoes stuck in with the spade, women being occasionally employed in the work. Dung is the great manure for this crop, aided, and sometimes its place supplied, by scrapings of roads, ditches, &c. The better sort of farmers, who commonly manure their grounds well, receive a fair

fair return, about twenty-five barrels to a plantation acre of well prepared land. The barrel consists of twenty-five firkins, each containing about three weights (of twenty-one pounds each.) The produce, therefore, of a good acre is something more than seventeen tons and a half to the Irish, about eleven to the English acre. The common farmers prefer a new kind of potatoe, (sometimes called cups and sometimes minions) to the apple. It is more productive, but very inferior in every other quality. The apple potatoe, indeed, does not thrive on cold moory soils, such as compose a large proportion of the western part of this district, where this preference of an inferior kind is therefore justified by necessity. In lands of better quality no potatoe will bear a competition with the apple, which should always form some part of the farmer's supply, in consequence of its great superiority in keeping.

Paring and burning takes place according to the degrees of permission or restriction in the landlords. The latter seems to be generally prevalent, more probably from the injurious course of cropping after burning, than from any actual mischief occasioned by the operation itself. There is certainly a great deal of land in this district, which burning would very much serve, provided the succeeding management was good. In some of the less fertile parts,
 where

where the people are poor, where lime is remote and little dung made, gentlemen find it necessary to permit, or, at least, to overlook the use of a mode they do not approve, as it seems essentially requisite for providing a sufficiency of subsistence. In grounds of this description no injury need be feared, provided the tenant be restricted to one crop of corn, and obliged to sow grass-seed with it. Indeed there is no kind of coarse land, whether moory or otherwise, which, in my opinion, would not receive benefit from burning, under such restrictions.

Wheat succeeds to potatoes, and oats to wheat, taking one or more crops of the former, according to the strength of the land or the disposition of the farmer. Lime is every where considered as a lasting and valuable manure, the quantity applied differing according to the situation of the farm, or the circumstances of the farmer. A hundred barrels are reckoned a good dressing for the plantation acre. Lime is spread sometimes before, but more frequently after the first crop of potatoes, to which it is generally much less beneficial than to the corn. Two successive crops of potatoes are sometimes taken, but not very frequently, though in stiff strong clays it seems no bad practice, they being a meliorating crop, and the soil thereby better tilled for the reception of grain. It also removes one of the objections

objections to our potatoe system, viz. that it consumes too great a quantity of dung. The second crop should be drilled with the plough, a practice, to which the common farmer of this district is as yet a stranger, though it may be hoped, that the example of the most intelligent gentlemen agriculturists will at length introduce it. Barley is also cultivated here for the supply of the breweries at Kanturk and Mallow.

The crops of wheat in this barony, particularly in the limestone tracts, are good. The plant is more vigorous, and the grain fuller than is usual in the southern district. Among the common farmers, ten bags to the large acre are considered to be a fair crop. The produce of the best culture in good seasons is above this proportion. Clover and grass seeds are as yet only creeping into use, little of either being sowed, except by some of the gentlemen, and vetches are almost unknown.

The implements of husbandry, commonly employed, differ little from those of the rest of the county. The spade is of much larger size than that of the southern district, and the pins of the harrow longer; but the plough is pretty nearly the same, and as sparingly employed, though with less excuse from the greater depth and clearness of the soil. The common farmers make use of horses for

every kind of work, mules being less frequent here than in most other places. Gentlemen use bullocks and spayed heifers, the latter, particularly those of the Devon breed, being considered the most active and hardy. In every thing, however, but field work the horse is justly esteemed greatly superior. Rollers are as yet only found with gentlemen.

Confiding, as is too often the case of the Irish, in the natural fertility of the soil, little care is taken to increase the stock of fodder by artificial means. Hay is the only food, which the common farmer thinks necessary for his cattle in winter, and grass in summer. To this are added oats, when his horses are laboriously employed. From the practice of a few intelligent and enterprising agriculturists, the number of which is daily increasing, they will soon learn the value of stall-feeding with turnips, potatoes, rape, clover, &c. an improvement the more confidently to be expected, when we consider the progress this part of the country has lately made in industrious cultivation.

The course of this advancement is particularly observable in the new farm-houses, of which a great number have lately made their appearance, upon a much better plan than the preceding. The chimney is placed in the centre, by which the second chamber is rendered much more comfortable; the
houses

houses have but one door, and are provided with good glass windows. The difficulty and expence of procuring slates, which must be brought from a great distance, obliges the farmer to substitute thatch, a covering, that necessity alone can recommend. It is, however, executed here with peculiar neatness, and will stand for about ten years. I have seen a good house of two stories covered in this manner, not without feeling some surprise that a man, who could do so much, would not endeavour to do a little more. Tiles* could probably be made in many places at little expence. The present scarcity of foreign timber is an additional inducement to the use of straw covering, for which it is much easier to provide a frame than either for slates or tiles. These, however, are so much superior in durability, that they turn out cheaper in the end, and should therefore be preferred by all, who are able to bear the expence. One great objection to thatch is the consumption of so much straw. It is, however, the most appropriate covering for the cottages of the poor, where the quantity required

* Tiles require a strong roof, but are very lasting. Brick clay is found in many places, and proper materials for tiles are probably not wanting. The experiment, at least, is worth making. Tiles are very generally used in England. At Brighton they are laid on the walls, in the manner of our weather-slating, as an outside covering to the houses, to keep them dry in that exposed situation.

required is but small, and which the slightest roof is sufficient to support. A barn, a stable, and shed for carts, are become an appendage to most farm-houses, but housing and stall-feeding cows is not yet become a general practice, even among farmers of higher description.

The size of farms varies from fifty to one-hundred acres, according to the quality of the land, and the preference of pasture or tillage, the latter of which has increased considerably of late, in consequence of increased population. Thirty years ago all the gentlemen of this, and the adjoining baronies on the north-east quarter, held large tracts of land under the grazing system. The mode is now changed, and they retain only demesnes of moderate size, which are much better dressed and cultivated than heretofore. The remaining lands are occupied by farmers, who on large farms combine pasture and tillage. Estates have hereby risen greatly in value, land now letting from two guineas to three pounds per Irish acre. This is to be understood only as referring to those of better quality on the east side of the district, the moorlands west of Kanturk, a great part of which is yet unreclaimed, as well as in some other places, being proportionably lower. Improvement, however, is advancing towards the ruder quarters in this, as well as in all other

other parts of the county. Draining and liming are the two main requisites for reclaiming such ground. The former may, in a great measure, be accomplished by the ditches necessary for inclosure, and the general convenience of limestone and fuel supplies the means of applying the latter. Orchards, requiring a deep and rich soil, thrive well in many parts of this barony, by which means gentlemen are furnished with abundance of excellent cider. It is also made for sale, that of Mr. Minton's, near Kanturk, bearing the greatest price and the highest character.

Though the generality of farms have been represented as of good size, petty occupiers of a few acres are by no means unknown, and their number seems daily increasing. The natural wish a man feels to possess what he considers an independence, and to employ his labour for his own account, often converts the labourer into a little farmer. The high rents they are willing to pay for a house, and a small spot of ground to exercise their industry on, often induce the possessor of a larger tract to set off a little of it for so easy a profit. This is particularly practised by farmers on the approaching termination of a lease, which they have no sanguine hope of getting renewed. By the profits of this management they expect to enable themselves to
enter

enter with advantage on the possession of a new farm, when their term is expired.

The usual leases are for three lives, gentlemen for the most part letting their lands to substantial occupiers, some of whom appear to feel the importance of the elective franchise. In many parts of the county the people annex very little value to the privilege, considering it merely as a means of obliging their landlords.

The price of labour, compared with general rates, is rather high. The hire of labourers (not attached to the farm) from the first of March to the first of December, is a shilling with food, or eighteen pence without it. Such as belong to the farm receive eight-pence, the landlord being obliged to find constant work. There are usually two labourers to a house. The rent of a house and acre is £6, free of tithes and taxes, the landlord finding repairs. Sometimes the grass of a cow is added, charged from three guineas to five pounds, according to the quality of the pasture. The charge for house and land seems rather high, but as the ground is good, and each house usually supplies two pair of hands, the labourers enjoy very sufficient means of comfortable subsistence. Fewer holidays are kept here than in most parts of the country, an example every friend to industry and
good

good order will earnestly wish to see generally followed.

Potatoes and milk are the principal food of the people, among whom are to be numbered not those of the lowest order alone, but even farmers worth from fifty to one hundred pounds per annum. Oaten bread, which formerly made no inconsiderable part of the general subsistence, has fallen into disuse, even in the early spring months, when little or no milk is to be procured. From January to May, before the cows begin to calve, a thin gruel, made of oaten meal and water, serves as a substitute for milk, and is reckoned very wholesome as well as palatable. All the rest of the year they live upon potatoes and milk.

Lands are measured here by the plantation acre.

SECTION

SECTION 3.

*Duhallow.**Towns—Manufactures—Minerals—Seats, &c.*

KANTURK and Newmarket, the only towns of this barony, are situate within a short distance of each other, near that range of mountain, which divides this part of the county from Kerry. The road, that passes through these towns, was formerly the principal line of communication between the counties, and probably the primary cause of their origin. Newmarket stands upon the Allo, which after a short course runs into the Dallua, Kanturk being placed a little below their confluence. This river, which occasionally rolls a very large and rapid flood, swelled by the torrents from the neighbouring mountains, falls into the Blackwater at Bantyre.

tyre. Kanturk, the property of the Earl of Egmont, is in a state of more advancement than so remote and unpromising a situation might lead one to expect. In addition to the common business of shops for supplying the wants of the vicinage, wool-combing, and making of serge, employ a good many hands. The establishment of these manufactures is of pretty long date, and appears to have experienced no material alteration for some years. The works of more recent industry and enterprise are two bolting mills, and a porter brewery, carried on with spirit and success. Not less than £50,000, a large sum for so small a place, is supposed to be the amount of its annual circulation. Flax, for which this part of the county seems well adapted, though cultivated a little for private use, forms as yet no article of trade.

Newmarket, possessing nothing deserving of notice as a town, is chiefly remarkable for being the seat of the old and respectable family of Aldworth, who have here a large and handsome mansion house, with very extensive grounds well planted and inclosed. Of the state of these, it is sufficient to say that they are in the occupation of Richard Aldworth, Esq. who is justly esteemed one of the best and most enterprizing agriculturists in the county. During his father's life-time, Mr. Aldworth lived

in the neighbourhood of Doneraile, where at a very early age he was justly distinguished for the extensive as well as spirited and elegant style of his farming. Of this the reader will find a copious and interesting account in Mr. Young's Tour. Of his present improvements more will be said in its proper place.

The churches of this barony are, in general, in good order, and the incumbents resident. That of Kilshannick is adorned with a handsome steeple and spire, for which the parish is chiefly indebted to the liberality of John Newman, Esq. its principal landed proprietor. Appendages of so much use and beauty one would wish to see more frequently. A small spire has been also lately added to Ballyclough church, the greater part of which parish is in Duhallow, though the village is in Orrery.

Parochial schools here, as well as in many other places, are little more than nominal. There are, however, several little schools with Roman Catholic teachers, in which children are instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Though among themselves conversation is seldom carried on in any but their native tongue, most of the people speak English, and seem desirous of having their children educated. Among the many motives for obtaining such an advantage, one, which is said to be among the

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the most cogent, is certainly among the least obvious. The substitution of paper money for specie has in this part of the united kingdom been productive of serious injury, as well as inconvenience to the people, from the prodigious number of forged notes*, that are every day passed. To guard the rising generation against a fraud, which is practised with peculiar facility upon the illiterate, is said to be a strong reason for sending their children to school. How often do advantages arise, when least foreseen and least intended?—The advancement of popular learning was not probably in the contemplation of those, who framed the bill for restricting payments in specie.

With respect to fuel, different situations are differently circumstanced. In the eastern parts, turf is become an article of dear and difficult attainment. In the western, and among the mountains, the people are, in this respect, more comfortably circumstanced. The abundance of this indispen-

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* The circulation of forged notes is become a trade, and a very gainful one. Parties of swindlers attend the fairs and markets for the purpose of circulating them, and seldom fail to find a sufficient number of dupes among the simple country folks. The lenity, with which those practices are treated, encourages their continuance.—The worst consequence a swindler has usually to apprehend is, being obliged to give a good note for the bad one. Offenders are seldom brought to condign punishment for this, or indeed any other transgression. A poor man never prosecutes with any view but compensation.

pensible ingredient to the well-being of life, which our mountainous regions afford, is sufficient to justify the cottager's choice of an abode, otherwise very uninviting. A snug cabin, with plenty of turf and potatoes, makes ample amends, by the substantial nature of its comforts, for a dreary situation, particularly to those, whose unrefined sensations are more powerfully affected by the bounty than the beauties of nature. This circumstance, as well as increasing numbers, has contributed to direct the course of population to moors and mountains. The remote part of this barony, however, is still in much want of cultivators. Large tracts of moorland, now affording only coarse summer pasture, are capable of being converted into very productive land. Nor are the means of effecting that important change of difficult attainment. Turf and coal are supplied by the grounds, and limestone is at no great distance. The calcareous ingredient, the prime manure for such soils, being thus within reach, all that seems wanting is to open convenient roads, and stimulate industrious exertion by suitable encouragement.

With respect to mineral production, this barony stands particularly distinguished, being the only part of the southern portion of the province, in which coal

has

has been hitherto discovered*. The seat of the coal is in those tracts of argillite, which have been already mentioned. One of them takes its eastern commencement in the barony of Fermoy, between Doneraile and the Blackwater, and, passing on the north side of Mallow, continues its course westward to the mountains, that form the boundary of Kerry. In this tract, and principally in the western part of it, the greatest quantity of coal has been found. Another argillaceous range parallel to this, and north of Kanturk, is also found to contain it. In some places the coal approaches very near the surface, where the veins are usually thin, but widen as they descend. The position of the strata, which run to great distances east and west, is, as has been already observed, not horizontal, but inclined, rising towards the surface, as they go northward, and dipping or descending in the contrary direction. The coal is enclosed in a cover or case of dark ferruginous slate, some of which splits into laminæ, or plates, of a size and form resembling large house slates, but apparently too brittle and tender for that use. As these argillaceous tracts abound with water,

* Kerry is supposed to contain some coal, and, from the general tendency of the strata to an east and west direction, it is not improbable, that a continuation of these coal veins may be found in that county.

for the discharge of which nothing but a bucket has been yet employed, no perforations of any considerable depth have been made. The vein is pursued as long as it can be done without much inconvenience, and, as soon as the water becomes too troublesome, the old pit is filled in, and a new one opened. The coal is often so near the surface as to be found with little labour of sinking, in which case they often run upon it superficially, taking what is got without trouble, but not pursuing it in its descending direction. This is called, and not improperly, robbing the vein. The remote and consequently neglected situation of these collieries, some of which, from the bad state of the roads, are but barely accessible, even in summer, is to be considered as the cause of their never having been properly worked. The time, however, is approaching, when the charge of neglect and ill management will be no longer imputable. The plan of improving the roads has been lately taken up with some spirit, and its execution, which nothing can prevent, if the leading gentlemen pursue it with constancy, will be very conducive both to public and to private advantage. An attempt to commence a new and improved mode of working these collieries has been reserved for the enlightened and liberal mind of Edward Deane Freeman, Esq. and

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it could not be confided to better hands. Some of the best pits are upon his estate, to the south-west of Kanturk, and about eight miles from his residence (Castle Cor). Under the direction of an experienced artist, he has just erected, at considerable expence, a large water-wheel, to work the pumps necessary for discharging the water of the pits. The shaft now sinking at the south side of the coal-vein will, it is calculated, meet it, supposing that it descends with an uniform declination, at the depth of about an hundred feet. In this case the miners will have the advantage of working upwards, as well as laterally, the difficulty lessening as they proceed, the reverse of which has hitherto attended the more unskilful labours of preceding operators.

In quality, the coal of Duhallow resembles that of Kilkenny, very sulphureous for the most part, and containing no bitumen. Though the genus be the same in all, great difference is observable in the species. The far greater part is wholly unfit for domestic use, but upon Mr. Freeman's ground (and in one or two other places) a bed has been discovered of superior purity, free from any dangerous or even disagreeable vapour, and perfectly fit for kitchen or parlour. This is distinguished by the name of sweet coal, and forms the object of his
present

present undertaking. The extent of it is supposed to be very considerable in its longitudinal direction, but how this or any other may turn out upon a deeper examination, remains yet to be ascertained. Thirty or forty feet are, I believe, the utmost depths, to which the common mode of working has descended. The thickness of the veins, in general, is from two to three feet; that of the sweet coal is already ascertained to be about three, at no great distance from the surface, and it is hoped that it will be found to increase in descending. There is the more encouragement to this expectation, from the discovery of a sulphureous vein in its immediate vicinity, which, at no great depth, measures four feet and a half, a thickness seldom paralleled, and far exceeding that of the best Kilkenny* pits.

The value of this coal, even supposing culinary uses out of the question, is very considerable. The great and increasing demand for lime, both as a cement and a manure, the diminution of turf in some, and the total want of it in other places, all conspire to render it an object of the utmost importance to this part of the county. That its uses will become more extensive, there is no present rea-

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* The depth of the bed of coal varies from two feet six inches to three feet one inch, which it has never exceeded.—Survey of Kilkenny.

son to expect. A communication by water with Cork or Youghal is a work too expensive for the present circumstances of the country, and, perhaps, not worth the cost at any time. Instead of looking to arduous and impracticable undertakings, it seems a much wiser course for men of property to direct their attention to works of public utility within their reach. New lines of road, where the old are objectionable, and a strict attention to the repairs of all, will answer the principal purposes of commercial intercourse, if not with equal, at least with ample sufficiency.

A remarkable circumstance in these coal beds is their resemblance in structure, not only to limestone quarries, but also to that of the primitive rocks in the northern part of the county, the strata of all of which hang in the same way to the north, and dip to the south. Coal, at least the bituminous kind, is ranked among the alluvial strata, the general position of which, though occasionally irregular and interrupted, is horizontal. Some twists and irregularities are also perceivable in this, but the general principle is uniform and unvarying. How far it may be affected by the state of the primitive rock, which will probably be found under it, remains to be ascertained by deeper perforation. From what we know at present, it seems to want several

of those stratified substances, with which, as we learn from Mr. Tighe's accurate and scientific account, the Kilkenny coal is accompanied. In the pits I visited there was nothing to be seen, besides the slate in which it was cased, but coarse yellowish clay intermixed with loose stones of brown argillite. The spirited undertaking of Mr. Freeman will unfold more of its properties, and enable us to form a better judgment of its value and extent. Should his labours be crowned with the success so much to be wished for, he will have the double satisfaction of accomplishing a very profitable purpose, and exhibiting to the neighbouring proprietors a most useful example. It is an object of very great importance to know, how this coal is circumstanced at a remote depth, and whether the angle of its inclination suffers any change in descending. In the other clay beds of the county, the rock is seldom at any considerable distance from the surface. It is not unreasonable to suppose, that the productibility of these veins will be found to depend upon the depth of the beds, that contain them, or, in other words, upon the distance between the top of the vein and the subjacent primitive rock, where I should suppose the coal will be found to terminate. A judgment formed upon analogy will incline us to believe

lieve, that the depth, at which this rock may be found, is not very considerable.

Here, as in most other places, flannel and frize are manufactured by the people, some for sale, the greater part for home use. Their frize (coarse woollen cloth) is of very good quality, and, when napped, hardly inferior to ratteen. They were formerly fond of black; the present favourite colour is blue, and they have some brown. The people in general are well clad.

Among the curiosities of this district is a burying place, at Skeaf, of a round form, in which none but still born children are laid. They are brought here from great distances, and put into graves, at each end of which a large round stone is placed. There is no trace of any building, nor any other account given than that the custom is of immemorial standing. Such places, I believe, are uncommon, but I know another instance of a spot set apart for that purpose. The common people are scrupulously regardful of the purity of sacred ground, into which they will not permit any thing unhallowed to be laid. Self-murderers and unbaptized infants are considered to be of this description, and therefore precluded from the common places of interment.

On the south side of the Blackwater, in that part of the district already particularized for the rich-

ness of its scenery, are several handsome seats, the principal of which are Dromore and Newbery, those of the Newman family. The latter belonging to Charles Newman, Esq. by the fullness of its plantations adds much to the general beauty of the prospect, but is itself too low and flat to derive much advantage from the seats, that surround it. The same may be said of Millfort, the seat of Richard Foot, Esq. and some others situated lower down on the verdant banks of the Blackwater. The more elevated situation of Dromore, besides its own peculiar charms, which have been greatly enhanced by the taste and assiduity of its worthy owner, enjoys a commanding view of the grounds on either side of the river, for a distance of some miles.

On the north side of the Blackwater, Longueville, the seat of John Longfield, Esq. possessing a similar advantage of situation, surveys nearly the same objects from an opposite point of view. Considered in itself without reference to externals, Longueville is also a fine place, the demesne extensive, fully planted, well hedged and inclosed, and as a farm in a state of good cultivation. In proceeding northwards, a little beyond Lohort-castle, which has been already mentioned, is Ballygiblin, the seat of William Wrixon, Esq. on which the hand of judicious improvement has, within the last twenty-five years, been

been happily employed. Nature, indeed, had lavished her gifts with no common liberality, but art had contributed little to their embellishment before that period. The grounds beautiful in form, and of admirable fertility, were open and undressed, the plantation consisting only of some hedgerow ash. In some places too, they were disfigured by naked and ill-placed walls. The alteration, produced by neat culture and a judicious extent of varied plantation, rapidly brought forward by the richness of the soil, may be easily conceived. The situation of the house was fortunately well chosen. It looks to the south, the best aspect for this climate, and, besides some of the handsomest grounds of the demesne, commands a fine view of Lohort-castle, towering over a surrounding grove, at a distance from which Mount Hilary raises his majestic head. Mr. Wrixon has also adopted a style of farming very different from the old and unskilful mode, that formerly prevailed, when little more than the grazing system was known or practised. He cultivates potatoes in the drill method, and occasionally raises turnips and rape for winter and spring feeding. Part of his land is admirably adapted to sheep, of which he has a fine flock, bred by himself. They are of the Leicester kind, now common in many parts of the county, and a great improvement on the old and long-legged

legged breed: Mr. Wrixon makes much use of lime, which is abundantly furnished from the stone on his own grounds. He has also culm on a part of his estate, about a mile and a half to the southward of Ballygiblin.

A little further to the north, is Castle-cor, the seat of Edward Deane Freeman, Esq. to whom I am indebted for much information relative to this and the neighbouring barony. The house, now one of the best in the country, has been lately much enlarged, and the junction of the new part with the old effected with more felicity of contrivance than usually accompanies alterations of this nature. The offices are no less remarkable for compact and convenient arrangement. A copious supply of water, conducted from the commanding grounds of a neighbouring hill, furnishes, by means of pipes, this most necessary article to every place, that requires it, with a degree of facility few situations admit of, and still fewer attain. The demesne is not less indebted to Mr. Freeman for judicious alteration and tasteful embellishment. A deer-park, formerly severed by a public road crossing the house, has been thrown into the pleasure grounds, without any inconvenience to the public and with infinite advantage to the place. In this are many very old and large trees, chiefly oaks, some of which measure fifteen or sixteen

sixteen feet in girth. They are, for the most part, of a mushroom shape, with short stems and a wide spreading head. From the nakedness of the soil, which is limestone, and the lowness of the situation one would have expected greater height, but the oaks of this country, except where thickly planted, generally grow in this form. Other trees planted by himself, particularly larch, not more than twenty years old, are very tall and vigorous for their age. A large brook runs through the demesne, of which Mr. Freeman has availed himself for the purpose of irrigation with great effect. His stile of farming, as may be expected, is on the best plan of modern practice. Potatoes are considered by him as superior to turnips for feeding cattle, and in many respects better suited to the husbandry of this country, an opinion, which I certainly feel myself very much inclined to approve. Without undervaluing the turnip, it will hardly be disputed that the potatoe is a much more nutritive root, and possesses an important advantage in keeping so long. It is also a more certain crop, and in the drill husbandry may be raised with little labour, and a much smaller consumption of dung than the common method requires. The Swedish turnip produces largely, and keeps well for spring use, but is objectionable for the strong taste it gives both to milk and to flesh.

Between

Between the last mentioned places and Kanturk there are several good seats, some with modern houses, and all with grounds much improved, and generally well hedged and planted. The limestone tract, in which most of these stand, finds its western termination within a mile or two of Kanturk; in the contrary direction, it may be traced, I believe, to the very eastern limits of the island. Four miles beyond this town, on the road to Tralee, is Mr. Aldworth's seat, at Newmarket, contiguous to the range of mountain, which divides the counties of Cork and Kerry. The situation of the grounds, originally moorland, is elevated, and the soil very inferior in natural quality to that of the more eastern parts of the district. The shelter afforded by the high lands, on the west, is, however, favourable to the growth of trees, and, in the hands of such an agriculturist as Mr. Aldworth, soil of even inferior quality would soon be rendered productive. The diversities, always found in lands of such description, have given him opportunities of displaying that skill he so eminently possesses. Besides the advantage arising from a judicious rotation of crops, the great desideratum of Irish husbandry, Mr. Aldworth has shewed to the neighbouring farmers what benefits may be derived from draining and irrigation, and that the same soil, which the soakage of perpetual springs
had

had reduced to a state of sterility, may be highly fertilized by water flowing only over its surface. The art of draining appears to be simple in its principles, and generally not of difficult execution; yet it is very little understood by common farmers, and not yet sufficiently practised by their betters, though few agricultural expenditures make so ample a return. The treatise explanatory of Mr. Elkington's practice contains the fullest and best directions I have seen on paper. The application of the augre, productive of such sudden and extraordinary effects in other countries, Mr. Aldworth thinks, will seldom be found efficacious here. A long and diligent attention to the general nature of our wet lands induces me to adopt the same opinion. The varieties of strata here are very few, rock being generally found at a little distance beneath the surface. Some rocks are so full of crevices as to suffer water to sink in them to a great depth, others possess a closer texture and refuse it passage. The same qualities are observable in our soils, some of which are open and porous, others clayey and retentive. Where springs arise from rock, the augre is useless; in such of our retentive clays, as I am acquainted with, it is equally so, because the supporting basis of those clays is rock. I know no instance of alternate strata of clay, gravel, sand, &c. as represented

to be the case, where Elkington's experiments were made. His practice, however, comprehends all varieties of wet ground, and therefore may be consulted with advantage by every experimentalist. Deep drains judiciously conducted, so as to cut across the heads of the springs, will be found sufficiently effectual for the purpose of reclaiming our wet grounds. The best filling for them is small stones, a competent quantity of which is generally within reach. The most useful instruction will be found in example, and I would recommend to all, who are doubtful of their own ability, to take a lesson from the works of their more skilful neighbours. Last summer I drained a few acres of swampy turf-bog at the foot of a hill, by cutting a deep trench between the hill and the swamp. Some springs, that still appeared, were cut off by short drains communicating with the main trench, or carried off to another outlet. The ground was then pared and burned, levelled, and dressed with spades, being too soft to admit horses, and in the beginning of October sowed thickly with grass-seeds, chiefly *holcus** *lanatus*. This year it produced a luxuriant crop, cut in the end of June, and might now (September) be mowed again. When the draining appeared to be complete, the trenches, from four to five feet deep,

were

* Soft meadow grass.

were filled with stones to within twelve inches of the surface. The clay beneath the turf, in which the drains were cut, lay over a slaty rock, the top of which sometimes appeared. This clay, though coarse and full of small particles of stone, not round as in gravel pits, but flat as if chipped off from the rock, was, though full of water, so compact and hard as to require a pick-axe. It appeared to be purely argillaceous, the general colour white, with a slight mixture of blue. This is the common substratum of bog in the south part of the county. On the surface of the clay we usually find a layer of pretty large stones, and frequently, at the depth of a few feet, a stratum of pipe-clay or pure argill.

I have frequently seen good crops of hay raised from seed on moory soils, by the common farmers; but, as they seldom drain effectually, the ground soon returns to its pristine state.

Mr. Aldworth complains, with too much justice, of the general want of skill in the farmers of his neighbourhood. The lower ranges of land in this and the adjoining baronies, possessing a soil of admirable texture and fertility, might, he observes, by the introduction of turnips and clover, and a proper rotation of crops, admit a great augmentation of profit both to the farmer and the landlord. The quantity as well as quality of crops would be increased, and

more and better cattle maintained, without impairing, as at present, the native vigour of the soil. Dung and lime are the manures mostly employed. The former, of which the quantity is very limited, is applied wholly to the produce of potatoes; the efficacy of the latter is principally directed to the corn crops. Potatoes are succeeded by wheat, wheat by oats for two, three, or more crops, according as the ground appears able to bear it, after which it is left to nature to recover. Wheat is often succeeded by barley. The crops of wheat would be much heavier, if sowed at an early season, which is very rarely the case.

In the argillaceous tracts lime is the principal manure, and always used with great effect, provided the soil be rendered sufficiently dry. It is commonly laid out on the surface, and often gives good meadow for many successive years.

The process recommended by Mr. Aldworth is highly deserving of consideration. The ground, (old lea) should be broke up in the latter end of harvest, that the sods may be sufficiently rotted, and the soil receive the mellowing influence of the winter's frost, lime being previously laid upon the surface. In the first favourable weather in spring, generally occurring in March, it is to be sown with oats under the harrow. This crop is to

be followed by potatoes in drills, for which a moderate quantity of dung will suffice, as the drills should be near four feet asunder. These are to be succeeded by barley or oats with red clover. An abundant produce may reasonably be expected of the former, and there can be no doubt that the latter will afford a most valuable crop, especially if cut green, and given to cattle in house. After the second mowing, the clover is to be ploughed in for wheat, which should be sowed not later than a fortnight after Michaelmas. If the clover has come well, which it will do, if the ground be clean and in good tilth, the farmer may depend upon having a full crop of wheat. This is to be succeeded by drilled potatoes, turnips, rape, or vetches, according to the fancy or wants of the cultivator, who by similar rotation may keep the ground in employment as long as he chuses. When it is intended to lay it down to permanent grass, which should be always done as soon as possible after a dunged crop, instead of clover grass-seeds are to be sowed with barley, or oats succeeding to drilled potatoes. The potatoes in this case should be well manured, and the corn sowed thin. To every acre the following mixture of grasses is recommended, ten pounds white clover, ten pounds trefoil, ten pounds cow-grass, two bushels of rye-grass, or a proportional quantity of
any

any other approved seed. These are to be bushed in, when the corn is well above ground. Such management will give excellent pasture for many years, after which the rotation, beginning with oats, may go on as before. Light kind soils, for which these directions are more particularly adapted, should never, if possible, be resorted to for meadow. Low, flat, and heavy soils, previously drained of their superfluous moisture, are most fit for the scythe. Where irrigation can be conveniently practised, or a sufficiency of dung applied, as in the vicinity of towns, crops of hay may be raised on any kind of ground.

The tithes of this district, several of which are impropriate, are managed in the usual way, and at nearly the usual prices. Mr. Aldworth is of opinion, that a ratage regulated by the rent, as practised in many parts of England, would conduce much to the ease, and advantage, both of rector and farmer. In several places it may certainly be done, and, where practicable, there seems to be no exception to the plan. That it is not conveniently applicable to the general circumstances of the county, will, I believe, appear from what has been observed in the short account of its ecclesiastical state.

Among the curiosities of this district may be properly included a very extraordinary power displayed by one of its natives, in controuling and subdu-

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ing the refractory disposition of horses. What I am about to relate will appear almost incredible, and is certainly very hard to be accounted for; but there is not the least doubt of its truth. Many of the most respectable inhabitants have been witnesses of his performances, some of which came within my own knowledge. He was an awkward, ignorant rustic of the lowest class, his name James Sullivan, but better known by the appellation of the whisperer, his occupation horse-breaking. The nick-name he acquired from a vulgar notion of his being able to communicate to the animal what he wished, by means of a whisper, and the singularity of his method seemed, in some degree, to justify the attribute. In his own neighbourhood, the notoriety of the fact made it appear less remarkable, but I doubt if any instance of similar subjugating talent is to be found on record. As far as the sphere of his controul extended, the boast of *veni, vidi, vici*, was more justly claimed by James Sullivan than by Cæsar, or even Bonaparte himself. How his art was acquired, or in what it consisted, is likely to remain for ever unknown, as he has lately left the world without divulging it. His son, who follows the same trade, possesses but a small portion of the art, having either never learned the true secret, or being incapable of putting it in practice. The wonder

of his skill consisted in the celerity of the operation, which was performed in privacy, and without any apparent means of coercion. Every description of horse, or even mule, whether previously broke or unhandled, whatever their peculiar vices or ill habits might have been, submitted without shew of resistance to the magical influence of his art, and in the short space of half an hour became gentle and tractable. The effect, though instantaneously produced, was generally durable. Though more submissive to him than to others, they seemed to have acquired a docility unknown before. When sent for to tame a vicious beast, for which he was paid more or less, according to distance, generally two or three guineas, he directed the stable, in which he and the object of the experiment were placed, to be shut, with orders not to open the door until a signal given. After a tête-à-tête of about half an hour, during which little or no bustle was heard, the signal was made, and, upon opening the door, the horse appeared lying down, and the man by his side, playing familiarly with him, like a child with a puppy dog. From that time he was found perfectly willing to submit to any discipline, however repugnant to his nature before. I once saw his skill tried on a horse, which could never before be brought to stand for a smith to shoe him. The day
after

after Sullivan's half-hour lecture, I went, not without some incredulity, to the smith's shop, with many other curious spectators, where we were eye-witnesses of the complete success of his art. This too had been a troop horse, and it was supposed, not without reason, that, after regimental discipline had failed, no other would be found availing. I observed that the animal appeared terrified, whenever Sullivan either spoke or looked at him ; how that extraordinary ascendancy could have been obtained, it is difficult to conjecture. In common cases this mysterious preparation was unnecessary. He seemed to possess an instinctive power of inspiring awe, the result, perhaps, of a natural intrepidity, in which, I believe, a great part of his art consisted, though the circumstance of the *tete-a-tete* shews that upon particular occasions something more must have been added to it. A faculty, like this, would in other hands have made a fortune, and I understand that great offers have been made to him for the exercise of his art abroad. But hunting was his passion. He lived at home, in the stillest most agreeable to his disposition, and nothing could induce him to quit Duhallow and the fox-hounds.

Since I visited Duhallow, I have been informed by Mr. Wrixon (of Ballygiblin) that a copper-mine, of promising appearance, has been discovered, in

his neighbourhood, on a farm belonging to Purden Coote, Esq. and that some specimens of similar ore have been found on his own estate, at Cecil's town, near Ballygiblin. These, I believe, are the only metallic ores, iron excepted, which have been hitherto discovered in this quarter.

CHAP. X.

BARONY OF ORRERY AND KILMORE.

ORRERY and Kilmore, or rather Keelmore, (the great wood), form one barony adjoining Duhallow on the north and east, and bearing so intimate a resemblance in general manners and modes of culture, that the same description may, for the most part, serve for both. Kilmore, which is on the north-west quarter of Orrery, contains no limestone. It consists principally of stiff clay and moorland, similar to those of Duhallow. Orrery, bounded on the east by Fermoy, and on the north by the county of Limerick, stands particularly distinguished for the rich variety of its soils, which are all calcareous. The south side contains limestone; the north, from Anagh to the county of Limerick, limestone gravel, being the only part of the county of Cork, in which this valuable manure is found in any quantity deserving

deserving of notice. Limestone gravel and marle, the latter of which is rarely found in our calcareous districts, are of peculiar value in a country deficient in fuel. The efficacy of limestone gravel seems superior to that of any other calcareous application, in reclaiming moory soils, on the tough and clotty texture of which it operates with equal power and permanence. Where the calcareous ingredient alone is wanting, its use may seem more questionable, as the decomposition of gravel and small stones should seem to be both slow and inconsiderable. The effect of its application is, however, I understand, in most places very great. This consideration naturally suggests the idea of deriving advantage from pounded limestone, for obtaining which mills might be easily constructed. An undertaking of this kind was projected, according to Anderson, in Scotland, but it did not turn to account in his time. It seems to be practicable without much expence, and, where fuel is scarce and streams abundant, as the case is in many of the limestone tracts, there is reason to believe that the experiment may be attended with success.

The general quality of the Orrery soil, both in the limestone and gravel tracts, is of the very first description, the dry and rising grounds admirably adapted for sheep or tillage, the low and flat for feeding

feeding heavy cattle. In applying the account of Duhallo's management, in its best lands, to this, the only difference to be noted is, that the estimate of their value is here somewhat higher.

Charleville, standing on the confines of the county, is the principal*, or, more properly speaking, the only town of the district. It owes its establishment to Roger, first Earl of Orrery, and Lord President of Munster, who here held his court, and bestowed on its improvement a portion of that munificence, for which the noble family of Boyle has been so eminently distinguished. Among other spirited acts were a free-school liberally endowed, and a charter working school for the reception of forty boys. It was a corporate town governed by a sovereign, two bailiffs, and twelve burgesses, and until the union returned two members to parliament. The situation of this town was, in many respects, well chosen. It stands on the great road, leading from Cork to Limerick, in a very rich and fertile

* There are some villages, as Liscarroll, Anagh, and Buttevant, the latter of which was formerly a town of some note. In its present wretchedness appear some vestiges of its ancient buildings which were religious. These present little more than a heap of ruins. The castle has been repaired by its present owner, John Anderson, Esq. from whom may be expected as much improvement as the nature of the situation is capable, in its present situation, of receiving. It labours under a great, and, it is to be feared, irremediable want of fuel.

fertile country, with the advantage of being well supplied with water. Its greatest want is that of fuel, which was probably little felt at the time of its establishment, when wood, at least, was in sufficient abundance. The country on the Limerick side, being low and flat, is favourable to the construction of a canal, which might be easily carried to Charleville with advantage to both towns. A more extensive project was sometime since entertained, and a line of communication laid out from Cork to Limerick. The opposition to the plan arose, it is said, from the inhabitants of the latter, for what reasons it is not easy to conjecture, as their share of the expense would be but equally proportioned, and their advantage from the execution the most considerable.

Charleville, however, under the disadvantage abovementioned, has been lately much improved. The pay of the military force, for which it is a regular as well as eligible station, circulates a good deal of money. The markets are excellent, and the town is well furnished with good shops for the supply of the adjacent country, as well as the inhabitants, among whom are many respectable persons. It has a bank of pretty long establishment and high credit, and a very extensive and well-managed brewery. The disadvantage too, under which

which it laboured with respect to fuel, has been greatly relieved by a new line of road lately laid out, under the auspices of Lord Shannon, by which that necessary article is brought one third nearer to the town than it was before.

With respect to cattle, in both districts the favourite breed is the Leicester, or, as commonly called, the county of Limerick heifer. This is the stock of the rich dairy farms, cows of three years old selling for about twelve guineas a piece. Lands of inferior quality are stocked with cattle of a lower order, produced from a cross of the Leicester with the old native black breed, which are sold, when in calf, for about seven guineas. The stock of sheep has experienced much improvement in quality, as well as increase in number, within the last twenty years. The former is owing to the introduction of the Leicester breed, and the latter to the suppression of a trade once pretty general, that of sheep-stealing.

Tithes are let to the occupiers, at rates commonly very moderate ; potatoes and wheat at an average of twelve shillings the plantation acre, oats and barley at nine shillings, meadows at four shillings. Small dues, viz. one penny for a sheep, and ten pence for a cow, are demanded, but usually included at a lower price in the tithe bargain. These
constitute

constitute the whole titheable demand. Many of the rectorial tithes are inappropriate.

The principal landed proprietors in this and the preceding barony are, the Earls of Egmont, Cork, Shannon, Landaff, and Limerick, Lord Arden, Lord Lisle, Richard Aldworth, John Newman, William Wrixon, E. Deane Freeman, John Longfield, Purdon Coote, G. Evans Bruce, Eyre Evans, — Harrison, Esqrs. &c. &c.

CHAP. XIV.

FERMOY, CONDON'S, AND CLONGIBBON'S.

SECT. I.

General Account.

THESE baronies form the north-east quarter of the county of Cork, as Duhallow, Keelmore, and Orrery do the north-west, the Blackwater being their southern boundary. On the north and east sides they are separated from the adjacent counties by a range of lofty mountains, with the exception of an extensive limestone vale, running eastward from Doneraile to the county of Tipperary. The lower part of this tract, which in Fermoy constitutes by far the greatest proportion, is almost entirely limestone, the soil kind and mellow, and in some places of great fertility. The situation is peculiarly favourable to every kind of useful produce,

as well from the goodness of the land, as the shelter afforded by the lofty hills, with which it is, for the most part, encompassed. Fruit and forest trees, in particular, flourish here with a degree of vigour unknown to the weaker soils and more exposed grounds of the south-west quarter, though, gentlemen's demesnes excepted, there is too much cause to complain, that the kindness of nature has been disregarded. Among the disadvantages less easily removed, is the frequent want of water in summer, common in calcareous tracts, abounding, as they do, in absorbent subterraneous cavities. Springs and streams are much less frequent than in the argillaceous districts, where almost every farm is provided with a copious supply without the necessity of sinking to obtain it. On limestone grounds perforation is often requisite, the greatest depth being from eighty to ninety feet, which is probably not far removed from the lowest bed of the stone. The expence of such a process is beyond the means of the ordinary farmer, who might, however, obtain seasonable, if not permanent relief, from the construction of ponds or tanks, well staunched with binding clay, and conveniently situated to receive the supply of the wet seasons. But, though the water is not conveniently attainable by all, it is not very far removed from any, in consequence of the favourable

favourable direction of the rivers, the Blackwater washing the whole extent of the southern side, the Awbeg and Funcheon supplying the north side and the centre. This was formerly an open grazing country ; it is now inclosed, tilled, and almost as full of inhabitants as the lands along the sea coast. The commencement of this change may be dated from the erection of the Rock mills on the Funcheon, by the late Lord Doneraile, and Mr. Aldworth, about thirty-five years since. Their encouragement to the undertaking, the first, by several years, in this part of the county, was the bounty on land carriage of flour to Dublin, which, during the continuance of that bounty, received almost the entire produce of those mills. Cork, which has since been found nearly adequate to the consumption of the numerous bolting mills erected since that period, was then little looked to as a market. It was supplied from a few mills in the town and neighbourhood, and in the extraordinary increase of its demand affords an ample proof of its great increase in wealth and population. The success of Mr. Aldworth's establishment, which still maintains its character and credit, induced many persons to follow the example, and, though the profits are necessarily much reduced by the cessation of the bounty,

bounty, and the number of competitors, all of them appear to go on well.

One of the greatest privations, under which the inhabitants of the more fertile parts of this district labour, as well as one of the most difficult to be removed, is that of fuel. The mountains afford to places of convenient proximity a reasonable and sufficient supply, but to the distant peasants turf is an article of very costly attainment. The want of so essential a requisite to human comfort renders many an abode in this fair and fertile country an object little to be envied by the inhabitants of the bleak and barren mountain. Unfortunately little exertion is made to supply by art the deficiencies of nature. The propagation of quick growing trees and shrubs, particularly furze, which, were fuel out of the question, ought to be an object of solicitude for the purpose of forming proper fences, would afford much relief. By an unlucky fatality, however, the demand for the article, instead of procuring a supply, as is the case with other commodities, operates against it. Depredation being the means resorted to by those, who want, the few, that might be disposed to plant for the supply of their own necessities, are deterred by the fear of having their fences torn by their less provident neighbours.— Thus, because all will not lend a hand to the removal

moval of the evil, none do. The consequence is, that a want, easily removeable, seems more likely to increase than to diminish. It is not easy to point out a remedy in the present circumstances of the country. Something might perhaps be done by the authoritative interference of the landed proprietors. At all events it is a subject, that calls for serious and timely consideration.

In a general comparison with the more southern districts, it may be observed, that the cattle here are of better size and form. Pigs reared in great numbers, though of the usual white colour, are of much superior description, as well as sheep, which seem to have received great improvement from the introduction of English breeds. Horses, mostly black, are universally employed by the common farmers, whose general management and manners resemble those already mentioned in the account of Duhallow and Orrery.

The hilly nature of this county, though attended with frequent inconvenience to cultivation, is happily adapted to the moisture of the climate. Were the argillaceous districts, which involve so large a portion of its contents, low and flat, the water, which now runs off in such a variety of salubrious streams, would stagnate on the surface, and form a barren extent of unwholesome marshes. There are, however,
many

many low and level tracts, where humidity exerts no noxious influence, and which are even drier than the more elevated lands. This arises from the absorbent quality of their calcareous bases, and we cannot sufficiently admire the providential care of nature, which in the utmost wildness of variety preserves the most harmonious order. Bogs and swamps, seldom amounting singly to any great size, are prominently scattered among our mountains and argillaceous hills, but all our extensive vallies are found on limestone. Even there, however, though comparatively low and level, the elevation is sufficient to guard against the ravages of floods, a circumstance of great advantage in a country abounding with rivers, and subject to such frequent falls of rain. The quantity of water this county pours into the ocean every year, though almost wholly derived* from its own stores, is prodigious; yet the injury suffered is altogether inconsiderable. The Blackwater alone, swelled by so many mountain floods, discharges an amazing torrent; but the ground rises so suddenly at either side of its channel, as to prevent any material extent of damage.

The

* The Blackwater rises in the county of Kerry, or, at least, derives a considerable part of its early supplies from that county. It does not, however, attain any important size until it enters the county of Cork. All the rest have their sources in the latter.

The calcareous part of the baronies under consideration presents a most extensive range of land, admirably adapted to the purposes of husbandry. Less luxuriantly rich than the fat and heavy grounds of the county of Limerick, it is more tractable to the operations of culture, from the drier and lighter texture of the soil. The greatest profusion of natural ornament is found on the banks of the rivers, where many spots of peculiar beauty have derived new charms from the taste and assiduity of their respective owners. Some of these improvements are of recent date, and the number will probably experience a rapid increase, so many are the inducements still held out to the admirers of rural elegance.

Though tillage and population have made great advances lately in this quarter, there is reason to believe, that it was well furnished with both at a pretty early period. The number of its villages, and castles, some of which were great buildings, sufficiently prove, that the advantages of such a situation were neither unknown nor neglected. Spencer, who lived in the north-west part of it, while he censures the turbulence of the chiefs, bestows much praise on the industry, and, what seems more remarkable, the agricultural skill of the common people.

people. By them, whom he represents as perfectly disposed to follow their peaceful labours, large quantities of fine grain were then raised. As it does not appear, that he was much acquainted with the southern district, and as, we may presume, he spoke from his own observation, it is probable that he meant the inhabitants of this district. The scientific agriculturist will regret, that it did not come within the scope of his design to give a description of their modes of husbandry. It would have been a curious and interesting document.

On the common farm lands of this district, the usual want of timber and living fences is generally observable. The smaller demesnes are, for the most part, furnished with trees and orchards, and the large ones profusely adorned with flourishing plantation. There is also a very considerable quantity of native wood, little of which, comparatively, stands upon the calcareous tract. It is chiefly found on the sides of the hills adjoining the limestone, along its eastern and southern boundaries. The timber of the latter, indeed, which is the most copious, growing on the Barrymore side of the Blackwater, does not properly belong to this district ; however, as the proprietors for the most part do, and as both in use and ornament Fermoy

is the principal gainer, the mention of it here seems not to be ill placed. Of these, extensive woodlands, mostly consisting of oak, Mr. Hyde possesses the far greatest portion. A great part of this contains very old and gross timber. So great an abundance has, however, prescribed no limits to its increase. Grounds still remain for planting, and, on the south-east side of Fermoy, the industry of both Mr. Hyde and Mr. Anderson has conspired to cover a very great extent of coarse land with various forest trees. The suspension of the Baltic trade has raised the price of timber, particularly pine, to such a height, that it is hard to form an estimate of its value. In the timber-yards of Cork, it has lately fluctuated between ten and fifteen pounds per ton. Irish fir, of tolerable quality, will now bring, at least, the former price. Mr. Hyde sold a considerable number of old Scotch firs, last winter, at £8 per ton, in order to get rid of them expeditiously. Previous to the late rise, the general price was very moderate; but it is not easy to calculate the rate, as none but that in the timber-yards was sold by measure.

It has been observed in the geological account, that the limestone tracts, inclosed between ranges of high hills, owe the greatest part, if not the entire,

of their earthy covering to their* argillaceous neighbours. The surface of the rich vale, bounded on the north by the Ballyhowra, and on the south by the Blackwater mountains, is composed of the produce of those hills, to each of which it seems to be pretty equally indebted. The stone of the southern range is a red shistus; the northern range contains the same kind of stone with an intermixture of siliceous breccia. Among the loose field stones, (few of which are limestone, though the calcareous base is so near) scattered over the bosom of the vale, the breccia appears in broken fragments only on the side of the mountain, to which it belongs. They reach to about the centre of the vale, the southern side seldom exhibiting any but the red shistus. Hence it should appear, that the diluvial current, which covered the vale, must have flowed in an east or west direction; otherwise, the matter washed from the hills would not be so equally divided. It should also seem probable, that the principal course

* This seems to be the reason why lime is found so useful a manure in places apparently in no want of the calcareous ingredient. The soil, though resting on a limestone base, is in reality almost wholly composed of argill and silex, and therefore, except where lime has been abundantly laid out, deficient in the calcareous principle.

course of the waters was from the westward, in as much as we find, that the mountains in that quarter have been more stripped of their contents, being much more bare and rocky than those of the east. If, however, the limestone, whose position is so much lower than that of the argillaceous grounds, has received much of their spoils, it has, in turn, repaid something from its own substance.

Large blocks of limestone are frequently found on the mountain side of the vale, in beds of clay or gravel, resting on the primitive rock.— From a quarry of this description, on the south side of Fermoy, a great quantity of stone has been raised for building the town. The unsightly appearance of this rock induced the proprietor, ever attentive to all that can contribute to ornament or use, to cover it with earth, thrown from the upper part of the hill, for the purpose of forming a plantation. I was surprised to see, among the stuff thus hurled down, a considerable number of limestones, some pretty large, evidently rounded by attrition, a proof of their having been removed by the force of water.— The same is observable in many places higher up. The height, at which they are found, does not, I believe, exceed the height of the lime-

stone rock, on the north side of the river, whence they appear to have been torn, and which, at this place, is about three or four hundred yards distant.

SECTION

SECTION 2.

*Fermoy—Condon's—and Clongibbon's.**Modes of Husbandry, &c.*

THE following account of the husbandry of this quarter, for which I am indebted to a very intelligent and active agriculturist, shews that the defects of the old system are daily giving place to better modes, and that improvement is advancing with rapid steps. The information, communicated by this gentleman, derives additional value from the circumstances, under which it has been obtained.—Unconnected with the country, and unbiassed in favour of persons or practices, all things presented themselves to his view in their true and natural colours. His residence, though not of very long standing, has been amply sufficient for the acquisition

tion of every degree of useful information, and an observant mind has enabled him to mark with accuracy the changes, that have taken place within a few years.

Agriculture of the Baronies of Fermoy, Condon's, and Clongibbon's, and vicinity of the rivers Blackwater, Bride, Funcheon, and Awbeg.

Mode of Culture.

“ THE mode of culture in this wide tract is daily improving, from the best and most substantial of reasons, the increasing demand of every produce of the earth, the ease and convenience of conveying this produce to the best markets, the increase of capital, and the consequent intercourse so necessary to the prosperity of every country. But to delineate the mode generally in use, is almost impossible. There is, generally speaking, no system; consequently, it would require a very minute detail, to give a clear idea of the farming. Not
more

more than ten or fifteen years ago, it was almost universally at the lowest ebb. A crop of potatoes, half matured, and half cleaned, was succeeded by a crop of wheat, which owed all its virtue to the climate, which, in spite of weeds, and every defect of culture, still brought a tolerable crop to maturity; and, where the system was not very bad, five to six barrels, of twenty stone, to the statute acre, was not an unusual crop, which, at the time I am speaking of, say ten years ago, sold from twenty-five to thirty shillings per barrel. This crop of wheat was generally followed by a crop of barley, after two very slovenly ploughings, which served more to encourage weeds than to eradicate them. This half-starved crop bore every mark of mismanagement, poverty, and sloth. It, however, paid the rent, and left something for the farmer. Four large barrels of indifferent barley, of thirty-six stone to each barrel, may be taken for the average, which was then worth from twenty shillings to a guinea per barrel. On this dirty and abominable stubble a crop of oats was again taken, after one wretched ploughing, and the seed trenched in. This crop, in general, scarcely paid the rent, low as it was. After this, the ground was laid out, as it was called, that is, suffered to bring to perfection all the accumulation of root and seed-weeds,

which

which preceding years had left in it, until a surface should, in the course of years, enable the occupier either to graff or burn it for a second succession of the aforegoing rotation. Nor is this system altogether, even now, in disuse, though somewhat improved even in remote situations. Old leas are very generally broke up for oats; manure of every kind greatly increased; lime frequently brought even from a distance, and sea sand upwards of twenty miles. Irrigation is getting into use. And above all a greater attention is paid to seed than heretofore. In the tract I have laid out, there are many good farmers, I mean occupying tenants; for the great proprietors have no claim to the name of farmers, whatever their improvements may be, until they can shew, that there is an actual profit on their speculations."

"The present system is to prepare the land well for wheat, generally by a well manured potatoe crop. The wheat is generally in the ground about the end of November. The average produce may be taken at seven barrels of twenty stone per acre, worth, within a few miles of the farmer's house, from a guinea and a half to forty shillings, one year with another. The straw will pay all expences of saving and threshing the crop, any where within six miles of a barrack or market town.

This

This ground, when well fallowed, which is now beginning to be done in a better style, will yield a good crop of barley or oats; very frequently it is laid down, with one or other of these crops, with artificial grass; patches of clover and vetches are likewise beginning to be made use of for horses in summer: but no winter crops are raised, except by gentlemen, whose demesnes are secured by walls. As such feeding is found to be improper for dairy, it would not be suitable to this country, which is not a sheep country, and the feeding of black cattle with turnips and the like found too expensive. One of the great bars to good farming in this part of the country is, the scarcity of fuel, which almost prevents the possibility of preserving fences. Turf, the only fuel of the common people, is very dear; a very small load of a cart, not bigger than an ass cart, sells at Fermoy for three shillings to three shillings and three pence, and very scarce. Few oxen are used in this country; Mr. Hyde alone has them in any number."

Pasture.

