

# HISTORY OF SLIGO



Ṭṛiállam Ṭiméall Slíge









VIEW OF PART OF THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE TOWN OF SLIGO,

As seen from the Tower of Calvary Church.

Drawn by W. F. Wakeman, from a Photograph by J. J. Nelson.

# HISTORY OF SLIGO,

COUNTY AND TOWN,

Vol. 3.

FROM THE

CLOSE OF THE REVOLUTION OF 1688 TO THE PRESENT TIME,

WITH

Illustrations from Original Drawings and Plans.

BY

W. G. WOOD-MARTIN,

COL., SLIGO ARTILLERY.

AUTHOR OF

*"The Lake Dwellings of Ireland;*

*"The Rude Stone Monuments of Ireland (County Sligo);*

*&c. &c.*

Tríallam Tínceall Slíge.

---

"Shall we tread the dust of ages,  
Musing dream-like on the past,  
Seeking on the broad earth's pages  
For the shadows Time hath cast."

---



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## PREFACE.



WORK entitled "THE RUDE STONE MONUMENTS OF IRELAND (Co. SLIGO)" contains all the information that the writer could gather concerning the local megalithic structures of primitive antiquity scattered throughout the district. Next comes "The History of Sligo, County and Town," which, beginning at the legendary period, carries the recital down to the close of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The second part of this work, starting from the accession of James I., continues the narration almost to the close of the 17th century; and from that date, the present volume carries it on to the times in which we now live. Much of the information herein contained has been extracted from old newspapers, pamphlets, and publications of every sort relating to the district. Many interesting details have been kindly furnished by friends who, either from long residence or family connexion with the county, became well acquainted with the traditions still current in many rural localities. For those whose homes are in the district of which this history treats, it can scarcely fail to be of interest to know how their immediate forefathers lived, and how our various institutions grew up and developed. It is hoped that, after perusal of this volume, the reader when laying it down may have a feeling

of more lively interest and more earnest love for the County and Town of Sligo. The district possesses, in one respect, a unique characteristic, for there is no resident nobleman within its bounds, nor has any nobleman a residence in it. There appears to be no other county in Ireland similarly circumstanced.

There remains to the writer the pleasant duty of acknowledging the assistance rendered by the numerous officials who, in their various departments, supplied much information which could not otherwise have been obtained. William Frazer, F.R.C.S.I., furnished the impressions from which the Sligo merchant tokens were engraved.

Some of the illustrations are reproduced, by different processes, from photographs by J. J. Nelson; the wood engravings are by Alfred Oldham; the coloured map at the end of the volume is reproduced by permission of George Philip & Son.

CLEVERAGH, SLIGO,

*December, 1891.*





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# HISTORY OF SLIGO.

## BOOK VII.

### CHAPTER XVII.

MILITARY HISTORY OF THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH OF SLIGO  
FROM 1688 TO THE PRESENT TIME.

**T**HE effects of the internecine strife which had lasted from 1688 to 1691 were visible all over the County of Sligo; fields lay uncultivated and waste; numbers of horses had died, or been worn out as troop or baggage animals, and cattle were scarce; wherever the desolation of war had spread, the houses of the gentry and the cottages of the poor were in ruins. The unfortunate inhabitants who had joined neither of the rival parties under arms had to contribute to the support, now of the one side, now of the other, according as the fortunes of the contest fluctuated, and those who had fled were subjected to confiscation of their goods by the adherents of James. Alexander Irwin of Tanrego—nicknamed “The Fox”<sup>1</sup>—was compelled to leave his wife and family in Sligo,

<sup>1</sup> This sobriquet of “The Fox” may perhaps throw light on the Latin inscription over the entrance of the old house of Longford (*vide ante*, Book I. p. 116), to the effect that it was “the safe retreat of John Henry (Crofton) and his yellow-haired Fox”; and as the Croftons and the Irwins resided in close neighbourhood, what more likely than that the Crofton above alluded to had married a Miss Irwin.

The following statement of the doctrine of image-worship may be observed in the quaint little chapel, situated in the grounds of Longford,



but when trying to make their escape from the County they were captured by Sir Teigue O'Regan, who observed, "Though the Fox has escaped I have got the cubs." Mrs. Irwin was detained prisoner in a fort at Strandhill, where she found herself obliged to part with everything belonging to her, even to her wedding ring, in order to procure bread for her children. At the close of the struggle many Protestants found themselves ruined; their money became exhausted from the pressure on their own resources whilst the war was being carried on. Each side seemed to understand perfectly the art of carrying on the struggle, if possible, at the cost of their adversaries, and the annexed correspondence will be found amusing from the statement of the mode in which repayment was made:—

"The petition of Capt<sup>n</sup> Hugh M'Dermott To the Rt Honno<sup>ble</sup> Coll. Patt. Sarsfield Command<sup>r</sup> in Chiefe of his mat<sup>r</sup> fforces in Connought, and to y<sup>e</sup> Honno<sup>ble</sup> Coll. Henry Dillon, L<sup>d</sup> Leut. of the County of Sligo.

"Sheweth that yo<sup>r</sup> petio<sup>r</sup> uppon yo<sup>r</sup> Honno<sup>n</sup> encourdagm<sup>t</sup> and p<sup>m</sup>ise of reimbursinge yo<sup>r</sup> petio<sup>r</sup> did subsist his company for five weekes in the Garizon of Sligo, and bought for y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Company sixty eight coates, sixty eight hatts, sixty eight paire of shooes, and sixty eight paire of stokens, that yo<sup>r</sup> petio<sup>r</sup> to serve his mat<sup>ie</sup> and please yo<sup>r</sup> Honno<sup>n</sup> was fforced to borrow from severall p<sup>so</sup>ns ye most p<sup>t</sup> of ye monys layd out by him for ye uses affors<sup>d</sup> and is duly duned for y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> mony to yo<sup>r</sup> petio<sup>n</sup> great discredit and disaduantage if not soone relui<sup>d</sup> by yo<sup>r</sup> Honnor<sup>s</sup>.

"May it therefore please yo<sup>r</sup> Honnor<sup>s</sup> tenderly to consider y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>m</sup>isses and yo<sup>r</sup> one ffaithfull p<sup>m</sup>isse to ord<sup>r</sup> some course whereby yo<sup>r</sup> petio<sup>r</sup> may be reimbursed and payd of his mony, w<sup>ch</sup> amounts to one hundred and three pounds str<sup>e</sup> as by the accompt underneath more at lardge may appear—and yo<sup>r</sup> petio<sup>r</sup> shall ever pray, &c.

" Itt' ffive weeks subsistance,	.	55	00	00
Sixty eight coates,	.	32	12	4
Sixty eight paire of stokens,	.	3	8	00
Sixty eight paire of pumps,	.	3	8	00
Sixty eight hatts,	.	8	14	00 "

already fully described: "Nam Deus est quod imago docet, sed non Deus ipsa, hanc cernas sed mente colas quod cernis in ipsa"; which may be translated: "For God is what the image teaches us, but the image itself is not God; you see the image, but you worship in your mind what you discern in it."

“ To Capt<sup>n</sup> JOHN BURKE.

“ The contents of y<sup>e</sup> above petition is recomended to y<sup>a</sup> by Coll. Sarsfield, who desires y<sup>a</sup> will out of y<sup>e</sup> effects y<sup>a</sup> have in y<sup>e</sup> hands of y<sup>e</sup> Kings satisfy y<sup>e</sup> aboue sume to Cap<sup>m</sup> Hugh M'Dermott. Dated at Bondrowes y<sup>e</sup> 20 of May (16)89.

“ HEN : DILLON.

“ Dear Jack, be sure y<sup>a</sup> doe what y<sup>a</sup> can for y<sup>e</sup> prince who was y<sup>a</sup> know at greate expense and youl oblige y<sup>e</sup> aff. brot<sup>r</sup>.”

“ Pursuant to Coll. Sarsfields orders I doe impower Capt<sup>n</sup> Hugh M'Dermott to dispossesse and make usse of the goods and Chattels of George Allcocke or other absentees goods in his custody by vertue of any former orders, to the value of the sume in the within Pett<sup>io</sup>n. Datted this 22<sup>th</sup> of May (16)89.

“ Jo : BURKE.

“ (Endorsed) The humble peticoñ of Capt<sup>n</sup> Hugh M'Dermott.”

The Mac Dermotts, then and long subsequently, were one of the few families that kept up the appellation of an ancient Irish Chieftain. Young, in his *Tour through Ireland* in the latter portion of the 18th century, thus alludes to it:—

“ Another great family in Connaught is Mac Dermott, who calls himself ‘ Prince of Coolavin ’; he lives at Coolavin in Sligo, and though he has not above £100 a year, will not admit his children to sit down in his presence. This was certainly the case with his father, and some assured me, even with the present Chief. Lord Kingsborough, Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. O'Hara, Mr. Sandford, &c, came to see him, and his address was curious: ‘ O'Hara, you are welcome; Sandford I am glad to see your mother's son (his mother was an O'Brian); as to the rest of ye, come in as you can ! ’ ”

The sufferers through injuries inflicted by the three years of constant strife sought compensation from Parliament, but sought in vain; ten thousand pounds was voted, but never given, nor indeed could a sum so small have been of any real service, so numerous were the applicants.

The incessant strife had so accustomed the people to an unsettled state of life that they were unwilling to resume steady pursuits of any kind. Accustomed to obtain all the necessaries of life by plunder and violence, the majority of the



peasantry neglected the culture of the soil, while some took to open robbery and gave themselves up to a system of predatory warfare,<sup>1</sup> and as nearly all the Protestant yeomen had been either in the militia or regular army, military life had inspired a distaste for the occupations in which they had formerly engaged; they were unwilling to work, and inclined to depend more on the aid expected from Parliament than on their own exertions.

Some kind of local military organization must have existed in Sligo prior to the Revolution of 1688, otherwise it would be difficult to account for the celerity with which the Protestants of the county had been concentrated, armed, and disciplined. These men were in great part descendants of members of Colonel Richard Coote's Regiment of Horse, Colonel Sir Charles Coote's Regiment of Horse, and his Regiment of Foot. Numerous statements with regard to these regiments are to be found amongst the public records, but one entry relating to Cornet Cooper will suffice. It recites that "the Claym<sup>t</sup> purchased y<sup>e</sup> Debentures hereafter mentioned from y<sup>e</sup> persones hereunder, and after named, whose Lotts fell in y<sup>e</sup> county of Sligoe, in Coll. Coote's owne Regim<sup>t</sup> and Troope"; he also purchased lots in Sir Charles Coote's Reg<sup>t</sup>. Sir Oliver St. George's Troope "as well as in Sir Charles Coote's Regm<sup>t</sup> of ffoote." The various detachments from the above-named corps appear to have been stationed in Sligo until lands were allotted to them, and they exchanged the sword for the ploughshare. In the column of remarks in "the Book of Survey and Distribution" several denominations of land are annotated "Trustees for y<sup>e</sup> Barracks."

"Sir Richard Coote's Regiment of Horse (now y<sup>e</sup> L<sup>d</sup>. Collooney's Regt.") From this entry<sup>2</sup> it would appear that the Regiment, although disbanded, was liable to be called up

<sup>1</sup> These vagrant robbers were designated Rapparees, an Irish word stated to have signified a pole or broken beam, resembling a half-pike—the weapon with which the majority of these brigands were armed.

<sup>2</sup> Here is another entry of like nature: "Quarter Master E. J. Byrne Q<sup>r</sup>. M. to Maior John Kings troope (nowe L<sup>d</sup>. of Kingston) in the now L<sup>d</sup>. Collooney's Reg<sup>t</sup>."



for service, for it was disembodied about 1655, and Coote was not created Baron Collooney until September, 1660.

Richard, eldest son of the 1st Baron, espoused the cause of William III. In 1689 he was appointed Treasurer and Receiver General to Queen Mary, and was created Earl of Bellamont. In the year following he was made Governor of New England and New York, and also Admiral of those seas, where he captured the notorious pirate, Captain William Kidd. In 1701 he died in America, and was succeeded in the title by his son Nansan, who died in 1708, and was succeeded by his brother Richard. In the year 1800, on the death of Charles Coote, without issue male, the title became extinct.

The following is the muster roll of the officers of Col. Sir Richard Coote's Regiment of Horse:—

Major John King (now L<sup>d</sup> of Kingston); Q. M. E. J. Byrne.

Sir Richard Cootes own troop: Cornet Edward Cooper; Q. M. C. Cartwright.

Captain Robert Morgan: Cornet Thomas Wood; Q. M. Henry Beven.

Captain Francis King: L<sup>t</sup> James King; Cornet Edmond Nicholson; Q. M. Thomas Harloe or Harle.

Captain Thomas Hart: L<sup>t</sup> Michael Pockeredge.

Captain Robert Oliver: L<sup>t</sup> Pockeredge; Cornet Henry Hughes.

Captain Lewis Jones: Cornet John Thorneton; Q. M. Nicholas Goulding.

"Ingeneere" William Webb.

Surgeon and Ensign John Nicholson.

Surgeon's mate: Henry Nicholson.

Henry Nicholson was "chirurgeon" not only to this Regiment but also to Sir Charles Coote's Regiment of Horse and Sir William Cole's Regiment of Foot. Henry Nicholson is also described in a contemporaneous document "as administrator to his brother, William Nicholson; as chirurgeon's-mate to Coll. Richard Coote's Regiment of Horse and as Trooper in Capt. Francis King's troop":—

Col. Sir Charles Cootes Regiment; (Earl of Mountrath.)

Sir Charles Cootes own troop: Capt William Ormsby, Capt Lt.

Captain John Ormsby: L<sup>t</sup>. Thomas Ormsby; Cornet Philip Ormsby; Q. M. Anthony Ormsby.

Captain Charles Ormsby : Cornet George Ormsby.

Surgeon and Ensign John Nicholson ; Cornet Edmond Nicholson.

Col. Sir Charles Coote's Regiment of Foot (now y<sup>e</sup> Earl of Mountrath).

Captain Robert Parke ; Ensign David Linehan

Captain Charles Colles ; L<sup>t</sup>. Markey.

This list of officers can be further extended by reference to the "Book of Survey and Distribution," as well as to the census made *circa* 1659, probably by Dr. W. Petty, and which is one of the few documents extant in which the designation of "Titulado" occurs. By the term "Titulado" is supposed to be meant a person claiming to be entitled to land, but whose claim not having been yet decided on was thereby rendered *titular* in point of fact.<sup>1</sup> (See Appendix A.)

From the commencement of the Revolution of 1688 until the surrender of Sligo by Sir Teigue O'Regan in 1691, there could have been no body of local militia stationed within the County, as every male capable of bearing arms was either engaged in the ranks of the Enniskilleners or supporting the cause of James II. It seems evident, however, that a local force for Sligo has existed, it may be said, almost from the first settlement of the County. This force was embodied in 1715 and again in 1745 ; in May, 1747, the following notice occurs in a newspaper of the day :—

"We hear from Sligoe, that the agreeable news of Admiral Anson's success against the French occasioned the greatest rejoicing that was ever known in that town ; the Gentlemen assembled under arms and marched from the Parade to the Quay, where after firing three vollies with the greatest exactness (as it was a marine stroke), they repaired on board the vessels there, when they drank the King, with all the loyal toasts, the brave Anson and Warren, and many more suitable to the occasion. The night ended with bonfires, illuminations, and other demonstrations of the greatest joy, and the next night the Gentlemen of the town entertained the Ladies with a ball at the

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<sup>1</sup> Such is the opinion of John P. Prendergast, the author of *The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland*, and of J. J. Digges-Latouche, the Deputy Keeper of the Records.



Town House, where the well-affected fair ones assembled by beat of drum, and shewed a spirit no way short of their sister Whiggs in the year 1715, described by the great Mr. Addison."

In September of the same year a letter from Sligo describes an engagement off the coast in which three English merchantmen beat off a Spanish privateer.

In a private account book (1755) belonging to a gentleman of the County, there stands the following entry: "May 1. To y<sup>e</sup> Militia boys to buy powder 2s. 2d." The Militia were assembled in 1759, in 1760, 1761, 1762, and 1763. Mention is made of them again from 1778 to 1783; during this latter period, however, the Irish Volunteers were also in existence, and it is difficult to distinguish whether the casual allusions met with really bear reference to the Volunteers or the Militia.

According to a map of the year 1766 there were four military barracks in the town of Sligo: "The old stone fort" or "Foot Barracks and yard"; the present barracks, then styled the "Strand Barracks" for cavalry and capable of accommodating "7 officers and 96 non-commissioned officers and privates, with stabling for 60 horses, and an excellent hospital annexed"; the "Middle Barracks" on the right side of Holborn-street, and the "Horse Barracks" which appear to have occupied the site of the present brewery near the upper bridge. Small detachments of troops were also stationed at Collooney, Ballymote, and Kilmacteige. The latter barracks were given up as early as 1736.

At a critical epoch, when America was lost to the Crown of England, and the Irish coasts lay open to the descent of a foreign foe, the Volunteers, a body of 100,000 men, self-clothed, self-disciplined, and without pay discharged the duties of the army. Unfortunately they afterwards turned their attention to politics, upon which rock they made shipwreck. At first—from the octogenarian to the schoolboy—all sprang to arms, several cadet corps being formed from the various schools in the town and county.

Amongst the facetiæ of the day, it is narrated that at a meeting convened by public notice it was agreed to form a

Volunteer corps, but a proviso was added that it should not be compelled to quit the kingdom. A wag in the crowd suggestively adding: "except in case of invasion!"

"The Sligo Volunteers" were commanded by Mr. Wynne. The Right Hon. Henry King was one of the twelve "Generals" elected by the Volunteers, and was one of the delegates who met at Dungannon, 15th February, 1782. He also raised and commanded "The Ballina and Ardnaree Loyal Volunteers," associated (*i. e.* raised) 1st July, 1779. "The Liney Volunteers" were associated in 1778; their uniform was scarlet faced with blue. They were commanded by Major George Dodwell. Lt-Col. Ormsby was in command of the "Sligo Loyal Volunteers" raised May 25th, 1779, the uniform scarlet, faced white. Provincial reviews were held by the Volunteers, the various corps being fully provided with all necessary camp equipment.

One of the largest of these reviews was held near Sligo in 1781, and the order in which the various corps were drawn up is here given. The details of the manœuvres—which occupy sixteen pages of the pamphlet<sup>1</sup>—are omitted, but some items are curious; for instance, officers still carried "fusils," and when saluting the inspecting general, "the officers wearing hats (except those on horseback) will take off their hats; the cap-officers will put their hands to their caps."

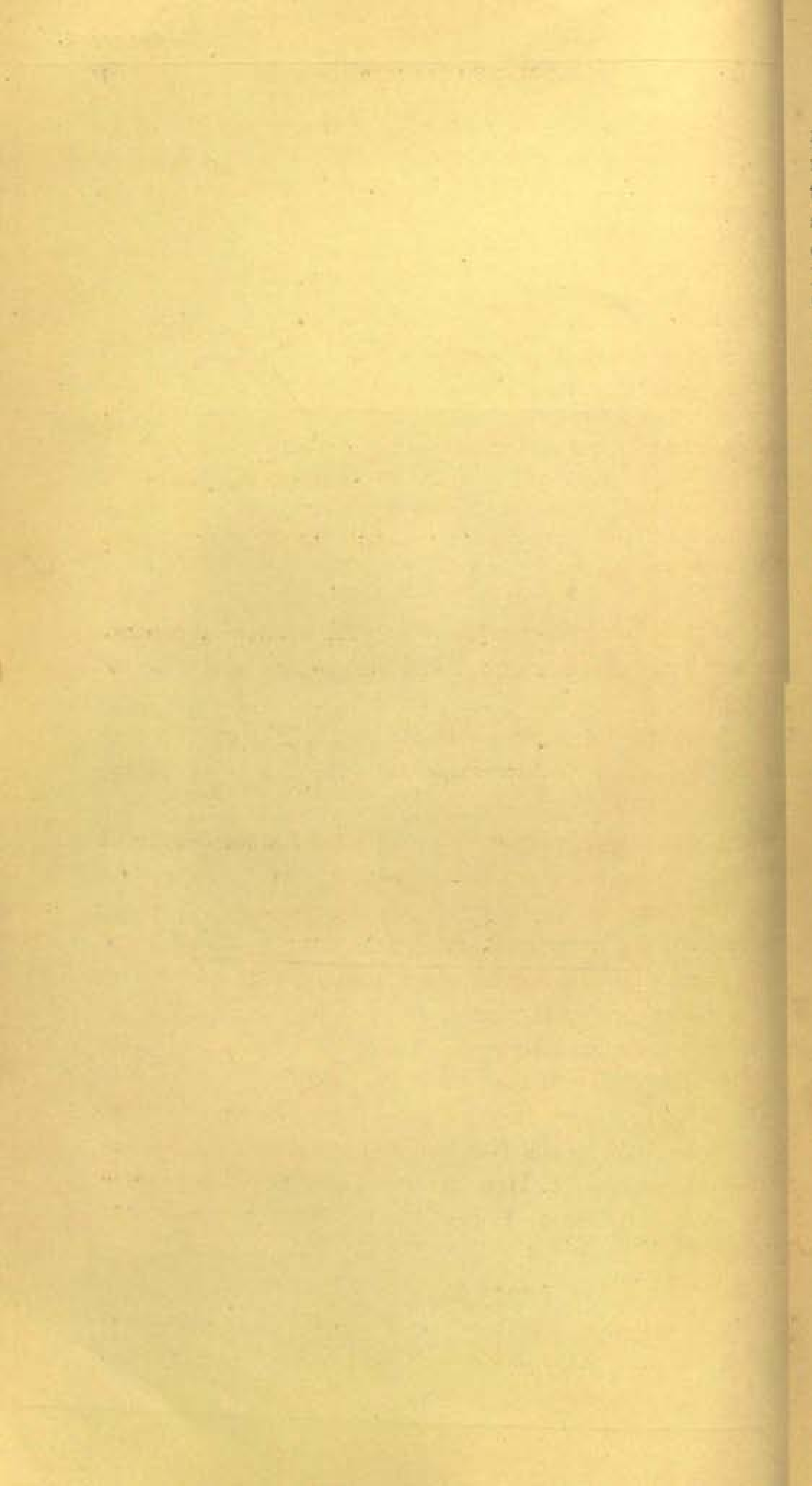
"The cavalry to be formed into one squadron; the infantry into two regiments; the whole forming one brigade. The several corps to take post according to seniority; the eldest corps on the right of the first regiment; the second corps on the right of the second regiment; the third corps on the left of the first regiment; the fourth corps on the left of the second regiment; and so on until the whole is formed. The Grenadiers and light infantry of the eldest corps to be posted to the first regiment; the Grenadiers and light infantry of the other corps to the second regiment. The colours of the two corps nearest the centre of each regiment to be used; the other corps who have colours will carry them to the field. The eldest Colonel will command the brigade as Brigadier-General; the eldest Lieutenant-Colonel and Major of each regiment to act in their stations to the

<sup>1</sup> Plan of a review to be held near Sligo on Thursday, the 19th July next, 1781.





Fig. 1.—OFFICER IN UNIFORM OF THE SLIGO VOLUNTEERS, 1780.





regiments they belong to; the acting Major of each regiment to be mounted; the Lieutenant-Colonel on foot. The line to be drawn up two deep; the cavalry 15 paces to the right of the first regiment; the second regiment 15 paces to the left of the first. Each regiment to be divided into 8 battalion sub-divisions, 4 grand divisions, and 2 wings. In the firings and manœuvres the regiments will act independently. The sub-divisions will be numbered, beginning with the right and ending with the left of regiments. The Captains and subalterns 4 paces in front of the front rank; field officers on foot 3 paces in front of the Captains and subalterns; the Majors on horseback on the right of their respective regiments, dressing with the front rank of Grenadiers, and will march at their head in passing the GENERAL. No drums to beat but those belonging to the regiment the General is immediately passing, except in the general salute, when the whole beat off together. The Brigadier-General will appoint an adjutant to receive his orders, and act under him."

The manœuvres, which were of a most intricate character, comprised the attack on a bridge and the passage of a river by the brigade.

There was again a review in August, 1782, and another took place in 1785. Volunteering was also carried on for the navy.

There was great jealousy entertained by the regular troops towards the Volunteers. "The former affected to view their unpaid comrades in the same light the merchant does the contrabandist, as unlicensed dealers in arms; jealousy and envy of their equipments and personal appearance might have been probably material sources of this bad feeling, as the Volunteers were splendidly appointed, and formed undoubtedly a considerable portion of the *élite* of Irishmen."

The following were the Delegates from the County Sligo who composed part of the National Convention of the Volunteers:—General the Rt. Hon. Henry King, Rt. Hon. Joshua Cooper, Colonel O'Hara, Robert Lyons, Esq., Major George Dodwell.

A few resolutions passed by the various Sligo Volunteer corps are added as specimens of the manner in which political agitation was carried on at the close of the 18th century.

“LOYAL SLIGO VOLUNTEERS.

“On parade assembled the 4th of March, 1782, unanimously came to the following Resolution :—

“That, as citizens and soldiers, we do heartily approve of the Dungannon address to the minority of both houses of parliament, and do most cheerfully adopt these resolutions of the 15th of February last, for obtaining a redress of grievances, and that we will to the utmost of our power, co-operate with them and the several volunteer corps of this Kingdom for so desirable a purpose.

“JOHN ORMSBY, *Lieut. Col.*

“Ordered that the above resolutions be published in the *Dublin Evening Post*, and *Sligo Journal*.”

On the 15th March, 1782, a deputation of Volunteer Officers from the County Sligo (*i.e.* Colonel Charles O'Hara, Colonel Sir B. Gore Bt., Colonel Lewis F. Irwin, Lt.-Colonel John Ormsby), attended the great meeting of Connaught Volunteers at Ballinasloe, at which were assembled delegates from fifty-nine volunteer corps of the province.

“SLIGO MEETING.

“At a Meeting of the Gentlemen Freeholders of the County of Sligo, convened by the High Sheriff, April, 1, 1782,

“GEORGE DODWELL, Esq., High Sheriff, in the Chair,

“The following Resolutions were unanimously agreed to :—

“1st.—That the resolutions entered into by the Delegates assembled at Dungannon and Ballinasloe, by the Volunteer associations, and since approved of by the different meetings of several other corps and Counties of this Kingdom, are such as ought to be adopted by every friend to the just rights, privileges, liberties, and commerce of Ireland.

“2nd.—That we will support, with our lives and fortunes, all the just rights and privileges of this Kingdom, and that we will use our utmost endeavours to promote peace, harmony, and good order in this country, and that we will co-operate with all the other counties in this Kingdom in any measures that may tend to the accomplishing so salutary an end.

“3rd.—That the thanks of this meeting be given to the different Delegates from the Volunteer Corps of this county who attended the meeting at Ballinasloe on the 15th of March last.



“ 4th.—That these resolutions, unanimously approved of, be published three times in the *Dublin Evening Post* and *Sligo Journal*.

“ 5th.—That the thanks of this meeting be given to the High Sheriff for his cheerful compliance with our request, in convening the County, and for his polite and candid conduct in the chair.

“ GEORGE DODWELL, *Sheriff*.”<sup>1</sup>

Very similar resolutions were passed at a meeting of “The Ballina and Ardnaree Volunteers,” held 28th March, Lt. Robert Jones in the chair; likewise at a meeting of “The first Tyreril True Blues,” held at Collooney, April 1, 1782, the Rev. John Little in the chair, to which the following was added:—“The chief wish of our hearts is to clasp our sister nation to our bosom and cement an indissoluble union between us, attached to her by every tie of affection and interest that can unite nations; surrounded as she is by an host of enemies we are resolved to share her liberty and share her fate.” Owing, however, to the conduct of the affairs of the Volunteers throughout the kingdom having fallen unto revolutionary hands, their old leaders abandoned them.

To prevent disturbances, and with the approbation of most of the supporters of the constitution of 1782, the regular army was largely increased, and the militia embodied. The Government finally ordered that all meetings of the Volunteers should be, if necessary, dispersed by force.

Prior to the year 1790, Protestants and Roman Catholics in Sligo lived on very good terms. Colonel Irwin in his examination before the Committee of the House of Commons on the state of Ireland said:—

“I was very much thrown into the society of Roman Catholics. My father when he was in the Prussian Service acquired a facility of speaking Latin. He was a very good linguist, and it was a great gratification to him to get anyone that could speak Latin and foreign languages, and he used to have the priests, who from their foreign education possessed that facility, constantly resorting to his house. Under these circumstances, even though a boy, I was not without observation, I can say that during that time there was a much greater

<sup>1</sup> *History of Volunteering, 1782, C. H. Wilson.*



cordiality, much greater intercourse and familiarity between the two sects than exists at this time. The first tone that was given to Protestant feeling adverse to the Catholics was in the year 1793 at the time of the Defenders."

In the spring of 1794, Sligo was much disturbed by the "Defenders"—a secret society amongst the Roman Catholics, which spread throughout the County with astonishing rapidity—and at the assizes many were convicted of robbing houses of arms and of administering unlawful oaths. In consequence of these outrages the Earl of Carhampton—by instructions from Government—visited Sligo for the purpose of restoring social order; the execution of the laws being there impeded by a system of terror. In most places visited by him he found that a leader of disturbance, who assumed the feigned name of Captain Stout, had so greatly intimidated the people of the neighbourhood, that persons who had sustained injury were afraid to prosecute, and magistrates were deterred from enforcing justice. Some informers had been murdered, and others dreading the same fate forfeited their recognizances in order to avoid giving evidence.

An active and intelligent magistrate of the County stated that the priest of a certain parish in Sligo had advised him to remain a passive spectator of these outrages, as otherwise he would be murdered; and much the same information was given by Mr. Perceval of Templehouse.

Lord Carhampton found that in the counties which he visited the laws were inoperative, and that they did not afford protection to loyal and peaceable subjects, who in most places were obliged to fly from their habitations; he consequently resolved to restore order by decisive measures, and in the following year the loyal inhabitants and the Grand Jury of Sligo thanked Lord Carhampton for his wise and salutary exertions.

In the autumn of 1796 Government proposed that—in addition to the Militia—all loyal subjects should embody themselves into corps similar to those already formed in England, and subject to the control of the proper authorities;



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

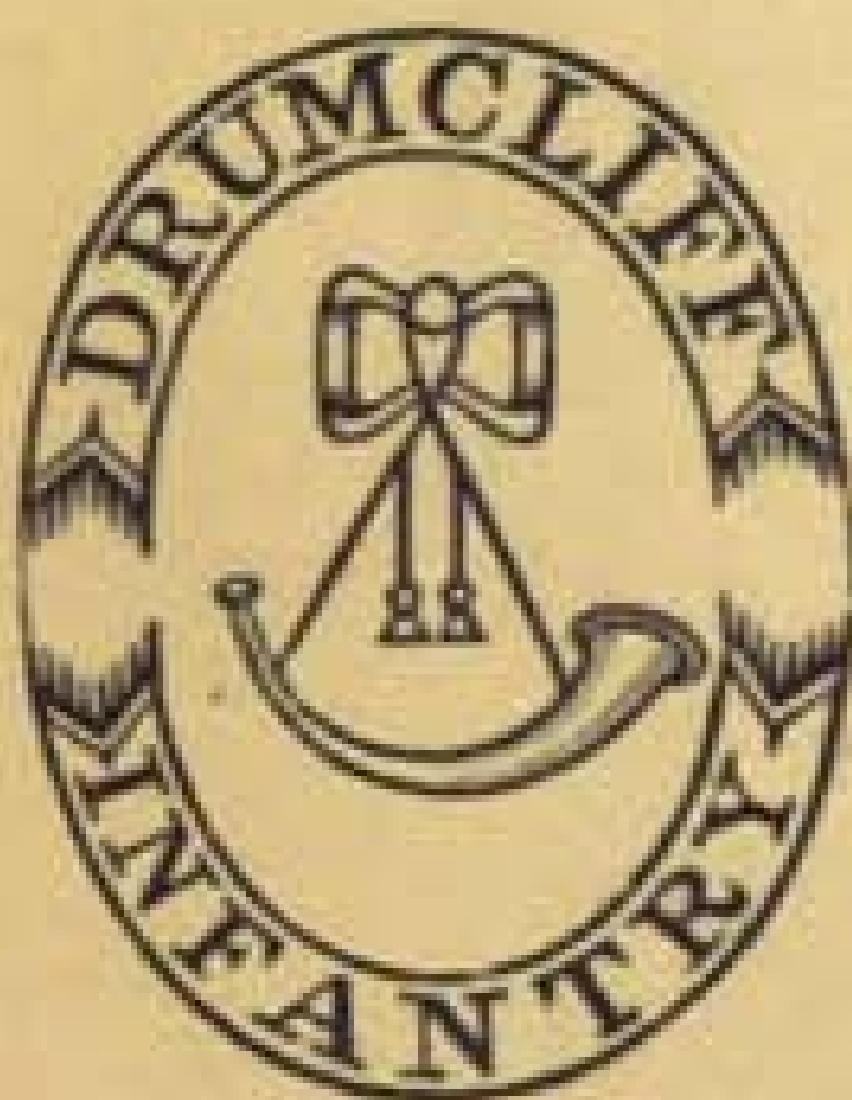


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

Figs. 2, 3.—BUTTONS OF SLIGO VOLUNTEERS, 1782.

Fig. 4.—ORNAMENT OF YEOMANRY, 1796.

Fig. 5.—BUTTON OF YEOMANRY.

[Figs. 2, 3, 5, full size; Fig. 4, half size.]





such was the origin of the yeomanry; but in order to avoid the embarrassments which had arisen under the old Volunteer system, in which the men elected their own officers, the new yeomanry were commissioned by the Crown.

The mania for military service seized upon all ranks and classes amongst the Protestant population; in some rare instances clergymen so far forgot their position as to accept commissions in the yeomanry, but as was well remarked by a contemporaneous writer "a clergyman, alternately arrayed in the surplice of a parson and the uniform of an officer, may very innocently transpose his spiritual and temporal functions, become pastoral in the field and pugnacious in the pulpit." The yeomanry, however, which consisted almost entirely of Protestants, wrung from a reluctant witness the admission that during the subsequent rebellion of 1798 they distinguished themselves "by steadiness, bravery, and perseverance." These bodies of armed men, varying in number and military organization, were styled "District Corps," and as regards the County Sligo the following is a complete list of the officers of the three infantry and four cavalry corps first raised:—

#### BALLYMOTE INFANTRY:—

Rank.	Name.	Date of Commission.
Captain, . . .	James Bridgeham, .	31st Oct. 1796
1st Lieutenant, .	Richard Gethin, \	" "
2nd Lieutenant, .	James Motherwell, .	" "

#### CARBERRY CAVALRY:—<sup>1</sup>

Captain, . . .	Owen Wynne, . . .	31st Oct. 1796
1st Lieutenant, .	Andrew Parke, . . .	" "
2nd Lieutenant, .	Robert Manley, . . .	" "

#### CORRAN, LINEY, AND COOLAVIN CAVALRY:—

Captain, . . .	Charles O'Hara, . . .	31st Oct. 1796
1st Lieutenant, .	Harloe Knott, . . .	" "
2nd Lieutenant, .	Owen Phibbs, . . .	" "

<sup>1</sup> The command of a corps of yeomanry appears to have entailed some considerable expense, if the following extract from *The Sligo Journal* be an example of the usual custom of the day: "On Tuesday last (18th July, 1797), the troop of Carbery Cavalry were most elegantly entertained at dinner by their esteemed commander at Hazelwood."

## DRUMCLIFF AND CAULREY CAVALRY :—

Rank.	Name.	Date of Commission.
Captain, . . .	Arthur Irwin, . . .	31st Oct. 1796
1st Lieutenant, . . .	William O'Berne, . . .	" "
2nd Lieutenant, . . .	Samuel Shaw, . . .	" "

## SLIGO LOYAL INFANTRY :—

Captain, . . .	Thomas Soden, . . .	31st Oct. 1796
1st Lieutenant, . . .	Abraham Martin, . . .	" "
2nd Lieutenant, . . .	Laurence Vernon, . . .	" "

## TIRERAGH INFANTRY :—

Captain, . . .	James Wood, . . .	31st Oct. 1796
1st Lieutenant, . . .	Richard Wood, . . .	" "
2nd Lieutenant, . . .	William Hamilton, . . .	" "

## TIRERRIL CAVALRY :—

Captain, . . .	Nicholas Ormsby, . . .	31st Oct. 1796
1st Lieutenant, . . .	John Workman, . . .	" "
2nd Lieutenant, . . .	Roger Dodd, . . .	" "

The following year another corps raised was styled—

## THE COUNTY SLIGO LIGHT INFANTRY :—

Captain, . . .	James Croften, . . .	2nd Feb. 1797
1st Lieutenant, . . .	Jeremiah Fury, . . .	" "
2nd Lieutenant, . . .	Thomas Farrell, . . .	" "

On the 1st April, Roger Dodwell, was Gazetted first lieutenant, *vice* Fury, resigned, and on 20th June, Owen Wynne was appointed "First Captain" of "The Sligo Loyal Infantry." A letter, dated Jan. 2nd, states that "the inhabitants of Sligo had formed themselves into a military association to replace the regulars, should their absence be found necessary, and to act in any other manner that might be deemed expedient." During the spring of 1798 the Sligo Militia, then designated the 22nd Light Infantry, were quartered in the South of Ireland, and in June, distinguished themselves in the engagement at Vinegar Hill, County Wexford, forming portion of the first line which carried the position at the point of the bayonet, having many men killed and wounded, and three officers dis-





Fig. 6.

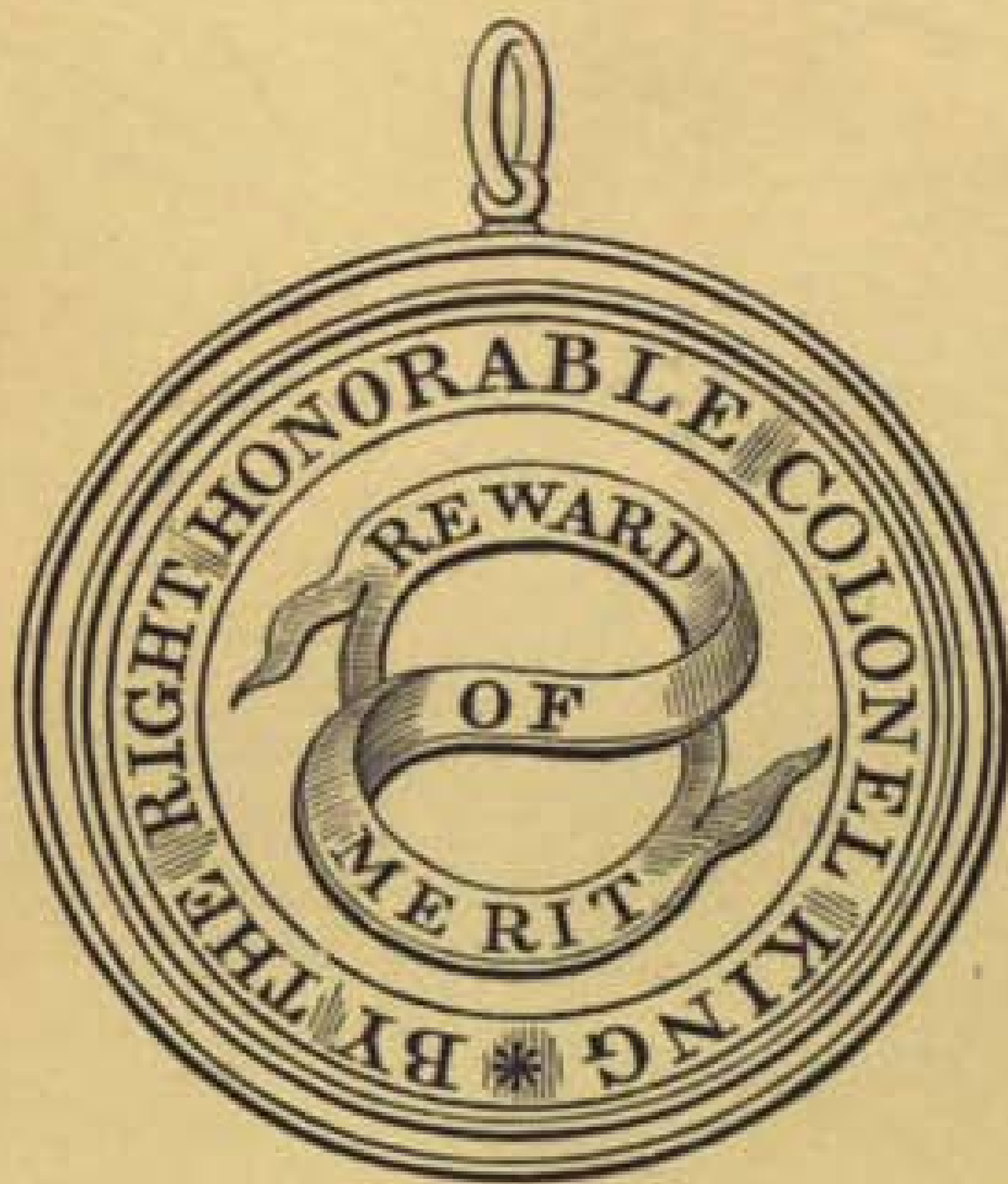


Fig. 7.

Figs. 6 and 7.—OBVERSE AND REVERSE OF MEDAL FOR THE SLIGO MILITIA,  
Issued by the Right Hon. Colonel King. [Full size.]





abled; the regiment was favourably mentioned in the General's despatches as follows:—

“To the determined spirit with which these columns were conducted, and the great gallantry of the troops, we are indebted for the short resistance of the rebels, who maintained their ground obstinately for about one hour and a-half, but on perceiving the danger of being surrounded they fled with great precipitation. Their loss is not yet ascertained, but it must be very considerable; the loss on our part is not great, the particulars of which I shall report as soon as possible. In the meantime I am sorry to say that Lt. Sandys of the Longford Regiment is killed, and that Colonel King of the Sligo was wounded in gallantly leading his Regiment.”<sup>1</sup>

“While Vinegar Hill, which formed a very strong outpost to the town of Wexford, was attacked and carried by advanced columns of the army, another strong detachment, under the command of Brigadier-General Moore (of which it is stated some Sligo yeomanry corps formed a portion) penetrated on another side, and enclosing the rebels, who attempted to make their escape, pushed as far as Wexford and took post in a situation which commanded the town.”

One of the officers present with the Sligo Regiment at Vinegar Hill used to recount the circumstances attending his *début* into military life, which occurred shortly before that event. A sergeant, entering the school-room in Sligo, where he was attending at his lessons, saluted and notified the adjutant's request that the youthful ensign should forthwith join his regiment. The schoolboy thereupon flinging his books at the head of his pedagogue, rushed out of the class-room, cheering for the army.

It was probably for the action of Vinegar Hill that the medal of which Figs. 6 and 7 are full-size representations was engraved. *Obverse*.—A harp with crown, above in the rim, SLIGO; underneath, MILITIA. *Reverse*.—The legend BY THE RIGHT HONORABLE COLONEL KING, and in the centre, on a ribbon, REWARD OF MERIT.

Trade in general, owing to the disturbed state of Society, was greatly depressed in Sligo: for instance, Henry Hart, of Market-street, Sligo, in an advertisement in *The Sligo Journal*, after enumerating all his wares, states that he would dispose of them

<sup>1</sup> Letter from General Lake to Lord Castlereagh.



“on the lowest terms for ready money only. He is unavoidably obliged to decline delivering any article whatever without being first paid for, until public credit is in some degree restored. He earnestly entreats that those indebted to him will discharge their respective accounts as soon as possible.”

This state of affairs did not mend, for, “at a meeting of the magistrates and principal gentlemen of the County of Sligo convened by public notice, T. Ormsby, Esq., High Sheriff, in the chair, it was **RESOLVED**—That we view with the utmost abhorrence the savage outrages that have disgraced most of the Northern Counties, and some other parts of the kingdom, and are truly sorry to find that proceedings, similar thereto are creeping into this hitherto peaceable county.”

The gentlemen and landholders of Sligo had prided themselves on the peaceable demeanour and respect for the laws which the people continued to evince, when most other parts of the kingdom were disturbed by the “United Irishmen”; the mass of the people, however, were universally infected with their doctrines, although they had not yet broken out into acts of open outrage. In the beginning of 1798, a number of fugitive Roman Catholic families from the North of Ireland arrived in Sligo seeking protection, as they alleged, and from their appearance of decency and industry, and their knowledge of the linen manufacture, they readily obtained an asylum from the gentlemen of the county. Many of these families spread themselves over the country, particularly near the sea-coast, and for some time they demeaned themselves in a peaceable and industrious manner. They brought with them, however, a number of prophecies (which they asserted had been delivered by the ancient Irish bards) foretelling the wars and calamities which were shortly to take place in the country. These prophecies had a great effect on the minds of the lower class of people, who were persuaded that the events predicted must necessarily come to pass.

In point of fact, these northern families owed their expulsion from Ulster entirely to their violent political opinion and acts, and on the landing of the French they pressed forward to receive arms and ammunition from their new allies, chose leaders among



themselves, and plundered and desolated the houses and property of their Protestant friends. It is remarkable that these men, holding in low estimation the courage and abilities of the Connaught rebels, refused to serve in their ranks, but formed a separate corps that kept together during the rebellion.

The peasantry of the County of Sligo—at least those of the Roman Catholic religion—although secretly organized and sworn to assist the French on their landing, yet, had not that event taken place, it was generally thought they would not have risen in rebellion. The gentry and men of property, with few exceptions, were Protestants of the Church of England, consequently loyal and strongly attached to the established government: to these were added respectable farmers (mostly freeholders), all of whom were tolerably expert in the use of arms, being generally enrolled in the nearest corps of volunteers or yeomanry. These two bodies, united by common interest, and roused by the dangers which surrounded them, would have sufficed to overawe and restrain an unarmed rabble; the landing, however, of about one thousand French achieved, almost instantly, what the “United Irishmen” could never have effected. Another circumstance that contributed to promote the cause of rebellion, and to connect its votaries by a bond more binding than the oath of the “United Irishmen,” was the propagation, among the Roman Catholics, of the mysteries of the *Carmelites*. This was a religious Order said to have been originally instituted for the advancement of piety and morality, and its members were led to believe that an admission into the fraternity would ensure their eternal welfare; this foundation being laid, it was not difficult afterwards to persuade them to pay a small sum of money for its attainment. Each member received a square piece of brown cloth, on which were inscribed the letters I.H.S. (*Jesus hominum Salvator*); this, being suspended round the neck with a string and lying on the shoulder next to the skin, was termed a scapular. The price of it, on initiation, was to the poorer class one shilling, and to those who could afford it, higher in proportion to their means. This distinguishing badge of the Order, having received the priest’s benediction, was supposed capable of

preserving the disciple from outward dangers and injuries, and also from attacks of the ghostly enemy. The cloth of these scapulars, which was at first composed of asbestos, possessed the quality of resisting the effects of fire, and after having received the priest's benediction they were committed to the flames, when to the astonishment of the beholders they remained safe and entire; and having undergone this fiery ordeal, their seemingly supernatural preservation was ascribed to the blessing of the priest.

In Sligo the parish priests, either convinced of the utility of this Order in promoting the cause of religion, or seeing that the sale of scapulars was profitable, procured a power to dispose of them. Bags filled with them were sent for sale to fairs and markets, and these scapulars soon became the sign by which those of the "true faith" were to know each other.

At length, on the 22nd of August 1798, occurred the event so eagerly awaited by the Sligo rebels; three French frigates appeared in the bay of Killala, County Mayo, and the landing took place. On the evening of the following day (August 23rd) the French men of war were in Sligo Bay.

Precautions were at once taken to secure the town. Within a week six or seven English frigates and a cutter, with 1000 marines on board, were cruising in Sligo Bay; the cutter put into Killala and cut out a brig and a sloop, which the French had left behind for store ships, containing a great quantity of arms, ammunition, and clothing. There was a smart engagement, and this cutter bore a heavy fire from the enemy; the other French vessels were boarded, the crews taken prisoners, and the ships set on fire.

On the night of the 3rd of September, General Humbert, the commander of the French, sent off his baggage and cannon with some of his troops towards Sligo; on their departure from Castlebar the French numbered about nine hundred men, without counting their Irish allies. From Swinford they proceeded towards Bellahy, halting about two miles from that village, to which they sent an advance guard: thence they proceeded towards Tubbercurry, and halted within two miles of it.



The "Corran-Liney and Coolavin cavalry," stationed there as a picket, under the command of Captain O'Hara, Member for the County, advanced to reconnoitre the enemy, and in a skirmish with them Lieutenant Knott was taken prisoner and his only son killed; also Captain Russell, of the Prince of Wales' Fencibles, was captured by the French at Tubbercurry, and having been severely wounded died a few days after.

Captain O'Hara sent intelligence to Colonel Vereker at Sligo that the French were advancing.

Besides the rebels who had marched from Castlebar with the French, a considerable body of them were sent across the mountains (from Ballina to Tubbercurry) with eighty Protestant prisoners; the distress for food, however, was so great that the latter were sent back under a rebel guard.

From Tubbercurry the French proceeded to Collooney, and on their way the Irish pikemen plundered the house of Mr. Perceval of Templehouse, because he had been active against the "United Irishmen."

When the French reached the village of Collooney, distant about six miles from Sligo, the inhabitants of the latter town, were in the utmost consternation. Sligo contained property to the amount of at least £200,000; there were in its harbour several ships, and in its vicinity were twelve well-furnished bleach-yards. The small force of six-hundred effective men stationed there was ordered to evacuate it; however, Colonel Vereker with a detachment of the city of Limerick Militia and a few yeomen, the whole not exceeding two hundred and eighty-six men, with two curriele guns<sup>1</sup>, marched out, engaged the French and the rebels, giving them so severe a check, notwithstanding

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<sup>1</sup> Particulars are here given of the corps engaged in the battle of Collooney, as taken from *The Sligo Journal* of 14th Sept.:—

"About eleven in the morning, Colonel Vereker of the Limerick Militia marched hence against them with detachments of the following corps, viz., City Limerick Militia, 220; Essex Fencibles, 20; Loyal Sligo Infantry, 20; Ballymote Infantry, 10; Drumcliff Infantry, 16—total, 286: together with a troop of the 24th Light Dragoons, and detachments from the Tyrerill, Liney, and Drumcliff troops of Yeomen Cavalry, and only two curriele guns."



their great superiority of numbers, as to deter them from nearer approach to Sligo, and forced them to proceed towards Drumahaire.

The French had with them about nine hundred men, two hundred and fifty deserters from the Longford and Kilkenny Militia, together with a numerous body of rebels.

Colonel Vereker's right was covered by a rising ground, upon which he posted a few men; on his left was the river. His men on the hill were outflanked and forced in, and his rear was attacked, whereupon he was compelled to retreat over the river. The action began at half-past two, and lasted an hour and thirty-eight minutes. Of the French twenty-eight were killed and a great many wounded. After the action the French grenadiers represented to General Humbert that the rebels would not support them, and were deserting in great numbers.

The following is Colonel Vereker's description of the fight:—

“About nine o'clock that morning (5th September), Captain O'Hara, of the Liney Yeomen Cavalry, who commanded my advanced regiment at Tubbercurry, reported to me he had been drove back by the advanced guard of the enemy, after a smart skirmish, in which he had one man killed and one wounded. Shortly after I learned that a division of the French army had arrived at Collooney, with an intention, as I conceived, of attacking this town (Sligo) and as I judged it more advisable to attack them than to wait to be attacked, I marched out with two hundred and fifty of the Limerick City Militia, two curricule guns, twenty of the Essex Fencibles, thirty Yeomen Infantry, and a troop of the Twenty-fourth Light Dragoons. On coming near Collooney I found the enemy at the side of the town, ready to receive me. I accordingly ordered Major Ormsby, with one-hundred men, to occupy a hill which covered my right, my left being protected by a river. I then moved in close to the enemy, and a very severe action commenced, which lasted near an hour-and-a-half. At length the very superior numbers of the enemy enabled them to outflank the division on my right, and oblige them to fall back; and then perceiving the enemy making a disposition to surround me, and my ammunition being nearly expended, a retreat became absolutely necessary. From the unfortunate circumstance of one of the artillery horses being shot when putting to, which created much confusion, we were obliged to leave our guns behind; however, as the ammunition waggon and all

the harness were brought off, they were rendered useless to the enemy, as appears by their not taking them with them. Our loss in this action, considering we had the whole of the French and Rebel army to contend with, was less than might have been expected, there having been only one officer and six rank and file killed, and five officers and twenty-two rank and file wounded; the loss on the side of the French, by their own account, was about twenty killed and about thirty wounded; fourteen very badly, were brought in here, four of whom have since died in the hospital. There must have been also a number of rebels killed and wounded, which we could not ascertain. I have great pleasure in expressing my entire approbation of the conduct of the officers and soldiers on this occasion; to Lieutenant-Colonel Gough I have to return my warmest thanks for the very great zeal and spirit displayed by him; to Major Ormsby, my thanks are justly due; as also to Captain Waller, of the Limerick Militia, who with his light company was extremely active. I have likewise to express my obligations to Captain Slicer, of the Royal Irish Artillery, for his conduct in the action, and his great exertions, under very heavy fire to bring off his guns, as well as to Captain Whistler of the Twenty-fourth Light Dragoons, who with great bravery met the charge of the French Cavalry and obliged them to retire. I have great satisfaction to think that although we were obliged to retreat, the object of the action was attained, namely, that of saving the town, as from the acknowledgment of the French Officers it was their intention to have attacked it, but from the check they got, and thinking we would not have gone out to meet them if not supported in our rear they changed their direction.

“(Signed),

“CHARLES VEREKER,

“Colonel, Limerick City Regiment.

“SLIGO, September 30th, 1798.”

Colonel Vereker in this despatch omitted to mention how his retreat was covered by Sligo men, but for whose exertions the cavalry would have been annihilated. The following incident, well known at the time, and still current amongst the Protestant population about Collooney, is thus detailed in *The Sligo Journal* of 14th September: “Pressed in the above action by an army so much superior to ours, nothing could exceed the service rendered by Mr. Archibald Armstrong, who at the head of thirty-two men (yeoman infantry), had taken so advantageous a position that the retreat of the cavalry was effectually secured.”





As may be seen from the petition given beneath<sup>1</sup>, Captain Armstrong had subsequently a very active military career. The fact of his having been the means of covering the retreat of the cavalry and the Limerick Militia was a well-recognized fact, and he succeeded in obtaining a commission for his son on these grounds.

A silver medal was subsequently struck by the Corporation of Limerick for presentation to their City Regiment to commemorate this engagement. It is 1.55 inches in diameter, bearing on the obverse the arms of Limerick, with the legend CORPORATION AND CITIZENS OF LIMERICK. On the reverse a Royal Crown, within olive wreaths, and the legend TO THE HEROES OF COLOONEY, 5TH SEPT., 1798; in small letters is the name of the artist, *i. e.* BRUSH. At top was a small perforated projection for a ring by which it could be suspended (Figs. 8 & 9).

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<sup>1</sup> "To the RIGHT HONORABLE GENERAL LORD HILL, *Commander-in-Chief*, G.C.B., C.H. & K.C., &c. &c.

"The Memorial of ARCHIBALD ARMSTRONG, late Captain of the 71st Regiment,

"MOST HUMBLY SHOWETH,—That your Memorialist at a very early period of his life manifested a strong predilection for His Majesty's service, having in the year 1798, at the head of an armed party of the loyal inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Collooney, in co-operation with the troops under the command of Colonel Vereker (now Lord Gort), succeeded in gaining the flank of General Humbert's corps, and in checking by their fire the enemies' attack upon the King's troops, at Collooney, on the 5th of September, 1798.

"That in May, 1801, your Memorialist purchased a commission in the 71st Regiment, succeeded to a Lieutenancy in 1803, and served under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir D. Baird in the reduction of the Cape of Good Hope, in January, 1806, and served under the command of General Lord Viscount Beresford in the capture of Buenos Ayres, &c. &c. &c.

"Your Memorialist humbly, but confidently hopes that your Lordship will be pleased to take his long and active services of 20 years and 6 months into your kind consideration, and recommend his son Archibald for an Ensign's Commission in a Regiment of the line.

"And your Memorialist will for ever most gratefully pray.

"ARCHIBALD ARMSTRONG,

"Late Captain 71st Regiment, and Chief Constable  
or Sub-Inspector.

"STRABANE,

"10th February, 1840."



Completely checked by the resistance which they had so unexpectedly encountered, the French abandoned the idea of advancing on Sligo, and leaving Collooney, marched towards Drumahaire.<sup>1</sup>

About three o'clock in the afternoon on the day of the battle at Collooney, some country people entered the town of Sligo and announced that the troops had been beaten, and the French were advancing; on which intelligence many Protestant women together with some few men embarked in the ships; those, however, who were capable of bearing arms, to the number of about three hundred, resolved to defend the town, and were joined by a number of Methodists, headed by their preacher, Albert Blest. The troops who had remained behind under command of Colonel Sparrow occupied the most advantageous posts in the approaches leading to the town, and they continued under arms all night.

On Thursday, the 6th September, the officer in command of the troops in Sligo ordered a retreat on Ballyshannon, and he was accompanied by a majority of the respectable inhabitants. The town was thus left at the mercy of the French and the insurgents, but was re-occupied again on Friday, the 7th.

"During the above anxious period," remarks the Editor of *The Sligo Journal*, "all here was silent as the night, no business of any kind done, and nothing was seen in our streets save a few, a very few, citizens, who with a holy fear kept a desultory watch. We printed not; for what had we to say? or to whom publish our tale of woe?"

In pursuit of the French, General Lake arrived at Bellahy, where he was informed that they had passed on, more than fourteen hours before. About seven o'clock that evening he reached Tubbercurry, where he encamped, and remained some hours. He was there joined by Colonel Crawford. General Lake marched from Tubbercurry to Collooney, heard there of the action, and found a number of French killed,

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<sup>1</sup> *The Dublin Evening Post*, 28th October, 1798, contains an address from the High Sheriff and Grand Jury of the County Sligo, complimenting all concerned in the action at Collooney on their conduct on that occasion.

and also some wounded who were under the care of a French surgeon. At Collooney a deserter from the Longford Regiment was recognized by some of the advance guard and shot.

Numbers of dead or dying men were found along the road, having been killed by the corps of light dragoons, who formed the reconnoitering party; and the French had been so hard pressed in the pursuit that, about a mile from Collooney, they left on the road two pieces of cannon, and threw five more into the river at Drumahaire. On the night of the 7th of September, General Lake encamped at Ballintogher, between Drumahaire and Collooney, and on the 8th the surrender of the French at Ballynamuck<sup>1</sup> ended the actual warfare.

General Lake received in Collooney some curious particulars relative to the French troops, it being stated that their officers declared themselves to have been grossly deceived: "they had expected to be joined by the whole power of the country, *i. e.* by an organized and disciplined army, who only required to be put in motion to ensure success. Instead of this, they found only a barbarous undisciplined mob, the refuse of the country, unfit for action, and incapable of order; ferocious towards their allies, and discordant amongst themselves."

It may be well to state here what occurred in Tireragh,

<sup>1</sup> Subjoined is the nominal roll of the principal French officers captured at Ballynamuck, as given in the columns of *The Sligo Journal*. It is of interest, as all enumerated must have been present at the prior engagement of Collooney:—

"Humbert, General en Chef; Thibault, Payeur; Sarazin, Gen. de Division; Puton, Aide-de-Camp; Fontaine, Gen. de Brigade; Laferure, Chef de Brigade attaché, a L'Etat Major; Dufour, do. do.; Aulty, Chef de Battalion; Demanche, do.; Touissaint, do.; Babin, do.; Silbermon, do.; Menou, Commissaire Ordonnateur; Framair, do.; Brillier, Commissaire de Guerre; Moreau, Capitaine Wagnemestre Gen.; Ardouin, Chef de Brigade; Serve, Chef de Battalion; Hais, do.; Machaud, do.; Brand et Massonet, Officiers de Santé.

"Recapitulation:—Sous Officiers 96; Grenadiers 78; Fusiliers 440; Carabiniers 33; Chasseurs 60; Cannoniers 41—total 746; Officiers 96. Total, 842.

"Certifié par le Chef de Brigade,

"P. ARDOUIN."



and the following account is principally derived from letters written by persons who had been actually eye-witnesses of the incidents narrated.

When the French marched from Killala on Ballina, some resistance was made at the bridge which spans the Moy by a few volunteers; but many of these were Roman Catholics, and on the appearance of the French they immediately bolted.

The Protestant inhabitants of the barony dreaded not only the approach of the French, but likewise the cruelty of the rebels; and aware also of there being no troops of any kind on the line from Ballina to Sligo, they fled to the latter place for protection. Many Protestant farmers were seen retreating on foot, driving their cattle and sheep before them, and conveying on carts their wives and children and such of their goods as they could conveniently remove.

The Protestant clergy were also compelled to fly precipitately; the persecution levelled against them had not been confined to imprisonment of their persons and destruction of their houses and property, but was even extended to the demolition of their churches, from which all carpenter work was removed, and the books found in them wantonly torn. Amongst the churches most damaged were those of Lackan, Easky, Killmacteige, and Enniscrone. Of the latter they tore up the flooring, demolished the pews and communion table, rifled the tombs, and desecrated the remains of the dead.

In this work of destruction the Sligo insurgents were aided by those of Mayo. All the houses of the gentry were plundered; some were even demolished. The principal sufferers were Mr. Nesbitt of Scurmore, Mr. Fenton of Easky, Mr. Brown of Fortland, Mr. Grove, rector of Kilmacshalgan, Mr. Charles and Mr. Robert Jones, the Messrs. Wood, and several others.

James Crofton of Longford was absent from his residence, but his father, an aged but very resolute man, refused to leave, even after being informed that the rebels purposed to visit the house. The old man, who was bedridden, caused his couch to be placed across the front door, and informed his assailants that if they entered it should be across his body. They replied that



it was his son they "wanted," and he not being at home, they left the father unmolested.<sup>1</sup>

It was probably the same party of rebels who took possession of the house of a gentleman resident in the immediate neighbourhood, but who had gone to Sligo on the capture of Ballina by the French. The cattle grazing in the demesne were slaughtered, huge fires lighted, and the operation of cooking performed *al fresco*. The rebel leaders regaled themselves upon the contents of the cellar, and one of the soldiers seeing that the officers drank the best of everything, thought the men should have a share, and saluting Colonel O'Dowd, a descendant of the O'Dowds of Tireragh, he suggested that the men also should get a drink, but before O'Dowd could make any reply another officer told the man to take the water cart down to the stream and fill it, and that it would hold more than the men would require. The retort of the embryo soldier was worthy of the occasion, "I'm entirely obliged to you, sir," said he, "but if we're always to be *soles*, and *ye uppers*, we'd as lief have gone on serving King George."

Some Protestants on the coast put out to sea in boats in order to avoid the excesses of the rebels; some fled to the mountains and hid in caves, whilst others lay in the cornfields and were

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<sup>1</sup> The strange career of Henry Crofton, an ancestor of the Sligo family of that name, may be of interest: "Henry Crofton was attainted by William III., and fled to Spain, where he joined some order of the Roman Catholic Church. His attainder being subsequently reversed, he returned to Ireland, professed to be a Protestant, so very decided a Protestant indeed that he wrote a controversial book styled the 'Key to Popery.' Becoming dissatisfied, however, he returned to Spain, and to his former creed, but again relapsed, and finally in Spain was burned as a heretic."

"Interest in the Stuart cause would seem to have survived in the family long after the decease of the volatile Henry Crofton, for James, son of Sir Malby Crofton, married the grand-daughter of Archibald Cameron (brother of Lochiel), the last of the long list of victims to their devotion to the worthless Stuarts. Archibald Cameron had fled to France, and after residing there many years, returned to his native country, imagining that all fear was then over, as the presence of other well-known Jacobites had been tolerated by the Government. However, for some reason which has not been divulged, he was arrested, tried, and condemned. The authorities would not listen to any appeal, though his wife, it is stated, was allowed a personal interview with George II., who refused to reprieve him."

almost starved. A letter from Mrs. Jones, describing her escape from Ardnaree, conveys a graphic idea of these disturbed times. She managed with difficulty to escape with her four children and some other refugees; all the servants had joined the rebels. It was not without dangers and adventures that she made her way to Fortland, the residence of her uncle, Mr. Brown, who had just abandoned the house. She then left for Tanregoe, the seat of her brother, Colonel Irwin, who was at that time in Wexford, with the Sligo Militia. Here she learned that the bridge of Ballydrihed was being broken down, and that Ballysadare was in possession of the rebels; therefore the only way of escape was by water; so after tacking to and fro, and the water dashing over them in the boat, they were at last landed at the sand-banks, from whence they proceeded on foot to Ballydrihed—which was then in possession of Captain James Wood's corps of yeomanry—and continued their course to Sligo.

General Trench and Lord Portarlington agreed to attack Killala simultaneously, the former advancing on it from the south, the latter from the north. Lord Portarlington marched from Sligo on the 21st September, with his own and the Queen's County Regiment, a detachment of the 24th Dragoons, the Tireragh Yeomen Infantry, commanded by Captain James Wood, and the Tireragh Yeoman Cavalry under Captain Ormsby; the whole amounting to about 800 men, with two pieces of cannon. They halted the first night at Arkill Lodge, where the rebels approached, but made no attack. On the night of the 22nd, however, when encamped at Scurmore, they were attacked by a numerous body of insurgents commanded by Henry O'Keon and Mr. Barret, but they were soon routed with a loss of about 200 killed, amongst them being some Protestants whom the rebels had forced to the front in order to draw the fire of the troops upon them, and who, when the rebels broke and fled, fell in the indiscriminate slaughter of the pursuit. The rebel leader, John M'Donnough, by whose order these innocent people had been driven to their death, was captured a few days afterwards and hanged.



The next morning, *i.e.* the 23rd September, Ballina was occupied by Captain O'Hara's, Captain Wynne's, and Captain Crofton's corps of yeomanry, which formed portion of the force under command of Major General Trench; these, together with the two Tireragh corps, assisted in the recapture of Killala. Towards the close of the year (October 27) four French frigates and a man-of-war made their appearance off the Sligo Coast. This news was brought in by the Fox cutter, which escaped under a heavy fire distinctly heard in the streets of Sligo, and the excitement "put a stop to all trade for this market day. Colonel Gough, commanding the garrison, ordered the troops to be in readiness to march at a moment's notice." These vessels were probably connected with the abortive descent of Napper Tandy on the Rosses in Donegal.

The following were the committee of Sligo magistrates appointed by Government to inquire into losses sustained owing to the excesses of the insurgents, and to decide on the claims of each applicant:—Arthur Irwin, W. Harloe Phibbs, Rev. Messrs. Duke, Cullen, and West.

£15,769 14s. 9d. was claimed by the "Suffering Loyalists" of the County Sligo for their losses sustained in the rebellion of 1798, and which amount was laid before the Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament for compensating them. The total for all Ireland was £823,517 6s. 4d.

It is difficult to make out with any exactness the total sum allowed by the Commissioners in the County Sligo for these claims, for although there are printed lists, which appear to have been presented to Parliament, still amongst the papers on this subject preserved in the Record Office, supplemental grants seem to have been frequently made. The proceedings have in almost every instance been recorded, and will, for any person interested in the subject, repay perusal. (*See Appendix B.*)

The yeomanry had been found of such use during the rebellion that they were continued, by Act of Parliament, as a permanent military force—but except called out for regular service, not subject to the articles of war.



The same difficulty that is sometimes experienced in England with the volunteers, in regard to the recovery of the arms, accoutrements, and appointments of men who refused to surrender them, was also felt by officers commanding yeomanry corps in Ireland; but by the Act 42 Geo. III., &c., any member of a corps when discharged, if he neglected to hand over his kit thereby rendered himself liable to a penalty of £10.

It seems to have been a popular force, for in the year 1828 there were in the County Sligo 528 yeomen. The honour of belonging to the body must have been the principal attraction, for in consequence of the change of currency which took place in Ireland from 5th January, 1826, their pay was as follows:—

Pay of permanent sergeant, 11*d* per diem.

Pay of permanent drummer, 9½*d* per diem.

Inspection pay of the non-commissioned officers and privates 11*d* for each day of Inspection. In case the corps was employed outside the county, the rate of pay was allowed in English currency.

The permanent sergeants were generally old soldiers—for instance, William Carter, who for many years was non-commissioned officer of “The County of Sligo Light Infantry,” had previously served nearly four years in the Militia, was present at Vinegar Hill, had then volunteered into the 35th Foot, had been through the Egyptian and other campaigns, and had spent nearly 20 years of his life entirely on foreign service.

In 1805 the strength of the yeomanry was much increased. Bridgeham, from Captain of the Ballymote Infantry, was in 1799 appointed Brigade-Major in command of the following corps:—

Abraham Martin,	.	Capt. 1st Company, Sligo Loyal Volunteers.
Alexander Hume,	.	„ 2nd „ „ „
J. Everard,	.	„ 3rd „ „ „
Samuel Bulteel,	.	Capt. Sligo Revenue Infantry.
Charles Martin,	.	Capt. Sligo Union Infantry.
Thomas Ormsby,	.	Capt. Sligo Light Infantry.
Owen Wynne,	.	Capt. Carbury Cavalry.
T. Soden,	.	Capt. Drumcliff Infantry.
John Wood,	.	Capt. Templeboy Infantry.

James Crofton,	.	Capt. County Sligo Infantry.
Richard Wood,	.	Capt. Tireragh Infantry.
James Morton,	.	Capt. Ardnaree Infantry.
Charles Jones,	.	Capt. S. T. Infantry.
J. Irwin,	.	Capt. 1st Company E. T. Supplementaries.
Charles O'Hara,	.	Capt. Corran and Liney Cavalry.
Richard Gethin,	.	Capt. Ballymote Infantry.
John Workman,	.	Capt. Tirerrel Cavalry.
J. Johnston,	.	Capt. Ballintogher Supplementaries.

The discipline of the various corps appears to have been excellent, and judging by the accounts and pay sheets, the interior economy was good; quarterly returns had to be sent to the War Office, and strict orders were enforced against the yeomen joining any procession or playing any party tunes, more especially on the 12th of July.

The corps appear to have been regularly inspected by a Brigade-Major of yeomanry, specially appointed for that duty, as subjoined will show :—

“The following corps of yeomanry of the County Sligo were inspected by Major Crawford and Colonel Hale of the 23rd Regiment, at Dromore West on the 13th January, 1831 :—THE EASKEY AND CASTLETOWN, under Captain Fenton; THE TEMPLEBOY, under Captain Grove.

“At Sligo on the 14th January, THE SLIGO LOYAL, under Captain James Wood; THE SLIGO UNION, under Captain C. Martin; THE DRUMCLIFFE, under Captain John Wynne, M.P.

“At Collooney, on the same date, THE TIRERAGH AND TEMPLEHOUSE, under Captain Richard Wood; THE COUNTY SLIGO LOYAL INFANTRY,<sup>1</sup> under Major O'Hara<sup>2</sup>; THE COOPER'S HILL, under Capt. A. B. Cooper; THE BALLYMOTE, under Lord Kirkwall.

“Colonel Hale expressed himself highly pleased at the appearance and discipline of the several Corps.”

The yeomanry seem to have been compulsorily reduced *circa* 1834; the permanent sergeants and buglers were discontinued, and they were disbanded shortly afterwards.

<sup>1</sup> 1st August, 1820.—Malby Crofton was 1st Lieutenant on the 29th January, 1831. John Armstrong was gazetted 2nd Captain, and Meredith Thompson, Jun., to be 1st Lieutenant, *vice* Crofton, appointed Chief Constable of Police.

<sup>2</sup> Appointed in 1819.



The Militia would seem to have been permanently embodied, from the close of 1792 to the middle of the year 1814. Entries in the Vestry-books of the Union of St. John's demonstrate the fact that, in order to keep up the Regiment to its full strength, money had to be levied on the various districts. On this subject, the following extracts may prove of interest:—

“RESOLVED.—That the sum of forty pounds nineteen shillings sterl. be applotted and levied off the Union at large, and paid to the Col. of the Sligo Militia for the purpose of procuring the Quota of men to be added to s<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. according to Act Parl<sup>t</sup>. £40 19s. 0d.”  
7th April, 1798.

At a vestry meeting held in St. John's Church on the 10th December, 1807—

“For the purpose of taking into consideration the best and most effectual Mode to raise the Quota of men (33) for the County of Sligo Militia, appertained on these Parishes pursuant to Act of Parliament, the Minister, Churchwardens and Parishioners being present; Resolved, that the steps necessary to make out Lists of the persons to be balloted to serve in the County Militia be immediately taken and such lists forthwith made out according to Law.”

Again, in the year 1812, this entry occurs—

“To am<sup>t</sup>. of Militia money pd. Cap<sup>t</sup>. Tyler, £112 12s. 3d.”

The pay of privates was a shilling per diem, and a penny for beer money; they were obliged to pay for 5 lbs. of meat a week; some eat bread, some “stirabout,” and some potatoes, the quantity used of the last being four stone per week. The following was the scale per week for each private at the time the Regiment was quartered at Cahir, in the year 1808:—

“5 lbs. of meat at 4d.; 4 stones of potatoes at 1½d.; washing 4d., barrack cook 1d.; total 2s. 7d. Any other food depended on the individual taste of the men; some of them drank beer. One suit of clothes per annum was supplied by the Colonel at a cost of £2 10s.; the men provided their own lodgings, received 4d. per diem as marching money or if sent on escort duty.”

Almost immediately after its embodiment in 1793, the Sligo Regiment was moved to the South of Ireland, and was replaced in December, 1794, by the Clare Militia. After its



campaign in the South of Ireland, it was marched to Dundalk; whilst from the 12th July to 28th August, 1807, it was at "Clonoony," and the following year it was stationed at Cashel under the command of Colonel Irwin. In 1810 it was at Limerick—it then mustered 609 rank and file—a large complement, if the number be taken into consideration that were constantly volunteering for active service.

Volunteering—so called—was very probably stimulated by bounties and by money paid to the men by officers who were desirous of entering the line, as an officer bringing a certain number of men with him was granted a Commission.

Whilst stationed in the South of Ireland, the light companies of the militia regiments there quartered were formed into a temporary brigade, and the light companies of the Sligo Militia composed a portion of it.

Major-General H. T. Montresor, commanding the troops in Limerick, reported of the Sligo Regiment as follows:—

"LIMERICK, 21st *May*, 1811.

"The exemplary conduct of the Sligo Regiment in this Garrison vies with their steadiness in the field."

Shortly after, the Sligoes were ordered to embark for England; and with the object of reconciling the married men to the change, they were all allowed to be accompanied by their wives and families without restriction as regards numbers; and provisions as well as accommodation were allotted to them on board the transports.

Whilst in England the Sligo Militia appears to have borne a high reputation.

"BRIGADE ORDERS.

"CHELMSFORD, 9th *Oct.*, 1813.

"Colonel Hutchinson has experienced extreme regret in having this forenoon received official directions, not less unwelcome to himself individually, than he can with safety take upon him to assert to the Garrison in general, for the removal of the Sligo Regiment from this station. The Colonel, having since the first of May last enjoyed the greatest possible *satisfaction*, added to the *honour* of having the

Sligo under his command, cannot in justice to his own conviction as well as to their acknowledged merits suffer a corps so conspicuously distinguished for its military characteristics of high discipline in the field, and interior economy and regularity in quarters, to depart without attempting to solicit their kind acceptance of his best thanks, accompanied by every assurance of the lasting sentiments of esteem, regard, and respect, in which their conduct has always entitled them personally and professionally to be remembered."

When leaving their quarters in Northamptonshire they received equal commendation.

" BRIGADE ORDERS.

" General Williams has great pleasure in expressing the satisfaction he has received from the uniform good conduct of the Sligo Regiment during the period it has been under his command, and the Major-General desires to offer his thanks to Major O'Hara for the unremitting zeal and ability with which he has commanded the Regiment. His acknowledgments are likewise due to Major Sir James Crofton and the other officers of the Regiment for their zealous performance of their duties."

A curious little diary kept by one of the officers is still in existence, and describes the various places the regiment marched through on its way to Bristol, for embarkation to Limerick—*i.e.*, Oundle, Fotheringay, Kettering, Wellingsborough, Northampton, Towcester, Brackley, Stow, &c.

In 1814, at the conclusion of the European War, all Militia Battalions were disbanded; the Sligoes had been nineteen years embodied, and evidently must have well deserved the compliments paid them:—

" DISTRICT ORDER.

" LIMERICK, *October 7th*, 1814.

" The County of Sligo Militia having received Routes to march towards that county for the purpose of being disembodied, Colonel Armstrong cannot permit a corps that has so many claims on his attention and esteem to quit this District without endeavouring to express the high sense which he entertains of the ardent zeal and distinguished ability with which the Military duties of the Regiment have been uniformly conducted. To the Field Officers and Captains the greatest praise is due; their excellent conduct and example as



gentlemen and soldiers could not fail of producing among all classes of the corps that steady attention to professional reputation, that happy unanimity, and genuine cordiality, which have invariably characterized their conduct.

“Colonel Armstrong therefore feels sincere satisfaction in tendering to all the Officers of the Sligo his warmest acknowledgments and best wishes for their future welfare and happiness, and he requests that Major O’Hara will be pleased to communicate to the non-commissioned officers and private men of that corps his perfect approbation of their good discipline, steadiness, and intelligence which have marked their conduct on all occasions, and particularly on duties of detachment.”

The Militia formed a valuable aid to the service all through the struggle with France; they had been constantly under arms, and in a speech in the House of Commons in 1813 Lord Castlereagh thus alludes to their services:—

“We could not have kept possession of Portugal, or have sent forces to co-operate in the deliverance of the Peninsula at large; and Parliament ought always therefore to bear in recollection that it is to the Militia we owe the character we at present enjoy in military Europe, and that without this Militia we could not have shown that face which we have done in the Peninsula.”

The first mention that can be found of change in designation of the Sligo Regiment is in 1843, where (under the heading of “Disembodied Militia”), it is described as the 124th, instead of the 22nd Light Infantry.

On the 8th February, 1855, the Regiment was embodied, and it then appeared as a rifle corps, the Charter-school House being used as a temporary barracks. The regiment was shortly after moved to Longford: and on the 25th August, 1856,<sup>1</sup> it was disembodied. In the year 1877 it was compulsorily trans-

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<sup>1</sup> An old army pensioner named Allen Armstrong and his wife received in the year 1855 a cheque for £19 on a Sligo Bank from the Private Secretary of the Emperor Napoleon. Armstrong had served 30 years in the army, and was stationed at St. Helena when Napoleon was confined there, and for a length of time his wife acted in the capacity of washerwoman to the Emperor. This fact being brought under the notice of Napoleon III., by a Memorial, the above remittance was the result. Armstrong served in eleven battles against Napoleon I., and by a strange chance received a gratuity from his successor.—*The Sligo Champion*, 28th April, 1855.



formed into an Artillery Brigade, the officers being allowed no compensation for the change of uniform. At that period it was styled "8th Brigade (Duke of Connaught's Own) North-Irish Division, R.A." Its present designation is "The Duke of Connaught's Own Sligo Artillery, South Division, R.A." The want of sufficient Barrack accommodation in the town causes the Militia now to go through their course of annual training under canvas at Rosses' Point—four miles distant.

Appendix C contains a list of Officers of the Co. Sligo Regiment, showing the rank last held by each, from the year 1793 to 1890.

Shortly after the permanent embodiment of the Militia, in 1793, "Governors of the County Sligo" were appointed. Colonel Irwin, in 1828, stated before a Committee of the House of Commons, that the particular duties of the Governors of a County in Ireland were connected with the Militia of that County; "I may confidently say," he continued, "that if I had not been appointed Colonel of the Regiment, I should not have been appointed a Governor of the County." In 1801 the Governors were—the Rt. Hon. J. Cooper, Charles O'Hara, Owen Wynne, Esquires, and the Rt. Hon. H. King. It appears also as if any one of these Governors could either himself appoint, or recommend the appointment of Magistrates, and one of the changes suggested by Colonel Irwin in his evidence as above quoted was, that only one person in each County should have that power; afterwards an Act of the 1 & 2 William IV. confines the power to the Lieutenant of the County. As regards the Militia, although the appointment to a first Commission is still his prerogative, yet if he fail to nominate within a specified time, the power then lapses to the Officer Commanding the Regiment. Her Majesty's Lieutenant and *Custos Rotulorum* for County Sligo is Lt.-Col. Edward Henry Cooper, of Markree Castle, appointed 1877. The Deputy-Lieutenants, fourteen in number, are :—

Crofton, Sir Malby, Bart.; Duke, R. A.; Ffolliott, Lt.-Col. John; Gore-Booth, Sir Henry W., Bart.; Gore, Lt.-Col. Sir Charles J. Knox, Bart.; Harlech, Lord; Irwin, Burton; Knox, Utred A.; O'Hara, C.

W.; MacDermot, The; Palmer, Major-General Sir Roger W. H., Bart.; Phibbs, Owen; Wood-Martin, Lt.-Col. W. G.; Wynne, Owen.

In the month of June, 1860—despite the Foreign Enlistment Act—about one hundred aspirants for military fame—being of all ages and sizes—embarked on board the steamship “Sligo,” *en route* for Rome, their purpose being to act as soldiers for Pope Pius IX.; they do not appear to have fared too well in Italy, for their wretched condition forms the topic of leading articles in newspapers of the period; and in November of the same year several of these volunteers arrived in Sligo, having been conveyed home by the liberality of the British Government, to whom they had appealed for aid in their difficulties.

In 1867, at about 1 a.m., 27th April, the Chief Boatman in charge of Streedagh Station arrested a stranger, who gave unsatisfactory answers to his inquiries, and about two hours afterwards two men—also strangers to the locality—were found, lying wounded, on the beach. These men were supposed to have been landed by a brigantine of very suspicious appearance, which at that period was cruising in Sligo Bay, with a crew of fifty hands.

In 1856 the Admiralty first took charge of the Coast-guard, which in Sligo consists of two divisions, under Divisional Officers; the headquarters of the first being at Rosses' Point, and the second at Pullendiva. The Sligo Division has (within the County), the following stations:—Rosses' Point, with a Divisional Officer and seven men; Raughley, a Chief Boatman and five men; Mullaghmore, a Chief Officer and eight men. From this place three men are detached to Ballyshannon, in the County Donegal. The Pullendiva Division has (in the County Sligo), the following stations:—At Derkmore, a Chief Boatman and four men; at Pullendiva, a Divisional Officer and six men; at Pullocheny, a Chief Boatman and four men; at Enniscrone, a Chief Boatman and five men.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

### POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH OF SLIGO.

**T**HE early members of Parliament for the County Sligo call for little remark. From the Revolution of 1688, the Gores, Wingfields, Morgans, Cootes, and Ormsbys held sway, until the advent of the Wynnes, who appear to have retained—with but two short intervals—one seat in the County, together with the two seats in the Borough, from 1727 to 1790.

In 1695 Arthur Cooper, of Markree, a defeated candidate, petitioned against the return of Wingfield and Morgan, alleging that he was duly elected instead of Morgan. In 1703 William Ormsby petitioned against the return made by the Sheriff who had declared the above two gentlemen again duly elected. In 1719 Joshua Cooper claimed a seat instead of Francis Ormsby as returned by the Sheriff. In 1776 Mr. Wynne declined to nominate<sup>1</sup> William Ormsby, of Willowbrook,

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<sup>1</sup> Nominees of patrons of Boroughs were expected to vote as the patron directed; but some members of the old Irish Parliament were not exempt from political inconsistency. Curran, a great stickler for purity, offered a good example. "He first entered the House of Commons in Dublin as the nominee of Mr. Longfield, who was subsequently Lord Longueville. Curran sat for Kilbeggan; but he stipulated that his action should be entirely unshackled, and that the patron of the Borough should not presume to influence his vote. Mr. Longfield, looking upon the stipulation as a formality for the ease of Curran's conscience, consented. A time came, however, when the nominee's vote highly displeased the patron, and a quarrel ensued. Curran could not resign his seat, for Irish members had not then the opportunity which the stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds affords to legislators desirous of withdrawing from the responsibility of making laws; the honourable member for Kilbeggan, nevertheless, had a remedy for the difficulty. The independent Irish patriot offered *to purchase a borough and a representative for it who should never vote but in accordance with Mr. Longfield's directions!*"

who had sat as one of the members for the Borough from 1757 to that date, and he, accordingly, together with Sir B. Gore, Bart., contested the County with the patron of the Borough and Mr. Cooper; both the former were unsuccessful, but petitioned, alleging bribery, corruption, treating, and other undue influences.

The Right Hon. Owen Wynne being unseated, thereupon a fresh election took place the following year, when Owen Wynne, Junr., was declared duly elected. A petition was lodged by Ormsby, but was unsuccessful;<sup>1</sup> and the Wynnes kept possession of the seat until 1790; but in that year Mr. Cooper defeated Mr. Wynne in a severely contested election; so severe was the struggle that the Masonic Lodges in the town—according to the records in their books—did not meet for two months, “the majority of the members being unavoidably engaged in the election.” In 1797 Mr. Wynne again came forward, and in his address, dated Hazlewood, 20th July, 1797, thanked the electors for the “very honourable, tho’ unsuccessful support” he had experienced at the previous election.

The families of O’Hara and Cooper next became paramount,

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<sup>1</sup> There were charges and countercharges of bribery and intimidation made by the opposing candidates. The following notice relative to the election appeared in the *Sligo Journal*:—

“A HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE GUINEAS REWARD.—We, the under-named, taking into our most serious consideration the atrocious ATTACK that has been lately made on the PRIVILEGES of many of the electors of the County of Sligo by some person or persons having secured or destroyed the REGISTRY BOOK containing a List of the forty-shilling Freeholders of said County, and being desirous of making manifest our just abhorrence of such an infamous transaction and of doing everything in our power that may tend towards discovering the AUTHOR or AUTHORS of such secretion or destruction, do hereby promise and engage, respectively, to pay such sum as is annexed to each of our names, to any person who is able to throw such light on the above abominable business, as may bring to open and public conviction the perpetrator or perpetrators of the same.”—July 2, 1778. The list is headed by O. Wynne, candidate, for £56 17s. 6d., Joshua Cooper and O. Wynne for £22 15s. each; whilst the following gentlemen respectively guaranteed £5 13s. 9d.: Henry Hughes, Arthur Cooper, W. H. Cooper, Arthur Cooper, jun., Folliott Wynne, John Martin, Robert Lyons, Phil. Burne, Robert Hillas, Hyac. O’Rorke, Hen. Griffith, Wm. Gibson, sen., Robert Bolton.

*Wm.*



and retained the representation of the County for a lengthened period. In those times contested elections were frequently of prolonged duration; the freeholders had to be brought in from remote parts, each candidate paying all expenses of voters in his favour; open house was kept, and the publicans reaped a rich harvest. It is recounted of a successful candidate that, shortly after his return to Parliament, he received from one of these publicans a bill amounting to £1030 "for entertaining his Honour's voters with black, red, and white wine"! When the electioneering agent proceeded, amongst others, to settle the account in question, Boniface, on being questioned as to details, said, that if "his Honour" paid him "the thousand," he would knock off "the thirty." The agent retorted that supposing he (Boniface) received "the thirty," he would have to knock off "the thousand": such was the eventual settlement.

These political contests were often decided by the superiority of a very few votes; and towards the close of one of this nature, an extremely tall, immature-looking youth made his appearance, but the opposite party objected to his vote, alleging that he was under age. On his side arose shouts of "Poll him, poll him"; and the mob, imagining the expression to refer to the great height and lank or pole-like figure of the young man, burst into a roar of laughter whilst his vote was being recorded; and to the end of his life that voter was so well known by the sobriquet of "Pole'm" that most people supposed it to be his baptismal name.

In 1822, on the death of Mr. O'Hara, his son declined to offer himself for the representation of which his family had held undisputed possession, in the Independent interest, for nearly forty years. Upon his refusal there ensued the most bitterly contested election that ever took place in the County; and it resulted in the return of the Hon. Henry King and the defeat of his opponent, Colonel Perceval. The date for commencing the election happened to fall on a Saturday; but the law then gave power of adjourning to the succeeding day—Sunday intervening. An application was made to allow one man on each side to poll, the reason assigned being that there was an elderly

gentleman from the County Roscommon whom it would be inconvenient to detain. The titular Bishop of Killala was then brought forward—a measure intended to produce a religious effect upon the electors; and, therefore, with a view of maintaining perfect impartiality on both sides, the High Sheriff, Colonel Irwin, refused to allow any poll to be taken till the Monday. In this election religious feeling was greatly excited: the military had to fire on the mob, who pelted them, and one of the officers was severely injured. “Stones were flying as fast as hailstones: it was some time before the riot could be quelled; however, the soldiers’ firing had the effect of stopping the practice of stone-throwing afterwards.”

In distant parts of the County, roads were either cut or had walls built across them during the night, by the peasantry, in order to prevent cars from reaching Sligo with voters in time to be safely housed and protected from intimidation before night-fall; the houses of electors were visited by mobs for the purpose of warning them to vote only as directed. In the streets of the town, during successive days, there was more or less rioting; and in the booths were to be heard scuffling, wrangling, intemperate language, charges of bribery, partiality, and intimidation.

As the candidates ran a neck-and-neck race the polling was watched with the greatest interest, for it was but the renewal of the struggle of 1790, when the Wynne family lost the seat—the war-cry of the opposing factions being “Wynne and Perceval,” “Martin and King,” thus bringing into prominence the names of the supporters of the respective candidates.

The local papers were filled with accounts of the trials of persons indicted at the ensuing spring assizes for riot. One witness, an ex-drummer, described himself as “poet and ballad-singer” to one of the candidates. “I am told,” said the lawyer, who cross-examined him, “that you were a noisy fellow.” “Yes, sir,” replied the ex-soldier, “I used to beat the tattoo!”

When the non-success of Perceval became apparent, a plot was laid to entangle Mr. Martin—the Hon. Henry King’s most ardent supporter—in a legal dilemma. A man was employed by his political opponents to create a disturbance at



his residence, which the owner naturally resenting, the man was forcibly ejected from the house, and for this Mr. Martin was superseded in the Commission of the Peace, but was afterwards reinstated, on correct representation being made of the real facts of the incident.

In consequence of the Earl of Kingston, elder brother of the Hon. Henry King, having taken a very active part in this election of 1822, a petition was presented to the House of Commons by an elector of Sligo, complaining of a breach of privilege, and praying for an inquiry; a petition alleging bribery was also presented, but was not proceeded with.

The following epigram on the statement "that the honesty and sense of the County of Sligo" was represented by its members, was composed and circulated in 1829, before the election of the following year:—

"MEN OF SLIGO, ARE YOU FAIRLY REPRESENTED? WHY, THEN,  
If your members are a sample fair, of all that's good and great,  
Picked out with care to mark the worth of Sligo to the State,  
Herein your County's honesty and sense you may discover—  
Since King doth represent the one, as Cooper doth the other!"

In 1829 an enormous reduction was made in the number of electors in the County by the disfranchisement of the forty-shilling freeholders, who had possessed the right of voting under terminable leases as well as those in perpetuity. Previous to the time when the question of Catholic Emancipation was finally decided, Irish landlords relied on their forty-shilling freeholders. It did not enter into the imagination of the former that the freeholders would ever vote against them; and during a very long period it as little entered into the conception of the freeholders that they could vote against the landlords; "and political gratitude was never so unpleasantly exemplified as in the fact that the candidates who were returned by their votes acquiesced, in 1829, in the proposal to deprive them of their franchise."

In 1830 an attack was made on the Conservative seats. Cooper was proposed by Charles K. O'Hara, seconded by John

Armstrong; King was proposed by the Hon. Edward Wingfield, seconded by James Wood; French was proposed by Captain Hillas, seconded by Daniel Jones. Mobs paraded the streets of Sligo; and on the 17th August the result of three days polling was declared as follows: Edward Joshua Cooper, 465; General King, 385; Fitzstephen French, 116.

From 1830 to 1841, and again from 1857 to 1859, Edward Joshua Cooper represented the County in Parliament. He was born in 1798; and after spending some years at Armagh and Eton, entered Christ Church College, Oxford, where he remained but two years, when he started on a lengthened series of travels. In 1821 he engaged an Italian artist, and visited Egypt, the result of his journey being published under the title of *Views of Egypt and Nubia*. In 1824-5 he traversed Denmark, Sweden and Norway, as far as the North Cape. Mr. Cooper kept meteorological registers at Markree, but owing to his frequent absences they were very imperfect until 1833. Becoming manager of the property on the death of his father in 1830, he at once took steps towards founding an observatory, which he intended to endow, in order to ensure its permanent utility. Mr. Cooper was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1853, and in 1858 received the Cunningham Medal of the Royal Irish Academy for his *Catalogue of Ecliptic Stars*. He died on the 23rd April, 1863. "His personal qualities were of a high order, and he was accomplished in many ways; but his zeal for science did not lead him to neglect the duties of his position, for he was a kind and good landlord, making great exertions to educate and improve his tenantry."<sup>1</sup>

On the 17th May, 1831, Perceval again contested the representation of Sligo, and at the close of the poll the numbers were: E. J. Cooper, 361; Colonel Alexander Perceval, 287; the Hon. General King, 191. The successful candidates were chaired round the town, with bands playing, and all the displays then usual at the termination of a contested election. "Religious

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<sup>1</sup> *The Observatory: a Monthly Review of Astronomy*, volume VII., pp. 283, 329.



and political animosity prevail to a considerable extent in Sligo," writes Inglis in 1834 ; " this I have generally found to be the case in Ireland whenever there is not an overwhelming majority on one side." In 1837 the county was again contested, the result being as follows : Edward Joshua Cooper, 511 ; Colonel Alexander Perceval, 443 ; Daniel Jones, 368 ; Charles Joseph M'Dermott, 6.

An amusing anecdote is related of Perceval after this contest. He had taken a seat in the omnibus connected with the coach in which he was booked for London ; there was but one seat vacant, and he said to a gentleman sitting next the door, " Pray keep the seat for me," and placed his umbrella and cap on it, while he looked after his luggage. On his return he found " the unknown " resisting the entrance of any other passengers, and took his seat. He soon heard O'Connell's well-known voice exclaiming, " Colonel Perceval, you are in a great minority in this omnibus." The Colonel was equal to the occasion, for he retorted, " Well, you'll see that I shall keep my seat, nevertheless, as I did at Sligo, though opposed by all the Radicals."

Party spirit in this (1837) and the following year, ran excessively high. The sheriff, Sir William Parke, placed on the grand jury every possible member of the Liberal party, commencing at the bottom of the panel, thus excluding most of the members who usually attended the assizes. For so acting, and for not having called representatives for baronies, he was fined by the Judge of Assize, before whom the matter was brought.

Sligo then, and for long after, remained thoroughly Conservative, owing to the good feeling that existed between landlords and tenants, and also to a majority of the voters being Protestant. In 1845 O'Connell stated that " Sligo County was in a bad way," *i. e.* according to his view of the subject ; and he visited it for the purpose of stirring up a contest—not with any hopes of winning either seat, but with the avowed intention of making the Conservatives spend money. In 1841 William Richard Ormsby Gore, Jun., became member

in the place of Mr. Cooper, who did not seek re-election, and the same year John Ffolliott succeeded Perceval, who had been appointed Sergeant-at-Arms to the House of Lords. The representation remained unaltered until 1850, when Ffolliott, having accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, Sir Robert Gore-Booth, Bart., was elected without opposition. In 1852 the Liberals again contested the County, and succeeded in carrying one seat. The result of the poll was as follows: Sir Robert Gore-Booth, Bart., 942; Richard Swift, 875; William Richard Ormsby Gore, 774; John Taaffe, 39. In 1857, at the next election, the numbers polled were: for Sir Robert Gore-Booth, Bart., and Edward Joshua Cooper, 1434 each; John Ball, 304; Richard Swift, 5.

In 1859 Charles W. Cooper O'Hara was elected, *vice* Edward Joshua Cooper, who declined to be re-nominated; whilst in 1865, Mr. O'Hara retired from the representation of the county, owing to ill-health, and was succeeded by Colonel E. H. Cooper. During three years the representation of the county (*i. e.* Booth and Cooper) remained unaltered, but in 1868 the Liberals again wrested one seat, the numbers being: Denis Maurice O'Connor, 1722; Sir Robert Gore-Booth, 1219; Colonel Edward Henry Cooper, 1125. In 1877, on the death of Sir Robert Gore-Booth, Colonel Edward Robert King-Harman was elected in his place without contest as a Liberal-Conservative. Both seats were captured by the Liberals in the General Election of 1880, Thomas Sexton polling 1591, Denis Maurice O'Connor 1551, and Edward Robert King-Harman 1261. The Right Hon. Colonel King-Harman died June, 1888. Towards the conclusion of his life he laboured for Ireland with zeal and purity of purpose. Denis Maurice O'Connor died in 1883; towards the latter years of his political career he was no favourite with the ultra-Radical party, as he occasionally showed that he could still hold to his own opinions. One of his political opponents thus writes of him: "He made a favourable impression upon the House of Commons, for he was a clever, good, solid speaker, and even to those who had opposed his election he was courteous and always



displayed an anxiety to serve his constituents individually and collectively."

On his decease, the representation was contested by Charles K. O'Hara, jun., and Nicholas Lynch, and with the following result:—Lynch, 1545; O'Hara, 980. Mr. O'Hara had seemingly every prospect of success; if promises were to be relied on, he had a clear majority; but as the old classic orator said, "the ballot is dear to the people, for it covers men's faces and conceals their thoughts; it gives them the opportunity of doing what they like, and promising all that they are asked." A celebrated English wit remarks that the ballot would bring to pass that which David said only in his wrath, and make all men liars.

On the Redistribution of Seats the county was divided into two districts. North Sligo consisted of the Barony of Carbury, the Barony of Tireragh, and the parishes of Ballysadare and Killoran, in the Barony of Leyny; the remainder of the county formed the electoral division of South Sligo.

In 1885 both divisions of the County were contested; but owing to the enormous increase of the electorate the Conservatives were, as a political party in Sligo, completely outnumbered. North Sligo, Peter M'Donald, 5216; Colonel Ffolliott, 772. South Sligo, Thomas Sexton, 5150; Alexander Perceval, 541. The number of voters in "North Sligo," with a population of 54,657, amounted to 8591; "South Sligo" with a population of 56,921 had an electorate of 8447.

The old franchise consisted of a £12 rated occupancy, or other qualifications equivalent to it, but under the present system, although there is a nominal £10 rating, yet the "inhabitant occupier" clause admits the occupier to the privilege of voting, even if he be unrated. The only disqualifications are that he must be in receipt of Poor-law relief—or if a ratepayer, his rates must not have been paid. Also in order to entitle him to vote in both divisions of the County he requires to be duly qualified in each.

For the Borough of Sligo the early Members of Parliament would appear, with the exception of Sir Roger Jones, 1634, and

Kean O'Hara, 1639, to have been strangers, or comparative strangers; for Ratcliffe, though possessing property in Sligo, resided in Dublin. To vote for the return of the two members for the Borough, the qualification required was not merely to be a freeman, but also a burgess. This difficulty, however, was readily overcome by making the voter at the same meeting first a freeman, and then a burgess.

Judging by the seal struck in 1709, and the subsequent succession of Provosts, the family of De Butt either enjoyed predominant political power in the borough, or they were nominees of the dominant faction. It should be borne in mind that though the Corporation, which consisted of only twelve burgesses, elected the Provost annually, yet the burgesses themselves were elected for life; and they elected each other, so that if any one family succeeded in having more than six of his relations or friends created burgesses, the ultimate supremacy of that clique was inevitable, and the Corporation then became a "pocket-borough," to be utilized either for political purposes, or to be disposed of by private agreement, to some aspirant to a seat in Parliament.

A crisis in the fate of the borough occurred on the 27th August, 1722, when, John De Butt being Provost, Sir Francis Lycester sent in his resignation as burgess, was accordingly disfranchised, and Samuel Burton elected in his stead. In the books of the Corporation the entries with regard to this are as follows:—

" BOROUGH OF SLIGO,

" *August the 27th, 1722.*

" We the Provost and free Burgesses of the said Borough being met, pursuant to a publication posted upon the Market Cross, the nineteenth day of August instant, for an election of a Burgess this day, and waited the appointed hour in the appointed place; the resignation of Sir Francis Lycester was openly read. And having proceeded to disfranchise Sir Francis Lycester pursuant to the said resignation, and he is hereby disfranchised. And coming to an election of a Burgess in the room and place of the said Sir Francis Lycester, we do unanimously elect and choose Samuel Burton, Esq., he being a sworn freeman of the said Corporation, to be a free burgess of the said Corporation, in the room



and place of the said Sir Francis Lycester aforesaid. As witness our hands the day and year above written,

“JOHN DE BUTT, *Provost*.

“GEORGE BENNETT.”<sup>1</sup>

“BOROUGH OF SLIGO, *August the 27th, 1722.*

“The above-named Samuel Burton, Esq., sworn one of the free Burgesses of the above Corporation according to the above election of the 27th of August, 1722.

“JOHN DE BUTT, *Provost*.

“GEORGE BENNETT (*Recorder & Town Clerk.*)”

So matters remained until the election of the new Provost in October of the same year, when Mitchelburn Knox was selected for the post. This new Provost convened an assembly of the burgesses who declared the previous disfranchisement of Sir Francis Lycester and the appointment of Samuel Burton to have been illegally conducted, and proceeded to go over the affair *de novo*.

“BOROUGH OF SLIGO, *the 11th day of October, 1722.*

“Whereas an assembly of the Burgesses of this Corporation having met this day, at the County Hall, in the Borough of Sligo: A true Copy of the resignation of Sir Francis Lycester, Bart., sworn and attested by William Mendey, Notary Public, and confirmed by the oaths of Mitchelburn Knox, Esq., our present Provost, and Capt. John Wynne, being openly read in a Court of the free Burgesses of the said Borough, duly summoned. We the Provost and free Burgesses (having first demanded the original resignation lodged with Mr. John De Butt, late Provost of Sligo aforesaid) which he has absolutely refused to deliver to the present Provost. Being therefore obliged to proceed without the said original resignation, in order to elect a free Burgess in the room of Sir Francis Lycester, Bart., who is hereby removed from being any longer a free Burgess in the said Borough of Sligo, and deprived of any rights, privileges, and immunities thereunto belonging. And our present Provost, Mitchelburn Knox, Esq., is hereby required to post up, and give public notice of the vacancy of a Burgess-ship in our said Borough, and to appoint a time and place of election pursuant to Act of Parliament.

“MITCHELBURN KNOX, *Provost.*”

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<sup>1</sup> In all extracts herein given from the books of the Corporation, the spelling has been modernized.

An attested copy of Sir Francis Lycester's resignation is attached to the proceedings, and commences in these words:—  
 “Whereas I am elected, and am a burgess of the Abbeyville or town of Sligo in the County of Sligo,” &c.

In compliance with the above order, the Provost convened a meeting, and the notice was also “posted up on y<sup>e</sup> Market Cross.” At this meeting the Right Hon. Major-General Owen Wynne was unanimously elected a burgess *vice* Lycester resigned. The Wynne family having now secured the majority, George Bennett—who had taken the part of De Butt—was asked what time he required “to show reason why he should not be disfranchised and removed from his burgess-ship for his manifest misbehaviour,” evidently waxed irate, informed the majority that they could not disfranchise him, that they “did not know how to disfranchise, and that he defied them to disfranchise him, and behaved himself with great contempt of the assembly, and endeavoured to provoke several of the particular members of the assembly to use him ill.” The matter was soon brought to an issue by the meeting there and then turning him out *vi et armis*, disfranchising him, and electing Mr. Thomas Jennings in his place to be Recorder and Town Clerk.

The same meeting sent to Mr. John De Butt a notice “to show cause why he should not be disfranchised and removed from his place of free burgess of the said Corporation of Sligo for his manifest misbehaviour.” His reply was as follows:—

“SLIGO, Oct. 23rd, 1722.

“WORSHIPFUL SIR,

“I received your summons requiring me to appear before you, on Tuesday, the 23rd Instant, to show cause why I should not be disfranchised for my manifest misbehaviour. I know no cause if it be not for the conscientious discharge of my duty, as an honest magistrate, according to my oath, and would have waited on you this day to satisfy you, before all, with you present, of the manifest truth of my assertion, but for fear of being insulted and assaulted, as I was before you in the last discharge of my duty, and for fear of being turned out by the shoulders, and sent to the stocks by you—as one of my Brethren was ordered to be—and all this and much more, is no misbehaviour in



these favourites of yours. And to avoid the like treatment both I and my Brother had in your presence, without the least resentment, is the cause

“ I do not wait on you in person, that am,

“ Worshipful Sir,

“ Your most humble servant,

“ JOHN DE BUTT.

“ *To the Worshipful MITCHELBURN KNOX, Esq.,*

“ *Provost of Sligo.*”

The Provost's answer ran thus :—

“ COUNTY HALL, BOROUGH OF SLIGO,

“ *Oct. 23rd, 1722.*

“ SIR,

“ I received yours, which I don't think a sufficient answer for not attending according to your summons ; for you say you fear being insulted and treated ill, which I assure from all that are met here, that you shall meet with all the civility that you can expect, you behaving yourself to us in the same manner, and not like your late Brother Bennett, as you term him. So expect you'll attend according to your summons of the 19th Instant.

“ I am Sir,

“ Your humble servant,

“ MITCHELBURN KNOX, *Provost.*”

De Butt replied thus :—

“ SLIGO, *Oct. 23rd, 1722.*

“ WORSHIPFUL SIR,

“ I perceive the assurance you give me of being protected from insults. I might have expected that, the last time I was with you, but it did not. I shall be prepared soon to fear none, and when I am, I will wait on you and the rest of my brethren, at this time. I hope what I have offered, together that I am obliged to send a great deal by post this night, will be a sufficient reason for not waiting on you at this time.

“ I am, worshipful Sir,

“ Your most humble servant,

“ JOHN DE BUTT.”

As might be expected, nothing De Butt could urge was of any avail : he was expelled ; and a meeting was summoned for

the 31st of the same month to elect two new burgesses *vice* De Butt and Bennett disfranchised. At this meeting Captain John Wynne and Major John Ffolliott were elected burgesses; and in this manner the Borough of Sligo became *de facto* the property of the Wynne family.

Strange to narrate, it was not until four years subsequently, when every burgess present was either by marriage or other ties connected with the Patron of the Borough, that the election of Samuel Burton was formally annulled: the resolution ran as follows:—

“The above Act not being according to the laws and usage of the Corporation, 'tis this day ordered to be rased out of the public acts of the Corporation by the Provost and Burgesses in Council assembled.

“Given under our hands, this 24th of June, 1726.

“OWEN WYNNE, *Provost*.

“Mitchelburn Knox; George Ormsby; John Jameson; Thomas Jennings; W. Ormsby; Richard Gore; John Booth.”

By the Act of Union the representation of the Borough of Sligo was reduced to one member. All patrons of boroughs, however, received pecuniary recompense for their loss.<sup>1</sup>

Thus, prior to the Reform Bill of 1832, the Members for the Borough of Sligo were, from the year 1722, returned by the Wynne family. The old government of the Provost and twelve burgesses having been swept away by the Reform Bill, the number of voters on the new and reformed register is stated to have been 418,<sup>2</sup> as compared with 695 on the county

<sup>1</sup> “Mr. Wynne is the patron of the Borough; he is the person that received compensation at the time of the Union.”—*Corporation Inquiry*, 1833.

<sup>2</sup> The 2 William IV. c. 88 extended the franchise to £10 householders, under which, in 1834, there were registered 694 electors; in 1849, they increased to 715; in 1851, under 13 & 14 Vict. c. 69, they decreased to 336, less than one half of the former number; and in 1853 they increased to 351, of whom there were two burgesses of the old Corporation, 337 rated occupiers, and 12 otherwise qualified.



register—by comparison a large numerical preponderance in favour of the smaller and more youthful constituency.

In the year 1828 a “Brunswick Club” was established in Sligo, the President being the Hon. Colonel Wingfield, and this political combination spread rapidly through the county, branches being formed at all the small towns and centres of Protestant population.

On O’Connell’s visit to Sligo, during the Summer Assizes of 1828, he was entertained at a public banquet in “the new Catholic Free-School,” and about one hundred and thirty sat down to dinner. The Catholic Emancipation question was warmly taken up in Sligo, Roman Catholic and Protestant meetings being of frequent occurrence. In the year 1829 the mob broke the windows of almost every Protestant householder in Sligo. In 1831 Reform and anti-Reform meetings were held in the town; and the throwing open of the Borough to popular representation was naturally opposed most strenuously by Mr. Wynne. A very important demonstration was held in the Court House, 11th January, 1832; although designated an Anti-Reform meeting, yet speakers on both sides were allowed a hearing.

So early as 1828, when Reform was on the *tapis*, Mr. John Martin had been nominated by the moderate Liberals to contest the representation of the borough with Mr. Wynne. He was not considered by some to be a politician of sufficiently advanced type, and as such O’Connell objected to him, concluding his speech thus:—“My hostility to Mr. Martin is by no means personal; on the contrary, he is a gentleman for whom I entertain personal regard.” However, the time for the contest drew on, and no candidate more pleasing to O’Connell was obtained. At the hustings the electors were reminded of the time when a bundle of rushes or even a horse-load of brooms could not enter the town without paying toll; and their worthy ex-Provost had been compelled to appear one night at an entertainment in very shabby lower-garments, because the smart new attire intended for the occasion had been detained at the toll-gate for want of the bearer being provided with the sum of two-pence needful to

pay for entitling it to be admitted within the borough.<sup>1</sup> Frequently, too, their so-called representatives knew little or nothing of Sligo—had never been there : one of them in his place in the House having described it as a small fishing-village in the West of Ireland.<sup>2</sup> On both sides the canvassing had been most vigorous, and the election commenced on the 17th December, 1832. During the three days of the contest there was fearful rioting, the town being alternately occupied by the opposing mobs, according as either side momentarily gained numerical preponderance ; at the close of the third day, Thursday, the 20th December, the poll was declared : Mr. John Martin, 213 votes ; Mr. Wynne, 158. On the 9th January, 1835, there was again a General Election, when the former was returned unopposed.

Earl Mulgrave—then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—having announced his intention of visiting Sligo, the Liberals resolved to give him a reception, and applied to the High Sheriff, James Knott, of Battlefield, for the use of the Court-house, which was refused by him, and in consequence he was superseded in the commission of the peace. On the 23rd August, 1836, the trades processionists, with wands, scarfs, belts, and banners, marched a few miles out of the town to Ballysadare and Collooney, but His Excellency did not enter Sligo till six in the evening ; he was met by a deputation from the Liberals, who presented him with an address, and at night the town was illuminated. On the next day the Lord Lieutenant conferred the honour of knighthood on Colonel William Parke,<sup>3</sup> of Dunally, and visited

<sup>1</sup> According to the evidence given before the Commission in 1833, everything brought in for sale paid toll, even to cabbage plants, gooseberries, nails, hats, and brogues.

<sup>2</sup> History, it is said, repeats itself ; for the present representatives of the County are strangers to the locality, have no personal interest therein, and but for the facilities of railway travelling would be equally ignorant whether Sligo should rank as a mere fishing-village or a thriving commercial town.

<sup>3</sup> Sir William Parke, lived to an advanced age, and died at his residence, Dunally, 31st August, 1851. As a magistrate and grand juror of the County, he was known for his independence and public spirit, although



the County Jail, when he released twenty-three prisoners. There was a great deal of party-feeling displayed on this occasion, but almost all the Protestant gentry and yeomanry held aloof.

On the 24th January, 1837, Daniel O'Connell visited Sligo shortly before the General Election, for the purpose of unseating, if possible, Perceval and Cooper from the County and Martin from the Borough. As a specimen of O'Connell's style of oratory, the following extract from his speech is here given. He informed his audience that "they had already hunted a Fox (*i. e.* Lane-Fox) from one County, and they had now to hunt another from this (County Sligo); but he was sure that Fox-hunting was not half so good as Martin-hunting; . . . and as to Colonel Perceval, they would leave him at home to mind the potatoes for he was a potato-faced fellow; . . . and as to Mr. Cooper, unless he behaved himself better, they would leave him at home to make a cask for Colonel Perceval's red herrings."<sup>1</sup>

Hard hitting was not confined to one side: the following lines had previously appeared in the *Sligo Journal* on O'Connell having refused to either fight or apologize to an opponent:—

“ O'Connell will not fight—and why?  
Because O'Connell fears to die;  
Nor will he cease offence to give,  
Because by that he hopes to live;  
Vain hope! who like a coward flies,  
May save his life, his honour dies!”

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always zealous in support of his own views, which were ultra-Liberal. Early in life he had entered the army as an Ensign in the 83rd Foot in 1791; in 1794 he accompanied his regiment to the West Indies, served in the Rebellion in Ireland, afterwards in the expedition to the Helder in 1799, and the Duke of York's Campaign in North Holland, and was present at all the different general engagements; served in the expedition to Egypt under Sir R. Abercromby, was present in Portugal at the battle of Vimiera, served the entire campaign, and was wounded at Corunna; took part in the expedition to Walcheren, the siege of Flushing, and the Campaign of 1811 in the Peninsula.

<sup>1</sup> When Colonel Perceval was in the regiment, the Sligo Militia wore a red uniform.

In 1837 the representation of the Borough was warmly contested, Mr. John Martin being supported by the moderate Liberals and by the Conservatives. On the declaration of the poll on Thursday, the 3rd August, John Patrick Somers was returned by 262 votes to 208. During the registry of voters' claims, prior to this election, before the Revising Barrister (Hartstonge Robinson), a radical applicant was asked by Counsellor Casserly for his title-deed, when the Precursor, with an air of gravity and self-confidence, handed over to the learned counsel a huge bludgeon which he held in his hand, at the same time exclaiming, amidst the general laughter of a crowded Court, "Here is my title-deed."

On the 9th July, 1841, John Patrick Somers was, without opposition, again returned member for the borough; politics ran high; the Repeal movement was then in full swing; and on the 4th May, 1843, O'Connell held a mass meeting in Sligo; in the evening he was entertained at a dinner in the Hibernian Hotel, and on both occasions he delivered a characteristic speech. Amongst a variety of other topics he stated that England had tried to ignore the agitation until "a chap of the name of Lane-Fox—a poor man who had more strength than brains; a Fox by name but not by nature, for there was no cunning in him—came out with his notice of motion to have it suppressed. . . . Oh! was it not worth while struggling for Repeal to gag a fellow of that kind."

At a meeting of the Repeal Association held in Dublin on the 24th November, 1845, O'Connell read a communication from the "Repeal" members of the Town Council of Sligo, by which they pledged "themselves, one and all, on good faith and honour, that in future every question arising in the Corporation and Borough should be determined on and acted on by the decision of the majority of the Repealers without any reference to, or deriving any assistance from, the Non-Repeal or Tory party."

On the 4th August, 1847, John Patrick Somers was again returned as member for the borough, but in 1848 he was unseated on petition; and in April there was a new election, his



opponent being Charles Townley, of Townley, County of Lancaster—a gentleman reputed to be very wealthy. Townley was supported by the priests, and is reputed to have laid out immense sums of money. “If he buys men from the priests, he may sell them to the minister if he chooses,” was about the wittiest thing said against him. Townley was returned by a majority of seven votes, but he was unseated on petition. In the evidence given before a Committee of the House of Commons, a Mr. Cantwell, Mr. Townley’s agent, stated that he took up his quarters at the hotel in Sligo, having left his lodgings on account of their filthy condition: the house was one of the dirtiest in the town, and there were fleas in it. “I dare say if the fleas had been unanimous they would have pulled you out of bed,” facetiously observed the cross-examining counsel. “Well, they might have done that,” retorted Mr. Cantwell. This retort was probably suggested by the anecdote told of Curran, who used to declare that if a house was infested with fleas they always flew to his bedchamber, when they heard he was to sleep there! and once, when making complaint to his landlady in the morning, he exclaimed, “By heaven, Madam, they were in such numbers, and seized upon my carcase with so much ferocity, that if they had been unanimous, and all pulled one way, they must have dragged me out of bed entirely.”

In the new election on the 15th July, 1848, John Patrick Somers was returned at the head of the poll, with 102 votes; James Hartley, 90; John Ball, 87; the constituency at this period numbered 292. At the dissolution of 1852 the conflict between Somers and Townley was renewed, much, it was alleged, having been effected in the interval to make the return of the latter secure; after a bitter contest Townley was declared on the 15th July to have obtained a majority at the poll, *i. e.* 147 votes to Somers’s 108. The latter again petitioned, and upon proof of corruption still stronger than before, Townley was again unseated. Sligo had now long been viewed as a sink of political corruption, and as notoriously “one of the most rotten boroughs in Ireland”; the cant term for bribery was to “strengthen the electors.”

In this contest the friars of Sligo were supporters of, and canvassers for, Somers; whilst the priests were supporters of, and canvassers for, Townley: when therefore the latter was unseated for bribery, great was the rejoicing of the friars, and many poetic (?) pieces appeared in print. One sung to the air of "The Green Immortal Shamrock" commenced thus:—

"Through Erin's Isle to sport awhile,  
As Charles Townley wandered," &c.

Then followed several verses; and one of them, after describing some quarrelling over the spoils, continues thus:—

"Then Father \* \* \* cries, 'Come, boys, come;  
Your quarrels, I'll decide them;  
Secure the Tin, and out, or in,  
The proceeds we'll divide them.'"

On the 7th July, 1853, there was a fresh election. The constituency is said to have then numbered 336, but the real total fell somewhat short of that figure. Somers was opposed by the afterwards notorious John Sadleir, who had failed in being returned for Carlow. Sadleir polled 152 votes to Somers's 142; the latter petitioned, but was unsuccessful. On the 18th February, 1856, the dead body of John Sadleir was found on Hampstead Heath, and it was stated that he had committed suicide; at the same time, however, stories were afloat asserting that it was not his body that was discovered, but that he had fled the country in order to escape his very serious liabilities which were subsequently discovered to be something enormous, and the available assets to be of comparatively microscopic proportions.

In the Borough, some of his own political party were thoroughly disgusted with Somers, who had come to look on the seat to be as much his private property as had the Wynne family in former years. The Conservatives put forward the Rt. Hon. John Wynne (Under-Secretary during the Viceroyalty of the Earl of Eglinton), and a subscription was raised to bring in their candidate "free of cost to himself." As regards



bribery this was one of the few pure contests in Sligo; Wynne from principle would not spend money, whilst Somers had not any to dispense. Before going to the poll Somers is alleged to have made several overtures to gentlemen of Liberal opinions, stating that he would retire on "getting a gratuity"; that he had expended about £1000 on the Borough, and that he should be recouped. One of the would-be candidates, on having this explained to him, refused the offer with indignation, and with truth exclaimed, "This is a standing thing in the Borough, and you will never have peace or comfort until it is rooted out."

At the election on the 7th March, 1856, John Patrick Somers was declared duly elected by 150 votes to 144; but on petition the seat was given to Mr. Wynne, he having had in reality a majority of 30. Probably, nothing in the annals of electioneering has ever been recorded which could rival the narrative as given in the records before the Committee of the House, or in the legal proceedings subsequent on the disclosures then recounted. It was proved that one of the principal officials and his assistants had, in the poll books, taken off votes from Mr. Wynne and placed them to the credit of Somers, to whom also were assigned voters who had never even entered the poll booths; whilst at the same time large mobs, armed with sticks and discharging fire-arms, paraded the streets during the polling when the populace held possession of the place. Mobs in all the elections were hired; they would not turn on their heel unless they got money. On occasions, when they had not been paid, or payment was refused, they have been known to use the threat that they would go on the other side and fight for them; indeed it may be said that a Sligo mob considered £100 a-night very little for them; they expected from five shillings to seven shillings and sixpence per man—such was the evidence given before the Commissioners appointed to report on the corrupt practices in the Borough of Sligo.

At the Spring Assizes of 1858, all the officials implicated in the election malpractices were tried on a charge of conspiracy to procure by unlawful means the return of John Patrick Somers, and after a most careful investigation they were found guilty,

and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment—a heavy fine being in one instance superadded. An appeal against this decision was carried to the Superior Courts, but the sentences were confirmed. Some Conservative votes had been refused when tendered; and one of the persons so treated, on bringing an action for damages, received a verdict for £100.

The election on the 6th May, 1859,<sup>1</sup> passed off in such comparative quiet that it was styled “the model election”; Mr. Wynne was returned by 177 votes, Somers polled but 73, and Lucas A. Treston, 3.

In 1860 Mr. Wynne resigned his seat, his health not permitting him to attend to his Parliamentary duties. Francis Macdonogh, Q.C., who succeeded him in the representation, had, on previous occasions, unsuccessfully canvassed several Borough constituencies. It was alleged that, like the chameleon, he had changed his colours according to locality—“He’s a Radical in London, a rebel in Carlow, a Whig in Carrickfergus, a Conservative in Sligo.”

His opponent in Sligo was E. K. Tenison; but as Somers still persevered in obtruding himself on the constituency, Tenison’s chance of success was destroyed. “We find,” state the Commissioners of the Sligo Election Inquiry, “that Colonel Tenison retired in consequence of its being intimated to him on the night before the election, that, unless £600 or £700 were forthcoming for distribution amongst about twenty-five of the Liberal voters, there was no use in going to the poll.” And on the 9th August, Macdonogh was declared member with 157 votes; O’Reilly, 5; Somers, only 2. The latter was hooted by the mob, accused of having politically sold the Borough, and of various other alleged acts detrimental to the Liberal party. He had to be protected by the military and police; and in this manner Somers disappeared from the political arena. He died December, 1862.

In the election that took place on the 15th July, 1865, Macdonogh was defeated, having only 158 votes to 166 re-

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<sup>1</sup> In 1859, the constituency was 360; in 1865, 312; in 1869, 520.



corded for his opponent, Richard Armstrong, S. L. The election terminated in an unexpected manner as there were a majority of Conservative voters on the registry. Macdonogh's political career in the Borough, though short, proved expensive; for he stated, in his evidence before the Commissioners, that from the first day of his connexion with Sligo, until he paid all bills and all demands on him, he had sold out and expended £13,000.

The night before the polling, according to the Report of the "Sligo Election Inquiry Commission," Macdonogh's election was judged by his principal supporters to be in great danger; and a sum of £490 was advanced by one of his friends to be applied in influencing the votes of the wavering electors. Of this sum £423 was distributed among voters as a consideration for their having voted for Macdonogh; most of this money was paid some time after the election, but the doubtful voters were made aware, at the time of the contest, that money would be forthcoming. Macdonogh was cognizant of the transaction, and subsequently repaid the money advanced for him; his total expenditure at this election was £905, of which the above-mentioned sum of £490 formed part; the residue was employed in defraying the legitimate expenses. Serjeant Armstrong expended on this election the sum of £2240; of this amount £615 was applied in defraying the legitimate expenses, £140 was distributed among mobs, and the residue (£1480) was expended in bribery. The whole of the last-mentioned sum was paid some eight or nine months after the election. About that time several applications were made to Serjeant Armstrong stating that his supporters were dissatisfied, and that something was expected of him. The serjeant's conducting agent and his agent for election expenses were sent down to the Borough in consequence of these communications; and on their arrival had an interview with some of Serjeant Armstrong's principal supporters. Lists were made out of the persons who should receive money, and the sums to be given, and £1480 was handed over to be distributed, which sum was subsequently repaid by Serjeant Armstrong, whose recollection, derived from documents, was that the number of voters

so bribed amounted to ninety-seven, on an average of a little over £15 5s. each.

In 1868, consequent on a dissolution of Parliament, the Borough of Sligo was called on to select a member; and the 19th of November was appointed by the Mayor for taking the poll. Serjeant Armstrong did not again come forward. The candidates were Major Laurence E. Knox (at that time proprietor of the *Irish Times*) who, in the Conservative interest, contested the seat with John W. Flanagan, in the Liberal interest. The contest was severe, and excited much ill-feeling between the rival parties. As early as eight o'clock on the day of the polling the police and military had to be called into requisition to prevent rioting and violence to voters, it being then by law open voting. There had been drafted into the town 340 police, twenty mounted men, two troops of cavalry, and three companies of infantry; and this force was barely sufficient, for "on the morning of the election," states an eye-witness, "I saw a mob come down the street and take possession of it that would terrify an army, every man with a cudgel or weapon. There were three thousand of them I am sure." Subsequently a sum of £1300 was allowed by the Grand Jury for malicious injuries to property inflicted by the mob.

Each person who recorded his vote contrary to the interest of those opposed to him, was saluted with strong marks of disapprobation by the partisans of his opponent. About nine o'clock in the morning Captain King was shot dead close to the Courthouse, when making his way through the mob for the purpose of recording his vote for Major Knox, and several of the friends who accompanied him were subjected to rough treatment.

Major Knox was that evening declared duly elected by a majority of twelve votes, the numbers being, Knox, 241; Flanagan, 229. The voters at this, the last election for the Borough, consisted of householders, freemen, and lodgers; the two latter classes were insignificant in number, there being but one freeman and three lodgers. Of the 520 voters only 75 qualified in respect of property situated in the rural district.



On the 12th December a petition was lodged in the Court of Common Pleas, praying that the return might be declared void, on the ground of bribery and corruption on the part of Major Knox and his agents. The petition, after much litigation, was finally set down for hearing—the venue being changed to Carrick-on-Shannon—before Mr. Justice Keogh of the Common Pleas; and on the 19th February, 1869, the inquiry commenced.

After a searching investigation, which lasted five days, Judge Keogh unseated Major Knox, declaring the election to be void by reason of bribery by his agents, acquitting him, however, personally of knowledge, but directing that he should pay the costs of the petition. Major Knox subsequently stated that the election and petition cost him nearly £8000.<sup>1</sup> The Judge reported to the House of Commons that he had reason to believe that corrupt practices and bribery extensively prevailed at this and previous elections. The result of this report was the staying by the House of Commons of a new writ, and the ordering of a Special Commission to issue for the purpose of examining into the subject of corrupt practices existing at the three last elections, and appointing D. C. Heron, Q.C., J. A. Byrne, and W. R. Bruce as Commissioners to make the inquiry, and report thereon. This Commission sat for the first time in the County Court-house, Sligo, on the 5th October, 1869, and finally closed in December. Upon a report and return to the House of Commons of these Commissioners,<sup>2</sup> a bill was brought in to disfranchise the Borough of Sligo for the corrupt practices that were reported. The result was its disfranchisement by 33 & 34 Vict. c. 38; and a number of celebrities of the day, Queen's counsel, barristers, justices of the peace, gentlemen, merchants, and persons holding official appointments were, on their names being scheduled in the reports of the Judge

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<sup>1</sup> Major Knox died 24th January, 1873, aged 36 years.

<sup>2</sup> “*Report of the Commissioners appointed under the Act of 15 & 16 Victoria, cap. 57, for the purpose of making inquiry into the existence of corrupt practices at the last election for Sligo, together with the Minutes of Evidence. Presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of Her Majesty, 1870.*”

and the Commissioners, subjected to the penalties, disqualifications, and deprivations enumerated in the Corrupt Practices Prevention Act. It is remarkable that the prevalence of corrupt practices in Sligo proved to have been greatest when the candidates were of the legal profession ; but at the election of 1868, in addition to corrupt practices, undue clerical influence likewise was employed. There can be little or no doubt that the words used by the clergy after Mass were understood by the people as a strong declaration of ecclesiastical censure against those who should vote against the Roman Catholic candidate, a censure which—indeed it was so admitted—implied a withholding from the offenders of the rites of their Church till suitable reparation should be made.<sup>1</sup>

As will be seen from the list of Members of Parliament (see Appendix D) the so-called independent representation of the Borough of Sligo, during the thirty-six years of its existence, was signalized by the filing of five successful petitions against the sitting member, and in each case malpractices were proved ; in short, liberty had degenerated into licence ; votes were almost openly sold.

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the Commissioners, &c.*, pp. vii. and viii. &c.





## CHAPTER XIX.

### PESTILENCE, FAMINE, EMIGRATION, AND POPULATION.

**A**CAREFUL reader of the early Irish annals cannot fail to observe therein the mention made of visitations of pestilence and famine. Although accounts may be disregarded of the annihilation by pestilence of the early colonies planted in Erin, still evidence remains of ever-recurring scourges of later date; for instance, in 1224, 1228 to 1230, in 1315, in 1318. In 1327 small-pox raged; and in the following year an epidemic broke out which was called *Slaodan*. This, it is stated, signifies a cough or cold; hence the disease may be supposed to have been what is now termed influenza. In 1349 a great plague devastated the district of Moylurg on the boundaries of Roscommon and Sligo. In 1361 and 1362 Sligo was visited by a terrible pestilence which, amongst other persons of note, carried off the celebrated Cathal Oge O'Connor, who died in the castle of Sligo. In 1383 and 1384 "an awful and very fatal plague raged," as also in 1398 and 1424. In 1438 "the abbot of Kilnamanagh and Nicholas O'Meeny, vicar of Castleconnor, died of the plague," which appears to have been equally virulent the following year, as "The Four Masters" narrate that "Donogh, the son of O'Dowd, *i.e.* Teige; Conor, son of Donal, the son of Cormac MacDonogh; his wife, the daughter of Teige MacDonogh; the vicar of *Imleach-Iseal*; Donogh, the son of Tomaltach O'Bolan—all died of the plague." In 1447 "a great plague raged in the summer and harvest," and in 1464 there was another outbreak. In 1478 "a great plague was imported by a ship which entered the port of Ballyshannon." In 1488 the plague raged in Ros-

common and spread into Sligo. In 1489 the plague "was so virulent that many persons were left unburied." In 1492 was prevalent the "sweating sickness"—the *Ephmera Sudatoria* of some writers, but more commonly known as the *Sudor Anglicus*, or English sweat. The disease was supposed to have been produced by the use of unsound wheat—the result of bad seasons—and accounts are given of violent tempests and torrents of rain which deluged the land. Dreadful epidemics prevailed in the years 1523 and 1525, whilst in 1528 there was a recurrence of the "Sweating Sickness." In 1536 "many diseases and distempers raged," and also again in 1572.

In the early ages leprosy was by no means a rare disease in Ireland; it is stated that on more than one occasion it broke out as a regular epidemic, and leper hospitals were established in various localities. "There is a place in the parish of Cloonoghill in Sligo" remarks P. W. Joyce, "called Flower-hill, which is a strange transformation of the proper Irish name *Cnoc a' lobhair*, hill of the leper. This change, which was made by translating *cnoc* to *hill*, and by turning *lobhair* (lour) to *flower*, totally hides the meaning. It is to be observed that the fact of *lobhair* being singular in a name does not exclude the supposition of a leper hospital."

It was in the year 1433 that occurred the season designated "the summer of the slight acquaintance," for no one would recognize either friend or acquaintance on account of the soreness of the famine. There was scarcity of food in 1497, so that great numbers died, and the survivors had but the vilest of garbage on which to support life; whilst in 1545 "sixpence of the old money was paid for the loaf in Connaught;" and in 1582 there was another season of dearth.

The frequent recurrence of these latter calamities seems to have been to some extent diminished by the introduction into the country of the potato, which took place about 1586 to 1588. The potato stayed for a time the almost periodical famines; but even prior to the commencement of the eighteenth century notices are to be met with of partial blights and disease of that tuber. The first recorded failure of the potato in Sligo occurred



in the year 1739; the crop in 1746 was again bad, for it is stated that between the 10th and 14th June two ships arrived in the port with barley and oatmeal, which lowered the price of those commodities; provisions then became very plenty, and salmon sold for a penny a pound.

In 1750, 1765, 1770, 1779, and 1784, the population suffered severely by placing their dependence on the potato crop; the most intense pressure being felt in 1765, when the scarcity was so great that a Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to inquire into the best way of averting a famine. A medalet, struck in brass and stamped SLIGO SOUP TICKET—of which fig. 10 is a representation—is reputed to have been made towards the close of the century, when soup-shops were opened under Government to relieve the then prevalent distress of the poor. Other “Tickets” differing slightly in lettering have also come under notice.



Fig. 10.  
Obverse of SLIGO  
SOUP TICKET.  
Reverse -- blank,  
(full size).

Again in 1802, 1812, 1816, 1817, and 1821, the tuber was either deficient or almost wholly destroyed. In 1822 there was a severe famine, and 40,000 persons were said to have been then in actual want. There were also several partial failures of the crop between the years 1823 and 1846.

Thus it will be seen that the famine of 1846–8 was no novel scourge; but it fell on the country at a period when its population had increased to such a degree that it could only be supported by the potato, and when it failed starvation became inevitable.

Famine and pestilence may be said to be almost synonymous expressions. Thus we learn that in 1816 and 1817 small-pox made fearful inroads amongst the population, whilst numbers died of a malignant fever; and on the 24th May 1822, it was stated, in a letter from Sligo, that “fever stalks upon the heels of famine; we cannot accommodate the sick. The type of the fever is at present more malignant, and its duration longer than in 1817.” The malady often ran its

course from twenty-seven to thirty days, leaving the survivor in impaired health for weeks.

The fields were untilled, and in the preceding year there had been a total failure of the flax crop, thereby adding to the calamities of the poor. In the months of June and July, the peasantry along the coast supported life chiefly on sea-weed and shell-fish, picked up by them on the shore. This severe distress was caused by the total failure of the potato crop, owing to heavy rains which lasted for many months, beginning at the close of the previous year. There was also a great mortality among cattle, probably arising from the same cause.

An eye-witness thus describes Sligo, in the month of May, 1822:—"It would be impossible for you to conceive or me to describe the state of the poor among us: the most appalling description would fall far short of the reality. To know all, you should put your head into a cabin, containing perhaps ten or fifteen squalid inhabitants who had fasted forty-eight hours; hear the cries of the children, behold the tears of the mother, and the worn, heavy countenance of the father, who has neither work to do, nor strength to do it. With all that can be done, numbers must die of hunger, and disease resulting from it. The prospects of another year are gloomy in consequence of the ground remaining unplanted for want of seed potatoes. We are anxiously expecting an importation of them from the bounty offered by Government."

A meeting was held in the City of London for the purpose of raising subscriptions for the relief of distress in Ireland. It would appear that the distressed districts were equal in extent to one-half of the superficial contents of the Kingdom; Sligo was in the scheduled area, and was credited with a population of 127,000. The difference between this famine and the subsequent visitation of 1845 to 1848 was, that although the potato crop failed, the grain was generally good. The food distress in the County became very apparent in the commencement of May; in the middle of the month a bounty of 10s. per ton was paid on the importation of seed potatoes into the port; and at the close of the month a meeting of the County gentry was convened



by the High Sheriff at the request of O. Wynne, Abraham Martin, Alex. Perceval, Wm. Parke, Wm. Duke, and Wm. Faussett in order to take steps to alleviate the sufferings of the poor. The meeting, amongst other measures, appointed parochial committees to manage the affairs of each parish, to inquire into the state of the poor, and to apply for subscriptions and contributions; it was also arranged that the parochial committees should report once a fortnight to the general committee, and the latter applied to Government for a grant to give employment to the poor by the making and repairing of the public roads.

Those parts of the town in which the poor principally resided were divided into four districts, "and gentlemen were deputed to visit them purposely to ascertain the extent of distress actually existing, with power to give relief on the spot, to a certain amount, in cases of such urgent distress as would not admit of a few days' delay."

The following are the names of the Committee for Relief of the Distressed Poor in the Town and the Union of St. John's:—

"O. Wynne, M. P.; Wm. Faussett, Provost of Sligo; Abraham Martin; I. Everard; Wm. C. Armstrong, Protestant clergyman of Sligo; John O'Connor, Roman Catholic clergyman; James Cochran; Wm. Hume; Alexander M'Creery; James Dunleavy, Roman Catholic clergyman; Thomas Mostyn; Wm. Vernon; David Culbertson; Alex. Cochran; Francis O'Beirne; John Scott; Martin Madden, Treasurer; Wm. Urwick, Secretary."

District committees were authorized, on certain conditions, to grant small loans to tradesmen and mechanics incapable of pursuing their occupations through want of money; similar assistance also to be given to females who had not the means of buying flax or wool for spinning; gratuitous relief of food or seed potatoes to be afforded only in cases where no possible means of purchasing lay within reach, or where the recipients were absolutely incapable of work through age or sickness.

Fresh potato seed having been imported, planting was continued even up to the end of June, owing to the exertions of the "Committee for the Relief of the Poor, who distributed potatoes

to the most necessitous, for that purpose, as well as for immediate consumption." Owing to the abundant supply, the price of oatmeal fell from 5s. a peck to 15s. per 120lbs.; but a great evil continued to exist, namely, want of employment for the poor, who could not purchase provisions, even if to be had at one-half of the current prices. From that cause, and others arising from the peculiar exigencies of the times, the number of distressed poor had been increased to an unparalleled degree, several hundreds being wholly dependent upon the limited measure of daily support which the circumscribed finances of the local committees enabled them to dispense.

The *Sligo Journal* of June 5th states that the starving population of Drumcliff parish should feel deeply indebted to the exertions of their Vicar, the Rev. John Yeates, who diligently occupied himself in distributing oaten-meal, granted for relief of the poor, and he was aided in that merciful work by a resident gentleman, who himself gave several tons of meal, and further offered to lend money to poor tradespeople in the parish who could procure security for its repayment by easy instalments. The employment of the poor, in any shape, was strongly recommended, as it would be found impracticable to feed them for the ensuing three months unless some proportion of the funds could return by the introduction of industry; the spinning of flax and of wool was, in many places, adopted with much success.

