

STATISTICAL SURVEY
OF THE
QUEEN'S COUNTRY,
BEING THE
First Volume
OF THE STATISTICAL SURVEYS
OF
IRELAND.

BY
SIR CHARLES COOTE, BART.

Seven British Shillings.

GENERAL VIEW
OF THE
AGRICULTURE
AND
MANUFACTURES
OF THE
QUEEN'S COUNTY,
WITH
OBSERVATIONS
ON
THE MEANS OF THEIR IMPROVEMENT,

DRAWN UP IN THE YEAR 1801.

FOR THE CONSIDERATION, AND UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

The Dublin Society.

BY
SIR CHARLES COOTE, BART.

Quam dives nivei pecoris, quam lactis abundans.

VIRGIL.

What stores my Dairies and my Folds contain.

DRYDEN.

Dublin :

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1801.

DEDICATION.

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
JOHN FOSTER, ESQ.
LATE SPEAKER
OF THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS OF IRELAND,
AND
VICE PRESIDENT,
OF THE
DUBLIN SOCIETY, &c. &c. &c.

S I R,

THE following Work having been undertaken with your approbation, naturally claims your paternal care, and is published under the sanction of your name.

The great obligations which this nation owes to you, in the wise and happy formation of laws, which have encouraged her Agriculture, encreased her wealth, and rendered her staple manufacture the envy of the world, are too generally

a rally

rally known, and individually felt, to receive any addition from my humble panegyric; a proper sense of this precludes me the gratification of illustrating your merits, or wounding your delicacy, by offering any thing, which might be interpreted so servile as adulation.

But permit me, Sir, to return you my best thanks, for the honour you have conferred on me, and of which I am deeply sensible, in permitting your name to be prefixed to the first volume of the Statistical Surveys of Ireland.

That you may long enjoy all the well-merited blessings this life affords, is the fervent prayer of your grateful countrymen, in which I beg leave most earnestly to join,

And have the honour to subscribe myself,

S I R,

With all possible respect,

Your most truly obliged,

And faithful humble servant,

CHARLES COOTE.

DUBLIN, *May 29th*, 1801.

P R E F A C E.

THE DUBLIN SOCIETY, whose meritorious exertions are displayed in the great improvement of husbandry, as well as of the fine arts, have conceived, that a Statistical or Agricultural Survey of the several Counties of Ireland, would tend to the general good of the nation, as exhibiting those capabilities, of which we are possessed, and furnishing us with a knowledge of them, so as to encourage a speculation in Agriculture and Manufactures; thus, to induce the monied man to engage in those pursuits, by which our ample resources would be effectually drawn forth, and his laudable and patriotic designs crowned with success.

A work under the patronage and fostering care of so many men, eminent for literary abilities, and possessing a true knowledge of the real political interests of Ireland, sufficiently evinces its utility, and, (tho' in the present instance so poorly executed,) may tend to the further elucidation of the subjects under enquiry, by the excellent arrangement

rangement of matter in the plan of the work, all of which, antecedent to the baronial reports, I adopted, (at the suggestion of the Society,) from the Agricultural Survey of Somersetshire, which has been so ably executed by John Billingsley, Esq.

In this investigation, some of the ancient history of the county is occasionally introduced, and the Author conceives it would be unfair, not to have represented the improvements of individuals, who expend their property in beautifying their native country, and shewing the peasantry the way to wealth, by employment and industry; besides, it may tend to a further emulation so highly laudable, and may also assist in diversifying the tedious and dry recital of the different branches of husbandry. With deference, I conceive, such books, to gain attention, should be amusing as well as instructive, at the same time adapted to the meanest understanding; scientific terms, as much as possible, ought to be omitted, which rather tend to confuse than inform the farmer.

A distinct mineralogical account for the amusement of the natural philosopher, which ultimately would lead to the general good, might be very proper to be added by way of supplement to the reports of the several counties.—In this science, I confess my own deficiency, and would willingly concede the task into abler hands.

In the annexed abstract published by the Dublin Society, will be seen the various matters enquired into, and their importance may be judged in these reports, whose compilation, and a strict regard to truth and impartiality, together with the care and pains, which I must have necessarily taken, are the only grounds, on which I can presume to claim any merit.

After having touched on these matters, which generally apply, I judged it might be acceptable to enter into a particular account of the husbandry of the county, in a baronial tour.

Useful tables, shewing the fairs, markets, post-towns, villages, parishes, state of tithe, and the names of the proprietors are added, with a neat map of the county, in which the principal features are delineated; some engravings are also annexed, which will probably be increased in the republication.

I now entreat the indulgence of the candid reader, who will see the many obstacles I must have encountered, to attain even a trivial knowledge of my pursuit. In enumerating a few of them, I must mention, the labour of investigating such a diversity of subjects; the toil of personal examination, and minute inspection into every parish; the disadvantage of having been an almost total stranger in the county; and, a still more perplexing circumstance, the difficulty of distinguishing facts from such various (and, in many cases,

cases, contradictory) representations. On this occasion, I had to note every opinion separately, and, after collecting and weighing each, to take the average of the whole. Gentlemen will recollect, that in few companies, in which I had the honor to sit, was an unanimity of opinion to be found. Nor must I omit lamenting the groundless fears, that those enquiries had a view towards some subsequent tax, which restrained much sensible and valuable information.

It is a matter of much concern to me, that this should happen to be the first volume of the statistical surveys of the counties of Ireland, laid before the public, as I could have wished to have followed those literary characters now engaged in the like pursuit, whose names would have countenanced similar works; and I should be guilty of gross plagiarism, if I did not acknowledge, that I am particularly indebted to the *Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis*, for several historical relations of antiquities, that are occasionally spoken of.

In such an arrangement, and following an adopted plan, I trust it will be taken into account, how great is the difficulty, to avoid falling into the same style, too often but a servile copy of another man's labours; and this difficulty is still increased, in the selection of matter for four volumes, on one and the same subject. Tautology, in this case, could not have been avoided, and, however true may be the representation of facts, it is impossible, in such a division of materials, that

that character can be gained. Under these preliminary observations, I commit the book to the indulgent reader, trusting that, in this imperfect sketch, defects will be supplied by more masterly hands.

The invitation held forth to gentlemen residing in the country, to assist the Society with their observations and opinions on those Surveys, will, doubtless, be embraced by every patriot, who feels the necessity of our attaining a perfect knowledge of the real state of Ireland.

As the Dublin Society cannot be answerable for the accuracy of these reports, neither can I, who have to claim the province of a compiler, rather than of an author; and I shall conclude this preface, with expressing my hopes, that allowances will be made for the heavy charge of preparing for press, along with this book, similar reports of three other counties, the whole survey, and digesting of such enquiries, *having been made in less than twelve months.*

The following is the detail suggested by the society to gentlemen, who should undertake the forming statistical surveys.

SUGGESTIONS OF ENQUIRY

FOR GENTLEMEN WHO SHALL UNDERTAKE THE FORMING OF

AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

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

AGRICULTURE.

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

PASTURE.

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

General

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

FARMS.

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

GENERAL SUBJECTS.

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

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

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STATISTICAL SURVEY

OF THE

QUEEN'S COUNTY.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

SECTION. I.

Situation and Extent.

THE Queen's county is an inland county, in the province of Leinster, bounded on the east by Kildare, and on the south by Kilkenny. Tipperary joins it on the south-west, and Carlow on the south-east, and the King's county forms the northern bounds.

Its form is compact and regular, being from north to south twenty-seven miles long, and nearly as many from east to west, and about one hundred miles in circumference.

The derivation of its name is in compliment to Queen Mary, consort of King Philip, and the chief town of Maryborough is also called after her.

The gross number of acres in this county make up 235,300* or 367 square miles, but only 164,526 of these acres pay county cess, and are rated as profitable ground in the County book; so that there would remain 70,774 acres of bog, mountain, and waste lands,

but this being the old estimate we may fairly conclude, that 30,000 acres would be too high a calculation of waste, or lands now remaining unprofitable; such rapid strides towards improvement have steadily been made here of late years, and the value of reclaimed bog is now so generally understood.

Taking the entire of cultivated lands, we will find the average value per Irish or plantation acre equal to 35*s.* per acre.

To attempt to give the actual number of inhabitants would be only to deceive the reader, as such an elaborate task is beyond the power of an individual to attain with truth and accuracy; as independent of the many obstacles to such an enquiry, there exists *here*, though, perhaps, not in the same degree as in several other counties in Ireland, a strong and rooted prejudice against counting the number of people in families, conceiving it as certain, that, before that day twelvemonth expires, one person in each family so reckoned will die; and so greatly hath prevailed this superstitious notion, that it was a material objection, which the peasantry had to the raising a militia, it having been necessary to take the number of males in each family capable of serving.

I confess, I do not see the necessity for such a precise report, which never could be entirely accurate; but taking the mean of various calculations, it has been found the number of inhabitants amounts to about 90,000, allowing 16000 houses in the county, and nearly six souls to an house. This proves a great population; the counties lying adjacent to this being by no means in the same proportion so thickly inhabited.

The great ridge of the Sleive Bloom mountains, running from north to south, divides this from the King's county.

The Dyfart Hills are conspicuous and picturesque in the eastern division.

The centre of the county is rather flat and lies high; the whole country is watered with rivers and numerous mountain streams, and its superficial appropriations may be thus estimated :

	ACRES.
Arable Lands	210,000
Pasture and Meadow	1,300
Woods and Plantations	1,000
Water	21,000
Bog, Mountain, and Waste	2,000
Roads, Towns and Villages	235,300
Acres	

SECT. 2. *Climate.*

The climate is as wholesome as in any part of Ireland, and not a vestige remains of the great forests, that formerly almost covered this country, which impeded the free circulation of air, and retained a dampness no longer existing, as its causes are removed. The exhalations, proceeding from the numerous bogs, are certainly not of that putrid nature of the fens and marshes in England; the natives in their vicinity, and even in the midst of them, being robust and healthy, and they are not without several remarkable instances of longevity, which proves, that the moisture proceeding from our bogs is not prejudicial to health.

Our insular situation and contiguity to the great western ocean, may account for the general tendency to damps in this climate, but this, being the highest and almost central part of Ireland, is consequently most free from them, and of course most salubrious.

The strongly astringent quality of our bog is another proof of its being antiseptic or nonputrescent, which is known to change the skins of men or beasts to leather, where they have fallen in and perished ; even timber, which is found at every degree of depth, and has remained there for ages, is almost universally in a high state of preservation.

Except in the mountains, their seasons are the same throughout ; there they are generally a fortnight later than in the low-lands.*

SECT. 3. *Division.*

The Queen's county is divided into nine baronies, which are again subdivided into town lands. The cess for all matters relating to, or dependent on the county, is collected off the baronies, and their denominations are as follow.

* In this district the land is mostly occupied by young store cattle, and very little tillage, but just as much oats and potatoes as supply the herds, who take care of the cattle.

TABLE of Political Division of the County by Baronies.

	Town Lands.		Acres.	19,459 at 1d per hund. Acres	s.	d.
	Clondonagh	Clarmallagh				
Barony of Upper Ossory has three Districts, named Cantreds.	91 and cantreds	69	21,944	-	4	0½
Barony of Cullinagh,	75	75	18,847	-	3	11
East Maryborough	55	55	18,891	-	3	11
West ditto,	24	24	10,319	-	2	1½
Stradbally	38	38	12,079	-	2	6
Portneinch	53	53	11,019	-	2	3½
Tineinch	64	64	14,604	-	3	0½
Slewmary	44	44	13,701	-	2	10½
Ballyadams	36	36	12,879	-	2	8
			10,704	-	2	2½
	Town Lands	624 Acres	164,526	County at large	£. 1 14	2

This county contains eleven towns and fifteen villages, and formerly deputed eight Members to serve in Parliament, who represented the county and the borough towns of Maryborough, Portarlinton, and Ballinakill. The present representation in the Imperial Parliament is two members for the county, and one for the town of Portarlinton.

Note.—The usual contents of a Cantred, according to Sir James Ware, was 100 plough lands; a plough land was as much as a plough could compass in a day.

Ecclesiastical Division.

Of the town lands fifty parishes* are made up, which have twenty-seven churches, and are situate in five different dioceses as follows:

<i>Diocess.</i>	<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Parishes.</i>
Leighlin	14	27
Offory	6	14
Kildare	7	7
Killaloe	0	1
Dublin	0	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Churches 27	Parishes 50
	<hr/>	<hr/>

As it may afford amusement to some of my readers, I here insert the following copy of an inquisition held in 1657, relating to the parochial division, or value, in the county, for which I am indebted to Vice Admiral Cosby, with whom is the original record, bearing the signatures and seals of the Commissioners, and also of the Jury, who reported thereon, from whence may be judged the comparative value of benefices in the revolution of a century and a half.

Inquisition.†

An inquisition taken at Maryborough the 13th of October 1657, before Sir Charles Coote, Knight, Baronet, President of the province of Connaught, Henry Gilbert, Robert Preston, Raphael Hunt, Henry

* Note.—All the parishes in the barony of Upper Offory are in the diocess of Offory, except the parish of Kilclonfert, or Kyle, which is in Killaloe diocess. All in Portneehinch and Tinehinch baronies are in Kildare diocess. All in Cullinagh, Maryborough, Slewmary, Stradbally, and Ballyadam's baronies, are in the diocess of Leighlin, except the parish of Tankardstown, which is in the diocess of Dublin.

† I have considerably curtailed this report, inserting only the particulars, and omitting technical phrases, which in the original occupies sixteen skins of parchment.

Henry Owen, Francis Barrington, Thomas Pigot, William Scot, John Rawlins, Gilbert Rawson, Henry Lestrange, and William Weldon, Esqrs. Commissioners, appointed and authorized, by virtue of a commission issued out of his highness the Lord Protector's court of chancery, under the great seal of Ireland, bearing date at Dublin, the 30th day of July, in the year of our Lord God 1657, for the uniting and dividing of parishes, ordering and placing of churches, erecting and endowing of free schools, and to hear and enquire of divers other matters, in the said commission contained, upon the oaths of honest and lawful men, whose names do here ensue, viz. * who do say,

Denomination of Parishes.†

1. Aghmacart hath 22 acres and 79 perches of glebe, in the barony of Upper Ossory, contains fifteen town lands, and is an impropriate vicarage, worth in the year 1640, £.91. 10s. Parsonage, church and monastery, in this parish, is totally demolished. Parish not being two miles long, hath no minister. Patronage, Lord Upper Ossory and Florence Fitzpatrick, Esq.

2. Coolkerry hath 30 acres and nine perches of glebe, an entire rectory, in Upper Ossory, value £.50; tythe is set for the use of the commonwealth. It contains eight town lands, value of tythe 40s. per annum. It hath no church.

3. Killeny hath eleven town lands, parsonage impropriate, (vicarage belongeth to the church) worth in
1640,

* Here follow the names of twenty-nine jurors.

† *Note.*—In the following copy, where there is a circumflex, the words are not in the original, but I insert them to shew the reader the barony, in which each parish is situate, as the manuscript was almost entirely deficient in this respect.

1640, £.15, situate in Upper Ossory, now worth £.47 per annum, and is held under letters patent, vicarage worth £.23 per annum, the whole now set for £.14 for the use of the commonwealth.

4. Eirke, situate in Upper Ossory (now in Kilkenny county, and a small skirt in this county) containeth fourteen town lands, worth £.60 per annum. One moiety of the parsonage, in tythe, was possessed by Florence Fitzpatrick, Esq. another share by Mr. Edmond Shea, and another by Lord Upper Ossory; the preceding parish has the same patronage, church in ruins.

5. Durrow, situate in Upper Ossory, containeth sixteen and an half town lands, parsonage impropriate, worth £.13. 13s. per annum. The vicarage was worth £.6. 6s. 8d. in 1640. The Lord Protector is the patron. Church out of repair; no minister.

6. Rathdowny (in Upper Ossory) hath forty-six town lands and villages, parsonage and vicarage in the possession of one person, in 1640 was worth £210, the whole now set, as being most part waste, at £.55. 5s. for use of the commonwealth. Church out of repair, no minister.

7. Rathfarran (in Upper Ossory) hath seven town lands, an entire rectory, in 1640 contained 114 acres and 80 perches of glebe or gleab, valued then at £.20 per annum, the whole parish now worth £.8. The whole ecclesiastical benefice now set, for the use of the commonwealth. No minister.

8. Aghavoe (in Upper Ossory) hath forty-five town lands, was worth in 1640, £.150 per annum, now set for the use of the commonwealth for £.60 per annum. A church, but no minister.

9. Skeirk (in Upper Ossory) hath thirteen town lands, an impropriate vicarage worth £.25 per annum. No minister or church.

10. Kilclonfert,

10. Kilclonfert, Molow, or Kyle (in Upper Ossory) hath ten town lands, an impropriate rectory worth £.4. 5s. per annum. The Lord Protector the patron.

11. Annaghim or Annatrim, and Offerillan or Offerlan (in Upper Ossory) hath one hundred and one farms, town lands, and villages, parsonage, in 1640, worth £.100 per annum. The vicarage was propiate, and worth, then, £.50 per annum. The whole, now set for the use of the commonwealth, for £.50 per annum, mostly waste. This parish hath 21 acres and 106 perches of glebe.

12. Clonena and Clonchine (in Maryborough) hath thirty-eight farms, united and impropriate, in 1640 was worth £.150, the vicarage £50, the parsonage £.100, now valued at £.75 per annum. Patron, Sir K. Crosbie, Knt.

13. Burris or Burros (in Maryborough) hath seventeen town lands, is an impropriation, hath three acres of glebe, in 1640 was worth £.90 per annum, parsonage worth £.60, vicarage £.30; the whole now valued at £.48 per annum; one-third part of all these revenues, in this and other parishes, was allowed to ministers, and for church repairs, the rest enjoyed by the patron. Patron of the parish, Sir K. Crosbie, Knt.

14. Sruthboe or Straboe (in Maryborough) hath thirteen town lands, is an impropriation, worth £45 per annum in 1640, parsonage £30, vicarage £15, now valued at £.15; the whole one-third part set for use of the commonwealth. Patron, Sir Robert King, Knt.

15. Kilcommonbawne or Kilcolemanbane (in Maryborough) has six town lands, impropriation worth in 1640, £.60 per annum, set now for use of the commonwealth for £.20, hath one acre of glebe.

16. Disartgallen

16. Difartgallen (in Cullinagh) hath six town lands, and two English acres of glebe; valuation not determined. Sir Robert Pigot, patron.

17. Kiltele or Kilteal (in Maryborough) hath four town lands, an impropriation, in 1640 was possessed by Sir Robert Pigot, the patron.

18. Disert, the remaining part of the parish, which is in Maryborough barony, containing three town lands, worth £.20 per annum, vicarage £.10. Sir Robert Pigot, Knt. patron.

19. Castlebracke hath five town lands, and 200 acres of profitable lands and glebe, rated at £.15 per annum, now worth £.6, and is in Tennehinch barony.

20. Rosenallis and Killamban or Kilneman (in Tennehinch) hath eleven town lands, and 200 acres of glebe; this and the preceding parish was in the patronage of Barnaby Dunn, Esq. rated £15 per annum, now worth £.6.

21. Coolbanagher (in Portnehinch) hath twenty-five town lands, and is an impropriation; Gilbert Rawson, Esq. patron; rated at £.25 per annum, now worth £.16. It hath fifteen acres of glebe.

22. Stradbally (in Stradbally) hath seven town lands, rated at £.18 per annum; parsonage worth £.12, and vicarage £.6. Patron, Trinity College, Dublin.

23. Corkclone (in Stradbally) hath eight town lands, and thirty-four acres of glebe, was worth £.40 per annum in 1640.

24. Lea (in Portnehinch) hath twenty-three town lands, and is an impropriation; Lord Chancellor Loftus patron; worth £.15 per annum, now £.10, and hath twenty acres of glebe.

25. Moyanna (in Stradbally) hath nine town lands, worth £.12 per annum. Patron, Trinity College, Dublin.

26. Kilteale,

26. *Kilteale, in the barony of Maryborough, hath four town lands, Sir Robert Pigot, Knt. patron, is an impropriation, was worth £.15 per annum, vicarial was worth £.10, now all valued at £ 3.

27. Tymoge or Timahoe (in Cullinagh) hath four town lands, worth £.16 per annum. Patron, the earl of Kildare.

28. Clopoke or Cloghpoke (in Cullinagh) hath five town lands.

29. Catherlogh (in Slewmary) an endowed vicarage, hath two town lands; one-third part of all tythe was payable to the minister in 1640, and worth £10, now £.6. The Lord Protector is the patron.

30. Grange or Monksgrange (in Slewmary) in the parish of Killebane formerly; is an impropriation, and once belonged to the abbey of Baltinglass, but in 1640 belonged to Robert Harpollan, an English papist, then worth £.4, now £.5 per annum. No church, no minister. The commonwealth enjoys the profit.

31. Rahaspuch (in Slewmary) hath nine town lands, was an entire rectory in 1640, and then worth £.33 per annum. It hath a church, though no minister now, is worth £.15 per annum. The Lord Protector is the patron.

32. Killebane (in Slewmary) hath thirty-eight town lands, is an entire rectory, in 1640 was worth £200 per annum, now £.60, and hath three acres of glebe. The commonwealth receives the profit. The Lord protector is the patron. It hath a church, which is within five miles of the remotest part of the parish. No minister.

33. Tankardstown, now Ballyadams, (in Ballyadams) hath six town lands, an impropriate vicarage, one-third

* Note.—This seems to be the same as Kiltele, No. 17.

third of all profits belongs to the minister; two-thirds, in the year 1640, belonged to Thomas Ovingdon, an English papist; then worth, all together £.34 per annum, now worth £.11, set for the use of the commonwealth.

34. Tekolm (in Ballyadams) hath two town lands, and is an endowed vicarage; in 1640 was worth £.20 per annum, now waste, the church in ruins. The commonwealth receives the profit.

35. Kilmackeedy (in Ballyadams and Stradbally) hath four town lands, and is an entire rectory, worth in 1640, £.40 per annum, now worth £.12. Church out of repair. No minister.

36. Flontstowne or Fonstown (in Ballyadams) hath five town lands, is an entire rectory, worth in 1640, £.40, now £.18. The commonwealth receives the profit. No church, no minister.

37. Tully or Tulowmoy (in Ballyadams) consists of Tully only, is an entire rectory, was in 1640 worth £.15 per annum, now £.4. The commonwealth receives the profits. Church bad, no minister.

38. Bordwell (in Upper Ossory) was worth £.16 per annum in 1640; hath 80 acres and 148 perches of glebe. The Lord Protector the patron.

39. Killermogh (in Upper Ossory) hath ten town lands, is an entire propariate rectory, hath 80 perches of old glebe lying under the church of said parish, and 255 acres of new glebe, lying in the fields of Ballygarvin, worth in 1640, £.49 per annum, now set for the use of the commonwealth, and valued at £.11. 10s. per annum. The Lord Protector the patron.

40. Kildelliggy, now Kildelly (in Upper Ossory) hath six town lands, and is a propariate entire rectory, hath two acres of glebe, in 1640 was worth £.15 per annum, now set for the use of the commonwealth for £.5 per annum.

annum. No minister, no church. The Lord Protector the patron.

41. Killeshin (in Slewmary) hath twelve town lands, and is an entire rectory, was in 1640 worth £.100 per annum, now worth £.40. The commonwealth enjoys the profits. The church at Killeshin, in ruins, about two miles distant from the furthestmost part of the parish. No minister.

42. Slety (in Slewmary) consists of Slety only, an entire rectory, in 1640 was worth £.15 per annum, now £.6. No minister. The commonwealth enjoys the profits.

43. Shrute (in Slewmary) consists of Shrute, only, an entire rectory, worth in 1640, £.20 per annum, now £.6. The church demolished, no minister. The Lord Protector the patron. It hath eight small acres of glebe.*

Here follows a list of the parishes in the county, not spoken of in the manuscript :

44. Abbeyleix, a vicarage, the rectory is impropriate, in Cullinagh.

45. Donoughmore, a rectory, in Upper Ossory.

46. Balliroan, a rectory, in Cullinagh.

47. Oregan, a vicarage, the rectory is impropriate, in Tennehinch.

48. Ardea, a rectory, in Portnehinch.

49. Balliquillane, a rectory, in Stradbally.

50. Cremorgan, a rectory, in Cullinagh.

Note.

* 'Tis supposed the manuscript is deficient, as several parishes are wanting to complete the number in the county, being fifty in all. The skins of parchment, on which it is engrossed, are not paged, tied, or sealed together, and there is no catch word at the bottom of each skin; besides, one skin is torn across.

Note.—Attanagh parish, which is on the borders of this county, and contains but a very small skirt of it, is rated in Kilkenny county, as is the parish of Agharny in like manner.

I have not given the present valuation of parishes, which, perhaps, it would be difficult to ascertain with accuracy; in the foregoing copy, where the words (*now worth*) are mentioned, it alludes to the value, when the inquisition was held, in 1657. The present worth of some of these parishes will be found, from ten to twenty times the then value; as for instance, No. 32, Killeban, rated at £ 60, is now worth above £.600 per annum.

SECT. 4. *Soil and Surface.*

ALMOST every description of soil is found in this county, and it varies from a very stiff clay to a sandy loam, which, though light, is yet fertile; a strong gravelly soil, very favourable to corn, prevails also. Limestone is the natural stone of the county, of which the richest quarries are in almost every town land. But the application of limestone, whether in gravel, or when calcined, in its different states, requires to be well understood, and cautiously applied, before the farmer can be certain to reap profit from its manure, as many people conceiving lime of all powerful virtue, for land, without distinction, inconsiderately apply it, covering vast tracts, before they have tried the experiment, in what stage or state, or how far it may agree with their soil. I have seen large farms limed on the surface, which has proved of great detriment to the land, where limestone gravel would have been the proper manure, and in shallow soils, with limestone substratas,

substratas, some farmers have injudiciously applied hot lime, which has produced the very contrary effect, when, if previously mixed and well incorporated with clay, or bog stuff, it might have had the most desirable influence.

Mountains.

The only high grounds, deserving the denomination of mountain, are those of Sleive Bloom, which, I have said, form the barrier between this and the King's County, and run in a range of fifteen miles from north to south.

Their elevation is very great, considering the ground, on which stands their base, is supposed to be nearly as high land as any in Ireland, and pretty central. This great range of mountain hath but one pass, which is very steep and difficult, by no means capable of admitting two horses abreast, which is called the Gap of Glandine. The soil is variable, the surface inclining to a black and alternately yellow, stiff clay, of unequal depths, covering a loose, rotten rock, or a gritty gravel, and occasionally a little appearance of lime stone. The western side, more generally, inclines to a strong red clay, not unlike the nature of the soil in some of the northern counties in Ireland, where oats and potatoes only are sown; but it generally is, throughout, spongy, wet, and boggy, to the summit, and very rocky.

The Dyfart Hills form a very conspicuous and highly interesting feature, in the eastern district, and stand rather singly than connected, or folding into one another. From these eminences, through the vistas formed by their particular situation, is commanded the view of a fine and beautiful country, highly adorned with rich plantations and magnificent demesnes, which rather are partial to the vicinity of these hills, but their soil

is not fertile, and they are inaccessible to the plough, being steep, rocky, and unprofitable. Their extent is inconsiderable, but the land lying around them highly productive.

Woods.

This county, once so eminently conspicuous for its noble forests, has now nothing deserving that name. In the barony of Upper Ossory are some slender woods, which indeed have not very valuable timber, and excepting the plantations, which adorn demesnes, there is but a small proportion of old timber; formerly, here, the tenant was obliged to cut, burn, or destroy so many acres of wood, to clear the land for the plough, as a condition of his lease, some of which leases are yet extant; but a long lapse of time intervened, from the felling of these forests, to the replanting, the latter being only of late years, with a few exceptions, which will be particularly noted in their proper places. The alder was the natural tree of the low lands, the oak of the mountain; and little more of either, particularly the alder, now appears, but in patches of brushwood, in the bogs, which are inaccessible to cattle.

Bog and Moor.

The country is very well supplied with bogs, which are interspersed pretty generally, but in some districts they have great tracts, and, when reclaimed, return the finest meadow. We may soon expect to see much less bog in its natural state, so very rapidly it has been improved of late, which, at the expence of about £.8 per acre, becomes very valuable land, and in three years will return a profit, after paying the expence of reclaiming; where lime stone gravel is convenient, the
cost

cost is yet considerably less, and establishes the choicest yielding, certain and durable, which other composts or manures will not insure. Through the whole of the county, except in the barony of Slewmary, where the collieries are extensive, bog is well interspersed, and is the general fuel. The depth of these bogs is various, and in some parts undiscovered, the best fuel lying, in some, a few spades depth below the surface, in others very deep. Their quality both yielding white and red ashes, the latter only valuable for manure, or lasting fuel. The moors are a shallow bog, with a stratum of gravel or clay, under one or two spades depth; this is the particular kind, which is so easily reclaimed, and becomes the best and surest land in the county, and the cost is here but trifling, indeed often repaid in one year, having all the materials within themselves.

SECT. 5. *Minerals.*

The minerals in this county are coal, iron, copper, manganese, mica, lime-stone, marble, free-stone, ochre, marl, fuller's earth, and a great variety of clays valuable in every branch of pottery.

SECT. 6. *Water.*

The Barrow and the Nore are the principal rivers, which water this county; the latter, not navigable, though a fine, deep, and spacious river, but could be easily rendered so by levelling the numerous weirs, that are of great detriment to the adjoining lands, and throw up a considerable quantity of back water. The Barrow is navigable throughout from Portarlington, near which it beautifully expands and winds through extensive and fertile banks, rounding the county in a north easterly direction, from whence

it points south-east, watering the borders of Kildare, and again touches on this county, and after dividing the whole line of Carlow and Kilkenny, courses towards the sea, where it is discharged into Waterford harbour. These two great rivers take their rise in the Sleive Bloom mountains, and with the Suir, which rises in Benduff mountain adjoining or very near to them, after watering a great extent of country, unite again below Waterford and flow together into the sea; they are consequently and significantly stiled the Sister rivers, from their rise in the same district and their re-union.

The lakes are but two; Ballyfin, which is not entirely natural, and has a charming appearance, and Lough Annagh, which divides this and the King's county on the northern borders, but they are both inconsiderable in extent; the latter is about two miles in circumference.

never speaks of the Barrow as abounding in Salmon, the goodly Barrow which both Lord and Bishop of Salmon, in his ripe season

CHAPTER II.

State of Property. Estates and Tenures.

IN this county there are large estates from £.8000 to £.1000 per annum in fee, but the very respectable middle class of gentry enjoy their fortunes from perpetuities in lands granted long since to their ancestors, many of whom have now a better interest than the original proprietor, and may be rated to possess from £.800 to £.100 per annum. Those lands they have since let out to farm in smaller parcels on a terminable lease, partly set for lives, or for years, or both, and considering the effects of alienation, so far they have been most evidently beneficial—but in general, where it is permitted in an unlimited sense, it becomes the great bar to national prosperity, in as much as it clogs and retards the surest source of wealth, which is the furtherance and improvement of agriculture. This requires but little elucidation to demonstrate; for, as population encreases, consequently land will be sought for, and the holder prefers a certain profit rent to the risk of manufacturing it himself; his successor is caught by the same bait, till at last it descends to the miserable peasant, to whom it is rated at double its value, at a rack rent, who is without capital to work it, and for the few seasons, which he, perhaps, may hold it, is obliged to till it unceasingly for corn crops, till its vitals are exhausted; then it is left during a year of forbearance, and perhaps, another in the stages of ejection, in a slovenly cashier fallow, overrun with weeds, and thus its improvement (had it been in judicious hands and set at a reasonable rent,) is retarded for a

length of time. 'Tis curious to observe, how opposite are the causes resulting from alienation of land in this country, and in England—there it has become the means of the wealth of the nation, and the great cause of the rapid improvement in agriculture. It is worth enquiring, why the same cause has so different an effect.

It must be considered, that in England vast tracts of land were in the hands of one proprietor, who was of himself unable to compass the work of so wide a district, and in the disposal of his lands wisely let them out in parcels, commensurate to the wealth and ability of the tenant. The lands being let out at a fair rent, it became worth the tenants care to bring them from their quondam apparently barren state, to that improvement, which they now present, and their farmers are too sensible of the value of their time, to work and toil without profit; it having been well understood, that three rents were to be made of the farm, one for the landlord, one for taxes, labour, and all concomitant expences, and a third for the farmer's profit; thus it was, that the proprietor had but one third of what his land could actually produce, but he had a solvent tenant, and there the tenant pays not for his improvement; his rent was only raised in proportion to the times, of which he enjoyed an equal benefit, or, indeed, a much greater than his landlord. Let us now revert to the state of the capital of those peasants, who toil unceasingly, and are greater slaves than the labourers they employ; we see their wealth is not sufficient to provide the necessaries, much less the comforts of life. Let us inquire into the situation of the English peasant; 'tis true he is without capital, consequently he farms no land, nor aims at what is above his reach; we see him comfortable and contented with his situation,

on, and able to provide all necessaries in his sphere from his daily labour, well fed and well clothed, infinitely more so than many of our freeholders.

In England the lands held under old leases are the least improved, where they have not been alienated. In Ireland lands of *this* description are in the highest state of improvement, and their proprietors are almost universally in true wealth and independence.



CHAPTER

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CHAPTER III.

Buildings.

THE seats of the higher order of gentry are in general handsome; several of them are truly splendid and magnificent, as will be noted.

The middle class of gentry have also their demesnes highly improved, and their houses are handsome, and generally well calculated for good family farm houses; the offices of both ranks are convenient, and suitable to the mansion; but too little attention is paid to farm yards or outsheds, and a great abundance of manure, which might be collected, is consequently turned to little profit.

As to the houses of the peasants, though they are generally in many parts superior to any in the neighbouring counties, yet few, too few indeed deserve a better distinction than hovels, and truly it may be said, that the hogs in England have more comfortable dwellings than the majority of the peasantry of Ireland. It becomes painful to renumerate this grievance, which how few of those landed proprietors, who may read this account, but must be sensible of the great share of blame attached to themselves, in supinely beholding it for years, and yet having made so little efforts to redress it. How can we expect propriety of conduct from our peasants, when we take so little pains to improve them? We daily read and see their enormities; we agree with historians, who justly have described their barbarous customs, and we should blush at our own shameful neglect, and with earnest vigour endeavour to surmount the evil. In how many places do we

we find the whole stock of domestic animals and the peasant's family herd together, under one miserable shed, with, perhaps, no better covering than fods or weeds, and from their extreme filth alone, what ravages has sickness made through a whole district. The necessity of building comfortable cottages should, therefore, be one of our first and weightiest concerns, and in those to make separate apartments, so entirely necessary to that decency and modesty, which should be duly instilled into children; laying a necessary foundation for virtue, when impressed by early example.

To the peasants huts are generally attached an acre or half an acre of garden for their potatoes, which is set from 20s. to 50s. annually, per acre; and the scrapings of their own dunghills provide a scanty portion of manure.

CHAPTER IV.

MODE OF OCCUPATION.

SECT. I. *Size of Farms and Character of Farmers.*

LANDS are set in farms of from five hundred to five acres ; the mean proportion of large farms is about two hundred and fifty acres, and of small farms about fifteen. Dairy farms are not extensive, though very profitable. Sheep-walks occupy much of the pasture, and no inconsiderable share is under crops. Tillage farms may contain about fifty to sixty acres, and so high are the rents, that the tenant must himself hold the plough, and have a son to drive it, if he can pay his rent ; I speak not of these last two years, they are unprecedented, and certainly it would be unfair to take them into consideration. As to the character of the farmers, I believe they will be found as little deserving a bad report as in other parts, perhaps, rather less so, considering the little care we take to inform them ; it is surprising we have not had more trouble from our own neglect. I think they are generally found correct in their dealings, and from gross superstition, and religious bigotry, flow most of the evils, that disgrace our island. Thus much I think it not improper to say, which no liberal reader will deny, tho' I confess, that on the topic of religious controversy, which has distracted this country, I feel not at all inclined to venture, nor are its demerits further necessary to be canvassed in these reports.

The great source of mischief to the landlord is a prevailing custom, certainly dishonest, of taking land at so high a rent, that the farmer cannot fulfil his obligations ;
but

but I have shewn, that in this case the tenant also works his own ruin. I will not deny, but candidly do acknowledge, that too many farmers take land with a predetermination to exhaust it by repeated corn crops, and then run away, which we have no remedy for, when we risk the evil, by setting to men without capital, or perhaps, character; and much of the blame is in this instance attached to the proprietor himself.

A strong attachment to old customs, though, in general, ridiculous and absurd, is too much adhered to, and not without great pains and perseverance, have some masters prevailed on their people to abandon a few of them; and as a proof, that they are reclaimable and deserving our attention, we find they are now sensible of the superiority of drilling in potatoes by the plough, which is almost now generally adopted in this county.

SECT. 2. *Rent.*

RENT has been paid in specie, formerly, and in bank notes, in latter years; the manufacture of the country (which is entirely in the stuff weaving) not requiring specie, as in the North of Ireland, where only gold is received in rent.

Their conditioned days of payment are, the 25th of March, and 29th of September; or, the 1st of May, and 1st of November; but it is usual to be allowed, what they call the back half year, that is, to pay the rent, that was due in March, in the September following, and thus to be allowed half a year's rent to trade on, interest free, till the expiration of the lease; of course, when the last half year is completed, the tenant has a year's rent to pay.

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hang
sale

This

This system has been argued, for and against, very strenuously.

Too eager for the management of money, as the characteristic of the people of Ireland is a fondness for speculation, the tenant will declare for the propriety of this custom, without considering how completely he becomes the slave of his master, who can, when he pleases, drive the land for this sum, either squandered or engaged in trade, the recovery of which, from the tenant, often occasions his ruin; and in every question, affecting the county, where the landholder has a right to interfere, the tenant's vote is at the disposal of his master, whether right or wrong, and, perhaps, to his own prejudice; and, how often has it happened, that the extravagancies of the landlord have obliged him to call in this gale, without any fault of the tenant?

