

STATISTICAL SURVEY  
OF THE  
COUNTY OF MAYO,  
WITH  
OBSERVATIONS

ON  
THE MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT;

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

BY  
*JAMES M'PARLAN, M. D.*

*Dublin.*

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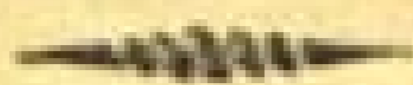
TO THE READER.

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

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

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

# DEDICATION.



TO

*THE MARQUIS OF SLIGO.*

MY LORD,

I THANK you for permitting me to inscribe to your Lordship this Statistical Report of the County of Mayo, for two reasons; the first is, that, during your Lordship's hospitable civilities to me at Westport-house, you had given and procured me much information to compose it; and the second is, that, as the most extensive farmer in Connaught, perhaps in Ireland, you are entitled to a selection on this subject.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's obliged

And most obedient Servant,

*JAMES M'PARLAN.*



## P R E F A C E.

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THE prodigious extent of this county rendered it necessary to make a baronial distinction in describing every individual article. The *soil and surface*, for instance—*mode of culture*, &c. are so different in most of the baronies, that, in traversing this immense county, I noted down, and ranged under each head, all the baronies separately, so that, at one view, the mode of culture appears, as practised in Tyrawley, Kilmaine, &c. and so on.

The half barony of Erris being almost detached from the rest of the county, and a separate and distinct country, not only in point of situation and connection, but also, materially differing in mode  
of



of agriculture, in pasture, &c. I have been obliged to treat by itself, in all its branches, as if a county at large.

Mayo being the remotest part of Ireland from intercourse with the interior of the kingdom and the capital, I myself felt a considerable degree of pleasure in visiting it, and of curiosity in observing the genius of the pure natives, and the degree of advancement, in social manners, of the upper ranks, as well as their improvement in other points, which it was the duty of my undertaking to unfold. And knowing, that others are curious as well as myself, I shall briefly observe, that the upper ranks are, in manners and customs, just like the gentry of the other parts of the kingdom. There is a slow broadness of provincial accent, and some peculiar singularity of deportment, which marks those, who had not been much out of the country.

No particular degree of ferocity, or grossness of ignorance, identifies the natives; and the arts, sciences, and cultivation of every kind, seem  
diffused

diffused here among all ranks, as throughout the kingdom.

But uncultivated exotic animals will every where, as well as here, disgrace society, while others could ornament the proudest and most refined of nations.

The native urbanity, that every where distinguishes the Irish peasant, and the desire to oblige, is no where more conspicuous than here.

Conceiving the arrangement of the different subjects, as made by the Dublin Society, a good one, I have adopted and adhered to it as much as possible. It is prefixed to this Report.

This Report, though dictated by the gentlemen of the county, is not offered as perfect. It is, after publication, like all those of the other counties, to be submitted to the perusal and improvement of the principal gentlemen of Mayo, whose suggestions and alterations shall, in the next edition of this Report, be received, and treated with due attention and respect.

In transcribing the notes, which I had taken in the different baronies, I found, under some heads, a teasing tautology; to avoid which I have, in some instances, given the instructions I received, and observations I made, at once, without going into this division.

I have adopted Dr. Beaufort's map, which, till an actual survey takes place, I conceive to be the best. To this map I have added some roads. It is probable, before this Report shall again have been printed, that an actual map, which is in contemplation, will appear, which will remove every inaccuracy or defect on that head.

SUGGESTIONS



# SUGGESTIONS OF ENQUIRY

FOR GENTLEMEN WHO SHALL UNDERTAKE THE FORMING OF

## *AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS.*

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### GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

Situation and Extent,

Divisions,

Climate,

Soil and Surface,

Minerals,

Water.

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### AGRICULTURE.

Mode of culture,

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

Course of crops,

Use of oxen—how harnessed,

Nature and use of implements of husbandry,

Markets for grain,

Use of green food in winter.

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### PASTURE.

Nature of it.

Breed of cattle—how far improved,

————— how far capable of further improvement,

Markets or Fairs for them,

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

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### FARMS.