“ This has become one of the great sources of the riches of this country ; dairy produce of every kind, having nearly doubled its value in the last ten years, is of course much attended to. The soil, in general, of the tract mentioned here is a very deep rich loam. On the north side of the Blackwater, and south side of the Funcheon, is an entire limestone rock well covered, for the most part, with a deep rich soil, which is very retentive of the manures, and, when once well laid down, will continue for many years to throw up very succulent herbage, excellent for dairy cows and sheep, but not sufficiently rank for fattening large cattle. The breed of cattle has lately undergone a considerable improvement, and is still improving, as food increases for large cattle ; but, in general, the small hardy cattle are preferred. Where winter food is confined to grass and a little hay, they are preferable ; but, where grains and other artificial food is used, the Holderness cross are the most esteemed. The
fairs

fairs of this part of the country are resorted to by all the dealers of Munster, and are frequently numerous. Although there is a good deal of artificial grass sown, yet, for the greatest part, the hay of this country is the natural grass, which in general is saved very late, and in a very slovenly manner, of course by no means so nutritious as it ought to be. But, as they have very little food for winter, the cattle are kept on the meadows until May; of course, the hay crop is late, and, from the natural wetness of the climate, in autumn almost impossible to save. Artificial grasses are saved as early as the beginning of June, in general very well. Dairy cows are expected to make from ten to twelve pounds on grass only, and more in proportion as they are well fed in winter. This, of course, is in the vicinity of towns or barracks, where the skimmed milk is in demand."

Corn Mills.

"There are five very considerable bolting mills within ten miles of each other, three on the Fun-

cheon, one on the Awbeg, and one on the Blackwater. It had been long considered impossible to find a mill-site in this last river so frequently flooded, but experience has shewn the futility of this opinion. The bolting mill at Fermoy, the property of Mr. D. Reid, is, perhaps, the first in point of size and power in Ireland; it annually manufactures from 12 to 15,000 barrels of wheat per annum, in a manner far surpassing any thing known in this country before its commencement in 1802. The flour of this mill sells, at least, three shillings per hundred weight dearer than that of any other mill in the neighbourhood. There is likewise a paper mill at Fermoy, of considerable extent, and considerable progress has been made in a coarse woollen manufactory, which promises to be of considerable utility to the country."

Size of Farms, &c.—Most farms in this county are small, from 50 to 100 acres, and generally on short leases, seldom exceeding three lives; but latterly only one life or twenty-one years is a common lease. Parliamentary influence is very much looked to in all leases; consequently every proprietor has an army of freeholders. The farm-houses, in general, very bad, but rather improving from the general prosperity of the country; the landlord seldom has any thing to do with them. The occupying tenant,

who

who has any term of the land, is in general industrious, and from the very parsimonious mode of life in general use amongst them, cannot fail to be wealthy. The rents are punctually paid. Every thing, that a farm can produce is immediately converted into ready money, at a few miles distance. The mills in the neighbourhood give within a shilling or two as much for wheat as is given in Cork; the porter brewery, at Fermoy, in the same manner for barley; and there are many competitors for oats, hay and straw. The fairs take off any quantity of fat cattle or pigs, and the markets, potatoes, poultry, &c."

"The great staff of life is the potatoe, which is cultivated in great abundance, therefore seldom gets too dear; the weight of twenty-one pounds is scarcely ever known to exceed six-pence, but in general is under four-pence for eight months in the year."

Labour.—"Country labour is contracted for by the year; the labourer must have his cabin and his potatoe garden provided for him, at stated rates; the former is in general very wretched, and of course not very dear. A family of three men and some women are generally entitled to two acres of potatoe ground, at from five to six pounds per acre, which is paid by weekly installments from their wages, which in common is five shillings for each man, and three shillings

shillings for each woman per week. Town labour is paid by the day, from one shilling to one shilling and one penny per day. Making hay, and getting in harvest, with all allowances, cost one shilling and three-pence to one shilling and four-pence per day to men, and ten-pence to eleven-pence for women.

SECTION 3.

Fermoy, Condon's, and Clongibbon's.

Particular Account.

THE interior parts of this county are not yet in possession of circumstances favourable to the prosperity of towns. Wealth is there distributed, not only in very unequal proportions, but in a manner by no means propitious to commercial industry. Those who own the land, and those who till it, constitute almost the whole of the population. Men of landed property generally support a stile of living proportioned to their incomes, and the few, who do save money, are not from their habits of life disposed to employ it in trade. Farmers find abundant employment in the operations of agriculture. Few of those, who compose the third class, consisting of monied persons willing to embark a capital

in

in trade, are inhabitants of the country. They are chiefly confined to the larger maritime towns, as places best calculated to afford encouragement to commercial * speculation. Want of navigable communication is an additional impediment to establishments of this nature. The course of the large rivers is too rapid to admit any natural advantages of intercourse, and the construction of canals in a country of such inequalities seems to be a work of too heavy expenditure for present means. An obstruction of even greater moment presents itself in the want of fuel, an article of indispensable necessity to the establishment of most manufactures. These are disadvantages, to surmount which will require a great enlargement of industry and opulence. Ingenuity and enterprize are, however, sometimes found to possess resources capable of overcoming every difficulty, and far above the reach of ordinary minds. A singular and extraordinary instance appears in the new town of Fermoy, advanced under the auspices of one man to a state of sudden splendour, more resembling the effects of magical process than the tardy operations of human industry. It could

indeed

* The commercial speculations of the country are bolting mills, breweries, and banks. In these undertakings spirit has been sometimes more discernible than prudence. All circumstances however considered, both public and private advantage has been materially promoted.

indeed excite no violent surprize to behold a city rapidly uprising from the powerful fiat of a mighty sovereign, despotic master of the wealth and labour of millions. The immediate conversion of a wretched village to a flourishing town, by the active exertions of a single citizen, and less imputable to superiority of wealth, than superiority of enterprize, is an occurrence equally demanding our admiration and our applause. The numerous useful works established on the most complete plans; the address, with which so many various circumstances have been made to conspire towards producing the general effect; the judgment shewed in selecting the fittest means for attaining the several ends, and the harmonious arrangement and co-operation of the whole present a spectacle as novel as it is interesting. My readers, I am sure, will not only approve, but require a particular account of this remarkable establishment, and the kindness of the Rev. William Adair, master of the classical school of Fermoy, and rector of the parish, has enabled me to afford them ample gratification. As the prosperous state of Fermoy has not, like that of other flourishing towns, owed its rise to the gradual operation of many favouring causes, and as it seems to depend so much on the vigilant superintendence and protection of its founder, it may be doubted, whether a prosperity so instan-

taneous is likely to be lasting. It is apprehended that, when the hand, which directed so many streams of wealth to flow into one channel, shall no longer regulate their course, they will again be disunited; that a piece of mechanism consisting of so many parts, and conducted with such consummate skill, will require, what it is impossible it should always retain, an equal degree of address to maintain the order and harmony of the works. These fears are not, perhaps, altogether imaginary. That an undertaking so happily executed will enjoy a permanence equal to the success of its commencement, is a reflection less calculated to gratify the judgment, than to amuse the fancy. Some of its establishments appear to be sufficiently secure, and, while the proprietor lives, every succeeding year adds something to the stability of the rest. A good deal, however, with respect to the internal state of the town, depends upon temporary and precarious causes, and the worst of a situation so artificially formed is that, when any branch of business suffers from neglect or decay, it will be found difficult to re-establish it. At present the machine performs its various functions without let or interruption, because all its parts are kept in perfect order by the skill of the conductor. Every department is appropriately filled, and every irregularity checked and amended
upon

upon its first appearance. It is beyond the most sanguine hope to expect, that the successors of those, who conduct the several branches of its present business, will be equally competent to the performance of their respective parts. Some will fail from accident or misfortune, others from neglect or incapacity. Without an equal superintending power to support the declining, and remove the incompetent, disorder must, in some degree, find admission, and, when once introduced, who can calculate the amount of its extent? Fermoy possesses, no doubt, some important advantages of situation. The surrounding country is, for the most part, very fertile, and among its numerous inhabitants are found many opulent families. Under the present excellent regulation for the town, all find a very convenient as well as adequate supply in the shops of Fermoy.

Cork, however, is at no great distance, and, unless those shops continue to be equally well kept, their business will decline; and, if the habit of resorting to the greater town should once more take place, the restoration of their business would experience many difficulties. Among its chief supports is the barrack * already very large, and likely to become

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much

* The barrack at Fermoy is a great support to the liquor trade, which constitutes rather too large a portion of the town's business.

much larger. Even this, however, cannot be considered as a support of perfect stability. A long duration of peace, which, however unlikely at present, may, and perhaps must at some future period take place, will divert a main source of wealth from its channel. The mills, the bank, the brewery, the inns, and the portion of shop business, which will always be required for the supply of a great and increasing population, are, however, establishments calculated, not only to prevent its return to a state of pristine insignificance, but even to maintain no inconsiderable degree of prosperity under any circumstances, that may happen. It is thought by some, that a canal would conduce materially to its welfare, and they seem surprized, that such a work did not enter into the contemplation of a person so capable of great undertakings. That it did not escape his penetration is much less probable, than that it was rejected by his judgment, at least, under the present situation of affairs. The only practicable line of sea communication appears to be through Youghal, and from this Fermoy would, I believe, desire no advantage at all commensurable with the expence.

Last winter there were no less than seventy-two licensed publicans, though the barrack was then very bare of troops. The prevalence of such a trade, although the observance of a strict police keeps down the disorders of drunkenness and riot, is not among the flattering symptoms of a town's prosperity.

expence. In the way of export it would be of little use, as the market for Fermoy's commodities is at home. In the way of import, it is superseded by the advantage of an excellent road to Cork, at a distance so convenient as to render the slow and circuitous conveyance of commodities, by water, neither necessary nor eligible. Navigable communication with Mallow and Limerick would, indeed, be attended with important and extensive benefits; but a canal, reaching only from Youghal to Fermoy, seems an object of no great moment to the latter. Upon the whole it may be concluded, that the man, who has already done so much, will, while he lives, continue not only to maintain, but also to advance its prosperous state, and that he will leave behind him an establishment difficult, if not impossible, to be supported in a stile of equal perfection, but furnished by his care with the means of retaining no inconsiderable portion of wealth and prosperity.

*Some account of Fermoy, as it stood in May, 1809,
by Mr. Adair.*

“Fermoy is a regular, neat, and recently built manor town, in the county of Cork, on the spot, where the great road from Cork to Dublin crosses
the

the Blackwater. It owes its rise, progress, and present prosperity entirely to the accident of the estate having fallen into the hands of its present worthy proprietor, John Anderson, Esq. This event happened in 1791, at which time it was one of the meanest villages of the county; as, with the exception of a single house of two stories, which served the purposes of a carman's inn, it consisted of only wretched mud-wall huts, long since levelled, the inhabitants of which were proverbially idle and dissolute, and consequently dirty and poor. The estate too seemed to partake of the general poverty of the village, being scarcely worth more on an average than from a guinea to thirty shillings an acre, which now lets at five pounds. Except, in short, the beauty of its situation, of which nature had been peculiarly lavish, the place did not offer a single circumstance to arrest the eye of the traveller, who drove through it without observation, and scarcely remembered to have met with such a spot on the road."

"The striking change, that has now taken place, must, in a great measure, be attributed to the village having been converted into a military station for the last twelve years; for no longer is it ago, since the town began to be built. To this government were induced, from its central situation amidst a rich and plentiful country; from its proximity to

Cork

Cork and the eastern coast on the one hand, and its moderate distance from Limerick and the western shores on the other; from its commanding the principal and most important pass on the river Blackwater; and from the confidence they placed in the proprietor, that he would afford them the accommodations they wanted at the shortest notice, and the cheapest rate. The necessary expences of even a small portion of the army, when constantly resident on the same spot, the variety of followers they attract, and the increased circulation they occasion, are not, however, alone sufficient to account for the rapid rise of this town, rapid, indeed, beyond all example in almost any part of this country. Much has been done by the proprietor himself to further this idea, without whose enlightened speculations, unremitting exertions, and constant superintendance, the place could never have attained its present maturity. Foreseeing that settlers and capital would come, and manufactures start up, if suitable accommodations were previously provided, he embarked a part of his fortune in the necessary buildings, though the frequent instances of ill success in attempts of this nature would have deterred an ordinary man from the undertaking. In addition to the temporary barracks he had covenanted to erect for government, he formed the plan of the present

town, and for every shilling of the public money generally laid out another of his own. It would be tedious, perhaps, to particularize all his exertions in this way; but to those, who have not seen Fermoy, perhaps a little minuteness may be desirable."

"Immediately facing the ancient bridge over the the Blackwater, the only building that did not require to be thrown down, (though, being too narrow, it was afterwards found necessary to double it,) a *market-house* was erected in a neat, though simple and modest stile of architecture, expensive elegance being quite unsuitable to the nature of the undertaking. On one side of the bridge an *inn*, or, as it is sometimes called, an *hotel* was next built, and behind it a square of *livery-stables*, both of them, but particularly the latter, on a very respectable scale; so much so, indeed, that the superior accommodations afforded by these two establishments soon put an end to the former resort of travellers and post horses either to Rathcormack or Kilworth. This, too, is the more remarkable, as many persons pretend to complain of the increased expence of both these establishments; but such people do not seem to reflect, that superior accommodations demand a superior price; and the event has proved, that the public are, in general, willing to pay for them. To curb this species of monopoly, however, and to prevent passengers from being fleeced,
by

by creating a brisk competition, a second *inn* has lately been established at the same side of the bridge, and also an inferior one, at the north end of it, to accommodate the lower ranks. The two former have both full employment, and the posting trade is so brisk as to give occasion to the employment of ten or a dozen post chaises, every day in the year. The chaises are good and comfortable, and the horses, from the great care taken in feeding and currying them, are generally stout and plump, and equal to their duty ; nor is the eye of the passenger *galled*, as is frequently the case elsewhere, with the incisions of the harness on their shoulders."

"The *principal street* running parallel to the river, which contains the chief part of the temporary barracks, was commenced at the same time with the inn and market-house ; and some time afterwards another range of buildings, in front of the inn, was completed, so as with the two former and bridge to form a pretty extensive *square*.* The principal street has been since intersected, at right angles, by five or six cross streets, and extended considerably at both extremities ; so that it now reaches above a quarter of an Irish mile in length, and is terminated, at the east end, by the very neat front of the

* Called Queen's-square.

new sessions-house lately built. The large *brewery* is towards the east end of the principal street; while the *flour-mill*, *paper-mill*, and *school-house*, usually called the *college* by the common people, are buildings distinct from the town; but the whole of what has been already mentioned, except the school, stands in the valley of the Blackwater, and on the south side of that river. Though the houses are, in general, on a small scale, and though the inside does not always correspond to their external appearance, yet their uniform neatness and regularity, joined to the cleanness and width of the streets, and the convenience of well-swept foot-paths; their being constantly lighted in the dark nights; and the care, that is taken of white-washing the fronts, from time to time, impress a stranger highly in favour of the place, whether he enters it by night or by day, and agreeably relieve his mind from the dull monotony he had felt in reaching it.

In two streets, that face the river, but at different sides of the bridge, are the *artillery barrack* and *commissariat*. The former is a large *quadrangle*, one side of which, forming part of the street, affords lodgings to the officers and men, and the other three, stabling for their horses, and sheds and magazines for six or eight cannon with their due proportion of ammunition. The buildings for the commissariat

riat are not so uniform, but equally convenient, and particularly contain a large magazine for oats, and other articles wanted for that kind of service.

“ On the north of the river, are the large *permanent barracks*, on the east side of the Dublin road, (on the west side of which the foundations of another barrack of equal dimensions are now laying,) the *new church*, and a long street of houses between these two buildings, the interstices of which are not yet quite filled up. It is on this side particularly, that the future extension of the town may naturally be expected. Indeed it is extending at this very moment in that quarter, notwithstanding the scarcity of timber, the walls of about a *dozen* small houses being nearly finished, since the present spring commenced. The demand for houses, however, still continues very brisk ; so much so, that a Dublin architect has it in contemplation to supply that demand, by building two rows of houses between the church and the bridge, the one small and calculated for shops or small families, and the other larger and more elegant for tenants of a more respectable class, but both neat and uniform, so as to form between them a very handsome street. But, whether this plan shall be realized or not, there can be little doubt of the town's extending considerably in this direction, in due course of time,

should the present proprietor* continue long to direct the enterprizes, and encourage the industry of future settlers."

"Towards this extension the erection of a second large barrack will materially contribute.—The one already built forms three sides of a rectangle of eight hundred feet by seven hundred, having the cavalry barracks, and the two infirmaries, in the rere, and the different offices behind the wings. The whole, occupying nearly thirteen acres of ground, is surrounded with a high wall, with a draw-bridge in front, behind which, on the esplanade, is the main guard. It was built in three years, at the expence of about £50,000, and is capable of containing three regiments of infantry and a squadron of cavalry. Until the other barrack is built, it will continue, as at present, to form the most prominent *object* about Fermoy, if it may not more properly be said to compose a *mass* of objects, which from different points of view exhibit very various, but all extremely beautiful appearances. The *church*, which stands a little below it, on the ascent of the hill, fronting the bridge and market-house, is likewise a very neat and *chaste* building, Mr. Hargrave, the architect, having valued

* The word "proprietor" standing singly, uniformly through this paper means Mr. Anderson.

lued himself particularly upon it. Independent of the tower at the west end, the body of the church is ninety feet by forty in the clear, of an oval form in the inside, or a little approaching to that shape, by the corners being rounded into niches. The decorations of the great east window, on the outside, are of Portland stone; in the inside, that window is entirely occupied with a beautiful transparency, representing the Ascension. The tower and rest of the church is decorated with cut stone, and the former is surmounted by four large urns. The church is built in the most durable manner, the foundations having been dug deep, the roof massy, reposing on very thick walls. The pulpit and seats are of solid oak, and even the railing of the chancel is of cast metal. A high railing of the same material runs round the front and east end of the whole, enclosing a few young trees, whose tops are not high enough to impede the light.

“ It is not, however, pretended by the foregoing detail, that the buildings, above described, possess any very extraordinary merit, or that the town, in this respect, is superior to many others, that might be named. What is really extraordinary is, that the whole should have been summoned, as it were, into existence by a single individual, in the course of a very few years, and that, independent of the
military

military of every description, he should now be surrounded with a population of above four thousand souls, collected together by himself, and who owe to him the principal means of their subsistence. When, exclusive of the army, the inhabitants of Fermoy are stated at 4000, it is, perhaps, considerably below the truth. In September, 1804, upwards of four years and a half ago, they amounted to 2534 persons precisely, and this, by an actual enumeration and inquiry made by the seneschal and assistants going from house to house. Since that time, the entire NEW TOWN OF FERMOY has been built, the school likewise, together with a great many houses in the old town, and on Barrack-hill near the church. The houses in the new town amount to 150 in number, and, if eight persons are allowed to a house, this forms an addition of 1200 at once to the foregoing 2534. The school, lately built, contains 90 persons; and, if 500 be allowed for the increase in the other parts of the town, the whole will amount to 4324 inhabitants, independent of every description of military, i. e. infantry, cavalry, artillery, and the commissariat corps."

"Towards the maintenance of such a multitude of people, the expenditure of the army, though in some years it might have amounted to near £100,000, is by no means sufficient. Two other

sources

sources of occupation are opened to their industry, which are every day becoming more abundant. These are the increasing reciprocal intercourse between Fermoy and its immediate vicinity, and the establishment of a few manufactures of prime necessity, by which even more distant parts are made to contribute to its support. Both shopkeepers and tradesmen appear to find their account highly in settling there, of which the high price of houses, and the consequent rage for new buildings, are undeniable proofs. In the infancy of the settlement, indeed, the sale of malt and spirituous liquors, and of other necessities for the troops, was the principal employment, and in this simple manner many small sums were picked up, which were usually laid out by their owners in building houses, as the most profitable mode of employing them. And, though this still forms a considerable proportion of the circulation, it does not, by any means, exhaust it. A superior class of shopkeepers are gradually starting up, in almost every line, to which they are invited by the increasing demand. The woollen and linen drapery, the grocery, the wine trade, millinery, hardware, stationary, watchmaking, the glover trade, and a variety of inferior branches of manufacture and retail trade, that of the glazier and oil-man, of the tin-man and brazier, of the seed

seed and nursery-man, (besides a great abundance of smiths, taylor, butchers, bakers, chandlers, and what not,) have all been carried on for years past with less or more success; and those in the town or neighbourhood, who used to supply themselves in Cork, or elsewhere, with the foregoing articles of retail or manufacture, now procure them nearer home, and allow the expence of carriage, and that of their own personal trouble and attendance to go in profit to the Fermoy shopkeeper or tradesman. A bank, an excise-office, a post-office, and a stamp-office, have *long** been established; a newspaper reading room, attended with a billiard table, has been in use for several years. A circulating library was attempted, but this not being a reading country, it was soon dropped; and the town contains a resident physician and two apothecaries, besides two watchmakers, and a number of very respectable retail shops. Of these last, one† deserves particular mention, as containing a very uncommon assortment in the horse-harness, saddlery, and horse-medicine line, together with a long list of such miscellaneous articles of kitchen furniture, garden and farming implements, and ironmongery

as

* The word "long," in relation to Fermoy, is *relative* only to the time it has existed.

† Belonging to Mr. George Johnson.

as are in general demand, the whole either imported from England, or made on the spot. This used to be in the Stableyard-square, but is now removed to the square called Queen's square, and its place converted into a very extensive *magazine** of china, glass, and hardware, imported immediately from England, and sold on very easy terms."

"In this manner is Fermoy perceptibly creeping up into a considerable market town for the adjacent country, as well for the disposal of what it produces, as for supplying itself with what it wants. Wheat, barley, oats, hay, and straw; fat cattle, pigs, poultry; milk, butter, cheese; in short, the whole produce of a farm, are bartered for ready money to pay rent, for common necessities, and for those few luxuries, that the peasant either chooses or can afford to indulge in. The *meat-market*, and that for fish and vegetables, stands at the east end of the town, and was built by the proprietor on the presumption of the market dues in time defraying the expence. The sum they let for is, even now, considerable, and must yearly increase. Each butcher has his stall, as in the Cork market, and pays a weekly rent. The principal market day is Saturday, to which the resort is frequently very great.—

* Belonging to Mr. Archibald Grubb.

Fairs too, which had long gone into disuse, have been re-established, by a few well-judged encouragements in the beginning, and both on these occasions, and on market days, the place is crowded in such a manner as to prove to a demonstration, how easily mankind are brought together to a given spot, if one understand the proper method of doing it."

"But the necessary supply of the army, and that of the surrounding country, are not the only sources, on which Fermoy depends for its support. In addition to these, such manufactures likewise, as were suited both to its infant state and that of the south of Ireland, have been attempted with success. A very extensive *beer and porter brewery* was early built by the proprietor, and afterwards disposed of to a company*, who have long conquered all their difficulties, and are daily meeting with such abundant encouragement as to oblige them, from time to time, considerably to enlarge their premises. Their success has been, in part, occasioned by one of the firm, a gentleman eminent in the brewing line, from England, having produced a new species of strong beer, well known in this part of Ireland under the denomination of *Fermoy*

* A set of gentlemen under the name of Henry Walker and Co.

“*Fermoy ale*”. The demand for this beverage, as imitating the fine ales of England, was at first extremely rapid. What quantity is now made, still continues to find its way to the tables of the wealthy and middle ranks; but the great mass of the people, the chief customers of every brewery, preferring the apparent strength and substance of *porter* to every kind of malt liquor, it has been found necessary to sacrifice a good deal to their gratification. It is difficult to ascertain the quantity of business done by this establishment; but from the number of hands employed, and the extent of the premises, to which the proprietors are daily adding, it must be very great.*”

“The next manufacture, which was thought indispensibly necessary for the growing wants of the place, was that of *flour*. This was an undertaking of considerable risk and difficulty, by reason of the great rapidity of the floods in the Blackwater, which had hitherto prevented the erection of flour-mills any where on its banks. A broad and deep mill-race from the river, immediately below the bridge, was however drawn, notwithstanding this danger, and a flour mill, built by the proprietor, of very large

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* From information, that may be relied upon, this brewery may be pronounced to be the second in the kingdom, that of Messrs. Beamish and Crawford being decidedly the *first*.

large dimensions, and on the most improved plan. After having been proof for some time against the most violent assaults of the river, it was disposed of to a company, and has, at last, fallen into the hands of a gentleman*, who carries on the business with equal spirit and success. An entire wing of additional stores was lately added to the original building, to give a greater command of the market; and at an earlier period a second, or outer water-wheel was added to the original inner one, in order to increase its power, and this too, on the same axletree, the success of which contrivance was not easily apprehended by those ignorant of practical mechanics. With these improvements the Fermoy mill annually manufactures from *twelve to fifteen thousand* barrels of wheat, which is probably more than any single mill will be found to do in any part of this country. By means of superior machinery likewise, the flour sells considerably higher than that of any mill in the neighbourhood, and, when properly manufactured, produces that fair, fine, white bread, for which Fermoy is remarkable. To secure this point, an English baker was brought over, and an extensive bake-house erected for him; and the other bakers must either improve in their

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* David Reid, Esq.

art, or allow him to run away with much of their profits."

"A little below the flour-mill, but on the same mill-stream with it, an extensive *paper-mill* has also been erected, which has been in full employment for some time past, and, it is to be hoped, will turn out advantageously for the proprietors.*"

"On the opposite side of the river to these mills, a coarse woollen manufactory is in considerable forwardness; a washing mill, and a large range of houses necessary for the purpose, are already up; and the business is carried on in some degree, even in the present imperfect state of the undertaking. As both the *primum* of this manufacture, and the market for its sale, exist in the country itself, perhaps no branch of industry is more natural and certain than this. But still more to insure success, the company† consists of gentlemen, who were, some of them, bred to the business, and who have already shewn by previous trials, that they thoroughly understand it."

"To complete the catalogue of Fermoy manufactures, it only remains to be mentioned, that one gentleman‡ is extensively employed in the *soap* and
candle

* Messrs. White and Skelhorne.

† Messrs. Higgins, Hutchinson, and Co.

‡ Henry Massy, Esq.

candle trade, in which he has had great success, and which find a ready sale in the town and neighbourhood; and, had it not been for the renewal of the war, after the short duration of Mr. Addington's peace, a pretty tolerable coarse linen manufactory might, by this time, have been added to the foregoing little *list*. During the twelve months interval of peace, upwards of fifty looms were actually procured and fully employed by as many weavers; but being mostly north of Ireland men from reduced regiments, they slipped off, one by one, into their former situations, as soon as these were re-opened for them. The idea of encouraging this branch of trade, however, is not relinquished by the proprietor, as it is evidently one of those, to which the rude state of this country is most particularly adapted."

"In the foregoing enumeration, scarce any of the sources of employment for the inhabitants of Fermoy have been omitted, except two. One of these is the *building trade*, which is, properly speaking, a species of manufacture, the returns of which are made by posterity. Ever since the origin of the place, much circulation has been occasioned by this means, and a great many hands employed. To have erected, in the short space of ten or twelve years, even so small a town as Fermoy,

moy, including its three or four barracks, one of which is, itself, equal to a little town, must have required the united labour of a great number of hands in the different capacities of quarry-men, stone-cutters, lime-burners, brick-makers, masons, carpenters, slaters, bricklayers, plaisterers, blacksmiths, nailors, painters, glaziers, and what not, who have naturally settled in the place, the moment they had saved money enough to build, or could otherwise supply themselves with houses. A good number of the houses in the *new town*, already mentioned, are inhabited by tenants of this description. With some few exceptions, the houses are of one story only; one street is composed of slated houses, and three others of thatched ones; but they are all very comfortable dwellings, with large garden, behind them, an advantage, which, from the confined nature of their situation, the houses in the *lower town* do not possess. These poor people pay only two guineas a year ground rent to the proprietor, for their house and a large garden; whereas, in the lower town, building ground lets so high as ten shillings a foot in the principal streets."

"It was to continue a livelihood to such a number of tradesmen, as well as to secure the permanency of his town, that the proprietor has obtained from government the erection of a second large
barrack,

barrack, which will afford them employment for several years to come ; nor is the motive, that induces government to this measure, at all difficult to ascertain. Barracks are starting up every where, both in this and the adjacent counties, for the purpose of maintaining a strong force in the south of Ireland, now rendered doubly necessary since the French have evinced an intention of seizing on the whole peninsula of Spain and Portugal. But, whatever may be the intentions of government in building it, this second barrack, together with the present one, promise to be of most essential benefit to the town, of which they will form the most striking ornaments, as well as of the whole country round. By securing to the place the profits arising from the expenditure of a considerable portion of the army in *peace* as well as in war, they will render permanent the advantages derivable from that source ; they will afford protection to settlers in troublesome times, and by the resort, thoroughfare, and intercourse they occasion point out the situation as particularly well circumstanced for the residence of genteel families of moderate fortunes, as well as for future colonists of various inferior descriptions. A continued residence of the army, at any one spot, has scarce ever failed to create a town, though seldom, perhaps, with so rapid a space, as that of Fermoy.

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The numerous towns in England, which have their names terminating in "*cester*," or "*chester*," were probably nothing more at first than Roman stations of camps (*castra*) by which means the "legions" were gradually intermixed with the rude and ignorant Britons, whom they at last left in a considerable state of civilization and refinement."

"But when the erection of the present new barrack shall be completed, it does not by any means follow, that the building trade will cease in *er-moy*, or the tradesmen quit the place for want of employment. Before that event happens, fresh objects of speculation will probably present themselves, to afford them occupation. Nor is it easy, at present, to determine how far the spirit of building and improvement may be carried in the place; because one thing in this world gradually leads to another, and an *impetus*, given in a certain direction, may often continue to operate long after the generating cause has ceased to exist."

"The other branch of employment alluded to above is, that of letting post carriages, which, with the business of conveying the mail coaches, does not employ, on an average, less than from one hundred to one hundred and twenty horses, every day in the year, together with a proportionable number of post boys, stable boys, and servants of differ-

ent descriptions. The flourishing state of this little branch of trade has not arisen merely from a post-office having been established at Fermoy, but that the business of furnishing the mail-coach horses was naturally committed to people resident in that town: nor can it be supposed improper in the individual, who was the chief instrument of establishing these useful vehicles in Ireland, to make them stop at his own village, particularly as it happened to be much more central between Cork and Clogheen, than any other place on the road. The public carriages, that pass through Fermoy, every twenty-four hours, are the following. 1. The mail-coach from Dublin to Cork; 2. the mail-coach from Cork to Dublin.—These two pass each other at Fermoy during the night. 3. The mail-coach from Cork to Limerick. 4. The mail-coach from Limerick to Cork.—These two pass through at Fermoy, the former about ten in the morning, and the latter about two o'clock in the day. 5. The day-coaches from Dublin to Cork, and from Cork to Dublin, pass, at present, only every second day upwards and downwards; but, as soon as the other day-coach on the Cashel line of road is established, they will pass each other every day. There are thus, at present, five, and there soon* will be six public stage-coaches

* The preparations are completed for this coach, which will start about the middle of June.

coaches passing daily through Fermoy, at the same time that the posting trade employs near a dozen post-chaises besides. The situation of the town, in the centre of eight roads terminating there, may help to account for the latter circumstances, while the increasing intercourse between Cork and the rest of Ireland can alone account for the former."

"As an appendage to this branch of employment, may now be mentioned a plan, already in some forwardness, of having the mail-coaches built and repaired at Fermoy. A large square of offices has been set apart for this purpose, containing a mail-coach office, with stabling for the horses, and sufficient accommodations for the different tradesmen employed in the manufacture of carriages. A person of experience, from Birmingham, has been brought over to direct and superintend the whole."

"It would be improper, perhaps, in this place to omit the experiment, that was lately made by the clergyman of Fermoy, with proper assistants, to establish a respectable boarding school there, which, of all the situations in this county, is perhaps the least exceptionable for this purpose. The attempt has hitherto succeeded beyond the most sanguine expectations of those concerned; so much so, that suitable accommodations have been lately provided by the proprietors for an extensive establishment

of that nature, the want of which was the only obstacle to the complete success of the scheme."

"Respecting education, there is certainly a very great "desideratum" in this part of Ireland, namely an intermediate kind of instruction between an university course of institution, and the meagre gleanings, that can be picked up at an English school, or from casual private tuition. It is usual to see young persons enter the army or navy, or engage in trade and business, without any tincture of letters whatsoever, except a little mechanical reading, writing, and arithmetic, together with the knowledge, perhaps, of a few Latin words, which they cannot but immediately forget, and which, if they even remembered, could seldom be of the smallest use to them. It does not seem to be generally supposed, that taste can be cultivated, or any proficiency made in the belles lettres, philosophy, or the mathematical sciences, without a long previous noviciate in the learned languages, and without pursuing such studies in an university.—While, therefore, the present seminary at Fermoy is dedicated principally to the improvement of classical learning, with a view to the learned professions, it is certainly a question of considerable importance whether an ACADEMY might not be established there for the instruction of such young persons

persons as are destined for the various departments of civil and active life, and where the officer, the sailor, the merchant, the engineer, the gauger, the land surveyor, &c. might, at least, be taught the *theory* of their respective professions, and acquire such general knowledge on other subjects, as to prevent their being *disgraced* in society. Several of the pupils at the present establishment, not intended for College, are, even at present, educated in this manner; but the idea would bear to be taken up on an extended scale, as it is evidently among the numerous "*desiderata*" of which this comparatively *new* country can furnish so many examples."

"From these few brief notices of the present state of Fermoy, it may be affirmed in general, that the foundations of a good country town are already laid, and the rudiments of an industrious and flourishing colony, in some degree, visible.— Though its central position give it the command of a pretty extensive market on the one hand, yet its distance from water carriage, and the failure of the canal formerly projected to supply that defect, subject it to some inconveniencies on the other. It is not, however, a loss to Fermoy merely, but to the entire of the surrounding country, that this scheme proved abortive, which otherwise would have reaped the advantage of a more central "*depot*," and a consequent

consequent diminution of land-carriage, in all exports and imports. Under a perfect conviction of these truths, Mr. Anderson exerted himself so effectually in the business some years ago, that £20,000, and upwards, was subscribed by the gentlemen contiguous to the Blackwater, and the expence of a navigation from Fermoy to Lismore was ascertained by Major Taylor, the engineer employed for the purpose, not to exceed that sum; but it was at the same time ascertained, that not less than *four* times that amount would have been necessary to carry the canal from Fermoy to Mallow. The former *cut* was abandoned, from the refusal of some gentlemen to part with the ground necessary for it to pass through; but, unless the canal could have been carried farther up the country than Fermoy at a moderate expence, it is a matter of some doubt, whether so short a *cut* as twelve miles could have been of any great public benefit, or even defrayed the expence of construction. But, be that as it may, it is evident that Fermoy must forego the advantages of water-carriage for the present; and the only thing remaining was, to improve the road from thence to Tallow, a little below which begins the navigation of the river Bride, which flows into the Blackwater. This has been done by discovering a new line of road, which, by avoiding the hills, en-
ables

ables a horse to draw nearly twice the former load, and in the summer season, at least, to go and return the same day. By this means Fermoy is brought to within about eleven miles distance of water-carriage; and by taking a quantity together, coals can now be laid down there, from Tallow, at the easy rate of ten shillings the Cork barrel, and other heavy goods in proportion. This being all that probably can be done, in the present unimproved state of the country, the public must rest contented with it, until, by the gradual progress of trade and improvement, a canal shall, at last, force its way through all the obstacles, that the hand of nature, or the mistaken interests of individuals, may have laid in the way to prevent it."

"The interdict, mentioned above to have been laid on the canal, proceeded (and strange it is to say so) from two *landholders* in the vicinity of Fermoy. Now, instead of raising obstacles to the prosperity of that town, the gentlemen in its neighbourhood have every reason in the world to co-operate in every measure tending to that effect. If they have not public spirit enough to do this, at least their own interest ought to teach them a different line of conduct from that, which they sometimes observe. By the exertions of a single individual, a market has been brought to their very doors, which is rapidly

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ly increasing every day. Their fat cattle and sheep, their hay, their corn, their potatoes, even their fruit and garden stuffs, to such as are willing to sell them, have considerably advanced in price, and the demand for every article they can supply is more steady and permanent than formerly. The value of land, in consequence, is considerably enhanced by its proximity to Fermoy, which, by supplying large quantities of manure, and particularly lime, at a moderate expence, must, of course, contribute much to improve the lands in its vicinity, so as to enable them the better to afford the increasing quantities of produce, now required for its support."

"Having thus been instrumental in collecting together such a number of people at Fermoy, and affording them the means of subsistence, the proprietor thought it next incumbent on him to provide for their religious instruction. This was the more necessary, as, however, much the most rigid impartiality was shewn to the settlers of all religious sects, a very respectable number of them were protestants, and of these not a few from the neighbouring island, where omissions on the score of religious duties are not so easily overlooked. But here a variety of almost insuperable difficulties presented themselves for some time; every thing, in short, was to be created,

created, as it were, without any pre-existing materials. Fermoy used formerly to be considered as extra-parochial, and its protestant inhabitants, who were not above three or four persons, resorted of course to some of the neighbouring parishes. After much search had been made in Dublin into ancient and musty records, it was at last allowed by the best civilians in Ireland, that Fermoy was, to all intents and purposes, a parish in construction of law; but, as the tithes were wholly inappropriate, there was neither any church, nor any clergyman, nor any fund to build the former, or maintain the latter. The first step taken by the proprietor was to make over to the church, by way of free gift, a certain small annual sum, payable for ever out of the inappropriate tithes in his possession, in order to erect Fermoy into a perpetual curacy. He then nominated a clergyman to the cure, who had previously begun to do duty in such private apartments as could be procured. A vacancy was next brought about in the neighbouring parish of Litter, which having been united by act of council to Fermoy, the same clergyman was appointed by the bishop of Cloyne to the union. Provision having thus been made for a clergyman, it only remained to provide a church, that should be adequate to the growing wants of the place. The Board of first fruits con-

tributed five hundred pounds as usual; but the sum already expended does not fall much short of *ten* times that sum, in advancing which, in the first instance, the proprietor of Fermoy was very liberally assisted by John Hyde, Esq. the principal landholder in the parish of Litter. To prevent such large disbursements ultimately falling on two individuals, however, the Board of first fruits will probably come forward again, and lend a large sum to the parish, which it may pay back by installments of six per cent. for the purpose of defraying part, at least, of these accumulated expences. As the number of protestant inhabitants, exclusive of the garrison, is not less than five hundred, on a moderate computation, the congregations are very respectable, and, as the duty is very severe, a second clergyman has lately been employed, whose income, as the parish is still wretchedly endowed, arises entirely from voluntary contribution, in which, however, the rector takes the lead, as far as his slender means will permit."

"For the instruction of the children of the poor, the Lancastrian plan of education has been resorted to. A young man* was first employed, who knew something of the scheme; and when his school was

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* Mr. Upton, now master of the charter school at Castlemartyr.

very numerous, it was *organised* by a * person, who perfectly understood it, having lived several years with Mr. Lancaster himself. The numbers have frequently arisen to near 200, all taught by one master. The school-wages are so low as one shilling and seven-pence half-penny a-quarter for those, who read and spell only, and a little higher for those, who learn writing and accounts. †”

“ A dispensary and house of recovery for the poor have likewise existed for a number of years at Fermoy. The scheme was projected in 1803, and a house allotted rent free by the proprietor, to serve as a temporary hospital for interns. It was put under the care of a physician of character, who had settled in the place, and during the first year of his attendance not less than three hundred cases fell under his cognizance, of which one hundred were surgical, the rest exhibiting all the various kinds and stages of disease. Only nine out of the whole were known to have died, but two hundred and forty-eight were perfectly cured. The promoters of this humane institution, on the death of this gentleman, which unhappily soon followed, were obliged

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* Mr. Tweedale, at present in Youghal.

† The present schoolmaster's name is Brabazon, who has one hundred and fifty scholars, whom he instructs all himself, according to the plan.

to be contented for a time with a medical gentleman not so regularly bred, but they have lately got into their employment a physician of extraordinary merit, who is now exerting himself to procure subscriptions for establishing the charity on a more enlarged and respectable footing, and of extending its benefits to the surrounding country. The great numbers of poor patients, that resort to him from the whole neighbourhood, have suggested this idea, which, it is to be hoped, may soon be realized. In aid of the subscriptions for this charity, recourse is had to the produce of balls and charity sermons, to which the players in their annual visit to Fermoy usually contribute, by acting *gratis* for one night.*

“ The Roman catholic chapel being in a ruinous state, the proprietor thought it but equitable that those, who formed the great mass of the inhabitants, should have a decent place for the celebration of their

* Some years ago, a *charitable loan* was set on foot, by which small sums were lent to poor people, to be repaid by much smaller weekly payments. The thing was suffered to dwindle away from remissness or ill-judged humanity in the person, who had the charge of it, who did not insist on sufficiently prompt payment of the little installments. Measures are now taking to re-establish this charity on better, because more rigid principles, which alone can insure its duration and utility. A *friendly society* was likewise attempted; but it was found impossible to persuade the labouring poor to sacrifice a little present gratification for their future comfort, and the scheme was of course abandoned.

their worship. To insure this point, he offered not only to give them the ground, but to contribute five hundred pounds towards the expence of the building, *provided* they were able to raise one thousand pounds, and actually to lodge it in bank, before a single stone was laid. This precaution is justified by examples of chapels begun, but never finished, by too great a dependence on *promised* subscriptions. The one thousand pounds has been raised; the building is advancing, and promises to be a very solid and handsome edifice of the kind. It stands on a raised platform, entirely walled round, and commanding a very pretty view of the town and adjacent country."

"The quarter sessions having been held for some years past at Fermoy, in consequence of an act of Council obtained for that purpose by the proprietor, the sessions-house already mentioned has been lately built by presentment, the interior of which is extremely well adapted to the use it is intended for, and is capable at the same time of being converted into a very pretty theatre. This has occasionally been done by the company, who act at Cork towards the end of autumn, and previous to their return to Dublin; and last year these *plays* were accompanied, for the first time, by *races*, which continued an entire week. The concourse of visitors

was very great, particularly of the lower ranks, to whom the loss of time was not so material, as their harvest was entirely saved. Several horses started from the Curragh and other remote places, and the race-course seemed to answer the expectations of connoisseurs. Balls and assemblies added to the gaiety of the place during this season of festivity. In a place entirely given up to industry such amusements ought not, perhaps, to be tolerated; but the variety they afford the garrison, and the increased circulation of specie, so necessary to the growth of the town, may not without reason occasion a departure from this principle."

"Wherever six or seven thousand people are collected together, and such is the population of Fermoy when the garrison is full, some sort of local government and police becomes absolutely necessary. In the distribution of justice, as a magistrate, in deciding quarrels and making up disputes, the proprietor is unwearied; and the prosperity of the place very much depends on his regular and unceasing exertions in this way. But there are many acts, that must be performed by the inhabitants, and the expences borne, *in common*; the streets must be paved and cleansed, they must be lighted at night, nuisances and obstructions must be removed from them, and the public safety insured by a proper

per police. To attain these, and a great variety of minor objects, respecting the order, neatness, and regularity of the town, an act of parliament was obtained last summer, by which the inhabitants are enabled to tax themselves to a certain extent, for the purpose of carrying these regulations into effect. This act has already been carried into execution to a certain degree; but, as the place cannot yet bear much local taxation, and that inveterate bad habits will only admit of gradual correction, the advantages of this legislative provision must be the effect of time. As it is susceptible of a gradual dilatation proportioned to the increase of the town, it will come more fully into play hereafter, and serve as a powerful cement to connect the different parts of a building, which was run up with such extraordinary celerity, and which will require the aid of such a principle to hold them fast together."

The barony of Fermoy affords another town of no great size, but of no mean celebrity, Mallow. This too stands upon the banks of the Blackwater in a country of great beauty and fertility, richly adorned with handsome demesnes and well planted country seats. As a place of trade, Mallow labours under the usual defect of our inland situations, want of fuel and navigable communication, but it possesses
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another, and no inconsiderable means of advancement in the long established fame of its medicinal fountain. The Mallow waters,* which seem exactly to resemble those of Bristol, are held to be very restorative to debilitated constitutions, and peculiarly efficacious in consumptive complaints. It is on these accounts very much resorted to, particularly in summer, at which season the town is filled with persons of fortune and fashion, frequently from distant parts. Other circumstances concur to produce an influx of company. The neighbourhood abounds with wealthy families, and, as the rich are ever in pursuit of pleasure, races and assemblies annually display their attractive charms. Under these circumstances, Mallow wants nothing but encouragement to render it an elegant, and even an opulent town. This unfortunately it does want, and, while other places are striving to surmount the obstructions of nature or fortune, and to emerge from the obscurity of an humble condition, Mallow is neglecting to avail herself of advantages offered to her acceptance by a concurrence of fortunate circumstances.

* It is a soft tepid water issuing from a limestone rock, like those of Bristol and Matlock, warmer, I think, than the latter, but rather less warm than that of the former. The difference of heat may be owing to the manner of treatment. The fountain at Mallow is exposed to the air; the water at Bristol is raised from a considerable depth by a pump.

cumstances. As this island furnishes few watering places of any repute, and none of similar description, Mallow need never fear the overpowering competition of a rival. The singular and almost unequalled beauty of the surrounding country is an additional source of powerful attraction. Other towns must seek support in trade and manufactures, and destitute of these can never hope to rise above mediocrity. Fashion and the waters afford her ample and unfailing sources of prosperity. Even in the present state of things, with lodgings very bad and very dear; with an awkward old ill-looking house, serving as an assembly-room; with a fountain inclosed, not in a pump-room, but in a rude stone covering, not very unlike a pigstye, and with an approach to it neither very clean nor very convenient, it is nevertheless often crowded with genteel company. Few places can, perhaps, be named, in which speculation might have more safely embarked a large sum in building a pump-room, an assembly-room, inns, and lodging-houses. But, though much has been left undone, the hand of improvement has not been altogether idle. Some new houses have been lately built, particularly in the west end of the town, and among the rest a handsome banking-house, in which that business is extensively carried on by Robert De La Cour, and

William Gallway, Esquires. Mallow* still continues a borough town, and sends one member to the imperial parliament. It is not improbable, that the possession of this privilege may have been among the causes of its backwardness, from the reasons already mentioned in one of the general heads. In open boroughs, of which Mallow is one, the power of controuling the electors was more easily retained by their depression than their advancement.

But, however tardy the progress of improvement has been in the town of Mallow, the charge of neglect extends no further. The opportunities, afforded by the natural beauties of the surrounding country, have been sedulously embraced, and in addition to establishments of ancient standing, some of which have been already specified in the account of Duhallow, many elegant seats have lately raised their heads. Of these the principal are, Mr. De la Cour's and Mr. Hare's, situated on the banks of the Blackwater, or so placed as to command a view of it. Mr. De la Cour's † is a most complete
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* Mallow, I believe, is inferior in population to Cloghnakilly, though, in consequence of lodging-houses, it pays a larger window tax, the criterion employed for determining the choice of representative towns after the Union.

† It was built in the years 1807 and 1808, the architect, Richard Morrison, Esq. to whose taste and judgment it does much credit.

and elegant house, coated with a cement imitating hewn stone, which it rivals in beauty, and is reputed almost to equal in durability. Of the old, the principal are Rockforest, the seat of Sir James Cotter, Bt. and Mallow-castle, that of Denham Jephson, Esq. principal proprietor of the town. The former standing on the south bank of the Blackwater, a few miles below Mallow, is a most respectable old place, abundantly adorned with wood, as most of the seats on that fine river are. The latter has been long celebrated for the peculiarly neat and admirable arrangement of the grounds, divided into large and regular fields, surrounded by a double fence of quicks, with a great walk between. Every field is also encompassed by hedgerow trees of great size, exclusive of many others more irregularly intermixed. As a *ferme ornée*, (so it has been appropriately termed by Mr. Young,) it is not, perhaps, exceeded by any demesne in the kingdom.

Doneraile, six miles N.E. from Mallow, hardly considerable enough to be classed among towns, takes a lead in that of villages, being particularly

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distinguished

The stile is Doric, the proportions well kept, and the different parts arranged with perfect regard to symmetry and convenience. On the top is a cistern supplied from a spring above the level of the house. By means of this water is communicated through all parts for useful and necessary purposes.

distinguished by its neatness and regularity. It consists of one spacious street, containing several good houses, and many respectable inhabitants. A pretty church, surrounded by lofty trees, adds much to the general effect, but the great ornament of the town and neighbourhood is Lord Doneraile's park and demesne, comprising an extent of grounds not inferior, in richness and beauty, to any in the island. Many, indeed, possess greater variety from the proximity of rivers, lakes, sea, or mountain, but in the verdure of its lawns, the soft swelling of its hills, and the luxuriant beauty of its woodland scenery, Doneraile is almost without a rival. It is nearly singular in another respect, that it owes nothing to the vicinity; all its beauties are its own, unless we except some degree of pleasing contrast occasioned by a distant view of the great Galtee mountains. It is not, however, destitute of aqueous advantages, though inferior in this respect to the vicinity of the Blackwater. Besides some artificial water in the pleasure grounds, the Awbeg pours its gently winding stream through the park, on the west side of which the house stands upon an elevation commanding a view of the river, and some fine grounds rising gradually to a considerable height on the north-east, and beautifully studded with trees. The late Lord Doneraile devoted much time to agriculture,

ture, which he practised more profitably as well as more skilfully than most men of fortune. Besides his demesne lands, he held a large farm in the neighbourhood, reclaimed and cultivated by himself in a stile of superior management, hardly if at all inferior to the best modern practice. His lordship's care and assiduity left little to his successor, but the pleasing task of following the course of husbandry so judiciously laid down. Nor are the present noble owners of this truly beautifully residence less indebted to his consort, the late Lady Doneraile, a woman of most superior understanding, whose taste and judgment were happily directed to the embellishment of the pleasure grounds. A place so recommended by the conspiring beauties of nature and of art engrosses, as it may be supposed, the full attention of its noble proprietors. Lord Doneraile has been particularly attentive to the management of his sheep flock, an object of solicitude also to his father, who was one of the first improvers of the breed in this quarter by introducing some of the best English kinds. Till lately the Leicester was the general favourite, and not without reason, as they are equally recommended by symmetry of form, and health and thriftiness of constitution. Lord Doneraile, whose grounds are admirably adapted to the feeding of sheep, discovers superior perfection

fection in the South Down, which to the good qualities of the other adds the important superiority of better meat, and finer wool. As this opinion seems to be gaining ground very fast, there can be little doubt that his lordship, who has tried both, is in the right.

The other villages of the district, the principal of which are Kildorrery, Glanworth, and Castle-town-roche, afford nothing to the observer but the regret of seeing such poor places in so fine a country. The objects worth notice at Glanworth, are a new and very handsome glebe-house, with appropriate embellishments, built by the Rev. Dr. Woodward, and highly honourable to his taste and liberality, and the ruins of a very magnificent castle. This great building, proudly stationed upon some bold rocks, the steep foot of which is washed by the Funcheon, is said to have belonged to the Roches, once possessed of great power and influence in this country. Indeed, the far greater number of castles, very numerous in this district, attest the opulence of their founders, and prove that the country, however unsettled in its general state, must have enjoyed many intervals of repose, as well as a considerable degree of wealthy population. With every allowance for the facility afforded by cheapness of labour,

labour, and power of influence, such works bear internal evidence of the progress of arts and the possession of affluence. Seasons of tranquillity must also have intervened for the erection of buildings so spacious and stately. A castle like Glanworth seems to have required the labour of years.

The banks of the Blackwater from Mallow to Fermoy furnish, as has been observed, a richness of scenery hardly to be equalled in any inland situation. An enumeration of all the particular beauties, however entertaining to reader or writer, would occupy too large a space in a work appropriated to purposes of more public importance. A general view will enable the reader to form no inadequate idea of its varied charms. He has only to conceive a majestic river, flowing sometimes with a gentle, and sometimes with a rapid stream, through a country peculiarly fitted to lend and borrow beauties from its course. On the south side is a range of lofty hills, varying their form and outline as they run.—Their summits are embrowned with heath, their sides sometimes covered with native verdure, and frequently adorned with wood. The north side presents a fair and fertile country, the substratum of which is limestone, seldom shewing above the surface, except near the river, where it exhibits a
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great variety of bold* and beautiful forms. On many of these, appropriate situations for strength and security, appear the ruins of castles, which, happily no longer necessary for habitation, serve only to adorn the prospect. Situations so inviting have naturally induced many gentlemen of fortune to reside on its banks, from whose improvement the native beauties of the country have derived material addition. Among these, some of the principal deserve to be particularly mentioned. The new seats are, Clifford, the seat of Richard Martin, Esq. and Carrigacume, that of Richard Foot, Esq. the former richly planted, the situation of the latter remarkably fine. Bridgtown, the seat of John Mansergh, Esq, but now occupied by the Rev. Thomas Hoare, curate of the parish of Castletown-Roche. Renny, the seat of the Rev. Christopher Wallis, grandly situated on one of the rocks overhanging the Blackwater, and highly planted and improved by its present owner. Castle Widenham, that of Charles Widenham, Esq. delightfully situated near the confluence of the Awbeg and Blackwater,

* One of the most singular is Killavallane rock, near half way between Mallow and Fermoy. It hangs over the Blackwater, which has underworn it in such a manner, that from some points of view it seems absolutely pendulous. Limestone rocks, various and unequal in the solidity of their texture, derive great irregularities of form from the constant attrition of water. This is curiously exemplified in numberless instances at Killarney.

water, in the neighbourhood of which are many other handsome seats. Of the later establishments, far the first in beauty and magnificence is Convamore, (formerly Ballyhooly) now the property of Richard Hare, Esq. eldest son of Lord Ennismore. This place was much and justly admired for the singular beauty of its situation, before it derived any adventitious graces from the hand of art. The addition of a superb house, and grounds highly dressed and judiciously planted fully entitle it to the pre-eminence here bestowed. This fine mansion is not less calculated to gratify the accomplished spectator within than without. Lord Ennismore, and his son, are both distinguished for their skill and love of painting, and have, in consequence, profusely adorned the house with pictures of the best masters, selected with much taste and judgment, and procured at great expence. It is reputed to be one of the first collections in the kingdom. Lower down on the river is Craig, occupied by Colonel Stewart, brother-in-law to Mr. Hyde, whose estate it is, a remarkably beautiful situation, but on a smaller scale. Chief of the old establishments is Castlehyde, the seat of John Hyde, Esq. superior to all in the extent of the grounds and the rich abundance of its timber. Much of this is native wood, consisting chiefly of oak, great part of it full grown. This

stands principally on the south side of the river, and occupies so great a tract, as to render it a matter of some difficulty to estimate its value.—Planting nevertheless, among other agricultural pursuits, continues to engage much of Mr. Hyde's attention, and does credit to his judgment; for nothing can exceed the health and vigour of the young plantations. The situation of the house, enlarged and modernized at great expence, is low, yet commands a pretty view, the river running close in front, and the grounds gradually rising on the opposite side. A natural crescent of limestone rock, covered with trees and shrubs, guards it on the north side, and such is the protection it experiences in every direction, either from land or trees, that the storm may rage from any point, not unheard, perhaps, but certainly unfelt. The farm-land is principally on the north side of the house, and comprises a considerable extent of limestone ground, excellent in quality and highly cultivated. Mr. Hyde's character stands very high in the class of modern and improved agriculturists. He has taken pains to procure and try every kind of implement, and contributed much to the introduction of a better style of farming into the neighbourhood. The Devon breed of cattle have been found very thrifty, and excellent workers. He makes use of
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the Scotch swing plough, drawn, for the most part, by two bullocks, or two horses, the latter of which are always drove with long reins by the ploughman. His farm-yard is very large and commodious, and he practises stall-feeding chiefly with turnips. Indeed there is hardly any kind of management, which he has not tried, laying aside such as proved too troublesome and complicated, and adhering to modes of more general use and more convenient facility. Our young men of fortune, who turn their attention to agriculture, are often induced to despise, rather rashly, the simplicity of antient practice, and to introduce, too suddenly, the use of expensive and complicated machinery adapted, perhaps, to the circumstances of a country, where labour is very dear and art far advanced, but practicable in few places here, and hardly applicable to any. To these innovations they are led by the perusal of books on farming, replete with imposing statements and calculations of extraordinary profit, easily made on paper, but not, I fear, always to be depended on. The result is sometimes injurious, and in a double way. It has a tendency to discourage the young practitioner by the mortification of disappointment, and to confirm the peasant in the preference of his old system. Perseverance, however, combined with judgment will soon distinguish the
useful

useful from the incongruous, and rest upon the final establishment of the most appropriate modes. An improvement of the common implements of husbandry, particularly the plough and harrow;* the introduction and use of clover, turnips, rape, &c. and a better rotation of crops, seem to be the great desiderata of Irish husbandry. To this is to be added a suitable improvement in the breed of cattle, an object, to which the general attention of the higher ranks has been, of late, most laudably directed. Hitherto the common farmer had generally appeared careless or unaware of any distinction.—His cow was sent to the nearest bull, without any regard to size† or kind, his mare to the cheapest stallion.