Up to the first week in June £1400 had been received from London, but this only permitted the local committee to distribute relief at the rate of "three-pence a head to purchase provisions and firing for seven days." However, a communication was received from the "Committee for Irish Distress" in London, stating that, on the production of any respectable banker's certificate for the *actual receipt of subscriptions* from the Town of Sligo, the committee in London would remit a sum equal to *half that amount* in aid of the local fund.

E. S. Cooper, M.P., with his usual liberality, desired his name to be inserted for £100 in the list of subscriptions, and gentlemen were appointed to obtain contributions in the town;



the permanent staff of the Sligo Militia gave one day's pay towards the relief of the poor.

According to the testimony of the medical profession, cases of fever were daily increasing in number and malignancy—as evidenced by the numbers in the fever hospital—but the prospect was indeed gloomy if contagion began its ravages among the poor at a period when, from inability to pay for separate dwellings, four or five families were crowded together in hovels, compared with which many a stable might be viewed as a mansion.

The perseverance of the local committee—O. Wynne, M.P.; Abraham Martin, James Soden, Colonel Parke, Rev. C. West, Rev. J. Yeates, Rev. W. C. Armstrong, and William Faussett—amidst their unceasing and painful toil, was much to be admired; as was also that strong principle of subjection to law and regard to the rights of others, which, under such pressing want, preserved the lower classes of the County from acts of violence—for want almost invariably begets disturbance. In the commencement of the distress caution was needful, and a meeting of the magistrates of the County was convened by the High Sheriff “to take into consideration the outrages of an insurrectionary character which had lately been committed in a part of the County, and to deliberate on the most speedy and effectual means of suppressing the same.” The steps taken by the magistrates appear to have had the desired effect, as the County remained in a peaceful condition whilst other less happy portions of the kingdom were a prey to lawlessness and anarchy.

Early in the month of June a large amount in private donations had been received from local sources by the committee, and the Government, through the medium of the Linen Board, gave a grant of flaxseed to the amount of £200 for the benefit of distressed tenants in the County. At the same period also 400 tons of potatoes arrived in the port as a free gift.

One of the district visitors stated that amongst a great number of cottages at which he called about breakfast hour, there were not more than six in which he could observe any

preparation for that meal—there not being even a fire on the hearth.

Upwards of £1000 was collected from local sources, and up to the 29th June the number of persons relieved in the town amounted to 5911; 477 labourers were employed on a new line of road “from Buckley’s Ford<sup>1</sup> to Bayview;” 295 females were employed spinning flax, whilst 237 distressed tradesmen pursued their respective occupations by means of loans of small sums of money on security, thus reducing considerably the number of claimants for gratuitous assistance. The idea of opening a line to be called “The Circular Road,”<sup>2</sup> which could serve no use save the mere temporary employment of the poor, was greatly ridiculed at the time, and it was with much truth alleged that the money might have been laid out to much more advantage in various other ways. The following lines that appeared in the *Sligo Journal* of the period are an example of the criticism of the day:—

“ ‘The Poor Committee’ in their zeal  
 To save each starving wretch,  
 Have plann’d a road, just near the Jail,  
 That he might see *Jack Ketch*.  
 In this a moral may be found,  
 That Poverty’s a sin,  
 That hunger oft takes dangerous ground  
 A scanty meal to win.”

This new road soon ceased to exist, the Grand Jury having thrown out the presentment for its maintenance.

Under the “Act for Employment of the Poor in certain Districts of Ireland,” Alexander Nimmo, a well-known engineer, was appointed to the “Northern District,” which included the Counties of Sligo, Mayo, and Galway. Not only were numerous new lines of communication opened up, but the ad-

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<sup>1</sup> Buckley’s Ford is said to have derived its name from an officer who, in 1691, was killed at this pass by a cannon ball fired from the Green Fort of Sligo, which was then in possession of Sir Teigue O’Regan.

<sup>2</sup> It was also designated “The English Road,” as it was made with British money.



vancement of the fishing industry on the littoral was taken into consideration. In July the following notice appeared :—

“The gentlemen who are interested in the erection of a SAFETY PIER at MULLAGHMORE are requested to signify by letter to Mr. James Walker, Sligo, what sum each person is disposed to subscribe towards that work, which it is intended to proceed on forthwith. The Commissioners of Fishery only contribute one-half of the expense, which has been estimated at £1200 by Mr. Nimmo, Engineer to the Commissioners.”

It would appear as if the Mansion House Committee for relief of the distress in Ireland gave a grant to aid in the erection of the pier at Raughly.

On the 27th July it was stated that the local committee had 11,000 persons depending on them for subsistence, and including wages and every other allowance the ratio of relief which they could afford for each person per diem was very low indeed, and the practice of digging the potato-fields before they could yield their produce was unfortunately becoming very general; indeed it was with the greatest difficulty that the peasantry were prevented from eating the crop when but half grown, and therefore the committee issued a notice stating that any person on the lists for relief who dug potatoes before the 20th August would be at once removed from the relief list, for the practice if persisted in would tend to deprive the poor of means of future subsistence.

The report of the committee for relief of the distressed poor in the town of Sligo, Union of St. John's, dated 28th June, is given as a specimen of these returns (Appendix E). As may be noticed, the recipients of relief were divided into two classes, those who received gratuitous aid and those who earned it; no portion of the wages given for work was paid in *money*, but each labourer received a quantity of oatmeal proportioned to the number of his family and the work performed by him.

The total amount of weekly expenditure for the four Districts was £262 15s. 4d., which for seven weeks amounted to £1839 7s. 4d., the sum that would be required, at the very lowest calculation, to preserve the poor from starvation till

the 20th of August. From the want of seed potatoes, planting was unavoidably delayed, and consequently relief from the growing crop would be much later than usual, not even so soon as the 20th of August, the period calculated upon.

The amount of wages, for overseers' carts employed in conveying materials to the road, for boys engaged in breaking stones, and for masons in repairing walls, was not included in the above.

In the *Life of William Urwick, D.D.*, it is stated that he had been appointed honorary secretary to the relief committee for distribution of English contributions in the town and county; £50,000 is said to have been disbursed in Sligo on works of supposed public utility. When the managers of the London Fund closed the accounts, they had a balance of £40,000 in hand, and this sum was divided amongst the ten Western Counties of Ireland; each local committee was allocated its share, to give money out on loan to assist the linen, woollen, and fishery industries.

A scarcity of provisions in Sligo became very apparent at the commencement of the year 1830, and the peasantry were compelled to travel from remote quarters of the country, ten, fifteen, or twenty miles, in order to purchase a stone of meal in the town; there was, in short, a recurrence of a period of scarcity almost as great as in the year 1822. The price of potatoes rose to nearly 3s. a peck of 4 stone; oatmeal stood at 20s. per cwt.; fuel of every description attained an unprecedented high price; coals rose to 22s. a ton, and in May, 1831, potatoes had to be imported into Sligo.

In the autumn of that year quarantine regulations were enforced in the port against ships from foreign parts, and alarmed by the accounts of the slow but sure advance of the Asiatic cholera, the vestry of St. John's, on the 22nd November, voted the sum of £200 to be expended for sanitary purposes, and officers of health were appointed. Sligo was indeed ripe for an attack of the epidemic. There were but a few short sewers in the town, and they all discharged into the river, the water of which was used by the inhabitants for drinking and culinary



purposes. So early as 1826 the Doctors had pronounced the water in the pump in Tubbergal-lane to be unfit for use, whilst in 1828 other wells had been closed as being unsanitary; in March, 1832, stagnant water had collected in several places, which had to be drained off by the Commissioners.

It appeared at first as if Sligo would be exempted from the dread visitation of the cholera; Galway, Tuam, Ballinrobe, Castlebar, and Mullingar had been stricken, but there was seemingly a pause in the advance of the fell disease; yet finally Sligo suffered more severely than any other town in Ireland, and was specially remarkable for the number of medical men that were carried off by that malady.

The first case of cholera was seen on the 29th July, 1832, but the people "threatened vengeance against the medical men who reported the fact." On the 11th of August, however, there could no longer be any doubt of its presence amongst them; its appearance had been preceded by thunder and lightning, accompanied with a hot, close atmosphere. A "Board of Superintendence" consisting of thirteen members was formed to look after affairs in the Borough during the epidemic, but they could effect *little to stay the ravages of the pestilence, except by trying to* enforce cleanliness, proper ventilation, and the precautions which were then thought of use to ward off the attack.

The present Fever Hospital, being situated on an eminence at a short distance from the town, and detached from other buildings, was considered the most suitable place to be devoted to the reception of cholera patients, and the rapidity with which the unhappy victims were carried off rendered it essential that a large supply of coffins should always be in readiness. These were placed in great numbers on the field behind the hospital, and the fresh wood of which they were composed stood out in strong relief on the deep green sod of the hill, from which the ground sloped away on every side, thus rendering the ghastly pile of coffins plainly observable at a distance of two or three miles. It was no uncommon thing in those direful days to see persons who had fallen victims to the terrible malady lying dead in the streets; these corpses were wrapped in sheets smeared

with pitch, to prevent the spread of the disease, and were removed by the cholera-carts employed by the Board of Superintendence; some of the bodies were confined and some were not, for in the beginning the supply of coffins was far short of the demand.<sup>1</sup>

The first appearance of cholera in Sligo found the medical men quite ignorant of the real nature of the disease, and therefore their treatment of it varied according to the judgment formed by each. In those days, the use of the lancet was looked on as a sovereign remedy in almost every malady, and bleeding was approved of by some practitioners: such was the treatment resorted to, by his own desire, in the case of Dr. Coyne, on his showing symptoms of this dreaded scourge. He sank rapidly, despite the frequent after-administration of stimulants. "Ah!" said he, just before the end, "this is not the right treatment; it is like knocking a man down with a blow of the fist, and then extending your little finger to help him up again."

With respect to the influence of locality on the disease in the town, it is noteworthy that in some of the best streets, such as Stephen-street, Knox's-street, Ratcliffe-street, the epidemic appeared in its most virulent form in almost every house on the side immediately adjoining the river, whilst on the opposite side the cases were less severe and comparatively few in number. In Stephen-street, on the side next the river, four generations lay dead at the same time in one house, and of its inmates there remained only one survivor.

The general silence which prevailed in the town was specially noticeable, the footsteps of those running to seek medical aid, or the hurried footfall of the medical men, were the principal sounds heard, the only other movement being the carrying of the dead to their last resting-place, or the rumble of the hearse conveying

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<sup>1</sup> A gentleman who spent the greater portion of his life in India stated that in one virulent outbreak of cholera, he observed natives who whilst in the act of working in the fields apparently in good health, were suddenly struck down; complained of giddiness, deafness, loss of sight, and expired in a few minutes; soldiers attacked on the march have been known to die in the course of a couple of hours.



the remains of those of somewhat better social position ; whilst the air was impregnated with the odour emitted by tar-barrels burning at the corners of the streets. A person who well remembers these terrible scenes states that not a voice was to be heard in the streets; the birds appeared to have ceased to sing, and the sparrows to chirp : indeed the absence of the feathered tribe was most remarkable.<sup>1</sup> The streets were deserted, and before the termination of the epidemic they were almost as green as the fields.

Up to the close of September cholera lingered on in the town, but so early as the beginning of the month seven skilful medical practitioners and physicians had succumbed, and at the close of the visitation eleven medical men in all were stated to have fallen victims to it. So great were the ravages that a native of the place who was quartered in India at the time, saw there a newspaper paragraph with the heading "Sligo is no more."

A prominent member of the profession at this period was Dr. Irwin; he had been with the army during the Peninsular war, and the Waterloo campaign: he was promoted to the rank of *Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals*, and in 1817 was placed on half-pay, and appointed surgeon to the Military at Sligo. He was indefatigable in superintendence of the cholera hospital, and witnessed the death of many of his old professional friends who had been associated with him in that duty; amongst them may be mentioned Doctors Coyne and Bell. It is related that the former, a few days before his death, happened to pass a friend's house on his way to one of his numerous patients, when he observed the cholera-cart waiting before the door,<sup>2</sup> and on inquiry he was told that his friend was dead. He was astonished at this announcement, having seen him in full

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<sup>1</sup> The disappearance of birds has also been noticed in the East on the outbreak of this epidemic.

<sup>2</sup> It was no uncommon occurrence for the cholera-cart to be kept waiting at the door of a house in which a person was attacked by the cholera until the patient was dead, for in the early part of the epidemic people succumbed to the disease in a short time.

vigour but a few hours previously. He entered the house, and found people preparing to place the supposed corpse in a coffin. Coyne examined the body, discovered some faint sign of life; the man was consequently replaced in bed, restoratives applied, and finally he survived for many years after his rescuer had himself succumbed to the epidemic.

Many stories are recounted of persons being carried off to be buried whilst still alive, but this may in many instances be accounted for by the fact that the algide surface of the body, a short time after death becomes again heated, and there is muscular movement; this curious phenomenon was observed in many other localities afflicted by the cholera. In reply to an inquiry on this point from a physician of eminence, he stated:—“It is true that in cases of cholera the surface is icy cold, but when death relaxes the condition of the skin, the hot blood from the interior of the body does impart much heat for some time after death; movements of the muscular fibres of the chest and arms can all be excited in certain cases: of course so long as any trace of action continues, *that part* is not really dead, but it is certain *the patient* is.”

At the outbreak of the cholera in Sligo, all who could do so removed from the town, the population being reduced, it is alleged, to under four thousand; but a vast number of the poorer classes, who fled into the neighbouring country, were looked on by the peasantry as disseminators of the scourge then afflicting the town, and they refused to house these refugees, or even supply them with the ordinary necessaries of life. Accordingly they sought protection in ditches, or any sheltered nook they could find, and as nothing could induce them to return to the town, food was given for their use by the committee appointed for that purpose: however, as might be expected, from the hardships to which they were exposed, whiskey came to be regarded as the great panacea, and this despite their poverty, they managed in some way to procure, so that drunkenness became very prevalent, and it was said that those who gave way to that vice fell ready victims to the cholera on their first return to sobriety.



The newspapers of the time state that the country people of the neighbourhood, in various directions, were acting in a most outrageous manner on the high roads; they cut the ropes of carriers, stopped provisions on the way to the town, insulted and interrupted those who rode, walked, or drove out for exercise or on business; thus severe want was being felt in the town, and the miserable remnant of the population were threatened by their neighbours with a blockade and famine, following on the fearful visitation of God. Some gentlemen on horseback were insulted near Ballincar, where a wall had been built across the road to prevent the passage of people from the town; in other directions, trenches were cut across the highways; a carrier from Enniskillen was forced to turn back, but it is needless to enumerate the many similar cases that occurred; the daily coach between Dublin and Sligo, however, seems to have been allowed to proceed unimpeded, and handbills were therefrom distributed along the route giving details of the ravages of the epidemic.<sup>1</sup>

The period of the cholera visitation was one which brought into prominence the distinctive traits in the character of public officials. Some few fled; but the majority behaved in an exemplary manner, so much so, that when it was proposed

<sup>1</sup> CHOLERA.—*Daily Numerical Report of Cases for the TOWN and DISTRICT of SLIGO.*

DATE.	Remaining at last Report.	New Cases.	Dead.	Recovered.	Remaining this Day at 11 o'Clock.
<i>Augt. 21</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>167</i>
	<i>The foregoing includes the HOSPITAL REPORT, viz.</i>				
	<i>29</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>40</i>
FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE DISEASE, ON 11th AUGUST, 1832.			<i>Signed,</i>  <i>Wm. Allen, Assist. Secretary.</i>		
<i>CASES.</i>	<i>DIED.</i>				
<i>610</i>	<i>278</i>				

to present a testimonial to one gentleman, who had been indefatigable in his exertions, it was remarked that he had only done his duty, and that if given to him, it would have to be given to all. The Commissioners for improving the Town and Harbour of Sligo, in this respect however, showed a good example, for at a meeting held on 26th November the salary of two of their officers was considerably reduced, in consequence of their having deserted their duty "during the awful period when the town was visited with cholera." On the other hand, it was resolved that "John Williams and Robert Boyd, town and harbour constables, do receive the sum of three pounds each in consequence of the manly and faithful manner in which they discharged their duty and conducted themselves during the period of cholera in the town." All regular business had been suspended; for example, the secretary of the Commissioners wrote on the 28th November to express his regret at not sooner replying to a letter, as the Board had only just met "for the purpose of arranging business that should have been done in August."

As the pestilence abated, people began to breathe more freely, and to inquire into the details of calamity throughout the town. It was long, however, before affairs resumed their wonted course, so many individuals had been removed, who were formerly found at the head of every movement in their respective walks of life. Business was partially resumed, and the streets began to wear once more an appearance of life; but a person who visited Sligo at a late period of the year (1832) stated that with respect to the air and atmosphere of the town, he was convinced, from personal sensation, that it was pestiferous and deadly, for when passing to the Courthouse from M'Bride's—now the Imperial—Hotel, a singularly disagreeable odour was perceptible, such as might be noticed in dirty anatomical dissecting rooms, or in confined places crowded with blacks in a state of perspiration; it was no fancy, for whenever the above-mentioned locality was reached he became peculiarly sensible of it. Very many corpses had been buried in the Abbey-grounds, where there was scarcely clay enough to cover the coffins, whilst in the Churchyard of



St. John's, about eighty bodies were deposited without the trouble having been taken of digging deep; whereas a cholera corpse should be covered with quite six feet of earth. Great numbers of all denominations were buried in the ground behind the Fever Hospital, but of course the bodies and coffins had, under medical supervision, as a general rule, been carefully and properly put down at a sufficient depth. This place is still known as "The Cholera Field"; it was unenclosed until the year 1848, when it was surrounded by a well-built wall, and across the enclosure runs the mound which marks the site of the "Cholera Trench."

A return is given of the cases admitted to, and the numbers who actually died within, the hospital. The gross totals are specified, but unfortunately the first and some intermediate portions of the tabular statement are missing. It is impossible to ascertain the actual number of deaths that occurred within the precincts of the Borough, for there appears to have been no regular system of registration observed beyond the bounds of the hospital and the registry of St. John's; no doubt, however, the number furnished in the returns here given would be considerably increased if the burials which took place in the Abbey were added to them, for many contemporaneous observers were of opinion that more were interred there than at the hospital. The numbers who actually died of the epidemic have been variously estimated. It is thought the statement that "out of a population of about 15,000 the cholera carried off 1500," is not far from the true facts of the case; but it is to be noted that out of the above nominal population, not more than four or at most five thousand remained.

To ensure uniformity, the return of deaths in the hospital was always made out at the same hour, namely, 11 o'clock, a.m. In the first fortnight after the outbreak of cholera, 449 people died in the hospital—being at the rate of about 225 per week; but it is probable that the majority of these fatal cases occurred in the first seven days, for cholera appears to be subject to the same laws that regulate the outbreak, course, and termination of other epidemics, *i.e.* it is more fatal at its

commencement, and becomes less virulent after its first energy has been expended.

In the third week 124 died, the fourth week 52, the fifth week 11, the sixth week 4, after which there appears to have been no other fatal cases in the hospital; the total number admitted being 1229 and the deaths 640, a fraction more than half of those attacked succumbed to the disease.

Date.	Remain- ing last Report.	New Cases.	Died.	Re- covered.	Remain- ing this day.
Aug. 25, Saturday, .	89	59	41	22	83
" 26, Sunday, .	83	28	28	21	62
" 27, Monday, .	62	29	18	20	53
" 28, Tuesday, .	53	20	16	13	44
" 29, Wednesday, .	44	15	14	12	33
" 30, Thursday, .	33	15	7	13	28
" 31, Friday, .	28	17	4	10	31 <sup>1</sup>
Sept. 1, Saturday, .	31	21	12	10	30
" 2, Sunday, .	30	10	13	6	21
" 3, Monday, .	21	12	9	6	18
" 4, Tuesday, .	18	8	4	4	18
" 5, Wednesday, .	18	10	5	8	15
" 6, Thursday, .	15	8	4	7	12
" 7, Friday, .	12	4	5	3	8 <sup>2</sup>
Sept. 14, Friday, .	7	1	1	2	5 <sup>3</sup>
Sept. 21, Friday, .	6	0	0	2	4 <sup>4</sup>
Sept. 28, Friday, .	6	0	0	2	4 <sup>5</sup>

The following record of burials in the churchyard of St. John's from 11th August to the 7th September, 1832, is extracted from the Parish books; only four other deaths were registered during the year, making a gross total of 83. The bill

<sup>1</sup> Total cases since the commencement of the disease on the 11th August, 1832, 1117; total deaths, 573.

<sup>2</sup> Total cases since the commencement of the disease on the 11th August, 1832, 1190; total deaths, 625.

<sup>3</sup> Total cases since the commencement of the disease on the 11th August, 1832, 1213; total deaths, 636.

<sup>4</sup> Total cases since the commencement of the disease on the 11th August, 1832, 1224; total deaths, 640.

<sup>5</sup> Total cases since the commencement of the disease on the 11th August, 1832, 1229; total deaths, 640. NO NEW CASE.



paid by the Vestry of St. John's for "Coffin Boards" to one contractor alone amounted to nearly £25.

Date.	No. buried.	Date.	No. buried.
August 11, . .	2	August 24, . .	4
" 12, . .	2	" 25, . .	3
" 14, . .	1	" 26, . .	1
" 15, . .	1	" 27, . .	2
" 16, . .	12	" 28, . .	2
" 17, . .	5	" 29, . .	4
" 18, . .	4	" 30, . .	1
" 19, . .	5	September 1, . .	6
" 20, . .	2	" 2, . .	1
" 21, . .	8	" 3, . .	1
" 22, . .	2	" 4, . .	2
" 23, . .	7	" 7, . .	1
TOTAL, . . . . .		79	

The village of Ballysodare suffered very severely, and from the first outbreak of the cholera in that locality to its final disappearance, it is estimated that nearly one hundred deaths took place in the village and its immediate vicinity: the scenes in Sligo were here reproduced in a minor degree; the country people drew a cordon round the devoted hamlet and prevented all egress, but the neighbouring village of Collooney escaped both in the year 1832, and also upon the reappearance of the malady in 1849. In 1834 there was a slight return of cholera, which, however, appears to have attacked only the country villages; and in Easky five deaths having occurred in one day the inhabitants deserted it in the commencement of October.

"Nowhere in Ireland," writes Inglis, "did cholera rage with such deadly violence as in Sligo; and I found, in the year 1834, in the town when I visited it, the greatest dread of its reappearance, a few cases having appeared at Ballina and in some of the neighbouring villages."

After the disappearance of cholera, a virulent kind of fever prevailed in Sligo, and was almost as fatal as the former; in February, 1837, there was an outbreak of influenza, and in April, 1842, fever was prevalent throughout the county.

There was a partial failure of the potato crop in 1845, and in the autumn and winter there was great dearth of employment; a committee appointed by the Town and Harbour Commissioners to inquire into matters in the borough, reported that 2400 persons were unemployed. In 1846 food riots occurred; and in the spring of that year, committees for relief of the poor were established, and works of public utility were undertaken, for the purpose of giving employment to the destitute. There were violent thunderstorms in the summer, and towards the end of July there could be little doubt but that a second failure of the potato-crop must occur; and at a somewhat later period, when the scanty produce of the harvest was secured, the prospect of starvation, like a spectre, struck dread into the hearts of all. The rural population were in a worse plight than the townspeople by the sudden destruction of their accustomed food, of which as much could formerly be had for 4*d.* or 6*d.* a peck of four stone as 2*s.* 6*d.* could then purchase of oatmeal or flour.

In December the committee recommended that extraordinary steps should be taken to alleviate the widely-prevalent distress, as the mercantile supply of food in Sligo was totally inadequate to meet the demand, "deaths from starvation having already occurred in the neighbourhood," and many were said to be fast wasting to mere skeletons.

Soup-kitchens were opened in various localities, and these were principally supported by private subscriptions; in Upper Leyny alone, nine soup-kitchens were kept up at a weekly expenditure of £75. "In the district of Achonry, containing 20,000 souls, one half were receiving rations in the month of June; and forty corpses, the wretched remains of persons who had succumbed to starvation, were awaiting the coroner (at one time) in the district of Magherowe."

The then rector of Ballymote is credited with having secured the earliest assistance for his parishioners during the first year of this famine. He had written to the committee in Dublin, praying for *instant* relief, and in reply received a letter which commenced "we are thinking," &c.; his laconic retort had the



effect of speedily procuring the needful supplies; it was simply "while you are thinking, we are starving."

The manner in which the overplus of the food supplies, accumulated to meet the demands occasioned by the famine of 1846-8, was disposed of in Sligo, appears to have rankled in the minds of the merchants even so late as the year 1861, as evidenced in the address presented to Sir Robert Peel in that year, wherein it is stated that "the commissariat which refused to sell or part with any of its food-stores when called upon by the public bodies here, while provisions were scarce, and prices high—when the famine had done its work, and ample supplies had been imported, then entered into competition with the merchants, glutted the markets, reduced prices of food to one-third of the cost, and ruined the enterprising importers."

Observers of later date may, however, arrive at the conclusion that the Government officials acted for the best, that it was in fact to prevent a sudden rise in price after Governmental aid had been withdrawn, that they threw their stores on the public markets, and although it may have had injurious effect on merchants speculating for a rise, yet the exceptional circumstances of the case seem to justify their action.

The total of presentments made in the county for the relief works of 1846-8 was £217,802, and it was estimated that 306 miles of new roads were made; many of these were, however, not kept up.

During the year of famine, instructions to the peasantry were issued by Government, suggesting means by which (if carried out) it was hoped that the future progress of disease in the potato might possibly be arrested: the majority of the population, however, refused to adopt any precautionary measure, "but preferred to have 'holy water' sprinkled over the potato-pits, feeling quite convinced that if the blessed liquid failed nothing else could avail."

A virulent fever, consequent on the sufferings of the people, broke out in March, 1847; and even before that date, between fifty and sixty interments had already taken place in the new burial-ground. At the close of the year 1848, when the terrors

of the visitation were yet fresh, and the inhabitants of the town were thoroughly alarmed at the prospect of another epidemic of cholera, a "Sanitary Association" was appointed to inquire into matters and make a report thereon; that report was simply appalling, the sources of water-supply being all more or less polluted; in one instance decomposed blood, percolating from a slaughter-yard into a well, was distinctly observable, and one pump received the drainage from the Abbey, another that from the churchyard. "A host of inquirers of the highest eminence and repute in this department of science have established the fact, beyond controversy, that one of the most frequent and fertile causes of some of our most dreaded and fatal diseases, cholera and typhoid or enteric fever, for example, as well as of innumerable minor and chronic derangements of health, principally affecting the digestive system, is the contamination of our drinking and cooking water by the admixture of various organic impurities and poisons (animal and vegetable) derived from the sewage of towns, or slowly percolating through a porous soil into the adjacent wells, springs, rivers, and lakes."

It was a peculiarity attending the second visitation of cholera in Sligo, that the town itself was, comparatively speaking, but slightly affected. The country districts, however, suffered severely. Dr. Thomas Little, the County Surgeon, was one of the first victims; he was attacked whilst in the hospital, was too ill to be removed to his own residence, and died in a neighbouring house. In recognition of his zeal, some of his admirers, in 1852, decided on erecting a memorial to him, which took the form of a marble bust, executed by Barter, a then well-known young sculptor, and when finished the bust was placed in the entrance hall of the County Infirmary.

The first patient attacked by cholera in 1849 was brought to the hospital on the 29th May, and died the same day; but between the 18th and 22nd August, 166 patients were admitted to the hospital and hospital sheds: the former provided 50, and the latter 100 beds. Of the patients 98 died, but 68 recovered. The epidemic ceased as abruptly as it had commenced.

Dr. Mapother, at one time Medical Officer of Health to the



Dublin Corporation, and subsequently President of the Royal College of Surgeons, was of opinion that the mortality in the town of Sligo from the cholera in the year 1832 was as 1 in 12; for the year 1849 one in 27. Some consider that the mortality from the former epidemic is somewhat under, and from the latter, somewhat over-estimated by him.

Fever raged both before and after the cholera, and up to the 18th August, 1849, nearly 500 patients had been taken into the hospital; whilst numbers who could not be received lay along the roadside under temporary shelter, in the immediate neighbourhood, awaiting their turn; and the Infirmary porter who was in the habit of supplying these sufferers with water, caught the fever and died.

Tubbercurry, Tubberscanavan, and other villages suffered severely from the malady; whilst the reports from the townland of Dunfore, on the Lissadell Estate, were simply appalling: one person stated in the public press that on the roadside he saw four coffins, in some of which the corpses had lain for two or three days, as nobody would bury them.

In Sligo the Abbey burial-ground remained closed for about six months—during which period the ornamental railings in front of it were erected—when the Mayor was solicited as a special favour to grant leave for the interment of a well-known citizen; this being done, the local magistrates acted subsequently on the opinion that all families having burial-places in the Abbey should have permission to inter there as soon as the epidemic had quite disappeared: a magistrate's order, however, had to be produced. The place once opened, applications from all sides poured in, and the result was a reversion to the old state of things.

In the year 1854 there was a slight outbreak of cholera, whilst in 1866 two cases occurred, produced, it was alleged, by drinking water drawn from near where a sewer discharged into the river. In January and February, 1875, a virulent type of small-pox broke out in the village of Tubbercurry and its neighbourhood. The disease was alleged to have been imported into the locality by some itinerant quacks from the County Mayo, who

spread the infection by inoculation, and thus was revived a terrible epidemic which had been long and successfully kept under by means of the Compulsory Vaccination Act. One of the quacks was tried, found guilty and sentenced to five years penal servitude. On this subject *The Medical Press and Circular* of that date observed:—"The state of the West of Ireland, as regards the prevalence of small-pox, is a pitiable illustration of the incompetency of the law to deal with an offence perpetrated in the face of day, and hardly even denied by the guilty parties. The inoculation mania in Connaught has, in the last three months cost 222 lives, and most of the registrars of that Province refer to its prevalence in their districts, and to the terrible misery caused by it."

In May, 1877, there was a slight outbreak of typhoid fever in the town; and in the autumn there was a failure of the potato crop, as also again in 1878, in which year during an epidemic of small-pox many cases of a malignant type were admitted to hospital. In the autumn of 1886 there was a severe outbreak of scarlatina in the Knocknarea district.

In the autumn of 1879 the potato crop was again almost an entire failure owing to the inclemency of the season and continuous rains. The flood was so great as to cause the river in the town to become heavily swollen between the Upper and Lower Weirs; over the former a seething mass of rolling waters poured, submerging many of the houses on each side, and at the Lower Weir the rush of such a volume of water presented a wonderful spectacle. All through the county incalculable mischief was wrought, valleys were transformed into lakes, the turf supply was seriously injured as well as the potatoes, and thus three successive bad seasons inflicted great suffering on all, but more especially on the small farmers.

There were in the Sligo Union over 500 persons, including children, in receipt of outdoor relief, costing at the rate of £1300 per annum.

The Lissadell West and Magherowe districts were in a sad state of destitution, and large tracts in Tireragh were in the same condition. At this critical juncture the Duchess of



Marlborough interested herself in forming a central committee to collect funds for distribution amongst the destitute in the West and South of Ireland, and a similar charitable work was commenced in London. In the spring of 1880 the distress in the County Sligo became severe and wide-spread; emigration, however, had to some extent lessened the evils of scarcity by diminishing the superabundant population, else sufferings as great as in 1822 or 1847 might have resulted.

With Government money new varieties of seed potatoes were introduced by the local authorities, and distributed to the small farmers, who received them by way of loan—the expense repayable by instalments. Money was also advanced by Government on easy terms, and Special Baronial Sessions were held, at which numerous presentments were passed, principally for the opening of new lines of road, useful in themselves as well as affording occupation to those in need of employment, and a few fishing-piers also were erected.

Early in 1883 there was severe distress in the island of Innismurray, and the steamer “Redwing” was placed at the disposal of the Local Government Board. In consequence of very stormy weather, several abortive attempts were made before provisions could be landed, and the risk of starvation thus averted, for even under favourable circumstances this island can with difficulty support its inhabitants.

Emigration set in again in full force—one steamer alone carried off from the quay upwards of 100 persons bound for “the far West.” To account for the present great diminution of the population a cause must be sought other than the ordinary death-rate or the thinning of the number of inhabitants by famine, fever, or pestilence. This cause is clearly to be traced to emigration. The population in the County Sligo, according to the Census of 1659, was 6877; the barony of Carbury contained 1398 souls; Tireragh, a total of 1495; Tirerrill, 1389; Corran, 1107; Leyny, 1181; the half barony of Coolavin, 307. Even from the scant population of the 18th century there was a slight but steady exodus. In 1778, Arthur Young states, “there were some emigrations to America, but not considerable; some of

them have come back again." From 1760 to 1792, the population had nearly doubled; in 1820 there was a constant, steady stream of emigrants, increased by the privations of 1822, whilst, in 1830, the stream may be said to have become a torrent. On one day in the month of May, three vessels cleared out of the port with emigrants for America, and hundreds were waiting in Sligo for the sailing of other vessels which were fitting up. In June of the same year three sailing ships left with 500 emigrants; there was even a greater stir in 1831—the year anterior to the cholera. It was stated that in April of that year, thirteen vessels were in port for the conveyance of passengers to British America and the States, and several others were daily expected. Many respectable families were preparing to leave the town, which was crowded with country people awaiting the sailing of vessels. Up to 31st August thirty vessels had left Sligo with a total of 4495 souls.

From January to April, 1832, thirteen vessels left the port with 4086 emigrants, but no further departures are recorded, emigration being checked by the outbreak of cholera. In 1834, however, the current set in again in full force, and in April there were no less than thirty vessels advertised to start from the port during the summer season. From 1st January to 1st May, 1835, 750 persons had left; six vessels sailed from the quay during one week in the month of June, 1836; whilst, in 1838, the total number of emigrants that left was 1284, in eleven ships, of which the average tonnage was but about 200 tons! The tide of emigration was directed to the British possessions in America, no vessel having cleared out for the United States. In 1839 the exodus continued, and in 1840 Sir Robert Gore Booth fitted out a ship for a number of his tenants on the townland of Ballygilgan. In the year 1845, from January to July, 2142 emigrants left the port. From "Sligo and the outposts"—which probably comprised Ballina—a Return of Emigration for the period, commencing in 1847 and ending in 1850, is as follows:—1146 emigrants sailed for the United States in the year 1847, and 11,904 for British America; in 1848 the numbers were 747 and 2331, respectively; 1665 emigrants sailed for the



United States, and 2313 for British America in the year 1849; whilst in 1850 the numbers were 1009 and 1395, respectively: thus making a total of 4567 emigrants to the States and 17,943 to British America during the four years above named.

These items will convey some faint idea of the vast exodus which was continuously going on. Unfortunately, no regular statistics appear to have been kept until the year 1851, from which date, however, the returns are accurate. From 1851-4 there were about 7750 emigrants.

Year.	No.	Year.	No.
1855, . .	1161	1873, . .	2210
1856, . .	881	1874, . .	963
1857, . .	1154	1875, . .	553
1858, . .	602	1876, . .	316
1859, . .	645	1877, . .	263
1860, . .	934	1878, . .	473
1861, . .	698	1879, . .	706
1862, . .	738	1880, . .	3727
1863, . .	1516	1881, . .	2565
1864, . .	1614	1882, . .	2411
1865, . .	985	1883, . .	4233
1866, . .	1706	1884, . .	2255
1867, . .	1761	1885, . .	2005
1868, . .	905	1886, . .	1684
1869, . .	950	1887, . .	2938
1870, . .	1113	1888, . .	2125
1871, . .	1151	1889, . .	1746
1872, . .	1344	1890, . .	1680

Making, from the year 1851 to 1890, a total of about 60,467 persons, being an average of 1511·67 for each year.

An examination of the above return demonstrates that a good or bad agricultural season is marked in the subsequent year, by the respective decrease or increase of emigration.

The estimated population of the county was 6877 in the

year 1659; 38,736 in 1760; 60,000 in 1792; 119,265 in 1812; 146,229 in 1821; 171,508 in 1831. A tabular statement from 1841 to 1881 is here given :—

Census Year.	BIRTHPLACE.								Total.
	Province of Connaught.		Province of Leinster.	Province of Munster.	Province of Ulster.	Great Britain.		Foreign Countries, &c.	
	Sligo County.	Other Counties.				England and Wales.	Scotland.		
1841	173,277	5074	679	272	1040	276	171	97	180,886
1851	121,623	4833	533	245	739	278	201	63	128,515
1861	117,840	4350	694	323	875	366	250	147	124,845
1871	108,594	4157	633	332	768	516	349	144	115,493
1881	103,898	4435	739	444	908	531	399	224	111,578 <sup>1</sup>

The estimated population of the county for the years named is as follows :—

1883, . . .	103,793.	1887, . . .	97,740.
1885, . . .	101,040.	1888, . . .	96,205.

It will thus be seen that from 1659 to 1841 the population continuously increased, since which period it has continuously declined. Immigration, however, is on the increase; the number of English, Scotch, and Foreigners resident in the county being greater than ever.

The decrease of population in the town of Sligo has taken place, seemingly, amongst the very poorest class. It is difficult

<sup>1</sup> Population of County Sligo by Baronies :—

Barony.	1841.	1861.	1871.	1881.	Decrease per cent., 1841-81.
Carbury, . . .	46,597	33,746	29,930	29,224	37·29
Coolavin, . . .	10,206	8825	8406	8069	20·93
Corran, . . .	18,489	13,330	12,152	11,570	37·42
Leyny, . . .	37,096	27,149	26,166	24,982	32·65
Tireragh, . . .	36,759	22,879	21,857	21,449	41·65
Tirerrill, . . .	31,739	18,916	16,982	16,284	48·69
Total of County,	180,886	124,845	115,493	111,578	38·80



to ascertain the exact numbers at any period within the borough, as the returns appear to have sometimes included the Parliamentary, and sometimes only the Municipal boundary.

MUNICIPAL BOROUGH, *including inmates of Public Institutions.*

Year.	No. of Inhabitants.	Year.	No. of Inhabitants.
1659, . . .	488	1851, . . .	11,047
1812, . . .	7,001	1861, . . .	10,693
1821, . . .	9,283	1871,* . . .	10,670
1831, . . .	15,152	1881, . . .	10,808
1841, . . .	12,272		

PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGH.

1841, . . .	14,318	1861, . . .	12,565†
1851, . . .	14,393‡		

Villages have decreased in nearly the same proportion; Collooney, which in 1841 contained about 650 inhabitants, had in 1881 less than 400. According to the Census of 1881, Ballymote contained 1145; Tubbercurry,§ 1081; Bellahy, 274; Easky, 374; Aclare but 207 souls.

In regard to general healthiness Sligo bears favourable comparison with other portions of the kingdom. According to computation the town was, for the years 1864 to 1867, one of the healthiest in Ireland, the rates of total deaths to population being, in 1864, one in 68·7; in 1865, one in 63·0; in 1866, one in 70·4; in 1867, one in 72·3. In the death-rate registered from 1871 to 1880 the county stands second-lowest on the list of the whole of Ireland, with a death-rate of 14·1 per thousand of the population, the premier county, Mayo, having but 13·9, whilst the County Dublin is credited with 26·2; the average death-rate of the whole of Ireland, from 1879 to 1888, being 18·4.

\* From 1871, the enumeration would appear to include the Parliamentary area.

† Including 2430 inmates of Public Institutions.

‡ Including 750 inmates of Public Institutions.

§ Including 148 inmates of Union Workhouse.

The following Return has been kindly furnished by Dr. T. W. Grimshaw, Registrar-General :—

*Annual Death-rate per 1000 of the Population (in 1881), represented by the Deaths Registered in the County of Sligo (including the town) during each of the six years, 1885-90 :—*

Year.	Death-rate.	Year.	Death-rate.
1885, . . .	13·1	1888, . . .	12·4
1886, . . .	12·6	1889, . . .	12·6
1887, . . .	13·4	1890, . . .	12·2

*Annual Death-rate per 1000 of the Population (in 1881), represented by the Deaths Registered in the Urban Sanitary District, or Municipal Borough of Sligo, during each of the ten years, 1881-90, exclusive of Deaths, in Public Institutions, of persons admitted from other districts, derived from the Weekly Returns furnished by the Registrars : -*

Year.	Death-rate.	Year.	Death-rate.
1881, . . .	18·0	1886, . . .	12·4
1882, . . .	19·2	1887, . . .	18·6
1883, . . .	17·7	1888, . . .	18·5
1884, . . .	13·8	1889, . . .	17·1
1885, . . .	14·8	1890, . . .	19·6

For the week ending 17th May, 1890, the official return in the principal urban sanitary districts of Ireland showed the average death-rate as 21·8 per 1000 inhabitants, Sligo being the lowest, with but 4·8 ; the death-rate in Sligo for the week ending 14th June, 1890, was 14·4 per thousand (it was the same for week ending 28th June), the highest death-rate being 41·0 in Lurgan, the lowest, 8·6, in Wexford.



## CHAPTER XX.

### HISTORY OF THE BOROUGH OF SLIGO TO THE PRESENT TIME.

**T**O make clear the after occurrences in the history of the Borough it may be well to give a brief outline of the most salient features of its charters, and of the various Acts of Parliament which, from time to time, modified or extended the powers of the governing body of the town: the details of each event will be given in historical sequence. The following is a synopsis of the charter of James I. by which Sligo was constituted a Borough:—

By Royal Letters Patent passed 30th March, in the eleventh year of his reign, the king ordained that the town, with all appertaining to it, should be one entire and free Borough of itself, by the name of “the Borough of Sligo,” and that within this Borough there should be one body corporate and politic, consisting of “one Provost, twelve free Burgesses, and the Commonalty,” with powers for all future time to purchase, receive, and possess lands, tenements, and other goods, as well as to dispose of the same; there was a sweeping clause enabling them “to do and execute all and singular other deeds and things,” also that this body so constituted could sue at law and be sued, and that they should have power to elect “two discreet and fit men” to serve in every Parliament.

The king nominated Roger Jones as first Provost of the Borough, and the following as the twelve free Burgesses:—Sir William Taaffe, Knight; John St. Barbe,<sup>1</sup> Edward Crofton,

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<sup>1</sup> Captain John St. Barbe was of the family of St. Barbe, of South Brent, Co. Somerset, whose ancestor Robert de St. Barbe appears on the Roll of Battle Abbey. According to the Fun: Ent: Ulster Office, 1629, Captain St. Barbe bore the arms of the English family. He married Mary, daughter

William Harrison, Hugh Jones, Edmond Braxton, Richard Robinson, Thomas Linseie, John Hopkins, Thomas Gimbell, and William Wilson. These, although elected for life, yet by act of the Corporation itself could be removed for bad conduct or for any reasonable cause.

Powers were granted for re-election of fresh burgesses to vacancies caused by removal, resignation, or death, the election to be held within seven days after the vacancy had occurred. The Provost before the installation, had to take the "oath of supremacy" as well as the ordinary oath; this office was annual and elective, the term being from "The feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist" to "The feast of St. Michael the Archangel."

Liberty was given to hold, on every Tuesday, a Court of Record, presided over by the Provost, no case to be tried affecting money matters which exceeded "five marks sterling." The Corporation had power to make by-laws, inflict fines, and punish any persons offending against them, provided these by-laws were not contrary to the laws and statutes of the kingdom; they were also granted "a guild of Merchants and a Common seal." They could appoint two "Sergeants at Mace" and other inferior officers, and the Provost was in virtue of his office clerk of the market. If brought into litigation, all powers granted were to be construed to the greatest advantage of the Corporation.

About eight years subsequently the king further increased the power of the Corporation by granting to them a charter of the Staple, *i.e.* the right to hold a public mart, and other privileges. A court was appointed to be held before the Mayor of the Staple, and was governed by the law-merchant.

The charter recites that the wool of the country had not been worked up into cloth and other goods as in England, nor had the people "been set on work" in such manufacture; but

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of Edward Warburton, of the House of Arley, Cheshire, and left but one daughter, Ursula, who married 19th May, 1645, Sir William Ussher, junior, of Dublin, a widower. The Usshers of Eastwell, Co. Galway, are the representatives of the St. Barbes in the female line.



the raw material had been exported to foreign parts and in foreign vessels, to the serious prejudice of the sale and retail of the trade of the kingdom, and to the great impoverishment of all concerned. Full licence was therefore granted to export various manufactured articles from the port of Sligo, without duty, and Roger Jones, Esq., Edward Carpenter, Andrew Crean, Edmond Braxton, Richard Robbins, John Hopkins, John Woodward, John O'Fewley, Robuck Crean, William Crean, James French, and John French, Merchants, were constituted a body corporate to have a perpetual succession, by the name of "The Mayor, Constables, and Society of the Merchants of the Staple." This body could choose from amongst themselves yearly a Mayor and two Constables for the government of the Merchants of the Staple, in the same manner as was customary in England, and they could sue and be sued at law, and could assemble for business whenever they thought necessary, and had power to admit into the society merchants and "other fit persons," with power to appoint under-officers for a period of twelve months; they could make such by-laws as they might deem expedient to the same extent as the Merchants of the Staple in England. This body was given full powers to trade in all kinds of wool, woollen stuffs, yarn, and hides, with all ports in Ireland and, subject to some light duties, with the cities of London, Bristol, and Chester, and the towns of Barnstaple, Liverpool, and Millthorp, together with other privileges and immunities; also to purchase and hold lands, &c.; but these were not to exceed £10 per annum of clear annual profit.

On account of its archæological interest, a brief outline is annexed of the Grant of James II.; it is, however, of no legal value. The charter, after reciting that the town of Sligo was an ancient Borough, and that the Provost, free Burgesses, and Commonalty had enjoyed great liberties and privileges, re-constituted it a Borough, the previous charter having been annulled for the time, either by a *quo warranto* or a forced surrender. Instead, however, of twelve, twenty-four Burgesses were now appointed; the power of returning two members to Parliament was re-affirmed, as also the power of the Provost

and Burgesses to elect freemen who alone were to constitute the "Commonalty."

The Provost had not only to take the usual oath, but also the following:—

"I do hereby acknowledge, profess, testify, and declare in my conscience before God and the world, that our Sovereign Lord King James is lawful and rightful King of this Realm, and other his Majesty's dominions and countries, and I will bear faith and true allegiance to his Majesty, his heirs and successors, and him and them will defend to the utmost of my power against all conspiracies and attempts which shall be made against his, or their Crown, and dignity, and do my best endeavours to disclose and make known to his Majesty, his heirs, and successors, or to the Lord Deputy, or other Chief Governor or Governors, of this Kingdom for the time being, all treasons and traitorous conspiracies which I shall know, or hear, to be intended against his Majesty, his heirs, and successors, or any of them, and I do make this recognition and acknowledgment heartily, willingly and truly, upon the true faith of a Christian. And also I do declare and believe that it is not lawful upon any pretence whatsoever, to take arms against the king, and that I do abhor that traitorous position of taking arms by his authority,<sup>1</sup> against his person or against those that are commissioned by him.

The Provost, in case of absence had power to appoint a Deputy, and in case of death, resignation, or removal the Burgesses were entitled to appoint to the vacancy within fifteen days. The charter confirmed other privileges as well as the grant of the Staple: James French was, however, made Mayor, and Peter Darcy and Anthony Creagh, Constables of the Staple, instead of those already in office. Most of the clauses were confirmed, but with restrictions; the right was reserved to the Crown to remove at pleasure any Provost or Burgess, or to cancel the election of any Town Clerk, nor could any such do any official act until he had received a confirmation of his appointment. The changes intended to be made by the charter of James II. would have been sufficient to give entire control of

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<sup>1</sup> All the first commissions of those acting in opposition to James II. were made out in his name—to carry out a legal fiction.



the Borough to the Crown, the new Burgesses being its nominees and the Crown further had power to remove any obnoxious individual; also the oath to be taken before being installed in office was sufficient to exclude any conscientious opponent.<sup>1</sup>

For all practical purposes the two grants of James I. remained in force, and were the Charters of the Corporation. By an Act passed in the reign of George II. (3 G. II. c. 21) the Corporation became conservators of the port, and maintained a Ballast Office for improving it; but the Act of 5 George III. c. 14, s. 35 empowered vestries to repair the streets of corporate towns, and undertake flagging, paving, &c. Subsequently in Sligo the vestry—namely that of St. John's Union—levied the rates, licensed beggars, appointed watchmen, undertook the lighting (or not lighting, as was sometimes the case) of the streets, levied money for payment of the Militia, and in point of fact, from *circa* 1766 up to 1800, the duties of the Provost and free Burgesses of the town appear—as a perusal of their minutes demonstrates—to have been principally the election of two members of Parliament for the Borough.

The statute of 40 George III. c. 99 (1800) is the first local Act, and it vested the powers conferred in the following commissioners:—

(1) The Provost and Burgesses of the Corporation of Sligo; (2) the representatives in Parliament for the county and town; (3) and the following persons elected for life, viz: Viscount Palmerston, Lord Dundas, Lord Kirkwall, Sir Booth Gore, Rt. Hon. Joshua Cooper, William Burton, Alexander Hume, Abraham Martin, Thomas Holmes, John Ellis, William Todd, and John Black, Esquires.

In 1803 a second Act was passed, which restricted, and in some instances abolished, the powers conferred by the prior Act of 1800, notably the clause for erecting waterworks; but it conferred, in some cases, greater power upon twenty-four Commissioners elected for life by £20 householders, and these

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<sup>1</sup> The above synopsis of the three charters of Sligo, is made from translations of the originals, kindly furnished by J. J. Digges La Touche, Deputy Keeper of the Records. It is strange that the Corporation do not possess any of these documents.

Commissioners acted also in the same capacity for the port and harbour. Their names are here given:—

Thomas Holmes, William Barrett, Andrew Faussett, Thomas Ormsby, James Wood, John Irwin, Roger Parke, William Harloe Phibbs, Abraham Martin, Andrew Hume, Charles Martin, Alexander Hume, the Rev. Charles West, Alexander M'Creery, Neal M'Donald, Albert Blest, Ignatius Everard, John King, John M'Mullin, William Phillips, Thomas Burnside, Jones Irwin, John Ellis, Henry Hart, and their successors, together with the representatives in Parliament for the county and borough, as also the Provost and Burgesses for the time being.

These Commissioners soon became as close a borough as had been the former governing body; the process was thus described in 1833:—The entire number of Commissioners was 40. Mr. Wynne (represented by the Provost) and his 12 Burgesses made up 13 of these; the member for the borough and the two county members—of the latter one was his son-in-law, the other being a freeman—increased his number to 15; the inhabitants of the town elected 24 by ballot. In course of time, however, many of the original Commissioners having died or resigned, Mr. Wynne, from his large property and influence, succeeded in filling several of those vacancies; thus the Corporators obtained a majority out of the 24 members elected under the Sligo Act, though if Mr. Wynne had induced only five of them to join those already enumerated, it would have sufficed to give him a preponderating influence.

The Reform Bill of 1832 threw open the Parliamentary representation of the borough to a considerable electorate. Until the passing of that Imperial Act, the head for the time being of the Wynne family had, from the year 1723, represented, in his own person, the Corporation, and also the electors of Sligo, both for Parliamentary and local purposes. In consequence of the abuses and defective administration connected with the local government of all corporate towns in the United Kingdom, the Crown, in 1833, acceding to an address from both Houses of Parliament, issued Royal Commissions, and in consequence of the reports from these bodies, Parliament con-



sidered it to be incumbent on it to interpose; and from the date of the Municipal Reform Act, 3 & 4 Vict. c. 108 (1842), Sligo was governed by a town council who administered the local affairs of the borough, enabling the reformed Corporation to levy a local rate of threepence in the pound. This sum, however, even when supplemented by the independent and separate revenue of the body, was found insufficient to make the municipal payments considered necessary by them. Other towns, at various times, had large grants of lands made to them; but in Sligo the revenue seems never to have increased beyond the original endowment.

Until 1842, the only property belonging to the Corporation was about 20 acres of land, called "The Commons," together with a plot of ground, formerly used as a pound for cattle, but now built upon; and the revenue of these lands, which did not amount to £100 per annum, was applied by the Patron of the borough to the payment of the Provost. Commonages near towns and villages were by no means unusual, and the Irish name, pronounced *cutteen*, by which they were designated, has (according to Dr. Joyce) bequeathed its name to Ardcoitten—the hill of the commonage—near the village of Ballysadare, and in its plural form to Cutteanta, in the parish of Dromard.

In olden times "The Commons" appear to have been set to a member of the Corporation, generally on a lease of 41 years; in 1744, when the Messrs. De Butt were pressed for their rent, they pleaded, as a set-off, a sum of £60 which was to have been paid to them, in the year 1719, in three equal instalments, and numerous instances occur in which the land was set to members of the Corporation; in later times it appears to have been disposed of by public cant; in 1855 the Town Council resolved to procure the outside value for the lands, and *The Sligo Champion* newspaper of that year thus comments on the subject:—

"The ground belonging to the Corporation is to be fairly valued, and set accordingly. For this an outcry has been made against the Town Council for their want of liberality. We think they propose to do nothing more than what is just, to value the lands, and to give the existing tenants the option of retaining their holdings or of giving them

up. In the latter case, compensation will be given for their outlay; not however, we assume, at their own valuation, for in that case it would be better, at once, to make them a present in fee of the land, and in addition enter into a covenant to pay all future rates and taxes on it for them."

On the 1st August, 1877, a resolution, seconded by Mr. Kidd, was passed, to the effect "that considering the Corporation property is now worth more than the rent at which it has been set to tenants since 1855, 'notice to quit' be served on the tenants in proper time, before next gale day, for the purpose of having a re-letting of the property at best rents to be had, which it is believed will be considerably over the rent now being received."

An amusing incident occurred in December, 1850, when the Corporation, through the Town Clerk, summoned one of their tenants on "the Commons," before the Barrister, for committing waste on their property by cutting down a white-thorn hedge. The case was dismissed, as the tenant had in reality improved the fence; and when leaving the Court, he assured the Bench, that in memory of the trial, he would call his house in the future "The White-thorn." The Town Clerk, in a tone of bitterness, threw after him the suggestion, that he would probably find a more appropriate designation in that of "The Hedge-Hog."

In 1846 (9 Vict. c. 24) was passed the third local Act, amending that of 1803. Its chief object was to define the Harbour-dues to be levied upon articles of import and export, but other alterations in the prior Act were also introduced; by it the Members of Parliament for the County and Borough, who seldom attended, were disqualified from being *ex-officio* Members of the Board; and it was enacted, that the limits of the Port and Harbour were to be clearly defined by landmarks. This Bill was introduced by the Harbour Commissioners themselves, under charge of three members of that body; and it was subsequently alleged that sufficient provision was not made, or sufficient care taken for proper equalization of the numerous Harbour-dues.

Before the passing of the fourth local Act (1869) Sligo had



been governed by three distinct bodies, each with a separate staff of officers:—

(1) The Corporation, having power to levy a 3*d.* rate, which amounted to about £220 per annum;

(2) The Town Commissioners a 1*s.* 10*d.* rate which averaged £1500;

(3) The Grand Jury, with powers to levy an unlimited rate, which usually varied from 2*s.* 3*d.* to a maximum of 2*s.* 6*d.*, and averaged about £2000.

These combined levies were computed at from £3600 to £3700 per annum. There was also the poor-rate, which was then about 4*s.* in the pound.

The records of the Corporation of Sligo from its creation in 1612 up to the year 1709—that is to say during a period of nearly one hundred years—are unfortunately missing, and the names of but few Provosts, during that long interval have as yet been ascertained.

Roger Jones was the first Provost; George Crofton, 1616, recommended as “fit to be inserted in the Commission of the Peace for the County Sligo” in that year; Robert Gamble, 1641–2; John Braxton, 1643; and during the reign of Charles II. there was a Captain Charles Collis. The remaining records of the election of Chief Officer of the Corporation commence in the year 1709, and are endorsed “A Booke of Record for the Burrough of Sligoe from y<sup>e</sup> 21st of April 1709.” A list of Provosts as extracted from the above is given below<sup>1</sup>. From

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<sup>1</sup> 1709, James Bennett and John De Butt, *vice* Bennett, deceased; 1710, John De Butt; 1711, John Booth; 1712–1714, John De Butt; 1715, James Murray elected, but refused to take the oath—William Ormsby elected in his stead; 1716–1717, Thomas Jennings; 1718–1719, John Booth; 1720–1721, John De Butt; 1722–1724, Mitchelburn Knox; 1725–1726, Owen Wynne; 1727–1729, George Ormsby; 1730–1733, Owen Wynne; 1734–1753, Laurence Vernon; in the latter year, Owen Wynne the elder, *vice* Vernon, deceased—William Vernon, Deputy Provost; 1754–1759, William Vernon; in the latter year Edward Martin, *vice* Vernon, deceased; 1760–1768, Edward Martin; in the latter year he resigned—Rt. Hon. Owen Wynne elected in his stead; Rev. Thomas Cuff, Deputy Provost; 1769–1774, Rev. Thomas Cuff; in the latter year Rt. Hon. Owen Wynne elected *vice* Cuff, deceased; 1775–1783, Folliott Wynne; in the latter year Philip Birne *vice* Wynne, deceased; 1784, Owen Wynne the younger—Thomas

1785 to 1818 Thomas Soden was annually re-elected; but it would appear as if the continuance of the same person in office for such a lengthened period was attended with some disadvantages, as, from 1821 to 1842 (the year of the Municipal Reform Act), John Ormsby and William Fausset occupied the post during alternate years.

The oath of the Provost on taking office was as follows:—

“ You shall swear that you well and truly shall serve our Sovereign Lord the King and his Liege people in the office of Provost, and as Provost of the Town and Borough of Sligo, for and during the space of one whole year, now next ensuing. AND you shall minister equal justice as well to the poor as to the rich, to the best of your cunning, wit, and power. AND you shall diligently procure such things to be done as may honestly and justly be to the profit and commodities of the Corporation of this town, and also endeavour yourself to the utmost of your power to see all heresies, treasons, felonies, and all other trespasses, misdemeanors, and offences whatsoever, to be committed within this Town and Borough during the time of your office, to be redressed, reformed, and amended, and the offenders duly punished, according to law. AND FINALLY, you shall support, uphold, and maintain the Commonwealth within the Town, prescribed customs, rights, liberties, jurisdictions, franchises, compositions, and all lawful ordinances of this Town and Borough. AND as concerning all other things appertaining to your office, you shall therein faithfully and uprightly behave yourself for the most quietness, benefit, worship, honesty, and credit of this Town, and of the inhabitants thereof.”

A Provost had power to absent himself from his bailiwick, appointing, however, a deputy, who should, of course, be a freeman and burgess. An example occurred, in 1715, when William Ormsby, Provost, was returned as a Knight of the Shire. He thereupon nominated John Booth to act for him as deputy, in consideration of which he allowed him “ to receive for his pains and trouble therein all rents due and payable to the Provost of the Corporation, and also all fines, quarterages,

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Soden, Deputy Provost; 1785–1818, Thomas Soden; in the latter year Rev. William Chambers Armstrong, *vice* Soden, deceased; 1819, William Faussett; 1820, Rev. W. C. Armstrong; 1821, William Faussett; 1822, Rev. W. C. Armstrong, whilst Wm. Faussett and J. Ormsby were alternately appointed until 1842, the latter being the last Provost of Sligo.



fees, and other profits and perquisites belonging to that office during the time of his (Ormsby's) absence." Every day, at a stated hour, the Provost sat in a small house—by courtesy styled a courthouse—in the Market, for the purpose of settling disputes. His jurisdiction there, only extended to sums not exceeding three pounds six shillings and eight pence, Irish; but over a Court of Record, to a larger amount.

The first legal step in an action before the Provost was "a complaint," which was entered in a book, the plaintiff alleging that there was a sum of money due to him by a person residing in the borough; for if the cause of action did not occur within those limits, the case could not be entertained. "The action was then issued," in the form of an order to attach the goods of the defendant, or as a "service action" or notice to the defendant to appear at the next Court; and if necessary a jury was empannelled; they might try any number of cases, each, however, separately; but no verdict was given until all the cases to be disposed of had been heard.

At the commencement of the 18th century, law appears to have been a not very expensive luxury, even if the difference in money-value between that period and the present be taken into consideration. The following scale of fees was drawn up in the year 1709:—

"ACCOUNT OF FEES AND TO WHOM.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
For an arrest by the Provost, . . . . .	0	6
To the Recorder, . . . . .	0	6
To the Sergeant, . . . . .	0	6
To the Attorney, . . . . .	2	6
To the Recorder, for filing the bill, . . . . .	0	6
For Grace of Court (if required) to the Provost, . . . . .	0	6
Next court, if sworn for continuance of the action, to the Recorder and Town Clerk, . . . . .	2	6
To the Recorder and Town Clerk for the execution, . . . . .	2	6
Clearing the book, upon withdrawing an action, . . . . .	1	0
Attorney's appearance, upon any cause, to the Re- corder, . . . . .	0	6"

A prisoner who was discharged was said to be "turned at liberty"; and whilst he was in custody in gaol he was described

as "in the Marshalls." It may be surmised that the sergeants of the borough sometimes extorted money from prisoners by keeping them "in the Marshalls," and delaying to bring them before the Provost; for by an order of the Corporation, 29th September, 1778, it was made obligatory on the sergeants to bring all defendants who tendered bail to the Recorder, and he, for taking the recognizance, was to be paid "the sum of 6½d." for entering them in a book to be kept for the purpose. The following were, as far as can be ascertained, the Town Clerks and Recorders of Sligo:—

1687, Laurence O'Hara; 1709, George Bennett; 1722, Thomas Jennings; 1729, Laurence Vernon; 1783, Robert Clark; 1797, John Black; 1815, Roger Archibald; 1819, James Christian; 1823, Charles J. Hartley; 1834, William Allen (in 1849 he resigned, received a retiring pension, and was succeeded by Edmund Rochfort); 1861, George Whittaker was appointed, and on his decease James M'Kim was elected; he resigned in 1882, and was succeeded by Daniel MacGill, the present officer.

As may be observed, the implements of public punishment were kept in needful repair:—

"*Borough of Sligo*, September 29th, 1726.—Whereas there is a stocks much wanting in the said Borough, We, the Provost and Free Burgesses of the said Borough, being assembled this day in Common Council, do order that the sum of one pound three shillings sterling, be applotted and levied off the said Borough to make a new pair of stocks, and furnish the same with lock and key. As WITNESS our hands this 29th day of September, 1726.

"GEORGE ORMSBY, *Provost*.

"LAURENCE VERNON AND WM. GIBSON,  
*Applotters of the said money.*"

Entries from time to time occur in the Corporation books relative to the repairing of this implement of punishment; in 1806 a pillory was erected; in 1807 the Grand Jury expended about £6 to make stocks for the town of Sligo; in 1808 stocks were ordered for Easky, and in 1812 for Ballymote. In 1840 the Sligo stocks were still in existence in the hall of the court-house.



During the seventeenth century, transportation was a common form of punishment, and transportation to the American Plantations was carried on until the War of Independence. There is given a list of "apprentices" bound to Nicholas Cribb, of Liverpool, "to serve in Virginia, or any other of His Majesty's Plantations abroad." Their ages varied from 12 to 22, and the period of their "apprenticeship" from 5 to 8 years. There is an entry of three men sentenced to transportation at the "general assizes, and gaol-delivery held for the County of Sligo, the third day of April, 1724," and these were "servants" to William Dickson, master of the "Bettzoy" of Dublin, bound for Antigua; whilst in the year 1733, thirteen criminals sentenced to transportation from the Counties of Sligo, Leitrim, and Roscommon, were also shipped to the same locality; Isaac Smith, "master of the good ship Dolphin," entering into a security of £50 that he would "deliver the above-mentioned persons transported, in Antigua, in the West Indies, the dangers of the sea, and mortality excepted"! In the year 1736, ten criminals were shipped to Virginia; in 1737, three boys were sent as "apprentices" to Antigua; and in 1745 three criminals were despatched to Virginia for seven years; in 1769 four criminals, sentenced to transportation, "were bound to Mr. Charles King, of Sligo, merchant, and John Fife, of the good ship, or snow,<sup>1</sup> called 'The Recovery' of Sligo, bound to Philadelphia." At that early date it may thus be seen that Sligo was in direct trading communication with America; whilst in 1771 two more criminals were "bound to Mr. Alexander Erskine, of Sligo, merchant, and Manus Mac Shane, master of the good ship called the Pitt, bound to Baltimore, in Maryland."

The Provost and Burgesses looked after the lighting and watching of the town, more especially "when none of the army" were at hand. They also saw that no unlicensed beggars were permitted to ply their trade; this latter duty fell afterwards to

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<sup>1</sup> A snow signifies a vessel equipped with two masts resembling the main and foremast of a ship, and a third small mast just abaft the main-mast, carrying a topsail.

the lot of the Vestry of St. John's. Beggars'-badges were in general use in many towns during the last century, and they conferred a right to beg; otherwise, under Statute Law, beggars were liable to whipping and enforced removal from the locality. The badges were made of metal, and were worn on the arm. In Scotland licensed beggars wore a distinctive costume, and were called "Blue-gowns" (*vide* Sir Walter Scott's "Antiquary").

In olden days the regulation of the town did not cost the ratepayers any exorbitant sum, whilst the ruling authorities had a very summary mode of abating nuisances:—

*"Borough of Sligo to Wit.*—At a Meeting and Assembly of the Provost and free Burgesses of the said Borough, held the 29th day of September, 1762. WHEREAS, it appears to us, this day, by the oath of James Gibson, that the ball-yard in Stephen-street, kept by Robert Clark, glazier, is a place which creates idleness, drunkenness, and disorders within the Corporation, and is a grievous nuisance to the industrious and sober inhabitants therein. THEREFORE we the Provost and Burgesses do present the said ball-yard to be a common nuisance, and do order that the same may be removed.

"EDWARD MARTIN, *Provost.*"

From *circa* 1766 to 1800 the watching and lighting of the town devolved on the Vestry of St. John's; on the 4th January, 1785, the Vestry resolved that "the watchmen of this town shall be discontinued from the present day." Shortly afterwards, however, they were re-appointed. The system of night-watching was always very bad: even so late as 1856 the watchmen went about—lantern in hand—calling the hours, and carrying a pole to which a hook was attached. They were dressed in great coats and "sou-wester" hats. In 1859 there were but "eight watchmen appointed to protect the lives and properties of the inhabitants of the town during the silent hours of the night." They were nearly all old men, who on most occasions moved off from the vicinity of a row, instead of grappling with the ring-leaders. This state of affairs only terminated when the watching of the town was intrusted to the Royal Irish Constabulary. Shortly before the abolition of the watchmen, one of their number was remonstrated with for not arresting a disturber of



the midnight quiet who belonged to the better class of society. "I've been watchman, man and boy, for the last forty years," he retorted "and sorrah a gentleman ever I took up!"

The lighting of the town was quite on a par with the watching; in 1785 the Vestry of St. John's ordered that "lamps be erected in such places as the directors should think most convenient," but a fresh meeting was summoned at which large numbers attended, and the above order was rescinded, it being "resolved that no lamps were necessary."

Prior to 1709 the names of few Burgesses can be traced, except those recited in the three charters of Sligo. The members forming the Corporation from *circa* 1692 to 1709—the year when the records yet extant commence—appear to have been:—Sir Francis Lycester, Arthur Cooper, Benjamin Burton, Ralfe Gore, Percy Gethin, Philip Cox, William Ormsby, William Smith, Arthur Gore, Mitchelburn Knox, Richard Gore, James Murray. A further list of Burgesses from 1709 to the Municipal Reform Act of 1842—as far as could be ascertained—may be seen in Appendix (F). The oath of a Burgess on taking office was as follows:—

"You shall swear that you well and truly shall serve our Sovereign Lord the King and his Heirs and lawful successors and the inhabitants of this town and Borough of Sligo as one of the Burgesses of the town and shall minister equal justice to poor and rich after the best of your cunning wit and power. AND also shall well and truly observe, perform, fulfil and keep all such good order, rules, and compositions, as are, or shall be made, ordered, or established by the Common Council of this town, for the good government thereof, in all things to you appertaining. AND you shall not utter or disclose any council or secret thing, or matter touching the fellowship or corporation of the town whereby any prejudice, loss, hindrance, or slander shall, or may arise, grow, or be to the same Corporation; but you shall in all things belonging to the Fellowship and Corporation of the town, faithfully, honestly and indifferently behave yourself for the most benefit, worship, and honesty of the town, and the inhabitants thereof."

The following—as far as can be ascertained—is a list of the freemen of the Borough of Sligo:—

1709, John Stanley; 1716, John Devine, Bryan Kelly; 1717, William Wilson, John M'Kill; 1718, James Smith, George Ross;

1720, John Birr; 1721, William Levenston, William Morgan, Mathew Andrew, John (?) Salley, Thomas Collens; 1722, William Armstrong, Laurence Beltridge, Caleb Bell, George Hinson; 1724, William Gibson; 1725, Henry King, Charles King, Francis Bele, Junior, John King, Mathew Slater; 1736, Rev. Luke (?) Agh; 1738, Francis Hall, Robert King, Arthur Martin; Rt. Hon. John Earl of Enniskillen, Hon. Lowry Cole, Edward Bulteel.

Three presentations made of the freedom of the Borough were attended with special marks of courtesy:—

*“Borough of Sligo to Wit.*—We the Provost and Free Burgesses of the said Borough being assembled here this day do unanimously admit the Rev. Doctor William Henery to be a Freeman of this Corporation, and that his said Freedom be presented to him by the Provost in a Silver Box, for his attachment and good services to the said Corporation and the County in general. Given under our hands at the Town Hall this 29th day of September, 1760.

“PHIL. COX.  
OWEN WYNNE.  
W. ORMSBY.

“EDWARD MARTIN, *Provost*.  
GEORGE KNOX.  
GEORGE ORMSBY.  
RICHARD SAUNDERS.”

*“Borough of Sligo to Wit.*—At a meeting of the Provost and Free Burgesses of said Borough, on Wednesday the 15th day of October, 1806, it was resolved that an address be presented to his Grace the Duke of Bedford, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in a Gold Box. Given under our hands and seal of our Corporation the 15th October, 1806.

“J. SODEN, *Provost*.”

*“Borough of Sligo to Wit.*—At a meeting of the Provost and Burgesses of the Corporation, holden on Friday, the 7th of September, 1810, Thos. Soden, Esq., Provost, in the chair, resolved unanimously that the Freedom of this Corporation, accompanied by a Gold Box, be given to his Grace the Duke of Richmond, and that an address be presented to his Grace.”

It would appear as if apprentices were originally made free of the town on the expiration of their term of servitude, as otherwise they could not have carried on business. Two examples will suffice:—

*“Borough of Sligo.*—This day Edward Scanlan received his Indenture and his discharge thereon from his Master, James Friell, of Sligo (apothecary), bearing date the first day of March, 1708, having



served his time truly and honestly for seven years, and likewise is a Protestant of the Church of Ireland, as by Law established. As witness our hand this 12th day of May, 1716.

“GEORGE BENNETT, *Town Clerk and Recorder.*”

“*Borough of Sligo.*—This day James Henery received his Indenture from his Mistress, his Master being dead, and having served six years, was discharged of the other year, having served the said six years honestly to the art and trade of felt-making, and being a Protestant of the Church of Ireland, as established by Law. As witness my hand this 25th day of March, 1718.

“GEORGE BENNETT, *Town Clerk.*”

In the year 1731 this stringent by-law was enacted:—

“*Borough of Sligo.*—At a Court held for the said Borough by Owen Wynne, Esq., Provost, July 18th, 1732. Ordered by the Provost of the said Borough, pursuant to the By-Law made by the Provost and Free Burgesses of the said Borough, the 24th day of June, 1731: That all persons, inhabiting in the Town of Sligo, exercising any trade, art, or mystery in the said Borough, all sellers, or any other occupation, shall forthwith enter their names upon record before Laurence Vernon, Recorder of the said Borough, and agree with him for quarterage, giving security for their good behaviour in the said Borough, and in the sum of three pounds six shillings and eight pence to indemnify the said Borough. And that all foreigners shall produce certificates, from whence they come, before they are licensed to follow any trade or business in the said Corporation.

“OWEN WYNNE, *Provost.*”

The above resolution was thus further strengthened:—

“*Borough of Sligo.*—At a Court held for the said Borough, the 15th November, 1732. That pursuant to an order of the Provost and Free Burgesses, dated the 24th of June, 1731, and also an order dated the 18th of July, 1732, that all people living in the said Borough who exercise any trade or occupation (except Freemen<sup>1</sup>) should enter

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<sup>1</sup> The Oath of a Freeman on admission was as follows:—

“You shall swear that you shall be true liegeman, and true faith and truth bear to our Sovereign Lord the King, his heirs and lawful successors, and to your power shall aid and assist the Provost, Burgesses, and other officers of the Borough of Sligo, for the time being, and to them shall be obedient and attendant, concerning such things as they, or any of them, shall lawfully and reasonably command you to do. You shall also well and

their names and security on Record to pay Quarterage; that if any person from henceforth shall exercise trade before they enter into such security, or receive and compound for their Quarterage, not exceeding two shillings and sixpence. That the persons neglecting to enter themselves, as aforesaid, shall have their shops shut up, and be debarred from following any trade or occupation in the said Borough for the future.

“OWEN WYNNE, *Provost.*”

By the Municipal Reform Act of 1842 the town of Sligo was divided into East, West, and North Wards, and on the 25th October the first election for the reformed Corporation took place, the Liberal party carrying the East and West Wards. The qualification for Councillorship at that time required a rated valuation of £25, or Declaration of being worth £1,000 over all just debts; two aldermen and six councillors were returned by each Ward.

One of the first acts of the new body was to dismiss all the old officials, because “they had not the confidence of the Council,” who further refused to give the Town Clerk any compensation for the loss of his fees and emoluments as registrar of the Provost, and keeper of the Borough records, but the case being brought before the Queen’s Bench, it was directed that compensation should be awarded him.

Some of the mayors first appointed were willing to bear, from their own resources, the expenses attendant on the office, but on the 3rd July, 1854, it was resolved, “that a salary of one hundred and fifty pounds per annum be allowed the present Mayor for the year 1854, commencing from the 1st of January last, and that a salary of the same amount be given to his successors in the Mayoralty.”

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truly observe, perform, fulfil, and keep all such rules and orders as are, and shall be, made and established by the Common Council of this Corporation for the good government thereof, in all things to you appertaining. You shall also give, yield, and be contributory to, and with, the Corporation of the town, so far-forth as you ought, or shall be chargeable, to do; and you shall not, by colour of your Freedom, bear out, or cover under you, any foreign person or stranger, but according to the best of your skill, wit, cunning, and power, you shall uphold and maintain all the liberties, franchises, good customs, orders, and usages of this town and Corporation.”



The preponderance of either political party on the Burgess Roll, in elections in the West Ward, was seldom more than from eight to ten, and it varied from period to period, owing to death, or removal, so that, at any time, a few persons could turn the scale in the conflict, and this ward therefore soon became the “fighting ward” or battle-field of the two political parties—the North ward being strongly Conservative and the East as strongly liberal. At the election in November, 1859, the Conservatives carried two seats, which gave a majority in the Town Council; and in 1867 it was unanimously resolved that: “in order to place the office of chief magistrate, as far as possible out of the range of politics and divest it of all political character, that the Mayor of this Borough be in future elected alternately from those holding Conservative and Liberal opinions, so that in future each side of the house shall do their best to induce a cordial good feeling in the Corporation, and by sinking their political differences, unite their best efforts for the moral and material improvement of the Borough.” This compact was honourably observed until the year 1889, when it was broken through by the Liberal party. The succession of the Mayors of Sligo, from the Municipal Reform Act to the present time, is as follows:—

1843 Martin Madden; 1844–1845 Michael Gallagher; 1846 Henry O'Connor; 1847 Andrew Walker; 1848 Robert M'Bride; 1849 Moses Mondes; 1850–1854 Edward Howard Verdon; 1855 Daniel M'Gill; 1856–1858 John M'Gowan; 1859 John M'Carthy; 1860 Henry Lyons; 1861 Abraham Dobbin; 1862 W. H. Williams; 1863 Robert Hunter; 1864 Charles Sedley; 1865 W. A. Woods; 1866 T. H. Williams; 1867 Henry Lyons; 1868 James Tighe; 1869 Alexander Gillmor; 1870 James Kidd; 1871 Charles Anderson; 1872 James Kidd; 1873 T. H. Williams; 1874 Maurice Conroy; 1875 Robert Crawford; 1876 James Doherty; 1877 James Nelson; 1878 Thomas O'Donovan; 1879 Alexander Gillmor; 1880 John Walsh; 1881 S. M. Cherry; 1882 Bernard Collery; 1883 W. A. Woods; 1884 Bernard Collery; 1885 James Nelson; 1886 Richard M'Donogh; 1887 James Nelson; 1888 P. A. M'Hugh; 1889–1890 John Connolly; 1891 T. Connolly.

Apparently the Municipal Reform Act of 1842 did not confer a separate Commission of the Peace for Magistrates of the Borough, the Mayor alone being empowered to adjudicate; but

on the 27th February, 1843, an application was made to the Lord Lieutenant for that favour, and it was successfully renewed in 1846, James Madden, Aldermen Walker, Kernaghan, and Anderson being the earliest Borough magistrates.

From the commencement of their existence the Town Council had been dissatisfied with their limited power in regard to taxation and otherwise, and efforts were from time to time made to expand their authority. On the 5th March, 1855, the Council resolved that "the boundaries of this Borough for the purpose of the 'Town's Improvement Act, 1854,' be extended to the existing Parliamentary boundaries," and preliminary steps were taken to have the Act brought into force. In June application was made to the Lord Lieutenant for his consent, which after some deliberation was refused on account of the increased area sought to be included—solely for the purpose of extra taxation; and several attempts that were made to resuscitate the scheme failed. A few of the Town Councillors resolved not to let drop the subject of extending the powers of the Corporation. The West Ward was contested by their nominees and seats were secured on the Town Council. "A bill for the Improvement of the Borough of Sligo" was drafted by Messrs. Kernaghan and Saunders, by instructions from some members of the Corporation in their private capacity, and it was suddenly presented to a meeting of the Town Council; very animated debates ensued, and at a meeting held 13th November, 1867, it was finally decided to proceed with the Bill, after some changes had been made in the draft. The Corporation seal was affixed to it in December, but it was not till May of the following year that Messrs. Kernaghan and Saunders were formally appointed solicitors for the passing of the Bill. As this proposed legislation would remodel and otherwise change the constitution of the Town and Harbour Commissioners, comparatively few of that body were in favour of it.

On hearing, before a Committee of the House of Commons in 1867, the preamble was by them declared not proved; they judged it then to be—what it really was—a mere legal speculation. In the following year, 1868, it was again introduced and



was passed by the Commons, but thrown out by the Lords—for financial reasons. In Sligo, the Bill was not regarded as a party question; of the 427 voters and persons who signed the petition against the measure, more than half were Liberals, the remainder Conservatives; in the fight, all party ties were for the time dissolved, and every one “fought for his own hand.” Fortunately for the promoters, the Grand Jury of the County, after securing the interests of the ratepayers, did not oppose the Bill; the points of difference were amicably arranged; the Grand Jury waived their demand that population should be the basis of payment, and accepted instead the calculation based on valuation. This came to about one-twelfth of the valuation of the entire county; though with regard to the inmates of Public Institutions such as the Gaol, Fever Hospital, Workhouse, &c., the proportion of numbers stood at 26, 30, and some as high as 60 or 70 per cent.

The statement of the expenditure on the Borough during nine years by the Grand Jury of the County will demonstrate conclusively that the latter body, during this period, expended on the town a much larger annual sum than it was proportionately entitled to. It was presented to the committee of the House of Lords, by the County Surveyor, Noblett St. Leger, who was called as a witness by the promoters of the bill:—

Year.	Maintenance and repair of Roads.	Widening Streets. Compensation.	Sewers and Pipes.	New Foot- paths, Bridges, Walls, &c.	Total.
1859	£ — s. d.	£ 1208 s. d.	£ 11 s. d.	£ 27 s. d.	£ 1248 s. d.
1860	—	30 19 0	30 18 0	99 8 0	160 5 0
1861	753 1 5	239 5 0	—	86 2 6	1078 8 11
1862	829 13 10	576 0 0	33 0 0	22 0 0	1460 13 10
1863	810 4 7	243 10 9	170 16 0	102 4 8	1326 16 0
1864	728 15 4	85 0 0	—	136 19 0	950 14 4
1865	687 19 10	—	7 10 0	—	695 9 10
1866	747 6 8	—	52 10 0	41 0 0	840 16 8
1867	827 19 11	—	459 12 0	42 0 0	1329 11 11

This outlay was at the rate of somewhat over £1000 per annum.

After having been five times before the House, the Bill was finally passed in 1869; the taxed costs of the measure were enormous, £4750. The Corporation had to pay two-thirds, and the Harbour Commissioners one-third of the expenses of promoting the Bill.

Some of the more important changes brought about by this Act may be briefly noticed. The body constituted under the Town and Harbour Act of 1803, and known as the Town and Harbour Commissioners, was dissolved; the powers of the Town Commissioners were vested in the Corporation, and a new body of Harbour Commissioners, having power to deal with the Port and Harbour, was incorporated. The Corporation obtained power to construct waterworks and supply water; also to acquire by purchase the gasworks and to supply gas.

The Borough, as defined for municipal purposes, had been less extensive than as defined for Parliamentary purposes; but this Act extended the boundaries of the municipal to the limits of the Parliamentary Borough, and the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace for the Borough was also extended to the new limits.

The Mayor is *ex-officio* an associated cesspayer for the Barony of Carbury, and has the same rights and privileges as a Justice of the Peace for the County at Presentment Sessions; but he has no status on the Grand Jury for the County; the Mayor for the time being, was called on the panel in 1868, and the custom has, in courtesy, since been continued.

The entire liability for the construction, repair, and maintenance of roads and bridges in the Borough was imposed exclusively on property within its bounds, and such property was in turn relieved from payment of County Cess for construction or maintenance of roads (except mail coach-roads) or bridges, &c., outside the Borough. The contribution of the Borough towards the amount to be presented by the Grand Jury for the County, for County-at-Large charges, is now proportioned to the valuation of property in the Borough, as compared to the



valuation of property in the County. This contribution is made a first charge on the Borough rate, and if the Corporation should fail to pay, the Grand Jury has power to levy the amount.

Power was conferred on the Corporation to establish markets, fairs, and slaughter houses; to purchase all existing rights of holding markets or fairs in the Borough, or levying tolls; to make by-laws and regulations relating to these; to prohibit the holding of any unauthorized market or fair, or the hawking or displaying of animals, provisions, or merchandize, except in the places set apart for that object.

The Corporation obtained power to assess and levy rates within the Borough, and, for the purposes of the Act, to borrow money to an amount not exceeding £50,000. They were subsequently permitted (without any special Act) to raise a sum largely in excess of that authorized by Act of Parliament.

In 1885 there was an overdraft of some £7236 due to the Provincial Bank, and in 1886 a loan of £5000 was obtained from the Board of Works, on the ground of the proved necessity of the expenditure for proper completion of the waterworks, and with the expectation (which has been realized) that the increasing revenue from sales of water to public institutions, and for trade purposes, &c., would justify the advance. In 1887 the total debt amounted to the large sum of £59,994, but is now (1891) reduced to £54,559. A tabular statement is given in Appendix G.

The Corporation have authority to provide a fire brigade, fire engines, &c., to erect artizans' dwellings, and to regulate the Borough funds and rates. A number of Public Acts are incorporated with the local Act, for the purpose of enabling the ruling body more effectually to carry out the provisions of the latter.

The powers conferred by the local Act of 1869, for the construction of waterworks and the purchase of market rights, having expired before they were exercised, it became necessary to obtain a revival and extension of these powers, and accordingly another Act was passed on 2nd August, 1880, styled "The Sligo Borough Improvement (Revival of Powers) Act, 1880."

In conclusion, it may be well to give a brief account of the valuation of the Borough, of the origin and growth of the secured debt of the Corporation, and of the steps taken for its repayment.

It is difficult to ascertain the exact number of houses formerly within the Parliamentary boundary, owing to confusion between it and the municipal boundary. In 1812 Wakefield computed that there were 1150 houses within the municipal boundary; in 1831 there were 2667; in 1841, 2183; in 1871 there were but 2099 houses. According to a decision of the Court of Common Pleas, in 1873, owners are not liable for the rates on vacant premises.

The total valuation of houses within the Borough, in 1795, amounted to £5854; in 1800, to £7383; whilst the average valuation of the Parliamentary area of the Borough for nine years prior to its separate organization was about £17,540. The area (including water) of the extended boundary is 3001A. 1R. 2P.; the older municipal area had comprised about 417 acres (see fig. 11).

At the Summer Assizes, 1870, the valuation of the entire Borough was £17,727 17s.; in 1875, £18,010 13s.; in 1880, £18,250 4s.; in 1885, £19,019 2s.; in 1890, £19,316 2s.

The Municipal Reform Act of 1842 entailed considerable expense on the Corporation, as the necessity for dividing the Borough into wards involved heavy legal charges. In 1858 the debt was £450; in 1860 it amounted to £1045. In 1844 the accounts appear to have been for the first time published in the newspapers; and the same year, owing to the embarrassed state of the corporate fund, the salaries of all the officers were reduced 50 per cent.: this resolution was, however, quickly rescinded. On the passing of the Sligo Borough Improvement Bill, the arrears of Mayors' salaries amounted to about £530, and the total debt to a little more than £1264. The account, which may be seen in Appendix (G, 1, 2, 3, 4), is self-explanatory; almost all the debt incurred, with the exception of the sum expended in procuring the Borough Improvement Bill, is self-supporting, and by means of the sinking fund has been considerably reduced. It



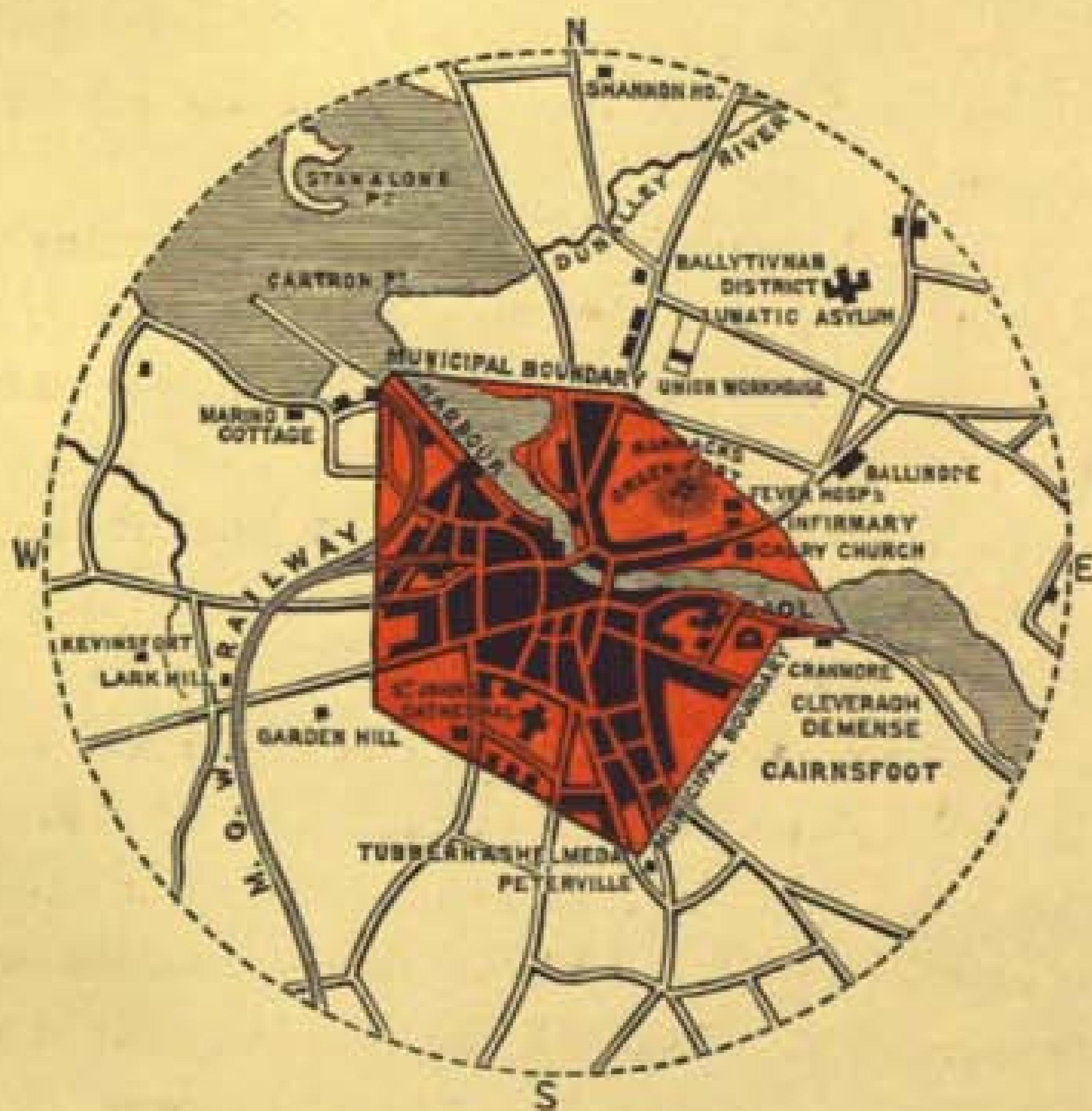
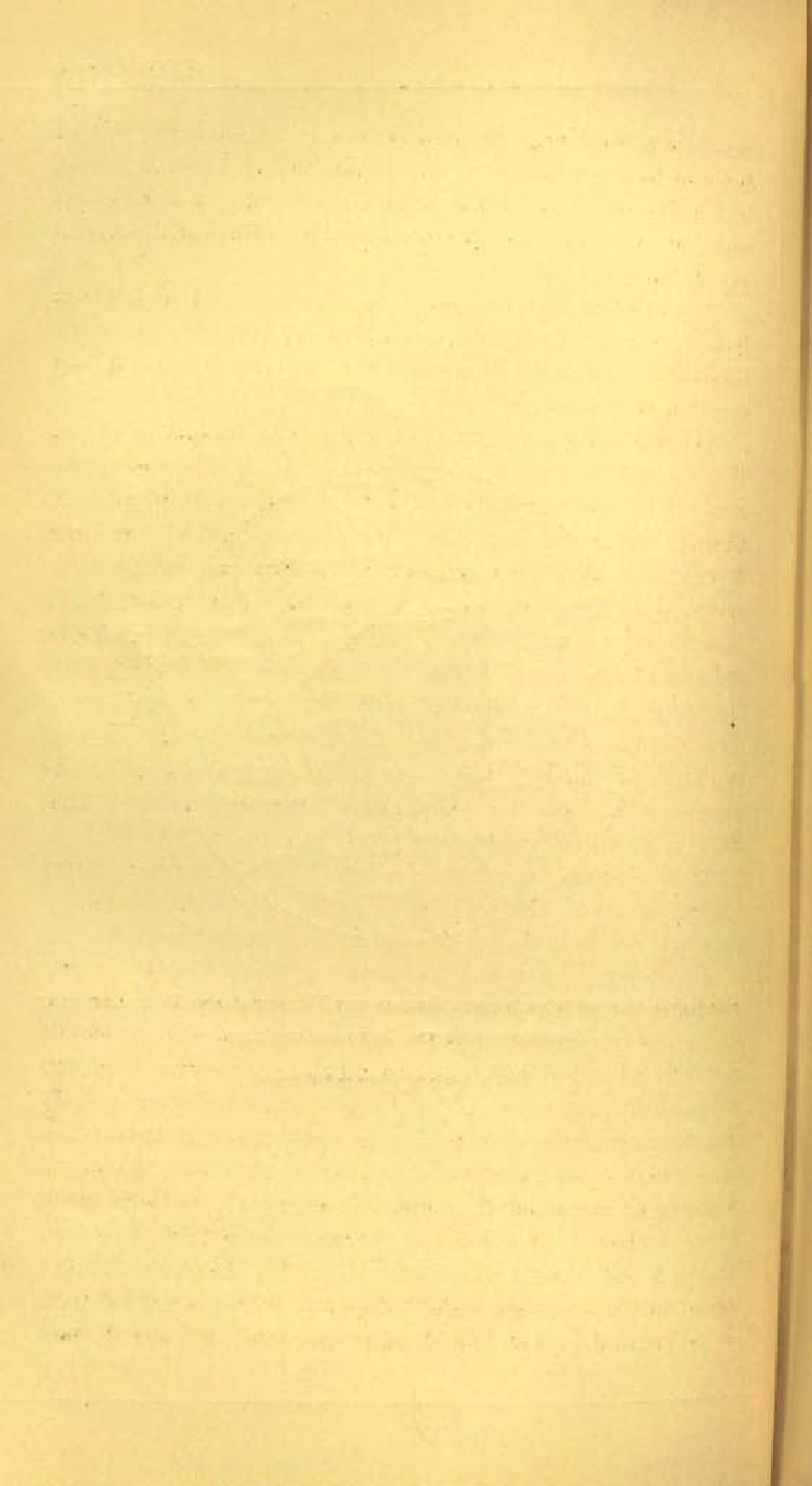


Fig. 11.—MAP SHOWING RELATIVE SIZE OF THE MUNICIPAL AND PARLIAMANTARY BOUNDARIES OF THE BOROUGH OF SLIGO.

(Scale, about one inch to one mile.)





would be a great boon if there were an Imperial Act, giving facilities to corporations to consolidate their liabilities in one loan to be paid back to the Exchequer by yearly instalments, which, at a moderate rate of interest, would, after a stated period, pay off the entire debt.

A description of the maces, Mayor's chain, and other official insignia, together with an account of the various seals of the Corporation and of the Town and Harbour Commissioners, will doubtless be of interest.

The two maces are fac-similes, and were presented by Samuel Walton, who for some years represented the Borough in Parliament. The two Sergeants of the Mace were, according to the Charter, officers of the old Corporation. In 1819 William Meyrick was admitted a freeman of the Borough before being appointed to the post, whilst on the 29th September, 1823, Richard Meyrick and Robert Carey were Sergeants of the Mace, and so continued until the Municipal Reform Act of 1842, when they, as provided by the Act, each received an annuity from the new body. The maces remained in possession of Mr. Wynne, as Patron of the Borough, until the year 1846, when "The unanimous thanks of the Council were returned to John Wynne, Esquire, for returning the maces to the Corporation."

These civic maces each weigh about 30 oz. No maker's stamp appears on them, although on the three parts which unscrew there are Irish hall-marks, and the date letter for 1702-3.

Mr. Robert Day, F.S.A—an authority on such work—kindly examined one of the maces (see fig. 12), and furnished the following description:—"It is 18 inches long; the end or handle part is fluted and globular, and terminates in the stud of an iron screw, which passes through, and serves to strengthen the shaft. The diameter of the shaft is  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inch, and midway in its length it is divided into two parts, and strengthened by a heavy collar, on which is an ornamental ribbing, from which, on both sides, spring a chaplet of oak-leaves, corresponding with a similar engraved and chased ornament above the handle-part; and again, immediately below the mace-head, which is bowl-shaped, 10 inches in diameter, and divided into four oval spaces, each

bearing, in bold relief and well-chased work, the emblems of England, France, Scotland, and Ireland, *i.e.* the rose, fleur-de-lis, thistle, and harp, all regularly crowned within chaplets of oak-leaves. The spaces between these oval wreaths are filled in with leaf-designs similar to, and in perfect keeping with, the ornaments upon the handle. The head of the mace is surmounted with an open-work pattern, like an engrailed line in heraldry, each point having a ball-termination. Within the space enclosed by this circle are the Royal Arms, with the initials of Queen Anne, A. R., and at either side fleur-de-lis, all in remarkably fine bold *repoussé* and chased work."

The following inscription is upon the base of the mace-head:

THE GIFT OF SAM<sup>l</sup> WALTON ALD<sup>n</sup> ONE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE  
BURROUGH OF SLIGO ANNO DOM 1703.

A Sergeant of the Mace, before entering on his duties, took the following oath:—

"You, and either of you, shall swear you well and truly shall serve the Provost and Burgesses of this town, in the office of Sergeantship, and as sergeants of this town for and during the space of one whole year now next coming. You shall well and truly serve, do, and execute all and all manner of precepts, warrants and commandments to you, or any, or either of you, to be lawfully given and directed, touching or concerning any matter, cause, or process to be moved, had, or depending within the town or Corporation according to the liberties thereof, or at large, and shall make due returns and answers thereunto, and make certificate thereof according to the effect of such precepts, warrants, and commandments, taking these for your ordinary fees, and none other. And also you shall diligently give attendance unto the Provost and Free Burgesses, and wait on him and them, as hath been accustomed, and as you ought to do, and his and their commandments and messages, truly to do and say, and not alter the same, so that it may be prejudicial or hurtful unto the said Provost, or any other, and likewise you shall give attendance, and be aiding and assisting unto the constables of this town in any thing that they, or either of them, shall reasonably and lawfully command or will you to do. And you shall diligently and truly do all other things appertaining to your office to the utmost of your power."

The Provosts of Sligo probably wore a chain, for old people narrate that they were accustomed on state occasions to carry on



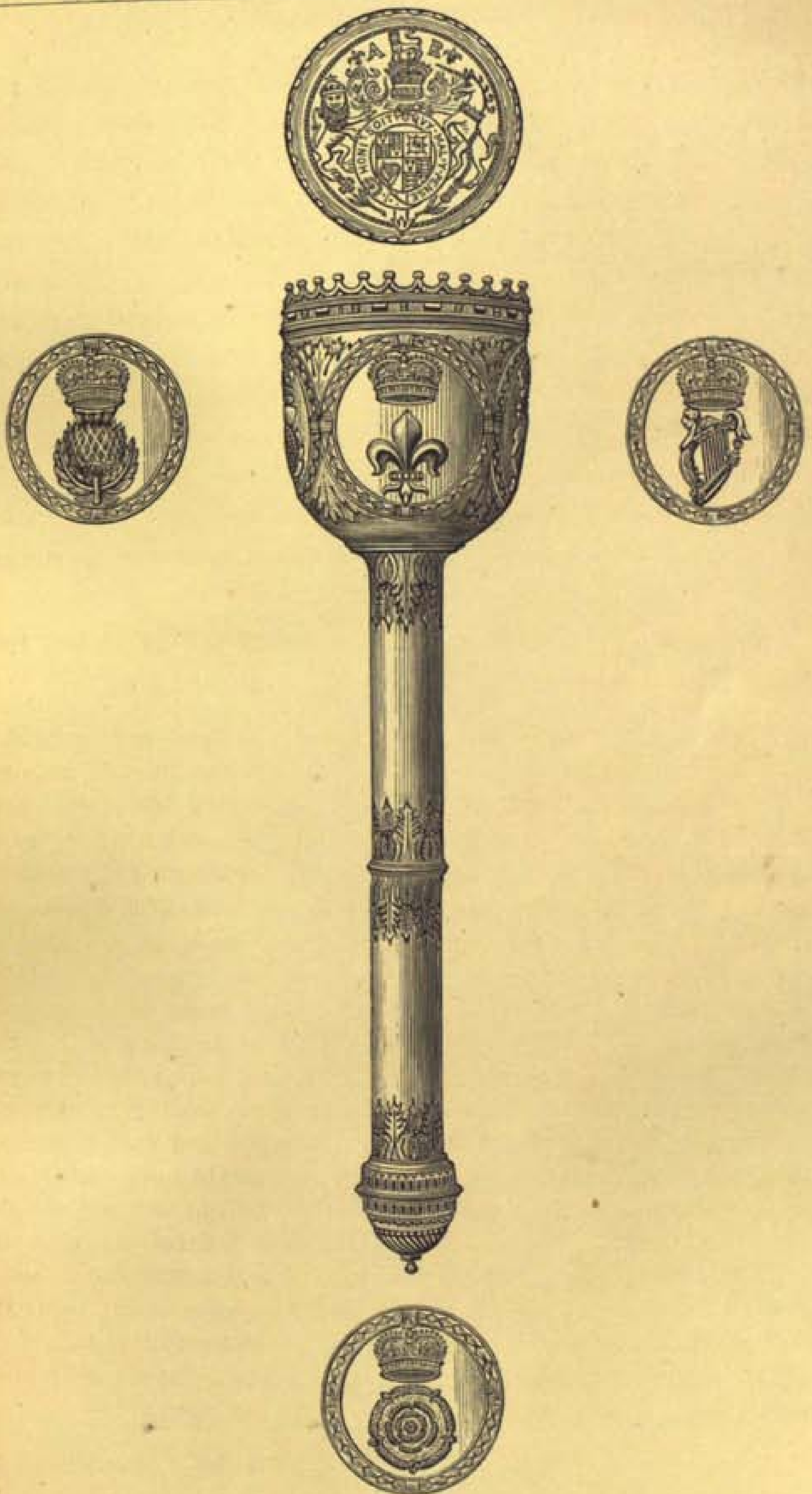
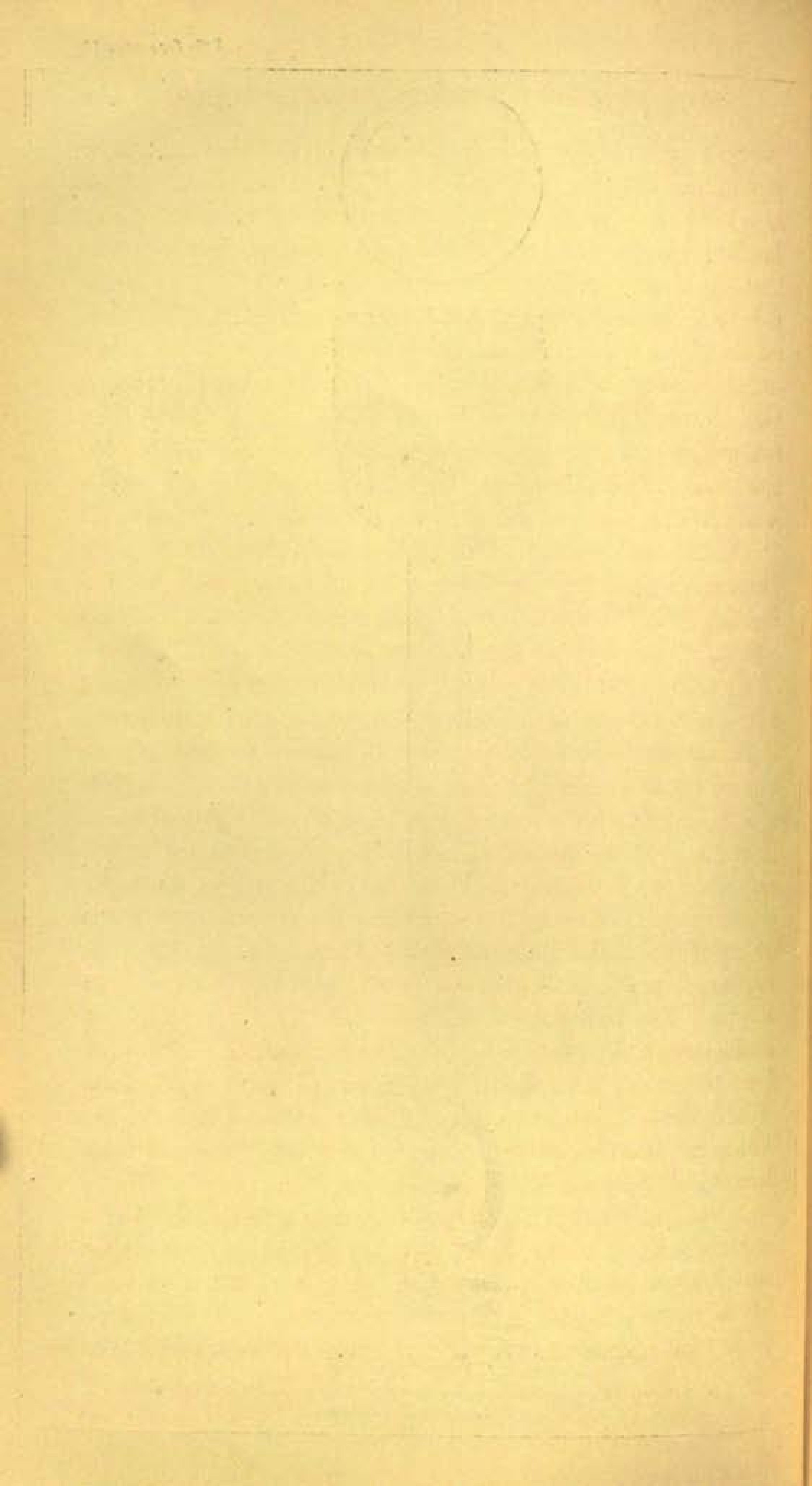


Fig 12.—THE SLIGO MACE.

This represents the best-preserved specimen. The second is a fac-simile—  
(scale, one-fourth real size).





the breast some badge or mark of their office. The chain now pertaining to the Mayoralty of the Borough (see fig. 13) dates from 1882, in which year it was constructed by Messrs. Nelson, Brothers, Sligo. It is of 18-carat gold, Hall-marked on every link. It consists of 18 shields joined together by double cable-links with an intermediate link-lozenge. Each shield is surmounted by a shamrock; the obverse bears the crest and arms, and the reverse the name and year of office of each Mayor who has had the privilege of adding a link. The centre link—somewhat larger than the others—is backed by two Irish Harps from which droop shamrocks, the whole being surmounted by a royal crown picked out in crimson, green and ermine enamel. This link is appropriated to the donor, with whom the idea of providing a chain for the successive chief magistrates of the Borough originated, and who contributed £80 towards the expense. The chain weighs  $15\frac{1}{2}$  ounces.

From the centre link hangs a pendant of fine gold weighing 4 ounces; it is circular in form and is surmounted by a wreath of shamrocks, fastened at the base by a riband and knot of crimson enamel. Rising from the top are two Irish wolf-hounds at gaze, and between them is suspended a spray of shamrocks. On the front of the medallion, beautifully worked in variegated enamel are the present arms of the Borough, and on the circle outside, CORPORATION OF SLIGO, 1612. The inscription on the reverse of the medallion runs thus:—PRESENTED PRINCIPALLY BY BERNARD COLLERY, MAYOR OF SLIGO, 1882, AND FORMER MAYORS. The following is a list of the ex-mayors who each contributed a link to the chain:—Daniel M'Gill, John M'Gowan, John M'Carthy, Robert Hunter, Charles Sedley, William A. Woods, James Tighe, Alexander Gillmor, James Kidd, Charles Anderson, Maurice Conry, Robert Crawford, James Nelson, John Walsh, Stephen M. Cherry, Bernard Collery.

It was originally intended that each subsequent Mayor should add a link to the chain, but this idea never having been carried out, it remains in exactly the same condition as when it left the maker's hands.

In former times the Provost and Burgesses were accustomed

to attend Divine Service in their official capacity, and a pew was allotted to them in the Parish Church. This pew was distinguished by an elaborately painted lozenge-shaped representation of the generally received arms of the Corporation; after the disestablishment of the Irish Church, the Rector of St. John's presented this escutcheon to the Council, and it now hangs in the Town Hall.

The first deed of incorporation of the Borough grants to the Provost and Corporation a common seal, in the terms following:—  
“AND further we will, and by these presents for us our heirs and successors, WE do grant to the said Provost, Free Burgesses, and Commonalty of the said Borough and their successors for ever, that they have a Guild of Merchants within the said Borough, and one common seal of such form and graven device as to them shall seem best, for serving the business of the said borough for ever.” This proviso gave the Corporation a wide discretion as to any subsequent alteration of the seal.

The earliest books of the Corporation are missing, but the first known seal may be noticed. This bears the date 1709, and it is evidently not a hare that is thereon represented, but rather a species of deer or antelope, having its dexter fore foot lifted and the other resting on a piece of rock which in shape somewhat resembles a barret-cap. Around is the legend *BUROGH OF SLIGOE*, the beginning and end being marked by a dividing ornament, below which are the letters *A.R.*, *i.e.* Anne Regina, and the date 1709. Underneath appear the letters *P.I.B.*, *i.e.* PROVOST JAMES BENNETT, who died that year (see fig. 14).



FIG. 14.  
Seal of the Corporation of Sligo of 1709.  
(Full size.)

The next seal, that of 1723 (see fig. 15), deserves special notice as it would seem to have been struck to commemorate the event of the Wynne family becoming Patrons of the Borough. On it the same arms appear, but more rudely sculptured, and above are the letters *P.M.K.* *i.e.* Provost Mitchelburn Knox, with the date 1723. Around is the legend *BOROUGH OF SLIGOE*, and encircling this are thirteen groups of dual letters, which represent the initials of the Provost and 12 burgesses of the Corporation:—















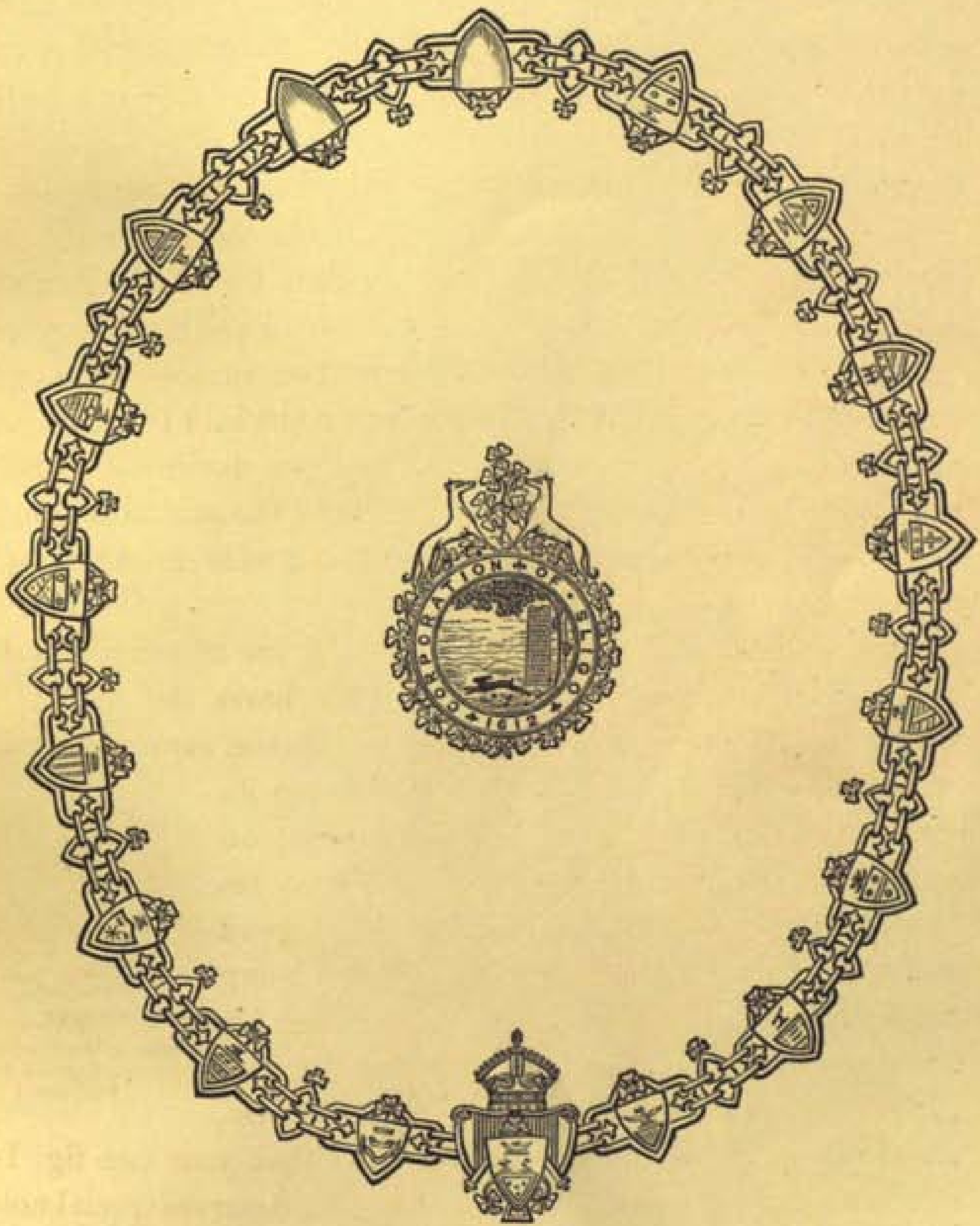


Fig. 13.—GOLD CHAIN AND PENDANT PERTAINING TO THE MAYORALTY OF  
THE BOROUGH OF SLIGO.

(16" by 13"—scale, about one-fourth real size.)





M.K., Mitchelburn Knox; G.O., George Ormsby; I.I., John Jameson; O.W., Owen Wynne; I.W., John Wynne; I.F., John ffolliott; W.O., William Ormsby; R.G., Richard Gore; A.G., Arthur Gore; W.S., William Smith; T.I., Thomas Jennings; I.B., John Booth; O.W., Owen Wynne, Junior.



FIG. 15.—Seal of the Corporation of Sligo, 1723. (Full size.)

The last time this seal was used would seem to be the 9th September, 1774.

To inhabitants of Sligo accustomed to the present armorial bearings of the Corporation, it may seem like heresy to throw even a doubt on the legend which narrates how a hare, intuitively divining that Drumcliff was doomed to decadence, set out one fine morning from that ancient town to take up its quarters in Sligo,



FIG. 16.—Newspaper device, used as a seal in the Corporation books of Sligo. (Full size.)

but was overtaken by Nemesis. Being in a hurry, the hare trod accidentally on an open oyster; the bivalve resented the intrusion,

and at once closed on the hind foot of poor puss. The pictures of the incident, however differ in details, for in the earlier representation, the hare is passing a kind of semicircle of stones, and on an old map of Sligo made in 1766, there is depicted, on the space marked as representing the lane near the present Presbyterian Church, a singular group marked "Sligo Stones"; in the applotment book of 1783 they are again mentioned, "Back-lane up to Sligo Stones." As time advanced the stones turn into oyster shells, the green sward into a strand, then comes a stream in the foreground, and finally a square fortalice. The comparatively new device first appears on the 28th January, 1775 (see fig. 16), and any one who carefully examines the Corporation books can perceive that from that date up to the 5th September, 1783, this so-called seal is merely the ornamental device that had originally headed the local newspaper, from which it was cut off and then wafered on to the leaf of the Corporation book, the printing on the reverse being distinctly observable. In 1778 the



FIG. 17.—Newspaper device used as a seal by the Corporation of Sligo. (Full size.)



FIG. 18.—Small seal used by the Corporation of Sligo, 1806-1810. (Full size.)

same seal occurs, but minus the outer rim (see fig. 17). On the 29th September, 1783, the newspaper heading ceased to be used, and the seal—simply a copy of the newspaper device—was struck and used by the Corporation until the Borough Improvement Bill of 1869. A seal bearing the same device, but of considerably less size, was used contemporaneously, *i.e.* from 1806 to 1810 (see fig. 18).

The seal at present in use (see fig. 19) cannot be admired for either its artistic or heraldic arrangement. On it is depicted a hare, apparently escaping from a round-tower which is repre-



sented as having a door level with the ground. The tower has increased in size; the tree has grown higher and stronger; the animal alone has deteriorated. The augmentation, *i.e.* inscription

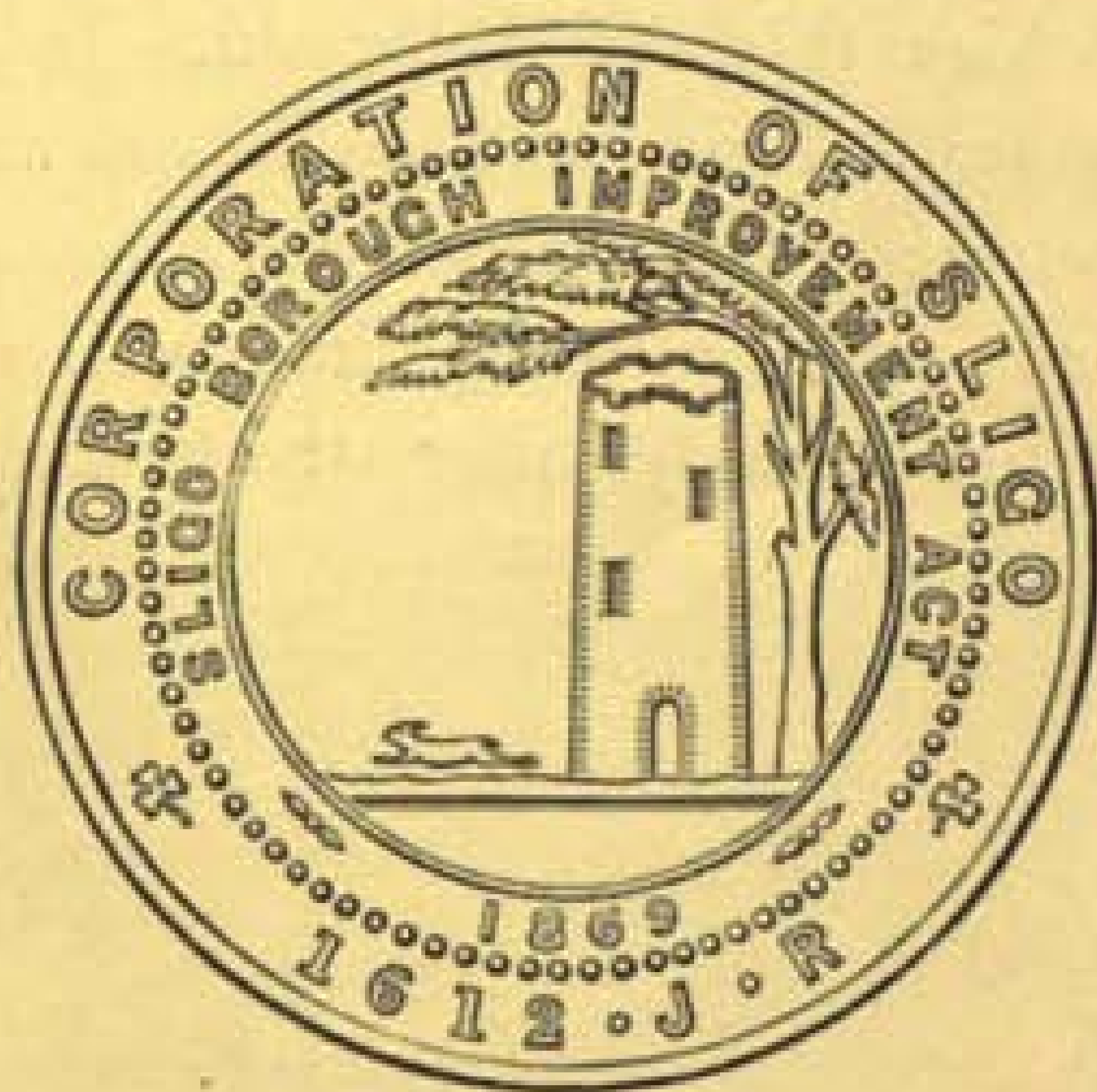


FIG. 19.—Seal at present used by the Corporation of Sligo. (Full size.)

“SLIGO BOROUGH IMPROVEMENT ACT, 1869, is in smaller type than, and is placed within, the old legend. On the frontal page of this book may be observed the arms of Sligo, as depicted in an engraving which was attached to the books of the old library of Sligo; the edifice seen in the distance was evidently intended to represent the Castle of Sligo.

The origin of the present seal is as follows:—On the 2nd January, 1871, it was resolved by the Council “that the Finance and Works Committee be directed to procure a seal and lever for the Corporation, not capable of being opened save by three keys, and that when procured, one key shall remain in possession of the Mayor, a second key in possession of the ex-Mayor, and the third in possession of the town clerk for the time being—for use as ordered by the Council from time to time.”<sup>1</sup> On the 3rd April of same year a resolution was passed discontinuing the use of the seal adopted in 1783.

The seal (see fig. 20) formerly in use by the Town and Harbour Commissioners represented the old bridge of Sligo, which spanned the river close to the site of the present Victoria Bridge.

<sup>1</sup> The first and second keys are now in possession of the Mayor for the time being.

“The Bridge of Sligo” is mentioned in the Four Masters so early as 1188, but it is unlikely that much, if any, of the original structure remained in 1800 or 1803—the date of the formation of the body to which this seal belonged. It is to be noticed that the entrance to the bridge, to the left of the engraving, is overbuilt with houses; and in a report of the year 1827 it is stated that “the east end of the old bridge had been greatly narrowed and the passage into the adjoining streets confined—in such a

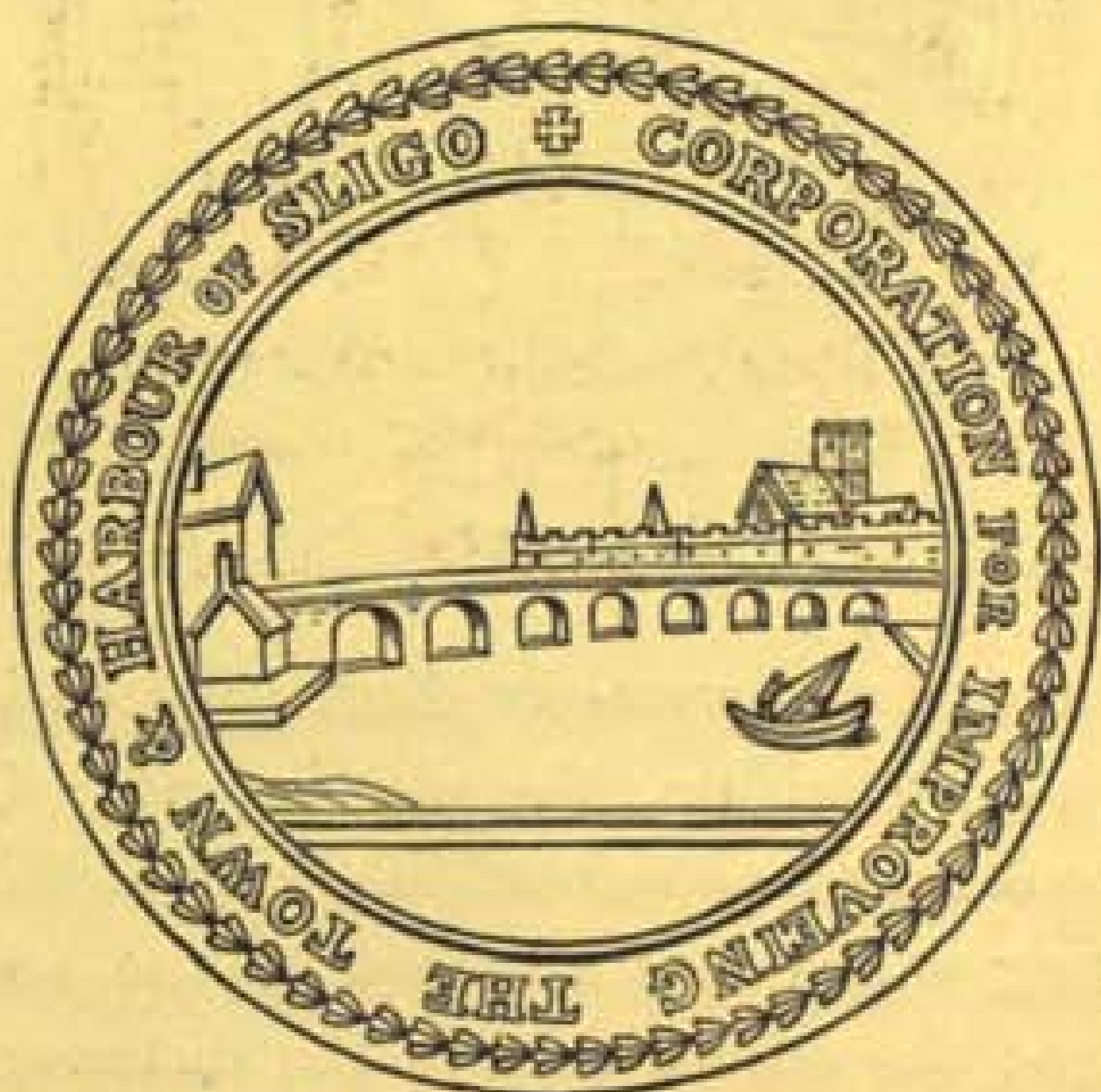


FIG. 20.—First Seal of the Town and Harbour Commissioners. (Full size.)

way as to make it dangerous for two carriages to pass each other—by houses built on the bridge, and close to the end of it.”

In the distance is evidently the old Abbey with the western face of the edifice represented as if perfect; close to the foreground there is a small boat. Around runs the legend, CORPORATION FOR IMPROVING THE TOWN AND HARBOUR OF SLIGO, again encircled with what appears to be a chain of lilies, bearing a strong resemblance to the ornamentation on the Collooney medal, and which therefore seems to point to Brush as having been the designer.

The seal now used by the Harbour Commissioners (see fig. 21) was struck in 1869, at the time of the reconstruction of that body, and is stated to have been designed and executed by Woodhouse. In the distance is seen Knocknarea and the



Tireragh mountains, with Oyster Island and its two lighthouses ; in the middle distance is a steamer, and in the foreground the

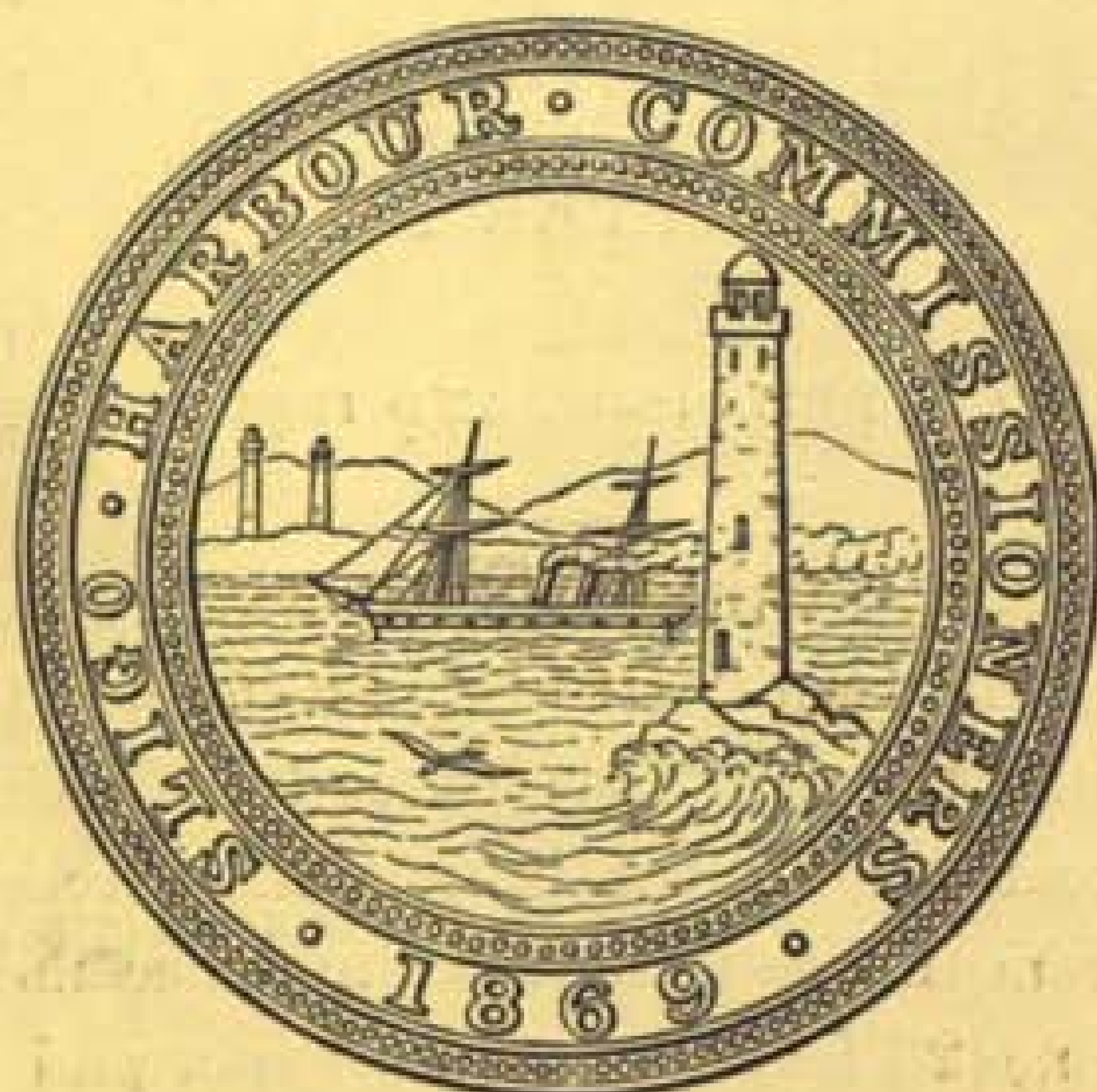


FIG. 21.—Seal now in use by the Harbour Commissioners. (Full size.)

Blackrock lighthouse ; around is the inscription, SLIGO HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS, 1869.

These dies—with the exception of the one struck in 1709, which was intended for pressing on wax, and those struck in 1869 and 1871, which form embossed impressions—were made so as to imprint the device on the paper after having been held over smoke from the flame of a candle—a style of stamp which may even yet be seen occasionally.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### CHURCHES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND INSTITUTIONS OF SLIGO.

**T**HE beauty of the environs of Sligo is very striking, but the town itself lies in a hollow, through which glides the river that leaves Lough Gill as a broad stream, and so continues, until it reaches Buckley's Ford; from thence it narrows and becomes more rapid, falling some 20 feet between that spot and the tide-way.

The river divides the town into two unequal parts, that on the southern bank being the more considerable. The best point for observation is the Green Fort, from whence a panoramic view, not alone of the town, but of its surroundings, is obtainable. The glacis around the old entrenchment is smooth as in days of yore, when it was styled *Rath-da-brittog*, or Britton's Fort, or when in after years it was in the possession of Sir Teigue O'Regan. The ground slopes down in an uninterrupted lawn-like declivity, which on three sides is terminated by ever-encroaching buildings, whilst northward it joins the open country. Close at hand are situated the Workhouse and the Lunatic Asylum, backed by the heights of Killogaboy, Cope's Mountain, and the Ben Bulbin range; in the dim distance the outline of the Donegal Highlands appears over Knocklane, Raughly, and Rosses Point; below are seen the channel, inner bay, and harbour. To the west and south, Knocknarea and the Tireragh range close in the view; at foot, the entire town of Sligo lies spread out. Its large public buildings—the Town Hall, Railway Terminus, Cathedral, Presbytery, Collegiate Buildings, Friary, Courthouse, and Calry Church rise prominent from amongst the monotonous mass of slated houses. To the south-east and east are the heights of Cairns and



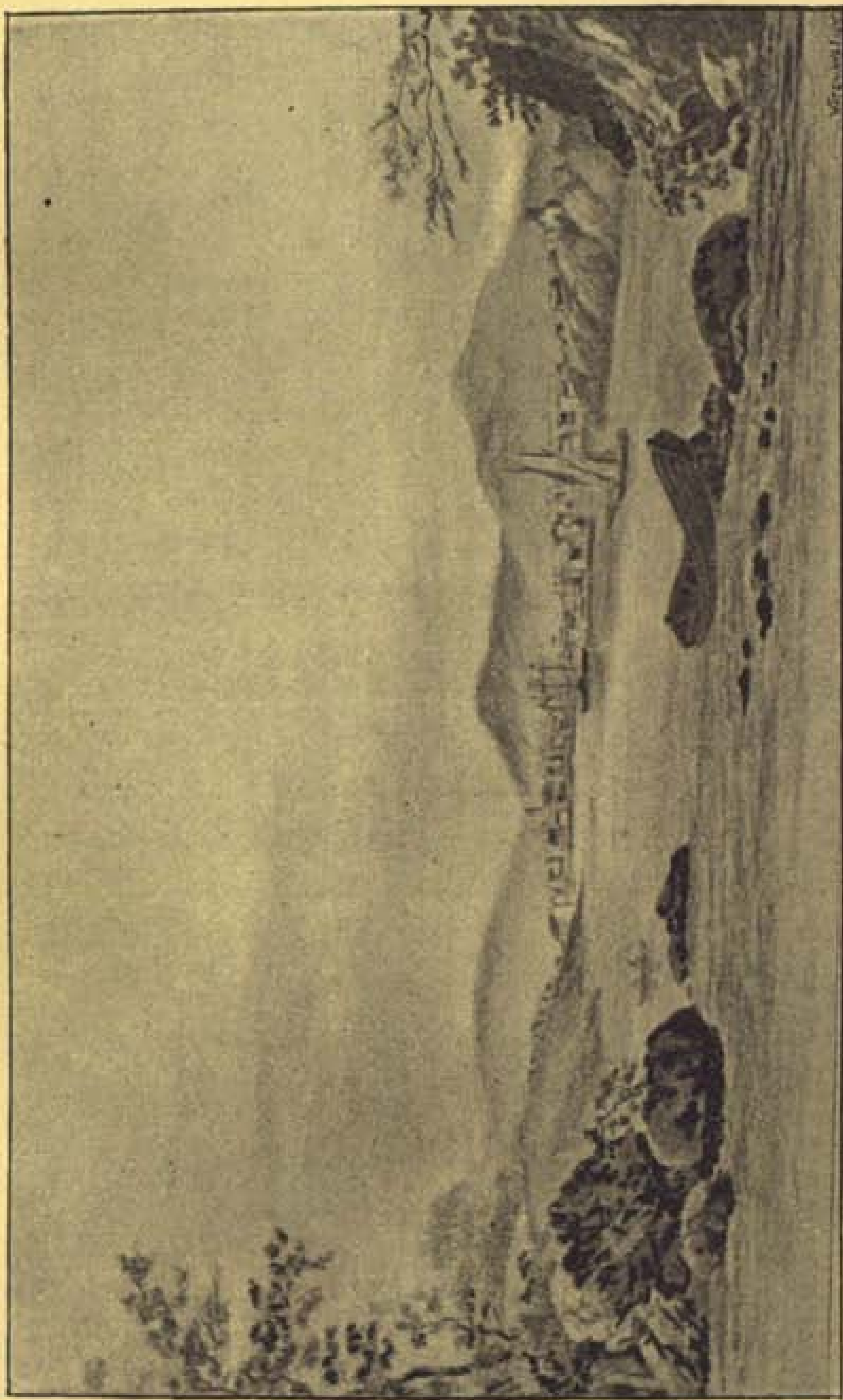
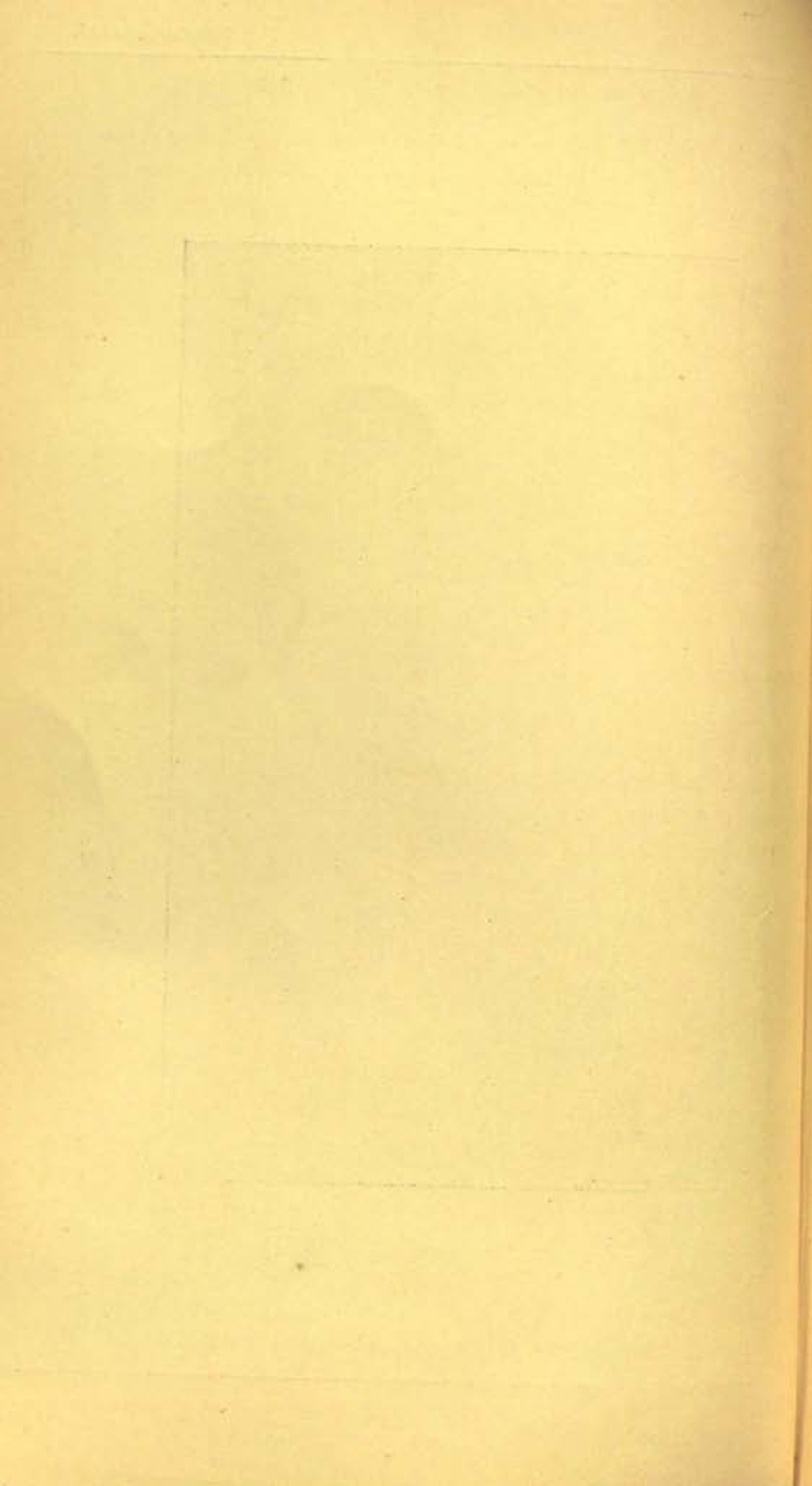


Fig. 22.—GENERAL VIEW OF THE TOWN OF SLIGO.