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

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### GENERAL SUBJECTS.

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

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



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### ERRATA.

- Page 18, line 9, for *owes* read *yields*.  
Page 21, line 21, for *off* read *of*.  
Page 79, line 15, join instead of disjoining *peat-moss*.  
Page 138, line 19, after the words *I have*, read *chiefly*.  
Page 159, line 10, for *hardy* read *handy*.

Days of Breachers

COUNTY  
of  
MAYO

BROAD  
HAYES

MILLALLA  
RAY

TIRAWLY

URISH HOLE

GALDEN  
COSTELLO

NEWPORT  
or  
CLEW RAY

CARRAUGH

GLO MORRIS

MORRIS

KILMAINE

Irish Miles





## STATISTICAL SURVEY

OF THE

## COUNTY OF MAYO.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND MODERN CIRCUMSTANCES.

*Situation and Extent.*

THE County of Mayo constitutes about one square degree of the surface of this kingdom. For, from Downpatrick Head, north, to the bridge of Shrule, south of Ballinrobe, cannot be less than sixty miles, and from the bridge of Lung, near Balladerreen, to the sea, west of Newport Pratt, about fifty, exclusive of twenty-five miles from thence to the north west of Erris, which would extend that direction to seventy-five miles. It is bounded, on the north and west, by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the south and east, by Sligo, Roscommon, and Galway.

Castlebar, the principal town, is forty miles south west of Sligo and thirty four north of Galway.

Long. 9. 8. W. Greenwich, Lat 53. 50. N.



*Divisions.*

It is divided into nine Baronies, Tyrawley, Carra, Burrishool, Erris, Murrisk, Kilmaine, Clanmorris, Costello, Gallen. Their situation, connexion, extent, soil, &c. shall appear separately under respective heads. Those nine baronies contain sixty-two parishes.

*Climate.*

The northwest situation of this county, its proximity to the ocean, the immense tracts of bogs, and the highest mountains of the kingdom, cause a proportional degree of moisture, rain, and cold compared to the more southern and interior part of the kingdom, not so much however, as to cause any endemic disorders, or to require any peculiar warmth of dress.

*Soil and Surface.*

The soil and surface of the whole county is so very extensive, and differs so exceedingly, no general description

description could ever give a correct idea of them; after mentioning, under the following article, the connexion, situation, and extent of the several baronies, the describing, under the subsequent one, their soil and surface will exhibit a tolerable view of the whole.

PARTICULAR SITUATION, CONNEXION, AND EXTENT  
OF THE SEVERAL BARONIES.

*Barony of Tyrrawley,*

Is situated on the north of the county, bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the north, mountains of Erris on the west, on the south by the barony of Carra, and on the east by the river Moy, which divides it from the county of Sligo and the barony of Gallen; it is about twenty-eight miles long by sixteen broad.

*Barony of Burrishkeel,*

Is about forty miles long from east to west, that is, from Rehil Head to Berincarra mountain, and thirty broad from north to south, that is, from Rossow southward to Ballycroy, including the mountains north. It is bounded on the north by Erris,

on the south by the barony of Murrisk, on the east by the barony of Tyrrawley, and Carra, and on the west by Clare Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean.

*Barony of Murrisk,*

Is twenty-four miles long from Driminduff to Ogoule, and twelve broad from Rofsbeg to Erriff; the Killery bay, and some of the mountains, of that name, divide it south from Galway; the ocean bounds it on the north and west, and on the east the barony of Burrishoole.

*Barony of Kilmaine,*

Is bounded on the east, and south, by the county of Galway, and part of Clanmorris barony, and on the north and west, by parts of Clanmorris and Carra. It is about eighteen miles square.

*Barony of Costello.*

The extent of this barony is in length from Cloonlis, mearing the county of Sligo, to Dunmacreeny  
in



in the county of Galway, upwards of thirty miles, north and south; and in breadth, from Banada, which mears the county Roscommon, to the bridge of Ballahooly, which divides it from Clanmorris, above twenty miles east and west.