* The scuffler, a species of harrow, now well known to all experienced agriculturists, has been for some time in use among several gentlemen in this barony. It is an excellent and powerful implement in deep and clear soils, unencumbered with rock or stone, such as are often found on the northern side of the county. To the far greater part of the southern districts it is altogether inapplicable.

† The author of the Survey of Kildare has given an elaborate description of the various breeds of horses, cows, sheep, and pigs, and their several uses and qualities, which evinces accurate knowledge and acute discernment. It will be read with advantage by all breeders. Among the distinguishing marks of a well shaped beast, from which even the pig is not excepted, he specifies a pleasant countenance, *without which no animal can be shapely*. A cross or sour look, sometimes observable in horses, cows, and dogs, may fairly enough be considered as a symptom of ill temper or intractable disposition, but it amounts to no more. Nature seems to have

established

stallion. The breed of sheep and pigs degenerated from similar neglect. Among the improvements introduced in this way by Mr. Hyde, one of the principal is the importation of a young horse and mare of the celebrated breed known by the name of the Suffolk punch. They are above the middle size, and sorrel, a colour not generally approved of here, and most admirably formed for active strength. The value of this description of horses, used almost exclusively in farm work, is very high, but their uncommon powers and steadiness of draught fully justify it. Though bought at a very early age, these stand, I believe, at one hundred guineas each.—Among Mr. Hyde's more recent works, he has drained a pretty large extent of deep wet argillaceous soil, situated under a lofty hill, from which it derived a number of deep and copious springs. The drains are, in general, very deep, and appear to have been made in judicious directions. The quantity of water discharged is very considerable, and serves to work a mill grinding for the use of the house. It may also be used for the purpose of irrigation, a species of improvement our limestone soils rarely admit

established no necessary connexion between placidity of countenance and symmetry of form. Even in man, peculiarly distinguished for expression of feature, an ugly face is often joined to an admirable shape. It would, I believe, puzzle Lavater himself to discover the amiable and placid graces of a pig's countenance.

admit of. The augre was made use of occasionally, and it was thought with some advantage, though, from the nature of the ground, I should not be disposed to consider it as by any means necessary to the success of the undertaking. The drains are very expensively but very securely executed, consisting generally of two parallel walls covered over with broad flags.

The towns of the barony of Condon and Clangibbon's, which joins Fermoy on the east side, are Mitchelstown and Kilworth. The latter is a small and poor town, formerly a resting place for travellers between Cork and Dublin, but now hardly resorted to by any but common carriers, in consequence of the superior accommodations of Fermoy. Adjoining it on the south side, is a large house and very fine demesne of Lord Mountcashel's, watered by the Funcheon, which here assumes a very respectable size. This river, like the Blackwater, flows in many parts of its course under a range of limestone rocks, various and romantic in their form, and, where wooded, extremely beautiful. The demesne under consideration possesses great advantages of this nature, and the taste of its noble possessor has been assiduously directed to the improvement of so happy a situation. A little below the junction of the Funcheon and Blackwater, and

on the south side of the latter, stands Carey's-ville, the seat of Peter Carey, Esq. one of the boldest and most commanding situations it affords. Higher up on the Funcheon, near the mills already mentioned, Mr. Aldworth built a house, called Rock-mill lodge. In this the dry rot, complained of in some other places, has made its appearance in a manner calculated to raise some apprehension of more general injury. The house stands upon a limestone base, a situation by no means likely to encourage the admission of so pernicious a visitant. The whole of the staircase, and the floors of one or two rooms, have been reduced to a soft spongy substance, and what seems most remarkable is, that the part adjoining the back of a chimney experienced the most rapid decay. This is an alarming circumstance, and deserves to be made as public as possible, in the hope of discovering some effectual remedy. It has been said, that washing with a solution of hot lime will prevent it. Mr. Aldworth's care was to replace the damaged timber. I owe this communication to the Rev. Dr. Robert Austen, rector of Castletown-roche, to whom I have to acknowledge much obligation for the pains he has taken to procure me information of every kind respecting this quarter, and among the rest

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the following interesting account of the present state of Mitchelstown.

Mitchelstown, a very wretched village before the time of the late Lord Kingston, by whom it was greatly improved and enlarged, is now a handsome and populous town. Like most other towns, the apparent is better than the real condition, as the suburbs and back lanes are full of very indigent inhabitants. Every thing however has been done by its present possessor, the Dowager Lady Kingston, which the happy wisdom of charity and affluence could suggest, to enlighten the minds of the rising generation, and ameliorate the condition of the people. Her Ladyship's liberal and munificent expenditures are, as follows. An Orphan school, where twelve girls are lodged, dieted, and taught every kind of work, together with reading, writing, and arithmetic. They make their own cloaths, spin flax and wool, knit stockings, work muslin, and keep the house clean. The mistress, who resides in the house, instructs them carefully in the principles of the christian religion. They also sing psalms on Sundays in place of the parish clerk incapacitated by age from performing this part of his duty. The church, a new, elegant, and expensive building, owes every thing to her ladyship's bounty, except a parish rate of twenty pounds, and a sum of four hundred.

hundred pounds subscribed by the yeomanry, the inhabitants, the agent of the Kingston estate, and the rector. To this Lady Kingston has also added a superb service of plate, (silver double gilt) for the communion table. A loan of three hundred pounds interest free, in sums of two or three guineas, payable at six pence per week for each guinea. A physician, with a salary of sixty pounds per annum, to visit the sick poor, and commissioned to order all necessary medicines from the apothecary, and oatmeal and wine from her ladyship's house-keeper. A village library, well stocked with select books, religious and entertaining, terms of admission one shilling per quarter. A public shop, where sugar, tea, soap, candles, salt, oatmeal, corned pork, &c. are retailed at first wholesale cost for ready money, or to such poor as produce responsible tickets. A second shop, retailing blankets, sheets, and all sorts of cloaths for men, women, and children, at the wholesale price of the materials. A weaving school, at which twelve or fourteen girls are taught to weave linen, the texture of which is as close and fine as that of men's manufacture. A bleach-green is connected with this establishment. A spinning school, at which all the poor girls in the town were taught to make listing shoes and spin flax. A Sunday school, (extending also to Wed-

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nesdays and Fridays) from which much was expected, as the primary attendants amounted to 200. Establishments of this kind evince a degree of discernment as well as liberality above all praise.— They are happily calculated to produce, what is so much wanted by the lower orders in this country, a systematic course of education and industry.— They exhibit an example worthy the imitation of the great, and of more real value and importance than the expenditure of thousands in works of shew and splendour.

The satisfaction I have felt in recounting these excellent institutions is, I am sorry to say, considerably allayed by the unpleasant task imposed on me, of recording the operations of a spirit very dissimilar indeed to that, which gave them birth.— It is greatly to be regretted, that misguided zeal, or difference of religious opinion, should have thrown any obstruction in the way of plans so admirably directed to purposes of important and extensive utility. I feel it particularly painful to be obliged to say any thing, that may convey censure on a pious, and, I trust, well meaning person. But I have a duty to perform, paramount to all considerations of professional delicacy, as a narrator of facts, the duty of speaking the truth. Of motives I pretend not to judge, and shall merely relate, without any
comment,

comment, the circumstances communicated by the reverend and respectable gentleman abovementioned, who was then rector of the parish of Mitcheltown. The only observation I shall make is, to express a hope that the obstructions complained of (the more surprising at a time, when liberty of principle is so generally and loudly professed,) are rather particular than systematic, more imputable to the narrow-minded jealousy of a single member, than the sentiments of the body, to which he belongs. From the Sunday school, at first so numerous attended, and where no particular creed was taught, the Catholic children were withdrawn, when Lady Kingston ordered it to be held in the church.—Walls have been said to have eyes and ears; in this instance it seems to have been feared, that they might have tongues also. The offensive objection, however, was removed, and the children were sent back to the market house, notwithstanding which the prohibition was continued by order of the priest. On the weaving and spinning school a similar inhibition was laid, because the mistress, a protestant, read prayers to the children. The prayers were admitted to be unexceptionable, and, to remove any possible shadow of objection, Dr. Austen proposed to join the reverend gentleman in composing a form of prayer for the purpose. This

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christian and liberal offer was however rejected, and the consequence is, that these useful institutions have fallen to the ground, and the unfortunate victims of a lamentable bigotry have been thrown back into idleness, ignorance, and indigence.

Mitchelstown has been singularly distinguished by the liberality of charitable donation. Lord Baron Kingston, grandfather to the present lady, left a sum of money secured upon the Kingston estate, the interest of which was to be applied in forming an establishment equally honourable to his humanity and his munificence. It is called the College of Mitchelstown, and provides for the comfortable maintenance of twelve decayed gentlemen, and as many gentlewomen, the latter of which have been since increased to sixteen. Each person has a house and small garden free of rent and taxes, and an annual salary of forty pounds, paid quarterly, and is under an obligation of residing, at least, ten months in the year. That nothing conducive to the support of declining years, or the consolation of afflicted minds, should be wanting, a chapel constitutes a part of the establishment, accompanied with an income of one hundred and twenty pounds per annum, and a good house, offices, and garden for the chaplain. The trustees are, the archbishop of Cashel, and the bishops of Cloyne, Limerick, and

and Waterford. To them belongs the nomination to every vacancy, and the entire management of all its affairs.

Mr. Crone of Doneraile left also fifteen pounds, per annum, to the poor of the parish, the distribution of which appertains to the rector.

The present incumbent enjoys the advantage of a new glebe-house, offices, and garden, suitably inclosed. The old glebe of nine acres, plantation measure, has been also surrounded with a deep screen of trees, and an addition of twelve acres given by Lady Kingston, the forms of, obtaining possession being executed by the late minister, Dr. Austen.

There is also a handsome Roman Catholic chapel in the town, and two others in the neighbourhood, the ground for which was given, and the expence in a great measure defrayed, by the late Lord Kingston.

The mansion house at Mitchelstown belonging to Lady Kingston is a large and magnificent building, worthy of its noble possessor. The pleasure ground and gardens beautiful and extensive. This fine and highly improved demesne contains no less than thirteen hundred acres, English measure, enclosed with a capital wall ten feet high.

The

The benefices in this quarter, and indeed for the most part in the diocese of Cloyne, are very considerable, in consequence of the great extent of the parishes or unions, and the late increase of tillage and population. Glanworth, I believe, is one of the best, and, were it larger, the liberal spirit of the present incumbent would induce every generous mind to rejoice in so appropriate a promotion. By a fine of £500 out of his own pocket, Dr. Woodward procured a lease for ever of the ground, (about twenty seven English acres) on which his glebe-house stands. This, as already observed, is a very complete and elegant building, the expence, as certified by commissioners, £3000.—The decoration of the grounds by planting and dressing is every day receiving important additions from a taste, which spares no expence. His church, a very neat one, he is now flooring with a composition* hard as stone, and no less recommended by cheapness than durability; it will not cost more than about six pounds.

Dr. Woodward has founded a school, under patronage of the Dublin association for discountenancing

* Gypsum or plaister of Paris probably makes a principal part. In some parts of England, near Nottingham particularly, I have seen a composition employed for upper as well as ground floors. It is called plaister stone, and, I believe, dug up nearly in the form, in which it is used. In appearance it is very like common lime and gravel cement; when dry, it concretes into a stony hardness.

nancing vice, for which he granted an acre of the old glebe. For building the house he gave £100, they £50. The master's salary is £30 per annum, half given by the association, and half by the rector. In this school more than sixty children receive instruction. The benefit of the establishment is general, but the priest of the parish, for reasons he has not thought proper to assign, has positively forbidden the Roman Catholic children to read the new testament. This, perhaps, may appear the more extraordinary, when it is considered that he is only curate, the parish belonging to the titular bishop of Cloyne.

CHAP. XV.

KINALEA AND KERRICURRIHY.

SECTION 1.

General Account.

Kinalea and Kerricurrihy, contiguous in situation and similar in general circumstances, stand on the south side of the city of Cork. The river Bandon, from Inishannon downwards, separates them from Carbery and Courcey's, Cork harbour forms the eastern, and Muskerry and the liberties of Cork the northern boundary. On the south quarter, they comprehend the town and liberties of Kinsale, and from that to Cork-head are bounded by the ocean. Kinalmeaky joins them on the west. Kinalea, which is the larger of the two, occupies the southern part.

The situation of this district is equally favourable to the pursuits of humble industry, and the accommodations of superior station. Besides many smaller inlets,

inlets, conducive alike to pleasure and utility, the admirable harbours of Cork and Kinsale, one on the east, the other on the west side, confer advantages of the most important nature. To the gentleman is presented a great variety of beautiful and convenient situations. The farmer has every encouragement to the exercise of his art, which proximity of market and manure can bestow. Limestone is found at Carigaline, on the east quarter, and the sea furnishes in many places abundance of calcareous sands. The natural supply of fuel is in some places exhausted, and in most scarce, but the convenience of so many harbours secures to the richer inhabitants a sufficiency of coal. The natural form of the country is very handsome, agreeably diversified with high and low land, and, but for the general want of timber, would be eminently beautiful. This want is the more to be regretted, as there are numberless glens and hollows too steep for culture, but excellently adapted to plantation. As the number of gentlemen's seats increase, in some of whom we find already a disposition to take advantage of such situations, it is to be hoped, that this unsightly as well as unprofitable nakedness will be gradually furnished with its appropriate covering.

The ranges of high and low land follow the customary direction of east and west, and, unlike the

more western parts of the county, the far greater part of all the hills is arable. There is, however, a great variety of soils, even in contiguous lands, which frequently differ from each other most considerably in value. Generally speaking, the elevated lands are very poor, the valleys rich. The former are usually covered with a very light coat of arable soil, resting on a base of rubly argillite or coarse broken schistus. The soil of the low grounds is sufficiently deep, of a kind and mellow texture, producing good hay and pasture, and excellent grain. It is observable that the north sides of the hills are almost invariably superior in quality to the south. This, however, is not peculiar to the district under consideration. In the barony of west Carbery, the same disparity occurs in a degree more striking and extraordinary. There, the north sides of the hills present an inclined plane, the south a steep and rugged face, so that a spectator placed upon an eminence, when he looks to the south, sees a tolerably fair country, when he turns his view to the north, beholds nothing but a range of rocky cliffs.

The richest soil of this district is found in the vale, which, beginning at Cork harbour, takes its course to the western extremity at Brinny. A great
part

part of this is so flat, that the river, which runs through it (Awnbuy) would, were it large enough, be navigable for a considerable part of its course. Between Balinhassig and Carigaline, particularly near Ballea-castle, it is more rapid. But for this there would be very little difficulty in constructing a canal communicating with Cork harbour on the east, and reaching to the vicinity of Bandon on the west. From the neighbourhood of Brinny to that of Balinhassig, a distance of some miles, the ground is so very flat as to require the concurrent aid of the different land-holders occasionally to clear the bed of the river, and enable it to discharge the stagnant waters. This, however, has never been done with sufficient efficacy to drain the lands, and prevent an excess of inundation. A great extent of valuable land remains in this quarter for the reclaiming hand of future industry. In its present state it produces a copious supply of coarse hay, and summer feeding, but is capable of much more abundant as well as more valuable produce. Were the river confined within sufficient banks, and the springs cut off by proper drains, it would form a tract of the richest meadow-land in the county, all of which might be irrigated in the winter season.

The east end of this vale contains a small tract

of limestone-land, which appears to be a continuation of that, which passes through the south side of Imokilly. It terminates near Carigaline-bridge, beyond which, neither in a western direction, nor to the south side of this line, is any limestone found. It seems a remarkable circumstance that, the southern part of the county containing so many deep vales, the situations, in which limestone commonly appears, should possess no portion of calcareous rock. The contiguity of an ocean, abounding with fit matter for its production, would naturally lead one to expect a more than ordinary share, especially as we find in the composition of the interior limestone so large a contribution from its stores. In the neighbourhood of Doneraile, marble has been found almost entirely composed of cockles, a fish of great abundance on the southern coast, and, I believe, every calcareous tract exhibits vestiges of this shell more or less. It seems, therefore, not a little extraordinary, that so great an extent of coast should be altogether destitute of limestone. I have observed another singular circumstance, respecting the limestone of this county, less imputable, however, to natural than accidental causes. It is found only in contiguity with redstone. Where the grey-stone district begins, the limestone disappears. The
range

range of redstone hills, south of Cork, which joins the Carigaline limestone on its north side, recedes in its western course from the upper part of the valley, and, after it leaves it, no limestone is found.

Though the part containing limestone is, like the rest of our calcareous tracts, of very good quality, it is not esteemed the best ground of this vale. The soil of the western end, claiming an equality in many places, possesses in one a character of decided superiority. The beautiful farm of Anagh, rising in an insulated form from deep surrounding marshes, is little inferior to the finest lands of the county. It is considered as too rich for producing wheat, though the experienced farmer will be disposed to attribute the failure of this crop to other causes than superabundant fertility. The fault of excessive richness may be easily counteracted. More luxuriance, if this be the sole cause of complaint, can be very effectually reduced by successive crops of other grain. A smaller quantity of seed should also be used, a circumstance not sufficiently attended to by Irish farmers, who generally sow too much. The effect, however, may be imputable to other causes. In this moist climate wheat seldom succeeds on retentive clays, however rich in other produce. It grows, indeed, luxuriantly, but generally produces

produces a poor and shrivelled grain. A more skilful management by laying up the ground in high ridges, as practised in England on such soils, would probably be found very useful in all lands of this description.

SECTION 2.

*Kinalea and Kerrihurty.**Modes of Husbandry, &c.*

THE tillage of this district is daily experiencing advancement both in quantity and quality, the latter depending much upon the nature and circumstances of the tenure. Towards the termination of a lease, it is a very common practice to pursue the system of exhaustion, which is most effectually accomplished by such as are not restrained from paring and burning. In that case the following course of crops takes place, than which nothing can be more pernicious.

- | | | | |
|---|--|-----|-----------|
| 1 | Paring and burning, with a slight dressing of sea sand for | - | Wheat. |
| 2 | Followed without any manure by | - | Potatoes. |
| 3 | And 4 do. | do. | - Oats. |

After

After the last crop, which it may be supposed is hardly worth the labour, the land is left without grass seeds to recruit itself for a similar course by the gradual operation of benignant nature. Useless weeds are, of course, its only production for some years, and it is hard to conceive, how any circumstances can be considered as justifying the adoption of so unprofitable a process.

Paring and burning is a very old, and still a very prevailing mode of management here, particularly in the barony of Kinalea. Experience abundantly proves that this system, against which so much local prejudice prevails, is only injurious when injudiciously pursued. Were it attended by the evil consequences so frequently deplored, the lands of Kinalea would by this time be reduced to a state of infertility. The contrary, however, is the fact. The general effect is beneficial, the injury confined to that kind of injudicious management, which, were burning out of the question, would impoverish and exhaust. The general inducement to it seems to be the fertility of the operation in a light dry soil, pared without difficulty, and soon fitted for burning. Great and extensive improvement has resulted from this species of culture. Large tracts of land, covered with heath and furze, have been brought into tillage, and produce good crops of
hay,

hay, besides corn and potatoes. In the burning process grass-seeds are essentially necessary, as the operation of the fire destroys the natural herbage. It is very probable, that the naked appearance of land, let out without grass-seeds after burning, has been a principal cause of the objection to the mode. But this barrenness is more apparent than real. It is ascribable to the destruction of the roots and seed of the grass, not to any actual impoverishment of the soil, as appears from the ready growth of the new seed, even after an exhausting course of crops. The following succession takes place in the better mode of management.

- 1 Paring and burning, with
a dressing of sea sand
for - - - Wheat.
- 2 Dung for - - - Potatoes.
- 3 Sea sand for - - - Wheat or oats.
- 4 Without manure - Oats and grass-seeds.

Or this :

- 1 Paring and burning for Potatoes.
- 2 Sea sand for - - - Wheat.
- 3 Without manure for - Oats.
- 4 Dung for - - - Potatoes.
- 5 Sea sand for - - - Wheat or barley.
- 6 Without manure for - Oats and grass-seeds.

The obvious fault of these modes is in the concluding part of the process. Grass-seeds ought to be brought nearer to the dung manure, and the last crop of corn wholly omitted. In that case, particularly if the concluding crop was barley, the course would be altogether unexceptionable. It is, however, considered to answer very well. Our tillage farmers are not at all aware of the great advantage they would derive from laying out grounds to grass in full heart. Their great defect is overcropping. They look upon that vigour to be lost, which is not employed in producing potatoes or corn, and, as long as the soil retains any strength, they resign it to tillage.

No part of this district, except in the occupation of gentlemen, is employed in fattening*, but in the low and rich grounds there are several dairies. The prices paid by the dairymen, per cow, vary, according to situation and circumstances, from six pounds to ten guineas. At these dairies some calves are reared to keep up the stock, but none for sale. The cows are of a mixed breed and middle size, seldom in any place exceeding four hundred weight, and in the poorer pastures much lighter. Their winter food is hay in addition to their grass pasture, except
where

* Occasionally they sell a fat sheep, and sometimes a cow, but do not make it a practice.

where the neighbourhood of towns allows them the use * of grains. General prices of new milch cows from seven to ten guineas, according to the quantity of milk they may be engaged to give, and according to their size and beauty. Sometimes the value rises higher. Cows of this description are seldom bought in any part of the county without such engagement. The seller engages that his cow shall give, on fair pasture, a certain quantity of milk, and so many days are allowed for trial. If she does not answer the engagement, the bargain is void, or by mutual consent an abatement, proportioned to the deficiency, is made in the price. The usual quantity engaged for is from twelve to sixteen quarts per day. Few are rated lower than the former quantity, and many small cows give more than the latter.

The implements of husbandry among the common farmers are still for the most part very bad, the spade and shovel excepted, in the use of which all are sufficiently expert. The common Irish plough in its usual imperfection, and a bad harrow seldom furnished with iron pins. Among such gentlemen, however, as have lately directed their attention to agriculture, improved instruments are now found, and in the eastern part of the district their example
has

* Where grains are used, the dairyman pays a higher price.

has brought some imitators. Ploughing is an operation of such essential utility, that it cannot be made an object of too much solicitude. To the laudable exertions of so many gentlemen we shall probably owe a very speedy and general improvement of this important art.

The working beast of this district universally is the horse, lately much improved in size and strength, since wheel carriages became general. Great numbers are employed during summer in drawing sea sand, even to the remotest parts of the district, Carigaline being the only place where limestone is found. Even there it has not precluded the use of this manure, which answers nearly the same purpose, and is procured upon easier terms than lime. Sand was here formerly, as it still is in many other places, carried on horses' backs, in bags containing about two hundred weight. It is now universally drawn in one horse carts, that carry from five to six hundred. Twenty of these carry a boat load, which is bought at the place of landing for half a guinea. In remote situations one boat-load is the complement of manure for an acre; when the carriage is short, they often give two. The sand chiefly used is taken up at Oyster-haven, from deep water, with dredges, and, being principally composed of shell, contains a large portion of the calcareous ingredient.

dient. It is used for potatoes as well as corn, and is found to be peculiarly efficacious, when laid out between the first and second earthing. It is frequently employed in this manner, as an additional dressing to a slight dunging or a covering of mould dug from sides of roads and ditches. The latest and best practice, however, has been to form it into a compost with earth, and by this mode of management many poor and barren tracts have been brought into a productive state. The quantity of earth employed in these manures has been very injurious to the bank fences, which are cut away and spoiled to procure it, an injury very generally complained of in most parts of the county. Turfy matter obtained in clearing the trenches of bogs, and in some places dry for this purpose on the surface, has been found of most utility in forming these composts. Turf is composed of ligneous and vegetable roots and fibres, which, when reduced to a proper state of putrefaction, must necessarily form a rich mould. This process is rapidly promoted by the intermixture of the sand, partly from the nature of its own substance, and partly from a free admission of air to all parts of the heap.

Besides the manures above mentioned, sea weed is obtained in the neighbourhood of the ocean, and employed as in other places. The most abundant

dant of these manures is sand. Dung, though highly valued, is far from being abundant, from the general want of proper farm-yards and houses for cattle. Of the little farmers, few have even a stable, and among the greater there is hardly any such thing as a cow-house. Grass and hay are the principal food, clover being as yet little cultivated in any parts, and to some entirely unknown. Furze tops pounded are frequently, as in other places, given to horses, and esteemed, as they really are, excellent food. Potatoes are also made use of both for horses and cows, but the practice is by no means general.

Farm-houses, generally built with mud walls, are for the most very indifferent, and what are called farm-yards, seldom deserve the name. There are, however, some exceptions, and a very perceptible improvement has lately taken place in both.

For labour in general there is a good demand, from which it may be presumed, that the labourer's condition is in a state of improvement. Out labourers are often hard to be got, their prices from ten-pence to a shilling a-day, with victuals. In the potatoe digging season many recruits are obtained from the remoter regions of the west. Resident labourers attached to the farm have a house, an acre

of

of potatoes, and the grazing of six sheep at the following general prices.

House	per annum	one guinea.
Acre	do.	from four to five.
Six sheep	do.	at six shillings a-piece.

The prices are paid in work at six-pence per day.

Farms are of very unequal size, from ten acres to two hundred. Increase of population has latterly tended to multiply the number of tenures, and diminish the size of farms. As agriculture advances, the dairies proportionally decrease. The general lease is for twenty-one or thirty-one years, to which a life is often added concurrent with the years for the purpose of making freeholders. Long leases are now very rarely given, but there are some of an ancient date, under which the immediate tenant enjoys a much better property than the head landlord. The principal of those, which are perpetual, are held under the Earl of Shannon and Sir John Miller. The rent of land has risen very considerably. It varies from ten shillings to three guineas per acre. The great increase appears to have been within the last seven years.

SECTION 3.

*Kinallea and Kerricurrihy.**Towns—Markets—Manufactories—Seats, &c.*

THE only town in Kinallea, for Kinsale forms a district in itself, is Inishannon, standing on the river Bandon, navigable for small vessels from Kinsale, and more remarkable for beauty of situation than for size or opulence. It owes its principal establishment to the late Thomas Adderley, Esq. who built a range of good houses, laid out a handsome bleach-green, and planted the linen manufacture here, deriving, I believe, considerable aid to the undertaking from the bounty of government. The bleaching business is still carried on by Mr. Orr, who has also a considerable manufactory of white calico and dimity, that furnishes employment to many hands. It is a post and market town,

town, inhabited by several respectable families, and derives much respectability from many beautiful seats adjoining. The principal of these belong to Messrs. Harrick, Orpen, Sealy, Corker, &c. and being well dressed and planted, and enjoying the double advantage of diversified grounds and so fine a river, are most convenient and elegant places of residence. One of the most ornamental circumstances is a very flourishing wood, which covers the side of a large hill, south of the river, planted by the late Mr. Adderley, among whose establishments is also to be reckoned a charter-school for forty boys, I believe now pretty well attended to. There are also two fairs for cattle, in May and October. The other principal fairs of the district are those of Carigaline and Balinhassig.

Of Kinsale as annexed to the district, though not included in it, this seems to be the properest place to speak. The town and liberties, occupying an extent of near three miles square, form a separate jurisdiction, paying a certain proportion of the county rate, but no baronial tax. The charter, to which some very useful amendments have been added by an act passed in the last session, confers important and extensive privileges. A court of record for recovery of debts of any amount, a power of holding sessions of the peace for the trial of petty offences,

and a court of conscience, in which small debts (under forty shillings) may be sued for, constitute its jurisdicative powers. The corporation consists of a sovereign, recorder, burgesses, and freemen, the number of the last unlimited. It returns one member to the imperial parliament. Among the advantages conferred by the act above-mentioned is, what should also be given to every other local jurisdiction, a power vested in the corporation of employing all fines, inflicted by the court, to the use and benefit of the town. The consequence of these regulations is an improved police, and a strict and due administration of justice.

The town of Kinsale is very respectable as well from the number and description of its inhabitants, as from its size and antiquity. To the last, however, it owes much inconvenience in the extreme narrowness of the streets, a circumstance observable in all very ancient establishments, and probably arising from the state of the times, in which they were formed. Fortification was then necessary for security, and a small compass was more easily rendered defensible. The infrequency of wheel carriages was also another material cause of contracting the streets. The nature of the ground, on which the town stands, a hill of steep and sudden ascent from the water, is peculiarly unfavourable to the
formation

formation of streets. The true way of laying out such ground for building is in crescents or single ranges, rising one above the other, as on the elevated situations at Bath. In this way Kinsale might be rendered a very beautiful town, but the present circumstances are such as to afford no probable hope of an alteration, attended with great trouble and expence, and more recommended, perhaps, by taste than real utility.

The harbour of Kinsale, though much less capacious than that of Cork, is one of the most compact and secure, that can well be imagined. It is of a round form, with a long and deep entrance from the south, and perfectly landlocked by high land surrounding it in every direction. It has a strong fort on the east side, and was formerly the principal naval depot, having a dock-yard and store-house. These have been transferred to Cork harbour, since that has been rendered secure by so many new works. Kinsale derives little advantage in the way of trade from so fine a harbour. The superior situation of Cork engrosses the foreign commerce, and supplies this town with all commodities of this nature. Something is done here in the import of coal, and in the coasting trade, but the great marine establishment of Kinsale is its fishery. Three or four hundred boats, called hookers, generally of
about

about twenty tons burthen, are constantly employed in this business, and afford an ample supply of fish to the markets of Cork, Kinsale, and Bandon. They are most admirable sea boats, go out in all weathers, and are extremely serviceable to ships in the way of pilotage. Four men make the usual complement of each crew, and their services as fishermen and pilots are justly deemed of such important utility, as to procure them an exemption from impress. These men seem to be only happy on the water; they live almost entirely in their boats, the domestic business, and the curing of such fish, as are not sold fresh, being consigned to the management of the females.

Kinsale, however, has other resources to compensate the want of trade. It has long been a place of fashionable summer resort, and the state of society there, without being expensive, is gay and chearful. This renders it a favourite residence for people of moderate incomes, who prefer pleasure to business. Many comfortable and commodious houses have been lately built, in addition to which, the establishment of hot and cold salt-water-baths has contributed much to increase the influx of company. A large new barrack, generally filled with military, brings no small accession to the gaieties of Kinsale.

The adjoining lands differ very much in quality, those on the sea coast being very poor. In the other parts the ground is good, and extremely well cultivated, bringing high rents, sometimes amounting to five guineas per acre. The price of town fields is still higher. The quantity of rich manure, afforded by towns, enhances greatly the value of the neighbouring lands, exclusive of the other advantages resulting from proximity.

Porter has lately become a business of very general as well as successful pursuit. Kinsale has now two porter breweries, apparently in a prosperous state. The principal proprietors in the town and liberties, are Lord De Clifford, James Kearney, Esq. and the corporation of Kinsale. In enumerating the useful establishments of this town, it would be very improper to omit a classical school,* under the auspices of Lord De Clifford and the corporation. Their judicious selection of the Rev. John Stewart, a gentleman perfectly qualified to undertake so important a charge, justifies the general hope of its attaining success and celebrity.

The country in general being very dry, the roads are tolerably good, subject only to the usual complaint

* This is not a new but a renewed school. The endowment is of long standing, having been established by the ancestors of Lord De Clifford, and often well kept. The corporation has lately added to the emoluments.

plaint of too much up and down. This is particularly observable of those, that cross the ranges of the hills from north to south. The intercourse between Cork and Kinsale is at present much embarrassed, from this injudiciousness of direction, but the inconvenience is likely to be of short duration in consequence of a new line of mail coach, lately laid out, and now almost ready to be proceeded on.

The waste grounds of this district, considering its extent, are very inconsiderable, being chiefly confined to deep glens, and rugged sides of hills, wholly unfit for the plough, but capable of much useful as well as ornamental produce (as has been already observed) by planting.

In the barony of Kinalea, which contains ten parishes inclusively, with a considerable part of some others, there are but four established parochial schools, viz. Inishannon, Dunderrow, Ballymartle, and Nohaval. There is, generally speaking, a Catholic school in each parish, which, however, have hitherto contributed little to the advancement of useful knowledge, as appears from the state of the English language, rather stationary than progressive among the lower orders, the greater number of whom speak Irish only. In the barony of Kerri-currihy, approaching so much nearer the city
of

of Cork, though in other respects there is a perfect similarity of manners and management, the English language has made a more rapid progress among the people.

In the rich and extensive parish of Carigaline, of which, by the favour of its noble patron the Earl of Shannon, the writer of this account has the honour to be incumbent, there is one parochial school of recent endowment and well attended. There are six Catholic schools, in which a considerable, but fluctuating number of children are instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic. The parish contains two churches, one of which, a chapel of ease, was erected about twenty years since, at Douglas, on the northern quarter, to accommodate the respectable inhabitants of that vicinity.

As this parish, from its contiguity to Cork, and the number as well as respectability of its inhabitants, may be deemed a proper representative of the barony, in which it stands, a more particular account of it seems not undeserving the notice of the reader.

With respect to the common farmer, agriculture, labouring under the usual imperfections, has not advanced in proportion to the advantages it possesses. These are, convenience of manure, proximity of the best market, and examples of superior practice.—

There

There is, however, much industry, and there will, no doubt, be consequent amelioration. To many gentlemen, some of whom are found among the first ranks of respectability, great praise is due for their practical attention to this art, and their solicitude to promote it. Among these, the use of artificial grasses, drill husbandry, and well constructed ploughs, have been generally and successfully introduced. The example has not been without imitators. A man of the name of John Dawly, who found an excellent instructor in Mr. Hartie, has distinguished himself at a very late ploughing match, and been adjudged several premiums. This may be considered as the first step to an agricultural revolution. The common people look upon a gentleman as acting upon principles of a nature too exalted, and have as little idea of imitating his style of farming as of building. The great difficulty is overcome, when one of their own order can be prevailed upon to adopt the desired innovation. As *his* means and objects are perfectly similar to their own, his example will find approvers, and his practice imitation. Clover is daily coming more into use among the common farmers.

There are eighteen dairies in this parish, containing from twelve to seventy-five cows each. The largest is at Rapheen, on the land of Mr. Drinane.

It

It consists of seventy-five well chosen cows, for each of which the dairy man pays £.13, 10s. per annum. They are fed occasionally with grains from the Cork breweries, a food remarkable for increasing the quantity, but impairing the quality of the milk, of course only eligible for those, who sell it fresh from the pail. Charles Leslie, Esq. of Wilton, who has some of the most beautiful cows I have any where seen, and who has paid particular attention to this branch of rural economy, computes the return of a good cow, thus fed, at £16, 10s. a year. The gross produce of a cow in Suffolk, where they are deemed very good milkers, is, according to Mr. Young, £8, 10s. On the best dairies the cows are of good size and a mixed breed. The newest importation is that of the Devon kind, belonging to Mr. Newenham of Coolmore, with whom they answer the general character of great thriftiness. This breed, first brought into the country by Mr. Hyde, has spread considerably, and is here thought to have increased in size. If this is really the case, it is to be imputed to the circumstance of being possessed only by gentlemen, and consequently well fed. In the hands of common farmers it would probably diminish, certainly not increase. It seems to me, that two kinds of this cow have been imported, one of a larger size and more yellow colour.

The smaller, as the author of the Survey of Kildare remarks, in form and qualities bears a strong resemblance to our own native breed.

The largest demesnes in this parish are those of Coolmore, containing 540 acres, Maryborough 370, and Oldcourt 350 acres. They belong respectively to William Worth Newenham, Esq. Richard Devonsher Newenham, Esq. and Sir Francis Goold.—Oldcourt, formerly the property of Mr. Norris, owes all its beauty to the present possessor, who built a handsome house, and adorned the grounds with a variety of rich plantation. Maryborough, commanding a very extensive view of the Cork river and the adjacent lands on the north side, is one of the handsomest places in the vicinity of the city. It contains abundance of well grown timber, and has been much enlarged and improved within the last twenty years. In this neighbourhood there are a great number of new seats, all finely situated with respect to prospect, but seldom possessing much extent of ground. This will not be deemed extraordinary, when it is considered, that any thing of good demesne land in this quarter brings from eight to ten pounds per acre. A price, so far exceeding the actual value of farm land, arises from the great demand for villas among the opulent inhabitants of Cork. The hills on each side of the
river

river afford so many inviting situations, that they are now generally studded with country houses, encompassed with ten or twenty acres each. In many places the rent is even higher than what has been specified. Coolmore, on which the present owner has built a capital mansion, stands at a greater distance from the city on the north side of the channel, that runs from Cork harbour to Carigaline. It is a beautiful well planted demesne, kept in high order, and every way worthy of its excellent and respectable possessor. Besides the above, this parish contains many handsome and well cultivated seats. The size of farms admits of the usual variety from so small a quantity as two or three acres to upwards of 300.

On the east side of Carigaline, Ballybrichen, the property of Mr. Conner, commanding a noble view of Cork harbour, is particularly distinguished for beauty of situation. Near this stands Barnahely, the seat of Thomas Warren, Esq. a gentleman, whose style of farming is conducted on the best principles of modern art, and managed with much more judgment and attention than gentlemen of fortune usually bestow. Among the other more distinguished agriculturists of this quarter are, Mr. Cuthbert, Mr. Hartie, Mr. Westropp, and Mr. Wm. Bustred. From these and some other patterns of
skilful

skilful management the farming of this neighbourhood cannot fail to derive the most beneficial results.

The only threshing machine in this parish is at Coolmore. It is worked by two horses, and performs the double operation of threshing and grinding.—Two men and two boys are sufficient to attend it. It will thresh twenty, and grind two barrels of wheat in the day. The whole expence of erecting it amounted to no more than £97, 16s. Several well constructed ploughs and harrows have been lately introduced. Mr. Newenham's attention has been particularly directed to the improvement of ploughing. Some of his boys have evinced a degree of skill, that would do credit to the best ploughers of any country. Sheep and pigs throughout the district are, in general, of the common breed. Mr. Newenham has a flock of the Leicester sheep, some of which appear occasionally in many parts of the country. He has also some good pigs of the Berkshire breed.

One of the most important changes, that has lately taken place in the manners of the people, may be dated from the bold and successful attempt of Messrs. Beamish and Crawford to establish the porter business in Cork. In the great profit they have derived from an undertaking so beneficial to the

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the country at large, and conducted on a scale of such superior magnitude, every liberal mind will rejoice. The increasing use of this wholesome beverage was very apparent before the suppression of the distilleries, and has experienced so rapid an augmentation since, that the apprehended injury to agriculture, by the reduced price of barley, seems to have been done away. There are, however, other considerations to be taken into account. An exchange of sobriety for drunkenness, and an improvement in the health and morals of the people, are worth purchasing, even at a greater price than a little fall on barley and oats. The injury sustained by some respectable individuals, who had embarked a large capital in distilleries, is certainly to be regretted, but the unbiassed judgment of every friend to the general welfare will be disposed to wish, that spirituous liquors may never be cheaper than at present. From a comparative view of the quantities of porter and spirits sold last year in this parish, a fair estimate may be formed of the present state of their consumption, which, when we consider the extensive circulation of the Cork porter, and the number of breweries throughout the county, may be deemed pretty nearly the same in all places. The number of public houses amounted

to

to twenty-four. The quantity of porter sold to 1,940 tierces, of spirits only 268 gallons.

The general salubrity of the climate has been already mentioned. Were the advantages of nature duly seconded by those of art, in the articles of cleanliness, temperance, and better food, few countries would probably have more to boast of on the score of health and longevity. As it is, many live to a good old age, and those, who do, generally retain their powers of labour to a late period. In the church-yard of Carigaline there are about ninety-four legible inscriptions upon tombs. By these it appears that

10 persons died, aged from 80 to 96 years.

23 from 70 to ditto,

41 from 60 to ditto,

55 from 51 to ditto.

Some instances of greater longevity have lately occurred.

Iron excepted, the district under consideration has hitherto afforded very few symptoms of mineral. Pieces of lead ore were some years ago taken up in a limestone quarry at Coolmore, but the nature of the vein was never examined, and the quarry has been since filled up. It was supposed to be rich. Our limestone is seldom combined with mineral.—Indications of lead are not unfrequent; its usual
concomitant

concomitant is quartz in argillaceous strata. Much of the limestone of Carigaline takes the quality of marble, may be raised in large blocks, and is capable of a high polish. Grey and dove are the prevailing colours, which shew its affinity to the Cork marble. It is observable in most of the limestone tracts, that the stone of the western extremities differs greatly from the rest both in colour and character, being much more hard, compact, and dark.

In the parish of Monkstown, which is an improper rectory, the property of Lords De Vesci, and Longford, stands the little town of Passage, about four miles distant from Cork. As a centre of communication between the harbour and the city, it is a place of much resort, particularly in time of war. Vessels of too heavy a burthen to navigate the upper part of the river are here unloaded, and occasionally repaired. The channel, which divides this parish from the great island, is here extremely contracted, and very deep, probably in consequence of discharging so great a body of water through so narrow an inlet. A ferry, the only regular one from Cork downwards, opens a communication with Cove and the great island, and finds, of course, continual employment. It is chiefly for passengers, market goods being most usually conveyed to and from

from the city in boats. Below Passage is the village of Monkstown, occasionally resorted to in summer for the benefit of sea bathing.

In the village of Douglas, situate at the north-east end of Carigaline parish, which, however, belongs rather to the liberties of Cork than the district under consideration, is an extensive manufactory of sail-cloth, providing employment for about three hundred people. This business, of long establishment, and very high character for the goodness and durability of the cloth, is conducted by Mr. Besnard in a stile of correct and regular management, which does him great credit. The other works of industrious enterprize, not before specified, are bolting mills, of which this district has now no inconsiderable number, and mostly of recent erection.

Of natural curiosities there is little to be related. Many of the cliffs possess that boldness of form, which characterizes the southern coast. The most remarkable object, and one which rarely occurs in this part of the world, is a landslip, near Kinure point, called the Doong, by which two or three acres have been detached from their original situation. Between them and the main land is a chasm of frightful depth, but not continuous.

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tral part of the gulph, a passage of about five feet wide preserves a communication between the main land and the dissevered portion. The sides of this perilous passage are perpendicularly steep to the depth of nearly an hundred feet. It has been doubted, whether this means of approach be ascribable to nature or art. Whoever considers the extreme difficulty of the work, and the trivial nature of the acquisition, will probably have no hesitation in ascribing it to the former.

In a district of such extent and situation, it would be as difficult as it is unnecessary to give a detailed account of the different possessors of seats and proprietors of land.* Besides those already mentioned, are Sir Thomas Roberts, Mr. Adderley, and the Hodder, Meade, and Daunt families. Among these are found several spacious, new, and handsome houses, adorned with demesnes, planted, dressed, and cultivated in the best modes of modern art. The improvements, which have taken place within the last twenty years in this respect, afford a pleasing

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picture

* With the district above described I have had a long and pretty intimate acquaintance, partly in consequence of a connexion with some respectable families, and partly from the accidental circumstance of having been curate of Carigaline about twenty-five years since. I have, however, been enabled to draw from better stores than my own, and am to acknowledge my obligation to Thomas Newenham, Esq. and the Rev. Richard Meade, for much of the foregoing information.

picture of extended opulence and advancing manners. Plantation has become a favourite object, but it is chiefly confined to demesnes. Could it be made to flourish among the lower ranks of agriculturists, a point of the utmost importance, equally conducive to use and beauty, would thereby be happily attained.

CHAP. XVI.

BARRYMORE AND KILNATALOON.

SECTION 1.

General Account.

BARRYMORE, an extensive and compact barony, is one of the few, which are not in some part bounded by the ocean, or an adjoining county. Its southern extremity, however, embracing the Great island, reaches to Cork harbour; in the other points it is surrounded successively by Imokilly, Kilnataloon, Condons and Clangibbons, Fermoy, Barretts, and the liberties of Cork. Barrymore contains, on the southside, a small portion of the limestone vale extending from Cork to Imokilly, and on the north another tract of similar description at Castle-Lyons; the remainder is brown or red stone, of which a great part is high, coarse, moory, and mountainous. The

southern part, convenient to manure and market, is populous, productive, and in many instances well cultivated. The neighbourhood of Rathcormuck and Castle-Lyons exhibits a similar description of country, exceeding the other, perhaps, in quality, but inferior in cultivation. The other parts, not excepting those which approach the city on the north-side, have been until lately much neglected, and still contain large tracts of ground very little indebted to the hand of culture. Of this the greater part seems to have been for many years under the slovenly mode of old dairy management, where a large extent of uncultivated land served only to support two or three lazy herdsmen and a small stock of ill-fed cows. Some of it still continues in a similar state, but the progress of industrious improvement is daily becoming more visible.

The central parts of Barrymore, between Cork and Rathcormuck, are very elevated, and, notwithstanding their vicinity to the city, do not seem to have been an object of early settlement. Till within a comparatively short period, this great tract was probably a mere waste, without inhabitants, and without cultivation. In all the lower tracts, and even in some places of no superior promise, and of more remote wildness, we still can trace the numerous ruins of ancient habitation. After leaving Glanmire on my
way

way to Fermoy, I could only mark the remains of one poor castellated building on this extensive and lofty range. The country, however, though high, is very capable of improvement. The soil is generally deep, little encumbered with stone, often of good natural quality, frequently wet, though seldom boggy, and easily reclaimable by draining. Many good farm-houses, and well-inclosed comfortable farms have lately made their appearance on the quarter near Cork, most of which, I understand, owe their advancement to the family of the Martins, peculiarly distinguished for their skilful and persevering industry in the practice of agriculture. It is but a just tribute to their uncommon exertions to say, that they stand among the very foremost in this county, as patterns of uniform good conduct, and successful unremitting assiduity.

Irishmen often begin with spirit, but frequently fail in perseverance. To grow rich is often to turn fine gentlemen, and become idle; or, if the diligence of the father should happen to be permanent, it is counteracted by the dissipation of the sons. In this truly meritorious family industry suffers no abatement, and increase of opulence brings with it increase of exertion.

One house of superior description has lately been erected on this rude tract by Mr. Brazier. However

ever uninviting the situation may appear to a common observer, it seems a much more prudent and laudable plan to build upon, and improve an uncultivated estate, than, as is sometimes practised, to leave a remote and uncivilized tenantry to their own barbarism, and become the idle occupier of a pretty villa in a fashionable neighbourhood, without consequence to himself or utility to others. One of the greatest wants of our rude and ignorant peasantry is the want of active, industrious, resident gentlemen, to repress their turbulence, relieve their wants, encourage their industry, and humanize their manners. In the article of pleasure something, no doubt, must be lost by this sacrifice to utility, but it will be amply compensated by other gratifications. The liberal mind will receive no small degree of satisfaction from the consciousness of doing good, and it behoves gentlemen to consider, that their country has a claim to their services, and that they are not born for themselves alone.

The little village of Watergrass-hill, eight miles from Cork, stands upon the highest cultivated ground, perhaps, in the kingdom. The ascent from Cork is so gradual, that the traveller is not aware of the great elevation he has attained, until the vales of Castle-Lyons and Fermoy suddenly open to his view. He then sees with some surprize, that he is
placed

placed upon an eminence considerably higher than some of the northern mountains. One of those called Coran Tierna, rising almost perpendicularly to a pointed top, from a deep swamp on the north side of Fermoy, is a very striking object. When passing under, it appears a lofty mountain, incapable of useful produce on a summit so exalted, which is probably the real case. Yet it is greatly exceeded in height by the lands about Watergrass-hill, which, in fact, possess a soil of no bad quality, and capable of producing every grain but wheat. These, however, are part of a very extended range, on which the cold has much less injurious effect than on the more exposed nakedness of pointed hills. The view from these high lands is very grand, comprehending a great reach of low and fertile country inclosed by mountains of irregular form, and unequal altitude. A singular visual deception attends this prospect. To the traveller, who has so lately quitted the level of the sea at Cork, and imperceptibly gained an unsuspected elevation, the flats about Fermoy appear vastly lower than those he has just left behind. He finds it difficult to conceive even an equality of horizontal level, and feels prepared to pronounce a decided opinion upon the much greater depression of the northern vale. A little reflection, however, convinces him, that the contrary is the true fact,

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and that he has been deceived by the graduality of ascent on one side, and the suddenness of the fall on the other. Fermoy stands high above the level of Cork, and from Mitchelstown, situate nearly in the same plane with the former, there is a regular descent to the city of Waterford, on the east side of the island.

The small barony of Kilnataloon joins Barrymore, on the east, and possesses nothing of peculiar feature or remarkable interest. On the north side, near Castle-Lyons, it contains a limestone tract of very good quality. The greater part is coarse high moorland.

SECTION 2.

Barrymore and Kilnataloon.

Modes of Culture—Dairies—Cattle, &c.

FROM the general description of this district it will immediately appear to be one of those, in which much variety of soil and temperature, and striking contrasts of agricultural management will necessarily be found. The common course of culture differs little from that of other places, and, considering its proximity to Cork, is, perhaps, on the whole, inferior to that of remoter districts, and below what such a situation would lead one to expect. This is probably ascribable to the general prevalence of the dairy system, which under the old management was unskilful, injudicious, and unproductive. Herds of cattle, hardly well fed even in summer, and half-starved in winter and spring, formed the stock of

those ill-conducted dairies. Deriving little advantage from his cows in the way of manure, for want of proper fodder and proper houses, the farmer's proportion of tillage was scanty and ill managed. Successions of corn, generally oats, followed the potatoe crop, as long as the ground was capable of produce, after which it was left to nature to recruit. Of this process something still remains, but it is in most places giving way to a better practice. In the southern part of the district, from the vicinity of Glanmire to the Great island, the style of farming is in many instances conducted with skill and rewarded with very profitable return. Dairies still continue to engage much of the farmer's attention, and by contributing so largely to his manure enable him to cultivate his land to great advantage.

The number of dairies in this district is very considerable, the city of Cork affording so convenient a market for the produce. In general the cows are let out to dairymen at a certain price for each, by the year, which varies according to the distance from the town, the goodness of the land, and the quality of the cattle. There are, however, many instances of rich and industrious farmers, who conduct the business of the dairy themselves, in which case, though the trouble is greater, the emoluments are proportionate, and the general management of
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the farm very superior. In this class the family of the Martins, mentioned in the foregoing section, are particularly distinguished. The number of cows in each dairy is various; few have more than sixty, and the average may be rated at from thirty to forty. Where the farm is duly divided between tillage and pasture, the right management of a dairy enables the husbandman to cultivate his land to great advantage. In the opinion of the most judicious, a farm, which keeps forty cows, ought to have forty acres of tillage, and so in proportion with the rest. In the general rateage, three acres of middle quality are considered necessary for the subsistence of each cow, but under a skilful process, where green crops, as rape, vetches, clover, are raised, two are found to suffice. Cow-houses, though of a recent date, are now in general use on all well established dairy lands. The same may be said of green crops, concerning the merits of which there are different opinions, but all are good. Many have both clover and vetches, the latter of which are in some places gaining ground. These should be succeeded, as food, by turnips (or potatoes) and rape, a very meliorating crop, which every cattle farmer should diligently cultivate.

The favourite breed for milk is the half-bred Holderness, though it is observed that the common

Irish

Irish cow frequently equals her in quantity. The best of these give from ten to twelve pottles* per day. The Devon cow's milk is the richest, and produces most cream, but she falls short in quantity, never giving more than six pottles, or twelve quarts.

The milk is sold in Cork, after the cream has been taken from it, under the name of thick, or sour milk, for three half-pence or two-pence per quart, the price varying occasionally according to the season of the year, or the state of the market. A considerable reduction is sometimes produced by a supply of fish, particularly sprats, which are often taken in the river in great abundance.