I have heard the propriety of this custom, argued by the landlord, that it is humane and right, to indulge the tenant in this instance, as he assists in procuring for his master the means of his comforts; and certainly, this is the only feasible excuse can be offered; but, how soon does this too vanish, when we reflect, that this landlord cannot foresee his own wants, nor answer for the humane disposition of his successor, to whom his tenant is to be assigned? Will not independence, and true liberty, revolt at another argument? Some tyrannical men assert, that they continue this custom, for the very purpose of keeping their tenantry in subjection, and submission to their will, pretending, that without this restriction, they could not be kept in order, as if the laws of the land, whose very spirit is freedom, and, which consequently, are wounded by this too prevalent system, when applied in this sense, were not able to meet and redress all grievances. I mean not to suggest, that from this custom good may not flow

to both parties ; but that can only happen, where it is mutually leagued in the best hands, the incentive of the landlord being indulgence, and the tenant a man of tried prudence, and known ability.

Heretofore, in old leases, personal service, and the work of a certain number of horses, was exacted at particular times, during harvest, and turf drawing, and cutting ; but these are, in late leases, dispensed with. Another vestige of the feudal system yet too much prevails, of obliging the tenant, although his land is valued at the present high rates, to pay annually a number of duties, such as a fat cow, or hog, at Christmas, fowl, eggs, &c. &c. so disgraceful to the landlord, who exacts them, and more like the perquisite of a pitiful agent to an absentee, than the act of a man of rank, and property, whose consequence, and respectability, should be built on a more dignified foundation. Having mentioned agents, I am happy to acknowledge, 'tis well for the tenantry of Ireland, that the management of estates is now generally placed in the hands of men of honour, and integrity, who would scorn such foul crimes, as, not long since, depressed, in no small measure, the improvement of the nation, where so large a share of its resources passed through their hands, and so much of the distribution of justice, or fraud, was in their power to award. Relatively to these duties, I here beg leave to insert a circumstance of notoriety, which occurred in a neighbouring county, that will tend to show the bad consequences, that may result from them. A certain man of rank wished to enlarge his demesne, by the addition of a plot of seventy acres, which adjoined it, and for near half a century, had been leased to an industrious family, who, with great credit, and considerable expense, had reclaimed the farm to a state of high improvement. The then tenant, consequently,

consequently, rented the land at an easy rate, and had grown comfortable, not to say rich, by his industry. Understanding the value of his interest, he was too wise to resign his lease, which his landlord, at first, modestly proposed, who next, offered some trifling consideration for it, which had the like success. Foiled in his scheme, he then insisted on the back half year's rent, which, unfortunately for his master, the tenant made up, though with some difficulty. These disappointments only rekindled his ardour; he was determined to have the land, though his penurious heart would not suffer him to give the value, yet immensely rich, and had recourse to his dernier resort. The tenant, by a clause in his lease, was bound to pay, in duties, a fat hog at Christmas, so many couple of fat fowl at Michaelmas, and so many hundred of eggs at Easter, or in lieu thereof, certain sums of money, amounting to £.3. 10s. per ann. It could have been proved, that for a length of time back, these duties had been regularly paid, and the tenant's wife had carefully attended to the fattening of the stock, for his honour's table, and took great pride in her good name, as no fowl, or bacon, was at all equal to farmer John's. Unfortunately, farmer John was little skilled in law, and saw not the necessity of taking receipts for his duties, which were as necessary as for his rent. This his master was aware of, and knowing it would be impossible for his tenant to prove the delivery of the duties, he commenced a suit at law against him, for non-payment of them from the date of the lease, amounting to about £.150, sterling; the wretched tenant, after exhausting his wealth in defending the suit, suffered several half years rent to become due, on which he was ejected, his aged person imprisoned for the debt, and his family sent beggars about the world. This anecdote,

dote, as true as it is infamous, will, I hope, shew the necessity for, or at least, the modification, if not the entire abolition of a system, so interwoven with fraud, and injustice.

SECT. 3. *Tithes.*

I AM aware I now tread on tender ground, and fully sensible of my own incapability to decide on their political tendency, or value, I beg leave merely to suggest what strikes my observation, relative to certain evils which demand redress, and our right of obedience to the institution. I do not attempt to take into consideration, whether, or not, the imposition originally was politic and wise; but I candidly confess, that where the sense of the nation is, that great grievances result from them, I conceive, it would be wise to remove the discontent; yet the body of the people saying, they are a grievance, does not prove the hypothesis; nor do I think it is the occupier, but the proprietor of the land, who is the material sufferer; for if we take land, liable to certain impositions, we should first rate the full value of the land, and, after deducting from it the amount of charges affecting it, the remainder is the price we should offer as rent; this, I think, is a fair statement, without any necessity for the tenant to consider its policy, or the original cause of the institution. As a further proof, where we see a farm advertised to be set, tithe free, is not this advantage held forth, and enhances its price, at least, 3s. per acre, on an average, additional rent; now, taking the number of acres, in any county in Ireland, pasture and arable (for the pasture becomes titheable, when converted to arable) does there at present exist one sixth of this imposition, in regard of tithe? It is the mode of collecting
the

the tithe, not the tax itself, that I conceive is the evil to the tenant, the farming of tithe leases through many hands, each person returning a profit, and thus setting them at such rack rents, that in many cases, I doubt not, far more than the tenth part is exacted.

This is a grievance indeed, that cruelly oppresses the poor, and loudly calls for redress, which surely could easily be effected, as it could not meet any opposition; the clergy would be better paid, and the occupier of the land not liable to the imposition of the proctor; instead of injuring or attacking the rights of the church, it would be establishing it on a better foundation, for if it now is upheld on a system so ruinous and unjust, so much the more precarious is its preservation. But I conceive, we are here bound to pay due obedience, in a double sense, not only as being the law of the land, but as it has been our own voluntary act, to take our farms liable to them; further, as the true grievance, established by law, is to the landlord, so we may expect, should it ever be abolished by law, that the benefit would accrue to the landlord, during the term of existing leases, and ultimately so from the commencement of all hereafter to be made; yet, if the system contains particular evils, and that it does, I trust, will not be denied, we are surely right in endeavouring to seek redress, by all constitutional means. Many have been the remedies pointed out to counteract the mischief, and as much ingenuity has been spent in devising an amelioration of tithes, 'tis hoped, that this desirable object must soon meet the eye of a discerning and wise legislature. In many parts of the county there is very little reason to complain, in some others the reverse is the fact, and improvement is evidently retarded by the progress of the evil. Where a modus has been established, there is the least discontent; the farmer

farmer is well pleased with it, and perhaps it would be wise, and as beneficial to the incumbent, to more generally adopt it; the middle man, or proctor, from whom flows all the evil, would be thus entirely cut out.

SECT 3. *Establishment for the Poor.*

NOT so, as in England, have we poor rates, which has caused as great a diversity of opinion, and as much complaint there, as the preceding subject. The only charitable tax is included in the cess on the county at large, by the grand jury, for the support of the county infirmary. Every one is left to his own feelings and abilities, to relieve the distressed, and greatly to the honour of the affluent gentry, in this county, to which some absentees made very munificent contributions, the poor have been maintained, in these two latter years of unexampled scarcity, with care and great humanity. Hence they have found it necessary to badge the poor, and distinguish the objects fit to be relieved, and so confine them within their own parish; but as many parishes are very poor, particularly in great tracts of glebe lands, where nothing but poverty prevails, in this case the poor must inevitably perish. I think, the mode now commenced, of badging the poor, will probably lead to some lasting establishment, and it is hoped, in its formation, there will be avoided those evils, which have accrued in England, from an undertaking engaged in with the purest motives, and now become so very formidable and serious agrievance. Following the plan of this work, as recommended by the Dublin Society, I here think proper to copy the particulars of the ingenious Mr. Pew's twenty minutes advice on the poor laws of England, which I beg leave to recommend

recommend to the serious attention of the heads of parishes, as well deserving their notice and endeavours to promote at home ; perhaps it may not be unworthy the consideration of the occupiers of land in general, as such an establishment might avert the calamities of poor rates, and all the advantages of the institution might be gained without its heavy impositions.

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

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

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

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

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

4th. All the poor being thus sure of employment, the master or mistress, for whom they work, should be justified in retaining these sums respectively out of their

their wages ; and, whether they do so or not, they should (in default of the individual) be answerable to the officer for its payment ; all masters and mistresses of families should in like manner be answerable for their servants ; and all keepers of lodging houses, &c. for their inmates.

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

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

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

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

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

be

be considered as under the age of nine years, and paid for accordingly.

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

If a child should be left an orphan under nine years of age, 2*s.* per week shall be allowed from the fund for its maintenance; if more than one of the same family, 1*s.* 6*d.* per week for each, above that number. As there is probably no less friendship amongst the lower than amongst the higher orders of society, it would generally happen, that some friend or relation of the deceased would gladly take charge of the children, provided they could do so without essential loss to themselves: this regulation would effectually prevent that loss, and to compensate in some degree, for the want of parental affection, 6*d.* per week more is allowed for the maintenance of an orphan, or a family of orphans, than for a child, or family of children, who still retain their mother. If, however, any beings should be so uncommonly unfortunate as not to be thus adopted, the officer above mentioned should be obliged to provide a receptacle for them, which he will always be able to do for the sum or sums above mentioned.

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

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

10th. If the fund should any time fall short of the necessary demands upon it, the deficiency should be made up by a parish rate, collected in the same manner as at present, but without any sense of obligation on the part of the multitude, (for there would be NO POOR) who should in all cases receive their relief IN THE NATURE OF A DEMAND.

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

This system certainly would not apply in every instance to Ireland; the rate would certainly be near one half too high, and it would require several material alterations. The wives and children of militia men are

already provided for by act of parliament; but an excellent establishment for the poor might be formed from the heads of these rules; and if such a modification was adopted, and the example set by the proprietor of a large estate, making it a binding clause on the residents on his lands to observe certain rules, the happiest consequences would doubtless be the result, and would soon be generally followed.

SECT. 5. *Leases.*

Leases are held for terms of forty-one or thirty-one years, more generally, and three lives, whichever has longest duration, or three lives only; and some tenures, are for twenty-one years and one life. In old leases, where the rent of land was not one-third or one-fourth its present value, it is remarkable the tenant was distressed, and paid his rent dissatisfactorily; but when raised to the present value, and not unreasonable, his assiduity and industry was called forth, and he became a rich and solvent tenant.

Clauses in Leases.

1. To cut, burn, or destroy so many acres of timber annually, and clear the land for the plough.

(Old clause.)

2. To permit the landlord and his servants to shoot, hunt, hawk, and fish.

(Old clause continued.)

3. To reserve to the landlord all royalties and timber.

(Old clause continued.)

4. To pay all taxes and assessments, made or to be made, quit and crown rent only excepted.

(Old clause continued.)

5. To

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

(Old clause continued.)

6. To permit landlord to search for mines and minerals, making reasonable compensation for damages.

(New clause.)

7. Not to alienate, under penalty of double rent, or forfeiture of lease, without consent of landlord first had under hand and seal.

(New clause.)

8. Not to pare or burn the land.

(New clause.)

9. To restore the straw to the soil.

(New clause.)

10. Not to break up more than a certain portion of land, during the last three years of lease.

(New clause.)

11. To make ditches and plant hedges.

(New clause.)

12. To exhibit and prove lives in leases, at certain periods.

(New clause.)

Besides the usual clauses of yielding rent, and possession, &c.

Expenses and profit of thirty acres of grass land.

Dairy farm, fifteen cows.

Dr.

To rent of thirty acres, at 40s. per acre	£.60	0	0
To taxes, county cess, &c. &c.	—	2	0
Incidental expenses, labour, utensils, salt, } &c. &c. at 20s. per cow		15	0
To hay making, ten acres	—	5	0
To accidents, fencing, and interest of capital		10	0
		<hr/>	
	£.92	0	0

Gr.

By cheese, butter, and calves, say £.10	}	£.150	0	0
per cow				
Deduct, Dr.	—	92	0	0
Profit		£.58	0	0

Tillage farms cannot be estimated; of late years their profits were enormous, as corn has borne so high a price, and in former years, when the farmer held at a rack rent, which was very much the case in corn farms, it has already been shown he worked to little or no profit.

CHAPTER V.

Implements.

PLOUGHS are very ill chosen, and badly constructed, the beam quite too long, and the draft consequently heavy; but many implements of improved agriculture are now introduced, amongst which are some excellent ploughs, with short moulding boards, which reduce the friction. A good plough, mounted, will cost from four pounds to four guineas.

They use the single, double, and treble harrow. Cost from twenty shillings to three guineas.

Light carts, or boxes, drawn by one horse, for carrying manure, lime, gravel, &c. In many places they carry these materials in kishes, woven together of hazle wood, and placed on low two wheeled cars; these cars, when new, and not mounted, cost about £.1. 6s. per car. Box or cart, about £.1. additional for lining and spoke wheels; mounting of each, 40s. per cart; full cost of cart and tackling, about four guineas.

Small winnowing machine, worked by the hand, from four to six guineas.

Threshing machines, worked by horses or water, from £.60. to £100.

The spade is termed a fac, is short in the blade, and has but one step; within the blade, and at about one-half the length, is introduced a flat piece of timber, called the tree, about one and an half inch thick, and reduced to a wafer edge, not to obstruct the iron entering the soil; the edges of the blade are turned up to embrace it; from this tree is a handle about twelve inches

inches long, which is spliced to the main handle by two rings of iron; this implement, from its formation and strength, is very fit for a stony, shallow, or stiff soil; the short garden spade, used in the north of Ireland, they know nothing of the management of here.

Cost of fac or spade	3s. 9d.
Handle and tree	10d.
Cost of iron shovel	1s. 8d. to 2s. 8d.
Handle	10d. to 1s. 1d.
Pitchfork and handle	1s. 1d. to 1s. 8d.

The roller is made of stone, metal, or the trunk of a tree, generally worked by one horse, and is of various prices and forms, as will be particularly shown.

CHAPTER VI.

Inclosing, Fences, &c.

THE fences are thorn hedges, planted in the breast of ditches, midway from the top, at about six inches asunder, which quickly shoot strongly, and form an excellent defence from cattle; these quicks are bought at two years old, for about four shillings the thousand, and to make the fence still stronger, they are planted in a double row, about eight inches between each row.

The cost of making a ditch, six feet wide at top, seven feet deep, and reduced to two and an half feet at bottom, is 1*l*. 6*d*. per perch, running measure.

The cost of quicks 9*d*. per row, per perch, so that the full cost of ditch and quicking, with a double row of quicks, will amount to 3*s*. per perch, or 2*s*. 3*d*. per perch, the single row.

On the tops of the ditches, it is usual to plant forest trees, but so little care is taken of them, in general, that they most commonly are destroyed by cattle.

Our ancestors were partial to planting after this manner, and took good care of their young trees, as we see, in improved countries, the best ash and oak in their hedge rows.

Stone walls, without mortar, are another kind of fence, generally on the road side, or for paddocks, which, when judiciously built and rough cast, are very durable. The whole cost may be, when stones are convenient, about 9*s*. per perch, running measure; the
wall

wall two and an half feet wide at bottom, fourteen inches at top, and five and an half feet high, including rough casting. Some chuse to cope them off with mortar, for the top course, of nine inches deep; this will enhance their cost 1s. 6d. per perch additional; but there are no regular prices for this work, as labour only is most generally paid for, the employer finding all the materials. Others choose a thick sod for the top course, which is the least expensive, but not most durable.

Hedges are sometimes splashed, after the English fashion, some coped like a wall, with a single or a faddle coping; when the lower branches are trimmed, so as to admit air to the roots, they thrive best.

When hedges of white thorn get up strong, and are not thickly planted, 'tis usual to nick the grossest shoots with an implement termed a bill hook, from its formation; it is a curved hatchet, very well fitted to the hand for laying fences. These shoots are laid lengthways; before spring, or in autumn, is the best season for laying, and this fence becomes inaccessible to cattle; after laying, they scour up the dyke, throwing a part of the mud on the branches, which helps to bend it, and to force its vegetation.

Moveable fences, for demesne lands, are upright stakes, with two or three rows of bark or hemp ropes passed through holes bored in the stakes, and thus a particular plot can be broken up for tillage, or fed off occasionally.

Another description of moveable fence is, that made like the kishes, of wicker work, principally hazle, as is termed, in England, staff and band.

A third kind is composed of nets, hung on stakes, which encircle the plot to be secured.

No fences, here, are made for the sake of fuel, as in many parts of England, the bogs supplying a redundancy of the best quality.

Double ditches are not now so frequently made, land having become too valuable; but in the inclosing reclaimed bog they are very necessary, and they are generally planted at top with forest trees, which soon, by reason of the favourable soil, furnish great shade and shelter.

Care should be taken, in quicking ditches, to make the hole for the quick so that the root shall point towards the top, and the head of the quick towards the bottom of the ditch; this secures good bedding for the root, and the quick will nevertheless, in its growth, shoot upwards; for this purpose, the planter must stand in the gripe.

I do not see the necessity of manuring, with a layer of dung and rich earth, the bed of the quick; I never saw any soil but they naturally thrive in with great vigour.

I think the planting of trees on the tops of single ditches is generally prejudicial, as they are a temptation to cattle, to nip the buds, by which means the ditches are trampled down; besides, their dripping is injurious to the quicks; they, however, require weeding for two years, and I think, would be the better to be hoed also. If nipped by cattle, it is necessary to cut them down, and they will soon recover their former height.

Let us now consider, which of these different fences are the most eligible. Each, I think, will be found good in their kind, and all useful on the same farm, for various purposes. The wall covers less ground, but it is most expensive, and will neither afford shade nor shelter. Shelter is requisite for cattle, and there is

no field more desirable or convenient, than a paddock, which only can be said to be secured, when walled.

In inclosing bog, double ditches only will be found permanent, and then they afford a certainty of rearing timber trees, as the bank is generally eight or ten feet wide at top.

Excepting the great height or heath, near Maryborough, there are no tracts of land, that require much consideration as to the propriety of inclosing. The extent is not very considerable; I neither undertake to shew the necessity for its inclosure, nor do I argue the propriety of leaving it in its present state; perhaps it may come under discussion at a future time, which must be left to the wisdom of parliament to determine; the improvement of what we have already inclosed, is much better worth our attention, than grasping at more than we are able to compass.

Farm Yards.

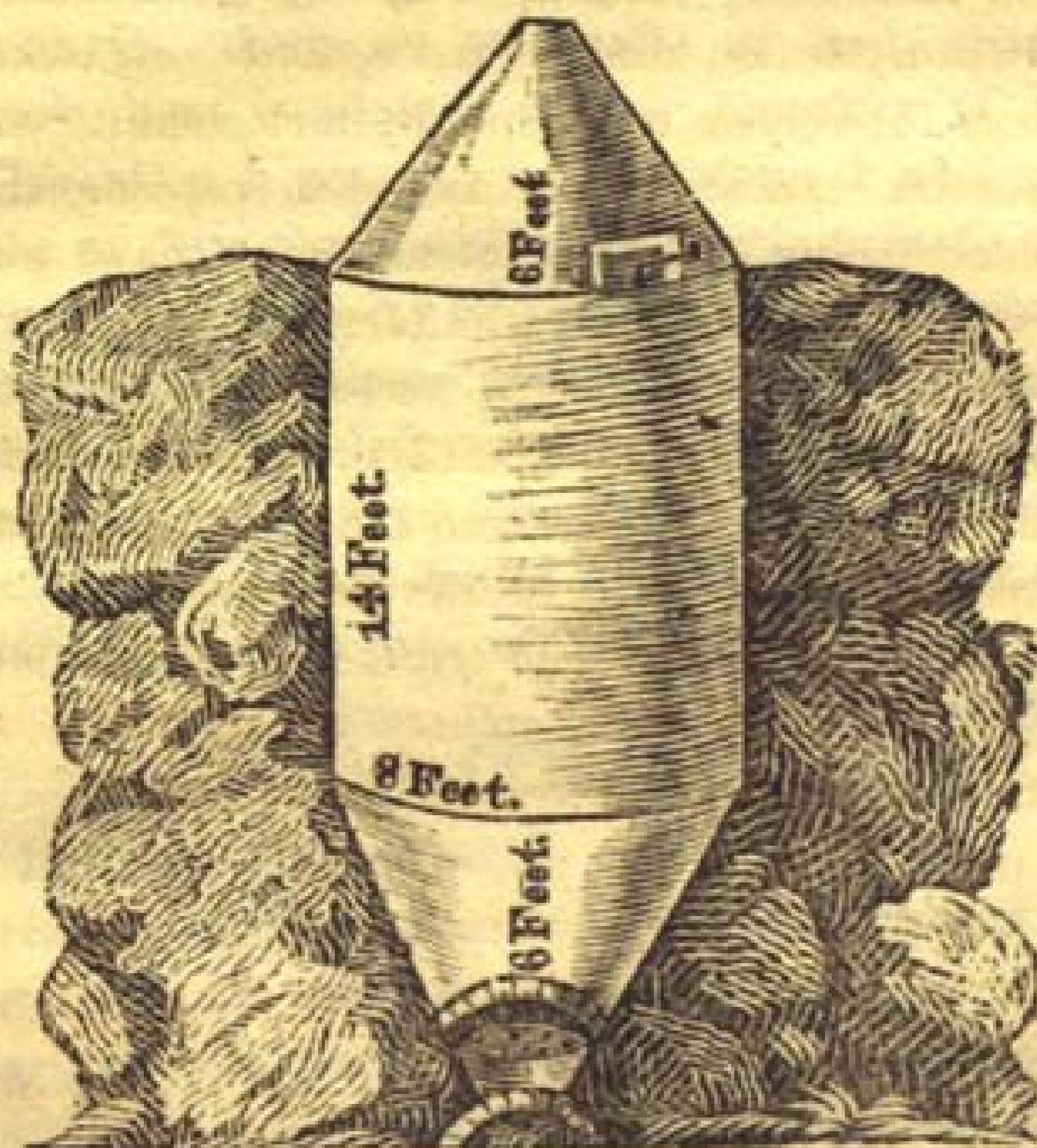
In farm yards, a pond, or running stream, is of the greatest consequence, and that spot should be chosen for their erection, which has this material advantage, and the nearer to the centre of the farm the better. Where it is intended for a large farm, on a proper scale, where there is much tillage, the necessity for the stream of water is yet more obvious, by reason of its working the threshing machine, which at once saves labour and expense, and gains so much time.

The barn is, consequently, to be built on its banks, and should be floored with timber, which preserves the corn from damp, and leaves no burroughs for vermin; an office is gained underneath for oxen, and if the situation of the ground favours it, so as to erect it on the descent of a hill, it becomes scarce any additional expense, and the barn door has an easy ascent from the surface.

If

IMPROVED LIME KILN,
INVENTED BY
THOMAS JAMES RAWSON, ESQ.
OF CARDINGTON,
IN THE
COUNTY OF KILDARE.

To face page 45—Queen's County Survey.



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

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

If water can be turned through the stalls of oxen, it will be found most useful, and will serve much to the collecting of manure.

In erecting of stands for corn, ten inch projecting caps are full sufficient to top the pillar; the caps should, however, be concaved underneath, and it is impossible they can be climbed by vermin. The negligent custom of leaving rakes, forks, timber, &c. against corn ricks, makes a way for vermin to mount the stack, whilst people, who have taken the precaution of capping the pillars, wonder how it is possible they could have got into the corn stack, without considering this so very palpable cause.

Thus much is absolutely necessary, in every farm yard; the threshing machine, and other offices, must be proportioned to the ability of the proprietor.

But the feeding of cattle, in cribs, with either soil or straw, in the farm yard, insures an immensity of manure, the surest source of wealth to the farmer.

Lime Kilns.

Lime is the most general manure, for the Queen's county, in all its various states; the effects of it on the different soils are explained in the tour. The annexed is the best approved modern plan of a lime kiln.

Roads.

County roads or public roads must at least be twenty-one feet wide, but there is no obligation as to the nature of the fence adjoining. Walls are certainly preferable, as the roads are always worse, where the most shelter is; from eight to ten perch are generally allowed for making a new road, and two to four for gravelling

gravelling or repairs. The cost by presentment of the Grand Jury, is levied off the barony more generally, or on particular occasions, if a matter of moment, off the county at large, as is also the expense of making and repairing bridges. Two magistrates have a power of repairing any accidental breach, when the sum requisite does not exceed £.5, until the ensuing assizes; the Grand Jury are then bound to present for this repair.

None but high or turnpike roads are in general stoned, but well covered first with coarse, and next a finer coat of gravel. The layers of gravel may be from 16 inches to two feet, rising in the middle and sloping off to the sides; the breadth of strong gravel is generally seven feet at each side from the centre, or two-thirds of the entire breadth of the road.

Task Work.

Besides ditching already spoken of, mowing, threshing, and turf rearing, are the only labours in farming, which are done by task, though this manner of working does not always follow in these occupations.

I shall here note these particular customs; the other pursuits will necessarily come under observation in the tour.

The cost of mowing is generally estimated by the excellence of the meadow, but I believe five British shillings per acre will be found nearly the average price. Two good mowers will cut an acre per day; they are always allowed milk or beer, but not diet.

Reaping is performed by day's work, and there is no regular price for this labour, nor can any be more variable. Diet is always considered as included in the bargain with the daily pay, and 'tis according to the price of provisions, that the hire fluctuates, or according

according to the means ; as when the weather has taken up after a long inclemency and the corn liable to damage, of course high wages are exacted. Reapers regularly come from Connaught for work, thro' all the corn counties in Ireland, and principally reap the harvest; their hire varies from 1*s.* to 2*s.* 8*d.* per day with diet.

Binders get 6*d.* to 8*d.* per day ; all this work done by women.

Threshers have 10*d.* to 1*s.* per barrel of wheat, 6½*d.* per barrel of oats, and 9*d.* per barrel of bere or barley.

Turf-cutters earn about 1*s.* 4*d.* per day in cutting and rearing of turf.

All country handicrafts, such as carpenters, masons, coopers, smiths, thatchers, &c. are able to earn, on an average, about 2*s.* per day.

I here omit further following the excellent plan of the work as chosen by the Dublin Society, to be the grounds of the Agricultural Reports, in as much as those subjects, I have left untouched, are fully considered in the annexed tour. Those different matters, which have been described as affecting the county at large in their natural relationships, will be there more particularly noticed in their local situations, where they apply.

I now proceed to a more minute description of every part of each barony, stating the present modes of agriculture, the nature of pastures, and what relates to farms, with all general subjects, replying to those particular queries suggested by the Dublin Society in their abstract, and adding whatever pertinent remarks I have collected from skilful and judicious farmers ; and I shall, to give the more general satisfaction and local information, give a descriptive inquiry of the like matters in each barony separately, and although much
tautology

tautology will necessarily occur in so minute a report, it will, nevertheless, convey a clear idea to the person, who is interested for what concerns his own district.

I shall, therefore, commence with the barony of Cul-lina, and take the remaining baronies in regular suc-
cession.

CHAPTER VII.

BARONY OF CULLINAGH.

SECT. I. *Agriculture.*

THEY generally break ground for oats, of which they take two successive crops, then manure with a compost of dung, clay, and bog-mud, which gives potatoes, and lay down with barley and a mixture of grass seeds from the hay loft; this is usually let out for three years, and again broken with the like succession of crops. The proportion of tillage to a farm of forty acres may be about twenty-five acres, and is thus occupied :

Tillage,	{ 12 acres of oats.	{ 6 acres of meadow.		
25			{ 9 of barley.	{ 15
Acres.				
Total, 40 Acres.				

The nature of the soil, particularly at and adjoining Abbeyleix, being light and sandy, is by no means strong enough for wheat; this crop can only be cultivated with success in the more distant part of the barony; there have been instances of one crop of wheat totally reducing a field in good heart and well prepared for another grain. They generally plough with two horses or oxen, which are full sufficient for twenty-five acres of tillage, and they yoke from the shoulder with collars and hames. Lord De Vesce uses the Leicestershire or Midland county double plough, to which are yoked four strong oxen by a beam across the neck. An English steward introduced this mode,

and also the improved English harrow on this demesne.

Oats are mowed with a scythe, from which are fastened bows to lay it for the binders, but the other implements of husbandry are alike the same thro' the barony, viz. the short fac or spade, the common Irish plough and harrow, and all the corn is invariably threshed with the flail.

Ballinakill has been the only market town in the barony (till lately Abbeyleix has been established). It is well supplied with grain, and a competition amongst the buyers insures the fairest price to the farmer.

The new town of Abbeyleix has lately had a patent, for two fairs and a weekly market, and from its advancing prosperity and high patronage, promises to be of material consequence.

The feeders and gentlemen farmers, who are very numerous, have now begun to procure a steady supply of green food for their black cattle and sheep in the winter, of which turnips are the principal kind, and at Abbeyleix the large Swedish turnip has now been attempted for cultivation, and promises well; this is greatly recommended by Mr. Dexter.

Potatoes have been very much used for sheep, and are considered by some preferable to turnips, but for bullocks they have been ascertained to be particularly nutritious. Captain Doyne fattens bullocks to eight cwt. with one stone and a half of raw potatoes mashed, and a proportionable small quantity of hay, per day, which also is weighed: by means of their regular stated times of feeding, they can, when resting, chew the cud to advantage, and the proprietor knows what each beast exactly stands him in.

Rape is also cultivated for green food in large quantities, and is transplanted and well attended to.

The acre of oats, when well tilled, will produce from ten to twelve barrels; I have taken the average price for seven years, ending in 1799, and find it as follows:

	Barrels.		s. d.		Stones.
Acre of Oates yielded	11	Average for 7 years	10 : 0	per bar. of	14
Barley,	9	-	20 : 0	-	16
Potatoes,	80	-	3 : 6	-	20

Wheat is little sowed, and in the greatest proportion near the mountains, but will produce six barrels to the acre of twenty stones per barrel, and has averaged 30s. the last seven years. No peas, beans, or vetches have yet been cultivated.

This barony may be divided into three districts, of which each has a particular soil; towards the mountains it is very fit for dairy and tillage, with a strong gravelly clay of rather a siliceous than a lime-stone quality; near Timohoe, it is remarkable for feeding and dairy, being of a rich loam and deep black earth; and in the district of Balliroan and Ballinakill it is a very fertile, and deep clay yielding both dairy and tillage; but at Abbeyleix the soil is very light and sandy, and least productive for any mode of farming. Average price of land through the barony, may be 28s. per acre.

Crops.

The course of crops that would certainly answer with this soil should be first potatoes, 2d, wheat, 3d, potatoes, 4th, wheat, 5th, turnips, transplanted rape or cabbage, 6th, barley, 7th, clover, 8th, oats, with which lay down. By this means a vegetable crop will interfere between two corn crops, which are the severest and the most wearing to the soil.

For rape, plough twice, and have the rows laid in high ridges left ready for hoeing; and when you sow wheat after potatoes you cannot get the seed too soon in the ground, as it is then pretty clear of weeds, and sow with the broad cast, shovel the furrows lightly, and it will be the better; sixteen stone of seed to the acre will be sufficient. You may sow clover with your wheat, and about sixteen lbs. to the acre; sow it about the 15th of March, and bush harrow which will serve the wheat.

When turnips are sown, the ground ought previously to be several times ploughed, till brought to a fine tilth and the crop should be hoed twice at least.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

In the district of Abbeyleix the pasture is light, but towards Balliroan, Timohoe, and Ballinakill, 'tis rich naturally, and would well repay the farmer's care, but it is much neglected. The breed of sheep is very much improved by the introduction of Mr. Dexter's Leicestershire rams; some gentlemen have been at a considerable expence in procuring the best English sheep. Captain Doyne and Mr. Maher, who both reside on Lord De Vesci's estate, have taken the lead.

Indeed, throughout the barony they have a well chosen stock of sheep, which is steadily improving, and from the very laudable emulation amongst the gentry, promises soon to be unequalled.

The breed of black cattle is also gaining ground, and lately in as rapid a progress. Some of the best English heifers have been imported by Captain Doyne at 80 guineas each, and he has also a fine stock from

Sir

Sir John Parnell's long-horned or Leicestershire breed ; to Sir John this county is much indebted for the very great improvement in black cattle, and the finest herds in Munster have been bettered by his exertions.

Land is now become too high to give up to the precarious chance of brood mares, which accounts for their very indifferent breed of horses.

At the end of the Survey will be given a general statement of the fairs through the county, to which the reader is referred. The new patent for Abbey-leix it will doubtless be the interest of the feeders to give all their support to.

Cows are fattened generally from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 cwt. and bullocks from 7 to 8. Waterford market regulates their prices, whither almost all their black cattle are sent, and Smithfield adjusts their prices for sheep, whither all go, except those for home consumption, which is very considerable, the county being extremely populous both in gentry, and a wealthy peasantry. Milch cows and working bullocks are housed in winter, from December to May.

The purple cashier grass, in Irish phraseology, is the natural grass of the country, and is of a very indifferent quality. The English white hay seed has been introduced, which agrees admirably with the soil, and certainly deserves to be persevered in. White clover and trefoil appear naturally, after good tillage, in a limestone soil. Rye grass has a good effect in low lands and reclaimed moor. They invariably make tramp cocks in the fields, of about fifteen to twenty cwt. which are left out till the harvest is got up. At Abbey-leix, the grass, being of a very light and dry nature, is easily saved into hay ; not so in more fertile meads, where it is foggy, full of herbage, and tedious in its process, requiring much air and sun to save it well.

In

In the parishes of Timahoe, and Ballyroan, are some extensive dairies, which are often changed from dairy to fattening; and at Timahoe is the butter market, which is a very considerable trade; the best exported butter is reputed to be from thence; the gentry occupy no more dairy than answers home consumption.

The hides, and tallow, which are produced from the slaughtered cattle of the neighbourhood, are bought up at Ballinakill, the average price from 5*d.* to 6½*d.* per lb. for the tanning of which, the woods of Castledurrow supply a sufficiency of oak bark.

Their wool is of excellent quality; they generally stone with two fleeces, and sell to the Cork, Dublin, and Munster manufacturers, average price, last seven years, 18*s.* 3*d.* per stone of 16lbs.; but there have been here several manufacturers, who were not individually in very extensive trade, but so numerous as to occasion a great home manufacture. The serges and stuffs were sent undressed to Dublin, but the trade has lately much declined, in part, occasioned by its present flimsy texture, and also by account of cottons being more generally worn by the women, than formerly, when all the wool was manufactured at home.

After-grass as a Manure.

Some farmers have an idea that it serves the ground to let the after-grass rot, and that it is a valuable manure; but this militates the allowed position, that land is better by keeping a reasonable stock on it at all times, for as many head of cattle as land is able to support, it will, consequently, be better from their manure.

This

This ought not to be considered as operating against the practice recommended of feeding in farm yards, stalls, &c. At times of the year land will be evidently benefitted by cattle, and particularly when after-grass is good.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

THE size of farms varies much, small farms being from twenty to forty acres, and large walks from two to four hundred acres. Farm houses and offices are, generally speaking, indifferent, but considerably superior to those in the King's County. On the estate of Abbeyleix, they are conspicuously comfortable, cleanly, and neat, with glazed windows, and are well thatched with straw. The tenant, throughout the barony, invariably repairs, but the landlord voluntarily gives a reasonable quantity of timber for that purpose.

Their tenures are held for three lives or thirty-one years, which they have the advantage of holding for the longest duration, and in some, is the particular clause of non-alienation, under forfeiture of lease.

Tenants pay all parish and county cesses.

Perhaps, no where are fields seen of more irregular contents, as they run from four to forty acres, which leaves their estimate quite at random.

Fences are very bad, and naturally so from the loose sandy soil, peculiar to Abbeyleix, which falls after every rain; where they have any tolerable fence, it is only kept up by double ditches, and quickset hedges are, with difficulty, brought to perfection here. This excuse will not hold good in other parts of the barony, where their fences are so poor, though they have a strong

strong and favourable soil to the growth of thorn. The hedge rows, throughout, are suffered to grow wild, and not at all trimmed, except in ornamental ground, adjoining the houses of gentry, where they are neatly splashed and dressed, according to the English fashion.

Lord De Vesci has tried Mr. Elkington's mode of draining, with the augur, and has lately reclaimed above fifty acres, and made it good land. Captain Doyne has actually drained eight acres of the worst quagmire, by the same mode, this summer, at the small expense of two shillings per acre, which, after fourteen days draining, was so firm as to support cattle of eight hundred weight, though never trodden by beast before. The usual mode of draining was with French sewers, and even these little practised; now they have stone sewers covered, but very little or no moor yet reclaimed.

Lime has not been much used, though it has been of good effect to fresh land, correcting its acidity; but it is thrown away on old tillage, as the land is too light, and has generally a limestone substratum. The compost, described for potatoes, is their principal manure, but they have no idea of corn gravel, which possibly would not so well answer their sandy district, but in the moors, and in strong lands, it would doubtless be of the first consequence.

The only water meadows I have seen, in this barony, are Captain Doyne's, who admits the water, superficially, for eight or ten days, after cutting, and again in spring, and also where the water will not rise, by soaking through a marshy soil, that has been drained; but in the next barony, will be shown the full progress and extraordinary effects of irrigation, which will deserve very particular attention.

Restore Straw to the Soil.

If the size of farms was limited in proportion to the means of the farmer, and he obliged to restore the straw to the soil, we would have little waste land, and our country would soon shew its natural capability; the tenant and the land lord would be mutually bettered, and I dare say, there is not a county in Ireland but would furnish an ample and cheaper substitute for every purpose with which we misapply our straw; and the ground would thus receive its natural restorative.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

THE population is very great; that of Abbeyleix parish was found, by the late ingenious Dr. Hamilton, to exceed that of England, proportionately, which accounts for no lack of hands in the busiest times.

The cottier's wages, through the year, is from 6*d.* to 8*d.*; he pays for house, and one acre of garden, two guineas per annum, for the grass of a cow, 3*s.* per annum; he has also the privilege of rearing, on the land, a calf, a pig, and poultry.

Daily labourers are termed spalpeens, and have 8*d.* in winter, and 13*d.* in summer, per day; the difference between these two labourers is, that the latter has no privileges enjoyed by the cottier, nor any thing more but his daily hire.