*Barony of Carra,*

Is twenty miles long, from the famous gap of Barnagee, which here divides it from Tyrawley, to the lake of Loughmask, in the county of Galway; and fourteen miles broad, from Ballinafad to the coach gap, turning to Mr. Browne's, in the barony of Murrisk.

*Barony of Clanmorris,*

Is fourteen miles long from east to west, from north to south about seven; it is bounded by the barony of Carra on the north and west, by Costello on the east, and by Galway on the south.

*Barony of Gallen.*

This barony is sixteen miles long, from the bridge of Cloonfala to Ballybroony, and thirteen miles

in

in breadth, from Kilmore to Cragga; bounded on the south by Costello, on the north by Tyrawley and the county of Sligo, and on the west by Carra and Clanmorris,

*Barony of Erris,*

Shall be treated of by itself, in all particulars,

**SOIL AND SURFACE OF THE DIFFERENT BARONIES,**

*Barony of Tyrawley.*

From Ballina to Killalla, the soil is remarkably various; some deep and rich about Ballina; there for three miles to the Moyne, moory and poor.

The Moyne, about Killalla, down the Laggan, to the sea, except some moory mixtures, are all a dark brown, sandy, and gravelly loam, most of it on a limestone bottom.

The soil of Moyne is a ruddle red, and still of a peculiarly rich quality, on limestone rock and gravel; which redness, therefore, cannot be ascribable to a ferruginous tincture, but to an admixture of bituminous matter. Some other grounds, in the neighbourhood,



hood, have a tilly redness, but they are not only so in colour, but in quality.

The distance from Ballina, to the sea north, is about fifteen miles, including the Laggan; and from the river Moy, east, to the mountains of Erris, west, from twelve to fourteen miles, seven miles of which breadth is mountain, on Tyrawley side.

The champaign parts of this scope are interspersed with several gentlemen's seats, very prettily situated, in view of the sea; the Moy and Rathfran rivers, the points of land, and broken islands of the sea, enliven and improve those views.

Palmerstown, the seat of Mr. Palmer, is beautifully situated in very fine views of this scene.

Summerhill, the seat of Captain Palmer, enjoys its share of those beauties; and so do many others.

In travelling south west from Kilcummen Head, where the French landed, the grounds swell for a few miles into high hills, the tops of which are covered with heath; the sides and vallies green, and some remarkably fertile. But these hills soon degenerate into black mountains, which stretch about seven miles deep, all along the north west border of Tyrawley; meeting, as they proceed, the mountains of Erris, in a run of about twenty-five miles.

In going southward, from those mountainy hills, through the interior of the barony, as far as Loughcon lake, on the border of which I am now writing, one



is induced to esteem it, not only a good country for tillage and pasture, as shall appear more particularly under the respective heads on those subjects, but even handsome, in point of natural beauties, gentlemen's seats, and improvements.

Colonel Cuffe's very extensive and handsome demesne and house are situated to very great advantage, in some very fine views of the Deel river, Loughcon lake, and the distant mountain of Nefin, and some others. The prospect, from the top of the castle, is exceedingly picturesque. This seat is called Deel Castle. Mr. Ormsbys' house, Colonel Jackson's, and Captain O'Donnel's little villa, enjoy every advantage of situation on this lake.

In this neighbourhood is Abbeytown, the seat of Mr. Wm. Orme, on the Deel water; the demesne is of prime quality, and supplies the house abundantly with the usual necessaries. It is very neatly enclosed, and its chearful aspect announces the good humour of the mansion. Within a few miles of all those places, Mr. Paget has built an excellent house at Knockglafs, and is every day enlarging a good demesne, by reclaiming rivers and bogs; there are also several others.

Farther westward, near Mount Nefin, is Carrukeel, the charming villa of Captain Burke; it is exquisitely neat, and in a most romantic situation. Hereabout, in this direction, is terminated the green  
part

part of the barony of Tyrawley. Here rises into the clouds the noted mountain of Nefin, to a height of about 2,500 feet; and north and south lies scattered, to an extent of upwards of sixty miles, a continued tract of subordinate mountains, terminating, on the one hand, in Erris, and, on the other, in the Oxmountains, near Ballyfadare, in the county of Sligo. Those mountains are not only of prodigious extent in length, but also in breadth, as shall appear under the head of mountains, &c.