The Cork butter, a great deal of which is the produce of these dairies, has been long celebrated for its peculiar sweetness. Of this merit the kind nature of the pasturage may claim some share, but it is chiefly ascribable to care and cleanliness. In all seasons it is recommended to use the cream, while it is fresh, and not to suffer it to become stale or sour. In summer the butter should be churned every second day, early in the morning. The hand should be

* Some of the larger kinds will often give considerably more. The great excellence of a cow is holding her milk for a long time. Many of those, who give a great deal immediately after calving, fall off very rapidly, while others, which give but a moderate quantity at the beginning, retain it long.

be applied as little as possible, and the vessels always kept perfectly sweet and clean. The price of fresh butter in Cork is from sixteen to eighteen pence per pound.

The value of a good milch cow, size from four to five hundred weight, is from ten to fifteen guineas. These prices, considerably exceeding those of former years, have rather encouraged the rearing of calves, of which most dairies breed some, though the number is not very considerable in any; in the largest dairies seldom more than from six to ten bred from cows of the best quality. They are fed with new milk for the first fortnight, afterwards with hay water* and skimmed milk. Fattening of veal is not practised in the neighbourhood of Cork. In places about twelve or fourteen miles distant, but chiefly in Imokilly, calves are fed for the butcher. They get plenty of new milk, are kept very clean, and frequently blooded to make the flesh white. Where great care and attention are used, a calf of ten weeks old will sell for from four to five pounds.

As none of the dairies breed cows sufficient for their stock, recourse is had to the neighbouring fairs, in all of which milch cows form a considerable article of traffic. This is more or less the case in all parts

* The hay is either boiled or steeped for some time in boiling water.

parts of the county. I dont know whether it is a common practice, but I have known some persons, under the name of cow jobbers, who made a livelihood by purchasing cows in the county of Limerick, and selling them in the neighbourhood of Cork. Their mode was to keep a small farm in some cheap part of the country, as a resting place for the cattle. They bought up handsome young cows a little before the time of calving, and kept them on their own land until some convenient opportunity offered of disposal at one of the neighbouring fairs. When managed with judgment, it often proved a profitable traffic.

Though the old plough is mostly in use, and still considered as the best for coarse, stony, and furzy ground, the Scotch plough has been introduced into several places, and will, no doubt, continue to gain ground. Bullocks are also used occasionally, and esteemed very justly to be excellent ploughers. Manures are Cork dung, which is in great demand, sea sand, in some few places sea weed, lime, and compost formed of earth taken from ditches, &c. In the better course of farming, one hundred single horse-carts of dung are applied to an acre for potatoes; wheat follows potatoes; fifty barrels of lime, or half a lighter of sand (probably about ten or twelve ton) are laid on for a succeeding crop of
barley

barley, with which grass-seeds are sowed. A crop of rape transplanted on the wheat stubble gives a quantity of valuable spring food, and improves the ground for the barley. This, it is to be hoped, will become a favourite practice.

The rents of this district differ, as may be expected, according to the variation of soil and situation. The general prices may be rated at twenty shillings per acre for poor land, thirty shillings for land of middle quality, and forty shillings for good. In the richer tracts, however, and where limestone is found, it stands higher. Land of good description, in the vicinity of Cork, lets from four to five pounds per acre. In general, according to the opinion of some intelligent persons, the rents are too high, and the mode of letting lands very exceptionable. Many landed proprietors advertise to let to the highest bidder, without any consideration for the claims of the occupying tenant. To these circumstances are imputed the frequent failure of tenants, and the generally unimproved state of the country. The farmer, who sees his lease drawing near its close, and feels no animating hope of a renewal upon reasonable terms, yielding to the emotions of despair, racks and impoverishes the farm he has so little chance of retaining. The justice of these observations

tions will not, I believe, be questioned by any man of reflection and humanity.

The size of farms varies in different parts of the district. They may be generally considered as running from forty to one hundred acres. There are some good ones of from two to three hundred. Twenty-one, and thirty-one years, and three lives are the usual leases. Some occupiers have none, depending upon promise, or the will of the landlord.

Upon the whole, though much of prejudice remains to be removed, and old practices to be reformed, many instances of skilful cultivation are to be found, and a degree of general improvement is very visible. Among the gentlemen, whose example is of such moment, appears a laudable and increasing regard for the interests of agriculture.

SECTION 3.

*Barrymore and Kilnataloon.**Towns—Principal improvements, &c.*

THE proximity of a great town, which engrosses all the commercial population of its neighbourhood, obstructs the advancement of little ones. It is only within a few years that any place deserving that name has appeared in Barrymore. Even the villages, of which there are very few, are poor and insignificant. Cove, situate in the Great island, and on the harbour of Cork, owes its rapid increase in wealth and population to the peculiar circumstances of the times, and with singular fortune has derived prosperity from that, which is so generally regarded as a source of disaster and distress, a long and sanguinary war. This town, the only one in the district,

tract, was, till within a late period, a poor village,* affording some little accommodation to such ships as remained in the harbour, but principally inhabited by fishermen. The time of war was always its time of harvest, in consequence of fleets assembling there for convoy, and king's ships occasionally visiting the harbour. It has now become the fixed station of a port admiral, and in consequence of the removal of the arsenal from Kinsale, and the erection of many strong fortifications, enjoys a permanence of profitable establishment, which peace will certainly impair, but not, as formerly, destroy. The principal proprietors are Lord Middleton, and the representatives of the late Hugh Smith Barry, Esq. both possessing very large estates in this county. New and spacious streets have been lately built, chiefly on Lord Middleton's part; and on that of Mr. Barry a beautiful and extensive quay, of very difficult construction from the steep and rocky nature of the shore. It is supposed to have cost near twenty thousand pounds. Cove has also a new church and Roman Catholic chapel, contains a great number of inhabitants, some of whom are very wealthy, and is upon the whole in a state of very rapid advancement.

* In the charter of Middleton, granted by Charles the second, and enumerating all Lord Middleton's estates in this quarter, no mention is made of a town at Cove.

ment. The island, on which it stands, forms the north side of the harbour of Cork, and is of great extent, and for the most part fertile. On the east and west sides of the island the communication is by ferries, on the north side by a bridge, the insulating channel being there inconsiderable. The harbour of Cove, long celebrated as a station of great extent and complete security from storms, has now the additional advantage of strong protection from assault. It is approached by a deep and narrow entrance from the south, on either side of which the hills rise with steep and sudden ascent. On these stand the forts of Camden and Carlisle, provided with formidable batteries. Within the harbour are the islands of Spike and Hawlbowlín, on which very strong works have been lately erected. In the latter, which is the larger of the two, are the dock-yard and naval stores.

The Great island, as may be supposed from its situation, is very populous. It possesses peculiar advantages of navigable communication for the disposal of its produce and the supply of its wants. It contains some fine seats, one of which, belonging to Richard Frankland, Esq. is new, the house built in the best modern style, the grounds highly improved, and the plantations judiciously arranged. The principal old seats are those of Belgrove, Marino, and Foaty, respectively

respectively belonging to John Bagwell, Esq. Thomas French, Esq. and the representatives of Hugh Smith Barry, Esq. To the usual ornaments of fine demesnes the two former add great beauty of situation. Belgrove stands on the east channel, which separates this part of Barrymore from Imokilly; Marino enjoys a commanding view of the Cork river on the western side of the island.

The village of Glanmire, four miles from Cork, at the head of a small inlet on the north side of the river, is chiefly memorable for the uncommon beauty of the surrounding country. It is watered by a pretty river, that winds through several romantic glens, the hills on each side of which are adorned with an uncommon profusion of beautiful woods. The advantages of such a situation have not been overlooked, this neighbourhood exhibiting a rich variety of seats, many of which are modern, and every day receiving some accession to their numbers. Among many that deserve mention, it will suffice to specify some of the most remarkable. Lota,* situate on the west side of the inlet, and commanding

* The architect, who was a foreigner, built another house on the same plan for Mr. Devonsheir, of Kilshannick, near Rathcormuck. It is a handsome place, the demesne of considerable extent, and well wooded. The circumstance of a long minority, (the late proprietor having died while his son was an infant) has not been very favourable to the preservation of the timber.

commanding a fine view of the Cork river, has been long celebrated for the correct architectural style of the house, and the still more beautiful richness and variety of the grounds. For this it was indebted to the taste and judgment of the late Robert Rogers, Esq. It has since passed through different hands, and is now the property of Robert Courtney, Esq. Much of the old demesne has been let off, and several pretty seats built on the dissevered lots. On the opposite side of the inlet is Dunkettle, the most beautiful situation, perhaps, in the kingdom. This fine place is the property of Abraham Morris, Esq. by whom the present very handsome house was built a few years since. The form of the ground, gently sloping to the south and west, affords a most commanding view of the river without the inconvenience of an over-elevated situation. The city of Cork terminates the western prospect, while the front of the house takes in the broad extent of the river as far as the town of Passage, with the rich scenery of the Little island at one side, and of the Blackrock coast on the other. All the situations on this river are fine, but none of them enjoy so extensive a combination of beauties as Dunkettle. Without standing high it sees more and in a better point of view, and it possesses one advantage, which all the others want, a considerable extent of well shaped
and

and well planted lawn in front. On the Little island, which stands between Dunkettle and the Great island, there are two handsome seats of ——— Bury, Esq. and Charles Silver Oliver, Esq. with many others in the same neighbourhood.

On the north side of Glanmire is Glyntown, a very handsome seat, built by the late Samuel M'Call, Esq. whose death deprived the neighbourhood of a most valuable inhabitant. At the northern extremity of this beautiful vicinage is Riverstown, the seat of Jemmet Browne, Esq. very inferior in point of prospect from its more retired situation, but, as a demesne, superior, perhaps, to any that have been named, for the regularity of the inclosures, and the size and quantity of its timber. It was for a great number of years the favourite residence of the bishop of that name, to whom its present form and beauty are entirely due.

Among the distinguished improvements of individuals in this district, those of Edmond Roche, Esq. of Kildinin, deserve particular mention, as well for the size of the scale, on which they have been executed, as for the judgment and perseverance, that brought them to a successful termination. The accomplishment of this great undertaking displays a most encouraging example to enterprizing agriculturists, and shews how much may be performed by
industrious

industrious assiduity. Wild and unpromising as the situation must have been, previous to the commencement of his labours, Kildinin is now a very fine place richly furnished with plantation, and in all respects a suitable residence for a gentleman of fortune. It is at present in the possession of his son Edward Roche, Esq. by whom the improvements, particularly in the article of plantation, are carefully supported. For the following account of that undertaking I am indebted to the kindness of Dr. Milner Barry, to whom, besides his professional services, the public owe much useful information on the subject of agriculture.

Dr. Barry's Account of Mr. Roche's Improvements.

Mr. Roche's success in the improvement of a tract of waste land, in the northern part of this county, deserves to be recorded as the greatest attempt of this nature in this county, and, perhaps, one of the most remarkable in the kingdom.

The following account of this improvement I shall draw up from memorandums taken from Mr. Roche's own lips, and hope you will deem it not unworthy

* Dr. Barry gives lectures on agriculture at the Cork Institution.

unworthy of insertion in the statistical account of the county, which you are preparing.

I shall commence with a statement of the circumstances of the ground, previous to the æra of Mr. Roche's improvements.

The extent of mountain reclaimed at Kildinin is 840 acres, and at Glauneagoul about 900 acres.*

Mr. Roche held Kildinin under his brother, Edward Roche, Esq. of Trabulgar, for a long lease. Glauneagoul, the adjoining mountain, is his own estate. The aspect of the ground was favourable, being north of the river Bride, with a gradual ascent, which for a considerable way gave it a southern aspect.

There was already a portion of cultivated land in Kildinin, and as Mr. Roche's great object was the improvement of the mountain, he placed his house and offices near the boundary, which separated the improved land from that, which was still in a state of nature.

The advantages of such a position were not overlooked by a person of Mr. Roche's sagacity. As the house was placed so near the heath, he would be, in a manner, compelled to the immediate improvement of some acres about it, and the manure, produced by the improved land, would be conveniently stationed

* Five hundred acres have been reclaimed in like manner on other parts of these estates.

stationed for laying out on the waste land by this situation of the home-stead. The vegetation was scanty on the unreclaimed land, composed of heath and coarse grass on a stratum of turf, from one to three feet in depth; under which the soil consisted chiefly of a tolerably stiff clay, intermixed with particles of quartz.

There is a limestone-quarry on the lands of Kildinin, and not more than a mile from the unreclaimed land, which, as the turf was abundant in the premises, promised to increase the facility of improving it.

Such was the state of this property, when Mr. Roche became possessed of it in 1771; and, not having yet determined in what manner he was to dispose of it, he advertised the grass of the entire, the first year, and set it for twenty pounds, with which the tenant decamped at the end of the season.

In this unpromising situation of affairs, Mr. Roche determined upon residing himself on the ground, and pursuing a regular system for the reclaiming of it. With this view he fitted up a house and offices, laid out a kitchen garden, with a nursery for young trees, adjoining the house, and vigorously commenced the work of improvement. As so large a tract would require too long a period to bring in by his own unassisted exertions, he adopted the plan of establishing settlers on the more remote parts of

the mountain, while he cultivated the ground adjoining the house himself.

As the population of the country was then by no means so great as at present, this part of the plan seemed rather unpromising. The reclaiming of waste land was a practice almost unknown in the neighbourhood, and to incite people to live on grounds, which had been long, in the general opinion, consigned to insuperable barrenness, required inducements of a powerful nature.

Mr. Roche began by laying the ground, which he first wished to people, into allotments of forty acres, upon each of which he built a house. He offered terms so encouraging, that he found no difficulty in setting the first few lots to persons, indeed without property, but possessed of strength and activity. He gave them leases of thirty-one years, at two shillings and eight-pence half-penny per acre; the whole rent to be allowed to the tenant for ditching, the first seven years.

He constructed lime-kilns in convenient situations, and allowed the settlers lime-stone, ready raised at the quarry, which they burned with turf found on the premises. When a field was inclosed, Mr. Roche ploughed and cross-ploughed the ground with bullocks, and the tenant dried and collected the upper sod for burning the lime. Besides such encouragement

encouragement, which most landlords would deem sufficiently great, the tenants made from thirteen to fourteen pounds each house, by saving turf during the summer months on a neighbouring turf-bog, belonging to Mr. Roche, which was the general resort of the country for fuel.

When the first seven years were expired, the tenants were allowed to work as labourers on the demesne of Kildinin, and paid their rent in this manner for the next seven years, which Mr. Roche permitted, from the great demand for labourers to carry on his own improvements, and from conceiving that the settlers, having now finished the inclosing of their own little farms, might have leisure to attend to his.

From the end of the first fourteen years to the termination of the lease, they paid their rent in money. They were allowed as much turf for their private use as they chose to burn, a most useful article in a situation so bleak. They were also permitted to pasture the neighbouring mountain with their sheep and cattle. With such encouragement, it was interesting to observe with what alacrity these settlers laboured, each in his little farm, from a certainty of enjoying the fruits of his labour, from the security of a good lease, a light rent, and, in a word, from that love of property and independence,

which is the grand incentive to industry, and which operates no less upon the rude and unlettered Irish peasant, than upon the richest merchant or manufacturer.

To those, who can turn their thoughts from present events and present feelings to remote antiquity, these settlers may serve to recall the period, when mankind began first to change from the wandering life of shepherds and herdsmen to the more fixed, more secure, and more happy life of cultivators of the soil. Such a state of society may be derided by the sons of luxury and pride, but the philosopher and philanthropist will consider it with respect as the first and, perhaps, most important step in the progress from rudeness to refinement, from barbarism and anarchy to civilization and law.

While the settlers were improving their small demesnes, the proprietor advanced more rapidly in reclaiming the portion of waste land in his own neighbourhood. I have already pointed out the situation of the house and offices, placed exactly on the boundary between the cultivated and the waste land. Thus, on one side of the house you might behold fields smiling with verdure, or waving with corn, while the other exhibited, as far as the eye could reach, a dreary waste, which could scarcely sustain a few wretched cattle, which roamed, without

out the controul of inclosures or gates, over the barren surface.

After inclosing a part for a garden and nursery, the proprietor formed a large plantation of firs, to shut out the heath, and shelter the house from the northeru blast. The heath extended chiefly towards the north and west, and in these directions were the proprietor's first improvements undertaken.

As the mode of culture he pursued did not differ materially, except in extent, from that pursued by the settlers, I shall content myself with detailing it. I shall begin with the mode of inclosing the ground, which is deserving of particular attention.

The inclosures were first so extensive as to embrace an area of forty acres, which were afterwards divided into fields of ten acres. As a preparation for the ditch, a breadth of sod was marked out equal to two perches; of this ten feet were calculated for the foundation of the fence, and six feet for each of the dykes.

The banks were raised from four and a half to six feet, previous to breaking up the ground, and, in ploughing the ground the first time, the remainder of the two perches was left untouched until the second course of tillage. Previous to returning again to the ground, the banks were found to have sunk considerably, and were raised again to the proper

proper height, by means of the sods on the unploughed ground left for that purpose. The fences formed in this manner were excellent, and stood well. Though very large, they were finished for a shilling the perch. The obvious fault in them was their immense bulk, which occupied too much ground. Mr. Roche, in his subsequent operations, found it expedient to reduce the size of them.

When the ground was inclosed, it was first ploughed with a strong mountain plough, invented by Mr. Roche for the purpose, and having a broad plough-share with a wing to cut the sod. With this implement a sod was taken off, from twelve to sixteen inches in breadth, while the ploughman was directed to go as shallow as the uneven nature of the ground would permit.

The ground was, next, cross-ploughed with a plough having a sharp coulter, which left the surface of the field covered with loose sods, about two feet square; these were generally dried and carried to the lime-kiln. After their removal, the ground was next ploughed in the same manner, but deeper, so as to penetrate into the clay, and after a cross-ploughing, when the sods were sufficiently dry, they were formed into large heaps: each heap occupied the centre of every perch, which allowed
eight

eight feet every way for casting the sods with the shovel.

When the sods were formed into heaps all over the field, a fire of turf was kindled in a central situation, from which a live coal was carried to set fire to each heap; to prevent the sods from burning too rapidly, men constantly attended to smother the flame, whenever it appeared externally, as it was found that a slow degree of combustion promoted the formation of ashes much more than a brisk one.

There was, from the arrangement of the heaps, now a heap of ashes in every perch, or one hundred and sixty heaps on each acre.

Lime was next brought from the kiln, and distributed to each heap. As there are eight bushels in a barrel of lime, one bushel of lime to each heap would amount to twenty barrels to each acre, two bushels to forty barrels, and so on.

In this manner the quantity of calcareous earth was easily determined, on a given quantity of land. The lime was covered up with the ashes, and loose turf and clay, and made into heaps, in which numerous cracks took place in two or three days, which were carefully filled up as they occurred.

The different processes of ploughing, burning, &c. which I have just described, were executed in
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the summer, and the heaps of ashes and lime suffered to remain in this state till the following spring. The ashes and lime, which latter was now slaked into a fine powder, were spread equably over the surface with shovels, and the ground ploughed into ridges for potatoes, and let to labourers for three guineas an acre, tithe free.

But, as all crops are very uncertain upon grounds of this kind, on first breaking it up from a state of nature, an abatement was made when the crop failed.

The potatoes were cultivated in the ordinary mode practised throughout the country, and, where the land was moist, this mode answered well, by allowing the moisture to discharge itself through the potatoe trenches.

The second crop was either rye or oats, according to the nature of the turf, as the rye succeeded best where the turf is red, while oats was superior on the black turf. Mr. Roche once sowed barley, and the crop was excellent as to product; but the straw and grain had a singular appearance, being both undervalued in the market. But * as pale ale has

* This, I believe, is a mistake. The paleness of colour seems to indicate a defect of quality in the grain. The high colour given to beer does not arise from that of the grain, but from the process made use of in drying the malt. All good and well saved barley has a bright golden

has since become fashionable, this objection would no longer hold, and this quality, as conducive to lightness of colour, would rather enhance the price of the crop.

With the oats, or rye, grass-seeds were sown, and the ground properly laid down to grass, in which state it continued for three or four years, being mowed the first year, and fed for two or three years after.

After remaining three or four years under grass, the land was subjected to another course of cropping, in which it was first well dunged for potatoes, and again, with a crop of oats, laid down to grass as before. The grass-seeds sown were the indigenous ones of the country, in which the *holcus lanatus*, or Yorkshire white, prevails in a great degree. The quantity of grass-seeds used by Mr. Roche was four bushels to the acre.

I have now detailed with sufficient minuteness the course pursued by Mr. Roche in bringing in waste land, from which that adopted by his tenants did not differ materially.

I may observe, that one merit of Mr. Roche's sys-
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tem

den colour here as well as in England. From this, dark-coloured porter, and fine pale ale are alike produced, the colour of the liquor being wholly derived from the mode of treating the malt on the kiln.

tem was, his carefully avoiding the common fault of Irish agriculture in not overcropping.

It may be said, that he may have let out the ground sufficiently in heart by keeping it in tillage three or four years longer, and pursuing a judicious rotation of crops. But whoever has a large tract of waste land to improve, will find it his interest to lay it down to grass as quickly as possible; as by this means the strength of the cattle and farm labourers will be ready for breaking up and cultivating a fresh portion of the waste part, instead of being still employed on the land already cultivated.

On returning a second time, however, to the ground, after it has been depastured for some years, it will then be adviseable to pursue a regular and long continued rotation of crops."

OBSERVATIONS.

I agree perfectly with Dr. Barry, that land of this kind should be laid down to grass in the first instance, as soon as possible, and from my own experience should not advise the cultivation either of potatoes or oats, previous to that crop. Potatoes require a great deal of expensive labour, and, as far as I have observed, are generally on such grounds a very poor crop. Oats commonly produce more straw
than

than grain. After the land is well worked, limed, and burned, (always supposing it to be sufficiently drained) an operation which will require the greater part of the summer, it will then be fit for the reception of grass seeds, which, as far as I have tried, succeeded admirably in autumnal sowing. Rape on such grounds might be a valuable crop, and in some of the best parts it is probable that hemp would succeed. Of grass seeds there can be little doubt; and what is more valuable than a rich crop of grass? After some years pasturage, and when it begins to shew a disposition to revert to something like its original state, it should be again broken up, in which case potatoes and corn will have a better chance of success.

CHAPTER XVII.

BARONY OF IMOKILLY.

SECTION 1.

General Account.

THE barony of Imokilly forms the south-east extremity of Ireland, and, except on the north side, where it meets the baronies of Barrymore and Kilnataloon, is bounded by the ocean or some of its estuaries. It is pretty compact in form, and consists of two limestone vales, separated by a range of brownstone hill, a corresponding range being placed between the southern valley and the ocean*. The direction both of high and low land is from East to West.

* It takes in also part of the northern range of hill extending from Cork to Youghall, on which side it is bounded by the baronies of Barrymore and Kilnataloon.

West. This barony, which for the most part is extremely fertile, seems to have been an early seat of culture and population. From the good quality of the soil, and the convenient circumstance of its situation between two considerable port-towns, there is reason to suppose that it had been well peopled before the arrival of the English adventurers under Strongbow. The annals of their history, as well as the numerous remains of their establishments, sufficiently evince the ardour and avidity employed by them to secure so desirable a possession. Most of the other baronies attest, at least, an equal degree of industry on the part of the native chiefs in the erection of castles and other buildings; in Imokilly all of this description appear to have been the work of those enterprizing invaders and their descendants. This preference, however, did not entirely depend upon the fertility of the land; it arose also from its situation, convenient to approach from the British shores, more easily defended in consequence of that proximity, and necessary as a strong hold for facilitating future projects of more extensive acquisition.

Imokilly still retains the celebrity of its ancient character. The quality of its grain ranks among the best productions of the southern coast, and is not, I believe, exceeded by any part of the county.

It

It contains a great number of gentlemen's seats, among which are reckoned some of the most distinguished for beauty and elegant order. There are some small estates, but in general the landed proprietors are men of large fortune. To the happy circumstance of so many among them being resident may be attributed the tranquil and orderly state of the country, the comfortable condition of the tenantry, and the progressive advancement of the people in industry and manners.

The longitudinal extent from Carlisle fort to the neighbourhood of Youghall is about 20 miles, the greatest breadth about 12. In the northern valley are placed Middleton, Castlemartyr, some villages and many seats; the southern, comprehends Rostellan, Castlemary, Cloyne, Ballymaloe, and the rich lands of Shanagarry.

Except some occasional strata of gravel, the valleys are all limestone, sometimes resting on rocky eminences, but generally covered with a fair depth of fertile soil. The ranges of hill contain brown or red stone, the greatest part of which is a coarse shistus, approaching the surface, but seldom appearing above it, as in the more western districts. The soil of these hills, tho' inferior to that of the low grounds,

grounds, is generally good, sometimes deep, and, when well cultivated, produces very fair crops.

The natural quality of the best soils of this barony is considered by one of its resident and most judicious agriculturists, as inferior to the reputation it has acquired. Horses, black cattle, sheep, and pigs, he observes, degenerate therein, and cannot be maintained without frequent crosses and careful management. Something of this degeneracy may, I believe, be ascribed to the circumstances of the country rather than to the debility of the soil. Where culture and population abound, where pasture is impoverished by exhausting crops and where the quantum even of that pasture is too sparingly bestowed, overstocking being a common fault of Irish farmers, the difficulty of maintaining breeds cannot be a matter of surprise. It would happen in the richest soils under the same treatment. I am, however, convinced from observation as well as inquiry, that the native vigour of the southern tracts is much exceeded by that of the northern, which in their turn are inferior to those of the counties of Limerick and Tipperary. The middle-sized beast is certainly the best adapted to this county in general, and may, I believe, if fairly treated, be kept up without the necessity of crossing, tho' not without advantage from it. To judge fairly of

of the question, we should have recourse to those extensive and well kept demesnes, where cattle have a sufficiency of range as well as of food. With the common farmer they must necessarily degenerate; in the other cases, I should suppose from my own experience of soils still inferior, that they would not.

The great inconvenience, under which this district labours in common now with so many others, is the scarcity of fuel. Turf, always most abundant in argillaceous tracts, is seldom found in any great quantity with limestone. The bogs of this district, so long a seat of dense population, are now a good deal exhausted. There are however some remaining, very capable of fertilization, but probably more productive to the owners in their present state. The great demand for turf fuel, and the consequent value of it may be collected from Col. Fitzgerald's bog at Lisquinlan containing sixty acres, which lets to one hand for the enormous sum of 800l.* per annum. The advantage of a maritime situation, however, enables the rich to obtain a supply of coals
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* It is computed, that this profit will last for about twenty years, after which the residuum may be converted into fine meadow. If it resembles the bogs I am best acquainted with, this conversion will not be found so easy a task. The substratum of an exhausted bog is the most ungrateful subject for such improvement, with which I am acquainted; eighteen inches depth of turf, at least, should be left, and even that will require long time and much expense to effect its fertilization.

more or less reasonable according to the distance of the purchaser, but not very remote from any. It may seem extraordinary, that in a district, so many parts of which are washed by the sea or some of its æstuaries, the farmers should not turn their attention sometimes, at least, from turf to coal certainly the cheaper fuel of the two. Custom is the prevailing director of Irish manners, and, as long as they can procure turf at any price to turn upon the naked hearth, they will not be easily persuaded to erect a little grate for using coal. If canals should ever become a popular work, this part of the county may derive much benefit from them in the introduction of an article so much wanted. Each of the vales above-mentioned seems to possess great facility of canal navigation. The western ends of both have from nature the advantage of water carriage, from which canals might easily be carried through the district in an eastern direction.

SECTION 2.

Imokilly.

*Tillage—Modes and Implements of Husbandry—
Working cattle—Manures—Farms and farm-
houses—Labour, &c.*

THE quantity of land under tillage in this district is, as may be supposed, very considerable, composing the far greater part of its contents. Population, which in most places is very dense, having no other species of labour to resort to for subsistence, necessarily reduces the quantum of pasture, and obliges the inhabitants to become tillers of the soil. The nature of its situation, which affords a ready market for all commodities, offers additional encouragement to the labours of the husbandman. The western side opens many points of navigable communication with the city of Cork, besides which there are corn stores and bolting mills always open for the purchase of grain. On the

east

east side, the town of Youghall, in the neighbourhood of which a large windmill has been lately erected, affords similar facility of disposal. Manure is not less convenient than market, the ocean supplying sand and weeds, and the interior parts abundance of limestone. The use of lime, for which culm is easily procured, has lately very much increased, and dung and earthy collections are employed, as in other places, for the purpose of fertilization. The common husbandry however, for the greater part, follows the old and injudicious mode of exhausting successions. Lands worn out by tillage, which is chiefly the case of the limestone tracts, are occasionally recruited by a dunged crop of potatoes, which enables them to maintain for a few years another course of corn crops. Wheat and barley are the chief produce of the best soils, the latter being predominant. The average produce of such cultivation may perhaps be estimated at five barrels of wheat, ten kilderkins of barley (12 stone each) nine of oats (11 stone each) and thirty-five barrels of potatoes, (18 stone each) per acre.

The working cattle of the district, when speaking of the common farmer, are universally horses. The general fault is keeping too many, and not feeding them well. This arises from that injudicious course of cropping, which, instead of dividing their

labour, throws the chief weight of it on one particular season. While many other parts of the year are idle, all is hurry in the spring, and the beasts, not being regularly fed, are then worked down. The farmer thinks he can compensate the want of strength by numbers, and employs four poor horses to accomplish what would be much better done by two good ones, if the course of labour was judiciously subdivided. This indeed is an error very generally observable, and by no means confined to Imokilly. The true method of feeding and managing horses is as yet very imperfectly known, even to the better order of agriculturists. Most people have too many, never feed them well except when actually at work, and, instead of housing, keep them always at grass. Economy is the excuse for this practice, which ultimately leads to profusion. Horses are the worst stock for land, but the best for the stable, and it is much less costly to feed two well than four badly. They should always be fed in house, which with a proper provision of green food in summer will stand at less expence than generally imagined. The advantages are a great produce of dung, and a degree of vigour in the beast, which enables him to endure fatigue and labour at all times. A great saving of grass for other cattle is also to be taken into the account, and is no mean acquisition,

as the yearly consumption of such pasture by a horse is very considerable. The use of green food is indeed making its way. Even the petty farmers now raise a small quantity of clover or vetches for this purpose, and a practice so beneficial will necessarily in time extend itself. The great want in a district so tilled is hay, and they have not yet found the method of employing either of those plants for this purpose. Along the coast, where sea weed enables the people to raise vast quantities of potatoes, the want of it is in some degree compensated by this valuable root, which affords subsistence to beast as well as man.

The common Irish plough with all its defects, under the powerful influence of habit, still maintains its place in 15 out of 16 parts of the district. The æra of improvement is however advancing. A few English wheel ploughs and a good many Scotch swing ploughs have been lately introduced. The number of enlightened agriculturists in this district is now considerable, and it may reasonably be expected, that so many good examples will not long be exhibited in vain. The great inferiority of the Irish plough is too obvious to be long overlooked by any persons, who have frequent opportunity of making the comparison.

The neighbourhood of towns, where there is
always

always a great demand for milk, supports large stocks of cows. There are, besides, in the open country more than 20 considerable dairies averaging forty cows each. I don't know that the profits of the dairyman in this district are more considerable than in others of equal distance from the county town, but they have an additional source of emolument in the fattening of calves for its market. This practice seems to be entirely confined to the eastern quarter, and is very well understood, Cork being abundantly supplied with veal of very fine quality from Imokilly and part of Barrymore. According to the demand for this article, some of which goes to Youghall, the dairyman regulates the management of his milk. When fat calves are in less demand, which is probably when beef and mutton are cheapest, butter is made in the usual way. The average produce of these dairies is estimated at from 8 to 10 pounds per cow. The great demesnes exhibit a variety of the finest kinds, and among the common farmers the breed of cattle has evidently experienced great improvement. Sheep and pigs are still of the ordinary sort; the former, the small mountain breed requiring the bondage of perpetual fetters, the latter, long-legged, flat-sided, and unthrifty.

A few

A few instances excepted, the usual defects are observable in the farmer's domestic establishment. Mud walls, thatched roofs, and ill planned uncomfortable houses are mostly seen. The advantage of a proper farm-yard and offices is equally rare. Though, from the number of gentlemen's demesnes and handsome seats, a good deal of local plantation appears, all tracts of common farm land exhibit the usual display of bare unsheltered nakedness. Nature, however, affords to most parts of the district every encouragement the planter can desire. The summits of hills, particularly those adjoining the ocean on the south side, seem to be the only situations of a forbidding nature. Farther in, and more especially on the low limestone tracts, trees of all kinds abundantly flourish. Proper encouragement alone is wanting, and attended with less difficulty here than in many other parts of the county, as, besides the numerous nurseries at Cork, there is a very good one at Castlemartyr. The demand for young trees is at present very considerable in all, but the chief purchasers are gentlemen. Many parts are well situated for orchards, of which there are several, particularly in the parish of Killeagh where very good cider is made.

The state of the common labourer differs little from that, which has been so often described. In
general

general there is a good demand for labour, in consequence of such extensive tillage. Digging being the usual mode of getting out potatoes, a greater number of hands than ordinary are then required, which is supplied by an annual influx of the western peasantry. A great deal of this supernumerary labour might be saved by employing the plough instead of the spade.

There are as usual many country schools, and in consequence of these, the numbers of resident noblemen and gentlemen, and the intercourse with Cork, the English language may now be said to be pretty well established in this district.

In the foregoing sketch of the husbandry of Imokilly, it is to be understood that the defects and imperfection of its state refer only to the lower classes. The reporter has great pleasure in observing that, exclusive of the great demesnes, which are inclosed and cultivated in a very superior style, there are many gentlemen and farmers of the middle class, (the true description of a yeomanry) whose farms are kept in excellent order, and whose style of agriculture, every day receiving additional improvement, is highly creditable to their skill and industry.

The size of farms admits of the accustomed variety. The usual leases until lately were for three
lives

lives, or thirty-one years. The great landed proprietors now for the most part subdivide the large farms into convenient lots, and let to the occupiers for one life, or 21 years, which ever lasts longest. A very intelligent gentleman*, to whom I am indebted for much information respecting this district, considers this term as insufficient for the circumstances of an Irish farm. In England, he observes, the duration of a lease is a matter of less moment. The farmer, provided with stock and implements, enters upon a farm already in a high state of order, and requiring no preparatory expenditure to render it subservient to his views. Houses, offices, and inclosures are ready for his reception, and, like a tradesman entering on a ready furnished shop, every thing is prepared for the due exercise of his art. In Ireland the case is altogether different, inasmuch as a husbandman, commencing on a new farm, has commonly every thing to provide, and must expend much money and labour, before the season of emolument arrives. This is certainly a fair parallel, and, when applied to the higher order of agriculturists, must be admitted as a just position. Where houses are to be built, new inclosures to be made, and lands to be reclaimed, the term is certainly inadequate. On all such occasions, therefore,

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fore,

* Mr. Lewis Gibson.

fore, a longer lease should be given, or a proportion of the expences defrayed by the landlord. But with respect to the lower order of agriculturists, for whose purposes a very inferior degree of preparation suffices, the term under consideration is far less exceptionable. Where new houses are wanting, and where any peculiar difficulty is to be overcome, a little aid from the landlord will amply compensate the shortness of duration. In many cases none will be required, and experience shews, that the shorter term produces equal efficacy in exciting to industrious exertion. This will be further promoted by the encouraging idea, which should always accompany it, that honesty and industry will secure to the occupier a continuance in his farm, on an advance of rent proportioned to the increasing^{*} value.

* The reader will find this subject further discussed in the account of another district.

SECTION 3.

*Imokilly.**Towns—Manufactures—Roads—Seats, &c.*

IMOKILLY has four towns, two of which, Youghall* and Cloyne, are of considerable antiquity, Castlemartyr and Middleton of more recent origin. Youghall, by much the largest, is conveniently situated on a harbour of good size, sufficiently deep within, but incommoded at the entrance by a bar denying admission to large ships. This harbour is the outlet, by which the Blackwater empties itself into the ocean, a favourable circumstance to its navigation, as the discharge of so great a body of water must necessarily exert sufficient force to preserve the mouth from any overwhelming excess of sandy accumulation. Beyond the harbour is the bay, along the shore of which an extensive strand

affords

* Youghall is an Irish word, found with some varieties of sound in other parts of the county. It is said to signify a wooded place.

affords a pleasant place in fine weather for exercise and recreation. The great superiority of Cork, engrossing all the foreign trade, reduces that of Youghall to little more than the coasting business. The natural form of the ground is not advantageous to the site of a large town. Youghall, like Kinsale, stands at the foot of a long and steep hill, which leaves but a narrow space of ground for the erection of houses. Besides grain, of which large quantities are here shipped, it supplies Cork with brick of much better quality than its own, and also with some coarse earthen ware. Youghall stands near the eastern extremity of the district at the north side of the range of redstone hill, which runs in a western direction to Cork. The approach over this hill, particularly on the Youghall side, is very steep, and requires to be altered or amended. The rest of the road to Cork, 24 miles distant, is one of the best and most level in the county. Indeed the Imokilly roads are generally very good. The country abounds with the best materials, stone and gravel, and the gentlemen pay a proper regard to their repairs.

Youghall is also recommended as a place of some pleasure and fashion. It has many good houses and respectable inhabitants, a well established bank, and a handsome assembly room. The convenience of its situation for sea-bathing is a great inducement to

summer

summer visitants, and the circumstance of a mail coach to Cork adds much to the facility of intercourse. The town was incorporated at an early date by Edward the fourth, through the interest of the great earl of Desmond, so called from those vast possessions, of which the family were subsequently deprived by their turbulence. It received charters also from succeeding sovereigns, the last of which is from James the first, who confirmed some and added other privileges. The corporation has since consisted of mayor, burgesses, and commonalty. It sends one member to the United Parliament. Middleton and Castlemartyr were also boroughs before the Union. Among occurrences apparently trivial, but rendered memorable by succeeding utility, is the honour it claims of having produced the first potatoes grown in Ireland. They² were brought over from Virginia by the celebrated Sir Walter Raleigh, who passed some time in this neighbourhood, and experienced from the earl of Cork such a measure of generous assistance and hospitable reception as called forth his most grateful acknowledgments. The person who first planted the potatoes, taking the seed or apple for the esculent part, was much disappointed, it is said, at the result of his experiment. The roots, however, be-
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• See Smith's History of Cork.

ing afterwards found in digging the soil, made ample amends for the mistake. On what slender occurrences depend the most important events? If that little spot had happened to remain untouched, the knowledge of this valuable root might have been deferred for half an age, and perhaps be now but in its infancy.

Youghall, as well as many other places in this county, was much indebted to the illustrious family of Boyle, who had great possessions in this quarter, and displayed their usual munificence in works of charity and utility. The duke of Devonshire, who possesses so large a portion of the Burlington estate, the earl of Shannon, and Lord Ponsonby are now the principal proprietors in this quarter.

Cloyne lays claim to considerable antiquity, if the town be coeval with the cathedral, which is said to have been founded by St. Colman in the sixth century. It does not, however, seem to have ever advanced beyond the rank of a populous village, having no peculiar advantages of situation, except the fertility of the adjoining grounds. It stands in the southern vale of Imokilly, about two miles west of Cork harbour, and seems to derive its principal consequence and support from the establishments of a cathedral, and the residence of a bishop. The lands of this vale are remarkably good, and the
bishop's

bishop's meadows reckoned the best in the barony.

A little to the west of Cloyne is Castlemary, the residence of Lord Longueville, a fine and extensive demesne, inclosing much variety of ground, and large plantations. Beyond this on the harbour of Cork stands Rostellan, in point of situation the most beautiful place in Imokilly, as with the advantage of rich, extensive, and well planted grounds, it commands a noble view of the harbour of Cork, which forms its western boundary. It is the seat of the marquis of Thomond, and now enjoys the happiness of a resident proprietor. In this respect Imokilly is comparatively fortunate, as well as in the regard paid by its great landed proprietors to the encouragement of agriculture, as well by their countenance and support of the art in others, as by their own practice and example.

At no great distance from Rostellan, and near the entrance of the harbour is Corkbeg, the seat of Robert Uniacke Fitzgerald, Esq. a gentleman long and eminently distinguished among the agriculturists of this county for superior knowledge, and judicious as well as successful practice. Mr. Fitzgerald adopts what is commonly known by the name of Norfolk husbandry, and which, with some occasional changes in the rotation, appears to be the mode most consonant

nant to the practice of all skilful and intelligent agriculturists. It is well observed by the gentleman, from whom I derive much information respecting this barony, that to the general question, of which is the best mode of managing a farm, no fixed or definite answer can well be given. The condition and quality of the soil, the particular objects he has in view, and all the various circumstances resulting from peculiarity of situation, must govern and regulate the course of his operations. Some general principles are always to be adhered to; but the practice must vary, as the varying nature of the case may require. Mr. Fitzgerald's process, for the general circumstances of a good arable farm, seems to be one of the best that has been tried, and, as it is the result of long practice and sound judgment, may be considered as systematically established. His course is as follows:—

1. Oats, on the lea, harrowed in.
2. Drilled potatoes, the ground being manured, and fallowed well by winter ploughing.
3. Barley, with clover seeds.
4. Clover used for soiling, and manured, or top-dressed, after cutting.
5. Wheat on clover lea.
6. Drilled potatoes, on credit of manured wheat.
7. Oats, and land laid out with grass seeds.

It differs from the Norfolk practice in substituting, for turnips, potatoes, which Mr. Fitzgerald thinks preferable. He has fattened within a short time bullocks of large size without any other food than oaten straw and potatoes. They had previously been employed in work, after which they quickly got into high condition. Mr. Fitzgerald's situation gives him great advantages of manure. The land supplies limestone, the sea the means of using it, as well as those marine substances employed for manure. He may occasionally also procure street dung from Cork and Dublin.

Middleton, situated midway between Cork and Youghall, the property of the noble lord to whom it gives title, is a pretty and well built town. It has the advantage of water carriage, by means of a branch of the estuary surrounding the Great island, and stands in a very fair and fertile country. These circumstances, but for the unfavourable proximity of Cork, would soon render it a place of some importance. It is, however, advancing under the auspices of its noble proprietor, who has a large estate in this neighbourhood, and is an indulgent and liberal landlord. Near Middleton are many pleasant seats, one of them belonging to his lordship, an old family residence, and now in the occupancy of his agent Thomas Poole, Esq. Near this is a farm of

considerable size on the same estate, cultivated by Mr. Welland in a very superior style of husbandry. The house and farm-yard, which is not yet completely finished, are extremely well planned, and the general disposition and management of the land altogether unexceptionable. Mr. Welland is an Englishman, and the example of such an improver cannot fail of being as useful to his neighbours, as it is to be hoped it may be profitable to himself. Mr. Welland stands high in that class of respectable yeomanry so much wanted in this country, and the occasional introduction of which is a consideration worthy of the great landed proprietors.

A very spirited attempt was made some years since by a Cork merchant of respectable character, Marcus Lynch, Esq. to establish the woollen manufacture here on a scale of great magnitude. For this purpose a very large building was erected close to the town, commodious in arrangement, and complete in all its apparatus and appendages. Mr. Lynch at the same time built a very neat lodge on a small farm adjoining, which he planted and dressed in the neatest manner. Whether, however, the scale was too great for a first effort, and that it was found impracticable to procure a sufficient number of expert and well conducted workmen, or other unforeseen difficulties presented themselves, the undertaking

dertaking was by no means equal to expectation. The result would probably have been of very serious consequence, if it had not suited the views of government to convert it into a military station. Mr. Lynch by these means was fortunate enough to disengage himself from a very heavy incumbrance, the expenditure on which was not probably less than £20,000.

At Middleton is a school of classical literature, endowed in 1696 by Elizabeth countess of Orkney. The management is vested in eight trustees, of whom six are elective, the bishop of Cork, and the sovereign of Middleton for the time being, constituting the two others. The income is about 200*l.* per annum, of which the master has 100*l.*—the usher 20*l.*—writing-master 20*l.*—50*l.* in exhibitions to scholars to support them at the university; the remainder forms a fund for keeping the house in repair. The reputation of this school has been sometimes very high; like other institutions it is fluctuating, and at present not in a very flourishing state.

Castlemartyr, four miles east of Middleton, a very neat and well built town, is more remarkable for the respectability than the number of its inhabitants. It was erected into a corporation in 1663, through

the interest of the first earl of Orrery*, in whom and his heirs was vested the power of nominating to the principal offices. A pretty stream flows through the town, and the general circumstances of its situation in a fertile and well cultivated country render it a convenient and agreeable residence. But its principal recommendation is the proximity of the earl of Shannon's beautiful demesne, which is close to the town, though screened from its view by a rich belt of plantation. The various charms of this truly noble seat are greatly heightened by the superior style of its keeping, and the order and elegance which reign through every department. It stands in the centre of the rich calcareous tract, that runs from Cork to the bay of Youghall. The grounds, though comparatively low, are diversified with gentle swellings, in which lawn and woodland are judiciously intermingled. It contains a profusion of timber of every variety, in age, size, and kind. A canal of great extent, spreading in some places to the size of a lake, and formed with so much judgment, as to appear more the work of nature than of art, encompasses a considerable part of the demesne. The approach from the town is strikingly beautiful. The first object, that presents itself, is the old castle, with part of its venerable appendages,

* See Smith's History of Cork.

pendages, covered to the summit with ivy, and surrounded by lofty trees. This appears to have been a large building, and was formerly a seat of the Fitzgeralds seneschals of Imokilly. Under the castle, and at a little distance from it, flows a branch of the canal from a very neat bridge, which separates the lower from the upper canal. Along its banks is a gravel walk and shrubbery, dressed in the neatest order. On the right is a high sloping bank, richly covered with evergreens, and backed with wood. A little above is what may be called the upper lake, and beyond it a fine view of the more distant parts of the demesne. The house lies a little beyond this bridge, upon the west side of the castle, an irregular building, added to at different times, and constructed more with a view to accommodation than ornament. If, however, it has little of beauty to recommend it from without, few dwellings possess more of comfort and convenience within. The dining-room is very spacious and elegant, and the drawing-room altogether superb. It is a double cube, 50 feet long, 25 wide, and 25 high, and, from the circumstance of having two fire-places in one of the side walls, as comfortable as it is spacious. The pleasure grounds are chiefly along the banks of the lower canal; but such is the happiness of arrangement through the whole of this extensive

tensive demesne, that it may be all considered as coming within that description. An abundant convenience of gravel has enabled the noble proprietors to lay out a great variety of walks and rides equally conducive to health and entertainment. In addition to the demesne, his lordship has a noble park at some distance from the town on the north side, consisting of about 400 acres. This contains a greater variety of ground, some of which is very beautiful. The most remarkable part is a deep glen, the bottom and steep sides of which are thickly wooded, and adorned with some of the largest trees in the kingdom.

The whole of the ground in his lordship's hands amounts to 1200 acres, a demesne of immense value, when it is considered, that a very large proportion of it is rich arable, meadow, or pasture, and that all, which is not, bears a crop of almost incalculable worth in this country at present, timber. Of the demesne, properly so called, and consisting of 800 acres, 60 to 80 are generally under tillage, 80 to 100 under meadow, 200 in wood, water, and pleasure grounds, and the remainder in pasture.

His lordship's common rotation of crops begins with oats on the lea, followed by turnips, or potatoes—third crop, wheat, or barley—fourth, oats, with grass-seeds; after which it is suffered to remain

main for some years in meadow, or pasture, the extent of the demesne rendering it unnecessary to continue tillage on the same part. The manures are, dung, lime, and composts formed with one or both of them. Of all these large collections are annually made, and employed in the process of cropping to the best advantage. The continuance of this system for a great number of years has greatly increased the natural fertility of the soil. Crops of all kinds are in consequence very abundant, subject to no risque, except from bad seasons, or an occasional excess of luxuriance.

The working beasts are horses and bullocks, the latter employed in field work, ploughing, and carting. They are harnessed after the French manner, to draw by the head, which seems to be a mode not ill suited to the peculiar powers of the animal, though the general opinion now is in favour of the collar. The force exerted in draught seems to depend upon the strength of those muscles, which enable him to move forward, and upon the weight of his body. The strength of his head and neck may be useful in defence, or may enable him to raise a heavy weight, but does not seem to be the seat of that vigour, which enables him to drag any thing after him. In this case the shoulder seems to be the most proper and natural fulcrum for sustaining

taining the pressure of the draught, and overcoming its resistance with most ease to the animal. I have seen them do their work well both ways ; as far as I could judge, the creature appeared to move more freely under the collar. The old manner of yoking is obviously most awkward and distressing. The French mode of working bullocks was introduced by the late lord Shannon, of whose agricultural management a very interesting and ample account is given in Young's Tour.

The park, besides red and fallow deer, affords pasture to some sheep, young cattle, dry stock, and brood mares. It is also an asylum of ease and plenty, with which his lordship's humanity repays the past labour and services of that most useful, most valuable, and too generally most oppressed servant of men, the horse. Part of the park is occasionally cultivated for the purpose of renewing and improving the pasture.

Lord Shannon keeps a great number of milch cows, part of whose produce is employed in rearing calves. The Leicester and the North Devon, the former being reckoned the best milkers, are the favourite breeds. I am inclined to think, that the Devon is likely to become more productive of milk by their transplantation to Irish pasture. Lord Carbery, who breeds a great many of the smaller
kind,

kind, finds them improving. He has one now, that gives eight pottles per day, and several, that exceed six. There is also at Castlemartyr a large and handsome breed of polled cows, procured some years ago from the late marquis of Townshend.

The South Down sheep have been lately introduced at Castlemartyr, and appear to deserve that high character, which their admirers bestow on them. The quality of the wool is very superior, and was last year successfully employed in the manufacture of fine broad-cloth. The pasture agrees well with them, and they increase as rapidly as can be wished.

The variety of occupations at such a place, as Castlemartyr, necessarily engages a great number of labourers, gardeners, and artificers. This is one of the important advantages resulting from the residence of a great proprietor, and no where more operative than with the earl of Shannon, under whose liberal and regular system of management every subordinate actor enjoys the utmost degree of comfort and satisfaction. Besides the common business of the farm, the gardens and pleasure-grounds give constant employment to great numbers of people, as well as a very high degree of healthful entertainment to the noble proprietors and their guests. Ornamental gardening is here cultivated

vated with ardour and with skill, not merely as an appendage to greatness, but as a source of real and rational enjoyment. Both the late and the present noble mistress of Castlemartyr are highly distinguished for taste and knowledge in the culture of rare and beautiful plants and flowers, and their green-houses and gardens display the happiest specimens of their skill.

And here I hope to be pardoned for a short digression on horticulture, or gardening, one of the first practical arts of cultivated society, a perpetual source of innocent gratification, and the most refined and elegant of all rural occupations. Of this there are three branches, one principally directed to use in the production of fruits and vegetables, the others ornamental, and employed in the embellishment of pleasure-grounds, or the culture of rare and beautiful plants. The progress of this delightful art advances with the improving state of polished society, and in general may be considered as a fair test of the degrees of its advancement. To the incipient efforts of the rude cultivator of the soil it is altogether unknown; by the half-informed squire it is neglected for the pleasures of the chace. As the former begins to improve in condition, the neater occupations of a little garden come to engage his attention, and, as the manners of the latter refine, the more boisterous

terous pleasures* of the field gradually abate their relish. His farm and his garden afford gratifications less ardent in degree, but more satisfactory in substance. They are accompanied by no agitation, and succeeded by no lassitude. They are, at least, equally conducive to health, and it is no mean part of their superiority, that they leave to their pursuer the pleasing reflection of having been usefully employed. But society must have made considerable approach to refinement, before these more rational pursuits are able to supersede the ardour of less placid recreations. In the state, from which this country is now emerging, the days of youth were consigned to rural sports, those of age to the hospitable board. Culture of every kind was a subordinate consideration, not altogether neglected, because necessary to the comforts of life, but seldom considered as a source of real enjoyment. Among the gentry, however, of former days the business of the productive garden was frequently well managed. The situations in general were very appropriate, and, as the proximity of such gardens was considered rather as a beauty than a blemish, the shade and

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shelter

* The sports of the field are so congenial to man, one of whose natural states is that of hunter, that they will always find votaries. The misfortune is, that gentlemen are too apt to make a business of that, which should only be a recreation.

shelter, which protected the house, lent its friendly aid to the plants and fruits. Looking more to comfort than shew, they considered that site to be the best, which was the least exposed, and made it still warmer by a close belt of surrounding plantation. It is to this* circumstance, I believe, we are, in a great measure, to ascribe the superior productiveness of the old fruit garden, though there is no room to doubt, that the seasons for the last twenty or thirty years have been peculiarly unfavourable. The great improvements by means of glass, as well as the culture of rare and beautiful plants in green houses, are in this country of recent date. In most of the great demesnes this art is now brought to high perfection, and, instead of being left to amuse and employ the gardener, contributes in no immaterial degree to the entertainment of the possessors. Thus human industry supplies the deficiencies of situation, teaches the fruits and flowers of the solar regions to thrive in climates not their own, and derives a proud delight from that happy ingenuity, which so successfully inverts the order of nature without violating it. Even in less elevated situations

* I know, at least, one instance of an old-fashioned garden retaining its fertility. At Richfordstown near Cloghnikilty, the seat of Jasper Lucas, Esq. peaches are still abundant on the open wall. The situation is precisely, as above described. I have however known them to fail in others,

tions these pleasing pursuits are often found to engage attention, and it affords a very gratifying picture of improving manners. Among the advantages, arising from the prevalence of such a taste, we have great pleasure in numbering a very important accession to the enjoyments of that sex, on whom the happiness of man so much depends, and to whose more limited range of external recreation he should gladly embrace every opportunity of contributing. Besides its tendency to preserve the health of constitutions naturally delicate, and frequently impaired by domestic confinement, pursuits of this nature seem adapted to their talents, and congenial to their minds. The flower garden has long been considered as falling more peculiarly within the province of the fair, who not only take great delight in the management, but seem qualified to attain a high degree of excellence in the art. In the nice arrangement of plants and flowers their taste has full opportunity of displaying its elegance, and the nurture of the more delicate kinds seems well suited to the tenderness of the maternal bosom. Among the many situations, in which the female character appears engaging and amiable, though there are many of more importance, there are few, which afford better opportunities of giving and receiving a tranquil and rational pleasure.