This is the general rate of wages, through the barony, but some of the gentry are more indulgent. The Abbeyleix cottier pays but 12*s.* per ann. for his acre of garden.

Every

Every article, but black cattle and rape, is titheable, and is valued every year, just before harvest.

Beer is encreasing much, evidently from the many breweries in the neighbouring towns, and is all consumed at home; and spirits declining in use, proportionably to the advance price.

The roads and bridges are in excellent repair, all dressed with limestone; where so many gentry reside, bad roads, and some other evils, are little complained of.

No mines have yet been discovered, except of coal; near Ballyroan, there is a small vein in the bank of the river, but it is not approved by colliers; a strong mineral vein runs through it, which, I think, appearing so near the surface, should argue its probable success, if pursued further. Much of this kind of coal is in Cullinagh mountain, where shafts have been sunk and a level made; but this must have been long since, as there is no recollection of its having been worked.

Iron ore appears through the old stuff, that has been thrown up, but in no great quantities. At Abbeyleix is excellent potter's clay; under the supposition of having a quantity of lime, there has been a trial made of some, spread on fresh turnip land, as a manure, but I very much doubt its success.

There has been no navigation, as yet, in this barony, but the levels have been taken for a cut from Monasterevan to Castecomber collieries, which will intersect this neighbourhood, and from the numerous respectable subscribers, will, doubtless, be completed at no very distant period. Perhaps it would be too much presumption to hazard an opinion on this intended navigation, but I think it is worthy a little mature consideration; and, first, let us see the proposed benefits, which, it is advanced, are to be gained, by the carriage of
of

of coal more particularly, and generally, of course, by the improvement of agriculture.

By connecting the intended line, with the Grand Canal at Monasterevan, I certainly doubt its success, as even allowing, that it will bring a great supply of water on the grand line, it is not immediately *there* that a supply is particularly wanted. The summit level of all canals, requires the best supply, and that on the grand canal is particularly deficient.

We know, that for every boat, that passes through the summit level, two locks of water are lost, as but one boat will fit in each lock at once. If then (*as is the case*) the Grand canal Company have not a sufficiency of water for their own trade, in summer, how much less will the supply be able to forward the navigation of an hundred boats, daily, as is computed will pass from the Castlecomber line?

I have witnessed, in a dry season, where boats, not carrying half their tonnage, have been obliged to unload, passing the table of the locks, for lack of water, and on this line, an additional horse or two is often yoked to the passage boats, which, by reason of their heavy freight, and shallowness of water, scrape the bottom of the canal for miles; this proves, that with the present supply of the summit level, they have not water enough for themselves, much less for an additional navigation.

I agree it may be a most material advantage to Dublin, and to all parts, with which its trade is connected by water, that a navigation should be opened, from thence, to the Castlecomber collieries, for the supply of the manufactories, where this strong coal could be used; and, it is a no less important object that for the length of that line, agriculture would doubtless, be improved, by the acquisition of water carriage,

carriage, and the sending so many horses, as are now employed in the trade, to the purposes of tillage ; but I hope no man of common sense can be so sanguine as to expect, that the city of Dublin can be supplied with fuel from these collieries, for culinary uses ; the sulphureous quality of the coal, and the local situation of Dublin, will eternally oppose the possibility of this. How often have we heard of the fatal consequences of suffocation happening, from this coal burning at night, in bed-chambers, even in the midst of the country, and to boatmen, who may kindle a handful of the coal, on its carriage from Athy ; and can it be expected, that in a great city, surrounded by mountains, and the sea, lying so low, extremely populous, so subject to fogs and mists, the inhabitants will be proof against its effects ? The idea is absurd ; such puffs can only injure the institution ; it is not without sufficiently solid advantages to recommend it, and to give the subscribers a valuable interest for their money. These are natural obstacles which never can be removed, and I conceive that before any advantages can be gained, the summit level of the Grand canal must first be well supplied. In its present state, it certainly is not, and I do not know the waters of the country sufficiently, to judge whether they are capable of being brought in. But two remedies appear to me practicable, the having a supply from the lakes of the county of Westmeath, from which there is a fine natural fall (this can only be effected with considerable expense, independent of the cut, as these are the property of the Royal canal Company) ; or else, that the intended line, from Castlecomber, should be brought in on the summit level, by which means the waters on this level would be considerably increased, and I conceive it would be well worth the attention of the Grand canal Company,

Company, to pay the difference of expense, and introduce the line on the summit level now. This should be considered, before the work is embarked in, when the subscribers will probably see the necessity of joining the Grand canal Company, to alter the line, that they ought now, for their own advantage, make at their sole expense, and which, it can hardly be expected they will do, when the subscribers to the other navigation must alter it, on their own account, after having expended their money to what may prove an ineffectual purpose.

If a sufficient body of water could be gained, by extending the summit level, throwing down some locks, and raising the banks so taken in, it might be worth the expense, but I do not know how far this is practicable, or if the supply could be so procured.

This small island, with, of course, such inconsiderable waters, can never have its summit levels sufficiently supplied; and in all the proposed navigations, the lakes are principally depended on for their main reservoirs. The experiment yet remains to be proved, after the draining of these lakes, whether the waters will again return in that abundance, equal to the demand, for the purposes of navigation, in all the vicissitudes of seasons.

The river Nore, which waters Kilkenny city, passes, thro' this county, and winds thro' charming banks highly improved with extensive plantations.

There is no other school in this barony, except for peasants children, where reading and writing only are taught, but the endowed school at Ballyroan; nor is there any other charitable institution than the lace manufactory, at Abbeyleix, which gave employment to fifty poor girls, and the profits of their work defrayed the expense of their maintenance and education.

This highly laudable and charitable institution was established by the late Lady De Vesce, and to her humane and persevering exertions owed all its consequence.

The

The resident gentry are, Lord Viscount De Vesce, of Abbeyleix, Col. Pigot, of Knapton, Frederick Trench, Esq. of Heywood, and Captain Doyne, whose fine demesnes are joined by others of great beauty, in the neighbouring baronies, which will be spoken of in their places, and contain a circle of above 20 Irish miles, which for every natural advantage of situation, water, plantations, and all modern improvements, are certainly unrivalled throughout Ireland.

The estate of Abbeyleix contains one thousand acres, about seven hundred of which are in the demesne. The mansion house is modern, and very elegantly finished, a large square building, fronted with cut stone, and four stories high. The farm yard and offices are extremely well appointed; the plantations and full grown timber cover a great tract of ground. The ornamental timber here is some of the noblest I have seen. An uncommonly fine walnut, and chesnut tree, seem to vie for pre-eminence, and I suppose for loftiness, dimensions, and expansion of their branches, exceed any thing of their kind. Originally this demesne was divided into small parks, with full grown trees on the ditches, and close hedges, which have been levelled; several trees have been felled with judgment, so as not to leave the smallest trace, to the eye of a stranger, of their former antique appearance. A view of the ancient history of this estate which once occupied the whole of the county, may not be unacceptable.

The estate of Leix once comprised a vast extent. It was about the close of the sixth century, that it had its present name, and was then all church lands. It is doubtful that Ireland, was at this time divided into parishes, but certainly it had the ecclesiastical division of church lands. This whole county was originally called the territory of Leix, and contained some 100,000 acres,

acres, which in the IV. and V. of Philip and Mary were reduced into a county, by the title of the Queen's county; but long previous to this, a great portion of the lands of Leix, comprising the full extent of the county, was given in dowry with the fifth daughter of Earl Pembroke, to a son of one of the noblest houses in England; for Lord Pembroke's estate which he enjoyed by his marriage with Earl Strongbow's daughter, originally comprised the full extent of Carlow, Wexford, Kilkenny, Kildare, and that part of Leix, which is now called the Queen's county. This peer had five sons, each of whom successively enjoyed the seigniory, and all died without issue, and five daughters, who, on their marriage, were severally portioned with a county. Thus, this great lordship was broken, and divided amongst the noble of England, who espoused the heiresses. It appears in their dowries, that respect was paid to their ages, and the eldest had Carlow, as being the best land, allotted to her, and the others in the same order as the counties are recited. Thus, it came to pass, that five county palatines, that is, possessing royal privileges, were erected in Leinster, and the English nobles, who thus became possessed, exercised severally the same royal jurisdiction in their respective territories, as the Earl Pembroke and his sons had in the whole province. So long ago as the year 1292, in the reign of Henry III. mention is made by Camden of the castle of Ley which was dependent on these lands, as follows: "John Fitzthomas, the Geraldine, having by contention with the Lord Vescei gotten a goodly inheritance in Kildare, and fell into difference with divers great Noblemen, and amongst others, with Richard the Red Earl, (this was Richard Burke, Earl of Ulster,) whom he took prisoner, brought him to the castle of Ley, and detained him there
and

and by this dissention the English on the one side, and the Irish on the other, did waste and destroy the whole country." Now this shews evidently that the old castle of Ley in this county which is fourteen miles distant, was dependant on this as being the property of the Vescis, for the Geraldines and Vescis contended for property both here and in Kildare, and Lord De Vesci has yet a considerable estate in Kildare. In Baron Finglaff's manuscript it is noted, that Lysagh Moor being confidentially trusted by Lord Mortimer, who married the daughter and heiress of Lord Bruce, made himself Lord of the lands of Leix, in the latter end of King Edward the Second's reign, and Camden says, "This said Lysagh Moor called himself O'Moore, took eight castles in one evening, destroyed Dunamase, the principal house of the Lord Mortimer in Leix, and recovered that whole county." At this time it was, that many chieftains taking advantage of the weakness of England, by the rebellion of the Barons, possessed themselves of great territories, the most noted of whom were Lysagh Moor, and one Donald Mac Art, of the Cavanagh's, who styled himself Mac Murrough King of Leinster, and seized the whole of Carlow County, and the best part of Wexford, from which they were afterwards severally dislodged.

The Abbey of Leix was originally founded in the year 600, but was of little note, in consequence of various wars that wasted the country, till the year 1183, when it was re-founded by Cocegher O'Moore, and supplied with Cistercians from the abbey of Baltinglaff. It consequently became an abbey of the first consequence ; St. Cannice occasionally resided here, and was a colleague with several monks of reputed learning and piety. The fame of their religious discipline and great knowledge, induced many to visit and to reside here,

here, and soon a town was built, which is mentioned by Camden to have been of the greatest note in the county. As I have shewn, that originally the whole of this county, and parts extending even into the county of Dublin, were called the country of Leix, so in the all powerful dominion of the church in earlier ages, they claimed a right to the full extent of the lands, which the monastery enjoyed for some time. Their wealth enabled them to erect and enlarge their religious buildings very considerably, and soon a town arose in their vicinity, which never had any other name than the original building, the Abbey of Leix or Abbeyleix. There have not been in the memory of the oldest inhabitant any ruins of the Abbey, nor of the castle, so that it cannot be ascertained where either of them exactly stood; but in the old town or village, which has been demolished, were found many stones of antique and curious workmanship, which evidently belonged to the Abbey, and in Lord De Vesci's garden is yet seen the tomb of one of the O'Moores, with this inscription on one side, in Saxon characters :—" Hic jacit " Malachus O'Morus qui obiit." On the other side are the vestiges of like characters, but the words quite obliterated and defaced; in the centre of the flag, round which the inscription is, is the figure of a knight in armour at full length, and it resembles Strongbow's tomb in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. The family of the O'Moores were the chieftains of this great district, and took good care of the monastery and its dependencies.

The present Lord had the old town rased, and a new and exceeding neat village has arisen from its ruins. The policy of setting, with the building ground, half an acre of land immediately adjoining for half a guinea a year, and an acre at a distance for the same sum, seems to insure its success.

Knapton demesne is on the estate of Abbeleix, highly ornamented with full grown timber, and an excellent house, built by the late Col. Pigot.

The demesne of Heywood deserves particular attention; except in the irregularity of ground this charming spot had very few natural advantages to recommend it to even the most experienced and judicious taste, which Mr. Trench the proprietor must be acknowledged most eminently to possess. Nature has been so truly copied by him, that in none of the numerous elegant improvements is seen any thing of artificial appearance. In each of the approaches the most delightful scenes are presented to the eye, and the senses of some voluptuaries would indeed be ravished with views of such exquisite beauty. The water, which appears from so many vistas, is all artificial, and covered with wild fowl in the season. Several architectural ornaments of true classic merit are happily disposed in the most elegant taste; the ruin has all the appearance of gothic antiquity, and its view from several partial spots of the demesne has the best possible effect.

The plantations are admirably disposed, and vary with the undulation of the ground, but the drives, throughout, have such a beautiful diversity of the richest scenery, as really produce sensations of admiration. In a retired solitary shade, with a suitable classic inscription, is erected a fine mausoleum, for Mr. Trench's family, amidst the venerable screen of lofty trees, and under cover of a hill. The many cottages thro' the demesne, have all the same appearance of taste without, and bear evident marks of comfort and happiness within, to those peasants, so fortunately placed under a master, whose kindness is so eminently displayed. The reader has greatly to regret, with me, Mr.

Trench's

Trench's absence from home, whilst I was on my tour in his neighbourhood, as I doubtless would have received such assistance from him, as would have enabled me to present these reports with less diffidence, and much more intelligent matter; but even in this misfortune, there is something consolatory to me, that having never known or seen this gentleman, I cannot be suspected of partiality. His elegant improvements cannot be seen but with admiration, and to his excellent character his whole country bear unanimous testimony.

The mansion house has also been built after his own plan, and is of a curious though not regular order of architecture, being a square building, composed of four fronts, and from the irregularity of the ground, on which it stands, presents at one front three stories, at another four, at the third five, and six at the fourth. The apartments are as commodious as could be wished for, and are considerably more extensive, than we should suppose from the outside view.

Water Castle was a seat of romantic beauty, the property of the Lyons family; the winding of the Nore through this demesne, forms most picturesque scenes. The castle is now falling to ruins.

Paper money is the only currency, and consists of Dublin bank notes principally; but the notes of Kilkenny, Clonmel, and Waterford banks, are taken in small sums, under a guinea, for the convenience of change. Manufactures are steadily encreasing. Sir John Parnell, Bart. has built an extensive cotton spinning factory, at Cullinagh, from which place the barony takes its name. This is rapidly improving, and has so well answered, that Sir John is now erecting another cotton mill adjoining, and will have a good supply of water for both. The machinery is exceed-

ingly ingenious, after the newest methods, which, with the mills, must cost the proprietor several thousands. Another factory, for weaving cotton, is about to be established in the new town of Abbeylax, and from the advantage of the comfortable houses, sufficiency of water and fuel, and the abundance of provisions raised in this district, it certainly promises every success. A bolting mill of reputed consequence, equal to the annual manufacture of 4000 barrels of wheat, adjoins the town, and is now worked by a Mr. Stevens. Near to Ballinakill, is another bolting mill, Mr. Goss the proprietor; these only are of note in the barony, but there are several small oat meal, or country mills, which work only for the toll, and from the poor supply of water, and indifferent falls, could not be converted to a respectable purpose.

Ballinakill is a fair, market, and post town, situate forty-eight miles S. W. of Dublin. Until the union, it was also a borough town, of which the Earl of Drogheda was patron, and returned two members to parliament; it now has a brewery, and three tan yards, besides some inconsiderable woollen factories, and has a barrack for two troops of horse; it is governed by a sovereign, who is annually chosen.

The ruins of a castle yet remain, which was battered by Fairfax, from a hill adjoining Heywood demesne, and bravely defended by the garrison. Balliroan is a fair town in this barony, and distant from Dublin forty-four miles.

In this district there is no nursery for sale, but each gentleman has his own private one. The county has been highly improved with extensive plantations, but none of the proprietors have claimed the Society's premiums. The bogs are numerous, and supply abundance of fuel, on the easiest terms; turf sold at about
sixpence

sixpence per horse load, on the bog; it can be reared for less cost in a good season.

The bogs are the only waste grounds, and little attempts yet towards reclaiming them.

The mountains are stocked with store cattle, and are capable of improvement, at a moderate expense and sure profit.

The moors having a good natural fall, could be easily brought in by draining, burning, and gravelling. Lime is the best manure for the mountains, their soil being a deep clay, in some parts gritty.

The peasants are, perhaps, as industrious as in other parts of the province, but the small farmers have yet more land than they are able to give fair play to; their too eager desire for land, and want of capital, rather than of diligence, accounts for the evident marks of slovenly farming, or neglect, which only is seen in farms of this description through the barony.

Near the bounds of this barony, stands in a vale at Timahoe, surrounded by the circumjacent hills, one of the famous round towers, the origin of which has puzzled so many ingenious antiquarians. Doctor Ledwich, who has written a very amusing and instructive treatise, and the fullest on the subject, is of opinion they were intended for belfries; but their origin having been prior to Christianity, or the erection of churches in this isle, seems to contradict the supposition. General Vallancey thinks they were appropriated for the repository of the sacred fire, which was kept perpetually burning in heathenish times; this is certainly less remote from their origin, but the description of these temples having been large square towers, does not favour this idea. Harris believes them to have been penitentiary towers; other authors suppose they were intended for watch towers; then, why erect them in the valley,

as they are often found, and omit placing them on the rising ground, which would be the most commanding scite? It is pretty generally believed they were intended for a religious purpose, and possibly they were; but this is only favoured by their standing convenient to houses of worship, which will not be consistent when we view the different modes of workmanship universally observed in these and the contiguous churches; and it being not contradicted, that they were erected previous to the introduction of Christianity, it only shows, that they were probably afterwards converted to a religious use, and the scite of the church chosen at some noted place, which must have been rendered so, wherever one of these towers stood.

General Vallancey's opinion is certainly more consonant to their real origin, though much light yet remains to be thrown on this subject, before its original uses can be positively asserted, or made clear to conviction.

CHAPTER VIII.

BARONY OF UPPER OSSORY.

SECTION I.

Agriculture.

THIS barony is divided into three districts, called cantreds, and consist of the cantreds of Clondonagh, Clarmallagh, and Upperwoods; each of these divisions contains a greater number of acres than any of the other entire baronies, if we except the barony of Cullinagh, which has only forty-four acres more than the cantred of Upperwoods, by far the smallest of the three; but it must be observed this relates only to county cefs, as taking the gross number of acres, we find, that Upperwoods contains a still greater quantity of land than any of the others. The cantreds of Clondonagh and Clarmallagh possess very superior ground to Upperwoods, which is mostly mountain. The mode of culture, almost through the whole barony, is with the common Irish plough, and where land is very poor, I mean reduced, for naturally the soil is fertile and good, they trench in the grain with the spade; their tillage is very extensive

extensive, almost the entire of Ossory being either ploughed or sheep ground, a very small proportion fit for dairy or fattening, except in favoured spots, which will be particularly spoken of.

In Upperwoods, the mountains, which are the Sleive Bloom, are grazed by coarse sheep and goats, and much inclined to heath and furze. There are also large herds of young store cattle, which are sold out in the summer fairs, or brought down to more luxuriant pastures; many farmers are also much engaged in setting the summer's grafs for calves, heifers, and young hories. The following is the average rate for six months grafs:

Three year old heifer,	-	16s.	3d.
Two year old ditto,	-	13 :	0
Yearling ditto,	-	8 :	0
Horse,	-	16 :	3

The tillage of Upperwoods, which is in the lower part, is very good, and they sow wheat, bere, barley, oats, and a great quantity of potatoes; for the latter, land sets for six guineas per acre, one of which will produce one hundred and twenty barrels, of twenty stones; oats, ten; wheat seven; bere and barley, from fourteen to sixteen. In speaking of the number of barrels of corn an acre of land will produce, through this work, they are all reduced to the standard of Dublin market, as in Cullinagh reports. Meadow is generally good, average from four to nine pounds per acre; tithe valued every year. Take the entire of Ossory, and we find one third of the barony under tillage, and two thirds under pasture, meadow, and bog. The tillage may be thus divided; wheat occupies one half; bere and barley one fourth; and oats and

and potatoes one fourth. In the grass lands, pasture and bog cover four fifths, and meadow one fifth. They burn almost all the land, both up and low, preparatory for crops, and first take potatoes, which, in bottom ground, are succeeded by bere, and in upland by wheat, next oats in both, with which they usually lay down, or with barley, when the soil agrees with it; oats is the most favourite crop. The peasantry plough with two horses, and hire or lend to each other occasionally; consequently, from such weak powers as their cattle are equal to in so strong a soil, little good tillage can be expected. The gentry plough with both oxen and horses, and they proportion two strong horses to four bullocks; they always yoke with collars and hames, and many improved implements of husbandry are in use with them and sought much after. The Rev. Thomas Drought, of Oldglass, in the cantred of Clarmallagh, has a very neat farm, which had been nearly exhausted on coming into his hands; he is now engaged preparing it for sheep walk, and by an admirable system of tillage, and excellent implements of husbandry, bids fair for success; he uses the scuffer plough, which is well adapted for mixing lime, or incorporating any manure into the soil. Here is also the double and treble harrow, each composed of forty-five pins, at one inch and an half asunder; these are found to answer well in laying down level, and also in turning out potatoes, having been first loosened with the plough; their drills are three feet asunder. This gentleman has a partiality for the common Irish plough, but has made it quite another kind of implement, by the improvement of giving an equal breadth to the sole, and shortening the beam full one third, which makes the draught very easy. In working with horses, the ploughman is the driver, by means of long reins.

At

At Oldglafs is also a capital threshing machine, equal to sixty barrels of wheat daily. It is the only one in the county of such powers, and is worked by water. Mr. Vicars, of Livally, has also very good implements of husbandry, and is very forward in the improvement of tillage and breed of sheep. He breaks ground for oats or potatoes; lime is his general manure, mixed with clay and head lands; first crop wheat or barley, followed by potatoes, and lays down with clover. The great advantage of drilling potatoes is very obvious throughout this district, as mostly every farmer has adopted it; the strongest proof of its merit is, when the lower class prefer it to their old established customs, which it is so difficult to restrain them from in every pursuit. Mountrath is the principal market town; a brisk demand for every kind of corn, and fair prices. Rathdowny has also a competition of buyers. Vetches, formerly, were sown here in great quantities, about ten years ago, but are now entirely discontinued, and accounted for, as reducing the ground more than any other crop. All the principal feeders have turnips, for their winter's green food; but the nice tillage, by the hoe, has never been attempted. Another course of crops, that is much practised; after ploughing the lay, fallow for wheat, next oats; fallow for wheat a second time, let out (first limed) with grass seed and clover, by the wealthy farmer, or cashiered by the peasant; and again they burn the lay for potatoes, make winter fallow, sow bere early in spring, next oats, fallow for wheat, and let out as above. Hitherto but a small proportion of rape has been cultivated, until last year, when more was sown than for twenty years back, the season having been so uncommonly favourable, and the price, the preceding year, so very encouraging.

In Upperwoods, the proportion of tillage, to pasture, is not one twentieth part. Mr. White, of Charleville, breaks ground with turnips, and had last, year, ten acres of the best I had seen; the extreme drought of the season was, in general, unfavourable to the crop. Mr. White having previously burned of course, sows two pounds of seed to the acre; potatoes are the succeeding crop, the land for which, after turnips, will bring £.9. per acre; next barley, summer fallow, and wheat, with which he lets out, first highly manuring with lime.

Towards the mountains, their soil, on the south side, is limestone, and here, where the mountain begins to be lost in the rich ground adjoining Tipperary, they have a peculiar mode of farming. They plough the lay in winter, when the grass is off; never harrow, but roll the ground in spring; sow oats, which they trench with the spade; take two crops of potatoes, then oats a second time; laying down with this crop, and artificial grasses, as rye grass, clover, and trefoil. If the ground is very good, they substitute barley for oats, the last crop.

Their implements of husbandry are of the commonest kind. The vegetable crops are better, in proportion, than in other parts, in a hot summer, being favoured by the cold grit.

Cropping.

The course of crops on the gravelly soil of this country should be first turnips; 2d, barley; 3d, clover; or lay down with oats, and artificial grasses; or 1st, fallow; 2d, wheat; 3d, vetches; 4th, oats. The soil is too dry for vegetable crops, they will be found to return a better profit in the moors.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

IN Upperwoods, it is a green light turf, neither luxuriant nor coarse, but late in vegetation, and much better in August than in July; this side of Sleive Bloom is spongy, that on the King's County rather dry and brittle. Breed of sheep still improving, mostly fold out in store lots; black cattle fed for store; yearling calves bought in and sold out at three years old. General prices regulated by fairs in low-lands; much dairy; cheese of indifferent quality made here and sent to Dublin and Kilkenny; the wool is sold to manufacturers in Mountrath and Roscrea. Generally speaking, the pasture of the other cantreds is a light loam, not very grassy, and principally occupied by sheep, which breed is as rapidly rising to perfection as in any parts of the county. Mr. Dexter's rams are now let here for above £.1000 annually, and crossed with the Irish ewe, have very nice lambs. The gentry give their rams to tenants gratis, and thus this improved breed reaches even to the peasants, and soon promises to be naturalized in the country. The principal breeders are, Mr. Vicars, of Livally, Mr. Roe, of Beckfield, Mr. White, of Charleville, Mr. Flood, of Middlemount, and Mr. Drought, of Oldglafs.

The breed of black cattle is now more attended to, several cows having been sent from hence to Captain Doyne's bull at one guinea per cow, and to Mr. Stubler's fine bull at the same rate; they are both of Sir John Parnell's best breed, and the former is the nicest animal of his kind I have ever seen.

As to horses, they are greatly neglected, not one brood mare now for ten there were seven years ago; indeed,

indeed, Mr. Vicars, of Livally, is the only breeder, who has not slackened; he sends his mares to the best Curragh horses, and generally sells his four years old stock for 100 guineas each.

The fairs of the barony are extensive both for fat and store cattle, and are regularly attended by the Meath feeders; prices are good in general, regulated by Cork and Waterford.

Plough and fat cattle are foddered with hay in cribs, most commonly in the fields; the latter also get potatoes. Few farmers are so wise as to fodder in the yards.

Natural grass light and spiry; little attention paid to artificial grasses; now and then a little clover is sown, and rye grass in bottoms, which only agrees in that soil, and after three years will decline in uplands.

In their modes of farming after breaking the lay, this grass answers very well, and gives the earliest and heaviest crop. Other meadows are late, light, and not sappy; hay all trammed and left long out. Except in Upperwoods, but little more dairy than for family use. The Walpoles, a Quaker family, were very famous cheese-makers, and resided at Carew, in the parish of Aghavoe; I have heard their cheese extolled as equal to the best Gloucester, but what I tasted as theirs, was rather inferior to very middling Cheshire. A Mr. Hipwell now rents the farm.

Their hides and tallow are sold in Mountrath, Roscrea, and Ballinakill, average 6d. per pound. Cork and Clonmell buyers take their wool, and in this commodity there is a great trade; they stone with two and one half fleeces; their prices regulated by Ballinasloe.

Perhaps, there is no greater instance of the extraordinary virtue of watering meadow ground superficially, than is to be seen at Mr. Flood's of Middlemount, in this district; his treatment is as follows:

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He has found by experience that eight days is the most productive time to leave the water on the ground (the soil being mostly rabbit sand) from Autumn to the 1st of April, and twelve hours from that period to within ten days of mowing, the ground is always longer dry than wet.

After mowing, if the after-grass is intended for fattening sheep, the hay is removed as soon as possible, and the water let on, when sufficient grass appears, the sheep are put on, and be they ever so low in condition, in two months they are fat, and will improve until about the middle of February, when they must be fold, as they would shortly after fall off, and die completely rotten. This is a hint, that should be well attended to by experimental practitioners in irrigation. When the after-grass is intended for lambs or store-sheep, the water is not let on until December, and from that to May, it is perfectly sound. And when the fat sheep are fold (as above) the meadows are waste until the ewes drop their lambs, when they are put on until the first week in May, then laid up for meadow. This method alone has brought fifty acres of Mr. Flood's land, which was not really worth 17s. per acre, (being a shallow sandy soil) in a few years to be well worth six guineas per acre, for which they could be set to solvent tenants at a long lease, and last year the meadow was set for ten guineas per acre round. To this extraordinary virtue of irrigation all the country bears unanimous testimony.

Mr. Ponsonby, of Belmont, has also watered his meadows with great success. Mr. Whyte, of Aghavoe, is the most extensive feeder in the county, and an acre of his land will feed a bullock to any weight.*

To

* Aghavoe signifies the field of the ox, or the delight of the ox.

To a very minute survey of the parish of Aghavoe, taken in the year 1796, by the Rev. Doctor Ledwich, the reader is referred; it was published by Archer. His account of the origin, topography, soil, and agriculture may be very correct, but I cannot agree with the Doctor's arithmetical calculation, which goes to prove, that there is no such person in the parish as a poor cottier; for he states, that on two acres of garden, and from its produce, with the industry of two females in spinning worsted, the cottier can pay £.3 rent, 5*s.* a year for his cow's maintenance, and after supporting six in family, allowing them annually thirteen pounds weight of soap, 13*s.* worth of candles, himself a full suit of clothing, two pair of shoes, two pair of stockings, two shirts, a hat, pay also his tithe, and have a net balance of

	£.	s.	d.
	10	11	5½
Besides the profit reaped from fundry other advantages, stated worth	1	15	0
Making in all	12	6	5½

At this rate, not a cottier of eight years standing in the county, but would certainly be worth £.100. Could this theory be verified, the peasant need not grumble at paying his tithe, as by this calculation it would appear, that not one-thirtieth of his profits are demanded, when one-tenth of the produce are the Clergy's dues. I shall only observe, in the Doctor's statement, for the two acres of garden, which is all tillage, the tithe is rated at 6*s.* 6*d.*; now let the reader look forward to the table of tithe at the end of this book, and he will find in this barony, that for two acres of

tillage

tillage the lowest valuation is 10s. 6d., and I fear the majority of the other items will be found as incorrect in the statement of the cottier's income and expences, and as little able to stand the test of a minute investigation.

In the cantred of Clarmallagh, no bullocks are fed and but few cows, these mostly for home use, and will weigh from four and a half to six cwt.; three-fourths of the cantred are under sheep walk, and a kind pasture will feed three sheep to the acre.

Cabbages.

From the great experience of sheep breeders here, 'tis found the short-legged kind have the finest and the heaviest fleeces. In winter and spring the ewes should have hay, and a pet park ready for them against yeanning.

Cabbages are greedily eaten by sheep, and they fat on them very soon. Cows milk is greatly encreased by this vegetable, but it always tastes of them after standing for one meal. In winter, cows will produce from one to two pottles per day, on cabbages. Bullocks should have them proportioned to their own weight; a regularity in feeding, and in giving the quantity and also of hay in like manner, will improve them when confined in stalls beyond belief; about half a stone is allowed the bullock for every 16 lb. he weighs, and a very small portion of hay. I am informed that bullocks put up on this diet soon grew fat, and required less food as they improved, the quantity of which was consequently curtailed.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

In Upperwoods, small farms, run from 20 to 30 acres, and are held in partnership; and large farms from one to five hundred. There are generally attached two hundred acres of mountain to forty acres of arable land; the former sets from 6s. to 11s. per acre; the latter twenty to thirty-five shillings. The land, south of the river Nore, will bring double the rent of land lying on its northern side. Farm-houses are tolerably comfortable, and some few cottiers have their cabins snug and warm. The size of farms in the other cantreds are generally small, and pass through many hands, consequently are severely racked, which argues the policy of not permitting the original tenant to alienate; Mr. Stubber, of Moyne, who resides, insists on the performance of this clause, and in general it is attended to on the estates of absentees. The larger farms contain from fifty to four hundred acres, offices very indifferent throughout, and farm-houses have neither neatness nor convenience to recommend them.

General state of leases for three lives or thirty-one years, except on the estate of the manor of Villiers, where farms are set but for 21 years, and are obviously neglected and racked. Since the Roman Catholics have had the right of voting, they choose a life for the term of their lease in preference to years, for freehold sake.

Cottiers here are exempt from county cess and taxes, by the indulgence of their landlords. Taxes are regularly advancing in Ossory, which has caused some alarm and discontent.

To ten acres of tillage thro' the barony may be proportioned two horses.

Tillage fields are small, from five to six acres, and a proportion of every species of grain, commonly in one inclosure, but sheep-walks are very extensive; rams are hired out from 10 to 100 guineas per annum.

The fences in Clarmallagh are pretty good, and thorn is favourable to the soil. Mr. Despard, of Donore, dresses his hedge-rows extremely neat, with saddle copings. In Clondonagh, they are far less exact, and the white thorn grows wild without any trimming. In Upperwoods the fences are bad, bald ditches; draining in but its infancy; Mr. Elkington's method not yet adopted, but most of the gentlemen mentioned have reclaimed some moor; the most extensive I have seen is that just now attempted by Mr. Drought of Oldglass; his mode is to make a deep circular cut round the piece he takes in hand, to cut off the springs; this may be effectual, but I think it is double the expence necessary.

Lime is the most general manure thro' the barony; in all its stages it is most powerful, but commonly mixed with bog-stuff when convenient. In Upperwoods it is scarce, and stands the farmer in 1*s.* 2*d.* per barrel; heath trampled, and rotted in bog-water, is a good manure, and in this district is made great use of, as it is cheaply had.

Hollow Drains.

I would recommend an excellent and cheap mode of draining, I have seen practised in the county of Monaghan. After having marked out the length of the drain, make the parallel line for the breadth at 18 inches

inches distance, skin off the sod carefully, and cut it into lengths of 18 inches, and pretty stout, which lay by, then sink the drain 14 or 18 inches deep; from the centre of the bottom lay off two inches at either side, and within these sink another drain, which you may make six inches deep or four inches square—then you take the fods and place them on the edge, so as to form an angle like the roof of a house, and having the sides of the wide trench for a bearing; observe to keep the grassy side within, and fill in the clay, the weight of which against the sides of the fods, will press them close together; after all the earth is thrown in, the heaviest cart might roll over without injury to the pipe; the greater the weight is over it the firmer it holds.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

Upperwoods is by no means populous, but wild. Castletown is its only village, distant one mile from Mountrath; it is very neat, of triangular form, and has some excellent houses, and here are the ruins of a castle.

The river Nore runs in the northern extremity, and the scenes on its banks are picturesque and well wooded. Turf fuel abundant and cheap, the hundred statute kishes selling for 13s. 6d in the bog; potatoes and oatmeal, the only food of the peasant in this cantred.

In Clarmallagh and Clondonagh, population and tillage have encreased most rapidly within twenty years; here the peasants live better, and indulge with milk, and sometimes a little butter, but potatoes are their main support.

Clothing is coarse, but warm, frize of their own manufacture in Clarmallagh, but in other parts of the barony they have very little manufacture, and their drefs very mean and shabby; narrow stuffs rate at 7*d.* to 8*d.* per yard, durants 1*s.* 1*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*, frizes 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.*

In Upperwoods, cottiers wages rate from 5*d.* to 6*d.* per day through the year, in the other cantreds 8*d.* in the summer, and 6*d.* in the winter. Daily labourers, 6½ with diet, 8*d.* to 10*d.* without, or 1*s.* when labour is in brisk demand. Cottiers pay 25*s.* to 35*s.* per acre, for garden and house, 30*s.* to 40*s.* for a cow's grafs, and all have the usual privileges of rearing pigs and poultry.

In Upperwoods they pay but, 25*s.* for their cow's grafs. Average price of potatoes for 7 years back, 2*d.* per stone, not including last season, 1800.; meal 10*s.* per cwt.; tithe is valued every year, and gradually encreasing. As spirits rise in price, beer is in more demand, tho' there is but one brewery in this extensive barony.

Considering mountain roads, those in Upperwoods are tolerably good, and near Commorus chapel a new bridge has been built over a rapid arm of the Nore. In other parts of the barony both roads and bridges are kept in excellent repair.

Soil in many places light, rocky, and gravelly, with little deep clay, and a substratum of lime-stone; the high grounds have sandy loams, and more inclined to clay in the low-lands, not pure, but mixed and loamy; frequent spews of iron and vitriolic substance from the bogs, and there is a calcareous quality in the various clays. In general, a limy compost is found to tell best in the mixed loams; they have marl, but will not try its virtue as a manure. There have been no mines discovered in Ossory; lime-stone quarries abound in the lower part of the barony. On the es-

rate of Roundwood, in Upperwoods, is a slate quarry of a strong quality and black colour, resembling that coarse stratum, which lies next over coal. Miners from England have viewed this, and were of opinion, that a vein of coal was here, but not worth the cost of working.

No navigation in the barony of Upper Ossory, nor is there any established fishery, except eel wiers, which many have usurped along the river, to the great detriment of the meadows lying on its banks. The Nore also abounds with trout and salmon; otters are very frequent in the lower part of the barony, and it is said, martens have been seen in the woods. There is nothing worthy of remark in Borris-in-Ossory; 'tis a poor and fair town, of very mean appearance, distant five miles from Roscrea; though contemptible externally, it is not without wealth, and is the estate of Lord Temple, (which he enjoys by his marriage in the Chandos family,) and part of the manor of Villiers.

In Rathdowny, which is a far better town, is a tanyard, and here the Reverend Mr. Carey has a good school, but there is none other throughout, nor any permanent charitable institution.

In the late scarcity the poor were humanely provided for by the gentry.

It is worthy of remark, that the liberal policy of the proprietors, who give encouraging leases, is very conspicuous in the improvements of their lands; but here middle-men are excluded, and the ruinous system of rack-rents not permitted.

The manufactures of this barony are confined to the coarse clothing of the peasantry, and none made for sale; some few women spin worsted for hire, at which they earn seldom more than 2*d.* per day, but there is little or no flax sowed or spun.

Mr. Walpole, of Cartown, near Glandine Gap, is now changing the corn mill there to a woollen factory, which is very aptly situate for that branch, having a sufficiency of water, and fuel very cheap and plenty; near to Cartown is Lacka, where there is erected a breast-shot rape mill, and also a bolting mill; Mr. Pim, proprietor of both, resides here. Mr. Humphreys, who is contiguous, has also an over-shot rape mill; they are all well supplied with the entire stream of the Galour river. At Coolrain is an excellent bolting mill, Mr. Neale, the proprietor; and at Raheen is also a good one in the possession of Mr. Purcell. There are two corn mills of inconsiderable powers at Rathdowny, held by Messrs. Neal and Nicholson; one at Donoghmore and another at Borris-in-Ossory, of the like description. There are several grists or oat mills well watered, and good scites through the barony, such as at Aghmacart and Raheen.