I now write this, after travelling them about twelve miles across, from the north east of Nefin to Newport, without any variety to relieve the eye, except the great and delightful glen of Bohedoon, and the extensive woods, that sweep along the windings of Colnabinne river. All this suddenly appears in descending to the west of Nefin. The river, at first sight, for a quarter of a mile down this glen, glares through the wood. And the banks of the river, as much as the leaves and branches disclose, are tinged with a verdure of exquisite hue. The woods sometimes branch away, from the river, along the glens of Nefin, and sometimes expand into wide skirtings along the base of the mountain.

This sort of scenery entertains the traveller for a couple of miles, till after sloping away a considerable distance from the glen, Beltra-lake makes its ap-



pearance, and soon afterwards the islands of Newport-bay and the town.

This town is prettily situated, and ships of considerable burden come up to some of the doors; the harbour is safe and excellent, but any little trade, that was, is removed almost entirely to Westport. This is in the

*Barony of Burrisbool.*

The soil is here a deep gravelly, mostly moory loam, pretty good for tillage, in which it may be said to be exclusively employed. The face of the champaign part of this barony is entirely composed of high hills, of a spheroido-conical shape, and intervening valleys, of an extent always proportionate to the magnitude of the hills. With little, if any exception, they are all a reclaimed moor. In looking around those hills, they appear a russet grey wilderness, for want of houses, which are all built in the vallies to elude the western storms.

West of Newport, the ocean has insinuated itself among those hills. Here the views are, no doubt, pretty. But, when imagination laments the want of the gorgeous plumage of the woods and forests, which here would accomplish a charming scenery, the effect subsides in frigid admiration.



In point of sea and land, this scenery extends to Westport, in the barony of

*Murrisk,*

With this difference, that, after departing some short distance from Newport, the hills become of a mountainous quality, and the vallies are bogs. This town is pretty, already of some importance in trade, and improving rapidly every day. With very little exception, it may be stated, that the whole face of the country from Newport, by Westport, to Killery bay, and mountains, which there divide this county and barony from Galway, a scope of twenty-four miles long by twelve broad, is either mountain, a mixt mountaining moor, or else reclaimed from the one or the other.

In describing the aspect of this barony, it would be unfair not to state the prodigious quantities of reclaimed grounds, in the neighbourhood of Westport, those particularly of the Marquis of Sligo. Among those is his very extensive demesne, which had been every foot reclaimed, either by himself or his ancestors. It is now a noble retreat, in the highest luxuriance of cultivation and production. The few woods, that are, and groves are arranged with

excellent advantage and taste; all charmingly situated on the bay of Westport or Clew bay. The house is a superb pile. It sees, and is seen, in some very fine views. The bay gradually expands into an open sea; speckled with islands, (alas they are naked!), for a distance of seven miles and upwards, where Clare Island rises in high authority, to oppose their further intercepting the commerce of the Ocean.

On the south of this bay the famous mountain of Croagh-Patrick, said to be the highest of this kingdom, raises his conic culmen above the clouds. It was off this mountain, St. Patrick is said to have tumbled into the sea all the venemous serpents and creatures of the island. It is on this mountain that the bare feet of his votaries, so numerous have they always been and are, have excavated a path on its rocky face, to do penance on its top by fasting, praying, and circuiting certain rounds on the bare knees; staining, in this slow march, the sharp stones and gravel with their blood, thus gushing out by the fervor of innocent superstition!!

Growing woods on those mountains and islands is generally thought impossible. I must beg leave to differ with those, who think so, because I see in situations of this country, the most exposed to western storms, roots and trunks of trees, which certainly had grown where they now lie dead; and because I every where see, when pains are taken in sheltering and thick planting,



planting, that trees and woods do prosper. And this I am here the more anxious to impress, because I am convinced, if all the islands here were planted and decorated, and the necessary parts of the banks and mountains wooded and improved, the bay of Westport could easily exceed any thing of the kind in Europe, the bay of Naples not excepted.