From an Engraving of the year 1818.





Belvoir, with the Slieve-da-en and Slish range in the background; in the foreground the river may be observed issuing from the lake, glimpses of which are visible amidst its wood-clad shores, whilst beyond can be seen the distant Leitrim Mountains. Beside us are the Infirmary and Fever Hospital; and on the opposite bank of the river, the Gaol. A bird's-eye view of the town, as seen from the tower of Calry Church, is given in the Frontispiece.

Sligo, in olden days, did not present an imposing appearance. With the exception of the ruins of the Abbey, St. John's Church, and some quaint old houses which stand in and near it, the town may be said to have been but an agglomeration of thatched dwellings. A good idea of the general aspect of the town in 1818, as viewed from the sea, is conveyed by the illustration (fig. 22) reproduced from an engraving of that date. The houses were, in general, but one or two storeys in height, the windows small, the streets narrow and tortuous, being only intended for foot passengers and pack animals. Merchandise was then transported exclusively on the backs of horses or donkeys (for almost every leading thoroughfare has been widened within living memory). To add to the general inconvenience of passers-by, the small dealers displayed their goods in stalls alongside the streets, whilst pedlars moved about everywhere essaying to dispose of their wares. The drainage was carried off by surface gutters, which did not add to the salubrity of the atmosphere, though they were in some instances flushed by small rivulets.

In 1802 Sligo was described as consisting of about seven or eight streets "composed of tolerably decent houses, some very good." The town was considered "rather unclean and unhealthy," but it was "of no small importance in the general export and import trade." Frazer, writing of Sligo at a later period, states, that "the streets in the older parts of the town were narrow, dirty, ill-paved, and badly suited to the bustle of an export trade; it had nevertheless much more the appearance of a business place than any other town in Connaught, a circumstance wholly owing to the spirit and enterprise of its

traders." On this point Inglis, in the year 1834, remarked that the town had the look of a place of some consequence. The retail trade was very extensive, and without a due consideration of its geographical situation one might feel surprise at the very extensive warehouses; but the neighbourhood was populous, and there was no town of any note westward, nearer than Ballina; eastward, nearer than Enniskillen; northward, nearer than Ballyshannon, and southward, nearer than Boyle.

THE ABBEY has been already fully described, but the illustration (fig. 23) may be of interest; it is from a photograph of the building taken before the carrying out of the restorations<sup>1</sup> lately undertaken by the Hon. Evelyn Ashley. On the 27th September, 1883, a letter was received by the Corporation from him, as well as one from the Secretary of the Board of Works, desiring to have the abbey placed under the provisions of the "Ancient Monuments Protection Act;" but although the Corporation wished to obtain for it all the benefits of this Act, they would not close it against interments, and thus rendered restoration impossible. A Mayor of Sligo stated that, previous to the opening of the public cemetery, the abbey ground was in even a worse state than it is at present. "With my own eyes," said he, "I saw in it human skulls to the number of some 600 or 800 piled up in one place." This was no new state of things, for Beranger, who visited the abbey in the 18th century, greatly admired its architecture, but noticed the disgraceful state of neglect in which the burial-place was left, the altar being covered with bones, skulls, &c., in such quantities that they would have furnished "a cargo for a small vessel." In later times, in one locality on the western littoral, it is asserted as a positive fact by the country people, that the captain of a small trading vessel, one moonlight night, had all the bones lying about a church near which his ship was anchored, and which amounted to several tons, carried on board, and at once sailed

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<sup>1</sup> There is one rather mythical benefactor of the monastery—Pierce O'Timony, who is by various writers alleged to have restored or endowed the establishment. As a small return for his munificence the monks erected a statue to his memory, which De Burgo states he saw in the cloisters.



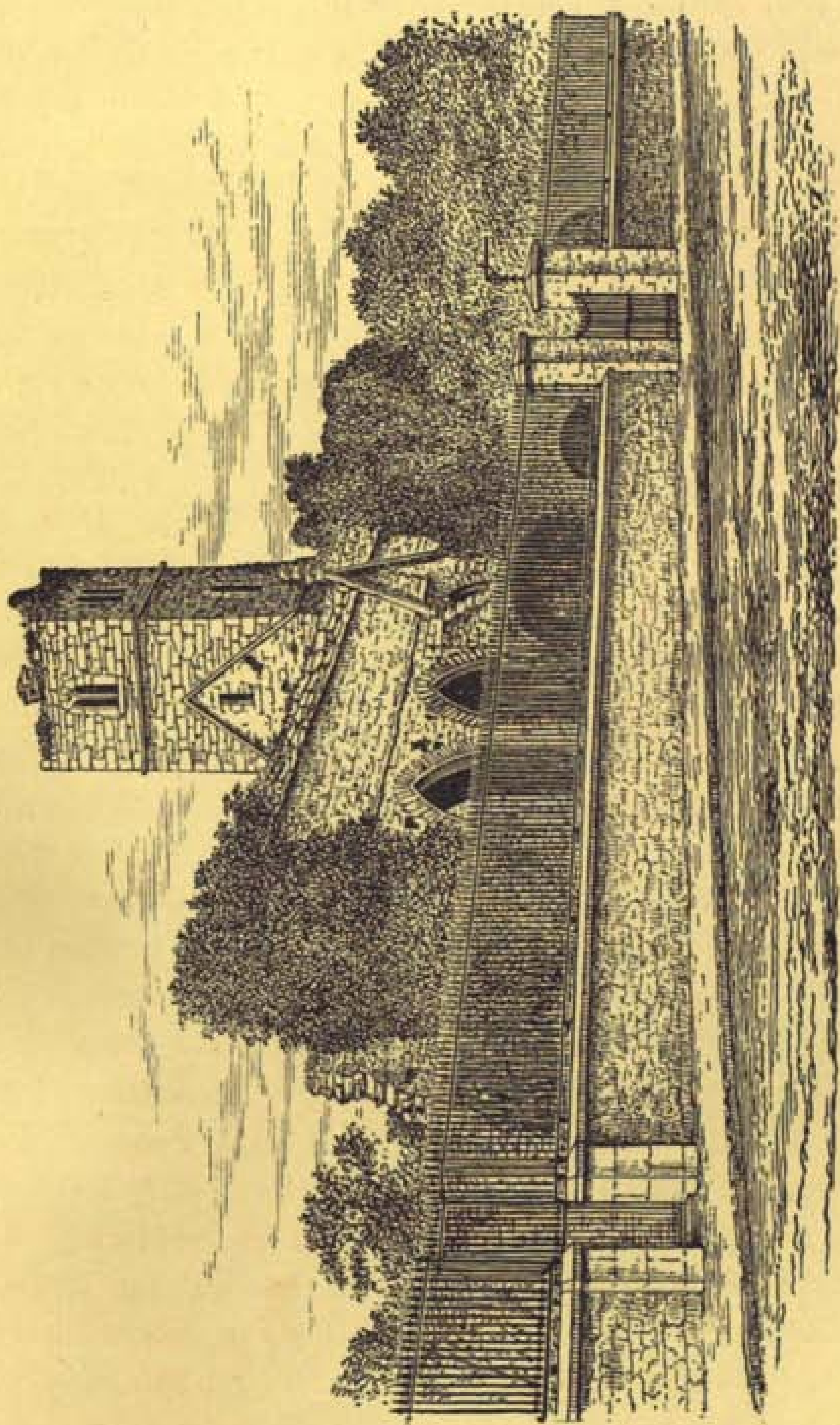


Fig 23.—ANNEX OF SLIGO.

From a Photograph taken prior to the recent partial restoration.

Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a letter or a page from a manuscript. The text is written in dark ink on aged, yellowish paper. The handwriting is somewhat faded and difficult to decipher in many places, but it appears to be a continuous flow of text. There are several lines of text, with some words being more legible than others. The overall appearance is that of an old, handwritten document.



for England, and sold them to be ground up for bone manure.

The Irish branch of the Order of St. Dominic and its patrons, in the 13th century, appear to have cherished a peculiar veneration for the cross, most of their convents founded during that period being dedicated to the "Holy Cross." The Sligo cloisters afforded accommodation for twenty friars; there were also study and lecture halls, to which the youth of the surrounding country flocked, and in which the novices of the order and candidates for the priesthood were instructed in theology. The gardens of the abbey extended to the water's edge; the building itself and its inmates were subjected to many vicissitudes from the period of the accession of Elizabeth to the close of the revolution of 1688; it was not, however, until 1698 that the friars were expelled from its walls;<sup>1</sup> they soon after returned to the abbey, repaired the chancel roof, and built temporary shelter near the rood-screen.

Despite the presence of the members of the Dominican Order, the fabric of the old abbey was not secure from the attacks of Vandal speculators, who proceeded to utilize it as a quarry. The chief offender in regard to these dilapidations was a merchant named Corkran, by whom "The Mall" at the river-side was built, and after whom it was named. Father Laurence Connellan succeeded at last in arresting his destructive hand. According to a MS. on this subject the spoliation did not bring good luck to its author, as Mr. Corkran's ultimate fate was rather peculiar. He was wealthy, proud, and pompous; one night,

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<sup>1</sup> Father Patrick M'Donogh, who was thus forced to leave Sligo, has left a long description of the goods and chattels then belonging to the Convent. By this it appears that in former years Father Theodorus Conel had left a sum of £300 for the use of the friars, settled in trust on Mr. Nicholas French of Abbert, in the County Galway, and with it he purchased land. In the reign of James II., £50 of the principal was spent in repairing parts of the fabric, but "sence y<sup>e</sup> heate of y<sup>e</sup> warrs of Ireland" the friars "did nott receive a peny" of their rents, whilst one of their trustees "Mr. Coll. Keogh" appropriated to his own use part of the trust money—in fact the friars lost everything save "their chalices and ornaments." The only remains of ancient silver now in the Friary are four chalices, bearing the dates 1636, 1716, 1718, and 1732.

having accompanied his wife to the theatre, the lady's anger became in some way excited to such a degree that she lifted her hand and struck him in the face publicly. As soon as possible Mr. Corkran vindicated his outraged dignity by selling off his property, absconding to America, and deserting the lady who had so deeply offended him.

It was in 1760 that the before-mentioned Father Laurence Connellan, who had been for some time *Regius Primarius* of studies in the Irish Dominican College of Louvain, returned to Sligo, and saw the necessity of vacating the crumbling abbey and securing a more suitable situation; in 1783 he obtained a lease from Mr. James Hart of "all that and those the upper floor of a house on the east side of High-street," to which place he removed.

THE FRIARY OF THE ORDER OF ST. DOMINIC was built in 1803 by Father Thomas Brennan, and was placed under the superintendence of a prior and two clergymen.

The present Church of Holy Cross (commonly known as the Friary Church) is in High-street, and was erected about the year 1846, from the design of the late Sir John Benson. It was consecrated on the Feast of the Epiphany in 1848, but the belfry was not completed until 1859 (fig. 24). Unfortunately the building is so closed in by the neighbouring shops and houses that no good view can be obtained of its proportions. It consists of a tower, porch, nave, and chancel. The tower is a handsome structure of limestone, having two buttresses in each face, at the angles. The east doorway in the tower has a low ope, with slender shafts in recesses in the jambs, surmounted by elaborately cut mouldings in the pointed circle. The two-light windows of the nave are lancet-headed. The east window in the chancel is a five-light window, the head of which is filled with elaborate tracery, and it contains fine stained glass. The roof nearly resembles, in some of its features, that of Westminster Hall. It consists of a large main arch, with smaller arches, principal rafters, purlins, hammer-beams, curved sheets, and wall-pieces, and inside it has



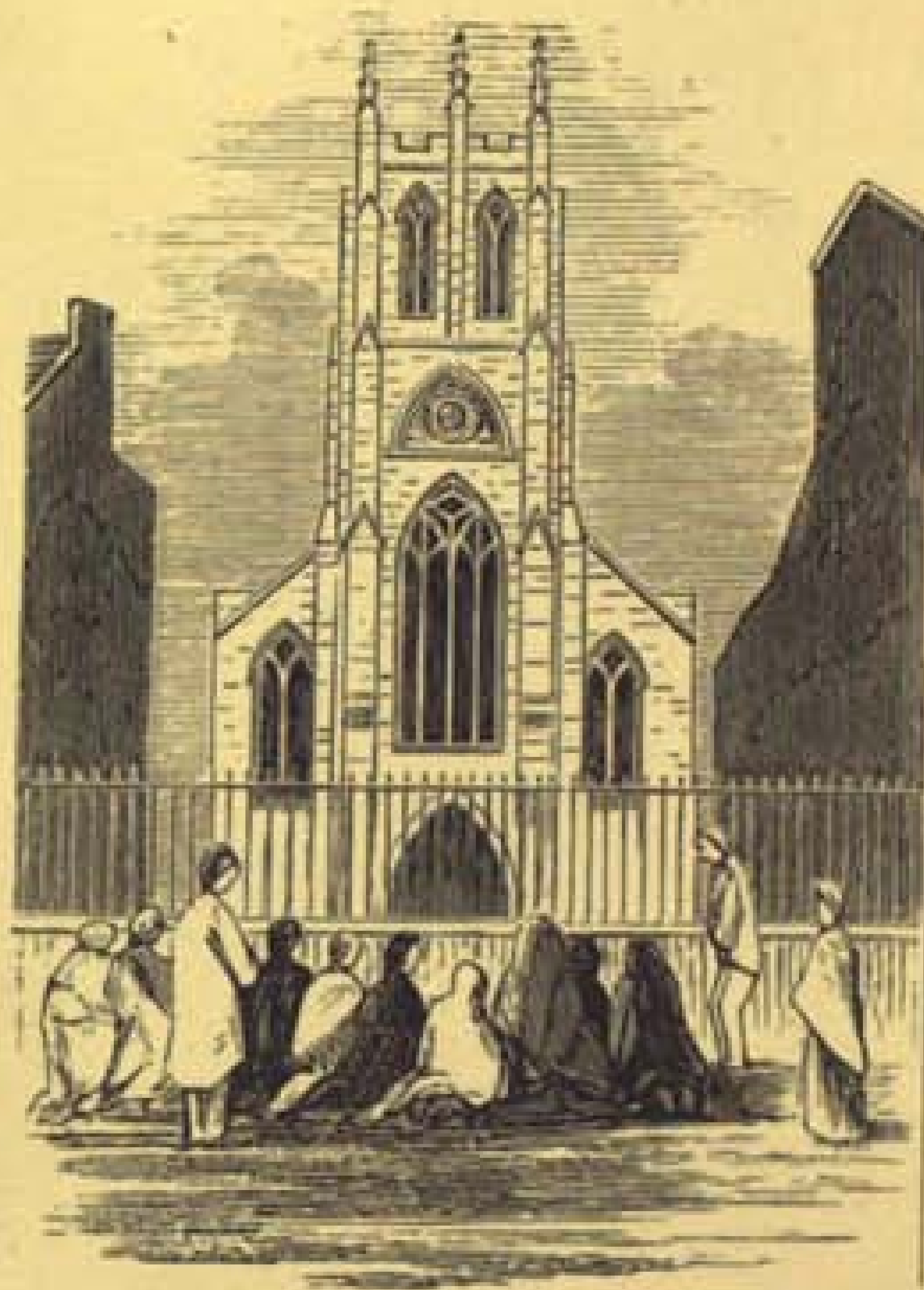
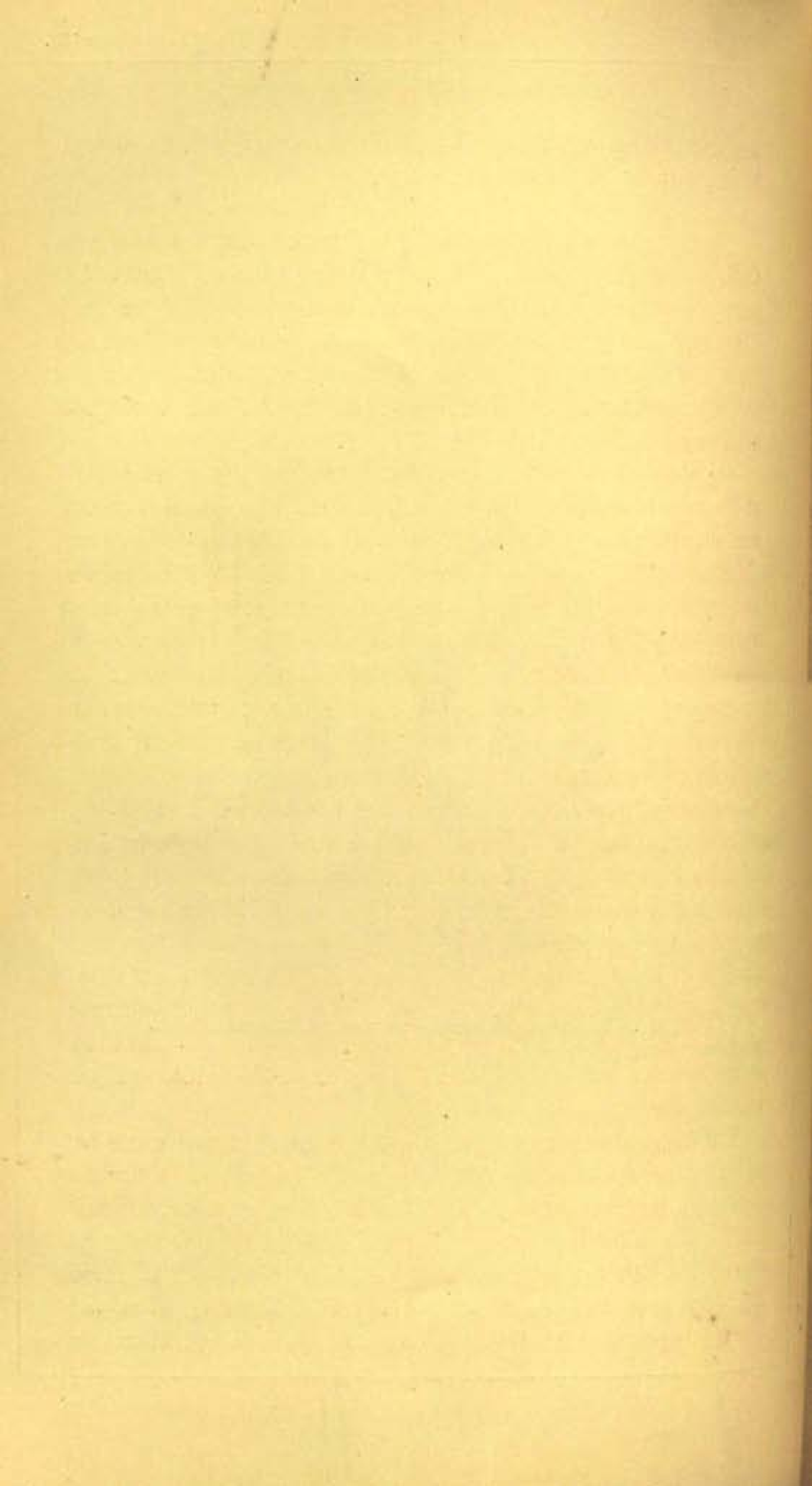


Fig. 24.—THE FRIARY OF THE ORDER OF ST. DOMINIC, SLIGO.





wrought timber sheeting. The wall-pieces spring from corbels having angels' heads carved on them.

THE CATHEDRAL (fig. 25) was erected by the Roman Catholics of Sligo, who had long felt that a large building for purposes of public worship was a desideratum. On Sunday, 25th July, 1874, it was consecrated in presence of Cardinal Cullen and most of the Roman Catholic Bishops of Ireland, as also some from England and America, together with a number of clergy of lower degree.

The chief entrance door is under the tower, and on each side of the tower of the Cathedral are two turrets, through which run circular stone staircases. By this means entrance can be obtained to the galleries. These galleries are within the arches, and open on the nave in a series of half circles, producing a very good effect. The style of the building is a kind of combination of the Norman and Byzantine. The tower rises in the front-centre of the main gable. The principal entrance is within a noble arch, from which the tower rises, and it is surmounted by a series of alto-relievo figures in carved stone. The extreme length of the sacred edifice is 227 feet; the width across the transept is 115 feet; the nave is 33 feet wide, and the aisles 17 feet each. The height of the ceiling from the rich encaustic tile pavement is 62 feet. The aisles are divided from the nave by bays of bold arches sustained on finely-chiselled columns of black limestone, as also are the transepts and side-chapels. The galleries—or to give them their architectural term, the *triforium*—extend over each aisle, and 18 pillars on each side run up from ground floor to roof, those pillars dividing the nave from the aisle.

The front of the high altar is divided into compartments by capitalled pillars of porphyry. In each of the three compartments are figures and emblems carved in Parian marble in full relief. The altar slab is also of white marble, moulded at the edges. At either side of the altar are four pillars of polished Aberdeen granite, hooped with gold, with elaborately carved foliated capitals. These pillars sustain a Baldichin dome of

brass, in the form of spreading palm leaves. The tabernacle, reredos, and sanctuary railings are made to correspond.

An organ loft is erected immediately over the front entrance. There are numerous stained glass windows, through which a dim and softened light enters. The smaller windows are of ordinary stained glass, with simple ecclesiastical designs, but all the larger ones are devoted to special religious subjects. The nave is lighted by ten windows (five on each side), filled with cathedral-tinted glass. In the tower, and at extreme heights opposite the high altar, are also some windows of a similar kind, but darker in the tints.

It is computed that the cathedral holds 4000 people seated, and that it cost upwards of £50,000. In March, 1877, a peal of nine bells, the largest of which weighs twenty-six cwt., was presented by Peter O'Connor, of Sligo, and hung in the tower. The carillon machine, which is self-acting, is barrel-shaped, and by its workings no less than forty-five tunes can be played. There are seven barrels, of which three are for sacred, and four for secular music.

The vestry adjoining the cathedral is built in corresponding style. Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society here hold their weekly conference; their labours are of benefit to the deserving poor of the town.

It is curious that neither the Friary Church nor the Cathedral are built in accordance with the ancient and Catholic practice of "Orientation."

The building of churches, with the chancel on the east, seems to have arisen from the desire that the congregation during prayer should face in that direction. Tertullian (c. 205), refers to the suspicions entertained by the heathen that Christians were sun-worshippers "because they were well known to turn to the east in prayer." The "Apostolic Constitutions," Clement of Alexandria, Basil, Augustine, and John of Damascus, all witness to this being the ordinary position for public prayer.

Clement, of Alexandria, gives the mystical reason that the east is the image of the day of birth. Chrysostom finds in the practice a reference to Christ as "The Day-spring from on



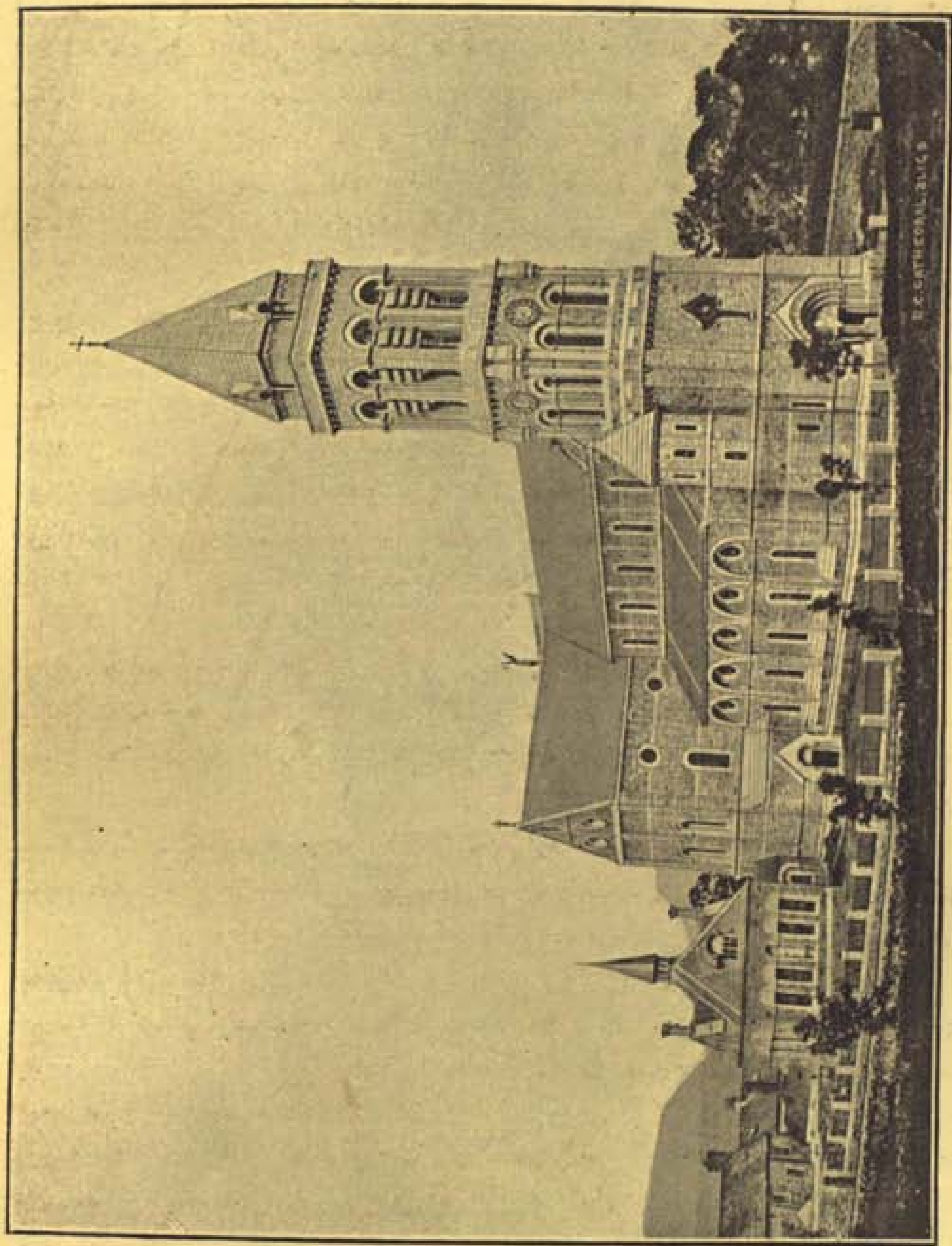


Fig. 25.—THE CATHEDRAL, SLIGO.





High," "the Light of the World." Again, we are thus looking out for our Lord's return, who, "as He appeared in the East, and thence ascended into heaven, so will He appear again at the last day." It is, however, to be noticed that the symbolical idea at the root of the practice is not peculiar to Christianity, but is common to nearly all religions ; for, as the sun rises in the east, that point is naturally suggestive of the origin of life and light.

There is abundant evidence that from very early times churches were generally placed thus, but many exceptions may be found. Socrates says of the church at Antioch, "it had its position inverted, for its altar looks not towards the east, but towards the west."

The "Apostolic Constitutions" enjoin—"And first let the house be oblong, turned towards the east, the postophoria (vestries) on either side towards the east."

THE COLLEGE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION in Quay-street, with a Preparatory School attached, was opened in 1880, chiefly for the education and training of ecclesiastical students. There is accommodation for about 50 resident students and about 150 day pupils. The building cost about £5000.

A new College was found to be necessary to meet the increasing demands for admission of students, who will be prepared for the several professions, commercial pursuits, and public examinations. It is on a commanding position, above the presbytery, overlooking the town. The buildings cost upwards of £15,000.

THE CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY in Temple-street was started in 1880. The course of instruction given in the evening classes is suited for shop-assistants, mechanics, and trade-apprentices.

THE SISTERS OF MERCY (St. Patrick's) first settled in Sligo June 30th, 1846. This new branch of the Institute was established in a small private residence in George's-street, pending the erection of their present spacious convent.

The first works in which the sisters engaged were visiting

and caring the sick ; distributing daily alms to the famine-stricken sufferers of the years 1846-1847 ; and training orphan girls for domestic service. In these works of mercy they received kind co-operation and substantial aid from all classes and denominations. Later on, the Sisters were invited to attend upon the sufferers in the fever and cholera hospitals, where welcome and assistance were given them by the physicians then in attendance on the plague-stricken.

When their new Convent was completed the sisters opened public schools on September 24th, 1849, and from that date the several works undertaken began to develop gradually. One wing of the new building was devoted to a Training School for teachers, an orphanage, and a class in training for domestic service. In 1871 an Industrial School was opened, and the Cathedral being then completed, the old parish church and grounds were handed over to be appropriated to the orphans. St. Laurence's Industrial School, under the Act (31 Vict. c. 25), had, in 1888, 152 inmates ; the total cost of maintenance and management was £2439 8s. 7d., together with £285 15s. 2d. for rent and interest. The actual industrial profit was £367 14s. 1d., the net cost per head being £15 10s. 2d. In 1876 a handsome chapel was added to the west end of the Convent building. In 1880 the Sisters removed the extern schools to more spacious premises on the opposite side of the road. In the same year they built a bakery for the purpose of training their intern pupils and servants to that useful branch of domestic economy. A sewing school for extern girls was also set on foot. They are here taught various kinds of plain and fancy needlework, &c. In 1884 a large new public laundry was built on the Convent premises. In 1888 the accommodation being found insufficient, large new schools were erected. In 1890 the charge of the Albert-road Male Infant-School was handed over to the Sisters. The "Kindergarten System" has been adopted of late in the Infant-Schools, and is found attractive to the little children. Over 800 pupils now attend the extern schools, and 200 interns of all classes are under the constant care of the Sisters.



THE URSULINE CONVENT of St. Joseph, Finisklin-road, was built and occupied in 1850. The object of the foundation was the education of young girls of various ranks of society. There is a gratuitous school for the poorer class, supported by private contributions, also a day-school for children of the town, and a boarding-school for those who can afford to pay. The buildings cover a great extent of ground, and comprise dormitories, study, class-rooms, library, and chapel.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN'S was built in the form of a Celtic cross, the eastern limb being finished with a polygonal apse; the ceiling, doubtless, was in the shape of a rather flattened dome; the windows were topped with a semicircular arch, and a round arch led into the chancel. This can now be seen above the ceiling of the present chancel; the old chancel was much shorter than the present one, and was lighted by windows, one in each side of the apse; the whole church was built of stone, quite unchiselled, and the roof rested on the walls, as in an ordinary dwelling-house. This edifice was almost entirely the work of a Mr. Castels who erected it on the site of the prior structure *circa* 1730. Pococke, in his tour in Ireland, in 1752, thus describes St. John's:—"The Church is the design of Mr. Castels; it is in the form of a cross, with galleries at every end, except the east. The roof is a curious piece of work."

It is stated that Castels (a German by birth) was at the commencement of the eighteenth century the leading architect in Ireland. He built Leinster House, in Dublin; Carton; the Rotunda; the Dining-hall in T. C. D.; in fact, he had more or less to do with all the great buildings erected from 1725 to 1751: he also designed Hazlewood House; but the Church of St. John appears to have been almost the only one remodelled by him. Pococke states that it was the finest he met with in his tour. In 1773, a second row of galleries was erected for accommodation of the Charter-school children; but the church underwent no important change until the year 1812, when it was decided to transform it into a Gothic edifice. The windows

were taken out and rebuilt, as they now appear; the polygonal apse was demolished, and the present chancel built in its place, though, strangely enough, it was, till lately, only used as a vestry-room.

The repairing and enlargement of the fabric of St. John's, in 1812, cost the then enormous amount of £5059 6s. 11d., toward which the Board of First Fruits granted a loan of £1500. In 1883 £1000 was spent in converting the vestry-room into a chancel, and in erecting a vestry-room and organ-chamber;<sup>1</sup> while these works were being carried on, the foundations of the polygonal apse which formed the original chancel were laid bare. Most of the church furniture is new, but some of the communion-plate bears the date 1722.

A handsome stained-glass memorial representing "The Ascension" has been placed by the present rector in the east window, in memory of his mother; another window is dedicated to the memory of the late Mrs. L'Estrange, of Kevinsfort, by her many friends in the town and county. A handsome pulpit, formed of Caen-stone and marble—the carving exceptionally good—together with a memorial-brass, has been erected in memory of the late rector (the Rev. E. Day) by his widow: a prayer-desk to correspond bears the inscription:—"To the glory of God, and in loving memory of Christopher Carleton L'Estrange and Charlotte Annie L'Estrange, erected by their children, 1890."

The soil of the churchyard presents some peculiarities. There is little doubt that bodies buried in it do not decay in the ordinary manner, and adipocere in large quantities has often been noticed when the ground was opened for fresh interments. Adipocere is a soft, unctuous, or waxy substance, of a light-brown colour, into which the fat and muscular fibre of bodies are converted by burial in soil of peculiar nature; and this fact demonstrates that the earth possesses certain qualities which, combined with moisture, bring about the result.

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<sup>1</sup> St. John's, it is stated, was the first religious edifice in Sligo which could boast of an organ. This instrument is reputed to have been taken from the wreck of one of the galleons of the Spanish Armada.



It is alleged that, by reason perhaps of chemicals in the soil, yews will not grow in the churchyard except in freshly-imported earth, that few, if any, worms burrow in the ground, and that rats do not frequent the place. Like most churchyards in the country, there are few tombs of any antiquity remaining, that of Sir Roger Jones being the oldest. One inscription records the death of a man "who deceased being aged 120 years," and here and there the beholder is startled by sight of the word "executed," in bold lettering; but it relates, not to the manner of death of the occupant of the tomb, but to the self-advertising of the sculptor. A very common 18th century marine inscription, somewhat similar to that in the churchyard at Ballysadare, may be seen on the slab over the last resting-place of Captain James Hamilton, who died in 1766:—

"Tho' Boreas' blasts and Neptune's waves

Have toss'd me to and fro,

In spite of both, by God's Decree,

I harbour here below:

And tho' at anchor here I lie

With many of our Fleet,

I must one Day set sail again

Our Saviour Christ to meet."

William Draper, of Sligo, who is buried in the churchyard of St. John's, in his will, dated December 3rd, 1719, ordered his executors and their representatives for ever to "pay unto three Protestant maid-servants of the Church of England as by law established, that shall live three years a-piece in their service in good repute and without spot or blemish, the sum of £6 sterling to each of them as portion at the end of their said three years' service, and continue for ever to the like Protestant maid-servants, to be paid them by the like payment at the end of their said three years' service, such Protestant maid-servants to be avouched by their masters and mistresses before the minister of the Parish of St. John's aforesaid, and of my under-named executors." This bequest is still regularly administered, the qualification being residence within the Union of St. John's.

It may be well to give a list of the rectors of St. John's,<sup>1</sup> as far as can be ascertained:—

William Newport, 1635; William Rycroft, 1641; Cleremont Panham, D.D., 1666; John Wilkinson, 1681; Coote Ormsby (previously Chaplain to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland), 1681; John Fountaneen, 1694; Eubule Ormsby, 1730; Manly Gore, 1771; Wensly Bond, 1776; Charles Hamilton, 1822; Edward Day, 1846; A. M. Kearney, 1876, Archdeacon of Elphin, present rector.

The old parish church had to provide accommodation for the parishioners of St. John's, and those of Calry, Killaspugbrone, and Killmacowen—the Union of these parishes was created about the year 1681, and afterwards broken up again. First Calry was detached, then Killaspugbrone was formed into the parish of Knocknarea.

CALRY CHURCH (fig. 26) was completed in the year 1824 at a cost of £3000. On March 1st, 1817, the vestry of the Union of St. John's received a letter from the Bishop of Elphin, recommending the erection of a chapel of ease for the Union, owing to the increase of the Protestant population. This idea, after some debate, was ultimately adopted. The Board of First Fruits gave a free grant of £900 towards the expense of building the church and purchasing a site for it, and a glebe-house. The stone of which the church is built was quarried on the ground; and this fact, to some extent, may explain the small cost of the erection of this edifice as compared with that of the alterations made in St. John's. Calry Church is a plain Gothic building, with a tower and spire; it was consecrated in June, 1824.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The curates of St. John's were:—Edward Nicholson, *circa* 1700; John Palmer, 1761 to 1766; James Armstronge, 1771 to 1800; Edward Coates, 1801; H. Hunt, 1820; W. C. Armstronge, 1821; Hugh I. Hamilton, 1828; Hugh Murray and G. Crozier, 1830; J. E. Green, 1835; G. Montgomery, 1840; Knox Homan and Andrew Robinson, 1841; Samuel Shone, 1847; Oliver J. Tibeando, 1856; Morgan W. Jellett; John Dowden, 1864; W. A. Day, 1867; A. M. Kearney, 1868; J. A. French, 1877; Frederick Hamilton, 1880; Henry Mills, 1882; C. W. Darling, 1886. One of the curates of St. John's became a Roman Catholic Priest, and by a strange coincidence one of the former curates of the Roman Catholic Cathedral became a Protestant.

<sup>2</sup> *To all Persons to whom these presents shall come greeting—Know ye*



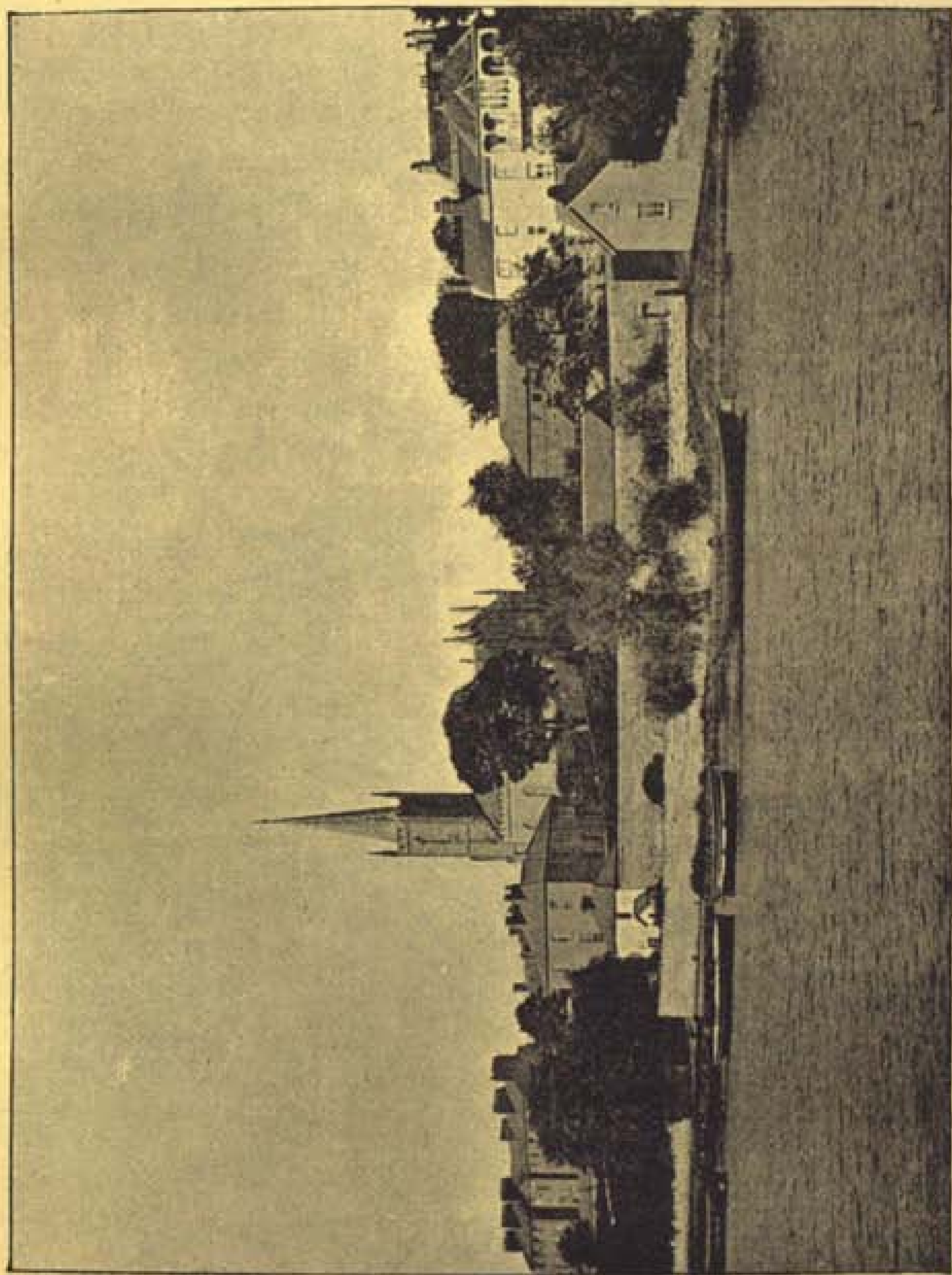
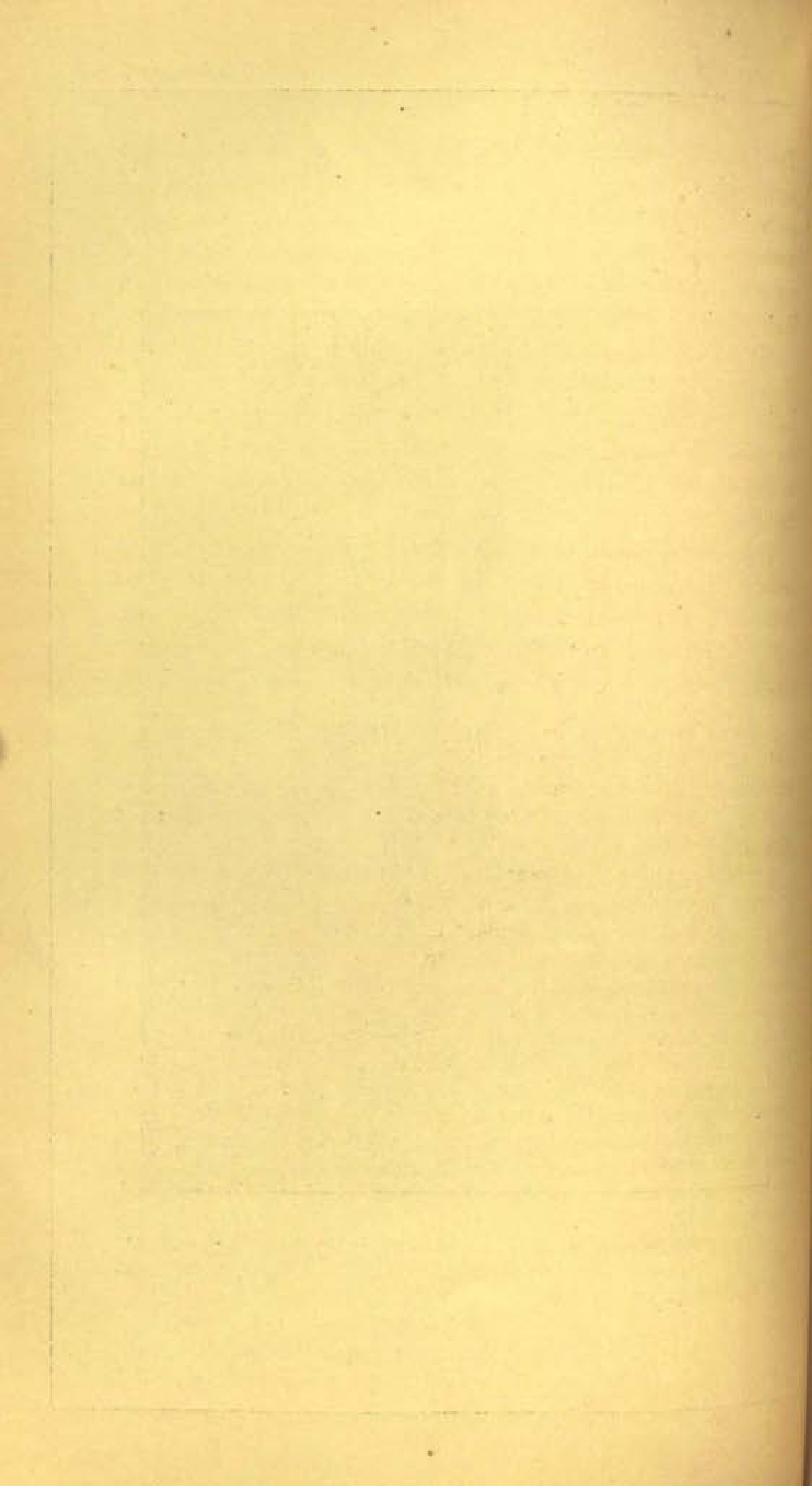


Fig. 26.—CALVARY CHURCH, AS SEEN FROM THE RIVER.





The following year a bell was placed in the steeple. The church, when roofed in, did not seem to offer sufficient accommodation, and therefore an addition to the interior arrangements was made by the erection of a gallery, of which the extra cost was defrayed by disposal of the pews to subscribers for that purpose.

Until the disestablishment of the Irish Church, the minister of Calry held the position of "Incumbent to the perpetual Cure or Chapelry of Calry." The first appointment made was the Rev. William Armstrong, who during 18 years officiated in that church until his death on the 29th March, 1840, at the age of 46.

To perpetuate the memory of one who had been so eminently useful in his clerical capacity, and so universally beloved by a large circle of friends, a meeting was held in the Vestry-room of St. John's Church on the 7th of April following, John Wynne, Esq., in the chair, when it was resolved:—

"That a subscription be opened, in the first place, to erect a simple Tablet to the memory of the late Rev. William Armstrong, in the Church of Calry, commemorative of his active, zealous, and constant exertions in that parish, for a number of years, and in the discharge of which he ultimately fell a sacrifice.

"Secondly, that the surplus be appropriated for the purpose of educating two children at the school of 'The Sons of the Clergy,' belonging to such clergymen resident in the County of Sligo, as may be approved by a committee hereafter to be named; and that it be a request of the subscribers, to the widow of their late minister, to allow

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*that we John, by divine permission Bishop of Elphin, on the thirteenth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, at the request of the Incumbent of the Union of St. John's, Sligo, and the minister of the perpetual cure of Calry (being a member of said Union) together with the Churchwardens and Protestant Parishioners of the Union of St. John's aforesaid, in the County of Sligo and our Diocese of Elphin, did consecrate in due form the Church of Calry Parish, by the name of Calry Church.*

IN TESTIMONY whereof we have caused our Episcopal seal to be hereunto affixed this thirteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four.

CHARLES SMITH, *Registrar.*

[Episcopal O Seal.]

her sons to be first put in nomination. That the Fund bear the name of 'THE ARMSTRONG FUND FOR ASSISTING IN THE EDUCATION OF SONS OF THE CLERGY IN THE COUNTY OF SLIGO.' "

In pursuance of the above resolution a body of twelve trustees was formed by whom the fund was to be administered. A trust deed was duly executed, and contributions were freely given for the objects of the trust. The first trustees were:—The Bishop of Elphin; E. J. Cooper, M.P.; James Wood; Rev. George Trulock; Jemmett Duke; Richard Gethin; Sir R. Gore-Booth, Bart.; John Wynne; C. K. O'Hara; Rev. C. Hamilton; Major Parke; William C. Wood.

The last-named acted as treasurer and secretary for several years, and by his exertions up to the date of his death in 1856 the prosperity of the fund was mainly established. Sufficient money having been received, the trustees, after erection of a memorial tablet in Calry Church, invested the balance in the purchase of tithes and in other securities, from which an income is derived for the education of such sons of the clergy as are eligible for the benefits of the trust. The Rev. James Gully, Rector of St. Peter's, Athlone, undertook the charge of the fund on the death of W. C. Wood, and by him the finances were collected and disbursed, until failing health compelled him to resign the task. He was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Heany, Incumbent of Calry, who after two years of management gave up the secretaryship, which was then handed over to the Rev. Canon F. Flood, by whom, since 1885, the trust has been and is still administered. By this fund about twenty sons of the clergy have been assisted in their education; some of them are now in the ministry of the Church, and others are filling important positions in life; at present two sons of clergymen, who belong to the county, are deriving benefit from its annual grant. The amount of interest which of late years has been available is somewhat under £60, derived from nine holders of rent-charges, by whom yearly or half-yearly payments are punctually made. Any clergyman who is either a native of the county, or, who has served within its boundary, may, on the occurrence of a vacancy, apply for aid in educating his sons.



According to the rules, no boy is eligible who is under eleven, and none is retained on the list after having reached eighteen years of age.

The Rev. W. Armstrong was succeeded in Calry by the Rev. Andrew Gillmor, D.D., who remained until the year 1856, when he was promoted to the parish of Killenvoy; the Rev. Samuel Shone succeeded him and held the parish until 1866; he had been previously curate in Rathlin Island from 1843 to 1846, and curate to St. John's, Sligo, from 1847 to 1856. He was promoted from Calry to the parish of Urney, in the County Cavan, in 1878 was appointed Archdeacon of Kilmore, which position he held, together with the Rectory of Cavan, until the year 1884, when he was consecrated Lord Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin, and Ardagh. He had been distinguished as a Hebrew Prize-man in his University career.

From 1867 to 1871 the Rev. John Dowden was incumbent of Calry. He had been Curate of St. John's, Sligo, from 1864 to that year, and was subsequently Curate of St. Stephen's, Dublin, from 1871 to 1874; Chaplain to the Lord Lieutenant, 1870-1874; Pantonian Professor of Theology, and Bell Lecturer in Edinburgh Theological College, 1874-1887; Canon of Edinburgh Cathedral, 1880-1887; Donnellan Lecturer, T.C.D., 1884, and consecrated Bishop of Edinburgh 1886. He was succeeded in Calry by the Rev. Robert M'Walter till 1876; the Rev. Matthew Magill was then appointed; he survived but a short time, and after his death the Rev. Thomas Heany became incumbent in 1877. Mr. Heany had been curate of Clontibret 1869-1870; Enniscorthy, 1870-1873; Trinity Church, Dublin, 1873-1876; subsequently English Chaplain at Calais, 1887, and is now Rector of St. Stephen's Church, Hull. In 1887 the Rev. J. Fleetwood Berry, B.D., was appointed incumbent; he had been curate of Christ Church, Kingstown, 1881-1883; Diocesan Curate to the Bishop of Meath (Lord Plunket), 1883-1884; senior curate of St. Matthias's Church, Dublin, 1884-1887, and is now Rector of St. Nicholas's, Galway.

The Rev. Llewelyn Paul T. Ledoux, appointed October,

1890, is the present rector. He had a distinguished collegiate career: *Trinity College, Dublin*—B.A. Honours (Respondent). *Divinity School*—Archbishop King's Prize; Downes' Prize for Essay; Downes' Prize for Extempore Speaking; 1st Class Divinity Testimonium (with 1st place Junior and Senior Exam.). Prizes for Ecclesiastical History, Sermon. *Theological Society*—President's (Regius Professor) Prize for Essay; 1st Oratory (Medal); 1st Essay (Medal). M.A.—(Presented with address and fees for, by Lord Primate and members of Armagh Clerical Union).

In 1881 he was ordained Deacon; Priest, 1882; 1881, Curate Portadown (Diocese Armagh); 1883, Rector, Kilmore; 1888, Curate, Bray (Diocese Dublin); 1888, Incumbent, Killylinchy (Diocese Down).

A portion of the town of Sligo is included within Calry, the river separating it from St. John's parish. Some of the public institutions, the three Banks, the County Infirmary, the Fever Hospital, the Military Barracks, the Workhouse, and the District Lunatic Asylum, are situated in Calry. The incumbent is also chaplain of the troops, of the workhouse, and of the asylum. The parish extends along the northern shore of Lough Gill and joins the parishes of Drumahaire, Lurganboy, Drumcliff, and Rosses Point. There are two Sunday-schools—one held on Sunday morning at Calry school-house, with one hundred and eighty children in attendance, the other, in the afternoon, at Ballinorley, with thirty-three children. There are three daily schools—all being under the National Board: (1) The Model School, (2) Calry National School; (3) Ballinorley National School. The two latter are under the patronage and management of the incumbent.

**KNOCKNAREA CHURCH**, near Strandhill.—Despite the restricted area left to the Union of St. John's by detaching Calry, it was found necessary still further to curtail it, and the parish of Killaspugbrone was formed into a separate district. The idea of erecting a church in the vicinity of Strandhill appears to have been first mooted in 1835, but nothing was



effected until 1840, when the project was taken up by Messrs. Phibbs, Walker, and Wood. Funds were collected for the building, and also for permanent endowment of the new parish, but it was three years before the picturesque little church (St. Anne's) was completed, as shown by the inscription over the entrance-door:—IN HONOREM B. ANNÆ DEO. O. M. DEDICATA CÆRA PRIVATORUM COLLATO CÆDIFICATA, A.D. 1843. The interior is striking, the general appearance being enhanced by several windows of stained glass; the glebe-house, however, was not erected until 1877. Although under the control of the Synod of the Church of Ireland, yet the appointment to the parish is vested in trustees. The income is small, about £140 a year, derived from a lay rent-charge, payable out of the parish of Kilshalvey, union of Boyle, and from other sources. The incumbents were; Rev. James Gully, 1842; Rev. John W. Chambers, 1861; Rev. Charles Hans Hamilton, 1864; Rev. William A. Day, 1867; Rev. Isaac Coulter, 1877; Rev. F. T. Hamilton, 1882; Rev. John Galbraith, 1884—present incumbent.

In 1811 the old church of Killaspugbrone was repaired by the vestry of St. John's, and in 1814 the graveyard was enclosed with a wall. The expense of erecting the neighbouring Roman Catholic chapel was in great part defrayed by a church rate, for at an adjourned vestry meeting of the Union of St. John's, held 29th May, 1832, it was resolved—

“That although at the Vestry it cannot be legally imposed as a parish rate, yet that it is recommended to the several cess-payers of the Union to contribute at the rate of twopence per acre on the land, and one halfpenny per pound sterling on the value of the houses in Sligo, as a sum of money to be applied in assisting the expense of rebuilding the Roman Catholic chapel of Wrensborough, in the parish of Killaspugbrone, and the churchwardens are hereby requested to direct the collector to receive a separate collection accordingly, to be appropriated by them for such purpose.

“CHARLES HAMILTON, *Rector*.

“JOHN MARTIN, *Churchwarden*.”

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH is first mentioned in a MS. in Dublin Castle, entitled “The Civil Establishment of the

Commonwealth for Ireland, 1655," where amongst the allowances granted to ministers, there is one of £100 per annum to John Wilkinson, for Sligo, which was then included in the ecclesiastical "Precinct of Galway."

The first Presbyterian minister of whom there is anything very definite known, was the Rev. Samuel Henry, who came from the Presbytery of Edinburgh in October, 1694, and in May, 1695, was ordained to the joint charge of "Sligo and Moywater," *i.e.* Ballina. In July, 1698, "Moywater" was separated from Sligo, which then became a distinct congregation under his charge. He resigned in 1728. The next minister of whom there exists any record was the Rev. L. Ash (son of Capt. Ash, one of the defenders of Derry), who had received his college education in Edinburgh. The Presbytery of Letterkenny, which in 1717 was put in charge of the district, ordained him to the pastoral charge of the Sligo congregation in 1732. He died in 1742, and was succeeded by the Rev. H. Nesbitt, ordained by the Presbytery of Letterkenny, May 3, 1756. In 1760 Ballymote was joined to Sligo. The Rev. H. Nesbitt died in 1778; his successor was the Rev. Joseph King, ordained by the Presbytery of Clogher, August 4, 1784; he resigned the charge, and was succeeded the same year by the Rev. Booth Caldwell, who died October 24th, 1810. The Rev. Jacob Scott was ordained to the joint charge of Sligo and Ballymote, March 19th, 1811.

In 1823 the Sligo congregation became a separate charge, their first minister being the Rev. James Heron, ordained March, 1824. Mr. Heron becoming infirm, the Rev. Moffatt Jackson was appointed as his assistant. Mr. Heron died at Rosses Point, July 28, 1860, and was succeeded by Mr. Jackson, who had been educated at the old Academical Institution, Belfast. He was one of the first batch of students who received the degree of M.A. in connexion with the Queen's University. The energy displayed by the young minister was rewarded by the gradual growth of the congregation, alike in number and influence. It shortly began to show signs of increased vitality, and the history of the church



has been one of progress and usefulness. He also established a mission-station at Drum. He died November 17th, 1887, and was succeeded by the present minister, the Rev. F. O. Watters, M.A., inducted from the congregation of Kilrea, and installed in the charge of the Sligo congregation, May, 1888.

The present Presbyterian place of worship in Church-lane, was, according to the inscription over the door, erected in the year 1828; and in 1833 a sum of £100 to aid in clearing off the debt due on it was voted by the Vestry of St. John's. The Manse, situated near the Presbytery and the new College, was built in 1867; the sexton's residence and a commodious lecture-hall in 1883.

In the townland of Clogher (half barony of Coolavin) there is a small Presbyterian Church, Manse, and School, which were erected some forty years ago. There is a somewhat similar settlement near Ballymote; and in 1833 the congregation was enabled to improve their place of worship by means of a grant from the Emlaghfad Vestry.

THE CONGREGATIONAL OR INDEPENDENT CHURCH is mentioned during the time of the Commonwealth, when it is alleged that a Puritan or Independent Minister resided for some years in Sligo, and preached in St. John's Church, but was "silenced upon the Restoration in 1660." His following must have either dispersed or been merged in the Irish Church, for the sect remained without visible existence till the year 1773 or 1780, when Andrew Maiben (a Scotch merchant engaged in the linen trade) settled in Sligo, and commenced a regular "Sabbath-day" service. Maiben was a Presbyterian, but on account of the then minister of his denomination holding and preaching doctrines of which he did not approve, he (Maiben) commenced a daily prayer meeting. Through this means a young man named Albert Blest was converted, and became an earnest supporter of and worker with Mr. Maiben, and these two alternately addressed the meeting. Thus was commenced the Independent Congregation in Sligo, although neither of its founders held the views which are generally associated with the name Independent.

The movement grew, and a minister being required, twenty-one probationers in connexion with the Synod of Ulster preached on trial without being accepted. Application was made to the "Seceders" for "supplies," and the Rev. J. Gibson was at length elected pastor. Mr. Gibson, however, did not remain long. Ministerial help was then sought from the Countess of Huntingdon in England, and from the Haldanes in Scotland. In 1791 a chapel was built, the undertaking being aided by Lady Huntingdon; it was styled "Union Chapel," and it seated about four hundred people. The first regularly appointed pastor was the Rev. Claudius Morrison, who was installed in 1800 or 1801; he continued his labours until his death in 1811.

The next minister would appear to have been the afterwards well-known Dr. William Urwick, an Englishman, styled "the Little Giant," on account of his small stature but great abilities. His ministration in Sligo commenced June, 1816; he, however, had some experience of Irish missionary work through a previous visit to Sligo. A short sketch of the journey from his native place gives an insight into the times. He had to be ferried across the Menai Strait, "and from Holyhead a sailing packet, sloop, or lugger, giving but scant accommodation, made the passage to Dublin, sometimes in seven hours, sometimes in from three to seven days. It was at that time a two days' journey across a bleak and boggy country" from Dublin to Sligo. Changed times! We may now dine in London, and on the following day in Sligo.

Dr. Urwick appears to have been an indefatigable worker, and he largely increased the number of his congregation. At the close of the year 1824 he took part in the "Easky Discussion." The priest of Easky had challenged to a public debate, in presence of his congregation, two Scripture-readers who had formerly been Roman Catholics, and who were then travelling through his district. At an early hour the chapel was filled with a large concourse of people. The chairman sat before the altar; reporters took down *verbatim* all that was said,



together with quotations read ; each speaker stood on the steps of the High Altar when he addressed the meeting.

On behalf of the Protestants were Dr. Urwick and the Scripture-readers Messrs. Jordan and Murray. On the side of the Roman Catholics the Rev. Messrs. Devine, Hughes, and Lyons. One on either side spoke alternately. The discussion lasted only two days, the parish priest then insisting that the debate should be concluded. The shorthand notes relating to this discussion were published.

Dr. Urwick remained in Sligo till the year 1827, when he received "a call" to the Congregational Church in York-street, Dublin, where he passed the remainder of his active ministerial life. For about six months after Dr. Urwick's departure, the Rev. S. Binks, of Bristol, carried on the ministration, and his successor seems to have been a Mr. Carlile. In 1831, the Rev. E. H. Nolan was appointed minister, and in 1835 was succeeded by the Rev. Noble Shepperd. It was during the ministration of the latter that the present handsome church, schools, and manse were erected in Stephen-street at a cost of £3000, the money having been collected principally in England. The ceremony of laying the foundation stone took place on the 3rd April, 1850, and the church was opened for divine worship on 15th August of the following year.

Prior to 1846 Mr. Shepperd had started a school that was transformed, during the famine, into a ragged school, in which the children were supplied with food. When the period of distress was over it reverted to its original use, but was closed when the Model School was established. Mr. Shepperd died in August, 1875, and was succeeded by the Rev. James Sterling, who was followed in 1885 by the present minister, Rev. H. E. Bennett, B.A.

The plot on which the church and other buildings stand has been lately purchased, and is now the property of the congregation.

OF METHODISM—the exact date, and the means by which it was introduced into Sligo, are not recorded. It is probable that in 1757 some person connected with the Society in

Drumsna settled in this town and invited to his house the preacher stationed at Castlebar. The minister's name is not mentioned; but the then Rector of St. John's, the Rev. Eubule Ormsby, was unwilling to interfere with this pioneer of Methodism.

In May, 1758, Wesley paid his first visit to Sligo, riding from Drumsna through Ballymote, Collooney, and Ballysadare. The prospect was so encouraging that arrangements were made for regular visits by the minister stationed in Castlebar. On May 16th, 1760, Wesley again visited the town and found the congregation so much increased in number that he saw the need of providing a comfortable place wherein to hold the services; accordingly a large and commodious apartment was procured. In 1775 the first Methodist Chapel was erected in "Bridge-street;" it was small, and had an exceedingly low, thatched roof. By this time, however, the town had become the head of a Circuit, provided with two ministers. On May 20th, 1789, Wesley paid his fourteenth and last visit to Sligo, and was entertained in the barracks by the then Quartermaster of the 1st Dragoons.

About this time Gideon Ouseley—"Ireland's most successful evangelist"—settled in the town, and opened a school in the little chapel in "Bridge-street," which was largely attended. He, with other ministers, preached in the open air, more especially on market-days, and as they addressed the people in their native Irish tongue, crowds gathered around, listening eagerly and respectfully. In 1797 Ouseley settled in Ballymote and delivered many outdoor addresses.

In 1802 the old building in Sligo proving insufficient for the congregation, a new and more commodious one was erected in Linenhall-street. Later on, this was superseded by the present church, situated in Wine-street, and which was opened for Divine service on Sunday, 3rd June, 1832.

The ministers are itinerant, three years being the longest period they can remain in one place. This, though an excellent system when the body was first organized—it being then a missionary society, so to speak—is now somewhat out of date.



Two ministers are generally appointed to a Circuit, which comprises several congregations; these are assisted by local preachers, leaders, and class-leaders. From these the "leader's meeting" is formed, at which the ministers attend, the presiding clergyman being styled the "superintendent." This board (which is supposed to meet weekly) manages the affairs of the local society, and the "quarterly meeting," composed of the same officials, together with the trustees of chapels, manages the affairs of the Circuit. A number of Circuits form a district; a "conference" meets annually and is the supreme ecclesiastical court. Sligo is the head of the district, which includes nine Circuits; in each of them, one or more ministers are stationed. These Circuits include Castlebar, Ballina, Mohill, Longford, Drumshambo, Boyle, Ballymote, Manorhamilton, and Westport. The Sligo Circuit includes Sligo, Drum, Ballinfull, and Collooney, the work being carried on by two ministers and a staff of local preachers and leaders. The church in the Sligo Circuit is supported by voluntary contributions. In 1889 the Circuit contributed for foreign missions, "Circuit support" and other benevolent purposes, a sum of £643 8s. 1d.

In 1829 a Wesleyan Methodist chapel was opened in Ballymote, the plot of ground being given free of charge by Lord Kirkwall. The Methodist chapel in Collooney was built and opened for service in 1861. It stands upon a small plot that formerly belonged to the Crown, but being sold by public auction was purchased by the Methodist body.

THE CHRISTIAN BRETHREN are represented in Sligo. They have purchased the old "Union Chapel" in "Backlane," and it is now designated "The Hall." This sect has numbered amongst its adherents some able men—notably, John Darby; hence, they are sometimes styled "Darbyites." Most of the leaders of this movement have been Irish. Their numbers are not known, and the Census figures may be misleading; but their total in this county is probably under one hundred. They do not take part in political elections or in municipal matters.

THE SLIGO UNITED YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION was formed in 1868, principally through the exertions of the Rev. John Dowden, who was then incumbent of Calry parish. In the beginning, the Association held its meetings in a small room near the "Victoria Bridge," but its progress being very rapid larger accommodation had to be procured, and on May 5th, 1880, an apartment in the Town Hall was hired. About 1884, the Primitive Methodists offered for sale their meeting house in Stephen-street; it was purchased by a few gentlemen, was fitted up, and styled "The Sligo Protestant Hall." Rooms for their accommodation were then offered to the S. U. Y. M. C. A., at a much lower rent than those occupied by them in the Town Hall. In March, 1885, a branch of the Association transferred their property from the Town Hall to the Protestant Hall. At present there are about 150 members; the reading-room is well supplied with periodicals, and the leading daily and weekly newspapers; the library contains nearly 500 volumes. The dissentients to the removal of the Association from the Town Hall started a new society styled "The Sligo Young Men's Christian Association." In 1889 they entertained the idea of holding an Exhibition in the town; the authorities of the Science and Art Department, South Kensington, consented to send a selection of exhibits, and from that time forward the Exhibition advanced considerably beyond the proportions originally contemplated. Promises of loans from local sources poured in, and the greater part of the Town Hall, where the Exhibition was to be held, was beautifully decorated. The opening day was fixed for April 8th; the Exhibition remained open for eight days, and during that time nearly 6000 people passed through the doors.

A branch of the YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION was started in Sligo in 1884, commencing with about 30 members and associates; there are now 80 on the roll, and the attendance averages from 30 to 50 on "class-night," which is once a week. The rooms, large and suitable for their purpose, are open every evening. All these Associations for young men and young women are undenominational.



THE TOWN HALL is situated in Quay-street. So early as 1825, at a meeting of the gentry of the county, it was resolved that a Company should be raised with a capital of £5000, in shares of £25, for the purpose of erecting a Town Hall and Public Rooms in Sligo, but the project at that time collapsed.

The reformed Corporation having no place wherein to meet for transaction of business, Mr. Wynne granted them, during some years, the use of the old town-office free of charge. In 1848, however, he signified his intention in future to charge rent, and they moved elsewhere. At a meeting of the Town Council, on March 21st, 1859, it was resolved to make an application to the Town and Harbour Commissioners, that the Corporation should be accommodated with a room. Matters, however, continued in an unsatisfactory state until March, 1860, when the following petition was forwarded to the Lord Lieutenant:—

*To HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF CARLISLE,  
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.*

“That Sligo, possessing a population of fifteen thousand, has no Town Hall, Library, or Reading Room, and that the want of a public building for those purposes is much felt by the inhabitants.

“That the Town Council of Sligo has only power by the Municipal Reform Act to strike a rate of threepence in the pound on the annual tenement valuation, and that the small sum so levied, which does not amount to £200 a-year, is scarcely sufficient to pay the necessary officers of the Corporation very small salaries. That it is therefore impossible for the Town Council to raise or levy funds in order to erect a suitable Town Hall, Library, and Reading Room, and believing such a building to be a work of great public utility, and that if erected private individuals would supply books and requisites, they most respectfully pray that your Excellency will recommend the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to allocate towards this useful and highly desirable object the portion of the public money called the Reproductive Loan Fund, which has been returned from the County of Sligo, the balance of which Memorialists believe amounts to about two thousand pounds.

“That in consequence of the very severe and long-continued winter, the high price of food and fuel, and the scarcity of employment, the working class in this district is in much distress; and as the fund was created by the spontaneous liberality of the people of Great Britain and Ireland to relieve the distress then existing, your Memorialists

venture respectfully to suggest that the present time is a period when the object of the fund could be beneficially carried out in a useful public work which would give considerable employment.

“ And your Memorialists will ever pray.

“ Signed on behalf of the Corporation of Sligo, in Council assembled :—

[SEAL.]

“ HENRY LYONS, *Mayor* ;

“ GEO. WHITTAKER, *Town Clerk.*”

In November, 1860, the Lords of the Treasury stated that they were :—

“ Prepared to take into consideration the question of granting money from the Reproductive Loan, on receiving an estimate of the probable cost of the proposed Town Hall, including the furnishing thereof, together with a statement of the amount actually subscribed, on account of such expenses, as their Lordships are of opinion that a fair proportion of the cost should be provided out of funds locally collected, and that as the balance in their hands on account of the fund above referred to is applicable to the *entire* county, their Lordships do not feel justified in sanctioning the application of the whole of it to any object or objects in the town of Sligo.”

A Committee was at once formed to solicit voluntary subscriptions. At the first meeting a sum of £250 was collected, the estimated cost of the building being £5000. The Grand Jury of the County unanimously recommended the grant, and waived their claim to any portion of the money, whilst the Mayor, in a letter of November 19th, stated “ that the Hall will be as available for County purposes as for the Corporation.”

On the 14th December, the Lords of the Treasury appropriated the balance of the Reproductive Loan Fund, about £2790, to defray the cost of the proposed buildings, and on the 1st January, 1861, a unanimous vote of thanks was given by the Council to Moses Monds, “ as the person who first suggested the idea of applying for and ultimately succeeding in obtaining the balance of the Reproductive Loan Fund.”

In the survey of the town taken in the year 1662, the site on which the Town Hall now stands is described as “ The Castle-quarter, now the New Fort beginning at the bridge, south side



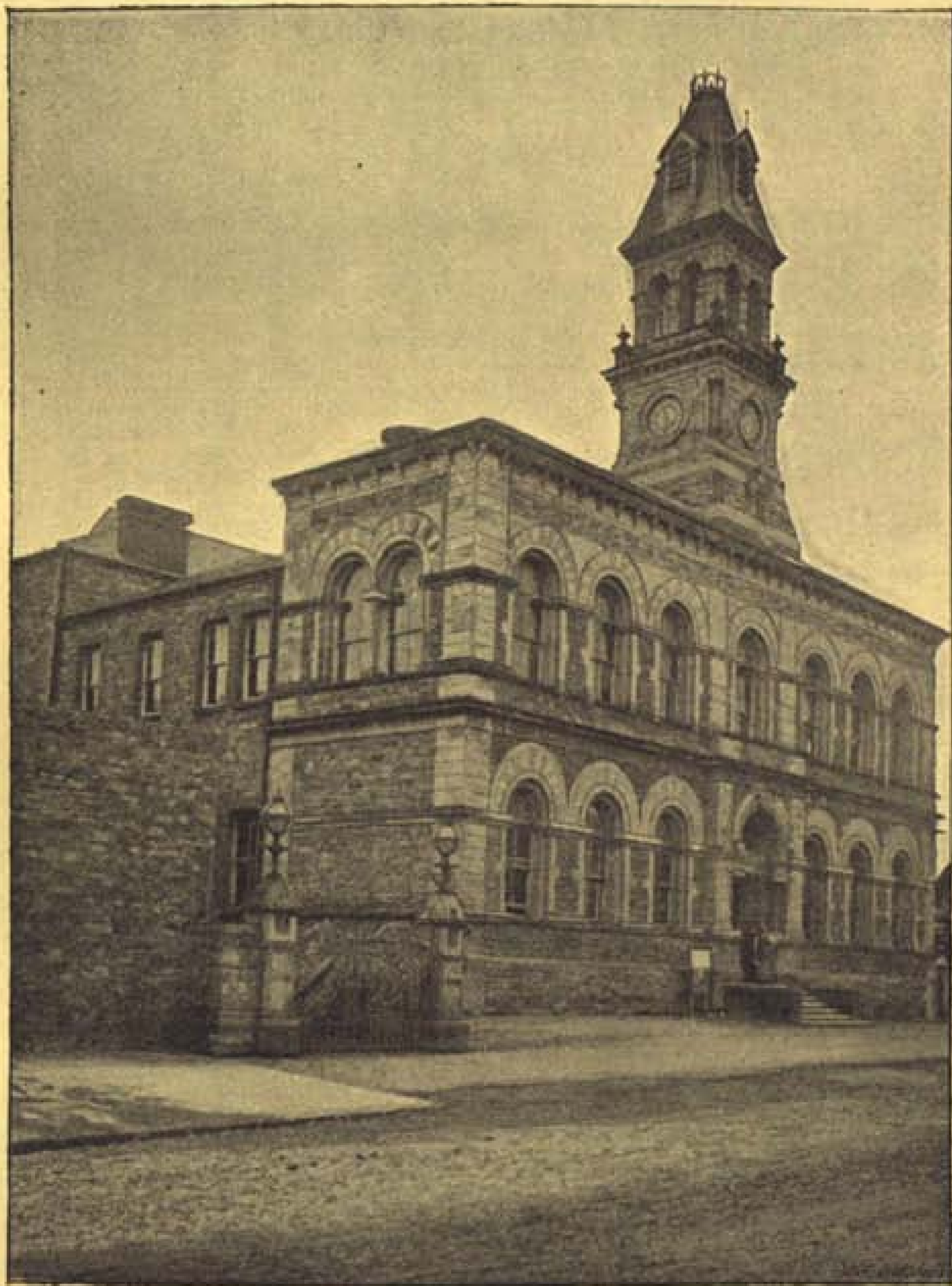
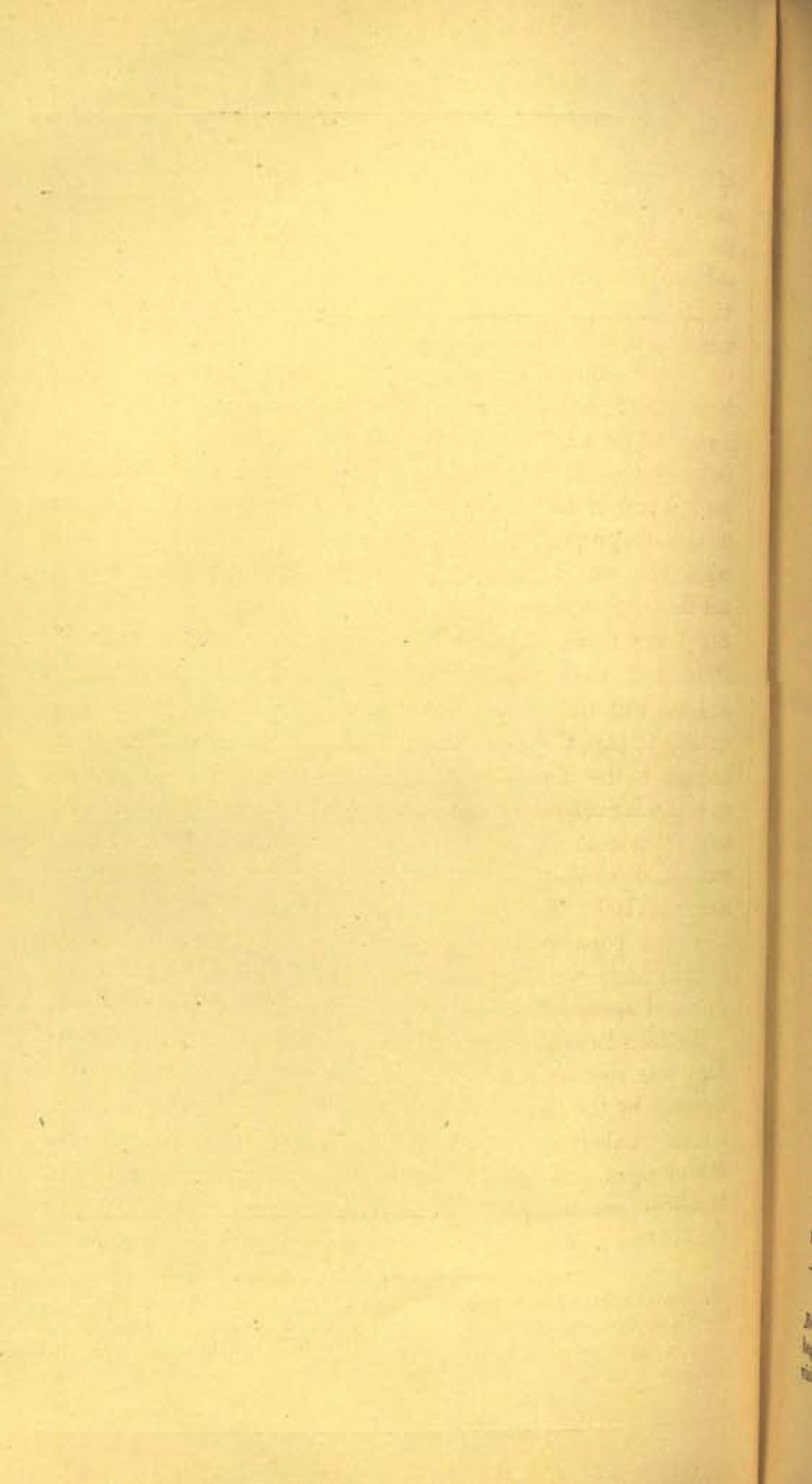


Fig. 27.—THE TOWN HALL, SLIGO.





of the fort." This plot, on which had originally stood the old castle,<sup>1</sup> replaced by the "New Fort," was subsequently styled the "Barrack Fort," or the (as time advanced) "old Fort Plot," and thus the place which formerly re-echoed to the clang of war is now devoted to the more peaceful, yet occasionally very militant, debates of the town-councillors. The plot on which the Fort stood was demised to the Crown (by lease, dated November 15, 1700), for 999 years, at the nominal rent of 1s.; it was used for a barrack so late as 1766; in 1792, the Board of Ordnance demised the premises to Owen Wynne, by lease, subject to a rent of £18 Irish, but, in 1856 it became by purchase, the absolute property of the Wynne family. There were long negotiations on the subject of the sale between Mr. Wynne and the Corporation. Mr. John Wynne's offer of the plot for £1100 was finally approved of at a meeting held October 26, 1861. The offices of the Harbour Commissioners were to be combined with the municipal offices, the Harbour Commissioners agreeing to pay £50 per annum for the use thereof; owing, however, to the deficiency of funds necessary to carry on the work, it was finally decided that they should give £500 in cash, and be thus rent free, whilst for the same reason Mr. Wynne was induced to accept £50 as yearly ground-rent in lieu of the sum of £1100; the deed of conveyance was executed May, 1864, and possession given July 27th of same year, when advertisements were at once inserted in the newspapers for plans and specifications for the building.

Sir John Benson—a well-known architect, and a native of Sligo, was requested to give his assistance to the Committee appointed by the Corporation for selection, and from amongst a large number of plans that furnished by Mr. Hague was decided upon. On July 28th, 1865, a tender amounting to £5000 was accepted from Messrs. Crowe, Brothers, for the building; Mr. James Caldwell being appointed clerk of

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<sup>1</sup> The old castle must have been an imposing structure, for, in Camden's *Britannica* (Gibson's edition, vol. ii., p. 1411), it is stated that from Killybegs, in the County Donegal, "the remains of Sligah Castle are still visible."

the works. On October 12th the foundation-stone was laid, in presence of a large concourse of spectators; underneath the stone, enclosed in a glass jar, were deposited a record of the history of the erection of the building, also a list of the names of the members of the Town Council and Corporation officers, together with a specimen of each coin of the realm.

In 1866 rules drawn up for the management of the building were submitted for approval of the Lord Lieutenant, and sanctioned by him. Great difficulties were experienced in completing the work, owing to scarcity of funds; the original contract was greatly exceeded, and though no exact returns are now procurable, it is believed that the total cost, including furnishing and painting, was not short of £10,000.

The Clock-tower was subsequently erected by the Harbour Commissioners, the clock itself being presented by a member of the Council. The bell of the Town Hall bears on its exterior the national devices—a harp, crown, and shamrock—together with the inscription in raised letters:—"Presented to his fellow-townsmen, by Charles Anderson, Sligo."

There was great delay in allocating a room for the Free Library, but on July 30, 1880, it was at last formally opened, a large room on the ground-floor being appropriated to this object. According to Mr. D. Saultry (the librarian) it contains 1800 volumes; the average daily attendance is 100; it is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays, and from 2 to 7 p.m. on Sundays. The yearly expenditure is £47 per annum.

The other rooms are used as:—1, a Commercial Reading Room; 2, the Council Chamber; 3, the Young Men's Christian Association. The rooms in the upper floor are used for the office of the town-clerk; the mayor's room; the harbour-office; also a large assembly room, &c., which can be let for public meetings, concerts, &c.; the income derived from this source, in some years, amounts to a considerable sum; the Town Hall, however, is itself a dead loss of about £75 a-year.

An unsuccessful effort was made in the year 1872 to purchase the plot of ground lying south of the Town Hall, between it and Lower Knox's-street. This open space would have been



of great benefit ; it might have been utilized as a small recreation ground, and it would have displayed to view the architectural beauty of the building which is now almost concealed by the newly-erected warehouse of Messrs. Lyons and Co.

THE ASSIZE COURTS (fig. 28) were erected in 1878-9 at a cost of about £17,000 on the site of the old Courthouse and gaol, portions of which were utilized in the new building, to the value of about £3000. Mr. R. Carroll, F.R.I.B.A., was the architect. The principal entrance from Albert-street is by a large open arcaded porch leading by a short vestibule to the public hall, which forms the principal means of communication with the courts and the several public offices on the ground floor ; the Crown Solicitor's offices are to the left of the entrance, with rooms beyond for prisoners in waiting ; to the right are the rooms for jurors in waiting, and a barrister's consulting room. Adjoining this latter is the court-keeper's house, with accommodation for the barristers, and having direct access by a private corridor to the two courts. The Crown and Record Courts are behind the central hall, with entrances for the public direct from it ; they are divided by a wide corridor which leads to the two judges' rooms beyond, and also gives private access to the courts for barristers, solicitors, and others having business there. Attached to each court are two petty-jury rooms.

The Record Court is similar in arrangement to the Crown Court, except as regards the accommodation required in the latter for conducting criminal cases. Both the courts are lighted by windows placed high up in the walls, and they are heated by hot-water pipes.

At each end of the central hall there are stone staircases leading to the upper floor, enclosed by stone-pointed arcades which continue round the corridor above. The hall has an open timber hammer-beam roof, and is lighted from above by pointed lights between the rafters.

The county surveyor's and grand-jury secretary's offices open off the upper corridor. On the upper floor, at the rear of the courts, is the grand-jury room, with committee and witness rooms adjoining, and with a separate corridor for the public.

The style of architecture adopted is Gothic, freely treated. In the front, towards Albert-street, the central feature on the ground floor is an open porch with circular pillars in the centre, and square piers at the angles, carrying three pointed arches; above these there is a group of seven windows with cusped heads and mullions, the whole finishing with a high pitched gable. The central gable stands out from a high mansard roof here, which is flanked by two circular stone pinnacles or turrets with sunk panels, and finished with conical stone roofs. An important feature in this front is the octagon ventilating tower, which is about 60 feet high to the roof parapet; it has four storeys, and is covered by a slated roof with two ranges of dormers alternating on each of the eight sides, the whole finishing by an iron finial about twelve feet high.

The front extends to about one hundred and fifty feet, including the old gaol, which has been newly faced to correspond with the rest. Most of the cut stone used in this building is from the quarries at Mount Charles, near Donegal; it is a superior stone, and retains its original colour well.

OF GAOLS in our modern acceptation of the term there were formerly but few in Ireland. In the fourteenth century, when the province of Connaught was one vast shire, under Richard de Bermingham as sheriff, it is stated (Patent Roll, 31st Ed. I. No. 10) that the King possessed no prison in the entire County of Connaught in which prisoners could be securely kept. Until comparatively recent times the castles either of the Anglo-Normans or native Irish chiefs did duty both as prisons and residences, and to the Irish Monasteries there was sometimes a penitential prison attached; also Crannogs, or Lake Dwellings, were also frequently utilized for a similar purpose.

It has been found impossible to identify the locality occupied by the first prison erected in Sligo. At the close of the seventeenth century, "a prison and session-house" stood between the site of the present Courthouse in Albert-street, and the corner of Castle-street; in 1766 both these buildings had been



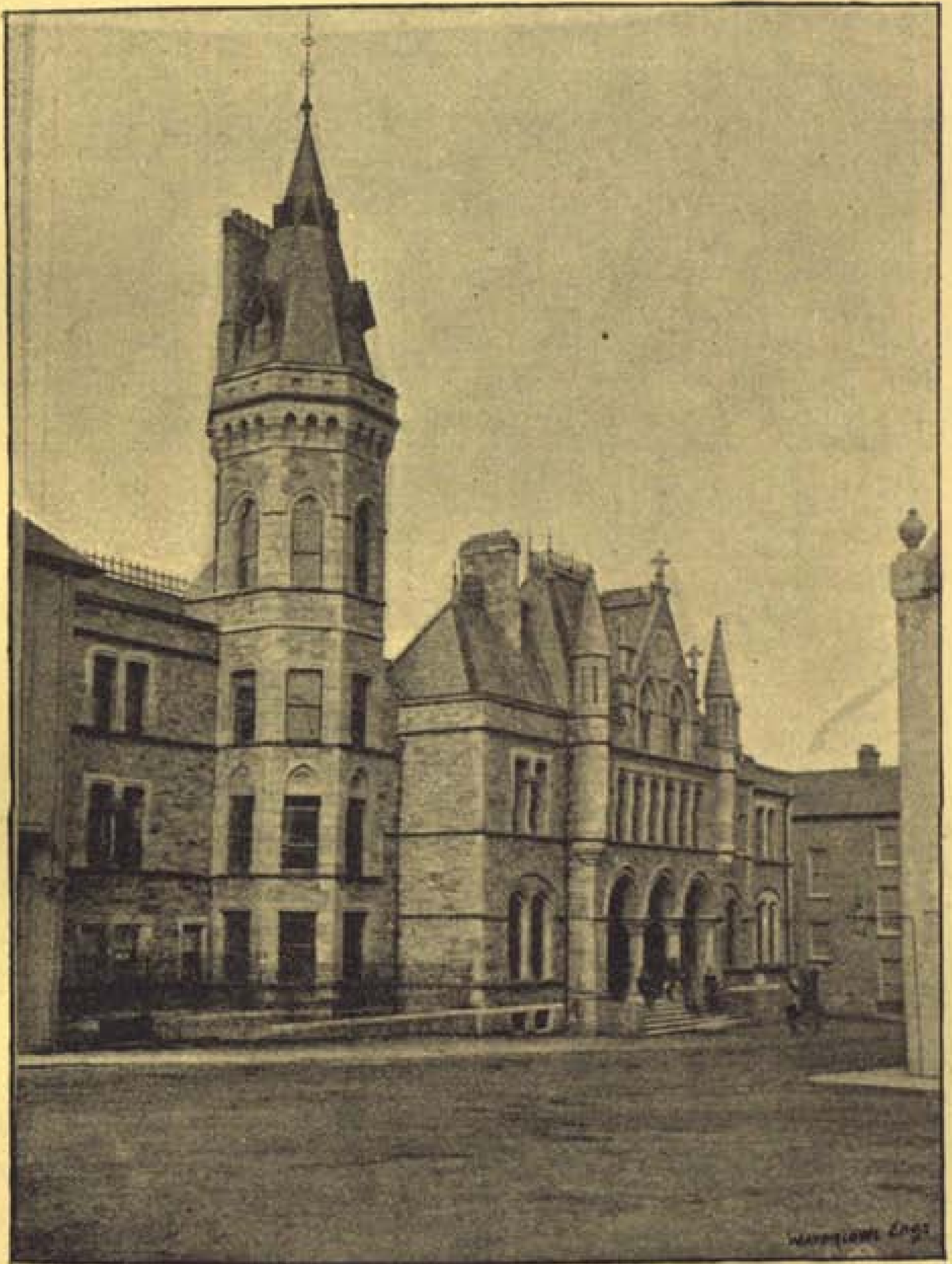
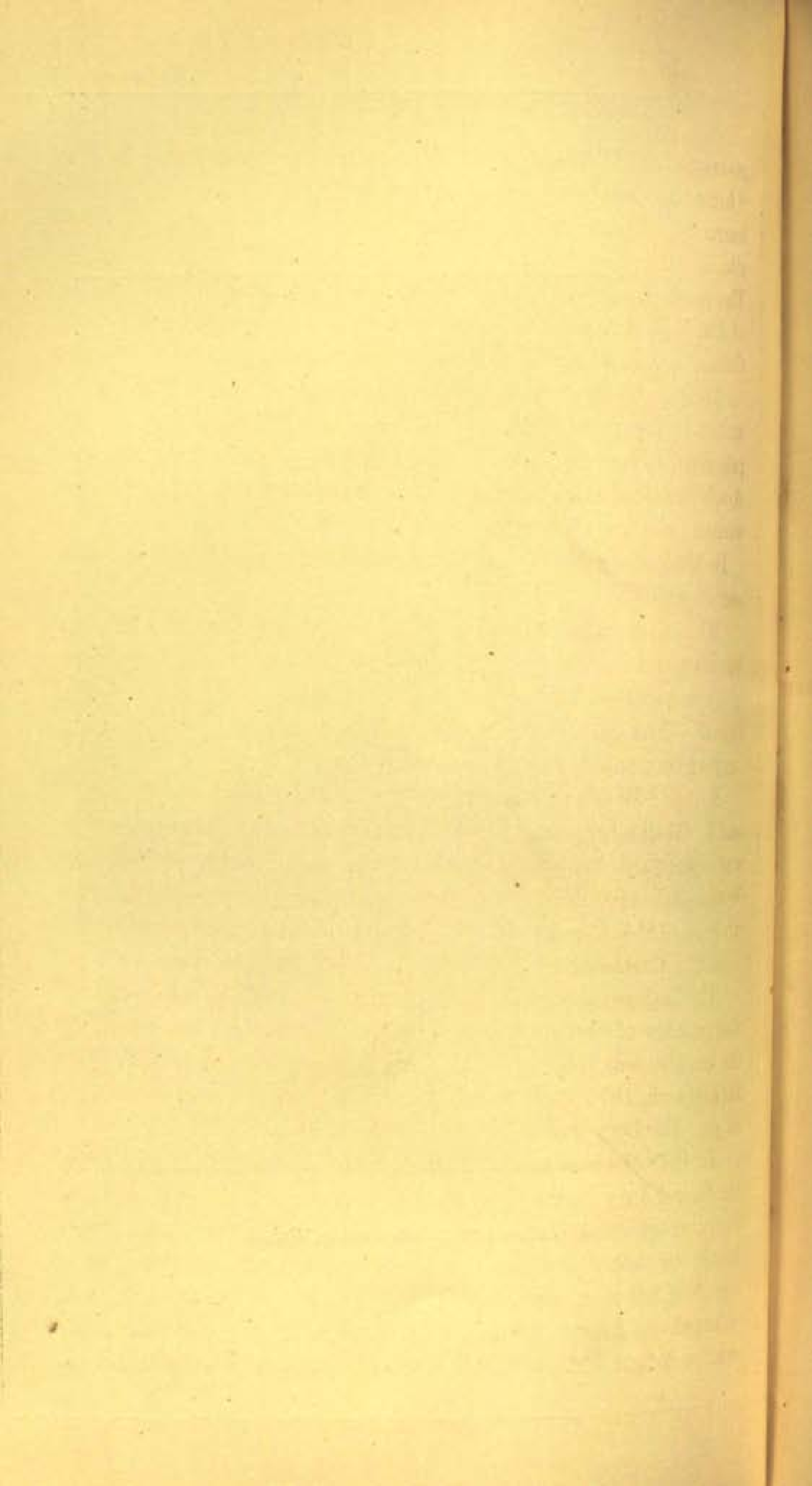


Fig. 28.—THE ASSIZE COURTS, SLIGO.





re-erected in High-street, at the corner of Back-lane, and a "house of correction" stood behind the present (No. 1) police-barracks. A gaol and courthouse were in 1809 built on the old site, in the present Albert-street, or immediately adjoining it. The presentments for the purpose in 1808 amounted to upwards of £2650. The Committee were Edward Cooper, Owen Wynne, Colonel Irwin, Jones Irwin, and Abraham Martin.

In 1818 the present prison was built at a cost of £38,000; and at that period "some ladies had begun visiting the female prisoners of the town, on the plan of the celebrated Mrs. Fry. A schoolmaster was engaged for the men, and a mistress for the women, who were taught to read and sew."

In 1823 a treadmill and other additions were erected at a cost of £3300.

The cholera epidemic of 1832 found its way into the prison, but no death cases occurred. In 1849 there were 291 prisoners in custody, this being the highest number recorded on the books. The gaol afforded a constant asylum to lunatics, varying in number from fourteen to twenty.

In 1838 W. Tucker was Governor of "the Sheriff's Prison," and J. Beatty Governor of the House of Correction; the latter was afterwards appointed over both prisons. In 1857 Mr. Walsh was appointed Governor, vice Beatty, superannuated; whilst in 1884, Captain H. C. Lloyd was transferred from H.M. Prison of Castlebar to fill the place of Mr. Walsh, deceased.

The last *public* execution took place in 1861; the offence was murder of the most brutal description, and the object of the murder was robbery. The latest execution occurred on the 20th March, 1875, for the murder of an old man at Ash-lane, Sligo. Robbery was the object of the murder.

In 1878 the management of the prison was transferred from the Grand Jury of the County to Government. In the following year gas was introduced into the prison, the cells were heated by hot-water pipes, and sanitary arrangements were improved, all at a cost of £700, whilst in 1885 the prison was enlarged (by prison labour) at a cost of £500. Useless work was no longer enforced—all labour being now reproductive.

This tends to make the prison a self-supporting establishment. "Hard Labour," in the case of male prisoners, is enforced by means of the treadmill, which pumps up water for sanitation and other purposes, by oakum-picking, by stone-breaking, and wood-chopping. Industrial labour consists of shoemaking, tailoring, tinsmith work, carpentry, painting, glazing, and gardening. Female prisoners are employed at sewing, knitting, and washing. All articles manufactured by prison labour—save oakum, broken stones, and firewood, which are sold to the public—are for the benefit of the prison.

The present staff consists of a governor, medical officer, Protestant and Roman Catholic chaplains, chief warder, clerk, storekeeper, together with seven warders, two assistant matrons, and an officers'-mess servant. The salaries of the subordinate officers are now 100 per cent. higher than when the prison was under control of the Grand Jury. Discipline in the Irish Prisons is now more carefully maintained than heretofore; this is principally owing to the fact that no officers are appointed of whose previous character and intelligence the General Prisons Board are not fully satisfied. Before a candidate's appointment is confirmed, the Civil Service Commissioners must be satisfied as to his or her educational attainments. An officer on appointment now is intended for general prison service, consequently must join the staff of one named by the General Prisons Board; this is invariably situated at a long distance from his native place. A Visiting Committee, consisting of Justices of the Peace, is still appointed by the Grand Jury at each Assizes.

THE COUNTY SLIGO INFIRMARY holds a leading position amongst such institutions. Four hundred and one patients were, in 1889, treated as intern, whilst no fewer than two hundred and eighty applicants resided beyond a ten mile radius.

The Journals of the Irish House of Commons relate that on the 15th of March, 1766, a committee was appointed to bring in "heads of a Bill for erecting and establishing public County Infirmarys in the Kingdom." This Act (5 George III., c. 20), is, in its main provisions, in force at present. Additions have



been made in the powers of Grand Juries, for whilst the original Act permitted only an annual presentment of £100, they may now present up to a sum of £1400. At present, however, the Grand Jury Act (6 & 7 William IV., c. 116) rules all appointments and presentments to County Infirmarys. The amount of relief accorded by means of these institutions is very considerable. The Association of Infirmary Surgeons, through their Hon. Secretary, Dr. MacDonnell, Dundalk, publish from time to time statistics concerning them. All the buildings were originally erected by private subscriptions; and in many cases they revert to the lord of the soil should they cease to be maintained as at present.

A large amount of medical and surgical relief, at a comparatively low rate of expense, is afforded to the poor in Sligo by the County Infirmary. The cases admitted are, in general, the same class in all essentials as those treated in metropolitan hospitals. The means of support is derived from (1) presentments by the Grand Jury; (2) subscriptions to qualify as governors of the hospital; (3) bequests and donations. It may be roughly calculated that eighty-five per cent. of the income is derived from the first source.

No old records of the Infirmary are now extant. It existed in the last century, but was then supported by voluntary subscriptions. The site and materials were sold by the Grand Jury when the new building was erected. Up to 45 George III. it would appear as if infirmaries supported by public rates were only established in certain specified localities. The wings to the present edifice were added about the year 1845.

The female accident ward has been fitted up by the Wynne family in memory of the late Right Hon. John Wynne, and as a memorial of the interest he always took in the institution, which is now a model of its kind. It is thoroughly equipped in all particulars, sanitary accommodation, &c., well-trained nurses, and a good supply of the best surgical instruments and appliances.

Drs. Burnside and Ovenden were surgeons to the Infirmary at the close of the last and commencement of the present

century. Surgeon William Bell was in office in 1813, died of cholera in 1832, when Dr. Thomas Little was appointed. In 1849 he succumbed to a similar epidemic, and was succeeded by Dr. W. S. Little. In 1877 the present surgeon, E. Mac Dowal, was appointed.

In the year 1813 a medal in connexion with the "County Sligo Infirmary" was struck by William Stephen Mossop, a well-known artist, having on it a view of the building. The medal is mentioned by W. Frazer, M.D., in his essay "*On the Medallists of Ireland and their Work.*"

THE FEVER HOSPITAL was, in the last century, situated in a then completely isolated position on the green headland westward of the present Victoria approach to the town. Here it remained for a lengthened period until the new edifice, now in use, was erected. It bears over the door the inscription:—  
ERECTED AT THE JOINT EXPENSE OF THE COUNTY AND EDWARD SYNGE COOPER, Esq., M.P., 1822. On the 29th May of that year it was announced that the new Fever Hospital had been occupied, and contained no less than thirty-eight patients, and from the distress of the poor, the fever cases were daily increasing. Just before the outbreak of the cholera—ten years subsequently—it was almost empty of patients, as demonstrated by the returns of the sick which were published weekly in the columns of the local newspaper. This hospital was not long ago in a very dilapidated condition; the doors and window-sashes needed repair, and the accommodation for the fever-stricken was totally inadequate, according to modern and humane ideas. This state of affairs is said to have arisen from the almost periodical opposition made to the presentments at sessions for support of the institution—by magistrates living in distant parts of the county, who were of opinion that a central hospital was not required. The oldest records of the hospital have disappeared, so that a complete list of physicians is at present not procurable. The medical men in charge of the Fever Hospital since 1822, were Drs. Irwin, Coyne, Knott, Homan, Lynn, and Murray.

THE LUNATIC ASYLUM is a noble structure in the Eliza-



bethan style; the site is distant about a mile from the town and in a favourable position, commanding a view of very picturesque scenery.

After the first passing of the Acts regarding lunacy, most cases of insanity occurring in the counties of Sligo and Leitrim that required special treatment, were sent to Ballinasloe, where there was then a central asylum for the province of Connaught; in consequence, however, of its over-crowded condition, an order in Council was made, on the 17th April, 1847, constituting the counties of Sligo and Leitrim a "Lunatic District" (within the meaning of the Act), and ordering the erection near the town of Sligo of an asylum to accommodate 250 inmates. On the 7th November, 1847, amidst a large concourse of people, the foundation-stone was laid. A bottle was sealed up containing *The Sligo Journal* and *The Champion* newspapers, together with a slip of parchment descriptive of the particulars of the day's ceremony, together with a specimen of each copper and silver coin of the realm. The bottle was then placed in a hollow cut in the stone, which was covered with a zinc plate. The amount of the contract was nearly £30,000, the architect being Mr. William Deane Butler, and the contractor Mr. James Caldwell. In the year 1874, owing to the increase in the number of registered lunatics, the asylum was enlarged by the addition of two wings, at a cost of £14,000, which increased the accommodation from 250 to 470 beds.

It is alleged that year by year the percentage of insane is on the increase, that the number of those bereft of reason is augmenting with greater rapidity than it ought; but this may be fairly accounted for by improved registration, as also by a diminished death-rate amongst the insane owing to better treatment; likewise to the fact that many are now placed in restraint who, in former times, would have been left at large; the increase of insanity is therefore greater in appearance than in reality.

In Sligo dangerous lunatics were confined in the county gaol—coercion and seclusion being the usual course pursued in cases where restraint seemed necessary; some were sent to

Dublin, those of unsound mind, who appeared to be harmless, were allowed to wander about the country eking out a precarious living by begging, and numerous anecdotes are recounted of this class. One well known "natural" solicited alms from a young gentleman whose father—recently dead—had taken great pride in the planting of his demesne, and would not permit any of the trees to be cut down. The son was then occupied in superintending the felling of some timber for sale, and instead of bestowing upon the beggar the alms his father had been accustomed to give, told him, with an oath, "to go to hell." "Begorra, your honour, when I go," replied the idiot, "I'll tell your father you're cutting the timber." A somewhat similar story is told of the celebrated surgeon Abernethy, who, finding opposite his residence a large pile of paving stones which prevented his carriage from being drawn up at the hall door, swore at the pavier and ordered him to remove the stones. "Where shall I take them to?" asked the workman, who was an Irishman. "To hell," shouted the choleric disciple of *Æsculapius*. Pat smilingly replied: "Hadn't I better take them to heaven—sure they'd be more out of your honour's way."

It is stated that even so late as 1828, the gaol afforded an asylum to lunatics; in February, 1831, there were thirty thus confined, and twenty-eight in the year following; in March, 1849, there were only fourteen. Prior to the erection of the present asylum, a few harmless lunatics were kept in a house, the ruins of which may still be seen about two miles from Sligo, on the road to Rosses Point.

According as the system of more modified restraint for the insane developed, in like manner did the need for supplying them with means of occupation become essential, therefore, a further portion of land was purchased, at a cost of £5500, and it is now utilized as a tillage-farm—thus affording ample employment, or rather recreation to the inmates of the asylum. The farm is self-supporting, and supplies the requirements of the establishment in potatoes, vegetables, milk, &c.; the net profit averages £550 per annum; for 1888, it was nearly £740;



for 1889 about £654, the articles consumed being credited at full market price. A high boundary wall had surrounded the original farm of 30 acres, and when its area was increased there was no real impediment to the exit of such of the patients as might at the time be employed at work on the newly-added portion of land; but in consequence, probably, of the greater amount of freedom supposed to be enjoyed by the patients thus seemingly at perfect liberty, the escapes or attempts at escape diminished in number.

The separate rooms for sleeping accommodation of the inmates have lately been converted into dormitories, with the result of obtaining greater order and quiet.

The expenditure on the Institution has been, of late, increasing considerably; under the *régime* of the late Dr. John M'Munn, the first resident medical superintendent (appointed 1852, died 1882), the total disbursement for the years 1856 and 1857 was £3025, and £3109 for maintenance of 120 and 143 patients, respectively; in the year 1889, it was almost £9000 for 439 patients; however, the Treasury grant covered one half of this amount, leaving the residue to be defrayed by the tax-payers of the counties of Sligo and Leitrim. The present medical officer in charge is allowed to have an assistant, resident in the house, the visiting and consulting physician being E. C. Mac Dowal, M.D. During the year 1889 the average daily number of patients in the building was 439.

LYING-IN HOSPITAL and HOUSE OF REFUGE.—In the commencement of the century, *i. e.* in 1804, £30 was voted by the Grand Jury for the training of a proper nurse, whilst during the year 1819 “fifty poor married lying-in women were attended by the accoucheur.” Notices regarding the institution occur from time to time in the columns of the local newspaper.

In aid of the “House of Refuge,” various sums of money were bestowed by individuals, and the moiety of fines levied in the Borough was also given in support of the House: the old Infirmary would seem to have been utilized for this purpose. Both these institutions appear to have been discontinued on, or shortly after, the introduction of dispensaries.

So early as the commencement of the eighteenth century there was a charity-school in the town of Sligo. Alderman Draper, in his will, dated 1719, bequeathed "to the charity Black-boys of the town of Sligo, the sum of fifty pounds sterling—which is now in the hands of Thomas Jennings, of Sligo, merchant, at interest, to be paid as my executors shall appoint and direct for the support of said charity-school." Towards the close of the century the manner of providing for foundlings and exposed children grew to be such an intolerable nuisance that the Vestry of the Union of St. John's refused to sanction any outlay, so that these waifs would appear to have been thenceforward sent to Dublin. The following are the numbers of admissions from the county Sligo, into the "Foundling Hospital" in that city, during nine years and a-half up to the 31st December, 1808 :—1800, 3 ; 1801, 6 ; 1802, 4 ; 1803, 6 ; 1804, 8 ; 1805, 13 ; 1806, 23 ; 1807, 19, half-year 9 ; 1808, 13 ; total, 104.

THE PROTESTANT ORPHAN SOCIETY—which may be viewed as but a continuation of the Cholera Orphan Society of 1832—owes its origin to the "Friendly Brothers' Club," which used to meet in Sligo on March 17th in each year, and to make a collection from the members then present in aid of some charitable object. In the year 1837—mainly through the influence of the Rev. William Armstrong, incumbent of Calry—it was considered that no better application of their annual collection could be made than devoting it to the support of the orphans of deceased Protestants, who had lived and died in their own county, leaving no adequate provision for their widows and children. Accordingly, in 1839, the society was formed, about the time that the "Dublin Protestant Orphan Society" also came into existence. A committee was named :—

The Bishop of Elphin, *Patron*; Lord Lorton, *President*; O. Wynne, E. J. Cooper, Colonel A. Perceval, Sir R. Gore-Booth, Bt.; Colonel Knox-Gore, Colonel J. Irwin, Hon. C. Wingfield and Major O'Hara, *Vice-Presidents*.



The Committee consisted of:—

Captain Barrett, Jemmett Duke, W. Faussett, Captain Fenton, R. Gethin, Junr.; Gowan Gillmor, J. Holmes, John Martin, Major Parke, John Wynne, Laurence Vernon, and all the clergy of the County *ex officio*. James Wood, *Treasurer*; Rev. William Armstrong and W. C. Wood, *Secretaries*.

The Rules of the Dublin Orphan Society were adopted, and the first meeting was held in the school-room, John-street, on March 17th, 1840. In the Report read, only thirty-five orphans had been admitted, to whom grants for maintenance, &c., had been made, ranging from 30s. to £5.

The Society laboured on for several years with very limited financial resources, until it was adopted universally by the county, and gradually became, as it now is, one of its leading and most important institutions. During a lengthened period it depended entirely on card collections, sermons, offertories, and annual subscriptions, but it was largely aided some twenty-five years since by a basket-sale of work, provided by Miss Mary Cooper, of Cooper's Hill, and members of her family, and friends. This latter form of aid developed into a bazaar, managed by the late Mrs. L'Estrange, of Kevinsfort, and Mrs Cooper, of Markree. It still flourishes under a "ladies' committee," and provides fully half the annual income of the Society, the sale in 1889 realizing upwards of £300.

The total number of orphans elected since the formation of the Society is 952; about £23,000 has been received and expended for their benefit; at present there are 96 children depending on its aid for maintenance, clothing, and general provision. The condition of the Society is in every way prosperous and encouraging, and a training establishment for young girls as domestic servants is about to be established.

In a Corporation document of 1760 mention is made of a "workhouse," and there was also an "almshouse." The 11 & 12 Geo. III., chap. xxx., repealed an Act of Henry VIII., entitled "An Act for Vagabonds," as also 11 Charles II., and gave facilities "for the erection of corporations for relief of the poor."

A MENDICITY INSTITUTION for benefit of the destitute poor of Sligo was founded after the labours of the Relief Committee, appointed to alleviate the condition of sufferers during the famine of 1822, had drawn to a close. The local newspaper, in the commencement of the year 1823, drew attention to an evil which, though familiar, yet did not appear to have excited that exertion to meet it that its paramount importance seemed to demand, *i. e.* the increased and alarming state of pauperism then existing in Sligo. The streets were literally crowded with beggars of every description, from the sturdy mendicant to the little urchin pickpocket, the annoyance of whose studied and varied wailings was absolutely intolerable.<sup>1</sup> It was suggested that some commodious building should be appropriated for the purpose of establishing proper and profitable employment for these paupers, the majority of whom were well able to work.

All the preliminary steps having been taken, a public meeting in furtherance of the project was held, subscriptions were raised, and for many years no association of similar kind surpassed it in efficiency. It continued until the establishment of the poor-law system.

The Institution was formed in April, 1824, in the old House of Correction, a site close behind the present police barracks in Albert-road, and at the termination of the first year 50,507 meals had been given to 29,753 persons. The total amount of contributions, entirely from voluntary subscriptions supplemented by the proceeds of charity sermons preached in the various places of worship in Sligo, amounted to upwards of £501, but the expenditure was £547, whilst from a separate fund, raised for the purpose, 64 suits of wearing apparel were issued.

The number of paupers at first permanently admitted was 130, but the establishment was finally regulated so as not, if possible, to exceed 60.

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<sup>1</sup> Carlyle, in his *Irish Journey* in 1849, thus alludes to this nuisance in Sligo—"Beggars, beggars, only industry *really* followed by the Irish people."



On January 23rd, 1826, the Town and Harbour Commissioners gave the contract for sweeping and cleaning the streets to the committee of the Mendicity, for which a sum of £35, afterwards increased to £70, was allowed. The paupers appear to have been thus utilized until August, 1834, when, owing to the defective manner in which the scavenging was performed, the grant was discontinued. In 1845 the site of the Mendicity was sold by the grand jury for £280.

On August 21st, 1839, a meeting of the Poor-Law Guardians of the Sligo Union was held in the Courthouse, and a list is here given of the first Board which assembled in the grand jury room of the above building:—

“ W. H. Handcock, Poor Law Commissioner, attended the meeting; *Chairman*, C. K. O'Hara; *Vice-Chairman*, John Wynne; *Deputy Vice-Chairman*, John Martin; *Clerk*, Mr. Charles O'Connor.

“ *Ex-officio Guardians* (13), *elected by the Magistrates of the Union from their own Body*:—John Wynne, C. K. O'Hara, James Wood, John Martin, Henry Griffith, Sir James Crofton, Gowan Gillmor, John Ormsby, William Faussett, J. Duke, William Weir, W. H. Hillas, H. H. Slade.

“ *Guardians* (39) *elected by the Cesspayers*:—Owen Wynne, John Anderson, for the North Ward of Sligo; Knox Barrett, James Boyle, for East Ward of same; Henry O'Connor, James O'Donnell, for West Ward of same; John Delany, for Knocknarea; William Phibbs, for Kilmacowen; Richard B. Wynne, for Calry; Follis Clarke, Richard Gethin, for Drumcliffe; James Barber, for Carney; Sir R. Gore-Booth, John Gallagher, for Lissadell; Patrick Leemy, for Rossinver; Patrick M'Entire, W. Gallagher, for Cliffoney; William Phibbs, Jas. Simpson, for Ballysadare; O. W. Armstrange, Thomas Phibbs, for Cöllooney; Henry Burrows, Thomas Smith, for Coolaney; Thomas Mulrooney, for Ballintogher; Abraham Martin, for Ballinakill; A. B. Cooper, for Riverstown; Alexander Duke, Samuel Gillmor, for Drumfin; Robert Young, for Cloonacool; George Dodwell, Philip Gormley, for Ballymote; John Taaffe, for Cloonoghil; John Brett, Walter Henry, Thomas Cooke, for Tubbercurry; Martin Burns, for Templeboy; James Dowdican, W. Graham, for Skreen; Charles Beatty, for Dromard.”

The poor-rate commenced at an average of about 5*d.* in the £, and went on gradually increasing until the year of the famine,

when it rose to about 8s. ; it then again decreased, but afterwards began to rise, owing to the abuse exercised in the distribution of out-door relief.

The following poor-rates were struck on the various electoral divisions in the year 1843 : —

“ Knocknarea, 6*d.* ; Kilmacowen, 5*d.* ; Calry, 7½*d.* ; Drumcliff, 5*d.* ; Carney, 2½*d.* ; Lissadell, 0*d.* ; Rossinver, 0*d.* ; Cliffoney, 5*d.* ; Ballysadare, 2½*d.* ; Coolaney, 2½*d.* ; Collooney, 5*d.* ; Ballintogher, 5*d.* ; Balinakill, 7½*d.* ; Riverstown, 5*d.* ; Drumfin, 2½*d.* ; Ballymote, 10*d.* ; Cloonoghill, 5*d.* ; Tubbercurry, 5*d.* ; Cloonacool, 0*d.* ; Templeboy, 2½*d.* ; Skreen, 0*d.* ; Dromard, 0*d.*

THE WORKHOUSE, which was not completed until 1841, is built on very low ground, liable to floods. The edifice cost £13,250, and the Fever Hospital was erected in 1848 at a further expenditure of £2800.

The number in the Workhouse, from being at first only a few hundred, rose gradually from the year 1846 to 1849, in consequence of the great famine, till the Union-Workhouse—originally designed to house 1710 inmates—was no longer able to accommodate all who sought admission, and it was found necessary to provide three auxiliary houses, viz. one at Ballincar, another at the Charterhouse, and a third near the site now occupied by the artisans' dwellings.

On the 23rd December there were 1491 recipients of out-door relief; in midsummer of the following year the numbers again rose; but in March, 1850, no out-door relief was given. It was, however, shortly afterwards gradually re-introduced, and increased with scarcely any intermission. A person being once placed on the list, the majority of the Guardians appeared to consider the recipient had obtained a vested right in the relief, which in many instances might be regarded as an annuity paid with great regularity.

The annexed statement shows the number of paupers in the Workhouse on the 1st September in each year, from the formation of the Union to 1855, together with the highest and lowest



number at any one period of the year in the house. After 1855 the returns made are quinquennial instead of annual.

Date.	Number in House.	Highest Number on any one day during year.	Lowest Number on any one day during year.
1st September, 1842, . . . .	384	454	66
" " 1843, . . . .	299	367	279
" " 1844, . . . .	400	422	326
" " 1845, . . . .	426	463	385
" " 1846, . . . .	565	1198	456
" " 1847, . . . .	929	1513	852
" " 1848, . . . .	1648	3621	1482
" " 1849, . . . .	1720	4175	1858
" " 1850, . . . .	1684	3461	1375
" " 1851, . . . .	1195	2370	884
" " 1852, . . . .	752	1360	675
" " 1853, . . . .	576	928	492
" " 1854, . . . .	457	674	418
" " 1855, . . . .	353	533	345
" " 1860, . . . .	332	398	330
" " 1865, . . . .	384	504	380
" " 1870, . . . .	305	391	288
" " 1875, . . . .	304	395	296
" " 1880, . . . .	321	365	318
" " 1885, . . . .	276	320	267
" " 1890, . . . .	249	310	237

The Out-door Relief Extension Act passed in 1847<sup>1</sup> was little used in the unions till about the year 1865, during which

<sup>1</sup> In the year 1858, the following amusing application was sent in to the Board of Guardians by a pauper inmate of the Workhouse:—

“Ye muses from Parnassus’ hill,  
 I pray ye now assist my quill,  
 To spin a simple rustic verse,  
 And let the Gents know my distress,  
 And hopes the Board will not refuse,  
 To grant to me a pair of shoes;  
 The farmers then will me employ,  
 (The skin won’t do on spade or loy)  
 The Lord of Heaven will ye bless,  
 To help a brother in distress.  
 Kind gentlemen of highest fame,  
 My poor request do not disclaim,  
 I hope it will not meet a failure,  
 Your humble servant,—William Taylor.”

It is needless to say that in recompense of this poetic effusion the shoes were granted.

time one relieving officer discharged all the duties of that department. The number of persons thus relieved weekly was about twenty, at a cost of £3 per week. The following table shows the growth in the Sligo Union of expenditure in outdoor relief:—

Date.	Number in receipt of Outdoor Relief.	Weekly Cost.			Highest Number.	Lowest Number.
June of 1863, . . .	18	£	s.	d.	25	3
„ „ 1868, . . .	142	0	6	0	161	124
„ „ 1873, . . .	278	7	18	6	334	244
„ „ 1878, . . .	399	21	17	7	422	364
„ „ 1883, . . .	582	17	18	6	782	575
„ „ 1888, . . .	389	26	14	6	428	373
		19	11	6		

The increase in the use of stimulants and tobacco has also been steadily progressive. In 1876 the outlay was but £28, in 1881 £77, whilst in 1889 it was nearly £90 per annum.

By the “Medical Charities Act,” the guardians have now under their control five dispensaries, with seven medical officers, for the treatment of the sick and indigent within the union; medicines and medical appliances are supplied to those who are too poor to pay.

The functions of the guardians, as a local body, have been exercised of late in various directions altogether foreign to the relief of the poor. They now administer the Sanitary and Public Health Acts, by officials under their control; the Parliamentary Voters Act, extended by the Representation of the People Act, 1884, and Registration Act of 1885; the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages; the building of labourer's cottages, and inspection of same, under the Labourers Acts of 1883 and 1885. Under the Contagious Diseases Act of 1878, the inspection of animals within the Union, and the export and import of same, are placed under their control, in connection with the Veterinary Department. The Board is also empowered, under the National School Teachers Act of 1875, to contribute, out of the poor rates,



towards the increase of the salaries of the schoolmasters, the matter being left voluntary to them, but if the money be granted the Board has no control over its expenditure. Since the withdrawal of Dromore West and Tubbercurry the valuation of the Sligo Union was in 1888 £99,075 ; it consists of twenty-nine electoral divisions, with an area of 143,523 acres, and a population of 46,063.

Besides the above union, part of those of Boyle and Ballina are comprised within the county boundaries ; this sub-division causes a considerable amount of unnecessary trouble and expense.

The Tubbercurry Union consists of twenty-one electoral divisions ; the area 125,774 acres ; the valuation (in 1888) £40,768, and the population 25,721. The union was formed 23rd February, 1850, the paupers belonging to the district having been previously maintained in the Sligo and Swinford Workhouses. The cost of erecting the building, including the purchase of twelve statute acres of land, was £7400, and the Government made a free grant of the amount.

The number of paupers chargeable to this union on its formation was 198 indoor, and 3 outdoor.

In 1860,	. . .	80 indoor,	. . .	2 outdoor.
In 1870,	. . .	82	„ . . .	58 „
In 1880,	. . .	140	„ . . .	296 „
In 1890,	. . .	99	„ . . .	296 „

In 1888 the average daily number in the Workhouse was 116 ; the total number of persons in receipt of indoor relief was 995, outdoor 640 ; the indoor maintenance cost £951, outdoor £953 ; the salaries and rations of officers £561 ; all other expenses, £464. Total, £2928.

The Dromore West Union consists of seventeen electoral divisions : the area 96,985 acres ; the valuation £36,883, and the population 17,349. The workhouse was, by a sealed order of the Poor Law Commissioners, declared fit for the reception of paupers, and opened 1st May, 1852, when the paupers in the Sligo and Ballina Workhouses, chargeable to the union were

removed to this house, the total number being 170 indoor, and six outdoor.

In 1862,	. . .	111 indoor,	. . .	no outdoor.
In 1872,	. . .	64	„ . . .	19 „
In 1882,	. . .	101	„ . . .	167 „
In 1890,	. . .	60	„ . . .	233 „

The cost of the building is stated to have been about £4000. The total expenditure of the union for 1889 was about £3944; the maintenance of the inmates, £476; outdoor relief, £457; expenses under Medical Charities Act, £589, the balance being swallowed up in salaries of officials, and other expenses.

ARTISANS' DWELLINGS have been built by the Town Council. The committee appointed by them proposed the erection of sixty houses; and on the 24th February, 1886, there was a further recommendation from them to purchase the "Cadgers' Field," and to accept Mr. Ashley's offer of the plot for £500. In March a grant of £3000 was received from the Commissioners of Public Works, and possession of the ground was taken 11th August, 1886. On 29th September the plans, as drawn by Mr. W. Cochrane, the Borough Surveyor, were approved of. The contract for making the roads and sewers was given to Mr. George Kerr; and on 2nd February, 1887, he was declared the contractor for erection of most of the houses; three additional being built in 1888. On 22nd February, 1888, the site of the Artisans' Dwellings, formerly "The Cadgers' Field," was re-named "Emmet-place."<sup>1</sup>

BRANCH BANKS in Sligo are of comparatively recent origin; although to modern ideas it seems strange that business on any extensive scale could have been carried on without the medium of local banks. Formerly, large sums of money were transmitted by bills, and transactions of any great magnitude were negotiated by special messenger. The circulation of small coin was, however, quite as deficient as the means of transferring large amounts; and, therefore, about the middle of the seven-

<sup>1</sup> For Financial statement see Appendix G.



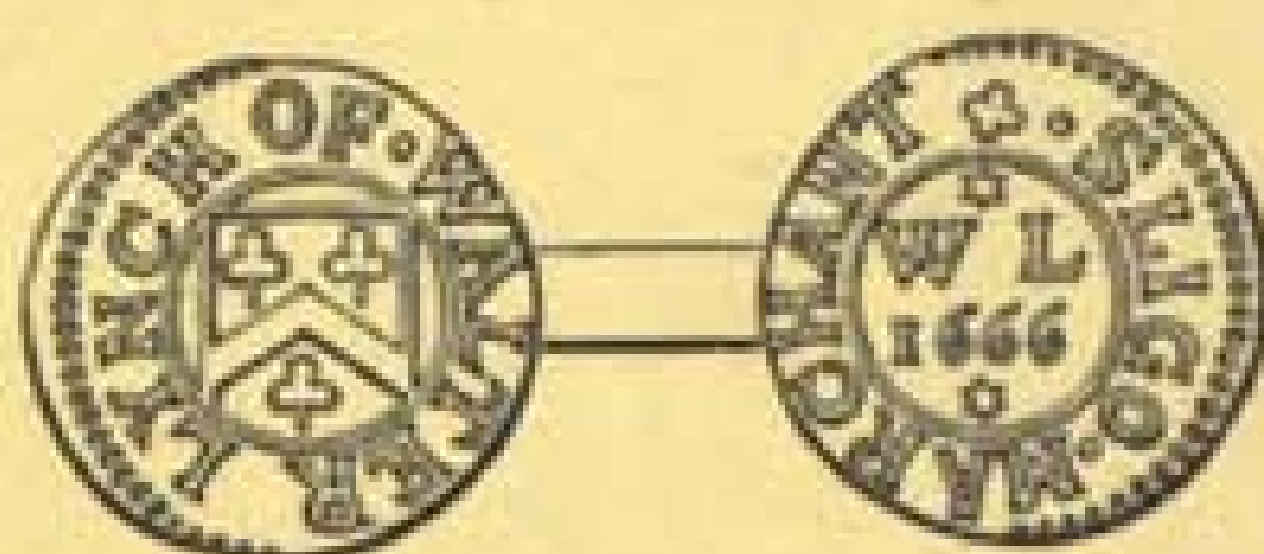


Fig. 29.—TOKEN STRUCK BY WALTER LYNCH, 1666. (Full size.)

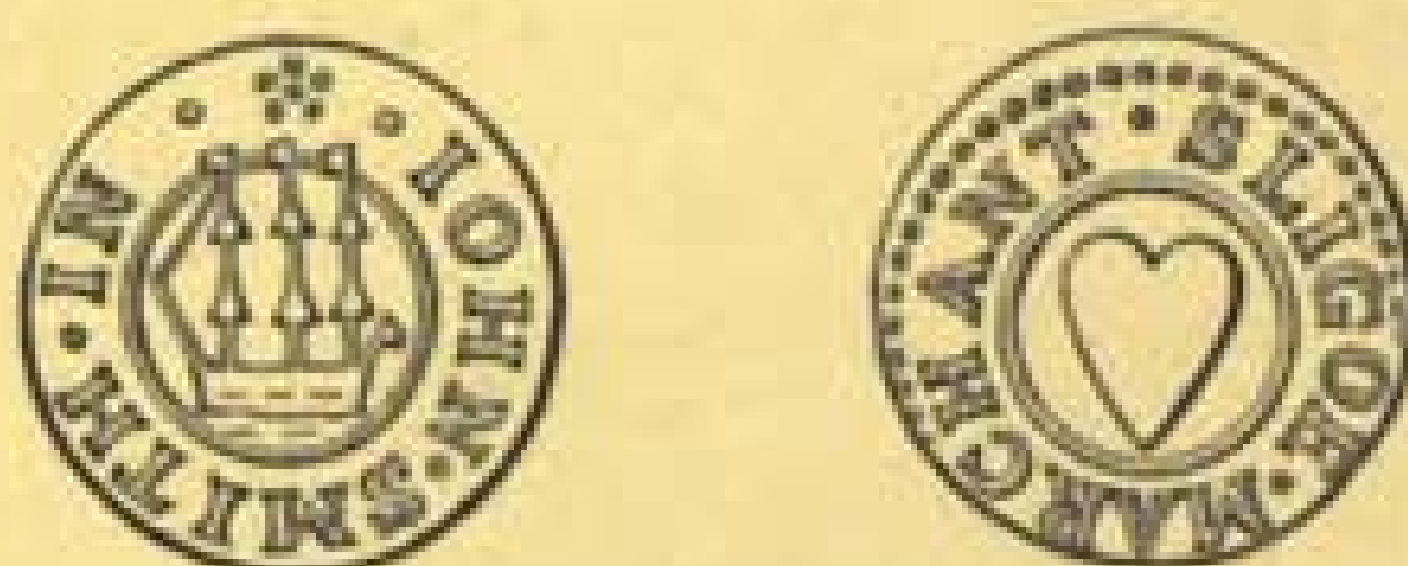


Fig. 30.—TOKEN STRUCK BY JOHN SMITH. (Full size.)

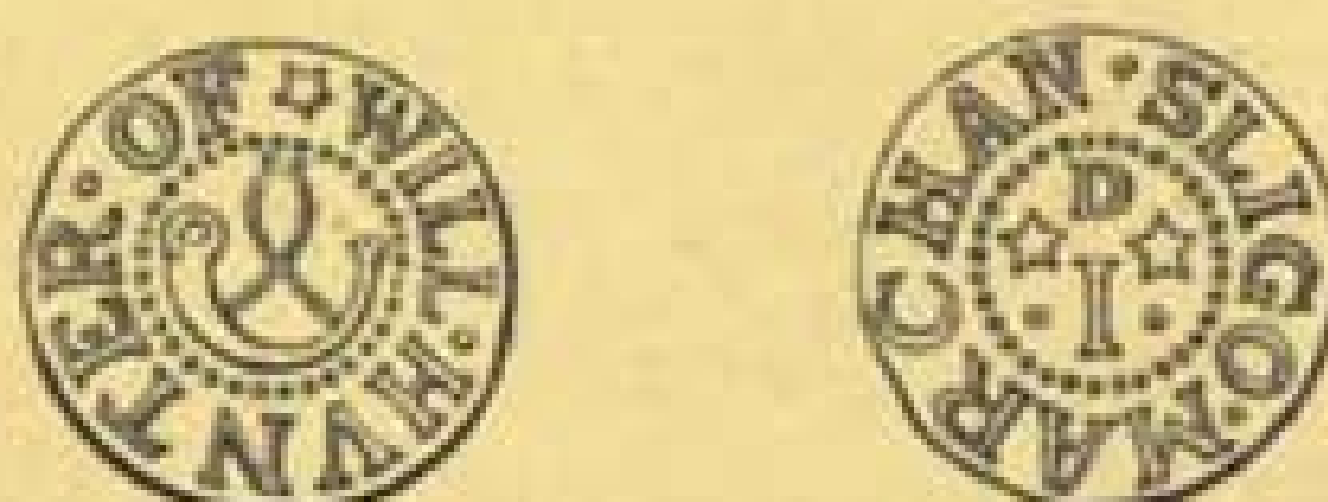


Fig. 31.—TOKEN STRUCK BY WILL HUNTER. (Full size.)

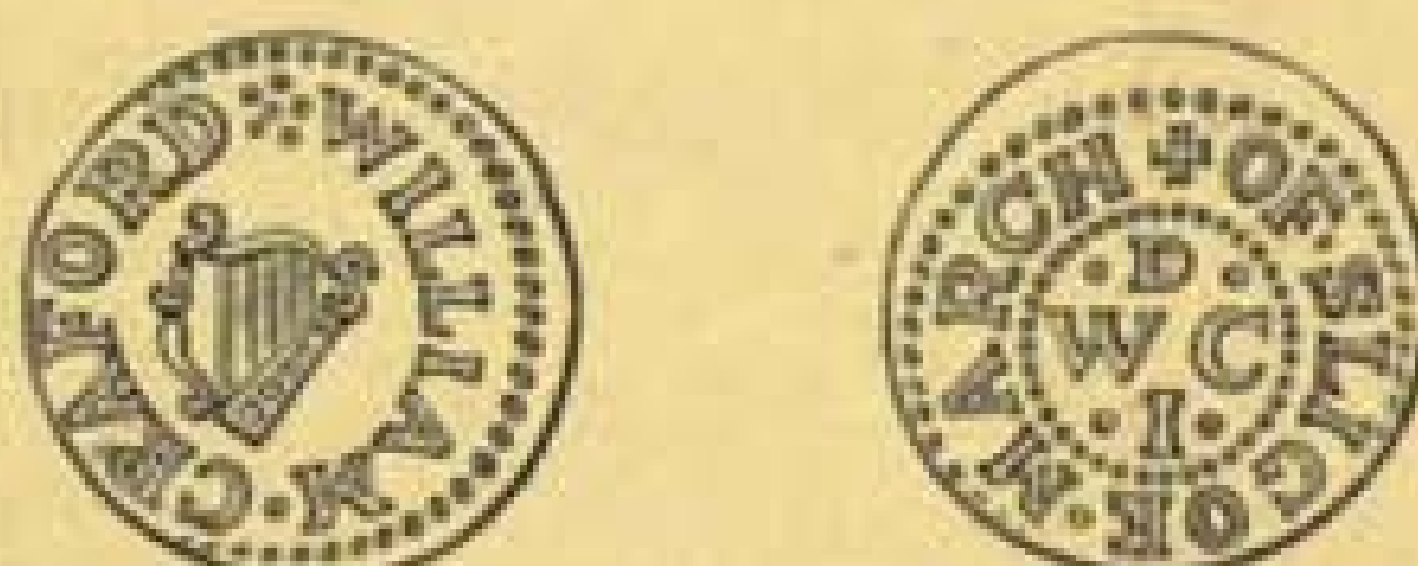


Fig. 32.—TOKEN STRUCK BY WILLIAM CRAFT. (Full size.)

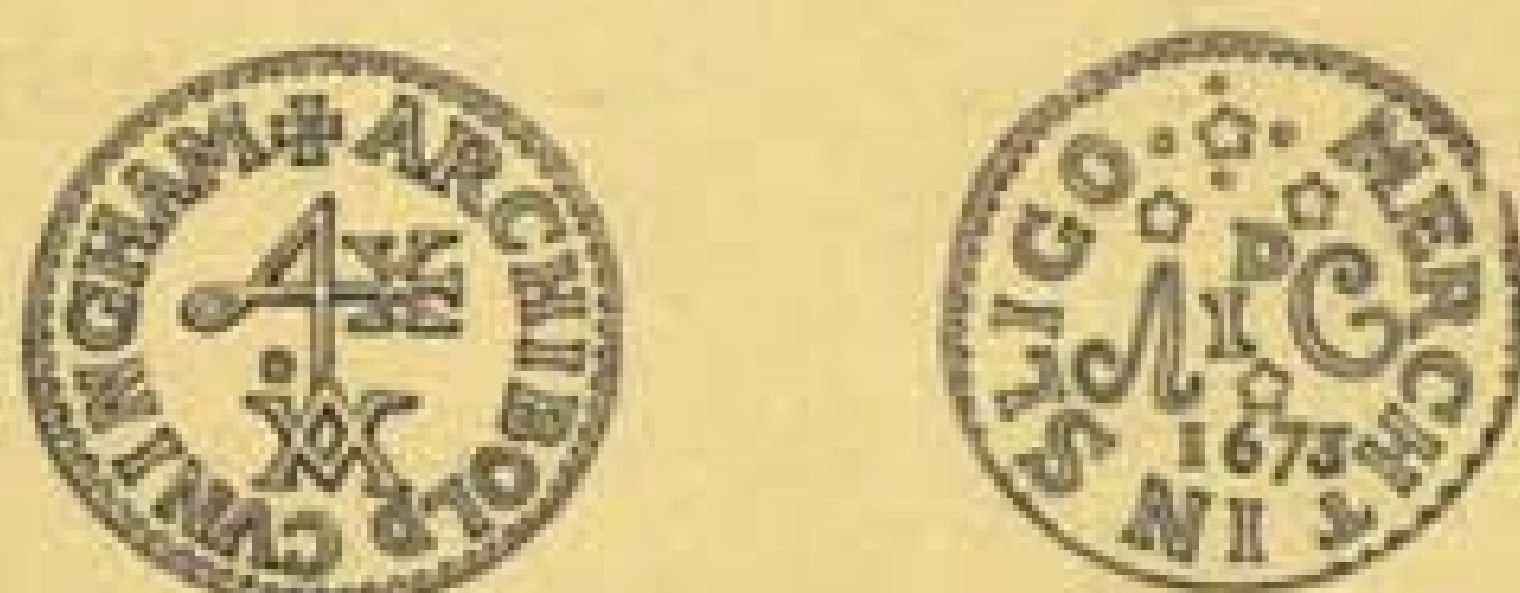


Fig. 33.—TOKEN STRUCK BY ARCHIBOLD CUNNINGHAM. (Full size.)

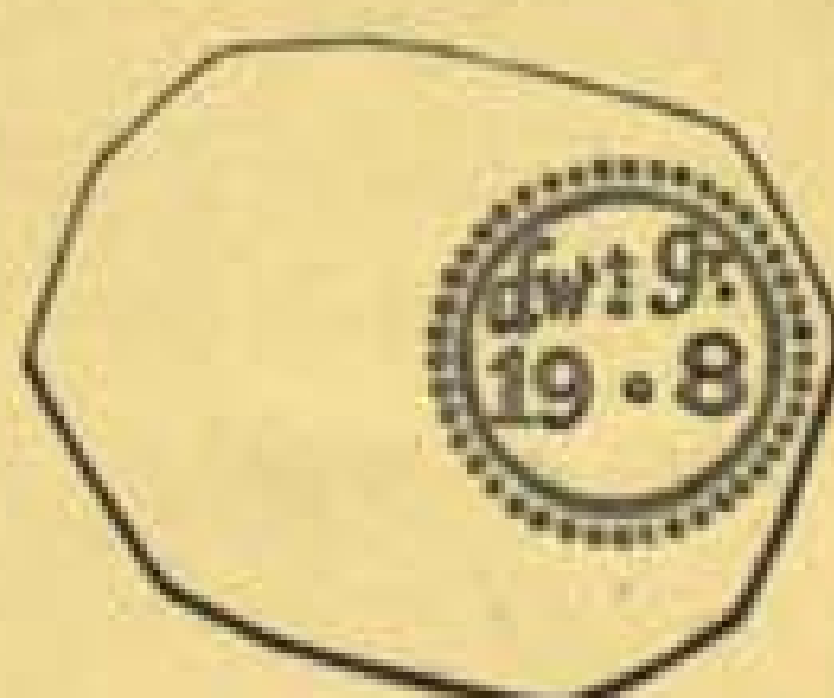
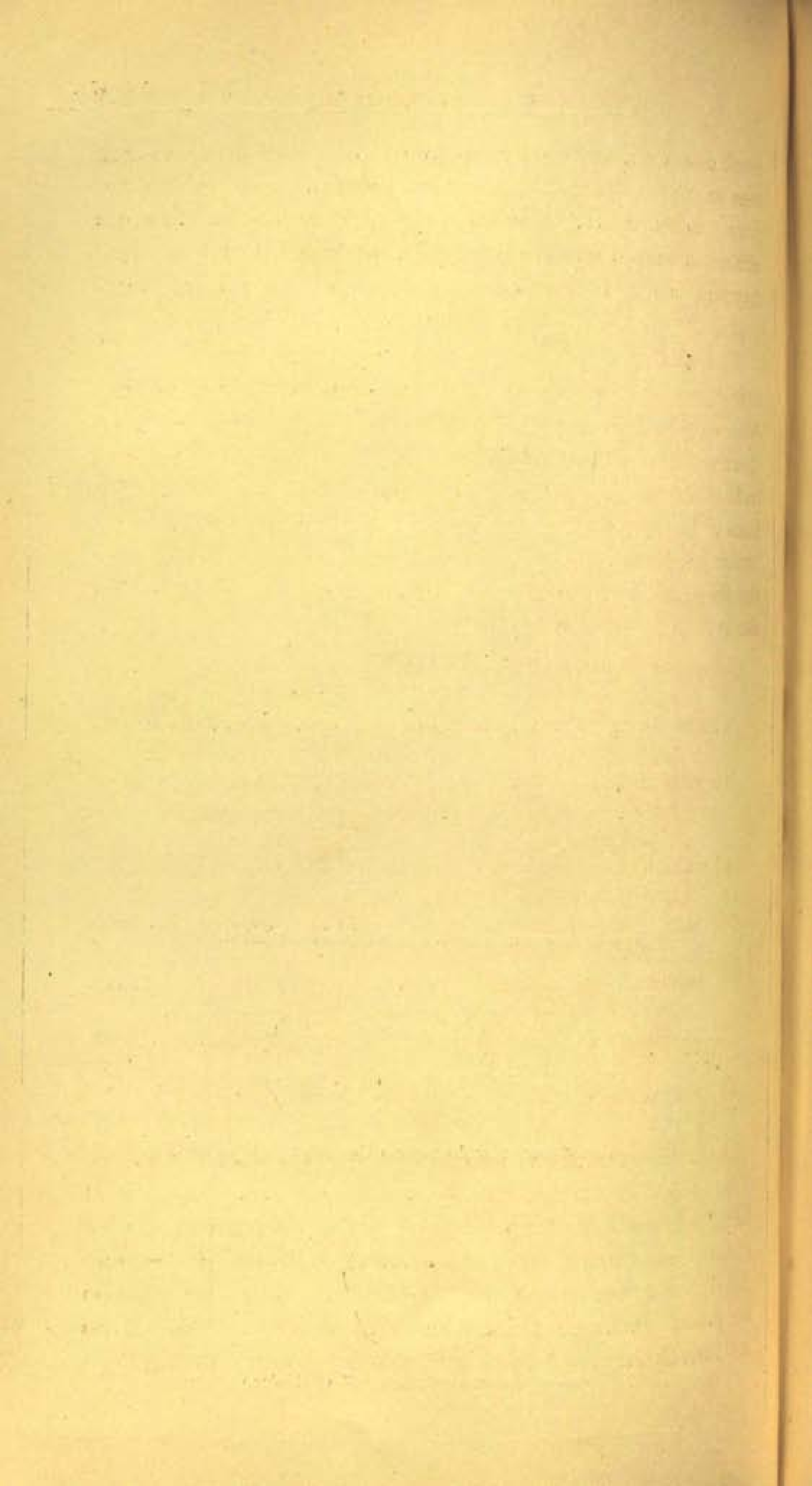


Fig. 34.—"MONEY OF NECESSITY." (Half size.)





teenth century, many persons assumed the privilege of issuing brass or copper tokens, their value varying from one to two pence. Subsequently these tokens were forbidden to be struck without special licence from the Crown. Still, for a time, they supplied a much-needed circulating medium for small purchases.