In Upperwoods, near Lacka, there is some good timber, but it is all fold. At Annagh is a wood of 70 acres; all the good timber is also cutting here—price of oak 3*s.* per foot, but bad. Ash and deal valued high and fold by the tree.

Mr. Flood, who resided at Roundwood, on his own estate, planted considerably. These trees are now fine timber, and well taken care of. Mr. Samuel White now farms this estate and resides here; he has purchased all the old timber, which is cutting, and he copses up the oak and deal plantations.

At Mount Salim, near Annatrim, the oak wood is regularly cutting and coping up.

This country from Roundwood to Lacka, and North Grove, is well wooded, and being so inland, timber sells generally cheap; average rates, deal, 15*d.* to 18*d.* per foot; ash, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; oak, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.*

3*s.* 6*d.* The Earl of Mountrath's woods are extensive, though slender, and bound the barony.

All the gentlemen farmers have highly adorned their demesnes by valuable plantations. The Rev. Mr. Drought of Oldglass only has received the Dublin Society's premium for planting. The trees are here in good heart, the larch particularly vigorous; about five years ago, a considerable damage occurred to this plantation in one night by cattle breaking in, but that part has been all carefully replanted, and is now so well inclosed as to remove all apprehensions of further damage.

The want of a nursery for sale, in this extensive barony, is very discouraging to planting, as trees must be had either from Mountmelick or Dublin.

Timber in the lower part of Ossory is high and scarce, the supply is from Lord Ashbrook's woods at Durrow, which adjoin.

In the cantred of Upperwoods may be as much bog as tillage, improved walks are but few, but a vast extent is capable of high improvement by draining and liming.

In Clarmallagh, bog and waste is considerable, but still the expense of reclaiming would not be great. The farmers here are wealthy, and, if there is no want of capital, that of spirit is a material obstacle to its improvement. In general, there is no complaint of bad leases, which leaves no excuse but want of industry.

An immense tract of country towards Durrow, which comprises several estates, is always under water three-fourths of the year, and for so long a time quite useless, which could most readily be reclaimed at the cost of about £. 500, by changing the course of the river here, from the dead flat to the narrow valley contiguous, and deepening it in a few other places.

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I am clear, that one year's profit of the land would leave a considerable surplus after paying the expense of reclaiming it. I conceive it is well worth the attention of the proprietors affected by it.

In Upperwoods, the women of the peasantry are more industrious than in the low lands, they find employment both within and without doors. Their character, in other parts of the barony, is extreme idleness and sloth, and scarcely do more than prepare the food of the family, which occupies but little time (except the few I have mentioned, that spin worsted); candour obliges me to acknowledge, that they are much addicted to theft, which it is no disgrace with them to be detected in.

The want of manufactures occasions this depravity, and the sloth and idle habits of the women seem hardly probable to be conquered, but in the rising generation.

The English language is most generally spoken, except towards the mountains; but, indeed, throughout, they all can converse in both tongues, with equal fluency, but 'till proper schools are established, they must remain in the same barbarous ignorance, that still prevails.

A branch of the canal spoken of, in the preceding barony, is intended to be made to Mountrath, which will be of the most essential service to the country; Dublin market, by this means, may be said to be brought home to the farmers doors. There are certainly several commodities, which are very considerably under-rated, by reason of the long land carriage.

The whole produce of the land is here sold by weight. The return, on an average, is, seven barrels of wheat, twelve of bere and barley, eleven of oats, and twenty of rape, to the acre; the latter has seven-

teen

teen stone to the barrel. The average produce of dunged potatoe land, an hundred and twenty barrels to the acre, or eighty, where manured with bog stuff.

Average price of wheat, for seven years back, 1800 not included, 30s. per barrel, bere 14s., barley 16s. oats 10s. 6d., rape 23s. 6d., potatoes 3s. 6d.

Average price of land, 20s. per acre, up and low land together; or upland 10s., and low land 28s. 6d.

Taking a view of the whole of the barony, we find tillage considerably increased; which, though it may in some measure serve the poor and industrious, by providing them employment; yet, if we look minutely, we find this supposed benefit is far from being even a secondary cause of their grievances. They till their small farms for present gain, not for improvement; they taste the sweets of profit for the duration of one or two crops of corn, from their gardens, or cow pasture, and follow it up with several successive crops. Their newly acquired wealth is spent in whiskey and intemperance, and the case is alike to them, as with the spendthrift, selling his estate; he feels not his error till the purchase money is lavished, nor do they, till their ground is incapable of further produce, and is thus left in a wretched cashier state, for years, dangerous to cattle, and a certain loss to the nation; thus the tenant is ruined, the landlord unpaid, and after the cost of ejecting, has his land exhausted. I believe it would be found, on inquiry, that the lands of Ireland, which every year lie waste under cashier, might be profitably employed by a proper system of agriculture, to produce a sufficiency of provisions, and employment to the poor of the whole island.

This impolitic and avaricious grasping for tillage land will be found, to have greatly contributed to the enormous rises in the price of cattle; for, not one calf

in

in twenty is now reared, as formerly; when there was scarcely a family to be seen but had the blessing of one or two cows.

The population of the country is wonderfully increased, of late years, and it is a sad reflection, that their miseries are multiplied in the same proportion. The wealth of other states is appreciated by the number of their children, and, with the Irish peasant, they constitute his misfortune and poverty; how few of them enjoy the luxury of a little milk for their offspring, and, if a cow can insure the happiness and comfort of a family, is there a peasant in the island that should not be indulged?

This deserves our most particular observation, which, in true policy we are bound to engage, if not in the spirit of Christianity; and until the condition of the peasantry is first bettered, in vain may we hope for those improvements, and easy quiet, which never can result, independent, or separate, from this great leading step, to the happiness, well being, and wealth of the state.

The demesne lands in this barony are, first, Donmore, the fine seat of Sir Robert Staples, Bart.; it is situate in the cantred of Carmallagh; this is only farmed by Sir Robert, in perpetuity, his estates lying in the north of Ireland; here, above seventy Irish acres have been planted, the lands are very beautifully laid down, and highly ornamented with judicious improvements. The demesne is capitally inclosed, with an excellent stone wall; but the mansion house is very old, as is that of Moyne, the seat of Robert Stubber, Esq. in which has lately been erected a range of very fine offices. The plantations here are also in very good heart, and are extensive. Coolfin demesne is remarkable

able for very choice and beautiful old timber, and is also the property, and in the occupation of Mr. Stubber.

Belmont is a very handsome small demesne, farmed by C. B. Ponsonby, Esq. The lodge is extremely neat, and well planned; the lawn pretty, and commands a pleasing view of the mountains, ruins of Aghmacart, and the round tower of Beggar's end, in the county of Kilkenny. 'Tis situate contiguous to Cullihill, which is a mean village, and only remarkable for an old castle, now in ruins, the estate of Sir John Freke, Bart.

The other old castles of the barony are, one at Rushall, the estate of Lord Mountrath, and once was the family mansion; one at Grant's Town, on the estate of Peter Latouche, Esq.; another at Gortneclay, the estate of the Countess of Antrim; Balligeehan Castle, on the estate of Henry Grattan, Esq.; Coolherry Castle, the estate of Colonel King; and Kilbredy Castle, the estate of Robert Stubber, Esq. From the top of this building, a poor love sick maid threw herself, about ten years ago, and was dashed to pieces in the fall.

At Aghmacart, are the ruins of a priory, founded by St. Tigernac, for Augustin canons; and at Aghavoe, are the extensive ruins of a Dominican abbey, founded by the ancestors of the Earl of Upper Ossory; 'tis noted by Sir James Ware, as chiefly famous for being the burial place of the Abbot St Kenny, who died there 5. Id. Oct. anno. 600.

The Fitzpatricks, who were the first benefactors, presented to all the ecclesiastical dignities, within the fee of Ossory, some right, of which is still enjoyed by the present Earl of Upper Ossory, who yet has the advowson of five churches, and which his Lordship's family has retained for above 1000 years.

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The Dominican abbey was founded by Florence Fitzpatrick, Prince of Ossory, in 1382; its dimensions are an hundred feet by twenty-five, but the interior is not ornamented. A small chapel is connected to the building, on the south side, by a fine arch, whose base is a pillar of solid masonry. North of the abbey were the apartments for the monks and other offices; but, unhappily, much of this fine and antique pile was rased, to inclose some parks.

The parish church stands at a short distance from the abbey; the interior is adorned, on the northern side, with many curious ornaments and canopies, and has an old confession box, in the wall, near the altar. The outer part seems either unfinished, or that some additional building had been thrown down. The belfry is an hexagonal tower, not as high as the roof; 'tis covered with a curious cap of stone.

It has been said, that the see of Ossory, which was first settled at Saiger, in the King's County, was, anno do. 1050, removed to Aghavoe, and a cathedral then built, which was since changed into a monastery; but Dr. Ledwich denies this assertion, and gives strong reasons to doubt its veracity.

Should the reader have a curiosity to search further into the antiquities of this abbey, he will find a very full account in Dr. Ledwich's Statistical View of the parish of Aghavoe, before alluded to; and also in that valuable work, the *Monasticon Hibernicum*, published by the Rev. Mervyn Archdall.

A noted mound of earth, in the form of a cone, lies to the northward of the church, encircled by a stone wall, the summit is forty feet in diameter, and the whole surrounded by a fosse; it appears artificial, and its tradition is, that there the wealth of the abbey was placed, and guarded by a regular garrison, but I think

it is quite too small to favour such an opinion; I rather apprehend it is the tomb of some of the chiefs of the country, or heads of the abbey. I think, this is also noted in Dr. Ledwich's book, which has a very good account, and accurate plan and view of the high moat of Monachoghlan, and its surrounding fortifications; they consisted of an outer and inner court, rampart and treble fosse, these, with the adjoining bog, strongly protected it on one side, and 'tis presumed the other side was strengthened by pallisadoes and very formidable ramparts.

In the parish of Skirk, in this barony, is one of those famous cemeteries, as described by antiquarians, consisting of a circular row of upright stones, which inclose an altar, and accompanied by a conical mound of earth or stone, the whole circumscribed by a rampart and ditch. All these sanctuaries were cemeteries or sepulchres, the dead being interred under the mound, altar, or upright stones, as is evident by human bones or urns being constantly found under such as have been opened*. They were called Mogh-adair or Magh-adair, that is, the sanctuary of the wise divinity of the tombs, and were dedicated to Mogh or Sodorn, and the manes of heroes.

* See *Collectanea de rebus Hibernicis*.

CHAPTER IX.

BARONY OF MARYBOROUGH.

SECTION I.

Agriculture.

THIS barony, which originally contained above 22,000 acres, has been divided into two districts, or distinct baronies, under the denomination of East and West Maryborough, and in point of situation, natural advantages, and fertility of soil, are of first rate consequence in the county. Every species of farming is practised here, and neither wealth nor spirit wanting to carry their pursuits into effectual execution.

The soil being strong and deep, requires the labour of four oxen, or good horses, with which the gentry plough, and less substantial farmers with two horses only, which may be proportioned to a farm of twenty acres; but there are many peasants, who occupy but a very few acres, and a great many cattle are consequently hired for their tillage; the hire of a plough and two horses is, from 5*s.* 5*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* per day; their first crop is usually oats, scattered in on the lay sod, after
the

the ridge has been harrowed length ways; next they take potatoes, for which they manure with dung; in nice soil, barley succeeds with a winter's fallow, and in strong grounds, wheat is sown, but always after a summer's fallow; just before seed-sowing they sprinkle lime on the surface, or a compost of lime and clay, which tells extremely well. The quality of the wheat is fine, and produce very good, from seven to ten barrels per acre; oats twelve to sixteen; barley seldom less than sixteen; oats is the most favourite grain, which is produced equally well, in every kind of soil you meet here; their potatoes are almost every where drilled, the superior advantage of which process the peasantry are fully sensible of; an acre of which will average 100 barrels through this barony, but in many places we find a considerably greater produce. Sir John Allen Johnson, Bart. who resides at his seat at Springmount, in this barony, has had the enormous produce of 160 barrels to the acre, from stable dung manure, and the peasants gardens frequently yield 140. Indeed, the land at Springmount is most excellent, and in richness and fertility, I believe, cannot be excelled. They have not hitherto cultivated green crops for winter food; the depredations of the lower order, where turnips have been sown, are very discouraging. William Pigot, Esq. of Farmly, who is earnestly engaged in sheep breeding, and in which he has been very forward and successful, transplanted both rape and cabbage for his sheep, and has improved, with great judgment, a tract of moor, which is now excellent land indeed. I was surprised at his assertion, that the reclaimed moor was better prepared and mannered in letting out without a vegetable crop; indeed he gave me ocular proof of it, in the same field, by two plots farmed with each mode, and both

were

were in grafs, in the beginning of October, after each had equal advantage of the feafonable rains ; that, which had not been cropped, was confiderably in the beft heart. This affertion feemed to militate what I had fet down as certain, that every fpecies of bog or moor, required feveral green crops, and a manure of gravel, before let out into grafs, to give furface, and by incorporating the loamy gravel, with frequent tilling, to deftroy the bog weed ; and I had always found, without thefe precautions, that the foil foon yielded its original coarfe vegetation ; however, on examining this foil, I found it, even in its unreclaimed ftate, good, kind ground, yielding very fine grafs, without any coarfe weed, and all turf mould. This accounted for it ; 'twas too light to produce the rampant weed, and of courfe, that part was rather exhausted, that had been cropped ; and I believe, if the experiment was tried, to take a crop from this moor without gravelling, that it would entirely reduce it. The fall from thefe bogs is very great, of courfe they can be eafily drained, and what has been done is capitally finifhed. Mr. Pigot has built a houfe on this demefne, the whole improvements, have been lately engaged in, and are laid out with tafte and judgment. Their corn market is Mountrath, where there is a good demand for grain.

In Eaft Maryborough, potatoes is moft commonly the leading crop ; bere is the moft favourite grain, in ftrong ground, and barley in lighter foil ; about one fixth of this barony under tillage, of which bere and barley occupies one half, oats three fourths of the remaining half, and wheat lefs than one fourth ; this grain feldom exceeds five barrels to the acre, bere generally ten to twelve, oats fourteen to fifteen, barley fourteen. Tithe, in both diftricts, valued every year,

year ; a modus is established, of 4*d.* for every sheep, and 5*s.* per acre for potatoes, in Mountrath parish only ; and in Maryborough, there is an existing rule, that potatoes never can exceed 10*s.* Here the two-horse plough is most generally used. Mr. Bourne, near Maryborough, is a great improver of ground, has every useful implement of husbandry, and yokes oxen to his plough, he manures principally with bog stuff. Mr. Collector Moore, transplants rape, and sows turnips and clover, for his sheep in winter. Sir John Parnell, Bart. has long since imported the Leicestershire or long horned cattle, and has bred, at home, a very fine stock, which has considerably served the country, and are most eagerly sought for by gentry at uncommon prices. His stock of breeding heifers, are doubtless, the finest in this kingdom, and I believe, can hardly be excelled. Sir John, occasionally, resides at his seat at Rathleague, situate about one and an half mile's from Maryborough. The timber is very fine here, and the land greatly improved, but the mansion house is very old and indifferent. A rich plantation of exotics, cover the banks of an extensive lake, well resorted with wild fowl, and a Grecian temple, which is executed with taste, commands all the variety of the demesne.

Mr. Halpen, Sir John's agent, has built a handsome house and offices near the road, which are very ornamental ; contiguous to this, is the seat of Andrew Cassan, Esq. which has a pretty effect ; and at another mile's distance, is Lamberton, the seat of Sir John Tydd, Bart. The house has a commanding aspect, and takes in all the prospect of the Dysart Hills and the rock of Donamace ; the entrance to the demesne is elegant, and the offices are planned with so much convenience as I have not seen before ; but the

gardens and shrubbery are certainly in the very best style of any in the country, and the hot houses and fruiteries in uncommon taste and elegance; an extensive deer park has been capitally enclosed, and is well stocked. I think Lamberton is altogether the neatest and best laid down demesne in the county; the ground is very fertile, and from vast heaps of lime spread on the surface, and ploughed in, is made equal in quality to any reclaimed land I have seen. Sir John Tydd has planted an excellent enclosure, and the trees are got up and thriving vigorously, which appearance of wood has a fine effect; for this plantation he has received the Dublin Society's premium.

Manures.

The difference between the action of tillage on the soil, and the effects of fire and manures is worth our inquiring into. Tillage operates mechanically, by breaking the soil; fire acts by calcination, and manures by fermentation, to this latter we may make another distinction, that is, soiling or adding new to the old soil. This mode, certainly, has ultimately the same effect as the preceding ones, but it is rather improperly coupled with manuring, which it differs from, in as much it doth not ferment, except previously mixed with a manure, as with lime, dung, &c.

The greatest disadvantage of dung on corn lands is, that by its fermentation insects and worms are produced, which destroy the grain, for this reason it ought more properly be attributed to grassy lands, or to the cultivation of vegetable crops, which are evidently increased by it in a proportion exceeding any corn crop; for this latter, lime-stone gravel, or clay, previously mixed
with

with fermenting dressings will be the most effectual; how often has the farmer lost a crop of barley by the fly or the red worm, from having manured his ground with dung?

Why is the use of dung exploded in the rearing of flowers but because it generates vermin, that destroy them? Those composts only are now used, which have long ago rotted and fermented. If a little lime was sprinkled on dung, the animalcula which it produces would be soon destroyed.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

THROUGHOUT the barony, the pasture is very kind, particularly for sheep, and every where the Leicestershire breed occupies the walks. Mr. Dexter's best rams are hired here. Mr. Maher, spoken of as a resident in the barony of Cullinagh, farms a large tract of the richest lands in the county, from Sir Allen Johnson, adjoining his demesne, which is all sheep-walk. He hires out a great many rams, and has an excellent breed. This gentleman spares no cost or pains to attain perfection in the pursuit, and is considered an incomparable judge. An idea of his spirit, though but a farmer, may be formed, as he lately purchased, in England, twenty ewes for 500 guineas, and gave four hundred more for the service of a Leicestershire ram, for the season. This ground, for his favourite stock, has a deep rich loam, very productive of grass, a good part of which is annually overflowed by the river Nore, through which it passes. I saw a flock of his two year old wethers, ready for market in the month of October; after they had produced two fleeces, he refused

sixty-four shillings, round, for them. This ascertains the fact of the pre-eminence of this breed, which will fatten on less than one half the ground of the old Irish, and this farm is stocked with above six sheep to the acre. We are now speaking of the improved breed of sheep, and as a corroborating proof of their superiority, which indeed needs no great argument to confirm, I was credibly informed by Mr. Despard of Donore, a gentleman of the first respectability and long residence in the neighbourhood, that about thirty or forty years ago, from these grounds which the improved breed now occupy, he has sent a flock of lambs to the fair of Athy, above twenty miles distance and sold them *well* at the price of 18*d.* per head; and this day Sir Allen Johnson refused 50*s.* per head for the culls of 60 of his lambs; only let us examine how short of this mode of farming any tillage must fall; take an acre of ground, now feeding 6 lambs, at 50*s.* per lamb, which has supported the ewes of these lambs, that would now sell for 80*s.* after having yielded their fleeces: this leaves the produce of an acre above £.30, and the only expense is the herd, who attends them. Black cattle is almost as rapidly gaining ground, as every gentleman farmer, and sheep breeder, is getting extensively into this line, and several good bulls are thro' the county; they only house milch cattle in the winter; plough cattle has always abundance of grass. They find rye grass very profitable for early spring food, and a great quantity of it is sown in the improved sheep walks, the hay is very luxuriant, and so heavy, that it is tedious in saving, and they all make tramp cocks in the fields; indeed they could not draw in their grass cocks, the nature of the grass is too foggy, apt to heat, and consequently must get much of the weather. They have a good deal of bottom land very fit for dairy, but

but little occupied so, except towards the mountains, where an immense quantity of cheese is made. Much trefoil and clover has been sowed, and where the ground has been well drained, it flourishes vigorously. In Maryborough, much of the wool of the county is manufactured, as they carry on a considerable trade in broad stuffs; hides and tallow are also manufactured here, and bought at fair prices.

Sainfoin Lucerne.

How little or at all are these revigorating grasses of sainfoin and lucern sowed, in Ireland, while they are so eagerly pursued by the English farmers, not merely for the value of the crop to be cut, and carried off the ground, the benefits of which are numerous and very important; but particularly for meliorating and enriching the soil, which, for years after, feels the fine effects of.

The amazing depth of root, and searching quality of sainfoin is exemplified, as it penetrates several feet in the ground, and draws nutriment the whole way, while the small proportion of the soil, which is engaged, comparatively with its depth, justifies the remark, that as little of the surface is employed in furthering its vegetation, as it shoots in depth into the ground; it is averred, that it will penetrate from ten to twenty feet below the surface, thus we may conclude, that but one tenth, one fifteenth, or one twentieth of the surface is occupied, and the remainder, of course, is fallowing, whilst the crop is coming to perfection.

As lucerne and sainfoin root deep, they are serviceable, and draw down a moisture and invigorating power into the soil; by reason of the superficial growth of corn

and

and spreading of its roots, it shuts up the soil from the power of the atmosphere, and consequently must be exhausting, from the shallow and partial stratum, which is occupied in its vegetation.

SECT 3. *Farms.*

ARE not generally so small, in West Maryborough, as already described, they run from two to four hundred acres, and many substantial farmers are here; their farm houses and offices are improving in neatness, and always warm.

Leases are let for thirty-one years or three lives, and have no restrictive clauses. The feeding walks are of large extent, and few tillage fields less than ten or fifteen acres. Tenants pay all taxes and cesses, but Sir Allen Johnson, and some other humane masters, pay both these demands, for cottiers; fences are very good, of white thorn, and every where they scour up the ditches, which when mixed with lime, is a compost fit for every purpose. In draining, they make cuts 12 inches deep and eight wide, which they leave open, the springs are very strong indeed, and they find this mode answers their purpose.

Enclosures.

Planting trees in screens and spots, particularly appropriated for them, is certainly preferable to the crowding of ditches with timber. Shade and shelter sufficient for every purpose, will be acquired, with white thorn, which, when attended to, has a rapid

rapid growth, and makes a durable fence; young trees planted on the tops of ditches become a temptation to cattle, that break the fence, by nipping and destroying them; except you make a double ditch, and thus give up a large portion of perhaps valuable land, it will be found a very difficult matter to preserve trees for eight or ten years, during which time they ought to be certainly secured from cattle. Screens ought to be placed so as to exclude the harsh winds, and their openings exposed to a southerly aspect, which will have another advantage as young cattle will be materially the better of such shelter in a severe spring.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

THIS country, for many miles round, is indeed the most rich and luxuriant landscape that can be conceived; unquestionably, for such an extent, no part of Ireland is so highly improved, and I doubt, can it be equalled, certainly not surpassed in England; 'tis like the continuation of one great demesne, though, in fact, every demesne is extensive, most of which join, or at farthest are within a mile of each other, and this continuation holds for the circuit of, perhaps, twenty miles. The numerous seats are adorned with the finest full grown timber, and the young plantations laid out with the most judicious taste, fenced and preserved with all possible care; the peasantry are most comfortably housed, and incomparably well clothed, are also well civilized, and in due obedience to the laws; this is easily accounted for by the residence of so many gentry, who are so careful, of the comforts and good conduct of their tenants.

Happy

Happy indeed, and truly enviable would be the state of Ireland, if the lords of her soil were to follow the example of these true patriots, who, by their residence and care, have reclaimed their estates to the highest improvement, and have changed the condition of their tenantry from poverty and ignorance, to opulence and civilization. They pay their cottiers well, though but 6*d.* and 8*d.* through the year, yet they have such privileges and indulgence, that no where are they better off; their gardens are fertile and large enough to give them abundance of grain, as well as potatoes, and when they are careful, they have some to spare, besides, few are without one or two cows. Should we rate these as farmers, no where are there more small farms; but being tenants during pleasure only, and cottiers at will, they cannot fairly come under that description. The country is consequently very populous; yet from the increasing encouragement to manufacturers, and having so much to do in their own gardens, they cannot supply a sufficiency of labour to their employers. Tithe is valued every year, and no *general* established modus, but only with some, who annually pay a certain regular charge, which never changes. Beer much in estimation, and of a very good quality, is brewed in Mountrath; spirits quite in disuse; roads and bridges are in most excellent repair and constantly attended to. They have marl and clay of good substance, and a highly calcareous quality. The Nore winds through very fruitful banks in so circuitous a course, that it is several times crossed on the Durrow road, in a very short distance; this river is very rapid, and subject to heavy floods, that do considerable damage, but it has no navigation or established fishery. Mountrath is the only town in the western district, situate forty-six miles S. W. of Dublin, and five from Maryborough, this is a post, fair, and market town, and is the

the estate of the Earl of Mountrath, from which his Lordship takes his title. Mr. Carr has lately erected a very fine distillery; there is also another capital distillery here, two tan yards, and two breweries. In this town has been lately established a cotton spinning factory, Mr. Mungo Bewley, the proprietor, who daily gives employment to above one hundred and fifty hands; the water wheel of this factory is breast shot, and very well supplied; about 21,000 lbs. weight of cotton is spun here every year; children's wages are, from two to four shillings, weekly; old hands have from ten to fourteen. A combination lately prevailed amongst them, that no one should be employed, but those who had served five years to the business, although the trade is learned in a few weeks, but this was effectually opposed and broken up by the proprietor. This manufactory was formerly a furnace for metal pots, &c. which for a length of time was worked spiritedly, 'till the woods, which were their fuel were burnt out, and but lately changed to this useful branch. In this town is now malted above 22,000 barrels annually, but from the enlargement and additional works, double that quantity can be made. A dispensary for the poor is supported by public subscription, and the indigent are supplied with medicines and advice gratis. An oil mill is also carried on with spirit; the country shops are extremely well supplied, and the whole has the appearance of wealth, comfort, and a great display of loyalty. A steeple is about to be built, by private subscription, to which Colonel Coote, of Forest Lodge, one of the county representatives, has given one hundred pounds. From Mountrath to Burris-in-Ossory, is an excellent view of ground, and about midway stands the old castle of Rushall, as before spoken of, in a most fertile country

country. Cattle are fed in these parts, to any weight. The intended cut of the canal to Mountrath is liberally subscribed to, and expected to be of the most essential service to this town. Maryborough, which is the shire town, has also a post, fair, and market; situated in the eastern district; it was divided into several estates, gifts, and grants to English soldiers, of these Sir John Parnell possesses the most considerable. The appearance of the town is insignificant and mean, tho' the inhabitants are very wealthy, and carry on an extensive trade of broad stuffs, called durants; there is no regular factory of any note, but almost every house has a loom, and shares the trade more or less. I was shown some of these goods of superior quality: the trade of the Queen's County, in this commodity, centres in Maryborough and Mountmelick, and may amount annually to £.100,000. The county infirmary is in this town, and under particular repair by the good attention of the Hon. W. W. Pole. In the neighbouring dairies, above an hundred tons of cheese are made every year, about three fourths of which is sold in Dublin market, at an average of 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.. 'Tis made only of runnet and new milk, coloured with orinetta. The cows are fed on a coarse, rushy, spongy pasture, very productive of milk, they call this their worst ground, and if of such great value in its unimproved state, how well worth while would it be to reclaim it to best account? The fairs of Maryborough are but bad for cattle, but the neighbouring fairs are well frequented. The Ridge of Maryborough is a great curiosity, composed all of limestone gravel, runs above eight miles uninterruptedly, and above twenty with small chasms, towards Tullamore town, and beyond it; a fine well, which is esteemed holy by the peasantry, issues from the ridge, near Rathleague, and is greatly frequented by pilgrims.

The

The country, on both sides this ridge, is in many places moory; it appears to have been formed by the ebbing and flowing of water, and in some places divides the upland from the moor. It is at base above sixty or one hundred feet wide, and slopes up gradually to the summit, where it measures above 20 or 30 feet in breadth, and is the leading county road; this must formerly have been of great moment, in this high country, to the garrison town of Maryborough, which yet has the vestiges of its strong holds and towers; one round tower is still preserved, and part of a square one, which was very strong; here the governor resided, and had a grand court. The gardens are yet taken care of. This is still a place of emolument under Government, though but nominal. The town is now governed by a burgomaster and bailiffs, and has a barrack for two troops of horse, and a new gaol; the borough patronage was principally in the Parnell family. All the country, around the town, is good for every branch of farming, in which the occupiers are more or less concerned, so that if one crop misses, they are recompensed by the success of another.

The Rock of Donamase, or Dun-na-maes, which signifies, in the Irish language, the fort of the plain, is certainly a place of great curiosity, which nature and art had combined to render of the most formidable strength, before the use of artillery had been known. It is one of those hills, which so peculiarly stand separate from the neighbouring chain, and being extremely steep was naturally inaccessible on all sides but the south-west, where was the entrance. The plain alluded to in the original tongue, is the great heath or height of Maryborough, which lies to the north-east of the Dun*, being a flat of considerable extent.

* The word Dun always signifies a fortress in the Erse language.

extent, and was the commonage, that belonged to the fort, after it became a manor.

This insulated rock formerly was the residence of the Princes of the country, who had a dwelling on its summit, and we find, that on the first arrival of the English in the reign of Henry II. anno, 1167, it was the principal residence of Dermot Mac Murrough, King of Leinster, at whose solicitation it was, that the English came as settlers into Ireland: for, Dermot having committed a rape upon Dervoregill wife of Tigernac O'Roirk, king of Brefinia, in Ulster, was attacked by him with his forces and some powerful combined armies, in revenge for the insult offered to his wife, and after a pitched battle, Dermot was completely routed and drove out of his dominions. Thus an exile, he wandered through the country with about sixty followers, till they found an opportunity to pass over to England, and landing at Bristol, were hospitably received by Robert Fitzharding, a nobleman of Bristol, and of the blood royal of the Danes.

He from thence went to Aquitain, where King Henry was, and with all submission offered himself and his territories, as subject to the Crown of England, if by his assistance they could be recovered. Henry's ambition being roused, he readily consented to the proposal, and gave Dermot Letters Patent to raise a force amongst his subjects for the expedition, who effectually exerted himself for that purpose, and having gotten many promises of succour, repaired privately to Ireland, where he remained unknown to his enemies, and increased his strength there, by the assistance of his friends, who with great energy espoused his interest. In performance of their promise, the English landed the ensuing spring, and having joined the forces of Dermot, they were victorious in many battles, that

were

were fought, and regained for him his possessions. These events occupied seven years, in which several expeditions sailed from England to reinforce Dermot.

Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, as others say Earl of Strigul, who was a skilful warrior, had accompanied one of these expeditions, and as by his valour and judgment Dermot had so happily succeeded, he in gratitude for his services, as well as with a political view to be connected with a Lord of such powerful interest in England, (judging, as the English had now possession of so many strong holds, and had so good a footing in the country, that they would not easily relinquish them,) gave him his only daughter Eva, in marriage, and at his death bequeathed to him his whole territories, which comprised the province of Leinster; and these were afterwards confirmed by King Henry. This Earl died without male issue, and his great possessions descended to his only daughter Isabel, who espoused William Marshall, who thus became Earl of Pembroke. Their issue were 5 sons and as many daughters, and those five† sons severally enjoyed the province, and dying without issue, it was divided as dowry's for the five sisters, who now became co-heiresses. William de Bruce, Lord of Brecknock, espoused one of those ladies, and this territory falling to her dowry was thence transferred to her husband. The western bounds of the English pale being contiguous, it was judged adviseable to build a castle on this advantageous position, which was accordingly done, and its date is agreed to have been about the same time as the building of the castle of Ley*, which was about twenty years after the commencement of the thirteenth century.

These

† See page 63.

* Ledwich's Antiquities of Ireland.

These two castles are but eight miles asunder, and the supposition of their erection at the same time is well supported, by the strong resemblance they bear to each other in their style of building, and their various internal structure and disposition of apartments. It next descended to Lord Mortimer, who espoused the daughter of William De Bruce, and he entrusted it together with his lands in Leix to the confidential care of Laifagh, one of his vassals, going himself to England, to support the interest of his sovereign, who was then threatened with a rebellion at home. Soon after the Earl's departure, Laifagh, taking advantage of his absence and of the trust reposed in him, having raised a powerful clan, usurped the surname of O'More, a family that had some pretensions to these estates, and declaring that he was the lawful heir to that family, seized on the whole country, and in one evening made himself master of eight castles†, amongst which was this famous fort; having surprised the English garrison in it, he dismantled and destroyed it, as then being the principal house of Lord Mortimer in Leix. Some authors have said, that this castle was built by Laifagh himself; but it was by reason of its having come into his possession so soon after it was erected, that caused the supposition; for it did not remain long enough with him to warrant the assertion, nor was his character that of an improver but a despoiler.

The recovery of so important a place was anxiously sought for by the English, and in less than three years after, it again came into their possession by the fortune of war. Their interest being yet weak in the country, they were not long able to withstand the numerous
armies

† See page 64 as before related.

armies of the O'Mores, who retook it in 1344, but only held it for two years after, for it being repossessed by Lord Mortimer together with his estates in Leix, he determined to secure it, if possible, from future attacks, and then added such numerous works, as made it a place of impregnable strength.

Thus it lay for several centuries in the hands of the English, and we are told that, in that interval, the Vallancey's* were the Ullaghs or Lords of this territory; these were the ancestors of our present General, to whom this island is so indebted for his indefatigable exertions, and abilities, which have acquired him immortal honour, in recovering the knowledge of her ancient history, her language, arts and sciences, which another century might have sunk into eternal oblivion, and are now incontrovertibly proved by this ingenious antiquarian to have flourished in an eminent degree, at a period when all the neighbouring nations had not emerged from a state of barbarity.

This territory of Leix and its castles, had thus been in the possession of many masters, who resided at Dunamase, until in the reign of James I. it was again repaired. In the rebellion of 1641, it was secured by the insurgents, as being a principal strong hold, from which they were dispossessed by a small body of English troops, who seized the fort and defended it with great bravery, though they were in distress for provisions, till Sir Charles Coote relieved them after a victory he had gained over the rebels.

This was one of the forts, which afterwards capitulated to General Preston, but was retaken by the royal forces, and held by them till 1646, when Owen Roe O'Neil, an Irish chief, took it by assault, together with the fort of Maryborough, and five others of lesser note.

* Goff's Antiquities.

note. In two years after, O'Neil made some overtures of resignation, which were not accepted, and the next year he was driven out of the country by Lord Castlehaven. In July, 1650, soon after the expulsion of O'Neil, Dunamase, Maryborough, and all the dependant garrisons were surrendered to the forces of Colonels Hewson and Reynolds, who were Cromwell's officers, and by them this important fortress, and some of the lesser ones were dismantled and blown up.

I should have noted, that at the time, it came into the possession of Lord Mortimer, he found it necessary, agreeable to the English policy of the day, to establish a tenantry of soldiers around him for his protection, and consequently built the castles of Shean, Moret, and Ballymanus, with five others, which were always garrisoned to be ready to repel an insurrection, and were circumjacent to, and dependent on Dunamase, it being the residence of the lord, who made this the seat of civil as well as military jurisdiction, discharging official duties in person, and occasionally was represented by a Seneschal;* thus it became a complete manor. The castle being constantly guarded by a numerous garrison, had all the internal appearance of power and pomp, and nothing was wanting in outward shew to complete its pre-eminence. Such was its consequence and situation after it had been recovered from the O'Mores, and so it remained for many years, the principal support and dependance of the English interest.

I shall now proceed to the description of this ancient fortress, in which I shall take leave to copy the very elegant and accurate report of it, as made by Doctor Ledwich in the second volume of the *Collectanea*, to which and his authorities I owe much of the preceding information.

“ The

* Sir John Davis's Historical Tracts.

“ The entrance is S. W. and faces the road to Stradbally ; here was the barbican, which served for a watch-tower, and was joined to the ditch by a draw-bridge. On each side of the barbican were ditches, as the hill was accessible, and the outward *ballium was flanked with two towers or bastions ; the first gate-way is seven feet wide, and the walls are six feet thick ; it has a †machicolation over it, for pouring down melted lead or scalding water ; the wall of this ballium is a parapet, crenellated, and to the N. E. is twenty feet high, with long chinks and oillet holes. The distance between tower and tower is 174 feet.

“ Between the outward and inward ballia is a length of one hundred feet ; the gate of the latter is placed in a tower, and over it was a guard room ; in the thickness of the walls are side passages admitting but one person at a time, and he by no means corpulent. From this second tower begins the parapet wall, that surrounds the summit of the hill ; its circumference is 1086 feet ; the area is not perfectly circular, though nearly so, as far as the projections and inequalities of the rock will admit ; so that its diameter at top is 362 feet. The hill is naturally an elliptical conoid ; in some parts from its base to its vertex it measures two hundred feet.

“ The inner wall at proper distances had towers ; the foundations still appear : on the summit of the hill stood the keep or donjon ; some, and not improbably, have supposed this to be the chapel ; it is east and

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west,

* Ballium is the space immediately within the outer wall.

† Machicolations are small projections, supported by brackets, having open intervals at bottom, or a kind of grates for the uses mentioned.

west, and the eastern window intire. It was this appropriation to a religious use, that perhaps stopped the fury of the fanatic destroyers of this building, and left it untouched. Contiguous to this was a dwelling house, seventy-two feet long and twenty-one wide; on this were plat-forms and embattled parapets, from whence the garrison might see and command the exterior works. The house was divided into apartments, and vaults ran under the whole.

“ To the N. W. was a well* of excellent water, and on the west was what tradition calls a prison, but it seems to have been a postern.

“ The naked rock appears on the N. E. side, and the approach to the other parts was difficult and dangerous. When whole and complete, it was a beautiful model of military architecture, and even at this day presents the curious visitant with noble ruins of its former grandeur.