In the most refined as well as the happiest days of Rome, which appear to have been under the reigns of some of the early emperors, ornamental gardening constituted one of the principal amusements of the rich and the great. Their villas are represented as in the highest state of elegant improvement, and the pleasures derived from the beauty of the scenery, and the elegance of the various ornaments of sculpture and edifice, are incidentally mentioned in several of their more familiar compositions. In the article of climate they possessed great advantages over our northern latitude, which forbids the spontaneous growth of many of their more beautiful trees and plants, and restricts the enjoyment of nature's bounties to a much smaller portion of the year. England, however, has made great advances in this delightful art, and is considered to have carried it to the highest degree of modern perfection. It has also been the subject of much ingenious composition, and has afforded a very agreeable* theme for one of the most elegant among our later poets. Though the highest degree of gratification be attainable only by persons of large fortune, an inferior and not inconsiderable portion is within the reach of moderate

* The English Garden, by Mason.

moderate ability. Without any inordinate measure of cost, much of the useful and some of the ornamental may be attained.

In the pursuit of most pleasures expence is too little regarded; here it seems to be overrated. The cheapest purchase too is that, whose power of pleasing is most permanent, and which brings with it the fewest collateral expences. A gentleman, who thinks little of giving £100 for a hunter, will startle at the idea of expending such a sum on a grapery or green-house. Yet, one *can* last but a short time, and may become worthless in the course of a few months; the other, with a moderate degree of care, will continue to amuse him during his life. If, therefore, the desire of obtaining the latter were equally ardent, there seems no reasonable cause for being deterred by the expence.

Houses for the production of fruit may be rendered very unexpensive by a little change in the usual plan. They should have no glass but in the roofs; upright sashes are altogether unnecessary. A house of this construction will produce plenty of grapes and peaches without any aid from fire. One of forty feet long, ten wide, the front wall four or five feet high, the back wall nine or ten, will suffice
for

for the supply of a large family. It should have two peach trees on the back wall, with opes at bottom for the roots to pass through into a bank of rich mould behind the house. Taking off the glasses in the winter will improve both kinds of fruit. Where pine apples are raised and succession houses required, more buildings and flues will be necessary. Samuel Townsend Esq. of Whitehall, is a great proficient in this style of gardening. When hounds became a subject of heavy taxation, he wisely exchanged the pleasures of the chace for those of the garden. This he superintends himself with care as well as *con amore*, and for, I believe, a smaller expense than that of dogs, hunters, and their appendages, finds a constant source of very substantial gratification. His grapes in particular exceed any I have seen both in size and flavour. Houses on a like simple and unexpensive plan will answer for green houses to those, who find it necessary to consult economy in their pleasures. I have often wondered, that the gardeners have never turned their thoughts to the improvement and increase of fruits by glass. The demand of the market, where the nicer kinds sell very high, is sufficiently encouraging, and a house, like that I have mentioned, might be built for 40 or 50 guineas. I think it
would

would make a return of 15 or 20 pounds per annum clear profit.

The district under consideration affords little in the way of natural curiosities, besides subterraneous streams, and calcareous grottoes. All limestone tracts afford these more or less, and Imokilly has many of both, the former being more than commonly numerous.

CHAPTER XVIII.

MUSKERRY AND BARRETT'S.

SECTION I.

General Account.

THESE baronies, joined by a very irregular boundary, are so much intermixed, as well as so similar in general circumstances, that it will be most suitable to the present purpose, notwithstanding their extent, to consider them as forming one district. Both of them contain, with some good land, a small part of which is limestone, a large portion of coarse moorland and mountain. They have many small and rapid rivers, one only of considerable size, the Lee, which passes through both. From north to
south

south their extent is nearly the same; in the direction of east and west, Muskerry is greatly superior. This barony, the largest except Carbery, is divided into two parts, known by the names of East and West Muskerry, for the convenience of civil regulation. It joins Carbery and Kinalmeaky on the south, the county of Kerry on the west, and Duhallow on the north. Barretts, combining with it on the east, reaches to Fermoy on the north, its other boundaries being Barrymore, Cork Liberties, and Kinalea. In this district, as in many others, nature, more kind to the eastern side, has encumbered the western parts with rock, bog, and mountain. This is particularly observable along the confines of Kerry, where the lands are rude, rugged, and stony in the extreme, with a very scanty intermixture of any thing fair or fertile to relieve the eye amidst such a dreary waste. The mountains, though sometimes high, generally want grandeur, and the intermediate hollows are seldom marked with striking or romantic scenery. There are, however, some exceptions. In the neighbourhood of Macrump the banks of the Lee and the Sullane, which unite their streams a little below the town, afford some picturesque views, that derive occasional strength of effect from the occurrence of ruined castles and scattered woods; and a little higher up,

the lakes of Gougane Barra, and Inchigeelah, still present many objects of attraction to the admirers of nature's wilder works. The former of these takes its name from St. Finbar, founder of the cathedral of Cork, a saint of great celebrity in the Romish calendar. It is a very small lake inclosing a little island or peninsula, on which the ruins of St. Finbar's religious establishments still remain. Solitary devotion could not possibly have selected a more appropriate abode.* From the base of a very steep and rocky mountain suddenly bursts forth a most copious spring, the waters of which, thrown back by a rugged eminence at a little distance from their source, form the lake. This celebrated fountain is the head of the river Lee. A little further to the east, it flows into the large lake of Inchigeelah, of which, but for this interruption, it might properly be said to constitute a part. The valley, in which it stands, is for the most part surrounded by mountains of rude grandeur and considerable altitude, the steep and rocky sides of which exhibit many varieties of
cataract

* Smith, in his History of Cork, has given a long description of Gougane Barra, taken, as he says, from actual view, but so erroneous as to induce a belief, that he had never seen it. He makes the lake consist of 200 acres, an error, which might be ascribed to the printer's addition of the two cyphers, if it had not been accompanied with other misrepresentations. Inchigeelah may contain this number; but Gougane Barra is altogether diminutive. The error is corrected by his own map, where it is not even marked as a lake.

cataract and waterfall. Inchigeelah lake from the great disproportion of its breadth to its length, which extends near three miles, has more the appearance of a broad river, sometimes narrowing and sometimes expanding its channel. The native beauty of these lakes has been much impaired by the loss of their timber, which even the solitary remoteness of their situation has not been able to preserve from the hand of the destroyer. Thirty years ago they might have almost vied, upon a smaller scale, with the rich scenery of Killarney itself. Besides the woodlands, which skirted the lake, the little islands, of which Inchigeelah has several, were then adorned with trees and shrubs. Of all this variety of sylvan decoration scarce a vestige is now remaining. Notwithstanding the rude and sequestered nature of the situation, there are many inhabitants in the neighbourhood of Gougane Barra, one cause of which may be the great concourse of people annually assembling to bathe in the sacred waters, and offer up their vows to the titular saint. The very wildness of the scene, favourable to impressions of religious veneration, probably contributed not a little to the long continuance of these holy rites. To this may be added the remoteness of the place, rendering a pilgrimage to such scenes an act in itself of no ordinary degree

gree of merit. On the days of visitation, which are in summer, partly from devotion and partly from curiosity and other motives, the multitude of booths, tents, and people, give it the appearance of a great fair. Meetings of this kind are rather discountenanced at present by the Catholic clergy, but the superior sanctity of St. Finbar still maintains its high reputation.

The places, which nature seems to have peculiarly chosen for the growth of trees, as far as can be collected from present vestiges, were the sides of hills, glens, and dells of every kind, and those low flats subsequently converted into turf-bogs. The more elevated tracts of mountain and moorland appear to have had little other covering than heath. Whether the rich extent of our calcareous tracts was primarily covered with sylvan vesture, is matter of more uncertainty. That they were admirably adapted to it admits no doubt; but the circumstance of their competency is by no means sufficient to establish the fact. Partial as nature appears to have been in all countries to the production of timber, instances are every where found of her leaving many fertile and spacious tracts unencumbered with wood. America, whose natural state has been latest known, abundantly exemplifies the observation, and there is reason to believe, that

Ireland was not dissimilar. But, whatever might have been the case of our fertile and extensive valleys, we have sufficient evidence that all other places of favourable situation were once crowned with trees. Detached portions of these native woods still remain in this, as in other districts, and a little attention would easily have preserved much more. To its pristine abundance we are justified perhaps in ascribing its present scarcity. They, who had more than enough for themselves, never contemplated the wants of their posterity. But, though native timber is in most places diminishing, the present race of gentlemen must be allowed the merit of planting much more largely than their predecessors. All demesnes exhibit some, those of the more wealthy a considerable extent of flourishing plantation.

A singular and uncommon circumstance, not undeserving the notice of the curious naturalist, occurs in this district. On the north side of the Lee, in the parish of Magourney, are several small circular hollows, in shape resembling a bowl-dish, and as regularly formed. The depth at the centre may be about ten or twelve feet, the diameter of the ope about twenty. In winter, and after heavy falls of rain, water sometimes lodges in them, but in general they are dry. The regularity of their form

form bespeaks the hand of art, but they are in reality the work of nature, though in what manner produced it is not easy to explain. Their situation is rather on low than high ground, nor is there any appearance of burnt matter about them to support their claim to volcanic origin. Besides, the ejection of a crater would necessarily cause an elevation round the mouth, and the margin of these is on a level with the rest of the field. They seem to be rather the result of depression, occasioned by the subsidence of the supporting base. Such appearances in limestone land would create less surprise from the frequency of cavities in calcareous rock. These are situated in a coarse argillaceous soil, which is always observed to rest upon a firm and solid basis. On the north side of the river Bandon, near Moragh, I have noticed hollows of similar form but much greater extent, which are always filled with water, though in a deep gravelly soil. Many of the smaller lakes in this county are of the same shape, and have probably originated from the same natural cause.

SECTION 2.

*Muskerry and Barretts.**Modes of Tillage, &c.*

FOR the following account of the soil and husbandry of Muskerry I am indebted to the Rev. Edward Kenney, for many years the resident incumbent of the parish of Moviddy, a gentleman singularly distinguished by an exemplary display of all the virtues, that adorn the clerical character. I am aware that, in speaking thus, I may hurt that delicacy, which rather shuns than seeks applause. To all, that know him, my silence would appear much more inexcusable.

“ The eastern part of the barony of Muskerry consists of long ranges of high and broad hills, stretching in the direction of east and west, between which lie two vales in the same direction.

Through the northern of these runs the river Lee, eastward towards Cork; through the southern the river Bride takes its course, falling into the Lee five miles above that city. The hills are all arable, but the soil is in general shallow, and in most places intermixed with small stones. Through the centre of the southern vale there is a range of limestone, which reaches to Castlemore, eleven miles west of Cork. There it sinks,* and at a distance of six miles to the westward rises again in a large and deep turf-bog, where it forms a sort of island of about five hundred acres. Two miles beyond this in the same direction it re-appears, but in a much smaller body, after which it is not found in a western course nearer than Glanerogh, on the river Kenmare, the position of which seems to accord with the line of this. In the western part of Muskerry the hills do not run so regularly parallel as in the eastern.

This

• Though the re-appearance of limestone in the same line of western direction may induce a belief, that the vein is continuous, I am of opinion that they are distinct and separate strata. What the limestone of this county rests upon, is yet to be ascertained; probably on some primary rocks of granite, schistus, or grit; but I know no instance of the latter being incumbent on limestone. The limestone of Blarney has no corresponding re-appearance either to the east or west. That of Carigaline, which is a continuation of the southern Imokilly vein, sinks near Carigaline bridge, and never re-appears to the westward, though there is a very long line of valley in that direction.

This barony has been greatly improved within the last forty years. At the commencement of that period there was scarcely a road in this barony, on which a wheel carriage could pass with safety. The farmers, in general, had no other carriage than a sliding car. More frequently they carried limestone, hay, &c. on horses backs, packed upon side frames of forked sticks. There being now good roads in all directions, wheel carriages are universally used. Lime is an approved manure for all the lands of Muskerry. The drawing of limestone to their farms is therefore one of their most important occupations. They pay for the stone raised at the quarries from 3d. to 4d. per barrel (half the wheat quarter) and burn it in standing kilns with turf or furze. Such lime generally sells at the kiln from 2s. 4d. to 2s. 8d. per barrel. Forty barrels are esteemed a good manuring for an acre.* Lime is also burned at the quarries in running kilns; but, as in this case the stones are broken small and mixed with coal ashes, the produce of slaked lime is one-third less than from the standing kiln. Sixty barrels of this lime are therefore the proportion for manuring an acre. Farming for profit on the plan of a rotation of crops is not practised in

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this

* N. B. The English acre is always meant, where the contrary is not specified.

this barony. Though the common system of Irish husbandry is generally followed, some alterations in the execution have lately taken place. Spring as well as winter crops are usually sown under the plough, but with a much lighter covering of earth than was formerly given. The farmers execute all their works earlier in the year. The beds, in which they set potatoes, are narrower, and the trenches wider than in the old practice. Grounds are laid down by the more opulent farmers with hay-seeds, and fallows discontinued. The course of husbandry most generally approved is to lay out lime in the autumn upon the ground to be broken up, commonly that, which has been longest out of cultivation, and is most coarse and mossy; to plough it as early in the winter as convenience will admit; to manure it with dung or earth, and set potatoes in it in beds; to follow the potatoe crop with wheat or bere, and this with barley, or oats and grass seeds. More frequently, however, earth is substituted for lime on the old lea, and a small quantity of lime applied to one of the corn crops.

Hemp, rape, and rye, are not cultivated in this district, and I may almost add flax, of which no more than a small patch is any where seen. Clover is little cultivated; turnips not at all. Hogs make
a part

a part of even the poorest man's wealth, and poultry are reared in most houses for the supply of the country and the Cork market.

The population of the country experiences a rapid increase. Marriages are contracted very early in life, as no man distrusts his ability to support a family by his labour. Potatoes constitute the staple of their subsistence throughout the year. The sort most cultivated is not only productive, but continues fit for use till those of the succeeding year come to perfection.

An average of the price of labour in a district so extensive is difficult to be formed. Labour has always borne different prices in different parts of the barony. It has, however, increased considerably in value within the last thirty years, probably about one-third. The state of lands, so various in quality and situation, renders it equally difficult to form any satisfactory estimate of their average value.

The people are comfortably clothed, partly in woollens of their own manufacture. Great numbers of them are still ignorant of the English language.

There is no manufacture established in this district. Worsted is spun in some of it for the clothiers of Cork and Bandon.

Women

Women assist in some parts of field labour, as haymaking, binding corn, picking stones, helping to plant potatoes for their own families, and digging what are wanting of them for the day's use.

One of the chief peculiarities in the management of gentlemen farmers is the stall-feeding of beasts, a practice as yet untried by, and indeed beyond the reach of the common husbandman. Horned cattle have been fattened by one with boiled potatoes;* others give them raw, washed clean, and cut. The cattle are kept constantly in house, well rubbed, and provided with clean beds. A little hay is given, but they are allowed no water. I understand that this practice succeeded well last winter, giving a good profit to the feeder.

I have for many years fattened sheep on raw potatoes, which I neither wash nor cut, perceiving that the sheep scoop them, rejecting the skin. They are turned out every day for some hours, though on a bare field, and are kept in house every night, having hay in a rack boarded at bottom, and potatoes under it."

This is an admirable mode of managing sheep. I have followed it for some years with great success.

Besides

* I have known other instances of the use of boiled potatoes. But, though prepared by steam and with little waste of fuel, the practice has been attended with too much trouble to be very lasting.

Besides adding considerably to the dunghill, it will remove that common cause of complaint on several demesnes, that they cannot supply good mutton in spring. The quality of some grounds is so excellent, that sheep will thrive on them in all seasons, except the weather be peculiarly severe. But with many others the case is far different. The adoption of this plan sets weather and soil at defiance, and either makes, or keeps them fat at all seasons. Rape and turnips may be substituted for potatoes according to the fancy of the feeder.*

Mr. Kenney's process in bringing old lea into tillage is, as follows :

“ With a turn-wrist plough I have my oldest grass field ploughed ; on it I make my compost of dung and earth. In February, after a thaw or rain, I cross-plough or turn it. It is then well broken with a heavy harrow, at which time all the grassy sods are converted into manure. At the time of setting potatoes, the compost manure is spread on the surface of that part of the field, where the beds
are

* Stall-feeding of sheep is, I believe, a very uncommon practice. They will thrive no doubt on food of the above kind without housing, but probably in a much inferior degree, particularly in very wet seasons, which render it difficult to keep them in prime condition under any advantage of mere feeding. It is easy to conceive, what difference a poor animal must feel between a nightly exposure to the winters', wind and rain, and the comfort of a dry lodging.

are marked out. These are four feet wide; the trenches, in which the earth is raised with the plough, two. The potatoes used for seed are of a size fit for market, cut with the knife into proper sets. These are either laid on the bed, or dropped into openings made with the spade. The remainder of the process goes on according to the common mode until the time of getting out the potatoes, which is performed with the plough. The ends of the beds, inconveniently situated for ploughing out, are previously dug with spades, and the stalks cleared away from the beds. Twelve labourers with spades are provided, each attended by an active picker. The bed to be cleared is measured into six equal portions, one of which is allotted to each pair of labourers. A common plough, so set as to penetrate to the deepest potatoe, makes a cut along one side of the bed. The pickers of the first pair of labourers follow the plough quickly, and, having collected such potatoes as appeared, return to the labourers, who are by this time at work back to back, each beginning at an extremity of the portion of the bed allotted to them. As the plough proceeds, the other labourers and pickers go to work in the same manner. The plough returning cuts off a slice at the opposite side, which undergoes a similar course of treatment. The only danger

danger of burying any of the potatoes is in the cutting of the first slice at the sides of the beds, which are there often overgrown with weeds. It is therefore necessary to make the spademen particularly attentive to that part of the process. When one bed is ploughed out, or, rather indeed, before, for the purpose of giving room to the workmen, the plough proceeds to a neighbouring bed, to which the labourers and pickers pass over still preserving the same intervals. When the last cut, which is the centre of the bed, is made, the pair of labourers work side by side, taking care to keep the earth on the middle of the bed. During the entire of the operation they must be careful to throw the earth before them, not at either side, as by this means the whole manured earth is equally distributed over all the field. A plough thus attended will accomplish an acre and quarter in a day, even where the crop is abundant. After this the field is ploughed with a turnwrist plough attended by pickers to collect what might have been left behind. It is then harrowed with an iron-pin'd harrow once across the beds, after which the field is sowed with wheat steeped for forty-eight hours in pickle strong enough to float an egg. The iron harrow with its pins shortened is then drawn across the ploughing, and this operation is succeeded by wooden har-

rows drawn over it in different directions. A boy is employed to keep off birds, from the day of sowing till the crop is so advanced as to be out of danger. The wheat stubble being ploughed early is limed at the rate of 25 barrels to the acre from the standing kiln, and in spring, after another ploughing, is sowed with a crop of spring corn accompanied by clover or grass-seeds.

In a course of more than fifty years experience and observation, I never knew an instance of a crop of smutted wheat from seed so prepared."

This seems to be the best system of management bearing any conformity with the old plan. The quality of the crops is very good ; that of the potatoes I should suppose particularly so. I should think it an advantage to have the lime brought more in contact with the wheat, a grain that seems particularly to rejoice in the calcareous ingredient. The method of getting out the potatoes is extremely well managed, and appears to be an improvement on that used for drills, which is similar in all respects, except that of employing the labourers in pairs. The opinion of the efficacy of pickle in preventing smut is not confined to Mr. Kenney, though his is the strongest testimony in its favour I have yet seen. That it has sometimes failed is ascribed by its advocates to an insufficient

use of it, either from its wanting strength, or from not suffering the wheat to continue long enough in steep. Authority so respectable would lead us to conclude, that the true measure of both has been successfully attained at Moviddy. A gentleman of this county has gone much farther in the article of time, having allowed the wheat to remain in pickle at least a week. The result was similar to Mr. Kenney's. He never had a smutty ear in his field, even in the seasons most complained of by his neighbours. These are facts deserving the most serious consideration; and, though a few instances do not justify a general conclusion, there seems abundant reason to believe that the preparation will be attended with success. Many are afraid, that the seed will be injured by continuing so long in such strong pickle. This I know to be a groundless apprehension, of which any person may safely convince himself by an experiment made on a small quantity.

The gentlemen, in general, of this district, as indeed of all others, are much improved in the practice of husbandry, as well as in the style of draining and adorning their demesnes. Trees crowded round the house, mostly ash, and a planted avenue in front, formerly composed the whole of the embellishment, exclusive of kitchen and fruit garden,

garden, in which was also contained the pleasure ground.* The farm land, however, was often well divided with very substantial and strong hedges. Shrubberies, gravelled walks, and greater variety of plantation are now considered as necessary appendages to every house of better description. Many new seats have lately made their appearance, particularly on approaching towards Cork, where they are too numerous for particular description. The principal of the more removed seats are those belonging to Sir Robert Warren and family, Richard T. Rye, Esq. and further on towards Macrump, those of Robert Hedges Eyre, Esq. the Massy family, and others. Many of these are handsome and well-planted demesnes. Near Mill-street the principal seat is Westwood, the property of John Wallis, Esq. an extensive demesne, situated on the Blackwater, and richly adorned with timber. It enjoys the convenience of limestone, the staple manure of this part of the country, and from which several parts of it are very remote. The neighbourhood of Mill-street, surrounded for the most

* Hence, in Ireland the word garden conveys the idea of kitchen or fruit garden ; in England it simply means pleasure grounds, commonly known here by the name of improvements. Gravelled walks and clipped hedges, the only species of pleasure ground formerly known here, were confined to their fruit and kitchen gardens.

most part by lofty mountains, contains nevertheless a good deal of arable land, which lets much higher than might be expected from its remote situation. There are instances of farm land bringing 40s. per acre, and near the town still greater rents. Turf fuel is here in the utmost abundance, affording most convenient means, from the proximity of limestone, for reclaiming the extensive ranges of moorland, with which this part of the country abounds. Of these there are some very fine tracts adjoining the Blackwater, and not much elevated above the bed of the river. I know no part of the county, that presents, to appearance, a finer subject for the hand of judicious improvement. The expence of draining, which is the grand requisite, might perhaps be very considerable, but the return of profit would amply repay any expenditure. The circumstances of the country are not yet ripe for such undertakings. Draining is an agricultural art less understood than any other by common farmers, whose means, were their knowledge greater, are unequal to any works of difficulty. Of the better order of agriculturists there are as yet too few in this part of the country to encourage much expectation of extensive improvement. The traveller will be surprised to see fine flats neglected, while cultivation is creeping up the sides of hills and mountains.

mountains. This seems to arise partly from the drier nature of sloping grounds, and partly from the greater facility of draining them when wet, which may generally be accomplished by the ditch of the inclosures. Flat grounds, though much more productive after the operation, can seldom be drained effectually without a far greater portion both of art and expence. Some farms near Mill-street are not ill managed, and I have seen several good implements of husbandry. On the Kerry side the cultivation is chiefly performed by the spade after the usual fashion of that county, which for the most part knows no other implements than the spade and shovel. The cultivated soil is a shallow turf, resting on a wet clayey bottom too soft indeed to bear a horse, but, for the most part, easily capable of being rendered otherwise by draining, an operation never once thought of. When potatoes are to be planted, the beds are laid out in right lines, and, the trenches being dry, the sods are laid, with the grassy side under, upon the beds. This is done early in the season, that the sods may be rotted before the ensuing spring. Sometimes the ground is previously limed, but I believe it is the more general custom to lime for the corn crop. On these beds, dung being first laid, the seed is placed, and covered again from the trenches. After
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the potatoes are dug out, which are always some of the coarse kinds and very indifferent food for men, the ground lies over till spring, when, unless a second crop of potatoes be taken, as is often done, oats are scattered on the bed, and covered by a light earthing from the spade. Successive crops of the same grain, if the ground will bear it, follow, after which the land is suffered frequently to regain its pristine state. Such is the treatment of soil apparently capable in many places of being converted into fine meadows. A surveyor of the county of Kerry would have little else to record, on the subject of common agriculture, of a very large* portion of its contents. Fortunately the great ranges of coarse pasture supply a plenty of milk, without which it would be impossible to subsist under such a style of cultivation. The produce of the potatoe crop varies, according to the goodness of the soil, and the quantity of the dung, from five to eight ton. In the immediate vicinity of Mill-street those, who have no land of their own, pay, for liberty of planting an acre dunged by themselves, the extravagant price of four guineas.

Farms

* I have lately seen the same mode practised on the rich limestone tract in the immediate vicinity of Tralee.

Farms in this neighbourhood are often taken by lump, estimated according to the quantity of cattle they are considered capable of maintaining. Sometimes they rise so high as four or five guineas for a collop, which signifies a cow, a horse, or four sheep. I presume, however, that a certain quantity for tillage to supply the house is thrown into the bargain. Cows let to dairymen pay per head one hundred of butter, and one guinea. Farms are in general pretty large, and the usual leases, three lives.

SECTION 3.

*Muskerry and Barretts.**Towns—Manufactures—Seats, &c.*

MUSKERRY has three towns, Macrømp, Millstreet, and Blarney. The first, which is the most considerable, has a good weekly market, several good dwelling houses, and being 18 miles from Cork, and no town of any note within a nearer distance, is well situated for the supply of a large neighbourhood. One of the County sessions is held here, a circumstance of some advantage to the place, and of great convenience to this part of the county. Macrømp stands upon the Sullane, one of the upper branches of the Lee, and from the proximity of bog and mountain is well supplied with turf. I don't find that any manufacture is

carried on here, tho' the convenience of fuel and water seem to recommend it as well adapted to purposes of this nature. The linen business might be easily introduced by encouraging the culture of flax, a plant peculiarly fitted for spade management, and which thrives well in moory soils. The circumstances of the town are at present unfavourable to its improvement. It is the joint and undivided property of Lord Bandon and Mr. Eyre. To the east of the town are some pretty tracts of tillage land on a gravelly bottom; of the rest a large proportion is rock, bog, and mountain.

Millstreet is a very small town, deriving its chief support from the establishment of a small barrack for infantry, and the accommodation of travellers between Cork and Kerry, to which it is the principal passage. The shortest road to the city of Cork, and till lately the most travelled is that, which crosses the north side of Muskerry mountain, a distance of twenty-two miles, through a very rugged and uninteresting country, with the additional discomfort of a tedious journey. A new line of mail-coach road now in contemplation, and partly executed through Macrump, will greatly facilitate the communication between the counties to the mutual advantage of both. The western coast of Kerry, though not destitute of harbours, is inconveniently
circumstanced

circumstanced for navigation. The bays are wild, open, and exposed to the westerly winds, and the ports situated near the mouth of those bays at a great distance from all the large towns, except Dingle. Tralee and Killarney depend entirely upon land carriage from Cork, which the present state of the roads renders barely practicable.

The mention of Millstreet brings to my recollection a remarkable personage once well known in its vicinity, a short account of whom may not be unacceptable. As the head of a respectable old Irish family he was known only by the name of *O'Leary, and was one of the last of that description, who affected the antient style of hospitable living. This too he was enabled to accomplish on a moderate fortune, as his hospitality was unencumbered with equipage or parade. He lived in a small house, the lower part consisting of little more than a parlour and kitchen, the former of which, properly supplied with every article of good cheer, was open to every guest, and at every season;

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* Among the old Irish families O' is a title of honourable distinction. Mr. is applied only to the younger branches. The head of the house is never called but by the surname with the O prefixed, as O'Donovan, O'Driscoll, &c. Formerly I believe the O was never assumed by any other of the family; they were simply Mr. Donovan, Mr. Driscoll, &c. Now however the O is become more common.

and, what will more surprise, this profusion was accompanied with perfect cleanliness and decorum. His cellar, well stocked with good liquors, never knew the protection of a lock and key; for, as he said himself, nobody had occasion to steal what any one might have for asking. It derived security however from other causes, from deference to his sway, and respect for his person, both of which were universally felt and acknowledged within the circle of his influence. He was also a justice of peace for the county. The appearance of O'Leary was always sufficient to maintain order in fairs and meetings, and to suppress any spirit of disturbance without the aid of soldier or constable. He possessed, indeed, some admirable requisites for a maintainer of the peace; for he was a very athletic man, and always carried a long pole, of which the unruly knew him to be no churl. To these qualities O'Leary added an inexhaustible fund of original humour and goodnatured cheerfulness, and, being very fond of the bottle himself, it was impossible to be long in his company sad or sober. Of this I recollect one remarkable instance. A good many years ago, some friends of mine arrived in the evening at Millstreet, and, being fatigued from a long journey, wished to retire to early rest. O'Leary, who was in the town, happening to be a
little

little acquainted with one of the party, after many intreaties prevailed on them to take supper at his house. Thither they proceeded accordingly with rather ungracious reluctance, and a fixed determination neither to drink, nor to remain longer than was barely necessary. But such was O'Leary's power of pleasing, that they willingly prolonged their stay till near morning, and were imperceptibly led from bottle to bottle, till it became a task of some difficulty to regain their lodging.

In this way O'Leary lived many years, impairing, though he did not exhaust, his property. He left one daughter, since married to Mr. M'Carthy, who has built a very neat and fashionable house near the site of the old mansion.

Blarney, though a town of small size, is intitled to particular consideration, from the various branches of manufacture undertaken there within the last thirty or forty years, and the spirited and unremitting exertions of its successive possessors to maintain and extend them. The estate, on which it stands, was formerly the demesne and favourite residence of the Earl of Clancarty, a nobleman of large possessions, and head of the very old and respectable house of M'Carthy.* It combines

* Robert M'Carthy, Esq. the present representative, is a very respectable gentleman of large fortune, who has a handsome seat at Carignavar in this part of the county.

with many conveniencies of inland situation an uncommon degree of beauty. About three miles northwest of Cork, in the centre of a deep valley, rises a narrow ridge of limestone rock, running for about an English mile in the direction of east and west. The castle of Blarney, already mentioned, stands, at the northern side of this ridge, on a bold and romantic rock, the foot of which is washed by a pretty river. The demesne is remarkably rich in plantation, some of it old; much planted by the late, and a great deal by the present possessor. The natural advantages of a situation, possessing among other things a great command of water, induced the late proprietor, James St. John Jeffries, Esq. to undertake the establishment of a town, supported by such branches of manufacture, as seemed best suited to the nature of the place. Of his works a particular account is given in Mr. Young's Tour, which it is therefore unnecessary to repeat. They evince not only a laudable, but a munificent spirit, on the part of Mr. Jeffries, whose patriotic views were aided by some grants of public money, but who expended very large sums himself. In the plan and disposition of the town Mr. Jeffries, who had travelled in his younger days, and profited more by his tour than gentlemen sometimes do, displayed

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a considerable share of taste. He formed a handsome square, enclosed within a sunk fence, and adorned with a statue placed in the centre. The houses surrounding it, adapted in size to the circumstances of the place, were very regular, and neatly built. Several little appropriate ornaments were added to the different buildings. The church, standing on an elevated situation at the north side of the town, in erecting which he was assisted by the Board of first fruits, is in a style of correct and elegant architecture. The plan, however, was much better than the execution; common materials as well as common workmen being employed on it. If it had been faced with cut stone, covered with Welch slate, and leaded at the angles, it would remain a durable as well as elegant monument of his taste. The imperfection of the work offends the eye, and occasions a necessity of constant repairs. But Mr. Jeffries' ideas did not altogether accord with the circumstances of the place. A taste, which might have done credit to a suitable situation, was rather too refined for a little manufacturing town in Ireland. In his ornaments the vulgar saw nothing to admire, and even by the better sort they were considered rather as the result of whim than of judgment. They have accordingly suffered the usual fate of premature attempts

to introduce elegance and refinement. One part of his plan remains unfinished. The town stands, a little to the northward of the castle, on the west side of the river. To the east is a large and level plain. Through this he had intended to draw the course of the river, chiefly perhaps with a view to improve the prospect from the castle. A handsome stone bridge was accordingly built; but the cutting of a new channel, protracted from time to time during the life of the undertaker, still remains to be done. Some years ago the place presented a curious spectacle of a river without a bridge, and a bridge without a river. The former of these incongruities has been done away by the re-building of the old bridge; the latter remains, to the present day, a whimsical specimen of the levity of our national temper, which is more remarkable for ardour in commencement, than perseverance in execution.

In Mr. Young's Tour will be found a detailed account of the public spirited undertakings of Mr. Jeffries, in consequence of which large sums were embarked in useful works, employment afforded to numbers, a town, consisting of 90 well built houses, erected in the room of a few mud-walled cabins, and an animating example held out to other men of property. The original establishments have experienced, from time to time, some of these

crosses and revolutions, to which all such institutions are liable, partly from the fluctuating demands for their produce, and partly from the incapacity or ill fortune of the undertakers. Mr. Jeffries wisely declined any personal concern in these establishments, from a conviction that gentlemen, however they may promote their interest by encouraging, will never find their account in engaging in commercial pursuits. He conceived, that both public and private advantage would be consulted by the stimulus thus given to industry, that the poor would get employment, the capitalist profit, and the landed proprietor an increase of rent. In these objects he was not unsuccessful. During the minority of the present possessor, which was a long one, the prosperity of the new town was maintained and promoted by his mother, a lady, whose strong and well cultivated understanding rendered her perfectly competent to the care of those works, of which she had probably contributed to lay the foundation.

Mr. Young with his usual judgment observes, that, improvements merely agricultural, attended too with less risque, as well as less expenditure, would have made a much greater return to Mr. Jeffries, whose profit on the money he laid out amounted to about seven per cent. In all private undertakings of this

kind,

kind, his own emolument is undoubtedly the governing principle of the projector. But the passion for gain is often most powerfully excited, where the result is wrapped in greatest obscurity. The uncertainty of events, which may produce great profit or great loss, operates more powerfully on an ardent mind than those, which offer a sure but a moderate return. When a great prize is in view, the adventurous spirit does not wait to calculate the chances against its success. When the present leases, however, expire, the profit on new letting, provided the establishments continue to be prosperous, will no doubt be very considerable.

Charles St. John Jeffries, Esq. the present possessor seems to have turned his thoughts chiefly to the line of improvement recommended by Mr. Young. Besides planting, which he has practised on a most enlarged scale, his agricultural operations have been spirited and judicious. He has also done great service to the country by the introduction of an English farmer, (Mr. Webb) whose skill and judgment have been variously displayed, and who cultivates a large farm at Blarney in the best style of modern husbandry. The art of agriculture is now so generally understood by all *reading* farmers, that it seems unnecessary to enter into the details of every experienced agriculturist's practice. Re-
specting

specting this gentleman, I shall only add that he is peculiarly distinguished for his skill in draining, a character, for which he will the more easily get credit, when it is known that he is nephew of the celebrated Elkington. Mr. Webb's performances are well worthy of being visited and examined.

The present state of Blarney's establishments, for which I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. James B. O'Sullivan, one of the principal manufacturers, is as follows :

Among the works of Mr. Jeffries was a painting calico manufactory, which subsisted for a long time, but in consequence of a glut from the Dublin market declined very much within the last twelve months. A change has now taken place in the proprietorship, which encourages a hope of successful re-establishment.

A cotton mill of some extent, erected by Mr. Thomas Deaves, had experienced a failure very injurious to the undertaker and his associates. This has been changed into a flax and hemp spinning mill, linen manufactory, &c. There are now at full work in the concern 1500 spindles giving employment to many children of the vicinity. In the Scotch and English mills the yarn is sent off to manufacturers ; here the whole process is combined within a small range. Sheeting of superior quality,

camp equipage, sail cloth, bagging, &c. are manufactured in the neighbourhood from the yarn spun in the works. The proprietor, Mr. James B. O'Sullivan, was fortunate enough to have laid in such a stock of flax as was sufficient to meet the late scarcity of that article. He was thereby enabled to keep the neighbouring weavers at work, and even to give employment to many distressed tradesmen in Cork. A little to the west of the town, where another river, descending from the Boggra mountains, flows into the vale, are two manufactories of paper; one worked after the old method, the other on a new and most ingenious construction, precluding entirely the use of the hand, and performing all the process of paper-making by machinery. This, the invention of a Frenchman named Didot, was subsequently brought to its present perfection by Messrs. Fourdiniers, of London, who expended no less than £.60,000 in the improvement of the art. Much of the paper manufactured here has been sent to England, and from the reduction of labour, and the increased facility of working, it seems likely to supplant the old and tedious method altogether. The same proprietor has a similar manufactory at Dripsey, some miles farther to the westward, a circumstance of great advantage to a part of the district, where no manufacture had been ever before undertaken.

About a mile and a half south-west of Blarney, at Beechmount, there are also extensive and useful works, comprising a slitting mill, rocking mill, and shovel mill, a foundery, and two paper mills. One of these contains the new machinery, and is carried on by Mr. Barth. O'Sullivan, father of the gentleman above mentioned.

It is much to be wished, that all these praiseworthy and useful works may continue to reward the ingenuity and enterprize of the undertakers. It seems indeed probable, from the degree of activity which has prevailed here so long, that, tho' changes may occasionally take place, and individuals suffer loss and disappointment, some persons of wealth and spirit will never be wanting to succeed to the vacancies, that may occur, and keep up the character, which Blarney has obtained. The great command of water, in consequence of two near rivers, a populous neighbourhood, and the vicinity of a great market, were circumstances undoubtedly sufficient to recommend the site as well adapted to many kinds of manufacture. Time, the ultimate decider of speculating questions, appears to have sanctioned the judiciousness of the choice. In a country like this, where many are poor, many idle, and few rich, mercantile enterprises experience more obstruction than those, which arise from situa-

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tions ill chosen. The general habits of the people are unfavourable to works requiring unremitting care, vigilant superintendence, and frugal manners. Undertakers have seldom sufficient capital or sufficient patience. If a fortune is not made at once, they often grow negligent, lay the blame not on themselves, but on the business, and look out for some more promising speculation. The most unremitting attention is also required, on the part of the managers, to preserve subordination among the persons employed. That Blarney should have done so much under such circumstances affords a reasonable hope, that it will increase in prosperity under the influence of increasing industry and improving manners.

A few miles north of Blarney are the remains of an undertaking, equally spirited and much more expensive to the proprietor, but much less fortunate in its result than that of Mr. Jeffries. The late Robert *Gordon, Esq. commissary and surveyor-general of Munster, more than thirty years ago, took a very large tract of moorland, with an intention,

* Mr. Gordon was a Scotchman, possibly from the Highlands, whence he might have derived a predilection for such a situation. The enterprise of his countrymen, to some of whom this county stands highly indebted, is seldom chargeable with want of prudence or judgment. Mr. Gordon's situation as commissary, during the American war, accounts for the facility of his great expenditures. Such a place was, *in those days*, extremely lucrative.

tion, more laudable than judicious, of shewing what the gentry of the country might accomplish by the exertions of a bold and skilful industry. The situation of his choice was, no doubt, capable of rewarding an expert agriculturist's labour, as a mere farm, but one of the most ineligible spots for elegant improvement, that can well be conceived. High, bleak, bare, wet, and barren, it possessed every thing that could forbid, nothing that could invite either the possessor of taste or the pursuer of profit. A person, ardently bent on the exercise of talents like Mr. Gordon's, might be pardoned for fixing on such a place, if no other could be had. Circumstanced as this country was, the attainment of a happier situation could have presented no great difficulty. But some minds seem to derive peculiar pleasure from encountering difficulties, and, if such was his passion, no man enjoyed a higher measure of gratification. It is, however, to be regretted that Mr. Gordon, who was really a man of strong mind, and much general information, did not direct his activity to objects of more rational enterprize. He shewed, it is true, that labour, perseverance, and *money* could accomplish much, but he also shewed that, unless combined with sound judgment, the profuse application of all three may eventually produce a crop of disappointment.

pointment. On this unpromising situation, which by anticipation he denominated New-grove, Mr. Gordon built an excellent dwelling house, with extensive offices of every kind, besides houses for tradesmen and labourers, all on a large and expensive scale. With a view to establish the linen manufacture, he constructed a bleach-mill and factory, with appropriate houses, at a great expence, which he had the mortification to see fail from the misconduct of the manager. It is indeed probable, that there were many conspiring causes; for the people of that country were, and still are, unacquainted with the culture of flax. He built also a large inn, at which no travellers stopped, Cork being too near at one side, and Mallow at the other. In Mr. Young's Tour may be seen a full account of his agricultural operations. They are represented by the partiality of an ardent mind, inflexibly bent on the pursuit of a favourite scheme, as easy in execution, and prodigal of compensation for the cost bestowed upon them. There is, however, abundant reason to believe, that the pleasure of his works was their chief payment, and that the emolument was extremely disproportioned to the expence. A very judicious and dear *friend of mine

* The late Samuel Townsend of Firmount, Esq. a gentleman of the soundest judgment, the sweetest disposition, and the most undeviating rectitude

mine, who lived near the place, and often lamented the misapplication of his money and talents, was assured by Mr. Gordon's chief superintendant, that no less a sum than £60,000. had passed through his hands, in the various expences of what were called the improvements of New-grove. Of all these great works, little now remains but ruins. Whatever there is of profitable return, arises from the reclaimed grounds, which, after all, make but an indifferent farm.

This neighbourhood is also remarkable for another instance of great and fruitless expenditure, on principles, however, different from those of Mr. Gordon, whose conduct, tho' indiscreet, was public-spirited. At Dromore, the old seat of the Deane family, Lord Muskerry erected a most superb house, which was never entirely finished, and of which not

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rectitude. He enjoyed the singular felicity of passing thro' life, certainly without giving, and, as I have reason to believe, for none knew him longer or better, without receiving offence. His memory will ever be embalmed in the tender recollection of his friends, but to the common people of his neighbourhood his loss is irreparable. He was their friend in distress, their adviser in difficulty, and, by a sort of general acquiescence in his justice, their umpire in every dispute.—Agriculture was among his favourite pursuits, and, as few understood it better, I may perhaps have additional cause of regret in the loss of that friendly assistance so often heretofore experienced. To the decrees of Providence we are bound to submit with humble resignation. No longer permitted to enjoy, I must content myself with the remembrance of his virtues.

His saltem accumulem donis, atque fungar inani munere.

a stone now remains ! It is said to have cost his lordship £20,000.

In another part of the district under consideration occurred also an instance of the unfortunate result of injudicious enterprize. Cornelius Townsend, Esq. of Bridgmout, (a seat situated in a wild and rugged country between Macrump and Millstreet) several years since, induced two Sussex farmers (Cramp and Johnson) to leave their native country, and settle upon a part of his estate in that uncultivated and hardly cultivable region. Mr. Townsend had visited England at an early age, and, struck with the superior excellence of its agriculture, felt a laudable desire of introducing a similar style into his own country. But the difference of circumstances was too striking to escape any person of cool reflection. Youth and inexperience may excuse, but cannot justify a transplantation so preposterous as that from the fields of Sussex to the wilds of Muskerry. Attempts, however, were made to assimilate the situations. Houses and barns, wholly unfit for the place, were erected at great expence. The formidable obstructions of rock and bog were endeavoured to be removed at an expence exceeding the fee simple of the ground, which, after all, was a miserable subject for farming operation. Market, as well as manure, was remote and inconvenient,

venient, and the roads of the country wholly unfit for the heavy draught of carts and waggons. The result was what might have been expected—ruin to the farmers, and very serious injury to the landlord. The exertions they did make shewed what they were capable of accomplishing, had it been their good fortune to have settled under similar encouragement in a favourable situation. Besides the private injury arising from an enterprize so injudicious, it might have had the further ill consequence of discouraging future attempts to profit by English example.

In the neighbourhood of Blarney are several handsome seats. That of Mr. Carlton's at Woodside is one of the first for beauty of situation and style of keeping. Ardrum, the principal seat of the Colthurst family, has handsome grounds, and a great deal of flourishing plantation. A long minority deprived it for many years of the advantages accruing from the proprietor's residence. The late Sir Nicholas Colthurst added much in the way of improvement, and, had he lived, would have done a great deal more. The loss of such a man was severely felt in that neighbourhood. Dripsey Castle, the seat of John Colthurst, Esq. a few miles to the west, is boldly situated on the river Dripsey. Mr. Colthurst is a judicious farmer, and particularly

particularly distinguished for his skill in irrigation, now beginning to be practised in many parts of Muskerry. Not far from Ardrum, Mr. Beresford, rector of Iniscarra, resides on the glebe of that parish, charmingly situated, between two romantic hills, on the river Lee, a little above its junction with the Bride. The natural beauties of the place have been much heightened and improved by the residence of so respectable an incumbent.

Among the seats of this neighbourhood Dawstown, about two miles north-west of Blarney, is justly entitled to particular notice for the size and beauty of some of its timber. This place, the estate of Mr. Putland, who has a large property in the county, has been for a great number of years in the occupancy of the Davis family. George Davis, Esq. the present possessor, is a gentleman long distinguished for his attachment to agricultural pursuits, in which he engaged at an early age, and has continued with unabating solicitude. The situation of Dawstown is high, the soil argillaceous, deep, and inclining to moist. The aspect declines gently to the east. The latter circumstances are peculiarly favourable to the growth of most forest trees in this climate; and I have observed that, where shelter can be obtained, as is the case here in consequence,

consequence of a good deal of plantation, an elevated situation is by no means unfriendly. A little below the house are some horse-chesnuts of uncommon size, and which in another place would be greatly admired. Here, however, they are regarded with very inferior interest, from comparison with a neighbouring tree, which for beauty and magnitude has few rivals in any country. It is a species of lime, and the age, from some particular circumstances, is pretty exactly ascertained. About a hundred years ago, Dean Davis, one of the ancestors of the present possessor, brought it from Riverstown. It had been imported with many other young trees, and was so poor and puny in appearance, as to be thought hardly worth planting. He placed it nearly in front of the house, at the distance of sixty or eighty yards, and, it may be presumed, took particular care of its infant growth. The shape is nearly that of a sugar-loaf, but more flattened at the top, and the size so great, that at a little distance it looks like a large clump. Though the stem is of considerable height, the branches hang in such a manner, that the tops of the lowest tier touch the ground on all sides. Not having seen it for some years, I do not recollect the precise measure of its girth, or the amount of ground covered by the

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the branches. When I saw it last, it was in full health and vigour, and by far the largest and most beautiful tree I have ever seen.

CHAPTER XIX.

CITY AND LIBERTIES OF CORK.

SOME account of this commercial and populous city, and its environs, will necessarily be expected from the author of this work, though, as forming a district and separate county, it does not strictly belong to the present undertaking. The importance of the subject would, indeed, warrant a larger expenditure of time and labour, and a diligent observer might find materials sufficient, in the rise, progress, and circumstances of this city, to fill a moderate sized volume. For the present purpose a short delineation of the principal features will be sufficient, presenting, instead of a compleat picture, a sort of general outline.

* Cork, though it dates from a period of some antiquity

* Its Irish name Corcaeh, (now pronounced Curkig) is said to signify a marshy place, such being the original state of the ground, on which it was built.

antiquity, has not possessed its present claim to distinction for any considerable length of time. Something more than one hundred years ago, it was inferior to Limerick and Waterford, and ranked only as the fourth city of Ireland. It is now next to Dublin, and may justly be considered as occupying no mean station among the third class of cities in the United kingdom. It is supposed to be coeval with the foundation of the cathedral in the beginning of the sixth century, but probably owes its principal establishment to the Ostmen or Danes, under whom it received a regular conformation, and was surrounded by walls, in the ninth or tenth. The old city stood upon an island formed by the River Lee, which divides into two branches above the town, and unites again a little below it, embracing a considerable extent of low ground, subject to frequent inundation from high tides and floods. It was approached by two opposite bridges, one on the north, the other on the south channel, between which ran the principal street of the city, still retaining the name of the Main-street. A few smaller streets communicated with this on the east and west sides, and probably constituted the greater part of the city in the time of the Ostmen, as it was the most easily defensible by means of the bridges and surrounding wall. It is however likely, that

that the first rude beginnings of social establishment were placed without the situation here described, in the vicinity of the cathedral, which stands upon an eminence above the south branch of the river. The difficulty of constructing houses upon such a site as the marsh was probably too great for the incipient efforts of the earlier builders. The low town, however, was the principal part of the city on the arrival of the English. Besides the two main channels, there were several small branches of the river, intersecting various parts of the marsh, and flowing through many of the streets. Under these circumstances, it had a striking resemblance to the Dutch towns, and was considered to possess great commercial conveniences from such a number of canals. At a later period, when health, as well as beauty, became an object of consideration, these supposed advantages were found to be more than counterbalanced by their evils. On the retiring of the tide, the beds of these canals exhibited a disgusting and unwholesome collection of putrid mud, and their number was much greater than could be required for commercial purposes. To the general business of retailing-shops they were altogether useless, and the main branches of the river presented sufficient room for warehouses, and the accommodation of importing merchants.

The corporation has therefore with great propriety been for some years employed in arching over them, an improvement, to which the old town is now indebted for several of its most spacious and elegant streets. Among the later improvements is a very handsome bridge over the north branch of the river, near a quarter of a mile lower than the old one. It was built by Mr. Michael Shanahan, of Cork, and does great credit to his taste and skill. There are also two additional bridges over the south branch (the smaller of the two) one of which has been lately rebuilt, and consists of one handsome arch of hewn stone. Of the public buildings, the Exchange is the most remarkable for architectural beauty, being a neat and elegant structure, ornamented with columns of the Doric and Ionic orders, but so inconveniently placed among surrounding houses, as to lose much of its proper effect. It was built by an Italian architect, as was also the Corn-market, a well executed building of the Tuscan order, which labours under similar inconvenience, the street in front being so narrow as hardly to admit two carriages to pass each other. The other public buildings are churches, chapels, meeting-houses, hospitals, &c. several of which are spacious and convenient within, but generally destitute of any thing interesting or attractive from
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without. The cathedral is well situated, and kept in excellent order, as indeed are all the churches. It has a tower at the west end, supporting a spire of considerable height but very inelegant form. The rest of the churches* are without any ornament of this kind, except that of upper Shandon, on the north side of the river, the steeple of which consists of several stories, gradually diminishing to the top. It stands on high ground, and, as a distant object, has a good effect, but has nothing peculiarly pleasing or elegant in the structure. At the inner ends of the old bridges stood the county and city goals, under which were the gates, which led to the town. These are to be removed, and one of them (the county goal) has been already built at a little distance above the town, on the south side. A new city goal is also in contemplation, on the completion of which those old and inconvenient structures are to be taken down.

There are many public institutions of a charitable nature, mostly dependent on voluntary contribution, and therefore more distinguished by the utility than the beauty of the edifices. Public amusements, such as plays, balls, and concerts,

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* Christ-church had a tower of hewn stone, the foundation of which gave way at one side, and occasioned a leaning of very alarming appearance. It has been lately taken down, and will, I presume, be soon replaced upon a more secure basis.

are occasionally employed to raise money for the support of these establishments, an excellent mode of deriving profit from pleasure, and which might be rendered more productive, if more favoured by fashion. But the prevailing taste of present manners leads much less to public than to private parties. The support, however, of so many useful institutions reflects great credit on the benevolence of the inhabitants, by whom also, independent of these regular establishments, relief is frequently afforded to reduced housekeepers, and paupers of every description. To the exertions of the clergy of all kinds, eloquently and effectually pleading the cause of the fatherless and the widow, great praise is due, as well as for their minuter attention to the wants of the necessitous.

For military purposes, now unfortunately constituting a most important object of public solicitude, two very great and expensive works have been lately erected. A large barrack, capable of accommodating four regiments of infantry and a thousand horse, stands upon a very commanding eminence on the north-east side of the city. The areas are spacious, and the buildings well constructed. Its greatest inconvenience seems to be in the article of water, which is drawn from wells of great depth, and no very abundant supply. About three miles

miles up the river are the powder-mills, forming a most extensive range of buildings, which appear at a distance like a large town. These are now in the hands of government.

The principal market place, nearly in the centre of the town, is large, convenient, and well planned. It is extremely well supplied with meat, fish, poultry, and vegetables. The price* of butcher's meat has of late years risen considerably, and the prime kinds vary less in their prices throughout the year than formerly. From seven pence to eight pence per pound for beef and mutton may be reckoned the general rate of selling. Fish fluctuates much in price from the uncertain nature of the supply, depending upon weather, but is generally very reasonable. Poultry and vegetables are cheap. Salmon, the quality of which is remarkably good, has advanced greatly in value, partly perhaps in consequence of the demand in Dublin, to which it is sent by the mail coaches.

The rapid advancement of Cork in buildings, population, and opulence, tho' promoted by many conspiring causes, is principally imputable to the convenience of its navigable river, and the supreme excellence of its port, too well known to require
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* In one part of the shambles a very inferior kind is sold at low prices to the poorer housekeepers.

a particular description. To this primary advantage is added the happy circumstance of a surrounding country, extensive, cultivated, and populous. Kinsale was formerly considered to possess greater port advantages than Cork, from being placed immediately on the harbour. What was primarily deemed disadvantageous, has, however, ultimately proved beneficial. Cork enjoys all the advantages of its harbour, by means of a deep and navigable river, combined with those, which arise from circumstances of internal situation, and more convenient means of supplying the general wants of the county. It has, in consequence, engrossed almost the whole of its trade, and is the mart for most articles of traffic, not only to this, but some of the neighbouring counties, particularly Kerry. Its principal exports are in the provision line, beef, pork, and butter, together with some articles connected with them, as hides, tallow, &c. This trade is of long standing, and, as far as respects beef, rather on the decline; the export of pork and bacon I should conceive to be increasing. Of late years porter and whiskey, in consequence of the establishment of great breweries and distilleries, have added considerably to its exports. The principal intercourse is with Bristol, Liverpool, and London. Its chief manufactures, be-

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sides those already mentioned, are sail-cloth, sheeting, paper, leather, glue, glass, coarse woollen cloth, &c.

The corporation, under a charter of Charles the 1st, consists of a mayor, two sheriffs, a recorder, several aldermen,* and an unlimited number of freemen. The sheriffs are chosen by the freemen at large, and after having served become burgesses, out of whom the mayor is elected, five names being drawn by lot out of the whole number. Of these five the freemen are to chuse one. This is the constitutional mode of proceeding, though not at present the actual. The form is preserved in appearance, but the real power of appointing both sheriffs and mayor is vested in a club, composed of a number of leading members of the corporation. The duty of mayor in a city of such extent is attended with a good deal of trouble. He has a large and commodious house at the west end of the town, and a handsome salary to support the dignity of his office, which, from the liberal spirit of the generality of magistrates, seldom does more than pay his expences. The corporation returns two members to the imperial parliament.

The appearance of Cork is greatly amended of late,

* Those, who have served the office of mayor, become aldermen.

late, partly in consequence of filling up the old docks, and partly from the number of new and handsome houses. As, however, every one builds according to his fancy, without regard to methodical arrangement, the city wants that uniformity of structure, which contributes so much to the beauty of other great towns. With respect to modes of living, the fault imputable to many cities is too observable in this; luxury and want exhibit a melancholy and mortifying contrast. The middle classes are frugal enough, the lowest very indigent, the highest often profuse. In a town of gay and fashionable resort, parade and profusion form an expected, if not a commendable part of its character. To a commercial city, like Cork, they are altogether inappropriate, and have been considered, I believe with great justice, as injurious to its mercantile interests, and the frequent causes of bankruptcy and distress.