Five specimens of these tokens have been previously described, but illustrations of fresh examples are given, as they differ somewhat in style. On several of these coins the coat-of-arms of the utterer was stamped, but on others there were trade-marks or appropriate emblems which referred to the name of the merchant or the locality in which he lived. Some further tokens have been discovered, from which it would seem that they had been struck not only in the town of Sligo, but also in country villages :—

- (1.) WALTER LYNCH OF (armorial bearing of Lynch); *reverse*, SLIGO MERCHANT. W. L. 1666. (*See* fig. 29.)
- (2.) JOHN SMITH IN (a ship in a circle); *reverse*, SLIGOE MERCHANT. (A heart in a circle). (*See* fig. 30.)
- (3.) WILL. HVNTER OF (a hunter's horn in dotted circle); *reverse*, SLIGO MARCHAN. (I. D. and two stars in a dotted circle. (*See* fig. 31.)
- (4.) WILLIAM CRAFTORD (a harp); *reverse*, OF SLIGOE MARCH. (W. C. I. D. in dotted circle). (*See* fig. 32.)
- (5.) JOHN CONYNGHAME (a bird); *reverse*, MERCH<sup>T</sup> IN SLIGO (a bird).
- (6.) ARCHIBOLD CVNINGHAM (a merchant's mark); *reverse*, MERCHT. IN SLIGO. A. C. I. D. 1673. (*See* fig. 33.)
- (7.) THO. GOODIN MERCHANT (a castle); *reverse*, OF INESCRONE. 1663. I. D.
- (8.) HENNERY DOWDALL. H. D.; *reverse*, OF COOLLVNY MARC. 1671. I. D.

A curious example of a class of coins designated "Money of Necessity," or "Siege-pieces," was found some years ago at Killaspugbrone. It is an irregular polygon of silver, having 19 dwt. 8 gr. stamped in a circle on the obverse and reverse (fig. 34), and was struck *circa* 1642. It is one of a series designated "Inchiquin Coins," and represented 5s. Specimens are tolerably rare, and vary in price from £2 to £7 12s.

About the year 1672 small change must have been scarce, for shortly after that date a great increase in the number of copper tokens is observable, whilst it would seem that, despite ordinances to the contrary, both copper and silver tokens were uttered in Ireland so late as 1727, value for twopence in copper, and fourpence in silver.

French and Spanish coins of gold and silver were current, and many such are from time to time discovered in Sligo. Contemporaneous travellers recount how the precious metals were placed in the scale to determine their value, and allowance made for any deficiency in weight.

Specimens of the brass money issued by James II. are frequently found in the county, usually in or near old buildings; for the brass half-crowns and some other coins were allowed to circulate for a time, but were quickly reduced to their proper commercial value of about one penny.

*In the year 1732 the credit of paper-money sustained a severe shock through the failures of some well-known Dublin banks; therefore a bill was drawn up for relief of all the parties interested in the settlement, and sent over to be confirmed by the Privy Council of England—the bankrupt laws not having been introduced into Ireland. The depreciation of paper caused a demand for silver and copper money, and the market was again flooded with the most curious variety of coin and forgeries. In 1746 a great quantity of “base Rapparee halfpence” were in circulation throughout the county.*

It was not till well on in the present century that the currency was remodelled. The new silver coin got rapidly into circulation, superseding Bank of Ireland tokens struck from Spanish dollars, which were called in.

Towards the commencement of the century French's Bank (County Galway) opened a branch in Sligo; but after a time—it not having succeeded in obtaining free circulation for its notes—the branch was withdrawn, and thus, upon the total collapse of the bank, Sligo escaped becoming involved in the serious losses incurred by many families in every grade of life throughout the counties of Mayo and Galway. A few notes



of this bank are still preserved in Sligo as curiosities. They are, however, dated from Tuam.

There occurred, also, several failures of small banks, by which the trade of Sligo was more or less affected. Amongst them was that of Messrs. M'Creery and Ballantyne, on the subject of which a ballad was written, commencing:—

“Kings, princes, and nations in wealth do decline,  
And why not M'Creery with sweet Ballantyne.”

A kind of small paper-money, called a ticket, or I. O. U., that ranged in nominal amount from threepence to six shillings, was issued by merchants, shopkeepers, and others. This currency, although fictitious and objectionable on many grounds, yet enabled the people to carry on their business. A letter from Sligo, 28th April, 1797, states there were “no guineas in circulation, nothing but bank-notes, which will cause great confusion among the lower class of people.”

In 1800 “money and paper were equally current.” According to a report of the “Irish Exchange Committee,” which was formed about four years subsequently, there was then no banker in Sligo, either in the town or county. In 1822, owing to the exceptional state of depression both in trade and agriculture, it was resolved at a meeting of the principal proprietors of the county that they would accept the notes of respectable private banks of Dublin in payment of their rents. This arrangement could not fail to lead to better prices for agricultural produce than the then limited circulation of paper-money would admit of, and also gave an impulse to business.

Savings' Banks were established in Ireland in 1810, and the first of which a record has been found was “The Savings' Bank” for the benefit of the working-classes. The yearly accounts were published in the newspapers, and the directors would seem to have been gentlemen of local position. In June, 1823, its state does not appear to have been flourishing, as it was alleged “that the Savings' Bank had not been open for some time. Upon inquiry as to the cause it was stated that there was no fund applicable for the payment of a clerk to keep

the accounts." The bank was, as the following advertisement shows, re-opened shortly afterwards:—

"SLIGO SAVINGS BANK.

"The Trustees, Directors, and Managers of the Sligo Savings Bank are requested to meet at the Court House on Monday next, the 4th August, at 3 o'clock, to elect a Treasurer for the ensuing year and to transact other business. By order. S. M'Creery, *Sec.*

"*N.B.* The Bank will in future be held in a room adjoining the Excise Office, and will be open as usual from 10 till 12 o'clock on Mondays. Sligo, July 28th, 1823."

A few statistics may be of interest:—

Year.	Amount Deposited.	No. of Depositors.	Year.	Amount Deposited.	No. of Depositors.
1828, .	£5,830, .	—	1854, .	£16,848, .	623
1829, .	8,954, .	—	1855, .	18,341, .	646
1832, .	10,028, .	—	1856, .	20,382, .	710
1833, .	12,141, .	—	1869, .	5,362, .	251
1845, .	28,265, .	867	1870, .	6,125, .	269
1850, .	15,453, .	553	1875, .	10,595, .	504
1851, .	12,859, .	486	1880, .	16,146, .	684
1852, .	13,399, .	526	1885, .	19,735, .	963
1853, .	15,188, .	601	1889, .	24,575, .	1112

Of the amount deposited in 1829, and therefore, presumably, in succeeding years, £2460 was for the encouragement of industry in the country, whilst "loan funds" seem to have been mixed up in the accounts until the year 1856, shortly after which the postal authorities appear to have taken over the management of the local savings'-bank, so that the earliest returns which could be procured, when compared with some of later date, show a great falling off in regard to the amount to credit of the depositors, as also in the number of the accounts; but this is thought to be illusory.

The Provincial Bank, the first Bank of issue established in Sligo, was opened 14th November, 1825, and the temporary business previously conducted in the locality was transferred to a house in Stephen-street, the following gentlemen being appointed local directors:—O. Wynne; William Faussett,



Provost of Sligo; David Culbertson; B. Coyne, M.D., and Andrew Kelly.

Most Banks, on first opening branches in country districts, intrusted the launching of the business to people who lived in the district, and were consequently acquainted with the financial circumstances of those likely to apply for facilities in promoting their undertakings. The notes of the bank were "payable at the house of Messrs. LaTouche & Co., Dublin."

A strange incident is related with regard to the first ledgers in the office of this branch; they were all stamped "Newry," having been intended for use in that town. Up to 1820 the Bank of Ireland alone was empowered to issue notes; however, in that year other banks were permitted within a certain radius of Dublin, but it was not until 1845 that they were allowed to open in the city. The Provincial Bank had unsuccessfully essayed to establish a branch at Newry, so the books were transferred from the North to the West of Ireland.

The official opening of the Sligo branch took place on the 20th February, 1826, Mr. David Webster being the first manager. He was succeeded in August, 1838, by Mr. Benjamin Banks, who on the occasion of his leaving on promotion was presented with a public address and testimonials. Mr. M'Cullagh was then nominated acting manager until the appointment of Mr. Malcolm Sinclair, who was succeeded in 1847 by Mr. Richard Gordon, and he directed the business of this branch for thirty-six years, dying in 1883. The present manager, Mr. Alexander Maver, was his successor.

The Provincial Bank being early in the field, succeeded in obtaining the country business. It is Treasurer for the County, for the Sligo Union, the Infirmary and Fever Hospital, and also for the Corporation.

The present handsome edifice occupied by the Bank in Stephen-street was designed by Sir T. N. Deane, and erected at a cost of nearly £6000. It is in the Renaissance style; the front, which presents a fine appearance, is composed of Mount-Charles stone, the capitals of the pilasters and frieze being

appropriately carved; the sides and rear are of Ballysadare limestone, with dressings of Mount-Charles stone.

The Agricultural and Commercial Bank opened a branch in the town about the year 1832. In November, 1836, there was a determined run made on it; the branch closed a few days after, was re-opened in January, 1837, and on 19th June, 1840, it finally ceased to transact business.

The National Bank also opened a branch in Sligo. In November, 1840, there was a run on it which was defeated, but shortly afterwards the branch was withdrawn.

THE BANK OF IRELAND (created *circa* 1783) had a complete monopoly of banking business for nearly forty years. According to its charter, no one individual was permitted to possess in it more than £10,000. in shares, and amongst the seven subscribers who alone contributed the maximum amount appears the name of the Right Hon. Joshua Cooper. The Bank of Ireland first issued "dollars" marked "Bank Token;" then bank tokens were issued by the Treasury to the Bank of Ireland; they were of silver, value for 5*d.*, 10*d.*, and 30*d.*, to answer as change for £1, twenty-four 10*d.* tokens being fractionally less than twenty shillings. The copper coins consisted of pence, half-pence, and farthings, 13*d.* being equal to 1*s.* British.

It is doubtful if the Bank of Ireland would have established a branch in Sligo had it not been for the energetic position taken up by the Provincial Bank. The following advertisement announced the opening of the branch:—

"Bank of Ireland. The undermentioned agents for conducting a branch of the Bank of Ireland in Sligo, will commence business in their office on The Mall, on Monday the 7th instant for the discounting of Bills and other Banking transactions.

" *January 3rd, 1828.*

" RICHARD GETHIN.  
GEORGE DODWELL."

Messrs. Gethin & Dodwell were succeeded in 1834 by Mr.



John Craig ; in 1837 he was transferred to Cork, and was replaced by Mr. James Duncan, who being superannuated in 1870, Mr. R. J. Howley (the present agent) was appointed.

The newly-erected Bank and agent's residence stand on the site of the old premises in Stephen-street. The building is classic in design, having Ionic columns and pilasters of polished Aberdeen granite for the two porches, supporting Mount-Charles sandstone frieze, cornice, and balustrade. The dressing to all the upper floor windows, also the moulded quoins, and cantaliver eave-course for roof, are of chiselled sandstone, the moulding being of a bold, decided character. The regular face (ashlar work) is of chiselled limestone from Ballysadare. Little or no carving has been introduced except for caps to columns and pilasters.

The agent has a commodious residence, quite separate from the banking department. Messrs. Millar & Symes (Architects to the Bank of Ireland) were the designers of the building.

THE ULSTER BANK opened a branch in Sligo, 7th December, 1861, under the management of Mr. James Daniel Mitchell, who was succeeded in September, 1863, by Mr. Robert M'Cullagh, and he, in turn, was replaced in 1875 by Mr. George Heron, who died April, 1889, since which date the Bank has been under the management of Mr. John C. Quin. The present handsome building was erected in the years 1862-3, at a cost of somewhat over £5000. There is also a branch in Ballymote in charge of Mr. Tew.

The handsome banking edifices here described as situate in the town of Sligo, are all in the same street, so that the conundrum propounded nearly fifty years ago in the pages of *The Cryptic*, with regard to Stephen-street, is still applicable to the locality, viz. that it resembles a canal because it has a bank on both sides !

In the village of Tubbercurry a branch of the Hibernian Bank has been lately opened.

THE POLICE BARRACKS are now situated on Albert-road and

in Wine-street. On the incorporation of the present police-force in the year 1823, no house in Sligo could be procured suitable for a barrack, and the force seems to have occupied houses in different localities. The barrack on the Albert-road was not erected until the year 1847, or the barrack in Wine-street until 1880; there are 28 policemen in the former and 11 in the latter.

At the close of the last and commencement of the present century law and order were enforced in the county by a "chief constable" in every barony, who had under him eight "sub-constables" (Corran and Coolavin were, however, reckoned for this purpose as one district), or a total of 45 men. In the year 1806, owing to the disturbed state of the county, particularly in the barony of Tireragh, where the burning of crops and stack-yards was an almost nightly occurrence, four additional constables were appointed to each barony or district, making a total of 65. Most of these received pensions on the creation of the present police.

In 1888 the police force in the county consisted of a county inspector, 4 district inspectors, 5 head constables, and 252 sergeants and constables—a total of 263; this establishment is at the ratio of 23 per 10,000 of the population, which is about the average number, for Limerick heads the list at 39 per 10,000 inhabitants, Londonderry and Antrim having but 10 and 11, respectively. The succession of county inspectors, as far as can be ascertained, was as follows:—Captain Tracy; Captain Lawson; J. Stoker; T. M'Mahon; A. S. Waters; M. Bloxham; T. Ross; H. A. Allen.

Mr. Robert Curtis was one of the first officers of the force appointed to the County Sligo. In after years he published two volumes of his reminiscences, entitled "The Irish Police Officer" and "Curiosities of Detection." The latter work is dedicated to E. J. Cooper, of Markree. The locus of most of these tales lies in the County Sligo, and they are all founded upon facts that occurred within Mr. Curtis' own knowledge.

The question of endeavouring to induce Government to erect, in a central position, a suitable building, in which all the



public offices in the town of Sligo could be concentrated, is one well worthy of being brought under notice. If the subject were judiciously and energetically followed up, what has been done in other towns of less importance in Ireland might be carried out in Sligo. None of the Governmental departments, Excise, Customs, Post, Income-tax, &c., are sufficiently accommodated, and most of the offices are situated in private houses, all of them widely apart—a great inconvenience to anyone having business in each.

The want of a morgue or dead-house in Sligo has long been a grievance, the publicans naturally disliking to have a corpse carried into their premises, although under legal obligation to permit it. On 5th August, 1885, the Council resolved to erect a place for temporary depositing of the dead, but the resolution not having been acted on, the only place which can be used at present for the purpose is (as authorized by the resolution of the Council, 8th May, 1878) the engine-shed at the Town Hall, or the public-house nearest to where the corpse is found.

In January, 1847, the Council decided on the erection of Public Baths and Washhouses; the resolution, however, was not carried out. Again, in October, 1856, the Act (9 & 10 Vict.) for promoting the voluntary establishment of these useful institutions was adopted, and after inquiry as to the working of the Act in other boroughs, it was determined, in November, 1856, that an application should be made for the loan of £900, for erection of baths in Sligo. This resolution, together with those previously passed, remained a dead letter, though supported by the lively interest taken in the town by Lord Palmerston, who had allocated a plot of ground for the proposed purpose.

In 1866 Dr. James Tucker was himself so certain of the success of the projected plan, that he started baths on a small scale, but they proved a failure—chiefly owing to the inconvenient situation in which they had been placed. The project was again brought forward in 1867, when a petition was forwarded to Government, praying for a grant of £2000 for the purpose of carrying out the Sanitary Act, as well as to erect

baths, washhouses, and disinfecting chambers. Nothing, however, has since been done in the matter.

In olden days Sligo was better protected against sudden outbreaks of fire than at present. From 1760 to 1874 a fire-engine was kept in a room adjoining the house of the sexton of St. John's Church, and the man in charge was under obligation to play the engine at certain times, on the old bridge, in full view of the public, with the object of demonstrating practically that it was in working order. It was not, however, until 1881, that the Corporation sanctioned the formation of a fire-brigade, to be under their control; the services of fifty of the inhabitants of Sligo, who volunteered to act without remuneration, were accepted; and on May 3rd of same year they were granted the use of the town engine, hose, and fire-escape, for the purpose of practice; £75 was voted to supply the brigade with helmets, axes, and all the usual appliances needful. The fire brigade no longer exists (owing to a disagreement with the Council), and there is no organized mode of extinguishing fires in the town.

THE COUNTY CLUB, in Wine-street, was started in 1879; and the CONSTITUTIONAL CLUB, in Stephen-street, which was founded December, 1881, now numbers about 160 members; the numerous rooms are well-furnished, and the attractions of a daily service of telegrams and a large billiard-room help annually to augment the membership.

THE GAS COMPANY was established in 1840. In the year 1839 Mr. James Colquhoun, C.E. (formerly of Sheffield), visited Sligo for the purpose of erecting gas-works and lighting the town. With that object he obtained premises in Wine-street, but not being able to procure funds for completing the works he called several public meetings of the inhabitants of Sligo during the years 1839 and 1840 to take into consideration a proposal for forming a Company to carry out and complete the lighting of the town, the capital stock to be £600, divided into £10 shares. The preliminaries were arranged, and the trust deed was signed on May 29th, 1840. The first committee of manage-



ment were James Madden, Peter O'Connor, Richard Anderson, William Kernaghan, and Edward Kelly, all of the town of Sligo. James Madden was elected chairman and Peter O'Connor deputy-chairman. Mr. Colquhoun agreed to superintend the completion of the gas-works and to conduct the working, as farmer or tenant of the company, for a term of seven years. For a lengthened period the working of the company gave great dissatisfaction to the public, but latterly, under the new management, affairs are better conducted.

THE CEMETERY is now in charge of the Corporation of Sligo. Although from the year 1832 burials within the precincts of the borough had been positively injurious to the public health, yet no steps were taken to provide a suitable locality for the purpose until the famine of 1846 and the pestilence which followed again brought the subject into general notice. A numerous deputation from the town of Sligo, headed by the clergy of all denominations, the Mayor, Corporation, and Town and Harbour Commissioners, officers of health, &c., waited on the Grand Jury assembled at summer assizes, 1846, to represent the crowded state of the burial grounds in the town, and the injury arising therefrom to the public health.

On December 1st, 1846, the Town Council expressed their willingness "to let a portion of the Commons, *i. e.* about four Irish acres, for the purpose of a cemetery for the public of all denominations," and on January 7th, 1847, "The Widow Tuohy's Field," part of the "Commons Plot," was thus appropriated, whilst on July 28th of the same year, in compliance with a communication from Government, the deed by which the cemetery was to be constituted was submitted to the clergymen of all denominations. On August 21st, 1848, it was further proposed to make a transfer of the cemetery to the following trustees:—John Wynne, Esq.; the Protestant and Roman Catholic Rectors; and clergymen for the time being of all religious denominations; and on November 25th, 1848, the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury granted permission to set apart three and a-half acres for the purpose.

On May 4th, 1860, a Committee of Inquiry into the working of the cemetery was appointed, and on December 22nd, 1884, the then managing committee handed over their charge to the Sligo Corporation, who accepted it as the urban sanitary authority under the provisions of the Public Health (Ireland) Act of 1878.

**THE SLIGO WATERWORKS.**—As a general principle the water supply from superficial wells has been abandoned in almost every large town, and all competent authorities who have written on the subject, and whose opinions should bear weight, have decried the system of supplying a town with water from a superficial and therefore easily contaminated source.

It was calculated that in 1868 there were sixty-seven sewers in Sligo, emptying into the river above the Victoria bridge; and if, in the middle of summer, there chanced to be a long continuance of dry weather, there was, according to one authority, not a drop of drinkable water available in the town, and men, with horses, and carts containing barrels, distributed water from door to door, selling it by the gallon.

Sligo being built upon the mountain limestone (opened and fissured rock), there can be little doubt that all the wells in the town, judging from the quantity of salt which the analysis displays, communicated more or less with the sea; they also suffered by infiltrations from the sewers, as evidenced by the quantity of nitrate of ammonia contained in the water: indeed, a great leakage must have taken place from drains, and “to such an extent, that in one well (the Pound-well) the constituents of that water were practically the same as you might expect to find in a grave-yard.”

In August, 1866, the following notice was posted up by order of the Mayor:—“It appears that the worst water in the town is that in old Pound-street; next to that, the Lungy and Chapel-lane pump. The water in all the other pumps is comparatively pure, though hard; the railway water and the Rathbraghan water are bad. . . . In the present state of the public health, and when threatened with epidemic disease (cholera),



the inhabitants should be particularly cautious. It is recommended that the water should be boiled before drinking."

This notice was occasioned by the analysis made by Dr. Aldridge, of seventeen samples of water submitted to him.

Had there been no objection on the ground of organic impurities and pollutions to the various wells, the extreme hardness of the waters alone was a grave objection to their fitness for general daily use. Water of over twelve degrees of hardness is not considered suitable for domestic purposes, whilst that of the Sligo wells was said to exceed twenty-five; and it was therefore necessary to introduce into the Borough Improvement Bill a clause authorizing the erection of waterworks. Although in the Act of 40 Geo. III., provision was made for supplying Sligo "with pipe-water, &c.," yet the subsequent Act of 1803 repealed these powers. To strengthen their case, the Corporation sent samples from Sligo wells, and also from the proposed new supply, to H. K. Bamber, F.C.S., for analysis, and for production before the House of Commons.

The substances included by Mr. Bamber in inorganic matter were, carbonate of lime, sulphate of lime, carbonate and sulphate of magnesia, common salt, &c.; the substances included in organic and other volatile matter were, vegetable and animal matter, ammonia, and some of the nitrates. The Albert-street and Lungy pumps were pronounced unfit for use, from hardness and organic matter, &c.; Pound-street pump was recommended to be immediately closed. George's-street pump was as bad, whilst three samples from other wells were not even analyzed, "as their appearance self-condemned them"; Kilsellagh and Doonally water was stated to be very good.

According to the Sligo Borough Improvement Bill of 1869, the Corporation were authorized to borrow £25,000 for the purpose of constructing waterworks; and on September 1st of that year, were taken the first steps towards raising the money necessary for carrying out the scheme: the effort, however, collapsed, and after a general meeting of the ratepayers had decided against proceeding with the waterworks, the matter although then set aside, was, nevertheless, from time to time,

revived by various engineers who propounded many fantastic ideas with regard to the mode of supplying Sligo with water—such as a deep central well, with engine-power—a supply from Lough Gill by the same means; and, lastly, windmills to be erected on the summit of Cairns' Hill, in order to force up water from the Lake to a reservoir to be there constructed!

The powers of the Bill of 1869 were allowed to lapse, and in 1876, on a petition being presented to the Local Government Board, they gave the Corporation a provisional order, but discovering that it was *ultra vires*, they revoked it, and the Council were compelled to procure a short Act of Parliament to revive their powers. Finally, a tender for construction of the reservoirs, &c., for a sum of £14,000, together with another for iron piping, &c., amounting to about £4000, were accepted in 1881, and Mr. William Cochrane, C.E., was appointed Resident Engineer. The first water-rate of 1s. in the £ was struck, June 28th, 1882; and on November 13th, 1884, the waters were formally turned on from the storage reservoir, after the lapse of eighteen years from the period of the first Parliamentary notice of the Borough Improvement Bill (see fig. 35).

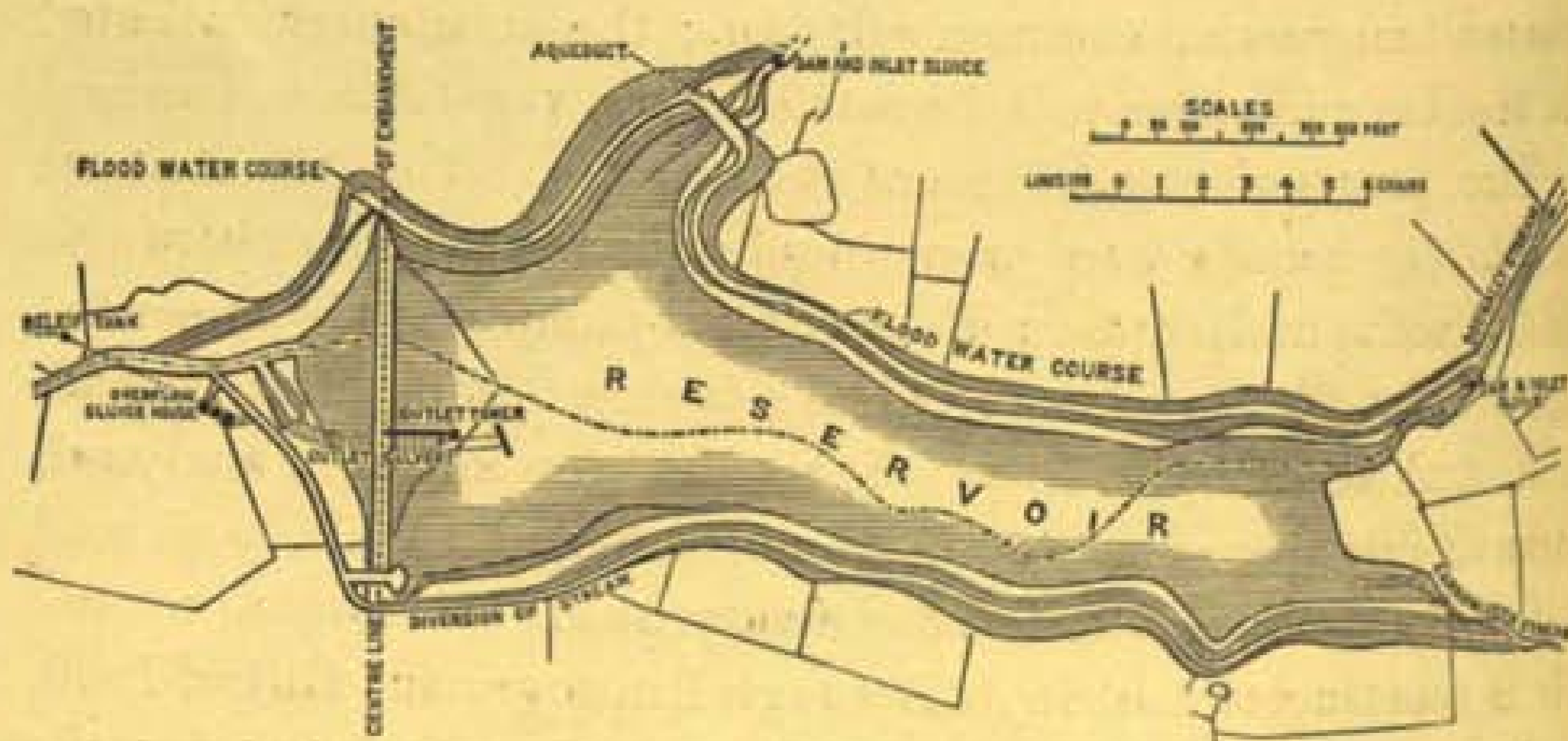


Fig. 35.—Plan of the Storage Reservoir. By permission of Mr. Hassard, the Engineer.

The original estimate for completion of the works was upwards of £19,000; the actual outlay was under £18,000, and to Leslie Creery, C.E., clerk of the works, the best thanks of the Council were voted "for the able way in



which he had superintended the carrying out of the plans." The water supply for the town is taken from a catchment area in the neighbouring mountainous district, having a mean elevation of 950 feet above the sea and situate between the counties of Leitrim and Sligo. The drainage from this district is carried off by two streams or rivers, the Doonally river, the catchment basin of which is 1315 acres, and the Kilsellagh stream, with an area of 628 acres; the latter falls into the Doonally river, and both together flowing by Doonally House and Rathbraghan discharge into the sea about a mile north of the town. The total drainage ground, therefore, from which the flow can be utilized is 1940 acres, and taking the average available rainfall in the district as thirty inches, the daily flow off the ground would be 3,637,500 gallons, of which only about 400,000 are daily required for town use, thus leaving the balance to be stored in the reservoir or allowed to run down the stream. On the west side of the reservoir there is a third stream—the Carrowlustia—having a drainage catchment of 350 acres; as most of this area, however, is of a peaty character, the water from it is not allowed to enter the reservoir, but is diverted and flows round the south side of the reservoir, falling into the Doonally river just below the embankment.

The principal works in connexion with the water supply are the (1) impounding or storage reservoir on the Doonally and Kilsellagh streams, with its flood water-course, embankment, outlet-tower, waste-weir, &c.; (2) the piping to the relief tanks and service-reservoir; (3) the service-reservoir and the works of distribution through the town.

On the Doonally and Kilsellagh streams the storage reservoir is constructed a little below their junction by throwing an earthen embankment across the gorge, and the ground was prepared to receive this embankment by stripping off all the soft material from where it was to rest, then sinking a trench to the solid water-tight clay along its centre, and filling it with puddle to the level of the ground—a puddle-wall being carried up thence to nearly the summit. The most adhesive material was laid on either side of this puddle wall, and the whole bank

was brought up to its full height in layers about two feet thick.

The inner slope (three horizontal to one perpendicular) was pitched with stone laid on edge, and the outer slope (two horizontal to one perpendicular) was sodded, and a gravelled foot-way made along the top. In the south-western angle the waste weir, sixty feet long, was built in order to carry off the overflow from the reservoir; it is coped with ashlar stones cramped together, and over this the water falls into the by wash or channel constructed from the south end of the reservoir to the Doonally stream, and having a pitched invert set on a bed of concrete. Near the inner foot of the embankment stands the outlet-tower, from the bottom of which the supply pipe to the sluice-house, and the emptying pipe, both run through the outlet-culvert. The tower is of masonry about forty-eight feet high, and provided with openings that can be closed by sluice-valves, at three different heights, so that water for the supply may be drawn off from three distinct levels in the reservoir. These sluices, as well as the stop-plugs for closing the supply and the emptying pipes in the bottom are worked from a platform at the summit of the tower; from the top of the bank this platform is reached by an iron foot-bridge in two spans and having a pier in the centre that is carried down to the solid ground. In connexion with the tower is the outlet-culvert for containing the pipes from the tower, which supply the town and empty the reservoir. This culvert is built in the solid ground below the puddle trench, and it is of masonry in cement mortar, surrounded by concrete on the inner and by puddle on the outer side of the bank, the concrete having at intervals projecting ribs in order to prevent the creep of water along its surface. From the bottom of the tower, through this culvert two lines of pipes, nine inches in diameter, are laid to the sluice-house; on one of these is a short branch with a valve so that this may discharge into the river if necessary. The flood water-course in the Doonally stream commences about fifty yards above the reservoir, and runs along its northern side. Below this point, a barrier of stone is placed across the bed of



the river, in order to direct the water from the stream into the water-course, and in the barrier are placed inlet shuttles for admitting or excluding the water from the reservoir. The channel from its commencement to the aqueduct by which it is carried over the Kilsellagh stream, has sides of masonry in cement mortar, and bottom-pitching set on concrete. The aqueduct is a semicircle of masonry, having parapets that are lined with concrete, in order to make a water-tight channel. The Kilsellagh stream (which has also a dam and inlet-sluiice, similar to that described) is diverted at a short distance from this aqueduct, and its flood water-course joins the Doonally channel; thence they both flow in the same course to a point just below the bank, where the channel has an inclination of one in six, and is broken up by cross-walls into a succession of cataracts. These cross-walls are of masonry in cement, and are coped with ashlar-stones, dowelled together with a double row of iron dowels.

The water-course for the Carrowlustia stream commences above the reservoir, and is carried along the hill-side to the southern end of the main bank, where it joins the waste water-course from the reservoir. This stream is entirely excluded from the reservoir.

From the sluice-house to the relief-tank near Drumkilsellagh Bridge, there is a line of 7-inch pipes, carrying the supply from the reservoir. The relief-tank is a small basin of masonry situate near the road, and it is walled round. Thence to the service-reservoir on Farrencardy Hill, the water is conveyed in a line of 8-inch pipes, provided with all needful air-valves, &c. This reservoir is a large tank, formed partly by excavation in the solid ground, and partly by embankments; these are rendered water-tight by puddle, and the inside faces are protected by stone-pitching. The water is admitted to the inlet-well by the pipe from the relief-tank, and by the 9-inch outlet pipe to a drain constructed in the pitched-slope of the bank. In the centre of the bottom of the reservoir there is a cleansing pit, and from this a 9-inch stoneware pipe leads to another pit situated at the bottom of the straining-tower; from this latter

is laid a cast-iron cleansing pipe. The straining tower is of masonry, having near the bottom three outlets, in front of which are placed wire-gauze strainers in oak frames; through these the water is admitted to the interior of the tower; they can be moved at pleasure, and are counterbalanced by weights that are suspended in the interior of the tower, and are connected with the strainers by chains passing over pulleys hung in the upper part of the walls. From this tower to the sluice-pit—which is a masonry tower built in the centre of the bank of the reservoir—is placed the sluice on the line of pipes that lead to the town, and which terminates in Stephen-street, opposite New Bridge-street. From this line in which are placed two scouring cocks, the water is distributed through the town in pipes that vary in diameter from eight to three inches, and are provided with street wells, and fire-plugs or hydrants. Sluice-cocks also are placed in the pipes, so that in case repairs should be requisite, the water may be shut off from the various streets or districts; and provision is also made for supplying the town directly from the Doonally Reservoir, in the event of its being for any purpose necessary to empty the Service Reservoir. Within the last five years the waterworks have realized a net profit of nearly £1,500. In May, 1890, the accounts showed a clear profit of £546, so that financially, it is hoped, the enterprise may prove to be eventually a decided success. The actual supply of water is abundant, and would be sufficient to meet the requirements of a town of 50,000 inhabitants.\*

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\* *The Engineer*, 1881, pp. 160-2.



## CHAPTER XXII.

### ROADS, STREETS, AND COMMUNICATIONS.

**T**HE historians of ancient Erin inform us that there were roads leading through all the provinces of the kingdom ; yet thick woods extended over vast districts of the country, and in none were they more numerous than in the present County Sligo. Like the Romans, the Anglo-Normans were great road-makers. One of the "Red Earl's" first works in the county was the construction of a road over the Curlew mountains to his newly-erected stronghold at Ballymote, and which is still styled by the country people *Bothar-an-Iarla-Ruaidh*, or the Red Earl's road. Until comparatively recent times it was the ancient route to Sligo over "the craggy mountain of the Curlews." In many places it can still be traced, and seems to have resembled the mule tracks yet to be seen in Spain. It was constructed, most probably, on the ancient trail followed by invaders of Sligo from the direction of Boyle, and where, in the defile of the mountains, a celebrated battle was fought in the year 504. From this date down to even so late as the Revolution of 1688, it was the line on which many important movements of troops took place, and it may be considered one (perhaps the only one) of the really ancient roads through the county. In addition there was the track followed by O'Donnel from Tirconnell, that by which O'Rorke could invade Sligo, and the route from Ballina to Ballysadare.

Lithgow, a travelled Scotchman, in his quaint account of journeyings through Ireland in 1619-1620, when describing the general state of the tracks, states they could not be designated roads that he traversed ; and he was of opinion that there were more rivers, lakes, brooks, strands, quagmires, bogs, and

marshes in Ireland than in all Christendom besides; for travelling there in the winter his daily progress was rendered disagreeable through his horse constantly sinking to the girths in the boggy roads, and his saddle and saddle-bags were utterly destroyed. He was often compelled to cross streams by swimming his horse; in five months he foundered six horses, and felt himself in the end as worn out as any of his steeds.

In a work published so late as 1690, Ireland is described as without roads in many parts; and numerous districts of Sligo must at the time have come under this description. Till the last quarter of the eighteenth century the Irish bar, when on circuit, travelled on horseback. "The Crown prosecutor, rejoicing in a good jailful; the leading chiefs, their saddle-bags brimming with record-briefs. The gay and sanguine juniors, reckless and lighthearted, came riding into the town the day before the assizes in as close order as a regiment of cavalry; holsters in front of their saddles, overcoats strapped in tight rolls behind; mounted servants following with saddle-bags full of black gowns and law-books; barefooted suttlers tramping behind with stores of wine and groceries; a mile or two from the town the gentlemen of the Grand Jury came riding out to vociferously welcome the newcomers."

In olden times the construction of roads consisted merely in the deposit of a layer of stones of varying sizes and geological formation, according to the district through which they passed. Some of these boulders became disintegrated from the effects of traffic and of the weather, whilst some did not. The jolting sensation experienced by passengers conveyed in the cumbrous early coaches was both disagreeable and fatiguing. It was not until Macadam (in the early part of this century) revolutionized the formation of roads by the use of finely-broken stones instead of rough boulders, that the even surface presented by means of this invention enabled carriages to be constructed in a lighter manner; for vehicles of the present day would have, quickly gone to pieces on the rough primitive causeways. Occasionally spots on the road might be described as simply quagmires. A gentleman once stood gazing at his vehicle



and wondering how he could get it across a difficult spot ; but just then up drove the stage-coach, dashing and splashing, rolling and floundering. Finally it crawled out of this slough of despond, one moving mass of mud, seemingly devoid of shape or form. Wesley (the founder of Methodism), travelling in Sligo, *circa* 1777, describes how his post-chaise was held fast in a slough on a road, how he himself was carried over the morass on the shoulders of a stalwart peasant, and the delay and difficulty experienced, until by help of the assembled crowd the coach was at length by sheer brute force hauled to the right side of the quagmire.

In 1612 it was essayed to call into play parochial organization for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, &c., but the attempt failed ; and this soon became apparent, for we find a more systematic endeavour to regulate the interior communications of the kingdom was made in 1634, when a statute was passed directing that the Justices on circuit should make inquiry respecting broken or ruined bridges, dilapidated roads, &c. ; and the Grand Jury was empowered to tax the inhabitants. These powers were, by degrees, extended and regulated until they came to be of a very comprehensive character. The primitive manner of effecting the necessary repairs was by the enforced labour of householders. "He who had a horse was obliged to work six days in the year, himself and horse ; he who had none, was to give six days' labour." This was found to press unduly on the poor, and was changed into a money assessment.

In 1836 the road-powers which had been the exclusive prerogative of the Grand Jury were, to a great extent, vested in special sessions of magistrates, associated with a certain number of the highest payers of county cess in each barony. To special sessions all applications respecting works to be undertaken must be now submitted in the first instance ; those passed must be then brought before the Grand Jury, who, by a majority, approve or reject them.

Of roads, as we have them now, there were none, and even the central lines of traffic were few and badly kept. Journeys to Dublin and distant parts of the country could only be

accomplished on foot or on horseback ; and travellers took care to start well armed for fear of marauders, who were then designated wood-kerns, rapparees, and tories. In later times the newspapers were full of accounts of these depredators. One example taken from the *Dublin Mercury* of 22nd November, 1770, will suffice. Information was given to the Bishop of Elphin that a noted robber named James Teige, "was at a shebeen-house near this town, on which he applied to William Casy, Esq., our worthy active magistrate, who went with two of the bishop's servants and took said Teige. He had concealed arms, and had been a terror to this place and the Counties of Leitrim and Sligo for these two years past."

Probably one of the first roads made in the county was that leading from Sligo to Boyle.<sup>1</sup> It ran through the Slieve-da-en Mountains by a pass to the east of Ballygawley Lake, where its track is yet distinctly visible ; thence by Doonamurry, over Rush-hill, and through Riverstown, Castlebaldwin, and the Red Earl's path over the Curlew Mountains. Parts of this road are yet to be seen near Castledargan, in Rusheen, Castlebaldwin, and Doonaveeragh. It would seem to have been roughly paved.

In an itinerary made in the year 1777 the road from Sligo to Boyle is shown as following a high level, passing near Oakfield, and debouching on the present line at the village of Ballysadare, from whence it took very much the same direction as the present highway. It is still in use as a by-road.

Possibly what is known as the lower road from Sligo to Ballina, along the sea-shore in the barony of Tireragh, occupies

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<sup>1</sup> The description of the more modern roads is mainly furnished by C. B. Jones, M.I.C.E. the present County Surveyor, appointed to that office on the death of Mr. St. Leger, who in 1836 succeeded Mr. Dubourdieu. Before the creation of this post, the repairs to, and the making of, new roads, or other public works were superintended by gentlemen who resided in the immediate vicinity of the projected work, and who when thus appointed by the Grand Jury were styled "Overseers"; these were the nominal contractors—although the contract was generally sublet—and they were responsible to the Grand Jury for the due performance of the undertaking. There was also a paid "Conservator of the roads" appointed for each barony.



the track of a line as old perhaps as the Boyle road. This "lower road" must, however, have been either improved or made at a very early date, as the milestones, many of which are still in existence on it, are of very primitive type.<sup>1</sup>

The road from Sligo to Ballyshannon probably occupies the track or path by which the northern invaders made their incursions on Sligo. The old milestones on it are similar to those on the Tireragh line before mentioned. This road, in ancient times, crossed the strand from the Castle of Court to Kintogher, but it was subsequently brought round by Rathcormick, Old Tullyhill, and Shannon. The road passed originally through the village of Carney to the cross-roads at Cashelgarron, and thence to Grange; but about the commencement of the present century this line was altered, and taken from Drumcliff Bridge by Milltown and Mullaghaneane. There are also in many parts of the county old roads which were evidently laid out at a very early period and with a fine disregard of gradients, as they seemed to pass over the highest and steepest hills that could be found; possibly many of these had been early horse-paths, or tracks merely widened and then stoned or paved; some of them are still in use.

When carriages or wheeled vehicles came to be more generally employed, the road to Boyle over the mountains was found to be too steep, and the road from Sligo to Ballydrihed by Cloverhill was made. It would seem to have passed thence through Ballysadare, Collooney, and Knockbeg old village; by Heathfield and Earlsfield to Ballymote; from this it most likely took the old direction by Battlefield over the Curlews to Boyle. Sign-boards bearing peculiar inscriptions invited the wayfarer within the precincts of roadside inns; one of these, situated in the village of Ballinafad, at the foot of the Curlew Mountains, bore the invitation:—

" Friends, slip in and take a gill,  
'Twill serve to help you up the hill."

The road from Collooney to Boyle, by Tubberseanavan and

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<sup>1</sup> It is shown on the map of 1778.

Ballinafad, was constructed about the beginning of this century, and from time to time alterations and diversions were made on it with a view of getting better gradients, the principal being the road from Sligo to Ballydrihed by Carrowroe and the Curragh, and a new line over the Curlews. This road (at one time the great thoroughfare of the County), is now for a considerable part of its length almost deserted, owing to the traffic being diverted by the railroad.

“Everywhere throughout this county,” writes Mac Parlan in 1802, “the roads and bridges are in a good state, with not very many exceptions. Ten miles of a mail-coach road, very broad and level, and directed towards Boyle so as to avoid hills, are already made; the remainder of the line to Boyle is presented and paid for. The mail-coach undertakers, after it is finished, will no doubt vie in contracting for keeping horses and every accommodation for running a mail-coach from Dublin to Sligo.”

Another of the old trunk-lines led from Collooney through Tubbercurry, Banada, and Kilmacteigue, over the mountains to Foxford and Castlebar. This road is still known as the “Circuit Road,”<sup>1</sup> from the fact that the judges and members of the bar rode by it from Sligo to Castlebar when going circuit. There are yet some old men living who recollect this, and who saw soldiers, on the march to their quarters at Castlebar, encamp for the night near the village of Aclare. Near Banada, a road branched off to Ballina through “The Gap” by Lough Talt. Of this road, Neligan (1816) in his *Statistical Account of Kilmacteige*, relates that “a valuable improvement was made in this place through the exertions of a Captain O’Dowd, who possessed an estate of many thousand acres of these mountains, which were without inhabitants, . . . and which were nearly impassable to the active and barefooted natives. The immense rocks, steep hills, and deep eaverns which everywhere presented themselves, formed as many difficulties as the passage of the

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<sup>1</sup> In the presentment book of the Grand Jury (1805) it is styled the “Grand Circuit Road.” The road from Boyle to Ballyshannon through Sligo is also designated “The Circuit Road.”



Alps did in former days. But this Hannibal, by labour and perseverance overcame them all, and has formed a road where a coach can pass conveying passengers" to and from Ballina and Castlerea. It appears a pity to dispel this romance, but Colonel Irwin, in his evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons, specially cites the improvement made in this district through the exertions of Captain O'Dowd, who induced the Grand Jury of the County to vote the money for the formation of this road over "The Gap." The story naturally



FIG. 36.—Bearnas, or Gap of Lough Talt, as seen from the crannog.

calls to mind the burlesque lines reputed to have been once posted up on a public structure:—

“ . . . of his great liberality and bounty  
Erected this bridge at the expense of the County.”

Writing, however, so late as 1835, Frazer remarks that this line was “not yet fit for travellers, nor was there an inn or even a stage house from Boyle to Ballina . . . On leaving the glen, the great boggy tract which stretches around the northern base of the Lurgan hills”—so Frazer styles the range of the Ox Mountains—“gradually discloses itself, and as we advance we command the whole plain from Ballina to Sligo, bounded on the north by that great inlet of the ocean which comprehends



the bays of Killala, Sligo, and Donegal; on the south by the Lurgan hills; on the west by the wild and lofty moorland ridges of Erris, which connect with the huge domical mountain of Nephin; and on the east by the fertile and romantic hills, blending with the precipitous cliffs of Ben Bulbin."

The old road by Banada, and through Kilmacteigue, is still in use, but a new one has been made from Tubbercurry to Ballina by Mullany's Cross; and those parts of the old road by Lough Talt, which are still used, have been widened and diverted where necessary in order to avoid hills.<sup>1</sup>

An old line went from Ballymote to Tubbercurry, by Oldrock, Buninadden, Roadstown, and Chaffpool; there was another from Ballymote to Boyle, by Battlefield, over the mountains. These trunk-lines, with many cross-roads connecting them, are all shown on the map of the county made in 1819; the greater number of these are still used and kept in repair.

The most important road made in later times is that leading from Sligo to Ballina; the new portion of this, left the old line at Tanrego, taking a direct course to Dromore West, and thence through the bogs to Ballina: it is about 27 miles in length, and was made about eighty years ago.

The old road from Sligo to Ballyfarnon turned off from the Slieve-da-en road to Boyle, in the neighbourhood of Rusheen, and passed down by Rockbrook, St. James's Well, and along the foot of the mountains, through Tullymore to Geevagh, and Foyoges to Ballyfarnon. This road has been now for a long time unused; the present line was probably made about 1820.

An important branch from it was made by Mr. Nimmo at St. James's Well, over the mountains, for the purpose of opening up the coal-fields; this is now much used for bringing down coal from the pits.

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<sup>1</sup> The road leading from the main line to the ruins of the Abbey of Kilcumin (parish of Achonry) is called "Stirabout road," probably in allusion to its having been made, remodelled, or repaired, for the purpose of affording employment for the poor. It was so named, however, long prior to the famine of 1846.



The old mail-coach road from Sligo to Enniskillen leads through lovely scenery. In 1779 the tourist Beranger thus describes his impression of it:—"All the mountains of Cavan, Monaghan, and Fermanagh, which we thought once high, are nothing in comparison to those we passed this day. We looked forward from the top of the first we ascended, and were astonished to see others as high before us, succeeding one another in chains, piled up so that no horizon could be seen. Thinking it impossible to pass over them, we fancied that we had strayed from the right road, and sent our Irish interpreter to inquire, who soon confirmed that we were to pass them; but if we had the trouble to walk over them, we were amply repaid by the variety of charming prospects every hill afforded, particularly one where we had a distant view of Lough Gill, with its hills around it, and some of its wooded islands. I could not withstand the temptation to take a sketch of it."

Within the last fifty years many miles of useful roads have been made through various parts of the county, and there are now very few districts which are not opened up.

The following statistics were given by Mr. Noblett St. Leger (County Surveyor) in the conclusion of his Report to the Grand Jury, Spring Assizes, 1845:—

"I have made an abstract from the County books, from which it appears that there are now under contract in the barony of Tireragh, 120 miles of road at an average of (?) 37*s.* 8*d.* per perch; in the barony of Liney 140½ miles averaging 5½*d.* per perch; in Corran 79 miles averaging 4½*d.* per perch; in Coolavin 30 miles averaging 4½*d.* per perch; in Tirerill 114 miles averaging 6½*d.* per perch; and in the barony of Carbury 140 miles averaging 3½*d.* per perch. There are also 31 miles of mail-coach road from Sligo to Ballina, averaging 1*s.* 1½*d.* per perch, 22 miles of same from Sligo to Boyle, at 3*s.* 3*d.* per perch, and 18 miles from Sligo to Derry at 1*s.* 1½*d.* per perch, making in all 697 miles of public roads now under contract in the county at a cost of £6124."

In the relief-works of 1880-1882, about forty-five miles of road were newly made or improved.

The annexed Table will show the comparative mileage under repair at various periods. No statistics prior to 1827

could be procured. The oldest presentment-book dates from 1802, but computations made from it would be useless.

Year.	Length of road under Contract.	Cost of Mainten- ance.	Year.	Length of road under Contract.	Cost of Mainten- ance.
1827,	237 miles,	.	1845,	697 miles,	£6,124
1834,	393 „	£6,157	1849,	629 „	5,698
1836,	425 „	8,386	1861,	806 „	10,768
1840,	562 „	5,620	1864,	817 „	10,974
1844,	626 „	6,020	1889,	880 „	9,778

Consequent on the relief-works, 1845-1849, the extent of roads had been considerably increased; but a great number of them were not kept in contract, and were allowed to fall into disuse. There are now nearly eighty miles of road in excess of those under contract in 1861, but the cost of maintaining them has diminished by about £1000.

The oldest bridges now standing in the County are those of Bellarush, near the north end of Lough Arrow, and Drumcliff. No date can be assigned for the building of either, but from their narrow arches and style of masonry, they must have been long in existence. Possibly the bridge at Battlefield, on the old road leading from Ballymote to Boyle, was built about the same time, as well as Ardree bridge, near Annaghmore.

The present modern bridge at Ballysadare is much higher up the stream than its predecessor; for the remains of an old bridge—perhaps that erected in 1360 or in 1586—was discovered when workmen were sinking the foundations for the eel-house, which is situated just over the last fall made by the river before mingling its waters with the tide.

In recent years many handsome and substantial bridges have been built in the County; of these the finest is the Victoria Bridge in the town of Sligo. It consists of five arches, each 21 ft. in span, and is entirely of ashlar masonry. It replaced the eight-arched bridge which formerly spanned the river a little below the present structure. The entrances to the old bridge were narrow and tortuous, and two vehicles were only just able to pass each other. A representation of it is given on the seal of the “Town and Harbour Commissioners” (see p. 124).



On 1st May, 1846, the first stone of the Victoria Bridge was laid, with imposing ceremony, by the Mayor and Corporation, in presence of a large crowd of spectators, "a bottle of the genuine native being decapitated on the stone."

Active operations were not commenced until the month of February, 1847. The cost of the bridge itself was £2017, and of the approaches to it £2226. This includes the sum of £1626 granted to the owners of nine houses which were built on or near the old bridge—making a total of £4243. The Victoria line, however, was not publicly opened until 26th June, 1852. It should be borne in mind that the expense of the Victoria Bridge and the approaches to it was defrayed by the Grand Jury of the County, as was likewise the cost of the widening of Wine-street, Quay-street, and other thoroughfares; and but for the passing of the "Sligo Improvement Bill" of 1869, an intercepting sewer would have been constructed (also by the Grand Jury) on each bank of the river. Mr. Noblett St. Leger (County Surveyor), stated in his evidence before a Committee of the House of Lords that the Grand Jury of the County had within the twenty years prior to 1869 spent £10,000 in widening the streets of the town.

The bridges of Annagh, over the river Moy; of Carrowcullen, on the road from the "Ladies' Brae" to Skreen; of Aclare, Curry, and many others of less note, remain as monuments of Mr. St. Leger's skill as an engineer.

In August, 1877, the bridges of Cabragh and Enniscrone were destroyed by a sudden flood, and rebuilt at a cost of £550; the bridge over the Easky river has been rebuilt at an expense of £700, and a new bridge over the river Owenbeg—near the village of Billa—was erected at a cost of £500. There is only one iron bridge at present in the county; during the relief-works of 1880–1881 it was erected over the river Moy, on the new road from Tubbercurry to Sessue. It is 40 ft. clear span, and is composed of two lattice girders, supporting a floor of iron arched-plates covered with asphalt, and surfaced with gravel. There are about 17 tons of iron in it, and with the abutments the total cost was about £550.

The record of the maintenance and repair of the streets of the town of Sligo, reaches back to an earlier date than the books of the Grand Jury. The first entry is made 11th December, 1711, when it was resolved that :—

“ We, the Provost and free burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, being this day in Common Council assembled, for the good government of this Borough, have found it fitting and convenient that a Beadle be appointed to sweep the town clear and free from strange beggars. And we do hereby order that four pounds sterling be applotted upon the inhabitants of this borough for one year’s salary and for the said buying a coat for a Beadle, and we do hereby also order and appoint that four pounds sterling be applotted upon the said inhabitants to pay a scavenger for carrying away the dirt out of the streets of the town (to the Commons belonging to the Borough) and for keeping the streets clear; and we do also appoint that three pounds sterling be also applotted upon the said inhabitants for the reimbursing Captain Gethin and Mr. John de Butt for money formerly paid by them for salary for him who served Beadle last of this Borough, and we do hereby order that the several sums as aforesaid be applotted by applotters to be named by the Provost. Witness our hands the day and year above written.

“ JOHN BOOTH, *Provost, &c.*”

Every householder in the town was bound to repair the street immediately in front of his residence :—

“ June 24th, 1718.—Whereas the streets of the Corporation are in several places out of repair, we therefore order that every person inhabiting in the said Borough shall, immediately on warning given them, repair the streets before their respective houses, as it shall be ordered by the undernamed persons, overseers of the said works, and in case they, or any of them, do refuse or neglect to do as the overseers order them, that the overseers shall set men to work to do the same so neglected, and have power to distrain the persons so neglecting and appraise the distresses so taken, and dispose of according to law, and pay the workmen for doing said work and restore the overplus (if any be) to the persons so distrained.

“ THOMAS JENNINGS, *Provost.*

“ *Overseers :—*

“ *The Provost for the time being and the Burgesses.*”

This order was again re-enacted on the 22nd July, 1723,



and on 24th June, 1726; whilst on 12th December, 1727, a sweeper and scavenger were appointed:—

“We the Provost and Burgesses of the said Borough assembled together do find that there is a Ballower [this term is evidently derived from the French word *balayeur*, i. e. a sweeper] and scavenger much wanting in the said Borough. We do therefore order and present the sum, six pounds sterling for each, be applotted and levied off the said Borough at large, to furnish the said Borough with a Ballower and scavenger,” &c.

On 14th November, 1737, the order was again re-enacted: householders “to sweep the streets to the middle of the crown-causeway opposite their houses,” all manure put out to be removed at once; in default, the persons were liable to a fine not exceeding 2s. 6d. for each offence.

In 1769 the sum of £77 was laid out in repairing and making good the pavement in the streets, and it was ordered that from that date all householders should at their own expense keep in repair the pavement in front of their residences to the centre of the street.

From about the year 1770 the vestry of St. John's had charge of the streets, as also the roads in the union, and in each parish “overseers” of the roads were regularly appointed. In 1775 it is recited that “pursuant to an Act made, 5 Geo. III. c. 14, sec. 35, empowering vestries to repair the streets of corporate towns by assessments, it is ordered by this vestry that the sum of seventy pounds sterling be applotted and levied off the inhabitants of the town of Sligo, to be applied towards paving and gravelling,” &c. It appears that in 1780 the townspeople considered themselves over-rated, as the vestry ordered that, for the future, the borough should pay in the proportion of but one-ninth of the union. From this date the paving and flagging of the streets seem to have been regularly repaired. After the Town and Harbour Commissioners assumed charge, matters do not appear to have been as well managed by them as by the vestry, for the *Londonderry Sentinel* of November, 1836, states that a tourist who visited Sligo thought “that the bogs had been literally carried off the mountains into the streets, and had

been there deposited in great depth." Dirt has been defined as "matter in the wrong place," and there is certainly plenty of "matter in the wrong place" on the streets of Sligo.

In 1869 the whole charge of the streets was handed over to the Corporation; but the committee appointed in 1872 to report on the state in which they were kept issued the following:—  
 "We report that the state of the streets of the town (when we consider the increased sum paid by the Corporation for having them properly cleansed) is absolutely shameful; dirt scraped from the centre to the sides, and allowed to remain there for days, the water tables filled up, and in some streets grass growing along the edge of the flags," the consequence being that in wet weather the streets, and sometimes even the houses, were flooded, and mud was everywhere in its several stages, of "stony, sticky, slodgy, slushy, and washy." The Town Council shortly afterwards took the repairing and cleansing into their own hands, but the result not being much better they again placed the arrangement in the hands of a contractor—

"No wonder citizens would cry,  
 On these damp muddy days,  
 Why don't the Corporation try  
 To mend their ways?"

The streets and lanes in the Borough are divided into three classes:<sup>1</sup> the first class, consisting of the principal thoroughfares,

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<sup>1</sup> The streets are divided into three classes, and are here arranged in alphabetical order:—

*Streets of the first class are*—Bridge-street; Castle-street; Gaol, or Albert-street (formerly Old Market-street and Correction-street); George's-street; Gore-street, or the Mall; High-street; John-street; Knox's-street (its former name had been Bridge-street); Lower Market-street; New Bridge-street; Pound-street; Quay-street; Ratcliffe, Stephen, and Thomas-streets; Victoria Bridge and approach; Wine-street.

*Streets of the second class are*—Chapel-street; Holborn-street; Linen-hall-street; Lower Union-place; Lyons'-place; New Barrack-street; Old Market-street; Temple-street; Tubbergal (*Whitewell*)-lane; Union-place; Waste Garden-lane; Water-lane.

*Streets of the third class are*—Abbey-street; Back-street; Adelaide-street; Back-lane and Old Pound-street; Barrack and King-streets; Burton-street; Cadger's-field-street; Calry Church-lane; Charles-street;



were, by resolution of 6th September, 1871, to be swept daily; the second class, twice a week; and the third class once a week.

For some years after the separation of the Borough and County, the Corporation effected a considerable saving in the outlay on repairs, as compared with that paid by the Grand Jury, full advantage being taken of the large out-put of road metal which had been placed on the highways. According to the evidence of the County Surveyor, the actual cost of keeping in repair, from 1859 to 1867, the 7092 perches of roads within the Borough, averaged £760 per annum. Before the epidemic of cholera in 1832, the town of Sligo was almost devoid of sewers, the superfluous water being carried off by surface drains, and little improvement seems to have been made until the year of the famine.<sup>1</sup> From that date, however, up to 1866, four miles, six furlongs, and seven perches of sewers were constructed by the Grand Jury within the Borough, at a cost of £4782. Since that period a large main drain has been made

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Charlotte-street; Church-hill; Church-lane; Cranmore (*great tree*)-lane; Distillery-lane; Duck-street; Fish-market, or Quay-lane; Garden-hill and Love-lane; Gallows-hill North and Gallow's-hill South; Gethin's-street; Harmony-hill; Hudson's-lane; James-street; Knappagh (*hillocky*)-road; Lower and Upper Quay-streets; Lungy-street—this used formerly to be styled “The Lungy,” also “The Lungay,” and “Longay” (it may be derived either from an Irish word signifying a *ship*, or another somewhat similar signifying an *encampment* or *fortress*); Mall-lane; Middleton's-row; M'Donogh's-row; Old Mail Coach-road; Prince's-street; Ramsay's-row; Riverside; Ropewalk; Tubbernashelmada (*snail's well*); Vernon-row; William-street.

In a Survey of the town (1783), the lane leading from Market-street to the Rectory was then known as the “Old Sessions House-lane,” and “Back-lane up to Sligo Stones.” There was also a “Well's-street;” a “Hewith-street;” a “Shambles-street;” a “Townsend-street;” and a “Mags'-lane” (“Magsman” is slang for a street swindler; “Mags'-lane,” therefore, may mean “Robber's-lane;” and close to the town there is now a locality so named). It would appear as if at the commencement of 1839 the houses were numbered, and the names of the streets first posted up at the corners; but certainly “Corkran's-mall” and “Thomas-street” were so marked in 1782.

<sup>1</sup> “Relief works in Sligo; Steep-street a little levelled; what to do with the *mould*? Throw it into river! ‘Upon my Salmon?’ eagerly objects one. It is at last *carted* far away.” *My Irish Journey* in 1849 pp. 221-2.—THOMAS CARLYLE.

through Wine-street; in the year 1880 the question of intercepting-sewers was again mooted, and after some investigation the scheme was finally carried out, with regard to the western bank of the river, the amount of loan granted being £1573.

Wesley, in his *Journal*, describes his journeys by land, as well as passages made to Ireland in the Holyhead packet-boats. He speaks of days sometimes occupied by the voyage, or passed in enforced idleness waiting the decision of the captain to put to sea. In the early part of the last century journeys were usually made on horseback, for the tracks not only led in a bee-line up and down hills, but ran across sandy inlets of the ocean when uncovered at low water, as for instance at Drumcliff, Streamstown, and Tanrago.

For farm work the country people had some curious vehicles, which they also employed for conveying themselves to market.



FIG. 37.—Slide car, still occasionally used for drawing weights over soft ground.

“Slide cars” had no wheels, and when drawn, the ends of the shafts which were shod with iron, glided over the ground. A wicker-basket or creel was suspended between the shafts. An Act of Parliament imposed a fine for using these cars on the high roads, but they were nevertheless to be met with among the poor farmers, more especially in mountainous districts. A somewhat similar contrivance is still occasionally used by the country-people for drawing weights over soft ground (see fig. 37).

There were also small carts which had the wheel fixed to a wooden axletree that revolved with it; the shafts, connected by



a few cross-bars reached no farther than to the middle of the horse's back. The horse drew by a chain or rope, one end of which was fastened to the collar and the other to a staple driven into the lower side of the shafts; the wheels were solid, being constructed of three pieces of ash about three inches thick at the rim; the shafts were supported by a piece of metal called a "bolster," which was flat on the upper part and semicircularly hollowed underneath for the axle to play on. These cars were capable of carrying a very considerable burden; they moved along with ease, but were difficult to turn; many people still alive remember seeing them in use. Fig. 38 is a representation of one with solid wheels. It may here be observed that when going to market the farmers, when they had no large produce to take with them, removed the "crib" and screwed on a board at each side for the feet to rest



FIG. 38.—Cart with solid wheels; the origin of the outside car.

upon, thereby transforming this primitive machine into a prototype of the present well-known Irish jaunting car, in common use throughout the kingdom.

About the commencement of the century was first introduced a vehicle called a Scotch dray, having spoked wheels and fixed iron axle-trees. In consequence of the greater height of the former, the shafts were more on a level with the point of draught, and a horse was thus able to draw a weight of about seven cwt. more than on the primitive "car."

The old stage-coach was a cumbrous vehicle, and as the

roads were rough, and gradients entirely disregarded, the horses had to be chosen more for strength than speed. About the year 1790 a new stage-coach was advertised to commence running between Dublin and Sligo. As an inducement to intending passengers the announcement was set forth in large type, that it "was lined with copper, and therefore completely bullet-proof." In 1810 the Sligo mail from Dublin started every night at a quarter before eight, from the "Royal Mail Coach Office, Hibernian Hotel, 40, Dawson-street," with a "double guard," these two guards being armed to resist highwaymen; and it was not until the year 1844 that the armed guard on the daily coach to Ballina was first dispensed with. In 1812 there was only one stage-coach plying in the great district that lies between Belfast and Sligo, viz. the Dublin and Londonderry mail. From Sligo, in a direction southward to Tuam, there was only one common pass into the county Mayo, by Killala. Up to the year 1815, remarked Mr. Bianconi, the public accommodation for conveyance of passengers in Ireland was confined to a few mailand day coaches on the great lines of road. Nothing was more striking than the great want in travelling accommodation; for instance, a farmer living twenty or thirty miles from his market-town spent the first day in riding to it, the second in transacting his business, and the third in returning. A good example of the "expeditious travelling" of the year 1823, is afforded by the following advertisement from the columns of the *Sligo Journal*:—

"ROYAL CANAL: *Cheap, secure, and expeditious Travelling to and from Dublin to Sligo.*—A boat will leave Dublin every day at three o'clock, p. m., and arrive at Tenelie (or 39th lock) at nine o'clock the following morning, whence a most comfortable caravan starts and arrives in Boyle that evening at 5, passing through Longford, Rouskey, Drumsna, and Carrick-on-Shannon. The following morning a car will leave Boyle for Sligo and return to Boyle the day after. The fares of the boat, caravan, and car from Dublin to Sligo, a distance of 110 miles (Irish), *is only sixteen shillings!*—December 24, 1823."

It was not till the year 1828 that a coach commenced running regularly between Sligo and Enniskillen; it is thus



noticed in the local newspaper of the 20th June:—"This conveyance which we understand will be appointed in the first style, will—as the advertisement expresses—open further the resources of the country, extending the line of communication lately opened by the Belfast coach; and it is intended after some time to run daily to and from Enniskillen." In November of the same year was started (according to an advertisement in *The Observer*), "The Sligo, Ballina, and Castlebar day-coach," which left on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, for Castlebar, returning on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

In those days, travelling by coach appears to have been attended with greater risk than by rail in the present, as demonstrated by a few extracts from newspapers:—"On Tuesday evening (January 8, 1828), the Sligo mail-coach was upset." On 1st January of the following year, "in consequence of the flooded state of the road between Sligo and Boyle (in some places to the depth of five feet), notice was given that the Dublin mail would start every morning at 11 o'clock to make up for the time lost in taking a circuitous route." In the newspaper issue of February 4, 1831, when making excuse for the paucity of news from the Metropolis, it was stated that owing to the heavy falls of snow four mails remained due up to the hour of going to press. On August 3rd, 1831, the coach was upset; amongst others, "Mr. Peter O'Connor slightly hurt." In February, 1836, the coach was again upset, and several lives lost, whilst in April a similar casualty occurred, &c. &c. In the year 1833 it was announced that the fare to Dublin was reduced to thirty shillings!

In 1849, Mr. Bianconi purchased up the interests of the other proprietors, and became sole possessor of the vehicular traffic to Sligo. In 1832 he had commenced running a car from Longford to Sligo, in connexion with the canal boat. In 1852 he put cars on the Strabane, Enniskillen, and Westport lines from Sligo, with branch-cars to several small towns in the north and west. In March, 1867, Mr. John Walsh, of Sligo, purchased from him "The Sligo and Enniskillen," "The Sligo and Ballyshannon," "The Sligo and Westport," "The Ballina

and Castlebar," "The Enniskillen and Omagh," "The Strabane and Letterkenny" lines. Shortly after the change in ownership some of these branches were considerably extended. In July, 1873, an opposition was started on the Sligo and Ballina line—a distance of 37 miles, and passengers were during that time carried for 1s. 6d. Railways have, however, curtailed the amount of car-business so much, that the following lines alone are now continued by Mr. Walsh, *i. e.* "The Sligo and Ballyshannon," "The Sligo and Ballina," "The Ballina and Belmullet."

A guard of the Sligo coach—a well-known character in his day—is alluded to in one of Lever's novels. In 1857 his admirers presented him with a testimonial, shortly before—to use his own words—"the new iron steed had snorted the requiem of the old four-in-hand." In 1862, after the abolition of the mail-coach, he was employed as guard on the railway train, but seemed out of place in his new position. Anecdotes related concerning him are innumerable; the best known is as follows: A Sligo gentleman of a not too-generous disposition frequently omitted to bring any luncheon, and it usually ended by the guard sharing his meal with him. On one occasion this gentleman perceiving where the guard, M'Clusky, had deposited his food, and thinking to play him a trick, abstracted and ate the food. M'Clusky observed the theft, but took no notice until when they were nearing a village a large dog rushed out, barking violently at the coach; he then proceeded to extract the food from where he had left it, and on perceiving its disappearance, expressed the greatest consternation and alarm, stopped the coach, and ordered the driver to turn back. In answer to an inquiry from the passengers, M'Clusky stated that he had hidden some poisoned meat, in order to throw it to a dog which was constantly annoying the mail by following and barking at the horses, that the meat must have dropped on the road, and that he would be answerable for somebody's untimely decease. The delinquent—who had been rapidly changing colour—here confessed that he had taken and eaten the missing food. "Then," said M'Clusky, solemnly, "you are a dead man!"



He again acted consternation and despair, when suddenly a happy idea occurred to him. "Stay," said he, "I can yet save you," and, turning to the driver, he inquired, if there was oil in the lamps, and being answered in the affirmative, he emptied the contents of one of them down his victim's throat, assuring him that this oil would retard the effects of the poison until medical assistance could be procured!

The mail-coach between Sligo and Ballina must have been attended by a guard who possessed the same humorous nature as M'Clusky—if an opinion may be formed from an anecdote narrated in the *Ulster Journal of Archæology*, by a tourist who stated that, "Travelling some years ago, in the county Sligo, I was directed by the driver of the Westport mail-coach to the distant view of Aughris Head, which slopes gently up from the mainland, and suddenly terminates in an abrupt precipice whose foot is lashed by the billows of the Atlantic. On the green slope is yearly held a 'pattern,' or gathering of the people. My informant, a quick-witted, humorous native, proceeded thus:—'There was no place in all the world where Alexander the Great wasn't able to ride his horse, till he came to Aughris. There he galloped his horse up to the very edge of the cliff, but when the beast saw the waves raging below, he reared up on his hind legs, and stopped short. The two marks of his hoofs are there still to be seen, and the people clear them out afresh every year; I have seen them myself! What better evidence can be required?'"

Within this century no event occurred of greater importance to the interests of Sligo than the opening of the Midland Great Western Railway to the town. A great many abortive attempts had been previously made to obtain speedy direct communication with Dublin, and elsewhere. In 1825, a memorial was presented to the Lord Lieutenant, from the gentry of Sligo, praying that a canal might be formed to connect Lough Erne with Lough Allen, and that again with Lough Gill, and thence to the sea. In 1839, the merchants of Sligo petitioned the Lords of the Treasury in favour of a canal to connect Lough Allen with Lough Gill, and Lough Gill with the sea; and in

the years 1845-1846 two Acts were passed, the first authorizing the construction of a railroad from Sligo to the Shannon, and the latter the extension of the harbour of Sligo to Lough Gill by formation of a navigable canal. These Acts were styled "The Sligo and Shannon Railway," and the "Sligo Ship Canal"; the latter being the revival of a much older project; for, so early as the commencement of the century a detailed survey had been made, with the object of constructing a canal from Sligo to the Shannon.

In 1839 a schooner called the *Maid of the Mills* was launched on Lough Gill, to ply between Sligo and the mills at Drumahaire. In 1843 Mr. Kernaghan's steam-boat, *The Lady of the Lake*, plied between the above places. This was succeeded by Mr. Kell's *Maid of Breffney*, which continued to make the same passage until wrecked in 1885. This mode of transit for merchandize, however, has entirely collapsed, all traffic being now carried on by the "Sligo, Leitrim, and Northern Counties Railway."

In 1852 the Corporation passed a resolution expressing "their most anxious wish to have Sligo connected with the capital by means of a railway, and that both as a body and individually they would give their best support and assistance to any public company formed for such object." On the 15th February, 1856, they, however, petitioned Parliament against a bill brought forward by a company styled the "North Western," the projected line being, in their opinion, likely to be most injurious to the trade of Sligo; whilst on the 2nd June of the following year they approved of the Sligo extension of the Midland Great Western Railway, if that company guaranteed the completion of the line in five years, the road to be commenced simultaneously at Sligo and Longford. Finally, after long negotiations, the line was commenced, the company guaranteeing not to open any smaller portion to the public, but to wait until the entire line was completed. A great number of English navvies were employed at this time, and they astonished the natives as much by the amount of work done by them, as by their predilection for rook-pie, a then unheard of



luxury in Sligo. As early as 1859 the permanent way between Sligo and Ballymote was laid in several places, but the extension from Longford to Sligo was not officially opened until the 3rd December, 1862.<sup>1</sup> The works had been three years in course of construction, at a cost of £450,000. The total length was fifty - eight miles, twenty - four of this being within the county, and it involved some heavy cuttings from Sligo to beyond Boyle. It had been ready for traffic twelve months previously, but before opening any smaller portion the company had to await the completion of the entire line.

At Kilfree a large signal-cabin was erected at considerable expense, and fitted with all the latest appliances, including electrical repeaters; also new signal-cabins at Collooney, Carricknagat, Ballysadare, and Sligo, between which stations the absolute block-system is in force, the signals being worked by electricity.

The Sligo and Ballaghaderreen line connects with the Midland Great Western system at Kilfree Junction. Nearly six miles of it are in the county.

The Sligo, Leitrim, and Northern Counties Railway, which had been working for some time as far as Collooney, was opened into Sligo in 1882. It has running powers over the Midland Great Western line from Carricknagat Junction into the town. About nine miles of this railway from the above junction to Ballintogher lie within the county. It furnishes a link between Sligo and the North of Ireland, and has given a great impetus to the cattle trade, Collooney being now the best fair within a considerable radius. The traffic on this line is slowly improving. In 1888 it carried 124,628 passengers, and 33,769 tons of general merchandize and minerals, the total receipts being £14,941, the working expenses £13,634.

The traffic carried by railway consists principally of imported goods sent inwards; the outward trade being comparatively small, barely one-ninth of the whole. The latter consists

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<sup>1</sup> Since 1873 Mr. George Hildebrand has been Station Master, and is now also Local Inspector of portion of the line.

of eggs for shipment to England, timber, porter, whiskey, &c. There was formerly a large trade in oats, but it has died out. The average yearly tonnage handled by the Midland Great Western Railway in Sligo is between 40,000 and 50,000 tons. In addition to this the Sligo, Leitrim, and Northern Counties Railway carry about 24,000 tons out of Sligo, so that at a rough calculation 74,000 tons pass through the station.

If a line from Collooney to Claremorris were made, the present circuitous route from Sligo to many important places in Ireland would be materially shortened; and a large tract of country being thus opened up, the trade of the port of Sligo could not fail to benefit thereby.

This line of railway, thanks to the facilities given by Government for the relief of distress, is now actually in course of construction. The Grand Jury at the Spring Assizes (1891) gave a guarantee of  $1\frac{1}{4}d.$  in the £1 on the county at large, and a baronial guarantee from the barony of Leyny of  $5d.$  in the £1 towards payment of the interest of the capital, the Government advancing the remainder of the funds needful for completion of the line. The railway commences at Collooney, and passes through Tubbercurry, Curry, and Bellahy. It has two junctions near Collooney with the existing line, viz. one with the Midland Great Western Railway, near Carricknagat, and another with the Sligo, Leitrim, and Northern Counties Railway at the Collooney station.

Before the general introduction of steam, and even long afterwards, a regular trade was carried on by means of small fast-sailing schooners of from 80 to 100 tons; but it was not until the 31st October, 1831, that the first steam-packet left the quay of Sligo. This was a novel sight; the quays and both sides of the river were lined by a dense crowd, who cheered in an enthusiastic manner as the vessel commenced to move from her berth, for numbers of those in the crowd had never before seen a steamer. This boat was of 300 tons burden, and 100 horse-power, and belonged to the Glasgow and Liverpool Steam Shipping Company. From 1840 to 1856 Messrs. Middleton & Pollexfen ran sailing vessels



to Liverpool and Glasgow, and from 1856 to 1865 they ran steamers to the same ports. In the latter year the Sligo Steam Navigation Company was formed by the firm.

In the year 1840 steam communication with Sligo was commenced by the Glasgow and Londonderry — now the Glasgow, Dublin, and Londonderry Steam-Packet Company. At first the service with Glasgow was fortnightly, by a steamer of 150 tons register and of small power. As trade improved a fortnightly service was established to Liverpool, which subsequently increased to a weekly one. In the year 1856 local opposition commenced, which terminated in 1865 in the withdrawal of the Company from the Liverpool trade. At the present time it maintains a bi-weekly service to Glasgow, and a fortnightly one to Ballina and Westport.

The vessels now plying are equal in point of size, speed, and accommodation to many cross-channel steamers ; their average size is about 800 tons burden, with engines of 800 to 1000 horsepower, and a speed of from 12 to 13 knots.

The extension of railways has interfered in some degree with marine traffic, especially in the case of live stock and perishable goods. By a daily service in connexion with the east of Ireland ports, a saving of time (which is of importance in this trade) is effected, and the rough passage round the north-west coast—found in bad weather to be somewhat injurious to cattle—can be avoided ; despite this, the bulk of the steam-shipping trade has materially increased.

At the close of the last century the Post Office of Sligo was situated in Quay-street ; the ground on which it stood was long afterwards known as “ the post office plot.” Letters from Dublin to Sligo then cost 10*d.* in transmission—a single sheet of paper and no enclosure allowed. The speed at which “ His Majesty’s Mail ” was carried was not excessive ; in October, 1824, the Sligo mail was “ accelerated to 5½ miles per hour ” at the urgent entreaties of the Sligo Town and Harbour Commissioners ; whilst on May 10 of the following year the Postmaster-General advertised for “ proposals for the conveyance

of the mails between Sligo and Enniskillen, in a mail-cart drawn by one horse, carrying one passenger, and *travelling at the rate of five miles an hour*”!

The first Sligo postmaster whose name is known was Adam Guthrie, who held the position for thirty years, and was succeeded in 1823 by Mr. Clarke, then by Thomas Hudson, and M. T. Phillips. Mr. Wynne appears to have had the appointment of the postmaster. In 1832 a daily penny post was established to Ballymote, Tubbercurry, Coolaney, Skreen, and Cliffoney.

On January 25th, 1858, the Postmaster-General was petitioned to have the Sligo mail conveyed between Mullingar and Longford by rail, instead of by car. He granted the request, and it continued to be so carried till the completion of the line at the close of 1862. Then, and long subsequently, the postal arrangements seem to have been very defective. In June, 1882, the Postmaster-General was petitioned in regard to the serious delay in delivery of the letters from England and elsewhere, whilst again, December 22nd, 1884, his attention was drawn to the requirements of Sligo in relation to an accelerated mail service to and from Dublin. This was granted, and the “Limited Mail” to Dublin commenced to run on October 12th, 1885, the time occupied being only four hours. The journey from London to Sligo can be now accomplished in little over fifteen hours, including an hour’s break in Dublin. The Government subsidy for this train amounts to about £12,000 per annum.

The actual revenue derived from the postal system of the town has been increasing steadily and rapidly, as the following return of the Sligo post office and district demonstrates:—

	1870.	1880.	1890.
Weekly circulation of letters, . . .	13,000	16,500	44,500
“ “ telegrams, . . .	300	850	2,300
Staff employed at Sligo, . . .	7	12	26
Number of sub-offices, . . .	11	14	18

In addition to the town-staff there are eighty-six people



employed at post-office work throughout the district. For one letter carried in 1870 there were, in 1890, 3.42; and for one telegram in 1870 there were, in 1890, 7.66 delivered. The increase in the former department may be considered as comparatively greater in proportion than the augmentation in the latter, which was fostered by the reduction by 50 per cent. in the price of telegrams, the rate of postage charged remaining the same.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### PORT OF SLIGO, TRADE AND MANUFACTURE.

**S**LIGO is the only harbour of any account on that portion of the north-west coast here described. At the entrance of the River Moy there is a bar, having at low water a depth of but three feet; and on account of the heavy swell which usually rolls in, and the quicksand nature of the shoals, it is reputed to be dangerous. Two perches that are erected on West Bartragh sandhills, when brought into line, mark the greatest depth of water over the bar; from this the navigation is marked by buoys, and at a place called Plott, about four miles from the entrance, the channel becomes very shallow, with not more than two feet at low water. The quay, which lies about two miles below Ballina is commodious, but vessels are aground at low water.

Northward in Donegal Bay lies the Island of Inismurray: it has dangerous outlying rocks; its eastern end terminating in a stony spit, which projects to a distance of three-quarters of a mile, the sea breaking over it in heavy weather. Between Inismurray and the mainland there is a clear passage, but a reef, called Cloonagh Bar, extends from Ballyconnel Point in a direction parallel to the shore for about four miles; in stormy weather it presents an appalling spectacle, for the sea breaks along the entire line of the shoal.

Off the entrance to Milkhaven are several dangerous rocks: within these are the historic rocks of Carricknaspania and Carricknaneane. Dernish Island forms the western side of the entrance to Milkhaven, a narrow creek, with but two feet of water at its entrance; its narrow and intricate channel has a pool of twelve feet of water inside Dernish Island, where fish-



ing craft and small coasting vessels may lie in perfect security. Rosskeeragh is a low rocky point that juts out from the sandy shore, and next to it is Mullaghmore Head, nearly 200 feet in height. The roadstead and harbour are on the south-east side of this promontory, but although with westerly gales vessels drawing ten feet of water may enter at high tide, yet it is subject to a dangerous ground-swell, and the sea breaks all over the shallow anchorage outside.

Sligo Bay comprehends the deep bight between Lenadoon on the west and Ballyconnel Point on the east: at the head of this bight are the three inlets of Ballysadare, Sligo, and Drumcliff. The south, or Tireragh shore is low and rocky, rising, however, in the interior to an elevation, in some places, of nearly 2000 feet. From Lenadoon eastward to Cooanmore Point is a distance of four miles, and the little inlet lying between it and Aughris Head is called Dromore Bay; here, on the eastern side, there is a sandy bottom, affording good anchorage when the wind is off the shore, and outside, is Pollnativna Ledge, a dangerous rocky shoal. Aughris Head forms a conspicuous landmark; on its east side there is a small bay which affords shelter to fishing craft during off-shore winds.

Ballysadare Bay is choked with sandbanks and exposed to the north-west swell. There are no buoys to mark the channel, but with the assistance of a skilful pilot, small vessels may go up to near the mills of Ballysadare at high water.

The entire of this littoral—with the exception of the entrance to the port of Sligo—is unlighted; in 1876 the Grand Jury represented to the Government—but in vain—that the coast for many miles west from Sligo, all the way to Eagle Island in Erris, was totally unlit, and many casualties had actually occurred from this cause. It was suggested that the point of Kinnasharragh—a low, dangerous shoal near Easky—appeared a site suitable in all respects for the lighting of this part of the coast.

A glance at the chart of the Harbour of Sligo shows that, in geological, or perhaps even in later times, there had been an island, or group of islands, between Aughris Head and Raughly.

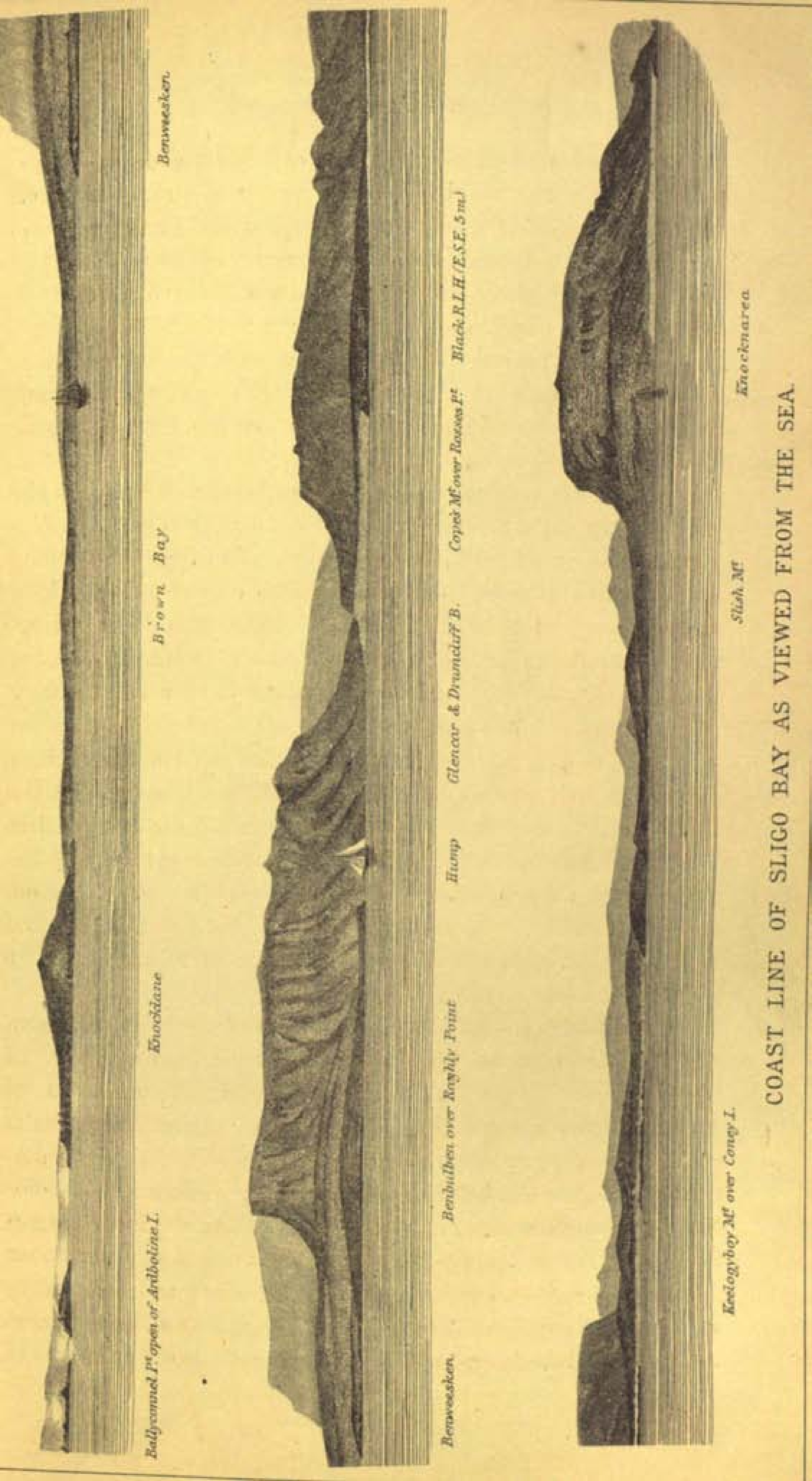
The largest of these shoals is now called "The Ledge"—a well-known fishing ground; but it is dangerous in stormy weather, the entire area being a mass of broken water. The Seal Rocks lie about a mile to the southward of Ardboline (sometimes called Haulbowline) Island; and they are nearly covered at high water. About a mile south-east of these is Roughly headland, connected by a narrow neck of shingle with the sandy beach. Between it and the Seal Rocks is Brown's Bay, where vessels lie during off-shore winds to wait for water sufficient to permit them to cross Sligo Bar.

On the western side of the small peninsula of Roughly the action of the sea has eroded the stone forming the cliffs into a series of caverns called the Pigeon-holes. At high tide the long swells of the Atlantic, more especially when augmented by a western gale, rush by various narrow channels into a large, deep, and open basin, situated at a considerable distance from the cliff, where the agitated waters seethe and roar with an appalling sound, even in ordinary weather.

The east side of Roughly Point is sheltered by Bird Rock (*Carricknaneane*) and Ledge, which break to a great extent the violence of the westerly swell, so that vessels often take shelter here from a gale in that quarter. The small harbour within the south point of the headland is dry at low water, and for some distance beyond it. A good idea of the general appearance of Sligo Bay is afforded by fig. 39, for the use of which the writer is indebted to the Lords of the Admiralty.

Sligo Harbour is an extensive inlet, and comprises the area between Wheat Rock (*Carricknacrinnaught*) and the Bridge of Sligo. Wheat Rock lies to the S.W. of the peninsula of Roughly: it is about half a mile in extent, and at low water is often bare. At its southern extremity is the Bird Rock. Drumcliff Bay, on the north side of the entrance, is choked with sandbanks, and appears, year by year, to be shoaling. The Johnsport channel, which in the year 1830 had at ebb of a spring tide six feet of water, for many years past has been quite filled in by the continuous drift of sand from the West. The once extensive and far-famed oyster-beds of Lissadell have suffered very





*Ballycannel Pt. over of Ardaboline I.*

*Knockane*

*Brown Bay*

*Benwiesken*

*Benwiesken*

*Benbulbin over Rayhly Point*

*Hump*

*Glencar & Drumcliff B.*

*Cope's Mt. over Rosses Pt.*

*Black R.L.H. (E.S.E. 5 m.)*

*Keelogyboy Mt. over Coney I.*

*Slisk Mt.*

*Knocknarea*

COAST LINE OF SLIGO BAY AS VIEWED FROM THE SEA.





much from this drift. The channel to Sligo crosses an extensive flat called the Bar. The deepest water over it (about 13 feet at low water) is defined by buoys; and within the bar the water deepens to about 20 feet in a good anchorage called Pooldoy, where vessels lie in moderate weather to wait for water to enter the Harbour.

The pilots of the Harbour of Sligo are divided into two classes, *i.e.* the "inside" and "outside." The duties of the former extended from the "Metal Man" to the quays, and of the latter from the sea to the "Metal Man." Formerly no proper superintendence or inspection of these men was ever undertaken, so that some had bad sight and others were colour-blind; the consequence being that, within the short space of six months, there occurred four several casualties occasioned by the Harbour Commissioners electing men as pilots who were not capable of properly filling the position. Fortunately, no really serious accident happened; and lately all pilots labouring under physical infirmity, incapacitating them from their work, have been superannuated.

The old inhabitants of Sligo do not (at any rate in historic times) appear to have been much addicted to a maritime life. The O'Dowds seem, however, at one period, to have had a predilection for sea-roving; and in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries several accounts are given in the Irish Annals of expeditions undertaken by them, and generally crowned with success. In the "Book of Ballymote" there is a drawing of Noah's Ark, apparently a representation of a ship of the fourteenth century (fig. 40).

Grants of the port-dues, &c., occur in 1420 and in 1449. About 1498 Felim O'Connor, on condition of being set at liberty by Mac Dermot, gave him a fifth share of "Cuan-Sligigh." On this subject P. W. Joyce remarks that "the most general word for harbour or haven is *cuan*; and it is still employed everywhere round the coast. . . . The word *cuan* is also used, in an extended sense, to signify any curve or winding; and whether in any particular case it is so used, or bears the meaning of the harbour, is easily determined."

In former times the dues of Sligo and Galway appear to have been joined ; and the area of the port of Sligo seems to have extended as far as Portevad. In the public records occasional reference to it occurs. But it was in 1720 that the first attempted improvement in the harbour was initiated ; for about this period “an Act for cleaning the ports, harbours, and rivers . . . of the towns of Galway, Sligoe, . . . and for erecting a ballast office . . . in each of the said towns” was passed by the Irish Parliament. The petition of the merchants

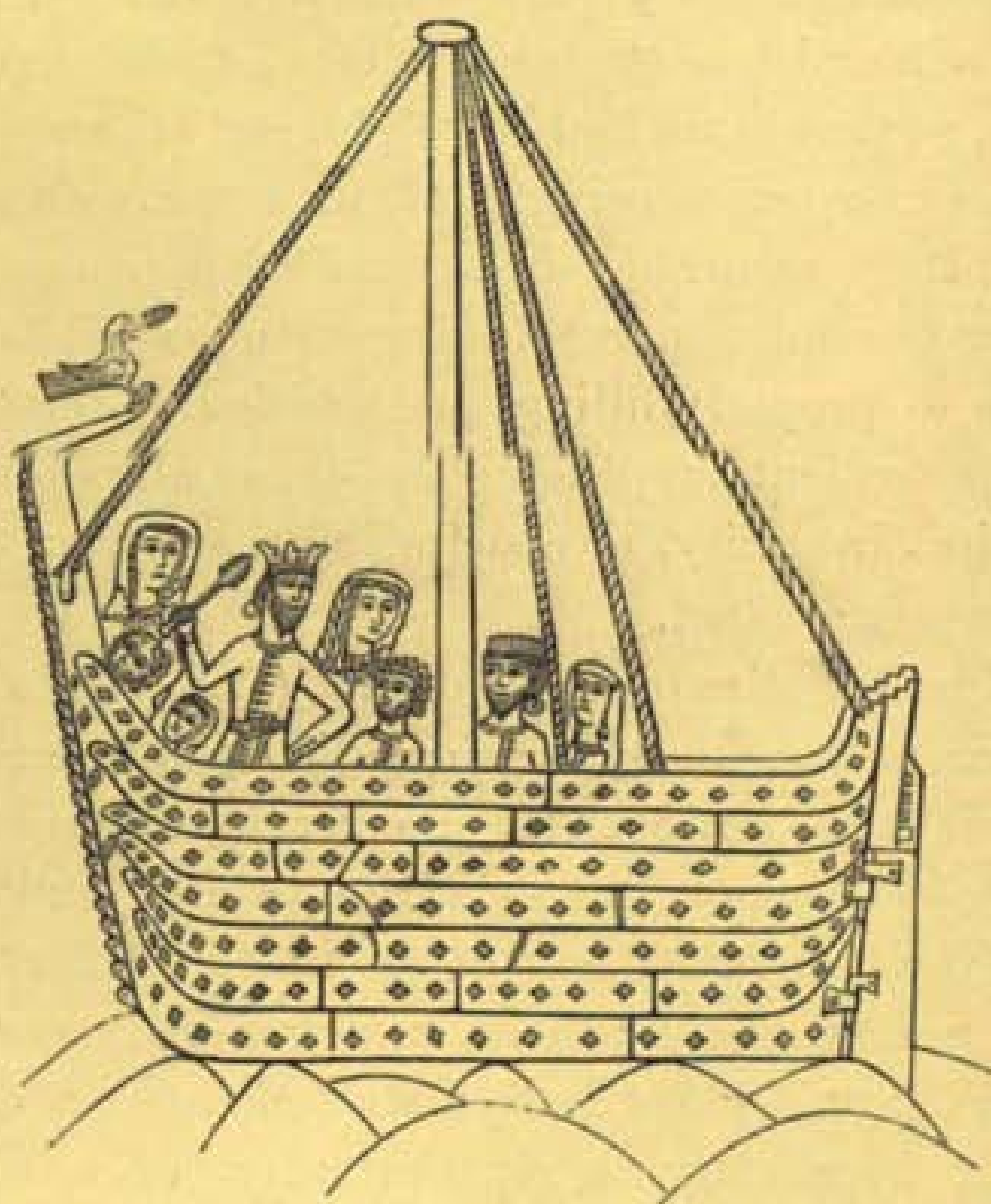


Fig. 40.—Representation of a ship from the Book of Ballymote.

of Sligo for erection of a lighthouse on the site of the “Beacon Tower” was granted in the year 1831, and the work was completed in 1835. The lighthouse stands on the extremity of Blackrock reef. On Coney Island might be found admirable sites for villas and bathing lodges for the summer season. It commands a panoramic view of a vast expanse of the Atlantic, the distant Donegal mountains, Roughly, the Ben Bulbin range, Sligo, Knocknarea, the Tireragh mountains—in short, an exten-



sive and magnificent prospect. Tradition points to the earliest settlement in the island having been at the locality styled Poll-namaddow. In comparatively recent times the "seat of empire" was removed to the centre of the island, to a sheltered hollow styled Shanbally (*i.e.* old village), where the plough still turns up quantities of charcoal, the pavements of "streets," or the foundations of houses. About 150 years ago the inhabitants, following as usual the channel of trade, emigrated to the eastern shore, where the village now exists. During the year of the famine a road, which was originally intended to go round the island, was commenced, but never completed.

At low water, during spring tides, the rocky ledge from the lighthouse to the island is so far uncovered as to enable communication to be carried on dryshod between it and the land. It is probably somewhere in this locality that the galleon of the Spanish Armada was wrecked, after having been repaired in Sligo; for it is stated that antique silver ornaments, &c., of sixteenth century workmanship were to be seen in houses at Rosses Point and on Coney Island. Numerous wrecks also have occurred on the island.

Owing to the obstruction of the Bungar Bank (*i.e.* narrow entrance), the lighting of the port remained very defective; and, in 1837, two lighthouses were placed on Oyster Island for the purpose of defining the channel, which runs close along the north side of the Blackrock reef, shoaling rapidly from thence to Lissadell. The Bungar Bank has been ever since gradually extending, so that the present lighthouses on Oyster Island are practically of little use. They had been originally placed so as to be kept in one by a vessel when making the port: owing, however, to the continual change taking place in the bank, even this precaution is almost useless without an experienced pilot.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Since the foregoing was written a sector light has been erected at the extremity of the island, showing red when the vessel is out of her course, but this is not considered satisfactory by the pilots, and the matter is now under the consideration of the Irish Lights Board, with a view to still further improvements.

Just before entering the channel, between Rosses Point and Oyster Island, there is a dangerous half-tide rock, formerly called "the Perch Rock," now marked by a stone-built beacon, surmounted by the gigantic metal figure of a sailor: hence, it is styled "The Metal Man." It was erected in the year 1822, as shown by the following advertisement:—

"The Commissioners for improving the Town and Harbour of Sligo will receive plans, estimates, and proposals for erecting a suitable pillar on the Perch Rock, to be not less than ten feet over high-water mark, upon which is to be fixed the 'Metal Man,' now lying on the new quay; and that fenders be fixed to the northern side thereof, to protect vessels coming in contact with it; the pillar to be perpendicular to the base on the north side. Monday, the 11th of February, is fixed on for approving of the estimate, and declaring the constructor.

"By order, T. REED, *Secretary*.

"SLIGO, *January 7, 1822.*"

On the 5th September, 1825, the Commissioners resolved to have "The Metal Man" painted; and ever since he has appeared in smart nautical attire. Although of such recent construction, yet a legend is attached to it which relates that "The Metal Man," at certain times of the year, leaves his pedestal and goes ashore to the Rosses.

In former times there was a quay projecting from the Oyster Island (so marked in the Survey of 1809–1818); later on, posts along the shore were substituted, to which any vessel remaining over a tide was required to moor. These posts have now given place to mooring chains, to which vessels of over 3000 tons can make fast; for the reach between Oyster Island and Rosses Point—nearly a mile long, and about 300 yards broad—affords anchorage in about twenty feet of water: the tide, however, is strong, and the holding ground not good, so that the present mooring chains are not only necessary, but form an excellent and thoroughly safe anchorage for the largest vessels. At the extremity of Rosses Point there is a headland styled "Dead Man's Point," so called, it is alleged, from a foreign seaman who, at the commencement of the century, died of the plague



and was there buried. His bones, it is said, may still be seen, exposed by the action of the weather. The more ancient designation of the headland was "Storey's Point," so styled in the chart of 1821.

The Rosses Point<sup>1</sup> of to-day is a very different place from the Rosses Point of olden times. A decade has not passed since its sole hotel was a thatched cabin at the Sligo end of the village;

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<sup>1</sup> The Parochial District of Rosses Point owes its formation mainly to the exertions of the late Mrs. E. J. Cooper, of Markree Castle, who noticed the long-felt want of a place of worship for the many Protestant visitors to the seaside during the summer months.

Originally, the Rosses having formed part of the very extensive parish of Drumcliff, depended for the ministrations of religion on the services of the rector and his curate, by whom (during the bathing season) divine worship was conducted on Sunday afternoon in a room of some farmhouse, lent by the owner for the purpose. At Elsinore, which was then the property of the Cooper family, the visitors to the seaside were invited to attend, and occasionally, clergymen of the diocese, who chanced to be temporarily lodging at the Point, held services, and ministered wherever congregations could be brought together. But the irregularity and inconvenience of these arrangements were keenly felt, when, as happened year by year, the number of Protestant visitors increased. Therefore, with the consent of the Rev. Thomas Crawford, then rector of Drumcliff, it was resolved, that a parochial district should be severed from the mother parish, under what was known as "the Peel Act" of Parliament, and a church built, in which an incumbent should conduct the services of the United Church of England and Ireland, and have spiritual charge of the new parish—the appointment to be placed in the hands of Five Trustees. Appeals for aid towards carrying out this desirable object were accordingly made, and a sufficient amount was raised for the erection of the church now standing at the entrance to the village of Rosses Point, and also for endowment of the incumbency, whenever a nomination thereto could be made. A sum of over £500 was expended in the building and fittings of the church, and £1395 was provided for endowment. The first stone was laid on the 14th August, 1854: the architect was William Dean Butler, and the builder, Henry Caldwell. For some years after 1858, when the building was opened for Divine Service during the summer months, the clergy of Drumcliff officiated there on Sunday afternoons, and conducted a school for the children of the coastguards and other residents of the district. In 1867 the then rector, feeling himself unable, through infirmity of age, to keep up the summer service at The Rosses, secured for a short period the aid of the Rev. Frederick Flood, A.B., Vicar of Kilmoody, in the diocese of Down, who eventually accepted the incumbency of the church, and in August, 1869, he entered on the charge of the parish, in which he still continues to serve.

whilst, now, some half-dozen fairly good hotels, containing considerable accommodation, have been erected to meet the demand created by tourists and lodgers; for the steamer and the cars which, in the summer, ply between Sligo and its suburb have of late considerably increased the influx of visitors during that season. Nature has done a good deal for the place; and it only requires capital, judiciously laid out, to make the Point a formidable rival to any western watering-place. A large adjoining space, known as "The Greenlands," is open to the public, and forms a delightful promenade. Another great attraction is the amusement which can be had in the way of fishing and boating: row-boats and sailing-craft for hire are plentiful.

At the upper end of Oyster Island the channel, which from this is marked out by perches and a sea-wall, is abruptly turned to the southward by the "Blennick," a dangerous and formerly rocky shoal projecting from the shore, and uncovered at low springs. ~~It is the most serious obstacle to the navigation of~~ the river, as it is not only in the direct course which the channel ought to pursue, but, also, it diverts the incoming tide from the north to the south side. The removal of the "Blennick" was long objected to by some persons who considered that it sheltered "The Pool," by breaking the ground-swell coming in from the ocean; yet its entire removal is of the greatest importance, in order that a straight run may be given to the river, and the incoming tide; the swell and wind would be sufficiently broken by Coney and Oyster Islands to render "The Pool" a safe anchorage. In 1877 a medium course was pursued, which has been attended with serious disadvantage. A great portion of the Blennick was lowered and the boulders removed. The scour over it is consequently greater, and "The Pool" has contracted in size; the depth has also seriously diminished. The first step for the improvement of the Harbour should be the entire removal of this obstacle, and the partial blocking of Shru-na-muile (*the thousand streams*), i.e. the channel lying between Oyster and Coney Islands. The additional volume of water thus confined to one course would have the effect of sweeping away the tail of Bungar Spit, and would in



all probability greatly increase the depth of the water across the bar, as well as remove it further seaward.

From "The Pool," the river describes a semicircle to the quays, running close along the northern shore; this is an entirely new and artificial channel, preserved solely by the guide-wall and constant dredging.

Commencing at Cartron Point, the old channel was variable in depth, and circuitous, being deflected from the north by the "Corrigen Shoal;" the other parts of the channel were subject to constant changes. The Lower Bank, Middle Flat, and Southern Channel had materially altered between the date of the Survey made by Mr. Nimmo in 1822, and that by Mr. St. Leger in 1844, so that where there had been a depth of five feet at low springs, there was in 1844 a bank nearly three feet high, and the configuration of the banks had also considerably changed. In the year 1844, nearly £1000 was given by various gentlemen to improve the harbour; of this sum, nearly £800 was subscribed within the county. Mr. St. Leger's suggestions were adopted with some modifications, and resulted in the excavation of the present channel, which it is now in contemplation to deepen from the Blennick to the deep-water berths, owing to the urgent necessity of enabling large foreign steamers and sailing vessels to discharge at the quays instead of at Rosses Point. The estimated cost of the work is about £13,000, but the expenditure might be undertaken with financial safety, for the trade of the port is steadily increasing. The augmentation in revenue from the year 1864 to 1889 has amounted to about 60 per cent., and during the last three years there has been a surplus revenue—after providing for all ordinary expenditure—of upwards of £1000 per annum.<sup>1</sup> To meet this large outlay, it is proposed to increase the dues upon vessels from foreign parts, and for this there is ample margin, as Sligo is one of the cheapest ports in the United Kingdom, so far as tonnage dues are concerned; consequently there seems very little doubt that before long steamers and ships will

<sup>1</sup> For a table of the trade of the port, &c., see Appendix H.

have no difficulty in discharging at the quays. Up to the present, the largest vessel that has unloaded at the deep-water berth was of 1800 tons burden. Pococke, in 1752, writes that a ship of 100 tons could come up only at spring tides to Sligo. Beaufort, writing in 1792, stated that the largest vessels frequenting Sligo quay were little over 200 tons burden.

From very early times the port of Sligo appears to have been the scene of busy foreign traffic. Camden, when writing his *Britannia*, states:—"Hereabouts (*i.e.* in the County Sligo) Ptolemy places the city of Nagnata, but I have not been able to discover it. . . . The place which Ptolemy points at is now called *the Bay of Sligo*, a creeky road for ships just under the town, which is the chief port in this county, and is adorned with a castle." In 1312 twenty tuns of wine washed ashore on the coast from a wrecked vessel would seem to denote that trade with the Continent was even then considerable. The deed of conveyance of "ye cokket of Sligo" bears date 1430 and 1449, whilst again, a few years later, another concession was granted by Patent, 31 Henry VI. In 1544 Lord Fitzwilliam Bourke petitioned "to have in fee-farm the cockets of Sligo, Portevade, and Leighborne, with all other creeks and havens, which his ancestors had, and whereof the King never had profit, as they were kept from his Highness by usurpation."

In 1566 Sir Henry Sidney stated that Sligo "hath been a great town, full of merchants' houses;" and the "Four Masters" record the death of several members of the O'Crean family, who, from the 14th to the 17th century, appear to have been the "Merchant Princes" of Sligo.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "The yearly chardges of the new farmers of his Maj<sup>ty</sup>s Customs, for the Kingdome of Ireland for the Officers Stipends settled by Mr. Cogan. And also for chardges of Custom-houses, and Store-houses. An<sup>o</sup> 1632, w<sup>th</sup> ye names of such as have been formerly employed:—

	Ould Officers.	New Officers.	
Sligo and Moine,	John Murtoogh, coll.	he contynews,	£15
"	Ellis Harlowe,	Marsham Pemberton,	20
"	John Gardiner, at ye	Hugh Granes,	10
	Moynes,	Some is,	45 "



In 1575 Dominick Lynch, “of Galway, Merchant,” appears to have been “Comptroller of Customs” of the Port. In 1660 John Mogridge; in 1680 “Francis Cornwall, Esq.,” and “Lieut. John Leon<sup>d</sup>. Mullins in reversion after Mogridge.” In 1724 Darby Clarke was appointed, vice Cornwall and Mullins, deceased; in 1739 W<sup>m</sup>. Chaigneau, Gent., vice Clarke, deceased; in 1742 John Chaigneau, vice his brother, William Chaigneau, resigned; in 1747 Isaac Dance, vice Chaigneau, resigned; in 1754 John Witherall, vice Dance, resigned. During his tenure of office the duties on imports and exports were as follows:—

Year.	Imports.				Exports.			Year.	Imports.				Exports.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1756	1208	11	4	.	26	11	7	1766	406	12	7	.	120	1	4
1757	216	12	0	.	15	13	10	1767	482	7	2	.	92	17	7
1758	425	10	1	.	23	11	11	1768	1178	12	3	.	160	8	6
1759	504	11	6	.	45	1	0	1769	998	14	6	.	487	17	2
1760	518	9	8	.	45	6	3	1770	1122	2	4	.	523	6	7
1761	384	19	4	.	61	13	0	1771	1554	19	0	.	309	2	0
1762	640	6	11	.	73	17	11	1772	841	16	7	.	471	9	1
1763	1017	11	7	.	104	17	7	1773	2477	17	11	.	835	11	10
1764	1187	15	3	.	131	3	2	1774	2418	5	4	.	730	11	4
1765	1458	9	4	.	102	17	0	1775	2256	8	1	.	986	0	6

Owen Wynne was appointed collector in 1821, and retired in 1859; he was succeeded by John Ralph; on his resignation in 1875 Lewis Evans was appointed; in 1879 he was succeeded by W. Petherick and by Mr. Corby. In 1883 the Customs and Bonded Warehouses were handed over to the Excise Department of the Inland Revenue.\* In 1886 Mr. Corby was promoted, and his post filled by George Wood.

Sligo-Customs District extends from Kinnesharragh Point, County Sligo, to Gweedore River, County Donegal, and within these limits the Superintendent of Customs is also Receiver of Wreck, Superintendent of Mercantile Marine, Registrar of Shipping and R. N. Reserve. The Custom duties in 1853 were £20,576; in 1863, £23,970; in 1873, £61,566; in 1883, £44,137. The Custom House, bonded warehouses, and timber yard are Government property, the site on which they stand, together with the quay immediately in front of the Custom House, extending from Lynn's Dock to Cochrane's Quay, having

been presented to the Crown by Lord Palmerston in 1814. The Custom House Quay is now leased by the Honourable Commissioners of Customs to the Sligo Harbour Commissioners.

The first attempt at improving the Port was undertaken *circa* 1720; and the first Act relating to it appears to have been the 3 George II., c. 2, which enacted that the Corporation should be conservators of the Port, and should maintain a ballast-office for improving and preserving it. It was at once acted on:—

“*Borough of Sligo.*—“ We the Provost, burgesses, and freemen of the said borough having this day assembled, pursuant to the Statute of the third of King George the Second, for erecting a Ballast-office in the port of Sligo, do hereby unanimously appoint Mr. Laurence Vernon to be Ballast-Master of the said port, and do hereby authorise and empower him, the said Laurence Vernon, to do all and everything, and to execute all powers to a Ballast-Master belonging, pursuant to the said Statute. And we do also authorise and empower him out of the first money arising for furnishing a Ballast for tonnage of all ships and vessels, and also duty on all boats, gabbards,<sup>1</sup> and lighters which shall come into his hands as Master of the Ballast-office of the port of Sligo, to put the quay in repair and to cleanse the river, and to put up perches when necessary. And we do also allow the said Laurence Vernon a salary for the pains and trouble he shall be at in executing the office of Ballast-Master, six shillings and eight pence in the pound sterling, of the produce payable to the said Ballast-office. Witness our hands, the 28 day of July, 1730.

“OWEN WYNNE, *Provost.*”

The succeeding Ballast-Masters were:—William Vernon 1754; Charles Martin, 1759; Abraham Gibson, 1769.

After the passing of the Municipal Act of 1842, the new Corporation had the privilege of sitting with the Town and Harbour Commissioners as *ex officio* members: the total number of members was thus raised to forty-eight.

In 1869, by the passing of the “Borough Improvement Bill,” the Corporation ceased to have any control over the Port, and the jurisdiction of the Commissioners became limited

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<sup>1</sup> Gabbard is a barge; another curious designation is also to be found in some documents, *i. e.* a pickard, or small ship.



to the Harbour alone; their title, created by the Act, being "The Sligo Harbour Commissioners." The number of members was reduced to nineteen; eight elected by traders paying harbour dues to the amount of £5; and each trader had an extra vote for every £10 he so pays, over and above his qualifying amount, up to six votes; eight elected by householders rated in respect of premises valued at £12; two nominated by the Corporation; the Mayor for the time being *ex officio*. On the 14th November the election takes place annually for the vacancies created by those retiring from office in rotation.

Prior to this Act, Commissioners were elected for life, but now for four years only. The Harbour Commissioners, finding it necessary to increase their borrowing powers, applied to Parliament in 1877, when the present "Sligo Harbour Act" was passed, giving them, amongst other privileges, increased powers of borrowing to the extent of £50,000. Previously they were enabled to borrow only £6000 Irish. Since the passing of this Act they have borrowed from the Board of Public Works £20,000, and from local lenders over £6000.

The primitive quay of the Port was immediately under the walls of the Castle and just below the mills, for, according to an old document of the 18th century, it is stated that "the Fort is upon the river, which is navigable to the Fort and no further." The Fish Quay was built in 1822; the entire length is but 200 feet. The old quay and slip is 250 feet in length; next comes Cochrane's Quay, 200 feet—a private undertaking, which was purchased by the Harbour Commissioners from the then proprietor—as a connecting link between the town and the Custom House Quay (300 feet); Lynn's Dock has been filled in, and the Quay for 580 feet runs along its former entrance; the Ballast Quay (1430 feet) was constructed after the passing of 9 Vict. c. 24; from it springs the Extension Quay to the deep-water berths, 2700 feet—giving a total length of quayage of nearly a mile and a quarter.

During the past fifty years Sligo has witnessed many changes in maritime trade and commerce. The introduction of steam revolutionized here, as elsewhere, the system by which

goods were imported and exported, drawing the traffic to the larger seaports; yet Sligo has not only maintained its position, but in contradistinction to other western ports, has steadily progressed.

About the commencement of this century the trade to and from the harbour was carried on by small sailing vessels, which brought supplies for a large inland district, and the exports of oats, butter, and general produce, were not only extensive but also very profitable to the owners, as, in the absence of other means of transit, they commanded high freights.

So late as the year 1842, small trading vessels were built in Sligo; the last launched was the "Lady Anne Wynne," lost off the coast of Scotland with all hands, and found floating keel uppermost. Even the ocean sailing-vessels were small for the considerable trade that was then carried on direct with New York, Barbadoes, Trinidad, and Quebec.

It was gradually perceived that larger vessels could be worked more economically than small ones, but required more water to float them, and this brought about the formation of the new channel or cut from Bath Lodge to the Ballast Quay, by means of which vessels of a larger tonnage were enabled to reach the Quay. During the past twenty years, large steamers of steadily-increasing dimensions have replaced the sailing vessels of former days, and this remark applies more particularly to the grain trade between Sligo and foreign parts. The importation of maize, which is the largest item—43,000 tons having been imported direct during the year 1890—is almost entirely effected by large steamers, whilst twenty years ago the bulk of the trade was carried on by sailing-vessels of about 800 tons. Now, it is not uncommon to see steamers of upwards of 3000 tons discharging at Rosses Point. At present, the only trade in which large sailing-vessels are engaged is in the importation of flour from California and Oregon, where it is not possible to employ steamers to advantage.

It is clear that Sligo is at considerable disadvantage by her merchants having to discharge their larger cargoes five miles from the town, incurring thereby a heavy loss in expenses of lighter-



age. About ten years ago a considerable loan was obtained from the Board of Works for the purpose of constructing deep-water berths, but the sum proved inadequate to finish the work. It is necessary to obtain a further advance to enable the Commissioners not only to dredge to the full extent of the deep-water berth—about 800 feet in length—but to provide sixteen feet of water at the lowest state of the tide, as well as to deepen the channel from Oyster Island to these berths. With this object the Harbour Commissioners have lately been pressing their case upon the notice of the Government to grant a further advance to enable them to finish the work and place Sligo in fair competition with Derry and other neighbouring ports.

If the proposed improvement be carried out it will result in an increase of revenue to the port, and also add to the prosperity of the district. The saving of lighterage alone would enable merchants to extend their district 20 or 30 miles further, and thus increase the imports in a corresponding ratio; and taking into account that Sligo has steadily progressed, whilst other western seaports in Ireland have declined, there is every prospect that the advance will be repaid: during the last 25 years the import dues alone have increased about 60 per cent. The total revenue from this source in 1864 was £3019, in 1889 £4890. Sligo has never received a free grant of any description from Government for improvement of the port, but it was hoped that the Royal Commission which visited Sligo a few years ago would have recommended a grant for the purpose, so as to enable the fisheries to be developed; they reported, however, that the interest of the port “might be left in the hands of its energetic inhabitants.”

Prior to the famine of 1847 the exports of oats and oatmeal were very considerable, principally to London, Liverpool, and Glasgow; the importation of wheat and Indian corn from the Black Sea, the Levant, and Liverpool only commenced to any great extent about the year 1845.

“The export trade of Sligo,” writes Inglis in 1834, “is the largest in the north-west of Ireland. It consists chiefly of grain,

and is steadily increasing; the export of oats from Sligo in 1831 was 136,000 quarters; in 1832 it was 134,000; and in 1833 it had increased to 154,000 quarters; the export of wheat also had trebled within three years; 3127 quarters were exported in 1833."

The regulation of the markets early occupied the attention of the authorities,<sup>1</sup> and stringent rules were laid down as to the size of the loads of fuel, as also of straw and hay. The earliest resolution passed by the Corporation is as follows:—

*"Borough of Sligo, the 17th of April, 1711.—We, the Provost and Free Burgesses of the aforesaid Borough, being assembled and met together in Common Council, do appoint and order that for the certainty, justice, honesty, and benefit of all and every of Her Majesty's subjects, as well residing in the Borough, as all other Her Majesty's subjects, frequenting the markets of the said Borough, that shall have occasion to buy or sell any turf, hay, or straw, that two turf-barrels shall be made and provided, at or before the 24th of June next after this date hereof, at the cost and expense of the inhabitants of the said Borough, each barrel to contain sixty-four gallons, Winchester-measure, according to the ancient custom of the said Borough. And that every slide-car load of straw, brought to be sold in the said Borough, shall weigh two hun-*

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<sup>1</sup>The standard weights and measures early demanded attention. In 1781 it was resolved that "the Provost, for the time being," should "set and dispose of the creans to the best advantage for the use and benefit of the Corporation." In the commencement of the century, the dry weights and measures were by the ounce, pound, stone, and barrel avoirdupois; the hundred, peck, and sack; liquid measures the same as throughout Ireland, gallon, quart, pint. Weights were nowhere assigned for measures, but measure was sometimes assigned for and substituted for weight. For instance, potatoes were sold by the peck, which was substituted for, and was always supposed to contain half a hundred; oatenmeal was sold by the peck, which contained a weight of 10 lbs.; grain, flour, potatoes, and butter were sold as above-mentioned, by the pound, stone, and barrel, avoirdupois, for which the measures already quoted are frequently substituted; a sack of oats contained 24 stone; barrel of barley 14 stone, but these, though bulk measures, were all weighed, as was every article throughout the country. The usual weights and measures became thoroughly in use in 1812, but the number of stones to the barrel was varied in some parts of the country. In 1854 the inspection of weights and measures was given to the Royal Irish Constabulary. In 1862, pursuant to the 23 & 24 Vict. c. 119, s. 12, a rate was struck for the purpose of buying and keeping in proper order standard weights and measures, which are in their charge.



dred and twenty-four full pounds. And every wheel-car load, brought to be sold as aforesaid, shall weigh four hundred and forty-eight full pounds. And that every slide-car load of hay, brought to the said Borough to be sold, shall weigh two hundred and twenty-four pounds full weight. And every wheel-car load, brought to be sold as aforesaid, shall weigh four hundred and forty-eight full pounds, both straw and hay to be dry and without fraud. And that twelve shillings be applotted on the inhabitants of the aforesaid Borough to pay for the aforesaid turf-barrels.

“JOHN DE BUTT, *Provost*.”

These regulations seem, for nearly one hundred years, to have had the wished-for effect; the turf barrels were particularly in requisition, for shortly after the issuing of the above order two “turffe Barr<sup>ls</sup> more, Hooped w<sup>th</sup> oake Hoopes and Iron Handles” were placed in the market.

*Dimensions of a Sligo Turf-barrel.*

1754.	Height and length of stave,	. . .	26 inches.
	Diameter of centre,	. . .	34 „
	Head or end of stave,	. . .	32 „

*The measure for high loads is to be, in future, from  
10th August, 1800, viz.:—*

1800.	End diameter,	. . .	26 inches.
	Bung diameter,	. . .	28 „
	Length and height,	. . .	28 „

The latter vessel is that by which ass-loads were allowed to be sold; it is equal to  $\frac{2}{3}$  parts of a barrel or horse-load.

Repeated complaints having been made of the frauds perpetrated in the goods exposed for sale in the Sligo market the Corporation resolved on the 29th January, 1800:—

“That from and after the first day of February next all turf brought to the town for sale in baskets or high loads shall contain three-fourth parts of the present turf barrel or standard barrel or measure for the sale of turf, and that any high load or load of turf carried on the back or backs of horses to the town for sale that shall be found to contain less than three-fourth parts of said turf barrels shall be deem’d a fraud, and on proof made thereof on oath of one credible witness before the Provost or on his view, or by confession of the party, it shall and may be lawful and he is hereby authorized to condemn and send the same

to the Prisoners in the Gaol, House of Correction, or to the Infirmary. And whereas the like frauds are committed by persons bringing hay to this town for sale in trusses fraudulently made up, and appearing larger than they really are, Be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, THAT ALL HAY brought to this town in trusses for sale shall weigh not less than three hundred weight each truss; and that from and after the said first day of February next, any hay exposed to sale in trusses that shall not weigh three hundred weight, of one hundred and twelve pounds to the hundred, shall be deemed a fraud, and on due proof thereof being made in manner aforesaid to the Provost, the same may be seized, condemned, and forfeited, one half to the informer, and the other half of the money, arising from the sale thereof, to be given to the confined Debtors in the Gaol of Sligo aforesaid; and be it known that the contents of a turf barrel is in height twenty-six inches, diameter of the centre thirty-four inches, and of both ends thirty-two inches."

So early as 1781 an attempt was made to regulate the meat market. In 1866 it was resolved that the Mayor should from time to time inspect "meats exhibited for sale, and have any such as may be, in his opinion, unfit for human food, forfeited."

In 1881 the Town Council resolved to purchase Mr. Wynne's interest in the corn and butter markets, tolls, customs, and rent, and all buildings in connexion with them, together with the fair-green and the pig-market, &c. When the Corporation had complete control of the markets, &c., they set to work energetically in the way of improvement. A deputation, including the Borough Engineer (Mr. Cochrane) of the Town Council, visited various towns in Ulster, *i.e.* Strabane, Derry, Coleraine, Armagh, and Newry, to inspect the management, after which they made a report which was in many respects valuable for the after-regulation of the market. The concluding paragraph may be given:—

"While on the subject we may remark that in no town visited did we observe the same abundant supply of street fountains as in Sligo, whilst the quality of the Kilsellagh water was quite equal, if not superior, to any we met with. We consider the management of the markets, and all other matters connected with the town of Newry, exceptionally good, leaving nothing to be desired, and are of opinion that the Sligo Corporation cannot do better than take it as their model and follow as nearly as possible on the same lines."



The first mention made of the butter-market occurs in the books of the Corporation on the 29th September, 1787, when James Soden was appointed "public weighmaster of butter, and all other commodities exposed for sale in the Corporation."

The weighmaster had permission to appoint a deputy. In 1812 the Irish Butter Act vested in the Corporation the patronage of the appointment to the joint offices of "weighmaster" and "taster of butter." Just prior to the remodelling of the Corporation, in 1842, that body appointed the Right Hon. John Wynne to the office, which was then of considerable emolument, as it included the office of public weighmaster, inspector of the town, port, and markets of Sligo, also the weighing of grain, and all other commodities. Mr. Wynne held the office until his death.

On the 30th July, 1880, brands were provided for casks in the butter-market. They bore the words "Sligo Corporation" in a circle, with the several qualifications of "first," "second," "third," "fourth," in the centre. The Mayor of Sligo—for the time being—was appointed weighmaster.

A memorial having been presented in the year 1884 to the Sligo Corporation in regard to the manner in which the butter-market was conducted, a committee of inquiry was appointed by that body. In their report it was recommended that during the winter months a kit or small firkin should be used instead of the large one then so general, justly observing "that the sooner butter can be sold, the better the quality will be: this being specially the case with reference to butter made during the winter months, when cattle are housed." The committee also recommended the abolition of the custom of deducting 1lb. from the weight of every firkin of butter.

At the commencement of this century the export of butter from the port was very considerable, amounting in 1800 to upwards of £200,000. 150,000 casks of butter left the quay in 1832-1833, but this fell in 1838 to 50,000; and according to evidence given before a Committee of the House of Commons,

the total number of casks of butter sold in the Sligo market averaged about 30,000 for four or five years prior to 1868.<sup>1</sup>

The production and export of butter had been one of the staple industries of Sligo; in common, however, with those of other districts, the Sligo and Leitrim farmers have not kept pace with the improvements of the times, and they can now obtain only a secondary place in the Scotch and English markets, and are unable to compete, either in quality or cost, with their continental rivals, the produce of Danish dairies bringing regularly a much higher price. In short, Sligo butter is now almost excluded from the English markets, where in former years it found a ready sale, plainly showing the necessity that exists for alterations in the manner of its production.

The butter-market returns a slight profit; but the corn-market is worked at a loss.

In May, 1890, a yearly horse fair was established in Sligo, and in September of the same year the Corporation for the first time instituted a weekly pig fair on every Thursday, and a pork and fowl market on every Friday.

In olden days mills were erected on almost every property, and tenants were compelled to bring their corn to be ground there. The first mention to be found of a mill in the county occurs in 1463, when *Muilenn-Adam* or Adam's mill is mentioned, as also in 1551; but mills in Ireland were long antece-

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<sup>1</sup> A return of the number of firkins in the Sligo Butter Market from 1869 to 1890:—

Year.	Number.	Year.	Number.
1869, . . .	31,710	1880, . . .	21,052
1870, . . .	40,403	1881, . . .	25,664
1871, . . .	37,907	1882, . . .	24,967
1872, . . .	37,459	1883, . . .	25,102
1873, . . .	30,793	1884, . . .	26,323
1874, . . .	31,544	1885, . . .	25,893
1875, . . .	38,143	1886, . . .	29,965
1876, . . .	34,572	1887, . . .	25,823
1877, . . .	32,191	1888, . . .	30,542
1878, . . .	31,197	1889, . . .	27,453
1879, . . .	29,636	1890, . . .	28,641



dent to the introduction of Christianity. A number of these mills are enumerated in the Survey of 1633, from which date up to the commencement of this century they multiplied with great rapidity. In the year 1802 there were "about 200 corn-mills and three flour mills" in the county.

In 1770 two "bolting mills" were erected, which promised to increase the crop of wheat, and to change the face of the county. Large mills appeared from the earliest date to have been erected at Sligo, Ballysadare, and Collooney; and they were from time to time increased in size to meet the requirements of the day. Messrs. Pollexfen & Co. at present possess the most extensive business in Sligo. They own the Avena flour and corn mills at Ballysadare, the flour and corn mills at Sligo; and, together with milling, they carry on an extensive inland trade in maize, wheat, flour, coal, &c. All these mills are driven by water-power. There is also a steam mill in Sligo which is worked by Mr. Harper Campbell.

The present Avena Mills consist of three large buildings, Nos. 1, 2, 3 flour mills, and corn store, together with large storage accommodation, built separately from, but close to, each mill. Nos. 1 and 2 flour mills are in one large building, situated on the western side of the river. They are driven by two three-quarter breast-wheels, each being 24 feet in diameter, and 10 feet wide; they contain twenty pairs  $4\frac{1}{2}$  burrs. No. 3 flour mill is built on the same bank of the river, but somewhat further down; it is driven by an undershot wheel 24 feet in diameter and 9 feet wide; it contains eight pairs of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet burrs. The maize mill is on the eastern side of the river, nearly opposite No. 3 flour mill, and is connected with the opposite bank by a narrow bridge, for convenience of the workmen. It contains nine pairs of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet burrs, driven by two three-quarter breast-wheels, each 16 feet in diameter, and 6 feet wide. On this side of the river are large oat-kilns, driven by machinery connected with the corn mill; here oats are received from the country people, kiln-dried, cleaned, and prepared for either exportation or milling. Close to them there is a small mill, containing two pairs of stones for crushing maize intended

for horse-feeding. On the opposite bank are the gas-works, which supply the mills and dwelling-house.

Sligo Mills, on the river Garvogue, consist of a flour and a corn mill, driven by three undershot wheels, and have eight runs of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  burrs, five of which are for flour and three for maize, but wheat has not been ground in the mill for some years, the entire machinery being now devoted to grinding maize. There is also an additional mill, recently erected, with eight pairs of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet burrs, driven by a Liffel turbine, and, in case of shortness of water, with a steam-engine. The firm has large storage accommodation near the quays, and also numerous kilns for drying oats. They are largely engaged in the direct importation of maize for their own and other millers' requirements in the district.

At Collooney, as at Sligo, the present mills occupy the site of much older concerns. The Sligo Mills were in existence before the accession of Queen Elizabeth, as were those of Rathbraghan and Ballincar.

The Camphill Mills, situated in Collooney, consist of a flour, a corn, and a saw mill. They are driven by two overshot wheels, each 25 feet in diameter, and 5 feet wide: there is also a small turbine. There are a few other mills scattered through the county.

Some time between the years 1810 and 1820 Mr. Martin built, at the riverside, a distillery, over which Mr. Jameson acted as manager. On his departure to Dublin another manager was appointed in his stead; but the work was not continued for any very lengthened period. After several years of idleness the distillery (in other hands) resumed work in 1836; but in 1845 was finally closed, and the premises allowed to go to utter ruin.

Some sixty or seventy years ago there were no less than four breweries in working order within the town of Sligo itself, in addition to others scattered throughout the adjacent rural districts; and, now, the sole survivor is the Lough Gill Brewery, owned by Messrs. Anderson & Co. The produce



of these breweries originally consisted of ale and table-beer, porter and stout being then unknown in Connaught. The business was first started at Farm Hill, situated near the town, where a small brewery had been built about the year 1770. Increasing business rendered these premises too small, and a move was made, by the survivors of the original co-partners, to Water-lane, where more extensive buildings were obtained, and a large trade was carried on for many years. Want of space, however, owing to increased business, again necessitated another move to a more eligible site on the opposite side of the river, where the firm secured the buildings that now form the Lough Gill Brewery, and which had been erected by Messrs. Cochrane & Davis upon the site of an old shambles and riding-ring. Around this spacious quadrangle the brewery was built, with its stores, malt-house, &c.; and these premises were fitted with all the appliances then in vogue.

The export provision trade in Sligo seems to have commenced about 1750. In January, 1748, "the slaughtering of beef for export, which on all former occasions ceased about Christmas, continued, in consequence of large orders from England for the purpose of 'victualling' the fleets which, even at this season of the year, were obliged to be on channel service." Sligo, in 1800, was described as "a slaughtering exporting market." Cattle were slaughtered in the "Cadger's Field," on the site now occupied by the artisans' dwellings. There is still a considerable export trade in cattle to England and Scotland. A more curious traffic is that of donkeys, which are often shipped in large droves to England, and are sold in the large cities to costermongers, &c.

Hides and tallow were formerly articles of export, but the quantities sold must naturally have been proportionable to the extent of the provision trade.

On a small scale the weaving of coarse friezes and flannels was carried on for private use, as well as for sale. The former were coloured, and formed the usual clothing of the peasantry; the latter served the same purpose for the women and children.

The trade was but trifling, although the county possessed every facility for this industry. M'Parlan, writing in 1802, states that "in the wool trade Sligo is the emporium between Connaught and the North, from whence numbers come to meet the Connaught sellers, and buy up large quantities of that article." The prices quoted in old newspapers appear, even in the present day, very high, but the value of the wool was fictitiously affected by the premiums offered by the Farming Society for the best piece of cloth manufactured with Irish wool.

This employment amongst the peasantry now no longer exists, but in 1886, one of the extensive mills at Collooney was, at considerable expense, converted into a woollen factory, fitted up with the newest and most approved machinery for converting home-shorn wool into fabrics of all descriptions.

The first attempt at establishing the linen trade in Ireland may be attributed to the Earl of Strafford, who was disposed to promote this manufacture in which he himself embarked £30,000; but the civil war of 1641 to 1651 seems to have totally extinguished this industry. No trace of it appears in Sligo prior to 1688, and the early attempts at introducing the linen trade into the county appear to have resulted in failure; in the year 1740 it is stated that scarcely any linen was sold, but a good deal of weaving for private consumption was carried on.

About the year 1756, Lord Shelburne settled in the town of Ballymote, the surrounding neighbourhood of which was then "a wild uncultivated region, without industry or civility." There were no industries in the town to occupy a rapidly increasing population, so he started a linen manufactory, importing 17 families from the North of Ireland (working 27 looms) to teach the technique. The enterprise, however, was mismanaged, and Lord Shelburne lost £5000. After his death his widow desiring to carry his plan to maturity, granted generous leases and other advantages to Mr. Wakefield—a then well-known London merchant—for the purpose of enlarging and carrying on the enterprise. On his arrival he found



20 families working on their own account. During the five years that the business was conducted by Mr. Wakefield, it made considerable progress; several new buildings were erected, and the number of looms was increased to 60, but upon his death everything came to a deadlock. Lady Shelburne appointed another manager, giving him exceptionally good terms, yet at the end of five years he failed. In the year 1774 Mr. Fitzmaurice determined to take the management into his own hands, but before doing so, resolved to make himself thoroughly acquainted with all the minutiae of linen manufacture. He inspected the various mills in the North of Ireland, and devoted himself so thoroughly to the subject, that from spinning to bleaching and selling, he could with his own hands do everything. Having made himself complete master of the business, Mr. Fitzmaurice employed Mr. Stansfield, a then well-known practical engineer, to erect a bleach mill in Ballymote, with machinery which was, at that time, far in advance of any in the North of Ireland, and as a good supply of water was necessary, a reservoir, occupying an area of 34 acres, was formed by a dam constructed across the valley.

Not having a bleach green the first year, he only kept 65 looms employed, and sold the linen "green"; in 1776, there were the same number; whilst in 1777 there were 120.

The weavers were mostly imported from the North of Ireland; each family received a house, which cost £50, at a rent of 40s. per annum. This rent the idle weaver was forced to pay; but in proportion to the number of webs woven the rent was lowered. Premiums were given also to the best weaver and spinner in the manufactory.