“ Small silver coins, belonging to the early Irish Princes have been found at Dunamase; there is one in the collection of the Rev. Mervyn Archdall, Rector of Attier, Attanagh, in the diocese of Ossory, that is a great curiosity; it is the size of a silver four-pence but thinner; on the face is this epigraphe, “ Re Morrah, “ King O’Mora, or O’More,” and on the reverse is, “ Na Dunegh, or rather Dunadh of the Fort;” expressing the place of coinage and the residence of the chief. The letters are the ancient Ogham Croabh characters, and the same with those, that appear on the coins of O’Toole, found at Glendaloch, in the county of Wicklow. This coin was struck in the eleventh century; for subsequent to the Norman invasion, the
native

* This well was since shut up to prevent cattle falling in.

native Irish princes coined no money, though before that period the practice was common."

The great Height or Heath, formerly was called Magh-Riada, or the tribe of the plain, or savannah, or rather the inhabited plain, from Magh, a plain or open in a wood, and Riada a tribe, or vassals of a King or Chief. This was the original demesne of the O'Mores, Chiefs of Laoighois or Leix, on which was fought a memorable battle between the people of Munster and those of Leinster, under the command of Laoighois Cean Mordha, about the middle of the thirteenth century; the bones of the slain being found on the borders of the heath. This said Laoighois headed another army of Leinster against the people of Munster, and having defeated them, drove them from Maistean to Athro-dain, now Athy, in the county of Kildare, and pursued them into Leix, where the battle was renewed on the the plains of Magh-Riada, the same Heath, where Laoighois obtained a second victory in his own demesne, and drove the fugitives into their native country.

By this account from Keatinge, Laoighois must have been the same Laifagh, that usurped the surname of O'More, as just before related, (or his immediate successor,) who soon after his usurpation of Dunamase and the lands of Leix, had the quarrel with the King of Munster, which terminated as in the battle last described. It may be acceptable to trace the ancient borders of the estate of Leix.* It was bounded on the north and east by the river Barrow, on the west by Sliabh-Bladhma, or Sleive Bloom mountains, and on the south by the river Nore and Sliabh-Marragagh or

* See the Collectanea and its authorities.

Slewmary mountains, where the collieries now are. The hereditary chiefs were called Hy Mordha, or O'More, and sometimes Moal Mordha. They were also styled the honourable O'Mores. They were the chief tribe of all the Eilys, and descended from the Laighesachs, ancient chieftains of Hy Leagh, which was a denomination of territory, comprehending the country of Leix, the King's county, part of the county of Kildare, and of Dublin, and several other ancient septs, and the principal residence of the Prince of this great district was always at Dunamase. From Laighseach, is Leinster derived, and as I have shewn Laifagh, the vassal of Lord Mortimer, founding his pretensions on the similarity of his name to that of the ancient possessors, also assumed their surname and usurped their old estate.

Thus it appears, that this fort shared in the various revolutions of the times, and was in the hands of many masters, until its proprietors in the commencement of the last century but one, being in rebellion, their lands were forfeited and distributed amongst English adventurers.

But a few words more yet remain to be said of its present state.

On every side of the rock is a great range of prospect, thro' the vistas of adjoining hills, which are situate in its environs, and mostly all outflank it. These hills are not undulating, but all stand alone, and at a small distance asunder, very high and steep. The garden that was on the summit of the rock, for the garrison's use, is now a green. Sir J. Parnell, who wishes to preserve the venerable appearance of this celebrated place, is rebuilding the castle on its ancient site, in the same style of gothic architecture. The apartments within are laid out with taste, and comprize a complete banquetting room, ball-room, dressing-room, kitchen, and cellars: the well
will

will again be opened. The land, on which stands the rock, is the property of Sir John Parnell, who has above two hundred acres here inclosed. Some fine timber is on this demesne, and the plantation, for which Sir John received the Dublin Society's premium, is admirably enclosed with high stone ditches, breasted with a double row of quicks, and the trees thriving in proper heart. Dysart church, not far distant, stands on the summit of one of the lofty hills of the same name, with a square tower or steeple, which has a very picturesque appearance. The great heath, which is intersected by the high road from Dublin to Limerick, had formerly a race-course, established by the late General Walsh of Ballikilcavan, and annual prizes were given by him, for county bred horses, which were largely subscribed to, by the neighbouring gentry, and certainly induced many farmers to breed good cattle; but this pursuit is now totally neglected.

Ballyfin, the seat of the Hon. W. W. Pole, which is in this barony, is situate on the side of the mountain, between Cappard and the gap of Glandine, from which latter place it is about five miles distant. This magnificent demesne contains above 1200 acres, all walled in; there are two capital approaches from the Mountmelick and Maryborough roads, and a back approach from Mountrath. That from Maryborough is, perhaps, laid out with as much elegant taste and happy design as can be seen; 'tis certainly in the grandest style possible. The approach from Mountmelick is also very fine, but not so modern; the former being but lately finished, after Mr. Pole's own design. The full grown timber, and the view of an extensive lake, have a fine effect. This lake, which is above thirty acres in area, and appears to cover a much greater extent, is surrounded

rounded with the grandest screen of evergreens and forest trees ; the plantations overtop each other, as the inequality of the ground favours the scene. Beyond the western side of the lake is a great bog, which the screen completely shuts out ; for, the rising ground, on which this plantation stands, is very high above the bog, and the clear horizon, as seen through the openings between the trees, appears to be another vast lake, the effects of which a vista would here, entirely destroy. The deer-park is, perhaps, the most extensive in the kingdom, and the deer as wild as nature : there cannot be higher flavoured venison than fed on this park, as there is every advantage of soil, heath, furze, fern, nice vegetation, shade, and shelter. A mountain rivulet runs through a glen within the walls, which sometimes swells to a rapid stream ; its banks appear to have been planted thickly, as some full grown timber yet remain, and through the park is a considerable quantity of ash and aspin. Very capital drives are made through the inclosures.

The gardens are in the antique style, and extensive ; but, from the elegant taste Mr. and Mrs. Pole have already displayed in the late improvements, which have been most capitally executed by Mr. Webb, so well known, and his abilities so justly esteemed in this county, we may expect, in a little time, to see Ballyfin unrivalled in improvements, as it is so in natural position, and possesses as much capability as can be wished for. The house is composed of three sides of a square, and another extensive range goes off to the southward ; this is hid by a plantation, and in this range are the kitchens, and servants' apartments, &c. The rooms on the ground floor are very handsome, and elegantly planned. One of those sides of the square is old, and will be converted into a green-house, for
which

which it is admirably situate. The Dyfart hills are seen from Ballyfin house in the best point of view, and appear considerably loftier and more majestic, than I remember to have seen them before. The soil of Ballyfin is very shallow, and of two kinds; a brown loam, rather stiff, and only qualified by immense quantities of lime, hot from the kiln, and the other of a white stubborn clay, of no calcareous quality, also reclaimable by lime. They are both gritty, and no limestone is to be found here, which makes this manure come very high, as the limestone quarry is above a mile from the demesne, and the draft all the way up hill. If limestone loamy gravel was ploughed into the surface, it would tell extremely well. The plantations are very extensive, and annually encreasing, and, in some little time, will add greatly to the already woody appearance of the country, which is well planted, east of Ballyfin, but scarce a tree is to be seen from hence to Moyne; again, towards Mountmelick, the prospect is relieved by Cappard plantations, about 3 miles distance, which will be particularly spoken of. Without the northern side of the deer-park wall, is a deep glen, most beautifully situate for planting. A neat chapel is within the demesne, built and endowed by the late Mr. Pole, and 100*l.* a year salary is settled on the officiating parson. A school was also established by the same gentleman, and the chapel clerk is the master, for which he is paid 10*l.* annually: children are educated gratis, and well taken care of. The farm is watered by mountain streams and conduits: one of these supplies the house, and is discharged into cisterns in the stable yard, and gardens, &c. Nothing can be better executed than this, and the advantage from it is considerable, as its course can be directed at pleasure. Oats is the favourite crop of these grounds; they would give bere after lime, but
are

are unfit for wheat or barley. Potatoes are drilled, and a great quantity planted, and some English wheel ploughs are used : excepting these, and a metal roller, I have seen no other improved implements of husbandry. Here is the only place in the county, where the breed of pigs was attempted to have been improved : Mr. Pole imported a male and female, of the best English kind, which are very capital indeed, and bid fair to be of the greatest service in this country ; they, like all of the improved breed, are fed and fattened on much less food than our Irish breed, and the female is very prolific, having twelve to sixteen at a litter. A great tract of these lands is highly improved by draining, and the very quagmires are now become good meadow. The view from the windows of Ballyfin house, is of the grandest scenery, that can be conceived in an inland country ; comprizing the extensive and highly ornamental plantations, the lawn, the lake, the lofty mountains of Slieve Bloom, and the Dyfart hills, with almost the whole range of the county, and certainly is superior to any thing else within its bounds.

In this barony are several Danish forts, but none remarkable. Paper money only in circulation, and consists of Dublin bank-notes, but very little specie seen. It is to be remarked, few cottiers have less than an acre and a half of garden, which gives them the advantage of a spot for grain, the straw of which is made manure of, and this accounts for the great quantities of potatoes those gardens produce. They are fond of trenching in wheat in their small gardens, as late as February, and they say they find their crop full as good as that sowed before Christmas. On Sir Allen Johnson's estate stands the ruins of Killeney castle ; the walls are injudiciously built, of very bad stone, tho' an excellent quarry is very contiguous.

contiguous. The village of Roskelton is very mean, having nothing to recommend it. Poor Man's Bridge, over the Nore, was lately widened, and now very safe; I cannot learn the tradition why it was so called. In this barony is a great deal of bog, and fuel is very good and cheap. On Ballyfin lands are three nurseries for sale, but the stock not very considerable; there is another near Clonsna church. At Dun, near Roskelton, are Rothy mills, Mr. Ince, proprietor, and near Mountrath is another, in the possession of Mr. Dodd, but there are neither wind-mills, grist-mills, nor good mill scites in the barony.

CHAPTER X.

BARONY OF BALLYADAMS.

SECTION I.

Agriculture.

THIS barony is but small, not containing one-half the number of acres of the preceding one, and is by no means so important, either in fertility of soil, wealth of farmers, improved seats, or number of resident gentry; Judge Kelly, of Kellyville, and Stewart Weldon, Esq. of Kilmerony, being the only proprietors who reside.

They till with four, and, sometimes, six oxen or horses; generally break ground with potatoes, which sets for 6 guineas per acre. Wheat succeeds this crop, sowed immediately after digging out potatoes, or, if the ground is nice, they make winter fallow, and sow barley; oats is the next crop, and then, summer's fallow for wheat. This succession is kept up, always manuring for potatoes, and liming the fallows, which answers extremely well, and oftentimes they sow clover
after

after barley, which is twice mowed in the year ; wheat, commonly trenched in, follows this crop, and oats again as before. They yoke all from the shoulder, with collars and hames. In other parts of the barony the course of crops vary: fallow, wheat, oats, or barley, grass feeds ; where manure is laid for potatoes, two crops of them and two crops of corn often follow ; then laid down, and soon treated again with the like course of tillage. The short fac yet used, as the soil, is generally speaking, very shallow ; no improved implements of husbandry introduced as yet, though some experiments have been successfully tried, in cultivating potatoes, after the mode, recommended by the Dublin Society, by scooping, and equally so by sowing with shoots, and a great proportion through the barony are now drilled. Athy, which is situate in the county of Kildare, is the chief market town, where all the grain is sold by sample ; prices seldom rate under Dublin market. The millers, for several miles round, frequent it, as being the great corn market for this, and the county, in which it is situated. This town, and Stradbally, are also the chief fairs of the country around. The soil of this barony is generally light, but, when properly cultivated, yields kind crops ; it abounds with lime-stone, which is the manure generally used. No green crops, though, of all other ground, it is best calculated for them, and would be most profitable to the farmer. The depredations on turnips have quite discouraged their culture, and rape, in very small parcels, has been transplanted, but now neglected ; they sowed it thickly, pulled the superabundant stalks for sheep, and afterwards reaped the seed. Wheat per acre produces five to six barrels, barley twelve, oats ten, potatoes sixty or seventy. Average price of land, from fourteen to thirty shillings.

Weeds.

By the mere action of the plough in the ground, we furnish no recruiting or revigorating matter; it only opens the pores, and renders the ground friable, admitting the air, rain, dews, &c. and giving a passage to the roots of the plants. When fields are over-run with weeds, as is too much the case here, it is as necessary to turn the soil, and expose the roots to the winter's frost, which nips them, as it is to the summer's blast and heat, which burns them.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

Is light; rather fit for store than fat cattle. The small proportion, that are fattened are sold in the neighbouring markets, but none sent for slaughter from the vicinity. Breed of sheep and black cattle little improved; the least so I have seen through the county; latter not at all. Several horses are bred in the barony for home use, but none for sale; they are all of the common draft kind. Every species of cattle capable of great improvement, which is obviously deficient indeed. No town in the barony. None but milch cows housed in winter. Natural grafs is light and spiry; no artificial grasses, but clover, yet introduced. Hay, easily saved. Meadows are light, and rate from 3*l.* to 6*l.* per acre. Very little dairy, the largest not exceeding twenty cows. Towards the hills the ground is excellent. Lime-stone near Stradbally barony; the remainder yields a spiry grafs, other soils are light, and cold. Hides, tallow, and wool are bought in Athy and Carlow towns, and manufactured there.

Hogs.

Hogs.

A number of hogs are bred in this barony; the poor farmer depends much on them for his rent. It may not be amiss to give some general rules for their feeding and keeping.

Disgusting as is the appearance of this animal, yet in warmth and cleanliness will it be found to thrive best. So sensible are the Munster farmers of this maxim that they wash them regularly, and are very careful in providing them clean straw to lie on. In their store feeding, every thing, which becomes offal in the farm house, will very well answer for them; for the last six months, they might be fed on raw potatoes, and the land folded with them, which, I am told, has been of astonishing service to the soil. In the last four weeks of fattening, if a little corn was added, their flesh would acquire a delicate flavour. In Munster they are often fed to an amazing size; but there, they get large portions of fine and coarse bran, and all their food is previously boiled, or given warm. When confined to styes, this may be necessary, but I should think folding hogs on pasture would tell better.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

ARE of small size, from three acres to a very extensive range, even to four and eight hundred acres. Farm houses and offices rather indifferent, though, I am told, improving of late, yet they are considerably the worst in the county; all repaired by tenants. Leases in general are for three lives, but no particular clauses. All taxes are paid by tenants: county cess seldom

seldom exceeds sixpence per acre: six horses may be proportioned to forty acres, three-fourths of which is tillage. This may also be the proportion of the barony; fields of various sizes, from five to twenty-five acres; but a few ditches are well quicked, the rest have very indifferent fences. Draining hitherto little attended to in any shape. Manures, bog-stuff and clay, a little dung, with headlands, and lime mixed, which answers every purpose of tillage or pasture.

Scarifying of Land.

This soil, being very sandy and light, is much inclined to moss, when let out for any term: it thus becomes hide-bound, and, as great virtues have followed the scarifying of mossy ground, with an instrument called the scarificator, or plough with several coulter, I think it may not be inapplicable to relate them. Where ground has been scarified, trefoil and white clover have naturally followed, in a lime-stone soil, which shews they were before choaked, or kept down by the moss. When you scarify, add a top dressing, and the moss will gradually disappear. The sweetness the herbage acquired, is known by the cattle always inclining to that part. A very heavy harrow, with long sharp pins, and a weight on it, drawn by two strong horses or oxen, would be of some benefit, and might be used, where the farmer could not spare the cost of a scarifying plough.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

COUNTRY very populous and poor; Ballylinam, situate midway between Athy and Dunaan colliery, is the only village in the barony, the property of Stewart Weldon, Esq. The only good dwelling-house in the town, is inhabited by Mr. Grace, who had a cotton factory, where thicksets were manufactured, about four years ago, but it is now discontinued. Price of labour, 6*d.* in winter, and 8*d.* in summer, for cottiers; daily labourers, 18*d.* and 2*s.* in summer, 10*d.* in winter. Provision generally cheap; potatoes, on an average, 3*d.* per stone, oatmeal 10*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. Cottier pays from four to five guineas annually for his cabin, acre of garden, and grafs of one cow. Roads in tolerable good repair, and but one considerable bridge in the barony, called Mageny; it crosses the river Barrow, which skirts the county.

The soil on the banks, generally light loam, but very good for meadow. From near Athy to Mageny bridge, the Barrow divides the barony from the county of Kildare; it is now navigable from that town to Carlow, for a packet-boat, which daily carries passengers to and from the Grand canal; the Company's boats ply there, and for five miles of that line it is navigable for boats carrying from twelve to fourteen tons. The trackway and some locks are finished, and, when completed according to the present plan, will afford a good navigation for boats of double that burthen. The fishery of no claimed property, and very inconsiderable.

No school, or charitable institution, except that at Ballintubber, founded by the late Bowen Southwell, Esq. who bequeathed 20*l.* annually for its support.

Very

Very little manufacture ; none at all now for sale. There was a considerable cotton mill on the Barrow, near Kilmerony, but it has declined within these five years, and is not now worked. From the easy communication with Dublin by the Grand canal, and with Waterford by the Barrow, the cheapness of fuel, and the vicinity of Athy market, it seems very well adapted for an extensive trade. Very little planting within these twenty years, except by Judge Kelly and Colonel Weldon, who have made considerable ornamental plantations on their demesnes, and built elegant mansions, which they continue to improve. The soil of Kilmerony is rather discouraging to vegetation, being a light rabbit-sand ; but Kellyville is much richer land. The Dublin Society's premiums have not been received in this barony ; nor is there any nursery for sale.

The house at Gracefield, and its improvements, very old fashioned, though the ground the best in the barony, and here is a small wood, and another at Rahin, the timber young and very dear. The proportionate quantity of bog is small, and generally they make hand-turf, and have very little waste ground as the hills are pasturable. A good deal of coal from Doonaan is consumed here, and in the upper part of the barony, nearest to Carlow they use turf fuel, but the bog in the whole of it does not exceed three hundred acres. Fences not favourable to thorn. People are generally industrious, though poor. The use of the English language universal ; so much increased within twenty years, that the common conversation of labourers is in that tongue. The ruins of an old castle is seen at Ballyadams, from whence the barony takes its name ; of another at Grange ; and at Ballylinam are the ruins of an old church, near which several ancient coins have been dug

dug up. Cobler's Castle is on the bounds of this and Stradbally barony, situate on the summit of a lofty hill, and only built to give employment to the neighbouring poor in a season of scarcity; there are 3 grist-mills in the barony, but indifferently supplied with water, and but the shells of several windmills remain. On Mr. Kavanagh's estate is an iron mine, which long since has not been worked. Mr. Kavanagh's plantations, and Colonel Weldon's, cover about forty acres. The parish church of Ballyadams is in Ballintubber; it is very neat, and adds highly to the engaging appearance of the village.

CHAPTER XI.

BARONY OF PORTNEHINCH.

SECTION I.

Agriculture.

THIS barony is still of less fertile soil than any of the preceding, and contains near 18,000 acres.

The soil is so light and shallow, a plough of two horses of even inconsiderable powers will turn the sod, and little further is required. Their crops and tillage fields are but small; first grass-potatoes, next oats, or barley, then fallow for wheat. All their manure goes to potatoes and meadow; produce of an acre of potatoes 50 barrels; the wheat acre produces four to five barrels; oats and barley eight to ten: Potatoe ground from £.4 to £.7 per acre; meadow from three to five pounds. Portarlinton is their market for grain, and indifferently supplied, but Monasterevan in the adjoining county of Kildare is better, no green food cultivated in the barony, but at Lord Portarlinton's demesne, of Dawson's Court, about three miles from the town.

Green

Green Crops.

In this light soil, if the headlands be ever so small, endeavour to cover the arable with a sprinkling of clay, which will assist in bringing the ground preparatory to a right course of crops, commencing with a vegetable crop. It will thus bring turnips, which may be succeeded by barley, next clover, and fourth wheat; but the ground ought to be well ploughed, previous to the sowing of turnips, and finely harrowed; how capitally this vegetable might be cultivated here with the patent drill plough, and ashes enough produced from the scantiest supply, to nurture the seed? By a judicious course of cropping, much of this barony could be laid down in excellent sheep walk, and for soundness of soil, though naturally light, cannot be excelled.

SECT 2. Pasture.

Is very light and poor, particularly so of a dry year, as the soil is so shallow, composed of a hungry loam, with a substratum of limestone gravel, and for a great part of the barony, in the environs of the town of Portarlington, a very deep limestone quarry at bottom; principally occupied by store cattle and calves. The grass is poor, short, and spiry, very thick, with harsh black buttons, and quite unprofitable; except in favoured spots, and town parks there is no good meadow, and even in these 'tis very bad in a dry season, of course, the hay is very easily saved. There are several small dairies, and as much butter made as supplies the

town of Portarlinton, where the tallow of the county is manufactured; hides are sent to Mountmelick, and their trade of wool so inconsiderable as scarcely worth speaking of.

Hay-making.

The hay here is very easily faved, and the sap is but light and scanty; how much of its virtue then must it lose, by being exposed several days in the most parching weather, to the sun, when a few hours would almost be sufficient to save it? As much time is lost, generally, in getting up the hay in this district, as in places where the meadows are so luxuriant that they have scarcely room to turn the grass sufficiently. The great art of hay-making should be to save it as green as possible, as retaining the sap; but after an immensity of time lost in tossing and turning it, to its own detriment, it is left to remain in the fields, till the harvest is got up, which ultimately leaves but little nutriment in it. This is a gross mistake, that deserves particular attention.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

ARE of small size, from three to thirty or forty acres; farm houses, throughout, good and comfortable; all have neat little offices, and many orchards; cleanly people, and their cottage windows are all glazed. The neat appearance of this poor country is very favourable,

ble, and bespeaks, at once, the residence of a more civilized colony, and tis to be remarked, that the natives in the vicinity are fond of following their example. Leases are for three lives or thirty-one years; county cess 5*d.* per acre; two horses may be proportioned to thirty acres, and many small farmers keep good draft horses, with which they send the Doonaan coal to Connaught, and bring home oatmeal in return, which they sell in Portarlinton market. Fields are from three to eight acres; a good many thorn fences, well kept, but little draining, indeed none required, (except on the bogs,) they rather want water; bog stuff, ditches and head lands their manures; no idea of gravel, nor have they any use for it, but in the moors.

Lime.

Lime, which is so powerful a manure, and by some farmers considered as the grand restorative for every soil, would here have the very opposite effect, as throughout this barony, in the uplands, the superficial stratum is an arid limestone, and, in general, that but a very slight covering from the limestone quarry. Bog stuff is every where convenient, which is the fittest dressing for these lands; and where this is incorporated in the soil, if the year at all inclines to moisture, the crops are excellent, and in a dry year the ground is partly corrected by it, at all events made considerably better; vegetable crops are not, in general, favoured in this barony, but the reason is, because the proper mode of cultivating them is not attended to.

SECT 4. *General Subjects.*

COUNTRY extremely populous; the town of Portarlinton is above a mile in length, and has very good houses, but little or no trade or manufacture of any consequence. This borough now sends one member to the imperial parliament, and formerly returned two; it has a post, fair, and market, and is distant thirty-six miles from Dublin; the Barrow divides it and the two counties, so that the town is partly in this county, and partly in the King's county.

The genteel families are very numerous, as are the schools for children of both sexes, which at one time amounted to 16, and often vary in number. It gives the title of Earl to the Dawson family, who are the Lords of the soil. A cotton factory was some years past established here by Dr. Blair, who resides in the town, but did not succeed, as was also the case with almost every species of trade or manufacture, hitherto attempted. The meat market is remarkably good and cheap, fuel extremely so, and plenty; turf will be drawn and clamped in the yard, and the whole expense but 6*d.* the statute kish; potatoes rather high, the barony not supplying a sufficiency for home consumption, average price 3½*d.* per stone; meal 12*s.* per cwt. Cloathing of the lower rank tasty, yet comfortable; wages 13*d.* per day, without diet, through the year, or 8*d.* with diet. Very few cottiers, almost all are small farmers; no species of improved farming, but ground very poor and unproductive; tithe valued every year, but about thirty years ago, a modus was established of
one

one shilling per acre for potatoes, in Coolbanagher parish, but being so small it is not demanded; potatoes and rape are exempt. Roads and bridges very good; soil, poor clay, and barren limestone gravel; no mines or minerals, tho' they have been sought for near Portarlinton, at great expense, piercing very deep quarries of hard stone. The river Barrow is navigable between Portarlinton and Monasterevan, though no trade here; but boats ply from thence to Athy, Leighlin, Carlow, and Waterford. In Portarlinton is a strong and small beer brewery, Mr. Archer the proprietor; and a bolting mill of no great repute, on the Barrow; and here is an excellent fair for black cattle; timber excessively dear, but no woods or nursery for sale; a great quantity of bog, but no other waste ground; it lies very low, and has not good falls for draining.

The founders of Portarlinton were originally a colony of French fugitives, who took refuge in this kingdom, from the religious persecutions they suffered at home; and many of their descendants yet reside, and have a French church, where service is regularly performed in that tongue, and always a large congregation attends. The parish church is at Lea, about three miles distant from Portarlinton, and eight miles from Dunamase. In this village a castle was erected, on the banks of the Barrow, by the Barons of Ofaly, who long resided there, and each considerably enlarged the buildings. Its general stile and structure bears strong resemblance to that of Dunamase, already described, and was said to cover more ground than any castle in Ireland. It certainly was strongly fortified, being well defended on one side by the Barrow, whose waters wash its walls, and the opposite side of the river is inaccessible, being a deep morass. The land

land side was defended by an exceeding strong and lofty wall, with towers in the angles ; but it was reduced by Cromwell. Near to the castle, in the village, stands the great ash tree, which is by far the largest in the kingdom, its girth taking as great a circumference as six horses bodies. The small limbs of this fine tree are equal to large trees ; and another ash of much the same appearance, and great circumference, though considerably inferior to the other, is situate about two hundred yards farther, at the church yard. Emo is also a very small village, thirty-four miles from Dublin, it has a three days post, and some stuff weavers reside in its neighbourhood. Ballybrittas is another village, and populous, situate on the high road, thirty-two miles from Dublin. The spire of Portarlinton is about half a mile distant from the town, and commands an extensive view of the neighbouring counties ; it was erected on a hill, to give employment to the poor in the year of the great frost, and is on the estate of the Earl of Portarlinton. This hill formerly was well planted, and divided into pleasure grounds, but lately the timber has been cut, and it is now a thick copse of laurel and hazle. At Coolbannagher are the ruins of a church, and also of a castle, near to which a new church has been built, and the Rev. Mr. Trench, the rector, resides in a very handsome house, contiguous to it, where is a plantation of about fifteen years growth, and very neat and ornamental later ones. Near to this are the venerable ruins of Shane Castle, which is a manor ; and was dependant on Dunamase, and built soon after it ; it was originally called Sion, or Sheehan. The castle was erected on a conical hill, very steep, having declivities all around it ; its strength was considerable and easily defended. Its size was not very great, though its situa-

tion

tion important, as being so near to the heath. Sir Robert Preston instituted this manor in 1397, in right of his wife Margaret, and in the various revolutions of Dunamase, on which it was dependant, it consequently shared its fate, but, not being of such importance escaped demolition, and after continuing for centuries in the same state, it was at length embellished at great expense, and converted into a delightful residence by the late Dean Coote. At Straboe, are also the ruins of a church, and a famous well, and not very far distant lies the great castle of Moret, the estate of the Marquis of Lansdowne. I shall conclude this barony with the description of Dawson's Grove, the elegant seat of the Earl of Portarlington, situate about three miles from Portarlington.

The plantations in this demesne are the most extensive in the county, and were considerably added to by the late Earl, who obtained the Dublin Society's premium; and the trees are well fenced in, and in a good thriving state, but the soil is unfavourable, being so extremely shallow. The lake covers an immense tract of poor, spongy ground, which it was no loss thus to convert, but rather served as a drain to the morass which surrounds it. This is always resorted to by every kind of wild fowl, and its banks thickly planted with evergreens, which compose an impenetrable screen, and completely shut out the wild barren country in its environs. The late Earl built a very fine and most extensive mansion, the ornaments of which are not yet finished; but the situation is commanding, and has a fine prospect. Here is a hops garden, which has yielded good crops, and has also had the Society's premium. Full grown timber, and some exceeding fine walnut trees are in the vicinity of the lake, and gravel walks in a serpentine form, are cut through the lawn, and planted with

with clumps of ever-greens. But the soil of this beautiful demesne is very barren, I suppose the worst in the county, and least possible to be made good land of; nothing but adding considerably to the surface can effectually improve it, being so sterile, dry, and shallow; it cannot be ameliorated by rest or improved by tillage. A very indifferent and light moor, is the soil of the moister grounds, which is too poor to promise much in their present state; if this soil was drawn up to the dry grounds, it would, I think, be turning all to the best account. The demesne contains above 800 acres. The gardens are very fine, and with the pleasure grounds are taken good care of. This demesne may answer well to a nobleman, who improves for pleasure and ornament, and not for profit, but the value of the land throughout would, for any species of farming, be certainly not worth 10s. an acre.

Garryhinch, the fine seat of Colonel Warburton, is situate on the borders of this and the King's county; 'tis disputed in which county the house stands, as the course of the river barrow, which is the Boundary, has been changed, and consequently the house is not now on the same side it formerly was. The land of this demesne is much better soil, and the timber very fine, and thickly planted. Colonel Warburton has not lately resided. Near Ballibrittas, a windmill is worked, and has a very excellent situation.

CHAPTER XII.

BARONY OF TENEHINCH.

SECTION I.

Agriculture.

THIS barony contains above 13,700 acres ; in manufactures 'tis of the first importance ; but in extent of tillage is not considerable, a great proportion being unprofitable bog, and the produce of the barony not at all equal to the consumption.

They plough invariably with horses, the country being parcelled out to many farmers, in capital and extent of ground very limited. Barley is the grain rather peculiar to the soil, and most abundant in produce, the country being low and rather moory ; they till for oats and bere in a smaller proportion, and wheat least of all. Potatoes is the distinct crop which they universally cultivate both in up and low lands, yet not at all produces a sufficiency for home consumption. The many towns of first rate consequence in the county, surrounding this district, all being
more

more or less engaged in manufactures, and having little or nothing to do with agriculture, occasions a great demand for provisions, and particularly for potatoes, so that in the most favoured seasons they are obliged to send to the barony of Ossory or more distant parts, for that material necessary of their subsistence. Their course of crops is usually potatoes, for which they manure with bog-stuff and litter, succeeded by bere, barley, and oats, and it soon again undergoes the like succession. Oxen are not used for ploughing, more than training, just broke in, and sent to fairs to be sold as plough bullocks, and this trade is carried on very much towards the mountains. The more extensive farmers yoke four horses in the uplands, and but two in the lower grounds, and having but little advantage of manures, or knowledge of improved farming, they are quite satisfied with the usual implements of husbandry, the common Irish plough, harrow, and spade, and they thresh invariably with the flail. Indeed, the soil in its improved state, yields but an indifferent crop, even with the advantage of trenching in the seed; but I apprehend 'tis very improveable and capable of being easily drained, having a good fall; its bog-stuff is convenient to the uplands, and they in turn would supply the moors with gravel, which is their natural soil, and of such peculiar benefit to that description of ground. Mountmelick, the chief town in the barony, has always buyers enough at the best prices, for all grain brought to market, and indeed, in all the surrounding towns of Maryborough, Mountrath, Portarlinton, Stradbally, and several populous villages, there is a brisk demand for every species of grain. This leaves no excuse to the farmer for a want of competition amongst buyers, to insure him a fair price for his commodity; but the fact is, the greater proportion

proportion of ground is waste, though easily reclaimable, and neglected only for the want of encouragement, which would be the best policy of proprietors to adopt, would also enrich the tenant, and prove altogether a national benefit. They have no idea of cultivating green crops for winter, having nothing extensive in the feeding line. Their wheat acre is equal to but four or five barrels at most; oats, eight; bere, ten; barley, twelve; and potatoes, sixty barrels. Their meat markets average one-fourth under Dublin market, and the grain is rated at about one-sixth less. Meadow, £.3 to £.6 per acre.

Reclaimed Mountain.

The great tract of this country which is now waste, and so capable of improvement, requires but little consideration to point out the best mode of effecting. The great tract of mountain could be brought in to the certain emolument of the proprietor, and the furtherance of agriculture in general.

This would only require the attention and spirit of the proprietor to forward, and the lords of the soil are not without the means.

If small roads were opened through the mountains, to which, doubtless, the county would contribute, and cabins built at certain distances, an astonishing improvement would soon follow. Those small farms let at a moderate rent for a certain number of years, would encourage these inclosures, and no rents would be better paid. I have seen such experiments in differ-

ent

ent parts of Ireland, and particularly on the Cavan mountains they have the happiest effect, both in returning profit to the adventurer, and giving employment to the peasant. I would beg leave to recommend its introduction here, which there is no possible reason, but it would be attended with as much success.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

Is very light, but kind, not equal to fattening, except in a small proportion, near the mountains, and favoured spots of town parks, and there only, thus engaged for individual consumption. Breed of cattle are but the old Irish kind, and the cow, best for the pail, is most highly esteemed. In larger farms their pastures are only fit for store cattle, and until they reclaim their grounds, which certainly would return great profit for any kind of farming, it is not to be expected they will go to any expense for bettering their stock. Their milch cows only are housed from December to May, and fed on hay. They have made scarce any attempt at introducing artificial grasses; their natural grass is light, and not very abundant in meadow, consequently easily saved into hay. Perhaps their climate would be unfavourable to early drawing in, particularly in wet seasons, as being situate so near the mountains. The feeders, from distant parts of the county, attend their fairs for store cattle, and their prices are high, and steadily rising these some years; but even in this traffick they cannot, comparatively speaking, be very extensive: the more considerable part of the barony

rony being bog, moor, or waste ground, which does not afford a sufficiency of tillage for home consumption. I apprehend that with care, much of this country might be profitably employed under dairy, as the grass is far from being coarse, and the situation favourable to that particular pursuit. Most of the neighbouring towns being much in the worsted or stuff manufacture, and hitherto carried on with spirit, shews the wool trade to be very considerable. The manufacturers had nothing like sufficiency for their consumption at home, and regularly had a supply from Munster, and the sheep countries in their vicinity. But all hides and tallow, which were only produced from those cattle slaughtered for home use, are readily sold for their value; the present average may be 6*d.* per lb. for each. Average price of potatoes for seven years past, 4*d.* per stone; meal 12*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

Dairies.

So great a tract of this country being proper for dairy ground, I know no manner of husbandry would pay better, and tracts are easily had of any size, which might be proportioned to the ability of the farmer. Great numbers of springers are reared here from yearlings, and thus are naturalized to the soil; though they are rather small, yet, in general, they are excellent for the pail: money could scarcely be turned to better advantage in small farming, than in purchasing yearling heifers, and stocking their grounds with them; their character for milk is so well known, that their value is considerably enhanced, when brought down
springers

springers to the low-lands. As this kind is only esteemed for milk, I pass over these defective points that might be remedied by crossing the breed, in which too often the native excellence is lost, and the intended improvement does not always follow.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

ARE of small size, but six to twenty acres, or forty to one hundred, of arable and pasture, already indifferently reclaimed; but to these is generally attached a large quantity of bog or moor, at a very low bulk rent, or in some places not chargeable at all. Farm houses are wretched indeed; little idea of bettering them by the cottier or tenant; and their mean appearance of small concern to the occupiers. I have observed these low huts are fondly clung to by these people, and preferred to neat slate houses, with which some gentry have adorned their estates. Land is set from the rack-rent above its value, and can rarely, but in very favoured seasons, provide the tenant a livelihood after paying his rent. New leases, or those made within twenty or thirty years, generally run for three lives or thirty-one years. It is here, that in some old ones yet extant there are certain clauses, obliging the tenant to use no fuel but wood; so much was the country under forest, that the object of the landlord was to have his grounds cleared; this accounts for the immense quantity of timber, found under ground in the bogs, which doubtless, caused their extension, and has been a received opinion of their prime cause, but certainly

certainly proves so great was our ancestors pursuit in clearing only, that even by the consumption in fuel, as well as in building, they cut more than they had occasion for; which, after lying for centuries in the ground, and more or less decayed by the nature of the soil covering it, is now eagerly sought for, and even manufactured into various uses of country work. County cess, 5*d.* per acre. A farm of twenty or thirty acres will be tilled by two horses, and in lesser farms one horse only is kept, and a plough of two horses and the ploughman will be hired at 4*s.* 4*d.* per day. No particular or exact estimate of the size of fields can be made; they generally are small, about four to five acres, in petty farms. The walks for store cattle are an immense range of moor, which they can only graze one half or three-fourths of the year; the remainder of it is under water. Fences are loose ditches, and little thorn, all slovenly and ill constructed, without any judgment, thrown up so loose and wet, that every rain is sure to destroy them. I have seen no attempt at improved modes of draining, or scarce any of any kind; and besides burnt beating, heath, and litter left to rot, there is little manure, but road scraping, and scouring of ditches, mixed with whatever little dung is collected about their cabins, all which goes to potatoe tillage. No liming at all practised.

Limestone gravel.

Draining ought here to be the most material consideration in a country, that could be rendered highly profitable by an easy process of reclaiming, and which in the best seasons (so great and extensive are its wastes)

is incapable of yielding a sufficiency for the maintenance of its inhabitants.

The moors are light, and have excellent falls, nor are they without the warm gravel, which insures to them a capability of yielding any crop. The effects of this manure on bog, even for potatoes, I have seen surpassing any thing I could have expected; and its virtue in the vegetation of corn crops, is beyond contradiction, particularly in this kind of soil.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

THE country divided into so many farms, and the numerous manufactures in the adjoining towns, proves the population to be very extensive. Mountmelick is the chief town in the barony, and in the wealth, industry, and number of inhabitants, I conceive, of the first consequence in the county. It has hitherto laboured under the great disadvantage of disputed claims of proprietors, by which means no encouragement of leases could have been given, yet the public spirit of the people overcame that obstacle, and since the point has been determined and leases made, it has had many improvements. The river Onas, which is but an inconsiderable mountain stream, encircles the town, and divides this barony from the preceding one. The woollen manufacture has been carried on here beyond memory, both with great spirit and success; but at present there is a very considerable check on the trade, which has for late years been gradually declining. In the spinning

spinning of worsted yarn, it may be accounted for by the demand ceasing from the manufacturing towns in England; but in the stuff trade, which was most considerable, the encreasing and now favoured demand for cotton goods may occasion its present dullness, or, perhaps, the true cause is, its flimsy texture, it being, more properly speaking, made for sale than for service. This may be the error the cotton manufacturers are also falling into, which may again give the stuff-man, now taught by dearly acquired experience, another day of trial, for his commodity.