Among the institutions of later date, and which comes more peculiarly within the scope of the present undertaking, is that, which has lately been incorporated by charter, under the name of the Cork Institution. Its proposed object is the application of science to purposes of important utility to social life, and under the auspices of its present conductors, and the patronage of a liberal government,

ment, there is every reason to hope, that it will be productive of permanent and extensive benefit. Public lectures are delivered on chymistry, botany, and agriculture ; and the interests of the last, which forms a leading object of consideration, have already been promoted by the operation of bounties judiciously applied to the encouragement of skill, industry, and good conduct among the lower classes. As many of its objects coincide with those of the Farming society, a co-operation of measures, by uniting their funds, would, in the opinion of many judicious persons, increase the efficacy of both. The regular and systematic establishment of the Institution supplies some material advantages, not easily attainable under the less orderly arrangement of the other. By a concentration of their forces much trouble might be saved to the one, and a considerable augmentation of strength accrue to the consolidated society. Considering its short date and present means, the Institution has already made good progress. They have a botanical garden in great forwardness, but are as yet in want of a house and accommodations suitable to their purpose. This very necessary provision, they were lately encouraged to believe, would be afforded by the bounty of government, and though suspended for the present, it is to be hoped that the

design is not laid aside. From what the infancy of this establishment promises, there is abundant reason to expect that, if duly fostered, its maturity will be productive of very important benefit to the interests of this county.

The approaches to Cork, in the old directions, are very narrow and inconvenient, from the ancient custom of giving so little breadth to the streets. This no doubt, as has been elsewhere observed, originated in the limitation of space imposed upon the inhabitants by the necessity of fortifying themselves within walls. The lanes of the old town are often so narrow, that two persons cannot walk abreast. One of them, which has barely room for a single cart, is distinguished by the appellation of Broad-lane. Yet these confined and miserable alleys, the receptacles of every kind of filth, and never washed but by the waters of heaven, are crowded with poor inhabitants. Such a situation must and does engender many a disease, and would, in a less healthy climate, be sufficient to induce a plague. Custom, which reconciles so many strange things, makes even the better orders of the people insensible to evils and inconveniencies, that feelingly call for amendment and alteration. The health of the poor, and the general accommodation of those who inhabit the west part of the city, absolutely

absolutely require the opening of some new streets, and the new modelling of many places in this quarter. One of the most agreeable situations in the city is now almost lost, from the difficult and disagreeable means of access. A communication with the other parts of the town, by new and spacious streets, would render the west side a most eligible residence; it enjoys a purer atmosphere in consequence of its situation, and has the advantage of a very fine walk, considerably raised above the level of the adjoining fields, planted at each side with shady elms, and about an English mile in extent: this is called the Mardyke walk, and was formed many years ago for the recreation of the inhabitants, to four-fifths of whom it is altogether useless from wanting sufficient facility of approach.

The enlargement of Patrick-street, and the new bridge at the end of it, afford one, and at present the only good and handsome entrance to the city. The erection of this bridge has encouraged the building of many excellent houses on the north side of the river, which has lately become one of the most fashionable places of residence. The abolition of the tolls, to take place as soon as the cost of building it is defrayed, an event which is shortly expected, will contribute still more to the improvement of this quarter. The rapidity of its advancement may be

computed from the great increase of the yearly rent arising from the tolls. For some years the income hardly amounted to £500; it is now, I believe, considered to be worth £2000. This circumstance clearly shows the expediency of improving and increasing the approaches to the city. I understand that it is in contemplation to erect a third bridge over the north branch of the river, above the old one, under the auspices of Lord Cork, who has a large estate in that neighbourhood.

The population of this city is computed to amount to 80,000 souls.

The Liberties, or the county of the city, are very considerable, extending from three to four miles in most directions. The number of acres are, according to Smith, 23713—plantation measure. In all parts of this circuit population and improvement have made rapid advances, more particularly along the sides of the river, affording so many inviting situations to the possessors of wealth and taste. Many of these are now adorned with very neat well built houses, the far greater part of which have been erected within the last twenty years. The great value of ground necessarily reduces their demesnes to a small compass, so that, though there are many pretty, there are hardly any fine places. The general effect, from such a number of villas, is lively and
pleasing

pleasing, but would be much more agreeable to the eye, if there were more of hedge and less of wall. The roads leading to Glanmire on the north, and to Blackrock on the south side, are now almost converted into streets, from the number of summer lodging houses; so natural is the desire for enjoying the country air, and admiring the verdure of the fields. The townsman, however, does not like to rusticate too much. With his relish for the country he mixes his love of the town, and plants himself on the side of a dusty road for the pleasure of seeing the folks pass. The vulgarity of his taste is the ridicule of his more refined neighbours, though, in the scale of actual enjoyment, the balance perhaps generally inclines to him, who in possessing less delicacy finds fewer causes of offence, and whose humbler desires experience such numerous and easy means of gratification.

The number of villas has also added to the beauty of the scenery, in the article of plantation. Every demesne, however small, is planted more or less with trees and shrubs, which generally thrive well; and, though many of them are of very recent formation, the effect is already perceptible, and the appearance of the country extremely improved. Farming is not much to be expected in such a vicinity. Gentlemen are more generally engaged in
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dressings their grounds and laying them out for meadow and pasture, than in the operations of tillage, for which the demesnes are commonly too small. Common farmers are chiefly occupied in the management of dairies, from the great demand for milk and butter in the Cork market, and the convenience of their situation for obtaining the grain and wash of breweries and distilleries to feed their cows. By means of street dung, the pastures near the town, many of which are also naturally good, are become very rich, and, as far as this can be conveniently carried, the price of land is extremely high, from four to five guineas per acre at the distance of two or three miles, and much higher within it. In the neighbourhood of the town some of the land is laid out for kitchen garden and brings a very good profit; but less fruit is raised than might be expected in such a place, though there are numberless excellent situations for producing it: common vegetables are in consequence abundant and reasonable, the more valuable kinds of fruit very dear. There are many nurseries in the neighbourhood of the town, at all of which there is a great and increasing demand for trees and shrubs, a sufficient proof of the general spirit of improvement prevailing throughout the country. Good nurseries are now to be found in many other parts of the country, particularly on the northern

northern side. Those of Mallow are very extensive, and have the further recommendation of very reasonable prices.

CONCLUSION.

THOUGH a statement of existing circumstances might alone be sufficient to enable intelligent minds to form a competent judgment of defects and their remedies, of measures to be pursued, and modes to be abandoned, yet it will not be considered impertinent in the collector of the foregoing information to offer an opinion upon subjects of so much importance. Without some concluding commentary, a work of this nature would be incomplete. The sentiment of one, whose thoughts as well as time have been occupied in the investigation, may suggest some ideas of improvement, and cannot obstruct the production of better plans. To develop the nature of those impediments, which prevent or retard the progress of national advancement

vancement, is the first thing to be done. The accomplishment of this opens the way to the next and most important object—their removal. In a discussion of this kind it would be unpardonable injustice to pass unnoticed the very valuable labours of Mr. Young, whose agricultural view of Ireland in the four years, preceding 1780, contains a fund of information, to which little can be added, and whose reflections on the subject do honour to the intelligence and liberality of his mind. The political state of this country has been much amended since he wrote, and it is not unreasonable to suppose, that many of those improvements were accelerated, if not suggested by the diffusion of his work. Had his plan been equally comprehensive with the present surveys, succeeding diligence would have little more to record than the changes, which have taken place since his time. There are, however, some important subjects, which did not come within the scope of his design, as well as many parts of the country, that he left unnoticed. These will be found to supply abundant materials for new and important consideration.

It may seem a matter of just surprize, that a country, fertile and well situated, as this island, and which became a part of the British empire at a very early period, should still betray so many symptoms of poverty, rudeness, and ignorance. A course
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of improvement, however gradual, from the reign of Henry the second ought, one would suppose, to have placed her very near, if not upon an equality with her neighbours. A short review of the peculiar circumstances of her situation will enable us to account for it. Spenser, in his valuable Essay on the state of Ireland, at once laments and explains the cause. The achievements of the English, as he truly states, deserved rather the name of a partial colonization, than a conquest, the great object of their policy being to obtain settlements for themselves and their followers. Instead of reclaiming the natives, they expelled them; instead of fellow subjects, they set themselves up for masters; and, instead of endeavouring to civilize, they only thought of subduing. Driven to their woods and mountains, the Irish, as circumstances directed, sometimes professed subjection, and sometimes turned upon their conquerors. This situation of things, which lasted for a long time, precluded both parties from reaping those advantages, which under better auspices the country was so well calculated to bestow. The untutored minds of the natives increased in rudeness and ferocity; many of the English assimilated with their manners, while the constant dissensions, that prevailed, discouraged and retarded the progress of national improvement.

The depressed and distressful condition of the people superinduced additional bad habits. They, who were only ignorant and uncultivated before, became vagabonds and plunderers from the necessity of their situation. Wealthy individuals were constrained to seek safety in castles, and the inhabitants of towns provided for their security by fortifying them with walls.

The subjugation of the island at so early a period was therefore, as matters turned out, unfavourable to both countries. To the one it imparted no strength, to the other no improvement. Had it taken place at a later time, when the arts of government were better understood, and the circumstances of the English monarchy more favourable to the prosecution of its plans, a very different result might have been reasonably expected. The reduction of Ireland under British dominion was an event not more devoutly to be wished by the latter than by the former. Distracted by the conflicts of contending chiefs, harassed by the inroads of northern invaders, and sunk in ignorance and sloth, nothing could be more desirable to the inhabitants of this island, than an identification of interests with a superior and more civilized people. The power of England would have found little difficulty in subjugating a divided people, the amelioration of
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whose condition, had that power been wisely exerted, would not only have reconciled them to the change, but have made them bless their deliverers. The policy, that was employed with so much success in England, might have been equally successful here—reducing the power of the chiefs, diffusing knowledge and industry among the people, and establishing just and equal laws. Instead of this, a new set of chiefs was added in the English adventurers, many of whom became in the end more turbulent and dangerous than the natives. Even in the time of Elizabeth, when Spenser wrote, the general state of the people was truly deplorable. Some degree of local improvement, it is true, had taken place; towns had been built, and occupations of industry pursued, but to the almost general exclusion of the natives, few of whom were admitted within the English pale. The necessity of this exclusion, if such necessity did really exist, shewed that the system acted upon was wrong. It resembled the planting a colony on a savage coast, not the annexation of a smaller kingdom to a greater. It was attended with other ill effects. The perpetual dissensions hence arising, and the continual representations made of the stubbornness and ferocity of the Irish, by impressing the English government with un-

favourable ideas of their new subjects, prevented or retarded the adoption of wise and conciliatory measures.

On one side appeared severity, contempt, and dislike; on the other, jealousy, enmity, and distrust. It is from the reign of the first James, who took a just pride in his legislative exertions for this country, that we are to date the commencement of a regular and equitable administration of Irish affairs. Notwithstanding, therefore, the nominal annexation of the crown of Ireland to that of England at so early a period, the real advantages of the connexion, and the consequent improvement of the lesser country, are of much later date. Hence the true cause of so much inferiority in this island, which has but lately begun to enjoy the benefits of an intimate connexion. The object of this short view is to show, that the strength and prosperity of both depend upon an identity of interests, a truth indeed generally admitted, but a truth of so much importance, that nothing, which has a tendency to illustrate and confirm it, can be deemed unseasonable.

The author above quoted has drawn a striking and just picture of the inhabitants of this country. To its soldiers he ascribes the character they have always maintained of hardiness and valour. Of the

the leading men and gentry, in general, he speaks unfavourably, as idle, dissolute, and turbulent, and, what we may easily believe of those times, standing much in need of culture and reformation. To their bad example and influence he attributes in a great measure the frequent ill conduct of the lower orders, bound as they were to follow the fortunes, and submit to the will of their superiors. He observes that insurrection and rebellion never originated from the people, most of whom he represents as disposed to follow the peaceful pursuits of industry, for which they appeared sufficiently qualified by their diligence and skill. The cultivation, that took place in his time, the merit of which he ascribes to them, was not inconsiderable. In this county a great deal of corn was then raised. Modern observers will acknowledge with pleasure the continuance of this disposition in the people, as well as the general inclination of their superiors to encourage it. There are not, perhaps, in any district to be found a greater number of hard working people than this county produces. Industry, indeed, is in many places exerted with more skill, and rewarded with more profit; but I doubt whether an equal degree of laborious perseverance is any where to be found under circumstances of equal difficulty. A country, furnished

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with such inhabitants possesses the great fundamental requisite for future prosperity. All they want is instruction and encouragement; the rest will follow of course.

It is not altogether foreign from our subject to consider the difference of character, that appears to subsist between the inhabitants of this and some neighbouring counties. In the former are found occasional instances of riot and disorder, generally happening at fairs, and often the result of intoxication. The latter are almost daily disgraced by the outrages of banditti, breaking open houses in search of arms, flogging and sometimes murdering the owners. To ascribe this intemperate spirit to nothing more than a remnant of rebellious principle, is an easy but not very satisfactory way of accounting for it. We behold in this county a great number of inhabitants, many of whom find it hard enough to procure a scanty subsistence, employed in the work of their little farms, peaceable in their demeanour, and apparently not dissatisfied with their condition. In the other counties, possessing land of superior fertility, we find the lower orders in a state of discontent and disorder, rising in nightly parties, and committing acts of violence and depredation. Were rebellious principle the only cause, it should surely have
some

some operation here, where the numbers are greater, where the means of restraint are not more cogent, and where the same opinions, religious and political, are known to prevail. Here, however, is tranquillity, there disturbance. This dissimilarity of conduct cannot be imputed to a difference of sentiment; it must arise from some difference in their situation. They either want sufficient employment to engage their attention, or sufficient encouragement to enable them to enjoy the fruits of their industry. The man, who labours all day, and more especially when he labours for himself, will have no great relish for nocturnal adventures. Such exploits, incompatible with the quiet pursuits of industry, belong only to the idle, the desperate, or the oppressed. The consignment of large tracts to grazing, and the consequent discountenance of industrious cultivation, has probably no small share in producing discontent. Activity is essential to man: but, unless directed to useful, it will turn its course to pernicious pursuits. I am far from supposing the gentlemen of those counties ignorant of, or inattentive to the welfare of the people. I know too the difficulty of altering established modes, and reclaiming evil habits. But something more than mere coercion is necessary for calming the present agitation, and laying

a basis

a basis for future tranquillity. The example of this county, in which the tenantry are daily improving, from the care and liberality of their landlords, shews incontrovertibly, that industry is the great means of establishing both the peace and the prosperity of the people. Sufficient farms, fair rents, and permanent tenures, can alone excite and maintain a general spirit of industrious emulation. Provided with employment, and secure of enjoying its fruits, discontent and disorder will gradually subside, and the people will exchange the character of turbulent idleness for that of useful occupation. In the political, as well as the natural body, occasional disorders will arise; but a continued series of complaints argues a defect in the constitution itself. One subject of popular grievance is the little regard paid to long occupancy, the too frequent custom of dismissing with little notice, and less commiseration, the old possessors of a farm at the expiration of their lease. This is sometimes done very capriciously, with no apparent advantage to the proprietor, and sometimes through the influence of a fee. Though it is unquestionably true, that the landlord has a right to choose his tenant, yet honour, humanity, and common justice enjoin an attention to the interests of the old occupier. Affectionately at-

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tached to the place of his birth, as the Irish usually are, an ejection of this kind pours double bitterness into the cup of his affliction. This is peculiarly the case, when the preference of the new possessor is not founded upon any superiority of merit. Indignation often mixes with regret, and, where such instances are frequent, excites a general dissatisfaction, which at length, promoted by other causes, breaks out into outrage. Alteration of tenures and change of tenants are often expedient. The idle and ill-conducted are properly exchanged for persons of different character, and, when a small farm is too crowded, some of the tenants must be removed. But these are cases, that excite no general dissatisfaction. Their propriety is obvious to common sense, encouragement being thereby afforded to the deserving, and no just cause of complaint given to any. Of the situation of other counties, in this respect, I do not pretend to judge; but I have great satisfaction in stating, that most of the landed proprietors, in this, evince a regard to the comfort and welfare of their tenantry, which does equal honour to their liberality and good sense. In the consequences they will, it is to be hoped, find their best reward. To predict a certain continuance of tranquillity in the present unexampled state of public affairs would be a vain presumption.

But, if any thing can maintain peace and good order in a country, it is the establishment of a good system and the perseverance in it.

In promoting our national advancement, a principal obstruction arises from the difficulty of eradicating prejudices, and removing bad habits. A country, that wants inhabitants, but wants nothing else, may be brought very suddenly to a high state of improvement by the introduction of people skilled in the art of culture. But a country, however favoured by nature, if it happens to be in the occupancy of the rude and unskilful, cannot advance with equal rapidity. The inhabitants of this have a great deal to unlearn, as well as to learn, and, until the former be accomplished, the teacher will labour in vain. The soil, submissive to the direction of its lord, varies its products and appearance at his pleasure. In the course of a single season it assumes a new face, producing corn instead of grass, or substituting pasture for tillage. Mind is a subject far less tractable. The seeds of instruction, however carefully sown, require continual nurture, and take many seasons to mature their harvest. The power of a despot may change a government in a day, but an immediate change of manners is beyond the compass of human ability. A wise man therefore will avoid the extremes

extremes of eager expectation, or precipitate despondency. Knowing that national reformation must be a work of time and attention, he will not be discouraged by the difficulties and delays, that retard its incipient progress. He will make due allowance for the slow advances of the poor and the unskilful, and will look forward confidently, but without impatience, for the final success of judicious perseverance.

From idleness and ignorance, or perhaps, more properly speaking, from want of an early and systematic course of education, proceed most of the disorders and irregularities, that disgrace and degrade our countrymen. I use the word education here in its most enlarged sense, as applying to all the different orders of society, and comprehending the modes of training and culture respectively adapted to each. From this general defect must be excepted the families of highest rank, who are not inferior to those of any country in the decorum of their conduct and the politeness of their manners. Every advantage, that the best modern education can afford, is among them procured for the youth of both sexes, and their accomplishments are seldom tarnished by that levity of principle too common among the leaders of fashion in other countries. In the class next to

these, I have also great pleasure in observing, that we frequently find cultivated minds and polished manners, very superior to the liberal but intemperate hospitality of their forefathers. But in the third order of our gentry there is still much to be reformed. The possessor of a little independent income commonly considers himself qualified to set up for a country squire, in which capacity he apes the worst part of the example of his betters. He keeps his hunter, his sporting dogs, and his gun, and seems to think that he is rising in respect, in proportion as he recedes from utility. Sporting, which is only the occasional recreation of his betters, becomes to him a business, for which all useful pursuits are neglected. The evening is spent as unprofitably, and more expensively than the morning, in the company of his jolly companions, among whom the discourse rarely turns upon rational subjects. In such a family it would be vain to expect much improvement for the rising generation. The sons are perhaps sent to a neighbouring school, because gentlemen ought to learn something; but, as the means of following up that education are wanting, they come home to finish it, that is, to forget all they had been taught, and to become sportsmen. Thus they usually remain during the life of the father; after that, the property

perty devolving to the eldest son, the rest are thrown upon the world to seek their fortune as they may, ill qualified as they are, from former habits, to recommend themselves in any line of useful occupation. How many valuable members are thus lost to society, and how much less reproachful for a man of small fortune to send his younger sons into the army or navy, or bring them up to honest trades, than keep them at home in pernicious idleness? There is one pursuit, in which every country gentleman has it in his power to confer great benefits on the community, and, at the same time, materially to promote his own interests. It is making himself master of that art, for which his situation peculiarly qualifies him, and which necessity obliges him in some degree to practise, the art of agriculture. Instead of being, as is too often the case, a rack-rent landlord, driving and distressing a poor set of oppressed tenants, or instead of transferring them to the controul of a middle-man for the temptation of a fine, which his necessities find it hard to refuse, the improvement of his own circumstances will enable him to improve theirs. He will instruct them by his own example, assist them in time of need, and be looked up to as their friend and benefactor. All this is very obvious to common sense

sense and common observation. That such consequences would result from such conduct, will not be denied to any person pretending to either. Manifest, however, as it is to the understanding, and easy to the practice, there is, I fear, little hope of seeing it very speedily accomplished. Habits, that have taken such deep and inveterate root, are hard to be removed. The support it derives from numbers, adds greatly to the difficulty. The few easily conform to the manners of the many, but the converse of this proposition is rarely found to take place. A few idlers, mixing in an industrious community, usually change their manners in a short time. Discountenanced by the majority, they conform to the general practice, and become industrious from necessity, if not choice. The reverse of this too frequently happens, where idleness and dissipation form the leading character. The same observation will apply to the lower orders of the country. Among our tradesmen the prevailing passion is love of liquor, to which all the comforts as well as decencies of life are too often sacrificed. Careless of the quality of their food or clothes, all that can be taken from absolute subsistence, is spent in porter or whiskey, all their unemployed hours in the alehouse. The distress, of which they so often and so loudly complain, frequently
arises

arises from that improvidence, which lays up nothing for a future day. The neglected family, faring badly in the master's prosperity, must be wretched indeed, when he happens to be sick or unemployed. Hence it is, that our towns exhibit so many scenes of disorder, so many instances of misery and distress. Infrequency of employment ought to make them more provident; it generally has an opposite effect. The peasants of this country, though fond of the alehouse too, are less chargeable with this fault. The temptation occurring more rarely, their debauches are for the most part occasional, at fairs and public meetings. Many of them are very sober, and most of them industrious. The better sort wear good clothes, and live as comfortably as they seem to wish. The wants of their condition are, an improvement in their practice of husbandry, a knowledge of the comforts of cleanliness and decorum, a wish to better their modes of life as they better their circumstances, and an ambition to rise above that very homely level, in which the poor are placed by necessity. Their acquisition of riches seldom brings any material improvement with it. The manner of living, the furniture and implements of the house and farm continue much the same. Instead of improving his stock in trade, the savings

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of the farmer are sometimes put out to interest, but more frequently put to hide. The marriage of a daughter, for they take great pride in giving a handsome portion, draws out some of the concealed treasure; otherwise it seldom appears before the owner's death, unless it happens to be discovered and stolen by the sons. In times of public danger or calamity, this custom of hoarding takes place in an inordinate degree. The quantity of cash at this moment in the county of Cork must be very considerable. Ten or twelve years ago rents were paid in specie, the farmers having no idea of any other circulating medium. Within that period gold and silver (except some dollars and the late coinage of the latter) have wholly disappeared. The farmers, who trade to Dublin, commonly bring home some guineas with their paper. The latter is applied to the payment of rents and purchase of necessaries, the former goes to the hoard. Even in the city of Cork the appearance of a guinea, in the way of dealing, is regarded with some degree of wonder, from which it should seem that country men are the only hoarders. With them, however, the greatest part may be supposed to rest, as they possess so much less of that spirit of enterprise and speculation, which calls wealth into active employment.

The great and leading subject for public consideration is how to devise the most speedy and effectual means of amending and reforming those several classes. How to improve the manners of our middle gentry, and substitute a life of active and useful exertion for one of ill bred, wasteful idleness.—How to introduce sobriety, prudence, and decorous conduct among our drunken, turbulent, and dissipated tradesmen.—How to stimulate the activity, advance the skill, enlighten the minds, and increase the comforts of our slovenly rustics.—How to provide employment for an increasing population, by introducing new manufactories, and cherishing and improving those which exist. These are objects of moment indeed, the attainment of which would place this fertile island high in the scale of great and happy nations. They are objects demanding the attention of all, who aspire to the merit of patriotic endeavour, whether acting collectively or individually, in public or in private capacities. They are objects, to which the views of the Dublin Society, with a perseverance equally spirited and laudable, have been and still are unceasingly directed, and who perhaps have done more towards their attainment than any other body whatsoever. Through their exertions, in a great measure the real state of

the country, the causes of its depression, and the requisites for its improvement will be fully unfolded, and the first step towards a cure is a knowledge of the disease. In cases of this nature, however, it is easier to see the evil than to apply the remedy, and we must often content ourselves with lamenting what we cannot cure. With every possible aid, that wisdom, authority, and instruction can supply, the attainment of all those objects must be a work of difficulty and of time.

In revolving this momentous subject, the sentiments of those distinguished senators, by whom this country is represented, naturally present themselves to our view. From their enlightened minds every thing, that patriotism could inspire, or wisdom devise, might not unreasonably be expected. Unfortunately, however, those fine speeches, which profess a public purpose, are commonly directed to a private one. The leading object of the orator is to put down one party, and put up another. On the ruling side the country is represented to be flourishing and happy; on the other hand, though the reverse of the position is obstinately maintained, nothing more is wanting to make it a true bill than—changing sides. The truth is, that the internal state of the people has hitherto been very little affected by either.

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To *wield the power of the state with honour and emolument to themselves, is the primary and natural ambition of its rulers. We were lately told in very splendid diction, that the single measure of full Catholic emancipation would, as by magical process, produce an instantaneous change in the minds and manners of the people, making them at once united, loyal, industrious, &c. &c. Happy indeed, could a single act of parliament, or the multiplied acts of many parliaments effect an end so desirable! But, without expressing the least disapprobation of the measure, let us, descending from the lofty flights of eloquence to the humble region of common sense, ask a few plain questions. Will the admissibility of a few now disqualified persons to seats in parliament and some offices of public trust and dignity, (which is in reality all that remains of Catholic emancipation) make a single tradesman drink less, or behave better? Will it make an idle gentry better farmers, and worse sportsmen? Will it remove a dirt-hole from a farmer's door, exchange a bad plough for a good one, or put a single pane of glass into his window? Will it enlighten his mind, enlarge his scanty

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stock

* The people indeed are taken into consideration for the purpose of being taxed, but, as far as respects their private conduct and concerns, are left to thrive as they may. Government, it may be said, has nothing to do with these, being only responsible for good laws and an equal administration of justice. This is generally true, but in many cases they may surely do more.

stock of ideas, diminish his bigotry, or remove his prejudices? The answer is obvious to the meanest capacity, and shews that the remedy of those evils must be sought elsewhere.*

A late statistical writer, intelligent too in his way, though very far beneath the level of the senator alluded to, with equal confidence assures us, that the adoption of his plan for reforming the tithe system “ would make Ireland the most wealthy, the
 “ most industrious, and the most contented nation
 “ blessed by heaven. What has Scotland done in
 “ half a century? When Lord Kaimes wrote, she
 “ did not know the use of an iron harrow-pin. Now
 “ many of her farms are better conducted and more
 “ profitable than *any in England*, and agriculture
 * “ has embraced the *whole* of the kingdom,” (not
 excepting even the Highlands,) “ all in the little
 “ space of fifty years! Why? she has no clog on
 “ her agriculture.”

Perhaps I should apologize to my readers for making any comment upon assertions, that stand self-confuted in their own absurdity, but my observations shall not detain them long. Supposing, to strengthen his position, that the demand of tithe was totally
 abolished

* That some advantage might ultimately result from the measure, may be fairly allowed. Whatever tends to attach the higher orders of catholics to the state, will naturally produce an effect upon the lower. The true way of attaching them, however, is to better their condition.

abolished, I have only to repeat the foregoing questions; and what must the answer be, even from his own mouth? I am by no means disposed to deny the advantages, that many would reap from the abolition. I know that some litigation would be avoided, and that many farmers and many gentlemen would put more money into their pockets. But is this all, that is wanted for the amelioration of our people? Surely not—we want a reformation of conduct and manners, a spirit of enlightened industry, coercion for the turbulent, and encouragement for the deserving. It is not exemption from tithe, but possession of industry, that has improved and enriched the southern parts of Scotland. Her people are frugal, sober, laborious; her gentry prudent, intelligent, and industrious. It is from the union of her crown with England, when they exchanged the turbulent spirit of nominal independence for the happier character of contented subjects, that they date their prosperous regeneration. If there was any thing like argument* in the passage just quoted, it would be amply confuted by this simple fact, that England under the

* He has, indeed, sufficiently confuted it himself by his observations on absentee landlords, venal agents, middle and rack rents (see Survey of Kildare). Rash and unqualified assertions are justly reprehensible; but let them not detract from the real merits of an useful work. The author is a judicious as well as enterprising farmer, whose example and instructions are calculated to confer lasting and important benefits on his country.

the depression of a tithe system is, nevertheless, the first among nations in the theory and practice of agriculture. I am, however, far from opposing a change or modification of that system. A general opinion in favour of any measure carries a *prima facie* evidence of its eligibility. My humble sentiments on the subject are more fully stated in another place.

Still therefore the important question recurs, how are the ills we lament to be removed, how are the blessings we seek to be attained? A great part of the desired improvement must necessarily be gradual. To produce an immediate and radical change of minds and manners is beyond the reach of power, however wise its plans, and benevolent its intentions. Superficial observers, when they perceive any thing amiss, are too apt to throw the blame upon government, not considering, that the efficacy of its measures depends upon the people themselves, and that it is impossible for the wisest administration to look into every grievance, and find a remedy for every complaint. The redress of many ills, particularly such as affect the welfare of the humble husbandman, and they fill a large space of the catalogue, depends upon the judicious and liberal conduct of the landlords. Government might indeed contribute very materially to the good of the community, by
establishing

establishing Boards of agriculture, or institutions of that sort, with funds sufficient to enable them to carry the purposes of general improvement into full effect. A liberality of this nature, pregnant with advantages of the utmost importance, it surely is not unreasonable to expect. The benefit derived from such institutions on a small scale* (of which the Dublin Society exhibits an illustrious instance) shews, what might be done by a liberal administration on a large one. It is true the expenditures for defence, in a crisis so arduous and alarming, are necessarily very great. Yet even in this view of the subject it may be worth while to consider, whether some part of it could be more appropriately employed than in bettering the condition and attaching the minds of the people. Benefaction naturally produces gratitude; and, though it should even fail to make them fight for, it would, at least, prevent their fighting against a government displaying such incontrovertible marks of beneficent intention. They know it now only in its power; they would then acknowledge it.

* I call it a small one in respect to the wants of the kingdom at large, to which with much greater funds it would be still inadequate. To carry the desired purpose into full effect, there should be one, at least, in every province. The expediency of applying national aid to the advancement of agriculture in Great Britain has been already urged by a sensible Scotch writer (Bell.) How much more necessary in this island, so greatly inferior in internal means of improvement, in skill, in capital, and in public spirit!

it in its beneficence, and, like the children of a good parent, would obey from the two-fold motive of love and fear. Of the expences incurred by defensive measures there could be no cause to complain, were they liable to no charge of error or misapplication. One instance of the latter may, I am afraid, be found in this county. To say nothing of the heavy cost of so many sea fencible establishments, the use of some of which is at least equivocal, what, we may be permitted to ask, are the advantages likely to result from the fortifications and batteries of Bantry bay? Exclusive of the extravagant rents paid for ground of little value, not less than two hundred thousand pounds are supposed to have been expended in works not yet brought to a conclusion. Were they even adequate to the defence of the bay, which, I believe, cannot with confidence be affirmed, what great end could they answer, when so many other assailable places are left wholly unprotected? Dublin, Cork, Waterford, and other ports of importance ought certainly to be strongly guarded against sudden attack, but the great source of public security must be found in the British fleet, a squadron of which should always be on this coast affording, as it does, such safe stations and ready egress. What then is the result of this great expenditure, if the opinion here expressed be well founded,

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ed, but that it has afforded employment to some labourers and tradesmen, and enriched a few contractors? What would it have been capable of doing in the permanent establishment of some of the public institutions before mentioned? Most incalculable benefit, not temporary or ending with advantages imparted to a few individuals of the present generation, but laying a foundation of future prosperity, and promoting the happiness of thousands yet unborn! The subject is at least worthy the consideration of a government, which, I am willing to believe, whatever party be dominant, is always disposed to consult the general good. The sentiments of an obscure individual will, indeed, add little weight to the recommendation. But if the matter be of that paramount importance, that is here supposed, the insignificance of the proposer will be forgotten in the magnitude of the object.

The great advantages, which other countries are known to have derived from the public spirit of the inhabitants by the establishment of agricultural societies, inspire an ardent wish that the example should be followed here. The knowledge obtained from the mutual communications of intelligent members, and the judicious application of their funds, which, though principally directed to the advancement of agriculture, extend their beneficial influ-

ence to other objects, must be productive of important benefit. Discountenance of bad, and rewards of good conduct, have been attended with the happiest effects, and in a country like this should form a leading feature in every such establishment. The Farming society of this county boasts the countenance of many of its most respectable inhabitants, but they are not as yet sufficiently assiduous or adequately supported. The great extent of the county, and the dispersed seats of the gentlemen render it inconvenient to attend at Cork except at the assizes, when they are generally encumbered with other business. From whatever cause it may proceed, the meetings are always thin, and the subscriptions inadequate to any purpose of important utility. Could they be prevailed upon to take it up with proper spirit, and establish baronial meetings depending on and emanating from the general one, the convenience of all would be consulted, the advantages would extend to the remote parts, and the institution might finally attain the desired success. Of such accomplishment the present state of the society affords no sanguine hope. The indolent habits of our gentry not only render them averse from engaging in any thing like business, but make the advance, even of a small sum, from their ordinary expenditure, a matter of some inconvenience.

nience. Unaccustomed to cooperate for the advancement of any public work, proposals of this nature are regarded with cold indifference, not from any want of feeling, but because their views have never been directed to such objects. Our English neighbours, whose generosity of spirit, though by no means superior, is more happily regulated, act on different principles. Frugal and moderate in private expence, they are ever ready to employ part of that wealth they so much more abundantly possess, in promoting plans of public utility. Equal willingness on our part would at present, for want of equal means, be inadequate to any great effect. A grant of even one thousand pounds, in aid of the present funds of the society, would enable them to excite among the lower orders a spirit of useful and industrious competition. The little, that can now be done, serves rather to discourage than promote the progress of a subscription, from which no material benefit is seen to arise. The operation of so considerable an addition to their yearly funds, being immediately and extensively felt, would probably induce a much greater number of gentlemen to contribute their assistance to the support of an institution, ultimately conducive to their own interest, so that finally the bounty of government might be discontinued. The sum

required is a trifle in the catalogue of public expences; the advantages it would confer are of first rate importance. Without some such aid, I see no prospect of great or permanent benefit from a scheme, capable under proper support of contributing essentially to the general welfare.

To the advantages, arising from gentlemen thus acting in a public capacity, must be added the indispensable duty, incumbent on them, of acting properly in a private one. Without a zealous cooperation on their part, the proposed benefit will be incomplete. Independent of any collateral aid, it is in their power to do a great deal. On their liberality it will chiefly depend, to make the peasantry contented, industrious, and happy. The first, and most important step towards an end so desirable is to give permanent tenures with reasonable rents. The former secures to the farmer the benefit of his labours; the latter enables him to live with comfort. Conduct like this confers obligations, that must be felt, and which it will be very difficult for any prejudices entirely to overcome. The peasant knows well enough, that under all circumstances he will be obliged to pay rent and profess dependence, and therefore, if he has a good landlord, will not be very willing to run the risque of changing him. Where
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the case is otherwise, it is not to be much wondered at, if he should be disposed to seek a change, which may improve, but cannot make him worse. Cases of this kind unfortunately occur too often. Indeed it is hard to conceive a state more abject than that of an Irish cottager dependent on the will of a rack-rent landlord. A subsistence, hardly better than that of his pig, is the utmost of his expectation, the sole reward of his labour. An attempt to improve rather tends to injure than serve him, the rent being raised in proportion to his exertions, and a refusal to comply with any terms, his master may impose, punished by a dismissal from his farm. It is impossible, perhaps under any circumstances, to divest the people of an attachment to their native soil. The African exults in the burning splendour of that sun, which depresses and enervates the inhabitants of a temperate region. Wrapped in his furs, the hardy Laplander enjoys an unenvied happiness amidst eternal snows. The natural love of the country, that gave them birth, should be proportionably stronger in the inhabitants of more genial climes, and few nations possess it in a greater degree than the Irish. But attachment to the country does not necessarily imply attachment to its laws and government. In a country, where so many unfortunate causes of dissension

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and depression still subsist, they are, it is sufficiently known, but too easily separable. It is this peculiarity of situation, that calls for measures of more than common exertion, and imperiously demands the attention of rulers, as well as landlords, to a subject of infinite importance to both. From the former we have to expect justice well administered, wise laws and regulations, liberal grants for public works, and no less liberal bounties for diffusing knowledge, rewarding and animating industry, and advancing the progress of useful arts. To the men of property it will belong to give these measures their full effect, by a strenuous cooperation with the plans of government. He has little right to arraign the supineness of rulers, who is too idle, or too selfish to employ either purse or person in the service of the public. Every man, that has property, has motive sufficient to awaken his exertions. The interest of the public and the individual in this respect is the same. Unless a community be well regulated, it cannot prosper; and what is the prosperity of a state, but the prosperity of the individuals who compose it?

The time has been, and that at no very remote period, when the English, so much our superiors at present, were in a situation of even greater inferiority

inferiority—the lower orders in a state of poverty and depression—the men of property, idle, extravagant, and turbulent; and the general manners coarse and rude. Circumstances of fortunate concurrence reduced, in the first instance, the dangerous power of unruly subjects, and, in the second, the exorbitant power of the crown. These happy events were the result of much tumult, bloodshed, and time. The establishment of a free constitution paved the way for the subsequent prosperity of the nation. The arts of peace were cultivated; industry succeeded to turbulence; commerce enriched the seaports, manufactures the interior towns, and agriculture the country. A regular and strict administration of justice repressed the disorders of idleness and vice, secured to every man the enjoyment of his honest gains, and inspired an universal respect and regard for the laws. Such were the gradual consequences of that wise system of government, which, though it began to unfold itself at a very early period, cannot be said to have been perfectly established before the revolution. The different mode of managing affairs in this country has been already adverted to, in addition to which we labour under a disadvantage, which must always in some degree militate against the advances of this island to an equal degree of prosperity

prosperity. Remoteness of situation from the seat of government necessarily renders her an object of secondary and inferior concern. Every thing, than can promote the interests of the superior country, is seen and attended to with a promptitude, which our distance will not admit of. The metropolis is the sun of the imperial system, the cheering splendour of whose rays diminishes in proportion as they diverge from the centre. Thither all, who seek distinction from wealth or talents, naturally repair, as the scene most proper for the display of pomp, and the acquisition of renown. Though the more liberal policy of the present day seems disposed to make amends for past depression and neglect, the very nature of her situation must obstruct in some degree the improvement of Ireland. This however, instead of discouraging, should animate the efforts of every patriotic mind, and induce the great men, who do reside, to counteract, by their protecting influence, the losses sustained by the drains of those, who do not. It should operate with government as an additional motive for a liberal contribution to the relief of our necessities, and the encouragement of our trade and agriculture.

The improvement of our towns seems to be a desideratum of no less importance than that of the country.

country. These, with some exceptions, are only poor villages, in which little is sold but liquors. Wanting the support of manufactures, and destitute alike of wealth and refinement, they possess nothing to attract the lovers of social communion. In truth they often contain every thing, that can make a town disagreeable, nothing that can recommend it. Towns, however, under good direction, contribute greatly to the riches of a country. They afford the best situation for extensive manufactures, from the convenience of having the workmen at hand, and the facility of collecting them. The arts of civilized life advance most rapidly among collective bodies, where the faculties have fullest room for exercise, where genius is animated by competition, where the benefit of example is more immediately operative, where constant intercourse refines the manners, and where instruction is most conveniently communicated. I have great doubts, whether any important advantage will be found to result from country schools. Farmers indeed are willing enough to send young children to them; but, when their labour becomes valuable, they are commonly brought home to forget all they had learned. The establishment of manufacturing towns seems to be the best expedient for diffusing a knowledge of the English tongue, which

in this county is hardly ever used, except in towns and villages. They contribute also, in other important respects, to the improvement of the country, by the quantities of rich manure they afford, in consequence of which the outlets of a town, whatever be the natural state of the soil, are soon distinguished by their superior verdure and fertility. Many of the wealthier inhabitants, whom a course of more lucrative pursuits cannot entirely divest of that gratification, which nature has attached to rural concerns, occasionally amuse themselves in building, planting, and improving. Professed farmers will sometimes smile at what they conceive to be the extravagant expenditures of townsmen. But such is the gratitude of the soil, that money must be laid out very injudiciously indeed, which will wholly disappoint the hopes of the improver. Towns and manufactures seem, therefore, to be objects of very important attainment in many points of view, and deserve the notice of government in nothing, perhaps, more than the facility they afford of raising armed bodies for national defence. From them are drawn almost all recruits for militia and regular service, and in them are to be found the most numerous and effective bodies of yeomanry. Accustomed to the view and use of arms, they are easily formed into military associations. They animate and encourage

courage each other, and, being readily collected, are soon brought into a state of regimental discipline. The scattered state of the peasantry renders a similar training altogether impracticable, were they even disposed to military exercise, or could be safely entrusted with the use of arms. From the numbers already raised, and the force still subsisting, even in the present state of things, one may easily judge how much the military power of the state would be increased by a greater number of well peopled towns.

In the event of giving increase and encouragement to towns, a point of prime importance will be to establish a strict and regular police, the want of which is now in some places severely felt. Crowded as they generally are with venders of beer and whiskey, whose harvest grows on vice and folly, and whose interest is in open hostility with the morals of the people, the utmost vigilance of civil regulation can hardly suffice to restrain intemperance and riot. Meetings produce drunkenness, drunkenness quarrel, and quarrel parties. The present state of the county sessions is not adequate to the ends of justice, which ought, as far as possible, to be brought home to every man's vicinity. The administration of it is indeed unexceptionable, as far as it goes; but that it does

not go far enough, I have only to inform my readers, that between Bandon and the western extremity of the county, an extent of near fifty miles, containing several towns and an immense population, not *a single session* is held. Perhaps it would be most expedient, that every town, including a certain surrounding district, should have a civil establishment of its own, consisting of one or more justices, and a sufficient number of constables with competent salaries, and an obligation of constant residence. Without it, in a country like this, it is altogether impracticable to enforce due subordination, or maintain that decorous tranquillity, which civilized society requires. The benefit of such an establishment is fully seen in most corporate towns, and ought to be extended to all others. Some towns will probably be served by the union, which has taken away their privilege of sending members to parliament. In such, as were called open boroughs, the policy of the proprietor was in direct opposition to the improvement of the town; finding it easier as well as less expensive to govern the few than the many, his interest was not in its increase, but in its depopulation.

The population of this country, a subject which has lately undergone minute investigation, is very considerable. It is however a very mistaken notion

to estimate the power, prosperity, or happiness of a country merely by its numbers. A salubrious climate, and a sufficiency of food for bare subsistence, may suffice, as it does here, to multiply the human species. Present observation and recent experience shew, that of this swarming population many are destitute of the comforts and conveniencies of life, and ready to lend a willing ear to the voice of the betrayer. Under such circumstances it is obvious, that a country, instead of being improved, may be encumbered by population. This, I know, is not the case in many parts of the kingdom, where large tracts of unimproved ground invite the hand of culture. It certainly, however, is the case in several parts of this county, where husbandry employs a more than competent number of hands. Larger farms, under the direction of better skill and greater capital, would produce much more than it is possible for little tenures to do under the present management of poverty and ignorance, which can neither supply a sufficiency of manure, nor admit a proper rotation of crops. They may, it is true, improve in skill and industry; but, as long as the cause lasts, the effect will in a great measure continue. Hence the necessity of towns and manufactures to ease the country of some of its superabundant population. How far government may be instrumental to this end, I cannot pretend to say. Men of landed and mo-
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nied property have it in their power to do a great deal. The subject certainly deserves the serious consideration of all.

Perhaps I shall be thought somewhat paradoxical in ascribing any thing, like advantage, to what is by most people very naturally considered as a serious cause of complaint, I mean, taxes, which constitute a burden, that some years ago it would have been deemed ridiculous to suppose the country could bear. Yet, like a burden on the natural body, it seems to increase the strength of those, that bear it. On men of large fortune it makes no sensible pressure. The lower orders are little affected by it, as, what it adds to the price of subsistence, is met by an adequate increase of the price of labour. Merchants and shopkeepers may complain, but it is their customers, in fact, that pay the tax. The little, that the farmer contributes, is but a reasonable compensation for the protection he receives. The middle classes are most affected, and I think it will not be difficult to shew, that the consequences are by no means injurious either to themselves or the public. Men, who considered a little independent income as entitling them to be idle and extravagant, are now obliged to economise. The reduction of idle expences cannot fail to have a wholesome tendency towards altering an irregular course of life, and amending bad habits.

Sobriety

Sobriety and management naturally lead to useful and profitable pursuits. Pleasures indeed will always be sought by persons, who have money to spare, but they will be pleasures of less expence and more refinement. Gentlemen may still enjoy the society of their friends, but with less prodigality and waste. Their domestic concerns will be better managed, and the cultivation of their lands more carefully attended to. This begins to appear already, and idleness is daily losing ground. The decrease of hospitality may be complained of by some, but it is in reality a proof of the increase of wealthy population. Hospitality prevails most, where there are few inhabitants, and little industry. The very cheap rate, at which wines and other articles of good living were formerly obtained, deducts something from the merit of this virtue in our forefathers. What is procured with ease, will be given with freedom. What cannot be obtained without cost and trouble, will generally be managed with proportionate frugality. The taxes of Holland, in the days of her prosperity, were, I understand, excessive. The exertions of industry, instead of being repressed, were redoubled. Extravagance and idleness were equally unknown, and the inhabitants became the most wealthy people in the world.

Of another material want, and the means of removing it, something seems proper to be said, I mean, the want of timber. Considered merely with a view to shelter and ornament, it is impossible not to lament the general nakedness of the land; when regarded as an article of essential requisition, the scarcity of wood is still more deeply to be regretted. Men of large fortune have certainly extended their plantations very considerably of late, and the number of nurseries at Cork and some other places shew, that the spirit of sylvan improvement has not been confined to them. But, if we have gained in the article of new, we have certainly lost in that of old timber from neglect of the native woods, many of which have been suffered to go to decay within my own memory. The principal subject of present consideration, however, is the want of timber for the use of tenants and the ornament of their farms. It is obvious, that poor cottagers and tenants, holding at will, can never be planters, because it is absurd to suppose, that any man will sow what he has no prospect of reaping. Under other circumstances there seems no reason, why a man should not plant a tree as well as a cabbage, if he was equally assured of deriving advantage from his labour. There is indeed this difference in the cases, that one not only comes sooner to perfection, but is also much more easily obtained.

obtained. In many parts of the country, were the people even willing to plant, the trouble and expence of procuring trees is such as to amount to an absolute prohibition. In this case the aid and encouragement of landlords is absolutely necessary, who ought in the first instance to supply the trees, obliging every tenant to allot a small portion of ground near his house for the purpose, and to secure it by a sufficient fence. As they grew up, the tenant should be allowed to thin them for his own use, taking care to keep the plantation always sufficiently full after the first planting, at his own expence. The establishment of little nurseries on different parts of every estate will be found useful, and indeed necessary for this purpose. The setting up of these will be attended with some expence to the proprietor at first—after a little while they will maintain themselves, and even produce a greater rent than any other species of culture. It is a very just observation of Mr. Young, that, if every cabin had but a single tree growing near it, the appearance of the country would be most materially altered for the better. This very desirable improvement might, and, if once undertaken with spirit, probably would be promoted by the principal absentee proprietors, to many of whom must be allowed the praise of very liberal conduct towards their tenantry. As there

are a great many small properties, from the owners of which such spirited exertions can hardly be expected, public encouragement must be added to private, to render the advantage universal. Premiums, which, instead of being confined to the plantation of large tracts, should be made to reach the occupier of a few acres, would perhaps do most good upon the whole. The rich, who plant for pleasure and for profit, do not want the stimulus of a bounty, which in the present state of things seems absolutely necessary not only to encourage, but to enable our little farmers to raise a few trees for shelter and for use. Perhaps a bounty of this kind could not be better bestowed than in the encouragement of nurseries, from which the neighbouring country might be supplied with trees at a moderate price. The scarcity of timber in many parts of the county, from being a matter of inconvenience, is become a serious calamity. Many, that would plant a little, are discouraged by the difficulty of preserving their trees from a depredation, which the general want of the people almost justifies. The true way to meet the evil is to encourage, and even to enforce an obligation of planting. It is the only method of relieving a general want, and preventing a general crime. No farmer is apprehensive, that his corn or his potatoes will be stolen. Why? because his neighbour deals

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in the same commodities, and every one has enough. It would be just the same with timber, if every farm could be once provided with a sufficient supply. There are, it is true, many places, where trees will not flourish, some, where they will hardly grow. But the most unfavourable situation will admit of some improvement even from planting. Oziers will grow almost any where, at least to a size sufficient for useful purposes, and there are some kinds of hardy shrubs, elder for instance, that may be raised for shelter and ornament upon any habitable situation. The subject certainly deserves consideration as a matter of important public concern. The exclusion of foreign timber, on which we have lately been accustomed to depend, is a great aggravation of the evil, and should teach the present generation to avoid the errors of the last, and make some provision for future occasions. The best mode of doing it must be left to more competent judges; it is sufficient for a reporter to state the facts, that have come within his knowledge, and to suggest some probable means of supplying a want so greatly to be regretted.

There is abundant reason to expect, that the ample and accurate information of this country's real state, presented to the public in a series of statistical surveys, will be eventually productive

of most important benefit. It will leave to those, possessed of power and property, none of those excuses for inertness or inactivity, that might be pleaded by ignorance or misconception. It will shew to every man, capable of comprehending it, the necessity imposed on him of contributing his portion of assistance to the reformation of abuses, and the advancement of industry. By shewing what is laudable or erroneous in the modes and practices, that prevail in different places, it will suggest to each the means of respective improvement. It will shew the wants of the people and the best means of removing them, and it will shew, that there exists in most places a spirit of industrious exertion, that only wants the cherishing hand of liberal encouragement. Among others I have ventured to contribute my mite of assistance to the general stock, accompanied by such observations, as the subjects under consideration presented to my mind. I cannot, indeed, boast of having added much from my own stores to the improvement of that art, which occupies the first place in these surveys. The principal portion of instructive information, contained in these pages, will be found in their accounts of the practice of others. My own having been on a small and confined scale, I enter the field rather as an amateur than an artist.

In this respect I must acknowledge a striking inferiority to some of my associates, to the merit of whose labours their own skill makes no inconsiderable addition. In the important purpose of collecting and detailing the various modes and practices of this county, I trust I have been sufficiently diligent. For deficiency in any species of local information I have no apology to plead, having universally experienced every desire to accommodate, and every willingness to inform, that the most ardent curiosity could wish, or the most polite liberality offer.

ADDENDA.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

IT has been justly observed by the gentleman, who favoured me with an account of Imokilly, that the high rents paid by his poor neighbours, and the improving state of their circumstances under them, bear incontestible testimony to the possession both of skill and industry. We may, perhaps, go a little farther, and say with truth, that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find among any people equal effect from equal means. To pay thirty pounds a-year for fifteen acres of common arable land, to maintain at least one large family with comfort, sometimes even to grow rich on the profits of his farm, to undertake this with scarce any capital but two or three poor beasts and a few awkward imple-

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ments of husbandry, and to accomplish it by an indefatigable course of laborious exertion, exhibits a picture of industry equally interesting and meritorious. This, indeed, is above the common rate of rentage, but not more than is frequently seen performed. In some places even higher rents are paid, and, when the farm is somewhat larger, and the situation convenient, the farmer often makes good profit. Better implements and better management would certainly do more, but the accomplishment of so much evinces no contemptible degree of skill, and great exertion of unremitting labour. It is true their frugality is extreme, and their subsistence very unexpensive. None of the corn he raises, except, perhaps, a little oats, is consumed upon the farm. The only growth he makes use of is potatoes, of which he has generally some to spare. Even the wearing apparel, hat and shoes excepted, is for the most part the manufacture of the family. The most unpleasant circumstance in the southern district particularly is, that people increase faster than the demand for labour, in consequence of which the land is overstocked with hands, agriculture affording the sole employment.

It is impossible to contemplate the face of the country covered with fields of potatoes and corn; to see the persons who till it, and their instruments
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of husbandry ; to consider the difficulties they have to encounter from ignorance and indigence ; to observe the great numbers deriving subsistence from agriculture, and the vast revenue arising from their exertions, without entertaining a high opinion of their industrious deserving. All things considered, the wonder seems to be, not that the produce and the producers are not better, but that they are not worse. The prospect must excite a sanguine hope, that those, who, under such circumstances are able to do so much, may with a little assistance and instruction be rendered capable of doing much more. It must have a powerful tendency to recommend them as objects justly entitled to the beneficent regard, both of landlord and legislator. Indeed, the rack-rent tenant only excepted, I see no part of the country, in which the people are not already in a state of manifest improvement. In this county at least it may be truly said, that indolence and inexpertness are no longer characteristic of the peasantry. That some are idle, it is true, but where is the nation to be found, in which there are not idlers ? Many of them are often so against their inclination. The number of holidays they are obliged to keep, is a very serious injury in more ways than one. It is a remnant of monkish barbarism, unworthy an enlightened age, and which

the liberal spirit of the R. C. clergy should handsomely step forward to abolish. It is inconsistent with reason to suppose such a custom conducive to the interest of the church, and it is obvious to common sense, that it militates against the interest of the people. It is truly melancholy to behold the labour of so many thousands suspended for no better reason than the veneration of a saint. This, however, is not the worst; they are not only precluded from doing good, but too frequently incited to the commission of evil. It is on occasions of this kind, that for want of employment they fall into drinking, riot, and debauchery. Strange, that these should be considered as not unfriendly to religion, while honest industry is accounted a crime. I know that the priest discourages vice both by precept and example, but I also know that neither the one nor the other is sufficient to prevent the mischiefs of idleness. The best way to preserve their innocence is to keep them from temptation. Let the houses of worship be open, and the people be required to attend; but, when discharged from this duty, let them not be debarred from profitable employment, more meritorious surely in the eyes of God than idleness, even without its concomitant vices. This is an evil, which cannot endure; and it may become the policy of that church to consider the propriety of
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timely removal. Instead of being torn from their reluctance, let it be conceded by their liberality. It is worth their while seriously to consider in time the changes, which have taken place in the great R. C. states, and by prudent regulation to avert the necessity of legislative interference to correct abuses, that have nothing but obsolete prescription for their support. When the religious refuses, the political censor must ultimately employ his corrective influence; when abuses become excessive, they sooner or later produce their own remedy. It is a dangerous error to suppose, that blindness and ignorance will last for ever. Where are now those numberless idle, lazy, religious institutions of France, and its newly added territories, its abbeys, monasteries, convents, &c. &c.? Where will those of Spain, lately sunk in slavish superstition, soon be? It has been the opinion of many thinking persons, that the scourge, which has so severely visited Europe, may have been permitted, among other reasons, for this very purpose of reducing the exorbitant excess of indolent and pernicious superstition. Learning, and arts and sciences are spreading apace, and, in proportion to the advancement of their light, the darkness of ignorance must necessarily diminish. *Reason and bigotry cannot reign together.* These suggestions I trust will be taken in good part,

part, for they are well meant. The voice of admonition is the voice of friendship.