The rude and russet scope, however, as mentioned extending from the western limits of this barony to the county of Galway, is intersected with good roads. The mountains are naturally dry and absorbent: limestone is no where very inconvenient; they are all, of consequence, easily reclaimable.

In traversing this tract, the traveller feels refreshed while passing the extensive woods of the Marquis of Sligo. Woods are every where delightful; but one of those in particular, the Brackloon wood, viewed from Davy's-stone-rock, and viewed in such a country too, is singularly interesting.

To convey any idea of this to one, who had not seen the mountain of Croagh-Patrick, it must be premised, that its form divides itself into two parts,—the base, which is composed of several irregular mountains rising to a considerable height, upon which rises the second part, in the form of a cone, to a prodigious height among the clouds. Good, though, perhaps, in this not very exact, authority says 2,666 feet.

In this view, taken from Davy's-stone-rock, the cone *only* appears, and one orbicular subordinate hill; the  
base



base being in this point completely surrounded by the Brackloon woods, which sweep along the windings of the river of that name, reflecting in the smooth parts of its glide, and multiplying those objects, which it seemed to boast.

This coup d'oeil terminates, on the north, in a perspective glance at the bay, and some of the islands of Westport, and, on the south, in some high and distant mountains. It is certainly no prostitution of the words *sublime* and *beautiful*, to apply them here.

The whole extent from Westport to Castlebar, in the

### *Barony of Carra,*

Except some skirtings about the lake of Rahins, a distance of eight miles, is, on all sides, either bog, mountain, mixed mountainy pasture, or reclaimed; the reclaimed part, compared to the whole, is very inconsiderable, *although the roads, in all this line, are paved with limestone!*

I got within a couple of miles of Castlebar by the road laid down by Taylor and Skinner, before any thing, but the general complexion above described, could engage observation, though I anxiously looked for the lake of Rahins, which a very refined judge, and well acquainted with the beauties of Europe, told me was pretty. But, on enquiry, I found another road

turned

turned off along the north side of the lake, by the demesne of Mr. Browne, of Rahins; upon which I turned round the whole lake. I seldom perceived myself more gratified. Some of Mr. Palmer's woods ornament the approach to the west end of the lake. It is here one first sees the house, and some of the demesne of Rahins, over a considerable portion of the lake, and some wooded islands. This very pretty view takes in the ruins of an old church, which decks the border of a fine field encroaching on the lake and islands. In proceeding eastward, the pleasing variety of aspect, which this lake assumes, and those islands, soon fetch a nearer view of Rahins, and a fine perspective of the spire and town of Castlebar. The demesne itself of Rahins, nearly on a level with the lake, is very handsome.

I cannot determine whether this lake, or some of the others I have seen, may be the prettiest. The various faces of inanimate, as well as animated nature, have their various features of attraction, and the Author of nature very kindly ordained they should; because the instability of human affairs and events must eternally cause such a round of vicissitude, as to entail inevitable corroding pain on that mind, which could not accommodate itself to new faces and new fields. I acknowledge myself, that, though I have seen the lake of Geneva, those of Westmoreland, Munster, Ulster, and Connaught, I have feasted luxuriously on the lake of Rahins.



The soil and surface, however, of this barony, varies very much. From Barnagee to Castlebar, in all that line, about five miles are either moor, mountain, or reclaimed. From Castlebar to Ballyhaine, a deep rich soil, mostly on a limestone bottom. From Ballyhaine to Partry, a scope of eight miles, the soil is gravelly and rich, though light, over limestone. But then, from Partry to Lough-mask, fifteen miles long by six broad, is a rank mountain, but very little inhabited. As the qualities of those baronies, for tillage and pasture, are treated under separate articles, it would only tease to enumerate them here.

About one half of this barony seems to have either been originally good soil, or has been very well reclaimed; and the green parts are ornamented with several gentlemen's seats.

The improvements, which Colonel Fitzgerald has laid out for a large house, which he is building at Turla, seem to be planned and executed with exquisite taste. Tower-hill, Moor-hall, Raheens, Breaffy, Portroyal, Clogher, and many others, have their several ornaments, and share in giving the country a lively handsome air.