A branch of the iron manufacture has long been established here, and, when wood was to be had for fuel, furnaces for metal pots, &c. were worked extensively, but long since are discontinued. They still, however, manufacture bits and stirrups, and, perhaps, have brought this branch to more perfection, than in any other part of Ireland. The late demand for horse accoutrements by the yeomanry and military, greatly encreased their trade, but the bad policy of too exorbitant a rise in their prices has checked it very much, as those articles have been had from Birmingham, after paying duty, on better terms. The well thriven English policy, of working for moderate profit, ought to be a guide to us in our infant manufactures; perhaps experience will be our best tutor. So many and so inconsiderable are these manufacturers of worsted and iron, more particularly the former, 'twould tend to no purpose to enumerate the proprietors individually. Some cotton factories have been within these twelve years established here, and many of that industrious society of Quakers are concerned in them: amongst the most considerable of these is Mr. John Bewley, who gives employment daily to above four hundred people, and keeps two hundred looms at work. This may be about one-half

the extent of this trade in Mountmelick. A peculiar policy in the town, well deserving observation, has been adopted by them, of encouraging the farmers to pay a journeyman weaver to teach their children: this premium to the teacher varies, by agreement with him, either for the sum of 2 or 3 guineas for his trouble, or by allowing him a certain proportion of his pupil's time, when a knowledge of the trade is acquired, which is usually the case in a short time, by a lad of ordinary capacity, suppose three months, or from that to twelve. Even girls are taught, at so early an age, that literally they are scarcely able to carry home the piece of goods of their own weaving. The process is obviously very simple, and proves the absurdity of serving a seven years apprenticeship to every trade, whether more or less intricate. This insures work within doors, when agriculture cannot be pursued by severity of weather, and affords a double source of income, and a certainty of constant employment. The manufacturer imports the cotton thread, and sometimes buys in Dublin, whither they send all their goods unfinished: from the spinning factory at Mountrath the cotton thread is also had, and the looms are scattered at several miles distance around the town. Here also are two tan-yards, two soap manufactories, and four breweries. The beer is excellent, and supplies most of the neighbouring towns, even without the county. Many more people could be employed in all these factories, was there a demand for these goods as formerly, as, from the policy described in teaching children, the country may be said to swarm with manufacturers. Potteries are long established in this neighbourhood, for tiles, crocks, and garden pots, and a brisk demand for those articles, which are reasonably sold.

Rosenallis is a village, three miles distant from Mountmelick, and forty-four miles from Dublin, situate at the foot of the Sleive Bloom mountain. This place is remarkable for quarries of soft stone, composed of siliceous white sand, which is worked into chimney-pieces, coving and hearth stones, and in great demand thro' several parts of the kingdom. A very neat finished coving-stone, chimney-piece, and hearth-stone may be purchased at the quarry, for about one guinea. Their flags were, till lately, much in demand, but now outrivalled by the more durable Carlow flags. This village has but a poor appearance, the houses mostly thatched, and some are covered with this white flag, which certainly is not impervious to the weather, and so rudely laid on, that they often give way, which is extremely dangerous to passengers, as these houses so covered, are two stories high. The Quakers have a large burial-place, well inclosed, near the village, and, on the rise of the hill, which is all a vast rock, stands a very neat and handsome church, and the walls of a round tower are contiguous to it, but not one-third as high as those circular towers seen thro' the kingdom, nor evidently was it built for the like purpose. The walls of a wind-mill stand at some distance from the village, and bear strong resemblance to the tower just described, but the former has no entrance. The habitations of the lower order, or cottiers, very mean. Fuel cheap and plenty; turf sold at 9*d.* per kish, drawn home. Food, principally potatoes, from 2½*d.* to 4*d.* per stone. Frizes about 2*s.* 6*d.* per yard; stuffs 13*d.* Labourers' wages from 5*d.* to 8*d.* throughout the year, with diet, or 10*d.* without it. A great deal of rape is sowed for seed, and is tithe free; none is transplanted for green food: it is in greatest abundance near the mountains, and the oil-mills at Mountrath, Lacka,

and

and Cartown manufacture it, but they are not equal to one third the seed raised in this county, the overplus goes to Dublin by canal. Beer evidently encreasing, from the many breweries; spirits almost entirely out of use with the lower orders, being beyond their reach. Roads and bridges in tolerable repair. No navigation or navigable river. The Barrow, waters this county, in its course towards Monasterevan, but *here* is a very inconsiderable stream. State of education in very deplorable neglect, except in the school established by the Quakers in Mountmelick, where the youth of their society only are admitted. It must be observed, this exclusion is not occasioned by any illiberal motive, but merely in conformity with that peculiar strictness of discipline amongst this society, who, perhaps, take more care and pains with their youth, than any other sect in the world; and that, which might be considered a harmless levity amongst others, would be rather indecorous and unbecoming the gravity they wish to instil in their children, which early impression has certainly produced a most respectable body of people, whose general characteristic is a well thriven industry. Is it not enough for them to support their own poor, and never suffer them to become a charge on the community? In this school are annually supported, educated and clothed, fifty children of both sexes, at the moderate price of £. 5, per annum: even those children, whose parents cannot afford that payment, are not excluded; for the *meeting* in which particular district they reside, is bound to support them, and they are regularly sent to this school at the general expence. The funds are kept up by private subscriptions, which, on its first establishment, amounted to £. 1300, sterl. this sum was sunk in house and furniture, &c. and regular annual subscriptions supply the deficiency of expenditure;

expenditure; each child being computed to stand the house in £. 18, sterl. per annum. Donations or legacies exceeding £. 10, are thrown into the accumulating fund, and twenty acres of ground adjoining supply the house with milk, butter, potatoes, and all other vegetables, which are cultivated in abundance in an excellent garden. Their policy is to have the institution upheld by constant subscription, as a regular endowment has too often proved a sinecure, and the good intent of the donor monopolized by individuals. In the late year 1800, of unexampled scarcity, the poor of all descriptions were supported with subscriptions raised thro the country, by the unremitted exertions of the Quakers, who foresaw the gathering storm, and early laid in a supply of provisions, which they sold out considerably under first cost; and so great was the quantity brought in from time to time, as to amount to near £. 20,000. This supply was chiefly had from Munster, and without this care the poor might indeed be said, literally to starve in a country, which, in the most abundant seasons, has not a sufficiency for its own consumption. This late institution brought much gold and silver into circulation, which may be here more abundant than in any part of this province; but Dublin bank notes are current throughout. They have had a farming society in this Barony, at Rosnallis; and the slovenly state of farming here is certainly no credit to a gentry, where the joys of conviviality occupied their attention more than the true interests of agriculture. Their manufacture is in statu quo, as described; and they have fuel and water enough for its extension, tho' at present too little provision cultivated for their own sustenance. The neglect of agriculture is the great obstacle to the increase of manufactures, as thou-

sands

lands of acres naturally of a kind productive quality, are here lying waste, though might be reclaimed at a very moderate expense. In this barony are no good mills, but many grist mills; indeed there is no supply of water for any considerable one; there is one bolting mill near the town of Mountmelick, called new mill, Mr Dugdale the proprietor. They have but a small proportion of planting, merely ornamental screens, at the entrance of demesnes, but they have peculiar good situations, and a soil favourable to plantations. Near this town are three nurseries for sale, the most extensive in the county; but the stock of the best of them, may be worth little more than £. 300, a third of which is about their annual sale. Timber is scarce and dear, any for building had from Dublin by Canal. The quantity of bog is very great, more so than in any part of the county; perhaps above one half is bog and waste, but there is a good fall for draining, and gravel not inconvenient in most places. The want of good leases is the grand obstacle to improvement; suppose perpetuities were granted for reclaiming ground, it would doubtless be the best spur to men of capital, who would pay the proprietor a certain fair rent for the soil, which, in its present state, does not yield 6*d.* annually.

People are, comparatively speaking, more industrious than generally found: they are all fond of employment, which they may be said to want, rather than industry, and they speak none but the English language. The congregation of Mountmelick church are said to exceed 1000 in number, but Rosenallis is the parish church, to which Mountmelick is a chapel of ease. The town of Mountmelick and the environs, is the estate of the Marquis of Drogheda, who makes leases of town plots for ever, and adjoining parks for three lives. At Castlebrack, are the ruins of a castle; another

ther at Clonliffeigh and one at Castlecuff, on Mr. Baldwin's estate. The average price of land through the barony is about 20s. per acre. There are some very inconsiderable lakes in this barony, the largest of which is Lough Annagh, also called Lough Duff, it covers about 40 acres; the Barrow ran through it, but the course is now changed. Not very long ago, twenty broad cloth looms were worked in Mountmelick, but the goods were coarse and sent off unfinished, not one of them now exists: decline accounted for, by Irish soldiers going to England, for whose use the cloth was manufactured. English soldiers coming here, have their clothing from home. In the neighbourhood without the barony, are some good quarries of lime stone, and brick kilns are also contiguous; but other building materials, as slates, laths, timber, &c. had from Dublin by Canal.

It would not be fair to omit mentioning the reason the stuff manufacturers assign, for making such flimsy work; they say, did they make it better, they would lose, as the finisher in Dublin, who dyes and presses these goods, allows no more for better pieces than for indifferent, and he solely regulates the market; and 'tis not the excellence of materials, but variety of colour, which ensures a sale, when goods are finished; but surely it is in the power of the manufacturers to remedy the grievance.

I would conceive it well worth their while; 'tis astonishing what they now assert, that, for above eight months past, they have £. 13000 worth of these stuffs on hands, for which there is no demand: and they are still encreasing the stock, not choosing to leave the poor without employment. This proves both their wealth and spirit, and why do they not remedy the grievance, of which they complain, and establish a finishing house at home, under their own inspection, and
again

again retrieve a trade of such importance to their country in particular, and to the nation in general? Near Cappard, is a noted togher or bog pass, where a famous battle was gained by King William's soldiers, who bravely fought a very superior number, and succeeded by the great skill and gallantry of their commander. A slate quarry of a coarse and indifferent kind, was worked to little advantage at Cappard, but a man having been killed by a part falling in, the quarry was since shut up. Near to this is the demesne of Cappard, the elegant seat of John Pigot, Esq; who has lately rebuilt the present mansion, offices, and farm yard in a style of true magnificence. The improvements, which were commenced here, previous to the late rebellion, and on which several thousands have been expended, were planned with great taste and in the most modern style; but Mr. Pigot, after discharging the duties of an active magistrate and gallant yeoman, disgusted with the ingratitude and villanies of the neighbouring peasantry, has abandoned this beautiful seat for ever, and gone to reside in England, where he has purchased an estate; thus the misconduct of the foolish peasants has deprived society here of a valuable member, and has left themselves in that district without employment, not one shilling being now spent on improvement amongst them, two hundred of whom had daily work at Cappard for years before. The young plantations are thriving extremely well, for which Mr. Pigot received the Dublin Society's premium; but one whole extensive screen was nearly destroyed last summer, by a peasant smoking his pipe amongst the young trees in dry weather. And indeed I conceive this dangerous custom, and the many bad consequences, that have resulted from it, should be sufficient to call for the interference of the legislature who have already shewn much anxious care

in

in what less materially concerns the encouragement and preservation of the plantations of this kingdom. I have never seen a demesne, which is capable of greater improvement, nor designs more judiciously laid out.

The vast lakes at the foot of the mountain, and all the other elegant plans, which were begun, that are now left unfinished, and will perhaps for ever remain so, create melancholy reflections in the breast of a lover of his country, who must sigh for the unhappy consequences of a wanton and unprovoked rebellion, and it is not indeed the least, amongst the many misfortunes resulting from it, that we have to deplore the removal of such a public spirited and useful member of society, as was Mr. Pigot.

CHAPTER XIII.

BARONY OF STRADBALLY.

SECTION I.

Agriculture.

THIS barony is but small, it contains but eleven thousand and nineteen acres of rateable ground, in the county cefs, and is occupied chiefly by careful and wealthy farmers.

They generally plough the lay, lightly in February, scatter in oats, and then harrow once; take two successive crops of potatoes, having dunged well each time, and then barley, with which they again let out, having sowed rye grass and white clover mixed. The soil being inclined to moss, they are obliged to break it every seven years at least. This is the mode of farming contiguous to Ballikilcavan, and along the western side of the barony, where dung is convenient; but more generally wheat succeeds potatoes after a year's fallow, being manured with corn-gravel, of a lime stone quality, with

with which every farm in the barony abounds; then oats, with which they let out, and clover is sown in, which holds good for three years. Wheat is the most favourite crop; the tillage of it may comprize one third of the barony; another third is under oats and barley, and the remainder pasture, meadow, and a very small proportion of bog. The acre of wheat will produce eight barrels, oats twelve, bere and barley from sixteen to twenty, potatoes one hundred barrels, prices regulated by Dublin market; and grain kept up at 2*s.* per barrel under its rates. Mr. William Dunn of Ballymanus, is a very extensive farmer, and has been considerably engaged in tillage; his mode was to break ground for fallow, sow wheat, next oats, barley, and again fallow. Mr. Dunn holds above one thousand acres in this barony, the most of which he limed, some on the green surface, and some ploughed in; but he found without first mixing the lime with old ditches, head lands and bog stuff, that his ground was the worse, and all his labour and expence fruitless. He has latterly abandoned tillage, and is now very considerably engaged in feeding sheep; his stock exceeds fifteen hundred, which is about half the number in the barony; they are mostly fed for store, for which the soil is very well adapted: Mr. Dunn manures his meadow and potatoe land with stable dung, and he has boats on the Grand canal, which intersects his land; these boats he employs in carrying dung from Dublin, average cost is 8*d.* per good horse load, when brought home. Two oxen are yoked from the shoulder with collars and hames, and two horses are generally hindmost in the same plough; this mode they prefer, as obliging the oxen to step out quicker. Except with Dean Walth, of Ballikilcavan, I have seen none but the common old implements of husbandry.

This

This gentleman is very exact and nice in his tillage, and his demesne is as capitally farmed as any I have seen. He uses the Leicestershire wheel plough, and double harrow, and has a hollow roller for manuring the surface with lime. The cylinder is composed of planks, nailed on two strong circular pieces of timber resembling car wheels, and about the same distance asunder. Those planks are about one quarter of an inch asunder, two of which open with hinges to admit the lime to be thrown in. In the centre of the main pieces a gudgeon is fixed, and worked in a frame resembling that of a rolling stone, which is drawn by one horse, and, as it turns, the lime is lightly scattered on the surface; but this only can be used, when the ground is in a dry state, or the chinks would be filled with clay, dung, or moss; if a skeleton frame of like cylindrical form was fixed without side this, so as to elevate it above the surface, it might be a very useful machine, and the lime could be scattered on the ground in any state, and in all weathers. The extensive avenues, the lake, and the ornamental part of Ballikilcavan are not modern; but the gardens are very fine, and contain above ten acres, inclosed with the best wall in Ireland, as, indeed, is the whole demesne, consisting of three hundred acres; one-third of the demesne is planted with fine full grown timber, and the plantation on the hills, over the gothic tower, forms a very striking and picturesque scene, and from a distant view gives a considerable woody appearance to the whole country. To these extensive groves, the Dean lately added an oak plantation of ten acres, but has not claimed any premium, nor has any resident of this barony. The corn is always threshed with the flail, but many have winnowing machines. Athy, Stradbally,

bally, Maryborough, and Monasterevan, are their market towns; the contiguity of the Grand canal ensures many buyers. Turnips, cabbages, and transplanted rape are sown for green food, and great care taken in their culture. Doctor Lamphier, who resides at Pole's-bridge, near Stradbally village, has headed his rape for sheep, and the following season had an abundant crop of seed from the stalks. This gentleman is very experimental and successful in his farming, and his grounds bear evident marks of judicious care; being engaged in malting, as he is the proprietor of a capital brewery, the dirt from his malt-house is turned to good account in surface dressing, and that being but very lightly scattered on the meadow, is the highest manure it could receive, far exceeding stable dung or any compost, and the good effects are evident for two years, and produce the most luxuriant grass. The fresh stalks of potatoes spread on after-grass, when they are green and fatty, are also a high manure, but not equal to the former.

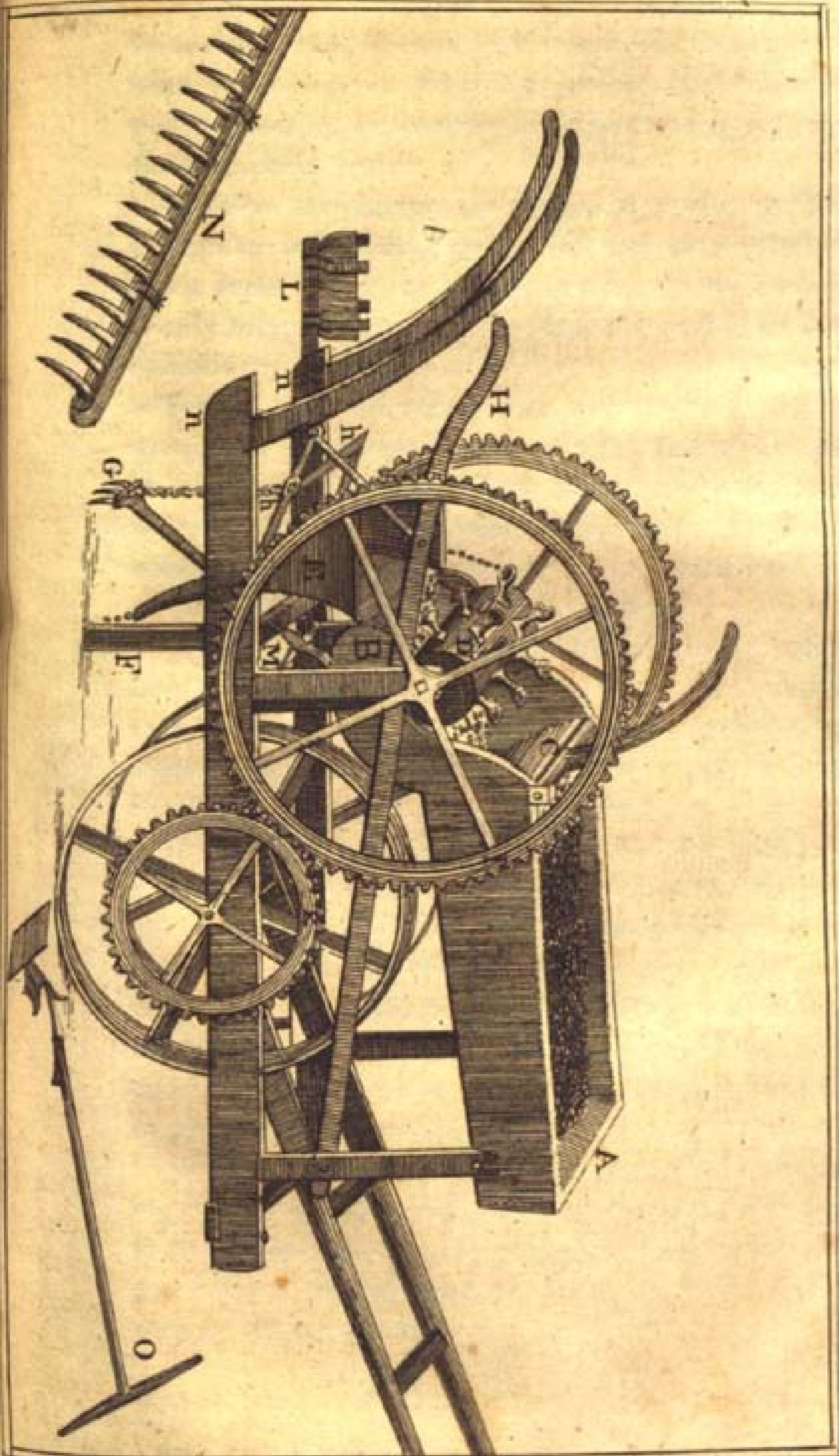
Drill husbandry.

The real advantage of drill husbandry is but too little attended to, and is exemplified in the regularity, with which the grain is introduced into the ground, by the covering it receives, and also by the certain advantage of fallowing, as it were, between the drills; and in land, which is intended to yield successive crops of grain, by alternately changing the position of the drills into the newly fallowed ground: this being considered,

sidered, our next object is to procure those implements of husbandry, which can in the most exact and regular order perform those requisites; and Cooke's patent drill plough will be found to answer every purpose. This implement is particularly adapted for introducing manure along with the grain, by means of the hopper, which contains both together, as is exemplified in the sowing of turnips, mixed with ashes, and the experiment was fully proved by Mr. Darby, of Leap Castle, in the King's county. This gentleman procured twenty cart loads of ashes, which was fully sufficient for a field of five acres, and mixed therewith ten pounds of turnip seed; the seed and the ashes, thus mixed, were put in the hopper of the plough, and sowed in; from this field, sixty cart loads of turnips were drawn off, and pitted, and the remainder, which were left on the ground, sustained, nay, fattened 300 sheep, in the short space of seven weeks, tho' they were put on, in very poor condition. This proved a very happy experiment, and by minutely examining the process, must be generally approved of. For we know, that the highest manure is produced from ashes, and, as ashes cannot be had, but in some degree by exhausting the soil, that method must be desirable, which teaches us to use it with œconomy, and at the same time to give an ample portion with the grain.

In the experiment alluded to, the ashes was produced from weeds and stubborn clods, collected here and there, and other convenient rubbish, which yielded a sufficiency, though but four one horse cart loads to the plantation acre. The very best manure for turnips is here introduced, and I am confident, it is well calculated to assist every species of grain, and instead of exhausting, must certainly enrich the soil; for the grain is, as it were, lapped up in the ashes, and certainly

Crocker's Patent Drill Machine.



ly not more than one half the surface of the field is at once furthering the end of vegetation, whilst that between the drills, is receiving the highest preparation for the succeeding year.

Here we see another advantage, as a very shallow ploughing is sufficient, and where the careful farmer has a depth of soil, by turning it occasionally, he constantly brings new earth into play, and need never fear exhausting the soil.

I have been informed, that with every species of grain, this has equally been successful, and here it may be remarked, and an essential observation it is, that, where grain is sowed, thus covered with ashes, it is effectually secured from the red worm, which has been of such destructive consequences to crops.

Where is there a farm, more especially in the neighbourhood of bogs, but this cheap and simple manure may easily be had? Or where is there an upland farm, that a sufficiency of rubbish could not be picked up to furnish four loads of ashes to the acre?

If then, for every species of soil, and for each kind of grain, the manure of ashes is best calculated to yield abundant crops, I think it will not be denied, that the mode of introducing this manure is cheap, simple, and truly effectual, enriching and encreasing, rather than diminishing or exhausting the soil, and without at all encroaching on the intent of the legislature, in their act to prevent the burning of lands.

Where there is not a desire for immediately producing corn, I would recommend potatoes as the first crop sown on the lay, and the ground is then better prepared for a crop of bere, or wheat, to be sown after turning out the potatoes.

Where the soil is gravelly, or a strong clay, 'tis more particularly adapted for wheat, and a deep loam will yield a choice crop of bere. Oats is favoured in either soil, and, with an intervening vegetable crop, will come in well, after either wheat or bere. In every town-land, 'tis well known to what grain the soil is inclined, and by this practice, I believe every crop would be abundant in its proper soil.

Moory ground should certainly be drained before introducing any crop, and a succession of vegetable crops taken, as potatoes, turnips, rape, cabbage, &c. and in all cases, gravelled and burnt; I speak here in commencing a course of reclaiming it.

The great mistake is too great an earnestness to bring the waste ground into grass, which though it may be effected in one season, yet it will assuredly be soon clothed with its natural aquatic and coarse vegetation; but as draining cuts off the springs which vegetate and nourish these watery plants, that otherwise rapidly cover the moors again; so is gravelling a requisite as fully essential, which gives firmness and consistency to the soil, and ought to be incorporated into it by the frequent cultivation of green crops, by which means the moors are brought to be truly valuable land.

In all moory or boggy ground, paring and burning is absolutely necessary, where red or black ashes are produced; but, where the surface is fuzzy, yielding white ashes, then you burn, only to destroy the superficial vegetation. In every soil, vegetable crops will tell best by a due preparation; how far uplands should be burnt, I have already shewn, and the ground after a process of tillage, should be extremely well ploughed, and laid down with such grass-seeds as are known best to agree with the soil; but in every kind of soil, where

where a course of tillage is to be commenced from grass, a vegetable crop will be found the best to prepare the ground for a process of grain.

Where stocks are to be fatted on green crops, 'tis an unpardonable waste to feed them on the ground, without saving any; a large portion of the best of the crop should be carted off, before you admit the cattle; a sufficiency will remain for them to pick up, as I have explained in Mr. Darby's turnip crop. This mode would be desirable both in the feeding of black cattle and sheep; and that, which has been carted off, could be duly portioned to them in the farm-yard, where it cannot be wasted, and an attention here, had to the saving of manure.

The crop, with which grass seeds are to be sown, I would rather confine to oats or barley, should it be insisted on to lay down the ground with a crop of corn, but I believe it is fully as productive and will keep the land in much better heart, to lay it down with grass-seeds only. Mr. Drought's method, as explained in Sect 1. Chapter viii. I am partial to.

It is now our consideration, whether to mow or to feed the grass, the first year after letting out. The quality of the grass is by no means arrived at its richness, or excellence in nutrition to cattle, for several years after letting out, as it gradually improves, and only where ground is stiff, it is apt to get hide bound; for which reason it is not very proper to graze the land the first year, and to mow it, will be depriving it of the seeds, which would be shed from the grass; but this can be remedied by threshing the hay, and restoring the seeds to the meadow, which I think the best plan; if mowed early in the season, it will have the advantage of early vegetation; for, when the seeds are scattered on the new earth, which has not acquired a pro-

per skin, they will soon take root, and at this time, in moist weathers, artificial grasses might be added, and a surface dressing therewith, will assuredly answer the end.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

NATURE of it is inclined to herbage, (though the soil is a light sand,) which is rich and luxuriant, while the grass stands only 'till the middle of September, and grows weak and unprofitable after. Breed of sheep improving, and latterly, farmers are a good deal thus engaged; Mr. Dexter's rams are now hired here at a tolerable price. Black cattle not at all attended to, but many are store fed, and a large proportion fatted for home consumption only; the county being well inhabited by gentry and opulent farmers, and a good demand for meat in all the neighbouring towns. Milch and plough cattle housed from December to May, and sometimes in severe seasons the fat cattle also. Mr. Dunn bred a great many good horses, but he has sometime past discontinued it, as have almost all the farmers in the county. Natural grass is light and spiry, rye grass sowed for early grass, in off and on ground; trefoil, clover, and English hay-seed has also been much sown; their hay easily faved, and tramp cocks made in the field. Their mode of hay-making is not generally alike; some judicious farmers do not stir their lap cocks during twenty-four hours, then,

then, if fine weather, they gather them in small plots, which are turned constantly for two or three hours and made into small tramps of one and a half or two loads each; this preserves both sap and colour, and was introduced by Doctor Lamphier. Very little dairy, scarce enough for family use; ground not adapted for this pursuit. Hides and tallow sold in all the neighbouring towns, and average 6*d.* per lb. each. The manufacturers in Mountrath and Mountmelick take all their wool.

Irrigation.

The watering of land ought here to be minutely attended to, where it can be brought to apply, as it is of that kind of soil, which with irrigation would produce the finest crops, particularly of meadow. Many rivulets and streams might be turned to this, the best account: and particularly so, from the declivity of the surface of the land, which lies favourable for this branch of husbandry, as aquatic plants are never produced but from stagnant water. 'Tis considered, that the quicker the water passes over the ground, the more powerful are the effects of it. The wonderful return from this pursuit is well ascertained, but the material object is, the early vegetation it forces for spring food. Referring the reader to the reports of water meads in Upper Ossory barony, I only beg leave to repeat the great danger of keeping-over flocks on such lands, after they get fat, as assuredly the rot will ensue, and I find this is verified in several agricultural treatises on this subject.

SECT 3. *Farms.*

ARE in general not less than 100 acres, and run up to 4 or 500. Farm houses are very comfortable, but not kept as clean as could be wished; offices considerably improved, and an appearance of easy quiet and increasing wealth amongst the farmers. The tenant repairs all his tenements; the farms are held by lease at twenty-one and thirty-one years, and sometimes three lives. In these are found several particular binding clauses; of not permitting the tenant to alienate under forfeiture of lease; obliging him to restore the straw to the soil, and also every species of manure made on the farm; not suffering him to take two successive crops of wheat; and steadily opposing burning the surface under any pretence. Tillage fields are from five to twenty acres in size, and the pasture walks are of great extent. Fences are kept in good repair, and the soil favourable to thorn and quick, of which they are composed, and kept splash'd and trimmed very neatly, besides laid and bound down carefully with rods and twigs. Mode of draining has been little attended to, and indeed, little wanted here, as but a small quantity of moor and bog is in this district, and that rather in estimation, of a dry season, as being so favourable to moisture. Manures, are head lands and ditches, mixed with lime, which in every state agrees with the soil, when well incorporated. Liming meadows on the surface has been practised with great success towards the eastern side.

Proportion

YOKE FROM THE HORN.

To face page 167—Queen's County Survey.



Fig.^o 1

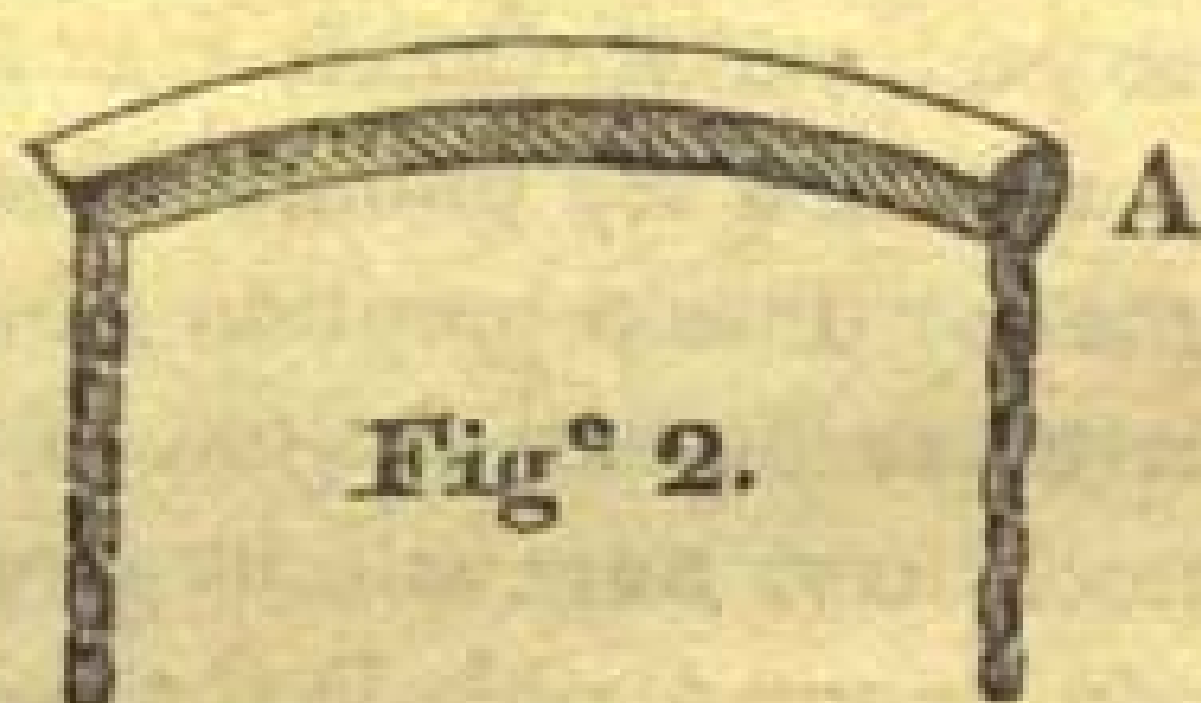


Fig.^o 2.

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

Fig. 2. Represents the back-band for the horn yoke, the inside is stuffed with hair, the circles at A. are plates of iron, nailed to the wood, which is of ash, 14 inches long, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ broad, concaved within, to lie across the back of the ox: from either end hangs a chain of 5 links, to which the traces are hooked up.

Proportion between Horses and Oxen in the Plough.

Oxen are used in the plough very generally ; we should enquire the proportion of the powers, of the food that is requisite, and of the time of labour relating to oxen and horses, and see then, which kind we ought most to value in the plough.

With proper care an ox will in a few years time improve in the plough, I mean in value, and from not being worth £.10, when brought in, may, after several years of service, be worth double or treble that sum ; but an horse, if not taken excellent care of, and fed highly on corn, will reduce himself in the same given time not to be worth £.5, though his cost may have been at least £.15. The proportion of feeding in that time is entirely in favour of the ox, as he will neither consume so much hay, nor will he require corn. A horse is more active and nimble in the harrow, and *there* ought to be preferred, but an ox will work more steady ; and yoke him from the head, he will work longer than any horse, as his natural strength lies in his neck. By this mode of yoke all his powers are brought into action, and, if an accident should happen to lame an horse, then the mischief in point of value is far greater than with the ox. Instead of a team of 4 horses for *one* purpose, and six oxen for another, as recommended for English practice (4 horses being considered as proportioned to 6 oxen, when yoked from the shoulder) I imagine that four oxen, suppose stout spayed heifers, yoked from the forehead, would be fully equal to any ploughing, and be able to do as much work as four horses, and two horses would answer for harrowing, or the other various calls in husbandry.

Here

Here follows the Expence of each Team.

HORSES, (FOUR.)

	£.	s.	d.
To 12 tons of hay for 30 weeks at 50s. } per ton, - - - - -	30	0	0
To 50 barrels of oats at 10s. - - - - -	25	0	0
To 22 weeks grafs, at 11s. 4½d. per week	12	10	3
To shoeing, at one guinea and a half } each horse, through the year, - - - - -	6	16	6
Repairs of harness, &c. - - - - -	2	5	6
	<u>£. 76</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>3</u>

OXEN, (FOUR.)

	£.	s.	d.
To 10 tons of hay at 50s. per ton for } 20 weeks, - - - - -	25	0	0
To 32 weeks grafs, at 7s. per week - - - - -	11	4	0
To repairs of harness, - - - - -	0	5	0
	<u>36</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Balance in favour of Oxen,</i>	40	3	3
	<u>£. 76</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>3</u>

Besides, the oxen can be bought for 30 per cent. less than horses, which with its interest ought to be taken into account.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

This country is very populous. Stradbally is the only town in the barony, and is a post, fair, and market town, having a very neat church and charter school; it is thirty-eight miles distant from Dublin, and six from Maryborough. The situation is exceeding pretty, the streets very wide, and houses good, with fine full grown elm trees in rows, and pleasingly scattered throughout: a very beautiful river divides it, over which is thrown a bridge of three arches. This is by far, the neatest inland town in this county, or any where else I know of. It lies low, and is surrounded with lofty hills, and the demesne of Vice Admiral Cosby, on whose estate the town is built, considerably heightens the beauty of the scene. On the opposite side it is skirted by the elegant seat of the Earl of Roden, which bounds the improvements at Ballikilcavan. Several neat lodges and fine parks, are scattered in the vicinity, and altogether it possesses much of the appearance and neatness of a beautiful English village. 'Tis to be lamented, that not the least species of manufacture, has ever been attempted in this town. Excepting the gentry, the inhabitants are very poor, but their houses are neat and have the advantage of the peasant's cottages through the country, which argues their desire for industry, that is indeed but poorly gratified; perhaps no place where there is less employment for the lower orders, and particularly calls for the establishment of some sort of manufactory, which in point of situation it is well fitted for,

having

having the advantage of the grand canal in its vicinity, and the navigation is now open to Dublin, Athy, Leighlin, Carlow and Waterford. Fuel not dear, a great supply of water, and they have every necessary of life in the adjoining district on easy rates. Potatoes is their most geneneral food, they seldom can procure oatmeal; milk is a luxury entirely beyond their reach, and they are quite satisfied if they can scrape together the price of a piece of meat for Easter or Christmas fare. Their cloathing are the coarsest frizes and stuffs, none of which or even their stockings, have their women any thing to do with the manufacture of; and except in harvest time, their only employment is the trifling cookery of their men's diet. The want of industry with the women is remarkable here, and so habitual, as can scarcely be expected to be abandoned by the present generation: cottier's wages, 6*d.* in winter, and 8*d.* in summer; he pays 40*s.* for his cow's grafs, the like for his house and one acre of garden, and is permitted the privilege of pigs and poultry, which fully pays his rent and cows maintenance: daily labourers have 10*d.* in winter, and 13*d.* in summer. Tithes valued every year when the grain is nearly ripe and every article chargeable but rape. Beer very much increased in demand, and the county well supplied from Doctor Lamphier's brewery, with an excellent beverage.

Roads and bridges are kept in fine repair, and in this barony a particular and laudable custom prevails of holding baronial meetings, which are attended by the principal resident gentry and farmers, who consult on the necessity of presentments, and take good care, that the expenditure of money goes through proper hands. The grand juries are so sensible of its importance that they steadily resist all applications, that are not certifi-

ed by this baronial meeting. At Vicar's town, three miles from Stradbally, is one of the grand canal stages, and the navigation runs through the western range of the barony, parallel with the river Barrow which is its bounds, and divides it from the county of Kildare. This part of the river abounds with fine trout, pike, eel, and salmon, these fisheries are not claimed as individual property, but are common to sportsmen, who may chuse either to angle or draw with nets.

The Charter School contiguous to Stradbally, is very well attended to in every respect, and visited once every month by a committee of resident gentlemen, who pay strict attention to its police, œconomy, and the due care of the children. Dublin bank notes only are current.