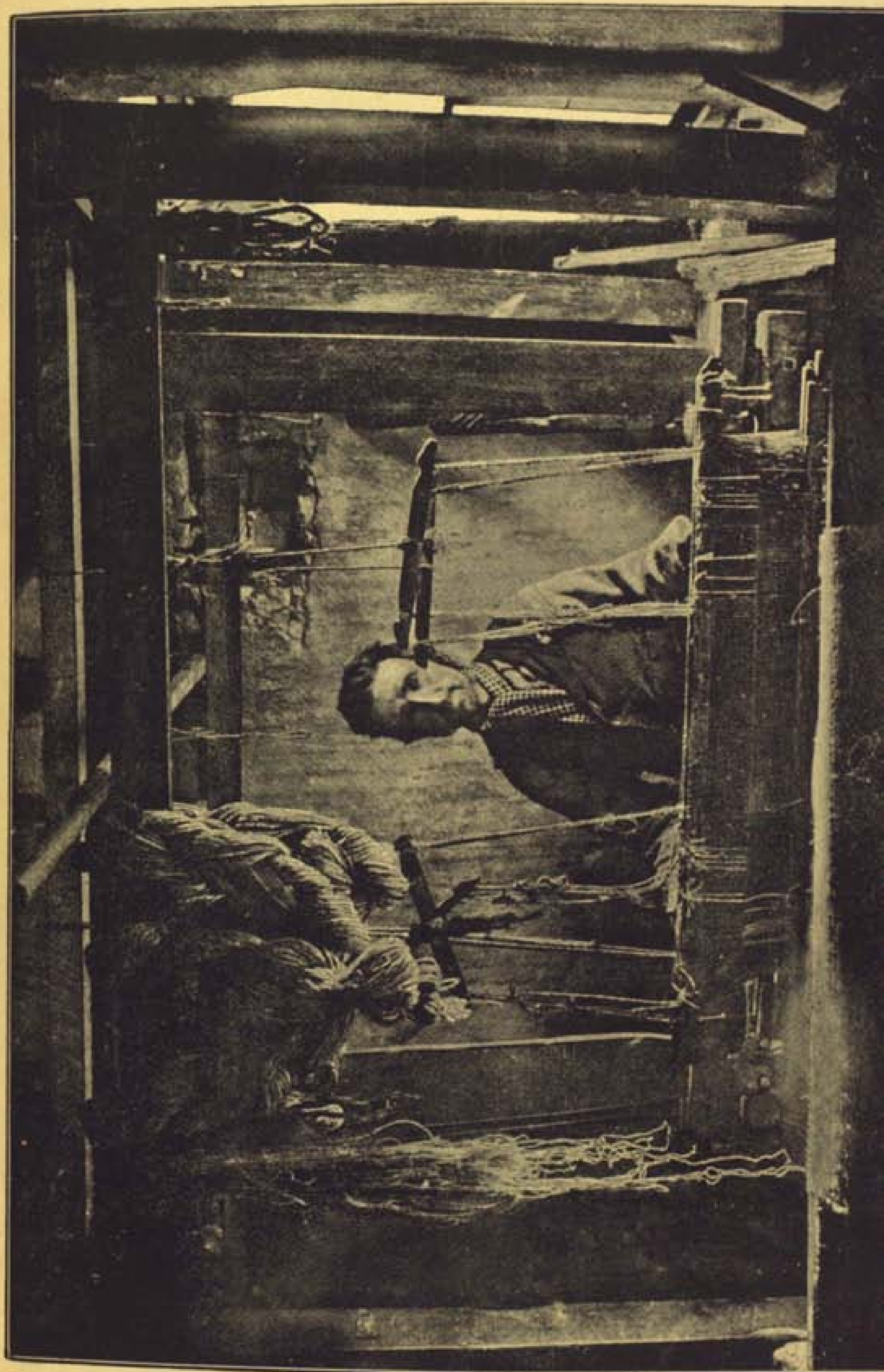
This business gave a great stir to the town of Ballymote and the surrounding district; for instance, in the year 1775, 80 men, 525 women, and 40 children were employed. But even then failure was looming in the distance: for by the accounts it would appear as if the entire business was run on a minimum of profit, so that any slight fall in the linen trade would involve a dead loss in its working.

The Hon. Thomas Fitzmaurice, who succeeded in the

management of the business, continued to encourage the manufactory, and he took in linen all the rents, which amounted to about £7000 a year. After his death there was a long minority; the houses were let to an agent who employed about 130 looms, but the place from this began gradually to decline, though from the peculiar aptness of the situation for extension of the business few districts were more favoured by nature. Up to the collapse of the trade, linen fairs were regularly held in Ballymote.

About the same period that the Ballymote linen trade was started, similar arrangements, but on a smaller scale, were made by Mr. O'Hara, Mr. Knox, and Mr. Wynne, who built houses, procured looms, and encouraged the weaving trade. The present market-house at Collooney was erected by the Cootes before the sale of their property; it was originally used as a linen-hall, and at the height of the prosperity of the manufacture about fifty weavers found constant employment in the village. The rise and fall of this industry, however, had the same history here as elsewhere in the county. The linen trade took root in most of the country villages; at one period there were nearly forty looms in full work in the village of Ballysadare; it afforded more or less occupation throughout the county, and the description of this industry, given by the Rev. James Neligan in 1815, as carried on by his parishioners, is applicable to the entire district:—"The weavers are scattered throughout the villages, having in general a small holding of land, which they cultivate in the same manner as other tenants, and at their leisure times weave pieces for the country people or for themselves. There are good markets for these linens at Sligo and Ballina, where they are sold green, and many of them bought by bleachers in the neighbourhood, who after bleaching them, send them to Dublin or some foreign market." Thus, weaving and spinning were almost universally practised, the latter occupation being that of the women and children, and while the females were engaged in preparing the flax and spinning the yarn, the men were weaving. Very little land was given with the houses, as it was thought that weaving









and farming were incompatible occupations; a plot of potatoes, together with a cow's grass, was the usual allotment to each house. Many of these old looms are still in existence; fig. 41 represents one that is still in use.

The first Linen Hall was erected in Sligo about 1760, as appears from the following resolution in the books of the Corporation :—

*“Borough of Sligo to wit.*—Whereas there was formerly very irregular proceedings in buying Linen-cloth in the Market of Sligo by not having a fixed place for buying the same, and whereas James Knox, Esquire, hath this day proposed to the Common Council to erect and build a Linen Hall—convenient for any number of buyers, who may attend this market—in a plot of ground to be provided—in addition to one to be given by Owen Wynne, Esquire, in Old Market (? Street) for building a Linen Hall and offices, provided the Common Council give their approbation thereto; therefore it is ordered by the Common Council that as soon as said Hall is so built, that no buyer of Linen-cloth do presume to buy Linen-cloth but at said Hall under the penalty of incurring the displeasure of this Common Council, and under such fines and penalties as the law in that case inflicts. And it is further ordered that no person whatever after said Hall is so built do presume to expose Linen-cloth to sale in any other place but in said Hall under the restrictions and penalties aforesaid. And that one penny—and no more—shall be paid for the buying each piece or web of clothing in the said Linen-Hall. And that the Provost shall, so soon as the said Hall is built, publish this our order in the most public part of the town, that no person may hereafter plead want of knowledge of the same.

“EDWARD MARTIN, *Provost.*”

M'Parlan, writing in 1802, states that “there is now at Sligo a Linen Hall regularly and extensively conducted by Mr. Holmes; very large sums of money are every week laid out here in the purchase of linen;” after the year 1815, however, the linen trade appears to have rapidly failed.

In 1824 “linens of good fabric” were disposed of at almost any price the buyers chose to offer. In 1834 it is said of Sligo that “the linen trade scarcely exists,” whilst in 1855 Marmion states that the large trade which had flourished in Sligo in “narrows” (or linen cloth of coarse quality) was almost

extinct, and the Hall erected for its storage was empty ; a few weavers still persevered, but occupied themselves principally in making stockings, and this branch of industry lingered for a few years.

There was an immense export of yarn to England during the halcyon days of the linen trade. In the year 1775 £80,000 worth of yarn was exported from the port of Sligo ; in 1777 upwards of £40,000 worth of the commodity was sent thence to Manchester and Liverpool ; in 1791, 61,041 yards of linen cloth were exported.

About the time of the introduction of the linen industry into Sligo, the landlords seem to have specially exerted themselves in endeavouring to create occupation for the rapidly increasing population. Salt works were established in several localities, notably at Drumcliff and Balldrihed, but in order to work them skilled labour had to be imported from the North of Ireland. A few smaller but now extinct industries existed in the town of Sligo ; most of these were finally annihilated by the railroad. "Carding" was formerly a very general industry, as was also "brogue" making. The ancient brogue was made of raw hide, rudely stretched, and the primitive pattern continued in use until recent times. Hundreds have been found in bogs, and good specimens of these, together with some of more elaborate finish, are preserved in the Science and Art Museum, Dublin.<sup>1</sup>

Clay smoking pipes were manufactured, also coarse pottery ; there were soap, snuff, tobacco, and candle manufacturers, also

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<sup>1</sup> Small tanyards were numerous. "The peasantry," according to P. W. Joyce, "had formerly a rude method of tanning hides of animals, which in remote parts of the country is practised to this day. They first filled the hide with lime, and immersed it in a bog-hole, to loosen the hair ; after ten or eleven days they took it out, cleaned off the lime, and in order to thicken the hide put it into a cask to steep for about three weeks, with the root of a plant called *cromelly*, or *neachartach*, which also gave it a brown colour ; after this it was rubbed between boards with milk, to make it smooth and pliable, and then dried, when it was fit for use."



rope makers; there had been a small trade in rush-lights, Carigeen moss, and flax-seed. Some of the female portion of the population found occupation in embroidering, and sewing muslin and light cottons. Frieze, drugget, and flannel were made by the cottagers, and the housewives generally dyed, with madder and alum, the cloth woven by themselves; but there were a number of dyers in the town who, by way of advertisement, were in the habit of suspending before their doors the pieces coming out of their hands; and the various colours thus displayed enlivened the appearance of the streets.

Many curious and antique gold ornaments have been found from time to time in the county. Along with a penannular ornament (acquired by the Royal Irish Academy), were discovered a quantity of small ring chains. A golden-cupped fibula (fig. 42) was found in a bog near the town in 1874; it was quite perfect, and was purchased by the Royal Irish Academy for £21 12s. Remains of this class have long been a puzzle to the antiquary. There seem to be but scanty grounds for styling them "fibulæ;" they are found of sizes varying from a mere shirt stud to that of a door-handle—sometimes even larger. Portion of a strange penannular object was found in a cutting when the Collooney and Enniskillen Railway line was in course of construction; it was in a stratum of peat, resting on gravel, and at a depth of about six feet from the surface; the relic consists of a hard earthen core, covered with a thin plate of gold, upon which is displayed a variety of dots and scorings of very archaic character. Articles of the so-called "fibulæ" character, and probably contemporary with the fragment in question, have not unfrequently been found to contain a core of earth or copper. This curious waif of time coming into the possession of Robert Duke, D. L., of Newpark,

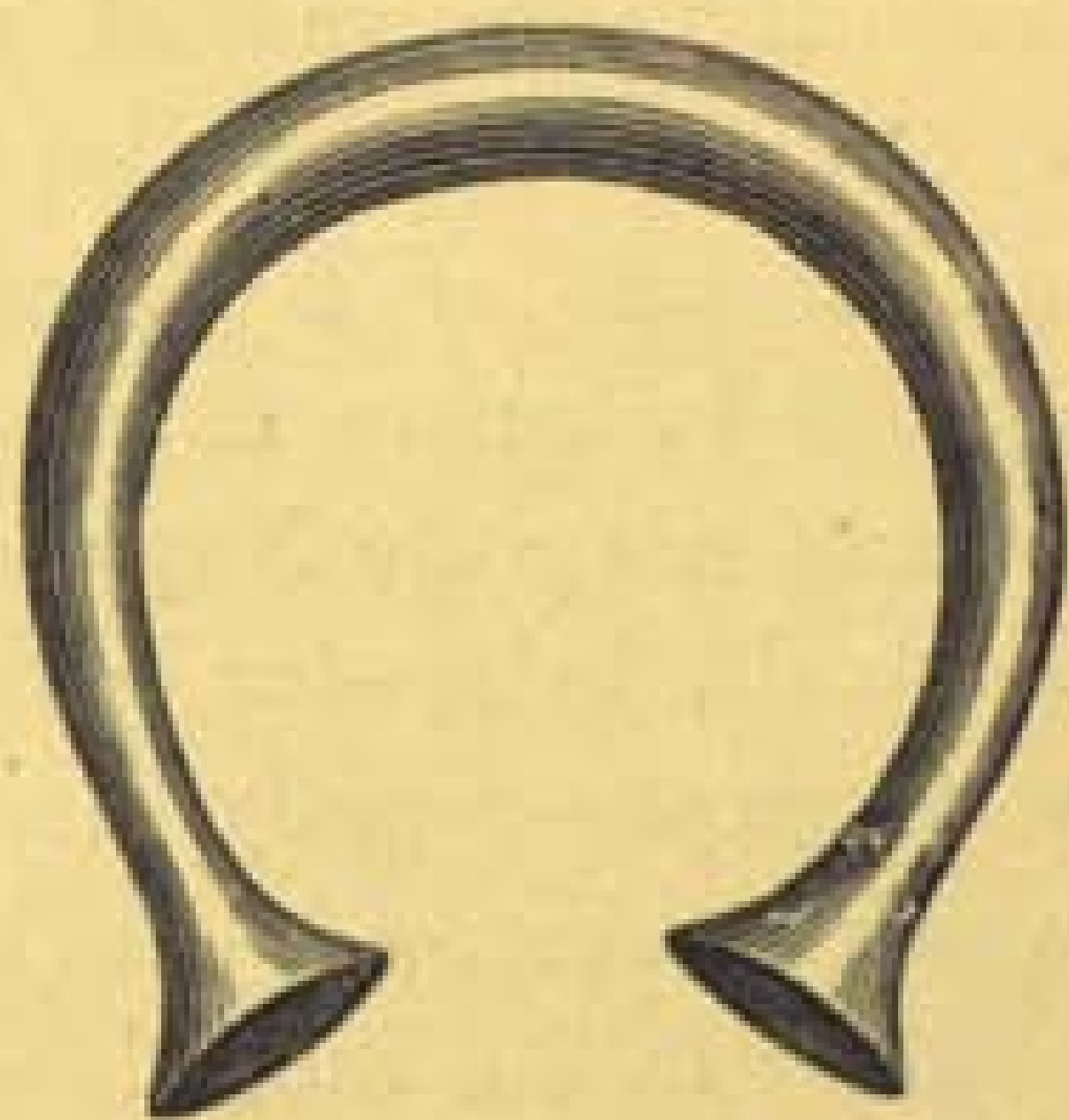


FIG. 42.—Gold-cupped Fibula.  
(About one-third real size.)

was presented by him to the Royal Irish Academy (fig. 43). Several beautiful ornaments and brooches of fine bronze, ornamented in Celtic style, have from time to time been discovered; notably one found at Ballyglass, and another in the bed of Lough Gill, which is now in the possession of Mr. Robert Day, of Cork.

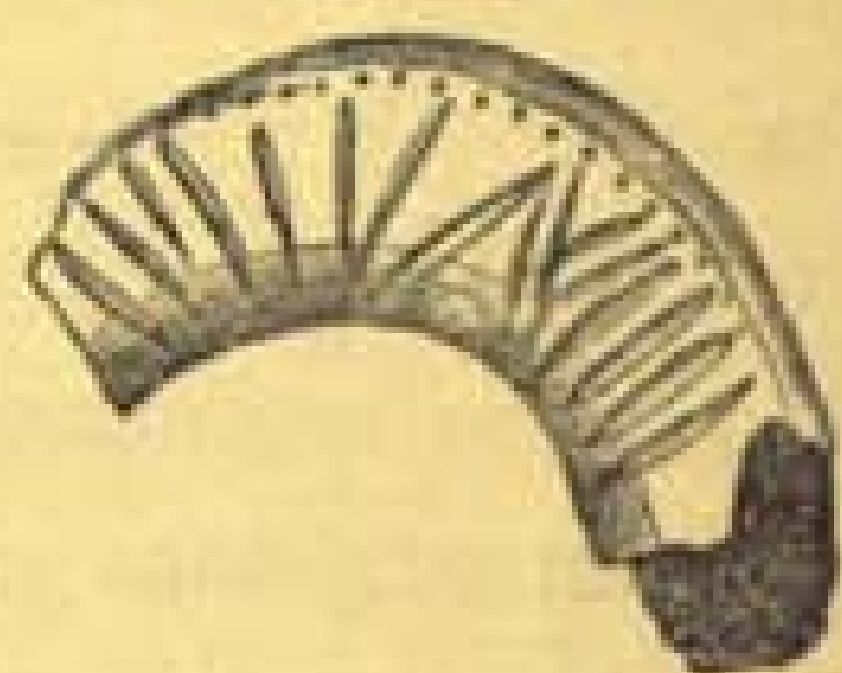


FIG. 43.—Fragment of a Penannular object found in a cutting on the Sligo, Enniskillen, and N.C.R. (Full size.)

Even in the days of its greatest prosperity the manufacture of kelp (as formerly carried on in the county of Sligo) was crude and wasteful. The seaweed was spread on the ground to dry, and then burnt in a shallow pit to an ash; it was afterwards raked up into a fused mass resembling iron slag. The peculiar odour from the dense smoke of burning kelp could, in calm weather, be distinctly perceived at a great distance across the sea. It was about the middle of the eighteenth century that the manufacture of kelp was commenced, for the value of the sodium-carbonate extracted from it. When the high duties levied during the Napoleonic wars were taken off foreign barilla and salt, kelp—for which the demand had previously been very great—rapidly declined in value, and became scarcely worth making. At the beginning of the present century kelp realized in the English markets from £20 to £22 per ton; the imported barilla then became a formidable rival, and up to 1822 the average price of kelp was only £10 10s. The duty being then taken off barilla, kelp fell to £8 10s. per ton in 1823; on the removal of the salt duty, the price fell to £3; and in 1831 to £2 per ton; but till 1845, it was still used in soap and glass factories. At this period the manufacture became unremunerative, but on the discovery of iodine—which though noticed in 1812 was not much used until 1845—the best kelp rose rapidly in price till the first qualities reached £10 per ton. In the year 1875 nitrate of soda began to be imported from South America, and from that date on, the importation of this article increased so considerably that, at present, the kelp trade is



practically dead in Sligo. The little that is yet made in Tireragh is shipped from Sligo, and from about Raughly it is shipped from Mullaghmore to Glasgow. This manufacture has thus been carried on in the district with varying success, so much depending on the weather: when the season is favourable for drying the wrack, even when prices are low, it still yields a fair return for the labour expended, but in bad weather great trouble and time are expended for very trifling remuneration. The coast line of Sligo is more thickly populated than parts remote from the sea, and this may fairly be accounted for by the fact that it was at all times largely inhabited by fishermen. When kelp-burning was established, the inhabitants of the neighbouring districts flocked to the littoral, and the profits of this industry were so great that fishing was practically abandoned; the coast population was doubled, but the fisheries were no longer worked.

Young, in his *Tour in Ireland*, stated that about 1777 vast quantities of kelp<sup>1</sup> were burned along the Tireragh littoral, but it was then made only during the summer season, for in winter or spring the farmers used the wrack as manure. The shore was very fruitful in seaweed, and a rent was paid for it by the ton of what was obtained. In Wakefield's *Ireland* it is observed that kelp was used by the Irish bleachers, and was made along the coast of Sligo.

The average price in Sligo appears to have been from 1740 to 1760 about £2 5s. per ton; from the latter date to 1770 about £4 4s. per ton; from 1770 to 1780 about £5 per ton; from 1780 to 1790 about £6 per ton; from 1790 to 1812 £11

<sup>1</sup> Return of kelp manufactured in the county of Sligo from 1870-1883:—

Year.	Quantity.			Total Value.			Average price per ton.		
	Tons.	Cwt.	grs.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1870	1587	15	1	6796	17	0	4	5	7½
1871	1484	8	7	6906	16	2	4	13	0½
1872	1248	10	3	6638	4	10	5	6	4
1873	1634	18	2	8587	18	5	5	5	0½
1880	431	0	0	1570	16	9	3	12	10½
1881	677	15	2	3544	19	7	5	4	7½
1882	313	1	2	1103	1	2	3	10	5½
1883	83	16	2	255	9	6	3	0	11½

to £14 per ton. In 1825 kelp sold at from £5 to £6 per ton. In 1870 a royalty worth £600 a-year was in 1889 worth but £140, owing to the depression occasioned by the importation of nitrate of soda from Chili.

In the carboniferous limestone formation between Gleniff and Glencar on the one side, and Glenade in the county Leitrim on the other, are found continuous deposits of barytes, chemically known as sulphate of barium. The lodes on the north side towards Glenade have only recently been discovered, and are now in process of exploration. That towards Glencar—which is apparently a true fissure-vein varying from six feet to a foot and even less in thickness—can be traced on the surface to within a short distance of the cliff in Glencar; it was first worked on the top of the mountain in 1858 by a Mr. Williams, who had the ore transported on donkeys' backs round the spur of the cliff to Gleniff, whence it was carted to Mullaghmore and shipped there in the raw state for Liverpool. Mr. Williams not being able to come to terms with the owners of the mineral rights, abandoned the working, which so far had been a mere scratching of the surface. In 1870 the working of the lode was taken up by Mr. Folliott Barton, who began at the top of the cliff in Gleniff, on Sir Robert Gore-Booth's property. The ore was thence brought down to the valley by small buckets carrying two stone weight each; the buckets were then hooked on to an endless wire-rope, and moved by the weight of the full buckets round inclined drums at either end. The vertical height of the terminal stage at the mouth of the workings, above the lower terminal platform, where the buckets were taken off, emptied, and hooked on again on the other side of the drum, was about 1000 feet. The ore was removed to a wash-trough situated a couple of miles down the glen, and from thence to a small water-mill near the mouth of the Bunduff river, where it was ground by the wet process used in making china, lavigated, bleached with sulphuric acid, and packed in barrels or bags for shipment from Mullaghmore. From 1875 to 1888 the working of the mine was discontinued. In the latter year Sir Henry Gore-Booth and Mr. George Tottenham took it up, and have



been since working it in partnership. Drifts on the lode have been started 200 feet lower down the cliff, and a ladder-road has been made from top to bottom, by which access to the mine can be had in all weathers, either from above or from below. The first of these ladders from the bottom of the precipice, is 140 feet in length, and nearly sheer; a ropeway of permanent wire cables with a span of 3000 feet is now used for transporting the spar from the mouth of the mine to the road below, and upon these steel buckets are slung from overhead, grooved wheels pass up and down every three minutes with a load of 5 cwt. each, the full one coming down taking up the empty one on the other line. The buckets are tipped into a truck which shoots the ore to the washing and dressing sheds below, and from there it is carted to the steam-mill which has been erected for grinding it, near Ballintrillick-bridge, and which is conveniently situated for the lodes not yet developed on the north side of the glen. Here it is again picked over, all impurities removed, and after being dried on a tiled floor heated by the waste steam from the engine, it is ground in Lamberton's Ball Mills, six of which have been put up; the impalpable powder is separated from the grit by special machines and packed into barrels, or bags, for shipment from Mullaghmore or Sligo. It is anticipated that a considerable export trade will be done to America, and that from three to five thousand tons during the year may be disposed of at a remunerative price, giving employment locally to sixty or seventy hands. The principal use of barytes is as a substitute for white-lead in making cheap paint. It is used by bleachers for size, by paper-makers and china manufacturers for glaze, for making glass, by chemists for making analyses, and for a variety of other purposes. It is sometimes introduced into articles that are sold by weight and merely for the purpose of adding weight—the quality which its name implies, and which is its distinguishing characteristic. There are other mines of a somewhat similar description near Clonakilty, and also in the neighbourhood of Bantry, but the more valuable carbonate of baryta or barium does not, it is alleged, occur elsewhere in Ireland.

It is within a comparatively recent period that a steam-mill was established in Sligo for the production of a variety of common articles of wood, but of which the chief output was spools or pirns. Immense circular saws cut the trunks of trees into portable logs, whilst others slice them into sections of thickness corresponding to the height of the required spool, and long lines of workmen perform with bewildering rapidity their various duties, tending towards the production of the perfected article. Everything is done by steam, with skilled hands, assisted by intricate and delicate machinery, and as the Messrs. MacNeil supply the leading thread manufacturers with these pirns, the majority of the spools handled by the deft fingers of the "fair ladies" of Sligo are the product of this factory. Unfortunately, the premises are at present closed, and many workers are thus thrown out of employment.

The chemical works at Collooney had but an ephemeral existence; they were erected for the purpose of converting the thinnings of trees from the various surrounding demesnes into pyroligneous acid. The charcoal, left after extraction of the acids from the wood, formed also an important item in the profits.

In the commencement of this century a slate quarry was opened by Mr. Taaffe near Lough Talt, but it proved a failure.

Brick-clay is found in a few localities in the county; it is worked near Collooney, and in Leitrim, on the river Bonet; the bricks, however, are of an inferior quality.

In 1755 the bricks were sold at 8s. per 1000; in 1809 the expense of labour in making them was 12s. per 1000, which, added to the culm, raised the price to 25s. Wilkinson, in his *Practical Geology*, 1845, states that the average was from 20s. to 22s.; the present price is from 22s. to 28s. per 1000, according to quality.

In the commencement of the 18th century, the fishing-boats used off the Sligo coast consisted merely of a wooden frame,



covered with horse or bullock's hide; they were of various forms, but all so exceedingly buoyant that few accidents happened. For a boat, or curach, two cow-hides were sufficient—the hairy side being turned inwards—and they were sewed together with worsted thread, which swells when it becomes wet; the outside was sometimes tarred. These boats were usually about fifteen feet in length, five in width, and two in depth; they had four oars, worked by two men; they were without keel, and both ends were shaped alike, so that they could move either way with equal ease. The cost of construction was a guinea and a-half.

The curach has vanished for some years from Sligo, although it may yet be seen on the coasts of Donegal and Mayo, but even there they are not representations of the true article, these imitations being covered with coarse, tarred canvas, and they differ somewhat both in form and method of construction from their ancient prototype, which was composed of a regular frame of willow ribs, was spoon-shaped, and about eight or nine feet in length, the frames being covered over on the outside with the untanned skin of a horse or cow, and it was described by Beranger in 1779, on his visit to Inismurray, as a boat made of basketwork, and covered with a horse's or cow's skin. As the "members" (?ribs) were six or eight inches asunder, the sun shining bright, and the skin transparent, it seemed to Beranger to be a vessel of glass, as he could see the water through it. These boats he described as being common in the province of Connaught. Some canoes very similarly constructed are used by the Indians in the northern districts of the Dominion of Canada, and a traveller thus describes one:—"Perhaps boat is too strong a term to employ for structures so fragile—combining the frailty of a cockleshell with the form of a slice of melon. Seeing a piece of plank stretched across the coracle—presumably fixed—one stout, middle-aged man boldly sat on it, but only to subside with a crash on a large mass of ice and snow in the flooring."

In 1764, and afterwards in 1819, bounties were granted by Parliament to encourage the Irish fisheries, and for this purpose

commissioners were appointed to grant money for the erection of piers and the building of boats of a certain tonnage.

In the year 1775, the sea fisheries of Sligo had developed; there were about 150 fishing-boats belonging to the Bay of Killala and the River Moy—five men to a boat. They judged of the shoal of herrings being near at hand by the presence of the gannet, a bird that pursues these fish. The herrings were then usually caught near the bar. This fishing began in October, and lasted only two or three weeks. Sometimes each boat got 10,000 herrings, which was a full load, but this was a very rare occurrence; the general number was from three to five thousand, and the price from thirteen pence to two and sixpence, the average being one shilling and eight pence per hundred. At the date mentioned the ordinary fishing-boat employed in regular work off the Sligo coast was of about four tons measurement. There were seven shares of net to each boat, each share being sixty yards long, and four fathoms deep, with eight score mesh; the nets were made by the fishermen themselves, and were composed either of flax or hemp, well tanned. The division of profits was made according to scale. The owner of the boat had a fifth, the nets two-fifths, and the crew two-fifths. The two-fifths belonging to the crew were sub-divided into sixths, of which the skipper had two shares. The fishery at this time was stated to be declining; a filibuster named Thurot was reported to have swept the coast of boats.

In Sligo, and also on the whole of the north-west coast, the herring fishery was of great importance until the year 1783; after that time it failed almost entirely. During the summer season a few herrings were caught, but the quantity was so small as scarcely to be worth notice.

M'Parlan, in his *Survey of Sligo* (1802), remarks that many people looked upon sprats as young herrings, and so very many of them having been taken, it was supposed the herrings had decreased in number, and that the survivors were frightened from the coast. It has been also stated that the noise of artillery and the firing of small arms must tend to frighten away fish accustomed to swim near the surface of the water. The migratory



habits of the herring are very perplexing, but it would appear that they shift their waters about every thirty years. Sixty years ago all the Sligo fishing-boats went off to the northern bay of Donegal, and there fished for the season. In 1840, the herrings came into Sligo Bay, and remained for thirty-five years; then they returned to Donegal Bay again. On the coast of Norway they move about in the same manner; many reasons for this have been assigned, the most probable being, that from natural instinct they seek out new feeding grounds when the old are bare.

Toward the close of the last century, a grant was given by the Irish Parliament for the purpose of promoting the whale fishery, but it was discontinued shortly afterwards. The spermaceti whale occasionally frequents this littoral; the bottle-nose whale appears in shoals, and follows the herrings and other migratory fish into the bays and inlets of the coast, "one of the signs of fish" (as fishermen express it) is the appearance of these whales. The basking-shark or true sun-fish varies in length from thirty to forty feet, and in the summer months they were formerly numerous off the Sligo coast. The value of the spermaceti whale at the commencement of the century was very great, that of the basking-shark, £45; foreign competition, however, has now reduced that amount considerably. In the year 1884, two of the latter species, each nearly thirty feet in length, were captured, and their combined value did not exceed £30. The ordinary sun-fish is not uncommon, and seals are very frequently seen on the coast. The Sligo coast fishery extends from Ballina Bridge to Mullaghmore. In 1850, it employed 575 registered vessels, with 3263 men and boys; in 1853 the number of vessels had decreased to 216, and the crews to 1269, whilst in 1888, in the whole extent of coast from Ballina bridge to Donegal Abbey (or twenty miles in excess of the former limits) there were but 209 boats with 889 men.

At Inniscrone the fishermen use nets, lines, lobster-pots, and trawl-nets; and nearly every description of fish is taken. At Pollacheeny, Derkmere, &c., cod, pollock, haddock, whiting, herrings, mackerel, plaice, &c., are taken.

There is but little fishing carried on at Rosses Point, as the boatmen are mostly farmers and pilots, who do not fish much unless the herrings or mackerel come close to the shore; but from Raughly trawling is constantly carried on in Sligo Bay. The opposition which existed for some time against the trawlers has now ceased, and, wonderful to narrate, one of their greatest opponents is now owner of a very successful boat. Raughly appears to be the best fishing station. In one year were taken 40,000 cod, 20,000 pollock, 2000 soles, 100 turbot, 25,000 mackerel, 20,000 herrings, 40,000 flat-fish, 6000 lobsters, and 2000 crabs. Mullaghmore is next in importance; and the boats belonging to this harbour are larger and better found than those of Raughly. Mullaghmore harbour, however, is a failure: the only good effected by it has been to prevent the fishery, of which it was the centre, from completely dying out.

The oyster beds on the Sligo coast are now very poor, and do not appear to repay the money and care bestowed upon them. The principal are Sligo, Drumcliff, Lissadell, and Ballysadare. There are a considerable number of mussels shipped for consumption in England.

By a return received, it would appear that the total amount issued by the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund to poor fishermen in the fourteen years to 31st December, 1888, was but £4962, of which almost the entire is repaid.

Prior to 1847 salmon might be caught at any period of the year in the Sligo river; but the time was then restricted from the 1st January to the 20th August. In 1863 the close season was extended to the 14th February, and no fishing was permitted on Saturday or Sunday; for each net employed, a licence which cost £3 had to be taken out.

An inquiry was held in 1871 by the Fishery Inspectors, who granted certificates for fixed nets, and also changed the time of opening from 14th February to 16th January. Another inquiry took place a few years later, when the time was extended from the 16th to the 1st January, as, from scientific investigation, it was established that the fish in the Sligo river run as early as



the months of November and December, and are then perfectly clean and fit for food ; in fact, fresh run fish are seen about the middle of October. Repeated experiments were made during winter as to the quality of fish in the tidal part of the river, some being taken on different occasions. No unclean fish were captured during any of these experiments ; they were all clean run, fresh from the sea, and of the finest quality. These, if allowed to be sold, would bring a high price at that time of the year, when the markets are supplied only with foreign fish.

It seems surprising that the Sligo and Ballysadare rivers, being in such close proximity, should differ so much in the date of their respective fishing seasons, the principal run of fish in the former being in January, in the latter in May. But Sligo river flows, with but a short channel, from Lough Gill ; and, as has been observed by a writer on the subject, rivers issuing from large lakes afford early salmon, the waters having been purified by deposition. On the other hand, rivers swollen by melting snows in the spring months are later in their season of producing fish, and yield their supply when the lake rivers are beginning to fail ; experts seem undecided as to the causes of this, but apparently the temperature of the water has considerable influence.

The quantity of breeding fish in the Sligo river is stated to be increasing of late ; and angling for trout is stopped in April and May, during the descent of the fry. Preparatory to the process of spawning, the male and female salmon, working against the stream, make a furrow in the gravel, and in this furrow the spawn is deposited, and the female covers it by the action of her tail. The period of hatching is from 100 to 140 days ; the young appear as small fry, less than an inch in length. In the second year the young are known as *smolts* ; and the smolts betake themselves in groups to the sea, where they become *grilse*. When these return to the sea, after having reascended the river, they become full-grown salmon. If fry were taken direct from the fresh and put into the salt water, they would not live more than a few minutes.

Grilse must grow with great rapidity; for those caught in the month of May average three pounds, while in August they are up to eight pounds weight.

There is migration of smolts all the year, but it is heaviest in April, May, and June. The first grilse is taken about June in Sligo, and July in Ballysadare. Salmon are taken, with the grilse, in Sligo in the month of May, and in Ballysadare in July. The proportion of grilse to salmon in Sligo is 1 to 3, and in Ballysadare 15 to 1. There are three distinct runs of fish from the sea in January, and runs also in April, May, June, October, and November.

Great quantities of eels and ordinary fresh-water fish were formerly caught; but this fishing has been nearly quite abandoned, owing to the low prices.<sup>1</sup>

In 1841 Mr. Cooper succeeded in getting the river of Ballysadare created, by Act of Parliament, a several Fishery as far as the bar, he having, for the upper waters, arrived at an understanding with the landed proprietors on both sides of the river. Above Ballysadare, in the fresh water, owners can angle from their own lands. The construction of the ladders at Ballysadare-falls (see fig. 44) and Collooney, together with other necessary outlay and legal expenses, must have amounted to a considerable sum, but for many years very few fish were caught. Suddenly the fishing improved, and has ever since proved most profitable.

The number of salmon taken in the course of the last six years is as follows:—

Year.	No. of fish.	Year.	No. of fish.
1884,	4,272	1887,	7,400
1885,	7,665	1888,	8,223
1886,	6,674	1889,	6,692

<sup>1</sup>The average price of salmon varied greatly. In 1756 it was 2*d.* per pound; in 1833, 2½*d.*; 1834, 4*d.*; 1851, 1*s.* 0½*d.*; 1871, 1*s.* 5*d.*; 1889, 1*s.* 8½*d.* A few returns of the take of fish on the Sligo river may be of interest:—

Year.	No. of fish.	Pounds.	Year.	No. of fish.	Pounds.
1845,	2,240	16,800	1860,	1,094	13,452
1846,	2,220	18,060	1865,	1,064	17,680
1850,	1,621	14,010	1870,	1,464	15,432
1855,	1,684	20,762			





Fig. 44.—Lower Falls, Balylsadare.





According to the information supplied by Mr. J. W. Scott (Manager) the largest fish caught during the above period weighed  $27\frac{1}{2}$  lbs., and the greatest number taken at one draft, was 497 weighing 1 ton, 11 cwt.

In 1885 a salmon was caught having a peculiar head; its nose was curved like a hawk's bill. This fish was given to Sir E. Harland to be preserved.

During the last six or seven years, the proprietor, with the object of improving the quality of the fish, engaged in the artificial propagation of large quantities of ova, obtained from the Sligo and Ballyshannon rivers, as also from the Rhine; it may be stated that ova from the two former streams have also been exported to New Zealand.

The Ballina salmon fishery is the most important in the district; in the year 1778 it was let for the then heavy rent of £520 a-year; the general yield being from 70 to 80 tons of fish sold salted, besides what was sold fresh. But in 1815 there was none salted for exportation, and all those caught during the months in which they would bear to be carried were sent to the Dublin market.

With regard to sea fishing for salmon, there had been bag-nets at Mullaghmore, at Rosskeeragh, at Streedagh, at Dromore West, at Enniscrone, but the Act passed in 1863 abolished all these; afterwards, however, in 1866 an inquiry was held by the Fishery Inspectors, and the nets at Enniscrone and at Streedagh were restored; there are now at the former place no less than 34 nets employed, each being 400 yards in length, and from Easky to Aughris, 18 boats are fishing, with nets of equal length.

Before the opening of the railway to Ballina in 1865, all salmon—about 500 boxes annually—caught on that part of the Mayo and Tireragh shore were shipped by steamer to Liverpool from the port of Sligo.

Salted fish of all descriptions together with sloke (or laver) were largely imported into Roscommon from Sligo.

In the year 1778 the lead mine near Ballysadare was worked, but proved unremunerative.

Writing in 1802 M'Parlan states that iron works had been carried on by Mr. Rutledge in the County Sligo, until the neighbouring woods were consumed as fuel. The works were then transferred to Foxford.

The northern mountainous district on the confines of Lough Allen, partly in Leitrim, partly in Roscommon, and forming the celebrated coal and iron district of Arigna, calls for a short notice, although but a comparatively small portion lies immediately within the confines of the County Sligo. A peculiarity of these coal-seams is, that the beds all lie at a considerable elevation in the mountains where their out-crop may be distinctly traced in various places. The coal—though not equal to Scotch or English—is adapted for culinary or manufacturing purposes; in 1770 coal from these workings was sold in the southern part of the County Sligo, at 7*s.* per ton.

The first important era in the mining district was the establishment of iron works at Arigna in 1788, but the concern was abandoned in 1808. In consequence of the evidence of Mr. Griffith before a Committee of the House of Commons in 1824, three mining companies made the borders of Lough Allen the scene of revived activity; several new pits were formed, the largest of which was worked to advantage for a long time, but after various vicissitudes all the undertakings collapsed. Until the works are opened up by railway they cannot prove remunerative, for although no question was entertained relative to the good quality of the iron manufactured, still it was found that owing to want of facilities of transit, neither the pig nor bar iron could be successfully brought into competition in the public markets with the supplies from England, Scotland, and Wales.

Mr. Latouche, who for some years carried on the works at a serious loss, used in after-life to point out to his visitors a large and handsome entrance gate to his demesne, and ask them



whether they had ever seen so costly a piece of workmanship. The gate was a good one, but there was nothing extraordinary in its appearance, so whilst his guest was hesitating with regard to his reply, Mr. Latouche would say, "I can venture to assert that you never before saw a gate which cost the owner so much; that gate cost me £80,000, for it is the only thing I ever got out of the Arigna Ironworks, in return for all my money expended there."

What is wanted is a light railway to connect the coal fields with the port of Sligo.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

GEOLOGY, GENERAL FEATURES, CLIMATE, AGRICULTURE,  
FLORA, AND FAUNA.



THE County of Sligo, while possessing attractions for the tourist and the antiquarian, affords also an interesting field of research to the student of geology. Its physical geography is of varied type; it is mountainous in the north and west, where the principal ranges extend from the County Leitrim on the east, right across to the borders of Mayo. In the south are the Curlews—a range composed of Old Red Sandstone, running east by north and west by south. The Ox Mountains are metamorphic; but Benbulbin is of Carboniferous limestone, as are also the outlying hills, such as Knocknarea, Keelogyboy, Castlegal, Keash, Muckelty, and Knocknashee. A large extent of country is undulating; and there are numerous flat patches of bog.

Of natural curiosities, a series of caves in the limestone (already described, vol. i., pp. 375–8) may be mentioned; and there are numerous sea-caves, as at Aughris, Dirk, Roughly, &c., not requiring particular mention here.

A glance at the geological map shows that Sligo forms part of the great limestone plain of Ireland. A strip, differently coloured, representing various igneous and metamorphic rocks, such as granite, quartzite, mica schist, gneiss, extends across the county from the shores of Lough Conn, in Mayo, to Benbo Hill, in Leitrim, where it ends abruptly. The Ox Mountains form the Sligo portion of this metamorphic band, whose conical or dome-shaped outlines are in marked contrast to the bold escarpments and terraces of the mountain-



limestone further north, that extend between Sligo Bay and Lough Erne, overlooking the south shores of Donegal Bay. These limestone hills are the result of erosion and denudation by the scooping out of the valleys. The Ox range are true mountains of elevation, upheaved probably after the deposition of the Carboniferous limestone series, as along their southern base the beds dip steadily away from the higher ground; boulder-drift, bog, &c., prevent this being observable on the northern side. The granite found on high ground, southwest of Lough Talt, much resembles the same class of rock that occurs at Pontoon and Foxford, while the hills to east and north-east of the lake are composed almost exclusively of mica schist. At "The Gap" (see fig. 36, p. 197) there is a fault, where the foliation of the schists, instead of being parallel to the general axis of the range, becomes parallel to the fault. On the hills east of Lough Easky, granite is very perceptible, presenting the mamillated knolls so peculiar to that rock; in places it is highly porphyritic, owing to large crystals of pink felspar.

Further east in the range the prevailing rock is gneiss, usually gray in colour, weathering to a lighter shade, sometimes coarse-grained, like granite (as found east of Ballysadare, where the mica is abundant, and dark-coloured), and often intensely gnarled. Gneiss, through the disappearance of felspar and mica, frequently becomes highly quartzose, and passes into quartzite and quartzite schist.

Among the Ox Mountains are examples of the results of metamorphic action in the production of varieties of crystalline rocks, depending on the character of the original strata; thus, there are found, in rotation, beds of granitoid gneiss, mica schist, quartzite, and crystalline limestone, whose original composition was, in all probability, sandstone, shale, grit, or limestone. A small exposure of these old rocks occurs also at intervals on the low, undulating headland of "The Rosses," between Sligo and Drumcliff Bays. This tract stretches eastward for nearly three miles, and the rocks present considerable variety in their composition. From observations

of these rocks of the Ox range and "The Rosses," it is assumed that they formed the ancient surface of the ground prior to Carboniferous times. As they extend over a large area in the same relative position with regard to the overlying Carboniferous limestone, it is a fair supposition that they likewise underlie the great limestone and sandstone formations of this district, and are of great geological antiquity, coeval, perhaps, with the Laurentian system (the oldest known stratified rocks).

Dividing the band of gneiss at the shore of Bunowna Bay, Lough Gill (west of Slish Wood), and running south for nearly two miles, with an average width of 500 feet, is a band of serpentine, dark-coloured, hard, compact rock, showing planes of lamination in the mass, and a disposition to split up into beds of various thicknesses. Geologists recognize it as metamorphic, but are not agreed as to its exact mode of origin; there is a probability of its having been produced by the metamorphism of magnesian limestone. This exposure of serpentine is remarkable for its extent, and for containing "the highest on record" percentage of magnetite (a mineral that attracts and repels the magnetic needle), so much so, that some portions of the rock possess all the characters of natural magnets. Nickel and garnets are also present.

From a study of the old crystalline areas on the map, it will be seen that along little more than a third of their boundaries are they in contact with the succeeding formations, and exposures of the actual junctions are very rare, the older and newer rocks meeting, in most cases, along concealed lines of fault. Notwithstanding the prevalence of these dislocations, there is sufficient evidence to indicate a total discordance, and, consequently, the lapse of a long interval between the periods at which the old crystalline and the newer Carboniferous were formed. The absence of rocks deposited during this great interval goes far to prove the decided break in the geological series. It has been already noted that there was a floor or surface formed of crystalline rocks, worn into ridges and hollows like those of a land surface; but



as the Carboniferous deposits resting immediately on this floor are marine, the old land alluded to must have subsided beneath the sea, in which were laid down all the various Carboniferous series covering the irregularities, overlapping and levelling over parts of the Archæan ridge.

There is ample proof that the whole region was subsequently raised out of the water and subjected to the operation of erosive agencies that came into action immediately after the earliest appearance of a land surface. This original surface has long since disappeared, and with it the newer Carboniferous strata; but it may be presumed that the outlines on which these agencies continued to act were those originated at an early stage, and that they have mainly followed the same directions ever since, wearing away the mountains, and deepening and widening the natural hollows of the ground.

Devonian rocks, which are the *marine* representatives of Old Red Sandstone, do not, so far as is known, exist in Ireland, where this formation is found to be of lacustrine, or fresh-water origin, deposited below the waters of a large lake or inland sea. Old Red Sandstone is largely represented in the south-west of Ireland, but not so much in the centre and north; it consists of sandstones, conglomerates, shales, slates containing fossils only of a *fresh-water* type, very distinct from those marine animals, so well described by Hugh Miller. In the north of the county there is no connecting-link between the metamorphic and Carboniferous; in the south the succession is better maintained; for, immediately underlying the Carboniferous series, comes in the Old Red Sandstone, of which there is only a small area within the county, limited to that portion of the Curlew range on each side of Lough Gara. "The Curlews" proper are in Roscommon, and are interesting from the presence of certain intrusive igneous rocks. Of these, felstone shows several exposures capping the Old Red Sandstone hills north of Boyle; they are also well exhibited along the road at the "Rock of Doon," west of Lough Key, while several dykes of basalt have been traced in the same neighbourhood, just outside the boundary of Sligo.

The Carboniferous system is largely represented in Sligo by Upper, Middle (calp), and Lower Limestone, and Lower Carboniferous Sandstone. Over an anticlinal of this latter subdivision, the road from Dromore West to Sligo passes for a mile and a-half, about the average width of the formation which extends from the sea to the Ox range, a distance of four miles. The same sandstone also occurs west of Aclare, with a north-easterly strike for some miles along the base of the metamorphic ridge. Associated with the Middle Limestone is found a series of reddish yellow, brown, and white sandstones, grits, &c., known as "calp" sandstones, that spread their nearly horizontal beds over the whole of the northern part of the Cliffoney district, between the foot of the mountain and the sea, and re-appear in the Mullaghmore promontory, and the island of Inismurray. Beds of calp limestone are found unusually fossiliferous in this district, as at the "Serpent" rock, which derives its rather fanciful name from the masses of large curved cylindrical corals, well exposed by weathering. A mile east of this the beds are cut by a four-foot dyke of basalt. The rocks on the shore, west of Streedagh House, abound in specimens of fossil corals, as *Zaphrentis cylindrica*, 18 to 24 inches in length, and two or three inches in diameter, which project from the surface of the beds, that are themselves often largely formed of such cluster corals as *Lithostrotion*. There are also large-sized brachiopods, as *Productus* and *Spirifer*. Similar beds at "Gibraltar" (two miles west of Sligo), contain *Zaphrentis*, locally styled "rams' horns;" and it is frequently seen on both sides of Ballysadare Bay. The Lower Carboniferous Limestone is, in some places, represented by a brown or gray crystalline magnesian limestone (dolomite), as at Rosses Point; to the north of Ballintogher, by light and dark gray compact limestone, having a metallic ring when struck. At Ballysadare it affords an excellent building stone (dark gray and sub-crystalline), capable of being used for tombstones, &c. &c. The Upper Limestone occupies a large aggregate extent of the county; Lough Gill is almost entirely surrounded by it; so is Lough Arrow, and the intermediate Barony of Tirerrill is largely



composed of this rock, which also forms a capping to the limestone mountains already mentioned. This limestone is usually pure, light gray or bluish, and massive; at many points the beds are highly fossiliferous, containing corals, *encrinites*, &c. Chert, a siliceous material resembling flint, is of common occurrence, concretionary or bedded; and the limestone itself is sometimes amorphous in structure, "rubbly," as seen at Keash and other places in that district.

The upper members of the Carboniferous group include the Coal Measures, remnants of a once widely extended formation, but which has been almost entirely swept away by the agents of denudation that have given to the north-east of the county its remarkably bold physical features, its high table-lands, and deep and broad valleys, with the terraced escarpments that bound them. What is known as the "Connaught Coal Field" extends only a short way into Sligo; it is described as (1) the south-west district (Arigna), County Roscommon; (2), the north-west district adjoining; (3), the Slieve-an-Ieran district, including all coal-bearing strata east of Lough Allen, County Leitrim. In two townlands in Sligo, Ballinashee and Straduff, pits have been sunk yielding coal from a seam sixteen to seventeen inches thick. These Coal Measures may be looked on as fragments of a once extensive coal field. They afford a clay-ironstone of good quality, containing as high as 41 per cent. of the metal, and formerly made use of for smelting purposes.

As a result of geological investigations we need not hope to find coal in Sligo, unless it be in the small area in the Geevagh district, which forms the west extremity of the Roscommon coal field. Want of such knowledge has led to some serious mistakes. Nearly fifty years ago a shaft was sunk at Knockvicar, east of Lough Key, through Lower Carboniferous Sandstone, in a fruitless search for coal. A Mr. O'Beirne, of Jamestown, spent several thousand pounds sinking a shaft with a similar result through the base of Yoredale beds into Upper Limestone. He acted on the advice of some "practical men" who were ignorant of the simplest principles of geology. The Carboniferous strata of Sligo are lower in the

geological scale than the true Coal Measures. If these latter ever existed in the county they have been denuded, and removed by agencies already indicated. On this supposition it might be conjectured that if Knocknarea or Benbulbin were 1000 or 1500 feet higher, workable seams of coal would exist on their summits.

In Sligo, as has been observed, there is an interval in geologic sequence between the old metamorphic ridge and the Lower Carboniferous beds. A still larger gap is apparent immediately above the Coal Measures, as the extensive series of Permian, Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous are absent, together with all the Tertiary deposits down to the Post-Pliocene Drift. This latter includes Lower and Upper Boulder-clay, and covers probably nine-tenths of the entire surface of the County, rising to considerable heights on the flanks of the mountains. Boulder-clay is the offspring of a period characterized by extreme cold, the "Great Ice Age," in which the rains and rivers of the present day were represented by snow, sheets of ice, and glaciers, similar to the condition of things now prevailing in Greenland. Lower Boulder-clay is very stiff and solid, of a dark-blue or reddish colour, and containing blocks, pebbles, and fragments of various rocks in every possible position. Such blocks are of all sizes, either angular, sub-angular (with edges and corners worn off), or rounded; they often have their sides planed down, and covered with scars or groovings, which are generally well preserved on blocks of limestone recently dislodged from their surroundings. The clay itself is seldom laminated, like that of aqueous formation. It is generally structureless, and the stones are found in vertical or inclined positions, unlike those that have been strewn under water. Several areas are devoid of boulder-clay, such as parts of the Ox range east and west of Ballysadare, and a good deal of the more rugged portions of the Upper Limestone heights and prominences. A marked difference is observed between the Drift on the north and that on the south side of the Ox Mountains. A large number of blocks, chiefly gneiss, are embedded in and scattered over the surface of the Drift north of the range,



evidently derived from it. The direction of the ice-movement, all along the tract ranging from Sligo Bay to Lough Conn, has been determined by numerous observations (made by the Rev. Maxwell Close and others, both from the striations of rocks and the transport of erratics) to have been towards the north-west. This is well shown by glaciated rounded bosses, called "roches moutonnées," in the deer-park at Markree and in Union Wood; also north of Collooney station, where "crag and tail" are very apparent; the "tail" being ground down by the powerful ice-sheet advancing from the south-east, while the "crag" or bluff, facing in the opposite direction, suffered little from attrition. Travelled blocks of granite or schist from the Ox range are scattered over the Carboniferous plain to the north; of these the stone circles and cromlechs of Carrowmore are formed, and similar boulders are found near the summit of Knocknarea (limestone, 1078 feet). The converse of this is seen south of the eighth milestone on the road from Sligo to Ballina, where a block of rubbly limestone, weighing about twenty-three tons, rests on a ridge of gneiss some 400 feet above sea-level; such a boulder must have travelled several miles to reach its present position. Near the old churchyard of Kilmorgan, and scattered more or less thickly over an area of half a square mile are an immense number of boulders of the same kind of rubbly limestone (with bands of "chert") of which the Hill of Keash, two miles to the south-east, is chiefly composed. They look as if they had been thrown at random in a battle of giants. Ice is the only agency to account for their transport. It did its work, however, not in the form of a glacier, but through means of icebergs that grounded and dropped their burdens in shallow water hereabouts. Huge granite boulders from the Slieve Gamph Hills are found on the *high* ground south of Lough Talt, some of which weigh over 100 tons each, and have, perhaps, a couple of feet of peat and heather on the top. In the *low* ground about here are rarely found any but small erratics, similar to the underlying Carboniferous strata. Striæ, and "roches moutonnées" also agree in indicating a north-west ice-flow.

Between Tubbercurry and Cloonacool large boulders of mica schist are plentiful, increasing in number as the hills are approached. Their position and size force us to believe that ice was the only adequate transporting agent. Some limestone blocks may also be mentioned that rest on the Upper Limestone at Highwood, north of Lough Arrow. These are interesting from their shape and size. One styled the "Eglone," a rectangular column, weighing some 70 tons, stands 18 feet high, to which were originally united two adjacent masses of rock, till split off by weathering. Another is a rocking-stone. More than a mile to the west, in the townland of Carrickglass, a tabular block (about 70 tons), that has peat and heather growing on the top, forms the covering-stone of a so-called "giant's grave."

The salient features in the geology of Sligo are (1) the enormous denudation of the Carboniferous beds in the north-east; (2) the position and structure of the metamorphic ridge; and (3) the many interesting indications of the movement of the ice-sheet. It may assist in conveying an idea of this general denudation if we try to estimate the quantity of material that would be required to fill up even one of the excavated valleys—say Glencar. A mass adequate for this purpose would need to be nine miles long, with a breadth of two miles at each end, and one in the centre, and a vertical thickness ranging from 400 to 1100 feet. And yet the gap, large as it is, is but a small part of the total excavation that has left the adjacent mountains standing out in conspicuous relief. At and near the boundaries of the metamorphic ridge often occur great lines of faulting that run in various directions, and have greatly disturbed the tranquillity with which the deposition of the great Carboniferous strata took place. The traces of such disturbances are well displayed in the limestone exposures north-east of Ballysadare, at Belladrihid, where the beds are tilted at high angles. The complex dislocation in this locality forms a link between the great break that exists to the westward and that which forms the northern boundary of the metamorphic band eastward, and which has been traced for upwards of twenty-five miles.



Although evidences of glaciation are not wanting throughout the county, it is westward from Collooney, along the Ox range, and to the north of it, that the chief interest lies: not all, however, confined to the limits of Sligo. The glacialist, if he pursue his investigations into Mayo, will find, near Foxford and Pontoon, on the shores of Lough Conn and the flanks of Nephin, many well-marked and unmistakable tokens of the ice-movement as exhibited in "perched blocks," boulders, striæ, "roches moutonnées," and the general configuration of the ground.

In conclusion, a few observations may be made with regard to raised-beaches—those very recent examples of geological activity. Portions of the coast of Drumcliff Bay, near Carney, which contain shells of oysters, clams, periwinkles, &c., are now from four to six or seven feet above high-water mark. In Sligo Bay, at Ballincar, and near "Gibraltar," there are also silty deposits with cockles and other shells embedded, all now well beyond the reach of the tide. A larger area of similar character on the north shore of Ballysadare Bay, and forming a sort of peninsula seldom if ever overflowed by the sea, seems to indicate a slight elevation of the land in comparatively modern times.<sup>1</sup>

Irish names of localities are generally descriptive, either of the peculiarities of the configuration of the ground in the immediate vicinity, or of some prominent object or objects which there attracted attention. In the "Field-Name Books" of the Ordnance Survey (which are now in the Mountjoy Barracks, Phoenix Park), the Irish name, English orthography, and translation of every townland name in Ireland is given—so far as O'Donovan was able to ascertain at the time, *i. e.* some half-century ago. In Appendix I. a transcript of the MS. is given—so far as relates to the County Sligo—without alteration or annotation, on the authority of O'Donovan. Some of the translations are now, by the best authorities, considered erroneous, but the vast majority are correct.

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<sup>1</sup> Robert A. Duke, the writer of the above description of the Geology of Sligo, expresses his indebtedness to the admirable Memoirs and Maps of the Geological Survey, and to Professor Hull's work on the "Physical Geology and Geography of Ireland."

Tourists in Ireland rush off to view the Lakes of Killarney or the wilds of Connemara, but comparatively few visit the County Sligo, the picturesqueness of which is but little known to the general public. The seaside scenery is not equal to that of Clare, Kerry, or Donegal; the mountains are not remarkable for altitude, but it is in their varied outline that their charm lies. Seen from the high road between Bundoran and Sligo the mountains are of extreme beauty; the last peak—that of Benbulbin—seems actually to overhang at the top, and forms a fitting termination to the long range, from whose summits may be viewed a great stretch of country extending from the Donegal Highlands to the far wilds of Mayo, and then away inland, till nothing but a blue haze terminates the horizon. The Benbulbin range appears as if clothed to the very summits with grass, which a writer has described as so “brilliantly green that in the bright sunshine it absolutely dazzles the eyes.” For miles together there is apparently no vestige of heath; all appears green above, below, around; but the summits are in reality a vast moorland—indeed, in Sligo, moor is found where least expected. The mountain range stretching from Lough Gill almost to Ballina, the Curlew Hills, and the Slieve-an-ieran Mountains on its borders towards Leitrim and Roscommon, with detached outlying hills of all forms, sizes, and outlines, are regular in nothing but their irregularity.

Of the Sligo lakes the largest and best known is Lough Gill, which is very generally considered to resemble the Upper Lake of Killarney. “The scenery,” remarks Inglis, “is not stupendous, scarcely even anywhere bold, but it is beautiful exceedingly,” and being but two miles from the town of Sligo, and accessible from it by boat, is better known than any other sheet of water in the county.

Petrie has left some beautiful sketches of Sligo scenery: one of his *chef d'œuvres* is a view of Lough Gill as it appeared upwards of half a century ago, before its surrounding woods had grown to their present size, and before some parts had been even planted.



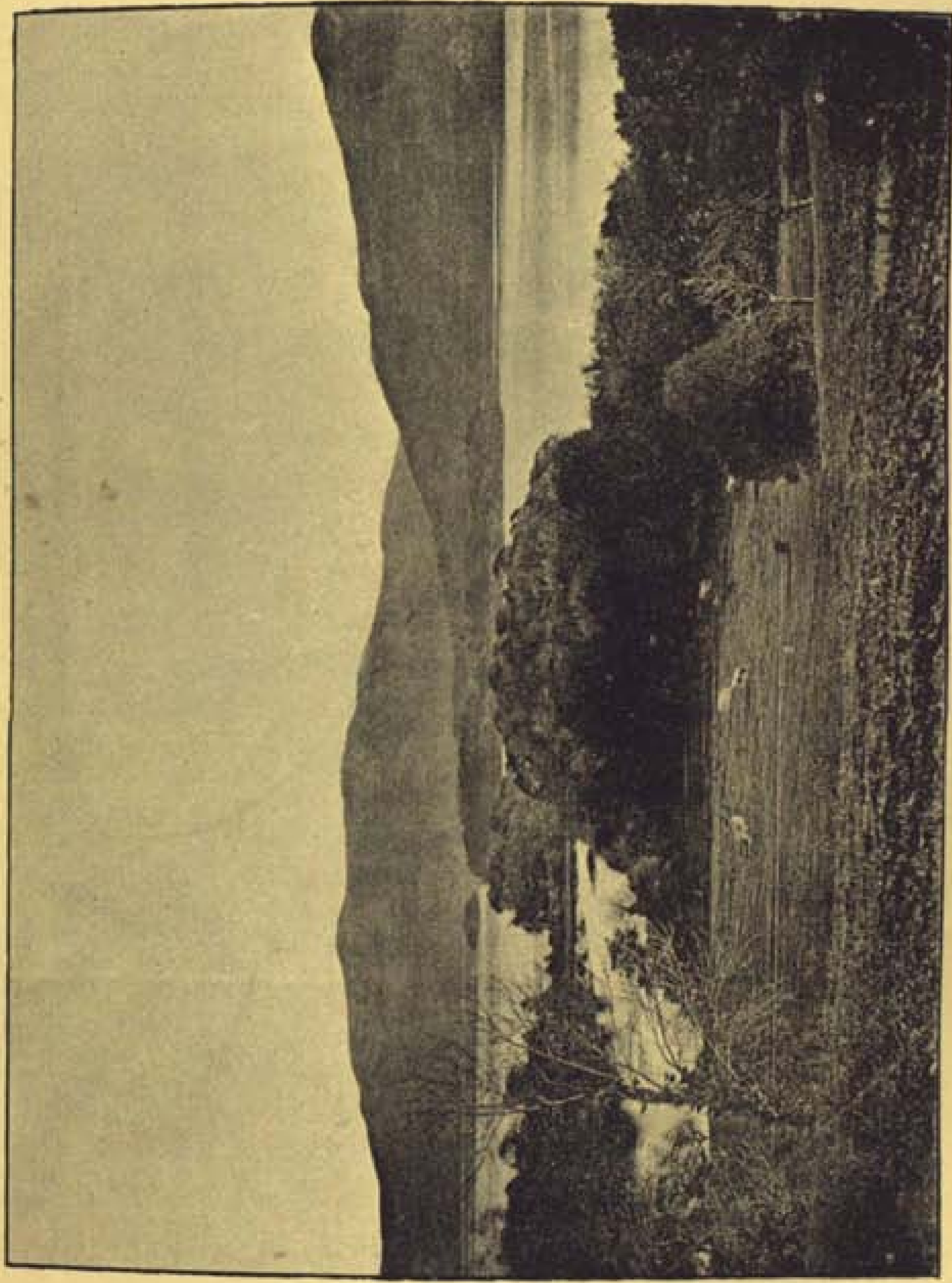


Fig. 45.—COMMENCEMENT OF THE RIVER GARVOOGUE, AND LOWER PORTION OF LOUGH GILL.





The surface of Lough Gill is but twenty feet above high-water mark, and the depth is considerable. In the year 1880 soundings in the lake were taken by the late E. T. Hardman, of the Geological Survey, with the following results:—The principal section ran along the centre of the lake from end to end, commencing at the exit of the River Garvogue (fig. 45), passing by the south shore of Church Island, and continuing on to Shriff Bay. The depths along this line were in some places considerable; between Cottage Island and Church Island 65 feet; one mile from the latter island 96 feet; a little further on, eastward, it was 97 feet; other depths were 99, 105, and 116 feet, the last being the greatest yet found, and this lay a little more than a mile from the east end of Church Island and one mile three-quarters from the east end of the lake; from this on to the termination of the section at Shriff, the lake shallowed again. The other section showed 63 feet at thirty yards from the shore, increasing to 88 and 103 feet—the latter depth being found half a mile east of Goat Island, directly opposite to Bunowna Bay; from Church Island to Holywell, and from thence to Wolf Island, near the Garvogue River, the greatest depths were 34 and 41 feet respectively (see fig. 45). At the time these soundings were taken the water was exceptionally low—at least 10 feet below the ordinary winter level—so that it would be necessary to add 5 feet to the above figures in order to obtain the average depth. The waters of Lough Gill are retained practically in a rock basin, and the surplus water escapes over beds of limestone lying in a nearly horizontal position.

At the extreme south-east limit of the county is Lough Arrow, a large lake with an irregular outline; it is four and a-half miles in length by about two in breadth. Lough Arrow is peculiar in having no river to supply it except the little brook from the Curlew Hills, which empties itself into it at Ballinafad; the water of the lake is clear, and is probably largely supplied by springs, seeing that a considerable stream issues from it, passing over a rock barrier near where it starts at Annagh.

Beneath the lowest level to which the water ever falls, in Lough Gill as well as in Lough Arrow, the stumps of

large trees, like a submerged forest, are in places observable. Mr. A. B. Wynne, F.G.S., who noticed the wasting of the boggy margin of the lake by wave action, has suggested a very ingenious explanation of this phenomenon; he observed that the stools of the old trees, as well as those of the present day, spreading their roots horizontally, retained their position until the boggy ground they grew in had been almost entirely swept away. Deprived of the leverage which their stems—previously broken off—would have given, they had less to disarrange their natural pose, and when some storm of greater force than usual acted on them, the retaining roots snapped or drew, and each water-logged mass subsided to the bottom, sitting upon its broadest surface still in its natural position of growth, so that afterwards, looking down through the water, the trees appeared to have grown where seen. In large lakes such erosion of the banks is quite possible, but in small sheets of water, which do not present a sufficiently large surface to be violently agitated by the wind, the peaty bank would gradually encroach on the water.

There is scarcely a lake or river in the county of which the surface does not require lowering: several have been improved, but in most cases the efforts have failed owing to want of combined action on the part of those interested. So far back as the year 1845, the late Mr. William Phibbs had a survey made of the bed of the River Owenmore, for the purpose of freeing upwards of 1500 acres from constant flooding. The damaged land was estimated by the surveyor as worth about one-half more if freed of water.

Ballygawley, or Ballydawley Lake—styled Lough Cas in the survey of 1809–1818—picturesquely situated at the foot of the Slieve-da-en range of mountains, is embosomed in wood which may be viewed as now representing the primeval mantle that had formerly covered the neighbouring slopes. Some years ago the level of the water was considerably reduced by drainage, and the site of a Lake Dwelling was discovered.

In Lough Talt are the remains of three (stone) crannogs (see page 197). One of them is still well defined, and the sites



can all be explored owing to the former lake level having been lowered some sixty years ago. On the site that is still entirely surrounded by water were discovered a beam—probably a part of the original wooden structure—a good specimen of a bone arrow-head, fragments of polished and worked bone, as also teeth and bones of oxen, sheep, and horses.

Glencar Lake, situated between the counties of Sligo and Leitrim, is surrounded by mountains. The lake, nearly two miles in length, fills the lower part of the valley, and adds considerably to its attractions; but even if there were no lake it could still lay claim to almost peerless beauty. The mountains rise up on each side so steeply, that they seem, except in a few places, altogether inaccessible. To the north lies the Benbulbin, and to the south the Castlegal range, with its gray limestone cliffs resembling ancient weather-beaten fortifications and its slopes in part clothed with plantations of fir.

The waterfalls at Glencar are objects of interest, especially the one known as *Sruth-an-ail-an-ard* (the stream against the height), or the “Waterflight,” so called from its being sometimes blown upwards. This is seen to most advantage after heavy rain with a stiff breeze from the south, the wind getting underneath at the point where the water falls over the edge of the cliff, so as to form a column leaning more or less back towards the hills, or breaking into spray over the grass above. With less wind, a smaller stream looks like ascending smoke.<sup>1</sup>

“When tourists think of glens, they almost always imagine dark, gloomy defiles, like Glendalough or the Gap of Dunloe,

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<sup>1</sup> Some years ago, from the summit of the Pfandlescharte-pass, in the Tyrol, Mr. R. A. Duke happened to witness a remarkable display by a large glacier torrent under similar circumstances. Delayed in his progress by a heavy gust of wind, he saw at a distance of a couple of miles what appeared like a huge cream-coloured ostrich-plume, 80 to 100 feet long, curved backwards from the edge of a high perpendicular cliff, and perfectly motionless. As the wind moderated the curved plume became a vertical column, which gradually sank down to its base and became a simple waterfall, continuing such till the next squall began. Then the falling water tucked itself up, the column reappeared a moment in its old position, and then, almost with a jerk, curved back into the plume, and remained fixed as when first observed.

but Glencar, while infinitely grander than either, has not a particle of gloom about it. It is a laughing glen, and seems to woo the traveller into its recess with a smile. Surrounded as it is with gigantic hills of strange and monstrous shapes, it inspires no feelings of awe. It is well cultivated, thickly studded with cottages, and lies open to the sunlight; and the steep sides of the mountains that wall it in are everywhere covered with a thick growth of the greenest grass. In these accessories we have the secret of its peculiar beauty; they have made it a cheerful, joyous valley instead of a glen of gloom."

In great contrast to this scenery, which is on an almost alpine scale, is the miniature cleft in the side of Knocknarea, commonly known as "The Glen."

Lady Morgan, in her *Patriotic Sketches* (1807), thus describes it:—

"This romantic glen, rich in all that irregularity so essential to the true picturesque, seems to have been produced by some convulsion of nature; and the rocks in many places are so perfectly concave and convex, that it appears as if another shock would unite them again in one solid mass. The strained eye becomes dazzled in the contemplation of their altitude, while it reposes with delight on the beautiful variety of vivid hues which stain their shelving sides; on the rich foliage of the shrubs that hang their fantastic drapery over the rugged projections; or on the bending trees which seem to shoot from their deep crevices without the aid of earth to nourish their bare and interwoven roots, while innumerable torrents dashing from the pointed summits of the highest cliffs flow at their base in one pellucid stream; or rushing with congregated force over roots of trees, or projecting rocks, fall into some deep cavity, and form an elevated and natural basin, shaded by the luxuriance of the overhanging shrubs.

"The Glen is sometimes overflowed by these torrents, while the immense masses of rock, covered with moss and lichens which they force down at intervals in their steep descent, construct for the steps of the adventurous wanderer a species of little causeway, and the over-arching of the cliffs seems to threaten destruction from above; or by a conjunction of their respective shrubs forms a leafy canopy almost impervious to the beams of the sun. That even some degree of moral charm should not be wanting . . . the rocks in many places assume the appearance of spacious ruins, sometimes rising in light and spiral shafts, sometimes rudely broken in irregular masses, while fancied



cloisters, imaginary fortresses, and ideal castles present themselves to the eye amidst the creeping underwood and clustering shrubs by which their grotesque forms are partially veiled. When the gloom seems deepest, and the opposite rocks almost knit their towering summits, the Glen abruptly terminates, and a beautiful sea-coast suddenly bursts upon the view—the bay reflecting upon its bosom the opposite shores, spangled with white houses.”

Such had been the appearance of the Glen till about 50 years ago, when Mr. Nicholson, the then proprietor of this charming spot, resolved to make a residence for himself at the end of the defile where the sea-coast opened to view. He procured materials for the house by blasting the overhanging cliffs, and did much damage to the original appearance of nature’s handiwork. The Glen has now passed into other hands; all traces of the dwelling-house have disappeared, and this cleft on the mountain side still remains, a spot well worthy of a visit from lovers of the picturesque, although its beauty is no longer of the very wild and rugged type so admirably described by Lady Morgan.

The County Sligo contains a gross total of 461,796 acres, of which 12,740 are covered by water. In the year 1881 it was computed that 225,099 acres were in pasture, 89,864 in tillage, which is year by year steadily decreasing,<sup>1</sup> 7131 under plantation, and 126,962 acres consist of bogs and wastes of various descriptions, presenting a brown, desolate appearance, resembling the wilds of Mayo, which St. Patrick viewing from afar, when on one of his missionary tours, is *reputed* to have exclaimed: “I’ll bless you any way, but sorrah a foot ever I’ll set upon you.”

It is a mistaken idea that bogs are to be found only in low situations; such is by no means the case; they are on the summit of mountains as well as in the valleys. The expanses that in Ireland are commonly designated bogs would, in

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<sup>1</sup> The acreage under crops was 76,672 acres, in the year 1847; 99,448 acres in 1857; 92,346 acres in 1867; 89,231 acres in 1877; 83,631 acres in 1887. The value of the crops in the year 1888 was computed to be upwards of £550,000.

England, be termed mosses. English marshes are in general composed of black, spongy, rotten vegetable matter, but the bogs in Ireland are formed of inert vegetable matter, covered more or less with an unproductive growth, and containing a large proportion of stagnant water. The difference between these conditions is that the former, when drained, produces excellent crops, whilst the inert vegetable matter of the latter throws out scarcely any growth.

The increase of water under bogs—that is to say, between the peat itself and the sub-(or former surface of the) soil—may be so great as to float the entire mass away. Such catastrophes are by no means uncommon; there are some cases recorded in ancient times, and several modern instances, within the bounds of the county, could be cited.

In January, 1831, after a sudden thaw of snow, the bog between Geevagh and Bloomfield gave way, and a black deluge, composed of the contents of several hundred acres of bog, took the direction of a small stream, and rolled on with the violence of a torrent, sweeping along heath, timber, mud, and stones, overwhelming many meadows and much arable land. On passing over some boggy land, the flood swept out a wide and deep ravine through part of a new line of road which was being made by Mr. Martin, chiefly to give employment to the poor. A description of the occurrence was thus given in a newspaper of the date:—

“An ever-increasing noise, like distant but gradually approaching thunder, or the subterranean growling of an earthquake, together with a distinct vibration of the ground,<sup>1</sup> attracted attention towards the upper portion of the hillside, which the beholders saw actually advancing in huge masses of from 20 to 30 feet in height, bearing away everything before it in its ruthless course: ‘Then shrieked the timid and stood still the brave.’ Helpless women flying in every direction with their

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<sup>1</sup> The vibration of the ground in the immediate vicinity of this deluge seems to have somewhat resembled that felt on the 28th November, 1880, when about 5:15, P. M. a shock of earthquake, accompanied by a distinct rumbling noise, lasting several seconds, was distinctly felt and heard at Templehouse, Annaghmore, and other places in the district.



younger children, while those of more advanced age endeavoured to assist their fathers, and carrying whatever little property was worth the risk to some rising solid ground before the destructive and desolating flood swept it from their grasp for ever."

The properties of peat as fuel vary greatly, being influenced by the many accidental circumstances which alter or modify its nature; the quality is evidenced by its colour, the best being produced from the blackest and densest bogs. Acidity is another characteristic noticeable—hence the soreness of eyes sometimes felt by those unaccustomed to the use of this species of fuel. It is made in the following manner:—A space having been selected and marked out of the required width and length, the surface is removed to a sufficient depth. With a turf-spade—a small implement of peculiar shape—having a wing turned out on the left side of the blade, and at right angles thereto, the cutter standing on the bank, digs into the peat, fills the spade at each cut, and in that manner shapes the sod of turf, which by a sudden jerk he slides off the spade towards a person standing ready to catch it before it reaches the ground; by him it is placed on a barrow, which, when loaded, another man wheels to the "spread-ground," whilst a second barrow is left with the catcher to be filled. Having reached the proper place, the barrower lowers his hands, and pressing one handle firmly down, raises the other, and so throws off the load, leaving it in a tolerably compact heap. When the shaped turf is sufficiently dry to bear rough handling, the heaps are spread evenly over the surface of the ground. In a dry season they may be soon turned, and then "clamped," but, in a wet season, saving them is a very tedious process. They have then to be "footed," *i. e.* put standing on their ends in batches of 8 or 12, and every means tried to raise them up to dry, and keep them from absorbing moisture from the ground. An expert cutter will form 30 barrels of turf in a day, and two stout lads can catch and wheel them out. A "comfortable farmer" will burn from 4 to 6 hundred in a year; the hundred in Sligo generally means 120 barrels or 1920 cubic feet; but a good deal depends on the quality of the turf and the manner in which it has been

gathered into the large ricks which are still to be seen in Sligo beside every farmer's house, except in the immediate vicinity of the town.

Insolubility and an antiseptic quality are characteristic qualities of boggy matter; a long list could be enumerated of antique articles, which, had they not been thus entombed, must long ages ago have turned to dust; but perhaps the most remarkable instances are the discoveries of human remains by its means resisting the ravages of time; these singular preservative qualities extend to everything buried under its surface; even iron does not disintegrate with as great rapidity as if subjected to atmospheric attack. Wood when either exposed, or buried in the earth, will disappear in a few years, but if enveloped in peat will be preserved; thus the wooden vessels—usually single-piece articles like long firkins—containing bog-butter or mineral-tallow, are generally found entire, whilst the butter itself is also fairly preserved; many instances of such finds could be enumerated. This custom of burying, or hiding, butter in bogs is probably of ancient origin, but like many old customs it was continued down to a very late period. Thomas Dineley, in a diary of his visit to Ireland, during the reign of Charles II., states that the Irish used “butter layd up in wicker baskitts . . . and buried for some time in a bog.” Sir William Petty mentions “butter made rancid by keeping in bogs,” and the custom is thus described in *The Irish Hudibras* :—

“ Butter to eat with their hog,  
Was seven years buried in bog.”

As a general rule, no people are longer-lived than those dwelling in the midst of vast expanses of bog, whilst on the other hand, those inhabiting low, damp, marshy localities, are afflicted with fevers and other unpleasant maladies. According to the census of 1881, there were then 14 people in the county of Sligo aged 100 years and upwards.

About the year 1806, along the entire coastline, from the entrance of Ballysadare Bay almost to Bundoran, the sand



was in motion. Most probably this was caused by the immense impetus given to tillage by the struggle on the continent, and the consequent breaking up of the sandy lands along the littoral, for potatoes, oats, and other tillage crops. This invasion of sand had been long threatening, and any intelligent observer might have prognosticated the catastrophe which ensued; but no note of warning was raised, and it was not until 1816 that the real inundation commenced in full force. From that date up to the year 1835, thousands of fertile acres were overwhelmed; no endeavours were successful in checking the progress of this devastation—the planting of bent as a remedy was then unknown—and the unfortunate cottiers retreated before the deluge, clinging, however, to their wretched hovels as long as the roofs were able to sustain the superincumbent mass of sand.

No one, without studying the map of the county, can form any conception of the effects of this devastating inroad. The village of Strandhill—then situated near the seashore—was overwhelmed, and the inhabitants removed in a body up the slopes of Knocknarea. The same thing occurred near Raughly, on the properties of the late Sir Robert Gore-Booth and Mr. John Gethin, and the action of the wind year after year turned several townlands into a miniature Sahara; the wretched inhabitants one by one abandoned the struggle until only one or two houses were left. The first inroad of the torrent of sand is thus depicted by an eye-witness:—"There are few more desolate scenes in our island than that which the once fertile plains of Raughly now present. It requires no stretch of the imagination to describe what may have been the appearance of this place, for the remains of many houses may still be traced, and there are at least a hundred yet inhabited huts nearly overwhelmed, resembling more the dens of wild animals than the habitations of human beings. Fragments of the ancient church and some of the rude tombs are still seen, peering over the accumulating sand. This wilderness was fortunately bounded on two sides by the Atlantic; on the north by an inlet of the sea, and on the east by a small river, whose channel being blocked occasioned the formation of a

large lake, which arrested, in that direction, the further progress of the sand." A gentleman thus describes a visit to the last house inhabited in this district: "In 1845, being requested by a constable to take the depositions of a man (supposed to be dying) who had been badly beaten, we almost waded through this wilderness, saw no house, and were wondering how much farther we had to go, when suddenly the constable stopped opposite to what appeared to be a thatched potato-pit, nearly covered with sand. 'This is the house,' said he, 'the ladder is on the other side.' We went round, saw an opening in the thatch, and the end of a ladder protruding; by this means we descended, and dimly descried the poor man and his family, by means of the light given by the hole in the roof, and by the chimney. His recovery was slow, and, when able to be moved, he was at once carried off to his neighbours in the adjoining townland, as by that time the sand had completely covered the roof of his former dwelling."

The sandhills from Streedagh to Mullaghmore were also in motion, and the devastation was nearly as great. It was here, however, that the drift was at last checked. Lord Palmerston introduced the planting of bent, which effectually prevented the movement of the sand. He also sowed seeds of the *Pinus maritima*, and now fine plantations are growing on the very verge of the ocean. His example was followed by the other proprietors, the surface gradually coated over, and is now valuable for feeding sheep and young stock, and for the rearing of rabbits. Were the sward, however, again broken up, a recurrence of the same calamity would inevitably follow.

One other instance of the efficacy of planting bent may be cited. In the neighbourhood of Raughly (on the south-west shore), about a mile of shingle, which formed a barrier against the mighty Atlantic waves, was gradually, but irresistibly driven back, at the regular rate of a foot each year. One very stormy night a breach was effected by the ocean, and the tide ran inland amongst the sandhills for a considerable distance, scattering the shingle rampart right and left. The remedy tried was planting along the beach, bent, which was



carefully attended to, and renewed when necessary. Thus the sandhills were bound together, and increase in solidity year by year: they now form an effectual rampart against the breakers.

It is difficult, without computation from meteorological tables to draw any accurate deduction relative to the difference between the climate and rainfall of Sligo and of the neighbouring counties.

M'Parlan, writing in 1800, stated that the climate of the county was very temperate; as to rain very changeable, so much so that the best barometers prognosticated very uncertainly as to the event of wet or dry weather. Wakefield states that "the climate is so mild that the arbutus, myrtle, and other shrubs of the like kind grow in the grounds here with the utmost luxuriance."

The rainfall in Sligo certainly appears to be heavy, as will be seen by the tables in Appendix K.

The average yearly depth of rain registered at Markree from 1833 to 1863 was 37·32; from 1885 to 1889, 40·81. At Mount Shannon, near Sligo, measured by F. M. Olpherts, for the latter period, 39·95, or a difference of 0·86; at the same place from 1867 to 1869, 42·24.

Such being the rainfall of Sligo, it is not surprising to find exceptionally heavy thunder-showers recorded. One such was observed by Mr. Cooper at Markree. After the first flash of lightning a strong breeze set in, followed almost immediately by an extraordinary downpour of rain, mingled with hail, which lasted for fifteen minutes, and during this time there fell a depth of rain of one inch and a-half, or at the rate of twelve feet in the twenty-four hours!

Inhabitants of Sligo imagine that the rainfall in their locality is, perhaps, the greatest in the United Kingdom, but such is not the case. In the year 1877, at one meteorological station in Westmoreland, 151·27 inches of rainfall was measured, whilst in 1888, at another station in Cumberland, the depth recorded was 175·40 inches.

In this century the principal storms in Sligo seem to have occurred on 3rd March, 1823, when all the vessels anchored in

the pool were driven ashore; in 1834, 1839, and 19th January, 1875; whilst the storm of 2nd November, 1881, was as violent as the memorable hurricane of 1839. On the 26th January, 1884, a terrific storm burst over Sligo and its neighbourhood, joined to which a tidal wave was propelled by a south-westerly wind with great force into the bay and harbour. Damage to a large amount was effected in the port; nearly £2000 of public money was spent in repairing sea walls, roads, and footpaths, which had been swept away in the immediate vicinity of the town, where all the low-lying portions were inundated. In the country much damage was done, bridges were carried away, roads cut, and some of them, through the falling of timber, rendered impassable. In places entire woods were levelled. In January, 1886, there was another storm, but not of such terrific violence.

In 1802 the principal plantings in the county were at Markree, Annaghmore, Hazlewood, and Templehouse; owners of other places had done something in the same line, but on a minor scale. Premiums for good plantations were given by the *Dublin Society*. Mr. Wynne obtained a prize for one in 1787, and Mr. O'Hara for one in 1798, both having succeeded well. It will thus be seen that timber was scarce. Mr. Wynne then sold "Irish firs" at 50s. the ton (the price in 1886 was 12s.), and small timber, for common use, from one to two or three shillings. Mr. Cooper sold timber at Union Wood at the same price, and small timber for hurdles and roofing at bulk prices.

Parts of the country were entirely bare of trees. In the year 1815 there were very few to be seen in the parish of Kilmactiege, although Mr. Jones, of Banada, was enabled to boast of an inheritance which no gentleman within twenty miles of him could exhibit, namely, as many grown trees as sufficed for a rookery!

It was considered that in Ireland trees threw out branches when at less height, and were of smaller size, than in England. The forking of trees at so early a period was ascribed to the



thinness of the soil, also to the prevalence of westerly winds, and the want of copsing. In 1797, there were in Sligo two nurseries for trees, one situated near Oakfield, the other at Ballytivnan; the sale was considerable.

Evergreens flourished in the county, probably owing to the moisture of the climate, and the comparative mildness of the winters. Inglis, describing the environs of Sligo, says:—"Finer evergreens I never saw in the most southern counties; the laurels and bays grown into great trees rivalled, if they did not surpass, those of Woodstock or Curraghmore; and here again I found the *arbutus*<sup>1</sup> . . . giving to the scenery all that advantage of colouring which is the boast of Killarney. The timber too . . . is equal to almost any I have seen; and I often found myself pausing before some magnificent ash, oak, elm, or lime, throwing its deep shade across the green amphitheatre which it seemed to have made for itself."

Ordinary garden fruit was grown in Sligo, but ripened later than on the eastern coast. The "Crofton apple" or "Longford pearmain" was the best keeping, and the most popular eating apple in every part of Ireland, the original trees having come, it is said, from America. Old leases rendered it obligatory on tenants to enclose an orchard, and plant a certain number of trees.

Wakefield was of opinion that the native Irish stock of cattle had all been originally black, for although at the time he wrote, there were few of that colour, yet they were nevertheless universally termed "black cattle." Some of these pointed out as remains of the ancient breed, were narrow in the loins

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<sup>1</sup> On the subject of the *arbutus*, P. W. Joyce states: "Some think that it was brought to Ireland from the Continent by monks, in the early ages of Christianity; but it is more generally believed to be indigenous; and it appears to me a strong argument in favour of this opinion, that we have a native term for it. The Irish call it *caithne*, and in the neighbourhood of the Killarney Lakes the word is known, but veiled under a thin disguise; for even the English-speaking people call the berries of the *arbutus* *cain*-apples, though few or none of them suspect how the name took its rise; for Threlkeld, who wrote his *Synopsis Stirpium Hibernicarum*, in 1727, notices it, and recognizes it as an anglicised form of *caithne*."

and thin in the quarters; they had short legs, large bellies, and white faces; their horns, which turned backwards, were remarkably wide set, and they had large dewlaps.

In the year 1770 there were in the county large tracts of grass lands, and the system of stocking them varied greatly; the graziers upon good grass bought in cows in the month of May at from £3 to £3 10s., and sold out in November at a profit of about 30s.; they would also buy three-year old oxen in October at £4 10s., give them coarse hay, and sell them—fat, or in good order—the autumn following, at £7.

It has been asserted that on some parts of the sea coast the cattle were, in times of scarcity, sometimes fed on fish and seaweed; yet strange as the statement seems, there may be truth in it, as that kind of food was formerly given to cattle on parts of the Norwegian coast, and travellers from the east recount the same custom as being prevalent at Malabar. The ordinary cattle<sup>1</sup> of the county were nearly the same as those of Leitrim—small in consequence of the continual exposure to the open air on the mountains; some of the gentlemen, however, possessed cattle of the long-horned kind for fattening purposes. At the close of the last century cattle buyers from Ulster frequented the Sligo markets; for small mountain cattle fattened on the lowlands were in general demand in the northern counties.

There were no dairies in Sligo in 1770, but in 1800 they were fairly numerous. The export of butter from the town was considerable. The sudden and vast increase in the quantity and

<sup>1</sup> TABLE SHOWING QUANTITY OF LIVE STOCK IN COUNTY SLIGO FOR THE YEARS 1848, 1857, 1867, 1877, and 1887.

Horses	Mules.	Asses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Goats.	Poultry.	Year.
8352	788	8790	92,602	70,926	26,307	5191	349,379	1887
7201	517	7722	93,295	59,420	25,932	3270	333,471	1877
7036	379	6893	87,347	80,751	15,763	1947	247,330	1867
8784	427	6357	48,387	47,258	21,871	2009	216,825	1857
7142	535	4141	63,373	21,918	10,471	989	127,146	1848



export of this commodity was chiefly owing to improvement in the manner of making it up; at first it used to be put in crocks, but the country people were afterwards compelled to pack it in well-coopered casks, a method which improved the quality of the butter.

Some few gentlemen, for farming purposes, worked oxen, a pair to each plough, and managed by one man, who by the use of long reins connected with bridle-bits in their mouths, guided them, and at the same time attended to the management of the plough. Oxen had been used for tillage from the year 1750 in some localities; but though it was considered that four horses would do more work in a day than four oxen, yet the latter were the more economical.

Mules were also much used, they being longer-lived than horses, hardier, and more easily fed; but this referred principally to the small Irish mule, not to the larger Spanish breed, which required more care; they were never fed so well as horses, yet went through more labour, and were superior to them for carrying burdens. Horses were, however, more usually employed for tillage in 1778. "Four in a plough abreast," writes Arthur Young, "and some harrowing still done by the tail, they will plough half an acre a-day. Upon wet lands they plough into ridges arched, but never water-furrow."

The common old Irish plough left half of the vegetable surface unturned, and the harrow was bad, the pins being generally made of wood; so late as the commencement of the present century, it is stated that in one locality in the county where the soil was light, "it was quite common to plough and harrow by tying a rope to the horse's tail, dispensing with all other tackling."

The common mode of culture in 1800 was with the Irish plough and harrow, whilst the loy, shovel, and spade, were used in soil too wet or too rocky for the plough, which, in wet soils was worked by three horses, harnessed one before the other, so as to avoid spoiling the ridges. Occasionally the man who led these horses might be seen standing or walking before them—he himself moving backwards, and dragging them after him.

The instrument for digging called a loy was longer and narrower than the spade we are now more accustomed to see; it was made of wood, shod with iron, and having only space for the right foot to work; it is still used. Shovels were also made of wood, shod with sheet iron; but in more advanced places there were iron shovels.

The minute division of tillage-land prevents the cultivator from keeping horses exclusively destined for draught. His horse must carry him to market, draw his small car, and perform every other kind of labour necessary in his agricultural pursuits, *i. e.* must, according to the common phrase, "be a horse of all work." When their own work is done, small farmers who have horses generally plough lands for their neighbours, either by the day or at so much per acre.

In 1776 the flocks of sheep in the county were few in number, a revolution in agriculture having taken place; the baronies of Corran and Tireragh, which had been continuous sheep-walks a quarter of a century previously, were then yellow with fields of waving barley and oats; for tillage had invaded and spread over the grass lands. Sheep were, however, kept in smaller numbers, and were principally of the native Irish kind, except a few flocks which belonged to some of the gentry, who had taken great pains to improve the breed.

Swine were at all times kept, and had increased annually in number; in 1777 the farmers commenced the export of salt-pork, hams, and bacon. The hogs of Irish breed—very tall, long, and narrow-loined—were kept sometimes to the age of two years, being fed and fattened on potatoes.

Herds of goats were kept in many of the mountainous districts, as also by the cottiers throughout the county: they were generally tethered in pairs, in order to prevent them from straying into the grounds of their neighbours.

Every cabin was provided with one dog, some having even two or three; in general they were ill-tempered animals, constantly running out and barking with fury at passers-by, especially those on horseback; and although there was a law



imposing a penalty on the owner who did not put a log on his canine companion, it was seldom carried into execution. Several of these yelping-curs would follow a rider for miles at his horse's heels, and many dreadful accidents occurred from their savage attacks: so late as June, 1836, the streets of Sligo being infested with dogs of a dangerous and ferocious nature, orders were given by the Provost that any found at large without being muzzled would be shot.

The "Dogs Regulation (Ireland) Act" of 1865 (by imposing a tax on those animals) has abolished the nuisance, and the diminution in number of the canine breed has been very great. The surplus fund of this tax is lodged to the credit of the County; and the proportion of surplus moneys arising from the sale of licenses is yearly paid over by the treasurer to be applied in aid of the borough rates.

COUNTY AT LARGE—TOTAL SUM RECEIVED FOR DOG LICENCES.

1870, . . .	£359	1885, . . .	£160
1875, . . .	438	1889, . . .	75
1880, . . .	414	1890, . . .	135

During the continental struggle the lands in Sligo were mostly under tillage, the rough pastures supporting cows, horses, and sheep. The crops were principally potatoes, oats, and flax; comparatively little wheat or barley being grown, except along the sea coast—chiefly in Tireragh—where the soil being lighter, considerable quantities of barley were raised and consumed in illicit distillation; in some of the calendars of prisoners for trial at the assizes, fully 90 per cent. were committed for that offence.

Good ground set for 40s. to 50s. per acre; indifferent ground at 20s.; whilst con-acre in good soil brought £8 8s. for a crop of potatoes; from 5 to 6 guineas for oats; and 4 guineas, the third year, for oats or flax. The sods were generally turned up, dried, then burnt upon the ridges, and the ashes spread, the land after these crops being suffered to lie waste for several years, and coat itself with natural grasses; with the exception of the gentry, few laid down their land with grass-seed; but the backwardness of

agriculture might be considered chiefly due to the state of commonage in which their lands were held. The great subdivision of farms in the county—according to the evidence of Colonel Irwin before the House of Commons—commenced in the year 1783.

In 1800, the whole county might, strictly speaking, be called a tillage country, but there were some spots fit for, and appropriated to the fattening of cattle and sheep, still the quantity of potatoes, oats, and barley produced, was immense; wheat, too, was grown after the potato crop. The course of crops was:—1, potatoes; 2, barley, oats, or wheat; 3, oats; 4 and 5, oats; then the soil was let out *without grass-seed*, and being thoroughly impoverished, it remained unproductive for years. In some parts the soil was too poor for more than three crops, but in the richer portion of the county six crops appear to have been extracted from the ground without manure.

In 1778, potatoes were generally the first crop planted in newly-drained bog, manured with limestone gravel; the produce was superior in quantity to that on ordinary clay-ground, yielding an average of fifty pecks more to the acre. At a later period the “drill” method of planting potatoes was stated to have been employed by the gentry, whilst the “lazy-bed” system was followed by the peasantry.

In Tireragh great crops of barley were grown during the latter part of the eighteenth century, the yield being sometimes as much as 20 barrels to the acre. Of oats two barrels of 12 stones were sown, the mean produce being 10 barrels; of wheat 12 stones were sown, the produce being 6 barrels. The wire-worm was a great enemy to barley, and in 1812 a traveller remarked that comparatively little of that grain was cultivated in Connaught “except on the northern coast of Sligo.”

The introduction of the linen manufacture into the county stimulated everywhere the rearing of crops of flax. A farming cottier, with six or seven acres, would sow six or eight gallons—the quantity of seed required being at the rate of forty gallons per acre—the value, sold on the foot, was, in general, £8; and it was calculated that a gallon of seed produced a stone of



scutched flax, or forty stones to the acre ; although, as a general rule, only sown in small patches, still, in the aggregate, the area was extensive, and thus employment was given to a class of workers who heckled the flax after it had been scutched in the mill. At the close of the last century at least 3000 acres in the county were under flax. In the year 1809 there were but 684 acres, whilst the average of the six years, from 1883 to 1889, was only twenty-four.

What would be thought in the present day of a field of weeds being sold ? yet in 1776 the price per acre was £6 6s., the ashes being used in boiling the yarn.

Manure consisted either of such as the cattle produced, or a compost of bog stuff and earth mixed, and left to rot during the winter. The manure resulting from burning the ground afforded good crops, but the practice impoverished the land by wasting the surface, which was the most fertile and productive part ; against this a severe penalty had been enacted by the Legislature. With bogland, limestone-gravel and marl were used as manure ; along the shore, seaweed was so employed, and this, if laid on the ground early in winter, produced good and dry potatoes ; but, if applied just before planting, the potatoes were generally wet. The use of lime and shelly sea-gravel commenced about the close of the last century ; but long prior to that period the innumerable beds of oyster shells which lay upon the seashore, principally about Tanrego, were burnt into lime, for building and plastering purposes.

In 1840, a county "Agricultural Society" was started by the proprietors of large estates, for the improvement of tillage-farming amongst the tenantry. Until a late period many parts of the county remained in a backward condition. Inglis, in 1834, thus describes that portion of the Curlew range which lies between Ballinafad and Boyle :—"After leaving Lough Arrow the road ascended considerably, and passed through a wild and very poor country . . . Many of the cabins were not to be distinguished from the mud-heaps around ; they were fully as black and no bigger, and built of the same material, scarcely a patch of cultivation being visible around any of them." On

the other hand, the same traveller remarks that the greater part of the road between Ballina and Sligo "is interesting only as exhibiting proof of an improving country. . . . Everywhere in the neighbourhood proofs are seen of recent triumphs obtained over bog and mountain land ; looking on every side, one would say this is an improving country."

M'Parlan, who drew up a slight survey of the county, describes the farms as varying in size from three acres to five hundred, the poorest classes having very small holdings, sometimes even less than three acres, and a great number of tenants held wide tracts of land in partnership ; in rough mountainous districts the land was seldom let by the acre, but by the bulk.

During the period of the Forty Shilling Freeholders, leases for one or more lives were very general. Upon the abolition of that franchise, leases were granted for twenty-one or thirty-one years ; then the custom of giving any lengthened tenure fell into disuse, and tenancies from year to year became the almost universal rule.

During the great continental war, the high price of corn, and the effect of the free trade in it, produced by the Act of 1806, gave a stimulus to the extension of tillage, and at this time an extraordinary subdivision of farms took place.

In the commencement of the present century spring and harvest were the only periods in which there was brisk employment for labour. In the summer season, when the potatoes were planted, many of the men went to England or to Leinster, in order to procure employment, and the women and children, having fastened the door with a piece of twine, took their blankets on their backs and turned out to beg until the latter end of harvest. The thinning of the population by emigration and other causes has almost totally put an end to this state of society, and although from remote parts of the county there is still a yearly exodus to England for harvest work, it is becoming gradually less. A correspondent of *The Times*, writing in 1884, was very favourably struck with the general bearing of the Sligo peasantry when compared with those of other western counties.



The Irish Land Commission was appointed in 1881. Its first sitting was held in the autumn of that year, and the first cases heard in the county were upon an estate whereon the fair rent was fixed at a reduction of about 18 per cent. under the old rents, and  $6\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. under the valuation. In 1884 the Commissioners fixed the rent of another holding on the same estate at about 14 per cent. under the valuation; but on an estate within some two miles of the town of Sligo fair rents were fixed at 50 per cent. under the valuation. It is not easy to reconcile these decisions with any fixed rule. The Commissioners commenced by comparatively small reductions, which they gradually increased, and the difference was so marked between those given in the first years of the Commission and in 1889 that tenants who got rents fixed in the former period became dissatisfied.

In 1888 there were 957 "fair rents" fixed in the county, the gross former rent being £12,797 13s. 5d., the judicial rent £9337 7s. 9d., and by the last annual report of the Commission the total number of cases in which judicial rents were fixed by all the methods provided by the Land Law Acts of 1881 and 1887 in the county of Sligo up to the 22nd August, 1889, was 7779, and the percentage in reduction of rents 20·2.

Some amusing incidents occurred during those times when tenants were all asking for and receiving abatements. An agent was collecting rents when one man, whose rent was about £5, put forward demands more exorbitant than any of the others. Finally he produced what he said was a one pound note—all he had wherewith to satisfy his landlord's demands. A receipt, together with a considerable amount of change, was handed back to Pat. "What is all this for?" demanded the astonished recipient. "My good man," said the agent, "you gave me a £10 note." "The Lord save us," exclaimed Pat; "then Bridget must have given me the wrong note!" That night on his return home there was a family disagreement; Bridget's leg was broken, and the following morning Pat found himself under police protection in a way he little expected.

In the Land Commission Court a too willing ear is given

to the extravagant claims made by tenants for alleged improvements, and thus rent is worked down. Also in fixing rent no regard is given to the continually recurring fact that tenants have often wilfully and repeatedly run out their lands, and through disregard of deterioration, rent is again reduced in many instances. The tendency of the court is to fix rent on the land in its existing state, frequently injured by waste of all kinds. In the constitution of the courts the *legal* element is too weak; the *popular* element too strong; and when adjudicating on these cases much is always said about agricultural depression and the poverty of tenants, &c. &c. That there was rackrenting no one disputes; it was not, however, general, nor, as a rule, common. But the courts reduced rents indiscriminately on the well as on the badly managed estates.

The farmers have taken advantage of their power of procuring money at an easy rate of interest from Government, the total of loans sanctioned for erecting farm-houses<sup>1</sup>—besides drainage loans—up to the 31st March, 1889, was £32,255. Formerly the farmers, when requiring an advance of money, had generally dealt with usurers or “gombeen” men, who charged an exorbitant rate of interest; but now they have recourse to the banks, which make advances at more moderate rates.

The “Loan Fund” Board was established, in 1836, to assist a different class of people, and to administer advances of small sums not exceeding £10, at moderate interest, and repayable by instalments. In 1888 there were two societies in active operation in the county of Sligo, the working capital £5,083, the actual amount in circulation £14,474, in 2856 loans. The gross profit was £560 1s. 8½d., the expenses of management £266 11s. 4d., the interest paid on capital £176 15s., the net profit £108 15s. 4½d.

In the commencement of the seventeenth century the greater part of the county presented a wild appearance, but the quantity of waste that had been improved up to the close of the latter

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<sup>1</sup> The inhabited houses in the County of Sligo were:—27,059 in 1821; 29,583 in 1831; 31,443 in 1841; 22,142 in 1851; 22,394 in 1861; 20,979 in 1871; 19,940 in 1881.



part of the eighteenth century was very considerable. Under most of the land that presented the worst appearance there was a thin substratum of what is called *lack*, a tenacious clay, impervious to water, and varying in thickness from but a few inches to a more considerable depth. By trenching the land for potatoes, the water was permitted to percolate to the under strata, and no drains were necessary, whilst to a great extent the bogs were brought under cultivation by spreading on them limestone gravel. Two thousand horse-loads, carried on the backs of those animals in panniers, was the quantity allowed, and the expense of so doing, in 1776, was about £2 2s. per acre.

The Ox Mountains, on their slopes nearest to the sea, were chiefly stocked with sheep, and further in with young cattle. Upon a part of this range sheep that fed there were killed by "the staggers;" and horses also were similarly affected. The land was dry, and to all appearance good, but the disease was then attributed to the lead in which that portion of the mountain was supposed to be prolific. When first affected, the animal if brought down to a salt marsh, recovered immediately.

In the last century the fields were in general small, those in the occupation of gentlemen being of larger size and fenced according to the locality, either with stone walls or ditches; stone walls might be said to predominate, as they served the double purpose of clearing the land and of enclosing it. Some of the old ditches were of gigantic size, having, very generally a double, sometimes even a triple, row of whitethorns, with which were interspersed plants of ash, alder, oak, and (in Tireragh) apple-trees.

In the commencement of the present century, M'Parlan states that it was in the mountains and bogs the greatest part of any draining effected could be seen. He describes the county as containing every possible variety of pasture, sour, sweet, light, heavy; some fit only for rabbits and kids, some for the heaviest cows and oxen. Coolavin, where there was, and still is, a vast deal of sour mountain pasture, contained also some of the richest feeding ground in Ireland; but the main portion of this area—consisting of the baronies of Leyny,

Corran, and Tirerrill—was mostly either a fattening or feeding country of good quality; the baronies of Tireragh and Carbury being fit for, and occupied in, tillage.

A great part of the demesne of Hazlewood had been very wet, but Mr. Wynne effectually drained it, not only by breaking and uniting with the rest of the soil the substratum termed *lack*, but also by cutting off springs at the side of hills, &c.

An “Irish Waste and Land Improvement Society” was formed in 1836, under the presidency of the Earl of Devon, and a traveller, in 1844, describes their estate in Sligo—being one of four which they possessed—as situated at Gleneask, on the south-east slope of the *Slieve Gamph* Mountains. It consisted principally of a wide glen or valley, extending from Lough Talt on the west to Lough Eask on the east, a stretch of about seven English miles, with a breadth varying from four miles at the south-west end, to a narrow point, where the mountain <sup>terminates on the eastern extremity of Lough Eask.</sup> The whole valley, as well as the lower slopes of the mountain available for tillage, are almost without exception pure peat bog. This includes about 3500 acres, and the remaining 2269 acres are mountain pasture, admirably adapted to the rearing and feeding of “mountainy” cattle. The model farm consisted of sixteen statute acres, where upon a piece of pure bog, only two years reclaimed, turnips, mangolds, rape, vetches, and potatoes flourished. The allotments were marked out by main drains and neat green sod-banks, surmounted by trimmed furze-hedges. The small white tenements faced the road; the houses were good, each having two rooms. They were built of stone, thatched and glazed, and cost the society about £20 each. Prizes of £2 were given annually for every acre of reclaimed land, as well as annual prizes for drainage, for the best green crops and cattle, for cleanliness, &c. Unfortunately the depression of 1846-50 appears to have compelled the society to sell this property.

A large extent of reclamation was made near Tanrego. In 1851, William Petrie was granted by the landlord a lease for ever, at a nominal rent, of about 120 acres of “slob-land” on



the sea-shore, near the eighth milestone on the Ballina road. He set about the reclamation in an energetic manner; made a large embankment, with discharging sluices to keep out the spring tides; drained and subsoiled the entire area, and sold it at a considerable profit to Captain Olpherts, who was then engaged in enclosing about 350 acres of the adjoining strand. All this reclaimed land, the demesne of Tanrego inclusive, was afterwards purchased by Mr. R. Verschoyle.<sup>1</sup>

Lord Palmerston, who died in 1865, owned large estates in the county, one a wild, bleak district near Cliffoney, tenanted by a number of small cottiers, constituting a numerous population, and holding under four or five "middlemen" on lease for lives, which terminated at the death of William IV. Lord Palmerston reduced the rents of the under-tenants by about one-third; abolished the "rundale" or partnership system of farming; sent numbers off to America, paying their passage, forgiving the rent, and allowing them to sell their stock, &c.

He spent a large portion of the Cliffoney rental in building the harbour of Mullaghmore, improving the estate by drainage, roads, planting, &c.

Wakefield remarks that "the estate of Mr. O'Hara, member for the county, was held by original title to the soil," in contradistinction to the other proprietors, who derived theirs by grants from the Crown; but although Mr. O'Hara, in one respect, held his property "by original title to the soil," yet his ancestor, in Elizabeth's time, had prudently taken a grant of it from the Crown on English tenure.

In 1832, the manor of Ballymote was sold by the then Lord Kirkwall to Sir R. Gore-Booth. They were both staying in the house of Annaghmore with Major O'Hara, while negotiations for the sale of the property were going on. Many fluctuations with regard to terms occurred between them; at

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<sup>1</sup> The tourist Beranger, who spent some days with Colonel Irwin, at Tanrego, was there shown two islands, on which cattle were grazing; when the tide was in they were accessible only by a boat. The foundations of these islands were oyster-shells, with about six inches of earth over them. Beranger walked round them, and was amazed at the sight.

last both the parties one day at the dinner-table seemed to arrive at such a clear understanding on the subject that Major O'Hara suggested a memorandum of the agreement should be signed by the contracting parties. It was said that, had he not been bound by this agreement, Lord Kirkwall next morning would have drawn back, and made some change in regard to terms.

In 1881 the number of owners of land in the County Sligo was 856, the total area held by them being 448,396 A., 3 R. 22 P. of an annual valuation of £210,382. The average annual value per statute acre in 1873 being 9s. 4d. per acre.

There were 17,994 holdings in the County Sligo in 1881, divided into the following classes:—6647 of under £4 valuation; 6868 over £4, and at or under £10; 1942 over £10, and at or under £15; 881 over £15, and at or under £20; 713 over £20, and at or under £30; 326 over £30, and at or under £40; 185 over £40, and at or under £50; 293 over £50, and at or under £100; 139 over £100.

The Benbulbin range of mountains in Sligo and Leitrim had been examined with care by many Irish botanists, and is celebrated for affording several of our rarest alpine plants. Messrs. Barrington and Vowell, in their Report, read before the Royal Irish Academy in April, 1885,<sup>1</sup> give full credit to their predecessors, and especially to Mr. Corry and his friend Mr. Dickson—who were drowned in Lough Gill (9th August, 1883) whilst specially engaged in critically determining the vegetation of that district. The best known mountain, Benbulbin, is upwards of 1700 feet high, and to it many plants are attributed which grow on other portions of the range.

Messrs. Barrington and Vowell tell us that—

“Most of the interesting species grow at a distance not exceeding seven miles from the south of Donegal Bay. The sea approaches within three miles of the cliffs at one spot; therefore, maritime

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<sup>1</sup> See “Report on the Flora of Benbulbin and the adjoining mountain range in Sligo and Leitrim,” by Richard M. Barrington, M.A., LL.B., F.L.S., and R. P. Vowell (read before the Royal Irish Academy, April 27, 1885), and published in their Proceedings.



varieties, not usually observable on mountains, might be looked for. None, however, are noticed on the range. . . . The mountains do not descend gradually into the valleys, but are surrounded by cliffs varying in height from 30 to 500 feet. These cliffs extend all round the range to the west of Glenade, and it is only in one or two places that the mountains' slope is free from this limestone barrier. There are similar cliffs on the mountains south of Kinlough, but all the rare species can be gathered on the range lying to the west of the Glenade Valley, though they are not all confined to it. The mean height of the edge of the cliffs may be taken at 1600 feet; they are composed of loose limestone readily detached, and, as this affords a poor security, either for the hand or foot, they are dangerous to climb. The cliffs are everywhere separated from the fields and valleys below by a steep slope of talus or debris extending downwards at an angle varying from 40 to 50 degrees. This slope is frequently 800 feet in vertical height (sometimes more); and the cliff can only be examined in many places by walking along a narrow track made by the sheep where the talus meets the face of the precipice. Nowhere in Ireland is there such an extent of similar cliffs. The top of the talus varies from 900 to 1200 feet above the sea level."

This Paper affords full particulars of all the plants found by the writers themselves or noted by Mr. Corry; it must be referred to for details.

The following is a complete list of the alpine plants which occur on the Benbulbin range of mountains. Three of these, viz., *Arenaria ciliata*, *Saxifraga nivalis*, and *Epilobium alsinifolium* are not found anywhere else in Ireland:—

*Thalictrum alpinum*.  
*Arabis petræa*.  
*Draba incana*.  
*Silene acaulis*.  
*Arenaria ciliata*.  
*Dryas octopetala*.  
*Epilobium alsinifolium*.  
*Sedum rhodiola*.  
*Saxifraga aizoides*.  
*Saxifraga nivalis*.  
*Saxifraga oppositifolia*.  
*Hieracium anglicum*.

*Oxyria reniformis*.  
*Polygonum viviparum*.  
*Salix herbacea*.  
*Juniperus nana*.  
*Carex rigida*.  
*Sesleria cærulea*.  
*Poa alpina*.  
*Polystichum lonchitis*.  
*Asplenium viride*.  
*Lycopodium alpinum*.  
*Selaginella selaginoides*.

Besides these, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* and *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* were noted by Mr. Wynne as found in Sligo. *Galium boreale*,

also, and *Isoetes lacustris* occur within the district. Thus the entire number of our mountain species amounts to twenty-seven, and this is more than are known in any other district in Ireland.

“The most interesting plant discovered by Messrs. Barrington and Vowell was *Epilobium alsinifolium*, an alpine species, not previously found in Ireland.” Neither *Alchemilla alpina*, nor *Lycopodium alpinum*, reported as having been found by Mr. J. Wynne, were observed. *Saxifraga nivalis*, which grows nowhere else in Ireland, is confined to one spot, and is now reduced to about thirty plants. *Saxifraga oppositifolia* is not rare. *Poa alpina* is a grass found in Ireland only on Benbulbin, and on Brandon Mountain in Kerry. *Thalictrum alpinum* is confined to one very limited area, and difficult to reach. *Adiantum capillus-veneris* is reduced to a few plants in Glencar; and though *Aspidium lonchitis* is still plentiful, the fern dealers are destroying it (this fern has grown freely in a fernery at Rathcarrick on the slope of Knocknarea, where it was planted several years since). “*Arabis petræa* is confined to a quarter of a mile of cliff in Glenade.”

Messrs. Barrington and Vowell's Paper is illustrated by an excellent map of the district, coloured and drawn on a scale of half an inch to the mile. As it affords reliable information with accurate references to localities it should be referred to by all who desire to study the Botany of Sligo. With it must be consulted a Paper prepared by A. G. More, F.L.S., M.R.I.A., “On the Heights attained by Plants on Benbulbin,” read before the Royal Irish Academy, December 10, 1883, which was drawn up from the incomplete notes and measurements left by Mr. Corry and his friend Mr. Dickson, whose death on Lough Gill has been mentioned. They explored Benbulbin, Ben Weesken, and Knocknarea; also Glencar and a mountain opposite Knocknarea, determining the elevation at which each species of plant was found.

The Authors of *Cybele Hibernica*, the late Dr. David Moore, and A. G. More, F.L.S., refer to a list of Sligo plants supplied by the late Right Hon. John Wynne, and also to a



Paper published by him on "The Effects of a Severe Frost near Sligo" (see Proc. Dubl. Nat. Hist. Soc., vol. i., 1860). Mr. Wynne deserves to be remembered as the discoverer of *Arabis petræa* and *Saxifraga nivalis*; also of *Polypodium dryopteris* in Leitrim, and *Adiantum capillus-veneris* in Sligo.

The Botanical District No. 9, of Professor C. C. Babington, for Ireland, embraces East Mayo, Sligo, and Leitrim, remarkable for their range of mountains, varying from 1700 to upwards of 2000 feet above sea level. Thus, Benbulbin reaches the height of 1728 feet, and Truskmore 2113 feet; their distinguishing character is the abrupt faces of rock towards the Atlantic, and the widespread plateaus on their summits reaching landward.

The border line dividing East from West Mayo is placed along Lough Mask and the course of the River Ayle, thence passing through Castlebar and descending through Lough Cullin and the River Moy to the sea at Ballina.

The ferns of this district include examples of almost every species found in Ireland. Amongst the notable exceptions are *Cryptogramma crispa* (The Parsley Fern), and *Lastræa thelypteris* (Marsh Fern).

*Asplenium lanceolatum* (Hudson's Spleenwort) of course is absent, its only Irish locality being Cork.

*Trichomanes radicans* (Bristle Fern), another essentially southern fern, is not found in Sligo.

*Polypodium phegopteris* (The Beech Fern) is recorded as being found by the late Mr. J. Wynne on Glenade Mountain, Leitrim, and is noted as very rare there. It has not been obtained in Sligo.

*Polypodium dryopteris* (Oak Fern); similarly described as a Leitrim fern by Mr. Wynne. It is found also near Lough Talt.

*Polystichum lonchitis* (The Holly Fern), found on exposed edges of cliffs on Benbulbin and other high mountains, where it is now almost exterminated. It grows freely, as already stated, in a fernery at Rathcarrick on the side of Knocknarea, where it propagates amongst other ferns.

*Asplenium viride* (Green-stalked Spleenwort). This high-land fern is recorded on Benbulbin at a height of 1100 feet (chiefly in the form *incisum* of Moore, and on Kesh Corran, where it was found—though scarce—by Mr. F. J. Foot.

*Adiantum capillus-veneris* (Maiden-hair Fern), recorded by Mr. Wynne as being found at Glencar on limestone rocks 300 feet above sea level, and also within four miles of Sligo, must be considered exceptionally rare.

*Asplenium ruta-muraria*, *Ceterach officinarum*, and *Cystopteris fragilis* are abundant in the limestone districts of Sligo, whilst *Osmunda regalis* (The Royal Fern) carefully avoids limestone as a habitat.

*Hymenophyllum tunbridgense* and *Hymenophyllum Wilsoni*, found in deep shady localities, mossy trunks of tree, &c., though not common plants, are found in Sligo mountainous districts.

In the last published part of the "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy" (3rd series, vol. i., pt. iv.), there is an exhaustive Report on the Mountain Flora of Ireland, by Richard Chichester Hart, B.A., F.L.S., the result of seven or eight years botanizing in the Irish mountains. This describes all our known species with their distribution in a most comprehensive manner, and must be referred to by all who desire to study the Irish Flora.

*Birds.*—The birds of Sligo show that it is the borderland of two great divisions into which Ireland may be separated by the ornithologist: its eastern and southern portions being the home of inland species, such as the Chiffchaff, Bullfinch, Nightjar, the Woodcock (as a breeding species), and the Great Crested Grebe, which breeds on Sligo waters as well as on lakes from Monaghan to Lough Derg; while several species of Warblers of rare occurrence in Ireland are believed by Colonel folliott to breed occasionally at Hollybrook. The mountains and coasts yield an avifauna characteristic of the North and West of Ireland, and we find that in the west of the county the above species become scarce, or absent as we approach that wild western region characterized by the absence of so many land-birds. The estuary of the Moy and Killala Bay yield an exceptional number both



of species and individuals of sea-birds and Waders which take refuge there on their southern journey from northern regions. Among the immense flocks of such species as the Bar-tailed Godwit, many remain so late as to assume the red breeding-plumage, while a few individuals seem to linger on there through the summer. Oceanic and Arctic birds, like the Fulmar, are occasionally driven ashore.

Sligo, once the home of the Golden Eagle, is still the breeding resort of the Peregrine and Chough; while the Dunlin, Common Gull, and Shoveller breed on its lakes and moors, and the Curlew and Redshank are common residents.

Another feature of interest about the ornithology of Sligo is, that it is crossed by a migration-route, which species like the Whimbrel and the Skuas take, passing north or south by way of the line of the Shannon and the Sligo lakes, to avoid the long and stormy detour round the coasts of Connaught.

There is no special description published of the birds of Sligo; but the *Zoologist* for 1877 contains a detailed description of the birds of the Moy estuary and the surrounding district, by Mr. Robert Warren, whose prolonged and careful observations have thrown a light on the ornithology of that district hardly equalled in any other part of Ireland. Sir R. Payne Gallwey's work, *The Fowler in Ireland*, also contains interesting information. The above, taken in conjunction with the "List of Irish Birds," showing the species contained in the Science and Art Museum, Dublin, by Alex. G. More, F.L.S., &c., late Curator, will enable an estimate to be made of the rarer species of birds that have been noticed in the County Sligo.

The usual text books on Native Birds can be referred to for lists of the ordinary inhabitants of the County. Thompson's *Natural History of Ireland* may be stated to be the standard at present; but A. G. More, R. M. Barrington, R. Warren, and R. J. Ussher have now in course of preparation a work on Irish Birds which will bring the subject down to date.

Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetus*).—Sir Ralph Payne Gallwey, Bart., in his *Fowler in Ireland*, considers the Sea Eagle to be as common in Ireland as the Golden Eagle, but Mr. Richard G. Symes,

of the Geological Survey of Ireland, states:—"The birds I saw in Mayo and Sligo were chiefly Golden Eagles." Colonel Cooper of Markree Castle, writing in October, 1881, says, "I am afraid the Golden Eagle is becoming scarce. A pair used to breed every year about Skreen, but about Benbulbin and the Glencar range is their favourite resort."

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).—This bird is not rare. Its breeding-places are principally on the sea-cliffs. Mr. Warren of Ballina says he has often seen them prey upon Curlews. He once witnessed an interesting flight by a Falcon after a Green Plover. It resulted in the latter becoming so utterly exhausted that it pitched into the water and swam about endeavouring to escape; but the Falcon was not to be thus cheated of her prey, for she gradually lowered her flight, and, poising herself with fluttering wings, extended her feet and daintily picked the unfortunate Plover off the water without wetting a talon.

A translation is given of an extract taken from a curious zoological and topographical poem, now in the Library R.I.A. Eugene O'Curry believed the original to be as old as the ninth century. The plot of the poem is as follows:—Finn MacCool was made prisoner by Cormac Mac Art, monarch of Ireland, who only consented to release him on his procuring within twelve months a pair—male and female—of every wild bird and animal in the kingdom. It is remarkable, as observed by Wilde, that the localities specified as the haunts of the birds and animals are just such as naturalists would now select as a likely habitat for the specimen sought. Herons are still to be seen on "hilly Corran," and wild Pigeons still flit around the cliffs of Kesh.

"Two Herons from the hilly Corran.

\* \* \* \*

Two Pigeons out of Ceis Corran.

\* \* \* \*

Two Bruacharans from Sliabh-da-en."

There are Heronries at Annaghmore, Templehouse, Tanrego, Hazlewood, Cleveragh, Fortland, and Hollybrook.



“The lonely boom of the Bittern is heard more seldom year after year, as the marshes are becoming drained and reclaimed; but,” remarks P. W. Joyce, “we have names that point out the former haunts of the bird, and some of them indicate the wild, moory character of the places when the names were imposed. *Bunnán* is the Irish name of the bird; it is seen in . . . Curraghbonann, near Tobercurry, in Sligo, where the old people have still some memory of hearing the Bittern booming from the *Currach*, or marsh.”

Sligo and Mayo are noted counties for Woodcock. “In the season,” writes Wakefield, in 1812, “these birds visit Ireland in immense flights; while in the country I do not think that, during several months in the year, I ever dined without some of them being at table.” “Mr. Warren tells me,” says Sir R. Payne Gallwey, “that in frost and snow the birds desert the inland coverts for the coast, and that when the tide is out they feed among the rocks on seaweed of the shore; that in the severe weather of 1878-79 and 1880-81 numbers were killed by country boys stalking them from behind rocks and boulders and knocking them down with sticks as they rose.” In the County Sligo, as stated by Sir R. Gore-Booth: “Some years since a hundred and fifty couple were killed in three days by a party to eight guns close round the house at Lissadell. During the last few days of January and beginning of February, 1867, three hundred and thirty-eight couple were killed in six days at the same place by a party averaging seven guns. The best bag in 1880-81 was thirty-three couple to four guns.”

Snipe—according to a reply sent to Sir R. Payne Gallwey by Mr. Edward Gethin, of Earlsfield—were so numerous in 1877-78 that he shot during the season 959 birds; of these there were never more Jack-snipe than four or five in a day, and many days, none at all. There was great injury to Snipe in Ireland “by the severe winter of the Crimean War, when the snow lay a foot deep over Ireland for eight months; when the thaw came, the skeletons of innumerable birds were to be seen scattered over the country.” The hard winters of 1878-79,

and the more severe one of 1880-81, still further lessened the numbers of this bird in Ireland.

The Jack-snipe (*Gallinago gallinula*) has become rare in the West of Ireland since those severe frosts. Colonel Peyton says "that previous to 1860 they were at least twenty per cent. more numerous than at present." It is still a regular winter visitor, but much scarcer than the common Snipe, and is not found to breed here, as the common Snipe does to some extent.

From the list of Irish Birds in the Dublin Museum Collection may be mentioned the Pied Flycatcher (*Muscicapa atricapilla*), which was shot at Moyview, Co. Sligo, in April, 1875, and presented to the Museum by R. Warren, Esq. This was the first example obtained in Ireland of a very rare visitor, since which time several have been taken at lighthouses in the months of September and October.

The Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), which is more or less found on the Irish coasts, lives exclusively upon fish; and Colonel Cooper considered it was quite as destructive on the Sligo estuaries to young salmon as are cormorants. Some breed in crevices in the rocks and shore and on rushy islands every year. Though a handsome bird, its food renders its flesh rank and worthless.

The Brent Goose (*Anser bernicola*), the smallest of its tribe, is common in Sligo Bay and Drumcliff Bay. The Barnacle Goose (*Anser leucopsis*) is limited to certain localities, as it feeds on the short wet herbage which abounds in tidal marshes and sandflats. It is often confounded with the Brent Goose, whose food is sea-grass or *Zostera marina*, which explains its being restricted to special localities also. The Barnacle Goose, according to Sir R. Payne Gallwey, is "not uncommon about Carney Strand and Streedagh Strand, some ten miles from Sligo, also near Oyster Island and Strandhill in that district."

Swans are occasionally seen. Three Hoopers were shot by Sir H. Gore-Booth at Lissadell, in December, 1875. Even during the last century, flights of wild Swans were not uncommon on the sequestered lakes and rivers. The ancient Irish



imagined that there was something peculiarly mystic about these birds, and one of the most beautiful of the Early Romances is that of "The Fate of the Children of Lir," who were metamorphosed into Swans.

Mr. Warren describes the occurrence of three examples of the Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra*), of which he shot two near the mouth of the Moy on the Sligo side of the river, in October, 1859. It is a rare autumnal visitor to Ireland.

The Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*), a native of America, has once occurred. It was purchased at a poulterer's shop in Dublin, and said to have been shot at Sligo, October, 1870 (see "Zoologist" for 1870). It was presented to the Dublin Museum by Sir Victor Brooke.

The Great Gray Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*), a rare and uncertain winter visitor, is recorded in the lists of Irish Migrants, as found in Sligo in 1831 or 1832. There are two specimens in the Dublin Museum from Co. Down and Co. Louth.

The Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*) is said by Professor Kinahan to have been obtained in Sligo in 1835 and 1850. It appears more common on the East coast.

Several old pre-historic forts in the county are styled—in Irish—"The Fort of the Raven."

The Magpie, now common all over Ireland, was introduced here from England previous to 1700. Derrick, who in 1581, wrote the *Image of Ireland*, says:—

"No Pies to plucke the thatch from house  
Are breed on Irish groundes :  
But worse than Pies the same to burne  
A thousand maie be founde."

Moryson, writing in 1617, states that the "Chattering Pye" was not to be found in Ireland, whilst Smith, in 1774, in his *History of Cork*, states that "the Magpie or Piante was not known in Ireland seventy years ago, but they are now very common."

The Missel Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) is believed to have settled in Ireland since 1800. The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

has of late years multiplied considerably in numbers in certain localities.

The Kingfisher is supposed to be secluded in its habits, and to haunt rapid rocky trout streams. But a few years ago one of these birds made the river of Sligo—between the two weirs—for some time its home, where its low arrow-like flight from place to place was remarked by anglers.

For a list of the birds met with in the County Sligo see Appendix.

*Mammalia.*—The Badger has for many years been decreasing in numbers. Its nocturnal habits and the retired places where it makes its abode may account for the rarity of its being observed, but such local names as Carricknabrock and Pollnabrock are to be found in the county, thus testifying to the old haunts of this animal; whilst in the Parish of Ahamlish there are the townlands of Ballynabrock, Clontyprochlis; in Skreen that of Brockage; and in Killery that of Brickeen—all derived from the habitat of these creatures.

The Otter is still abundant in suitable localities, and though persecuted, is far from being exterminated. When in fine condition its skin is valued, and a good specimen of this animal will measure, from top of nose to tail, 2 feet 6 inches, and weigh 25 lbs.

The true Weasel is unknown in Ireland. The Stoat (*Mustela erminea*), which is twice the size of the Weasel and distinguished by the black tuft at the end of its tail, is common here. This animal, in England and Scotland, turns almost white in winter, but perfectly white specimens have never been observed in Ireland. The Marten (*Martes sylvatica*) is found in tolerable abundance in suitable localities. The Squirrel, which has of late years spread extensively from the east of Ireland through the midland counties, does not yet seem to have taken up its abode in Sligo. An interesting Paper, by Mr. R. M. Barrington, on the introduction of this animal to Ireland, illustrated by a map giving its distribution to the year 1880, is published in the "Proceedings of the Royal Dublin Society."



The common Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) and the large Gray Seal (*Phoca gryphus*) are found along the sea-coast. The largest Gray Seal shot on the coast near Enniscrone many years ago weighed 5 cwt., was 6 feet round the body, and nearly 8 feet in length.

*Amphibia*.—The Frog, stated in “Rutty’s Natural History of Dublin” to have been introduced at the end of the seventeenth century by Dr. Guithers, a Fellow of Trinity College, is now as abundant in Sligo as elsewhere.

The Smooth Newt (*Molge vulgaris*) is common in ponds and ditches. The superstition as to this little creature causing gastric affections by being swallowed accidentally in drinking water, is widespread throughout Ireland, and has afforded the fairy doctor a lucrative field for operation; the action of some emetic substance, and a skilful addition of a living newt by the doctor, being accepted as evidence of undoubted cure.

*Reptilia*.—Logger-headed Turtle (*Thalassochelys carretta*). Dr. Scharff, of the Natural History Museum, Dublin, states that the collection has a young specimen of this animal about one foot long. It was obtained at Mullaghmore, and presented by Dr. J. W. Tate, in April, 1890. It has only once before been observed on the Irish Coast, and that was in the South of Ireland; it has sometimes been found in the open Atlantic, but is more common in the Mediterranean.

*Fish*.—The ordinary fish of the Sligo district still require to be properly catalogued and described. Dr. Scharff mentions that one of the largest pikes in the Museum (*Lucius esox*) was obtained from Lough Arrow, and presented by T. Rothwell, Esq. The only specimens recorded in the Collections procured by Dr. C. Ball when trawling on the Sligo coast are the Bullhead (*Cottus bubalis*) and the Weaver (*Trachium vipera*). There is also an example of the Lumpsucker from Sligo Bay (*Cyclopterus lumpus*).

The Basking Shark (*Selache maxima*), which reaches to upwards of 30 feet in length, is not uncommon along the Western

coast, and also the Sunfish (*Orgathoriscus*). Of these there are two species, *O. oblongus* and *O. mola*; the former is much the rarer.

The fishing grounds of the West of Ireland are now being thoroughly investigated by Rev. W. S. Green, under the direction of the Royal Dublin Society and the Government. One report has just appeared, full of valuable information, in the "Report of the Council of the Royal Dublin Society for 1890," which can be referred to.



## CHAPTER XXV.

### MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

**I**N 1587 the first assizes (according to English law) was held in Sligo, presided over by Thomas Dillon, Chief Justice, and Garrett Comberford, Attorney-General of Connaught. There was a great muster of the native Irish to view the novel sight, for, prior to this, generally punishment for a crime took the form of private and bloody vengeance by the relations or tribe of the sufferer on the person of the offender, or, to employ legal phraseology, "the law of *tort*, had a much more extended application than at present." There were frequent interruptions to the holding of the assizes during the Elizabethan and Civil wars, when the ordinary law was in abeyance; but from the year 1693 the judges went circuit with extreme regularity, the circuits appointed being published in *The Dublin Gazette*. The sheriff and sub-sheriff met the judges at the borders of the county, provided with suitable carriages, drawn usually by four horses, and accompanied also by a posse of mounted men and halbert men.<sup>1</sup>

The office of sheriff in those days entailed great expense and much responsibility; the latter, to a great extent, was guarded against by the appointment of a sub-sheriff, and there were always men anxious to obtain the post and willing to undertake its responsibilities; the high sheriff required, however, a certificate regarding the antecedents of the applicant and the sufficiency and solvency of the security which he tendered.

An amusing escape from arrest for debt is recorded as having occurred at Lent assizes, 1818. A gentleman, a well known spendthrift, being called to the book to be sworn on the grand jury,

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<sup>1</sup> In 1808 the high sheriff was fined £20, and the sub-sheriff £10, "for not attending the Judges at the bounds of the county."

and having answered his name, a writ of *ca. sa.* was thereupon delivered to the sheriff against him, at the suit of John Mack, for the sum of £266. Upon application to the court, on affidavit of the defendant and of the sheriff, the said defendant was ordered by the court to be discharged from the custody of the said sheriff, his office as juror<sup>1</sup> exempting him from arrest.

In 1787 an Act was passed "for the better execution of the laws and the preservation of the peace," which empowered the Lord Lieutenant to appoint a Chief Constable to each Barony of a County, whilst the Grand Jury had authority to appoint six to the same district. These were styled "baronial constables," familiarly termed "old Barnys;" they wore no uniform, were under no supervision, subject to no discipline or control whatever, and followed their usual occupations combined with their duties as constables.

It was only in the early part of this century that Petty Sessions were regularly established; Colonel Irwin stated that at the one over which he presided near Tanrego—held once a fortnight—he had full occupation "from eleven in the morning until five or six in the evening." They were very generally established throughout the county, and there was no barony without at least one.

Before the institution of Petty Sessions,<sup>2</sup> cases used to be

<sup>1</sup> The following are the names of the Jurors who found the King's title to the lands of the County of Sligo, under the terror inspired by Strafford. The list is extracted from the Patent Rolls, Record Office, Dublin:—

Roger Jones, of Sligo, Knt.; William Crofton, of Templehouse, Esq.; Thomas Crofton, of Longford, Esq.; Pierce M'Dermott, of Ballymullany, Esq.; John Ridge, of Ballysummaghan, Esq.; Andrew Crean, of Annagh, Esq.; Charles O'Dowd, of Cottlestown, Esq.; Teige O'Higgins, of Coulere-rogh, Esq.; Edward Ormsby, of Clonegad, Esq.; William Dodwell, of Runnelageta, Esq.; Bryan M'Donnoge, of Coolaney, Gent.; Kean O'Harah, of Coolaney, Gent.; John M'Donnogh, of Ballindoon, Gent.; Henry Mac Donnogh, of Cloonegaseall, Gent.; George Dodwell, of Rosscribe, Gent.; Keadage O'Bennegean, of Cloonelor, Gent.; Gerrott Baxter, of Learras, Gent.; William Parke, of Downally, Gent.

<sup>2</sup> There are seventeen Petty Sessions Districts in the county, *i. e.* Ballina (part of); Ballinafad; Ballyfarnon (part of); Ballymote; Boyle (part of), Collooney, Coolaney, Dromore West, and Kasky; Grange, Iniscrone, Mullaghroe, Riverstown, Skreen, Sligo and Sligo Borough, Sooley, and Toberecurry.



heard and decided in a room in the house of a magistrate, whose conduct was not open to public criticism, and it was only on sufferance that the public were admitted.

The Courts of Chairmen of Counties in Ireland were originally founded in the year 1796 by an Act of the Irish Parliament (36 Geo. III., c. 25).

Faction fighting was formerly the bane of the country. When a man of the peasant class sustained an injury, or conceived himself affronted, he called to his aid, not only his immediate relations and friends, but also his neighbours, sometimes even the inhabitants of a barony. Whole districts thus became interested in individual disputes; the combatants marshalled themselves under leaders; shillelaghs were their weapons, and when "a general engagement" took place, many were wounded on both sides, bruised limbs and broken heads being the usual consequences of such encounters, and on some occasions even loss of life. Faction fights were not confined to ordinary mortals; the peasantry recount how on certain nights in the year, lights were to be seen in the raths or old forts scattered throughout the country, and noises could be heard, as if contending parties were engaged in a fray. This folk-lore is by no means confined to Sligo; it is common in almost every district in Ireland. On this subject P. W. Joyce remarks:—

"It is supposed that sometimes the little people of two neighbouring forts quarrel, and fight sanguinary battles. These encounters always take place at night. . . . Certain forts in some of the northern counties, whose inhabitants are often engaged in warfare, have, from these conflicts, got the name of Lisnascragh, the fort of the screeching. Very often when you pass a lonely fort on a dark night, you will be astonished to see a light shining from it; the fairies are then at some work of their own, and you will do well to pass on and not disturb them. From the frequency of this apparition, it has come to pass that many forts are called Lisnagannell and Lisnagunnell, the fort of the candles. . . . We must not suppose that these fearful lights are always the creation of the peasants' imagination. No doubt they have been in many instances actually seen, and we must attribute them to that curious phenomenon the *ignis fatuus*, or Will-o'-the-wisp. But the people will not listen to this, for they know well that all such apparitions are the work of the good people."

Numerous instances of a similar nature could be cited. There is a fort on the edge of the cliff, close to a locality named Pollnamaddow on Coney Island; but here in addition to the fights an old islander avers that many years ago he saw lights in the place one night, and heard the sounds of fairy festivities; he added, however, that since the abolition of illicit distillation these tiny inhabitants of his island had all emigrated, or had perhaps, returned to *Tirnanoge*!

Duels bore a certain halo of legality, for single combats were formerly a very prevalent mode of "administering justice" in Ireland: they were authorized by law and usually occurred in presence of a distinguished company of onlookers. If the encounter was between two Irish chiefs, it was regarded with special favour. One of the last recorded exhibitions of this nature took place between Conor MacCormac O'Connor and Teige MacGilpatrick O'Connor. They fought with broadswords and skeans (large knives or daggers) in the Castle of Dublin, in the presence of the Archbishop and all the chief authorities.

Descending to times more modern, Sir Jonah Barrington, in his *Personal Sketches and Recollections*, states that he remembered two hundred and twenty-seven "memorable and official duels" having been fought during his "grand climacteric;" for in Ireland the period noted for duelling was prior to the Union.

"Sligo then furnished some of the finest young fellows, *i. e.* fire-eaters," remarks the above writer; "their spirit and decorum were equally admirable, and their honour and liberality conspicuous on all occasions." A few of these earnest spirits fashioned a series of pandects which may be said to have regulated the practice of duelling till its final extinction; or, again, to quote the foregoing authority, "Sligo had many professors, and a high reputation in the leaden branch of the pastime." The code was entitled, *The practice of duelling and points of honour settled at Clonmell Summer Assizes, 1777, by the gentlemen delegates of Tipperary, Galway, Mayo, Sligo, and Roscommon, and prescribed for general adoption throughout Ireland.*

A sarcastic writer observed that sometimes "painful dis-



agreements have been known to arise between the seconds, which could only be arranged by the same agency as the principals availed themselves of."

Some of the following descriptions of encounters are extracts from the *Dublin Mercury* :—"Sligo, August 23, 1770. This day Mr. Daniel Feely, attorney, was tried by a most respectable jury of this county for killing Mr. — in a duel, and was honourably acquitted."

In the same year a notorious duellist was arrested in consequence of having "killed his man." He was taken to Sligo; but on his arrival there, refused to go to gaol, saying "it was a dirty place, and not fit for a gentleman." His captors accordingly took him to an inn. There a county magnate found him, and entering into conversation with the recalcitrant prisoner, was so pleased with his manners, that he carried him off to his own residence, where he was allowed to stay till his trial.

"The misunderstanding" which occurred in the year 1772 between the Lords Townsend and Bellamont was a "model difficulty." Lord Townsend was then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; and craving audience, in company with other gentlemen, one morning came the Earl of Bellamont, a Sligo nobleman. To him entered an aide-de-camp with a message that the Earl need not wait, for that his Excellency would not be at leisure to see *him* that day; and then turning to the others bade them wait, as his Excellency would see *them* presently. "Sir," said the Earl to the aide-de-camp, "you will be good enough to inform his Excellency that, as a peer of the realm, I have a RIGHT to audience; but if his Excellency does not know what he owes me, I know what I owe to myself, and therefore will not wait upon him here or elsewhere."

The Earl resigned his commission in the army in order that he might with more propriety proceed in the matter; and the lovers of that mode of adjusting differences were gratified with a sensational duel. When the Lord Lieutenant had quitted Ireland, the two noblemen met, and the Earl was destined to be the sufferer, but finally recovered after a doubtful struggle.

A knowledge of pistol-practice, and everything connected therewith, was necessary for the exigencies of every-day life, and was specially necessary in the Irish Parliament, for "no senators made such vociferous claim for freedom of debate, but they had the greatest disgust for freedom of comment." The best illustration of this is the celebrated duel between Hely Hutchinson—who was for some time one of the members for the borough of Sligo—and another senator. On one occasion Hely Hutchinson was making the House in College Green ring with the echoes of his voice, and most of the members deaf with the thunder of his vociferation; and when he (Hutchinson) paused a moment to draw breath, Dr. Lucas said quietly, without any distinct intention of being heard by the orator or any other person, "Rest, rest, perturbed spirit!" A challenge ensued; the respective parties met, but the affair was not interesting, for the actors left the field as they entered it.