Though much is still to be learned by the common agriculturist, much, and that of prime importance, has been attained. He is frugal, he is laborious, and under circumstances of even common encouragement he is content. A good market for his produce, a lease of reasonable duration, and a kind landlord, are doubtless incitements of the first quality. Of the first of these none have cause to complain, of the others, comparatively speaking, not many. Better implements, a more judicious variation of crops, and a greater use of artificial food for cattle, are among the improvements he chiefly wants. To this is to be added an acquisition of skill in two great objects of agricultural practice, draining and irrigation. The former of these is as yet little understood, and seldom ventured on by the common farmer; the latter, though far from attaining the perfection, of which it is capable, is daily creeping into use. From the attention lately bestowed upon these objects, there is reason to expect a progress of rapid improvement. Though, on a cursory view, cultivation seems to have overspread the general face of the country, there is in reality a large portion, much of it in detached parcels, altogether unproductive, or at least producing very little,
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for want of draining. The professed objection, in general, to this mode of improvement is its expence, the real one an ignorance of the art. To any person, by whom it is understood, the apprehension of the cost will never operate as a discouragement. There may be some places of peculiar difficulty, but, generally speaking, the object is attainable at an expence, trifling indeed, compared with the value of the acquisition. To a gentleman, fond of agriculture, no exertion of industrious ingenuity can be more pleasing. The sudden conversion of an unsightly morass into a verdant and beautiful meadow, exclusive of profit, is a source of very rational pleasure. It is so much reclaimed from the prodigal waste of wild nature, and, as it were, a little Eden of his own creation. In the mere article of profit, it possesses charms to attract the most frugal and penurious farmer. When a common occupier happens to have an acre or two of this description on his farm, it is either used for coarse pasture, or mowed in autumn to procure a poor substitute for hay, or rather litter, very little of the produce being fit for food. In either case the value is very trifling. It is well known that swampy land, when reclaimed by draining, is among our very best meadows. An expenditure of about five pounds (often much less) would probably suffice to reclaim this little spot,
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and convert a couple of acres, not worth thirty shillings, into a meadow worth five or six pounds per annum. Surely the most rigid economist could not desire a cheaper purchase. This, however, is one of those works, which the common farmer is apt to consider as above his means, and only fit for the inconsiderate expenditure of a gentleman. The truth is, they do not understand the mode of doing it, and their ignorance is the less surprising, as it is so often found among their betters. The general principle is, however, very simple. It consists in observing where the water takes its rise, and cutting the drains across the head of the springs, instead, as the usual custom is, of running them in the direction of up and down. There must be always one main channel in this direction, but all the rest, if more than one be required, must communicate with it crosswise. Improvements of this kind must originate with the more intelligent order of agriculturists, and gentlemen cannot perform a more essential service to their country and themselves than by promoting such works, both by precept and example. In the practice of irrigation, of which this county affords such abundant facility, they have it in their power to be equally useful. Every agriculturist knows the benefit land derives from a top-dressing of dung. The poorest field is thereby converted

verted into a rich meadow. It is undeniably certain that water will produce the same effect, with this difference, that its operation is more constant and lasting. How joyfully would a farmer accept the offer of a dunghill, though at some miles distance, for the purpose of dressing his field? Yet a fine stream of water, capable of equal effect, passes by his door unnoticed. The benefit of one, however, is but temporary, that of the other everlasting.

On the demesne of Newmarket were many wet bottoms and glens, partly a stiff clay, and partly peat full of springs. Mr. Aldworth, anxious to proceed in the completest manner, and ever active in prosecution of his favourite object, brought two professed drainers and irrigators from Leicestershire in the year 1798. Though we may well conceive his own intelligent mind equal to the direction of such works, yet, as the undertaking was on a large scale, the assistance of professed artists seems, for many reasons, to have been wisely adopted. It could not fail to throw much light on a species of improvement known to few, and rarely attempted by any. On the accomplishment of his views depended much with respect to himself, and much also with respect to others, whom he wished to encourage by the success of his example. It seemed therefore an object of some moment to insure the certainty of
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that success by the agency of approved and experienced practitioners. The result was fully answerable to expectation. They began upon a piece of ground containing sixty acres, valued at ten shillings per acre, which now lets for five guineas per acre, and is considered to be well worth six pounds. The springs, in general, in this neighbourhood are three and a half, or four feet below the surface under a stiff clay, and running through beds of gravel, or argillaceous stones. In the course of the work the augre was applied occasionally, and, though in situations apparently similar to those, in which it has been held so efficacious, little, if any advantage was found to result from it. When the draining was accomplished, the process of irrigation commenced, and the double improvement produced the beneficial change above stated.

The importance of this improvement is sufficiently recommended by simple statement. We see in a very short space of time a value obtained of £311, 5s. per annum, by a simple process, the utmost cost of which could bear no proportion to the object gained. The advantage of such an example cannot fail to be productive of extensive utility. It will be chiefly beneficial to that neighbourhood, which abounds with tracts of similar description, capable alike of draining and irrigation. In the present
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state of the grounds, farmers, who feed large herds of cattle in summer, are obliged to sell them off before winter through want of means to support them. By this the profit of the latter season is entirely lost, as well as the benefit of the cattle's manure, the great collection of which is from winter keeping.

Mr. Aldworth has one of these men at work for him at present, with many young persons trained to the business and acting under him. By their means he hopes that one great object of his views will be attained, the extension of this most useful branch of rural economy.

Among the minor objects of consideration one remains to be mentioned, which as yet seems to have escaped the notice of Irish agriculturists.—In one of Sir John Sinclair's late Reports to the Board of Agriculture it is stated, as a fact well ascertained, that potatoes are improved by cutting their stalks when in full blossom. Though the superior art of British husbandry may be allowed the merit of raising larger crops with less labour, and in that respect of surpassing even the land of potatoes in the culture of its favourite root, yet it did not seem likely, that a discovery of this nature should have also been reserved for it. In a practice of so many years curiosity, one would think, must have made some experiments of this kind, and even chance have

afforded many opportunities of trial. The opinion of the Irish farmer, supposed to be founded on experience, is indeed directly against it. He considers it injurious to the potatoe to abridge the date of the stalk, and believes that, as long as this continues green, the root is improving both in size and quality. This is one of his reasons for protracting the digging of his potatoes to so late a period. The apple potatoe is peculiarly remarkable for the continuance of its verdure. When planted late, as is usually the case, frequently in June, the stalks will remain green, if not affected by frost or storm, till December. During this time it is supposed to be in a state of improvement, and, as both reason and experience seemed to be in favour of the opinion, I had no doubt of its being well founded. The authority, however, of such a reporter was not to be slighted. Few can vie with Sir John Sinclair in accuracy of knowledge, diligence of research, or extent of information. I therefore determined on an immediate trial, of which the following is the result. In the beginning of October last, I began with a field of white potatoes (provincially melldrums) of which I cut every second bed of half a dozen as they stood. Apple potatoes, from which I had least hopes, were afterwards treated in the same manner. The white potatoes were dug out in the latter end
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of October, the others in the beginning of November, about three weeks after the cutting. The stalks were in full verdure at the time of cutting, but more advanced in maturity than directed by the Report. In the white potatoes I could perceive no difference between cut and uncut. Some part of the former beds was inferior, but, as the disparity was not general, it probably was not owing to the operation. The apple potatoes, even in the opinion of the labourers, whose prejudices were not in favour of the innovation, had received no injury from the cutting. On the contrary, where any difference was perceivable, it was clearly to the advantage of the new mode.

The benefit to be derived from this practice, which I am now induced to consider as well established, is by no means inconsiderable. The very circumstance of promoting the maturity of the plant, usually made the precursor of wheat, is of much importance. To this is to be added the acquisition of a great quantity of valuable food, most of which under the present management is lost. Some animals, though otherwise hearty feeders, will not eat the stalks of potatoes. Old sheep do not like them, young ones will not touch them. In the neighbourhood of warrens, where grass and corn are with difficulty

difficulty preserved from the ravages of the hungry rabbits, potatoe fields never suffer the smallest injury. Horses and cows devour them greedily. For the latter they are most excellent food, both for milk and fattening.

WEATHER—INFLUENCE OF THE MOON.

IN a climate so variable as this, it is a matter of importance to the agriculturist to study the changes of the weather, and attain some knowledge of their approach. Many of the common people discover a good deal of judgment in this species of foresight, partly derived from traditional signs, and partly the result of their own observation. The safest general guide is the barometer, with which every intelligent farmer should be provided. Many, however, that are, derive little advantage from the possession, in consequence of not knowing the causes, by which it is affected. The rising and falling of the mercury, occasioned by a greater or less degree of atmospheric pressure, shews merely the varying state of the air's specific gravity. As this is for the most part greater in dry weather than in wet, the mercury

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is usually low in the latter, and high in the former. But, as this is not always the case, there are many other circumstances necessary to be attended to, without which the information to be derived from it will be very imperfect. The gravity of the air seems to be principally affected by the state of the winds. Those, which blow from the north and east, seldom fail to increase it materially, while from the west and south winds it experiences an almost invariable diminution. The quicksilver, therefore, is often high, even in bad weather, with the former, often low, though it be fine, with the latter. Sudden rising and falling denote a variableness of weather, on which it is never safe to depend. A slow and gradual rising, which commences sometimes a long while before the actual change occurs, is generally predictive of a long continuance of fair weather. When it rains with a south or south-west wind, and the glass shews a disposition to rise, an immediate change to fair may be expected, though that change will often be of short duration. One remarkable peculiarity attends the east and south-east wind. It will often continue for a fortnight or more alternately wet and dry, during which time the quicksilver experiences no change. A circumstance, most necessary to be carefully noticed, is the disposition of the quicksilver to rise or fall, which
may

may always be discovered by giving the glass a gentle shake. On a lowering morning, and when general appearance indicates the approach of rain, if the quicksilver is decidedly on the rise, a fair day may be confidently looked for. This is one of its most useful prognostics. I have often ventured, on this encouragement, and contrary to the opinion of the labourers, to bring home hay and corn, and recollect no instance of disappointment. The graduated marks of rain, changeable, fair, &c. are worse than useless, as they often mislead the inexperienced judgment. It is whimsical enough to hear people compare the respective merits of their weather-glasses, not aware that, as all are affected by the same cause, all must necessarily rise and fall together. In the course of many years' observation, I have remarked that the quicksilver attained its greatest height in the months of January and February.

There are some natural prognostics worth attending to, many of which are of local nature, such as clouds resting on particular hills, the noise of the waves in different coves and strands, and various other signs and appearances. When a mountain shews nearer than ordinary, and through a dim air, a fall of rain may be shortly expected. Clouds capping the lofty hills, while the lower are free and clear,

clear, is generally a favourable symptom. A contrary appearance denotes rain. I am inclined to believe, that useful information may be collected from observing the flight of birds, particularly rooks, who are great ramblers, and seem to regulate the length of their journeys by the state of the weather. In its common state no peculiarity of movement, perhaps, is discoverable, but I have observed one remarkable circumstance in their flight, invariably preceding a setting in of very fine weather. In their return to the rookery they are seen descending from very great heights, and, in the rapidity of successive dartings through the air, making a hissing and uncommon noise. They are also at this time much disposed to play and frolic. Virgil has recorded many prognostics of this nature drawn from a different climate, and therefore less calculated to instruct than to delight the Irish reader. One of them, however, taken from observation of the same birds, bears a striking analogy to that here noticed.

*Nescio quâ præter solitum dulcedine læti,
Inter se foliis strepitant. Juvat, imbribus actis,
Progeniem parvam et dulces revisere nidos.*

The influence of the moon upon weather, though sanctioned by long prevalence of general opinion, I am disposed not only to question but to deny. The new and full are the supposed periods of her influence,

influence, and in the number of changes annually taking place many, of course, must happen on those seasons. I have for a long time been a pretty attentive observer, without being able to discern any regularity of lunar effect. We have bad weather, and good weather, and variations of weather at every point of her rotation. Her influence on the tides is manifest and regular; her power over the air would be equally so, were she the prime agent in directing its movements. The governing principle of the weather seems to be placed in the power, which rules the winds, and operates the changes of heat and cold, with which she seems to have nothing to do. The sun is evidently the great cause of these variations, though the nature of his agency in this climate is too irregular to be brought within the compass of certain or systematic arrangement. This has been attempted with more boldness than felicity by the comprehensive mind of Dr. Darwin, who hoped to realize the fabled power of the Lapland witches. He has only served to make us rest in contented ignorance. The æolian ruler of the winds acts, and probably will for ever act unseen by mortal eye. A knowledge of general principles may be obtained. To know more would be useless, and therefore may be presumed unattainable.

The moon, however, has got credit with the vulgar for influence of much greater extent. Her periods

riods of new and full have long been considered as affecting very powerfully the brain of deranged persons, thence called lunatics. This supposed operation is now, I believe, generally discredited by the more intelligent. The country people consider different times of her rotation as favourable to different purposes. The dark of the moon is thought the best time for sowing grain, and performing certain operations upon cattle. Whence such fancies could have arisen, it seems hard to say; but they are falling into general disuse. The author of the Statistical Survey of Kildare is, however, disposed to go still greater lengths. I have no doubt, says this gentleman, that “the moon extends its planetary influence
“to many parts of created matter; that it extends
“to the generative faculties. I am *fully convinced*
“from *long and many observations*. The Irish peasant will not send his sow to the boar, until the
“moon is at least ten days old. He will tell you,
“that he can only have a pig for each day the moon
“is old. In the dropping of lambs for several days
“they will run males, and for other days females:
“*thence I conclude*, that the males are begotten in
“the increase of the moon, and the females in the
“decrease. I pray your reverence to keep your
“countenance” (no easy task). “If, in consequence
“of pursuing the above, you should be made the
“father

“ father of a fine healthy boy instead of the num-
 “ ber of girls you have already had, you will be-
 “ come a convert to the influence of the moon. In
 “ another extraordinary instance, the influence of
 “ this planet has been *repeatedly proved*. An old
 “ fat cow, killed in the increase of it, from tough-
 “ ness will not be eatable, whilst one of equal age
 “ and quality in the decrease shall eat as tender as
 “ a heifer.” Credat Judaeus apella.

Whoever reads the above may, perhaps, become a convert to the influence of the moon as affecting the brains of certain persons, but, I believe, he will hardly be convinced of her influence upon the generative faculties from any of the observations here recorded. For ought I can see, the decrease might have got the credit of the males, as well as the increase, because the time of conception, for any thing to the contrary in his account, might have belonged to one period as well as to the other. I am, however, perfectly convinced without the aid of long or many observations, that neither the one nor the other has any more to do with it than the eclipses of Jupiter's moons have. The sun indeed, powerful parent of heat and light, possesses material and manifest power over generation; but the influence of the moon, from which we derive very little of one, and nothing of the other, cannot possibly

sibly be supposed capable of any such effect. It is most absurd and unphilosophical to suppose the God of nature acting so capriciously, as to invest an inert and remote mass of matter with qualities and powers useless in themselves, and altogether unsuited to its nature and functions. Puerilities of this kind are indeed unworthy of a serious refutation. They may be properly enough introduced for the purpose of reprobating them, but, when offered as objects of credibility, they are altogether below the dignity of a work professing to convey useful knowledge and judicious observation.

It will be said, perhaps, that an uncommon coincidence of circumstances, added by prevalence of popular notion, may excuse the adoption of erroneous opinions in a person not professing to be a philosopher. There is, however, one argument within the reach of every reflecting mind, and which no philosophy is wanting to discover, abundantly sufficient to guard against such errors, I mean the argumentum ad absurdum. On this I shall briefly touch for the benefit of prejudiced lunarians. I will admit Mr. Rawson's fact to be true; but what more does it amount to than the local frequency of an uncommon incident? The successive dropping of male and female lambs in the county of Kildare for twenty years would prove nothing else. The
lunar

lunar influence, did it really exist, would do so universally, not in Leinster, Munster, Ireland, or even Great Britain, but in all the world. It would also be regular and invariable. Is it credible that, if this were really the case, mankind should remain in ignorance for six thousand years, and the discovery be reserved for an Irish peasant or a Kildare gentleman? But it leads even to greater absurdities. The influence must extend to all animals as well as those specified by Mr. Rawson, to birds, insects, and a fortiori to fishes, inhabitants of the element most affected by the moon. Can we for a moment believe, that multiparous creatures, such as rabbits, rats, mice, &c. &c. are so governed in their generative faculties by this planet, as to conceive litters of one sex in its increase, and of another in its decrease? Of the myriads existing in the roe of one fish, will common sense allow us to admit the possibility of similar conception? Surely a more glaring absurdity never entered into the human mind. The circumstance of tough and tender, if not equally extravagant, is equally incredible. The futility of the notion may be shewed in the same manner; for I suppose it will hardly be maintained, that the cow alone engrosses all this privilege of lunar affection. Let the experiment then be tried upon old hens, old geese, or old rabbits, and if it fails to succeed,

as we may pretty positively affirm that it will, the toughness or tenderness of the old cow must be accounted for on other principles than lunar influence.

CANALS—ROADS.

CANALS at present cannot be so properly called a subject of enquiry, as of speculation. Some have been talked of, none executed, and one only begun. The commencement of this important kind of inland intercourse took place in the neighbourhood of Mallow, a good many years since, under what auspices I know not, but with a result not very creditable to the undertakers. It appears from parliamentary record, that the sum of eleven thousand pounds was granted for this purpose; I believe there is no record, to which we can refer for an account of the money expended. The professed object was, I presume, a communication between Mallow and the Duhallow collieries; the real one, perhaps, had more relation to private than to public emolument. What was the full object of the plan, or whether it was intended to go further, it seems now useless to inquire,

quire, as the amount of execution fell greatly short even of this object. A sum of that magnitude, which, considering the increased price of labour, may be considered as double its present productivity, was certainly capable of accomplishing a great deal. That it did so little, may, however, be imputed to the ignorance as well as the selfishness of the constructors. The canal was formed upon much too large a scale, an error but of recent discovery, though apparently so obvious to common understanding. How far it may lay claim to judiciousness of arrangement in respect of line and level, I am not prepared to say; but it seems a matter of regret, that so much labour should be absolutely lost. The spirit of enterprize, now beginning to be displayed in working those collieries, may, perhaps, be a means of reviving that consideration, which at present appears to rest in perfect oblivion.

In considering the subject of canals, I am inclined to think that any great works of this nature are rather above the present circumstances of the country. It is only within a few years that the sister island has been able to accomplish any considerable extent of inland navigation. The success of some great undertakings there excited a general spirit of enterprize, which the great wealth of the people enabled them to carry into effect. It is only to be observed

served, that we have much more serious natural difficulties to encounter than the English. The placid course of almost all their rivers exhibits a much greater facility of level, in addition to which the labour of excavation is far less severe. Rapidity is the prevailing character of all our streams, and rock is almost every where found within a short distance of the surface. The possession of equal wealth here would therefore find more discouraging obstacles, though not so great as to deter from undertakings of material importance. In the affluence of England, every feasible project of this nature finds ready support. The chief riches of this country are landed possessions, and the proprietors of the soil, exclusive of being unaccustomed to commercial speculation, have seldom much money to spare. Instead therefore of making canals for the purpose of producing affluence, I fear we must wait the arrival of affluence for the purpose of making canals. Parliamentary grants seem in the present state of things to be out of the question, and, indeed, under any circumstances they should only be given in aid, and to finish what private subscriptions begin. This is the most judicious mode of applying public bounty, and probably the only one likely to escape abuse.

In surveying the geological state of this part of
the

the island, it should seem that the principal capability of canal communication is to be found in the directions of east and west. The great ranges of hill and valley follow this line, and though some of the deadeast levels may be found in an opposite direction, they are never of much extent. The great and desirable centre of communication is Cork, with which one only of those vallies, the western extent of which is inconsiderable, is connected. On the east nature has given it a navigable intercourse with all that part of the country adjoining Cork harbour and the Great island. A line of canal has, I understand, been measured between Cork and Limerick, but what difficulties it presents, what number of locks would be required, or what sum it would cost, I have not learned. The objection to the scheme arose, it is said, from the latter, though it may be well doubted whether its most sanguine adoption would suffice for the accomplishment. On a superficial view of the country, it seems to me a matter of less difficulty to open a communication between Limerick and Waterford. The great object of canals is the conveyance of cumbrous articles, as coal, timber, and minerals. Some of the interior parts stand much in need of coal, but have at present neither of the others to send back in return. Corn and potatoes commonly find a market in their

own neighbourhood, and the seaport towns command a sufficient extent of coast to supply all their wants; excepting therefore the advantage of a cheaper supply of fuel to those parts of the country remote from bog, no great necessity for canals seems at present to exist.

In the southern district a line of canal has been lately mentioned with a degree of confidence, which seemed to promise a speedy completion. The hope of its accomplishment became more sanguine from its being understood, that the undertaking was to commence under the auspices of the Duke of Devonshire. Bandon, the far greatest part of which belongs to his Grace, and which the number and industry of the inhabitants entitle to every consideration and regard, stands within three miles of the navigable part of Kinsale river. It would be an object of great importance, and no difficult accomplishment, to open a navigable communication with that river. The object of the scheme was more comprehensive. The favourable nature of the ground, which reaches to a considerable distance westward in a level direction, induced the projectors to extend it to Dunmanway, in the neighbourhood of which is a good deal of wood, and an inexhaustible abundance of turf. To the farmers on each side it would also present an easy conveyance

of their produce to Bandon, as well as a great convenience of receiving sea sand in return. A difference of opinion respecting the line of direction, combined with other circumstances, is stated as the cause of suspending the undertaking. The Duke's agents are desirous, that it should keep the north side of the river, which is his Grace's estate, while others prefer the south side as the more natural and least expensive course. At all events I should think it eligible to accomplish the first part of the work, in which all agree, and to open the communication between Bandon and Kinsale. This will be found of material service, whether the other part of the plan be executed or not. George Kingston, Esq. of Bandon, who evinces great judgment in several kinds of public works, has enabled me to give a clear and satisfactory account of this projected canal, the only one, as I know, in this county, that has been laid down on a regular and systematic scale. This the reader will find in the following letter.

Bandon,

Bandon, Feb. 6, 1810.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ IN consequence of your wishing to be informed what steps had been taken towards accomplishing the long talked of canal, which was proposed to be made in this part of the country, and how far it appeared that such a thing was practicable, I beg leave to acquaint you that, immediately on passing the Act of Parliament for the general encouragement of inland navigation in Ireland, and a grant of five hundred thousand pounds to be given in aid of such undertakings of this kind as should be approved of by Government, the old idea, that had been conceived sixty or seventy years ago, of making a canal from the tide water at Inishannon up to Dunmanway was revived, and the people in general through all this part of the country seemed extremely anxious, that some proceedings should take place on the subject. I therefore stepped forward and offered to become the acting person, as, for want of such, no step was ever taken towards effecting it before, although it was thought of so many

many years ago. I immediately procured a survey of the line of country, through which it was proposed to be carried, and had levels taken from end to end of the line, by which not only the practicability of effecting it was ascertained, but also that the country was quite favourable to it. This being discovered, I procured an experienced engineer (Capt. Geo. Taylor of Dublin) to come down from thence, and project a line of canal on the most favourable ground between Dunmanway and Inishannon, which on inspection appeared to be on the *south side* the Bandon river. This line of canal, eighteen miles in length, would contain eighteen locks of ten feet each, the entire descent from the summit level at Dunmanway, to the tide water at Inishannon bridge, being one hundred and eighty feet, and the estimate of Capt. Taylor for executing it £32058 13s. 4d. I then without further delay communicated my proceedings to the Duke of Devonshire, through his agent Mr. Knowlton, and expressed my hope and expectation, that his Grace would give his aid in promoting a scheme, that must yield such vast advantages to his town of Bandon and all the rest of his extensive estates. To which I received an answer from Mr. Knowlton, stating, that his Grace would promote and subscribe to the making the canal, provided it should be cut through
his

his estates on the *north side* the river Bandon, and not on the south side as projected by Capt. Taylor."

"This however did not induce me to give up the business, but on the contrary I determined to examine the country at that side the river, and try whether it was possible to comply with his Grace's wishes, for which I procured a person perfectly competent to take levels, and thereby found, that by constructing a lofty aqueduct across the Bandon river, near the village of Ballyhaneen, the canal could with safety be brought over, and would enter the Duke's estate near that village, and continue through it the entire distance from thence into the town of Bandon. This line I projected myself, and estimated the expence thereof, which amounted to £42126, including the purchase of the ground, through which the canal would run. This I also communicated to his Grace, and in some time after was informed by Mr. Knowlton, that to a canal, undertaken in that line, the Duke would subscribe ten thousand pounds to receive debentures in the same proportion as other subscribers, and that he would also give his ground on the same terms as the undertakers could purchase from other persons, whose ground would be cut through. I shortly made this known to a few persons, who I thought most interested in the scheme, and of course ought

to be most anxious to promote it ; but I found there were then such existing circumstances, that it would be labour in vain to pursue it one step further."

" Notwithstanding this however, from the knowledge of the country, which I acquired by traversing it so often, I observed that it would be very possible to construct a line of navigation, by combining a canal with a river navigation, which could be effected at a much smaller expence than either of the other lines. I accordingly had another survey and levels taken of the surface and depth of the river and of the banks, by which I found, that the river and banks were in a great measure formed by nature for such a purpose, there being almost every where from end to end of the line a large plain on one side or other of the river, and, when that terminates by the interference of a hill, the river immediately presents a bason or pond, inclosed with good banks, and a sufficient depth of water for canal boats to navigate through it. I therefore projected a line through those plains and those ponds, the estimate for which amounts to only £25354 12s. 5d. including the purchase of ground, ten miles and a half of which would be an excavation through the plains, and seven miles and a half through the natural ponds in the river. The part cut through each of the several plains would be
protected

protected, from being injured by the river in time of floods, by a guard lock, and each of the several ponds would be protected, from interruption by too great a current on the same occasions, by a weir, which would be placed at the lower end of each pond, to pen up the water, with one or more large sluices in it to let off any superfluous water, and thereby keep the surface to a standard level. So that I have doubts whether a line of navigation executed on this system, if the works were properly constructed, would be oftener interrupted by the weather, than the navigation of any other river where the tide flows."

"Although there is not at present any prospect of either of those plans being carried into execution, yet I have some pleasure in considering, that by my exertions it is ascertained, that an inland navigation from the tide water at Inishannon to the town of Dunmanway can be effected in three different lines at a very moderate expence. And I think it will appear equally certain from a calculation I have made, that it would be one of the most productive to the company, that would execute it, of any in Ireland, as well as yield as much advantage to all the landholders in the country, through which it would pass. I have also now in my possession the general survey of the country, the profile of each

of the three lines, that have been projected, shewing where each lock is to be placed, and also the estimate of the expence of each line, and every drawing and document necessary for carrying the scheme into execution, all of which will be equally useful at any future time, that more public spirit may prevail."

Canals, highly conducive to the advancement of commercial pursuits, may be considered as a mode of communication sometimes expedient, and always desirable; roads as a species of intercourse essentially necessary to the common purposes of civilized life. Happily for the wants of man these present a much greater facility of construction, and may be attained at an expence, which every inhabited country can easily afford. Simple however as the art is, its progress has been very slow, and we still have much to complain of on the score of injudicious direction, and imperfect accomplishment. For the former it is easy to account. In earlier days, and even at a period not far removed from our own, the use of wheel carriages was extremely limited. When we consider how little such vehicles were known in England in the time of the renowned queen, who jogged upon a pillion behind her chamberlain to the parliament house, it will not be deemed extraordinary, that their introduction was

so late here. We are not therefore too rashly to condemn the conduct of our forefathers, who, instead of looking for lines and levels through deep and unmanageable morasses, sought a dry passage, where only it could then be well obtained, on the tops of hills. Every burthen being carried on horseback, and many a journey performed on foot, the shortest passage and the firmest ground were the sole objects of want and of attainment. Their purpose was to seek, what ours is to avoid, elevation of ground, and nature was seldom a niggard of opportunity. Whoever examines the old course of the roads from town to town, will find it invariably passing over the summits of all the intermediate hills. Originally these roads seem to have been little more than pathways. This at least was the case on the dry and elevated grounds, which possessed all that they seemed to want, a firm footing. For passing a low and wet place they formed a sort of causeway composed of large stones. The great want of judgment appeared in the conduct of succeeding generations. When it became expedient to enlarge and amend the public ways, instead of striking out new and improved lines, they generally followed the old course. In form and firmness the amended roads were unexceptionable enough, but all the disadvantages of up and down were religiously

ously preserved. The idea of avoiding these hills, which they and their ancestors had been accustomed to travel over, seems not to have entered into their plan of reformation. Within a later period some occasional improvements in this respect have taken place, but the great alteration is yet to be made, and fortunately its arrival appears to be at hand. For the attainment, or at least the acceleration of this desirable object, we are indebted to the spirited example of Mr. Anderson in undertaking and accomplishing the establishment of mail coaches in this county. In consequence of his success, and partly under his auspices, many new lines of mail coach road are now in contemplation, from which the greatest advantages, too obvious to require enlargement, must necessarily accrue. The principal of these are a line of road from Cork to Skibbereen through Inishannon, Bandon, Cloghnikilty, and Ross Carbery, a branch from which will communicate with Kinsale; a line of road from Cork to Kerry through Macrump, and Millstreet; and another to Limerick through Mallow. Besides these, some new roads of great local utility, but less public importance, are under consideration, and the accomplishment of these plans will probably lead to many others. The new lines are laid out under the direction

direction of an able artist* sent down for that purpose by the Post-master General, agreeable to act of parliament, and the undertaking is expected to commence in the ensuing summer.

The present roads are generally reprehensible for two faults, both peculiarly observable in the situation where they would be least expected, the vicinity of Cork. One of these is want of sufficient breadth, in consequence of which carriages, being confined to the same track, soon wear it into ruts. The other is, laying on a thin covering, not of small but large stones, which are always shifting their places, and render the passage extremely rough for carriages, and dangerous for horsemen. This is more particularly the case in the liberties of the city, and it is the less excusable, as materials of the best description (generally limestone) are abundantly convenient. The office of conservator has been discontinued in the county from a conviction of its general inutility; as the Grand Jury of the city have thought proper to retain it, they ought to afford the public some satisfactory evidence of its efficiency. The conservator's duty indeed is not to make roads but reports. Of roads wanting repair his catalogue is sufficiently copious—of roads repaired, as they ought to be, a faithful reporter will

* Mr. Larkin.

will have little indeed to say. For roads so thronged with carriages the usual mode of repairing by presentment seems very exceptionable. If a road gets out of order in October, it must remain in a state of increasing deterioration until the ensuing assizes in April. This has generally happened on some part of the road leading to Bandon, which for a great part of the winter is almost impassable.* Roads of this kind can only be kept in repair by turnpike or by contract; but no road can be considered in proper order, that is not thickly covered with coarse gravel, or stones broken to a small and equal size. The new roads, which are to be forty-two feet wide, will sufficiently avoid one fault; it is to be hoped, that the contractors for the mail coaches, and the attention of the gentlemen most interested in their success, will be careful to avoid the other.

BEEB

* Thomas Newenham, Esq. to whom I owe much useful information, observes, that the roads in the parish of Carigaline, notwithstanding the abundance of good material, are very much below par in consequence of the same slovenly and unfaithful management. In the year 1787, he undertook the repair of a road then almost impassable, and executed it so effectually, that it stood without repair for many years. The price was three shillings per perch—I suppose the bad roads under consideration cost from ten to twelve. A bad road may be endured from the consideration of a light tax. Heavy taxes, and little to shew for them, afford just grounds of complaint and reprehension.

BEES.

IN enumerating the products of the land, I find that honey has escaped observation. It is however an article worthy* of notice, as contributing something to profit, much to gratification, and not a little to the list of salutary balsamics. The country people are in general attentive to the culture of bees, and in many places with proportionate success. The quality of all is very good as to flavour, particularly that of new combs filled with what is called virgin honey, the most delicious perhaps of all sweetmeats. Every part of the county produces it more or less, and the freedom of range enjoyed by bees, in consequence of the want of sylvan shade and the general nakedness of the land, is very favourable to the success of their labours. The wild flowers of heath and moorland are supposed to produce the highest flavoured honey. I do not know whether the house bee be a native of this climate; it is

* It is not without reason that, in the dignified simplicity of holy writ, milk and honey are called the glory of all lands. Of all foods they are at once the most nutritive and delicious.

is not, I believe, found here in a state of nature at present. Of the wild kinds there are some varieties, none of which seem capable of useful domestication. Though the persevering labours of this industrious insect meet occasional annoyance from excessive humidity, the general mildness of our summers may be deemed a favourable circumstance. Clouded suns and frequent showers preserve a continuance of flowery vegetation, rarely injured or interrupted by any long interval of scorching heat. The usual mode of obtaining honey by the death of its collectors appears to be a cruelty of so much ingratitude, as to excite a very commendable wish of adopting some more humane expedient. It may be doubted however, whether any of those friendly substitutes for destruction will be found to answer the benevolent purpose of the contrivers. In the event of being able to take the sweets without the lives of the insects, it is to be apprehended that their numbers may experience too inordinate an increase. The area of their limited range would be insufficient to supply so numerous a population, and the expected good be defeated by the means employed to promote it. A pasture may be overstocked with bees as well as cattle. The use of artificial aliment, so very inferior to their own, would but barely keep them alive, and might sometimes fail

fail to do even that. In any case I fear they must be sufferers, and perhaps it is better upon the whole, that some should perish by a short and sudden death, the survivors enjoying health and strength, than that a much greater number should support a feeble existence. In the natural state this great superabundance is kept down by their numerous enemies, and the various casualties, to which they are exposed. The protection afforded by man, were all allowed to live, would soon extend the number beyond the means of subsistence. There seems therefore to be little hope, that the expedient of saving their lives can ever be adopted into general practice. Nature seems to have been under a necessity of devoting vast numbers of these insects to destruction, for which reason she has supplied them with those multiplied means of production, so that, though swarms in thousands perish, enough remain to preserve the species. Their principal swarming month is June; in cold seasons it is often protracted to July. Great care is taken to watch the rising of the swarms, and induce them to settle near the hive. This is done by some kind of clattering noise, which probably produces the effect, if it has any, by intimidation, though the people rather ascribe it to some pleasure they find in the sound. They often, however, take wing and fly to very con-

siderable distances, pursued by the owners with great eagerness and anxiety. Whimsical disputes frequently arise among the pursuers of a swarm, to settle which the claimants have recourse to a magistrate. The law of the case, as established by custom, is as follows. A swarm followed by the person, from whose hive it issued, if kept in sight until it has settled, is adjudged to the proper owner. A stray swarm, which is often pursued by many persons, is considered to be the joint property of the first pursuer, and the men on whose land it is taken. The ardour of the claimants often makes it a point of difficult decision.

A stock of bees is valued at about half a guinea, the price having undergone little variation for some years back, though that of honey has advanced. Honey in comb brings in the country from five pence to seven pence per pound, according to season and situation, in Cork somewhat more. When pressed, it is sold for about six shillings per gallon.

The total amount of its yearly production is not easily calculated. It might doubtless be much increased by careful attention, and, when it is considered that the pasture of bees costs nothing, certainly ought to be so. The quantity produced is, however, by no means inconsiderable. It seems remarkable, that in Devonshire, a county in many respects

spects resembling this, the culture of honey is, according to Mr. Marshall, entirely neglected.

EGGS AND POULTRY.

AMONG the heretofore unnoticed articles of subsistence and profit are eggs, which, however trifling they may appear, form no immaterial addition to both, as there are few countries, that produce so great an abundance. In the families of the richer farmers they generally make part of the food, though often sold by the wife as one of her perquisites, and sometimes sent as a present, especially when any little favour is looked for. The common Irishman, like many of his betters, has great reliance on the efficacy of a well placed fee. Though generous enough of every thing but money, a lamb, a fowl, or bowl of eggs are seldom given without a view to some kind of profitable return. It must, however, to their credit be observed, that little presents are sometimes made through better motives, from gratitude for past kindness. By the poorer people eggs are generally sold, and there is hardly a house, that has not something to dispose of in this way. The most indigent cottager has his cock and

hens partaking of his own fare, potatoes, and lodging under the same roof. Well fed and warmly lodged, they make an ample return for the owner's care. In a gentleman's hen-roost the season of laying is periodical, confined almost entirely to spring and summer. In the low and warm cabin the hens continue laying, though not in equal abundance, all the year round. The value of eggs, which, beside their other uses, form a part of every Irish gentleman's breakfast, has risen greatly of late, except in the more remote and mountainous situations, where there are few buyers. In some of these a dozen or more may still be purchased for a penny; in many other places they are sold, at the dearer seasons, for halfpence, and sometimes pence a piece. The old proverb, as dear as two eggs a penny, may now be considered as approaching to a reversed signification even in this country. The present scarcity of fish and milk tends to enhance their price by increasing their domestic consumption among the lower classes. The poultry bred by the people are all of the common kind, the cocks red, the hens brown or black. They are much hardier than the larger sorts. Turkeys are reared by a great many as an article of profit. They are sold at some of the autumn fairs, and bring now from four to five shillings British a couple. Cork market is well
supplied

supplied with them, and at moderate prices, two shillings and sixpence for small, and three shillings or three and sixpence for large. Barn door fowl are proportionably reasonable, but very inferior in quality to those of the Dublin market. Ducks and geese are also reared in considerable abundance. The early broods of both, particularly ducks, bear a good price ; at other times they are reasonable, about two shillings a couple. Geese yield an additional profit in their feathers, the plucking of which subjects the poor bird to much pain and inconvenience. When done judiciously, at the commencement of their moulting, the injury is much lessened. The character of folly has been most undeservedly as well as unaccountably attached to this bird, distinguished both in its wild and domesticated state for providence and sagacity. The turkey indeed is a notorious simpleton, requiring constant care and superintendance to supply him with food, and keep him from harm ; but the goose is industrious, vigilant, and methodical, and, after one month's care, perfectly competent to provide for himself.

ANALYSIS OF MANURES.

ABOUT eight years since I published a short essay on the agriculture of this county, with a view of exhibiting its general defects, recommending a greater attention to the interests of the occupying tenantry, and promoting more judicious modes of husbandry among the people. To this was subjoined an analysis of several sorts of calcareous manures, made by the late Dr. William Meade of Cork, whose loss as physician, philosopher, and a friend, I, with many others, have much reason to lament. Though the accomplished chymist can want no instruction for conducting the process of analytical investigation, I have thought it proper to give the detail of his method, as a direction to such of my less experienced readers, as may be willing to gratify their curiosity in similar experiments.

“ Having been favoured with many specimens of the different calcareous sands on the coast, I shall detail the mode I pursued in a chymical analysis of them. Such an investigation may lead others to take up the subject on a more extensive scale, and
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the gentleman of education will, I hope, even by this short analysis be induced to inquire into the nature of that manure, which he is in the habit of using, and by a few easy and simple experiments determine for himself, whether it is adapted to the soil, to which he is accustomed to apply it."

"The external appearance of those sands is various; some are light-coloured, others blue, and many have shades of red; some of them contain shells but little altered, others, shells so minutely divided as to be hardly perceptible without a microscope. They all contain a certain portion of saline matter, but differing so little in quantity, that I have set it down at four grains in the hundred. To deprive it of this, I first washed the sand in distilled water, and then examined the solution, which proved to be muriat of soda, with a small portion of sulphate of soda. The sand, then perfectly free from saline matter, was dried and triturated into a fine powder for the following experiments, which were always made on a hundred grains."

"Common blue sand from Courtmasherry strand.

"One hundred grains of this, after being deprived of saline matter, was gradually poured into a glass, containing a known quantity of pure nitric acid, diluted with its own weight of water. A brisk effervescence arose, and, when the whole was finished,
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the vessel containing the mixture was accurately weighed, by which its loss of weight during effervescence was ascertained, and it appeared that eleven grains of carbonic acid had escaped. This, if we wished only to discover the quantity of calcareous matter therein contained, would be a tolerable fair way of determining it, as according to Black, and other chymists, the generality of pure calcareous substances contain 40 per cent. of carbonic acid. In this instance, therefore, it would appear, that 100 grains of this sand contain only about $27\frac{1}{2}$ of calcareous earth; but it is here necessary to observe, that nitric acid acts also upon magnesia, if it contained any, but has scarcely any action in that dilute state upon argillaceous or siliceous earth. To discover therefore, whether there was any magnesia in the solution, I added a few drops of ammonia, which, according to Kirwan, would precipitate the magnesia from the acid, but not affect the lime, and in this case it produced no cloud, so that it was evident there was no magnesia in the solution. The residuum, when dried, gave 71 grains; this also gives us another method of ascertaining the quantity of calcareous earth, as, deducted from the 100 grains, it leaves 29; but, for a more exact way of proving the experiment, it is necessary to recover the calcareous earth from the solution in nitric acid. I therefore

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fore poured in a solution of carbonate of potash, till no more precipitate was produced, when, on washing and weighing the matter precipitated, I found that I had obtained 28 grains of calcareous earth, or, as I shall in future call it, carbonate of lime. Either of these methods will suffice for common experiments, but, when they unite in giving the same result, no doubt can be entertained of the accuracy of the process. In this case they nearly united in giving the medium quantity of carbonate of lime, at about $28\frac{1}{7}$ grains in the hundred. It was now necessary, in order to judge of its further qualities as a manure, to examine the residuum, containing 71 grains. For this purpose, I poured on it three times the quantity of pure sulphuric acid, and set it in the bottom of a Florence flask over a lamp, till the acid boiled, then raised the heat sufficient to evaporate the whole to dryness, by which means all the argillaceous earth was taken up, and the siliceous alone remained insoluble. Distilled water was then poured on it, and the mixture filtered, when out of the 71 grains I only obtained a powder containing 67 grains so that the solution contained four grains, which could be nothing but argill or iron, or both. To this solution I added a few drops of prussiate of potash, till the whole of the iron was precipitated. I then, when the solution

was filtered, precipitated the argillaceous earth by carbonate of potash, and obtained $2\frac{1}{2}$ grains of a white powder, which of course was aluminous or argillaceous earth. The solution, after the sulphuric acid, when dried, consisted of 67 grains of siliceous earth, which was easily fused by a blow pipe, when mixed with a small quantity of mineral alkali. Thus the analysis of this sand was compleat, containing these several substances in the following proportions.

Carbonate of lime - 29

Argill - $2\frac{1}{2}$

Oxyd of iron - $1\frac{1}{2}$

Siliceous earth - 67

100 grains."

"In examining the several specimens of sand, the same method was pursued, except that, finding the proportion of iron so small in them all, it was not found necessary to state it separately. It is observable, that some little portion of it appears in every sand, and in some instances so slightly oxydated as to be taken up by the first experiment with diluted nitric acid."

“ Table, shewing the respective quantities of different substances composing the following sands and stones, in 100 grains of each.

	Carbonate of Lime.	Argill and Iron.	Silex.	Mag- nesia.	Gypsum.
Coral sand of Bantry	100				
Red-strand	69	2½	28½		
Oyster-haven sand, near Kinsale	67	2	31		
Ringe sand, near Clogh- nikilty	64½	6½	29		
Sand of Courtmasherry point	56	4	40		
Ringabella sand, near Cork harbour	27	5	68		
Common blue sand, from Courtmasherry-strand	29	4	67		
Island sand, from the hill	24	2	74		
Sea mud, Courtmasherry	24	4	72		
Limestone of a slaty ap- pearance, near Leap, producing a chocolate coloured lime,	55	Argill 3 Iron. 5	24	7	6
Cork limestone, nearly	100				

N. B. The greater variety of substances, contained in the second last article, rendered it expedient to vary the process, of which, however, it does not seem necessary to give the detailed account. The vein, that supplies this stone, is very inconsiderable, and many difficulties have occurred in the attempts to calcine it into lime by combustion.”

Though the foregoing table does not comprize all the sands used for manure on the south coast, it contains enough to direct the general judgment, as I believe,

I believe, there are none, which may not be included in one of the kinds. The blue sands may be considered as nearly similar to those of Courtmasherry and Ringabella. The respective merits of the lighter coloured may be sufficiently estimated by the greater or smaller quantity of shell they are seen to contain. The experiments here related abundantly prove, what indeed every scientific farmer must have anticipated, that the efficacy of each depends upon the quantity of shells it contains, or, in other words, the amount of its calcareous contents. The rustic, whose eye perceives so little similitude between sand and lime, will be surprised to hear that, when he puts out one hundred bags of Red-strand sand, he is really laying on his ground sixty-nine bags of lime. To those, whose distance restricts them to a small quantity, it is of great importance to have access to a strand of this description. Farmers near a strand of inferior value may make amends for want of quality by increase of quantity. Ignorance of its real nature has induced many to believe, that the sand of different places was possessed of different qualities. In their mechanical operation, as openers of the soil, there is, indeed, a difference between coarse and fine sand; in other respects their efficacy appears to be exactly proportioned to the lime or shell they contain. In the part of Barry-

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roe, which lies between Inchidony-strand and the Red-strand, the farmers use that, which happens to be nearest, and find no difference in the result, provided the inferior sand be more largely applied. Coral sand, which is purely calcareous, possesses the highest character of all. All these circumstances sufficiently shew, that the scale of their respective merits is regulated by the amount of their calcareous contents.

Doctor Meade's experiments exhibit a fact of rather singular appearance, viz. the very small proportion, that argill bears to silex, in the composition of these marine manures. That this should be the case in the sands of exposed situation, will be readily conceived. The argillaceous particles, easily reduced to a fine powder by attrition, are dissipated by the constant washing of the tides and waves, while the other earths are preserved by the greater hardness of their texture. But in the more retired parts of æstuaries, where there is much shelter and little current, and where vast collections of deep and soft mud are formed by the deposition of streams and rivers, one would expect to find a large predominance of argill. Yet in analyzing the mud at Courtmasherry-quay, only three grains out of the hundred were composed of argill, while the siliceous earth amounted to sixty-nine. If this be generally
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the case, what becomes of the immense quantity of argill annually brought down by rains and rivers, as well as that washed from the shores by the dashing of the waves? The mud, on which this experiment was made, was taken up by me, and differed nothing in appearance from that commonly found on such strands. The particles of shell contained in it were very minute, and, as far as the eye could judge, the prevailing portion of the compound was argillaceous. The subject seems to require a more extensive and ample investigation. If the same result shall be found to follow other experiments, it will establish a ground for estimating the composition of a fertile soil in this climate. It is a well known fact, that banks of this kind, when reclaimed from the tide, become soils of singular and pre-eminent fertility. On the lands of Maryborough, near Timoleague, lately the estate of the Moore family, a few acres of muddy strand were taken in from the tide several years ago, the richness of which makes them worth double the rent, even of what is reckoned good pasture land. That, from which the present subject of inquiry was taken, may certainly be considered as possessing, at least, an equal capability. Hence it should appear that lime and silex are the principal ingredients in the composition of a fertile soil, and that a very small portion of argill is here required.

required. Difference of situation will necessarily require some difference in the proportion of the siliceous and argillaceous ingredients. Sides of hills, according to the degree of their inclination, will require more or less of the latter, to counteract by its retentiveness the drier nature of a declivity. On flat grounds it should seem that, in a climate subject to such continual moisture, the argillaceous ingredient may be almost dispensed with.

OBSERVATIONS ON MR. NEWENHAM'S WORK.

Mr. Newenham's View of the natural, political, and commercial circumstances of Ireland made its appearance, while the foregoing work was preparing for publication. Though much more general in its nature and application, several parts of it bear such immediate reference to the object of my humble labours, that I feel it necessary to devote a short portion of time to a consideration of some circumstances common to both. I have much pleasure in adding my mite of praise to the diligence employed in his researches, as well as the patriotic spirit, which pervades

pervades his work. Were I even less acquainted with his character, I could have no doubt on my mind, that the object of his solicitude was the welfare of his country. In one important consideration, the expediency of promoting agriculture by public and powerful encouragement, I am flattered to find a previous coincidence of opinion. There are a few points, where we seem to be less accordant, and in which it may be allowable to differ without any hostility of sentiment. Subjects of this nature are so comprehensive in their views, that to the best intentioned minds the same matter will sometimes furnish different trains of reflection. The observations I am about to offer, arise from a sense of the duty imposed on me by the nature of my undertaking.

Of the work under consideration much relates to former periods, not destitute of some interest, but more conducive, perhaps, to the curious than the useful. Our principal business is to look forward, and to bury, if possible, in a happy oblivion the errors of jealous policy, the excesses of misguided zeal, the contests of virulent party, and all the various sources of discontent and irritation. In Mr. N.'s canvass of the conduct of Irish parliaments, I am afraid we shall find more severity than justice. It seems hardly fair to infer, that the lawgiver was illusory and deceptious, because the law turned out

to be unavailing. Posthumous judgment is easily formed, and they, who judge by events, will often bestow praise and censure, where neither are deserved. Many of the laws enacted from time to time, to promote the prosperity of England, were even worse than illusive; yet it would be rather unfair to charge their framers with a design to injure or delude. That English policy, too much governed by the selfish views of merchants and manufacturers, was always partial, and sometimes oppressive, and that this policy found an easy support in the pliant disposition of Irish parliaments, must be generally admitted. Much, however, is to be imputed to mistaken principles, and ignorance of the true art of governing. I believe they were often prevailed upon to do what they did not approve, but I doubt if they ever went so far as to pass an act apparently beneficial, under the deceitful consciousness of its being really injurious. The strictures, however, if just, lead to one conclusion, which does not seem to have been contemplated by the writer, viz. the inexpediency of a separate parliament, and the necessity of an union.

The reasoning, founded upon the existing state of things, comes more within the compass of useful consideration. I am afraid the inferences either actually drawn, or obviously offered for that purpose,

pose, are not always fairly deducible from the statements. To display the comparative magnitude of the Catholic population, with the obvious view of turning the scale in favour of the pending question of full emancipation, appears to be a very favourite object. With respect to the removal of the few remaining disabilities, I pretend to offer no opinion. In the definitive sentence of the legislature I shall cheerfully acquiesce, without assuming to direct their sentiments, or dictate to their wisdom. In calculating the amount of that population great industry has been used, and though, I believe, the general account is near the truth, something of exaggeration may be found, imputable, indeed, to no intention on the part of the writer. Admitting it, however, to be just, one circumstance of no trivial moment appears to have been entirely overlooked. In this comparative enumeration, the whole weight is made to rest upon arithmetic, as if nothing was to be taken into account but numbers only. Without the smallest wish to detract a single point from the respectability of that body, I may be allowed to say, that such an estimate, if not absolutely exceptionable, at least required some degree of qualifying explanation. Were a writer called on to give an account of a country containing three or four religious classes of inhabitants, differing in mental acquirements,

quirements, in property, and in numbers, would his rateage of respectable pretension be directed solely by a consideration of the last article? Surely not. In offering this suggestion, I sedulously disclaim any invidious comparison, but I cannot shut my eyes to the light. The magnitude alone of population rests, no doubt, upon the number of the people, whether they be enlightened or ignorant, men of cultivated minds, or mere mob, but not so the respectability of that population. Whatever proportion the Catholic may bear to the Protestant in this county, in respect to number, it will hardly be questioned, that the advantages of the latter are no less discernible in the other articles of the catalogue. I am far from wishing to undervalue the respectability of the one, but it is surely fair to give due weight to the respectability of the other. It will be said, perhaps, that the former are in a progressive state of improvement; yet, since the same may as confidently be asserted of the latter, the disparity does not seem likely to abate. I do not, however, urge this as an argument against their claims, but merely to set the scale of comparative estimate in its proper light. In my opinion, the argument drawn from numbers has little to do with the question, and the more especially when it is considered, that of those vaunted numbers scarce one

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in one thousand is even remotely interested in the event. The true ground of decision rests upon that principle of common justice, which should open the honours and emoluments of the state to the meritorious of every class. How far particular tenets and opinions may warrant an exclusion from some of those advantages, is a question for the great council of the nation, to whose care the common welfare is committed, and who are bound to provide, *ne quid detrimenti res publica capiat. Salus populi, suprema lex.*

From the view given of Roman Catholic schools, without some more qualifying explanation of their real state, strangers may be led to form opinions of the people very different from truth and reality. By this it should seem, that learning was advancing with rapid strides among the lower orders of that community, while in those of the other the comparative paucity of schools exhibited a contrary progress. This is the ostensible inference, but what is the well known fact?—directly the reverse. Protestant schools are few, and many of them ill attended, because the children of Catholics are naturally enough sent in preference to the others. Yet with all this parade of scholastic appearance there is hardly a Protestant of the lowest class, who cannot read and write, few Catholics, who can. I will even
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refer to a diocese peculiarly selected as a seat of Catholic education, that of Ross, with which I happen to possess a very long and intimate acquaintance. The Appendix to Mr. N.'s work gives for that diocese a return of 57 Catholic schools, and no less than 4092 scholars annually educated therein. If this be justly stated, I must be compelled to say, what certainly never accorded with my opinion, that the Irish are the most stupid race upon the face of the earth. My knowledge of that diocese authorizes me to assert, without fear of contradiction, that four out of five of the common* people cannot speak English, and that 49 out of 50 cannot write their names. The number of schools may perhaps agree with the return; that of the children *actually* instructed must be exorbitantly overrated. The number of children occasionally sent to school, and the number of children profiting by a school discipline, are two distinct and different things, which in forming a just estimate of the progress of education ought to be carefully noted. For this difference between appearance and reality I have already accounted, and shall the more briefly touch upon it here. Young children are sent to these places

* Except in the towns, in which most of the inhabitants speak English. These, however, bear but a small proportion to the population of the country.

places of cheap instruction for two reasons, first, with a view of learning something, and secondly, because the parents dont know what else to do with them. Of these the greater part derive no eventual advantage from their schooling, being recalled at an early age, when their labour can be turned to some account. Mixing then with a family, who speak only Irish, even the little smattering of English they had acquired is soon lost. It is far otherwise with Protestant children, in whose families English is always spoken, and where books of some kind may generally be had. The intermarriage of the two sects generally ends among the lower classes in the conversion of the Protestant. That superior liberality, which confines salvation to no particular creed, operates unfavourably for its possessor. The zeal of the Catholic, who is taught to believe in the infallibility of his church, and to consider every other Christian as in a state of perilous (to use the mildest term) heresy, induces him to watch every opportunity afforded by infirmity of mind or body, in order to introduce the saving aid of his spiritual director. The consequence is generally as inimical to the progress of liberal knowledge as of liberal sentiment. Instead of advancing in improvement, they sink into ignorance. Hence it is, that we so often find, among the least enlightened of the people,

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ple, English names of respectable sound. Hence it is, that an intermixture, which theory might represent as conducing to the advantage of both, terminates in injuring one without conferring any benefit on the other. It is however no less just, than it is gratifying to observe, that the better orders of the Roman Catholic persuasion are daily improving in manners, in knowledge, and in liberality of sentiment.