*Barony of Clanmorris.*

The soil in general deep, rich, dark-brown, on a limestone bottom, and not chequered with moor or mountain, except very little on the north and east.

The surface is very fine and champaign looking, in many places adorned by gentlemens' seats: Lieut. Colonel Browne's handsome seat of Brown-hall; Mr. Lynch's, of Moat; Mr. Lynch's, of Bulybeg; Mr. Kirkwood's, of Cottlestown; Colonel Browne's very fine old seat of Castlemagarret, &c. &c.

*Barony of Gallen.*

The soil is here light and moory, surrounded, north and east, by tracts of mountain and wide seas of bog; dotted in some places with rocky islands. It is, notwithstanding, fringed and interspersed with small portions of good ground. Mr. Joice's demesne, of Oxford, is of excellent quality; Mr. M'Manus's of Barley-hills, Mr. Ormsby's, and those of a few others. On the east and north it is very rocky.

*Barony of Kilmaine,*

Is a fine, champaign, rich-looking country; a limestone gravelly soil, fit for light cattle and tillage. On the west and south it is very rocky, and only fit for pasture. Many small spots, however, are cultivated among those rocks; and the pasturage of them, intermixed with hazel brushwood, is the best fattening land in the barony.

Mr. Lindsey's very pretty seat of Hollymount, near the town of that name, owes no small embellishment to this part of the country. Bloomfield, Port-royal, the Heath, French-grove, &c. give a chearful improved air to this fine country.

*Barony of Costello.*

The soil and surface of the whole barony, with few exceptions, is either bog, reclaimed moor, or mountain. Those exceptions are Edmondstown, the seat of Mr. Costello; about the town of Balladerrin; at Lung and Cloonmore, where some good grounds are to be seen. Between Ballyhavness and Donmacreeny there are some green grounds; and in that line, towards Bacon and Clare, there is a green aspect; but the soil is very light, of a moory quality, and seems to have been reclaimed.

*Minerals.*

*Minerals.*

To explore, with any degree of accuracy, all the mountains of Mayo, would take an active pedestrian at least two or three years. It is pity Mr. Stuart, or some person charged only with that sole object, had not been sent among those ranges of mountain, which, from what I have seen, and what may justly be conjectured, must teem with vast quantities of most sorts of minerals.

On the lands of Crofs, in Erris, is abundance of iron ore.

On the lands of Tallaghan, north of the Mullet two miles, iron-works had formerly been erected by Sir Arthur Sheane. They have been discontinued for want of fuel; charred turf, which had been tried, not having been found to answer.

In the bed of a river called Clooneer river, on those very lands, a profusion of iron ore lies scattered.

At Mullinmore, on a branch of the Deel Water, which runs three miles under ground in its descent from the mountains, are the ruins of iron-works, on the banks of Lough-con, formerly worked by a Mr. Rutledge: he left off the works when all the woods were burned out. Here is a large heap of iron ore, in



small lumps of a beautiful red colour, which to me appeared singular, as all the ore, I had seen in Leitrim, Roscommon, and the other mountains, was of a dark brown rusty colour. This was found in the adjacent mountains, that particularly called the Deel mountain.

On the estate of the Marquis of Sligo, in the barony of Murrisk, are vast quantities of iron ore.

A variety of indications almost demonstrate the existence of coal in the mountains of Derinkee, seven miles from Westport; the iron ore, the granite, ochre, which is here in great abundance, and of good quality—the ferruginous scum of the lakes and rivers—all seem to shew those mountains to abound with coal.

In the mountains of Glanmore, four miles about south of Westport, are extensive beds of manganese.

Here is also a slate quarry, at which two hundred men are every day employed; the depth of it and extent are immeasurable: those slates are divided into three classes of goodness. The first of those may safely be stated to exceed any exported from England.

Very near the slate quarry, are great rocks of the *petrosilex semipellucidus*, the hornstein of the Germans; they are used for grinding calcined flint; and have also, in England, been used for potteries.

In an adjoining hill is visible the *terra ponderosa*, in its opaque form.