In 1782, during the exciting times of the Irish Volunteers, two members of the legal profession (in court) waxed so violent in argument that from words they came to blows. The more powerful of the two clenched the discussion by knocking down his adversary, exclaiming, "I'll make you behave yourself like a gentleman;" to which the prostrated man, on rising indignantly retorted, "No, sir; never. I defy you." No casualty occurred from the subsequent meeting.

The celebrated duel between Hyacinth—commonly called Centy—O'Rorke and Philip C. Perceval is so well known, that a bare outline will suffice. The two gentlemen quarrelled; and the former, who was of a fiery and impetuous temperament, was the challenger. The place of meeting selected was situated not far from Chaffpool, on a well-known rath (Liscat), commanding a beautiful panoramic view; and although safe from interruption by the authorities, yet the encounter took place in presence of an immense crowd of country-people. O'Rorke "won the toss" for the favourable position; and as he was reputed to be a dead shot, Perceval's second exclaimed, "This is murder;" upon which O'Rorke, in a foolish spirit of bravado, changed sides. He fired first and missed; whereupon Perceval



demanding an apology, which O'Rorke refused. Perceval then took aim at his antagonist and shot him dead, the ball entering just over the eye. A woman forming one of the crowd present cried out that "God saved his beautiful blue eye." Perceval and his party had to ride for their lives from the infuriated crowd, whose sympathies were all enlisted on the side of O'Rorke.

On the 22nd May, 1798, "a meeting took place between an officer of militia and Mr. F——, an attorney: they fired two shots without any effect, and were afterwards reconciled." In short all classes appeared to be devoted to this mode of settling differences. Gentlemen who had been intimate acquaintances often so met without any sufficient cause but on what then seemed to be a point that touched their honour; whilst amongst the peasantry there was nothing so thoroughly appreciated as a public duel; and in 1815 the memorable meeting between Mr. Fenton and Major Hillas took place in presence of an assembled mob. The quarrel was aggravated by political antipathies, but its immediate cause arose from a dissension with regard to the circumstances of the wreck of a vessel off the Tireragh coast, when some remarks made by Major Hillas gave offence to Mr. Fenton.

Major Hillas went to the ground—Kilmacowen—in a full suit of mourning, and he was morally brave enough to say to the assembled crowd, "I am sorry that the mistaken laws of honour oblige me to come here and defend myself; and I declare to God I have no animosity to man or woman on the face of the earth." Hillas fell dead at the first fire. Mr. Fenton was put on his trial at the next assizes in Sligo, and acquitted. In fact in those duelling days such a trial was a mere matter of form, provided that judge and jury were of opinion everything had been conducted according to the prescribed rules in such cases.<sup>1</sup>

Many years afterwards when Mr. Fenton was living in Dublin, he took exception to some observations made by Mr.

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<sup>1</sup> The following entry occurs in the Crown Book, Lent Assizes, 1816:—

"True bill. Verdict, Not Guilty, &c.

M——t, a Sligo solicitor; he sent him a hostile message, but the legal gentleman refused to meet him. Next morning the following advertisement appeared in the *Saunders' News-Letter*:—

“TO BE SOLD, a pair of duelling pistols, the owner having no further use for them.—Apply,” &c.,

and here followed the solicitor's Dublin address.

The following morning shortly after the solicitor's office was opened, an officer from the neighbouring barracks entered, and requested to be shown the pistols in question. He was told there were none for sale, upon which, producing the newspaper he pointed out the advertisement, and demanded to know what was meant by thus joking at his expense. With some trouble he was got rid of, but another and another inquirer came in all on the same errand; finally the door of the office had to be closed, and its occupant went to the country for some time.

Another Sligo gentleman having had a quarrel with a brother officer, a meeting was arranged for sunset the same evening. After mess the Colonel of the regiment challenged him to a game of chess, but in the middle of the game, he rose, telling his commanding officer he would return in a few minutes. He did so, after having severely wounded his antagonist, and he then went on with the game of chess as if nothing particular had occurred.

The local and the Dublin papers of the time were full of duelling intelligence. Dr. William Urwick, Congregational Minister in Sligo, had the reputation of having on several occasions succeeded in averting these “affairs of honour.” One well-known case was that of a field-officer who resided close to the town of Sligo. He had been through the Peninsular campaign and had fought bravely at the storming of Badajoz. A challenge was sent to him, although he had neither done, nor intended, anything offensive to his adversary. Dr. Urwick found him seated at dinner with the “friends” who were to be his “seconds,” and neither his wife nor children knew aught of what was about to occur, although next morning he might be brought home to them a corpse. After dinner Dr. Urwick introduced the subject



to him when alone, but he argued that he had no alternative save to accept the challenge or be written down a coward by his comrades. Dr. Urwick, however, persevered in his efforts and finally succeeded in preventing the duel.

On the 23rd July, 1822, a meeting took place between Mr. Edward M'Dermott, and Mr. Denis O'Connor. "The first fire proving ineffectual, the parties were provided with second pistols, on the discharge of which both gentlemen were severely wounded, Mr. O'Connor's ball having passed through the left pectoral muscle of his adversary, lacerating a considerable branch of the thoracic artery, which caused a great effusion of blood. Mr. M'Dermott's ball entered the covering of the abdominal muscle, which was extracted by Dr. Hughes, who was on the spot."

A duel occurred 21st October, 1823, between J——n Mt—— and J——s M'D——h. The parties exchanged shots without injury to either. In April, 1825, a wordy war took place between the Editor of *The Sligo Journal* and the Editor of its rival *The Western Luminary*. There was a challenge to mortal combat; ink was spilt on the occasion, but no blood.

In a duel which occurred about this period, one of the principals fell at the first fire, killed, as it was thought; his life however had been saved by a knife (manufactured by Barton Smith, a well-known Sligo cutler) which was fortunately in his waistcoat pocket at the time. The knife and flattened bullet are still preserved in the family as mementos.

When on a visit to Ballyshannon, a quarrel arose between a Sligo gentleman and an officer; the latter being in uniform drew his sword, whereupon the former claimed the right of using that weapon at the meeting; the officer's second, however, refused to consent to this arrangement, the Sligo gentleman being celebrated for his skill at fence. At the first exchange of shots the officer sprang into the air and dropped dead, shot through the heart.

John—or as he was universally called Jack—Taaffe was a notorious duellist, ever on the look-out for a pretext for a quarrel; the stories related of him, his eccentricities and encounters, are innumerable.

A meeting took place between Mr. Duke and Mr. Holmes; between Messrs. Phibbs and Gethin; Doctors Coyne and Carter. There were other duels which do not call for special remark.

A duel was fought near the Mall, Sligo, between a Mr. Gillmor and Mr. Irwin. This was the second encounter the former had on the same day. Mr. Irwin was the second of his first opponent, and was accused by Mr. Gillmor of having fomented the original quarrel. Both fell, badly wounded, at the first fire.

Disputes in court, particularly over the registration of voters, led to heated arguments which frequently ended in a hostile meeting. On one occasion the presiding barrister adjourned the court for an hour, ostensibly with the object of allowing the two disputants "to have a consultation." It is needless to add that the interested parties with the assistance of their seconds settled matters at twelve paces distance: neither of them, however, was wounded, and the temporary animosity being thus removed the business of the court was resumed within the limited time allowed by the barrister for a "consultation."

Contemporaneous accounts of the following encounters appeared in the various issues of the local newspapers:—

On the 29th January, 1829, a hostile meeting had been contemplated between J. G. J—— and I. B——k. The parties reached the ground somewhat before the appointed hour; but the constabulary had taken time by the forelock, and in a few moments were in sight. Mr. J—— mounted his horse and eluded them in game style. The other gentleman, after having made his way to Sligo, was not so fortunate, however, for late at night he was arrested, and compelled to enter into recognizances to keep the peace.

In consequence of a misunderstanding that occurred between Counsellor Wynne and Mr. John Martin, these gentlemen met in the vicinity of the town. After an exchange of shots, which proved harmless, further hostilities were prevented by the arrival of the sheriff, who arrested all the parties on the ground.

A meeting took place on Sunday morning, 23rd January, 1836, at Camphill, near Collooney, between H. Fawcett and



P. Somers, in the presence of a large number of the peasantry, who were there gathered—contrary to the agreement previously made as regards privacy. Somers fell at the first discharge. Though wounded and disabled, Somers gave utterance to such language that Fawcett's second refused to withdraw him from the ground until requested so to do by Somers' second. Fawcett and his party had a narrow escape; the slightest false step might have led to a murderous attack on them by the surrounding mob.

A duel took place at Cummin on 17th May, 1836; three shots were exchanged; but though in *each* instance the clothing of the principals was cut by the bullets, no actual wound was inflicted.

Party feeling in the month of January of the following year ran high. Barristers engaged in the Registry Courts, supervising the enrolling of voters on their respective sides, carried their vindictive feelings beyond the precincts of the Law Courts, and several hostile meetings took place. That which was arranged on 7th January, 1837, between Counsellors Baker and Casserly was interrupted by the police; but this had only the effect of retarding the meeting until the following day, when they met at the Five-Mile-Bourn, where shots were exchanged. The meeting, however, was again broken up by the constabulary, and the unpopular principal was stoned by the mob as he effected his escape on horseback—the duel, as usual, having taken place in presence of the assembled country-side.

On the 14th January of the same year a hostile meeting took place at Bomore between Counsellors Walker and Ramsay. Three shots were exchanged, neither party being hit.

On 4th August, 1840, a duel was prevented by the timely arrival of the police.

After the imprisonment of O'Connell the town of Sligo seems to have been greatly agitated. The editor of the *Sligo Journal* had a newspaper dispute with the editor of the *Champion*. The constabulary were notified of the projected meeting, and the affair ended in a fiasco, which may be said to have formed a fitting conclusion to duelling in Sligo; although so late as the

year 1869, a well-known Harbour Commissioner and Justice of the Peace was removed from his position in the former capacity, and his commission in the latter, for doing what but a few years previously would have been considered as being merely a spirited action, namely, at a public meeting inviting his opponent—if he felt aggrieved—to commit a breach of the peace!

One of the first crimes recounted of the dwellers in Sligo was the stealing of the horses belonging to St. Patrick's Chariot by the inhabitants of Tirerrill; and Arthur Young, in his *Tour in Ireland*, states that in his time the larceny of iron shoes off the hoofs of horses turned out to graze was of common occurrence, and regularly organized bands of robbers existed for a lengthened period.

The following extracts taken from local newspapers appear to be typical of various periods of agitation. In 1779, on the spread of tillage throughout the country, pressure legal and illegal was put on the landlords to abandon their grazing farms, and let them to tenants. Those who adhered to the grazing system had their cattle mutilated; and a special commission sat in Sligo for the trial of a number of persons then in gaol, charged with "houghing cattle, and other notorious crimes."

In August, 1782, it was stated that:—

"On Tuesday last was committed to the county gaol, by Lewis Francis Irwin, Esq., Michael Kenny, Owen Kenny, Maurice Marley, and Francis M'Cowen, taken in a riot the 20th instant at the fair of Beltra, in this county. They were part of a gang lately formed, and, it was said, often met in the baronies of Leyny and Tireragh; were in number not less than two hundred, who call themselves 'the regiment of cudgelers,' and said they were commanded by one Meaghan. At the fair and place above mentioned, above a hundred of them assembled, with oak boughs, and armed with cudgels and other weapons, offending and striking several people as they passed along. A party of *The Independent Tyreril Volunteers*, engaged in recruiting for the navy, was attacked by this daring banditti, who pelted them so severely with stones as to oblige them to take shelter for some time in the Strand-house; but Mr. Irwin, hearing of the affair, went immediately to their assistance."



In 1792 several gentlemen—according to the evidence of Colonel Irwin—were actually besieged in their residences until relieved by the military. This agitation culminated in the rebellion of 1798.

A gentleman, writing on the 17th May, 1797, to a friend in England, says :—

“ Now to inform you of the situation of this country at present, and the immediate prospect before us. . . . They began a few days ago by burning the haggards of Mr. Thomas Jones of Mount Edward, a few miles below Sligo ; a few nights after they burned the house of Mr. Henry at Knocknarea ; a few nights after stripped Mr. Wynne's gatehouse of the lead, which they took for bullets ; and the night before last, set fire to the haggard of Mr. A. Irwin of Willowbrook. It is thought they will burn on without mercy or distinction. There is a total stop to trade ; no circulation of money ; no demand for cattle—the graziers afraid to buy, they are in such dread of houghing.”

In November, 1799, the “ cattle markets were very bad, and the crops in a dismal way.” In March of the following year provisions of all kinds were very scarce and amazingly high in price ; starvation among the poor was dreaded.

In 1806 the state of the county—more particularly the barony of Tireragh—was so disturbed that it occasioned a debate in the House of Lords ; and agitation again occurred in 1817 ; whilst consequent on the distress which prevailed in 1822, outrages in Tireragh were of constant occurrence.

It was stated that—

“ Scarcely does a night pass in which meetings of armed parties do not take place in Tourmore, Curbally, and other parts of the parish of Castleconnor, bordering a district called Coolcarney, in the county Mayo. This latter district of Coolcarney has been for a long time, and still is, in a most lawless state ; the most disgraceful atrocities are constantly perpetrated there, especially upon individuals who are known to be obedient to the laws. Colonel Irwin, High Sheriff of the county, has requested a meeting of the magistrates of his bailiwick at an early hour on the commission day of our coming assizes ‘ to take into consideration the outrages of an insurrectionary character which have lately been committed in a part of this county, and to deliberate on the most speedy and effectual means of suppressing the same.’ ”

In 1823 there was a great spread of the Ribbon system; whilst in 1826 it was no rare occurrence in the barony of Tireragh for sheep to be killed, skinned, and the flesh carried away. Other outrages of more serious nature were often super-added, such as the firing of haggards; the robbery of arms; threatening notices, embellished with pictures of coffins—the date of decease of the recipient being inscribed on them—furnished also with representations of guns and other usual insignia denoting terrorism; and from this date up to 1830 threatening letters were very common.

A Sligo newspaper of the year 1828 set forth how a gentleman “was under the necessity of sending a distraining warrant for the impounding, &c., of cattle belonging to some tenants of his, who would pay no other than the ‘Catholic Rent.’ On the authority under which they (the bailiffs) were about to act being produced to the landholders, they ‘simultaneously’ expressed their determination to resist any writ which did not issue direct from King O’Connell. The people were, however, induced to listen to reason, and they ultimately submitted to the mandate of King George.”

In 1829 the long report of a committee appointed by the Protestants of Sligo to inquire “into the extent of exclusive dealing,” contained the following instructive paragraph:—

“The strict scrutiny your committee has made forces conviction on their minds that this iniquitous anti-social measure has been pursued to an injurious extent in this town and county. Depositions now in the possession of this committee justify them in stating that atrocious intimidations have been used towards several individuals to prevent them dealing with Protestants.”

Numerous instances are cited, and “exclusive dealing”—or at least an attempt at effecting that object—was rife in 1830. The following notice was given as an example:—

“Rockhill, May 9, 1830. Captain Rock wishes to give the public notice that any person or persons that will leave one penny or the smallest dealing with . . . in the town of Sligo, I will pay him a visit, not without company, and I will have blood spilt.”



In December, 1836, there was a revival of "exclusive dealing." In 1838 there was the notorious disagreement between Mr. Sims and Mr. Kelly relative to the sale of the Camphill Mills, during which period the former individual was, to use a modern expression, strictly "boycotted." No person was allowed to deal with him, and those who disobeyed the secret mandate of the conspirators suffered. For example, "the ears of a horse belonging to a man who had sold grain" to Mr. Sims "were cut off, and the carman's life was threatened." This conspiracy was directed against Mr. Sims. But in December, 1840, a combination existed in the neighbourhood of Collooney and in Tireragh against Mr. Kelly, who had erected a potato-starch manufactory, giving great umbrage thereby to the peasantry, who conceived that the increased consumption of potatoes would raise their already high price. Persons selling to Mr. Kelly were therefore threatened, as also the men in his employment; and to such an extent was the system of intimidation carried, that the manufactory was compelled to cease working.

During the first quarter of this century two secret societies existed which had for object the curtailment of the fees payable to the Roman Catholic clergy for performing marriages, baptisms, and other rites of their Church. This movement might probably have been successful had the agitation been confined to strictly legal measures; but the persons who thus attempted to "fix a fair rent" on the clergy proceeded to such extremities that they placed themselves within the meshes of the law; and a special commission was opened in Sligo, at the close of the year 1806, for the purpose of trying some of these agitators—then designated "Threshers"—who were in the habit of visiting the house of any person who had (as they considered) paid too much to the priest, dragging the delinquent out of bed, and "carding" him. Their manner of disguising themselves to avoid recognition was simple in the extreme; they blackened their faces, and wore a white shirt over their clothes.

In 1806 Lady Morgan, then Miss Owenson, thus describes an interview she had with a Sligo peasant relative to the dispute about tithes. "He was going to Sligo for some grains for a sick cow, not being able, he said, to procure any at Ballina, whence he had just come. As Ballina and its neighbourhood had been the head-quarters of the Threshers, I made some inquiries relative to their operations. 'Why,' replied he, 'they are busy enough at present with the tithe-proctors; and they have barred a priest out of his chapel in the hope of making him lower his dues, threatening to go to church if he does not, not being able to pay both priest and minister, since the proctors have raised the tithes and the priest his dues. For my own part church or mass is all one to me.'"

In former times the clergymen of the Irish Church, as by law established, derived the principal part of their income from tithes, which were in the last century generally taken in kind—from wheat, barley, oats, flax, wool, hay, &c. The usual mode of collecting tithes at the commencement of this century was by an agent, called a proctor, who, immediately before harvest, estimated the quantity of corn, hay, or flax, which he supposed then to be on the ground, and—charging the market price—ascertained the amount to be paid by the owner. In some cases the incumbent let his tithe as he might a farm, and the money was collected from the occupier; but very frequently the lessee re-let the tithe to another, and the former was then styled the middle proctor. In Sligo it was customary previous to harvest to call a sale, at which the tithe was disposed of to any person who chose to buy it; but in this manner it would sell for little, did not the temptation of a promissory-note at six months induce persons to bid. According to Cobbett's *Parliamentary Debates* there were 146 actions respecting tithe tried in the year 1807 at the Quarter Sessions in the County Sligo.

It was in the year 1806 that the "threshing-system" was instituted amongst the peasantry, and gangs went about forcing upon the people an oath not to take their tithes to the parson on any terms, but to leave to him the task of collecting and drawing them home.



In addition to the tithes proper, others of a very uncommon description were occasionally attempted to be levied, and a most interesting and amusing controversy on this subject—afterwards printed in pamphlet form—arose between Sir Jonah Barrington and the Rev. Leslie Battersby, Rector and Vicar of Skreen. Battersby claimed a due styled “family money.” The case was tried in Sligo before a judge and special jury, who decided against the claim.

For a considerable period from the year 1813 the then Rector of Emlaghfad and one of his rich parishioners—who had several large farms in the parishes which composed the union—were in litigation about the tithes. Mr. D—— was at length cited to the Ecclesiastical Court, and a bill in Chancery was filed against him on account of the tithes alleged to be due for wool and lambs. To this was added potatoes—a claim previously unheard of in Sligo, for M’Parlan, writing in 1801, states that potatoes were exempt from tithe. The gentlemen of the county sided with Mr. D——. A public meeting was called, a subscription raised, a committee appointed, and a memorial forwarded to the Viceroy. On the 15th May, 1822, Mr. Cooper “presented a petition to the House of Commons from the County Sligo, complaining of the claims recently set up for tithe upon potatoes, no such claim having ever before been asserted in that quarter of the country.”

In the year 1815 any persons who bought tithe-corn or oats were visited by disguised gangs of men by night, the corn and oats threshed, and the proceeds carried off. The cause of these disturbances was finally to a great extent rectified by the composition of tithes, 4 George IV. c. 99.

In 1843 there was a revival amongst the peasantry of the agitation against the fees charged by their priests. The movement appears to have originated in Mayo, whence it spread to Sligo. The Roman Catholic parishioners of Skreen and Achonry adopted the “new rules;” but after several meetings had been held, the majority of the parishes decided to resist the movement. There were, however, many riots before the agitation quieted down.

In December, 1847, the county was much disturbed. Moonlighting was of nightly occurrence. Several clergymen were forced to leave their glebe-houses, and one parson was fired at. In a parish where a notice had been posted threatening the rector with death, his Protestant parishioners gave counter-notice that in the event of either their parson or any of his friends falling by the hands of an assassin, "the life of the parish priest should expiate the crime." The agitation in that parish, after the succeeding Sunday, suddenly collapsed.

From 1880 to 1884 Tubbercurry and its neighbourhood enjoyed an unenviable notoriety. It was one of the few places in the county where outrages were common, and where law and order were systematically put aside. Absence from the locality did not protect those marked out, for one unfortunate man who had gone to Aughris in Tireragh, for benefit of his health, was followed, and his ears cut off. A sub-inspector was fired at; the life of the Clerk of the Union was attempted; two police-constables were fired at, as were also two resident landlords. These outrages were carried on with a systematic secrecy which baffled the police; whilst even dumb brutes belonging to unpopular persons were maltreated and ill-used.

On Saturday morning, 12th June, 1886, it was discovered that wilful damage had been done to the piers of the gate of the Roman Catholic Cathedral, as also to the entrance to the Presbytery. The damage was trivial, and would probably not have excited much comment but for the disturbances then occurring in Belfast; and it was given out that the Protestants of Sligo had been the offenders. Mobs paraded the streets, smashing the windows of householders. However, a reward of £100 was offered by the Protestant inhabitants of the borough for discovery of the perpetrators of the outrage, and one of the delinquents turned informer. It was then discovered that the mischief at the Cathedral and Presbytery had been effected by three Roman Catholics,<sup>1</sup> who

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<sup>1</sup> The Indictment in the Crown Book is as follows:—

"Patrick Curren, James Cleary, Ind. That they, 12th June, 1886, at Sligo, in the county of Sligo, unlawfully did conspire, combine, confederate,



afterwards acted as ringleaders of the mob in their attacks on houses. Eleven persons in all were brought to justice. The majority pleaded guilty; they were convicted, and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, and the following acknowledgment was signed by the informer and published in the local newspaper:—

“Received from the Protestant Reward Committee of Sligo the sum of £100 for giving such information as led to the conviction of Pat Curreen and James Cleary, who committed the outrage on the Roman Catholic Cathedral on the night of Friday, the 11th June, 1886.

“ (Signed)

“ PAT KELLY.

“ Witnesses present :

“ (Signed)

“ HENRY A. ALLEN, A. C. Inspector, D. I., R. I. C.

“ G. MOLONEY.

“ Dated Sligo, 9th day of July, 1886.”

The damage inflicted by the mob on Protestant householders was made good to them by means of subscriptions raised by the Roman Catholics of the town. Since that period both county and borough have been models of peace and quiet. At the summer assizes (1890) the Lord Chief Justice O'Brien, in addressing the Grand Jury, said:—“The criminal statistics of your county—or rather, I should say, the absence of criminal statistics in your county, because there is no subject-matter of that description to deal with—enables me to congratulate you upon its very satisfactory condition. Boycotting is practically non-existent in this county, and the constabulary return is most satisfactory. I trust that this favourable and happy state of things will continue.”

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and agree amongst themselves, maliciously to commit, and did commit damage to certain real property, that is to say, to the piers of the wall of the Courtyard of the Cathedral at Sligo, and to the piers of the gate leading to the House called the Presbytery at Sligo, and to the wall separating Catherine Tighe's house from the high-road, by knocking down and displacing the stones, with which same were built, &c.”

The Grand Jury—for financial purposes—have the power of raising and expending large sums of county money,<sup>1</sup> which they determine by a majority present and voting. The members are twenty-three in number. When sworn in before the High Sheriff for fiscal business their deliberations are carried on in public; after being sworn in before the judge for criminal business, *in camera*.

The Grand Jury generally assembles—by summons from the High Sheriff—some two or three days before the arrival of the Judges of Assize, in order to enable the fiscal business to be completed. The jurors are re-sworn before the Crown Judge to reject or find true bills against persons awaiting trial.

Owing to the loss of the county-books the only names of secretaries of the Grand Jury which could be ascertained are:—P. Mac Donogh, *circa* 1799; James Mac Donogh, 1813; James Christian, 1815; Robert Christian, 1819; James Christian, 1851; St. G. J. Martin, 1865; W. T. Vernon, 1876 (present secretary). The Clerks of the Peace were:—James Christian, 1813; R. Christian, 1819; R. B. Wynne, 1820; Edward Jones, 1851; Utred Knox, 1864; Randal Peyton, 1868; C. B. Wynne, 1875; Cochran Davys, 1886.

In 1877 an Act was passed joining the office of Clerk of the Crown and Peace on the death of the holder of any one of these offices. In 1886 (on the death of Mr. Clancy) Mr. Davys was appointed temporary Clerk of the Crown, and on the resignation of C. B. Wynne, Mr. Davys was appointed to the joint office of Clerk of the Crown and Peace.

County-cess is essentially a tax on the land—in this respect differing from poor-rate, which is a tax on the person occupying the land or tenement. The amount of cess levied in any one year depends on the requirements of the county for that year.

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<sup>1</sup> In 1843 the total valuation of the county was £188,622; in 1865, £208,906; in 1869, £208,719; in 1870 (the area of the Borough being withdrawn from the Government of the Grand Jury), £191,044; in 1875, £193,562; in 1885, £194,421; in 1890, £194,475.



A list of all "queries" is made out by the Clerk of the Crown after each assize, and which he is bound to hand to the secretary of the Grand Jury within seven days from the end of the assizes. The secretary must then applot the amount on the several tenements in the county, and hand to each collector (within two months after having received the list from the Clerk of the Crown), a fair copy of so much of the applotment as shall relate to his district, together with a warrant authorizing the collector to enforce payment.

The purposes to which county-cess is applied are numerous: such as building and repairing bridges, making and repairing roads, supporting the Infirmary, Fever Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, maintaining the Courthouse and the Petty Sessions, paying salaries of county officers, and the cost of any extra police. The cess may be averaged at about 2*s.* 3*d.* in the £1 on the valuation, or about £21,874 per annum. It is collected in two instalments—one in spring and one in summer.

From the earliest times of the eighteenth century illicit distillation seems to have been carried on more or less in Sligo, and the authorities and those engaged in this contraband traffic may be said to have been in continual conflict. The last quarter of the eighteenth century was noted for its hard drinkers. An observant writer asserts, however, that in 1800 excessive drinking in Sligo was on the decline; but the vice had left its effects in an increase of the number of insane—as returned to the Grand Jury at each assizes. M'Parlan stated that the use of both spirits and beer had diminished greatly—a fact which he attributed to the dearness of food supplies.

In 1815 the fall in price of provisions of all kinds was sudden and great. It was occasioned by the cessation of the war on the Continent, which had produced a brisk demand for all agricultural produce; and there had been also a modification of the corn laws.

Secret distillation was the readiest means open to the people of paying their rents and supporting their families. Various stratagems were employed to elude the vigilance of the revenue

officers. A contemporaneous observer thus describes their proceedings :—

“ Sometimes their materials were concealed in caves and in stacks of corn ; at other times they removed them to the bogs or mountains, where they distilled the liquor. While at work they generally had a couple of *videttes* on the road by which the searching party was likely to approach, who, on perceiving them, conveyed the intelligence with great speed ; so that everything was removed in time. But their surest safeguard was to keep the constable or confidential guide employed by the revenue officer in constant pay, as he could either keep back the information, or, should he find his employer intent on paying an unsuspected visit when his friends were at work, he could despatch a messenger to warn them of their danger.”

Notwithstanding their many escapes, through stratagem, bribery, and want of exertion on the part of the revenue officers, yet the people who followed this precarious and dangerous occupation often suffered severe losses, and sometimes were reduced to beggary. Owing to the increased vigilance of the police, it is now-a-days extremely difficult to distil spirit from oats and barley. It is now principally made from molasses; and owing to the rapidity of the manufacture it is styled “48,” as it is manufactured in that number of hours. The most successful, and certainly the most audacious, “brew” which was ever attempted in the county was one made in a house adjoining a police barrack !

Bitter are the complaints made by those still engaged in illicit distillation at the new and improved telescopes used by the police, which enable them to perceive smoke curling up in suspicious localities. With these surreptitious distillers it is, however, a case of a house divided against itself. The seizures effected by the police are generally made from information given by neighbours, or rivals in the business.

Prior to the year 1831 fines of £50 were inflicted on a townland for every illicit still discovered on it. This, however, was found in many cases to inflict great injustice, and to enrich the Excise officers and informers at the expense of the agricultural community. It was finally found to work in such



an iniquitous manner that an Act was passed repealing the penalties.

A gentleman who greatly relished a drop of "the native" had on one occasion stowed away in his cellar three five gallon kegs, being the entire stock of a then well-known illicit distiller named Pat —; early next morning he heard the tramp of men outside, and saw, to his horror, the revenue officer and his party in front of the house. The officer expressed a wish to speak in private to the gentleman, and thereupon his unwilling host ushered him into his dining-room, underneath the floor of which the contraband whiskey was then stored. A long apology was made by the officer for disturbing him at such an unreasonable hour, but the fact was that acting on information which he could not doubt, he (the officer) had broken into the house of Pat —, without a warrant or legal authority, and having there found no trace of illicit spirits, he had under these circumstances, come to him in all haste, knowing his great influence with Pat —. The officer was assured that the affair could be easily arranged—for a consideration—and Pat's indignant feelings being solaced, all parties in the transaction felt equally satisfied at the final result.

Another incident in which the revenue officer was outwitted is thus recounted:—A man who was filling a crib of turf and had just concealed in it a keg of poteen which he purposed selling in Sligo, suddenly noticed that a neighbour, with whom he was not on very good terms, had been observing him. He felt certain that information would be given to the authorities, but he continued filling up the crib, as a plan had just occurred to him by means of which he hoped to evade detection. Another neighbour on whom he could rely was also going to Sligo, with a crib of turf. This man's horse was bay in colour, whilst his own was white; an exchange of steeds was effected, and the cart with the bay horse was allowed an hour's start. All went well with the bay; Sligo was reached and the keg of poteen safely delivered, but when the white horse with his crib of turf was passing the barracks, the revenue officer in charge inquired the price. The owner asked nearly double the market value of the

commodity, and the buyer, who thought he had his prey in the toils, was not particularly keen in bargaining too closely. The load was purchased, and the late owner very slowly and with seeming reluctance proceeded to carry in the fuel. Creel followed creel, but no keg appeared, until at length the gauger realized the fact that both he and the turf had been well sold.

On the seacoast, distillation and smuggling were carried on more openly and with more daring; even when the "preventive water-guard" made a seizure, it was very often rescued *ci et armis* by the country people. Such an instance occurred near Pullendiva, 24th November, 1821, when the water-guards were obliged to fly for their lives, abandoning the contraband goods which they had captured, and a reward of £100 was totally inoperative in leading to the identification of their assailants. On March 5th of the following year a large seizure of malt was made at Doonacoy Mill, in Tireragh, but the country people assembled in great numbers, "armed with sea-scythes, forks, bludgeons, and fire-arms; in consequence of the fewness in number of the revenue officers, it was deemed prudent to retire."

Many stories are told of how in the last century, whenever a strange vessel was observed approaching the shore, false lights were displayed with the hope of alluring it to destruction; similar tales, however, are recounted relative to almost every rock-bound coast of the United Kingdom; but whatever may be the truth of these legends, there can be little doubt of the inhabitants of the littoral for many long years having been addicted to systematic smuggling, while various localities are still pointed out where the revenue officers had made large seizures; as a rule, however, this illicit trade was successful. One very old man recounts that about 70 years ago, when he was a young lad, he one night met thirty men, carrying each a load of tobacco: they were all armed and prepared to resist the revenue officers, if opposed.

Several people in a seemingly respectable sphere of life, lived



principally by this secret traffic, which was then carried on in a business-like and wholesale manner.

A very daring and successful smuggler was captain of a very fast cutter, which had been repeatedly chased, but had always escaped with ease. In 1828 he stole in, under cover of the darkness, and dropped anchor off the "Tower Beacon" which occupied the site of the present Blackrock Light-house. The strange cutter was soon observed by the coast-guard at Raughly, and the alarm by signal immediately given. All the stations in Sligo Bay promptly answered and attended the summons. A vigilant search was immediately commenced which terminated in the illicit traffickers being surprised. They had prepared a cave, in which, however, they had not time to deposit the cargo, and two of the men engaged in concealing the goods were made prisoners; 222 half bales of tobacco (about six tons weight) were secured, and the two boats belonging to the cutter were seized. This was the death-knell of smuggling, and it is doubtful if an attempt was ever again made to run a large cargo into Sligo, although a small contraband traffic lingered on for a few years. In June, 1836, some half bales of smuggled tobacco were seized—part of a cargo which had been successfully landed—and a week later, three half bales were seized in a cart in the streets of Sligo.

Sunday drinking was formerly—as at present—very prevalent. In 1834 Inglis visited a house, near the lake, to which citizens of Sligo resorted on Sundays, and he there tasted a favourite beverage called *scolteen*, composed of whiskey, eggs, sugar, butter, caraway-seed, and beer. From about the year 1839, a considerable falling off took place in the consumption of ardent spirits, for it was about this period that Father Mathew commenced his crusade against intemperance in Sligo. Thackeray thus describes him:—"A stout, handsome, honest-looking man of some two-and-forty years, was passing by, and received a number of bows from the crowd around; it was Theobald Mathew, with whose face a thousand little print-shop windows had already rendered me familiar. He shook hands with the master

of the carriage very cordially, and just as cordially with the master's coachman, a disciple of temperance, as at least half Ireland is at present." In September, 1840, Father Mathew visited Collooney, and vast numbers from all parts of the county were present; it was estimated that he there administered the pledge to 10,000 people. The local paper of the day thus alludes to him:—"To speak of the incalculable benefits produced by his exertions is altogether unnecessary; thousands have been saved from penury and disgrace; thousands too reclaimed from a life of profligacy by abstinence from ardent-spirits. . . . An improvement in the habits of the people in this respect we cannot doubt will be accomplished by increased moral restraint and a consequent decrease of crime and violence."

In his various addresses to the people in the town of Sligo, Father Mathew exhorted them to avoid all political and religious disputes, to cultivate a spirit of good will, of Christian charity to their neighbours of every persuasion, and to avoid all secret societies. There was a moral sublimity deeply impressive in the spectacle of so many thousand human beings influenced by one man, and on their knees repeating after him the words of the temperance pledge. No correct estimate can be formed of the numbers who enrolled themselves, but, adds an eye-witness, "from all that could be learnt it exceeded sixty thousand." The silver medals and temperance-pledge cards distributed by Father Mathew when in Sligo are, many of them, still treasured by the people.

Father Mathew did more for the social regeneration of the country than any other man; several attempts have been made to resuscitate the movement, but with only partial success. In 1890, the Mayor and Corporation of Sligo joined, with other Irish Municipal bodies, in the arrangements for commemorating the centenary of this remarkable man.

The County Sligo with an estimated population of about 98,338 souls, has a total of 310 publichouses; this is exceeded by the Borough, which, with a total of a little over 10,000, has 85, a number yearly on the increase. The cause is obvious, for the power of granting or refusing a licence lies entirely in the



hands of the local magistrates, who can by their vote, at Licensing Sessions, prevent the increase. Evidence of the respectability and good character of the applicant, however, has in general more influence with the presiding justices than the important question of supply and demand, and unless the applicant be a person notoriously unfit to conduct a public-house, he has, almost invariably, the support of the magistrates of the district who know him.

The whiskey sold on country race-courses is, in general, a concoction which only lasts for the day. A countryman overtaken by one of these itinerant publicans on his return from the course was offered by his friend the remains of a jar of whiskey, which was refused with a shake of the head. Oh, then, replied the trader, I may as well pour it out, it won't keep till morning.

In Sligo, the inns were probably neither better nor worse than the usual average of provincial towns. They, like most places of business, were distinguished by huge signboards, which competed with each other in gaudiness of colouring. In 1750 "Barrington's Hotel" was in existence; it stood on or about the site of the present "Lough Gill Brewery." "The Black Lion" was in Pound-street; the signboard is still in existence (see fig. 46), but fast mouldering in the damp and wet; the jet black of the lord of the forest is now rusty brown, his gold collar has almost vanished; in a few months the last of one of the oldest hostelries in the town will be but a memory. Here it was that most of the subscription balls were given, bowls and cock-fighting were great attractions, and the last "main" advertised and fought in public took place in the backyard. In this inn Major Hillas slept the night before the duel in which he fell, and it is yet recounted how in the morning he declared that he was a doomed man, for he dreamed that he had seen a large funeral passing the inn, and he recognized the gentry of the county, and his own relations in mourning following the hearse. Close to this inn was situated the "Spinning Wheel," in High-street; also the "York Hotel," the scene of many a race and regatta ball; the "King's Arms" and "Rosses Hotel," in old

Market-street; the "Masonic Tavern" in Gaol-street; "Mason's Hotel" on the Mall; whilst the "Nelson Hotel" still exists under the title of the "Imperial," and the "Hibernian Hotel" is now the "Victoria"; the two last may be viewed as exemplifications of the survival of the fittest.

Let not the reader imagine that the inns in question resembled those at present in existence; they had ricketty unwashed floors, staircases, chairs, and furniture laden with a coating of grimy, greasy dust, and broken-windows mended with paper. They provided a regimen of bacon and eggs, varied perhaps by eggs and bacon, on rare occasions a chicken, or perhaps a joint, if such could be at the time procured.

The best known inns in the county that can date as far back as 1757 were "The Strand House Inn" at Beltra, near Tanrego; "The Half-way House" on the road to Ballyshannon; and also that at Ballinafad. These are marked on an itinerary. One inn bore the announcement of "Interment" instead of "Entertainment" for man and beast.

The Rev. John Wesley described in his *Journal* the great discomfort of the ordinary Irish cabin of the year 1748, for no light could come into the earth and straw-built "cavern" on the master and his cattle but at one hole which served as window, chimney, and door; indeed, of all the features of Irish peasant life, none helped more to associate in the mind of a stranger the idea of misery with the idea of Ireland than the dirt and disorder of home life. The manure heap at the door; filth ankle-deep at the entrance; the pig domiciled in the house; ducks, geese, and fowl roosting on the rafters; the grunting of pigs, the quacking of ducks, the hissing of geese, the cackle of fowl, and the squalling of children can be more readily imagined than described. The cost of one of these hovels was estimated at from 30s. to 40s., but if covered with straw, and with walls of stone, the cost would be £5; if there were outbuildings in addition, the total would be about double that sum. In 1770 the population of the county was considered to be increasing rapidly, the circumstances of the peasantry, in general, having





[To face page 338.]

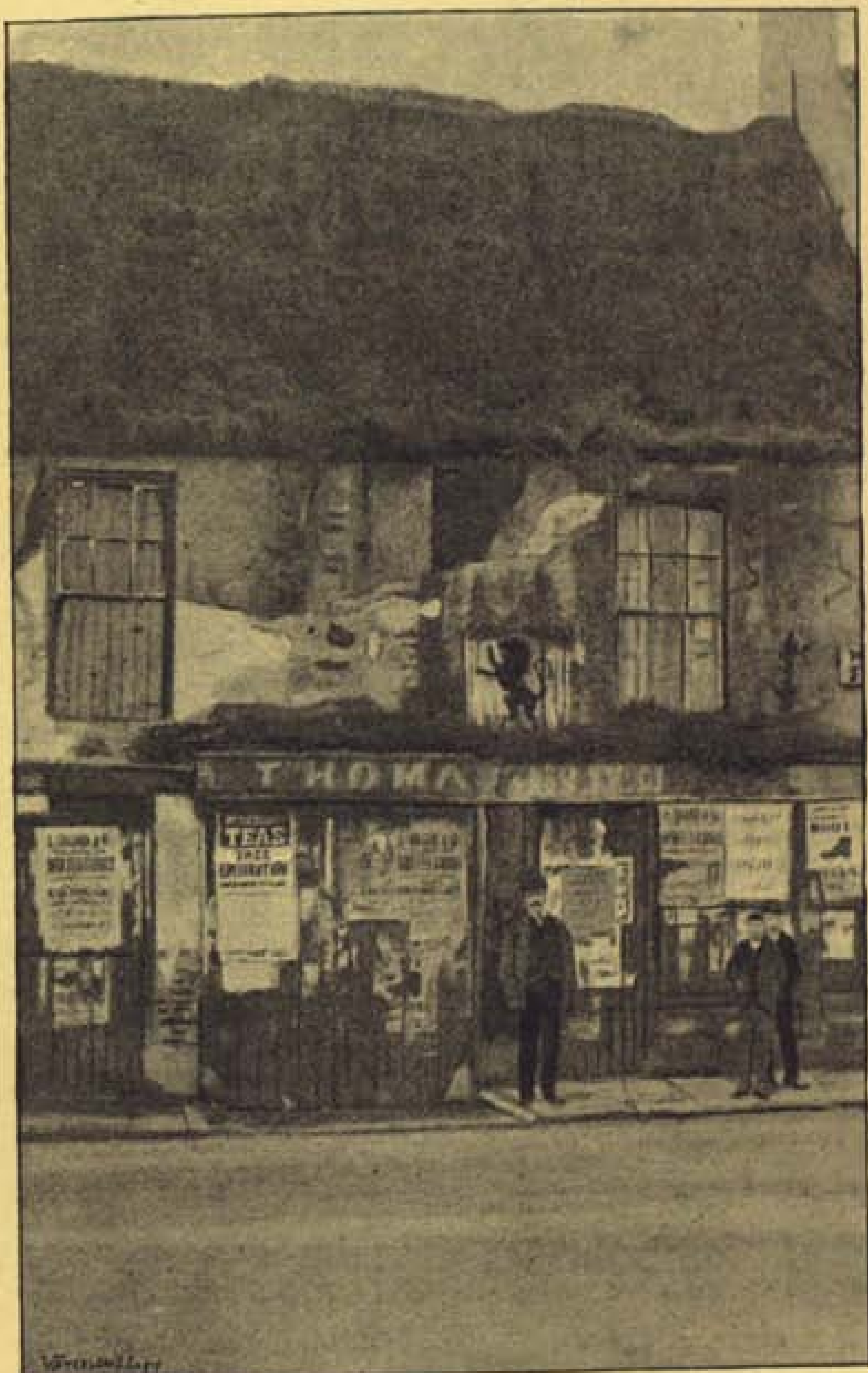


Fig. 46.—THE OLD "BLACK LION" INN.





undoubtedly improved from the year 1748. They were better clothed, better fed, and also were more industrious in their habits.

Near the town the price for labour was at the beginning of this century tenpence or one shilling per diem, without food except perhaps at harvest time; cottiers in general were allowed sixpence the long day, and fivepence the short day, the wages, from 1776, having risen but 1*d.* per diem. According to the quality of the land, they paid for it different prices. For three pounds they generally received an acre of land, grass for a cow, together with a cabin and right of turbary. Those who were not cottiers, and were only occasionally employed, as in harvest time, or times of extreme pressure, got eightpence with breakfast and dinner, and in winter sixpence per day. In public works, such as making roads, &c., or labour on the quays, the common hire was 1*s.* 1*d.* per day.

Immediately after the Continental war, prices fell more than one-half, which occasioned great distress amongst the agricultural population. For instance, barley, which in 1815 sold for 1*s.* 8*d.* per stone, fell to 8*d.* in the following year. A contemporaneous observer in the County Sligo, alluding to this period of depression, stated that the "golden age" ceased with the war, and peace, which at other times and in other countries was esteemed one of the greatest blessings, came to be considered by the people the greatest evil that could befall them, and it made them wish for another fierce and protracted contest. Stock of all kinds fell one-third at least in price, and pigs one-half; potatoes and oats lost about the same proportion of their value, as well as oatmeal, on which articles depended the payment of their rents and the support of their families.

The early marriages of the lower class of the inhabitants caused great increase of their numbers. The young women were generally married between the ages of fifteen and twenty, and the men from twenty and upwards. The portion usually given with girls was from £10 to £50, the young men having generally small holdings of land to begin the world

with. These marriages were contracted, in most instances, without any regard to affection or any of the finer feelings, but were arranged between the friends of the young people from prudential considerations.

At the commencement of this century the pillion was in common use. It varied much in style, from the straw *suggaun* with straw rope, to the blue-cloth hair-stuffed cushion (provided with a leathern belt) for the well-to-do class. When going to a marriage the men generally rode on horseback, each having behind him a woman seated on a pillion; the bride was mounted behind the "best man;" the bridegroom, however, rode alone. The old world-wide relic of barbarism—the pursuit and capture of the bride—was still in existence; the latter sometimes pretended to run away, pursued by the bridegroom; and even yet the bridal party usually set out for a long drive, the bride and bridegroom, bridesmaid and "best man," being on the first car, the guests following in an order which usually depends upon the respective merits and speed of their horses. This drive is sometimes called "dragging home the bride." Sometimes the term is applied to the drive from her parent's house to that of her husband. The proceedings generally conclude with a dance, which is kept up until the greater number of the guests are stretched upon the floor, through the combined effects of fatigue and other causes.

The following is a contemporaneous description of the everyday routine-life of a parish priest in the county, at the commencement of this century:—"He was almost everyday on horseback, either attending occasional duties, or holding confessional stations. This last, which was a very serious and weighty part of his duty, occupied nearly six months in the year, Easter and Christmas being the two seasons appointed for this purpose. It would be difficult to bring 1000 families to attend the priest at his residence twice in the year; he was therefore, obliged to attend the people at their several places of abode. The matter was managed thus: when he had determined on the time for commencing this part of his duty, he



announced on a Sunday from the altar at what village or town-land he intended holding his station during each day of that week, and at whose house he intended to remain on each of those days, so that all the people living within that district might be prepared to come to confession. He should repair to the place in the morning, fasting, as he must celebrate Mass before any other business took place. That being finished, a good breakfast of tea, eggs, bread and butter, together with a bottle of whiskey, was provided. The confessions then commenced, and continued till three or four o'clock, when dinner was provided, which generally consisted of fowls and butcher's meat, with oaten-bread and butter. Many of the decent neighbours were invited."

When Sunday arrived some of the people asked him to dine, and if a baptism or marriage occurred, the best fare which the country could produce was provided for the priest and the select guests. In this routine his time passed, and indeed a very laborious time it was from the numbers necessary to be attended to, the distances to ride, and the bad roads through the interior and mountainous parts.

The food and general well-being of the great bulk of the peasantry and of the labouring classes have been on the whole steadily progressive. The famine of 1846-8 checked the great increase of population, which otherwise could not, in course of time, have been sustained by the land; and the descendants of thousands whose staple food had been confined to potatoes now use flour, tea, and numerous other articles of diet unknown to the rustic larder half a century previously.

The use of shoes and stockings is now general, as also the comfort of sleeping between blankets instead of in a pile of straw; the improvement, too, in the manner of living, has become general, and has extended more or less to all parts of the county.

With what wool the farmers had of their own, which could be supplemented by more bought in the market, the industrious housewife spun and made frieze for the clothing of the men,

and drugget for self and daughters; with the assistance of these latter she made, every year, as much linen as would serve all the purposes of the family. The clothing of the peasantry was thus supplied by their own manufacture; but as fathers of families never could imagine a suit to be complete, or themselves decently dressed, without a great coat of thick frieze, which they wore in all seasons and weathers, this increased the expense considerably. Many of the young men and tradespeople wore red or striped waistcoats of finer quality, and the hats were also all of native fabrication.

The women at home were dressed in flannels and druggets manufactured by themselves; but on gala days, or Sundays, or at weddings and dances, they wore red cloaks, striped linen or cotton gowns, white caps and handkerchiefs, with petticoats of green or red stuff. As a rule, the feet remained unshod, except on state occasions, when coarse shoes, commonly known by the name of "brogues," were worn. These had thick soles, and were sewed with leathern thongs, not with ordinary waxed thread. "On a Sunday," writes Lady Morgan, in her *Patriotic Sketches*, "the young women go in groups to the Mass-house, generally dressed in white gowns and coloured petticoats; with their rug cloaks hanging on one arm, and their shoes and stockings on the other. When they approach the chapel they bathe their feet in the first stream, and assume those articles of luxury which are never drawn on but for show and the public gaze of the parish."

Inglis, an observant traveller, was greatly struck by the superiority in appearance of the Sligo population over that of the neighbouring western counties. He says that (in 1833) he saw hardly any rags or tatters as elsewhere; nearly all were shod, and the amount of clean linen displayed surprised him.

In the last century a Dispensary in the town of Sligo was entirely supported by voluntary contributions, supplemented by collections at charity sermons preached in all Houses of Public Worship. Though by 3rd Geo. IV., c. 21 (1823), grand juries were empowered to present sums equal to private subscriptions



for the support of dispensaries, medicines, &c., there must have been some prior Act, for in 1806 £83 was voted "to the Treasurer of the Sligo Dispensary for the support thereof;" in 1817 there was a presentment for the Coolany Dispensary; in 1818 for one at Ballymote; in 1823 for one at Grange; in 1824 for those at Dromore West and Riverstown; and subsequently for Castleconor, Kilglass, &c.—districts being thus progressively subdivided as the increased need of medical care became apparent. The duties of Dispensary doctors, in an extensive rural district, when properly and conscientiously carried out, are arduous and onerous.

Various accounts are given of magic crystals, and rounded or globular stones, kept in certain families and believed to be cures for maladies afflicting both man and beast. These charms were simply placed in the fluid given to the patient to drink, and into which they were supposed to exude some healing virtue. "If we are inclined to laugh at the simple people who believed in those marvellous cures," remarks P. W. Joyce, "let us not forget that they are in no degree more credulous than myriads of our own day, who are caught by quack advertisements, and who believe in cures quite as wonderful as those performed by *Diancecht*." This "fairy doctor" at once cured the wounded warriors of the Tuatha de Danaan, at the battle of Moytirra in Sligo, by plunging them into a medicated bath. There are still—according to W. B. Yeats in *Fairy and Folk Tales*—"fairy doctors" in the county, "really well up in herbal medicine by all accounts."

Domestic industries were carried on, in the evening, under difficulties; there was little light but that afforded by the fire, for the candle of former times—the rush-light—was but seldom lighted. Beranger thus describes its use, *circa* 1779: "We went to supper; we had the old Irish candles, consisting of rushes dipped in tallow, which gave but poor light. The candlestick consists of a straight piece of wood about two feet high, with three feet to stand on the floor; on the top is an iron spring, which holds the rush, and which,

when put on the table, was too high, and gave hardly light enough to see our victuals; but we got some children at our elbows to hold a candle to each of us, at a proper height to light our plates. The inhabitants have them on the ground and sit round them on low stools or stones."

Rush-light holders were sometimes formed all of iron, except the base, which was usually of wood; others were all of wood, with the exception of the iron arm and socket (see fig. 47) for holding the light. The holders varied, also, considerably in length, one class being made for resting on the floor, whilst others were intended to stand on a table. In iron examples the more usual attempt at ornamentation was by giving to the stem a spiral curve, and by decorating the base. With regard to the system adopted for holding the rush-light, there was considerable variety, but the most general was a simple counterpoised pincers, counterbalanced, the weight of the socket arm being sufficient to close the pincers, and so hold the rush; another kind held the light with pincers closed by a spring. In the best specimens the height of the light was regulated by a sliding bar, which moved up and down the stem.



FIG. 47.—  
Rush-light Holder.

For the preparation of the rushes the longest, thickest, and best were gathered and peeled, with the exception of a narrow strip of the exterior coating, which was left on to strengthen the rush, its inside pith being very soft. The ends were cut off, and the rushes thus prepared were dipped into a vessel containing melted fat; this vessel was generally a grisset, *i.e.* a long boat-shaped iron utensil suitable for the operation; the rushes, when sufficiently grease-enveloped, were spread out to dry and harden. Paraffin oil and lamps have proved the death-blow of these ancient light-givers; many people, however, can still remember them, and also the tinder-box and manufacture of tinder, which was one of the essential accomplishments of a good housekeeper. Tinder was made of linen rags, burned in



a close vessel and thoroughly charred, but without being allowed to blaze. Afterwards it had to be ignited by striking flint and steel over it; and the candle, being then lighted, the cover was dropped over the tinder to extinguish it. How toilsome and lengthy is the process can easily be proved by essaying the operation with an old tinder-box.

The *creepy*, or three-legged stool, evidently the most primitive and ancient form of seat, still retains its appropriate place in the mud cabin. The accompanying illustration (fig. 48) represents an ancient oak chair, seen in the village of Drumcliff by the antiquary Petrie in the year 1829. It is an expansion of the three-legged stool into the easy arm chair, retaining the simplicity of the former together with much of the convenience of the latter; it was steady and well adapted to its requirements. This relic of antiquity was afterwards used as firing during a severe winter, its owner regarding it as a useless and antiquated piece of furniture.

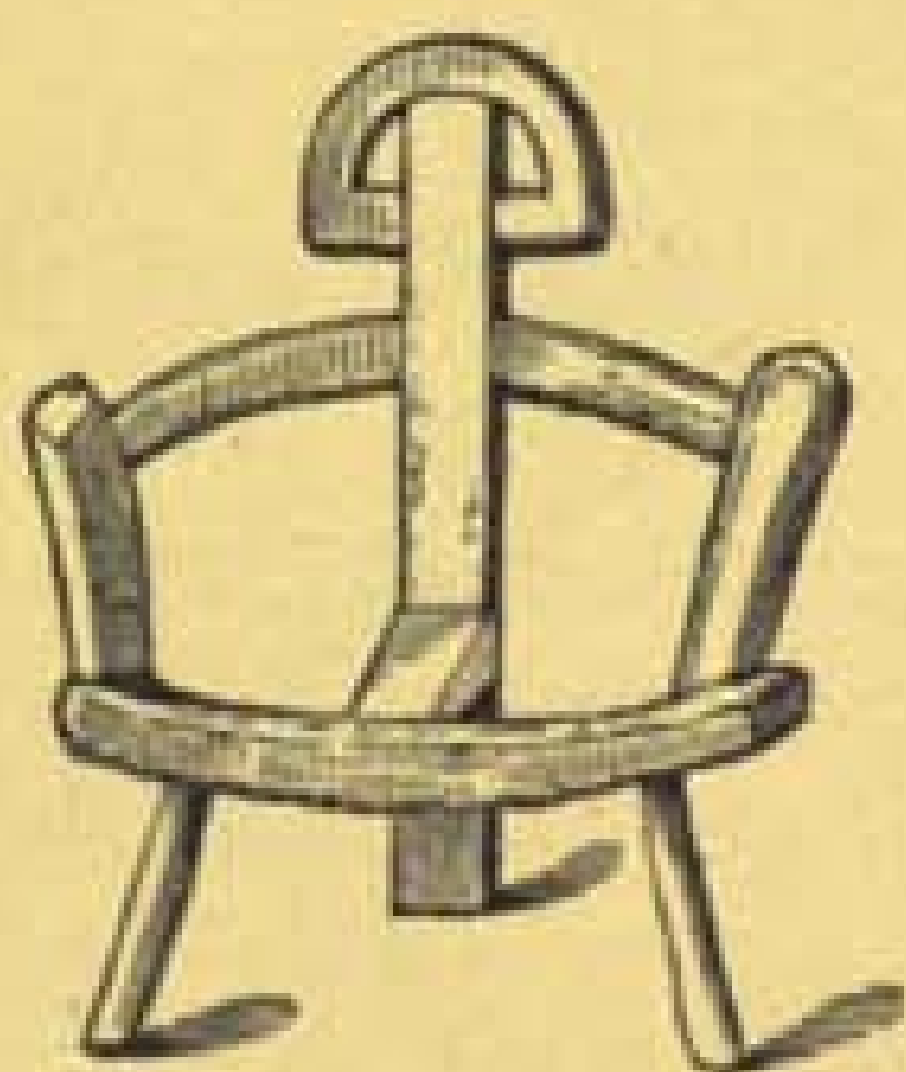


FIG. 48.—Ancient Three-legged Arm Chair.



FIG. 49.—Four-handled Madder.

Beranger, in 1779, described and made a drawing of a well-finished four-handled madder. The accompanying illustration (see fig. 49) of this quaint drinking-vessel is reproduced from *The Journal R. H. A. A. I.* "The angles, being rounded and hollowed out in the inside, serve to drink out of: there is a different ornament near (between) each handle; so that four people drinking together, every one may know his own corner." These vessels were usually made of yew, with two—sometimes, as in this instance, with four handles, and some without

any.<sup>1</sup> In the poem of *O'Rourke's Noble Feast* this species of drinking cup is thus alluded to:—

Usquebaugh to our feast, in pails was brought up;  
A hundred at least, and a madder our cup.

If a person died out of doors, whether naturally, accidentally, or by violence, every person who passed by threw a stone on the spot until a large heap would be thus raised up. As soon as the breath had departed from a sick person, his bed was carried out of the house to any high ground in the immediate vicinity, and there set on fire, whilst the air resounded with the lamentations and cries of the relatives of the deceased, who employed this means of notifying the death to the neighbourhood—an invitation, in fact, to the consequent wake and funeral. Until recently the “Irish howl” was very prevalent; and, if any person was observed approaching, the cry became still louder; and, when the funeral was passing through a village, or even near a house, the howl was raised to its full pitch, and was generally contributed by the voices of a large assemblage of females, who, notwithstanding the doleful and melancholy cries uttered by them, were probably totally unconcerned about the deceased, and never sullied their cheeks with a tear of genuine grief.

“But a few days back,” writes Lady Morgan, in 1807, “a musical professor, from whom I had the anecdote, was walking in the vicinity of Sligo at a very early hour, when a sound, wild, low, and plaintive, caught his ear, and, approaching the spot from whence it seemed to proceed, he observed an elderly woman leaning over a little paling which encircled a cabin. Her hair was dishevelled, her eyes full of tears, and her voice broken and inarticulate, respired in the intervals of her deep-heaved sobs a melancholy recitative accompanied by these simple words:—‘A few days are gone by; she entered this gate in all her beauty and her health; to-morrow she will pass it without life, and she never will enter it more.’ This funereal song was the impromptu requiem of a wretched mother, whose only daughter, a young and lovely girl, had expired the night before.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There is a townland in the Parish of Kilfree, styled Rathmadder, i.e. the Fort of the Madder.

<sup>2</sup> Another poor woman describing the peaceful end of her daughter said “she stole away like the mist up the mountain side.”



This “keening” or “Irish cry”—the “coronach” of Scotland—is described by Giraldus Cambrensis. The Greeks, Romans, Jews, and Asiatics had “mourning” or “keening” women at their funerals—an additional link in the train of evidence of the early colonization of Ireland from the East.

It was supposed that the best proof of the esteem in which a man had been held was indicated by the number following the funeral; and the greatest care was taken to have the remains numerously attended; neglect so to do was considered a breach of respect to the memory of the deceased; therefore, when any person died in a village, all work was totally suspended until after the interment, the intermediate space of time being usually employed in visiting the house where the corpse was lying, smoking tobacco, drinking, &c. The priests now strive to put a stop to some of these practices; and reason and good sense, aided by the influence which the Roman Catholic clergy possess over the minds of the majority of the people, are gradually producing the desired effect.

Wakes, although now considered to be essentially Irish, would seem (judging by the name) to have been of English origin, or, at least, to have been a Saxon appellation for an Irish custom. “Wake” is a word equivalent to the ecclesiastical term “vigil”; and in olden times it signified in England the day kept in every country parish in commemoration of the dedication of the church; and it was made an occasion of wholesale revelry. A declaration of Charles I. (1633) recites “that under pretence of taking away abuses, there hath been a general forbidding not only of ordinary meetings, but of the feasts of the dedication of the churches, commonly called wakes.” In England, however, the observance gradually died out; but the holding of wakes (*i.e.* vigils for the dead) is practised amongst a certain class in Ireland, and may now be considered as almost peculiar to this country.

The custom of watching by the corpse until consigned to the earth seems to have originated from an old superstition, that, if not so guarded, an evil spirit might carry off the body.

To provide against such an alarming occurrence, the corpse was laid out, and lighted candles placed around it; friends and neighbours flock in, and spend the entire night eating, drinking, and smoking—so that a person unacquainted with the custom would be led to believe that they were assembled to commemorate some joyful event. At the wakes certain sports or games were in use, particularly mock marriage ceremonies by a mock priest; also other rites—such as “the making of the ship,” &c., &c.—which appear to have been essentially of pagan origin, and most certainly of such a character that they were necessarily suppressed by the clergy. There was likewise the game of “the trial,” in which the entire practice of a court of law was gone through; “the crow,” sometimes styled “the hen”; “the seven daughters”; “Father O’Dowd”; and other minor amusements somewhat similar to “hunt the slipper,” sometimes called “the bat”; “kiss in the ring,” and “forfeits.”

Not many years ago it was no uncommon sight to see a race between funeral processions, if two or more corpses happened to be on their way to the graveyard at the same time. It is believed that the last person interred was bound to attend upon all who had been buried in the same locality, and must—while they were enduring purgatorial torments—supply them with water until relieved in their task by a later arrival.

In the early part of this century there resided on the mail-coach road, not far from Sligo, a “buckle-beggar” (so called) who plied the same profitable trade as the Scottish Blacksmith. He was a Presbyterian clergyman who had been degraded for misconduct, but he was quite willing to read the marriage ceremony over any runaway couple for a slight remuneration.

He was tried on several occasions at the Sligo Assizes, but was acquitted, as he appears to have evaded the penalties of the statute by reading the marriage service from behind a screen. From this position he could see the happy couple, but to them



he was invisible, and the fee being handed to him by his assistant in front, he signed the necessary certificate. There was no witness to prove that it was he who had read the service; at any rate a Sligo jury came to that conclusion. He was, however, finally brought within the meshes of the law; was tried and pleaded guilty to the offence. These semi-legal marriages were put an end to by the Marriage Act.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### SUPERSTITIONS, LEGENDS, ETC.

“**I**N almost all the countries of Europe,” remarks P. W. Joyce, “hidden treasure is popularly believed to be guarded by supernatural beings; and to circumvent them by cunning, or by some more questionable agency, is the grand study of money-seekers.” The superstition is of ancient origin, for in a ms., reputed to be of the eleventh century, the *Wars of the Irish with the Danes*, the writer laments that the spells employed by the fairies to conceal their treasures were of no avail against the pagan magic of the northern invaders. The peasantry believe that crocks full of gold lie buried in the raths and “giants’ graves.” If you dream three times in succession that the gold is in a certain locality, you should there excavate; but the work must be carried on at night; and when you go in the morning to inspect your treasure, lo! it is withered leaves, or poor mouldering bones. The only way to elude the spell of the “good people” is, before commencing operations, to sacrifice a black cat or a black cock—opinions are divided as to which is the most efficacious—on the site of the proposed exploration; and the gold, if found, retains its true characteristics.

Two seekers after hidden treasure had taken all requisite precautions, and had procured a black cat, which was securely enclosed in a sack. The gold was discovered, but in the excitement caused by the find, the animal escaped when being taken out of the bag. It is needless to add that in the morning nothing but withered leaves could be seen.

Money buried under a fairy bush increases. As a general



rule, however, if anyone digs into or levels a fort or rath, misfortune is sure to follow; trouble after trouble ensues; cows and horses die; crops fail. Lucky indeed he may esteem himself if he escapes death in some dreadful form, or that his wife and children are not afflicted either bodily or mentally. Solitary thorn-bushes are sacred from the hatchet; under them the fairies dance. In short, the "good people" are everywhere:—

“ By the craggy hill-side,  
Through the mosses bare,  
They have planted thorn-trees  
For pleasure here and there.  
Is any man so daring,  
As dig them up in spite,  
He shall find their sharpest thorn  
In his bed at night.”

Some of the peasantry could not be induced even to cut weeds growing on the forts in order to prevent seeding. One man who had been so daring as to uproot some hawthorn bushes in one of these fairy circles was found next morning quite paralyzed in his bed. Sometimes the fairies visibly protect their property. Thus, a sacrilegious farmer, bent on clearing a portion of the precincts of a large fort from a well-developed growth of brushwood, when proceeding to cut down a bush, was politely begged by a mannikin to spare it, and to try the next. At the next bush he was encountered by another pigmy, who repeated the same request. He was thus sent from bush to bush, and the next morning was found wandering about the fort quite distraught.

It is not well for either "man or beast" to stray far into the underground passages of raths. Any cavern, be it ever so small, is fabled to extend an immense distance into the bowels of the earth. Beranger thus describes one legend:—"This cavern (of Kesh) is said to communicate with one in the County Roscommon, twenty-four miles in distance, called the 'Hell-mouth' door of Ireland, of which is told (and believed in both counties) that a woman in the county of Roscommon having an unruly calf could never get him home unless by holding him

by the tail ; that one day he tried to escape, and dragged the woman against her will into the 'Hell-mouth' door ; that, unable to stop him, she ran after him without quitting her hold, and continued running until next morning she came out at Keshcorran, to her own amazement and that of the neighbouring people. We believed it rather than try it."

In remote parts of the county it is believed that the fairies change children in the cradle ; and if an infant commences to pine or become peevish, it is a sure sign that an exchange has been effected. Detailed narratives of the "removal" of children, and even of grown people, by the "gentle folk," are not uncommon. It is stated that the custom still exists in some places of sprinkling the doorstep of the cabin with the blood of a chicken when the death of a very young child occurs.

The church<sup>1</sup> and burial-ground at Kilross were reputed to have been formerly situated on the opposite side of the rivulet *which flows near them*. One night, in council assembled, the occupants of the graveyard came to the conclusion that they were too tightly packed, and next morning church and churchyard were found transported to their present position. The two wells, however, which were in the old burying-ground remained in their original position, and two large rocks—one of them sculptured, and called the "holy-water stone"—mark the site of these "fonts."

Members of the seaside population display great reluctance to proceed to the rescue of a drowning person. This superstition

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<sup>1</sup> The western end of the old church is still standing—evidently portion of the vaulted dwelling-place of the monks. A few fragments of cut-stone, such as arch-stones of doors and windows, may be seen scattered around. "Clarus M'Moylin O'Moillehoury, Archdeacon of Elphin, founded the church of the Holy Trinity, at Kilruisse in 1233, for canons of the Order of Præmonstre, and made it a cell to the Abbey of Lough Kee ; the founder died A.D. 1251." The other establishment was probably at Killeran, near Toberdoney, in the townland of Ballydawley, now represented by a diminutive unused graveyard ; in it there is one large headstone, stated to mark the grave of "the Bishop." No trace of lettering remains.



is well brought out by Sir Walter Scott in his novel of "The Pirate." The old Cornish belief that

"Save a stranger from the sea,  
And he'll turn your enemy,"

might, not many years ago, have been supposed of universal application along the western littoral.

In A. D. 887 a dead mermaid was said to have been cast ashore, and details are given of her dimensions, which almost rival those of the sea-serpent of this nineteenth century; whilst in the *Annals of Loch Cé* it is recounted that two mermaids were caught by fishermen in the year 1118. Sligo is not without its legend of a "Merrow," which answers to the English "Mermaid"; and the idea entertained by the peasantry in various localities that some of the megalithic circles were human, or other living beings—metamorphosed by magic—was a very prevalent belief. Crofton Croker recounts one such in his *Killarney Legends*; another is told by Mr. Hibbert in his *Description of the Shetland Isles*; and in the townland of Scurmore, parish of Castleconor, county of Sligo, there is a locality bearing the singular title "Children of the Mermaid." This designation appears to be specially applied to some large boulders, seven in number, situated on the N. E. periphery of a circular rampart, surrounding a fine specimen of a tumulus.

Some of the fishermen really believe in the existence of mermaids. A man declared he had seen one on the rocks combing her hair. On his approach she took a header into the deep.

The following was recounted by a countryman, a native of Kilross:—Long ago, before the monks had a church at Kileran, there lived there a celebrated magician who possessed a cow that brought wealth and prosperity to her owner. One of his neighbours determined to steal it, and, with the assistance of his son, succeeded in securing and driving it off, with the object of concealing it. The magician soon discovered his loss, pursued, and, at the foot of the mountain, overtook the thieves. In his hand he bore his wand, and, overcome with passion,

struck the cow and the thieves with it, thereby metamorphosing them into stone. In the centre stands the thief (represented by a pillar-stone more than six feet high by two broad); near him is the boy, of lesser proportions (three feet six inches); lying prostrate is another slab which represents the cow.

On the mountain overlooking the scene of this catastrophe lived a giantess named Veragh. She was so tall that she could easily wade the rivers and lakes in Ireland. One day, however, when trying to cross *Loch-da-ghedh*, it proved to be beyond her depth, and she was drowned; but her house on the mountain still remains, and is styled *Calliagh-a-Veragh*.<sup>1</sup> This lake has the reputation of being the deepest in the County Sligo. One countryman stated that there is an underground outlet from it; and if anything were thrown into it "it would come out at the bridge of Denmark!" Another recounted that it was once essayed to drain it for the purpose of recovering the treasure at the bottom, which was guarded by a huge monster; but when the workmen commenced operations they imagined they saw their homesteads on the plain all in flames, and, going down to extinguish them, found it was the "good people" who had deceived them. When they returned to their work the trench they had made to draw off the water was filled up.

The holy wells in the county (although many of them in a greater or less degree have now lost their sacred character) are still numerous. In the parish of Ahamlish, St. Bridget's and St. Molaise's wells, and those in the island of Inismurray, have been already described, but it may be interesting to quote a reference made by Beranger at the close of the last century, to Tobernacoragh, or "The well of assistance." He states that the inhabitants of Inismurray, "all Roman Catholicks, seem very innocent, good natured, and devout, but at the same time very

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<sup>1</sup> *Calliagh-a-Veragh* is the denuded cist of a cairn. Cairns on the summits of mountains were erected by the people at the time of the flood, to try and escape the rise of the waters; such is their origin, according to the ideas of some of the peasantry.



superstitious and credulous. They told us, as a most undoubted fact, that during the most horrid tempests of winter, when a case happens where a priest is required, such as to give the Extreme Unction to a dying person, &c., they go to the sea side, launch one of their little vessels, and as soon as it touches the water, a perfect calm succeeds, which continues until they have brought the priest to the island, that he has performed the rites of the Church, that they have carried him back, and that the boat is returned to the island and hauled on shore, when the tempest will again begin, and continue for weeks together. On asking them how often this miracle happened, and to which of them the care of the priest had been committed, they were veracious enough to confess it never happened in their days, though the fact was true."



FIG. 5c.—"The Well of Assistance."

The following were esteemed sacred springs in the parish of Drumcliff: *Tobar na bachaille*, or the well of the crozier; *Tobar muire*, Mary's-well. On Lady Day there are, it is stated, stations still carried on there; the well was reputed to have been the home of sacred trout, and to have possessed healing virtues, particularly in cases of *ophthalmia*; St. Patrick's-well, where a legend recounts that the saint baptized converts: there are also the wells of *Tobar na bolgoighe*, *Tobervogue*, and *Tober Columbkill*. In the footnote is given a list of wells which had been formerly held in estimation as "holy."

<sup>1</sup> In the parish of Kilmacowen, Toberpatrick; parish of Calry, Tober-Connel; parish of Ballysadare, Tobercurrin, Tobertullaghan, and Tobercallen; parish of Killoran, Tobergal; parish of Achonry, Toberaribba, Tobercurry,

As a rule holy wells were resorted to either for the purpose of prayer or to perform certain penances, whether voluntary or imposed; and Burton's celebrated picture of *The Blind Girl at the Holy Well*, is an interesting reminder of the faith formerly entertained by the peasantry in the efficacy of prayer at these fountains. When celebrating the festival of the Patron Saint, there was usually a large assemblage of people, together with tents, pipers, fiddlers, and plenty of whiskey. "St. James's-well in Geevagh," was, in the early part of this century, "a spot notorious for many a riotous scene." This was the locality from which most of the disturbances in the county emanated.

In consequence of the excesses of all kinds to which these meetings led, the Roman Catholic priests set their faces against the custom, but for a length of time in vain; the change in the state of society, however, joined to their influence have gradually caused these assemblies to be now almost a thing of the past. But many of the wells are more frequented by devotees than casual observers would imagine, and the veneration of wells yet exists.

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Toberaraght and Tobercully; parish of Dromard, Toberpatrick; parish of Skreen, Toberpatrick, Toberawnaun, and Toberloran; parish of Easky, St. Adman's well, Toberavidden and Toberalternan; parish of Templeboy, Toberpatrick, Tobernasool, and Tobercahillboght; parish of Kilglass, St. Patrick's well; parish of Castleconor, Toberpatrick; parish of Ballysadare, Toberloonagh and Toberbride; parish of Ballynakill, Lady's-well, and Darby's well; the latter was anciently styled, Toberlastra or Toberlastrach; parish of Kilmastranny, Tobermurry; parish of Kilmacallan, Tobermoneen, and Tobernaglashy, so named from an enchanted cow which used to regale herself at the spring; parish of Aghanagh, Tobermania, Toberbride, Tobermurry, Toberpatrick and Tobermahon; parish of Tawnagh, Toberpatrick, Tobernalee, Kingsbrook, Toberstarling, and Tobernagalliagh; parish of Shancough, St. James's-well, parish of Drumcolumb, St. Columb's-well; parish of Kilross, Toberdoney, beautifully situated, still used for cures and frequented on St. Peter and St. Paul's Day; parish of Emlaghfad, Holywell; parish of Toomour, Tobernacarta, Tobernamalla, Toberliubhan, Toberacol, *Tobercloicharig* or King's-well; parish of Kilturra, St. Araght's-well and Toberpatrick; parish of Drumrat, Toberbride or Tobernnavin, and Toberbarry; parish of Cloonaghill, Toberneerin; parish of Kilfree, Tobernabraher and Tobernaneagh; parish of Killaraght, Toberpatrick.

In the parish of Kilmastranny, there was anciently (according to the



This can be observed at places where least expected; for instance, about one hundred yards from the little church of Kilmacteigue, lies the insignificant well of Tubber-Keeran, or St. Keeran's-well. A small ash tree, overhanging the well, is covered with many-coloured rags, mementos of the pious frequenters of the spot. The well, now nearly filled in with the gnarled roots of the tree, is frequented by the country people for various purposes, but principally by farmer's wives and daughters whose cows are sick, or not producing as much butter as they expected.<sup>1</sup>

Not far distant, and in the same parish, is the well of Toberaraght, in the townland of Glenawoo. It is still visited for the purpose of performing stations, chiefly to seek restoration to health from diseases of peculiar character, such as epilepsy, &c. The tradition is, that the valley in which the well is situated was the haunt of a monster in the shape of a great serpent that devoured or destroyed every human being or animal within reach, and hence the name of the Glen. But a deliverer arrived in the person of St. Athy or Araght, who came from the North of Ireland, bringing a blessed staff<sup>2</sup> given to her by St. Patrick, with which she pursued and killed the monster on the spot where the well sprang up. In olden days

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Ordnance Survey notes), a well, styled *Tobar-Ehilibh* or St. Elva's-well, and close adjoining the alleged grave of the saint, and the remains of a station house. The story, as recounted by one of the country people, was that, in days when saints were more numerous than at present, there lived two sisters, holy women, called Lasair and Elva. The former first located herself at Derrysallagh, and the latter in the parish of Kilronan in Roscommon. Elva observed that her sister was failing in health, and inquired the cause of her despondency. Lasair confessed that the loneliness of the place weighed on her spirits, upon which Elva changed localities and cells.

<sup>1</sup> Close to this well, are rocks curiously indented with depressions resembling "bullauns"; there is a very good specimen built into the fence along the road near the old church, and many others are scattered about through the fields.

<sup>2</sup> Frequent notices of this staff (the *Baculus Jesu*) are to be found in Irish history. The lives of St. Patrick all speak of this celebrated crozier, and a detailed account of its history is given in the Introduction to *The Books of Obits and Martyrology of Christ Church, Dublin*, 1844.

it was usual to celebrate a great "patron" on the 12th August of each year, but it was prohibited by the clergy in consequence of the misconduct of some of the visitors.

The stations of St. Barbara's-well, closely adjoining, were generally performed about the same date. On the trees and bushes surrounding these wells are the rags, &c., left by those who carry with them any of the blessed water. In the same parish there is another large spring called Toberoddy, but according to a MS. in the Royal Irish Academy it is said to have lost its efficacy in the year 1755 in the following manner:—At the well there stood a flagstone bearing an inscription, and a gentleman who was erecting a house in the neighbourhood utilised it as building material for his new residence. This was no sooner completed then it fell, and the flagstone was again found in its original position. The house was reconstructed, but from that date the country people believed that "the power" had left the waters.

Lady Morgan describes a visit to a holy well in the year 1807:—When returning on foot to Longford House, which was little more than half a mile across a field-path, a partial view of a holy well tempted her to a little pilgrimage aside. She directed her steps therefore to a glen, terminated by a little circular spot. In the centre of this stood a round stone-bath which received its tributary waters from the adjoining sacred spring. A path was traced round the holy well, as if worn by "holy knees," and a small bowl was suspended over it by a chain. At some little distance from the bath and well stood a simple altar shaded by a spreading oak, from whose trunk was hung a wooden crucifix, and on whose branches were thrown the votive offerings of those whose "faith had made them whole;" the names of the pious convalescents were carved on its bark.

A peasant always approaches a holy well on the north side, and moves from east to west in imitation of the diurnal motion of the sun; a corpse should be carried to its last resting place, a bride approach her husband, and the glass circulate around the festive board in the same manner, such being the right or lucky way, and the opposite being the wrong or unlucky way. At



the proper season can still be seen devotees making their tour round the well of Tubbernalt<sup>1</sup> which is situated on the shore of Lough Gill, not far from the town of Sligo. The spring is encircled by a wall of rude masonry, access to it being given by a few uneven steps. Against the overhanging alt or cliff is built an altar seemingly of modern construction, and below the spring there is another. Fragments of cakes, pins, nails, &c., may be seen in the well at certain periods. The locality is at all times festooned with many coloured rags—red, blue, green, white, black, and other coloured ribbons tied up to denote a *finale* to the rounds and prayers. This custom may be considered universal, as it is found all over Europe and throughout parts of Asia, Africa, and even America.

Veneration of fish is of eastern origin, for it is a well-known fact that in certain parts of India, Persia, and China there are ponds and tanks attached to temples in which sacred fish are preserved and fed by the priests. The Celtic mind is essentially eastern in its character, so it is not surprising that several holy wells in Sligo contained trout regarded as sacred. At present, however, this superstition is believed to be extinct, although within the present century a gentleman of the county who caught some of these fish had to run for his life to escape from a mob of infuriated peasants.<sup>2</sup> Holy trout were alleged to be of peculiar form and colour, one side of the body being darker than the other, and this—according to a tradition attached to several wells—was accounted for in the

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<sup>1</sup> This spring is reputed to have been dedicated to Saint Columbkille. Crowds were in the habit at the accustomed season, of journeying from great distances for the “patron,” and they camped around the place on the eve of the celebration. The well was overshadowed by a huge ash; one night Providence and a high wind forced the gathering to take shelter elsewhere. In the morning the giant tree was found prostrate.

<sup>2</sup> In ancient times one of the greatest indignities, a conqueror could inflict upon an Irish chief was the destruction of “holy fish.” For example, O’Conor, King of Connaught (in the commencement of the 11th century), wishing to insult his vanquished foe the O’Briens, caught and ate the sacred salmon in the well of Kincora.

following manner:—On more than one occasion the progenitors of the fish had been removed from the sacred precincts of the well; nevertheless, immediately afterwards, they might be observed, as usual, in full enjoyment of their enchanted existence, the darker shade on one side being occasioned by marks of the gridiron on which they had been placed to be cooked, but they were instantaneously transported back into the cool waters from whence they had been snatched.

In pagan days the hazel tree and the salmon seem to have been indissolubly connected with certain springs. According to O'Curry, one of these enchanted wells was situated on the Curlew mountains, on a hill designated *Cor-sliabh-na-Seaghsa*.

The above writer continues thus:—"There were several of these poetic springs, or Helicons, in ancient Erin, each surrounded (it is said) by nine imperishable hazel trees, from which showers of ruddy nuts were dropped periodically into the spring. These nuts were eagerly watched by the salmon at the bottom of the spring, who, when they saw them drop upon the surface, darted up and eat them as fast as they could, after which they glided into the neighbouring rivers. Those who had succeeded in getting the nuts to eat had their bellies all spotted with a ruddy spot for every nut they had eaten; but those who got none had no such spots. On this account the spotted salmon (which was called the *Eó Fís* or Salmon of Knowledge) became an object of eager acquisition, both with the learned and the unlearned; because when the learned eat of it they became (it was supposed) more learned and sublime in their poetic aspirations; and when the unlearned had the good fortune to catch and eat him they became at once great poets."

On the altar of *Clocha-breacha*, on that of *Altoir beg*, as also on the Eastern *altoir* within the cashel on the island of Inismurray, are numerous globular and curiously-wrought stones. Petrie remarked that stones of this class were believed to be possessed of miraculous properties for healing sicknesses, and were used for swearing on, and also as maledictory stones. On this subject W. F. Wakeman writes:—"We know that



a remarkable system of anathematizing their real and supposed enemies, at least occasionally, prevailed amongst the people of Ireland at a period antecedent to their conversion to Christianity. Part of the proceedings consisted in the turning of certain stones." The late Sir Samuel Ferguson thus alludes to the subject in one of his poems:—

"They loosed their curse against the King,  
They cursed him in his flesh and bones;  
And ever in the mystic ring  
They turned the maledictive stones."

During ordinary pilgrimages, whether at holy wells or altars, the "round" described as being taken is from left to

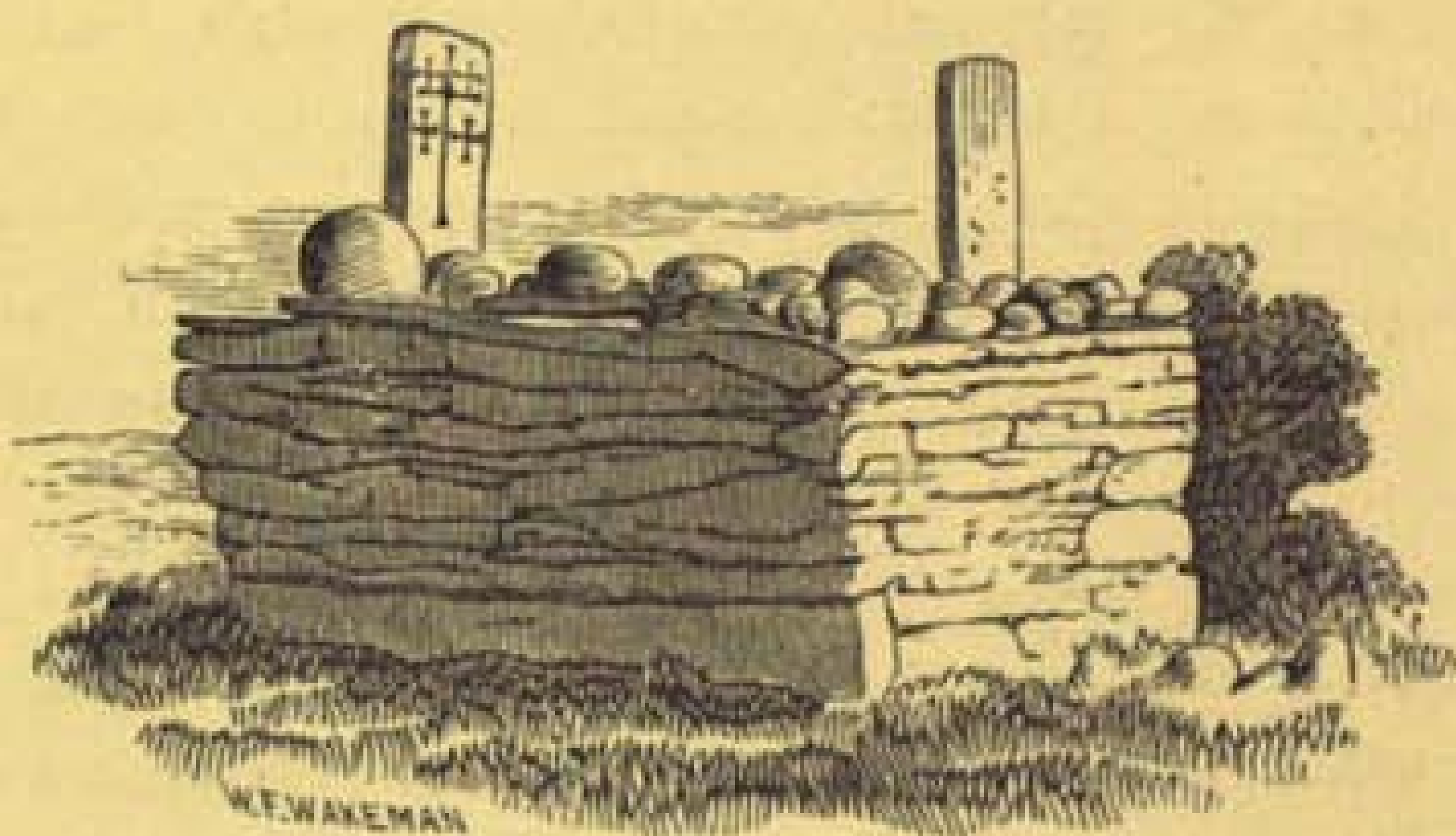


FIG. 51.—*Clocha-breacha*, and Cursing Stones.

right—following the course of the sun—but when vengeance is to be invoked against an enemy the opposite course is adopted. The suppliant commences from right to left, turning the stones thrice, an imprecation against his enemy being previously, each time, uttered; but if his adversary be innocent, then the imprecations recoil upon the individual uttering them.

Upon the various altars of Inismurray may be noticed a collection of these stones, which have been long held in high veneration by the natives of the island. Two stones of this class, both of which bear inscriptions as well as crosses, are, it is stated, to be seen in the Paris Museum, and they are, it is alleged, common in the western isles of Scotland. We learn, also, from ancient authorities, that even in ante-Patrician days

in Ireland, a system of cursing, in which the turning of certain stones was part of the formula, prevailed.

Of the many examples remaining on Inismurray only five are in any degree decorated. The design which these bear is what is usually styled a Greek cross, enclosed by a circle. The most ornate of the symbols (see No. 1 of fig. 52) occurs on a stone, globular in shape, measuring fifteen and a-half inches in diameter, and weighing probably twenty-eight pounds or so. This was certainly unfitted for the purposes of a portable altar, as suggested by some antiquaries.

No. 2 represents a stone on *Clocha-breacha*, which is in the form of a globe slightly flattened. The stone measures only eleven inches and a-half in diameter.

No. 3, on the same altar, is in the form of an egg. Its greater diameter is ten and a-half inches.

No. 4 exhibits a plain Greek cross enclosed by a circle, the diameter of which is five inches and a-half, the design exactly resembling crosses engraved on Coptic and Syrian churches of about the fifth century.

No. 5 is the smallest of the inscribed "swearing" stones of Inismurray. It bears punched upon it a Greek cross, the arms of which terminate in bifurcations. Within each quadrant is a slight depression or cup. The diameter of the circle by which the figure is encompassed is about five inches.

No. 10 represents an average example of the ordinary plain stones which appear on the altars of Inismurray, and also upon similar structures distributed over several districts of Ireland, principally in the west. They are, in all probability, boulders, rounded and smoothed by the action of water, or by friction with the sand or gravel of some sea or lake shore. In size some are no larger than a walnut, while others, in point of dimensions might be compared to a beehive of moderate proportions.

No. 6 is a block of sandstone, the upper portion shaped like a cube, while the lower presents the appearance of a shaft intended for insertion in some socket. The cube has been hollowed to some extent, and was furnished with a covering or



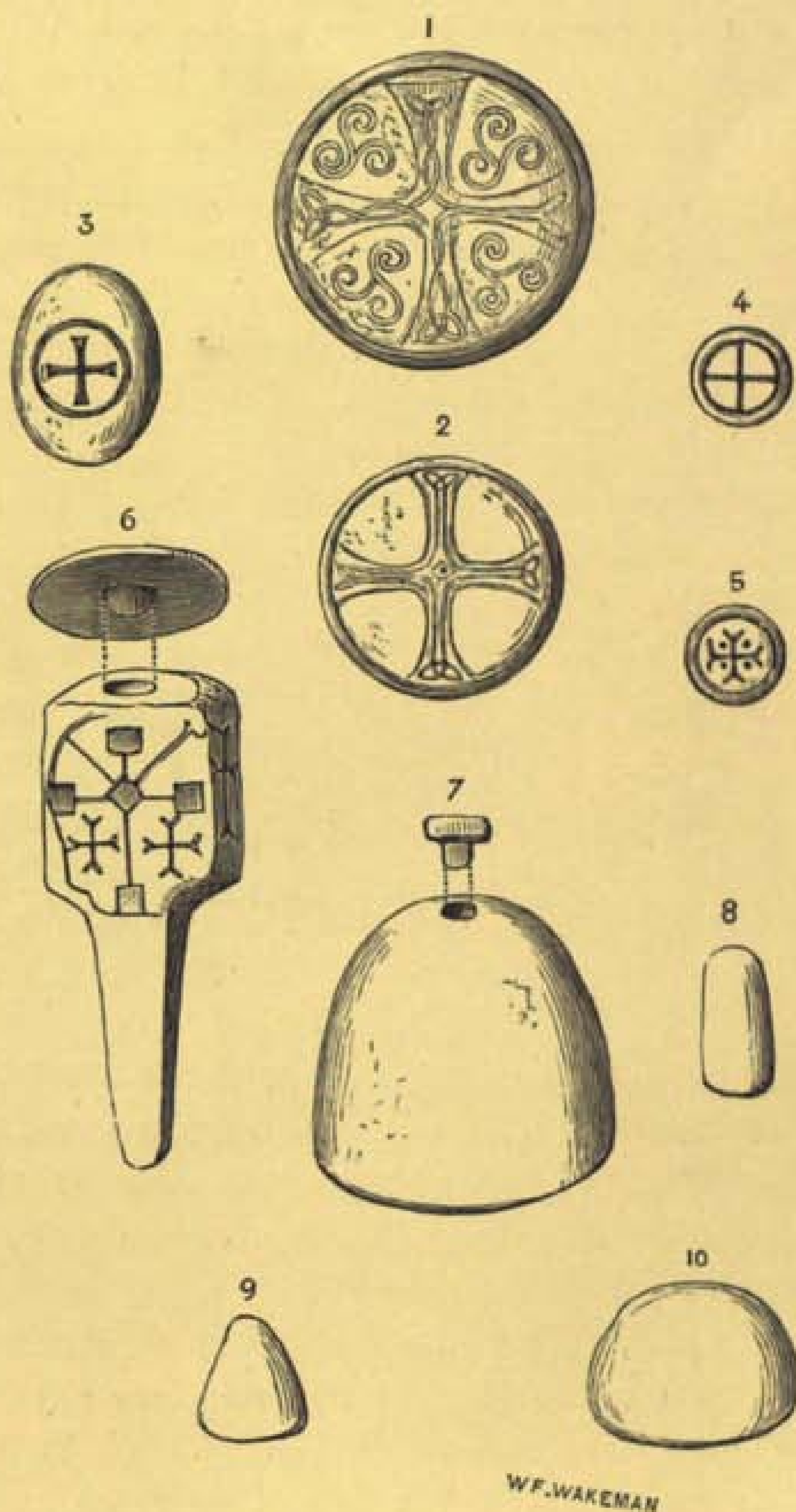


Fig. 52.—CURSING STONES, &c., ISLAND OF INISMURRAY.





stopper of stone. There is no tradition in connexion with this relic; but as its principal surfaces have been carved with a number of very early crosses, it was probably intended to serve some purpose in the ancient ritual of St. Molaise's establishment. The stone is about two feet in length.

No. 7, a second hollowed stone, furnished with a stopper, is as great a puzzle to archæologists as is its fellow. It measures three feet ten inches in circumference.

There are two other relics upon the altar (see Nos. 8 and 9). The former is eight, and the latter six inches in height.<sup>1</sup>

In the townland of Ballysummaghan there were originally seven stones styled "the Summaghan stones." These were used for the purpose of cursing, and the ceremony appears to have closely resembled that observed on Inismurray, though, in addition, the postulant was required to go through the performance barefooted and bareheaded. These stones are said to have been cast into the neighbouring lake, yet were found next morning in their accustomed place. About two miles distant, in Barroe, near Bloomfield, there was a similar set of stones. Under the shade of some ash trees is the dried-up site of a holy well; for owing to its profanation by unbelievers in its sanctity, the waters broke out in another spot. Both here and at Ballysummaghan the stones have now disappeared. The two cursing sites seem to have been the special heritage of the Summaghan family. It is recounted that the last victims were members of the sept. The O'Summaghan missed a firkin of butter, and accused one of his neighbours of the larceny, which was stoutly denied. O'Summaghan then "performed stations" at Barroe and at Ballysummaghan, but with an unexpected result. His wife and son both died—for it was his wife who, being in debt, had, with the aid of her son, abstracted the firkin of butter, conveyed it into Sligo, and sold it to pay her bills. One mode of averting the curse was for the person against whom "the stones were turned" to have a grave dug, to cause himself to

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<sup>1</sup> For a detailed account by W. F. Wakeman, of this interesting subject see vol. vii., *Journal, R. H. A. A. I.*

be laid in it, and to have three shovelfuls of earth cast over him, the gravediggers at the same time reciting certain rhymes. The last person who essayed this charm prolonged his life, but spent it in the Lunatic Asylum—mad.

Lying on the ground in the graveyard of the old church of Killery is a thin flagstone, rather less than three feet square; at its south-eastern corner there is a small rectangular stone projecting about six inches above the surface of the soil, and at all times may be seen around it a piece of string, called the “straining string,” which is supposed to be an infallible cure for strains, pains, and aches. The spot is frequented by those who put faith in the efficacy of the ceremony there observed. The believer repairs, either by self or deputy, to this

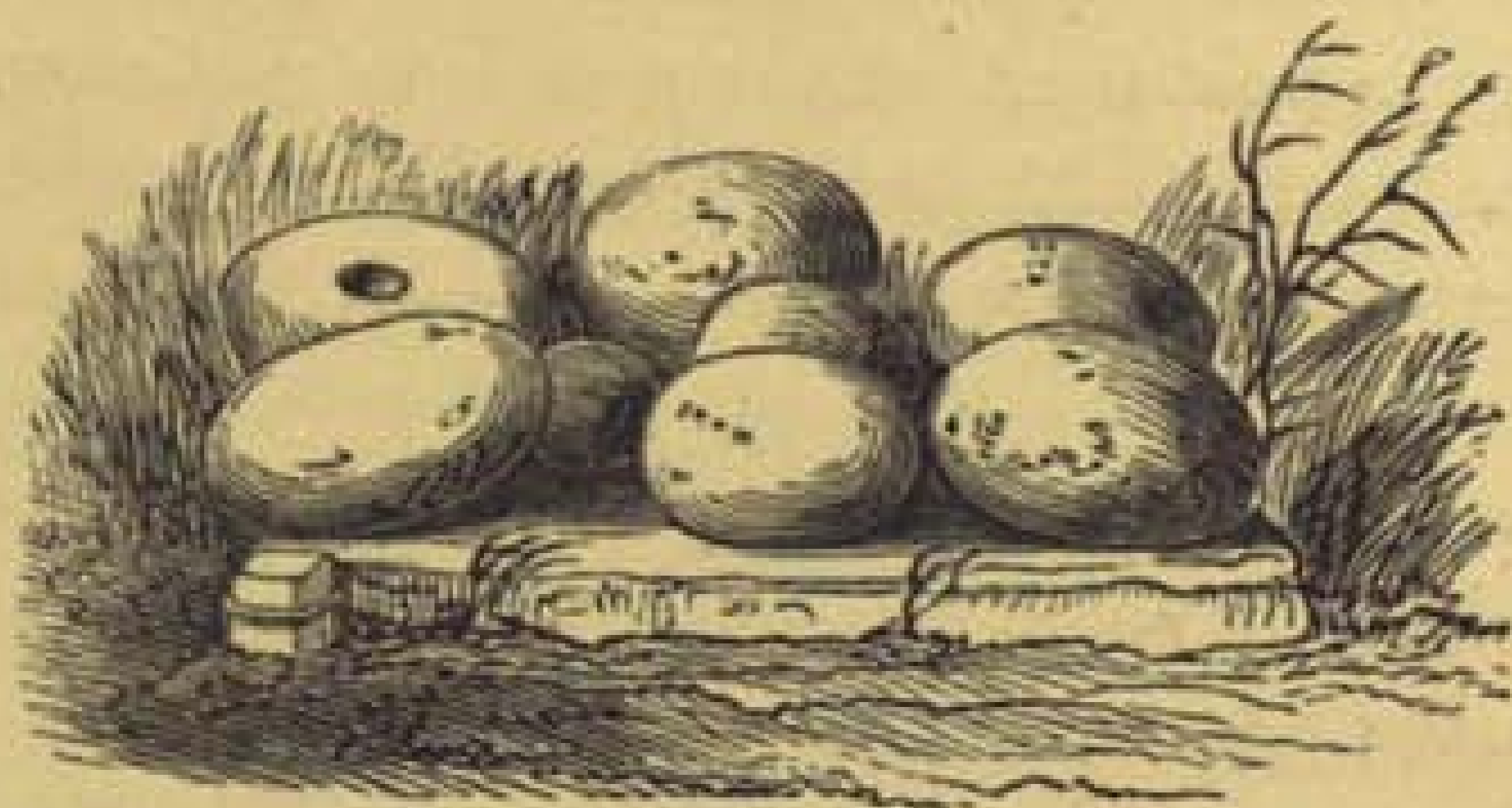


FIG. 53.—Straining Stone, &c., Killery.

flagstone, on which are placed the egg-shaped stones depicted in the engraving; removes from the “straining stone” the old string, replacing it by a new one, whilst repeating a Pater and Ave and prayer to the patron saint of the church before each stone—swung round from left to right, as on a pivot—is turned in succession, being held between the thumb and second finger of the suppliant’s hand. There are seven stones in all—a mystic number. The small round bullet-shaped one was but lately added, after being dug up when the graveyard was cleared and levelled. Six of these stones are such as one would expect to find on the sea-beach. The seventh is flatter, and somewhat resembles a diminutive quern-stone, having at the top a slight artificial depression. These stones are reputed to have been removed and thrown into the river—to have even



been broken by unbelievers—yet they were always to be found next morning, quite uninjured, in their accustomed place. It is said that those “straining strings” or “threads” are sent for from far distant parts of America, by those who have emigrated from the neighbourhood, and who place more reliance on the benefit to be derived from them than on the skill of the American doctors.

The ceremony at Killery may be regarded as the most perfect representation of the survival in the County Sligo of the semi-Christianization of a pagan custom.

Lady Wilde, in her *Ancient Legends*, states that in the western Isles a strand of black wool is wound round and round the ankles as a charm to cure a sprain, while the operator mutters in a low voice a few doggerel lines, winding up with “In the name of God and the Saints, of Mary and her Son, let this man be healed, Amen.” A similar charm was used in Germany and many other countries; in fact, the superstition is widespread.

Amongst the means employed by the Babylonians for warding off the attacks of evil spirits during the hours of darkness, were (according to Professor Sayce) “magical threads twisted seven times round the limbs, and to which phylacteries were bound, consisting of sentences from a holy book.”

The altar at Toomour—close to the old church—shows not the slightest vestige of mortar. The altar slab, about two feet from the ground, is represented by fig. 54. The two strokes or notches at its northern extremity are peculiar; on it rests three flags on edge—possibly emblematic of the Triune God—and a natural fragment of rock or fossil, somewhat resembling a dumbbell in shape.

This “dumbbell” closely resembles “the healing-stone of St. Conall,” described by W. H. Patterson in the *Journal, R.H.A.A.I.*, vol. i. (4th series), p. 469. Of it, however, no information could be obtained, in fact, the people appeared in general unwilling to speak on the subject of the relics on

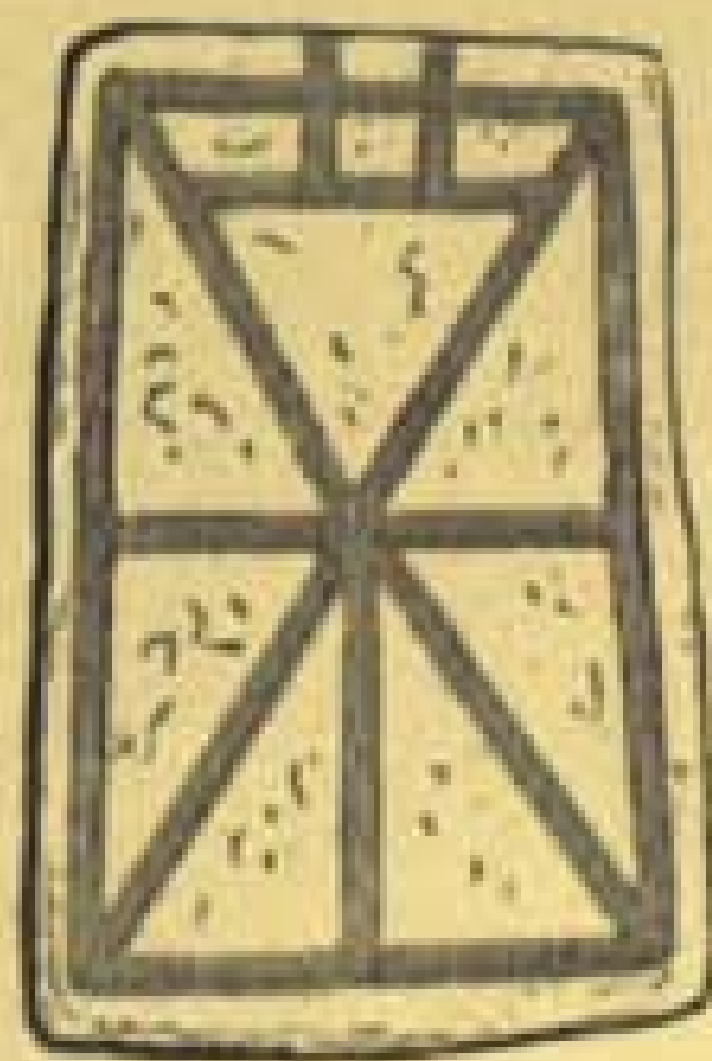


FIG. 54.  
Altar Slab, Toomour.

any of the altars. Wilde, in his *Catalogue of Antiquities*, notices stones of this description which are preserved at altars, holy wells, &c.

On the ground in front of the altar is a large, irregularly-shaped flag-stone, now broken into two fragments; on it are three circular indentations, and three feebly incised Greek

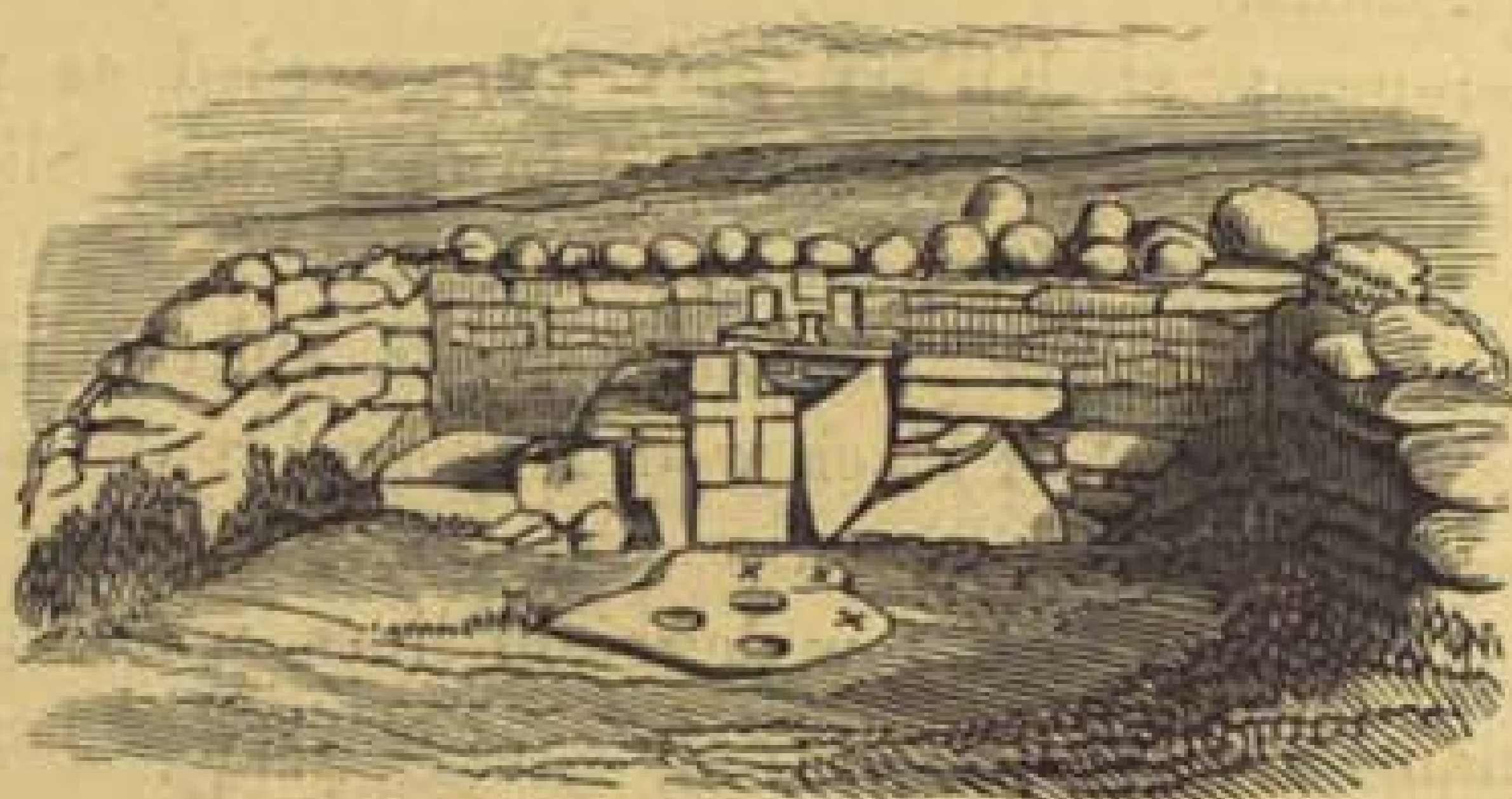


FIG. 55.—Altar and Stones, Toomour.

crosses. Can they be symbolic of the Trinity? On the wall are seventeen globular stones, which are designated “dicket” stones by the peasantry.

The well of Toberaraght, in the townland of Clogher, parish of Kilcolman, in the half barony of Coolavin, lies a few yards



FIG. 56.—Altar and Stones, Toberaraght, Clogher.

off the public road that leads from Boyle to Ballaghadereen, close to the Police Barracks at Clogher. On three sides this



well is surrounded by a low wall of modern masonry, with a flat coping. On the top of the north wall are placed thirteen round water-worn pebbles. The number, thirteen, seems remarkable: can it have any reference to the apostles, and one other? Who does that mysterious stone represent? On this problem the whole ceremony was probably based. In the restricted number of the stones this relic of ancient superstition differs



FIG. 57.—Rude representation of the Crucifixion, Toberaraght.

from its prototype at Inismurray, where it is alleged that they are in such numbers on the altar that they cannot be counted—each person who has essayed the task differing as to the total.

On a stone inserted into the north wall there is a rude representation of the crucifixion (see figs. 56, 57), the slab being about 20 inches in height by  $12\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth. The figure of

our Saviour (in high relief) is about 14 inches in length; the head is out of all proportion to the rest of the body, measuring 5 inches to the end of the beard, the body but  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches to the termination of the garment. The head is chiefly remarkable for the hair, which is represented as falling down on either side in long curling masses, the beard also being curled round at the end. The body shows the ribs, with a kind of loin-cloth, having folds rudely represented; the legs are small and badly carved; the arms are extended. The cross on which the figure is suspended is in relief of about  $\frac{1}{8}$ th inch from the face of the stone, and is 17 inches long from the top to the moulded base, into which the shaft is represented as set, as in the old Irish crosses; the base is 2 inches in height. The shaft of the cross is 2 inches wide, and the arms 12 inches across. On the right side of the cross there is a spiral carving surmounted with a rude representation of a bird—probably intended to represent a cock. There is also a ladder; the devices on the other side are a hammer, nails, &c.

Representations of the Crucifixion are relatively so few in the County Sligo, that it seems desirable to place this one on record, though it certainly possesses no unique feature, and is of comparatively recent date, as evidenced by an inscription inserted at one side of the figure of the Crucifixion instead of over it, *i.e.* I. H. S. 1662, II. I : G : The numeral after the date may signify the 2nd year of the restoration, and the initials I. G. may stand for Iriel O’Gara.

At the foot of the wall may be seen a hollow in a large boulder. The water in this was formerly believed to be a certain cure for children who “were long in walking,” *i. e.* who were afflicted with the rickets. The patron-day appears to have been the 11th August. The altar and walls were some years ago restored by the nuns of Ballaghaderreen.

The predilection for the number three in grouping holy wells requires notice, as does also the custom of forming three receptacles for catching the water flowing from the spring. Of this the well of Tober Molaise, near the parish church of Ahamlish, offers a good example. An overflow from the



spring fills two other depressions—evidently artificial. This well is held in great esteem, and stations are even yet held at it by persons who have sickness in their family, or whose cattle are ill.

A very remarkable cross-carving occurs upon a small pillar-stone leaning upon the side of a well-building, situate at a little distance from Cliffoney. The design, No. 1, fig. 58, is curious, the head of the figure containing a carefully wrought *swastica*, or *croix gammée*. This form of cross was known in days of remote antiquity ; and, was used in ante-Christian times by various nations. “The truth is,” writes Dr. Graves, Bishop of Limerick, “that the early Christians finding this symbol in common use, employed it as a disguised cross in times of persecution, when, with their profound reverence for the sign of the cross, they were obliged to combine a certain prudence, which restrained them from exposing the emblem of their faith freely to the view of pagans. De Rossi does not hesitate to declare that only one exception is known to the general statement that the simple undisguised cross does not appear on monuments before the time of Constantine.”

But of all the groups of early Celtic cross-markings found in Ireland that upon Inismurray is the most varied and interesting. The majority of these figurings bear wonderful resemblance to crosses carved by early Christians on the walls of pagan temples in Egypt. No. 2 of fig. 58 represents a design, a counterpart of which was observed by Bishop Graves upon a Coptic or Egyptian temple. The stone measures in height  $26\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

No. 3 is a cross, exhibiting the spirals characteristic of an early age. A large portion of the stone appears to be missing. There were, in all likelihood, five crosses upon the *leac* as it originally stood. The meaning of the five crosses which are found carved upon a number of the Inismurray monuments is a subject for conjecture. The design is, however, to be seen on pillar stones remaining in some of the western counties. The original of No. 4 measures  $14\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height.

No. 5 measures 2 feet in length by 15 inches in breadth.

A peculiarity of this design is that the base of the shaft expands into a figure similar to certain ancient representations of a ship's anchor; an anchor, as well as a ship, amongst primitive Christians, sometimes symbolized the Church. Within the quadrants of the principal cross of this slab are four circular cup-like depressions; markings of this class, so placed, indicate an extremely early age for the remains on which they occur.

On No. 6 stone is a cross of the earliest Christian type. A similar one was sketched by Dr. Graves from an example found by him carved upon the wall of a Coptic Church. Here we find the "mast and yard," symbolic of the Church; while the shaft terminates in a figure apparently intended to represent an anchor. This stone measures in height 19 inches.

Nos. 7 and 8 represent fragments of slabs. The character of No. 8 is extremely Celtic. Of the inscription which was carved upon the other, only the word *CRUX* remains.

No. 9 is 31 inches in height. Upon the reverse may be seen a plain Roman cross with cup-marks in the quadrants.

No. 10 measures in height above the socket 2 feet. At the intersection of the cross are the remains of a much worn *quatrefoil*. The back of this monument exhibits a plain Roman cross.

No. 11 represents the head of a pillar-stone. It measures upwards of 3 feet in height from the socket.

No. 12 is carved with two crosses, one above the other. The uppermost is in what Dr. Graves calls the eastern style. The other is Roman. The stone is about 4 feet in height above the socket.

No. 13 shows a cross similar to one that occurs upon the so-called "alphabet-stone," at Kilmalkedar, County Kerry, the lettering of which was considered by both Petrie and O'Donovan to be as old as the sixth century.

No. 14 is like some observed by Dr. Graves on Coptic Churches on the banks of the Nile.

No. 15 is of rare and early form. It is probably of the sixth or seventh centuries.



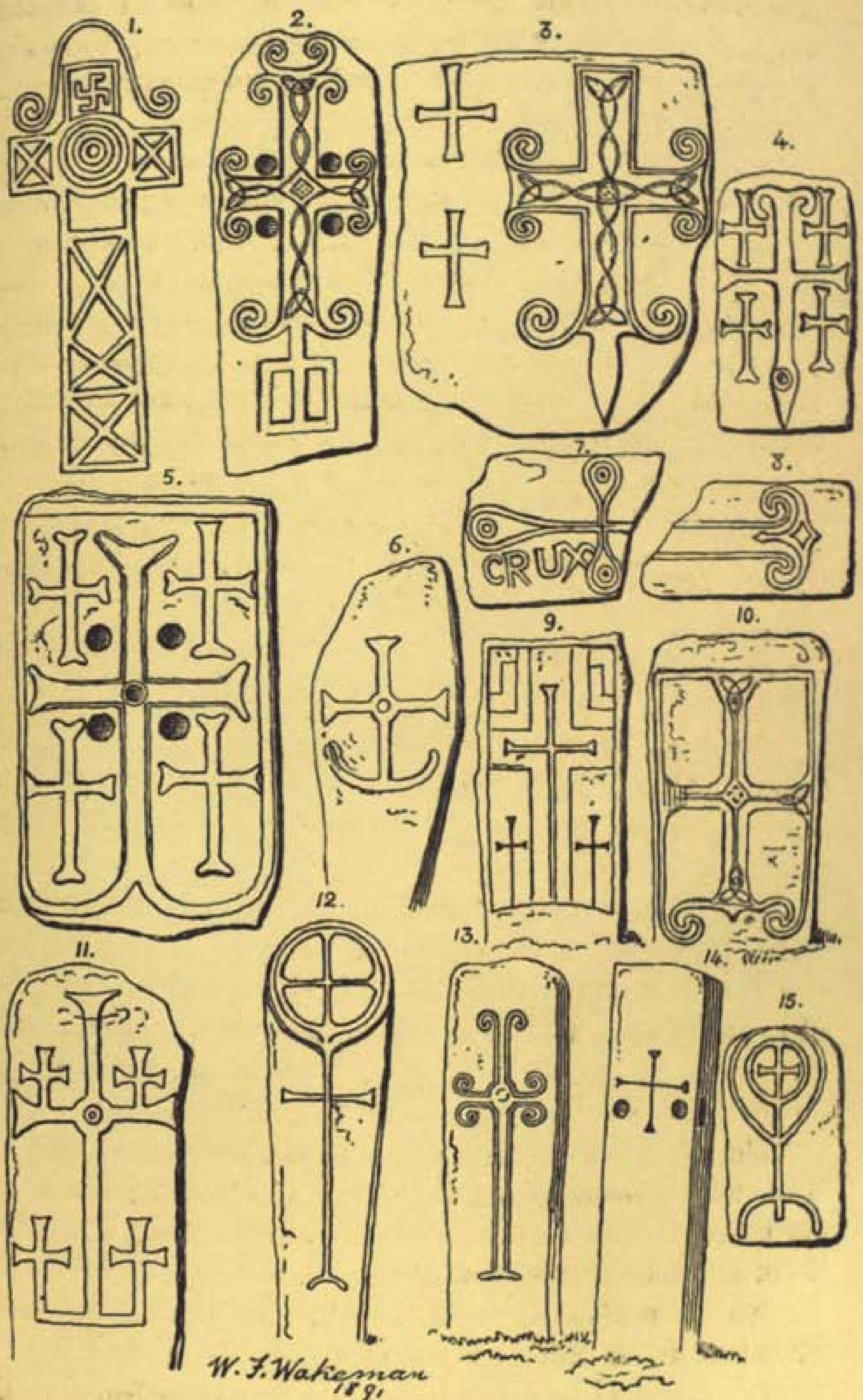


Fig. 58.—SPECIMENS OF CROSSES, CO. SLIGO.





In the parish of Kilturra, the ancient and curious cross, situated at the well of St. Attracta, is probably of a date not later than the sixth century. It closely resembles a class of sculpture that students in ecclesiology have observed upon the walls, or over the doorways of primitive Christian Churches still remaining in parts of Northern Africa, Syria, and Asia Minor, and these buildings are supposed to be as old as the fourth century. A peculiarity of this Sligo cross is that from its horizontal limb rise eight scorings, four in each quadrant, and in this respect the monument appears to be unique. These scorings or digits may, perhaps, be a species of oghamic cipher, for all writings of this genus were, it is alleged, intended to be more or less disguised. To the class as represented by this specimen no key has been at present discovered. The total height of the cross over ground is 24 inches, and it measures 10 inches along its longitudinal limb. The lines are incised in the sandstone of which the cross is formed.

Near it stands a modern cross, stated to have been erected at the close of the last century by "Bishop Phillips." It is composed of a quadrangular piece of limestone, resembling an ordinary headstone in a graveyard. It is 27 inches in height, by  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches in width; there is no lettering on it.

The "patron" held on the 11th of August at the well was abolished about the year 1776. Being on the borders of the county it was largely attended by Mayo and Roscommon people. At the close of one of these "patrons" a faction fight occurred; a man was killed quite close to the priest's residence, and by him the annual gathering was then interdicted.

On the establishment of Christianity, the sacred trees of the

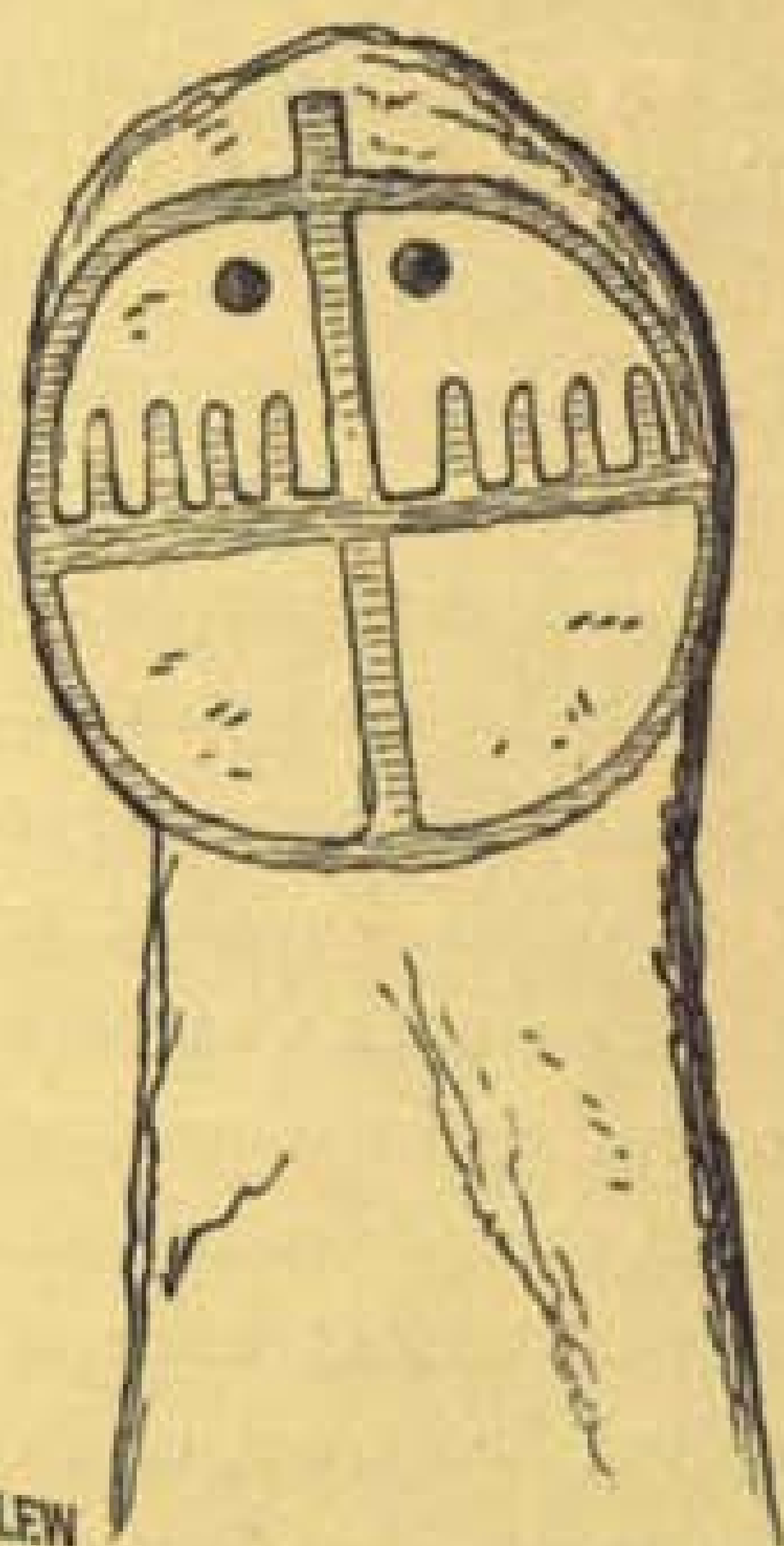


FIG. 59.—Cross at Kilturra.

Pagan cult do not appear to have been cut down, nor was worship at the wells forbidden, but the various objects of Pagan veneration were sanctified by association with a saint's name, instead of that of a heathen deity, and thus from objects of Pagan they became those of Christian idolatry.

"Honey-tree" is the remarkable designation of an old sycamore in the townland of Coollemoneen, in the parish of Killadoon, and it is so styled on the Ordnance Survey maps. It stands on a mound surrounded by stones, some of which are so disposed as to simulate the form of a rude altar. Like many other old and solitary-growing trees, it has legends and traditions attached to it, some of which are yet current among the old people of the neighbourhood. "*Bile*" (*billa*), remarks P. W. Joyce, "signifies a large tree . . . '*Bile*' was generally applied to a large tree, which for any reason was held in veneration by the people; for instance, one under which their chiefs used to be inaugurated, or periodical games celebrated. Trees of this kind were regarded with intense reverence and affection. One of the greatest triumphs that a tribe could achieve over their enemies was to cut down their inauguration tree, and no outrage was more keenly resented, and when possible visited with sharper retribution. . . . These trees were pretty common in past times; some of them remain to this day, and are often called *Bell* trees, or *Bellow* trees—an echo of the old word, *Bile*. In most cases, however, they have long since disappeared, but their names remain in many places to attest their former existence." There is a townland of *Billa*, in the parish of Ballysadare; and in a MS. in the Library, Royal Irish Academy, one such tree, which is styled "the fern tree," situated in the parish of Kilmacteige, is described in an account of the district.

This veneration for, or even perhaps ancient worship of trees is singular. Carlyle, in his "Hero Worship," states that amongst the old Norse, life was figured as a tree.

On the 1st May a large bunch of gorse in full bloom, or of marsh marigold, may be seen suspended over every door. Some



say it is for the purpose of "pleasing the good people"; others, that it is "to keep luck in the house." For some time during the day no fire is allowed on the hearth; fire is not allowed to be taken out of the house—for that would be considered giving away the luck—neither would a stranger be given even a light for his pipe. The bunch of gorse is afterwards either buried or burnt. In 1890, a person who walked down a street of thatched houses in the town of Sligo on the 1st May could, only in two instances, note the absence of the customary emblem.

On the 23rd June, St. John's Eve—commonly termed Bonfire Night—fires are lighted on roads, generally speaking where two or more ways meet; not long ago, on all the heights, cattle used to be driven through the flames, children were swung over them, and men and boys jumped through them with the children, as it was imagined that by such purification they would be secured from accident or disease during the remainder of the year.<sup>1</sup>

The custom of kindling fires on Midsummer Eve appears to have been quite as prevalent in England as in Ireland, for in a work by T. Nagycorgus, an English translation of which appeared in 1570, the following description occurs:—

"When thus till night they daunced have, they through the fire amaine,  
With striving minds doe run. . . ."

Others allege that these fires were made to drive away dragons and evil spirits, and that the custom of burning bones was that "the dragons hattyd nothing mor than the stynche of burnyng bones!" In these fires the leg-bones of horses were in great requisition to aid the flames.

Bonfires were allowed to be kindled in the streets of Sligo—even between rows of thatched cottages. Remonstrances were vain, "the custom" was pleaded in excuse; but finally a house was burnt from a spark from one of these fires; the grand jury

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<sup>1</sup> *In Folk Lore* there is an account of somewhat similar observances in Greece on May Day, as well as the Custom on St. John's Eve of lighting bonfires and jumping over them.

found the damage so inflicted was "wanton"; the owner recovered the value of his property, and the tenant that of his chattels from the rates.

"Garland," or "Garlic Sunday" was, in some places, the special festival of the saint to whom the church of the district had been dedicated, garlands being then laid on the graves of friends and relations. About Dublin the festival, it is stated, used to be kept on St. John's, *i. e.* Midsummer Day, and in some localities it was associated with a visit to a holy well. About the town of Sligo it is kept on the last Sunday of July, and the holy well of Tubbernalt appears to be a great point of attraction, the altar and crucifix being then profusely decorated with flowers. Whiskey-drinking and dancing seem, however, to be the principal signs by which this special Sabbath may be distinguished; in fact, within the last two or three years there appears to have been a revival of the observances of this festival.

On St. Stephen's Day, a crowd of little boys—whose leader carrying a bush gaily decorated with flowers, on the top of which was attached a dead wren—used to perambulate the streets begging money from the passers-by, and chaunting a doggerel, of which only the first two lines could be distinguished:

"The wren, the wren, the King of all birds,  
Was caught on St. Stephen's Day in the furze."

The origin of the persecution of the wren on this special day is very problematic, but it is said to prevail in Ireland, in the Isle of Man, and in the South of France. "In olden times," remarks P. W. Joyce, "the little bird was regarded as a great prophet, for by listening attentively to its chirping those who were skilled in the language of birds were enabled to predict future events. Hence the writer of an old life of St. Moling translates *drean*, which is one (Irish) name for the bird, by 'magus avium,' the 'druid of birds,' implying that *drean* was derived from 'drui-en' (*drui*, a druid, *en* of birds), and says



that it was so called on account of the excellence of its augury."

A legend narrates that some soldiers of the army of William III. were awakened by the noise of a wren pecking on the drum-head; the drummer beat to arms, and a surprise intended by the Jacobites was thus frustrated. Hence the little bird was a favourite with the Williamites, and was persecuted by the Jacobite peasantry. Mr. S. C. Hall carries this back to Danish times; but both legends appear to have been manufactured with the object of accounting for the prevailing custom.

It was formerly believed that a certain cure for epilepsy consisted of the first verse of the Gospel of St. John, written on a small slip of paper, sewed up in a piece of cloth, and worn suspended from the neck of the afflicted person. This charm was believed to be not only a cure but a preservative from the malady, as also a protection from the power of demons and witches who are supposed to have still—as they are related to have had in ante-Christian times—the power of afflicting persons with convulsions, madness, and similar afflictions.

Quack cattle-doctors are not yet extinct, for there are credulous people who, when their cattle commence to fail, or become seriously affected, at once send for the so-called doctor to exorcise the spells of the "good people" who have afflicted the poor brute beast. Cattle thus stricken are said to be "elf-shot." Writing of an amulet in possession of a family resident in the South of Ireland, Mr. Atkinson remarks that "the curative virtues of this stone are still believed in by the country people. By being placed in a vessel containing water, the water is supposed to get impregnated with the healing powers, which, mixed with more water, is administered to the suffering cattle." The same superstition exists in parts of France.

The arrows of the elfin spirits were also supposed to possess the virtue of removing or averting evil. In the remote parts of Ireland, Scotland, and England the peasantry still believe that water in which "elf darts" and coins have been placed is an

infallible remedy for cattle that have been shot at by the "fairies." Arrow-heads, when used as amulets, were further accredited with the power of preserving the wearers from dangers and from the influence of malignant spirits. It was almost certain that it was for this purpose they found a place in the necklaces worn by the ancient inhabitants of Egypt and of Etruria. In Italy they are still in common use as preservatives against evil, and in our own land it is only within the present century that they have ceased to be carried as charms. It is strange that as soon as bronze and iron had superseded flint, implements formed of the latter substance should have come to be regarded as sacred and supernatural objects, and that common and apparently self-evident utilitarian implements of savage life should be looked on as possessing "virtues as wonderful as they are incredible."

Some of the country people still firmly believe that the barnacle goose, which breeds in the high northern latitudes, *i.e.* Iceland, Lapland, &c., but is a winter visitant to our sea-coast, is really propagated from the cirriped marine testaceous animal so often found adhering to wooden piles and hulls of vessels; but in this idea they were not singular, for in former times even learned writers gravely affirmed the same. Probably the delusion first arose from the designation "barnacle" being common to both. It was long, however, before truth prevailed, and the absurd doctrine of the generation of these sea-fowl was finally refuted.

By the peasantry certain acts are deemed unlucky, such as to weigh or measure young children, or put them out through a window; to burn or throw away human hair (it was usually hid in the interstices of walls); to dig potatoes before "Garland Sunday"; to kill crickets; to lend a clocking-hen, &c. A horse-shoe, if found, brings good luck; it should be preserved and hung up on the exterior of the house or out-office; it is a preventative of disease or misfortune, and a sure preservative against the machinations of witches or fairy-spells.



A cure for ring-worm was effected by rubbing the spots with a gold ring; pounded snails cured bruises; water in the hollow of certain stones removed warts; for instance, near the Abbey of Ballindoon is "St. Dominick's Stone," having on its top a cup-shaped hollow generally full of water which is supposed to be a certain cure for these excrescences, whilst in the parish of Killery there is a spring styled Tobernawanny, *i.e.* the wart well, doubtless from the curative properties of the spring. Witches take the form of hares; a seventh son possesses special curative powers; spilling, or helping a person to salt, making a present of a knife, a scissors, or a box of pins, breaking a looking-glass or going under a ladder, all these acts bring ill-luck. Never boast of good-luck or immunity from ill; if having inadvertently committed this offence against the "good people," instantly qualify the boast by the ejaculation "In a good hour be it spoken!"

In the townland of Keelty, in the parish of Drumcliff, are the remains of a ruined church, founded, according to local tradition, by St. Columbkille. It is stated that the only burials which now take place in the surrounding grave-yard are the remains of infants who die unbaptized. Some residents in the neighbourhood hold the strange belief that such children are turned into owls, and therefore they regard it as unlucky to kill these birds. Black cats possess special demoniac power, and are frequently appointed guardians of hidden treasure. To buy a horse from a priest or a parson is unlucky. One of the most generally credited superstitions was that of the "Evil Eye." A certain cure for warts is supposed to be to steal a piece of raw meat and bury it; according as the meat decays so will the warts diminish.

Many legends with which the history of the country abounded date so early as from the sixth century. Those connected with Sligo were in process of being transcribed and translated when a stop was put to the work by the death of the late W. H. Hennessy.

*The Pursuit of Dermod and Grania* is too long to be given in its entirety. They resided at Rath-Grania, near Colloony; and the death of Dermod takes place on Benbulbin. Of this epic at least two translations have been made, one by Standish H. O'Grady, and another by Dr. Joyce, in *Old Celtic Romances*. Grania, daughter of King Cormac Mac Art, was affianced to Finn the son of Cumal, commander-in-chief of the Feni, or warriors of the kingdom. The king gave a great banquet at Tara in honour of the betrothal, where the bride fell in love with Dermod O'Dyna; she had drugs placed in all the wine cups except that of Dermod, and when the company were in a state of stupor she eloped with her lover. A long account is given of the pursuit of the runaway couple by the naturally irate Finn, of the different places in which they took refuge, of their hair-breadth escapes, of their retreat in the barony of Tireragh. Finn, worsted in every attempt against the life of Dermod, grew weary of the quarrel, and peace was made.

Dermod and Grania went to live far away from Finn and Cormac in the cantred of Kesh-Corran, where they abode many years in peace. Grania, however, became tired of the solitude, and begged her husband to invite the king her father, and also Finn; "for," Grania said, "their enmity has surely softened with length of time; and now I would that you give them a feast; so shall we win back their friendship and love." In an evil hour Dermod consented; and the entire court of Tara remained for twelve months feasting with Dermod, until he, despite the entreaties of his wife, went out to hunt the magical boar of Benbulbin, by whom he was wounded. His enemy Finn found him lying in the pangs of death: Dermod begged of him a drink of water; for, by the magic power possessed by Finn, to whomsoever he gave a drink of water from the closed palms of his two hands, he would be at once made whole. Finn went reluctantly to the well for the healing draught; twice he let the water purposely slip through his hand; but, being menaced with instant death by Oscar if he did not give the healing drink, he was hastening forward the third time when Dermod expired.



Grania had sat all day watching for Dermod's return; when, at last, the hunting party came in sight, and she saw her husband's favourite hound led by Finn, she knew that Dermod was no more, and she fell fainting into the arms of her handmaidens.

This Celtic legend was one of the most widely-spread; for the Irish-speaking peasant still designates some of the rude stone monuments in Ireland as the "beds of Dermod and Grania"; and accounts for them by alleging that they were erected by Dermod as a shelter for his wife when they were flying from before the wrath of Finn. There is a "Dermod and Grania" bed in the townland of Carrickglass, another in that of Carrownagh, also at Castlecarragh, &c. There are legends of the magical boar at Benbulbin, at Cloonmacduff, near Colloony, and at Scurmore. The celebrated cavern of Gleniff is called also Dermod and Grania's bed; and this seems to be the only instance within the County Sligo in which the story of the runaway couple is connected with any object save that of a rude stone monument.

Until a comparatively recent period these popular legends were still recounted by the local *shannachies*. In 1815 Wakefield met one of these in "the neighbourhood of Nymphsfield," who repeated a long history in Irish, which he called the *Poems of Osheen*, meaning probably the poems of Ossian. What he rehearsed seemed to be a confused legend which the man had learned by heart; for, when interrupted, he could not proceed without beginning again.

A mythical submergence of the ancient town of Sligo has been recounted. Very many years ago a peasant, who lived on the borders of Lough Gill, had occasion at midnight (on 23rd June) to draw water, and, approaching the margin of the lake, observed the "cool shining mirror" receding onwards. Although astonished at the phenomenon, the peasant continued to walk through a totally unknown country, and entered a stately city with magnificent streets and buildings. Of the beings there to be seen the nearest started forward to seize the intruder, who

quickly turned and fled. There is the authority of Burns for stating that the spirits of the Scottish land have such a dread of water that "a running stream they dar' na' cross"; but these were genuine Irish spirits; for, despite an admixture of the watery element, they remained potent enough to keep up the chase on land. The fugitive strained every nerve, and finally succeeded in bursting through the cabin door, and, on recovering consciousness, was lying on the bed, the only memento of this wonderful escape being a curiously-shaped bottle, having a pungent odour, and which had been taken (as alleged when recounting the adventure) from off the table of a mansion in the buried city; so that there appears to have been some grounds for the story, though, like "the baseless fabric of a dream," both the peasant and the fairy city of Lough Gill have alike vanished from human ken.

"Everybody knows," remarks P. W. Joyce, "that a ghost without a head is very usual, not only in Ireland, but all over the world." There is also a "hideous kind of hobgoblin, generally met with in churchyards, called a *dullaghan*, who can take off and put on his head at will; in fact, you generally meet him with that member in his pocket, under his arm, or absent altogether; or, if you have the fortune to light on a number of them, you may see them amusing themselves by flinging their heads at one another, or kicking them for footballs." Sligo can boast of several of these interesting beings. In former days there was an Irish chief who lived at Loughanacaha, *i.e.* the lakelet of the winnowing, now known as Chaffpool.<sup>1</sup> This chief had an only child (a daughter) regarding whom there was a prophecy, that she would be lost before attaining the age of twenty-one years. The father then built

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<sup>1</sup> Chaffpool derives its name from a phenomenon that is not uncommon in a limestone district. Whenever a *turlough*, situated about half a mile from the house, chances to be full, an inundation then takes place in a depression of the ground at some considerable distances, and if oats be winnowed at the *turlough*, the chaff comes up on this rise of water, showing that there must exist an underground communication between the two.



a house with a moat about it,<sup>1</sup> in which he placed the child. Despite all these precautions, the little girl did manage to escape from the "moated grange," and wandered to a boggy place called Cashel Cawley, where she was found by one of the kerns, who took her to his own house for the night, did all he could for her, and started early next morning for her home (wrapping her carefully in his sheepskin), and gave her up to her father. The chief demanded why the child had not been brought the moment she had been found. "Sure," said the kern, "I thought it too cold for her, so I made her warm and comfortable." "You ruffian," retorted the chief, "you lost me my rest last night"; and he ordered him to be beheaded near the large ash-trees at the gate of the present garden at Chaffpool. The ghost of the kern—with a lantern where his head ought to be, but that member under his arm—was believed to haunt the spot. He has been seen often; but the last case occurred in 1871, about which time a fence was being made near the place, and a skeleton was discovered having the skull detached from the remainder of the bones; it was decently re-interred, and the ghost has not since re-appeared.