In these country schools, the masters are often sufficiently competent to their business. Writing and arithmetic are what they usually teach best. In many of them, however, the mode of instruction is altogether ludicrous. All the boys gabble their lesson together as loud and as fast as they can speak, which is called rehearsing. The preceptor, when he perceives any one approaching, to shew his diligence, enforces this confusion of tongues, and seems to rate the progress of improvement by the scale of vociferation. Many of the little pupils shew great aptitude to learn, which however very seldom turns to any account, chiefly for the reasons above mentioned. In a country, where there is hardly any employment but tilling the ground, it can eventually be of no use, except to such as are bred to trades. These constitute a very small proportion in the rural districts, where the peasantry
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bring up their children to their own business. From schools so constituted, and a country so circumstanced, little can be expected for the advancement of general knowledge. The most that can be said is, that such schools are better than none; but it is demonstratively evident, that they are not likely to remove much of the ignorance so generally prevailing. Common justice, therefore, demands the prohibition of an inference injurious to the character of the people, though intended to display their docility, and enhance their importance. A stranger gravely assured, in a work of such respectability, that more than four thousand children in the little diocese of Ross annually receive a school education in the English tongue, must necessarily conceive a very high opinion of the improved state of the people. Should curiosity induce him to visit a country so happily advancing in the pursuits of literature, what will be his astonishment, and how great his mortification! The conclusion I have pointed to is not indeed directly made, but it is unavoidably deducible, and the worst consequence of a disappointing inference is to diminish the credit of other deductions. The cool judgment of disinterested enquiry, if deceived in some, will be disposed to attach suspicion to all. I am indeed far from rejoicing in the detection of such an oversight;

sight; for I feel and lament that state of ignorance, which, with much better means, it will require a long course of time to remove. Something, however, of a happier nature may be said, and said with truth. Industry is every where advancing, civilization in most places, and knowledge in a few. But much, very much remains to be yet attained, before we can rate the learning of the country by its schools, or its real importance by the mere proportion of its numbers.

OBSERVATIONS ON A LETTER, &c.

THE subject of the following animadversions has unexpectedly offered itself to my notice. It has always been my wish to promote harmony and good will among the different classes of the community, and to discourage as much as possible all disposition to controversy, particularly religious. I trust I have no where betrayed the least unwillingness to do justice to the pious, orderly, and diligent conduct of the Roman Catholic clergy in the exercise of their functions, with many of whom I have the pleasure of being acquainted, and to whose testimony I can confidently venture to appeal. In more

than one instance I have had an opportunity of observing their meritorious demeanour in promoting legal subordination, and, in mentioning this part of their conduct, I should be guilty of injustice, did I not bear honourable testimony to the animated and steady exertions of the Rev. William O'Brien, parish priest of Cloghnikilty, whom neither difficulty nor danger prevented from discharging the duty of a loyal citizen. It was with reluctance I stated the circumstances, which the reader has found in the particular account of Fermoy, and it is in compliance with the dictates of the same duty, that I feel myself called upon to offer the following observations. Whatever bears relation to the interests of the people, whatever seems reprehensible in the conduct or sentiments of any of those, who direct so great a number of them, is more or less connected with the objects of the foregoing work.

In the laborious, liberal, and patriotic work, lately presented to the public by my friend Thomas Newenham, Esq. appears a letter (vide Appendix) from a Roman Catholic clergyman, whose name is suppressed, but to whose opinion and authority no small degree of credit seems to attach. From this I intended to have made some extracts; but to prevent the possible charge of partial quotation, as well as to gratify such readers, as may not have seen Mr.

Newen-

Newenham's book, with an account of the constitution of that church, I have thought it better to give the whole. The chief object of this letter is, to shew what the author is pleased to call the *truly degraded state of the Catholic clergy*, an expression by no means justified even by his own statement, and which I look upon to be directly contrary to truth. The representation of its present state and means appears to be accurately drawn, exhibiting to my mind no other symptom of degradation than the want of legal establishment as the religion of the state, and the support derived from tithes of the land. If this be the meaning he thinks proper to attach to the word *degradation*, his position must certainly be granted; but it is a meaning, the propriety of which is not only dubious but inadmissible. It would go to prove, what every one knows to be false, that the teachers of every creed, except that established by law, are, as this gentleman terms himself, *on a highly exceptionable and degraded footing*. In many countries are found different sects, destitute of national establishment, and possessing no better mode of provision than Irish Catholics, who are far from considering their situation debased or disgraceful. Are the Pr  sbyterians of this country on a highly exceptionable and degraded footing? I believe the least satisfied among them will

proudly declare, that he is not, and that no tolerated (not to say encouraged) religious profession can be debased or degraded, except by itself. Does the general appearance of the Roman Catholic clergy now exhibit symptoms of debasement and degradation? Is the establishment of a handsome Roman Catholic college for the education of their priesthood among those self-evident signs of disesteem, neglect, and humiliation? Are those numerous and sometimes magnificent chapels, lately erected by the contributions of Protestants as well as Catholics, proofs of a debased and degraded state? Of these not unimportant acquisitions this reverend gentleman studiously avoids the mention, but his silence will not shut the mouths of others. His neighbours will not see a jot the worse, because he chooses to hoodwink himself.

Diminution of the priest's influence over his flock, and the consequent loss of that confidence, which he considers so essential to the due impression of religious doctrines, is ascribed in the first instance to the relaxation of the popery laws. This abrogation (as I shall call it) of the penal code may be viewed in a double light, as affecting the priest, and as affecting the people. If the former be meant, it seems to imply that this fair and equitable measure was attended with effects injurious

to the interests of their church, and that, instead of relieving and raising it from a state of debasement, it in reality tended to its degradation. This is surely strange doctrine. Are we to understand thereby, that toleration and encouragement are inimical to the respectability of a christian priesthood, and that the veneration of the flock must decline in proportion as the pastor rises in public esteem and respect? Is this religious establishment so very different from all others, that what elevates them must necessarily lower it? The language and sentiments, which, in 1760, might have been used and professed with truth and justice, have indubitably neither the one nor the other to recommend them in 1808! In contrasting these periods, however, this reverend gentleman's gloomy cast of mind assigns a perverse preference to the former; in the latter he finds something of loss, and nothing of gain!

So far we have considered the abrogation of the penal laws as affecting the priest; let us now take a short view of it as affecting the people. On the Catholic body at large, whose interests do not seem to have been taken into his account, its happy effect has been too obvious to admit doubt, or require enlargement. I do not indeed believe, that it has tended to increase such influence as he speaks of, nor was it to be expected that it should. The very
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diminution, however, of that influence is a circumstance so far from occasioning regret, that it will be hailed by every friend to humanity as a happy omen of improved condition, and advancing knowledge. It will be viewed as a star of light rising, after a long night of barbarous ignorance, to cast some cheering rays upon the general gloom. A people sunk in sloth, in poverty, and in ignorance, acquiesced naturally in a blind submission suited to their capacity, and consistent with their situation. It can never be expected, that the same kind of servile deference will attach to the learned as to the ignorant, to the improved as to the depressed condition. But in every state and stage of society the pious and diligent pastor will have as much influence as he ought. The better sort will receive his admonitions, attend to his remonstrances, and respect his character; but they will, as it is meet they should, venture to think for themselves. Instead of expecting or hoping a continuance of besotted and bigotted submission, the clergy will shew their judgment in accommodating themselves to the changes of the times. They will always find sufficient occasion for the due exercise of their important functions, though they may not always possess equal facility of controul. God forbid these realms should ever know a priesthood exercising the wretched policy

licy of building reputation, and maintaining influence on the exclusion of knowledge and the perpetuation of bigotry. I have no mean acquaintance with the state of this country, and, though I will not say that the priest's influence ought to be less than it is, I do most confidently pronounce that it ought not to be more.

The Whiteboy combination is said to have finished what the relaxation of the penal laws began, and to have given the *coup de grace* to priestly influence. It may not be amiss to inquire into the grounds of this temporary alienation, so happily corrected by rebellion. The first object of the Whiteboy association in this county, was to reduce the price of tithes to a standard* of their own formation. This was openly encouraged by some men of landed property and leading influence, and not much discountenanced by most others. However ungenerous the dereliction of the clerical cause may seem, it is easily accounted for from its accordance with those principles of self-interest, by which men's

* This was a scale of 3, 2, 1, as it was called, viz. three shillings for potatoes, two for winter corn, and one for oats and hay. Considering the reduced value of money since 1786, it does not appear to differ much from Mr. Rawson's rates in 1808. Whiteboy associations, though they had not reached this county before the former period, were established at a much earlier date in other counties. I do not find them complained of there, as tending to diminish priestly influence.

men's general conduct is governed. The plunderer seldom finds a very serious enemy in him, who expects a share of the spoil. They winked at an encroachment, in which they foresaw an ultimate acquisition of gain. It was, however, at last found, that the same levelling principle was likely to extend somewhat further, Captain Right being of opinion that rents were overcharged as well as tithes. Then, and I believe not till then, the clergy found an effective support from the higher orders of the laity. The reforming spirit of this impartial captain naturally enough directed its views to other objects. From what he thought the oppressions of our church, he proceeded to what he deemed the vexatious demands of his own, and, while he lopped the branches of one tree, thought it but fair to use the pruning knife a little with the other. With their spiritual influence, however, he did not profess to interfere. He would willingly have left them every rite, ordinance, and privilege, except the privilege of raising contributions. These he undertook to new model, according to his own sense of what was reasonable, but he meddled with nothing but money. The schism was not of long duration. The influence of the clergy, though shaken, was too firmly fixed to be removed, and the people soon returned to the bosom of their offended church

church with contrition and repentance. Every establishment is liable to casual attacks from the spirit of discontent or the desire of innovation. Whoever considers, that the conquest in this case was effected by weapons merely spiritual, will, I think, be disposed to regard it as a proof not of the want, but of the possession of a most powerful influence and ascendancy. In politics, an unsuccessful rebellion generally strengthens the hands of government, and there seems to be no reason why the analogy should not extend to religion. As far as I could judge, this was really the case, though this gentleman thinks proper to ascribe the recovery of their influence to a cause, which, if his statement be just, appears more likely to have diminished it. A direct opposition of sentiment between priest and people, and that in matters considered to be of vital importance, does not seem a very probable mode of promoting harmony or strengthening attachment. The disaffection of the lower orders of the people is fully admitted. That the priests in general were actuated by different principles, we learn from him, and I have no wish to contradict his statement.

The idea of receiving a national stipend for the purpose of easing the people, and rendering the condition of the Roman Catholic clergy more respectable and independant, presents to the mind of

this degraded clergyman those objections detailed in his letter, which he pronounces to be insuperable. A man sometimes persuades himself, that he is acting from one motive, when in reality he is influenced by another. I believe him to be sincere in his intention of rejecting the boon, but I suspect he mistakes the motive, or overrates the merit of his self-denial. Does he believe the Roman Catholic religion to have been ever the established religion of these or any other realms? Has he heard, or does he believe, that the clergy of that church ever refused to avail themselves of the honours and emoluments thus presented, from the apprehension of their producing any of those melancholy effects resulting from wealth and independance? In the event of a change, which might again offer them to their acceptance, would they be refused? If they would not, and who will be ridiculous enough to assert the contrary, what becomes of all those pious, plausible, humble, and disinterested professions of self-denial?

This reverend gentleman appears hard set to find causes for rejection. Among them we find one, which, if it has any meaning, has a bad one. He is afraid of being considered by the people of his persuasion as a government spy. I take a spy to signify a person sent into an enemy's country,
for

for the purpose of obtaining secret intelligence of their designs. I do not see how it can be here applied in any other sense. They would surely never suspect him as likely to give information against unlicensed beer-houses, or persons making a false return of their hearths and windows. Are we then to understand him as considering the people in a state of hostility to government? If his own professions be sincere, he wants no pension to confirm his loyalty, or induce him to oppose the tide of disaffection. I do not, however, believe that any such suspicion could attach, because I do not suspect the people of any evil design. I know they will be quiet, if they are suffered to remain so. They may be moved, but they will not be the first movers. Under these circumstances, how a priest can be considered as a spy I am wholly unable to conceive. I believe the proper influence will depend upon the proper conduct of the clergy, and that the people would not only regard them with equal reverence, but with greater complacency, from feeling themselves lightened of a heavy burden. The ease of the people seems, however, to have entered into his contemplation as little as the ease of the priest. It is true he alludes to some more comfortable mode of provision for the Roman Catholic clergy; but what it is we are left to guess, as he has only told us

what it is not. Whatever it be, as it must necessarily be liable to all his material objections, it seems very difficult to conceive how it can, on his own principle, be superable.

With our animadversions it is but fair to mix our approbation of what is commendable. The custom of entertaining the priest at stations is, as usually managed, justly reprehended, and very much to the credit of the writer abolished in his parish. It may seem remarkable that, in stating the priest's office at those stations, he should have omitted to specify the most important part, absolving the people from their sins.

Upon the whole, there is a something in this letter, which a man of sound sense or sound principle cannot easily approve. I will not apply the phrase of *latet anguis in herbá*, but there seems to be a latent as well as an open meaning. It professes candour, yet advances sentiments difficult to be reconciled with sincerity or truth. If it gives something, it withholds more. What appeared to me reprehensible I have fairly endeavoured to shew, and, if I have mistaken or misconstrued the author's meaning, it is, unless my judgment has very grossly erred, because he has not been sufficiently explicit, or sufficiently sincere. He seems to have said too little, and too much—too little to let us know expressly

pressly what he does want, and too much to conceal from us, that he has something in view not altogether compatible with the existing state of things. The veil of assumed humility and resignation is too thin to hide the spirit of discontent, that lurks beneath it. Nothing appears to satisfy, because every thing is not attained. The late accession of respectability, of protection, of encouragement, does not even find the condescension of an acknowledgment. What has been obtained excites no gratitude; what might be offered meets an anticipated refusal; what would be acceptable is mysteriously concealed. If present acquisition be sufficient, let it be enjoyed without the ungraciousness of querulous dissatisfaction. If more be required, let the want be fairly made known. Government will then have some certain grounds, whereon to form a judgment of expectation on one side, and concession on the other. It is a singular situation between state and party, where the discontent of the latter arises not from the unwillingness of one to grant, but of the other to receive. To be thankless for past is no very promising encouragement to future favour. He, that will not make his wants known, cannot with much reason complain, that they are not removed. I shall be told perhaps, that these are the sentiments of an individual, for which the body is by no means accountable

accountable

accountable. I admit that they are ; but it must be remembered, that they are given to the public from some authority, and may be at least considered as authentic, until they are publicly disowned.

RENTAL OF THE COUNTY.

Of the probable population of this extensive county, an estimate has already been presented in the general account. For that, as well as the following computation of its acreable produce in rent, I am indebted to the kindness of Thomas Newenham, Esq. whose indefatigable exertions in obtaining useful information assign him a high rank among those, whose labours have been devoted to the service of their country.

“ The county of Cork contains 1,698,882 acres, English statute measure, or about 2,654½ square miles. Of these, upwards of two-ninth parts, or about 384,000 acres, or 600 square miles, are rude, mountainous, and boggy. The grounds of this quality in the baronies of Duhallow, West Muskerry, West Carbery, Bear and Bantry, comprize about 352,000 acres, or 550 square miles, which may be estimated at an annual produce of

6d per acre, or £.9,600. The mountainous and waste land of the other baronies amounting to about 32,000 acres, valued at the same rate, may be considered to yield £.800 per annum. The Liberties of Cork, Kinsale, Youghall, Bandon, and Mallow contain about 88,000 acres, which may very fairly be rated at £.4 per acre, or £.352,000 a year. Lands immediately adjoining 21 other towns, and amounting to about 13,440 acres, standing at the same rate, may be valued at £53,760. The arable, meadow, and pasture of the whole, according to an estimate drawn from diligent inquiry in some, yield, or would, if now out of lease, yield £.1 14s. yearly per acre, or £.2,062,841, 18s. The actual or potential rent of the county will then stand thus:—

	ACRES.	RENT.		
		£.	s.	d.
Mountain and uncultivated waste	384,000	10,400	0	0
Town parks and land adjoining towns	101,440	405,760	0	0
Arable, meadow, & pasture	1,213,442	2,062,841	18	0
Total	1,698,882	2,479,001	18	0

The rental of the county of Cork, which according to this calculation averages about £.1 9s. 2³d. per acre, exceeds that of all Ireland in the year 1727, as computed by Mr. Brown. It then amounted to only £.2,025,000."

The diligence employed in collecting the information, on which this estimate is founded, renders it extremely probable that the result is not far from the truth. Accurate ascertainment of value, where so much variety subsists, is obviously unattainable. As far as general circumstances go, the average, I believe, is very fairly stated. A judgment, formed upon no inconsiderable degree both of local and general knowledge, induces me to think, that the last is the most questionable article of the catalogue. The argillaceous tracts, comprizing a large proportion of the county, contain so great an intermixture of hill, dale, and unprofitable ground, that, even with the accompaniment of the limestone soils, £.1 14s. seems to be too high an average. Lands adjoining towns, and not constituting town parks, are rated too high for every place but Cork. The quantity of ground, which there lets at a much higher rent, is certainly very considerable; the vicinity of the smaller towns enhances the value of land, but in a very inferior degree. The town fields often bring four or five guineas per acre; contiguous land in the occupation of working farmers seldom exceeds 40s. Upon a general view of the county, so large a portion of which is rough, rocky, and mountainous, I am inclined to think, that 20s. per acre is a pretty ample allowance for its real yearly value.

POPULATION OF THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

Cork—about 80 thousand inhabitants.

Kinsale—eleven hundred houses; at eight to a house, the population amounts to 8,800—this, however, is considered to be under the real number of inhabitants, who are thought to exceed ten thousand.

Youghal contains 1120 houses, making, at eight to a house, 8960 inhabitants. This is also looked upon as an under-ratage, the real number being considered to exceed nine thousand.

Bandon, in 1807, contained 1765 houses, making, at eight to a house, which at a computation of a certain number of houses in different streets was found to afford a just average, 14120 inhabitants.

Skibbereen contains 624 houses. As most of the houses are small, eight seems a full allowance for each. Its inhabitants may therefore be computed at 4992.

Cloghnakilty contains 586 houses, of which 150 are of two stories and upwards. There are, besides, several new buildings. The inhabitants at eight to a house

a house, which seems a moderate calculation, amount to 4688.

The native population of Mallow is much inferior to that of Cloghnikilty; in the summer season, when the lodging houses are full, a considerable accession is made to its numbers.

The inhabitants of Fermoy amount to upwards of four thousand, exclusive of the military department.

ACRES AND PLOUGHLANDS.

The survey of this county, made by Mr. Neville Bath, under the direction and for the use of the grand jury, is defective in two points. Neither the general nor the baronial maps specify the average or the number of ploughlands. The baronial maps are extremely useful in shewing the direction of the roads, and enabling the grand jury to form a proper judgment of their comparative merits, particularly where new lines are intended. A correct return of the ploughlands in each barony is also much to be desired, as well for their information as for that of the inhabitants in general, who for

want of such knowledge are precluded from correcting any overcharge in the collection of the county cess. In some baronies it is supposed that the actual number exceeds the return made by the collectors, in which case, as the rate is formed upon the latter, the lands are overcharged and the surplus becomes a perquisite of the collector. The grand jury ought certainly to procure for the treasurer, by whom the applotment is made, a true return of the ploughlands, either from the high constables on oath, or by means of persons appointed for that purpose. The efforts of any private individual to obtain such information would be attended with great and probably ineffectual trouble. Such, as had an interest in concealing, would be likely to withhold it from persons not authorised to enforce an answer. An order for this purpose from the grand jury seems therefore the best mode of ascertaining a matter so necessary to be generally known. Another useful measure would be to direct the treasurer, after every assizes to notify in the public papers the amount of the sum to be levied upon each ploughland. This would enable every person to ascertain exactly the tax he was to pay, and put it out of the power of high constables or their agents to defraud or overcharge. I am willing to believe that, upon the whole,

whole, little of either is practised; but I have certainly heard of some gross impositions, and I am afraid the complaint was not without foundation. The rates though high may, compared with those of some other counties, be deemed sufficiently moderate. The sum annually raised is no doubt considerable, but the county is very large. The baronies, as well as the ploughlands, differ so much in size and circumstances, that it is difficult to form an average estimate of the rates on either. The sum presented at each assizes is now, I believe, something about £40,000.

I have subjoined the following return of acres and ploughlands, as the only one, as far as I know, that has been hitherto published.

ACREAGE

ACREAGE OF THE COUNTY OF CORK AND
PLOUGHLANDS, ACCORDING TO SMITH.

PLANTATION OR IRISH ACRES.	PLOUGHLANDS.	BARONIES.
49,479	200	Imokilly
79,159	204	Barrymore
26,282	86	Barretts
160,072	367	Muskerry
12,099	58	Kerricurrihy
40,058	310	Kinalea
19,273	62	Kinalmeakey
20,314	146	lb. & Barryroe.
196,321	766	Carbery
84,132	195	Bear & Bantry
105,748	253	Duhallow
40,033	173	Orrery & Kilmore
69,175	190	Fermoy
44,010	87	Condons & Clon- gibbons
15,677	41	Kilnataloon
23,713		Liberties of Cork
3,848	8	Do. of Mallow
6,846	33	Do. Kinsale
6,120		Do. Youghal

AGENCY.

Some of my fellow labourers, in enumerating the grievances, under which the tenantry of Ireland sometimes labour, have with just animadversion noticed the occasional rapacity of venal and improper agents. One principal cause of complaint is stated to arise from those, who, living at a great distance from the estate, never visit it but for the purpose of receiving rents, setting lands, and pocketing fees. The improvement of the grounds, and the comforts of the occupiers, form no part of their concern. Attornies are said to be sometimes employed in this office, whose professional cares engross too much of their time, to allow any portion of it to be devoted to the superintendence of the tenantry, and whose habits of life render them incompetent to the due performance of duties altogether foreign from their general pursuits. Punctuality of payment is, with them, the sole merit of the tenant, and the sole consideration of the receiver. Calamity and distress, whatever they may arise from, plead in vain, even for a short indulgence; the agent has no leisure to look into their affairs, and

his time is too precious to be lost in delay. The tenant, who happens to be surprised by some sudden and unforeseen difficulty, has the less chance of lenient regard, because an ejectment adds to the emoluments of the agent. The case is peculiarly hard, when the proprietor happens to be an absentee, as the unfortunate has then no friend or protector, to whom he can appeal. When new leases are to be made, the preference, without any regard to long occupancy or industrious merit, is decided by the largest fee. Instances* of this kind have been specified, and perhaps there are few counties, in which some similar abuses may not be found. The district under consideration has, I believe, as little cause of complaint in this respect as most others. Agencies are generally committed to respectable, as well as resident persons, acquainted with the circumstances of the people, and willing to promote the interest both of landlord and tenant. As far as these principles go, there seems to be no material ground for complaint or reprehension; but the usual mode of letting lands does, I confess, appear to me very exceptionable, from the latitude given to agents in the article of fees. Long usage has now so established the custom, that it seems to be considered rather

* See Survey of Kildare.

as a branch of the duty than an appendage of the office. It is however obvious, that such a practice militates against the interests of the proprietor and the occupier, precluding too often that encouragement, which the former may be disposed to shew an industrious tenant, and debarring the latter from the just claims of meritorious exertion. When the agent is allowed a discretionary power of rating his fees, there is always danger that such power will be abused. Men come at last to consider, as a right, what is only a courtesy, and to believe themselves justified in measuring the scale of merit by the magnitude of the fee. Instances are told of tenants dispossessed, contrary to every principle of justice and humanity, in consequence of not coming up to the agent's price ; and instances have been related of others, who, rather than lose their farm, have sold their all to purchase the agent's good will, and become bankrupts in consequence of his extortion. These relations may perhaps be often exaggerated ; but that there is sufficient ground for complaint, where such practices prevail, no person, who is acquainted with the general circumstances of the country, will entertain the smallest doubt. Perhaps these, who know least of it, are the very persons, whom it imports to know the most. The landed proprietor considers his duty done in
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the appointment of a man of fair character, and is supposed, I believe with truth, not only to be ignorant that any extortion is practised, but also to think that his affairs are conducted with proper fidelity. But in a matter so essential to the interests of the estate, he should make every provision in his power against undue influence, and endeavour to secure his tenants from the possibility of oppressive exaction. Leaving them to a power altogether discretionary, is at best leaving them in a state of danger, and has the appearance of acquiescence in whatever may be the conduct of the agent. There seem, however, to be two easy modes of attaining the desired end. One is, in imitation of the present usage in public offices, to enlarge the salary and allow no fees at all. The other is to limit them to a certain amount, proportioned to the duration of the lease, and the value of the farm. In the latter case, the agent's fee, which, as farms are now usually small, and for short terms, should be very moderate, would be as well known, and as clearly defined as the rent itself. Tenants would know what they were to pay for every lease; a competition, frequently injurious to the honest and industrious possessor, would be done away; the tenant would not be obliged to exhaust his little capital to satisfy a rapacious demand; and merit, not money,

port, and to transfer to another, for a little present relief, their own respectability and the eventual benefit of their successors. This, however, is what the imperfection of man must often lead us to expect. Necessity and extravagance are the natural game of the prudent and the wealthy. Economy and good management are the proper correctives of these evils; and, though it may be hoped that these qualities will be more cultivated among our gentry than heretofore, the man, who is on the watch for such advantages, will seldom fail to find an opportunity of rewarding his vigilance.



BLACK SLATE—GRINDING STONES.

It is observed in the account of Bear and Bantry, that a black slate has been discovered in the island of Whiddy, which gives that colour as freely as black lead. This seems likely to become an article of value. Some of it has been lately sent to London, and considered to possess the qualities of black chalk, hitherto procured only from some parts of Italy, and now consequently of difficult attainment. It is a very uncommon production, and in this county confined, I believe, to the island of Whiddy. I think, however, that I discovered it lately in another place.

In a cliff near Glandore harbour are several varieties of argillaceous stone. Some of the coarser kinds would answer for scythe and grinding stones. Among them is a very soft vein, apparently in a state of decomposition, which easily rubs into a very fine whitish powder. It might possibly serve, as it seems a pure argill, for works of pottery. One of its qualities has recommended it greatly to me and some of my friends. I have been in the habit of using it for a long time to sharpen razors, and find it superior to any thing ever tried, Packwood's composition not excepted. A very small portion of it bruised,
and

and laid on the razor strop with some soft grease, in a short time gives an exquisite edge. After using the stone, the razor should be rubbed for a while on smooth dry leather. If the razor be a good one, it will be sufficient to apply the stone about once a week.

APPENDIX.

LETTER FROM A ROMAN CATHOLIC CLERGYMAN OF THE DIOCESE OF CORK.

SIR,

CONCEIVING from some expressions, which dropped from you, when I had the honor of seeing you a few days ago at Coolmore, that a faithful statement of the situation of the Roman Catholic clergy of this country would not be unacceptable to you, and desirous to give you every information on a subject, the minutiae of which are known solely to the clergy, I take the liberty of sending you a sketch of their *truly degraded state*, for the accuracy of which I can vouch, but which is not, I fear, as comprehensive as you may require.

The Roman Catholic church of Ireland is composed of four archbishops and twenty-two bishops.

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The archbishops take their titles, as in the established church, from Armagh, Dublin, Cashel, and Tuam. Of the bishops, eight are suffragans of Armagh, and are those of Ardagh, Clogher, Derry, Down and Connor, Dromore, Kilmore, Meath, and Raphoe. Dublin has but three suffragans, Leighlin and Ferns, Kildare, and Ossory. Six are suffragans to Cashel, viz. Ardfert and Aghadoe, Cloyne and Ross, Cork, Killaloe, Limerick, and Waterford and Lismore. Four are subject to Tuam, viz. Achonry, Clonfert, Elphin, and Killala. There is, besides these, the bishop of the united dioceses of Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora, the one in Connaught, the other in Munster, who is alternately suffragan of Tuam and Cashel.

As in the established church, we also have a dignitary in Galway, called a *Warden*, who has nearly episcopal jurisdiction, and is no farther subject to higher powers, than that he is liable to the triennial visitation of the archbishop of Tuam. Every bishop has a vicar-general of his own appointment, who holds his office only *durante beneplacito*, and whose jurisdiction ceases on the death of the prelate.

Every diocese has also a dean, appointed by the *cardinal protector*, i. e. that cardinal in Rome, who has the peculiar direction of all ecclesiastical matters appertaining to Ireland: and also an archdea-

con, named by the bishop. These two are mere nominal dignities, having neither power nor emolument annexed to them.

On the death of a bishop, the clergy of the diocese are empowered by the canon law to elect a *vicar capitular*, who is invested, during the vacancy of the see, with episcopal jurisdiction: but, if such election does not take place within a specified number of days after the demise of the bishop has been notified to them, the archbishop of the province may appoint of his own authority the vicar.

The clergy in the mean time assemble, and fix their choice on one of their own body, or sometimes on a stranger, and petition the Pope, or (in technical language) *postulate*, that he may be appointed to the vacant see.

The bishops also of the province consult each other, and unite in presenting to the Pope two or three men of merit, one of whom is usually appointed; for the recommendation of the prelates has always more weight in Rome, than the postulation of the inferior clergy.

The appointment of the Irish bishops lies in the cardinals, who compose the Congregation de Propaganda fide. It takes place on Monday, and on the following Sunday is submitted by their secretary to
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the Pope, who may confirm or annul the nomination at will; it very rarely, however, happens that he does not confirm it.

It formerly sometimes happened, that Irish officers in the service of foreign princes influenced, in a great measure, through the recommendation of their courts, the Congregation to the nomination of their friends and relatives. But, as many inconveniencies and abuses were discovered to arise from such influence, the Congregation issued a decree (I believe in 1785), in virtue of which no recommendation was in future to be attended to.

There is a custom common in all Roman Catholic countries, and frequently practised in Ireland, which, I believe, is not known to the established church; that of appointing assistant or coadjutor bishops. In the event of old age, infirmity, or any accidental visitation of heaven, whereby a bishop is rendered incapable of attending to the laborious duties of his station, he may chuse any meritorious clergyman to be his coadjutor, and to succeed him at his death. His recommendation is almost invariably attended to in Rome; the object of his choice is appointed and consecrated, taking his title from some oriental diocese, which title he relinquishes on his succeeding at
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the death of the old or infirm bishop, whom he was appointed to assist. While retaining the oriental title, though in character and by consecration a bishop, he is called a bishop *in partibus*, because the see, from which he takes his designation, being under the dominion of some eastern power, is stiled, in the language of the office from which the bull of appointment is issued, to be *in partibus infidelium*.

The emoluments of the bishop arise from three sources, his parish, which is usually the best in the diocese, the licences, and the cathedraticum. Of the parish emoluments I shall speak, when treating of parish priests.

The licence is a dispensation granted by the bishop in the publication of the banns, for which a sum, never less than a crown, and, according to the abilities of the parties, amounting at times to half a guinea, or a guinea, is paid. And as it very seldom happens, that the parties are inclined to have the banns published, the generality are married by licence, which adds very considerably to the episcopal revenue.

The cathedraticum is a yearly sum, generally from two to ten guineas, given by each parish priest to the bishop, in proportion to the value of his parish, for the purpose of supporting the epis-

copal dignity. There is no law to enforce this tribute, nor no obligation of paying it; yet it is a very ancient practice, and is never omitted.

Parish priests are appointed solely by the bishop, and if collated, or having three years peaceable possession, they cannot be dispossessed; otherwise, they may be removed at pleasure. A collation is a written appointment, signed by the bishop, by which he confers a parish on a clergyman, and confides it indefinitely to his care.

Coadjutors, or curates are appointed also by the bishop, and are moveable at will.

The parish priest is supported* by voluntary contributions, if that can be called voluntary, which

is

* When a religion is legally recognised, publicly respected, provided with proper places of worship, and a national seminary for education, the only want its ministers can feel is that of a fund suitable to their maintenance. It is obvious, that among a clergy professing celibacy, and having no families to support, a very moderate establishment may suffice. An individual may even live with some degree of elegance on what would barely maintain a small family. The nature of their provision is so far ineligible, as it arises from the contributions of the poor; in other respects, it does not from this report appear by any means to merit those strong expressions of exceptionable inadequacy. In Mr. Newenham's statistical view of these dioceses we find some parishes containing 1000, many 500 houses. In every house we may reckon at least three adults, from whom the priest receives two shillings each per annum. Taking therefore the latter number of houses, the sum arising from Christmas and Easter dues will amount to £150. As all the richer inhabitants contribute more, it will not seem unreasonable to rate these dues at £200.

Next

is established by ancient custom and general prevalence. His income springs from various sources. From *Easter* and *Christmas* dues. These consist in a certain sum, paid by the head of every family to the parish priest for his support, and in consideration of his trouble in catechising, instructing, and hearing the confession of his family. The sum is greater or smaller in proportion to the circumstances of the parishioner.

In the country parishes it is in general a shilling at Easter, and a shilling at Christmas; some give half a crown, some a crown, and some few a guinea a year. There is no general ecclesiastical law

Next come marriages and christenings, a fruitful source of emolument in this prolific country, not easily ascertained, but probably not less than £100 per annum. Fees for visiting the sick, collections for the priest at weddings, contributions of hay and oats, and farm labour gratis, close the account, to which, I believe, may be added something arising from fines imposed for disobedience, as working on holydays, &c. These indeed are called trifles, but they are, like the several items of a long account, trifles capable of swelling a bill, and collectively taken amount to no contemptible revenue. Taking him therefore at his own rateage, and considering the moderate expenditure of a single man, the provision of the Catholic clergy does not seem to stand upon a footing of such very exceptionable degradation. If it be sufficient for the decent support of the ministry, why utter such bitter complaints? If the degradation be imputable to the manner, in which so much of it is paid, by the contributions of the necessitous, why step forward to reprobate the substitution of a mode, that will lighten the burden, and render the pastor more comfortable and independent? The reasons, assigned for this rejection, are by no means satisfactory.

law to enforce the payment of these trifles ; but, as the mode was struck out in what has been denominated the Council of Kilkenny, under Rinnuccini, it has continued ever since to be practised, and from custom has acquired the force of law.

Weddings.—The sum to be paid at these is different in different dioceses. In the diocese of Cork, by an order of the bishop, no clergyman is warranted in receiving more from the parties than half a guinea ; yet the usual sum, universally given by the bridegroom, is a guinea, in addition to which a collection is frequently made among the friends of the parties, who have been invited, for the benefit of the parish priest.

The parochial fee for each christening is two shillings, or half a crown ; besides which the sponsors usually give something more. Some trifle is generally given for visiting the sick, a shilling usually in the country.

In some parts of the country custom has established, that a certain quantity of hay and oats is sent by the more opulent parishioners to the clergyman ; that his turf should be cut, his corn reaped, his meadow mowed, &c. gratis ; and I have been credibly informed, that in some parts of Ireland, bordering on the sea coast, a certain quantity of fish is given to the priest in lieu of parochial dues.

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The retribution for each mass is in this diocese two shillings; it is more or less elsewhere. But if mass should be said at the house of a parishioner, at his own request, he usually gives the clergyman a crown. The general stipend of the curate is the third part of the general receipts of the parish. But in some instances, such as where the parish priest is old, infirm, or unacquainted with Irish, and consequently incapable of lessening in any great degree the labour of the curate, the latter frequently receives half the parochial emoluments.

Stations are meetings at some commodious house, appointed by the priest, for the convenience of such people as live at a distance from the chapel, where he hears their confessions, gives them communion, catechises the children, &c.: and it is at these half yearly meetings that he receives his Easter and Christmas dues.

A custom, originating, I suppose, either in the poverty of the priest, and his consequent inability to provide for himself, or in the hospitality of the Irish character, has from time immemorial existed, that a dinner is prepared for the priest at every house, where he appoints a station, to which the householder's friends and neighbours are also invited. The bad effects of this custom are so glaring, that I have in my parish, though not without considerable

considerable difficulty, abolished it, and should, indeed, most cordially wish the abolition were universal. For, besides that drunkenness is the general consequence of such convivial meetings, the cost is very serious to the entertainer; and, as there is no inconsiderable degree of proud emulation amongst the people in this particular, it not unfrequently happens, that expences are incurred, to which the abilities of some are not always equal. Add to this the improbability of that decorum being preserved in those situations, which the presence of their clergyman demands from the people; and the danger, that either his reserve may be construed into pride, or his want of it produce such familiarity as may render all his efforts at instruction, admonition, or reform, of no avail. Another bad consequence (and in my mind of no small weight) is, that, as man gradually imbibes the sentiments, and insensibly acquires the manners of those with whom he associates, the clergyman, by his uninterrupted intercourse with the lower orders of the community, may lose that polish, which by education or observation he may have attained, and be by degrees totally unfitted for more select society.

The influence, which the clergy formerly possessed over their flocks, and which was for a long series of years

years proverbial, was considerably diminished by the relaxation of the popery laws; it thenceforward continued gradually to decline, and received at length the *coup de grace* by the Whiteboy disturbances in 1786. At that period not only all former influence was lost, but even that confidence in their clergy, without which all their exertions must prove abortive, ceased in a great measure to exist among the people; nor was it till the rebellion, and its consequent irritations and antipathies, opened their eyes, that this confidence began again to revive. The people then perceived, that their priests were, in common with themselves, objects of persecution to one party, and of disregard and derision to the other; and that, though some of them had been unfortunately implicated, and some few deeply engaged in the rebellion, *all* were accused or suspected, and all condemned by party enthusiasm to one general, comprehensive, indiscriminate execration. They now, indeed, gratefully acknowledge, that to the admonitions of the clergy they are in a great degree indebted for having escaped the many miseries endured in the disturbed and rebellious parts of the kingdom, and are, I believe, at this moment more amenable than for twenty years back. The influence of the clergy is, however, still inconsiderable, indeed, if compared to

what it was half a century ago ; though never, perhaps, (at least in this diocese) were the powers and energies of the clergy more forcibly and uniformly exerted in instructing, and particularly in catechising, and attending to the minds and morals of the rising generation, than since the Whiteboy combination alluded to.

I have unintentionally strayed away from my original purpose, which was merely to exhibit in detail the poor and uncomfortable situation of the Roman Catholic clergy of this country. To the precarious and unsatisfactory nature of their subsistence it may, I think, be attributed, that comparatively few men of genteel connections, or early education, belong to the body. For, as parents naturally look forward, in the establishment of their children, to their comfort and affluence, it is not to be supposed, that a man of opulence or respectability will educate his son for a state of life, which presents nothing to his view but drudgery and dependence. And, therefore, it is highly probable that, until some more desirable mode of provision shall be struck out for the Roman Catholic clergy, they will continue in general to spring from the inferior orders of society.

It was, I have heard, in the contemplation of the late ministry to add to their comforts by a liberal provision,

provision, proportioned to their respective rank and dignity in the church. But, however praiseworthy such intention may have been, and however beneficial in some points of view it may be considered, I must individually acknowledge, that to me such a provision has hitherto presented insuperable objections. The immediate consequence of the proposed plan would be, in my conception of events, the total annihilation of that confidence, which the people should repose in their clergy, and without which the most sanguine efforts of these in their professional character must be ineffectual. It would,* besides, most unquestionably, in many instances, be productive in the clergy of inactivity and negligence in the discharge of their duties.

For, as the priest has all the feelings, and sometimes many of the failings of human nature,

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* The writer does not seem to be aware, that this argument operates equally against *that more desirable mode of provision*, (whatever it be) above alluded to. The insinuation, however, implies a distrust of his clergy, which they by no means deserve. I cannot easily believe, that a zealous and sedulous priesthood will relax in their duty from an improvement in their circumstances. Many of them now are much more than comfortable in their condition; are they, therefore, less exemplary in their conduct? I feel myself warranted to draw an opposite conclusion. Have the Presbyterian ministers become languid and inert in consequence of increased comfort and more independent situation? If *his* logic be good, Bonaparte is not very censurable for his conduct to the Pope, whom he deprived of his temporal possessions, in order that no worldly cares should interfere with his spiritual duties.

about him, can it be supposed that he will work with as much ardour for a maintenance, when it is secured to him from the treasury, as he now does, when he is well aware that livelihood depends on his own exertions? Is it not also possible, as it invariably happens, wherever there is an established church (be its tenets and creed of whatever complexion you please), that the prospect of independence and respectability, rather than a view to the promotion of morality and religion, may allure to the ecclesiastical state? And that many, totally unqualified for the sacred profession, either through want of piety or learning, may thus force themselves into the ministry, to the disgrace and degradation of religion?

'Tis true, that, were the Roman Catholic clergyman independent of his flock, and not hanging, as is now the case, on their benevolence for his support, he might admonish with more authority his people, and without being suspected, as sometimes now happens, of interested views in urging them to the performance of their religious duties. But it is not to me very clear, whether, were he paid or provided for by the treasury, his advice and exhortations would not sound in the ears of his people more like the sentiments of a hireling, or a government spy, than the pure and disinterested effusions

effusions of a christian pastor. At all events, though I have long revolved on the subject, and maturely considered it under all its bearings, with as much impartiality and attention as I could bestow upon it, I cannot for my part bring myself to relish the idea: I am, indeed, so heartily disgusted with* innovations and revolutions of every kind, that I should prefer, by many degrees, the highly exceptionable and degraded footing, on which I have hitherto, as a Roman Catholic clergyman, existed, to the risk of the many serious evils, which possibly might, and would very probably, arise from such a change. I have, you perceive, Sir, travelled *tout bonnement* over a great deal of ground. To an ordinary man I should feel inclined to make an apology for my intrusion: but when I reflect, that, however interesting otherwise the subject may be, it is to a patriot a matter by no means irrele-

gantly, *supplément à la connaissance de l'état de l'Europe* vant

et de l'Asie, par le P. de la Rivière, de la Compagnie de Jésus.

* Though I am not surprised at his dislike of *past revolutions*, yet one might have expected a more favourable mention of some late innovations. He cannot surely take offence at the improved situation of the Roman Catholics of Ireland, which, however recommended by policy and justice, was under the existing laws an innovation. Indeed the mention of revolutions is here ill placed and exceptionable. It has no necessary or even collateral connexion with the subject. The offer of a stipend to Anabaptists, or Moravians, might surprise them as an innovation, but would never suggest the idea of a revolution. How it came here I cannot say, but it hardly owes its situation to chance. This gentleman writes too well to write without some meaning.

want to be intimately acquainted with the nature of the situation of a body of men, by whose principles and conduct the great majority of his country is guided, I should consider it idle to offer it. And tho', in the present state of things in this country, it might by the generality of people be considered as idiotism, to you I do not hesitate to declare, that, making every due allowance for the birth, deficiency of early education, want of knowledge of the world, and the many other substantial disadvantages, with which the Roman Catholic clergy of Ireland have to contend, ~~their morality and general conduct~~ ^{in general} is such, that, however the derision and contempt of the world may attach to them, I have ever felt a conscious pride in belonging to the body.

For the liberty I have taken I shall not offer an apology, as it has been caused solely by your own condescension, in hinting something not unlike a wish to be informed of the minutiae, which I have here detailed. I shall therefore abruptly have done, by assuring you of the sincerity, with which I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

* * * * *

June 12th, 1806.

THOMAS NEWENHAM, ESQ. *Coolmore,*

NATIVE

NATIVE GRASSES.

For the following account of grasses I am indebted to George Tisdall, Esq. the first of our scientific, and not inferior to any among our practical farmers. Mr. Tisdall is particularly distinguished for his knowledge of Botany, a science not much cultivated in this country hitherto, but which the establishment of a botanical garden, at the Cork Institution, and the advantage of such a lecturer as Mr. Hincks, will shortly render an object of favourite and entertaining pursuit. The vegetable productions of this county, forming of course a principal subject of inquiry, will in consequence soon be ascertained. Under the prospect of so compleat an investigation, it seemed unnecessary to anticipate any part of the business of the Institution ; but, as these surveys are generally accompanied with some communications of this nature, a short account of the principal pasture and meadow grasses has been deemed an appropriate, if not a necessary addition.

Mr. Tisdall has been particularly attentive to the culture of grasses, and the saving the seeds of the more rare and valuable. From his skill and diligence

gence much future advantage may be reasonably expected. In the year 1808, he gave me a few seeds of the Timothy grass, which I sowed with other grasses on a low and turfy soil well reclaimed. It did not shew any seed-stalks last summer, but this year I perceive a great many growing vigorously. It appears to be a strong good meadow grass. I have seen some of it in a meadow at Barry's-hall near Timoleague; but, as that meadow was within reach of Dublin dung, I presume that the seeds were brought in the manure.

Having incidentally mentioned threshing machines, which till lately were confined to a few men of fortune, I am to add that their use is in some places becoming more frequent, and the scale of their construction much reduced both in size and price. They promise to be of great advantage to such as cultivate largely. Mr. Tisdall has a very good one erected for about £40. He informs me that there are now twelve in the barony of Barrymore, in which he resides. To petty farmers, in the more populous parts, they seem to be altogether inappropriate.

“ A LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL NATIVE GRASSES IN THE COUNTY OF CORK, IN THE ORDER, IN WHICH THEY ARE FOUND MOST ABUNDANT, WITH SOME REMARKS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE PROPERTIES.

1. *Holcus lanatus*—Meadow soft grass—Yorkshire grass.

2. *Lolium perenne*—Ray or rye grass.

These two, in general, form the chief part of the meadows and pastures of this county, and are both valuable, though not without defects. The former is not so early as many other grasses; and the latter, by the quantity and weight of its seeds, and its tendency to produce seed-stalks repeatedly in the same season, when cut early, probably exhausts the soil.

3. *Bromus mollis*—Soft brown grass—*vulgo* oat-grass.

This is an annual, and confined to meadows, where it propagates itself by annually shedding its seeds. It has no quality to recommend it but its early growth. The great quantity it produces of weighty seeds, which readily shed in the process of hay-making, tends to exhaust the land, and the hay, which it forms, is dry and sapless.

4. *Anthoxanthum odoratum*—Sweet-scented vernal grass; a very early grass, but inferior to most in produce.

5. *Poa annua*—Annual meadow grass.

A short unproductive grass, and therefore undeserving of cultivation.

6. *Dactylis glomerata*—Rough cock's-foot grass.

The most productive of all in rich meadows, and, though coarse, it makes excellent hay. No grass shoots more rapidly after being mown, and this should recommend it as a pasture grass. It is, however, liable to the objection of producing much weighty seed, and reiterating the production of seed panicles ; and, though not absolutely rejected, is not much relished, as pasture, by horses, cattle, and sheep.

7. *Poa trivialis*—Common or rough-stalked meadow grass.

A good grass, flourishing chiefly in moist soils. Though not an annual, it is not very durable, propagating itself principally by seeds, which it is very apt to shed.

8. *Poa pratensis*—Great or smooth-stalked meadow grass.

Excellent for hay or pasture in rich, but unproductive in poor land. Even in the most fertile soil it does not acquire a vigorous growth in less than two or three years after having been sown.

9. *Cynosurus cristatus*—Crested dog's-tail grass.

A good and succulent, though not a productive
hay

hay grass. As it produces but few root-leaves, and as its seed-stalks are refused by cattle, &c. it seems to be not of much value as a pasture grass.

10. *Festuca duriuscula*—Hardish fescue grass.

Valuable as pasture for sheep, flourishing in poor land, common in dry mountains, and abounding in fields usually manured with sea sand.

11. *Avena elatior*—more properly *Holcus avenaceus*—Tall oat-grass.

Very productive, but not as early as any of those before enumerated.

12. *Avena flavescens*—Yellow oat-grass.

A good grass, not so productive as the preceding, but earlier.

13. *Agrostis vulgaris*—Fine bent-grass.

A late grass, but not unproductive, abounding chiefly in dry mountainous soils.

14. *Triticum repens*—Dog's grass—Couch grass.

Not commonly met with in meadows or pastures, but a plague to slovenly farmers in tillage; not relished by any species of animals.

15. *Holcus mollis*—Creeping soft-grass.

Similar in its appearance to *Holcus lanatus*, but easily to be distinguished from it by its creeping roots. A bad grass either for meadow or pasture, and a troublesome couch in arable lands.

16. *Agrostis stolonifera*—Creeping bent-grass.

This is the *Fiorin* grass, which Doctor Richardson and others have lately recommended to the attention of the public, as possessing very valuable properties; but the value of it appears to be, at least, very much over-rated. In dry land it is generally rejected by cattle, sheep, and horses; in moist it is more palatable, and may be useful in irrigated land; but it is a mischievous couch, difficult to be eradicated in arable land.

17. *Festuca ovina*—Sheep's fescue grass.

A close-piled but diminutive grass.

18. *Aira cespitosa*—Turfy hair grass.

A coarse rough grass, but very productive, not liked by cattle.

19. *Aira aquatica*—Water hair grass.

Found only in places generally covered with water, or on the margin of pools, &c. The leaves and stalks of this grass are peculiarly saccharine, tasting like liquorice root; but in an agricultural point of view it seems to be of no value.

20. *Alopecurus pratensis*—Meadow fox-tail grass.

In a suitable soil this appears to be by far the most valuable of all the grasses, possessing the desirable properties of early growth, abundant produce, and being relished by all the graminivorous tribe. But it thrives only in a rich loam or fertile moist soil; in other circumstances it is unproductive
and

and of little worth. It is but rarely found in this county; but in some meadows I have seen it in sufficient quantity to enable me to estimate its value.

21. *Festuca pratensis*—Meadow fescue grass.

Not so early as the preceding, but excellent for hay and pasture. It is still more scarce than the *Alopecurus pratensis*.

Besides the above, there are many herbaceous plants indigenous in this county, not properly termed grasses, which seem well worth the attention of the farmer: such as several species of the *Vicia* or vetch tribe, among which the *Vicia sepium*, bush vetch, and *Vicia cracca*, tufted vetch, are the most common. But it may be doubted whether the former can be cultivated to advantage, as it is seldom found but among hedges, and never in the open fields; the seeds, too, are with difficulty collected, as they ripen progressively, and shed soon after they are ripe. The seeds of the latter are for the most part destroyed by a small grub.—The *Plantago lanceolata*, rib-grass, is so common a production, and multiplies itself so much, that it is unnecessary to sow it. It is an excellent pasture grass.—*Poterium sanguisorba*, common burnet, is found but rarely.—*Achillea millefolium*, yarrow, is found every where, and makes
good

good pasture, particularly for sheep, which are very fond of it.—The various species of *Trifolium* are also common, and are all valuable as pasture."

CHURCHES AND GLEBE-HOUSES BUILT, REBUILT,
AND ENLARGED WITHIN THE LAST 30 YEARS.

DIOCESE OF CORK.

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Glebe-houses.</i>	<i>Time.</i>
Templemartin,	a new Church,		since 1802.
Macloneigh,		Glebe-house,	since 1783.
St. Peter's, Cork,	Church rebuilt,		since 1783.
Rathcooney,	new Church,		since 1785.
Inniskenny,	do.		since 1802.
Athnowen,		Glebe-house,	since 1807.
Rathclarin,		do.	since 1792.
Durrus,	new Church,		since 1792.
Templemichul	} Church building,		
de Duah,			
Ardnegeehy,	new Church,		since 1800.
Moragh,		Glebe-house,	since 1806.
Desert Serges,	new Church,		since 1806.
Ballymoney,		Glebe-house,	since 1777.
Carigaline,	{ Chapel of ease		since 1784.
	{ at Douglas,		
Killeconenagh,	new Church,		since 1783.

DIOCESE OF ROSS.

Kilmaloda,	new Church,	{ Small Glebe- house by the Rector without aid,	since 1790.
Oreagh,		Glebe-house,	since 1800.
Timoleague,	Church building,		
Kilcaskan,	new Church,		since 1803.
Kilgariffe (Clogh- nikilty,)	{ Church raised, new roofed, and a gallery added,		since 1802.

DIOCESE OF CLOYNE.

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Glebe-houses.</i>	<i>Time.</i>
Abercagh,	new Church,		before 1794.
Kilbrin,	do.		do.
Lisgoold,	do.		do.
Dungourney,	do.		do.
Kanturk,	Chapel,		do.
Raheen,	new Church,		since 1794.
Brigown,	do.		do.
Fermoy,	do.		do.
Whitechurch,	Church rebuilt,		do.
Kilnamartery,	Church building,		
Knockmourne,	do.		
Cove,	do.		
Clandelan,	do.		
Middleton,		Glebe-house,	before 1794.
Rathcormuck,		do.	do.
Kilmahon,		do.	since 1794.
Grenagh,		do.	do.
Mitchelstown,		do.	do.
Killeagh,		do.	do.
Glanworth,		do.	do.
Iniscarra,		{ Glebe-house re-	do.
		{ built,	
Magourney,		{ Glebe-house	
		{ building,	
Clondrohid,		do.	

The improving state of the established church in this county will sufficiently appear from the foregoing statement. It is also to be observed, that the laudable attention, paid both by the government and the hierarchy to this important subject, would have added many more to the list, but for the unfavourable state of the timber trade for the last five years. During a considerable part of that time no timber was to be had. A supply has now arrived, but the price still continues at an extravagant height. A reduction however is looked for, and, as there are many grants and orders for more churches and houses, it is expected that many of them will be undertaken in the ensuing summer.