A liberal subscription has supported the poor in these late distressing years, and with a redundancy now in hands ; it is intended to purchase coarse yarn in Connaught, and give it to the women in Stradbally, to endeavour to establish amongst them some idea of manufacture ; this is the first attempt of any thing of the kind here, and from the patronage of the humane benefactors, who are anxious for its success, it will certainly be the fault of the poor, if they do not reap from it both profit and instruction. On the stream, which runs through Stradbally, are three bolting mills, situate in an excellent corn country ; the higher mills are the property of Doctor Lamphier, now finished, and considered amongst the most conveniently constructed around the country. They consist of six floors, and are supposed to be capable of clearing out, one hundred and fifty, to one hundred and seventy bags of flour, weekly, through the season, the supply of water being superior to any mills in the neighbourhood, and the fall better, the wheel is half breast shot, and another which

which is full breast shot, is turned by the same stream, and supplies his brewery, all the machinery of which it works. Stradbally mills, are situate lower down in the centre of the town on the same stream, Mr. James Grace is proprietor, the water wheel is breast shot, and equal to manufacture one hundred and twenty bags weekly, on an average through the year; and Ballikilcavan mills, two miles still lower, have very extensive and capital storage, and are fully equal to two hundred bags weekly, in a good season; the water wheel, full breast shot, and these mills are in the possession of Mr. John O'Mara. Adjoining Stradbally, on the hills, are some plantations rather antique, the property of Admiral Cosby. Timber in this county rates high, oak 3*s.* 6*d.* per foot, ash 2*s.* 6*d.* deal 1*s.* 10*d.* Elm 2*s.* 2*d.* but there is a sufficiency here for the demand. Very little bog, and no waste ground at all; the hills to the very summit are profitable sheep walks. The English language is generally and almost universally spoken.

In the twelfth century a conventual monastery for Franciscan friars, was founded in Stradbally, by one of that famous clans of the O'Mores, who possessed this country, and in the revolutions which their lands after experienced, had many masters. It at length, with the adjoining territory, became the property of the Cosby family, who have since retained it; and a remarkable story is recorded, which insured the possession to that branch of the family, by whom it has been enjoyed. An Irish chief, envious of its having been transferred to English adventurers, sent the Cosbys a haughty message, that he on a certain day would cross the bridge of Stradbally with his soldiers, and demanded for that purpose a pass; which was the reputed form of a challenge in those times. To allow it would be acknowledging the inferiority of the Cosbys, and a

mark of pusillanimity which never was the characteristic of the ancestors of our gallant Admiral. They of course prepared to give the Irish battle, and were ranged to dispute the pass with the enemy, who came in great numbers at the appointed time. The issue of the battle was long doubtful, which was fought with great bravery and perseverance; and at many times each party seemed certain of success; victory at length determined in favour of the Cosby's; but amongst the many brave men who fell that day, was included the chiefs on both sides. With Cosby, also, fell his brother and the joint possessor of the estate; and each had the benefit of survivorship. Their deaths were beheld by their ladies from a window in the castle, which overlooked the scene; and one of them, at the instant her husband was killed, called out to other witnesses, "remember my husband did not fall first, consequently the estate descended to him" and is now the property of my eldest son," which remarkable saying could not be forgot in the presence of so many witnesses, and determined the point in favour of the child of this lady, whose wary prudence and unprecedented resolution shewed a presence of mind as strong and superior to her sex, as her hardness of heart and want of tenderness was unbecoming it.

The demesne of Stradbally hall, which is the residence of Admiral Cosby, is not extensive, but very beautiful: the improvements are kept up in the most elegant and modern style. Very fine plantations, and screens, are judiciously disposed; and neat gravel walks, bordered with evergreens and exotics intersect the lawns. The soil is not very fertile, nor the grass luxuriant; but its situation and irregularities are very favourable for pleasure ground; which appellation it justly deserves. The approach is very handsome in view of the house, which has lately been considerably enlarged

enlarged by the Admiral ; and the suit of rooms below, which, reflect great credit to the architect, are planned with taste, and have a most splendid effect. They are justly esteemed the grandest apartments in the County, and the charming views from their windows highly enrich the scene.

The mill stream winds through the demesne, and its banks are covered with full grown timber, which have the most agreeable effect. We may truly say, if Stradbally hall is not as extensive as other demesnes yet in neatness and beauty, it cannot be excelled.

Four miles south of Stradbally, is the Dun of Clopoke, or * Dun-Cluin-Poic. It was a castle or habitation, situated on an insolated rock, or as some say a famous fort. In this rock are some curious cavities, which evidently are not the work of art. The summit of the rock is a plain, with some soil, and has a beautiful verdure ; an inclosure of mountain stone, not cemented by mortar, formerly encircled this plain ; and the entrance faced towards the South West. The original Irish mode of building was conspicuous here, without mortar, as is asserted ; but that period must have been very remote, for the round towers in this kingdom are of such antiquity, that their use or date was never clearly ascertained, yet in them the stones are cemented with such a compost as few other antique buildings can shew any thing equal to. 'Tis admitted they were built before Christianity was introduced in this Isle, and it is very certain so was this habitation at Clopoke. There were some Druidical characters on an apparent tomb stone, in an adjoining field, on which antiquarians say were these words “ Hy Mordha” or the great king. This originally was the property of the O'Mores, the chieftains of Leix. The approach to

this
* This word is pronounced Doon or Duin, in the Erse language.

this Dun is up a steep, and very uneven rock, and one of the county roads crosses the mountain. The plantations, and romantic views along the range of hills, have celebrated this beautiful place as one of the most picturesque, and justly admired curiosities in this county, which distinction it certainly deserves; and the adjoining fertile lands of Timoge have the richest pasture,

BARONY OF SLEWMARKE.

SECTION I.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XIV.

BARONY OF SLEWMARGY.

SECTION I.

Agriculture.

THIS barony contains near 13,000 acres, in the excellence of grafs-lands and intrinsic value in its rich and extensive coal mines, it is far superior to any other in the county.

The foil is very deep, rich, and favourable to grafs, which is heavy and luxuriant, consequently more managed in pasture than tillage; the proportion of the barony may be three-fourths grafs. Their tillage is first broken for potatoes, without manure, which sets for eight or nine guineas per acre, succeeded with the like crop, and set at same price; next follows wheat, sowed immediately after potatoes are dug out, or some farmers make winter fallow and sow barley, with which they again let the ground into grafs. Oats is not a favourite crop, when sown, it succeeds

succeeds those preceding, but the ground is generally let into grass with wheat or barley, and artificial grasses, as rye grass, red and white clover, and English hay-feed. A well tilled acre of potatoes will produce 120 barrels, which rate at about 8s. per barrel; the wheat acre averages eight barrels, barley sixteen, oats fourteen. Green crops are cultivated for winter's food, as turnips and transplanted rape; the former greatly discouraged by the unreasonable quantities stolen by the peasantry; these crops generally are sowed in new ground, and preceded by wheat or barley. Average price of land through the barony, 40s. per acre, plantation measure. Horses and oxen are impartially used in the plough; six are yoked for stiff lay ground, but very seldom are required; four more generally do all the work, and two in lighter ploughings sometimes answer; they yoke all their cattle with collars and hames, and some of the improved implements of husbandry are seen here. William Cooper, Esq. of Cooper Hill, has lately brought from England an excellent plough, entirely appropriated for cutting drains; I have not seen a model with the Dublin Society yet; 'tis worked with six strong horses or bullocks, and in this country is peculiarly beneficial, which only wants proper attention to draining, to attain the summit of perfection, it being naturally so exceedingly luxuriant and fertile. Colonel Rochfort, of Cloghrenan, has got Mr. Elkington's boring apparatus, which has been tried with great success; also, the iron horse rakes for gathering hay, and a complete threshing machine, after the Society's plan; these rakes are from nine to twelve feet long, each of which are drawn by one horse, and will save the daily labour of fifteen men. Fifty acres of meadow were saved at Cloghrenan with two of these

by a few children and eight men in ten days only; a very important matter, of considerable, saving indeed, and which well deserves adoption.

Vegetable crops.

The soil is peculiarly well adapted to vegetable crops, and the principal pursuit being in the breeding and feeding of sheep and black cattle, these ought to be the crops deserving all their care; a nice tillage and frequent hoeing would yield turnips as fine as any country could produce. Sainfoin and Lucerne would thrive admirably in this great depth of soil; after cutting the plants, the stubble should be harrowed, and it may be cut two or three times a year; it grows to a great height and blossoms, and will last for several years. An acre of this grass would support more than two cows for the summer; the value may be easily seen superior to any thing we know of.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

THE grass is vegetated in a very fine dark loam; rye grass has been nearly naturalized here, and comes in very early; the greater part of the pasture, (about two-thirds,) is appropriated to fattening and dairy; the remaining third to sheep, of which the breed is arrived to very great perfection indeed. I have seen some of Mr. Fishburne's sheep, which the best reputed English feeders need not be ashamed of; they have
been

been produced from Mr. Dexter's breed; black cattle are not less forward in estimation and improvement. Colonel Rochfort has now a very fine stock of the Leicestershire breed, imported at considerable expence. Sir John Parnell has contributed to this stock, which are altogether very beautiful. The black cattle are sent from hence to Dublin, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford, regularly every season, in a small proportion, considering the extent, and excellence of the feeding ground; but Carlow market, to which town this barony nearly extends, affords a great consumption, being thickly inhabited by gentry and opulent traders; its population is very great, and perhaps no town in Ireland is better surrounded with fine demesnes, which are all resided on by a wealthy and spirited gentry. In Carlow market is a good demand for every commodity sent from hence. The great butter market there greatly encourages the dairies in this county, for which the ground is naturally kind and favourable, and perhaps in no part of Ireland does butter sell for such good prices. Many buyers here have commissions from the provision houses in Waterford, to which it is all sent by the Barrow navigation. The wholesale price this summer was £. 7 per cwt. The breed of horses has not been so much neglected as I have before seen, tho' the general excuse for their decline was, that land was become too dear and valuable, for the precarious chance of brood mares; yet here, where land is truly valuable, this pursuit is not neglected. The general price of the stock of this county is regulated by Waterford and Dublin markets, with which they pretty steadily keep pace. The river Barrow, which divides this barony from the county of Carlow, is navigable to Athy and Monasterevan, in each of which towns it joins a branch of the Grand canal extending there; of course their grain of every

kind bears a good price, and gives them the advantage of Dublin rates, which regulate their prices. Natural grafs is very heavy, dead and fappy, and, except in fine weather, with great difficulty is faved into hay; their procefs is confequently tedious; for a long time teaded out, and progressively made into lap, grafs, and tramp cocks, which always remain in the field 'till the harvest is got up, when a great quantity of this fine hay goes to waste; and their rich after-grafs, then in its prime, is cut up and destroyed by drawing off the crop, which two months earlier should have been ricked in their haggards. Butter is the principal produce of their dairies, and for the buttermilk there is a great demand; little cheefe is made in this part of the country, that trade is principally confined to the Slieve Bloom mountains, already obferved. In Carlow, is alfo a great demand for all hides and tallow, of which the average price is 7*d.* per lb.; and the woollen manufactures there infure a good wool market to all the neighbouring country. The fheep walks are generally very good, and have lately been laid down in excellent heart, with a well chofen artificial herbage; but fome of the fineft lands I have feen in thefe extenfive walks are fhamefully fuffered to be over-run with thiftles, of which feveral of the occupiers may boast very luxuriant crops, and this ground is rented at 40*s.* per acre. I am fure the landlord will agree with me, that an additional rent of 10*s.* per acre would be a good experiment to enfure better management and more activity from fuch flothful tenants.

Breed of Cattle.

In this country, possessing a soil so particularly adapted for fattening and for breeding cattle, it is worthy our attention, by all possible means to assist the natural advantages, which are so conspicuous, and by artificial ones, to produce a breed of cattle no way inferior to the best in England, which is certainly within our reach. The observation is worthy of record, which was made by that eminent breeder Mr. Honeyburn, that he considered our native breed of black cattle superior to that of England, *in the general run*, and ought to be a stimulus to us, to leave nothing undone to verify the assertion. This can only be effected by introducing into our herds bulls of the improved breed, and to have a choice of these bulls, each of which will be estimable in some particular point, and where we see the cow defective in that point, to put her to the bull, which excels there; the high degree of estimation, in which the improved breed is now held, is more particularly for their aptitude to fat when young, and quickly grow to a great size, and also for fattening on less ground, and much sooner than the native breed. Their superiority is in this case indubitably ascertained; but taking them into consideration for dairy purposes, they are as much inferior to the native breed, and no experienced dairy-man would have any thing to do with them.

In the rearing of the improved breed, too much care often defeats the intention, and some men of spirit, after giving a large price for calves of this kind, have turned them in to their best and richest pastures, which are
entirely

entirely misapplied ; too often, from these parks, particularly in such ground as this barony boasts of, young cattle get the distemper called the black-leg, by which the beast is lost, and with it the occupation of the land, that might have so profitably been employed ; this is a caution deserving our attention, and perhaps many there are, who can bear witness to the fact. 'Tis most surely and undeniably desirable, to procure that breed of cattle for fattening, which throws up the finest flesh and the least offal. In this case, the Leicestershire, or long-horned breed, is confessedly superior. We have frequent instances of their coming to perfection very young, even at four years, and when they are in prime order at that age, it is too great a temptation to withhold them from market, to try the experiment, what they might be at 10 or 16 years of age. We have daily experience of our own cows continuing good milkers until past that age, and indubitably in the long run will make as good a profit as the English cow, taking the interest of money and every other item into account.

But the farmer should choose his stock according to the purposes they are intended for, and first consult what pursuit in husbandry his land is proper for. In this case 'tis evidently so for feeding cattle, and the Leicestershire breed will assuredly prove the most productive, and ought principally to be regarded.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

ARE of small extent, generally speaking, from 10 to 50 acres, towards the colliery mountains, where potatoes and oats only are tilled. In the low-lands all the ground is under sheep and black cattle, but what little tillage is necessary for straw and family consumption; but many feeders have farms also without the barony, to which they occasionally remove their stock; this makes it very difficult to ascertain the number of cattle fed here, or sent from hence for slaughter. The rents of mountain farms are from 3*s.* to 10*s.* per acre; average 6*s.*; low-lands from 30*s.* to 50*s.* or 60*s.*; average 45*s.* 6*d.* and well worth this valuation. Farm houses not good, wretched towards the collieries, and few offices deserving that appellation; the tenant repairs all: two horses are proportioned to 20 acres. Fields from five to eight acres in tillage, and sheep-walks from fifty to two or three hundred. Fences excellent, and favourable to thorn, but not much pains taken with them; they decay below from the luxuriance of their tops; which are never dressed; little draining hitherto, but already spoken of, and lime their chief manure.

Quicks.

The luxuriance of hedges, particularly of white thorn, shews how well the soil is adapted for their production. In quicking ditches, care ought to be paid to weeding the plants, whilst they are young, twice at least
in

in the summer, and hoeing them will certainly forward their vegetation. Making a fence of dead thorn to preserve the quick in their infancy is an excellent method, and where the thorn can be had, it ought never to be neglected. This preserves them from sheep, that are very fond of nibbling at their tender buds. If they should gnaw the quick, it would be adviseable to cut it down nearly to the surface, and it will soon sprout again.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

THIS country is very populous, remarkably so about the collieries. Ballickmoyler village, the estate of of William Cooper, Esq. and just contiguous to Cooper Hill, is the only one in the barony, half of which has been in ruins since the rebellion, but is now repairing; it has a patent for two fairs, and a weekly market, the latter little frequented, since the times grew disturbed. The houses in the village are tolerably good and comfortable, but from this to the collieries they are very wretched. The fuel through all this country is stone-coal; the clothing is a remarkably coarse kind of frize, but warm; potatoes and oatmeal their food. Cottiers are well paid, their wages average 10*d.* through the year. Labourers from 13*d.* to 16*d.*, and in harvest 2*s.* 2*d.* per day. The peasantry are ambitious of a gay appearance, and though coarsely, yet they are gaudily dressed on holydays. Tithe is valued every year; formerly there was a modus and very reasonable, but greatly increased by tithe proctors. Beer in much greater

greater demand and estimation from the decline of spirits. The bridges and roads in this barony are the worst in the county, or, I believe, in the province. The whole road tax raised on the barony is always exhausted on the colliery road, which will be more particularly spoken of just now. Though enormous as this tax is, yet it is not half sufficient to keep this road in repair, and this accounts why every other road in the barony is neglected. The coal mines are the principal ones in the county, and here have also been worked iron mines, but long since have been discontinued. Brick clay is had very good and in great quantities; marl is also found in many places, its calcareous quality very rich. The river Barrow here abounds with all kinds of fresh water fish of the finest kind, and salmon also in the season, but no particular property in the fishery. No school or charitable institution established here; yet the poor schools are numerous and full of children. The best gentlemen farmers are Mr. Cooke of Rosena, and Mr. Fishburne, who resides in Carlow, but holds a great tract of land in this barony. The former gentleman has made very great improvements by draining and manuring above 300 acres of his extensive sheep walks the last summer, and was executed in such a capital style as really reflects much credit to himself. They are an excellent sample of what this county is equal to, when carefully attended; and indeed Mr. Cooke's neighbours may be proud of so enterprising and spirited a farmer amongst them. Mr. Fishburne's sheep are of the best breed, he has little to do in tillage. Dublin Bank notes are current, but no specie seen, and they are obliged to traffick with the worst possible silver change from the colliery mint, not having any other. I have seen no manufacture of any kind, but a little linen made by the peasantry for their own wear; but a prolific country, fuel cheap
and

plenty, and abundant supplies of water render the situation peculiarly favourable to answer any purpose. Iron ore in the hills, and the strong stone-coal so convenient to work it, with the advantage of the navigation adjoining, particularly point out the great probable benefit might accrue from this species of manufacture, so important to the proprietors and the nation at large. Mr. Colclough's bolting-mill, at Annville, is equal to manufacture four thousand barrels of wheat annually, is the best mill in the barony, and the water wheel is under-shot. Mr. Burn, of Slaty, has a new bolting mill, contiguous to a very neat and improved small demesne; 'tis equal to turn out fifty bags of flour weekly, and the water wheel is breast-shot; and Mr. Tierney has a small bolting-mill of inconsiderable powers. There are also two grist mills for country work, with good scites and plenty of water.

Cloghrenan demesne, the seat of Colonel Rochfort, contains two hundred and eighty acres of wood; a few years back, a considerable part of the old woods were coped up, and all are now extremely vigorous and flourishing. This demesne is situated in both this, and the county of Carlow. The entrance through the old castle, divides the counties, and is most happily picturesque and antique. The back lawn is exceedingly beautiful, highly adorned with full grown forest trees, with some of the finest and grossest ash I have seen, topped by the best cultivated mountains in the kingdom, and the rising wood gives this naturally beautiful spot the most charming effect. The farm yard is detached at a proper distance, and most judiciously planned with every suitable office. I have not seen a demesne could be more highly improved at a small expence, and from the activity and the refined taste of the proprietor, who has the pursuit earnestly in view, we may certainly
ly

ly expect to see Cloghrenan flourish in that splendor, of which it is truly capable.

Mr. Cooper's seat has also been very well wooded; he is yet extending his plantations with great taste and judgment. The demesne contains one hundred and thirty acres of the richest land, so luxuriant that it cannot be appropriated to tillage. Considerable ornamental improvements have been made by the present proprietor; the prospect of the adjoining county of Carlow, and all the fine demesnes there, with Carlow town and the surrounding mountains, are seen from the front windows, and comprize a view of as rich a country, as can be presented to the eye. Charles Ward Esqr: of Hollymount has also some young screens getting up rapidly, and he will doubtless increase them, to adorn a demesne capable of great improvement, which he seems not to neglect, and is about to build a capital mansion house. Harman Fitzmaurice, Esq: has a rich demesne, which lies very high, and commands a most extensive view over several counties. Timber rates very high, but not much now for sale; oak sells for 4s. per foot, ash 3s. deal 2s. Except the bogs on the mountains, there are none other here, but they are of small extent, and no other waste ground in the barony; these could be easily drained from the great natural fall, and it is all they require to render them valuable dairy ground. The rents of small farms of from ten to fifty acres, are paid by butter principally. The mountain ground is set from 2s. 6d. to 10s. per acre; but I conceive not for half the value. The men are, generally speaking, remarkably industrious, and earn much money, which they are too prone to lavish in whiskey, but the greater number of the women are very idle, and not one fourth of their time profitably employed. They all talk the English and Irish

Irish language with equal fluency, but amongst themselves more generally converse in the latter tongue. In this barony are several small estates of from ten to fifteen acres, original grants from Cromwell to his soldiers; so small a complement to be allotted as a reward of merit, so long ago, proves the superior estimation these lands were held in. It is worthy of remark, that in this rich and extensive barony there is not one parish church now existing; there is service each week alternately at Ballickmoyler, and at the Rector's house at Sheffield near Ballylynham: a very numerous congregation attends even from the collieries. There was formerly a monastery at Clonagh; a fine steeple was erected here, and was pulled down by the barbarian, who tenanted the ground, for the sake of the limestone, of which it was built. The ruins of the monastery are yet to be seen with the vestige of a curious arch. At Slaty, are the ruins of the parish church, and one of those high stone crosses, peculiar to this island. Killabin has also the ruins of a very extensive church, this parish is the most considerable in the barony. I shall conclude the baronial survey of this fine county, with a particular and accurate account of the state of the collieries, which are of the utmost importance to the nation, and a great part of which is supplied with fuel from these pits, as well for manufacture as for culinary uses. The most considerable of the many, which are worked in these hills, are the Donaan collieries, the estate of the Hartpole family, but rented by Messrs. Billing and Dillon, at nine hundred pounds per annum. Next rate those at Ardatagle and Coolane, the estate of Harman Fitzmaurice, Esq. both in his own possession. Tollerton, the estate of J. Stapleton, Esq. in his occupation. Rushes, the estate of Dean Walsh, also in

his own possession. Ballilehane, the estate of J. Ovington, Esq. who likewise works his pits; and Corgee the estate of the Hartpole family, rented by Messrs. Billing and Dillon. There is a steam engine at Donaan colliery only, it discharges one hogshead per stroke, and is equal to twenty-four hogsheads per minute; this is its greatest power, but is quite too quick; eight strokes are the more general rate. In this and all the high collieries, a great waste of coal is made by leaving pillars of it to support the stuff over head, which in the low collieries is not requisite; the pillars of stone are introduced, and the rock being so strong answers every purpose. Here a barrel of coal consists of six hundred weight, is sold for 6s. per barrel to the coal carriers, who retail them through the county; the colliers, who raise them, are paid 2s. 6d. per barrel for their labour. At Mr. Fitzmaurice's colliery, they get a proportionable share, about half the quantity raised, but then they find candles, and every species of working implements and apparatus; no steam engine has yet been introduced here, which is the great disadvantage these collieries labour under, for the coal in these pits is many times more valuable than in the old ones. As you dip the hill the mine is almost all coal, and little or no culm. They are at present completely sunk. An idea may be formed of the worth of these pits, when, without the assistance of an engine, and not 1s. capital in the trade, except the cost of sinking it, £17 sterling clear profit per week, has been returned from the old pits to the proprietor, and the new coal would be well worth *now* three times that sum; but nothing effectual can be done without an engine, and too seldom are country gentlemen inclined to advance so much money in a speculation of this kind as would purchase one: 'tis a pity then, that the valuable collieries of

of this county should be almost entirely neglected for want of capital, when partnerships with monied men could be so easily established, who only are seeking for means to employ their cash to advantage. The pits in all these collieries are sunk in a regular circle about six feet diameter, and from four to six yards the rock is usually found; this loose covering of the rock is sunk for 5*s.* 5*d.* per yard, and is generally a strong clay. The rock, which is a green stone, is usually from ten to fifty yards thick, and immediately under this is found the coal; the first five yards is loose and slaty, and costs the proprietor one guinea per yard, which gives very good hire to the workmen. The next ten yards costs two guineas per yard, being considerably more difficult to work, and much water interrupts them; for ten yards deeper, they are paid three guineas per yard, on account of the considerable encrease of water, and for the remaining distance they are paid from four to eight guineas per yard, according to the flow of water. A wind-lass is placed over the hole, the water being wound up in hogsheads, and they are obliged to work both day and night constantly, to prevent being flooded. Great danger attends this, as nothing is to preserve the folks below, should the rope break, which melancholy accident too often occurs. When a strong black slate is met, instead of the hard green rock, the labour costs but half price, it is so easily worked. The colliers find tools, iron, steel, ropes, baskets, &c. &c., and in consequence of the saving of gun powder, the proprietor procures this material, but deducts its cost from the workmens wages. When the coal is found, they begin to work in at either side, and to each pit are a certain number of colliers appointed, whose business is quite distinct; six men, who

who are called clearers, pick round the blocks of coal; one breaker follows, who breaks the blocks with a strong hammer and iron sledge; next comes a filler, who loads the coal on sledges termed skips, that are shod with iron; then from one to four hurriers, who draw the sledge according to the distance from the spot, where the coal is worked, to the mouth of the pit; each hurrier draws his load twenty yards, which is a stage; it is there raised with a windlass by two pullers above, and when a pit is double worked, that is, at each side, there must be two crews or double the number of hands. In Donaan pits and Castlecomber collieries in the adjoining county of Kilkenny, a pit double worked will employ about sixty hands, the vein of coal being so much thicker. In the depth of the vein after eighteen inches, every six inches additional will give the proprietor more than an additional third profit. Each crew works ten hours constant, and then a new crew replaces them; they take tobacco, bread, drink, &c. with them, but never sleep below, the strongest constitution not being proof against colds, which are very severe. These pits, like all vaults, are cool in summer, and warm in winter; the colliers are well able to earn from 3 to 5*s.* per day at their trade, and would be all wealthy but from the unconquerable propensity to whisky, which consumes all their profits. They consider it particularly hazardous to work on any description of holyday, and steadily refuse to go down into the pits for any consideration, but spend their day between the chapel and dram shop; and their devotion and debauch generally terminate in a pitched battle. The great disadvantage, these collieries labour under, is the great flow of water, which but requires steam engines to clear it off; and the roads
from

from thence, for several miles, are perhaps as bad as can be seen. It is surprising, more attention has not been paid to this particular, as a turnpike road would certainly produce a revenue equal to any sum requisite for keeping it in the best possible repair; 1500 cars on the *Cooper Hill road only, have often been counted passing in one day, and from Carlow to Donaan, the road could be made three miles shorter than the present one; this would certainly meet no opposition from any party, as an unreasonable tax would be saved to the barony, and the carrier, for 2*d.* per day toll, could bring two journies to Carlow, instead of one, from the low collieries, and let a stranger view the road in its present state, he would suppose the cost of the entire load would be too little for the labour of carriage. A remarkable place, called the cut of Killestin on the way to the collieries, and about three miles from Carlow, is perhaps as great an artificial curiosity as can be produced, in this or any other county. It commences on the rise of the mountain, and is the main road to the colliery. This pass runs through a lofty hill for above half a mile in length, and is from ten to forty feet deep, according to the ascent of the ground; it is only four feet four inches wide, cut through the solid quarry, and so narrow, that the car has barely room to pass, the wheels scraping either side of the rock, and was the axle-tree but half an inch wider than four feet four inches, it never could pass through; consequently all the axle-trees of the cars are fitted to this measure. The constant flow of water here, and the friction of the wheels, cuts the rock, and has occasioned

* If on this road only, so many cars have been counted to pass in one day on their way to Carlow and Munster, how many must be also engaged in the trade to the King's County, Kildare, Connaught, &c.

caſioned this extraordinary excavation, which has been reduced to its preſent great depth in the ſhort ſpace of thirty years, as at that period ſuch another cut was abandoned, and this new road given the colliers by the late Mr. Fitzmaurice. The carrier, as he approaches either end of this gap, hollows loudly, and the ſound is eaſily conveyed through this narrow paſſage to the further extremity, to prevent their meeting, which ſometimes occurs, in which caſe the driver of the empty car muſt back out his horſe the rougheſt, worſt poſſible road, which all their horſes are well uſed to. It often occurs, that the drivers meet here; being drunk they omit to hollow, and a battle ſurely takes place, when the vanquiſhed gives the way. Our ſurpriſe will ſtill be increaſed to find no other road for troops to advance from Carlow gariſon, to this lawleſs region, when a few insurgents over head could annoy or deſtroy a whole regiment, there not being room even to level a muſket beyond perpendicular elevation. Thoſe facts argue the want of a good road to a diſtrict, where every deſcription of defaulter has protection with the inhabitants, and laughs at the law, ſecure beyond its reach. But the unreaſonable ceſs of one ſhilling and ſixpence per acre thro' the barony, for repairing the colliery roads only, is full as ſtrong an argument for the adoption of a proper turnpike road, which, indeed, demands the ſerious conſideration of the legiſlature, and could, with the neceſſary bridges, be completed for a comparatively ſmall ſum, and its tolls would certainly pay in ſummer on an average, £.10 ſterl. every day. Contiguous to this remarkable cut of Killeſhin, are the ruins of a church of the ſame name, which has a very antique and highly ornamental entrance in the Doric order, of really excellent workmanſhip, and around which is an inſcription, in very old Saxon characters,

rafters, but so battered and abused as almost totally defaced. Adjoining this church was a Danish rath, encircled with a very deep fosse. This place is remarkable for having once been the chief town in the Queen's county in disturbed times, though not a stone building now standing, except the ruins just mentioned. Here was the county gaol and court house, where the assizes were held, and the governor's mansion, which was a fine building; also a fort, and public buildings, of which there is now no trace. The stone stocks and gallows stood the wreck of time the longest, and their sites are pointed out by the old people, in whose recollection they yet are. But, excepting the ruins of the church, not a stone now remains over ground, of this once celebrated town, nor the slightest vestige of its entrance, but by turning up the sod you find immense heaps of stones covered with mortar, and now dug for to repair the roads.

At Slaty, are the ruins of a small church, which, 'tis said, was originally a place of great consequence called Sleibteach, or the house near the mountains, and that an ancient church and bishoprick was founded here by St. Fiech, in the 5th century, and afterwards translated to Leighlin. This church is now the only remains of this ancient bishoprick; in the church-yard are two stone crosses apparently of the ninth century.

Taking a general survey of the collieries, about 12,000 hands are daily employed, but were all the pits at work, that number might be doubled, exclusive of the men and boys, who attend the cars, which cannot be less than 3000.

CHAPTER XV.

RELATING TO THE COUNTY AT LARGE.

RURAL ECONOMY.

SECTION I.

Labour.

I HAVE shewn, that labour is contracted for by task-work, and by daily hire. The cottier's pay thro' the year, including his privileges, is fully equal to 1s. 1d. per day; the daily labourers, who works at will, does not exceed 10d. per day, on an average thro' the year.

The women, who may be employed in husbandry, have 6dh. per day.

SECT 2. *Provisions.*

PROVISIONS are rather dearer in this county than in those adjoining, and this is accounted for by the number of resident gentry, and the towns well inhabited by wealthy traders. I believe, the average of their meat

markets

markets may be from one penny to three halfpence per pound less than Dublin rates. Geese sell for 1s. 10d. per couple; turkeys, 3s. 3d.; ducks, 1s. 4d.; barn-door fowl, 1s. 8d.; chickens, 6d. to 10d. Fish is pretty plenty, but brought from the sea-ports by hawkers; eels are large and plenty, but the mischief done by the weirs, is not compensated by the supply of this fish, for which they are entirely erected.

Corn is advancing in price; wheat has for seven years back been rising gradually, and in that period the average price will be found to be 30s. per barrel; oats, 12s.; bere and barley, 20s. to 22s. 9d.; potatoes, 2½d. per stone.

Fuel.

In turf fuel they are well supplied, and the average price of 120 statute kishes is equal to 16s., clamped on the bog; a horse will readily carry two of these kishes at one draft. Coal is abundantly had in Slew-margy where turf is scarce, and soon may be expected to be turned to the advantage of a great part of the island, when a proper navigation shall be effected from thence, to meet the Grand canal.

CHAPTER XVI.

POLITICAL ECONOMY.

SECTION I.

Roads.

TAKING a general survey of this county, roads are in excellent order, and uniformly kept up so; the breadth of the road is fully sufficient, and the country furnishes materials of the best kind, in every district, for their repairs; wherever bog interferes, the drains at either side are kept open, and scoured up, which makes these roads no way inferior to those in the uplands.

SECT. 2. *Canals.*

THE branch of the Grand canal to Athy, is the only perfect one in the county, and the judicious care, and strict attention to that whole navigation, is too well known to require any observations.

On the intended colliery canal, I have already ventured my sentiments, and I sincerely hope my fears may be groundless, if the directors should differ in opinion from me.

It may be friendly to offer hints for its improvement; such were my motives, and as such, I trust, they will be received.

The value and importance of inland navigation to a state, and particularly as affecting agriculture, is so obvious, that it merits the assistance and protection of every well wisher to his country.

SECT. 3 & 4. *Fairs and weekly markets.*

THESE are severally held through the county, and are high in the estimation of the principal Leinster graziers. In the tables, that appear in the following pages, they are particularly noted; as also, are the weekly markets.

SECT 5. *Commerce and Manufactures.*

SERGES and stuffs are the principal, and of these I have already shewn the county hitherto enjoyed a trade, amounting to no less than £. 100,000 sterling, annually. The decrease of this branch will necessarily send many hands to agriculture, if some means are not adopted for its preservation.

The other commerce of the county, I have shewn, is deeply engaged in the rearing of store and fat cattle. The produce of dairies, wheat, corn, and flour, are sent from hence to Dublin market.

In the linen manufacture they are not at all engaged, and on the whole, their country is rich and fertile; the farmers tolerably wealthy, and the principal part of the country blessed with the protection of a highly respectable and resident gentry.

It is difficult to ascertain, what is the annual revenue of the collieries; the late Lord Wandesford has declared, that he cleared on an average from his pits 8000*l.* per annum, and in one year they returned him 13,000*l.*

The carrier pays on an average about 15*s.* per ton for the coal, and charges according to the distance he carries it, he will think himself well paid, if he gets equal to 5*s.* per day for his own and his horse's hire; there is no stated price at the pits for the coal, should strangers send their horses there, as every imposition is practised, when the colliers are permitted to make their own laws; by previous application to the proprietor, this can be remedied; at Ardatagle the coal now sells from 10 to 12*s.* per ton, though not inferior to the best; the profit to the proprietor is about 10 or 11*s.* in the pound sterling,

I should have stated, that all these pits vary as to the quality, stonescruffs sometimes appearing, which will be cleared off generally in a day or two; as the vein rises or dips; from the immense depth and range of this mineral it is no way hazardous to assert, that it is capable of supplying this Island with coal for centuries to come, and also to answer every demand might be for exportation; the want of steam-engines is the principal inconvenience,

CHAPTER XVII.

Of the necessity of apprenticing youth to farming.

A PURSUIT, in which so many and widely different branches of science are involved, can never be successfully followed, but by the closest attention, and surely requires as careful and long a service to attain a due knowledge of, as any other art whatever.

Of the truth of this assertion, the English farmers are fully sensible, and take great pains to find out the most intelligent and skilful masters, to whom they apprentice their sons.

Many of these are extensive farmers, who will have from five to ten apprentices at one time, and will receive with them very considerable fees; after the lad has served his time duly, and gets a proper certificate from his master, he is sure to obtain a lucrative partnership in the farming business, or a clear and handsome salary for his care and superintendence of land. In the investigating such complicated matter as husbandry contains, what a considerable space of time must be devoted to the study of even one of its various branches, in so much so, that the period of human life is deemed insufficient for the acquiring a perfect knowledge of the whole; and this only can be remedied by appropriating to a professed master the care of that particular pursuit, in which he excels.

How

How have the English farmers obtained such well merited panegyrick, but by the observance of these rules? We see one man direct all his study to the plough, another to the breed of cattle, a third to draining, a fourth to planting, a fifth to manures, a sixth to the forming of useful implements &c. so that on a close examination, we find that to be a complete farmer, he must be also a mechanic, a chymist, an engineer, a botanist, and be master of a thousand other different professions, which are collectively impossible to be acquired by an individual.

I mean not to advance that a general and superficial knowledge cannot or ought not to be cultivated; so much the reverse, I think this should be a principal object in the apprenticing of youth to the science of agriculture; but I only would in this case suggest, what great natural advantages might be thus acquired; for a material benefit would then accrue, that, as the natural inclinations and abilities of man are attached to one favourite pursuit, so the student will devote his attention more particularly to one of these heads; and the invention and penetrating enquiry, which providence has bestowed on us, will certainly be successful, and a new discovery in science will crown his labour, but the choice of the subject must be left to himself to determine: adequate rewards for the elucidation of various proposed matters, should be held out, and doubtless would be a spur to his industry.

The importance of this subject is worthy the care of a wise and discerning legislature, who should be anxious to encourage it, nor do I know what greater benefit could be obtained from any proposed premiums, which may be offered by Farming Societies, than by an attention to this concern.

Thus

Thus, we should call abilities into action, which may be particularly disposed to this momentous science, and from the too little hopes of reward, that hitherto restrained its cultivation, have lain dormant; if a due and well appreciated encouragement was given for such discoveries, the happiest consequences would result, and a science would be eagerly pursued, which, the more it would be investigated, would become the more pleasing task, and in its course would tend successfully, to promote the true interests and real happiness of a nation, which such laudable enquiries must ultimately make great and powerful.

GENERAL TABLES.

SECTION I.

Table of Contents by Baronies, with rates of Meadow and Potatee Land, Wages, &c.