"The practice of removing the head from the trunk, in order to bury it in some celebrated locality, must have been one of not unusual occurrence amongst the early Irish. Thus we find in the Annals of the Four Masters, that in the barony of Ballybrit, in the King's Co, A.D. 1213, was interred the head of Etech," an ancient Irish heroine. In Petrie's paper on Tara it is mentioned that the head of Cuchullin was buried on Tara hill. Also, in the Annals of the Four Masters, anno 565, it is recorded that the head of Diarmaid Mac Fergus was buried at Clonmacnoise; his body where he was killed, in the county Antrim.

It has been asserted that a *dullaghan*, or headless phantom, used to frequent the streets of Sligo, and that the ships at the

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<sup>1</sup> The site, as pointed out by the county people, strongly resembles the remains of a crannog or lake dwelling; and, when filling in "the moat" a keg of bog-butter was found, weighing about 20 lbs.

quay were haunted by a "black dog"—a form, perhaps, of the *pooka*. Under present management, however, the improvement of gaslight has banished them. On Aughris Head is a locality styled Pollaphuca; and it is probably connected with a legend of one of these strange hobgoblins.

At Seaview, in Tireragh, there is said to be a phantom-coach which at certain periods is driven along the avenue leading to the residence. The coachman is headless, as are also the four black horses harnessed to the chariot. The question may be naturally asked, how does the coachman see to guide his team, and where does he place the bits to guide his four-in-hand? His head is doubtless, as is usual with *dullaghans*, under his arm, but where are the heads of the four horses?

There are other residences in the county where the sound of carriages driving along the approach to the house is frequently heard, generally, however, when there is a high wind. There is also a phantom boat, rowed by a crew of *dullaghans*, which at certain seasons of the year traverses the river Garvogue, from the lake to the sea; sometimes the crew are visible, but often the oars move without any apparent agency.

Glennawoo, a townland in the parish of Kilmacteige, remarks P. W. Joyce, "must have been, and perhaps still is, a ghastly neighbourhood, for the name *Gleann-na-bhfuath* (Glennawoo) signifies the Glen of the Spectres."

The legend attached to Knocknarea can be best explained by relating the adventure, if it may so be termed, which more than half a century ago befel an officer then quartered in Sligo. Desirous of ascending the mountain he started on a day which promised to be favourable, but scarcely had he reached the summit of the *Misgaun*, when a fog set in so rapidly, and of a nature so dense, that the greatest caution was needful in attempting the descent. Whilst wandering downward with slow and cautious steps, he observed through the mist a female figure weeping and wringing her hands as if in great distress. Under the impression that it was a lady who had (like himself) lost her way in the fog, he advanced towards her to offer aid, but at his approach, she



retired, although still continuing to weep. He imagined that the appearance of a mere stranger had caused increased alarm on her part, therefore thought it more advisable to continue on his own course and succeeded in reaching level ground in safety. He mentioned the circumstance of meeting the lady he had seen in such grief. Then for the first time he heard of the Spirit of the Mountain, who he was assured must have presented herself to his view. This spirit is reputed to appear only once in every seven years, and whatever mortal chances then to see her, is certain to encounter some serious misfortune within twelve months. The officer in question was suddenly ordered abroad; he sailed on board the Kent, East Indiaman, which was destroyed by fire at sea.

The name of St. Patrick is connected in popular legend with Coney Island. In a field not far from the Atlantic-beaten shore is a large erratic boulder having three step-like ledges, and here it is stated that strangers occasionally come to pray, and miraculous cures follow the petitions of the faithful: some of the islanders, however, appear to be sceptical, both as to the efficacy of the prayers and the antiquity of the custom. According to local tradition St. Patrick, when in Sligo, resided for some time on the island, and observing the need of a safe communication with the mainland, commenced a causeway, which was to connect it with Strandhill. He sent a messenger to his hostess, a woman named Stoney, *i. e.* Mulclohy (hence the ancient name of the Island Inismulclohy), to cook a rabbit for his dinner. When, however, the saint sat down, pronouncing a blessing on the food, a gigantic cat jumped up off the platter set before him. It would seem that his hostess, not having a rabbit in readiness, substituted a fine specimen of the feline tribe. St. Patrick was so disgusted at this treatment, that he never resumed his work, and his ante-dinner labour is now represented by the small island styled Doonanpatrick. On taking his departure, instead of leaving a blessing on the islanders, he prayed that there might never be four of the name of Stoney (*i. e.* sons of the same father and mother) alive at the same time to carry the remains of one of their relations to the grave.

The work that St. Patrick abandoned has in later days been to some extent effected by the Grand Jury of the county. The direct route to the island across the strand is now marked by 14 pillars, built of stone, and placed in a direct line from the old Scarden Mills. The pillars are on quadrangular bases with steps, and having rings strongly secured to the pillars; these have been instrumental in saving many lives, for persons overtaken by the tide may often be observed clinging to the rings or seated on the summit of a pillar, where they present a most singular appearance.<sup>1</sup> A roadway is now in course of construction.

Along the borders of the river Garvogue, at a spot styled Lugananta (*i. e.* the hollow of the nettles), is the site on which was fought, in 1645, the battle by the R. C. Archbishop of Tuam—at least so says local tradition. In the commencement of this century, when the present woods with which the hollow is surrounded were being planted, swords, pistols, guns, and armour were dug up. This spot is on the line of the old track which formerly led from Cairns to Ballintogher, along the shore of Lough Gill through the pass between Slish and Slieve-da-en.

Cope's mountain, with its fearful precipices (bordering the valley of Glencar) is the scene of the alleged "Protestant leap." The legend connected with it is as follows:—A detachment of Colonel Hamilton's troops (garrisoned in Manorhamilton during the war of 1641) was making a raid into Sligo, and obtained a guide, who stipulated, in return for a certain sum of money, to enable the party to fall on the Irish unawares, at the close of the evening. "Accordingly he led them up the mountain, directing them to halt a little short of the precipice, of the existence of which they had not the most remote idea, while he himself moved forward to ascertain if all was favourable among the Irish, in which case he was to give them a signal, by dropping his cloak, to rush on to the work of havoc. The cloak was

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<sup>1</sup> A Mr. William Dorran, the then proprietor of the island—hence it was sometimes styled Dorran's Island—was drowned whilst crossing over to his house, on the 9th March, 1823.



dropped, on perceiving which, rushing forward with eager haste, they reached the verge of the precipice, where, unable to check themselves, the rear pressing on the front rank, every man of the detachment was hurled down that fearful abyss. . . . Their deceitful guide had dropped the cloak just on the edge of the abyss, towards which they accordingly rushed, and he, stepping aside, either made his way down the mountain again, or remained to gloat over the destruction of his victims."

It is almost needless to add that there does not appear to be the slightest substratum of truth in the legend, particularly if it be remembered that many of Hamilton's troopers were men who had escaped from Sligo, and were well acquainted with its environs.

Mirages are not uncommon. A correspondent writes—"I myself, upwards of half a century ago, saw a wonderful mirage, resembling that lately described as having been visible off our Tireragh coast, and had I been looking on the bay for the first time, nothing could have persuaded me but that I was gazing at a veritable city—a large and handsome one, too—trees, houses, spires, castellated buildings, &c."

The enchanted Island of Hy Brazil<sup>1</sup> was seen off the coast in the year 1885 ; this vision forebodes—so it is alleged—national trouble.

It was much remarked in 1688 that William III. was enabled to reach Torbay, and to disembark unmolested, whilst James's Admiral was incapacitated from sailing by the same wind. Hence, winds favourable to their cause were called by the people of England "Protestant winds."

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<sup>1</sup> Gerald Griffin describes it thus:—

"On the ocean that hollows the rocks where ye dwell,  
A shadowy land has appeared, as they tell;  
Men thought it a region of sunshine and rest,  
And they called it *Hy-Brasail* the isle of the blest.  
The beautiful spectre showed lovely and dim;  
The golden clouds curtained the deep where it lay,  
And it looked like an Eden away, far away!"

Sligo also had its observations as to winds from different quarters—for instance, about the town, a wind blowing from the direction of Ballintogher is supposed always to bring rain. On a mail-boat crossing the Atlantic a native of Sligo recognized a fellow-townsmen by the answer made to his remark that there was heavy rain with a southerly wind: “What can you expect but that from a Ballintogher wind?”





## CHAPTER XXVII.

SPORT, RECREATION, EDUCATION, LANGUAGE, AND RELIGION.

**T**HE Irish seem always to have been a sporting race. A MS. which recounts the fantastical voyage of an ancient Milesian thus depicts the hero: "He was high-spirited and generous, and he loved all sorts of manly exercises. In ball-playing, in running and leaping, in throwing the stone, in chess-playing, and in horse-racing, he surpassed all the youths that came to the King's palace, and won the palm in every contest." When Beranger visited the island of Inismurray in the eighteenth century, he found the learned professions at a discount; his guide, the only native who could speak English, informed him "very gravely, that they had neither priest, physician, nor lawyer amongst them, and that they were religious, healthy, and lived in peace, without quarrels."

A writer, describing the state of society at the close of the last century, says that although hard cash was scant, and no bank-notes were in use, yet food of all kinds was plentiful, and little inconvenience was experienced from the want of a circulating medium. In the country all the gentry were resident, and there was constant employment. The same writer divides the gentry into three classes: "the half-mounted gentlemen," or well-to-do yeomen; "gentlemen, every inch of them," *i. e.* men of good family, but in poor circumstances; and "gentlemen to the backbone," *i. e.* men of family and having good means.

Our ancestors of the eighteenth century were even more devoted to outdoor exercises of all kinds than their descendants of the present day. There were in the county three packs of hounds, the Drumfin, the Coopershill, and the Tireragh; also a subscription pack in the town of Sligo.

Of the Coopershill pack, the hounds seem to have been, in early days, kept entirely for fox-hunting, and many apocryphal accounts of their runs are narrated. This pack is still in existence, and although they now hunt but "the timid hare," their height and massive build proclaim their fox-hunting ancestors.

The Sligo pack of hounds had a more chequered career, as for some period it appears to have been kept by gentlemen residing in the vicinity of the town, and was supported by subscription; it so continued until taken up by the late Sir Robert Gore-Booth, and after his decease there was an interval of a couple of years before it was resuscitated—equally to the enjoyment of the farmers and the gentry. To the credit of the former be it stated that, during the worst days of the land-agitation through which Ireland has recently passed, Sligo was one of the few counties in which no attempt was made to "boycott" sport.

The gentlemen of this Hunt had the reputation of being hard-riders and deep drinkers. A well-known member of the field was commonly known as "The Bloomer," and he is reputed to have received that nickname from the speech he made, when proposing to a young lady in these terms:—"My face is rough"—he was deeply marked by smallpox—"but my acres are smooth and blooming."

Like most gentlemen of the period, he belonged to the yeomanry, and to a mounted corps. At an inspection a portion of his uniform was objected to, as being covered with stains. This fact he admitted, but stated that they were "all honourable stains, marks of the best port-wine in the county." One evening, after dining jovially at a friend's house, his horse was brought to the door, and he bade his host good-bye, but when some time had elapsed, and the latter did not hear the sound of a departing steed, he proceeded to make inquiry, and found his guest, seated in the hall, engaged in pulling on his top-boots, his lower garments, of leather—a then very expensive item—being carefully folded up on a chair beside him. In answer to the remonstrances of his host, and pointing to the



thickly-falling rain, he exclaimed "God's leather to God's weather," emphasising his words with a hearty slap on the denuded portion of his limbs.

Many other members of the field are even still remembered, notably one gentleman who bore the reputation of being the most inveterate gambler of his day. His boon-companions had facetiously dubbed him "The Commodore," because he had never attained to higher rank in the navy than that of midshipman, having left the service upon the death of his elder brother, when he succeeded to an income that rendered him independent of his profession. Like all gamblers, "The Commodore" was either, to all appearance, rolling in wealth, or reduced almost to penury. On one occasion he is stated to have returned from a race-course followed by a long string of carriages, cars, gigs, &c., won from other frequenters of the course, after having by fortunate betting gained all their ready cash; he himself headed the procession, driving a hearse won from an inn-keeper with whom he had staked all his vehicles against the hearse. On wet days, when time hung heavy on his hands, a favourite amusement with "The Commodore" was watching the drops of water trickling down the window-panes, and betting, with his chance-companions, as to which drop should fall first. One day, on the way to a meet of the hounds, the party being caught in heavy rain, took shelter on the lee-side of a cottage, where they passed the time in drawing straws out of the thatch; whoever drew the longest at each pull won the wager.

The hounds in the Barony of Tireragh were long well-known to the sporting community; they were kept by various individuals—at one time by a clergyman who took extreme pleasure in field-sports, and possessed a peculiar aptitude for training and attaching to himself horses and dogs. Some amusing anecdotes have been told about him.

The Bishop, when visiting the parishes in his diocese, amongst other places, arrived at the residence of this clergyman, where he was hospitably entertained. The Bishop asked his host if there was a "terrier" at the glebe: it may be well to explain that "terrier" is the legal and technical term applied

to a descriptive register of glebe and glebe-lands. The parson, mistaking the nature of the inquiry, and imagining that his ecclesiastical superior had really some relish for sport, expressed his regret that he had not then a full-grown terrier to give away, but he could show his Lordship three splendid puppies from which to take his choice. The Bishop observing some hounds about the place, said to his host that he must be well aware it could not meet with his (the Bishop's) approval, that any of his clergy should keep hounds. "Oh! my Lord," replied the parson, "these harriers are not my property; they belong to my wife's niece, who resides with us."

During the eighteenth and the early part of the present century, Bomore was the locality selected for the race-meetings of the county, and there could not be better situated ground as regards position, and the view afforded of the entire course; it was the scene of many a hard contest when horse-racing was the leading national sport. The annual meeting lasted a week, and in the evening there was a subscription dance, given generally in a room in the Linen-Hall. There was also a permanent stand-house all vestige of which has now disappeared.

When the late Sir Robert Gore-Booth kept the Sligo hounds, the annual hunt-races were held near Tullyhill, and afterwards on the shores of Lough Gill, near Hazlewood; finally, in 1886, the ancient glories of the old Bomore course were revived.

In 1821 yacht-racing seems first to have been regularly established. In that year a cup was presented by the ladies of the county to the racing community of Lough Gill. At the regatta held on September 27th of that year, Captain William Rochfort, R. N. (who was judge), stated that as the boat-race was intended for amusement, as well as to try the rate of sailing under equal canvas, he strongly recommended plain sails—"flying kites or fancy sails rendering it extremely dangerous in a squally lake." Captain Rochfort's suggestion was adopted



occasionally in the rules of racing for the cup, but it was not incorporated with the original conditions. The race was a strict class-race, the maximum length being fixed at 26 feet 6 inches from the forepart of the stem to the afterpart of the sternpost.

The course (as originally laid down) appears to have been twice round the lake—nearly eighteen miles—starting from a buoy placed between Cottage Island and the Hazlewood shore, and around buoys at Castle Point, Bunowna, and Shriff, with a straight run back, thus forming two triangles in each round.

The following gives the original rules:—

“LOUGH GILL ANNUAL BOAT-RACE.

Will take place on Tuesday, the 6th of August, 1822. Printed Regulations will be delivered to the Candidates upon application to R. B. Wynne, Esq., Treasurer.

“LADIES' CUP.

“A subscription has been raised by the Ladies, and a handsome Cup purchased, to be called the Ladies' Cup, which is to be sailed for annually, under the following rules, viz.:—

“1st. Any boat whatever may start, provided she does not exceed in length  $26\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the forepart of the stem to the afterpart of the sternpost.

“2nd. Strangers will be allowed to enter their boats, as well as persons residing in the county of Sligo.

“3rd. The winner to retain the Cup till six days before next year's race, and previous to its delivery to him to give approved security to the Treasurer that it shall be returned to him safe and in good order, on or before that day.

“4th. Any person may start as many boats as he pleases.

“5th. Every boat to be entered in the name of the real owner.

“6th. Each boat to be entered on or before the 1st day of August next, and to pay 15s. entrance.

“7th. The boats to start on Thursday, the 8th of August next, at 12 o'clock precisely, under the regulations for the original boat-race.

“8th. The Cup to remain in possession of the winner for the time being, but in no case to become his property.

“Sligo, July 16, 1822.”

At the second contest for "The Ladies' Cup" in 1823, three boats started :—

"The race was admirably contested. Mr. Charles Martin's 'Phoenix' succeeded in point of time, about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  minutes. It would be difficult to describe the gratification which the anxious crowd experienced at this interesting spectacle; the beautiful eminences of Belvoir upon the estate of Mr. Wynne were literally covered by holiday folk to the number perhaps of from 12,000 to 15,000 persons. On the lake were reckoned five-and-thirty boats with sails and oars, exclusive of the competitors for the cup on this occasion, and the total number of persons on board those craft could not have been less than between three and four hundred. The day was extremely well-adapted for a boat-race."

For many years the possession of "The Ladies' Cup" was regularly contested, and accounts appeared in the local newspaper.

At the regatta in August, 1827 :—

"The day was fine, with a light breeze from the north-west. . . . The 'Lady Sarah' came in first, having had no contest, as the 'Penguin' and the 'Shamrock' unfortunately ran aground. The prize was withholden in this class, the 'Penguin' and 'Shamrock' having thrown out ballast, and the 'Lady Sarah' at starting, having in the hurry, hoisted her large jib as an outrigger, before the small one was quite down.

"Thursday, 16th: it blew hard from the North. The 'Lady Sarah' and the 'Shamrock' started for the 'Ladies' Cup.' So fine a race was probably never seen, and the greatest skill was displayed. The 'Lady Sarah' won by half a length—the boats having sailed the course of 18 miles at the rate of 8 knots an hour, under three-reefed mainsails, notwithstanding their having gone considerably out of the direct line by each endeavouring to keep the weather-gauge."

Three of the competing boats which took first prizes at this regatta are still at Hazlewood, *i. e.* the "Lady Sarah," winner of the "Ladies' Cup"; also the "Thames" and "Mayflower," which won the prizes for rowing-boats of four and two oars, respectively.



In August, 1831, there was a most exciting race in a fresh breeze; the contest only lasted two hours:

*For the First Cup.*

Mr. Wynne's "Lady Sarah,"	1.
Mr. Cullen's "Hester,"	2.
Mr. Wynne's (Jun.) "Penguin,"	3.

*Second Cup.*

Mr. Martin's "Anne,"	1.
Sir R. G. Booth's "Caroline,"	2.
Mr. Wynne's "Portsmouth,"	3.

For the second-class there were three silver cups to be competed for by boats the property of persons resident in the county, or in the vicinity of Lough Gill, or the bay or river of Sligo. The cups when won thrice successively by one person, became his property. There were no restrictions. Each competitor was furnished with a printed copy of the regulations, and if the weather proved too calm or too stormy the committee could appoint any other favourable day for the competition.

In 1876, during a regatta on Lough Gill, a very serious accident occurred; a small cutter named "The Glance" foundered during a heavy squall, and her crew—four in number—were drowned. Although it had gone down in one of the deepest parts of the lake the boat was raised. Shortly afterwards "The Glance" was racing at Rosses Point, when a sudden squall nearly swamped the yacht; one of her crew—all amateurs save the grim old helmsman—said it was madness to proceed; and the sailor ejecting a stream of tobacco-juice from his mouth, coincided in this opinion, giving utterance to the remark—since appropriated by others—"that it was better to be a coward for five minutes than a corpse all one's life."

Some of the racing-cups are here noticed:—The "Ladies' Cup" is of antique design, is hand-made, and holds about nine gills. It is a fine piece of Irish embossed work, in sterling silver,

and bears the mark of the Irish Goldsmiths' Hall and date-letters for the year 1821. It is  $14\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, and 13 inches across the rim. The original weight was 69·5 troy ounces; from repeated cleanings it now weighs only 68 ounces, but is in excellent preservation. On the body is the following inscription:—FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF FAST-SAILING BOATS ON LOUGH GILL; its designation, "THE LADIES' CUP," appears on the cover, and on the base CAPTAIN ROCHFORD, ROYAL NAVY, TREASURER. It is stated that the trade value of the Cup would be about £70, but owing to the scarcity of good plate of genuine Irish manufacture its value—from an antiquarian stand-point—would now be double the above sum. It can be challenged annually, but can never become the property of any yacht-owner, and is in fact a perpetual challenge cup.

"The Sligo Rifles Cup" bears the inscription LOUGH GILL REGATTA, 1871. PRESENTED BY THE OFFICERS, SLIGO MILITIA; it is a plain, engraved design of English manufacture, weighs 31 ounces, and is worth about £20. On being won by the same person three times in succession it becomes the property of the successful competitor, but meanwhile can be challenged annually.

"The Rosses Point Challenge Cup," purchased by public subscription in 1880, is of embossed workmanship, and weighs about 33 ounces.

There is also "The Raughley Regatta Cup," given in 1885. All these cups are (1891) in the possession of W. R. Fenton; the two latter are his absolute property, having been won three times in succession (see fig. 60). There was also a "Corporation Challenge Cup" (value £25), subject to similar conditions; it was, however, finally won in 1876 by the cutter "Nymph," the property of R. B. Pettigrew.

"The Sligo Yacht Club" comprises about ten boats; it has a commodore, vice-commodore, and secretary; the burgee is red, with white anchor and black letter S.

Many years ago there was in Sligo a rowing-club, which, however, collapsed; in 1879 another was started under the fairest auspices; it existed, however, but a short time. Perhaps





Fig. 60.

RAUGHLEY CUP.

THE LADIES' CUP.  
ROSSES POINT CUP.

THE RIFLES' CUP.





the melancholy accident which occurred at the regatta in 1881 may have tended to produce the decline of the amusement. One of the club-boats was swamped in a heavy breeze, two of the crew were drowned, the third being saved by Mr. Wynne, who fortunately happened to be close at hand in a punt; it was alleged that the crew of another boat rowed away from the drowning men.

A medal for this club was designed by the well-known artist, John Woodhouse, and eighteen specimens, it is said, were struck; six in silver, and twelve in white metal. It bears the inscription, COMMERCIAL ROWING CLUB, SLIGO, in small letters, round a blank centre; on the reverse are the arms of Sligo—a square tower and tree; at base a hare running, &c., size 1·3.

Shooting was, in Sligo, a favourite sport; and, if credence can be attached to old stories, our ancestors were better shots, and certainly—big battues excepted—brought back better results from a day's tramp over the country than at present. Matches at pigeon-shooting formed a favourite pastime, and frequent accounts of performances at this sport, and for large wagers, occur in the local press.

Those who are fond of shooting can procure sport in the proper season. On the coast, wild fowl, such as barnacle, duck, and widgeon, abound, whilst occasionally a seal might add zest to the occupation.

Although the minute-book of "The Sligo Rifle Club" dates its establishment from 24th January, 1876, it must have had an earlier origin, as accounts of matches, held by an association of the same name, are of frequent occurrence prior to that date.

Good salmon-fishing may be had on the Drumcliff river, the lake of Glencar, Lough Gill, at Ballysadare, at Easky, and on the Moy; but these places are all preserved, and the sport is certainly not so good as at the commencement of this century, when the Rector of Kilmacteige is reported to have killed, with his rod and single fly, 160 salmon in fourteen successive days!

Trout-fishing throughout the county is good, and in general open to the public, the best localities being Lough Arrow, Lough Talt, and Lough Eask; other lakes, although less known, are equally good. In some localities "Gillaroo" trout are caught; this variety differs little in appearance from the more common species, except that the spots on it are of a deeper red—hence the name "Gillaroo," *i.e.* the red fellow—and the belly and fins more golden in colour; it is also a broader and thicker fish. Internally it has a somewhat different organization, possessing a large and muscular stomach, which is generally found to contain a few small shell-fish. Despite the stomach being thus loaded, these trout rise to the fly.

At one side of Lough Talt the trout are not considered good, the head being large, whilst those on the opposite shore of the lake are of excellent shape, size, and flavour. This is supposed to be produced by the feeding ground at the two extremities of this sheet of water causing a slight difference in the taste, as well as growth, of the fish; at one end the lake bottom is gravelly, but at the other is soft peat. In some lakes the trout are supposed to be blind. Lough Nabrackkeagh (the lake of the blind trout), in the townland of Castlecarragh, parish of Kilmacteigue, was doubtless so named in accordance with this belief. Beranger, in his tour through Sligo in the last century, recounts of the Castle of Rosslee—which is situated near Fortland—a story common to many abbeys, monasteries, and castles in Ireland. Beranger's words are:—"Tradition has handed down a peculiar anecdote of the proprietor of this castle, who must have been a great epicure in fish. The castle stands on the sea-shore, and next to it runs a rivulet, much frequented by salmon; in this rivulet the proprietor had contrived to build a trap, the door of which had a wire communicating with a bell in the kitchen of the castle. As soon as a salmon entered the trap, the bell rang, and the servants went immediately, fetched the salmon, and dressed it for their master."

In the eighteenth century Irishmen (whether of Celtic or Saxon race) loved music and poetry; this taste, no doubt, was



fostered and kept alive by the customs of the country, "for in no European nation," remarks O'Curry, "is the antiquity and influence of the harp thrown so far back into the dark regions of history." For example—going back to this mythical period—it is stated that after the defeat of the Fomorians at the battle of Northern Moytirra, in the county Sligo, they, in their retreat, carried off Maithne, the harper of Daghdá; being hotly pursued they were overtaken at their banqueting house, where they had just hung the harp upon the wall. This harp possessed magical properties, but its music was spell-bound until Daghdá removed the charm. In olden times the poets, too, seem to have been mystic and extravagant in their expressions, for when one of "The children of Tuireann" had finished singing a poem before the King of Greece, his Hellenic Majesty is reported to have politely returned thanks in this wise: "That is a good poem, but that I do not understand a word of it."

Bagpipes and harps were very general, and in many families both piper and harper were kept.

The pipers of Sligo were numerous and celebrated, although it is probable that to a Scottish and not an Irish musician Sir Walter Scott, in his novel of "Woodstock," makes Charles II. (in the disguise of Master Kerneguy) allude, when he states that he was "making up for lost time, as the piper of Sligo said, when he ate a hail side o' mutton."

The present "piper of Sligo" is an aged and blind man, who for nearly fifty years has been following his now unremunerative vocation.

One who possessed the talents of an improvisatore, and of a musician, was Carolan, who spent a great portion of his life in the counties of Roscommon and Sligo, where he was a *personá grata* to several families, to whom are dedicated many pleasing productions of his muse. The country people accounted for Carolan's great skill in composition by alleging that he slept out at night on a rath, and on awakening used instantly to recite the fairy songs and melodies he had heard in his dreams.

Terence Carolan was a native of county Meath; he possessed

a fair literary education, and pursued his studies until, in his eighteenth year, he had the misfortune to be stricken with the smallpox, and entirely lost his eyesight. Previous to this, music had not engaged his attention, but he turned to it as a solace in his misfortune. At the age of twenty-one he began to compose, and his first essays gave such promise of success that he was recommended to direct his talents to composition, rather than endeavour to attain excellence in musical execution. In the "Percy Anecdotes of Imagination" it is related that Carolan, even in his gayest mood, never could compose a planxty (a kind of dance music) for a Miss Brett, of the county Sligo. He was a frequent visitor at her father's house, where he always met with a cordial reception. One day, after an unsuccessful attempt to compose something in a sprightly strain for this lady, he threw aside his harp with a mixture of rage and grief, and addressing himself in Irish to her mother, "Madam," said he, "I have often, from my great regard to your family, attempted a planxty in order to celebrate your daughter's perfections, but to no purpose; some evil genius hovers over me; there is not a string in my harp that does not vibrate a melancholy sound when I set about the task. I fear she is not doomed to remain long among us: nay," said he, emphatically, "she will not survive twelve months." The event verified the prediction, and the young lady died within the period limited by the prophetic minstrel. This circumstance gave to Mrs. Hemans the idea evolved in her well-known poem of "Carolan's Prophecy." One of Carolan's songs, "Fair-Haired Mary," was composed in honour of Mary, daughter of MacDermot, Prince of Coolavin, then married to Owen O'Rourke, who lived on the shores of Lough Allen. "A person," relates James Hardiman in his "Irish Minstrelsy," "lately remonstrating with a descendant of this gentleman on his extravagance, amongst other things told him 'he ought to have sense.' 'Sense,' replied the indignant Milesian. 'Know that an O'Rourke scorns to have sense.'"

Caressed by the gentry, and living in the midst of plenty and good cheer, Carolan became a confirmed drunkard, lost the



use of his limbs by his intemperance, and during the latter years of his life passed almost his whole time in bed. He died at Alderford, in the year 1738, at a very advanced age, and was buried at Kilronan, in the county Roscommon; his bones, however, have, as is usual in many Irish cemeteries, been long ago dug up to make room for newer arrivals. His skull, placed in a niche within the walls of the old church, was distinguished by a black riband, and there it remained in grim and ghastly state for many years, until it was finally stolen by a collector of curiosities.

In Ireland, as a rule, there is too little regard to the sanctity which ought to surround the dead. The memory of those unpopular to the mass of the people is often—even after death, which ought to shield from such attacks—held up to opprobrium.

A stranger lately visiting the north-west of Ireland was horrified at the state of the burying grounds in Sligo, and made many observations and suggestions much to the following effect:—Burials, both in the Abbey and in St. John's Churchyard, should be prohibited and inter-mural interment prevented by public opinion, supported, if necessary, by legislative enactment. The Abbey grounds should be excavated, levelled, and the bones, skulls, and other fragmentary remains conveyed to the new cemetery, decently interred, and a monument erected over them to denote the fact, as has been done in other localities. The monuments and tombstones in the Abbey should be removed to the side walls, and the entire area converted into an ornamental garden. The removal of a few houses along the river side would open up and improve the place, convert a neglected and pestilence-spreading grave-yard into ornamental and health-giving grounds. The Abbey proper might be guarded with iron gates; a similar arrangement has been made in other places so transformed.

In olden days Sunday—as a time devoted to repose or religion—terminated after mass, the residue of the day being occupied by ball-playing, cake-dancing, and other entertainments.

A dance for a cake—which in the eighteenth century was a favourite amusement, has been graphically described by Gabriel Beranger. He was attracted by a great crowd in the neighbourhood of Glencar, and went to see what had occasioned it. “The scene was pleasing; gentlemen and ladies on horseback and on foot, being mixed with the country people, and forming a triple ring around the dancers, whilst a fellow standing on some bench or barrel held up a pole, at the end of which the cake was hung in a clean napkin, adorned with ribands—to be given as a prize to the best performer.” The cake, generally from eighteen to twenty inches in diameter, was placed on a circular board of somewhat greater breadth, elevated some six or eight feet high; but it was more frequently fixed on an improvised stand, *i. e.* on the top of a churn-dash, set upright in the ground. In spring and summer the cake was garnished with flowers, and in the autumn with apples, whilst a fiddler and piper alternately played jigs, reels, and planxties. At the termination of the meeting the cake was given to the best dancer, chosen, not from the elegance of style, but from the endurance of his performance.

Lady Morgan, describing a “cake-dance” in the barony of Tireragh, states that in the year 1806 some few halfpence were always spared from the household purse to purchase the pleasures which the Sunday cake bestowed. In the centre of a field a distaff was fixed in the earth, on which was placed a large flat cake, and this cake became the reward of talent; it was sometimes carried off by the best dancer and sometimes by the archest wag of the company. The young and old of both sexes for miles around the neighbourhood hastened to enjoy the festivity. At a little distance from the standard of revelry was placed its chief agent, the piper, who was always seated on the ground and near him was dug a hole into which contributions of the assembly were dropped. At the end of every jig, the piper was paid by the young man who danced it, and who endeavoured to enhance the value of the gift, by first bestowing it on his fair partner, and although a penny a jig was esteemed very good pay, yet the gallantry or ostentation of the contributor, anxious at



once to appear generous in the eyes of his mistress, or to outstep the liberality of his rivals, sometimes trebled the sum which the piper usually received. It was rare to find an individual who had not for some time been under the tuition of a dancing master, but the profession of this elegant art by no means prohibited the adoption of any other. A carman who was sent for to convey some furniture to a neighbouring town, excused himself, by saying that he was a dancing-master by trade, as well as a carman, and that his pupils were just then so numerous he could not possibly absent himself from them.

In the year 1810, a writer on the customs of the county Sligo, states, that dancing was considered as a necessary accomplishment, and hundreds who did not know their alphabet or a word of English were regular attendants—and at no small expense—at the dancing schools. Singing old Irish songs made also a part of the entertainment, and many possessed sweet and melodious voices, well adapted to the melancholy and plaintive strains. In the beginning of the performance, things were conducted with propriety, but soon the scene exhibited a chaos of tumult, vociferation, and drunkenness; perhaps three musicians might be found playing to as many sets of dancers, a dozen men and women singing different songs, whilst other groups were engaged in altercation and quarrelling.

Amongst the upper classes also' dances were very frequent. No public gathering such as an assizes, a race meeting, or a regatta was considered complete without a ball in the evening; and there were in the town ladies in poor circumstances who seem to have made a regular business of getting up subscription dances, the names of the gentlemen who were to act as stewards being always announced:—

“Mrs. Isdell returns her most grateful thanks to her friends for their kind intention of honoring her with their presence at the first of her monthly subscription assemblies on Thursday, the 20th instant, but

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<sup>1</sup> What would now be probably designated “fashionable intelligence” was, in 1777, styled “Bon-Ton-Intelligence” and early in the present century appeared under the heading of “The Polite Register.”

as she understands a drum is to be held on that night, which had been formerly on Tuesday (and it never being her desire to interfere with them), she is induced to postpone her first Assembly to Monday the 24th, when she humbly hopes for a share of public favour. N.B. stewards are appointed.

“Sligo, July 13th, 1797.”

And again :—

“Mrs. M‘Mullen, successor to Mrs. Milbank, begs leave to inform her friends and the public that she will hold a drum at the Grand Jury Room, on Thursday, 11th February, 1814, Captain Rutledge, 6th Dragoon Guards, and John Ormsby, Esq., Stewards. Ladies’ tickets 5*s.*, Gentlemen’s 7*s.* 6*d.*”

When a trip to Dublin was a rare event it naturally required more attention to provide local amusements, and Sligo, from, if not before, the year 1750, contained a theatre. The original building was near the quay; it was subsequently moved to the vicinity of the Linen-Hall. “His Majesty’s servants from the Theatre Royal, Crow-street,” occasionally visited Sligo, even during the Dublin season, showing that in those days the townsfolk appreciated the drama, for in some instances the company remained during several months.

Mr. Owenson, father of the afterwards well-known Lady Morgan, was frequently before the Sligo public, and was, in his day, celebrated for his personification of Irish characters, and (says Sir Jonah Barrington) never did an actor exist so perfectly calculated to personify that singular class of people. “In what might be termed the middle class of Paddies, no man ever combined the look and the manner with such feeling as Owenson . . . he sang well . . . but he was, like most of his profession, careless about his concerns, and he grew old without growing rich.” His daughter, Sidney Owenson (Lady Morgan), lived for some time at the residence of the Crofton family. Her writings, however unattractive now, were popular in their day, and she made Longford House and its inhabitants, the subject of some of her novels.

The Sligo theatre was (for the time) well lighted and fairly decorated. In the year 1826 there was a *fracas* in the building



between Dr. Carter and a Mr. M'Donogh, which terminated in the prosecution and conviction of the latter. At the trial the cross-examining counsel said that evidently the Doctor, on that night at least, had lost all his patience!

During a lengthened period Sligo possessed a local organ of public opinion which appears to have been Conservative in political tendency. The title of the newspaper was "The Sligo Journal and Weekly Advertiser." The first known series of this paper commenced in 1771, but it is probable there was an even earlier issue. It was printed on Tuesdays and Thursdays by Michael Parker, in Castle-street, price three half-pence, and the device on the heading of the paper (see fig. 62) served the Sligo Corporation, for many years, in lieu of a seal. The articles in the early numbers were very strongly worded, but as a rule they dealt in broad political facts, not in personalities, for in those days men who were held up to public ridicule or libelled, took the remedy into their own hands and relieved the law-courts of great trouble, by the substitution of "a small-sword for a declaration, or a case of pistols for a judgment."

Difficulties arose occasionally, as for instance when on the 14th May, 1791, an "Immergency" meeting of the Masonic body was called by Brother Thomas Soden, of Lodge No. 530, against Brother Michael Parker, proprietor of the "Sligo Journal," charging him with having published in his paper a letter tending to reflect upon Soden's conduct as "Billeting master for the town of Sligo"; whilst on the 5th February, 1796, Brother William M'Mullen complained that Brother Joseph Hudson, had "advertised him for defamation of character."

The Sligo newspaper varied greatly in size and also in price, the latter in 1785 had increased to 2*d.*; in 1797 it was re-numbered, and the price raised to 2½*d.*; in 1799 the cost was 4*d.*; John Gray was then proprietor. In 1801 the paper again changed hands and was issued simply as "The Sligo Journal." The device at heading was altered to an oval enclosing the arms of Sligo surmounted with a crown: the legend, however,

remained the same. Under the management of Mr. A. Bolton it became a bi-weekly organ, published on Wednesdays and Saturdays, price 5*d.*; after some time the paper was issued once a-week and the price increased to 6*d.*; later on its cost was again reduced.

During the cholera of 1832, almost every member of the Bolton family was swept off by the fearful epidemic. The newspaper, however, continued to be published by the widow of the proprietor, and it lingered on until about the year 1860, having had a career of nearly one hundred years.

“The Sligo Morning Herald, or Connaught Advertiser,” appears to have been first issued in 1789, and it came to an end before the commencement of the present century.

“The Western Luminary, or Sligo Impartial Reporter” was started in 1823, by Robert Hunter, and was Liberal in politics. A good many numbers of this paper are still extant; it collapsed in 1829. Another newspaper was issued 9th October, of the same year, as an organ of the advanced Roman Catholic party; it was “printed and published by the proprietor, Hugh MacSweeny, every Thursday at ‘The Observer’ office, Castle-street; annual subscription one pound five shillings.”

“The Champion, or Sligo News” was launched in June, 1836. The price, formerly 3*d.*, is now 2*d.* It is published every Saturday.

In May, 1844, “The Cryptic” a comic and somewhat scurrilous weekly paper, was first issued price 2*d.* It existed about two years, having during that period held up most of the principal inhabitants of town and county to ridicule in a series of articles headed “Gallery of distinguished personages.” The paper was printed at 5, Thomas-street for the proprietors, who were engaged in continuous litigation with those whom they had libelled.

“The Sligo Guardian,” first issued in 1848, had an ephemeral existence, and was succeeded in 1849 by “The Sligo Chronicle,” a Conservative weekly paper, price 3*d.*

“The Sligo Independent” was commenced by the Messrs. Gillmor, September, 1855 as a Conservative organ. “The





Fig. 62.—HEADING OF "THE SLIGO JOURNAL," No. 705, Vol. VII.  
(Half size.)





Independent" was originally published twice a-week, but in May, 1856, it was converted into a weekly paper, and in January, 1889, the price was changed from 3*d.* to one penny; this reduction has been the means of greatly increasing its circulation.

"The Connaught Leader," price 2*d.*, a weekly paper in the Liberal interest, was started by Mr. James Stinson, October, 1885, but it did not last long; whilst "The Sligo Gazette and Western Advertiser," shortly afterwards launched by the same proprietor in January, 1888, had also a very brief existence.

The Young Men's Christian Association issued a small monthly Magazine for about a year; this has been succeeded by "The Western Review and Sligo Monthly," of which the first number appeared in August, 1890, price 2*d.*

So early as 1747, there was in the town a public room, in which newspapers were kept, and in 1797 a regular newsroom is stated to have been long established. A circulating library was opened in the year 1828; in 1834 Inglis remarked that there were no fewer than three libraries, a public-subscription and two circulating-libraries; these were the first he had seen between Limerick and Sligo. There are now news-rooms at the Town-Hall, the Constitutional and County Club, and also at the Protestant Hall.

A poem entitled "The Alarm" appeared a few days after a scare that occurred in the town of Sligo, in May, 1797, consequent on a report that a numerous party of rebels were on the march to attack the place. The tumult and terror produced amongst the inhabitants is very wittily described; the confusion continued during several hours, until it was discovered that no real cause of apprehension existed. The authorship of this once locally celebrated squib was never traced; many persons were credited with it, but none of the "suspects" were really capable of its composition. Like "The Letters of Junius" the pen that produced it will never be known, and for this secrecy there was ample reason, as in case of the author revealing his identity, he would have had duels on hands for the remainder of his term of life, every inhabitant of any note

having been lampooned. The finale of the poem, in which is described the supposed origin of the scare is given as a specimen of the 137 stanzas contained in "The Alarm."

" But soon as daylight did appear,  
 A curious thing came out ;  
 The ruffian pack of rebels who  
 Occasioned such a rout,  
 And all this racket raised, and kept  
 The people from their sleep ;  
 Turned out, oh wonderful to tell—  
 To be—a *flock of sheep* !  
 . . . . .  
 And now God bless and keep us safe,  
 And everyone from harm,  
 And guard our town from every true  
 And every false alarm ;  
 And may these rebel sheep who caused  
 Such terror and dismay,  
 Their lives to butchers for their crimes  
 A speedy forfeit pay."

The earliest record of Masonic Lodges in Sligo is of one founded in the year, 1788. Fig. 63 is a representation of the seal of the Lodge.

On St. John's Day the Masons of Sligo were in the habit of walking in procession to St. John's Church, with all their insignia, and bearing the various emblems of their order. A sermon suitable to the occasion was delivered by the Minister after the service. The following is a description,

given in 1825, of this annual procession :—" At an early hour the principal streets were crowded, the windows filled with beauty and fashion, and the most intense anxiety displayed to witness the annual tribute of thanksgiving to that shrine, the fountain of brotherly love, from which the great principles of



FIG. 63.—Seal of Masonic Lodge.



the Craft have emanated. At twelve o'clock the members of the different Lodges issued from their rooms dressed in the full insignia and bearing the different emblems of their order. The scene was highly interesting; the procession moved through the principal streets, and having reached the Church, entered the portals in the usual form."

An association styled "The Friendly Brothers" was instituted by disbanded officers of William III.'s army; "Knots," many of which exist to the present day, were founded in several cities and towns—as in London, Bath, Cork, Waterford, Dublin, Mallow, Sligo, &c. The "Knots" are alleged to have been originally formed for mutual support and aid against the Jacobites, who endeavoured to provoke personal quarrels and duels. The President was always known as "Sir Friendly . . . ." instead of by his Christian name. There was also an inner circle, known as "The Select," who were entitled to wear special badges.

The association had a pew in St. Patrick's Cathedral, where service was attended on the 17th of March by the Brethren, wearing their decorations. In the club books in Dublin, the names are given of many members who acquired celebrity: Dean Swift (for a time at least) is reputed to have belonged to this order. In the club rooms, Dublin, Schomberg's sword is still preserved. The medal worn by the ordinary members is described in Dr. Frazer's *Medalists of Ireland*. This society was prominent in benevolent schemes, and frequently discharged the debts of poor prisoners confined in gaol.

Beranger, when on his tour through the county Sligo, *circa* 1779, makes mention of a curious incident in these words:—"On the bridge (of Ballysadare) we were shown a stone on which a beggar used to sit constantly, who on receiving alms used to bestow on the giver a blessing which is become a famous toast under the name of 'The Beggar's Benison,' " being the expression of a wish that neither in person or purse should the individual fail. Thus it would seem that the

Scottish Society of "The Beggar's Benison" instituted in Edinburgh, when similar societies were common for social intercourse, had an offshoot in the county. This social gathering commemorated (as alleged) a ludicrous episode in the life of James V. of Scotland, when travelling *incognito* in that country. A copy of an original diploma and a seal of the Society are still in existence.

There were "Hell-fire" clubs in Sligo during the last century: one had its *habitat* at Ardnaglass, in Tireragh, the other in a large two-storied house on the old road leading from Sligo to Ballydrihed; part of the edifice is yet standing.

At the close of the last century there were public lotteries, and advertisements frequently appeared such as "Lottery office, licensed pursuant to Act of Parliament," all the supposed advantages being set forth in large type, for the purpose of inducing the proverbial fool and his money to part company. Gambling then, as at present, was very general in the town; it is even now no uncommon occurrence on a Sunday morning when returning from divine worship to see groups of men and boys engaged in pitch and toss, or some game presenting equal facilities for the change in ownership of probably a large portion of the gambler's hard-earned wages for the preceding week.

"After prayers," says Lady Morgan in her *Patriotic Sketches*, "persons of both sexes and of all ages adjourn to the fields, to witness a hurling match, or some similar manly sport. The respective parties are drawn up like two little armies, and distinguished from each other by their colours. Their goals are generally placed about 200 yards distant. . . ." Another game, the *Cathu-clogh*, or flinging of the stone, resembled the ancient Greek pastime of the *discus*. The candidate who panted for the fame of the virtues that are placed in nerve and bone took a stone of immense weight in his right hand, inclined his body a little forward, advanced one leg, poised his arm, and



after two or three balancing motions, flung it from him to a considerable distance. These national amusements were not confined to the peasantry; the young gentlemen of the adjoining counties frequently engaged in them.

Wrestling matches were also extremely frequent, and generally performed with great skill and adroitness.

Hurling large metal bullets along the high roads may be amusing to those engaged in the pastime, but is not agreeable to the casual passer-by, who has sometimes to display considerable activity in avoiding contact with the rapidly-moving projectile. Objection might be made to kite-flying, which is allowed on the roads and in the streets of Sligo. The only objectors to the practice appear to be young or timid horses.

The game of football seems in the present day to have obtained a firm hold on the young men of Sligo, if the enthusiasm with which they work up their practices be a criterion; a good deal of the rough element, however, is sometimes introduced into matches, and in the season of 1890 a very serious accident occurred which resulted in the death of one of the players. There are several athletic associations in Sligo—"The Hare and Hounds Club" being one of the longest in existence. There is also a bicycle club, some of whose members prefer racing along the footpaths to confining their exertions to the high road.

In a well-sheltered nook on the north side of the road leading to Ardowen, a site for a lawn-tennis ground was taken on lease in 1881, and a large sum of money expended in laying out the courts, and erecting a pavilion and house for the caretaker. Here tournaments open to the whole kingdom are held yearly, and at that time the place, when thronged with fair athletes, presents a most animated appearance.

A polo club—first started in 1878—is now a well-established source of amusement for those who enjoy that sport. The ground where the members meet is most picturesquely situated in the demesne of Hazlewood. Of late the club has made for

itself quite a reputation, having held its own with, and even beaten, some of the best teams that have entered the field against it.

Owing to very severe winters being of rare occurrence in Sligo, skating is an amusement seldom to be enjoyed in perfection. Although the surface of Lough Gill may have been frequently ice-bound, yet only a few instances have been authenticated, *i. e.* in 1435 (when the cold was so severe that “the people were enabled to travel over all the lakes and rivers of Ireland on the ice”), in 1688, 1855, and 1881. In the end of January of the latter year there was a frost which, in severity, had not been equalled for twenty-six years previously. There was a beautiful stretch of black ice extending from Ardowen to Church Island; and had not the surface of the upper portion of the lake been broken up by a violent storm, its entire area, extending to Shriff, would have been converted into a gigantic skating rink for the inhabitants of Sligo. The scene was one likely to be long remembered by those who skated to Hollywell, Doonee, and Bunowna, over the smooth surface of the ice-bound lake, its wooded slopes looking beautiful in their frosty mantle. The mortality amongst the feathered tribe was great, and it was many years before the woods again resounded, as of yore, with the sweet song of thrush and blackbird.

In the summer season there is an invasion of bathers—commonly termed “sea-pikes”—from the inland parts of the county and neighbouring districts, to the seaside villages. On Coney Island they sometimes amount, it is stated, to 400 in number. By the better classes, Mullaghmore, Rosses Point, and Enniscrone are greatly frequented. In his “Journey throughout Ireland,” in 1834, Inglis thus alludes to the custom of summer-migration:—“I was surprised to meet every few hundred yards on the road (*i. e.* from Boyle to Sligo) carts heavily laden with country-people, many of them of the lowest order, and with different articles of furniture piled up, or



attached to the carts; and I learned with some astonishment that all these individuals were on their way to sea-bathing. This is a universal practice over these parts of Ireland. A few weeks passed at the seaside is looked upon to be absolutely necessary for the preservation of health; and persons of all classes migrate thither with their families. In my way to Boyle, I met upwards of twenty carts laden with women, children, and boys. One may ask how the people afford this annual expense? But there are numerous cabins and cottages at the lower end of Sligo, on the Bay, in which a room is hired at 1s. 6d. per week; this is almost the whole expense, for all carry with them—besides their beds and an iron pot—a quantity of meal, some sacks of potatoes, and even turf if there be room for it.”

The hot-air bath, or what would now be designated the Turkish-bath—itself but a degenerate imitation of the luxurious



FIG. 64.—Sweat House, Inismurray.

laconicum of ancient Greece and Imperial Rome—was in common use amongst the Irish, and in the county Sligo lingered on until the commencement of this century. On the first map made of the county several “sweat-houses” are marked. They were generally of beehive shape, about 6 feet in diameter, and 6 feet high, built of converging layers of uncemented stones, covered with clay, and having a low narrow entrance, resembling the remains of huts still to be seen in juxtaposition with cashels or early ecclesiastical buildings, such as the hut styled the Sweat-house at Inismurray. The manner of heating

the chamber appears to have consisted in filling it with turf, igniting the fuel, and when consumed the ashes were cleared out, and as soon as the floor and sides of the interior of the construction had sufficiently cooled down the floor was strewed with green rushes, the person or persons intending to take the bath entered the heated chamber, and the door was closed by means of a temporary screen. This hot-air bath was much used, not only for pleasure but also as a cure for rheumatism, for which purpose it would seem to have been eminently successful.

In some cases it is stated that a pool of fresh water—if in the immediate vicinity—was utilized as a plunge-bath for the perspiring bather, who remained in the heated interior as long as practicable, would then cool himself in the water, and again return.

"The following quaint sketch," from the pen of Rev. William Urwick, describes a well-known person. His eccentricities, and utopian plans have been portrayed also by other writers; but none have delineated with more vivacity the ideas of Thaddeus—better known as Thady Connellan:—

"While living in the West, I met  
A man, by some remembered yet,  
As quite a character, who set  
His heart on Erin's weal: he thought  
His countrymen could soon be taught  
To read, if but his scheme were brought  
To bear on them; for that intent  
*He* would teach twelve. To that extent  
He might succeed—what could prevent?  
Let each of those twelve teach twelve others,  
Each of those—twelve times twelve—twelve others,  
And each in *those* twelve teach twelve others;  
And so on—moving rapidly—  
Wide-spreading—quite spontaneously,  
The work would prosper wondrously,  
Without the vast expenditure  
Which the 'Societies' incur,  
For which they have not income sure.



Thus would the Irish to a man,  
Upon the cheap and simple plan  
Of famed *Thaddæus Connellan*  
Be able soon to read God's book,  
*If* of the learners none forsook,  
But did the work he undertook,  
'Thady' had power for captivation,  
Had access to men high in station,  
Even to the Royal of the nation.  
But though he kind opinions won  
In several quarters, I know none  
Who said that he much good had done."

Connellan was a native of Tireragh; he had considerable natural talents and great ambition, possessed a fair classical education, and was a thorough Irish scholar. He started a small school, but did not succeed in his *rôle* of pedagogue. He had been a Roman Catholic, but like most converts on becoming a Protestant he embraced extreme views. Connellan derived his new religious opinions from Albert Blest—a well-known and most zealous Baptist; and under him he worked for many years as a schoolmaster. Despite his abilities, his popularity amongst the gentry, and his many [theoretical] attempts at making money, which, however, never practically succeeded, he died in great poverty.

In the eighteenth century education was in a very neglected state. Except at "hedge schools" there was no means of instruction for the poor; and in the entire county there were but three or four schools suited for the better class of farmers and shopkeepers.

On the southern slope of Knocknarea, about four miles from the town of Sligo, is situated Primrose-Grange Boarding School, an establishment endowed for educational purposes. It originated so far back as 1721, in a grant from the Rev. Edward Nicholson of house and lands for the maintenance of a good English school, combined with a sound scriptural education "according to the principles of the United Church of England and Ireland." The science and practice of agriculture were also to be included in the curriculum. About the year 1733

this grant was supplemented by a bequest from Adam Ormsby. The endowment, having got into a state of inefficiency, was in 1849, on the recommendation of the Bishop of the diocese, conveyed to "The Incorporated Society" in Dublin, created by Royal charter in 1733, "for promoting English Protestant Schools in Ireland."

During some years the society maintained at Primrose-Grange an English school, in conjunction with an agricultural department, but the latter proving unsuccessful, was abolished about the year 1860, and the institution has since been conducted on the same principles as the other boarding schools of the society. Formerly the instruction imparted in these schools was quite elementary. Now, however, the education is of an advanced character, being chiefly mathematical; of this, the Inspector of the Royal Commission of 1878 reports that the mathematical teaching is excellent.

A glance at the results-lists of the examination of intermediate schools in religious knowledge—held annually by the Board of Religious Education of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland—will show the marked success of the pupils of these schools in this important branch of education. Although the Incorporated Society only recognises the teaching of English, mathematics, and religious knowledge, yet provision has been made by the masters for instruction in classics, French, &c., and in these subjects pupils have also been successful.

The number of pupils maintained and educated on the Foundation at Primrose-Grange is generally twelve. Four vacancies occur each year, and to fill these a public examination is held annually in Sligo about the month of July, by a deputation from the Incorporated Society. The subjects of examination consist of portions of the Old and New Testament, Church formularies, reading, writing, English grammar, geography, and arithmetic. Candidates must be of a prescribed age, and must produce a certificate of birth, good conduct, residence, and suitability, as to pecuniary means, from the parochial clergymen, as well as a certificate of good health from a medical practitioner.



The districts privileged to send forward candidates are the diocese of Derry, Raphoe, Killala, Achonry, the Leitrim portion of the diocese of Kilmore, the Sligo and Mayo portions of the diocese of Elphin, and the Leitrim, Sligo, and Roscommon portions of the diocese of Ardagh. The best answerers are elected, in the first instance for one year, but unless removed for misconduct, or on account of serious failure in health, may have their scholarship extended for three years, at the expiration of which period they are (if recommended by the master) eligible to compete for a further scholarship in Santry School, near Dublin, where they are afforded an opportunity of continuing and extending their studies.

In addition to the pupils elected on the Foundation, a limited number of "pay-boarders" are received on moderate terms.

The Rev. Thomas Valentine, appointed in 1711, vicar of the parishes of Castleconor and Kilglass—then designated the Union of Frankfort—bequeathed in his will, dated the 10th September, 1763, a sum of money towards the endowment of a school in his parish for the children of Protestant parents, in terms following:—"I do hereby give and bequeath the sum of £600 sterling, for the support and maintenance of the distressed widows of the clergy of the diocese of Killala and Achonry; secondly, I give and bequeath the sum of £400 sterling towards the institution of a Protestant charity-school, and for putting out a few of the Protestant apprentices to trades, which school I order to be erected within the Union of Frankfort." The Bishop of Killala and the Vicar of Frankfort, for the time being, were appointed trustees.

The school was first started on a very small scale; for on the 17th August, 1768, an entry in the accounts is as follows:—"One year's rent for a cabin for a school, £2 5s. 6d."

The original donation is now in the hands of the Charitable Bequest Commissioners, and has gradually augmented; in 1855 it amounted to £1500; in 1888 to £2500.

Since the Union of Frankfort was dissolved the interest on

the principal sum is divided amongst four schools, the money being payable to the Bishop of Killala. It produces a net yearly income of about £75, which is apportioned in equal shares between the parishes of Castleconor and Kilglass.

Charter Schools were established about the year 1733, but the one in Sligo was not commenced until 1752, for Dr. Pococke, who (in a MS. in T.C.D.) describes his Irish tour during the above-named year, states that he “went two small miles to see Colonel Wynne’s House on Lough Gilley, and on the way viewed the Charter School which is building out of Erasmus Smith’s charity; there are three good rooms on a floor, a kitchen, and two schools being built for sixty children. The governors of Erasmus Smith’s Schools gave first £500, then £200, and Colonel Wynne gave 4 acres of ground for ever. They have raised it to the first floor; it is built of slaty limestone.”

The old Charter School or Erasmus Smith Trust supplied a plain education, *i. e.* reading, writing, and arithmetic; the boys were boarded in the house and taught trades; there were rows of houses where tradesmen were kept to instruct in tailoring, shoemaking, &c., but this arrangement was given up on the passing of a measure for the establishment of national education. The rental of the Erasmus Smith Trust in the county Sligo was about £430 per annum, consisting of 2132 acres, with a Poor Law valuation of £408.

The number to be admitted at any one time was limited to 80; the Charter School was discontinued in 1833, and replaced by a day-school, which was finally closed in 1843. The building was subsequently utilized during the famine of 1846-8 as a workhouse and hospital, was afterwards used as a barrack, and is now occupied as a boarding and day-school.

In 1780 the Rev. James Neligan and the Rev. Peter Bermingham had each a school in Ardnaree, but one kept by the Rev. J. Armstrong in the town of Sligo was the best known.

Schools were kept by Mr. Clifford and Mr. Clark, also one



for young ladies by Mrs. Huston. In 1814 a Sligo female school was founded for the gratuitous education of the poor; up to the close of 1821 it had been the means of providing education for "upwards of 700 poor girls, and at the same time afforded them instruction in those useful employments suited to their situation in life." There were also a few schools scattered through the country, supported by "The Association for Discountenancing Vice," as also by the "London Hibernian Society." Hedge schools were fairly numerous, and were attended by very young children, who could be of little assistance to their parents at agricultural work; when more advanced in years they were generally withdrawn from instruction to give help on the farm.

"The Endowed Schools Commission" of 1855 gave an unfavourable report of the manner in which education was conducted. Calry and Ballinorley schools were satisfactory; at Dromard, Drum, Drumcliff, Muinanean, Easky, and Killeenduff—the latter founded by Colonel Irwin—there were schools with a fair attendance.

Several applications had been from time to time made for the establishment of a "Model School" in Sligo. The Town Council petitioned the Commissioners of National Education on the subject, and finally their request was granted. The building, which consists of a central block and two wings, was not completed until 1862. It is of Italian character; the windows are circular-headed, and deeply recessed, with moulded jambs. The mason work is of limestone, and the dressings are of Mount-Charles sandstone. The edifice cost about £7000. At the close of the year 1888 the number of boys on the roll of the school was 163 Church of Ireland, 34 Presbyterians, 83 of other denominations, and 16 Roman Catholics, forming a total of 296. The average daily attendance was 158.

The National School system has, to a great extent, spread education of a primary description amongst the lower classes.

In 1821 there were in the county 8865 children attending school—7959 in 1841; 9047 in 1851; 10,477 in 1871; 12,891 in 1881. On the 31st December, 1888, there were on the rolls of the National Schools in the county 23,511 children, of whom 21,827 were Roman Catholics, 1422 Church of Ireland, 139 Presbyterians, and 123 of other denominations.

The proportion per cent. of the population, 5 years old and upwards who could neither read nor write, was 68·7 in 1841; 63·3 in 1851; 53·2 in 1861; 50·6 in 1871; 38·9 in 1881. The foregoing information is from official census returns, but when tried by a practical standard, the result is far from being satisfactory. At the election of a member for North Sligo in 1885, 1070 persons out of a total poll of 5988 declared themselves to be illiterate; whilst in 1891, 1783 voters out of a poll of 5754, by their own acknowledgment, were unable either to read or write.

In the year 1861 there were 3466 persons in the county who could speak only Irish; there were 2326 in 1871, and but 472 in 1881. The number of those who can speak both Irish and English has been on the increase, but here it is thought that the statistics may be misleading. Probably a number of those who enter themselves in the census returns as Irish scholars would be totally unable to carry on, or even understand a conversation in that tongue; 49,228 persons in the county were in 1851 acquainted with both Irish and English, 36,263 in the year 1861, 24,263 in 1871, and 31,458 in 1881.

In 1861 there were in the county 112,436 Roman Catholics; 10,438 members of the Church of Ireland; 931 Presbyterians; 778 Methodists, and 260 of other denominations.

In 1871 there were 104,429 Roman Catholics, 9185 members of the Church of Ireland; 864 Presbyterians; 680 Methodists, and 335 of other denominations.

In 1881 there were 101,483 Roman Catholics, 8,213 members of the Church of Ireland, 881 Presbyterians, 641 Methodists, and 359 of other denominations.



In the Borough of Sligo the Roman Catholic population increased from 8220 in the year 1871 to 8567 in 1881; the members of the Church of Ireland decreased from 1712 in 1871, to 1473 in 1881; the Presbyterians from 304 in 1871 to 267 in 1881; the Methodists from 225 in 1871 to 218 in 1881, whilst there was an increase in other religious denominations from 209 to 263. The diminution in numbers amongst the Protestant population is to be entirely attributed to emigration.

When in 1869 the Church of Ireland was disestablished and disendowed, it was feared by many that her existence and permanency would within a very measurable period be seriously affected. But in every one of the parishes of the county Sligo, services have been regularly maintained, no church has been even temporarily closed, resident ministers are settled in each district, day and Sunday schools flourish under lay and clerical superintendence, charitable societies are liberally supported, and more general interest is shown in all parochial organizations, whilst the sacred edifices themselves are well cared, and in a large number, restorations and improvements have been made.





## APPENDIX.

## APPENDIX.

- A. "TITULADOS" OF THE COUNTY SLIGO,
- B. CLAIMS ALLOWED TO "SUFFERING LOYALISTS" FOR LOSSES SUSTAINED IN THE REBELLION OF 1798.
- C. NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY SLIGO REGIMENT FROM 1793, SHOWING THE RANK LAST HELD BY EACH.
- D. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH OF SLIGO.
- E. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR RELIEF OF THE DISTRESSED POOR OF THE TOWN OF SLIGO, 1822.
- F. BURGESSES OF THE BOROUGH OF SLIGO, FROM 1709 TO THE PASSING OF THE MUNICIPAL REFORM ACT, 1842.
- G. TABULAR STATEMENTS SHOWING THE MANNER IN WHICH THE LIABILITIES OF THE CORPORATION OF SLIGO WERE INCURRED, &c., &c., AND THE MEANS EMPLOYED FOR DISCHARGING SAME, BY EDWARD CHISM, CORPORATION ACCOUNTANT.
- H. DUES RECEIVED AT THE PORT OF SLIGO. NUMBER AND TONNAGE OF VESSELS ENTERING THE PORT OF SLIGO.
- I. EXTRACT FROM THE "FIELD NAME BOOKS" OF THE ORDNANCE SURVEY OF SUCH PORTION OF THE MS. AS RELATES TO SLIGO, GIVING THE ENGLISH ORTHOGRAPHY, IRISH NAME AND TRANSLATION OF THE TOWNLANDS OF THE COUNTY.
- K. RAINFALL IN THE COUNTY SLIGO.
- L. BIRDS MET WITH IN THE COUNTY SLIGO.
- M. HIGH SHERIFFS OF THE COUNTY SLIGO,



## APPENDIX A.

## “TITULADOS” OF THE COUNTY SLIGO.

By the term “Titulado” is supposed to be meant a person claiming to be entitled to land, but whose claim, not having been decided on, was thereby rendered *titular* in point of fact.

The following were the “Titulados” in the County Sligo—taken from the census of 1659:—

## BARONY OF CARBURY.

*Town of Sligo.*—Humphry Booth, Thomas Roland, Henry Crafford.

*Parish of Ahamlish.*—Thomas Soden, Philip Sulevane.

*Parish of Drumcliff.*—Charles Colles, Roger Parke, Thomas Griffith, Anthony Ormsby, Thomas Osborne, William Tod, Henry Nicholson, Thomas Ormsby, Manus Lenaghan.

## BARONY OF TIRERAGH.

*Parish of Castleconor.*—John Nicholson, Lewis Wingfield.

*Parish of Kilglass.*—Thomas Wood, John Moore.

*Parish of Easky.*—William Ormsby, William Boswell, James Ormsby, George Ormsby.

*Parish of Kilmacshalgan.*—John Burke, Robert Hillas, William Edwards, John Irwin.

*Parish of Templeboy.*—Christopher Armstronge, Nicholas Rutledge.

*Parish of Skreen.*—Lewis Jones, Jeremy Jones.

*Parish of Dromard.*—Henry Crofton, John Irving, Edward Irving.

## BARONY OF TIRERRILL.

*Parish of Ballysadare.*—Richard Coote, Morgan Farrell, John Perchy, Edward Cooper.

*Parish of Kilross.*—Thomas Crofton.

*Parishes of Drumcolumb and Kilmacallan.*—William Mortimer, Ralph Carter, John Ferguson, Charles Cartwright, Archy Naper, Edward Nicholson.

*Parish of Aghanagh.*—Henry Hughes.

*Parish of Kilmaetranny.*—Henry Ellis.

## BARONY OF CORRAN.

*Parish of Emlaghfad.*—William Webb, Francis King.

*Parish of Cloonoghill.*—Timothy Howes.

*Parish of Kilshalcy.*—Richard Meredith.

*Parish of Kilmorgan.*—John Duke, Robert Duke, John Geale, Donnell Conellan, John Clifford, Edward Tibb, Henry Biecraft (or Ricraft), John Houlder.

*Parish of Toomour.*—Robert King.

## BARONY OF LEYNY.

*Parish of Achonry.*—Captain Edward Wood, Edward Poole, Thomas Rosevill.

## HALF BARONY OF COOLAVIN.

*Parish of Kilfree.*—Henry Clifford.

## APPENDIX B.

CLAIMS ALLOWED TO "SUFFERING LOYALISTS" FOR LOSSES  
SUSTAINED IN THE REBELLION OF 1798.

Armstronge, Frances, widow, Bochane, £17 13s. 3d.; Armstronge, James, Rathosey, £7 11s. 4d.; Armstronge, James, Dunnahentra, £3; Armstronge, John, Ballymehy, £9; Armstronge, John, Rathosey, £6 0s. 3d.; Armstronge, John, Tullymire, £17 1s. 3d.; Armstronge, Robert, Oughal, £36 5s. 11d.; Atkinson, Henry, Cabragh, £9 16s. 5½d.; Atkinson, John, Cabragh, £9; Atkinson, John, Dooneen, £7 0s. 6d.; Atkinson, Robert, Ballybeg, £48 18s. 10d.; Atkinson, Robert, Easkey, £102 12s. 4d.; Atkinson, Thomas, Lacken, £9 9s.; Atkinson, William, Cabragh, £22 12s. 4d.

Beatty, Charles, Lugdoon, £9; Beolan, Francis, Tully, £6 10s.; Bourke, David, Culleens, £22 18s.; Bourns, Andrew, Scurmore, £7 11s. 2d.; Bourns, Margaret, Dooneen, £7 2s. 4d.; Bourns, Matthew, Scurmore, £9; Bourns, Sarah, Scurmore, £9 17s. 6d.; Brennan, Martin, Knocktubber, £6 16s. 6d.; Broder, Robert, Cloonsallagh, £12 10s. 3d.; Brown, John, Finned, £12 16s. 7d.; Burnes, William, Park, £3 17s. 2d.

Caffry, John, Leaffoney, £22; Carrol, Thomas, Ardnaree, £59; Church, Thomas, Coolany, £22 10s. 3d.; Clarke, Thomas, Ardabron,



£3 16s. 5d.; Conelly, James, Collooney, £20; Conelly, John, Ballymeeny, £11 13s. 2d.; Conelly, John, Collooney, £7 7s. 6d.; Conboy, William, Ballintogher, £17; Coulter, Patrick, Ballinfull, £10 16s. 1½d.; Craven, John, Woodfield, £10 4s. 9d.

Dodd, Rev. Isaac, Kingsfort, £9 16s. 4d.; Dodd, Rev. Oliver, Kingsfort, £27 15s. 9½d.; Dodwell, Roger, Esq., £79 10s.; Dogherty, Winifred, Collooney, £3 19s. 1½d.; Dunbar, Mary, Dooneen, £14 10s.; Dunken, John, Pollabracka, £3 3s. 3d.; Evans, William, Cunghill, £7 19s. 3d.

Farrell, Mary, Collooney, £18; Fawcet, Henry, Park, £18 13s. 5d.; Fawcet, James, Dunahantra, £17; Fawcet, John, Park, £4 13s. 1d.; Fawcet, John, Quiguboy, £6 7s. 1d.; Fawcet, Thomas, Finned, £92; Fenton, Abraham, Dromore, £63 15s. 8d.; Fenton, William, Dromore, £7 8s. 4d.; Ferguson, Andrew, Leaffoney, £2 16s. 10d.; Ferguson, James, Rathurlesh, £9 3s. 4d.; Finan, John, Ardnaree, £2; Fitzpatrick, Samuel, Iceford, £5 17s. 9d.; Flannelly, William, Kilrusheighter, £6; Foster, William, Collooney, £37.

Giblin, Matthew, Carrowdurneen, £1 15s.; Gilgan, Thomas, Fortland, £5 13s. 9d.; Ginly, James, Tourneens, £4 12s. 8d.; Glochane, Patrick, Rathmeel, £4 11s. 8d.; Greer, Bridget, Dooneen, £15; Greer, James, Dooneen, £5 12s. 7d.; Greer, Robert, Dooneen, £9 7s. 2d.; Grove, John, Carrowcar, £19 4s. 9d.

Hamilton, William, £85 16s. 8d.; Harrison, William, Frenchford, £7 18s.; Hart, James, Ballygrahan, £3; Higgins, W., Carrowdurnan, £5; Hill, Francis, Carrownapull, £3 8s. 3d.; Hopps, William, Collooney, £30.

Joint, Margaret, Ballyglass, £89 11s.

Kean, Bartholomew, Ardnaree, £13 8s. 3d.; Kearan, Henry, Frankford, £72 5s. 6d.; Keary, Anthony, Stockane, £17 17s. 6d.; Keary, Owen, Teretick, £4; Keary, Thomas, Knockowen, £9 7s. 6d.; Kirkwood, Francis, Killala, £41 17s.; Kivleghan, Joseph, Frenchford, £6; Kivleghan, Patrick, Frenchford, £11 16s. 6d.; Kivleghan, Robert, Collooney, £4.

Lewis, Arthur, Easkey, £9; Long, Francis, Ballynagraugh, £3 8s. 3d.; Low, John, Collooney, £31 12s.; Lynn, Elinor, Finid, £2 16s. 10½d.

Maccarrick, Thomas, Collaney, £3; Maccleery, William, £4 18s. 4d.; MacKeal, Patrick, Jr., Newtown, £8 6s. 10d.; MacKeal, Patrick, Sr., Newtown, £17 19s. 2½d.; Mackim, James, Grangemore, £11 11s. 9d.; Mackim, Daniel, Ballykilcash, £3 12s.; Mackim, Robert, Collooney, £72 19s. 10d.; Magee, William, Ballyglass, £12 4s.; Maguire, Charles, Ballintogher, £1 10s. 6d.; Mallon, Margaret, Kileenduff, £18 4s.; Martin, James, Ardnaree, £6 8s. 4d.;

Martin, Jacob, Keighroe, £16 8s. 3d.; Martin, Thomas, Dunmoran, £122 12s.; Mayle, William, Ardnaree, £17; Meredith, Henry, Tubbercurry, £17; Moore, John, Ardnaree, £4 19s. 9d.; Moore, Patrick, Corkhill, £80; Morgan, Francis, Corranrush, £8 15s. 9d.; Morrison, George, Carrowreagh, £3 7s. 6d.; Morton, Henry, Ardnaree, £36; Morton, James, Pullaheeney, £135 17s. 5d.; Mullarkey, Patrick, Ballynagraugh, £6; Mulveagh, John, £2; Murray, John, Ardnaree, £20.

Naney, John, Ballynagraugh, £4; Nicholson, William, Ardnaree, £5 2s. 4½d.

Ormsby, Charles, Ardnaree, £77 10s. 4d.; Ormsby, Elizabeth, Coolaney, £62 8s. 8d.; Ormsby, John, Ballymeeny, £4; Ormsby, Mary, £2.

Powel, Adam, Loughborough, £20; Power, William, Ardnaree, £4 6s. 10½d.

Quinn, James, Ballynagraugh, £4 16s.

Reed, George, Ardnaree, £46 19s. 5d.; Reed, Robert, Ardnasbrack, £5 3s.; Robinson, Thomas, Cloonageen, £45 10s.; Rutledge, Anne, £93 14s. 10½d.; Rutledge, Peter, Knockahullen, £9 2s.; Rutledge, Thomas, Knockacullen, £16 3s. 8d.

Scott, James, Carrowdurneen, £8 18s. 6d.; Scott, John, Ballyholan, £127 3s. 7½d.; Scott, John, Jr., Carrowdurneen, £14 1s. 4d.; Scott, Michael, Doonowla, £5 18s. 3d.; Scott, Thomas, Ardnaglass, £9 4s.; Shannon, James, Carrowpardan, £1 19s. 4½d.; Shannon, John, Forgetown, £2 8s.; Shannon, Matthew, Forgetown, £5 10s.; Shannon, Thomas, £3 8s. 3d.; Shaw, James, Grangemore, £17 1s.; Simpson, James, Tullaghan, £28; Smith, George, Carrowhubbock, £46 3s.; Smith, John, Quiguboy, £48 5s. 7½d.; Smyth, James, Lackencahill, £84 18s. 4d.; Smyth, Richard, Park, £8 13s. 10d.; Smyth, Robert, £34 19s. 4d.; Smyth, Roger, £96 17s. 9d.; Steen, Arthur, Scurmore, £11; Stokes, George, Coolnacur, £12 3s. 9d.; Strain, John, Quiguboy, £10 12s.; Strong, Thomas, Ardaboley, £17 12s. 8d.

Thompson, John, Killoran, £7 5s.; Tully, Elizabeth, Ardnaree, £5.

Walker, James, Cartron, £29 11s. 11½d.; Wallace, Edward, Easkey, £27; Wallace, James, Ballymeeny, £13 2s. 9d.; Walsh, Richard, Scurmore, £29 11s. 2d.; Walton, Nathaniel, Iceford, £25; Walton, Robert, Quignashee, £49 11s. 10½d.; White, Matthew, Larkhill, £9 1s. 3½d.; White, William, Woodfield, £30; Williams, Ingram, Altitaleere, £6 16s. 6d.; Williams, Michael, Coray, £27 10s. 3d.; Wilson, Adam, Carrowreagh, £3 14s. 7d.; Wilson, Joseph, Carrowreagh, £1 15s. 7d.; Wood, Charles, Esq., Chapelfield,



£158 12s.; Wood, James, Esq.,<sup>1</sup> Leekfield, £26 17s. 7d.; Wood, William, Sligo, £92 11s.; Wright, George, Dooneen, £7 11s. 2d.

## APPENDIX C.

### NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY SLIGO REGIMENT FROM THE YEAR 1793, SHOWING THE RANK LAST HELD BY EACH.

*Hon. Colonel.*—Lieut.-General His Royal Highness Arthur William Patrick Albert, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., K.C.B., A.D.C., June, 1891.

*Colonels.*—Right Hon. H. King, 25 April, 1793; J. Irwin, 4 June, 1807; F. A. Knox Gore, 37 Jan., 1847.

*Lieutenant-Colonels.*—J. E. Cooper, 31 March, 1795; R. Parke, 20 July, 1803; A. Perceval, 12 April, 1809; J. F. Knox, 16 June, 1855; G. A. J. M'Clintock, 15 March, 1856; C. J. Knox Gore, 31 May, 1861 (*Hon. Colonel*); M. D. P. Stronge, 18 July, 1876 (*Hon. Colonel*); R. S. Ormsby, 1 Nov., 1879 (*Hon. Colonel*); W. G. Wood-Martin, 21 April, 1883 (*Hon. Colonel*).

*Majors.*—C. K. O'Hara, 23 July, 1807; Sir J. Crofton, 12 April, 1829; J. Ffolliott, 16 March, 1856; C. B. Wynne, 27 Oct., 1879; J. Campbell, 9 June, 1883.

*Captains.*—R. Lindsay, 13 May, 1801; J. Tyler, 21 May, 1803; W. Lindsay, 18 Aug., 1803; R. Powell, 1 Dec., 1803; J. Jones, 26 April, 1804; W. Furey, 30 Sept., 1805; W. O'Beirne, 22 Sept., 1814; E. J. Cooper, 24 June, 1819; J. Ffolliott, 25 July, 1826; E. L. Neynoe, 4 July, 1828; R. Jones, 10 June, 1839; J. Jones, 17 Dec., 1841; R. Ormsby, 19 May, 1846; F. E. Knox, 6 May, 1848; James Wood, 12 Sept., 1848; H. B. Crofton, 24 Feb., 1855; L. G. Jones, 17 Sept., 1855;

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<sup>1</sup> James Wood originally claimed a much larger amount, *i.e.* £98 17s. 7d. The reason for his withdrawing part of the claim is explained by the evidence before the Court:—

“Sligo, Thursday, Nov<sup>r</sup>. the 28th, 1799. Read, the claim of James Wood, Esq., of Leekfield, and Ex<sup>d</sup>. him on oath. Swears he claimed for eight fatt cowes, which he drove from off a park of Mr. Browne, in pursuance of an order from General Lake: he made use of some for the army, and the others were taken by the army. He claimed because the owner, Mr. Scott, threatened to sue him for them. Mr. Scott has been all<sup>d</sup>. in his claim for these cows (£72), so he dont now claim for them.”

J. Gethin, 15 March, 1856; F. Knox, 20 Dec., 1860; J. Ormsby, 7 June, 1861; J. S. Knox, 9 April, 1867; O. Wynne, 18 Feb., 1871; G. Gethin, 12 April, 1871; W. Griffith, 22 Jan., 1874; J. D. Robinson, 23 July, 1880; C. J. Holroyde, 5 April, 1883; A. E. H. Moore, 15 Aug., 1883; J. C. Beamish, 3 May, 1884; M. B. Armstronge, 13 March, 1886; A. W. W. Croft, 28 July, 1888; W. H. C. Grattan, 5 March, 1890; R. W. G. Hillas, 18 July, 1891.

*Lieutenants.*—W. Clarke, 23 July, 1798; T. Trumble, 13 May, 1801; R. Jones, 25 Oct., 1803; E. Harloe, 20 Sept., 1805; J. Burrows, 20 Feb., 1806; G. Powell, 3 May, 1806; T. P. Jones, 24 June, 1807; J. Jones, 24 May, 1808; W. Dennes, 19 April, 1808; John Wood, 30 June, 1808; W. Carter, 16 May, 1809; H. Irwin, 16 May, 1809; R. FitzGerald, 23 March, 1812; W. Atkinson, 13 Dec., 1812; V. Jones, 8 May, 1813; H. Knott, 6 Jan., 1814; S. Barrett, 10 June, 1839; R. Wood, 11 June, 1839; G. Martin, 6 May, 1849; J. Parke, 31 May, 1855; W. H. L. Gethin, 19 July, 1855; R. D. Robinson, 5 Nov., 1855; F. Farrell, 15 March, 1856; D. Paton, 31 March, 1856; E. T. Lindsay, 12 Oct., 1857; W. A. Baker, 29 July, 1858; R. B. Knott, 18 July, 1859; J. Duke, 12 June, 1861; H. Williams, 12 June, 1861; T. L. Robinson, 12 July, 1861; H. R. Robinson, 12 April, 1871; J. F. W. Walker, 20 July, 1871; W. T. Vernon, 6 Nov., 1871; A. Perceval, 22 Nov., 1876; F. B. Knight, 13 May, 1889.

*Ensigns.*—F. P. Clarke, 16 May, 1809; R. Wood, 27 May, 1811; S. O. Goodwin, 15 July, 1812; W. Carey, 13 Dec., 1812; J. Phibbs, 12 March, 1813; C. Atkinson, 13 Dec., 1813; W. J. Bourke, 11 May, 1814; J. Ormsby, 11 May, 1814; W. Ormsby, 18 June, 1839; R. Palmer, 29 June, 1839; C. T. Gilmour, 1 July, 1839; D. Nicholson, 2 Feb., 1855; F. Farrell, 22 March, 1855; P. Shuttleworth, 22 March, 1855; W. Savage, 5 Nov., 1855; E. T. Lindsay, 4 Oct., 1856; R. A. Mostyn, 16 Jan., 1857; G. D. Ormsby, 11 June, 1859.

*Sub-Lieutenants.*—A. A. Parke, 18 June, 1874; M. E. M. O'Leary, 2 June, 1875; H. R. L. Holden, 23 June, 1875; C. K. O'Hara, 13 Feb., 1878; W. L. Sheane, 18 May, 1880; W. Mills, 19 July, 1881; C. S. M'Dermot, 20 Oct., 1883.

*2nd Lieutenants.*—M. O'Sullivan, 4 April, 1887; A. H. W. Saunders, 26 March, 1889; E. G. Bromhead, 8 Nov., 1889; C. T. K. Webber, 7 Dec., 1889; O. L. Phibbs, 5 March, 1890; F. M. Gaskill, 21 August, 1891.

*Adjutants.*—S. Goodwin, 10 July, 1798; H. Faucett, 25 May, 1821; T. Ormsby, 23 April, 1846; G. A. J. M'Clintock, 2 Feb., 1855; M. D. P. Stronge, 21 July, 1855; H. G. Bowen, 7 July, 1875 (*Capt. 88th*



*Regt.*); G. Phibbs, 15 Dec., 1875 (*Capt. 87th R. I. F.*); C. F. Dixon, 1 May, 1877 (*Capt. R. A.*); Sir C. Larcom, Bart., 1 April, 1879 (*Major R. A.*); H. P. Russell, 1 July, 1884 (*Capt. R. A.*); N. Maxwell, 9 March, 1885 (*Capt. R. A.*); M. M. Morris, 18 August, 1890 (*Capt. R. A.*).

*Surgeon-Major.*—T. D. Palmer, March, 1885.

*Surgeons.*—J. Faucett, 15 July, 1793; J. J. Ferguson, 21 March, 1812; H. Irwin, 22 Sept., 1817; T. E. Lindsay, 3 Jan., 1846; J. Faucett, 18 Jan., 1855; J. Tucker, 12 June, 1872.

*Surgeon's Mate or Assistant-Surgeons.*—J. Faucett, 15 July, 1793; R. Johnston, 10 April, 1804; G. Smith, 5 Aug., 1807; J. M'Nair, 20 Dec., 1819; R. W. Faucett, 5 Feb., 1855.

*Quartermasters.*—R. Ormsby, 19 Dec., 1795; A. B. Cooper, 5 April, 1798; C. Jones, 1 Nov., 1798; J. Burrows, 22 Aug., 1803; W. Savage, 2 Feb., 1855.

*Paymasters.*—R. Ormsby, 1 April, 1798; R. Ormsby, 10 May, 1826; A. H. Knox, 2 Feb., 1855.

## APPENDIX D.

### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH OF SLIGO.

(*Chap. 3, Stat. 3, 4, Philip and Mary, renewed 11 Elizabeth, chap. 9. Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1565, by virtue of the first of these Acts constituted Sligo a County.*<sup>1</sup>)

Date.	Name.	Residence.
1585, April,	Sir Valentine Browne, Knt.,	Ross Castle, Kerry.
" "	John Crofton, Esq.,	Lissedune, Roscom-
	John Marbury, Esq.	mon.
1613, April,	Thady O'Hara, Esq.,	Coolaney.
" "	Bryan M'Donough, Esq.,	Colooney.
1615-1634	(No Parliament held in Ireland.)	

<sup>1</sup> The Commission to form Connaught into shire-land would not appear to have been sped until April 12, Elizabeth (1570), returnable before September 30 (*vide* Fiant, 1525, Elizabeth).

Date.	Name.	Residence.
1634, April,	Sir George Radcliffe, Knt.,	Rathmines, Dublin.
" "	Theobald Taafe,	Ballymote.
	<i>(A MS. in the British Museum gives :—</i>	
	Teige O'Connor, Esq.,	Sligo.
	Farrall O'Garagh, Esq.,	Coolavin. <sup>1</sup>
1639, Feb. 24,	Sir George Radcliffe, Knt.,	Rathmines, Dublin.
" "	Hon. Theobald Taafe,	Ballymote.
1640, April 27,	Patrick Cassy, Esq.,	Grange.
	<i>(Vice Radcliffe, absent from Ireland.)</i>	
1654,	Sir Robert King.	
"	Sir John Temple (chosen to represent the counties Sligo, Leitrim, and Roscommon in Cromwell's Parliament at Westminster).	
1661, April 16,	Francis Gore, Knt.,	Artarmon.
" "	Robert Morgan, Esq.,	Cottelstown.
1689, May 7,	Henry Crofton, Esq.,	Longford Castle.
" "	Oliver O'Gara, Esq.	
	<i>(Summoned by writs of James II.)</i>	
1692, Oct. 5,	Edward Wingfield, Esq.,	Powerscourt, Wicklow.
" "	Hugh Morgan, Esq.,	Cottelstown
1695, Aug. 27,	Edward Wingfield, Esq.,	Powerscourt, Wicklow.
" "	Hugh Morgan, Esq.,	Cottelstown.
1703, Sept. 15,	Edward Wingfield, Esq.,	Powerscourt, Wicklow.
	Hugh Morgan, Esq.,	Cottelstown.
1713, Oct. 17,	Chidley Coote, Esq.,	Coote Hall, Roscommon.
" "	William Ormsby, Esq.	
1715,	Chidley Coote, Esq.	
" "	William Ormsby, Esq.	
1719, July 21,	Francis Ormsby, Esq.,	Willowbrook.
	<i>(Vice Coote, deceased.)</i>	

<sup>1</sup> The latter was the originator of the celebrated historical work which is now commonly known as "The Annals of the Four Masters"; and in the preface the compilers state that he was "one of the two knights elected to represent the county of Sligo in the Parliament held in Dublin this present year of our Lord, 1634."



Date.	Name.	Residence.
1720,	Joshua Cooper, Esq., ( <i>Vice</i> Francis Ormsby, mis- elected.)	Markree.
1727, Sept. 25,	Owen Wynne, Esq.,	Hazlewood.
" "	Joshua Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
1737, Oct. 26,	James Wynne, Esq., ( <i>Vice</i> Owen Wynne, deceased.)	Hazlewood.
1749, Oct. 24,	Owen Wynne, the yr. Esq., ( <i>Vice</i> James Wynne, deceased.)	Hazlewood.
1757, Nov. 8,	Benjamin Burton, the yr. Esq., ( <i>Vice</i> Cooper, deceased.)	Burton Hall, Car- low.
1761, April 24,	Sir Edward King, Bart.,	Rockingham, Ros- common.
" "	Owen Wynne, Esq.,	Hazlewood.
1765, Nov. 18,	Annesley Gore, ( <i>Vice</i> King, Lord Kingston.)	Cottelstown.
1768, July 11,	Owen Wynne, Esq.,	Hazlewood.
" "	Joshua Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
1776, May 1,	Rt. Hon. Joshua Cooper,	Markree.
" "	Rt. Hon. Owen Wynne,	Hazlewood.
1777,	Owen Wynne, jun., Esq., ( <i>Vice</i> Rt. Hon. Owen Wynne, unduly elected.)	Hazlewood.
1783,	Owen Wynne, Esq.,	Hazlewood.
"	Charles O'Hara, Esq.,	Nymphsfield.
1790,	Charles O'Hara, Esq.,	Nymphsfield.
"	Joshua Edward Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
1797, July 11,	Joshua Edward Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
" "	Charles O'Hara, Esq.,	Nymphsfield.
1800, June 7,	Joshua Edward Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
" "	Charles O'Hara, Esq.,	Nymphsfield.

*(Act of Union.)*

1801,	Joshua Edward Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
"	Charles O'Hara, Esq.,	Nymphsfield.
1802,	Joshua Edward Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
"	Charles O'Hara, Esq.,	Nymphsfield.
1806,	Charles O'Hara, Esq.,	Nymphsfield.
"	Edward Synge Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
1807,	Charles O'Hara, Esq.,	Nymphsfield.
"	Edward Synge Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
1812,	Charles O'Hara, Esq.,	Nymphsfield.
"	Edward Synge Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.

Date.	Name.	Residence.
1818, . . .	Charles O'Hara, Esq., . . .	Nymphsfield.
" . . .	Edward Synge Cooper, Esq.,	Markee.
1820, . . .	Charles O'Hara, Esq., . . .	Nymphsfield.
" . . .	Edward Synge Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
1822, Nov. 23, .	Hon. Henry King, <i>vice</i> O'Hara.	
1826, . . .	Edward Synge Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
" . . .	Hon. Henry King.	
1830, Aug. 17,	Hon. Henry King.	
" . . .	Edward Joshua Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
1831, May 17, .	Edward Joshua Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
" . . .	Lt.-Col. Alexander Perceval,	Templehouse.
1832, Dec. 20, .	Edward Joshua Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
" . . .	Lt.-Col. Alexander Perceval,	Templehouse.
1835, Jan. 15, .	Edward Joshua Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
" . . .	Lt.-Col. Alexander Perceval,	Templehouse.
1837, Aug. 17, .	Edward Joshua Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
" . . .	Lt.-Col. Alexander Perceval,	Templehouse.
1841, July 8, .	Lt.-Col. Alexander Perceval,	Templehouse.
" . . .	Wm. Richard Ormsby Gore, jun., Esq.	
— Sept. 28, .	John Ffolliott, Esq., . . . ( <i>Vice</i> Perceval, appointed Ser- geant-at-Arms to the House of Lords.)	Hollybrook.
1847, Aug. 9, .	Wm. Richard Ormsby Gore, Esq.	
" . . .	John Ffolliott, . . .	Hollybrook.
1850, March 12,	Sir Robert Gore Booth, Bart., ( <i>Vice</i> Ffolliott, who accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.)	Lissadell.
1852, July 26, .	Sir Robert Gore Booth, Bart.,	Lissadell.
" . . .	Richard Swift, Esq.	
1857, April 8, .	Sir Robert Gore Booth, Bart.,	Lissadell.
" . . .	Edward Joshua Cooper, Esq.,	Markree.
1859, May 13, .	Sir Robert Gore Booth, Bart.,	Lissadell.
" . . .	Charles W. Cooper O'Hara, Esq., . . .	Annaghmore.
1865, . . .	Sir Robert Gore Booth, Bart.,	Lissadell.
" . . .	Lt.-Col. Edw. Henry Cooper,	Markree.
1868, . . .	Denis Maurice O'Connor, Esq.	
" . . .	Sir Robert Gore Booth, Bart.,	Lissadell.
1874, . . .	Denis Maurice O'Connor, Esq.	
" . . .	Sir Robert Gore Booth, Bart.,	Lissadell.



Date.	Name.	Residence.
1877, Jan. 12, .	Lt.-Col. Robert Edward King-Harman, . . . . .	Rockingham.
	( <i>Vice</i> Booth, deceased.)	
1880, . . . .	Thomas Sexton.	
"	Denis Maurice O'Connor.	
1883, Aug. 20, .	Nicholas Lynch,	
	( <i>Vice</i> O'Connor, deceased.)	
1885, <i>N. Sligo</i> ,	Peter M'Donald.	
" <i>S. Sligo</i> ,	Thomas Sexton.	
1886, <i>N. Sligo</i> ,	Peter M'Donald.	
" <i>S. Sligo</i> ,	Thomas Sexton.	
1887, Feb. 7, .	( <i>New election, Sexton electing to sit for W. Belfast.</i> )	
	Edward Joseph Kennedy.	
1888, July 6, .	( <i>New election on resignation of Kennedy.</i> )	
	Edmond Leamy.	
1891, April 3, .	Bernard Collery, 3261.	
	( <i>Vice</i> M'Donald, deceased.)	
	<i>Valentine Dillon, 2493.</i>	

## MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE BOROUGH OF SLIGO,

FROM ITS CREATION, MARCH 30, 1613, UNTIL ITS DISFRANCHISEMENT IN 1869.

*(Two Members.)*

1613, April, .	Henry Andrews, Esq., .	Dublin.
" "	Edward Southwork, Esq.	
1615-1634, .	( <i>No Parliament held in Ireland.</i> )	
1634, June, . .	Edward Southwork, Esq.	
" "	Arthur Jones, . . . . .	Athlone.
	( <i>or, according to a MS. in the Brit. Mus.</i> )	
1634, July 14, .	Roger Jones, Knt., . . .	Sligo.
" "	Thomas Maul.	
1639, Feb. 27, .	Thomas Ratcliffe, Esq., .	Dublin.
" "	Kean O'Hara, Esq., . . .	Coolany.
1641, May 27, .	( <i>New writ ordered in place of Ratcliffe.</i> )	
1641, June, .	( <i>Return defaced.</i> )	
1647-1661, .	( <i>No Parliament held in Ireland.</i> )	
1661, April 25,	Sir Henry Tichborne, Knt.	
	(Blessington, Tirconnel).	
" "	Samuel Bathurst . . . . .	Dublin.
1662-1689, .	( <i>No Parliament held in Ireland.</i> )	

Date.	Name.	Residence.
1689, May 7, .	<i>Terence M'Donogh, Esq.</i>	
" "	<i>James French, Esq. (summoned by writ of James II.)</i>	
1692, Oct. 5, .	Percy Gethin, Esq. . .	Sligo.
" "	Theophilus Jones, Esq., .	Headford, Leitrim.
1695, Aug. 27, .	Percy Gethin, Esq., . .	Sligo.
" "	Roger Smith, Esq., . .	Cloverhill.
1703, Sept. 27, .	Percy Gethin, Esq., . .	Sligo.
" "	Samuel Walton, Alderman.	
1713, Oct. 19, .	Samuel Burton, Esq., . .	Dublin.
" "	Owen Wynne, Esq., . .	Lurganboy, Leitrim.
1715, Nov. 12, .	Samuel Burton. . . .	Dublin.
" "	Owen Wynne, . . . .	Lurganboy, Leitrim.
1727, Sept. 27, .	Owen Wynne, Esq., . .	Sligo.
" "	Francis Ormsby, Esq. . .	Willowbrook.
1751, Oct. 19, .	John Wynne, Esq., . .	Hazlewood.
	( <i>Vice Ormsby, deceased.</i> )	
1753, . . . .	James Wynne.	
	( <i>Vice John Wynne.</i> )	
1755, . . . .	John Wynne.	
	( <i>Vice James Wynne.</i> )	
1757, Oct. 18, .	John Wynne, Esq.	
" "	William Ormsby, . . .	Willowbrook.
	( <i>Vice Owen Wynne, deceased.</i> )	
1761, April 24, .	Lt.-General John Ffolliott.	
" "	John Wynne, Esq.	
1761, Nov. 13, .	William Ormsby, . . .	Willowbrook.
	( <i>Vice Wynne, elected to sit for Leitrim.</i> )	
1762, April, 13, .	Robert Scott, Esq., . .	Newry, Down.
	( <i>Vice Ffolliott, deceased.</i> )	
1768, July 9, .	John Wynne, Esq., 2nd Regt. of Horse.	
" "	William Ormsby, Esq., .	Willowbrook,
1776, June 10, .	Rt. Hon. Owen Wynne, .	Hazlewood.
" "	Richard Hely Hutchinson, Esq.	
1777, Nov. 24, .	John Wynne, Esq., . .	Fairfield, Kildare.
	( <i>Vice Hutchinson, elected to sit for University of Dublin.</i> )	
1778, March 16, .	R. H. Hutchinson.	
	( <i>Reinstated without writ on decease of John Wynne.</i> )	



Date.	Name.	Residence.
1779, . . .	Rt. Hon. Owen Wynne, .	Hazlewood.
1783, Sept. 5, .	Rt. Hon. Owen Wynne, .	Hazlewood.
" "	Rt. Hon. John Forster.	
1783, Nov. 24, .	Thomas Dawson, Esq., . ( <i>Vice</i> Forster, elected to sit for the county Louth.)	Clare Castle, Co. Armagh.
1789, April 13,	Robert Wynne, Esq., Lt., 12th Dragoons. ( <i>Vice</i> Owen Wynne, deceased.)	
1790, May 5, .	Robert Wynne, Esq., Lt., 12th Dragoons.	
" "	Rt. Hon. Viscount Cole.	
1790, July 19, .	Owen Wynne, . . . . ( <i>Vice</i> Cole, elected to sit for Co. Fermanagh.)	Hazlewood.
1797, Aug. 12, .	The Rt. Hon. John Viscount Cole.	
" "	Robert Wynne, Esq.	
1798, Feb. 9, .	Owen Wynne, . . . . ( <i>Vice</i> Cole, elected to sit for the Co. Fermanagh.)	Hazlewood.
1799, Feb. 8, .	William Wynne. ( <i>Vice</i> Robert Wynne, who accepted the office of Comp- troller of the Household of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.)	
1800, June 7, .	Owen Wynne, Esq., . . .	Hazlewood.
" "	William Wynne, Esq.	

*(By the Act of Union Sligo Borough returned only one Member  
to the Imperial Parliament.)*

1802, July 24, .	Owen Wynne, Esq., . . .	Hazlewood.
1806, July 16, .	Col. George Canning, . . ( <i>Vice</i> Owen Wynne, who had accepted the office of Es- cheator of Munster.)	Garroagh.
1806, Nov. 17, .	George Canning, Esq.	
1807, May 22, .	Colonel George Canning.	
1812, Nov. 5, .	Rt. Hon. George Canning.	
1813, April 5, .	Joshua Spencer, Esq. ( <i>Vice</i> Canning elected to sit for Liverpool.)	

Date.	Name.	Residence.
1815, March 27,	Sir Brent Spencer, K.B., Bart. ( <i>Vice</i> Joshua Spencer, Esq., who had accepted the office of Escheator of Munster.)	
1818, June 29, .	John Bent, Esq., . . .	Totness, Co. Devon.
1820, March 21,	Owen Wynne, Esq., . . .	Hazlewood.
1826, June 17, .	Owen Wynne, Esq., . . .	Hazlewood.
1830, Aug. 4, .	John Wynne, Esq., . . .	Hazlewood.
1831, May 9, .	John Wynne, Esq., . . .	Hazlewood.
( <i>Municipal Reform Act.</i> )		
1832, Dec. 20, .	John Martin, Esq., . . .	Sligo.
1835, Jan. 9, .	John Martin, Esq., . . .	Sligo.
1837, Aug. 3, .	John Patrick Somers, Esq.	
1841, July 9, .	John Patrick Somers, Esq.	
1847, Aug. 4, .	John Patrick Somers, Esq.	
1848, April 11,	(New writ: last election being declared void.)	
	Charles Townley, . . .	Townley, Co. Lan- caster.
1848, July 15, .	(New writ: last election being declared void.)	
	John Patrick Somers.	
1852, July 15, .	Charles Townley, . . .	Townley, Co. Lan- caster.
1853, July 7, .	(New writ: last election being declared void.)	
	John Sadlier, Esq., . . .	Gloucester square, Hyde Park.
1856, March 8, .	Rt. Hon. John Wynne, . . . ( <i>Vice</i> Sadlier, deceased.)	Hazlewood.
1857, April 1, .	<i>John Patrick Somers.</i> (On petition Somers was un- seated, and Rt. Hon. John Wynne declared duly elected.)	
1859, May 6, .	Rt. Hon. John Wynne, . . .	Hazlewood.
1860, Aug. 9, .	Francis M'Donogh, Q.C., . . . ( <i>Vice</i> Wynne, resigned.)	Rutland-square, Dublin.
1865, July 15, .	Richard Armstrong, S.L.	
1868, Nov. 19, .	Major Laurence E. Knox. (Unseated on petition. A Commission of Inquiry in- stituted, and the Borough disfranchised.)	



## APPENDIX E.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR RELIEF OF THE DISTRESSED  
POOR OF THE TOWN OF SLIGO, 1822.

## REPORT OF DISTRICT No. 1.

464 families (2008 persons) obtain gratuitous relief at a weekly expense of . . . . .	£31	15	6
167 labourers employed at 4s. 6d. each per week, . . . . .	33	10	6
108 women, spinning flax, at a weekly loss of, . . . . .	5	8	0
The weekly loss on the sale of provisions at reduced rates, . . . . .	11	17	0
Supposed increase of weekly gratuitous aid to paupers, till 20th August, . . . . .	5	0	0
JAMES COCHRAN.	£87	11	0

## REPORT OF DISTRICT No. 2.

294 families (1249 persons) obtain gratuitous relief at a weekly expense of . . . . .	£22	5	0
95 labourers employed at 4s. 6d. each per week, . . . . .	21	7	6
60 women, spinning flax, at a weekly loss of . . . . .	2	16	0
Supposed increase of weekly gratuitous aid to paupers, till 20th August, . . . . .	2	5	0
Weekly loss on sale of provisions at reduced prices, . . . . .	7	10	0
JAS. GILLIGAN.	£56	3	6
JAS. HENRY.			

## REPORT OF DISTRICT No. 3.

184 families (838 persons) obtain gratuitous relief at a weekly expense of . . . . .	£14	7	0
85 labourers employed at an expense of 4s. 6d. each per week, . . . . .	19	2	6
74 women, spinning flax, at a weekly loss of . . . . .	3	2	0
The weekly loss on the sale of provisions at reduced prices, . . . . .	4	15	9
Supposed increase of weekly gratuitous aid to paupers, till 20th August, at 1s. 6d. per week to each family, . . . . .	2	5	0
WM. HUME.	£43	12	3
FRANCIS O'BEIRNE.			

## REPORT OF DISTRICT No. 4.

362 families (1816 persons) obtain gratuitous relief at a weekly expense of . . . . .	£30	7	6
130 labourers employed at the wages of 4 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per week each, . . . . .	30	3	0
53 women, spinning flax, at a weekly loss of . . . . .	1	19	9
Supposed increase of paupers, till 20th August, at a weekly expense (taking each family at 1 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> per week) of . . . . .	1	13	4
Weekly loss on sale of provisions at reduced prices, . . . . .	11	5	0
	<hr/>		
M. MADDEN.	£75	8	7
ALEX. COCHRAN.			



## APPENDIX F.

BURGESSES OF THE BOROUGH OF SLIGO, FROM 1709 TO THE  
PASSING OF THE MUNICIPAL REFORM ACT, 1842.

1709. Thomas Jennings, *vice* Arthur Cooper, deceased.
1710. John Booth, *vice* Benjamin Burton, Esq., disfranchised, having refused to take the oath.
1711. Captain Owen Wynne, *vice* Ralfe Gore, resigned.
1715. George Ormsby, *vice* Percy Gethin, deceased.
1721. John Jameson, *vice* Philip Cox, deceased.
1722. Major-Gen. Owen Wynne, Capt. John Wynne, Major John Foliot.
1727. John Knox, *vice* John Jameson, deceased.
1729. Laurence Vernon, *vice* Thomas Jennings, deceased.
1733. James Wynne, *vice* John Booth, deceased.
1736. Philip Cox, *vice* Rt. Hon. Lieut.-Gen. Owen Wynne, deceased.
1738. Joshua Cooper, *vice* William Ormsby, deceased.
1743. Anderson Saunders, *vice* William Smith, deceased.
1744. Cornet Owen Wynne, *vice* Arthur Gore, deceased.
1747. Captain John Wynne, *vice* Colonel John Wynne, deceased.
1748. Lewis Ormsby, *vice* George Ormsby, deceased ; William Ormsby, *vice* James Wynne, deceased.
1750. George Knox, *vice* John Knox.
1753. Edward Martin, *vice* Richard Gore.
1754. Rev. George Ormsby, *vice* Lewis Ormsby ; Blackford Hughes, *vice* Anderson Saunders ; William Vernon, *vice* Laurence Vernon, deceased.
1756. Hon. Barry Maxwell, *vice* Mitchelburn Knox, deceased ; Rev. Eubule Ormsby, *vice* Colonel Owen Wynne, deceased.
1760. Richard Saunders, *vice* Joshua Cooper, deceased ; Hon. and Rev. Dean Henry Maxwell, *vice* William Vernon, deceased.
1762. Philip Birne, *vice* Hon. Gen. John Folliott, deceased.
1768. Rev. Thomas Cuffe, *vice* Philip Cox, deceased.
1771. Joshua Cooper, *vice* Edward Martin, of Ballyglass, deceased ; James Wynne, *vice* Rev. Eubule Ormsby, deceased.
1775. Folliott Wynne, *vice* Blackford Hughes, deceased.

1776. John Gibson, *vice* Rev. Thomas Cuffe, deceased.
1777. Thomas Hillas, *vice* James Wynne, deceased.
1778. John Martin, *vice* Thomas Hillas, deceased; Owen Wynne, *vice* George Ormsby; Rev. Henry Wynne, *vice* Col. John Wynne, deceased.
1779. Henry Hughes, *vice* Bishop of Meath, resigned.
1783. Lieut. Robert Wynne, *vice* William Ormsby, deceased.
1784. William Gillmor, *vice* John Gibson, deceased; Thomas Soden, *vice* Folliott Wynne, deceased; Samuel Bulteel, *vice* Henry Hughes, deceased.
1785. Charles Phillips, *vice* John Martin, resigned.
1786. Rev. Richard Wynne, *vice* Right Hon. Barry Maxwell, Earl of Farnham, resigned.
1789. William Wynne, *vice* Right Hon. Owen Wynne, deceased.
1790. Mitchelburn Knox, *vice* George Knox, deceased; Hon. William Montgomery Cole, *vice* Joshua Cooper, resigned.
1794. Rev. Stephen Radcliffe, *vice* Philip Birne, deceased.
1800. Andrew Parke, *vice* Charles Phillips, deceased; Robert K. Manly, *vice* Mitchelburn Knox, resigned.
1803. Rev. William C. Armstronge, *vice* Rev. Stephen Radcliffe; Thomas Holmes, *vice* Andrew Parke, deceased.
1804. Alexander M'Creery, *vice* Rev. William Cole, deceased.
1808. Rev. Wm. Bolingbrooke Ayres, *vice* William Gillmor, deceased.
1815. Owen William Wynne, *vice* Richard Saunders, deceased; Richard Beaver Wynne, *vice* Owen William Wynne, deceased.
1817. Alexander Perceval, *vice* Robert Kenrick Manly, resigned.
1818. Rev. John Yeats, *vice* Thomas Holmes, deceased.
1822. Bartholomew Carter, M.D., *vice* Robert Wynne, resigned; John Arthur Wynne, *vice* Richard Wynne, resigned.
1823. William Willoughby Wynne, *vice* Rev. W. B. Ayres, resigned.
1824. John Ormsby, *vice* Wynne, resigned; Rev. Charles Hamilton, *vice* Rev. W. C. Armstronge, resigned.
1827. H. H. Slade, *vice* Alexander Perceval, resigned.
1830. James Noble, *vice* Alexander M'Creery, resigned.
1834. Rev. William Armstronge, *vice* Rev. W. W. Wynne, resigned; Henry Fawcett, *vice* William Wynne, resigned.
1840. James Wynne, *vice* Rev. W. Armstronge, deceased.



# APPENDIX G.

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## TABULAR STATEMENTS

SHOWING

THE MANNER IN WHICH THE LIABILITIES OF THE CORPORATION  
OF SLIGO WERE INCURRED,

AND

THE MEANS EMPLOYED FOR DISCHARGING SAME, &c., &c.

BY

EDWARD CHISM, CORPORATION ACCOUNTANT.

## STATEMENT OF ALL LOANS

No.	Purpose of Loans.	Amount.	Date.	Period for Repayment.	Rate of Interest per cent.
		£ s. d.			
1	Debenture Mortgages—General Purposes, .. ..	11,316 18 5	Sept. 29, 1875,	Indefinite,	4½, ..
2	Fairs and Markets—Purchase, .. ..	7,900 0 0	Jan. 1, 1884,	"	4½, ..
3	General Purposes, .. ..	200 0 0	July 4, 1885,	"	4½, ..
4	Waterworks Construction, ..	28,000 0 0	May 18, 1881,	50 years,	4½, ..
5	Do. (Town Extensions), ..	1,100 0 0	Nov., 1884,	50 "	4½, ..
6	Do. (Completion of), ..	5,000 0 0	March 10, 1886,	42 "	4, ..
7	Sewers, .. ..	206 0 0	July 7, 1880,	30 "	£1 13s. 4d.
8	Do. (River, south side), ..	800 0 0	Oct. 13, 1880,	22 "	3½, ..
9	Artizans' Dwellings, ..	3,300 0 0	Feb. 12, 1887,	50 "	3½, ..
10	Debenture Mortgages — General Purposes (replacing those discharged), ..	950 0 0	Jan. 1st, 1889,	Indefinite,	4½, ..
		58,772 18 5			

Dr.

## WATER REVENUE ACCOUNT (SUMMARY OF)

		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1883 Dec. 31.	To CAPITAL.—Amount expended from Loans on Revenue Account up to this date, .. ..	.. .. .	2,281 17 5
1883	„ Expenditure from REVENUE for the year, ..	766 13 7	
1884	„ do. do. do. ..	1589 18 4	
1885	„ do. do. do. ..	1676 17 9	
1886	„ do. do. do. ..	1071 9 6	
1887	„ do. do. do. ..	2040 8 11	
1888	„ do. do. do. ..	1985 19 10	
1889	„ do. do. do. ..	1953 15 0	
	„ Amount of Half-yearly Instalment of Principal; also 6 months' Interest due on Nov. 1, 1889, not paid within the year, .. ..	✓	11,085 2 11
	„ Balance—being SURPLUS OF INCOME to be transferred to Credit of Capital Account, .. ..	.. .. .	885 14 5
		.. .. .	506 14 1
			12,477 11 5



SLIGO.

CONTRACTED BY CORPORATION.

Mode of Repay- ment.	Amount paid this year, 1889, not including Lodg- ments to Sinking Fund	Amount of Princi- pal outstanding Dec. 31, 1889.	SINKING FUND.		
			Sum set apart.	Security in which invested.	Rate of Interest thereon.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Sinking Fund,		11,316 18 5	600 9 3	Irish Conso- lidated An- nuities.	2½
Do.	800 0 0	7,100 0 0			
Do.	.. ..	200 0 0			
Half-yearly in- stalments, ..	300 0 3	25,506 3 1			
Do.	22 0 0	1,004 0 0			
Do.	119 1 0	4,583 6 6			
Do.	6 17 4	157 18 8			
Do.	26 13 4	573 6 8			
Do.	66 0 0	3,168 0 0			
Sinking Fund,		950 0 0			
		54,559 13 4	600 9 3		

FROM 1883 TO 1889, BOTH INCLUSIVE.

Gr.

		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1883	By Income for the year—proceeds of 1s. Rate, including portion lodged in 1882, .. ..	.. ..	698 10 0	
1884	.. Income for the year—2s. Rate, ..	.. ..	1635 4 4	
1885	.. ..	1480 8 4		
..	.. .. Sales, ..	302 14 7		
			1783 2 11	
1886	.. .. 2s. Rate, ..	1489 19 10		
..	.. .. Sales, ..	387 4 4		
			1877 4 2	
1887	.. .. 2s. Rate, ..	1561 13 11		
..	.. .. Sales, ..	451 3 7		
..	.. .. Materials sold, ..	17 6 6		
			2030 4 0	
1888	.. .. 2s. Rate, ..	1519 3 1		
..	.. .. Sales, ..	551 13 5		
			2070 16 6	
1889	.. .. 2s. Rate, ..	1820 3 6		
..	.. .. Sales, &c. ..	562 6 0		
			2382 9 6	
				12,477 11 5
				12,477 11 5

CORPORATION OF SLIGO.

WATERWORKS' CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT.

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Payments to Contractors—Swiney and M'Larnon—									
„ On Contract No. 1, .. .. .	14,015	18	3						
„ On Contract No. 2, .. .. .	905	17	1						
				14,921	15	4			
„ Extras on No. 1, .. .. .	2,946	5	4½						
„ „ on No. 2, .. .. .	327	5	7½						
				3,273	11	0			
„ Do. Repairs of Slip in Embankment, ..	..	..	..	1,231	14	11			
							19,427	1	3
„ Fencing Reservoir (Swiney & M'Larnon),	..	..	..	..	..	..	401	13	6
„ Iron Pipes, &c., .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,707	12	9
„ Repairs of Breach in '86-7 (D. M'Lynn),	..	..	..	..	..	..	585	10	6
„ Principal and Interest paid from Loan in '81, '82, and '83, to be repaid from surplus of Revenue Account, ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,025	7	8
„ Transfer to Borough Fund in 1881, being the Amount expended from Rates, &c. on preliminary Expenses prior to Loan being obtained, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,874	3	7
„ Purchase of Land, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,872	16	6
„ Engineering, &c. Expenses, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,518	0	3
„ Costs of "Amending Act," 1880-1 (reviving power of compulsory purchase of Land, &c.) and Law Costs, ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,442	5	1
„ Clerk of Works, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	606	0	0
„ Advertising Parliamentary Notices, Printing, &c., .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	434	8	4
„ Caretakers' House at Farnacardy and Hut at Kilsella, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	169	18	3
„ Fountains and Meters, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	52	19	6
„ Compensation for Damages to Crops and Lands adjacent to Site of Storage Reservoir, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	153	14	4
„ Town Extensions, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,507	0	0
„ Miscellaneous Expenses, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	68	19	0
„ Interest on Overdraft, Provincial Bank,*	..	..	..	..	..	..	51	4	0
							36,898	14	6
<i>Cr.</i>									
By Loans, Commissioners of Works, ..	28,000	0	0						
„ Do. do. do. ..	1,100	0	0						
„ Do. do. do. ..	5,000	0	0						
				34,100	0	0			
„ Board of Works—refunded unexpended Balance of Deposits, i.e. Expenses of Preliminary Inquiries, .. .. .	40	10	1						
„ Interest allowed by Provincial Bank, ..	42	5	3						
				82	15	4			
							34,182	15	4
Balance due Provincial Bank, Dec. 31, 1887, .. ..							£2,715	19	2

\* Disallowed by Auditor, and repaid by Members of Committee surcharged.



## CORPORATION OF SLIGO.

TOTAL QUANTITY OF WATER CONSUMED IN SLIGO FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, MANUFACTORIES, AND GENERAL DOMESTIC SUPPLY, IN THE YEAR 1889.

	Gallons.	Gallons.
Lunatic Asylum, .. .. .	6,969,100	
Union Workhouse, .. .. .	817,300	
Infirmary, .. .. .	148,190	
Fever Hospital, .. .. .	78,320	
National Model School, .. .. .	236,190	
Military Barracks, .. .. .	205,880	
Harbour Commissioners, .. .. .	75,200	
Cathedral, .. .. .	194,900	
Cabry Church, .. .. .	21,490	
St. John's Church, .. .. .	52,500	
Gaol, .. .. .	68,900	
		8,868,780
Manufactories, .. .. .	.. ..	2,150,860
General Domestic Supply, Fountains, Water- ing Streets, &c. &c., .. .. .	.. ..	160,600,000
		171,619,640

## CORPORATION OF SLIGO.

## ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF SECURED DEBTS.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1845	J. J. O'Donovan, lent on Bond towards payment of Revising Barristers' Expenses in 1843, .. .. .	300	0	0			
1861	James Loughheed, lent on Bond towards discharge of William Allen's Bond for £417 7s. 11d. (Compensation for loss of office), .. .. .	400	0	0			
1869	Mayors' Salaries unpaid, &c. &c. to this date, Sept. 29, 1869, .. £530 0 0						
	Other liabilities, .. 34 3 11						
		564	3	11			
	Due at passing of "Sligo Borough Improvement Act, 1869," .. .. .				1264	3	11
1871	Debenture Mortgages to Kernaghan and Saunders in settlement of balance of Costs of Act, .. .. .	2866	18	5			
1874	Debenture Mortgages to Harbour Commissioners in settlement of Account due as from "Town" to "Harbour Account," .. .. .	850	0	0			
	Harbour Commissioners' Bonds for which Corporation became liable in 1869, £2000, late Irish Currency, ..	1846	3	1			
					5563	1	6
1875	Deb. Mortgages issued for £7150 0 0 from proceeds of which were paid— Off Town Com. Bonds, £1846 3 1 Other liabilities, 814 3 11						
				2660 7 0			
	leaving balance towards Costs Town Hall Erection, &c. .. .. .				4489	13	0
1884	Debenture Mortgages issued for Purchase of Fairs and Markets, ..	7900	0	0			
	Do. for General Purposes, .. .. .	200	0	0			
					8100	0	0
	Total Amt. of Deb. Mortgages, .. .. .				19,416	18	5



## BOARD OF WORKS' LOANS.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1880	Construction of Sewer from Kidd's-row into Knox's-street, .. .. .	206	0	0			
„	Intercepting Sewer (south side of river),	800	0	0			
					1,006	0	0
1881	Waterworks' Construction, .. ..	28,000	0	0			
1884	Do. Town Extension, .. ..	1,100	0	0			
1886	Do. Completion of Main Works,	5,000	0	0			
					34,100	0	0
1887	Artizan's Dwellings (erection of 30 houses, of which 28 were completed in 1888), .. .. .	..	..	..	3,300	0	0
	Total secured Debts,*	..	..	..	57,822	18	5
	*Sundry persons on Debenture Mortgages as above, .. .. .	19,416	18	5			
	Board of Works' Loans, .. .. .	38,406	0	0			
		57,822	18	5			

## BOARD OF WORKS' LOANS.

Purpose of Loan.	Original Amount.	Principal repaid.	Due on Dec. 31, 1889.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sanitary, ..	206 0 0	48 1 4	157 18 8	
Do. ..	800 0 0	226 13 4	573 6 8	
Water, ..	28,000 0 0	2,493 16 11	25,506 3 1	
Do. ..	5,000 0 0	416 13 6	4,583 6 6	
Do. ..	1,100 0 0	96 0 0	1,004 0 0	
Artizan's Dwellings,	3,300 0 0	132 0 0	3,168 0 0	
				34,992 14 11
	38,406 0 0	3,413 5 1		53,809 4 1

## REDUCTION AND EXTINCTION OF DEBT.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
DEBENTURE MORTGAGES, .. .. .	19,416	18	5			
Amount of Sinking Fund on Dec. 31, 1889, towards extinction of above Loans. (This Fund was formed in 1885, by virtue of "Improvement Act, 1869.") .. .. .	600	9	3	18,816	9	2

## CORPORATION OF SLIGO.

## ARTIZANS' DWELLINGS.—COST OF ERECTION.

## CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

	<i>Dr.</i>	<i>Cr.</i>
By Commissioners of Works Loan—for Erection of 30 Houses, .. .. .	£ s. d. .. .. .	£ s. d. 3300 0 0
<i>Dr.</i>		
To Proportion of Cost of Site (Cadger's Field), .. Cost £500—reserved east end for extension of Butter Market, for which £200 is charged to Markets Account.	300 0 0	
„ Erection of 28 Houses, .. .. .	2424 4 0	
„ Sewers, .. .. .	70 6 3	
„ Roads, Flagging, &c., .. .. .	102 16 3	
„ Law Costs—Mortgage Deed, Local Government Board Inquiry, &c., .. .. .	56 13 2	
„ Printing and Advertising, .. .. .	15 3 6	
„ Sundry Expenses, .. .. .	4 13 0	
		2973 16 2
Leaving unexpended Balance of .. .. towards Erection of 2 Houses to complete number (30) for which Loan was obtained.	.. .. .	£326 3 10
REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1889, BEING FIRST YEAR FOR COMPLETE OCCUPATION.		
	<i>Dr.</i>	<i>Cr.</i>
	Expenditure.	Receipts.
To Repayment of Loan, .. .. £ 66 0 0	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
„ Interest, .. .. 113 15 5		
„ Poor Rates, Borough and Water Rates, &c., ..	179 15 5	
„ Repairs, .. .. .	32 3 9	
„ Collection of Rents, .. .. .	8 6 5	
„ Miscellaneous, .. .. .	9 2 0	
	1 0 3	
<i>Cr.</i>		
By Weekly Rents received for the Year, .. ..	.. .. .	238 6 0
	230 7 10	238 6 0



## APPENDIX H.

DUES RECEIVED AT THE PORT OF SLIGO, AND NUMBER AND TONNAGE OF VESSELS ENTERING THE PORT OF SLIGO.

## DUES RECEIVED AT THE PORT OF SLIGO.

Year	Harbour Dues.			Import Dues.			Export Dues.			TOTAL.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1757	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	232	5	10
1758	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	449	2	0
1759	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	549	12	6
1760	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	563	15	11
1761	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	436	12	4
1762	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	714	4	10
1763	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1122	9	2
1764	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1318	18	5
1765	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1561	6	4
1766	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	526	13	4
1767	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	585	4	9
1768	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1339	0	9
1769	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1486	11	8
1770	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1645	9	11
1771	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1864	1	0
1772	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1313	5	8
1851	1051	19	6	597	18	6	636	10	3	2286	8	3
1852	1149	8	10	665	2	4	811	4	1	2625	15	3
1853	930	12	5	551	10	7	928	17	4	2411	0	4
1854	783	2	4	464	14	0	868	13	0	2116	9	4
1855	883	5	11	470	19	4	944	8	9	2298	14	0
1856	802	7	4	503	7	8	1029	18	2	2335	13	2
1857	1003	12	10	627	7	11	1144	8	8	2775	9	5
1858	1065	11	2	651	3	2	1307	7	9	3024	2	1
1859	1092	16	10	645	19	2	1247	18	1	2986	14	1

APPENDIX H.—DUES RECEIVED AT THE PORT OF SLIGO—*continued.*

Year.	Harbour Dues.	Import Dues.	Export Dues.	TOTAL.
1860	£ 1165 <i>s.</i> 14 <i>d.</i> 7	£ 790 <i>s.</i> 5 <i>d.</i> 5	£ 1122 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i> 1	£ 3088 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i> 1
1864	1258 11 10	749 6 9	1011 10 6	3019 9 1
1865	1251 11 11	718 14 4	919 17 9	2890 4 0
1866	1469 3 0	745 3 1	939 5 0	3153 11 1
1867	1311 14 9	863 15 11	906 17 0	3082 7 8
1868	1206 19 3	745 0 1	848 13 5	2800 12 9
1869	1258 15 8	719 17 2	912 3 10	2890 16 8
1870	1262 11 3	958 14 4	746 12 4	2967 17 11
1871	1187 5 1	905 0 9	760 12 0	2852 17 10
1872	1343 6 3	1039 1 1	752 14 5	3125 1 9
1873	1455 6 0	1272 7 2	664 3 10	3391 17 0
1874	1418 2 9	1149 7 2	789 19 2	3357 9 1
1875	1285 6 2	1110 9 1	773 17 9	3169 13 0
1876	1763 1 10	1537 3 2	895 15 5	4196 0 5
1877	1509 16 5	1151 18 0	793 11 9	3455 6 2
1878	1985 5 2	1605 18 9	817 16 4	4409 0 3
1879	1903 17 8	1465 11 2	629 10 1	3998 18 11
1880	1969 5 9	1377 1 3	642 4 0	3988 11 0
1881	1749 4 4	1363 16 6	624 18 3	3737 19 1
1882	1582 19 8	1299 6 4	746 2 9	3628 8 9
1883	2222 1 9	1774 0 10	618 3 10	4614 6 5
1884	2131 14 5	1710 13 0	634 5 6	4476 12 11
1885	1912 13 2	1603 3 7	524 13 5	4040 10 2
1886	1777 12 9	1810 12 2	733 6 6	4321 11 5
1887	1787 8 0	2109 10 8	716 0 6	4622 19 2
1888	1663 8 9	1827 17 1	721 4 2	4212 10 0
1889	1963 5 0	2310 15 5	616 16 1	4890 16 6
1890	1970 13 0	2356 13 10	565 4 3	4892 11 1
1891	2003 11 6	2457 3 5	534 0 7	4994 15 6*

\* Gross total Revenue from all sources, £7057 1*s.* 4*d.*



APPENDIX H.—NUMBER AND TONNAGE OF VESSELS ENTERING THE  
PORT OF SLIGO.

Year.	OVERSEA.		COASTWISE.		TOTAL.	
	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1800	—	—	—	—	65	4,100
1811	—	—	—	—	160	6,979
1821	—	—	—	—	275	19,666
1830	—	—	—	—	540	51,015
1851	—	—	—	—	298	46,783
1852	—	—	—	—	270	50,530
1853	—	—	—	—	202	51,130
1854	—	—	—	—	213	34,988
1855	—	—	—	—	214	38,643
1856	—	—	—	—	233	36,850
1857	—	—	—	—	261	44,326
1858	—	—	—	—	241	41,951
1859	—	—	—	—	294	51,264
1860	—	—	—	—	343	51,911
1864	—	—	—	—	287	55,322
1865	—	—	—	—	276	55,011
1866	—	—	—	—	298	63,656
1867	—	—	—	—	280	55,840
1868	—	—	—	—	265	52,300
1869	—	—	—	—	270	54,560
1870	—	—	—	—	312	56,620
1871	—	—	—	—	346	53,240
1872	—	—	—	—	361	60,200
1873	—	—	—	—	367	65,100
1874	48	13,775	364	50,191	412	63,966
1875	46	14,865	454	57,941	500	72,806
1876	62	25,993	463	55,149	525	81,142
1877	69	25,083	425	48,107	494	73,190
1878	63	23,050	516	67,781	579	92,831
1879	57	28,574	523	74,143	580	102,717
1880	36	19,770	513	71,162	549	90,933
1881	38	18,918	487	69,092	525	88,010
1882	15	8,575	484	62,660	499	71,235
1883	41	24,521	452	74,186	493	98,707
1884	36	20,713	432	59,473	468	80,186
1885	30	19,077	365	62,414	395	81,491
1886	26	18,647	343	57,131	369	75,778
1887	36	25,377	346	50,619	382	75,996
1888	28	19,813	269	50,731	324	70,544
1889	41	30,611	334	51,790	375	82,401
1890	32	27,188	331	53,141	363	80,329
1891	31	31,972	300	48,515	331	80,487

## APPENDIX I.

EXTRACT FROM THE "FIELD NAME BOOKS" OF THE ORDNANCE SURVEY OF SUCH PORTION OF THE MS. AS RELATES TO SLIGO, GIVING THE ENGLISH ORTHOGRAPHY, IRISH NAME AND TRANSLATION OF THE TOWNLANDS OF THE COUNTY.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
BARONY OF CARBURY.—PARISH OF AHAMLISH.		
Agharrow, . . .	acáð-áparaið, . . .	field of the weir.
Ardnaglass, Lower, . . .	anð-na-nḡlar, . . .	hill of the fetters.
Do. Upper, . . .		
Ballinacastle, . . .	baile an áirpleam, . . .	town of the castle.
Ballinphull, . . .	baile an póill, . . .	town of the hole, or pit.
Ballynabrock, . . .	baile na mbroc, . . .	town of the badgers.
Ballyscannel, . . .	baile ui rcanail, . . .	O'Scannell's town.
Breaghwy, . . .	breaámaíḡ, . . .	wolf field.
Bunduff, . . .	bun buið, . . .	mouth of the river Dubh.
Carrownamaddoo, . . .	ceatpam na madað, . . .	quarter of the dogs.
Cartronkillerdoe, . . .	cartun coille buiðe, . . .	cartron of the black wood.
Cartronplank, . . .		
Castlegal, . . .	caisle ḡeala, . . .	white forts.
Castlegowan, . . .	caisle ḡadhna, . . .	Gowan's forts.
Cloonereo, . . .	clúan epeo, . . .	Erek's lawn, or meadow.
Cloontyprocklis, . . .	cluam tige ppuclair, . . .	lawns of the badger warrens, or dens.
Cloyragh, . . .	cloiépech, . . .	stony ground.
Cloysparra, . . .	cloié a rparra, . . .	stone of the spar.
Creevykeel, . . .	cpaoibíḡ caol, . . .	narrow creevy, or bushy land.
Creevymore, . . .	cpaoibíḡ mór, . . .	great creevy, or bushy land.
Derry, . . .	doipe, . . .	an oak wood.
Derrylehan, . . .	doipe lithéam, . . .	Lyon's oak wood.
Doonshaskin, . . .	dun pearcam, . . .	fort of the sedgy moor.
Drangan, or Mount Edward, . . .	dreangam, . . .	a small gap, breach, or chasm.
Drumfad, . . .	drumpada, . . .	long ridge.
Edenreagh, . . .	eaban riabach, . . .	grey brow, or front.
Gortaderry, . . .	ḡort-a-doipe, . . .	field of the Derry, or oak wood.
Gortnaleck, . . .	ḡort-na-leice, . . .	field of the flag stone, or smooth rocky surface.
Grange, . . .	ḡráinríḡ, . . .	a grange.
Grellagh, . . .	ḡneilleach, . . .	a miry place.
Grogagh, . . .	ḡroḡach, . . .	land producing long grass, such as florin or sedge.
Conor's Island, . . .		
Dernish Island, . . .	doipe inir, . . .	island of the oak-wood.
Inishmurray, . . .	Inir muirpeaðaiḡ, . . .	island of Murragh, or Murray.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF AHAMLISH—continued.		
Inishnagor, . . .	Inis na gcorr, . . .	island of the cranes.
Kilcat, . . .	cill cáit, . . .	wood of the cat.
Kilkilloge, . . .	cill Caolog, . . .	St. Caolog's church.
Kiltykere, . . .	coillte caer, . . .	woods of the berries.
Lislary, . . .	lior leatpaighe, . . .	fort of the leather bags.
Lyle, . . .	laioigill, . . .	a man's name (local).
Moneygold, . . .	máine dubaltaig, . . .	Dwaltagh's shrubbery.
Mount Temple, . . .	—	—
Mullaghmore, . . .	mullaó mór, . . .	great top or summit.
Mullaghmore West, . . .	—	—
Newtown, . . .	baile úr, . . .	new town.
Newtowncliffony, . . .	cliaó mune, . . .	shrubbery, or brake of the
Rathfrask, . . .	raé fraisg, . . .	Frasg's fort. [hurdles.
Rathhugh, . . .	raé aóda, . . .	Hugh's fort.
Silverhill, . . .	enoc riabach, . . .	Grey hill, is the old Irish name.
Srarevagh, . . .	rraé riabach, . . .	grey strath or holm.
Streedagh, . . .	reirdeach, . . .	a stripe of land.
PARISH OF CALRY.		
Ballure, . . .	baile úr, . . .	new town.
Ballyglass, . . .	baile glar, . . .	green town.
Ballynamona, . . .	baile na móna, . . .	town of the bog.
Ballytivnan, . . .	baile uí tuiðneam, . . .	O'Tivnan's town.
Barroe, . . .	barr rúad, . . .	red top.
Bellanode, . . .	béul áda an fóid, . . .	mouth of the ford of the sod.
Bellanurly, . . .	béul-áda an uiple, . . .	mouth of the ford of the skir- mish.
Bellawillinbeg, . . .	béul áda muihín bíg, . . .	mouth of the ford of the little
Carncash, . . .	carn cáir, . . .	Cas's carn. [mill.
Carrickoneilleen, . . .	carrac uí neillín, . . .	O'Nellin's rock.
Carrowlustia, . . .	ceatpaín loirce, . . .	quarter of the kneeding trough.
Cartron, . . .	cartrún, . . .	a cartron of land.
Clogherbeg, . . .	cloóap, . . .	a stony place.
Cloghermore, . . .		
Clogherrevagh, . . .	cloóap riabaó, . . .	grey, stony land.
Colgagh, . . .	calgach, . . .	abounding in prickles or thorns.
Corwillick, . . .	cop baile, or buailóe, . . .	odd or uneven booley, or milk- ing place.
Doonally, . . .	dún áille, . . .	fort of the cliff, or declivity.
Edenbaun, . . .	eadan bán, . . .	white fort, or brow of a hill.
Farranacardy, . . .	feapann na ceapóca, . . .	land of the forge.
Faughts, . . .	faóca, . . .	lofts or shelves.
Formoyle, . . .	parmaoil, . . .	round hill.
Glackbaun, . . .	glac bam, . . .	white hollow.
Hazelwood Demesne, . . .	eanaó, . . .	a marsh.
Annagh Island, . . .	—	Annagh, i. e. a marsh, swampy
Bernard's Island, . . .	oileán beapnat, . . .	— [island.
Black Tom's Island, . . .	oileán tomáir duib, . . .	—
Church Island, . . .	—	—
Cormorant Rock, . . .	carrac a duibéin, . . .	rock of the cormorant.
Fairy Island, . . .	—	—

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF CALRY—continued.		
Monk's Island, .	—	—
St. Connell's Island, .	oilean éonaill, .	—
Swan Island, .	—	—
Willow Island, .	—	—
Wolf Island, .	—	—
Keelogyboy, .	caológabha buíde, .	yellow ridges.
Kiltycabill, .	coilltíge éatáil, .	Cabill's woods.
Lisduff, .	lior dub, .	black fort.
Lisgorey, .	lior guaire, .	Guaire's fort.
Loughanelteen, .	loch an eiltín, .	lake of the little doe.
Magheraghanrush, .	maéaire a pois, .	plains of the wood.
or Deer Park, .		
Mullaghgar, .	mullaó gearr, .	short summit.
Rathbraghan, .	raé bracadán, .	Braghan's rath, or earthen fort.
Rathquarter, .	—	rath, a fort of earth.
Shannon Eighter, .	pean múin, .	old shrubbery.
Do. Oughter, .		Do.
Tully, .	culaiḡ, .	a hill.
Willowbrook, .	—	—

## PARISH OF DRUMCLIFF.

Aghagad, .	aóga ḡaid, .	field of the gad, or withe.
Ardtermon, .	ard tearmoín, .	hill of the Termon, or sanctuary.
Ardtrasna, .	ard trarna, .	Cross Hill.
Attiduff, .	aic tíge dubhe, .	place of the black house.
Ballincar, .	baile an captha, .	town of the rock.
Ballineden, .	baile an eadain, .	town of the front or brow of a
Ballinphull, .	baile an póill, .	town of the hole. [hill.
Ballintemple, .	baile an teampuill, .	town of the church.
Ballinvoher, .	baile an bócar, .	town of the road.
Ballyconnell, .	baile an éoneil, .	town of the channell.
Ballygilgan, .	baile uí ḡiollagáin, .	O'Gillagan's town.
Ballymuldorry, .	baile maolboíre, .	Muldory's town.
Ballynagalliagh, .	baile na ḡaillleach, .	town of the nuns.
Ballyweelin, .	baile máoilín, .	Moylin's town.
Barnaderg, .	beapna ḡearḡ, .	red gap, or chasm.
Barnarobin, .	beapna roibín, .	Robin's gap.
Carney (Jones), .	peapan uí éapnaigh, .	O'Kearney's land.
Carney (O'Beirne), .	—	—
Carrigeens, .	cappaighín, .	a small rock.
Cartronmore, .	capcún mór, .	great cartron.
Cartronwilliamoge, .	capcún uilliam óig, .	young William's cartron.
Cashelgarran, .	caireal a ḡeappain, .	the garran's stone fort.
Castlegal, .	riab ḡan baircead, .	a mountain without baptism
		(local).
Cloghboley, .	cloch buailíde, .	stony booley, or dairy place.
Clogheor, .	cloó cop, .	odd stone.
Cloonagh, .	cluanaó, .	meadow land.
Cloonderry, .	cluain boíre, .	lawn of the oak wood.
Clooneen, .	cluainín, .	a small lawn or bog island.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF DRUMCLIFF—continued.		
Cloonelly, . . .	clun eile, . . .	Eile's lawn or meadow.
Cloonmull, . . .	clun moill, . . .	lawn of the delay or loitering.
Collinsford, . . .	ača óoilín, . . .	Collin's ford.
Coolbeg, . . .	cúl beag, . . .	small back.
Cooldrumman, Lr., Do. Upr.	cúl a bpromáin, . . .	back of the ridge.
Creaghadoo, . . .	criacha duba, . . .	black shrubbery.
Cregg, . . .	creig cappach, . . .	rugged rock.
Creggyconnell, . . .	creig uí óneill, . . .	O'Conell's rock.
Cullaghbeg, . . .	coileach beag, . . .	little cock or grouse.
Cullaghmore, . . .	coileach mór, . . .	great cock or grouse.
Doonally, . . .	dunaille, . . .	fort of the cliff or precipice.
Doonfore, . . .	dún fáar, . . .	cold fort.
Doonierin, . . .	dun iarain, . . .	fort of the iron or iron fort.
Doonowney, . . .	dun amnaigh, . . .	fort of the river.
Drum, East, . . .	drum, . . .	a ridge or long hill.
Do. West, . . .	—	—
Drumcliff Glebe, . . .	drum cliað, . . .	ridge of the baskets.
Do. North, . . .	—	—
Do. South, . . .	—	—
Do. West, . . .	—	—
Drumkilsellagh, . . .	drum cille-raileach, . . .	ridge of the church of the sal-
Finned, . . .	finne, . . .	meaning uncertain. [lows.
Glencarbury, . . .	gleań áairbpe, . . .	Carbry's glen or valley.
Glen, Lower, . . .	gleań, . . .	a glen or valley.
Do. Upper, . . .	—	—
Gortarowey, . . .	gort a poíma, . . .	field of the rue.
Gortnagrelly, . . .	gort na gpreillige, . . .	field of the mire.
Ardboline, . . .	ard bó luigne, . . .	hill of the cows of Leyny.
Horse Island, . . .	—	—
Keelty, . . .	caoilte, . . .	narrow places, or straits.
Kilmacannon, . . .	cill mac canań, . . .	church of the sons of Canann.
Kilsellagh, . . .	cill raileach, . . .	church of the sallows.
Kiltycooly, . . .	coillte cúlaig, . . .	woods of the corner, or angle.
Kintogher, . . .	ceań a toáir, . . .	head of the causeway.
Lislahelly, . . .	lior leamóille, . . .	fort of the elm-wood.
Lisnalurg, . . .	lior na lorig, . . .	fort of the tracks.
Lissadill, . . .	lior a boill, . . .	fort of the blind man.
Lugatober, . . .	luz a'tobair, . . .	hollow of the well or spring.
Lugnagall, . . .	luz na ngall, . . .	hollow of the foreigners.
Magheragillerneeve } or Springfield, . . . }	machaire giolla ar naemh, . . .	Gillernewe's plain.
Mullaghaneene, . . .	mullać na n-eań, . . .	summit of the birds.
Raghly, . . .	raćlaimn, or pechpań	rocky isle.
Rahaberna, . . .	rać habairne, . . .	Haberny's fort.
Rahelly, . . .	rać fealđair, . . .	Shelly's fort.
Rosses, Lower, . . .	na pora iaćtrach, . . .	the lower Rosses.
Do. Upper, . . .	—	—
Slievemore, or } King's mountain, . . . }	riab-a-rić, . . .	mountain of the king, or great
Teesan, . . .	riab mór, . . .	mountain.
Tormore, . . .	taorán, . . .	muddy ford.
Tully, . . .	torpmór, . . .	great tower.
Urlar, . . .	tułair, . . .	a gentle hill.
	uplár, . . .	a level, a floor.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF KILLASPUGBRONE.		
Ballybeg, . . .	baile beag, . . .	little town.
Barnasrahy, . . .	barr na rraice, . . .	top of the holm, or strath.
Carrowbunnaun, . . .	ceatramh bunain, . . .	quarter of the base, or bottom.
Carrowdough, . . .	ceatramh na dúmae, . . .	quarter of the sandbanks.
Cartron (Honor Duff), . . .	—	Black Honor's quarter.
Culleenamore, . . .	coillín na m-boðar, . . .	little wood of the deaf men.
Culleenduff, . . .	coillín dubh, . . .	black little wood.
Cummeen, . . .	cúimín, . . .	commons.
Drinaghan, . . .	draoíneachán, . . .	sloe bushes.
Glen, . . .	alc dubh, . . .	black glen.
Grange, East, . . .	grainnig, . . .	a grange.
Do. North, . . .	—	—
Do. West, . . .	—	—
Doonanpatrick, . . .	dúnan patrúic, . . .	Patrick's little fort.
Inishmulclohy, . . .	inir uí maoilóloice, . . .	O'Mulclohy's island.
or Coney Island, . . .	oileán na g-cúimínigh, . . .	island of the rabbits.
Maguire's Island, . . .	oileán mic uíor, . . .	Maguire's island.
Oyster Island, . . .	oileán na n-oirceirig, . . .	island of the oysters.
Killaspugbrone, . . .	cill earraig bróin, . . .	Bishop Brone's church.
Knocknarea, N., . . .	cnoc na ríagáig, . . .	hill of the executions.
Do. S., . . .	—	—
Larass, or Strandhill, . . .	leatráir, . . .	half promontory.
Lecarrow, . . .	leath-ceatramh, . . .	half quarter.
Lissawully, . . .	lior-a-mullaig, . . .	fort of the summit.
Luffertan, . . .	luðgórta, . . .	an herb garden; a kitchen garden.
Primrose Grange, . . .	—	—
Rathcarrick, . . .	raí macarraic, . . .	Mac Carrick's fort.
Rathonoragh, . . .	raí onórach, . . .	Honor's fort.
Rinn, . . .	riñ, . . .	a point of land.
Scardanbeg, . . .	scardán, . . .	a small cataract.
Scardanmore, . . .	scardán mór, . . .	greater scardan.
Slieveroe, or . . .	slíab rua, . . .	red mountain.
Siberia, . . .	baile an t-pleide, . . .	town of the mountain.
Tully, . . .	tulaigh, . . .	a hill.
Woodpark, . . .	—	—
PARISH OF KILMACOWEN.		
Beanfield, . . .	cartrún na póir, . . .	cartron of the beans.
Breeoge, . . .	brúig, . . .	a small fort or mound.
Carrowcrin, . . .	ceatramh crí, . . .	withered quarter.
Carrowgobbadagh, . . .	ceatramh gobadach, . . .	pointed quarter.
Carrowkeel, . . .	ceatramh caol, . . .	narrow quarter.
Carrowmore, . . .	ceatramh mór, . . .	great quarter.
Cartronabree, . . .	cartrún a brúig, . . .	quarter of the fort.
Graigue, . . .	gráig, . . .	the village.
Carrigeenfadda, . . .	carrigeín fada, . . .	long little rock.
Carrigeengare, . . .	carrigeín gearr, . . .	short little rock.
Kilmacowen, . . .	cill mac eóigáin, . . .	church of the sons of Owen.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF KILMACOWEN— <i>continued.</i>		
Knocknahur, North } Do. South }	cnoc na huppa, .	hill of the surety.
Knocknashammer, or Cloverhill,	cnoc na peamar, .	hill of the shamrocks.
Lisheenacooravan, .	lior ui cúiríam, .	O'Curvan's fort.
Seafield, .	—	—
Templenabree, .	ceampall na brúigh, .	church of the fort.
Tobernaveen, .	coban na b'fíann, .	well of the Fenians.
PARISH OF ROSSINVER.		
Clogh, .	baile na cloíche, .	town of the stone.
Coolagraffy, .	cula-ḡrapaig, .	back of the grubbed land.
Curraghmore, .	cuppach mop, .	great moor.
Drinaghan, .	b'paoig'neacán, .	a place of sloe bushes.
Edencullentragh, or } Hollyfield, }	eadan cuileantrab, .	hill-brow of the hollies.
Gleniff, .	gleann ḡairín, .	glen of the ox.
Gorteen, .	ḡortín, .	a small garden.
Gortnadrung, .	ḡort na ndrúng, .	field of the clans.
Gortnahoula, .	ḡort na haḡla, .	field of the orchard.
Keeloges, .	caolḡga, .	narrow ridges or furrows.
Lecklasser, .	lec lairín, .	St. Lasser's flagstone.
Moneylahan, .	múne leatan, .	broad shrubbery or brake.
Moodoge, .	múdog, .	(meaning not known).
Mullanfad, .	mullan paba, .	long summit.
Oughtagorey, .	uét ḡuaire, .	Guaire's hill.
Shancrock, .	pean ḡpoc, .	old hill.
PARISH OF ST. JOHN'S.		
Abbeyquarter North, Do. South,	—	—
Aghamore Far, .	aḡamór, .	great field.
Do. Near, .	—	—
Ballydoogan, .	baile ui ḡuḡagam, .	O'Dugan's town.
Ballyfree, .	buaile p'paoig, .	booley, or dairy place of the hesth.
Caltragh, .	cealt'pach, .	a burial place.
Carns, .	na capna, .	the carns or heaps.
Carns (Duke), .	—	—
Carrickhenry, .	carrac an'p'raig, .	Henry's rock.
Carrownammaddoo, .	ceat'p'airín na maḡaḡ, .	quarter of the dogs.
Carrowroe, .	ceat'p'airín puḡaḡ, .	red quarter.
Cleaveragh, .	cliaḡpach, .	hurdles or kishes.
Commons, .	na-cuimmiḡe, .	the commons.
Cornageeha, .	cop na ḡaoiḡe, .	round hill of the wind.
Cuilbeg, .	coillbeḡ, .	little wood.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF ST. JOHN'S—continued.		
Derrydarragh, or Oakfield,	doipe dapach,	wood of the oak.
Drumaskibbole,	drum a rcioboil,	ridge of the barn.
Finisklin,	fiön arclaiñ,	fair corner, nook, or angle.
Cottage Island,	—	—
Flat do.	—	—
Glynn do.	—	—
Goat do.	oilean na ngaðap,	island of the goats.
Green do.	—	—
Knappaghbeg,	an énapach,	a knoll or tummock, a hillock.
Knappaghmore,	—	—
Knocknaganny,	cnoc na gceañaiḡe,	hill of the merchants or buyers.
Lahanagh,	leačanach,	broad land.
Magheraboy,	mačaire buíḡe,	yellow plain.
Rathedmond,	rač eumaiñ,	Edmond's rath, or earthen fort.
Tonafortes,	—	—
Tonaphubble,	tóim-a-řobaiłl,	bottom of the parish.
Tullynagracken N.,	tullaiḡ na ḡepaič- eaiñ,	hill of the skins.
Do. S.,	—	—

## BARONY OF COOLAVIN.—PARISH OF KILCOLMAN.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
Annaghbeg, or Mo- nasterredan,	eanač beḡ,	little marsh.
Clogher,	mainiřciř Redám,	Redan's monastery.
Falleens,	cločap,	a stony place.
Crow Island,	řáilniḡ,	little hedges or enclosures.
Sroove,	řpuiḃ,	a stream.
Tawnymucklagh,	čaiñna mučlač,	field of the piggeries.

## PARISH OF KILFREE.

Annaghmore,	eanač móř,	great marsh. eanač sometimes denotes a salt marsh, and sometimes a cut out bog.
Calteraun,	caillčepán,	land abounding in hazel.
Carrowtemple,	ceáčpañ-'n-čeam- pułl,	church quarter.
Chacefield,	coill řealḡám,	wood of the herb <i>Sealgan</i> (a kind of edible weed.)
Cloonanure,	cluan an řuḃaiř,	lawn of the yew.
Clooneagh,	cluan éiḃ,	lawn of the horse.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF KILFREE— <i>continued.</i>		
Cloonlaheen, . . .	cluam leat̃daoin, . . .	half beautiful lawn or meadow.
Cloonsillagh, . . .	cluam raileac̃, . . .	lawn of the salallows.
Cloontycarn, . . .	cluamte cárn, . . .	lawn of the carns or heaps (of stones).
Cuilmore, . . .	coille mór, . . .	great woods.
Cuilprughlish, . . .	coill ppoólur, . . .	wood of the badger-cavern.
Doon, . . .	dún, . . .	a fort.
Gorteen, . . .	goirtín, . . .	a small field.
Gortygara, . . .	goirt uí gárra, . . .	O'Gara's field.
Greyfield, . . .	ceatpam riabac̃, . . .	grey quarter.
Eagle Island, . . .	—	—
Kilfree, . . .	cille ppaiõ, . . .	St. Fraech's church.
Kilstraghlán, or Ragwood, . . .	coill r̃peac̃ólán, . . .	wood of the rags.
Knocknahoo, . . .	cnoc na húama, . . .	hill of the cave.
Knocknashammer, . . .	cnoc na peamar, . . .	hill of the shamrocks.
Knocknaskeagh, . . .	cnoc na r̃eac̃ac̃, . . .	hill of the briars or thorns.
Lisbaleely, . . .	lior ball'-aoile, . . .	fort of Healy's town.
Mahanagh, . . .	meat̃ánaac̃, . . .	abounding in oak slits.
Mount Irvine, . . .	—	—
Moydough, . . .	maḡ duaac̃, . . .	Duach's plain.
Moygara, . . .	maḡ uí gárra, . . .	O'Gara's plain.
Mullaghroe, . . .	mullaac̃ puac̃, . . .	red summit.
Mweelroe, . . .	maol puac̃, . . .	red mound or bald hill.
Rathmadder, . . .	raṯ meadair, . . .	fort of the methers.
Seefin, . . .	ruibe fínn, . . .	Finn's seat, or sitting place.
Sragh, . . .	r̃paiõ, . . .	low-lying land.
PARISH OF KILLARAGHT.		
Annagh, . . .	eanaac̃, . . .	a marsh.
Ardgallin, . . .	ard̃ gailín, . . .	Gallin's height.
Ardlona, . . .	ard̃ lóna, and ard̃ lon, . . .	hill of the black birds.
Ardmoyle, . . .	ard̃ maol, . . .	bald hill.
Ardsoreen, . . .	ard̃ r̃óirín, . . .	hill of the little kiln.
Carrownaun, . . .	ceatpam an áiné, . . .	Aine's quarter.
Carrownurlaur, . . .	ceatpamán uplár, . . .	quarter of the floor, or level.
Cashel, . . .	caipiol, . . .	a stone fort.
Clooncunny, . . .	clún cunaig̃, . . .	lawn of the fire wood.
Cloonloogh, . . .	clún lúac̃, or leamaac̃, . . .	lawn of the marsh-mallows.
Cuppanagh, . . .	coppánach, . . .	abounding in dock leaves.
Derrinoghran, . . .	doipe an eaṯpam̃, . . .	oak wood of the maze or entangling.
Derrybeg, . . .	doipe beag̃, . . .	little Derry or oak wood.
Emlagh, . . .	eimleac̃, . . .	a marsh, or land on a lake.
Inch Island, . . .	inpe, . . .	island, or holm.
Inchbeg Island, . . .	inpe beag̃, . . .	little island.
Inchmore Island, . . .	inpe mór, . . .	great island.
Derrymore Island, . . .	doipe mór, . . .	great Derry or oak-wood.
Derrinatallan Island, . . .	doirín a' traluim̃, . . .	little oak-wood of the salt.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF KILLARAGHT— <i>continued.</i>		
Killaraght, . . .	cill aṭraṇṇa, . . .	half parish of St. Attaracta's church.
Lisgullaun, . . .	lior ḡolám, lior ḡoileám . . .	Gallan's fort.
Lismerraun, . . .	lior ḡolám, lior peapám, . . .	
Lisserlough, . . .	lior an loéan, and lior an loó, . . .	Feran's fort. fort on the lake.
Lomcloon, . . .	lom éluam, . . .	bare lawn or meadow.
Rathtermon, . . .	pát tearmuin, . . .	fort of the termon or sanctuary.
Rathtinaun, . . .	pát trionám, . . .	Senan's fort.
Reask, . . .	riarḡ, . . .	a morass, a fen.
Ross, . . .	an por, . . .	the point (or the wood)
Stone Park, . . .	paire éloiḡe, and paire na éloiḡe, . . .	park of the stone.
Tauraw, . . .	teampán, . . .	little tara, or pleasant eminence.

BARONY OF CORRAN.—PARISH OF CLOONOGHILL.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
Aughris, . . .	eaḡpor, . . .	point of the horses.
Ballinavally, East, Do. West, . . .	bail' eaḡpuir, . . .	
Ballinavally, or Roadstown, . . .	bail' an bealaig, . . .	town of the road or pass.
Ballynaglogh, . . .	baile na ḡ-cloó, . . .	town of the stones.
Ballynarrow, N., Do. S., . . .	baile na pát, . . .	town of the forts.
Brackeloonagh . . .	bpeac clúnaiḡ, . . .	the speckled lawn or meadow.
Carrowloughlin . . .	ceátram lochlun, . . .	Loughlin's quarter.
Carrowreagh, . . .	ceátram riabao, . . .	grey quarter.
Cartronroe, . . .	capṭún puab, . . .	red cartron.
Church Hill, . . .	cnoc a teampuill, . . .	hill of the church.
Cloonacleigha, . . .	cluam na éloiḡe, . . .	lawn of the stone.
Cloonagahaun, . . .	cluam na nḡaṭan, . . .	lawn of the Gaughan's.
Cloonahinshin, . . .	cluam na humpin, . . .	lawn of the ash-trees.
Cloonameehan, N., Do. S., . . .	cluam a mḡeán, . . .	Meehan's lawn or meadow.
Clooncose, . . .	cluam cúar, . . .	lawn of the caves.
Cloondorragha, . . .	cluam dorḡa, . . .	dark lawn or meadow.
Deechomade, . . .	dioḡoiméud, . . .	want of guarding or watching.
Drinaun, . . .	ḡraiḡnean, . . .	sloe bushes.
Drinaun bog, . . .	ḡpuim papnoḡt, . . .	bare hill.
Drumfarnoght, . . .	ḡpuim paṭam, . . .	ferny hill or ridge.
Drumraine, . . .	peapán muirir, . . .	Maurice's land.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF CLOONOGHILL— <i>continued.</i>		
Flowerhill, . . .	cnoc a loðair, . . .	hill of the leper.
Killandy, . . .	cill phaimble, . . .	Fainle's church.
Knockalough, . . .	cnoc a loða, . . .	hill of the loughs.
Knocknakillew, or Woodhill, . . . }	cnoc na coilleað, . . .	hill of the wood.
Lecarrow, . . .	leic éeatpam, . . .	half quarter.
Lislea, . . .	lior liaé, . . .	grey fort.
Lisnagore, . . .	lior na nḡaḡar, . . .	fort of the goats.
Meelick (Park), . . .	miliuc, . . .	a holm.
Moyrush, . . .	muiḡ poir, . . .	plain of the wood or point.
Quarryfield, . . .	—	—
Rinnarogue, . . .	riñ a rúag, . . .	point of the rout or defeat.
Shancarrigeen, or Oldrock, . . . }	rean éappaiḡin, . . .	old little rock.
PARISH OF DRUMRAT.		
Abbeyville, or Ard- laherty, . . . }	ard plaéaptauḡ, . . .	Flaherty's height or hill.
Bearlough, . . .	beuploé, and béup loðaioð, . . .	(meaning uncertain).
Bearvaish, . . .	ber beir, . . .	—
Binganagh, . . .	beanḡánaé, . . . }	abounding in boughs, branches or scions.
Bunnamuck, . . .	bun na muice, . . .	bottom land of the pig.
Carrickrathmullin, . . .	cappaic paéa muiiñ, . . .	rock of the rath of the mill.
Cloonacaltry, . . .	clúain a éealcpaiḡ, . . .	lawn or meadow of the old burial- ground.
Cloonbannan, . . .	clúain bánan, . . .	Banan's lawn or meadow.
Cloonshanbally, . . .	clúain a t-eandáile, . . .	lawn or meadow of the old town.
Daghloonagh, . . .	duðéluanaé, . . .	black meadow land.
Drumaneel, . . .	drum an aoil, . . .	ridge of the lime.
Finisklin, . . .	pioñ apcluin, . . .	white hollow or angle.
Kilsallagh, . . .	coill palach, . . .	dirty wood.
Kiltyteige, . . .	coillteie taiðḡ, . . .	Teige's woods.
Knockanaher, . . .	cnoc a neatair, . . .	hill of the goat.
Knockatelly, . . .	cnoc a trillið, . . .	hill of the dropping or trickling.
Knockbrack, . . .	cnoc bpeac, . . .	speckled hill.
Knockgrania, . . .	cnoc ḡpaine, . . .	Grainne's hill.
Knocknagore, . . .	cnoc na nḡaḡar, . . .	hill of the goats.
Lisconwy, . . .	lior éonaḡuiðe, . . .	Conway's fort.
Listrush, . . .	lior tupaip, . . .	hill of the pilgrimage.
Rooskybeg, . . .	rúrcaiḡ beaḡ, . . .	little moor or marsh.
Rooskymore, . . .	rúrcaiḡ móip, . . .	great moor or marsh.
Sniggeen, . . .	rnuiḡin, . . .	meaning uncertain.
Sralea, . . .	rpáé liaé, . . .	grey holm or strath.
Tawnalion, . . .	taíma liaðain, . . .	Lyon's field.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF EMLAGHPAD.		
Ardeconnell, . . .	árð chonaill, . . .	Connell's height.
Ardnaglass, . . .	arð na nglar, . . .	height or hill of the fetters.
Ardree, . . .	arð ríð, . . .	hill of the king.
Ballybrennan, . . .	bail' uí b'raonáin, . . .	O'Brenan's town.
Ballymote, . . .	bail' an móta, . . .	town of the moat.
Camross, . . .	camrór, . . .	crooked point.
Carrigans Lower, . . .	cappaiðeaða, . . .	rocks.
Do. Upper, . . .		
Carrigeenmore, . . .	cappaiðin mór, . . .	great little rock.
Carrowcauly, or Earlsfield, . . .	cappaið éalðaið, . . .	Calvagh's rock, or rock.
Carrowcushely, . . .	ceatpam éoir a élaib, . . .	quarter near the ditch.
Carrowkeel, . . .	ceatpam éaol, . . .	narrow quarter.
Carrownanty, . . .	ceatpam neantaidé, . . .	quarter of the nettles.
Carrownree, . . .	ceatpam 'n ríð, . . .	King's quarter.
Cartron (Percival), . . .	cartrún, . . .	a cartron of land.
Do. (Phibbs), . . .		
Cloonagun, . . .	clúain na gcon, . . .	lawn or meadow of the hounds.
Cloonamanagh, . . .	clúain na manaó, . . .	lawn or meadow of the monks.
Cloonkeevy, . . .	clúain ciabuið, . . .	lawn or meadow of the long grass.
Clooneen, . . .	clúainín, . . .	small lawn or meadow.
Cluid, . . .	baile na clúide, . . .	town of the corner or angle.
Corhober, . . .	cop éobair, . . .	round hill of the well.
Derroon, . . .	doipe uan, . . .	wood of the lambs.
Emlagh, . . .	eimleac, . . .	holm or Inch.
Emlaghfad, . . .	eimleac fáda, . . .	long holm or Inch.
Emlaghgissan, . . .	eimle gioráin, . . .	Gisan's holm.
Emlaghnaghtan, . . .	eimle neacúin, . . .	Neachtan's holm.
Keenaghan, . . .	caonaacán, . . .	mossy land.
Kilbrattan, . . .	cill b'peatam, . . .	Bretan's church.
Knockadalteen, . . .	cnoc a báiltin, . . .	hill of the horseboy.
Lecarron, . . .	leit éeatpam, . . .	half-quarter.
Lisanannybeg, . . .	lior an eanuið, . . .	fort of the marsh (little).
Lisanannymore, . . .	lior an eanuið, . . .	do. (big).
Maghera, . . .	maéaire béul a maide, . . .	plain of the ford of the stick.
Portinch, . . .	port inre, . . .	port of the island.
Rathdooneybeg, . . .	ráic dúnaið beað, . . .	strong fort (little).
Rathdooneymore, . . .	ráic dúnaið mór, . . .	do. (great).
Rathnakelliga, . . .	rác na ceilige, . . .	fort of the treachery.
Stoneparks, . . .	páirc éloice, anciently ceatpam na rað-apt, . . .	quarter of the priests.
Tieveboy, . . .	taob buide, . . .	yellow side.
Woodfield, . . .	maéaire béul a' maide. . .	So called from a large oak which stood in the townland. It fell, and there was a passage (béul) under it.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF KILMOROGAN.		
Ardrea, . . .	apð péið, . . .	smooth hill or height.
Branchfield, . . .	—	—
Cappagh, . . .	ceapach, . . .	a plot of land.
Cloonagashel, . . .	cluam na gcaipeal, . . .	lawn of the cashels, or stone forts.
Clooneen, . . .	clúimín, . . .	a small lawn or meadow.
Cloonlurg, . . .	cluam lorg, . . .	plain or lawn of the tracks.
Deerpark, . . .	—	—
Doobeg, . . .	duñac beag, . . .	small sand bank.
Doomore, . . .	duñac mór, . . .	great sand bank.
Doonmeegin, . . .	baile an duñac mór, . . .	town of the great sand bank.
Doorly, . . .	dún mighín, . . .	Migeen's fort.
Drumcormick, . . .	dúple, . . .	hard ground.
Drumfin, . . .	drum cormaic, . . .	Cormac's ridge.
Kilereevin, . . .	drum pioñ, . . .	white ridge.
Do. (Phibbs), . . .	cill cnaoibín, . . .	church of the little bush.
Kilmorgan, . . .	—	—
Knockmoynagh, . . .	cill mupéam, . . .	Morgan's church.
Knocknagroagh, . . .	cnoc maimeach, . . .	wealthy hill.
Lackagh, . . .	cnoc na gcepuach, . . .	hill of the stacks or ricks.
Lisdoogan, . . .	leacach, . . .	hill side or land of flag-stones.
Lugacaha, . . .	lior dubagáin, . . .	Dugan's fort.
Newpark, . . .	lug a éaca, . . .	hollow of the ordure.
Tiraree, . . .	—	—
Turlaghgraun, . . .	tır a ríð, . . .	the king's land.
	cuploð ui raín, . . .	O'Rane's dried-up lough.
PARISH OF KILSHALVY.		
Ardkeeran, . . .	apð ciopáin, . . .	Kieran's height or hill.
Ardminnan, . . .	apð mionáin, . . .	hill of the kid.
Ardraheenbeg, . . .	apð paicín beg, . . .	hill of the ferns (little).
Ardraheenmore, . . .	apð paicín mór, . . .	Do. (big).
Attiville, . . .	aic tíge coilleáin, . . .	the site of Collin's house.
Paghloonagh, . . .	dub éluanað, . . .	black lawn, or meadow land.
Ballintrofaun, . . .	baile an ttrputáin, . . .	town of the streamlet.
Ballonaghan, or } Harristown, . . .	bail ónacáin, . . .	Onaghan's town.
Ballynacarriga, . . .	baile na cappaice, . . .	town of the rock.
Ballynakillew, . . .	baile na coillín, . . .	town of the little wood.
Carrigeen, . . .	cappaigín, . . .	a small rock.
Cloonaraher, . . .	cluam a paicáir, . . .	lawn of the tillage.
Clooncunny, . . .	clúam conaig, . . .	lawn of the fire-wood.
Cloonena, . . .	clúam émeað, . . .	Heany's or Eithne's lawn or meadow.
Coagh, . . .	cuað, . . .	a cup, a hollow.
Derrynagraug, . . .	doipe na ngrág, . . .	oak-wood of the cackling.
Drumanaraher, . . .	drum an eapadair, . . .	ridge of the corn.
Drumdiveen, . . .	drum daibín, . . .	Devin's ridge, or long hill.
Drumrolla, . . .	drum poéla, . . .	Rothla's ridge.
Emlagh, . . .	eimleað, . . .	a marsh or holm.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF KILSHALVY—continued.		
Greyfield, . . .	ceatpam riabac, . . .	grey quarter.
Kildarganmore, . . .	coill deargám mór, . . .	Deargan's wood (big).
Killavil, . . .	cill ábuill, . . .	church of the apples, or orchard.
Killinea, . . .	coill a neib, . . .	wood of the nest.
Kilnaharry, . . .	coill na haitríge, . . .	wood of the penance.
Kilshalvy, . . .	cill na pealbaiḡ, . . .	O'Shelly's Church.
Kiltycreen, . . .	coill' tise cṡion, . . .	withered woods.
Knockahurka, . . .	cnoc a cúisce, . . .	hill of the oats.
Knockalass, . . .	cnoc a' leap, . . .	hill of the fort.
Knockanimma, . . .	cnoc an ime, . . .	butter hill.
Knockrawer, . . .	cnoc pamap, . . .	thick hill.
Liskeagh, . . .	liop cíoc, . . .	forts of the udders (milking cows here).
Phaleesh, . . .	ṡailṡ, . . .	a fairy palace or fort.
Rinn, . . .	ṡoin, . . .	a division.
Riverstown, . . .	—	—
Spurtown (Duke), . . .	bail' an rṡuir . . .	town of the spur.
Do. (Lower), . . .	bail' an rṡuir foctap, . . .	Do. Lower.
Tawnagh, . . .	taínnacáiḡ, . . .	mountain fields.
Tawnaghmore, . . .	taínnac mór, . . .	great fields.
Tunnagh, . . .	toñach, . . .	a rampart.
PARISH OF KILTURRA.		
Ballyfahy, . . .	baile paitee, . . .	town of the green.
Bellanalack, . . .	béul an áta leac, . . .	mouth of the ford of the flags.
Doobeg, . . .	dúma beaḡ, . . .	small mound.
Everlaun, . . .	iubaplám, . . .	full of yews.
Kilturra, . . .	cill copá, . . .	church of the boundary.
Knockalass, . . .	cnoc a' leapa, . . .	hill of the fort.
Knockgrania, . . .	cnoc ḡráme, . . .	Grace's hill.
Knocknageeha, . . .	cnoc na ḡaoite, . . .	hill of the wind.
Knockrawer, . . .	cnoc pamap, . . .	thick hill.
Ogham, . . .	ócóm, . . .	crooked cave.
Rathbaun, North, . . .	ṡaé bán, . . .	white fort.
Do. South, . . .		
PARISH OF TOOMOUR.		
Ardsallagh, . . .	apḡ palac, . . .	dirty height or hill.
Ballinvoher, . . .	bail' an boctap, . . .	town of the road.
Battlefield, . . .	cluan cat, . . .	lawn or field of the battles.
Bellanasarrow East, . . .	beul áta na rcaip- ḡe, . . .	mouth of the shallow ford.
Do. West, . . .		
Brougher, . . .	bṡoetap, bṡoetap, . . .	meaning not understood. bṡuc means tender grass.
Carnaweelleen, . . .	capn a máoilín, . . .	carn of the round hill.
Carrickhawna, . . .	cappaic ṡamna, . . .	allhallowtide rock.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF TOOMOUR— <i>continued</i> .		
Carrowerory, .	ceatpañ 'c puaidpí,	M'Rory's quarter.
Carrowmacleanany, .	ceatpañ inic a lion- anuiḡ,	Mac Lenany's quarter.
Carrownacreevy, .	ceatpañ na cpaoidé,	bushy quarter.
Carrowreagh, .	ceatpañ riabao,	grey quarter.
Cletty, .	cleite, .	a plume or quill.
Cloonagh, .	cluain eaé,	lawn or meadow of the horses.
Corradoo, .	cuppa búb and cup- na búbaiḡ,	pit of the black mud or colour- ing stuff.
Cross, .	cpor,	a cross.
Dernaskeagh, .	doipe na pceaó,	oak wood of the briars or thorns.
Derrygolagh, .	doipe ḡáalaó,	wood of the charcoal.
Drumnagranshy, .	drum na ḡráinriḡ,	ridge of the grange.
Fallougher, .	pal luaépa,	field of the rushes.
Feenaghmore, .	pioḡnaó mór,	great woody tract.
Feenaghroe, .	pioḡnaó puao,	red woody tract.
Graniamore, .	ḡráine mór,	great grain.
Graniaroe, .	ḡráine puao,	red grain.
Greenan, .	ḡrianán,	sunny ground.
Greyfield, .	—	—
Kingsfort, .	—	—
Knocklough, .	cnoc a locha,	hill of the lake.
Knocknacroy, .	cnocán na cpoiúe,	hillock of the gallows.
Knocknawhiskoge, .	cnocan na puipeóige,	hill of the lark.
Knockoconor, .	cnoc ui conóubair,	O'Conor's hill.
Lavally, .	leat baile,	half-town.
Lurgan, .	lurḡan,	a long hill.
Meenmore, .	mín mór,	great misk or field.
Mullagheor, .	{ mullac cop or mul- laó cuppa, . }	odd or uneven summit.
Murhy, .	mupéaiḡ,	abounding in walls or mounds.
Roscrib East, .	{	point of the mire.
Do. West, .	porcpib, .	
Templevanny, .	teampull a manaiḡ,	church of the monk.
Tonaponra, .	toin na pónpa,	bottom land of the beans.
Toomour, .	tuaim óa boóap,	tumulus of the two deaf men.
Treenmore, .	trián mór,	great third.
Tully, .	baile na tulaó,	town of the hill.
BARONY OF LEYNY.—PARISH OF ACHONRY.		
Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
Achonry, .	aóonpa,	Conary's field.
Ballinchurry, .	baile an óuppaiḡ,	town of the moor.
Ballinvally, .	baile an óealaiḡ,	town of the road.
Ballyara, or Falduff, .	baile ui eáḡpa,	O'Hara's town.
Ballyara [Knox], .	—	—

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF ACHONRY— <i>continued</i> .		
Ballyglass, . . .	baile glar, . . .	green town.
Bellahy, . . .	beul laṡaig, . . .	mouth of the slough.
Belra, . . .	beulrác, . . .	mouth of the fort.
Bunnacranagh, . . .	bun na cpaṡaṡa, . . .	foot of the cranagh, i. e. woody land or hill.
Carnyara, . . .	capṡ uí eaḡpa, . . .	O'Hara's carn or pile of stones.
Carraun, . . .	capaṡ, . . .	rock land—corran, a reaping
Carrowcarragh, . . .	ceatpaṡ ṡappach, . . .	rugged quarter. [hook.
Carrowclare, . . .	ceatpaṡ an ṡláir, . . .	quarter of the plane or level.
Carrowkeel, . . .	ceatpaṡ caol, . . .	narrow quarter.
Carrowmore, . . .	ceatpaṡ mór, . . .	great quarter.
Carrowmurray, . . .	ceatpaṡ múireaṡaig, . . .	Murray's quarter.
Carrownacreevy, . . .	ceatpaṡ na cpaṡibe, . . .	quarter of the bush or wide branching tree.
Carrownaleck, . . .	ceatpaṡ na leice, . . .	quarter of the flagstone, or flat rocky surface.
Carrownaworan, . . .	ceatpaṡ na ḡruapaṡ, . . .	quarter of the cold springs or wells.
Carrowneden, . . .	ceatpaṡ an eadain, . . .	quarter of the brow or front.
Carrowntawa, . . .	ceatpaṡ antpaṡa, . . .	sorrel quarter.
Carrowntober, . . .	ceatpaṡ an tobair, . . .	quarter of the well.
Carrowreagh (Cooper) . . .	ceatpaṡ riabach, . . .	grey quarter.
Do. (Knox), . . .	ceatpaṡ riabach, . . .	do.
Carrowreilly, . . .	ceatpaṡ raigilligh, . . .	Reilly's quarter.
Carrowilkin, . . .	ceatpaṡ múilem, . . .	Wilkin's quarter.
Cashel, North, . . .	caipeal, . . .	a stone fort.
Do. South, . . .		
Castleloye, . . .	caipeal luaidhe, . . .	Lughaidh's stone fort.
Chaffpool, . . .	—	—
Cloonacool, . . .	cluain na cula, . . .	lawn or meadow of the back, or angle.
Cloonaraher, . . .	cluain a paṡair, . . .	lawn or plain of the tillage.
Cloonarara, . . .	cluain na peára, . . .	lawn or meadow of the black-birds.
Cloonbaniff, . . .	cluain banḡ, . . .	lawn or meadow of the young
Clooneunny, . . .	cluain coṡaig, . . .	lawn of the fire-wood. [pigs.
Cloondrihara, . . .	cluain ḡepi heaḡpa, . . .	lawn or meadow of the three O'Hara's.
Clooningan, . . .	cluain ionḡan, . . .	lawn of the nails or talons.
Cloonlaughil, . . .	cluain leamcoille, . . .	lawn of the elm wood.
Coolrawer, . . .	culpaṡap, . . .	thick back.
Corsallagh, . . .	coppalach, . . .	dirty hill or pit.
Cully, . . .	coillḡ, . . .	woody.
Cunghill, . . .	congḡail, . . .	a habitation.
Curraghbonaun, . . .	cuppaṡa bunain, . . .	the moor of the bittern.
Curry, . . .	cuppaig, . . .	moors.
Derreens, . . .	ḡoiríníde, . . .	little derries or oak woods.
Doomore, . . .	ḡuṡa mór, . . .	great mount or tumulus.
Drumbaun, . . .	ḡpum bán, . . .	white ridge.
Gortnadrass, . . .	ḡiṡ-aill, . . .	wood precipice.
Kilcummin, . . .	ḡort na ḡpeap, . . .	field of the briars or brambles.
Knocknashee Com- mon, . . .	cille cuimín, . . .	St. Cuimin's church.
	cnoc na riḡe, . . .	hill of the fairies.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF ACHONRY— <i>continued.</i>		
Laughil, . . .	leam óoil, . . .	elm wood.
Lavagh, . . .	leamach, . . .	abounding in elms.
Leitrim, North, . . .	liacópuim, . . .	grey ridge.
Do. South, . . .	—	—
Lissaneagh, . . .	lior an fíche, . . .	fort of the raven.
Magheranore, . . .	maóaire an oir, . . .	plain of the gold.
Montiagh, . . .	mointeach, . . .	boggy lands.
Moylough, . . .	maoleaó, . . .	round hill of the horses.
Muckelty, . . .	maolaó, . . .	bald hill.
	mucalta, . . .	hill of the pigs. alta some- times denotes 'woody glens.'
Mullaghanarry, . . .	mullach an aeóaire, . . .	hill-top of the shepherd.
Mullanabreena, . . .	mullaó na brúigne, . . .	hill-top of the fairy fort.
Mullaun, . . .	bullan, . . .	a round well in a rock.
Oghambaun, . . .	eoóam bán, . . .	crooked white yew.
Powellsborough, . . .	—	from a family.
Pullagh, . . .	pullaó, . . .	land of holes or pit.
Rathmagurry, . . .	raé mac guppaig, . . .	Magarry's fort.
Rathscanlan, . . .	raé scaílan, . . .	Scanlan's fort.
Rinbaun, . . .	riú bán, . . .	white point of land.
Sandyhill, . . .	—	—
Sessuecommon, . . .	reirib ómáin, . . .	Coman's sixth [division].
Sessuegarry, . . .	—	Garry's do. do.
Sessuegilroy, . . .	—	Gilroy's do. do.
Streamstown, . . .	baile an ttrútam, . . .	town of the streamlet.
Tawnavoultry, . . .	taínnaió bualtraó, . . .	mountain field of the cow-dung
Toberecurry, . . .	tobair a óipe, . . .	well of the caldron.
Toberseardan, . . .	tobair scairdam, . . .	well of the small cataract.
Tobertelly, . . .	tobair a treilió, . . .	well of the dropping.
Tullycusheenbeg, . . .	tulaig coirín beag, . . .	Cushen's hill (little).
Tullycusheenmore, . . .	—	Do. (big).
Tullyhugh, . . .	tulaig aóda, . . .	Hugh's hill.
Tullyvella, . . .	tulaig bile, . . .	hill of the aged tree.
PARISH OF BALLYADARE.		
Abbeytown, . . .	—	—
Ardcotten, . . .	ard óiteanta, . . .	hill of the commons.
Billa, . . .	bile, . . .	an aged tree.
Bleachgreen, . . .	—	—
Carricknagat, . . .	cappaic na g-cat, . . .	rock of the cats.
Cooney, . . .	conaió, . . .	fire-wood.
	coínnaióe, . . .	a dwelling or habitation.
Corhawnagh, . . .	coréainnach, . . .	odd field or uneven field.
Crockacullion, . . .	enoc a óuiliú, . . .	hill of the holly.
Glen, . . .	gleaú, . . .	a valley.
Half quarter, . . .	—	—
Kilboglashy, . . .	cill mólaire, . . .	St. Molaisse's church.
Kilnamanagh, . . .	cill na manach, . . .	church of the monks.
Kinnagrelly, . . .	cinn na gpreillig, . . .	head of the mire or slough.
Knockmuldoney, . . .	enoc maoldomnaió, . . .	Muldowney's hill.

Ordnance Survey Name	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF BALLYSDARE— <i>continued.</i>		
Knoxspark, . . .	—	—
Largan, . . .	leapgan, . . .	a hillside.
Larkhill, . . .	cnocán na fuireoge, . . .	hillock of the lark.
Lisduff, . . .	liorbuð, . . .	black fort.
Lugawarry, . . .	laga bappaið, . . .	Barry's hollow.
Lugnadeffa, . . .	lag na daiðce, . . .	hollow of the caldron.
Lugnamackan, . . .	lag na meacañ, . . .	hollow of the parsnips.
Mullanashee, . . .	mullaç na riðe, . . .	summit of the fairy fort.
Rinn, . . .	riñ, . . .	a point of land.
Stonehall, or Carrownageeragh, }	ceatpañanaðcaepaç	quarter of the sheep.
Streamstown, . . .	baile an tppuëain, . . .	town of the streamlet.
Tullaghan, . . .	tullaçan, . . .	a hillock.
PARISH OF KILLORAN.		
Ballinvally, . . .	baile an beallaið, . . .	town of the road or pass.
Cabragh, . . .	cabpach, . . .	bad land—rubbish.
Cappagh, . . .	ceapach, . . .	a plot of land.
Carha, . . .	capta, . . .	a rock.
Carrowclooneen, . . .	ceatpañ clúainín, . . .	quarter of the little lawn or
Carrowgavneen, . . .	ceatpañ ðaiðnin, . . .	Smith's quarter. [meadow.
Carrownabanny, . . .	ceatpañ na baiñið, . . .	quarter of the milk.
Carrownacarrick, . . .	ceatpañ na cappaize, . . .	quarter of the rock.
Carrownacleigha, . . .	ceatpañ na clóiðe, . . .	quarter of the stone.
Carrownagleragh, . . .	ceatpañ na ðcléir- each, . . .	quarter of the clergy.
Carrownaskeagh, . . .	ceatpañ na rðeach, . . .	quarter of the briars or thorns.
Carrownateewaun, . . .	ceatpañ na b-cao- ðan, . . .	quarter of the little sides or sticks; quarter of the ribbe- ries or side sticks.
Carrownleam, . . .	ceatpañ an leim, . . .	quarter of the leap.
Carrownloughan, . . .	ceatpañ an loçáin, . . .	quarter of the pool.
Coolaney, . . .	cuil áinne, . . .	Aine's or Hannah's corner or
Creevaun, . . .	craoðán, . . .	bushy land. [angle.
Deenodes, . . .	ðíon pód, . . .	sheltered sod.
Gortakeeran, . . .	ðort a ðaortaiñ, . . .	field of the rowan trees.
Half Quarter, or }	cuppach an iapaíñ, . . .	moor of the iron.
Curraghaniron, }		
Killoran North, . . . }	cill oðpáin, . . .	St. Oran's Church.
Do. South, . . . }		
Knockadoo, . . .	cnoc a'ðuina, . . .	hill of the mound.
Knockatotaun, . . .	cnoc a toiteáin, . . .	hill of the burning.
Lissalough, . . .	lior a loça, . . .	fort of the lake.
Moymlough, . . .	maoðm loch, . . .	lake of the eruption.
Rathbarran, . . .	paç bappain, . . .	Barran's fort.
Rathmactiernan, . . .	paç mic tiðeapnain, . . .	Mac Tiernan's fort.
Rathmore, . . .	paç mór, . . .	great fort.
Rathosey, . . .	paç eoðara, . . .	Hosey's rath or fort.
Seevness, . . .	paioibinnior, . . .	bad island.
Shancough, . . .	pean éuach, . . .	old hollow.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF KILMACTEIGE.		
Annagh, . . .	eanach, . . .	a marsh.
Banada, . . .	beaṇ páda, . . .	long hill.
Belclare, . . .	beúl cláir, . . .	mouth of the ford of the plain, or board.
Carns, . . .	capṇ, . . .	a heap of stones.
Carraun, . . .	capán, . . .	a carn or rocky ground.
Carrigeenagowna, . . .	cappaigin na ngan- ma, . . .	little rock of the calves.
Carrownagappul, . . .	ceatpam na ḡcap- all, . . .	the horses' quarter.
Carrowlobaun, . . .	ceatpam an lobam,	the labourers' quarter.
Carrowreagh, . . .	ceatpam riabach,	grey quarter.
Castlerock or Castle- carragh, . . .	cairlean cappaó, . . .	rough castle.
Claddagh, . . .	clabach, . . .	a stony beach.
Cloonbarry, . . .	cluan beappaiḡ, . . .	Barry's lawn or meadow.
Cloonea, . . .	cluan caṭa, . . .	lawn or meadow of the battle.
Cloongoonagh, . . .	cluan ḡaimnach, . . .	lawn or meadow of the strippers or milch cows.
Cloonydiveen, . . .	cluan ui ḡuibín, . . .	O'Diveen's lawn or meadow.
Coolrecuill, . . .	cu' pe coill, . . .	back to the wood.
Corray, . . .	cup páit, . . .	round hill of the rath or fort.
Creeghassaun, . . .	crioó earaṣn, . . .	land of the cataracts.
Culdaly, . . .	cúl dálaḡ, . . .	Daly's back or hill.
Curraghboy, . . .	cuppaó buíde, . . .	yellow moor.
Dawros, . . .	dampor, . . .	point or promontory of the oxen.
Drimina, . . .	drumíne, . . .	a small ridge.
Drummartin, . . .	drum mártain, . . .	Martin's ridge.
Eskragh, . . .	eircepeach, . . .	a low ridge of sandhills.
Glennawoo, . . .	gleann na ḡruaṭ, . . .	glen of the images or spectres.
Gortemon, . . .	ḡort ar moín, . . .	field on the bog.
Gortersluin, . . .	ḡort ar rloin, . . .	field of the slates.
Killure, . . .	cill iuḡair, . . .	church of the yew.
Kilmacteige, . . .	cill 'ie taoḡḡ, . . .	church of Mac Teige.
Kincuillew, . . .	ceaṇ coilleaḡ, . . .	wood head.
Knockahoney, . . .	cnoc a ḡomnaḡ, . . .	hill of the fire-wood.
Knockbrack, . . .	cnoc bpeac, . . .	speckled hill.
Knocknasliggaun, . . .	cnoc na rliḡean, . . .	hill of the shells.
Largan, . . .	leapḡam, . . .	hillside.
Letterbrone, . . .	leitir bróm, . . .	hillside of the sorrow.
Lislea, . . .	lior liáṭ, . . .	grey fort.
Meenagleragh, . . .	mín na ḡolérpeach, . . .	misk of the clergy.
Meenamaddo, . . .	mín na madaḡ, . . .	misk or field of the dogs.
Oughaval . . .	nuachongḡail, . . .	new habitation.
Ounagh, . . .	uaimnaó, . . .	abounding in caves.
Rue, . . .	rúba, . . .	abounding in the herb rue.
Tawnaneilleen, . . .	camnaḡ neillín, . . .	little Niall's field.
Toberroddy, . . .	tobar rodaḡ, . . .	Roddy's well.
Toorlestraun, . . .	tuap lartpam, . . .	green field of the scorching or burning.
Tullaghaglass, . . .	tullaṭa ḡlar, . . .	green hills.
Tullanaglug, . . .	tulla na ḡ-cloḡ, . . .	hill of the bells.
Tullymoy, . . .	tulla muaiḡe, . . .	hill of the Moy.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF KILVARNET.		
Annaghbeg, . . .	eanach beaḡ, . . .	small marsh.
Annaghmore, . . .	eanach mór, . . .	great marsh.
Ardree, . . .	ard óraoiḡe, . . .	hill of the fold.
Ballymurray, . . .	baile muipeaḡaḡ, . . .	Murray's town.
Ballynacarrow, N., Do., S.,	baile na capa, . . .	town of the weir.
Carrowntawy, . . .	ceatpam an t-pam- aḡ, . . .	quarter of the sorrel.
Claragh [Irish], . . . Do. [Scotch], . . .	clapach, . . .	a plain, or level tract.
Falnasooogaun, or Ropefield, . . .	pal na ruḡán, . . .	enclosure of the straw ropes.
Fetherneen, . . .	peadarnín, . . .	a small brook.
Finlough, . . .	pioḡ loḡ, . . .	white lake.
Glebe, . . .	—	—
Kilvarnet, North, . . . Do., South,	cill beapnaḡ, . . .	Barnet's church.
Ranaghanbeg, . . .	paḡnaḡán, . . .	a place of ferns.
Ranaghanmore, . . .	—	—
Rathbaun, . . .	paḡ bán, . . .	white fort.
Rathgran, . . .	paḡ ḡrám, . . .	fort of the grain.
Rathnarrow [Brett], . . . Do. [O'Hara], . . .	paḡ nappam, . . .	fort of the ploughmen.
Rockfinlough, . . .	—	see Finlough.
Temple House, De- mesne, . . .	tiḡ a teampla, . . .	house of the temple.

## BARONY OF TIRERAGH.—PARISH OF CASTLECONOR.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
Ardvally, . . .	ard baile, . . .	high town.
Attichree, . . .	aḡ tiḡe óraoi, . . .	site of the house of the fold.
Ballymoghany, . . .	o baile uḡ móduine, . . .	O'Moghany's town.
Ballymoneen, . . .	baile móimín, . . .	town of the little bog.
Bartragh, . . .	beaptrapach, . . .	sand banks.
Bellanira or Iceford, . . .	beul aḡa an oiḡpe, . . .	mouth of the ford of the heir.
Bunnanilra, . . .	bun an iolpa, . . .	butt of the eagle.
Carns, . . .	na capa, . . .	the heaps.
Carraun, . . .	capam, . . .	rock ground.
Carrowcardin, . . .	ceatpa ḡaspdm, . . .	Carden's quarter.
Carrowgarry, . . .	ceatpam ḡappaiḡ, . . .	quarter of the garden.
Carrowgun, . . .	ceatpam ḡuḡa, . . .	quarter of the gun.
Carrownurlar, . . .	ceatpam an uplaḡ, . . .	level quarter.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF CASTLECONOR— <i>continued.</i>		
Castleconor, . .	caisleán cnoúir,	castle of the son of Conor (O'Dowda).
Cloonkeelaun, . .	cluain áolain,	Keelan's meadow.
Corbally, . . .	cor baile,	odd town.
Cottlestown, . .	baile uí cóitil,	O'Cottle's town.
Dooneen, . . .	dúinín,	a small fort.
Dooneyaghny or Cloonloughan, . .	dutáirí fiachna,	Fiachna's district.
Emlymoran, . . .	cluain a loéain,	lawn of the pool or small lake.
Farrangarode, . .	imlig mórán,	Moran's holm.
Farranimrish, . .	peapan gioróid,	Garrett's land.
Fiddaun, . . .	peapán imir,	land of contention.
Killanly, . . .	fiobán,	a brook or streamlet.
Knockagower, . .	cill fáinle,	Fainle's church.
Knockbrack, . .	„ áinle,	
Lecarrowaveagh, . .	cnoc a gabair,	goat's hill.
Lugnamannow, . .	cnoc breac,	speckled hill.
Muckduff, . . .	leat áeátrán na b-fiach,	half quarter of the ravens.
Muingwore, . . .	lug na mbanb,	hollow of the little pigs.
Newtown, . . .	muc dub,	black pig.
Rathdonnell, . .	moing mór,	great morass.
Rathglass, . . .	baile núad,	new town.
Rathmurphy, . .	rae domnaill,	Donnell's fort.
Rinroe, . . .	rae glair,	green fort.
Scurmore, . . .	rae muraeáir,	Murphy's fort.
Tullylinn, . . .	riá puad,	red point.
or Ballyfeenaun, . .	reurmór,	great notch or cut.
	tulla flóin,	Flann's hill.
	baile uí pionam,	O'Finan's town.
PARISH OF DROMARD.		
Altanelvick, . .	alc an elbíc,	Elvick's cliff or precipice.
Ballard, . . .	baile ard,	high town.
Ballinlig, . . .	baile an luig,	town of the hollow.
Ballinphull, . .	baile an póill,	town of the hole, pit, or cavern.
Barnabrack, . .	beapna breac,	speckled gap.
Buninna, . . .	bun píne,	mouth of the Finn (stream).
Bunnafedia, . .	bun peide,	mouth of the boggy trench or stream.
Carroward, . . .	ceátrán ard,	high quarter.
Carrowbleagh East, . .	ceátránaí blátaí,	flowery quarter.
Do. West, . . .	ceátránaí chon-	
Carrowconor, . .	choáir,	Conor's quarter.
Carrowflatley, . .	ceátrán cnoúir,	
or Carrownaglogh, . .	ceátrán flaitile,	Flatly's quarter.
Carrowgilpatrick, . .	ceátrán na g-cloé,	quarter of the stones.
	ceátrán 'ic' giolla pátráic,	Mac Gillpatrick's quarter.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF DROMARD— <i>continued.</i>		
Carrowkeel, . . .	ceátráin caol, . . .	narrow quarter.
Carrowmorris, . . .	ceátráin múirir, . . .	Maurice's quarter.
Carrownacreavy, . . .	ceátráin na craoibhe, . . .	quarter of the bush or wide branching tree.
Carrownaguivna, E. } Carrownaguivna W. }	ceátráin na ngaiðne, . . .	quarter of the smiths.
Cloonagh, . . .	cluanach, . . .	meadow land.
Cloonakeemoge, . . .	clúain na cíomoiðe, . . .	lawn of the <i>keemoge</i> ; a local word for combing or hackling.
Corskeagh, . . .	cup ríeach, . . .	round hill of the briars or hawthorns.
Cutteanta, . . .	beul acla coiteanach, . . .	mouth of the ford of the commons.
Dromard, . . .	drómárd, . . .	high ridge.
Derinch, . . .	doir' inr, . . .	oak island.
Inishfall, . . .	—	—
Lahanacappul, . . .	lochan a éapaill, . . .	pool of the horse.
Lavagh, . . .	leamach, . . .	elm wood.
Lismacbryan, . . .	lior 'ac brian, . . .	fort of the sons of Brian.
Lisnarawer, . . .	lior na páirap, . . .	fort of the fat men.
Longford Demesne, . . .	longfort, . . .	a fortress.
Loughannacrannoge, . . .	lochan na craoibhe, . . .	pool of the wooden house.
Lugbaun, . . .	lúgbán, . . .	white hollow.
Spring Garden, . . .	—	—
Tanrego East, . . . }	toim re gó, . . .	podex ad mare.
Do. West, . . . }	—	—
Toorard, . . .	tuar árð, . . .	high bleach or green field.
PARISH OF EASKY.		
Aderavoher, . . .	eabar óa bótar, . . .	between two roads.
Alternan Park, . . .	alt eannain, . . .	Ernan's steep or precipice.
Ballybeg, . . .	baile beag, . . .	little town.
Ballycummin, . . .	baile cúimin, . . .	Cummins' town.
Ballymeeny, . . .	baile uí maonaigh, . . .	O'Meeny's town.
Do. [Armstrong], . . .	—	—
Do. [Jones], . . .	—	—
Bookaun [Browne], . . .	buacán, . . .	a peaked hill.
Do. [Tottenham], . . .	—	—
Bunowna, . . .	bun aña, . . .	mouth of river or river mouth.
Caltragh, . . .	cealtach, . . .	old burial-ground.
Carrowmacbryan, . . .	ceátráin 'ic brian, . . .	quarter of the son of Brian.
Carrownabinna, or Ballymeeny Hillas.	ceátráin na bíne, . . .	quarter of the peak.
Carrownrod, . . .	ceátráin an róa, . . .	quarter of the mire.
Carrownrush, . . .	ceátráin an ruir, . . .	quarter of the point or wood.
Carrowpadeen, . . .	ceátráin páidín, . . .	little Paddy's quarter.
Castletown, . . .	baile an éarpleam, . . .	town of the castle.
Cloonagleavragh, . . .	clúanna g-cliabach, . . .	lawn or meadow of the baskets.
Do. Park, . . .	—	—
Cooga, . . .	cúige, . . .	a fifth part.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF EASKY— <i>continued</i> .		
Curraghnagap, . . .	cuppach na gceap, {	moor of the stumps or stocks of trees.
Finned, . . .	fiñíde, . . .	meaning not known.
Fortland, . . .	liréadán, . . .	a small fort.
Keadews, . . .	ceadéam, . . .	a sea plain.
Killeenduff, . . .	cillín dubh, . . .	black little church.
Kilmacurkan, . . .	cill 'ic cupcaín, . . .	Mac Corcan's church.
Lenadoon, . . .	leine dúna, . . .	meadow of the fort.
Monereagh, . . .	moim riabach, . . .	grey bog.
Old Grange, . . .	rean ghráinreach, . . .	old grange.
Owenbeg, . . .	abairí beag, . . .	little river.
Owenykeevan, . . .	abairí uí éaonham, . . .	O'Kewan's river.
or Tawnamaddoo, . . .	taínná 'na madao, . . .	field of the dogs.
Rathlee, . . .	raí laog, . . .	fort of the calves.
Rathmeel, . . .	raí máoil, . . .	rath or fort of the bald man.
Shannon's Park, E., . . .	—	—
Do., W. . . .	—	—
Sraheens, . . .	rraíéimíde, . . .	little holms, or straths.
PARISH OF KILGLASS.		
Ballinteane, . . .	baile an triúeam, . . .	town of the fairy mount.
Ballyglass, . . .	baile glar, . . .	green town.
Ballyogan, . . .	baile uí oíam, . . .	O'Hogan's town.
Cabragh, . . .	cabrach, . . .	bad land.
Cabraghkeel, . . .	cabraoí caol, . . .	narrow Cabragh.
Carranduff, . . .	carra dubh, . . .	black carra.
Carrowcoller, . . .	ceatpaí coiléir, . . .	quarter of the quarry.
Carrowhubbuck, N. } . . .	ceatpa' hubac, . . .	Hobuck's quarter.
Do., S. } . . .	—	—
Carrowneden, . . .	ceatpaí 'n eadain, . . .	quarter on the hill's brow.
Cartron, . . .	carcún, . . .	a cartron of land.
Cloonaderavally, . . .	cluan eadap da baile, . . .	lawn or meadow between two townlands.
Culleens, . . .	coillíníde, . . .	little woods.
Drinaghanbeg, . . .	draoiúgneachan, . . .	land of blackthorns.
Drinaghanmore, . . .	—	—
Frankford, . . .	—	—
Kilglass, . . .	cill glar, . . .	green church.
Kinard, . . .	cinnard, . . .	high head or hill.
Lackan, . . .	leacan, . . .	hillside.
Lackanatlieve, . . .	leacan a t-pleiúe, . . .	hillside of the mountain.
Lackancabill, . . .	leacan caíail, . . .	Cabill's hillside.
Leaffony, . . .	liat mume, . . .	grey shrubbery or brake.
Magherabrack, . . .	maíaire breac, . . .	speckled plain.
Oghil, . . .	eoíail, . . .	yew-wood.
Parke, . . .	—	—
Quigabar, . . .	cúige beapp, . . .	best fifth or quintuple division.
Quigaboy, . . .	cúige buíde, . . .	yellow fifth.
Tawnalaghta, . . .	taínnaiú leaóta, . . .	field of the monument.
Trotts, . . .	trotaíú, . . .	"controversies, disputes."

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF KILMACSHALGAN.		
Ballygilcash, .	baile mic gíolla éair,	Mac Gillacash's town.
Ballyglass, .	baile glar, .	green town.
Ballynahowna, .	baile na habaíña, .	town of the river.
Bellafarney, .	béul aca fearna, .	mouth of the ford of the alder.
Bellanaboy, .	beul an aca buíde, .	mouth of the yellow ford.
Belville, .	baile beil, .	town of the ford mouth.
Buncrowey, .	bun cruímaíð, .	town of the worms (local interpretation).
Camcuill, .	cam coill, .	crooked wood.
Cannaghanally, .	ceánach an eallaið,	bill of the cattle.
Carrigeens, .	cappaigimíðe, .	small rocks.
Carrowmably, .	ceatpaí mable, .	Mable's quarter.
Carrownrush, .	ceatpaí an poir, .	quarter of the point.
Cloonaseoffagh, .	cluain na roctac, .	lawn of the flowers.
Clooneen, .	cluainín, .	a small lawn or meadow.
Crowagh, or	cruímach, .	abounding in worms.
Dunneill mountain,	dun neill, .	Niall's fort.
Cuskernagh, .	peirceapnað, .	sedgy land.
Doonbeakin, .	dun béicín, .	Bekin's fort.
Dromore, .	drum mór, .	great ridge, or extended hill.
Dunneill, .	dun neill, .	Niall's fort.
Dunowla, .	dun abla, .	fort of the orchard.
Farranmacfarrell, .	feapaí mic feargáile	land of the son of Farrell.
Fartannan, .	feartanán, .	a small grave.
Fiddandarry, .	fiðdan ðapaið,	brook of the oaks.
Kilmacurkan, .	cill mic curcáin, .	Mac Curkan's church.
Knockaculleen, .	cnoc a coillín	hill of the little wood.
Knockanbaun, .	cnocán bán, .	white hillock.
Lecarrow, .	leat ceatpaí, .	half-quarter.
Letterunshin, .	leitir omrín, .	hillside of the ash-trees.
Patch, .	paírte, .	a piece or spot of land.
Portaghbradagh, .	portach bradach,	thievish bog, or bog of the thieves
Rathgoonaun, .	rað gúmedín, .	Coonan's fort.
Tawnadremira, .	taíma' an ðréimípe,	field of the ladder.
Tawnamore, .	taímaíð mór, .	great field.
Tawnatruffaun, .	taíma 'an cruicáin,	field of the streamlet.
Toorboy, .	tuár buíde, .	yellow bleach-green, or green field.
Trasgarve, .	trear garð, .	rough third.
PARISH OF KILMOREMOY.		
Abbey Half Quarter,	—	—
Ardnaree, .	ard na píaið, .	hill of executions.
or Shanaghy, .	rean acaíð, .	old field.
Ballyholan, .	baile uí éúalam,	O'Toland's town.
Behybeg, .	beite beað, .	little birch land.
Behymore, .	beite mór, .	great birch land.
Breaghwy, .	bpeacó maíð, .	wolf field.
Bunree, .	bun píð, .	mouth of the Ree (river).



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF KILMOREMOY— <i>continued.</i>		
Carrowcushlaun, . } Do. West, }	ceatpamað an chair- leám . . .	castle quarter.
Cloonslaun, . . .	cluam plán, . . .	lawn of the healing, or the safe lawn.
Corimla, North, . } Do., South, . }	cop-imliḡ, . . .	round hill of the marsh or holm.
Farranmorgan, . . .	peapan morḡám, . . .	Morgan's land.
Glebe, . . .	—	—
Knocknalyre, or Downhill, . . . }	cnoc na laobap, . . .	hill of the forks.
Mullauns, . . .	na mullam, . . .	the little summits or hilltops.
Quignalecka, . . .	cúḡ na leice, . . .	fifth of the flag-stone.
Quignalegan, . . .	cúḡ na llaḡam, . . .	fifth of the standing-stone.
Quignamanger, . . .	cúḡ na maimpeip, . . .	fifth of the mangers.
Quignashee, . . .	cúḡ na riðe, . . .	fifth of the fairy hills.
Rathkip, . . .	rað cip, . . .	fort of the stock.
Rathmeel, . . .	rað maol, . . .	flat rath, or earthen fort.
PARISH OF SKREEN.		
Ardabrone, . . .	apð an bpoim, . . .	hill of the sorrow.
Brockagh, . . .	brocach, . . .	a place for badgers.
Caltragh, . . .	cealtapach, . . .	an old burial-place
Carrowbrickeen, . . .	ceatpam bpietn, . . .	Brickeen's quarter.
Carrowcaslan, . . .	ceatpam an cairleam	quarter of the castle.
Carrowcullen, . . .	ceatpam coillín, . . .	quarter of the little wood.
Carrowdurreen, . . .	ceatpam duirpín, . . .	Durnin's quarter.
Carrowgilhooley, . . .	ceatpam 'ic ḡiolla- óuille, . . .	Mac Gilhooley's quarter.
Carrowloughan, East, Do. West,	ceatpam loéam, . . .	quarter of the pool.
Carrownaboll, . . .	ceatpam na b-poll, . . .	quarter of the holes.
Carrownaknockan, . . .	ceatpam na ḡ-cnocán	hills' quarter, or quarter of the little hillocks.
Carrownamaddow, . . .	ceatpam na maðað, . . .	quarter of the dogs.
Carrownree, . . .	ceatpam an píḡ, . . .	the king's quarter.
Carrownteaue, . . .	ceatpam an t-riðeam	quarter of the fairy hill.
Carrownurlar, . . .	ceatpam uplaip, . . .	quarter of the floor.
Carrowreagh, . . .	ceatpam riach, . . .	grey quarter.
Derkbeg, . . .	deipc beaḡ, . . .	little cavern.
Derkmore, . . .	deipc mór, . . .	great cavern.
Doonflin, Lower, . . .	dún ploin, . . .	Flann's fort.
Do. Upper, . . .	—	—
Drumnagoal, . . .	drum na nḡáal, . . .	ridge of the coals.
Dunmorán, . . .	dún moram, . . .	Moran's fort.
Falín, . . .	faí fiín, . . .	fair field or enclosure
Fallathurteen, . . .	faí a tuirpín, . . .	field of the little bank.
Farranyharpy, . . .	peapan uí tarrpaiḡ, . . .	O'Torpy's land.
Finnure, . . .	fiñaðap, . . .	a beautiful hill.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF SKREEN— <i>continued.</i>		
Gerrib Big, . . . } Do. Little, . . . }	geirb, . . .	rugged land.
Glebe, . . .	—	—
Half quarter, . . .	leat ceatpam, . . .	half quarter.
Knockscappal, . . .	cnoc a capuill, . . .	hill of the horse.
Laragh, . . .	laetpac, . . .	site of a house.
Lecarrow, . . .	leat ceatpam, . . .	half quarter.
Leekfield, . . .	ceatpam luip, . . .	quarter of the leeks or herbs.
Masreagh, . . .	mar riabach, . . .	grey thick hill.
Mullaroe, . . .	mulla' rúad, . . .	red summit, or Rufina's summit.
Portavand, . . .	port a basb, . . .	port of the boat.
Ross, . . .	por, . . .	a point.
Sheeanmore, . . .	risdean mór, . . .	great fairy hill.
Skibbolecorragh, . . .	rciobal cappach, . . .	rugged barn.
Skreenbeg, . . .	repin beag, . . .	little shrine, or little skreen.
Skreenmore, . . .	repin mór, . . .	big skreen.
Soodry, . . .	rúdapaisg, . . .	a place for tanning leather.
Tawnatrohaun, . . .	taimna 'c-ppuétam, . . .	field of the streamlet.
Toberawnaun, . . .	tobar adainnam, . . .	Adamnan's well.
Toberpatrick, . . .	tobar patraic, . . .	Patrick's well.
PARISH OF TEMPLEBOY.		
Altans, . . .	altam, . . .	heights, <i>altitudines</i> .
Ardgivna, . . .	ard gairne, . . .	hill of the smiths.
Ardkill, . . .	ard cill, . . .	high church.
Ardogelly, . . .	ard occeallaigh, . . .	hill of the O'Kellys.
Aughris, . . .	eaópor, . . .	point of the horses.
Ballinphull, . . .	baile an póill, . . .	town of the hole or pit.
Ballyeeskeen, . . .	baile ui úirgin, . . .	O'Disgin's town.
Ballyfarris, . . .	baile ui feargúir, . . .	O'Fergus's town.
Ballygreighan, . . .	baile greaóam, . . .	Greaghan's town.
Do. Barr, . . .	—	—
Barnacoghil, . . .	beapna óócaill, . . .	gap of the net or cucullus.
Carrowcor, . . .	ceatpam cup, . . .	odd or uneven quarter.
Carrowmacrory, . . .	ceatpam mic puar- irib, . . .	Mac Rory's quarter.
Carrowmorán, . . .	ceatpam moipeasín, . . .	Moran's quarter.
Carrownacreevy, . . .	ceatpam na cpaoidhe, . . .	quarter of the bush, or spread-
Cartron, . . .	capún, . . .	a cartron. [ing tree.
Cartronfarry East, . . .	capún o fearaisg,	O'Farry's quarter.
Do. South, . . .		
Do. West, . . .		
Cashelboy, . . .	caireal buíde, . . .	yellow fort.
Corcoran's acres, . . .	acraíde corcapáin, . . .	Corcoran's acres.
Corkaghbeg, . . .	corcaó beag, . . .	little corcass or marsh.
Corkaghmore, . . .	corcaó mór, . . .	great corcass or marsh.
Donaghintraíne, . . .	donaó an tpeatam, . . .	Contrehán's church.
Doonaltan, . . .	dun ultam, . . .	Ultan's fort.
Doonmadden, . . .	dun madaóam, . . .	Madden's fort.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF TEMPLEBOY— <i>continued.</i>		
Doonycoy, . . .	dun ui óoicig, . . .	O'Cohey's fort.
Garryduff, . . .	garðaca duba, . . .	black gardens.
Graingebeg, . . .	grainpeach beag, . . .	small grange.
Do. barr, . . .	—	—
Do. more, . . .	grainpeac mór, . . .	great grange.
Kilrusheighter, . . .	cillruir ióctair, . . .	lower Kilrush, or church of the [point.
Kingsmountain, . . .	riab a rig, . . .	mountain of the king.
Lugdoon, . . .	lug dúin, . . .	hollow of the fort.
Rathglass, . . .	rae glar, . . .	green rath or fort.
Rathurlisk, . . .	raite eurluisc, . . .	fort of the dry hill.

## BARONY OF TIRERRILL.—PARISH OF AGHANAGH.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
Aghanagh, . . .	aóameac, . . .	—
Ballaghboy, . . .	bealaó buíde, . . .	yellow road.
Ballinafad, . . .	beul an ata paba, . . .	mouth of the long ford.
	beul ata na paba, . . .	
	beul ata na poide, . . .	
Ballyhealy, or Hollybrook De- mesne, . . .	— — peaba, . . .	Healy's town.
	bail' ui eilig, . . .	
Ballymullanny, . . .	bail' ui míleanuig, . . .	O'Mullany's town.
Bunnadober, . . .	bun na b-tobar, . . .	source of the wells.
Carriknahorna, E., } Do. W., }	cappaic na heorna, . . .	rock of the barley.
Carrowkeel, . . .	ceatpam caol, . . .	narrow quarter.
Cartron, . . .	capán, . . .	a cartron.
Cloghoge, Lower, } Do. Upper, }	clocóg, . . .	stony land.
Corrodoo, East, . . .	cuppac a duba, . . .	moor of the black colouring stuff.
Do., West, . . .		
Cuilsheegharybeg, } Cuilsheegharymore, }	coill ríocóaire, . . .	wood of the fairies.
Doonaveeragh, . . .	dun Ua bFiaópac, . . .	fort of the Ui-Fiachrach.
Drumdoney, . . .	drum dóinnaió, . . .	sunday hill or ridge.
Gortalough, . . .	gort a loca, . . .	field of the lake, or lake field.
(Island) Annaghgowla	eanaó gabla, . . .	marsh of the forks.
Knockroe, . . .	cnoc ruab, . . .	red hill.
Lecarrow, . . .	leic ceatpam, . . .	half quarter.
Lillybrook, . . .	—	—
Limnagh, . . .	lumneac, . . .	a bare spot.
Mount Gaffeny, . . .	—	—
Mullaghfarna, . . .	mullaó péapna, . . .	hill top of the alder.
Parkmore, . . .	páirc mór, . . .	great park.
Treanscrabbagh, . . .	trian repeabaó, . . .	rough third.
Whitehill, . . .	cnoc bán, . . .	white hill.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF BALLYNAKILL.		
Ballynakill, . .	baile na cille, . .	town of the church.
Carriekcoola, . .	cappaic cúille, . .	rock of the angle of the melting or smelting (local).
Carrowkeel, . .	ceatpam caol, . .	narrow quarter.
Cloonagh, . .	cluanach, . .	meadow land.
Clooskirt, . .	—	The name is uncertain. The form in the Down Survey, cpor ceapt, right cross, is probably the correct one.
Cuiltydangan, . .	coillte damgean, . .	fast woods.
Drumederalena, . .	drum eadar da léime	ridge between two meadows.
Glen, . .	gleaṁ, . .	a valley.
Kinkillew, . .	ceaṁ cóilleadh, . .	head of the wood, wood-head.
Lissaneeny, . .	lior an aonaigh, . .	fort of the fair or meeting.
Mullaghmore, . .	mullach mór, . .	great summit.
Rockbrook, . .	—	—
Rooghan, . .	ruaḁcan, . .	reddish land
Rusheen, . .	rúirín, . .	A small point of land. The term is also applied to a small wood.
Sooley, . .	ruṁaib, . .	abounding in sorrel.
Tunnagh, . .	tuṁach, . .	a mound or rampart.
PARISH OF BALLYADARE.		
Annaghmore, . .	eanach mór, . .	great marsh.
Ardeurley, . .	ard coillib, . .	hill of the wood.
Ballynabool, . .	baile na b-poll, . .	town of the holes or pit.
Balladrihid, . .	beúl a droicet, . .	mouth of the bridge.
Carriekbanagher, . .	cappaic beaṁaḁar, . .	pointed rock—rock of the points.
Carrigeensallagh, . .	cappaigín palach, . .	dirty little rock.
Cloonmacduff, . .	cluna 'ie a duib, . .	Mac Duff's lawn or meadow.
Cloonacurra, . .	cluna cuppaig, . .	meadow of the moor.
Cloonamaban, . .	clúna meathan, . .	lawn or meadow of the slit oak (for making sieves).
Collooney, . .	cul mune, . .	back of the shrubbery.
Coolteen, . .	cúiltín, . .	a small corner or angle.
Glennagoolagh, . .	gleaṁ na guilleach, . .	valley of the poles, or tall branchless trees.
Knockbeg East, . .	cnoc beag, . .	little hill.
Do. West, . .		
Knockmullin, . .	cnoc muilín, . .	hill of the mill, or mill-hill.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF BALLYSDARE— <i>continued.</i>		
Lisruntagh, . . .	lior puntach, . . .	fort of the conspirators.
Lissaneena, . . .	lior an píona, . . .	fort of the wine.
Markree (Demesne), . . .	maponeið, . . .	mountain flat of the horses.
Mullaghnabreena, . . .	mullað na bpuighe, . . .	summit of the fort or fairy palace.
Rathrippin, . . .	rað rípin, . . .	Ripin's fort.
Spotfield, . . .	—	—
Toberbride, . . .	toabar bpuighe, . . .	St. Bridget's Well.
Union, . . .	ioñan, . . .	talons, claws.
	inghe, . . .	even, level.
PARISH OF BALLYSUMAGHAN.		
Ardleebeg, . . .	apð laoð beað, . . .	hill of the calves (little).
Ballysumaghan, . . .	baile uí fumaðam, . . .	O'Sumaghan's town.
Carricknagat, . . .	cappaic na ð-cat, . . .	rock of the cats.
Carrowerin, . . .	ceapraí cpaí, . . .	round quarter.
Cloneally, . . .	clún péile, . . .	lawn of the hospitality.
Doonally, . . .	dun aille, . . .	fort of the cliff or precipice.
Drumee, . . .	drum aoða, . . .	Hugh's ridge or long hill.
Falnashammer, . . .	faí na peamar, . . .	hedge of the shamrocks.
Gaddan, . . .	ðioðán, . . .	a small spot of land.
Do. beg, . . .		
Killalla, . . .	cill eala, . . .	Eala's church.
Kiltycloghan, . . .	ciollte cloðan, . . .	woods of the stony fords.
Knocknageeha, . . .	cnoc na gaoite, . . .	windy hill.
Lavally, . . .	leat baile, . . .	half town.
Lissergloon, . . .	lior ap ðcluan; lior ip ðlún (locally pronounced), . . .	fort on the lawn or meadow.
Lurgan, . . .	lurðan, . . .	a shin, or long hill.
Srananagh, . . .	ppaí na n-each, . . .	holm of the horses.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF DRUMCOLUMB.		
Ardcumber, . . .	ard éumair, . . .	hill of the confluence.
Ardlee, . . .	ard laog, . . .	hill of the calves.
Bricklieve, . . .	briic fliabh, . . .	speckled mountain.
Carrowcashel, . . .	ceatpam caireal, . . .	quarter of the stone forts.
Coolbock, . . .	cúlboic, . . .	back of the buck-goats.
Coolboy, . . .	culbuidé, . . .	yellow back.
Coolskeagh, . . .	cúl rgeach, . . .	back of the briars or brambles.
Cooperhill, or Gob- badagh, . . .	gobadach, . . .	peaked, beaked, or pointed.
Cultylough, . . .	coillte loó, . . .	woods of the loughs.
Drumcolumb, . . .	drum collum, . . .	ridge of Columb.
Knockaun, . . .	cnocán, . . .	a hillock.
Knockbreenagher, . . .	cnoc bpuigeanachair, . . .	hill of the fairy palace.
Knockrawer, . . .	cnoc pamap, . . .	thick hill.
Lecarrow, . . .	leat éeatpama, . . .	half quarter.
Lisconny, . . .	lior cónaib, . . .	fort of the fire wood.
Rusheen, . . .	puirín, . . .	a small point or promontory.
Treanmacmurtagh, . . .	trián mic muipe- arraig, . . .	Mac Murtough's third.
Turnalaydan, . . .	tur na leaban, . . .	round hill of the burdocks.

## PARISH OF KILLADOON.

Bailindoon, . . .	bail' an dúin, . . .	town of the fort.
Ballinphull, . . .	bail' an póill, . . .	town of the hole.
Barroe, Lower, . . .	bár puad, . . .	red top or summit.
Do. North, . . .		
Do. South, . . .		
Do. Upper, . . .		
Bullaun, . . .	ballán, . . .	a round well in a rock.
Carrickglass, . . .	cappaic glar, . . .	green rock.
Cartronavally, . . .	caprun a bealluig, . . .	cartron of the rock or pass.
Coollemoneen, . . .	cúil le móimín, . . .	back of the little bog.
Cornamucklagh, . . .	cup na muclaó, . . .	round hill of the piggeries.
Derrybeg, . . .	doipe beag, . . .	little derry or oak wood.
Derrymore, . . .	doipe mór, . . .	great derry or oak wood.
Inishmore, . . .	mór mór, . . .	great island.
Killadoon, . . .	cille dubdúin, . . .	Duvdoon's church.
Kingsborough, . . .	—	—
Knockacappul, . . .	cnoc a' óapuill, . . .	hill of the horse.
Lahardan, . . .	leatardan, . . .	half hill, gentle hill.
Mount Town, . . .	—	—
Rannatruffaun, . . .	poim a trypuáin, . . .	division of the streamlet.
Do. East, . . .		
Do. West, . . .		
Tully, . . .	tulaig, . . .	a hill.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF KILLERY.		
Altvelid, . . .	alt beulaib, . . .	glen of the long mouth, or entrance.
Boleymount, . . .	búailib, . . .	a dairy place.
Carrownagh, . . .	ceatpáinnach, . . .	divided into quarters.
Cartronhugh, . . .	carcun aoda, . . .	Hugh's cartron.
Cartrontaylor, . . .	—	—
Castleore, . . .	caisleán oðair, . . .	Odhar's castle.
Correagh, . . .	cor ríad, . . .	grey round hill.
Crossboy, . . .	croir beo aoda, . . .	St. Aidus Vivax, his cross.
Dromore, . . .	druim mór, . . .	great ridge or long hill.
Drumcondra, . . .	druim doñra, . . .	Conra's ridge or long hill.
Gortlownan, . . .	gort pleáinnam, . . .	field of the sliding.
Inishfree Island, . . .	inir ppaoid, . . .	island of the heath.
Killerry, . . .	cill Oirib, . . .	Orry's church.
King's Fort, . . .	—	—
Lavally, . . .	leat baile, . . .	half town.
Mullaghfin, . . .	mullaó fíh, . . .	white or fair summit.
Rathgeean, . . .	rat gáoiðean, . . .	Guion's fort.
Rathmoney, . . .	rat maonaiḡ, . . .	Mooney's, or Meeny's fort.
Slishwood, . . .	slir, . . .	a beetle or wash-staff.
Tiratick, . . .	tír a troic, . . .	land of the sock or plough-share.
Toberanania, . . .	tobar an páine, . . .	the wart well.
Woodfield, . . .	—	—
PARISH OF KILMACALLAN.		
Aghoo, . . .	acáó, . . .	a field.
Annagh, . . .	eanach, . . .	a marsh.
Annaghcarthy, . . .	eanaca éairpce, . . .	marshes of the rock.
Annaghcor, . . .	eanach copp, . . .	marsh of the cranes.
Ardagh, . . .	arb acha, . . .	high fields.
Ardkeeran, . . .	arb éairpcaíh, . . .	hill of the rowan trees.
Ardneaskan, . . .	arb naorcan, . . .	hill of the snipes.
Ardvarney, . . .	arbdearnaió, . . .	high gap.
Bellanagarrigeeney, } or Castle Baldwin, }	beul aca na ḡcar- paigínig, . . .	mouth of the ford of the small rocks.
Bellanascarva, . . .	beul aca na ḡarbaó, . . .	mouth of the shallow ford.
Bellarush, . . .	beul aca poir, . . .	mouth of the ford of the point.
Brickeen, . . .	bpuicín, . . .	a small badger—perhaps <i>bally</i> was originally prefixed.
Carrownagilty, . . .	ceatpáin na ccoillce, . . .	quarter of the woods.
Carrownsurraun, . . .	ceatpáin an rparáin, . . .	quarter of the purse.
Carrowreagh, . . .	ceatpáin riabach, . . .	grey quarter.
Cartronroe, . . .	carcun ríad, . . .	red quarter.
Cartrontonlena, . . .	carcún tóim leuna, . . .	quarter of the bottom meadow.
Cleavry, . . .	cliaðpáig, . . .	baskets.
Cloghfin, . . .	clóó fíh, . . .	white stone.
Cooperhill, . . .	—	—
Corlisheen, . . .	cor lírín, . . .	round hill of the little fort.
Doongelagh, . . .	dun ḡaodalach, . . .	the Gaelic or Irish dun or fort.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF KILMACALLAN— <i>continued.</i>		
Doonsheheen, .	dun peiṣín, .	Sehin's dun or fort.
Drumderry, .	dróm doipe, .	ridge of the derry, or oak-wood.
Drumdoney, .	drum domnaig, .	Sunday ridge.
Drummacool, .	drum míc aóill, .	Mae Cull's ridge.
Drumnasoohy, .	drum na pána, .	sorrel ridge—of the straw-berries.
Drumraine, .	drum raṣain, .	ridge of the ferns.
Drumshinnagh, .	drum ríonac, .	ridge of the foxes.
Emlagh, .	imleach, .	a marsh, a holm.
Fidwog, .	riob bog, or .	soft wood.
	riob, .	a pipe or rill.
	riob, .	is wood.
Heapstown, .	baile an éairn, .	town of the heap.
Kiltylough, .	coillte loc, .	woods of the lakes.
Knockanarrow, .	enoc an appaín, .	hill of the ploughman.
Knocknacross, .	enoc na croipe, .	hill of the cross.
Knockroe, .	enoc ruaḃ, .	red hill.
Lisbanagher, .	lior beanaṣair, .	fort of the pointed hills or rocks.
Lissycoyne, .	lior ui éoain, .	O'Coan's fort.
Rathmulpatrik, .	raṣ maíil pátraic, .	Mulpatrik's fort.
Rosmore, .	por mór, .	great point.
Sheerevagh, .	riob riabach, .	grey hill.
Tobernaglashy, .	toḃar na ḡlaire, .	well of the streamlet.

## PARISH OF KILMACTRANNY.

Andresna, .	aḡpurná, .	meaning not understood.
Annaghgowan, .	eanaḃ ḡḃain, .	Gowan's marsh.
Annaghloy, .	eanaḃ luaíde, .	marsh of the lead.
Ardline, .	arḃ laigean, .	hill of the Leinstermen.
Aughnacloy, .	aḃ na cloíde, .	field of the stone.
Ballinlig, .	baíl' an luir, .	town of the hollow.
Ballyculleen, .	baile óoillín, .	town of the little wood.
Ballynary, .	baile 'n araiḃ, .	town of the charioteer.
Ballynashee, .	baile na ríḡ, .	town of the fairy hills.
Carriekard, .	cappaic árḃ, .	high rock.
Carrieknagrip, .	cappaic na ḡ-criop, .	rock of the jags.
Carriegenblike, .	cappaigín a blaiḃce, .	little rock of the flowers.
Carriegenboy, .	cappaigín buíde, .	yellow little rock.
Carrowcashel, .	ceaṣraín éairil, .	quarter of the cashel or stone fort.
Cloghmine, .	cloḃ míonaḃ, .	stone of the mine.
Clooneenhugh, .	cluamín aoḃa, .	Hugh's little lawn or meadow.
Cloystuckera, .	claḃa ptoṣaípe, .	stone of the out-jutting point.
Coolmeen, .	cul mín, .	smooth back or hill.
Coolmurly, .	cúl máirle, .	back of the muddy water.
Crawhill, .	cream óoill, .	wild garlick wood.
Creevagh, .	cpaoiḃeaḃ, .	bushy land.
	poiín na loḃun, .	division of the ducks was the old name.



Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF KILMACTRANNY— <i>continued.</i>		
Cuilnagleragh, . . .	coill na ġ-cléipeaó,	wood of the clergy.
Derrylea, . . .	doipe liaé, . . .	grey derry, or oak-wood.
Derrynaneane, . . .	{ doipín na néun, or doipe na néun, . . . }	oak-wood of the birds.
Derrynaslieve, . . .	{ doipín na pliaó, or doipe na pliaó, . . . }	little oak-wood of the moun- tains.
Derrysallagh, . . .	doipe íalaó, . . .	dirty derry or oak-wood.
Dromore, . . .	drum mór, . . .	great ridge.
Drumbeg, North, . . .	drum beaġ, . . .	little ridge.
Do. South, . . .		
Do. West, . . .		
Drumsoghla, . . .	{ drum poélaíó, and drum poéla, . . . }	famous ridge, or valuable ridge.
Foyoges, . . .	faíce óġa, . . .	little green, or lawns.
Glen, . . .	ġleaí, . . .	a valley.
Highwood, . . .	coill uaécapaó, . . .	upper wood.
Inishbeg, . . .	inir-beaġ, . . .	little island.
(Island) Muck, . . .	muc, . . .	pig island.
Kilkere, . . .	cill óéipe & cill óéip	St. Kiar's church.
Knockmore, . . .	cnoc mór, . . .	great hill.
Knockroe, . . .	cnoc ruaó, . . .	red hill.
Magheralackagh, . . .	maéaire leacaó, . . .	plain of the flags.
Moytirra, East, . . .	muíġe cuípeaó, . . .	plain of the towers.
Do. West, . . .		
Rover, . . .	rómar, . . .	red earth.
Straduff, . . .	rraé duó, . . .	black holm, or strath.
Treanmore, . . .	trian mór, . . .	great third.
Tullynure, . . .	{ tulaíġ 'n iúbaí, and tul' an iúbaí, . . . }	hill of the yew.
PARISH OF KILROSS.		
Arnasbrack, . . .	apnar bpeac, . . .	speckled land.
Ballydawley, . . .	baile uí óalaíġ, . . .	O'Daly's town.
Ballygrania, . . .	baile ġraíne, . . .	Graney's or Grace's town.
Carrigeenboy, . . .	cappaíġín buíde, . . .	yellow little rock.
Cartronduffy, . . .	capcún uí óubéaíġ, . . .	O'Duffy's cartron.
Castledargan, . . .	caípeal deapġam, . . .	Dergan's stone fort.
Clooneenroe, . . .	cluamín ruaó, . . .	red little lawn or meadow.
Doonamurray, . . .	dun muípeaóbaíġh, . . .	O'Murray's fort.
Dowrea, . . .	dam-peíó, . . .	mountain land of the oxen.
Killeenduff, . . .	cillín duó, . . .	black little church.
Kilross, . . .	cill por, . . .	church of the point.
Knocktober, . . .	cnoc a tobair, . . .	hill of the well.
Lavinscartron, . . .	—	—
Tullybeg, . . .	tulaíġ beaġ, . . .	little hill.
Tullymore, . . .	tulaíġ mór, . . .	great hill.

Ordnance Survey Name.	Irish Name.	Explanation.
PARISH OF SHANCOUGH.		
Cabragh, . . .	an óaibneac, . . .	rubbish.
Carrowmore, . . .	ceatpam mór, . . .	great quarter,
Carrownadargny, . . .	ceatpam na bairgní, . . .	quarter of the oak-grove.
Carrownycelowan, . . .	ceatpamain uí ólu máin, . . .	O'Clowan's quarter.
Garoke, . . .	garóig and garóic, . . .	meaning not known.
Shancough, . . .	nean óúac, . . .	old hollow.
Tap, . . .	tap, . . .	a mass or lump.
Ummeryroe, . . .	iomairpe puac, . . .	red ridge.

## PARISH OF TAWNAGH.

Aghalenane, . . .	aóac léanam, . . .	field of the leman or concubine.
Ardloy, . . .	ard laig, . . .	hill of the loy or spade.
Beby, . . .	beite, . . .	birch, birchland.
Cams, . . .	cama, . . .	windings.
Carrowkeel, . . .	ceatpam caol, . . .	narrow quarter.
Carrownagark, . . .	ceatpam na gcearc, . . .	quarter of the hens (grouse).
Cloongad, . . .	clúan gab, . . .	lawn of the gads or withes.
Cloonymeenaghan, . . .	cluan uí maoinéacáin, . . .	O'Minaghan's lawn or meadow.
Emlagh, . . .	imleach, . . .	a holm, strath, or marsh.
Kingsbrook, . . .	—	—
Knockadoo, . . .	cnoc a buína, . . .	hill of the mound or tumulus.
Murillyroe, . . .	manóille puac, . . .	red sleeve.
Ogham, . . .	eoóam, . . .	crooked yew.
Springfield, . . .	—	—
Tawnagh, . . .	caínnach, . . .	a mountain field.
Whitehill . . .	—	—



## APPENDIX K.—RAINFALL IN THE COUNTY SLIGO,

*As registered at Markree, Mullaghmore, Doo Castle, Ballinful, and Mount Shannon.*

## MARKREE CASTLE.

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year's inches.
1884	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.94	3.71	4.95	4.43	5.36	00.00
1885	3.00	3.20	2.56	2.27	2.70	0.53	3.90	1.78	5.95	5.70	2.31	2.62	36.52
1886	4.78	2.74	3.06	2.11	3.99	2.12	3.33	3.08	4.47	5.44	4.14	6.68	45.94
1887	3.43	3.11	1.79	2.08	2.36	0.41	3.48	3.54	5.34	2.47	4.34	4.67	37.02
1888	3.34	1.72	3.74	2.01	2.79	5.49	4.68	4.30	1.85	2.95	3.32	4.87	41.06
1889	3.40	3.43	2.39	3.31	4.76	0.89	2.51	5.96	3.18	6.15	2.54	4.98	43.50
1890	5.07	0.46	2.55	1.86	1.37	2.97	3.77	5.04	3.65	4.18	7.35	2.52	40.79

Avg. 40.81

## MULLAGHMORE.

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year's inches.
1879	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.36	3.59	1.31	3.15	?
1880	2.25	3.49	2.47	3.40	2.01	4.34	5.08	1.41	3.19	0.80	6.16	5.22	39.82
1881	0.64	2.86	3.68	1.98	2.32	5.63	2.68	4.08	4.18	3.41	5.82	5.13	42.41
1882	2.61	2.89	4.97	1.73	2.95	4.92	4.41	3.35	4.38	3.44	7.40	4.14	47.19
1883	5.46	4.18	1.55	1.83	1.99	1.50	2.81	4.04	4.01	6.23	6.69	4.23	44.52
1884	6.24	4.13	2.90	1.72	3.28	1.23	5.31	3.70	4.25	5.56	3.93	4.75	47.00
1885	2.97	3.63	2.87	2.38	2.75	0.92	3.39	1.62	6.05	4.65	2.97	2.17	36.37
1886	5.25	2.57	2.50	1.93	3.11	1.70	2.80	2.83	4.48	4.42	4.48	6.70	42.77
1887	3.39	3.92	1.72	2.44	1.58	0.27	4.17	3.12	4.72	3.50	3.21	4.70	36.74
1888	3.31	1.64	3.75	1.93	2.18	5.63	4.81	4.17	1.75	3.36	3.82	5.22	41.57
1889	3.70	2.87	2.64	3.74	4.56	1.05	2.37	7.16	2.81	5.64	2.12	4.62	43.28
1890	4.77	0.66	2.97	1.72	0.95	4.79	3.33	4.91	4.47	3.70	7.14	2.40	41.81

Avg. 42.13

## DOO CASTLE, BORDERS OF CO. SLIGO.

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year's inches.
1864	3.04	1.80	2.97	1.90	2.04	2.84	1.60	2.32	4.42	2.19	5.23	1.54	31.89
1865	4.65	2.86	3.28	1.40	2.55	1.33	3.99	3.85	0.61	5.61	4.98	4.51	39.62
1866	6.55	3.88	2.93	1.65	1.71	4.61	2.04	5.39	5.20	2.40	4.25	4.60	45.21
1867	4.40	4.42	2.70	4.86	4.62	1.63	4.63	2.78	3.07	7.27	0.72	2.97	44.07
1868	5.11	3.69	4.24	1.49	3.23	1.81	1.55	3.80	3.05	4.11	4.58	7.81	44.47
1869	4.68	5.21	3.43	3.34	2.72	1.11	2.23	1.34	4.07	2.34	6.18	6.19	42.84
1870	3.31	4.12	2.23	1.72	3.30	1.53	1.66	0.86	3.59	9.92	2.56	3.41	38.21
1871	4.57	3.86	3.06	4.18	1.42	3.65	5.64	2.41	2.21	3.67	2.57	3.60	40.84
1872	6.44	3.60	4.70	1.16	2.43	2.96	3.15	4.28	6.96	6.33	5.82	5.03	52.86
1873	5.01	1.02	2.83	1.29	2.45	1.39	4.23	5.35	2.42	4.81	1.86	1.63	34.29

Avg. 41.43

## BALLINFUL.

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year's inches.
1875	2.93	1.06	1.23	1.01	2.17	2.94	3.49	2.68	3.24	4.44	3.56	2.09	30.84
1876	1.24	4.47	3.80	2.55	0.52	1.35	1.11	2.11	3.36	1.44	1.00	2.49	25.44
1877	5.61	3.92	2.00	1.58	1.51	2.08	3.78	4.42	1.63	2.23	5.15	4.01	37.92
1878	4.33	1.70	1.67	1.74	2.78	3.87	2.23	1.86	2.95	3.73	2.59	1.91	31.36
1879	2.33	1.91	1.73	0.61	2.32	2.63	4.71	2.57	4.83	2.86	0.97	1.80	29.27

Avg. 30.97

## MOUNT SHANNON, Co. SLIGO.

	1867.		1868.		1869.		1870.		1871.		1872.	
Month.	Depth of Rain.	No. of days on which 0.01 or more fell.	Depth of Rain.	No. of days on which 0.01 or more fell.	Depth of Rain.	No. of days on which 0.01 or more fell.	Depth of Rain.	No. of days on which 0.01 or more fell.	Depth of Rain.	No. of days on which 0.01 or more fell.	Depth of Rain.	No. of days on which 0.01 or more fell.
January, .	2.81	12	6.37	19	4.58	21	3.32	16	4.11	23	5.91	26
February, .	3.25	15	4.13	21	5.38	26	2.26	16	3.34	15	3.83	20
March, . .	2.90	9	5.38	26	4.01	16	3.30	16	3.21	17	3.01	18
April, . .	4.25	22	1.56	11	3.36	18	1.75	18	3.51	15	2.08	9
May, . . .	4.79	16	2.65	16	2.36	14	2.86	16	1.06	10	2.29	18
June, . . .	1.96	13	2.57	9	1.79	14	2.22	15	2.71	16	6.15	22
July, . . .	6.07	14	2.20	9	1.71	14	1.86	12	6.53	29	1.81	11
August, . .	3.90	16	4.43	18	2.88	11	3.05	11	2.66	14	3.79	16
September, .	3.96	18	1.51	9	3.50	22	4.07	18	1.55	11	7.17	22
October, . .	8.30	25	5.59	24	3.74	18	10.12	23	3.21	21	6.97	22
November, .	0.65	9	5.05	17	7.72	26	3.25	16	3.26	12	5.33	18
December, .	2.74	21	7.59	24	7.76	19	4.15	13	3.35	20	5.49	22
<i>Total,</i>	45.58	190	49.03	203	48.79	219	42.21	190	38.50	203	53.83	241

## DAYS ON WHICH NEARLY ONE INCH OR MORE FELL.

Mar. 28, 1.02 July 23, 1.91 Oct. 27, 1.12	Jan. 13, 1.32 June 22, 1.37 Nov. 30, 1.14	Feb. 8, 1.03 ,, 10, 1.00 Nov. 13, 1.02 Dec. 11, 0.99	Mar. 1, 1.01 Aug. 27, 1.74 Oct. 7, 1.00 ,, 13, 1.21 ,, 24, 1.35 Dec. 12, 1.78	Not any over 0.90.	June 2, 1.22 Sept. 14, 1.06
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	1879.		1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.	
January, .	1.60	10	1.97	9	0.67	8	3.27	16	5.59	21	5.53	26
February, .	2.65	21	2.27	19	3.69	17	1.39	17	5.00	21	3.75	20
March, . .	2.10	14	2.00	13	3.34	18	4.81	24	1.40	10	2.17	18
April, . .	0.95	13	3.33	22	1.46	11	2.42	15	1.60	13	1.12	9
May, . . .	2.91	16	1.80	13	1.75	13	2.34	15	1.52	15	3.93	18
June, . . .	3.31	21	4.93	14	4.41	21	5.22	24	2.89	16	1.18	10
July, . . .	6.36	26	6.00	22	2.02	20	4.57	25	3.97	21	4.90	21
August, . .	4.99	18	1.59	7	3.14	22	4.05	22	3.82	20	3.29	16
September, .	6.52	18	3.15	15	4.66	14	4.37	21	4.56	19	3.37	18
October, . .	3.52	17	0.66	3	2.33	11	2.75	15	5.82	22	4.40	20
November, .	1.17	12	4.39	21	5.52	27	7.07	25	5.27	28	5.23	18
December, .	1.93	10	5.21	25	3.68	22	4.12	19	3.73	23	4.28	24
<i>Total,</i>	38.01	196	37.30	183	36.67	204	46.38	238	45.17	229	43.15	218

## DAYS ON WHICH NEARLY ONE INCH OR MORE FELL.

June 22, 1.07 July 1, 0.90 ,, 2, 0.95 Sept. 8, 1.67	June 13, 1.24 Sept. 22, 0.92 Dec. 15, 1.14	Sept. 21, 1.66 ,, 24, 0.92 Oct. 14, 1.02 Nov. 1, 0.92	Mar. 2, 1.18 Sept. 1, 0.91	Oct. 14, 1.10	Feb. 21, 1.22 July 28, 1.00 Aug. 17, 1.02 Nov. 30, 0.97
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# MOUNT SHANNON, Co. SLIGO.

	1873.		1874.		1875.		1876.		1877.		1878.	
Month.	Depth of Rain.	No. of days on which 0.01 or more fell.	Depth of Rain.	No. of days on which 0.01 or more fell.	Depth of Rain.	No. of days on which 0.01 or more fell.	Depth of Rain.	No. of days on which 0.01 or more fell.	Depth of Rain.	No. of days on which 0.01 or more fell.	Depth of Rain.	No. of days on which 0.01 or more fell.
January, .	6.16	23	4.35	13	3.97	27	2.00	16	5.97	28	4.85	25
February, .	0.79	8	2.40	17	1.52	13	5.36	21	4.98	24	1.50	12
March, . .	2.53	16	2.45	19	1.79	9	5.21	23	2.95	19	2.63	16
April, . . .	1.43	12	3.46	18	0.81	9	2.79	14	1.53	12	1.98	15
May, . . . .	2.37	15	1.78	15	2.65	17	0.90	6	2.07	12	3.65	21
June, . . . .	1.60	11	1.58	8	3.89	19	1.21	10	4.75	18	4.70	19
July, . . . .	3.82	23	3.80	19	2.96	18	1.52	12	4.27	28	1.88	11
August, . . .	7.02	27	4.89	23	3.77	17	4.15	17	4.76	18	2.86	20
September, .	2.38	15	5.81	23	3.40	15	4.32	20	1.51	13	5.52	23
October, . .	7.03	25	4.95	25	4.99	19	4.48	14	5.17	23	5.27	22
November, .	2.29	14	4.26	20	4.17	14	3.49	19	5.57	28	3.54	18
December, .	1.16	12	5.83	25	1.58	10	5.42	24	4.45	23	3.61	18
<i>Total,</i>	38.58	201	45.56	225	35.50	187	40.85	196	47.97	246	41.99	220

## DAYS ON WHICH NEARLY ONE INCH OR MORE FELL.

Jan. 26, 0.92 Aug. 13, 1.55 Oct. 1, 0.97	Not any over 0.80.	Mar. 9, 1.11 Sept. 27, 0.93	Aug. 3, 1.08 Sept. 5, 0.95 „ 7, 0.93	June 22, 0.97 July 16, 1.02 Aug. 19, 0.89	June 27, 1.08
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	1885.		1886.		1887.		1888.		1889.		1890.	
January, .	2.40	15	4.53	23	3.12	21	3.70	12	3.71	20	5.35	26
February, .	3.75	21	2.98	16	3.02	16	2.45	7	3.30	19	0.61	6
March, . . .	1.66	16	2.44	14	1.88	15	2.88	13	1.63	16	2.56	20
April, . . . .	2.38	15	2.01	16	2.60	14	2.11	14	2.47	14	2.04	14
May, . . . . .	2.72	21	3.21	18	1.75	10	2.61	12	4.97	18	1.62	14
June, . . . . .	1.14	6	1.74	12	0.14	1	5.60	15	1.18	9	4.40	23
July, . . . . .	4.26	16	3.26	25	3.18	18	4.45	17	2.62	14	3.98	25
August, . . . .	1.28	9	3.09	21	3.76	23	3.96	22	6.62	25	4.96	20
September, . .	5.91	25	3.44	16	6.11	17	1.23	12	2.28	17	4.50	19
October, . . . .	5.43	23	5.75	16	1.68	12	3.13	19	6.69	15	4.01	20
November, . .	2.80	18	3.90	20	4.93	16	3.53	25	2.45	20	6.82	24
December, . .	2.15	14	6.61	25	4.12	22	3.79	24	4.06	22	2.83	10
<i>Total,</i>	35.88	199	42.96	222	36.29	185	39.44	192	41.98	209	43.68	221

## DAYS ON WHICH NEARLY ONE INCH OR MORE FELL.

July 18, 1.02 Sept. 5, 1.10	Oct. 16, 2.90 Nov. 15, 0.93	Aug. 8, 1.20 Sept. 2, 1.50 „ 5, 1.00 Nov. 6, 1.55	Jan. 5, 1.50 Feb. 17, 1.60 June 6, 1.00 „ 28, 1.08 „ 29, 0.91 July 3, 1.07	Oct. 19, 2.10 Nov. 7, 1.42
Average Rainfall from 1867-1890, 42.50 in.				

## RAINFALL AT MARKREE.

Year.	Total Depth of Rainfall.	No. of Days on which Rain fell.	Year.	Total Depth of Rainfall.	No. of Days on which Rain fell.
1833	44.49		1849	37.63	289
1834	36.50	241	1850	37.12	274
1835	37.34	281	1851	40.25	289
1836	41.39	283	1852	45.72	
1837	40.29	265	1853	35.17	
1838	31.00	250	1854	34.77	
1839	35.92	261	1855	29.36	
1840	30.77	242	1856	27.87	
1841	35.55	235	1857	35.14	
1842	33.25	235	1858	34.34	
1843	35.96		1859	41.65	
1844	33.63	232	1860	43.74	
1845	40.37	246	1861	47.16	
1846	37.56	268	1862	39.91	
1847	37.17	278	1863	34.71	
1848	41.22	287	Average, 31 yrs. 37.32 in.		

N.B.—Rain-gauge from 1863 to 1883 was found to be defective; returns, therefore, of no use.

“The preceding Tables,” writes Mr. Sowerby Wallis, “give the average falls at various stations, but inasmuch as they are the averages of different numbers, and groups of years, some being naturally dry and others wet years, they cannot be accepted as giving the true average fall at those stations.

“Obviously the greater the length of time over which the observations extend, the greater the reliance that can be placed upon the results, and the totals for the thirty-one years, 1833 to 1863, at Markree would appear to give a good average; but the gauge was 16 ft. 6 in. above ground, and owing to the increased velocity of the wind at considerable heights above ground, caught an insufficient quantity. This is very clearly shown by a comparison of the records of two gauges at the same station in later years.

*Mean Rainfall at Markree Castle, 1885 to 1890.*

Gauge, 16 feet 6 inches above ground,	35.49 inches, 100 per cent.
“ 1 “ 0 “ “ “ “	40.81 “ 115 “ “



“The average of the old gauge should therefore be increased by 15 per cent., which makes the 37·32 inches become 42·90 inches, in close agreement with the 43·10 inches indicated by the gauge at 1 foot for 24 years.

“The next longest series of observations is the twenty-four years, 1867 to 1890, at Mount Shannon, Sligo; and as this period includes nearly all the years observed at the other stations, it allows their averages to be calculated for the same period, and we have the following Table:—

Station.	Period.		Gauge.		Arith- metical Average.	Corrected Average for the 24 years, 1867-90.
	No. of Years.	Date.	Above Ground.	Above Sea.		
Markree, . . . . .	6	1885-90	ft. in. 1 0	ft. 130	in. 40·81	in. 43·10
Mullaghmore, . . .	11	1880-90	1 2	40	42·13	43·65
Doo Castle, . . . .	10	1864-73	1 0	—	41·43	39·75
Ballinful, . . . . .	5	1875-79	3 3	100	30·97	32·10
Mount Shannon, . .	24	1867-90	4 5	70	42·30	42·30

“These averages show a variation from thirty-two inches to forty-four inches, or of one-third; and no arrangement of the stations from south to north, west to east, or by height above sea, will give a regular sequence of values.

“At Doo Castle in the south, the fall is near the mean between the extremes. At Markree and Mount Shannon, near together, and both in the centre of the county, the falls are high and agree very closely. In the extreme north at Mullaghmore the fall is very similar, but at Ballinful, between the two, the amount is ten inches less.

“All the stations are in the east of the county, and it does not appear that a record has ever been kept in the western and more hilly half, where there is every reason to suppose that the fall would be greater.”

## APPENDIX L.

## BIRDS MET WITH IN THE COUNTY SLIGO.

BY R. WARREN, Esq.

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaëtus*). Visits Glencar in winter. Formerly bred in the county.
- Sea Eagle (*Aquila allicilla*). Now known only as a rare visitor.
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Breeds on the sea-cliffs. Frequents Glencar.
- Merlin (*Falco æsalon*). Common and resident, and breeds in the mountains.
- Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*). Very common and resident, breeding in old ruins, &c.
- Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*). Very common in the wooded districts, breeding in trees.
- Common Buzzard (*Buteo vulgaris*). Very rare visitor.
- Marsh Harrier (*Circus ceruginosus*). Very rare.
- Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). Rare.
- Long-eared Owl (*Strix otus*). Common and resident, living in all the wooded districts.
- White, or Barn Owl (*Strix flammea*). Common and resident, breeding in old ruins.
- Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). Once obtained.
- Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa grisola*). A common summer visitor, and the latest of all to arrive.
- Pied Flycatcher (*Muscicapa atricapilla*). Excessively rare, and the first recorded capture in Ireland was one taken at Moyview, on the 18th of April, 1875.
- Dipper, or Water Blackbird (*Cinclus aquaticus*). Common and resident wherever there are suitable rocky streams.
- Missel-Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*). Common and resident.
- Song-Thrush (*Turdus musicus*). Common and resident.
- Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*). Regular winter visitor.
- Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*). Regular winter visitor.
- Blackbird (*Turdus merula*). Common and resident.
- Ring Ouzel, or Ring Blackbird (*Turdus torquatus*). Regular summer visitor to the mountain districts; common about Lough Talt, and near Hollybrook.



- Hedge-Sparrow (*Accentor modularis*). Common and resident.
- Redbreast (*Erythaca rubecula*). Common and resident.
- Stonechat (*Saxicola rubecula*). Common and resident, but not so numerous as in the South of Ireland.
- Wheatear (*Saxicola œnanthe*). Regular summer visitor.
- Sedge Warbler (*Salicaria phragmitis*). Regular summer visitor.
- Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*). Seen one season only at Hollybrook.
- Whitethroat (*Sylvia cinerea*). Regular summer visitor.
- Willow-Wren (*Phylloscopus trochilus*). Regular summer visitor.
- Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus rufus*). Summer visitor; common in the east of the county, and near Ballina.
- Golden-crested Wren (*Regulus cristatus*). Common and resident.
- Great Tit (*Parus major*). Common and resident.
- Blue Tit (*Parus cæruleus*). Common and resident.
- Coal Tit (*Parus ater*). Resident, but not so numerous as the former two tits.
- Long-tailed Tit (*Parus caudatus*). Resident, but rare.
- Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla yarrellii*). Common and resident.
- Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla boarula*). Resident, but not so common as the last.
- Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla rayi*). Very rare.
- Meadow-Pipit, or Titlark (*Anthus pratensis*). Very common and resident.
- Rock-Pipit (*Anthus obscurus*). Common and resident on the sea-coast.
- Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*). Common and resident.
- Snow-Bunting (*Emberiza nivalis*). A winter visitor, occasionally seen in large numbers.
- Common Bunting (*Emberiza miliaria*). Resident, in very limited numbers.
- Yellow Bunting (*Emberiza citrinella*). Common and resident.
- Reed-Bunting (*Emberiza schœniclus*). Common and resident.
- Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*). Very rare indeed.
- Chaffinch (*Fringilla cælebs*). Common and resident.
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). Common and resident.
- Greenfinch (*Coccothraustes chloris*). Common and resident.
- Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes vulgaris*). Very rare visitor.
- Goldfinch (*Carduelis elegans*). Common and resident.
- Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*). Rare.
- Lesser Redpoll (*Linaria minor*). Common and resident.
- Twite, or Mountain Linnet (*Linaria flavirostris*). Common and resident.
- Common Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*). Common and resident.
- Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula vulgaris*). Resident and common in the east, occasionally seen in summer and winter near Ballina.

- Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*). Seen at Markree.
- Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Exceedingly numerous in winter, but only a few pairs remain to breed in the district.
- Chough (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*). Resident on the coast. Scarce.
- Raven (*Corvus corax*). Formerly to be met with in the Ox Mountains, and near Hollybrook. Nearly destroyed by poison.
- Grey Crow (*Corvus cornix*). Resident, but not common.
- Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*). Common and resident.
- Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*). Common and resident.
- Magpie (*Pica caudata*). Common and resident.
- Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*). Twice obtained.
- Tree Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*). Common and resident.
- Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*). Rare.
- Wren (*Troglodytes vulgaris*). Common and resident.
- Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*). Regular summer visitor.
- Kingfisher (*Alcedo ispida*). Occasionally seen.
- Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Regular summer visitor.
- House Martin (*Hirundo urbica*). Regular summer visitor.
- Sand Martin (*Cotyle riparia*). Regular summer visitor.
- Swift (*Cypselus apus*). Summer visitor.
- Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europæus*). Not uncommon near Markree.
- Wood-Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*). Common and resident.
- Rock-Pigeon (*Columba livia*). Common and resident in the caves on the coast.
- Turtle-Dove (*Columba turtur*). Very rare summer visitor.
- Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*). Introduced into the district, and is spreading widely throughout the country.
- Red Grouse (*Tetrao scoticus*). Common and resident.
- Partridge (*Perdix cinerea*). Resident, but is becoming very scarce.
- Quail (*Coturnix vulgaris*). Has become very rare, if not altogether extinct.
- Golden Plover (*Charadrius pluvialis*). Common and resident.
- Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*). Common, and resident around the coast.
- Grey Plover (*Squatarola cinerea*). Regular winter visitor to the coast.
- Lapwing (*Vanellus cristatus*). Common and resident.
- Turnstone (*Streptilas interpres*). Regular winter visitor.
- Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*). Regular winter visitor.
- Ruff (*Machetes pugnax*). Very rare.
- Sea Pie, or Oyster Catcher (*Hæmatopus ostralegus*). Common and resident.
- Heron (*Ardea cinerea*). Common and resident.
- Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*). Rare visitant. Is believed to have formerly bred in the county.



- Curlew (*Numenius arquata*). Common and resident.
- Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). Spring and autumn migrant.
- Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*). Once obtained.
- Redshank (*Totanus calidris*). Common and resident.
- Spotted Redshank (*Totanus fuscus*). Very rare winter visitor.
- Green Sandpiper (*Totanus ochropus*). Very rare winter visitor.
- Common Sandpiper (*Totanus hypoleucus*). A regular summer visitor to all the rivers and lakes.
- Greenshank (*Totanus glottis*). Common winter visitor.
- Avocet (*Recurvirostra avocetta*). Very rare.
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa belgica*). Rare winter visitor.
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa rufa*). Common winter visitor; very numerous, and occasionally some remain all through the summer without ever assuming the red plumage of summer.
- Curlew Sandpiper (*Tringa subarquata*). A winter visitor, occasionally seen.
- Dunlin (*Tringa alpina*). Common, and a few remain to breed in the high bogs along the mountains.
- Purple Sandpiper (*Tringa maritima*). A regular winter visitor to the coasts.
- Knot (*Tringa canutus*). A regular winter visitor to the sandy flats in the bays and estuaries.
- Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*). Common winter visitor, and remains to breed in increasing numbers in the eastern part of the county.
- Snipe (*Scolopax gallinago*). Common and resident.
- Jack Snipe (*Scolopax gallinula*). Winter visitor.
- Land-Rail (*Crex pratensis*). Regular summer visitor.
- Water-Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*). Common and resident.
- Water-Hen (*Gallinula chloropus*). Common and resident.
- Coot (*Fulica atra*). Common and resident.
- Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*). Rare.
- Wild Swans (*Cygnus ferus* and *bewickii*). Occasionally seen during hard winters.
- Bean Goose (*Anser segetum*). Rare.
- White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). The common Wild Goose of the district, some remaining as late as the 12th of May before leaving.
- Barnacle Goose (*Bernicla leucopsis*). Very rare, except near Lissadell, Drumcliff Bay, where they are regular winter visitors.
- Brent Goose (*Bernicla brenta*). Very rare in Tireragh, but a regular winter visitor to Sligo and Drumcliff Bays.
- Sheldrake (*Anas tadorna*). Common and resident, breeding in the rabbit holes of the sandhills on the coast.
- Wild Duck (*Anas boschas*). Common and resident.
- Gadwall (*Anas strepera*). Very rare winter visitor.

- Shoveller (*Anas clypeata*). Breeds on some of the lakes, but not numerous.
- Pintail (*Anas acuta*). Regular winter visitor, in small numbers.
- Teal (*Anas crecca*). Common and resident.
- Widgeon (*Anas penelope*). A regular winter visitor, in very large numbers.
- Eider Duck (*Somateria mollissima*). Very rare.
- Black Scoter (*Edemia nigra*). Frequents the open part of Killala Bay; rare elsewhere.
- Pochard (*Fuligula ferina*). Very rare.
- Scaup Duck (*Fuligula marila*). Occasionally seen, but not every year.
- Tufted Duck (*Fuligula cristata*). Common on the inland lakes.
- Golden-eyed Duck (*Anas clangula*). Regular winter visitor.
- Long-tailed Duck (*Anas glacialis*). An irregular winter visitor.
- Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*). Common and resident, breeding on the large lakes, especially on Lough Gill.
- Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*). Breeds in the south-east of the county.
- Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps cornutus*). Rare winter visitor.
- Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*). The rarest of the Grebes; very rare.
- Little Grebe (*Podiceps minor*). Common and resident.
- Great Northern Diver (*Colymbus glacialis*). Regular winter visitor.
- Black-throated Diver (*Colymbus arcticus*). Very rare winter visitor.
- Red-throated Diver (*Colymbus septentrionalis*). Regular winter visitor; common.
- Common Guillemot (*Uria troile*). Very common, breeding on the high cliffs round the coast; a few remain during winter.
- Black Guillemot (*Uria grylle*). Common and resident round the coasts.
- Little Auk (*Alca alle*). Occasional visitor; very rare.
- Razorbill (*Alca torda*). Common in summer, breeding on the high cliffs, but a few remain in winter.
- Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). Common; a few remain during winter.
- Common Cormorant (*Carbo cormoranus*). Common and resident.
- Green Cormorant (*Carbo cristatus*). Very common, and more numerous than the former, is strictly marine in its habits, never visiting the fresh-water lakes.
- Gannet (*Sula basana*). Frequently seen in Killala Bay, but has no breeding station on either the Sligo or Mayo coast.
- Sandwich Tern (*Sterna cantiaca*). The earliest of all the summer visitors, sometimes appearing on the 20th of March.
- Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*). Regular summer visitor, appearing first week of May.



- Arctic Tern (*Sterna arctica*). Summer visitor, arriving with the last named.
- Lesser Tern (*Sterna minuta*). Summer visitor to Killala Bay and the Moy estuary.
- Black Tern (*Sterna nigra*). Very rare.
- Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). Common and resident.
- Common Gull (*Larus canus*). Common ; but comparatively few remain to breed, though some do occasionally on fresh-water lakes.
- Kittiwake (*Larus rissa*). Common in summer, but few are seen in winter.
- Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). Common and resident.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). Not common, though resident.
- Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). Common and resident.
- Glaucous Gull (*Larus glaucus*). Rare winter visitor.
- Iceland Gull (*Larus Islandicus*). Very rare winter visitor.
- Pomatorhine Ska (*Lestris pomatorhinus*). Rare visitor.
- Richardson's Ska (*Lestris parasiticus*). Occasional autumn visitor, sometimes appearing in large flocks as they pass up the Moy and across the country to the south-west.
- Long-tailed Ska (*Lestris Buffonii*). Rare visitor.
- Fulmar (*Procellaria glacialis*). Seen occasionally.
- Common Shearwater (*Puffinus anglorum*). Occasionally seen in Killala Bay.
- Storm Petrel (*Thalassidroma pelagica*). Seen in Killala Bay, and has occasionally been found driven far inland by storms.

## APPENDIX M.

## HIGH SHERIFFS OF THE COUNTY SLIGO.

(Chap. 3, Stat. 3, 4, Philip & Mary, renewed Elizabeth 2, Chap. 9.)

*Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy of Ireland, in 1568, by virtue of the first of these Acts, constituted Sligo a county; but no Justices of Assize were sent into the county, which was left dependent on the discretion of a Governor, armed with all the power of the State. A sheriff does not appear to have been appointed until the year 1576, when Sir Henry Sidney, describing his proceedings with O'Conor Sligo, states that "he desired me to constitute a Sheriff in his countrie, wishinge rather a Forriner than any of the Soyles Brede, which I graunted and sent one with commission."*

1576	<i>No Roll.</i>	1602	<i>No Roll.</i>
1577	Richard Mac Swine.	1603	Teige O'Hara Boy.
	<i>Richard Savage, Sub-Sheriff.</i>	1604	William Taaffe.
1578	Thaddeus O'Hara.	1605	<i>No Roll.</i>
1579	<i>No Roll.</i>	1606	William Crofton.
1580	"	1607	Teig O'Hari (O'Hara).
1581	Brian O'Rorke.	1608	Teige O'Harrie.
1582	William Bourke.	1609	Josias Lambert.
1583	William Bourke.	1610	{ Josias Lambert.
1583	<i>No Roll.</i>		{ Sir William Taaffe.
1584	George Goodman.	1611	Roger Jones.
1585	George Bingham.	1612	John Sharpe.
1586	George Bingham.	1613	William Crofton.
1587	George Bingham.	1614	George Nugent.
1588	Richard Oge Bourke.	1615	Roger Jones.
1589	William Tathe.	1616	Walter Harrison.
1590	James Crean.	1617	James Stanghurst.
1591	Thomas Nolan.	1618	James Stanghurst.
1592	Thomas Woodes (Wood), Bally-	1619	George Wood, Killarra.
	mote Castle.	1620	Owen M'Dermott.
1593	Henry Bingham.	1621	Robert St. John.
1594	<i>No Roll.</i>	1622	George Crofton.
1595	"	1623	John Nowlan.
1596	"	1624	Sir John Taaffe.
1597	"	1625	Roger Jones.
1598	"	1626	Robert Crecy.
1599	"	1627	Jasper Brett.
1600	"	1628	Jasper Brett.
1601	"	1629	Andrew Crean.

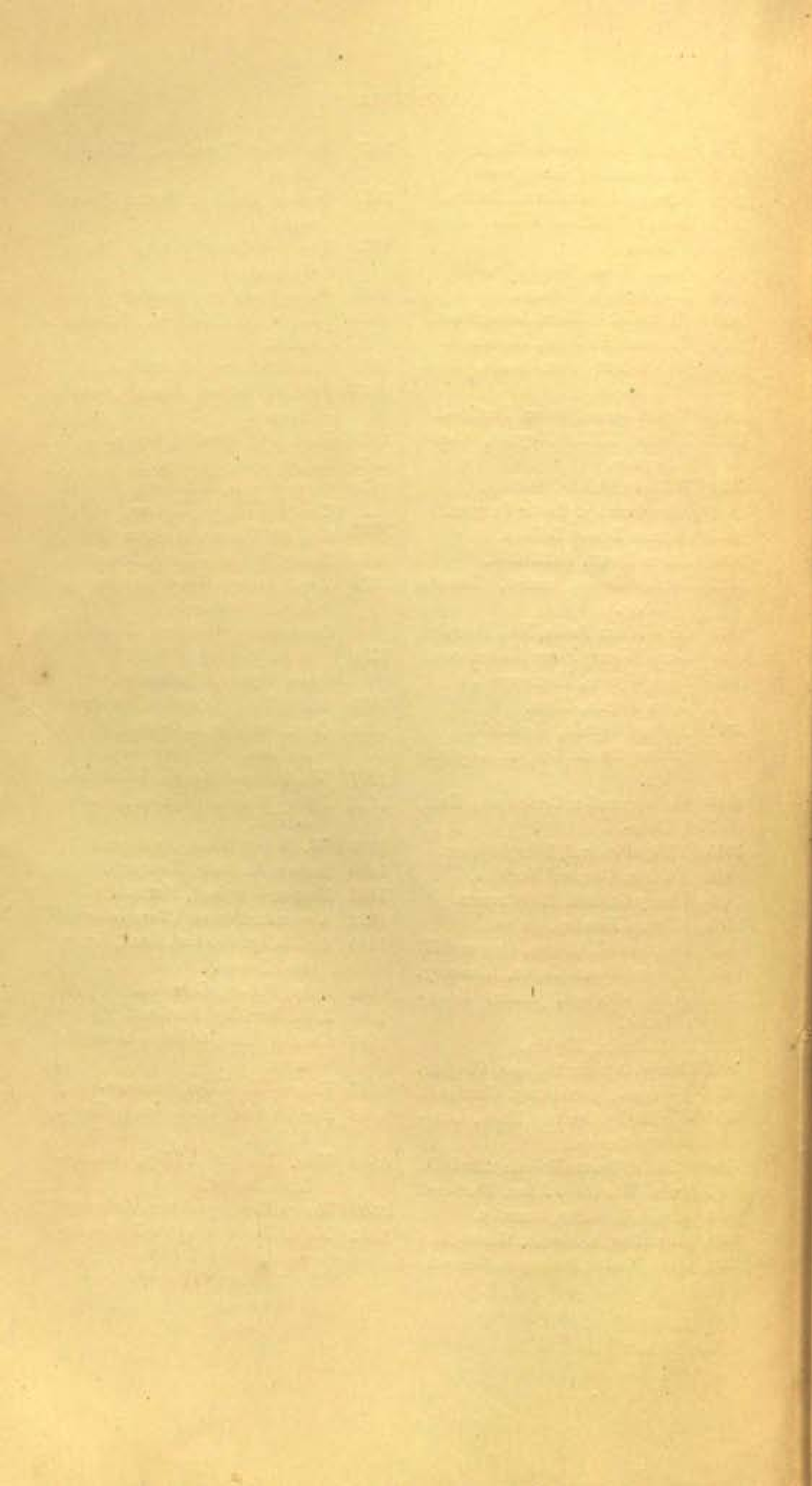


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|------|-----------------------------------|------|--|
| 1630 | Andrew Crean.                     | 1677 | Francis King, Knocklough.                        |
| 1631 | Sir Roger Jones, Knt.             | 1678 | Roger Smith, Cloverhill.                         |
| 1632 | Thomas Crofton.                   | 1679 | Roger Smith, Cloverhill.                         |
| 1633 | John Crofton.                     | 1680 | William Ormsby.                                  |
| 1634 | Teige O'Higgen.                   | 1681 | Sir Robert Gore, Knt., Artarmon.                 |
| 1635 | Jasper Brett.                     | 1682 | Sir Robert Gore, Knt., Artarmon.                 |
| 1636 | William Dodwell.                  | 1683 | Richard Wood, Castle Lackan.                     |
| 1637 | Thomas Crofton.                   | 1684 | Richard Wood, Castle Lackan.                     |
| 1638 | Thomas Crofton.                   | 1685 | Charles Collis, Tireragh.                        |
| 1639 | Kean O'Hara.                      | 1686 | William Parke, Dunally.                          |
| 1640 | James French.                     | 1687 | Henry Crofton, Longford Castle.                  |
| 1641 | Andrew Crean.                     | 1688 | Edward Crofton, Longford Castle.                 |
| 1642 | Andrew Crean.                     | 1689 | Edward Crofton, Longford Castle.                 |
| 1643 | James French.                     | 1690 | Henry Griffith.                                  |
| 1644 | Teighe O'Connor.                  | 1691 | William Nicholson, Ardtainmain.                  |
| 1645 | <i>No Roll.</i>                   | 1692 | Roger Smith, Cloverhill.                         |
| 1646 | "                                 | 1693 | Philip Ormsby.                                   |
| 1647 | "                                 | 1694 | Mathew Ormsby.                                   |
| 1648 | "                                 | 1695 | Adam Ormsby, Cummin.                             |
| 1649 | "                                 | 1696 | Robert Ffolliott, Hollybrook.                    |
| 1650 | "                                 | 1697 | Arthur Gore, Ardnaree.                           |
| 1650 | Thomas Crofton.                   | 1698 | Arthur Cooper, Tansyfort.                        |
| 1651 | Robert Parke.                     | 1699 | Percy Gethin, Sligo.                             |
| 1651 | <i>No Roll.</i>                   | 1700 | William Ormsby.                                  |
| 1652 | "                                 | 1701 | William Smith, Knocknasamer.                     |
| 1653 | "                                 | 1702 | Francis King, Ballindune.                        |
| 1654 | "                                 | 1703 | Kean O'Hara, Nymphsfield.                        |
| 1655 | Sir George St. George.            | 1704 | John Ormsby.                                     |
| 1656 | Robert Parke.                     | 1705 | William Harlowe, Rathmullin.                     |
|      | <i>John Howells, Sub-Sheriff.</i> | 1706 | James Soden, Grange.                             |
| 1657 | Robert Morgan.                    | 1707 | Thomas Jones, Ardnaglass.                        |
| 1658 | { Lewis Jones.                    | 1708 | Humphry Griffith, Sligo.                         |
|      | { Francis King.                   | 1709 | Samuel Hughes, Bunnanaden.                       |
| 1659 | John Booker.                      | 1710 | Roger Jones, Ardnaglass.                         |
| 1660 | John Booker.                      | 1711 | John King, Ballindune.                           |
| 1661 | Thomas Crofton.                   | 1712 | Mathew Ormsby, Belvoir.                          |
| 1662 | Thomas Crofton.                   | 1713 | Kean O'Hara, Nymphsfield.                        |
| 1663 | Lewis Wingfield.                  | 1714 | William Smith, Knocknasamer.                     |
| 1664 | Thomas Crofton.                   | 1715 | Francis Ormsby, Annagh.                          |
| 1665 | Thomas Crofton.                   | 1716 | Matthew Phibbs (Phillips, or Phipps), Kincrevan. |
| 1666 | Thomas Crofton.                   | 1717 | George Wood, Castle Laccan.                      |
| 1667 | Thomas Wood, Castle Laccan.       | 1718 | Joshua Cooper, Marcray.                          |
| 1668 | William Griffith.                 | 1719 | Richard Gore.                                    |
| 1669 | William Ormsby.                   | 1720 | Roger Park, Dunally.                             |
| 1670 | Robert Coppayne.                  | 1721 | George Ormsby, Belvoir.                          |
| 1671 | Edward Nicholson.                 | 1722 | Henry Irwin, Streamstown.                        |
| 1672 | Anthony Ormsby.                   | 1723 | Owen Wynne, Junior, Sligo.                       |
| 1673 | Thomas Radcliffe, Dublin.         | 1724 | Sir Richard Gethin, Bart., The Castle, Sligo.    |
| 1674 | Thomas Soden, Grange.             | 1725 | William Ormsby, Annagh.                          |
| 1675 | Jeremiah Jones, Ardnaglass.       |      |  |
| 1676 | Adam O'Hara, Colany.              |      |  |

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|---|---|
| 1726 Samuel Hughes, Bunnanaden.                           | 1775 Philip Percival, Templehouse.          |
| 1727 John Nicholson, Grange.                              | 1776 Henry Griffith, Sligo.                 |
| 1728 John Percival, Templehouse.                          | 1777 Henry Hughes.                          |
| 1729 John Dodd, Ballintogher.                             | 1778 James Gallagher, Gevagh.               |
| 1730 Edward Soden, Grange.                                | 1779 John Martin, Sligo.                    |
| 1731 John Irwin, Tanregoe.                                | 1780 Sir Percy Gethin, Bart., Sligo.        |
| 1732 Jeremiah Fury, Skreen.                               | 1781 William Phibbs, Hollybrook.            |
| 1733 William Cooper, Lisbrislane.                         | 1782 George Dodwell, Cheafpoole.            |
| 1734 John Knox, Sligo.                                    | 1783 Charles Costelloe, Edmonstown.         |
| 1735 Robert Ffolliott, Hollybrook.                        | 1784 Charles Wood, Leekfield.               |
| 1736 James Soden, Grange.                                 | 1785 Charles Kean O'Hara, Nymphsfield.      |
| 1737 Mitchelburn Knox, Sligo.                             | 1786 Andrew Kirkwood, Cottlestown.          |
| 1738 Blashford Hughes, Beechwood.                         | 1787 Henry Irwin, Streamstown.              |
| 1739 Thomas Ormsby, Aughamore.                            | 1788 Harloe Knott, Battlefield.             |
| 1740 Charles O'Hara, Nymphsfield.                         | 1789 William Gilmor, Ballyglass.            |
| 1741 Edward Nicholson, Dublin.                            | 1790 George Ormsby, Belvoir.                |
| 1742 John Percival, Templehouse.                          | 1791 Richard Wood, Garryduffe.              |
| 1743 Nicholas Ward, or Watt, Cloverhill or Knocknashamer. | 1792 Thomas Ormsby, Cummin.                 |
| 1744 Gilbert King, Jamestown.                             | 1793 William Barrett, Sligo.                |
| 1745 Owen Wynne, Hazlewood.                               | 1794 John Jones, Johnsport.                 |
| 1746 Lewis Ormsby, Strandhill.                            | 1795 Arthur Irwin, Willowbrook.             |
| 1747 Arthur Cooper, Tansyfort.                            | 1796 Charles Wood, Chapelfield.             |
| 1748 Cairncross Nesbit, Leitrim.                          | 1797 Thomas Ormsby, Castle Dargan.          |
| 1749 Thomas Jones, Ardnaglass.                            | 1798 James Wood, Leekfield.                 |
| 1750 Gilbert Trumbel, Aghmore.                            | 1799 Thomas Meredith, Cloonamahon.          |
| 1751 Jones Irwin, Streamstown.                            | 1800 Richard Phibbs.                        |
| 1752 Blashford Hughes, Bunnanaden.                        | 1801 Robert King Duke, Newpark.             |
| 1753 George Knox, Sligo.                                  | 1802 James Crofton, Longford.               |
| 1754 Philip Byrne, Cregg.                                 | 1803 William Griffith.                      |
| 1755 Christopher Jones, Carney.                           | 1804 Owen Phibbs.                           |
| 1756 Charles O'Hara, Nymphsfield.                         | 1805 Abraham Martin, Sligo.                 |
| 1757 William Ormsby, Willowbrook.                         | 1806 Sir Booth Gore, Bart., Lissadell.      |
| 1758 Owen Wynne, Hazlewood.                               | 1807 { Charles Martin, } Sligo.             |
| 1759 Gilbert Dodd, Ardagh.                                | { Michael Fenton, }                         |
| 1760 { Roger Dodwell (the younger),                       | 1808 Thomas Holmes, Farm Hill.              |
| { Henry Hughes, Beechwood.                                | 1809 Alexander Percival, Templehouse.       |
| 1761 Benjamin Burton, Carlow.                             | 1810 Charles Nesbit Knox, Scurmore House.   |
| 1762 Henry King, Beleek.                                  | 1811 Arthur Brook Cooper.                   |
| 1763 Joshua Cooper, Markree.                              | 1812 James Jones, Mount Edward.             |
| 1764 John French, French Park.                            | 1813 John Tyler, Sligo.                     |
| 1765 Francis Savage, Ballygawley.                         | 1814 Harlow Phibbs, Sligo.                  |
| 1766 Francis Knox, Rappa.                                 | 1815 Edward Nicholson, The Glen.            |
| 1767 Robert Browne, Fortland.                             | 1816 Arthur Irwin, Oakfield.                |
| 1768 William Ormsby, Willybrook.                          | 1817 John Armstrange, Chaffpool.            |
| 1769 Harlow Phibbs, Bloomfield.                           | 1818 William Bridges Neynoe, Castle Neynoe. |
| 1770 Malby Crofton, Longford.                             | 1819 Owen Wynne, Hazlewood.                 |
| 1771 Sir Robert Gore, Bart., Artarmon.                    | 1820 William Parke, Dunally.                |
| 1772 Robert Hillas, Seaview.                              | 1821 John Phibbs, Spotfield.                |
| 1773 Henry Thornton, Sligo.                               |   |
| 1774 Lewis Jones, Ardnaglass.                             |   |



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|------|--|------|--|
| 1822 | Colonel John Irwin, Tanragoe.                  | 1861 | Ed. King Tennison, Kilronan Castle.                              |
| 1823 | John Ffolliott, Hollybrook.                    | 1862 | Captain Abraham Martin, Cleve-<br>ragh.                          |
| 1824 | John Frederick Knox, Ballina.                  | 1863 | The O'Connor Don, M.P.,<br>Clonalis.                             |
| 1825 | Robert William Hillas, Cregg<br>House.         | 1864 | Pierce Simpson, Clooncorrig.                                     |
| 1826 | James Wood, Woodville.                         | 1865 | Charles P. Webber, Carrow-<br>cullen.                            |
| 1827 | John Gethin, Cottage.                          | 1866 | Peter O'Connor, Cairnsfoot.                                      |
| 1828 | Charles K. O'Hara, Annaghmore.                 | 1867 | Captain James Jones, Mount<br>Edward.                            |
| 1829 | Viscount Kirkwall, Earlsfield.                 | 1868 | Patrick C. Howley, Couga.  |
| 1830 | Sir Robert Gore-Booth, Bart.<br>Lissadell.     | 1869 | James Hale, Easkey.  |
| 1831 | Robert Jones, junior, Fortland.                | 1870 | Owen Cogan, Lakeview.  |
| 1832 | Edward Loftus Neynoe, Castle<br>Neynoe.        | 1871 | { Charles Costello, Kilfree.<br>Col. Ed. Cooper, Markree Castle. |
| 1833 | William Phibbs, Seafield.                      | 1872 | Henry W. Gore-Booth, Lissadell.                                  |
| 1834 | John Ormsby, Castle Dargan.                    | 1873 | Com. James Wood Armstrong,<br>R.N., Chaffpoole.                  |
| 1835 | Thomas Jones, Ballina.                         |      | { Commander Godfrey Brereton,<br>R.N., Easkey.                   |
| 1836 | James Knott, Battlefield.                      |      | { Owen Wynne, Hazlewood.   |
| 1837 | Daniel Jones, senior, Banada<br>Abbey.         | 1875 | Richard J. Verscoyle, Tanragoe.                                  |
| 1838 | Sir William Parke, Kt., Dunally.               | 1876 | Capt. William J. Griffith, Castle<br>Neynoe.                     |
| 1839 | Daniel Henry Farrel, Beechwood.                | 1877 | W. G. Wood-Martin, Woodville.                                    |
| 1840 | John Wynne, Hazlewood.                         | 1878 | John Francis Walker, Rath-<br>carrick.                           |
| 1841 | John Martin, Sligo.                            | 1879 | W. Robert Orme, Enniscrone.                                      |
| 1842 | Richard Gethin, Earlsfield.                    | 1880 | Robert A. Duke, Newpark.   |
| 1843 | Arthur Brook Cooper, Coopers-<br>hill.         | 1881 | Harper Campbell, Hermitage.                                      |
| 1844 | Sir Alexander Creighton, Knt.,<br>Dirke.       | 1882 | Alexander Perceval, Templehouse.                                 |
| 1845 | Philip Percival, Templehouse.                  | 1883 | Sir Malby Crofton, Bart., Long-<br>ford House.                   |
| 1846 | Ed. Jos. Cooper, Markree.                      | 1884 | Owen Phibbs, Corradoo.   |
| 1847 | Henry Griffith, Ballytivnen.                   | 1885 | J. L. Brinkley, Fortland.  |
| 1848 | Edward Howley, Beleek.                         | 1886 | Charles Kean O'Hara, Annagh-<br>more.                            |
| 1849 | Charles W. Cooper, Coopershill.                | 1887 | Robert W. Hillas, Seaview.                                       |
| 1850 | Bernard Owen Cogan, Lisconny.                  | 1888 | Sir Charles Knox Gore, Bart.,<br>Belleek.                        |
| 1851 | John Ffolliott, junior, Holly-<br>brook.       | 1889 | Hon. Evelyn Ashley, Classis-<br>bawn Manor.                      |
| 1852 | John Irwin, Elphin.                            | 1890 | Henry Hastings Jones, Ardnaree.                                  |
| 1853 | Joseph Arthur Holmes, Clogher.                 | 1891 | Major James Campbell, Crann-<br>more.                            |
| 1854 | George J. Armstrong, Chaffpool.                |      |  |
| 1855 | Sir Malby Crofton, Bart., Long-<br>ford House. |      |  |
| 1856 | Richard Graves Brinkley, Ardagh.               |      |  |
| 1857 | John Wingfield King, Fortland.                 |      |  |
| 1858 | Roger C. Parke, Dunally.                       |      |  |
| 1859 | Cornelius A. Keogh, Geevagh.                   |      |  |
| 1860 | John Woulfe Flanagan, Drumdo.                  |      |  |





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THE END.





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Revised by F.W. JOYCE, LL.D., M.R.I.A.