BARONIES.	Number of acres pay wife.	Remainder of land not arable, as bog, waste, towns, water, &c.	Towns- Lands.	Rate of potatee land per acre.	Price of meadow per acre.	Cottiers wages.	Day Labourers wages.
Cullinagh.	18,891	5,000	75	from 5 <i>l.</i> to 8 <i>l.</i>	from 5 <i>l.</i> to 6 <i>g</i> .	from 6 <i>d.</i> to 8 <i>d.</i> and privileges value 10 <i>d.</i>	from 8 <i>d.</i> to 1 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i>
Upper Offory.	60,450	22,000	235	4 <i>l.</i> 7 <i>l.</i>	3 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>g</i> .	from 5 <i>d.</i> to 7 <i>d.</i> and privileges value 8 <i>d.</i>	from 8 <i>d.</i> to 1 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Maryborough.	22,398	8,000	79	6 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>l.</i>	4 <i>l.</i> 9 <i>l.</i>	from 6 <i>d.</i> to 8 <i>d.</i> and privileges value 10 <i>d.</i>	from 8 <i>d.</i> to 1 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i>
Portneubino.	14,604	12,000	53	4 <i>l.</i> 7 <i>l.</i>	3 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>g</i> .	from 6 <i>d.</i> to 8 <i>d.</i> and privileges value 6 <i>d.</i>	from 8 <i>d.</i> to 1 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i>
Ballyadam.	10,701	3,700	36	4 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>g</i> .	3 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>l.</i>	from 6 <i>d.</i> to 8 <i>d.</i> and privileges value 6 <i>d.</i>	from 10 <i>d.</i> to 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Tenebino.	13,701	14,000	64	6 <i>l.</i> 8 <i>g</i> .	3 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>l.</i>	from 6 <i>d.</i> to 8 <i>d.</i> and privileges value 3 <i>d.</i>	from 8 <i>d.</i> to 10 <i>d.</i>
Stradbally.	11,099	4,000	38	5 <i>l.</i> 8 <i>l.</i>	4 <i>l.</i> 7 <i>l.</i>	from 6 <i>d.</i> to 8 <i>d.</i> and privileges value 7 <i>d.</i>	from 10 <i>d.</i> to 13 <i>d.</i>
Slewamary.	12,879	1,074	44	5 <i>l.</i> 9 <i>l.</i>	6 <i>l.</i> 8 <i>g</i> .	from 6 <i>d.</i> to 1 <i>s.</i> and privileges value 6 <i>d.</i>	from 1 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i> to 1 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>
Total.	164,526	70,774	624	—	—	—	—

Note.—In English measure, the length of this county is 33 miles, the area is 378,023 acres, or about 590 square miles.

SECTION 2.

TABLE OF TITHE IN EACH BARONY.

BARONIES.	Average Rates per acre.							Average value of arable and pasture together.	
	Wheat.	Oats.	Bere & Barley.	Pota- toes.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Meadow per Acre.		
Cullinagh	<i>s.</i> d. 8 : 0	<i>s.</i> d. 4 : 0	<i>s.</i> d. 7 : 6	<i>s.</i> d. 6 : 6	<i>s.</i> d. 4	<i>s.</i> d. 3	<i>s.</i> d. 2 : 6 to 4 : 0	<i>l.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i> 1 : 8 : 0	per acre.
Upper Offory	6 : 6	4 : 0	6 : 6	6 : 6	4	4	1 : 6 to 4 : 0	1 : 14 : 0	per acre.
Maryborough	8 : 0	4 : 6	7 : 6	8 : 0	4	3	3 : 0 to 5 : 0	2 : 0 : 0	per acre.
Portneinch	6 : 6	4 : 4	5 : 6	7 : 0	4	4	2 : 0 to 4 : 0	1 : 2 : 9	per acre.
Ballyadams	7 : 0	4 : 0	6 : 6	7 : 0	4	4	3 : 0 to 4 : 6	1 : 8 : 0	per acre.
Teneinch	6 : 6	4 : 4	6 : 6	7 : 0	4	3	3 : 0 to 4 : 0	1 : 2 : 9	per acre.
Stradbally	6 : 6	4 : 6	7 : 0	8 : 0	4	4	3 : 0 to 4 : 0	1 : 12 : 0	per acre.
Slewmary	8 : 0	4 : 6	7 : 0	8 : 0	4	4	3 : 0 to 4 : 6	2 : 5 : 6	per acre.

N. B. These are the average rates of the different Parishes in each Barony.

* * * By the average value is meant the rent they would bring if out of lease.

SECTION 3.

TABLE OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

Baronies	Towns.	Villages
Cullinagh	Abbeyleix, M. Ballinakill, M. P. 3. Ballyroan	Timahoe
Upper Ossory	Borris in Ossory, P. 6. Rathdowny	Annatrim Castletown Cullibill Donoughmore
East & West Maryborough	Maryborough, P. 6. Mountrath, P. 6.	Roskelton Straboe
Ballyadams		Ballilinam
Portnehinch	Portarlinton, M.P. 3. Emo, P. 6.	Ballibrittas Lea
Tenehinch	Mountmelick, P. 3.	Castlebrack Rosenallis
Stradbally	Strabally, P. 3.	Ballintubber
Slewmary		Ballickmoyler Donaan.

Note.—M. denotes a Market, P. a Post town, and the figure marks the number of days the post comes in.

SECTION 4.

ALPHABETICAL

LIST OF FAIRS

Abbeyleix.

Aghavoe, (1 Aug.) (18 Oct.)

Ballickmoyler, (15 Mar.) (11 Nov.)

Ballinakill, (5 June) (12 Aug.) (16 Nov.)

Ballyroan, (15 May) (16 June) (19 Nov.)

Borris in Offory, (20 Mar.) (27 May) (15 Aug.) (14 Oct.)
(20 Dec.)

Castlebrack, (15 May) (12 Aug.) (15 Nov.)

Castletown, (29 June)

Clonaflee, (3 May.)

Cullinhill (27 May) (2 Oct.)

Culliagh, (8 May) (18 Dec.)

Difert, (2 June) (12 Nov.)

Donoghmore, (28 Mar.) (13 June) (31 Aug.) (12 Dec.)

Garrindony, (19 Nov.)

Maryborough, (24 Feb.) (12 May) (5 July) (4 Sept.) (4 Dec.)

Mayo, (29 June) (18 Oct.)

Mountmelick,

Mountmelick, (2 Feb.) (17 Mar.) (12 June) (26 Aug.)
(4 Sept.) (1 Nov.) (11 Dec.)

Mountrath, (17 Feb.) (8 May) (19 Sept.) (6 Nov.)

Portarlinton, (14 Apr.) (22 May) (12 Oct.) (23 Nov.)

Rathdowney, (6 May) (10 July) (12 Sept.) (15 Dec.)

Stradbally, (6 May) (10 July) (21 Aug.) (21 Nov.)

Timahoe, (5 Apr. (2 July) (18 Oct.)

Tinehinch (29 Oct.)

SECTION 5.

AN ALPHABETICAL LIST,

OF THE

PRINCIPAL LAND PROPRIETORS,

ANNESLEY, Right Honourable Earl,
 Antrim, Right Honourable Countess,
 Ashbrook, Right Hon. Lord Viscount,
 Ashfield, ——— Esq.

BAMBRICK, Henry, Esq.

———, ———, Esq.

Bland, ———, Esq.

Bowen, Charles, Esq.

Brereton, ———, Esq.

Burrowes, Sir Erasmus, Bart.

Burrowes, ———, Esq.

Butler, ———, Esq.

———, ———, Esq.

CAR, Thomas, Esq.

Carey, ———, Esq.

Cassan, Andrew, Esq.

Cavan,

Cavan, Right Honourable Earl of,

Chandos Family,

Colclough, Patrick, Esq.

Cooper, William, Esq.

Cootc, Right Hon. Charles Henry,

Cosby, Vice-Admiral,

Cusse, —, Esq.

——, ——, Esq.

DESPARD, ——, Esq.

Desvoeux, Sir Charles, Bart.

De Vesce, Right Hon. Lord Viscount,

Doyne, Charles, Esq.

Drogheda, Most Noble Marquis,

Drought, Rev. Thomas,

Dunn, General.

EUSTACE, General,

FITZGERALD, Gilbert, Esq.

——, Thomas, Esq.

——, ——, Esq.

Fitzmaurice, Harman, Esq.

——, James, Esq.

Fitzpatrick, ——, Esq.

Flood, ——, Esq.

Freke, Sir John, Bart.

GALE, Colonel,

——, ——, Esq.

Gore, ——, Esq.

Grace, ——, Esq.

Grattan, Henry, Esq.

HAMILTON, James, Esq.

Hartpole Family,

Hovingdon, ———, Esq.

JOHNSON, Sir John Allen, Bart.

KAVANAGH, ———, Esq.

Kelly, Judge,

Kemmis, ———, Esq.

Kenmare, Right Hon. Earl,

King, Colonel.

LANSDOWN, Most Noble Marquis,

Latouche, Peter, Esq.

Leckey, John, Esq.

Lyons, ———, Esq.

MOORE, ———, Esq.

Mount-Morres, Right Hon. Lord Viscount,

Mountrath, Right Hon. Earl.

OVINGDON, ———, Esq.

Oxmantown, Right Hon. Earl.

PARNELL, Henry, Esq.

—————, Sir John, Bart.

Pigot, Colonel,

———, John, Esq.

———, William, Esq.

Pim, ———, Esq.

Pole, Hon. William Wellesley,

Ponsonby, ———, Esq.

Portarlington, Right Hon. Earl,

ROCHFORD,

ROCHFORD, Colonel,
Roden, Right Hon. Earl,
Rotton, ———, Esq.

ST. GEORGE, ———, Esq.
Southwell, ———, Esq.
Stanhope, Right Hon. Earl,
Staples, Sir Robert, Bart.
Stapleton, ———, Esq.
Stubber, Robert, Esq.

TEMPLE, Right Hon. Earl,
Thomas, Doctor,
Trench, Frederick, Esq.
Tydd, Sir John, Bart.

UPPER OSSORY, Right Hon. Earl,

VESEY, Honourable ———,
Vicars, ———, Esq.

WALSH, Reverend Dean,
Warburton, Colonel,
Ward, Charles, Esq.
Weldon, Colonel,
White, Charles, Esq.
———, Thomas, Esq.
———, ———, Esq.
———, Esq.
Wife, ———, Esq.



CHAPTER XIX.

Farming Society.

I THINK it proper to insert a copy of the Midland Farming Society's advertisement of premiums for agricultural pursuits, as the Queen's county is so particularly included in it; and I beg leave to remark, that such a laudable institution is the surest means of the furtherance of agriculture, and the carrying into effectual use all the ample means and resources, with which this country is so highly favoured. The local and general advantages, that will surely result from such societies, throughout the kingdom, will be of real and permanent effect, when the enquiries now set on foot by the Dublin Society for the good of the nation will have had their use, and more improved modes of husbandry be adopted from the experience, that shall be acquired by this truly praise worthy emulation.

THE MIDLAND FARMING SOCIETY.

(FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING.)

MEMBERS PRESENT.

C. P. Doyne, Esq. <i>President</i>	Coghran Palmer, Esq.
Hon. W. W. Pole	Richard Lloyd, Esq.
Hon. John Vesey	Rev. George St. George
Hon. and Rev. A. Vesey	Christ. Dexter, Esq.
Sir W. Barker, Bart.	Garrett Nevill, Esq.
C. B. Ponsonby, Esq.	Edward Flood, Esq.
Col. G. Pigot	Rev. Thomas Drought
W. Pigot Esq.	W. Maher, Esq.
R. W. Vicars, Esq.	Roger Scully, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Ridge	John Fitzpatrick, Esq.
John Lanigan, Esq.	Charles Byrne, Esq.
George Rothe, Esq.	M. Edward M'Culloch.

THIS Society, wishing to improve the agriculture of the district (comprehending the counties of Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Queen's county), to excite a spirit of emulation in breeding neat cattle, sheep, and pigs, and to produce an attention to neatness and regularity in the management of their farms, in the husbandmen of the district, have come to the following resolutions, viz.

That a shew of neat cattle, sheep, and pigs, be holden at Durrow on the 16th and 17th of June; and the following premiums be given under the direction of a Committee to be appointed for that purpose.

FIRST

FIRST CLASS.

1. To the person holding more than 100 acres, who shall produce the best cow or heifer, in milk, bred by himself, 5l. 13s. 9d.

2. To the person producing the best cow or heifer, in milk, bred in Ireland, six months in his possession, a Gold Medal.

3. To the person, who shall produce the best bull, two years old, and upwards, bred by himself, a Gold Medal.

4. To the person, who holding not more than 100 acres, shall produce the three best ewes, bred by himself, one year old, 3l. 8s. 3d.

5. To the person producing the three best ewes, one year old, bred in Ireland, six months in his possession, a Gold Medal.

6. To the importer of the five best ewes having a lamb the same year, a Gold Medal.

7. To the breeder of the two best hoggit rams, a Gold Medal.

8. To the breeder of the two best rams, of any age, a Gold Medal.

9. To the person, who holding not more than 100 acres, shall produce the best pig, two years old, 2l. 5s. 6d.

10. To the person, who holding not more than 100 acres, shall produce the second best pig, two years old, 1l. 2s. 9d.

11. To the person, who in the year 1801, shall raise under his own care and inspection, the greatest number of stocks of bees, 2l. 5s. 6d.

SECOND

SECOND CLASS.

12. To the person, or artist, who shall make the best plough, on the most approved principle, 2l. 5s. 6d.

13. To the person, who shall make the 2d best, do. 1l. 2s. 9d.

14. To the owner of the plough that performs best with a pair of horses with reins, without a driver, a Gold Medal.

15. To the ploughman, who ploughs best with a pair of horses with reins, without a driver, 2l. 5s. 6d.

16. To the ploughman, who ploughs second best in like manner, 1l. 2s. 9d.

17. To the ploughman, who shall plough with a pair of oxen without a driver, 2l. 5s. 6d.

18. To the second best in like manner, 1l. 2s. 9d.

19. To the owner of a plough, that has gained the first prize with oxen, without a driver, a Gold Medal.

20. To the owner of the plough of any sort, or drawn in any manner, that shall perform best and cheapest, a Gold Medal.

21. To the person who produces, the best harrow for fallow ground, a Gold Medal.

22. To the person producing the best for harrowing in seed, a Gold Medal.

23. To the farmer occupying not more than 100A. who shall prove to the Committee his having made use of a roller in the cultivation of his farm for the last six months, 2l. 5s. 6d.

THIRD CLASS.

24. To the person, who shall, on similar soils, ascertain the success of drilling, dibbling, and hoeing barley,

barley, wheat, &c. comparatively, with the methods now practised, a Gold Medal.

25. To the person, who shall, on similar soils, ascertain the success of drilling and hoeing potatoes, turnips, or cabbages, comparatively, with the methods now practised, a Gold Medal.

26. To the labouring man, who shall hand-hoe the greatest quantity of turnips, not less than 2 A. in the neatest, and most workmanlike manner, 2l. 5s. 6d.

27. To the person, who shall raise, in proportion to the quantity and quality of his arable land, the greatest weight per acre (not less than 18 tons) of turnips, on the greatest number of acres, not less than three, a Golden Medal.

28. To the person, who shall raise the greatest quantity of potatoes in drills, 2l. 5s. 6d.

29. To the person, who shall raise, in proportion to the quantity and quality of his arable land, the best crop of red clover and rye-grass, not less than 10 pounds of clover, and half a bushel of rye-grass to the acre, a Gold Medal.

30. To the person, who holding not more than 100A. shall raise in proportion to the quality and quantity of his arable land, the best crop of red clover and rye-grass, not less than 10 pounds of clover, and half a bushel of rye-grass to the acre, 5l. 13. 9d.

31. To the person, who shall raise in proportion to the quantity and quality of his arable land, and the greatest after-crop of transplanted rape, or cabbages, executed in the most husbandman like manner, a Gold Medal.

32. To the occupier of not more than 100A. whose farm shall be found in the best order, the divisions best adapted to its size, and the fences best kept—where the situation will admit of it, the ditches being planted
with

with whitethorn and timber trees, will be the strongest recommendation, 5l. 13s. 9d.

33. To the farmer, not occupying more than 50A. who shall plant with timber trees and whitethorn quicks, the greatest number of perches of ditching not less than 5 feet wide, and 4 feet deep, 5l. 13s. 9d.

34. To the farmer possessing not more than 50A. the second greatest, in a similar manner, 3l. 8s. 3d.

35. To the third ditto, in like manner, 2l. 5s. 6d.

Resolved, That ten guineas shall be at the disposal of the Directors of the shew, for such purposes as they shall deem expedient, and for rewarding agricultural merit, though not included in the above Premiums.

Resolved, That the premiums, in the first and second class, shall be determined on the 16th and 17th of June.

Resolved, That the candidates for the premiums in the third class shall commence their experiments in the year 1801, and shall report their intentions to the Society at the June meeting of same year in order that a Committee may be appointed to decide who are entitled to the premiums.

KYRAN DELANY, Sec.

DURROW *March 10, 1801.*

I would beg leave to suggest to the Midland Farming Society, that, when, money should be adjudged by them in premiums for planting, or other improvements, which it might be necessary to have preserved, it would be advisable they should

should hand the said sums to the Dublin Society, who would pay them according to their instructions, and would take sufficient security from the claimants for the preservation of such plantations or other improvements, for the usual required time. This precaution would prevent imposition, as the Midland Farming Society, not being a corporate body, may not have sufficient powers to recover from defaulters.

CHAPTER XX.

CONCLUSION.

THIS work has been undertaken with no other view but the general good, and surely deserves the assistance of every individual, as far as in his power. Had the various enquiries I made by letter been replied to, much more information would be presented, which must yet be withheld? The charge of business may be a sufficient reason for non attention to this particular, even which excuse, it would have been satisfactory to have received; independent of the *incivility* of not acknowledging the receipt of letters, a great inconvenience followed, in as much as the proposed enquiry was not made else where, for I depended on the gentleman I first applied to, that he would attend to it, which by his silence I was warranted in expecting, until it was too late to make my application in another quarter.

Having now given a general Statistical relation of the county, I must beg leave to claim the indulgence due to a stranger, and to repeat what I premised in the preface, that the foregoing has been only a compilation of the opinions I consulted, and that I do not presume to claim any merit, but that of a strict attention to the matter I was honored with the charge of, in which, I should not have even so far succeeded, but for the earnest and effectual assistance I received from
many

many of the gentlemen of the county, for which and their very polite attention and friendly care, I beg leave to return my best acknowledgments.

These reports are now submitted to their better judgment, and I entreat a continuance of favour by their pointing out those defects they will find, and adding their judicious remarks, which shall be paid all possible attention to, in the next edition, to be published, as soon as their opinions shall be returned to the Dublin Society.

I have the honor to be,

their obliged and

very obedient Servant,

CHARLES COOTE,

CHARLEMONT-STREET,

Dublin, May 29th, 1801.

An

An Account of premiums adjudged by the Dublin Society, for planting in the Queen's county, since the year 1786, where security has been given to preserve the same for ten years, from the date of the grant.

<i>To whom.</i>	<i>For what.</i>	<i>Acres, &c.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Report of present State.</i>
Earl Portarlington,	Inclosing Plantations, &c.	16	1787	In good heart and well preserved.
Earl Portarlington	Planting Oaks,	5	1787	Ditto.
Sir John Parnell,	Inclosing Plantations, &c.	13	1789	Ditto.
Sir John Parnell,	Ditto,	14	1793	Ditto.
Thomas Drought,	Ditto,	10	1793	This Plantation was injured by cattle about five years ago, but the damaged parts were replanted carefully, and the whole are now in great vigour, and well inclosed.
John Pigot,	Ditto,	16	1793	A small part damaged by fire, which fell from a Peasant's pipe, but the rest of the Plantation is in good heart.
Sir John Tydd,	Ditto,	10	1794	In good heart and well preserved.
				The Inspection of this Report was made in September, 1800. } CHARLES COOTE.

*References to the annexed *Plate of a patent Drill-Machine, invented by the Rev. JAMES COOKE, of Heaton-Norris, near Manchester† and of a new-constructed simple Hand-Hoe.*

A, the upper part of the feed-box.

B, the lower part of the same box.

C, a moveable partition, with a lever, by which the grain or seed is let fall at pleasure from the upper to the lower part of the feed-box, from whence it is taken up by cups or ladles applied to the cylinder D, and dropped into the funnel E, and conveyed thereby into the furrow or drill, made in the land by the coulter F, and covered by the rake or harrow G.

H, a lever, by which the wheel I is lifted out of generation with the wheel K, to prevent the grain or seed being scattered upon the ground, while the machine is turning round at the end of the land, by which the harrow G is also lifted from the ground at the same time, and by the same motion, by means of the crank, and the horizontal lever *b b*.

L, a sliding lever, with a weight upon it, by means of which, the depth of the furrows or drills, and consequently the depth that the grain or seed will be deposited in the land, may be easily ascertained.

M, a screw in the coulter-beam, by turning of which, the feed-box B is elevated or depressed, in order to prevent the grain or seed being crushed or bruised by the revolution of the cups or ladles.

N, a rake with iron teeth, to be applied to the under-side of the rails of the machine, with staples and screw nuts at *n n*, by which many useful purposes are answered, viz. in accu-

* For Plate, see page 160.

† Now at No. 7, Oxford-Street, London.

mulating cutch or hay into rows, and as a scarificator for young crops of wheat in the spring, or to be used upon a fallow; in which case, the seed-box, the ladle cylinder, the coulters, the funnels, and harrows, are all taken away.

O, is a new-constructed simple Hand-Hoe, by which one man will effectually hoe two chain acres per day, earthing up the soil at the same time to the rows of corn or pulse, so as to cause roots to issue from the first joint of the stem, above the surface of the land, which otherwise would never have existed.

This side view of the machine is represented, for the sake of perspicuity, with one seed-box only, one coultter, one funnel, one harrow, &c. whereas a complete machine is furnished with five coultters, five harrows, seven funnels, a seed-box in eight partitions, &c. with ladles, of different sizes, for different sorts of grain and seeds.

Directions for using the Machine.

The ladle cylinder D (see the plate) is furnished with cups or ladles of four different sizes for different sorts of grain or seeds, which may be distinguished by the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4.

No. 1, (the smallest size) is calculated for turnip-feed, clover-feed, cole-feed, rape, &c. and will sow something more than one pound per statute acre.

No. 2, for wheat, rye, hemp, flax, &c. and will sow something more than one bushel per acre.

No. 3, for barley; and will sow one bushel and a half per acre.

No. 4, for beans, oats, pease, vetches, &c. and will sow two bushels per acre.

Notwithstanding the above specified quantities of grain or seeds, a greater or less quantity of each may be sown at pleasure, by stopping up with a little clay, or by adding a few ladles to each respective box. The grain or seed intended to be sown, must be put in those boxes, to which the cups or ladles as above described respectively belong, an equal quantity into each box, and all the other boxes empty. The ladle cylinder may be reversed, or turned end for end at pleasure, for different sorts of grain, &c.

For sowing beans, oats, pease, &c. with a five-coulter machine, four large ladles must occasionally be applied at equal distances round those parts of the cylinder which

subtend the two end boxes. And for sowing barley, eight large ones must be applied as above ; or four ladles, No. 2, to each of the wheat boxes. These additional ladles are fixed on the cylinder with nails, or taken off in a few minutes ; but for sowing with a four-coulter machine, the above alterations are not necessary.

The funnels are applied to their respective places by corresponding numbers. Care should be taken, that the points of the funnels stand directly behind the backs of the coulters, which is done by wedges being applied to one side or other of the coulters, at the time they are fixed in their respective places.

The machine being thus put together, [see the plate] which is readily and expeditiously done, as no separate part will coincide with any other but that to which it respectively belongs, and an equal quantity of grain or seed in each of the respective boxes, the land also being previously ploughed and harrowed once or so in a place to level the surface ; but if the land be very rough, a roller will best answer that purpose, whenever the land is dry enough to admit of it ; and upon strong clays, a spiked roller is sometimes necessary to reduce the size of the large dry clods ; which being done, the driver should walk down the furrow or edge of the land, and having hold of the last horse's head with his hand, he will readily keep him in such a direction, as will bring the outside coulter of the machine within three or four inches of the edge of the land or ridge, at which uniform extent, he should keep his arm till he comes to the end of the land ; where having turned round, he must come to the other side of his horses, and walking upon the last outside drill, having hold of the horses head with his hand as before, he will readily keep
the

the machine in such a direction, as will strike the succeeding drill at such a distance from the last outside one, or that he walks upon, as the coulters are distant from each other.

The person that attends the machine should put down the lever H, soon enough at the end of the land, that the cups or ladles may have time to fill, before he begins to sow; and at the end of the land, he must apply his right hand to the middle of the rail between the handles, by which he will keep the coulters in the ground, while he is lifting up the level H with his left hand, to prevent the grain being scattered upon the headland, while the machine is turning round; this he will do with great ease, by continuing his right hand upon the rail between the handles, and applying his left arm under the left handle, in order to lift the coulters out of the ground, while the machine is turning round.

If there be any difficulty in using the machine, it consists in driving it straight. As to the person that attends the machine, he cannot possibly commit any errors, except such as are wilful, particularly as he sees at one view the whole process of the business, viz. that the coulters make the drills of a proper depth; that the funnels continue open to convey the grain or seed into the drills; that the rakes or harrows cover the grain sufficiently; and when seed is wanting in the lower boxes B, which he cannot avoid seeing, he readily supplies them from the upper boxes A, by applying his hand, as the machine goes along, to the lever C. The lower boxes B, should not be suffered to become empty before they are supplied with seed, but should be kept nearly full, or within an inch or so of the edge of the box.

If

If chalk lines are made across the backs of the coulters, at such a distance from the ends as the seed should be deposited in the ground, (viz. about two inches for wheat, and from two to three for spring corn) the person that attends the machine will be better able to ascertain the depth the seed should be deposited in the drills, by observing, as the machine goes along, whether the chalk lines are above or below the surface of the land; if above, a proper weight must be applied to the lever L, which will force the coulters into the ground; if below, the lever L and weight must be reversed, which will prevent their sinking too deep.

Wheat that is brined and limed, should be made dry by spreading it thin upon a floor, and the loose particles of lime sifted out, before it is sown by the machine, otherwise the grain, by clogging together, will not be so regularly distributed in the drills. Good old feed-wheat is much better than new, and is not so subject to smut; this is proved by experience.

Upon wet soils or strong clays, wheat should not be deposited more than two inches deep, on any account whatever; nor less than two inches deep on dry soils. From two to three inches is a medium depth for all spring corn. But the exact depth at which grain should be deposited in different soils, from the lightest sand to the strongest clay, is readily ascertained only by observing at what distance, under the surface of the land, the secondary or coronal roots are formed in the spring.

In different parts of the kingdom, lands or ridges are of different sizes; where the machine is too wide for the land,

land, one or more funnels may occasionally be stopped with a little loose paper, and the seed received into such funnel returned at the end of the land, or sooner if required, into the upper seed-box. But for regularity and expedition, lands consisting of so many feet wide from outside to outside, as the machine contains coulter, when fixed at twelve inches distance, or twice or three times the number, &c. are best calculated for the machine. In wet soils, or strong clays, lands or ridges of the width of the machine, and in dry soils, of twice the width, are recommended. For sowing of narrow high-ridged lands, the outside coulters should be let down, and the middle ones raised, so that the points of the coulters may form the same curve, that the land or ridge forms. And the loose soil harrowed down into the furrows should be returned to the edges of the lands or ridges, from whence it came, by a double mould-board, or other plough, whether the land be wet or dry.

Clover or other lays, intended to be sown by the machine, should be ploughed a deep strong furrow, and well harrowed, in order to level the surface, and to get as much loose soil as possible for the coulters to work in; and when sown, if any of the seed appears in the drills uncovered, by reason of the stiff texture of the soil, or toughness of the roots, a light harrow may be taken over the land, once in a place, which will effectually cover the seed, without displacing it at all in the drills. For sowing clays, a considerable weight must be applied to the lever L, to force the coulters into the ground; and a set of wrought-iron coulters, well steeled, and made sharp at the front edge and bottom, are recommended; they will pervade the soil more readily, consequently require less draught,

draught, and expedite business more than adequate to the additional expence.

For every half acre of land intended to be sown by the machine with the seed of that very valuable root, (carrot) one bushel of saw-dust, and one pound of carrot seed, should be provided ; the saw-dust should be made dry, and sifted to take out all the lumps and chips, and divided into eight equal parts or heaps ; the carrot-feed should likewise be dried, and well rubbed between the hands, to take off the beards, so that it will separate readily, and being divided into eight equal parts or heaps, one part of the carrot-feed must be well mixed with one part of the saw-dust, and so on, till all the parts of carrot-feed and saw-dust are well mixed and incorporated together, in which state it may be sown very regularly in drills at twelve inches distance, by the cups or ladles, No. 2. Carrot-feed resembling saw-dust very much in its size, roughness, weight, adhesion, &c. will remain mixed as above during the sowing ; a ladle full of saw-dust will, upon an average, contain three or four carrot-seeds, by which means the carrot-feed cannot be otherwise than regular in the drills. In attempting to deposit small seeds near the surface, it may so happen that some of the seeds may not be covered with soil ; in which case, a light roller may be drawn over the land, after the seed is sown, which will not only cover the seeds, but will also, by levelling the surface, prepare the land for an earlier hoeing than could otherwise have taken place.

It has always been found troublesome, sometimes impracticable, to sow any kind of grain or seed (even broadcast) in a high wind. This inconvenience is entirely obviated, by placing a screen of any kind of cloth, or a sack,

sack, supported by two uprights nailed to the sides of the machine, behind the funnels, which will prevent the grain or seed being blown out of its direction in falling from the ladles into the funnels. Small pipes of tin may also be put on to the ends of the funnels, to convey the grain or seed so near the surface of the land, that the highest wind shall not be able to interrupt its descent into the drills.

That farmers may not be reduced to the necessity of sowing their land out of condition, that is, when the soil is wet and clammy, every exertion ought to be made, in ploughing up their lands ready to sow as early as possible in the season, that the first opportunity of sowing when the land is dry may be embraced ; nothing bids fairer for success in the drill system, than early sowing ; in which case the plants have time to throw out or multiply so many additional stems or offsets as the land is able to support. But if farmers will sow early, they must plough early, otherwise strong productive soils will not be in condition to receive the seed ; and such extraordinary advantages have been uniformly derived from ploughing up stubbles immediately after the crops have been carried, that many intelligent, experimental farmers have declared, that one furrow of the plough before winter is worth two or three in the spring.

Respecting the use of the machine, it is frequently remarked, by some people not conversant with the properties of matter and motion, that the soil will close after the coulters, before the seed is admitted into the drills. Whereas the very contrary is the case ; for the velocity of the coulters, in passing through the soil, is so much greater than the velocity with which the soil closes up the drills by its own spontaneous gravity, that the incisions or drills will be constantly open for three or four inches behind the coulters ;

by

by which means it is morally impossible (if the points of the funnels stand directly behind the coulter) that the seed, with the velocity it acquires in falling through the funnels, shall not be admitted into the drills.

Directions for Hoeing, &c.

THIS hoe [see the plate] is worked much in the same manner as a common Dutch hoe, or scuffle, is worked in gardens; the handle is elevated or depressed, to suit the size of the person that works it, by means of an iron wedge being respectively applied to the upper or under side of the handle that goes into the socket of the hoe.

Wheat and rye cannot be hoed too early in the spring, provided the soil be dry enough to admit of being previously rolled with a light roller; nothing facilitates and expedites hoeing for the first time, so much as rolling, by pulverizing the soil and levelling the surface; it ought nevertheless to be omitted, rather than used, if the soil be not quite dry, at least dry enough to quit the roller.

The wings or moulding plates of the hoe, which are calculated to earth up the soil to the rows of corn, so as to cause the roots to issue from the first joint of the stem above the surface, which otherwise would not have existed, should never be used for the first hoeing, but should always be used for the last hoeing, and used or not used, at the option of the farmer, when any intermediate hoeing is performed. The last hoeing or earthing up should not take place till the crop is eight or ten inches high; or till the young ears of corn are so far advanced in the stems, as to be above the surface of the soil, when the earthing up is finished. The young ears of corn will, on dissecting a few

few stems, be found to exist in embryo as it were, much sooner than is generally apprehended. The absurdity of rolling any crop after the young ears are formed, and of earthing up the soil, before they are advanced in the stems above the surface of the soil, must be self-evident. In the former instance they will be crushed by the roller ; in the latter, they will be smothered by the soil. The young ears of corn will be found to exist, as soon as the secondary or coronal roots are formed.

The above observations on hoeing wheat and rye, are applicable to the hoeing of all spring crops ; only the first hoeing of barley, oats, &c. should take place as soon as the second blade or leaf of the young plant appears ; and of beans, pease, &c. as soon as the plants can be distinguished in the rows.

The best season for hoeing is two or three days after rain, or so soon after rain as the soil will quit the instrument in hoeing. Light dry soils may be hoed almost at any time, but this is far from being the case with strong clay soils ; the season for hoeing such is frequently short and precarious ; every opportunity therefore should be carefully watched, and eagerly embraced. The two extremes of wet and dry are great enemies of vegetation in strong clay soils ; the bad effects of the former, though difficult to guard against, are nevertheless to be remedied in some measure by ploughs of a better construction, and more properly conducted, than such as are commonly met with in strong clay soils. For if the wing or feather of the plough-share were made nearly as wide as the intended furrow, and fixed so as to move parallel to the surface of the land, the under side of every furrow would be

cut

cut parallel to the surface, and a smooth floor or surface polished by the bottom of the plough would be found under every furrow, forming a regular plane with an uniform descent from the top of a ridge into the water-furrow; upon which polished floor or surface, all superfluous water, after filtrating through the loose soil, or furrows turned over by the plough, would find its way readily and precipitately into the water furrow, at least so as to prevent its stagnating in the soil, so as to starve the plants. But so far from guarding as much as possible against the bad effects of superfluous water stagnating in clay soils, by the above palpable process in ploughing, the construction of the ploughs commonly made use of, and the method of conducting them in strong clays in several parts of this kingdom, have a direct tendency to the contrary; this is done by working their ploughs in such a position, that the wing or feather of the share, being neither so wide as the intended furrow, nor parallel to the surface when at work, but forming an angle of forty or fifty degrees with the same, or, in other words, moving in an oblique direction to the surface, turns over not a square or parallel, but a triangular furrow. In which case it is self-evident, that such lands are only half-ploughed; there being so many ridges of fast undisturbed soil, as there are furrows, forming so many troughs or trenches; that of all the superfluous water that shall fall upon such lands, so much only as shall remain over and above filling the trenches will be able to find its way into the water-furrows; for some clay soils, indeed all soils when puddled, will hold water like a dish; consequently so much water as the above trenches shall contain, will remain there till it is evaporated by sun and air, starving the plants, and puddling the soil to such a degree, that the nutritive quality in the food of plants may become

become so far impaired as not to be restored ; or if it should, the tender fibres of the roots of plants may be so putrified by stagnated water as to be incapable ever after of answering their intended purpose in promoting vegetation.

As to the bad effects of strong clay soils caking in dry weather, nothing more easy to prevent ; for there is a period between the time of clay soils running together, so as to puddle by superfluous wet, and the time of their caking by drought, that they are as tractable as need be. Now this is this time, this is the juncture for hoeing ; and so much land as shall be thus seasonably hoed, will not cake or crust upon the surface, as it otherwise would have done, till it has been soaked or drenched again with rain ; in which case the hoeing is to be repeated, as soon as the soil will quit the instrument, and as often as necessary ; by which time, the growing crop will begin to cover the ground, so as to act as a screen to the surface of the land, against the intense heat of the sun, and thereby prevent, in great measure, the bad effects of the soil's caking in dry weather.

When land is to be laid down with seeds, the seeds must not be sown, as usual, with the grain, but the day the last hoeing is to be performed. If seeds are sown when barley is sown, hoeing is excluded, consequently the great advantages of drilling are frustrated ; but not being sown till the last hoeing is just going to take place, every purpose is answered. For the crop is not only improved by hoeing, but the soil in the spaces between the rows of corn, being cleared from weeds, and pulverized by hoeing, will be in much better condition to receive the seeds ; and the seeds being sown broadcast just before the last hoeing, will be incorporated with the soil by the action of the hoe, so as

to vegetate much better, and produce a much better crop than usual. The wings or moulding plates of the hoe may, or may not be used at all upon land that is to lie down with seeds.

Such strong weeds as may grow directly in the rows of corn, and out of the reach of the hoe to cut up, should be plucked up by hand, to prevent their coming to maturity, and dropping their seeds upon the soil, that has been previously made clean by hoeing.

These machines (with five coulter price sixteen guineas; with four coulters, fifteen guineas) equally excel in setting or planting all sorts of grain and seeds, even carrot-seed, to exactness, after the rate of from eight to ten chain acres per day, with one man, a boy, and two horses. They deposit the grain or seed in any given quantity from one peck to three bushels per acre, regularly and uniformly, and that without grinding or bruising the seed, and at any given depth, from half an inch to half a dozen inches, in rows at the distance of twelve, sixteen, and twenty-four inches, or any other distance. They are equally useful on all lands, are durable, easy to manage, and by no means subject to be put out of repair.

The Dublin Society, have not yet got a Model of this Machine, it is to be seen in London, at the White Bear, Basinghall-Street; at Mr Gatfields, No. 54, Newgate-Street, and at Mr. Mathew's Bath.



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(B y DANIEL BAGOT, Esq.)

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Carew, Robt. Shapland, Esq.
Waller, ————— Esq.
Westenra, ————— Esq.

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ERRATA.

ERRATA.

In the Preface, page viii, line 5, dele, *which*.

Page 12, No. 38, for *Offery*, read, *Offory*.

— 18, line 11, for *stiled*, read, *styled*.

— 31, for *Sett. 3*, read, *Sett. 4*.

— 34, line 31, for *sboul*, read, *sbould*.

— —, line 24, for *at*, read, *as*.

— 41, line 7, for *eight*, read, *eighteen*.

— 45, line 30, after, *ten*, insert, *shillings per*.

— 97, line 33, and in page 107, line 23, for *Dona-*
mace, read, *Dunamase*.

— 101, line 16, before *feels*, insert, *it*.

— 137, line 13, for *Dawson's Grove*, read, *Dawson*
Court.

— 146, line 12, for *proves*, read, *prove*.

— 171, line 7, for *ell*, read, *eel*,

— 189, line 29, for *£.7*, read, *£17*.

— 206, line 10, for *Cullinbill*, read, *Cullibill*.

— ——— 11, for *Cullinagh*, read, *Cullinagh*.