Mr. Williams, who manages those matters for the Marquis of Sligo, has already shipped off cargoes of  
the

the manganese, slates, and ochre, for the English markets. Those are, most probably, the first cargo of those materials exported from Ireland to England.

In Slieu-Carn, barony of Clanmorris, there is much indication of coal.

On the estates of Mr. Costello, of Edmondstown, are the strongest indications of coal and iron ore. Here are quarries of excellent building freestone, and another quarry of grey stone, which takes a polish, and gives the finest edge: the freestone in every part; the grey stone in the hill of Bocca. Here also are great quantities of pipe and brick-clays.

#### *Water.*

The principal lakes of Mayo are,

*Lough-carra.* It is in the barony of Carra; a very pretty lake, five miles long, and two and a half broad, with wooded peninsulæ and islands.

*Lough-mask,* in the barony of Kilmaine. This lake is about twelve miles long, and the average breadth three. This cannot be said to belong entirely to Mayo, as, about five miles off, it extends into the county of Galway.

*Lough Corrib.* The bare right of mentioning this lake only belongs to us, as it may be said to belong, almost exclusively, to Galway; for only a small skirt of it touches on Mayo, in the barony of Kilmaine, at

Cong,



Cong, where it forms a celebrated communication, under ground, with Lough-mask.

*Lake of Rabins.* This very pretty lake is partly in the barony of Murrisk, and partly in Carra. It is about seven miles long, and from one to two broad; it is sometimes called Castlebar lake, because the eastern extremity of it comes very near the town.

*Lough-com.* Is a very handsome piece of water, in the barony of Tyrawley. It is about nine miles long by four broad; it is in some views prettily interspersed with islands, castles, abbeys; and the banks, in many places, handsomely decorated with gentlemens' seats, and some woods. There are many other little lakes of inferior note, such as Beltra lake, Dawrus, and others.

Here is also a species of temporary lakes; they are pieces of water, which, in winter, cover great extents of excellent grounds, and do a great deal of damage, called *Turlows*. With humble deference to the more experienced in the art of draining, I should beg to suggest, that, on the plain principle of perforating to a pervious and absorbent stratum, the work could be accomplished of doing a vast deal of service to this country.

The principal rivers are the Robe and Black river, Erriff river, the Deel, and the Moy.

Such of those as are navigable, or could be rendered so, or subservient to canals, shall be mentioned under the chapter on navigations and navigable rivers.



## AGRICULTURE.

I am sorry to be able to state, of the county at large, that agriculture is still in a very backward state, and in no very great progress of improvement, except by the Marquis of Sligo, Colonel Browne of Castle-magarret, and three or four more.

From these sources, however, by degrees, it may be hoped improvement will extend itself to the ignorant and remote parts of this wild and extensive world.

*Mode of Culture.*

The mode of culture, though improved, is still very bad, except among very few of the gentlemen. The ploughs and harrows are of the old bad kind, very badly constructed, and the work miserably executed. Of this a singular instance occurred in the demesne of Castle-magarret. A large field, one of the nearest in tillage to the house, had been last summer let out to rest, quite exhausted by a long succession of the usual crops of the country. The Colonel, being obliged to remain from home with his regiment, procured an English gentleman, whose name I am sorry to forget, to superintend and regulate his farming affairs. It instantly occurred to this gentleman, on seeing the ploughs

ploughs and implements, with which this field had been tilled, that, if it had any depth of soil, those ploughs must have left a great part of it untouched; upon which the depth was, upon examining it, found to be two feet and upwards deep, of the richest quality. Instantly an English plough was set to work; the marrow of the virgin earth, which lay undisturbed since the last convulsion of those seas and mountains, was brought into action and use—so much so, that, when I saw this field in the middle of December last, it was covered, without any manure, with the most luxuriant crop of the largest cabbages I ever saw.

This mode of culture, however, such as it is, I shall proceed to describe, under its baronial divisions. It is said, in law there is no tautology, because repetition is useful and necessary; and, on the same ground, if it should occur here, I must beg leave for its excuse.

#### *Barony of Tyrrawley.*

The culture of potatoes here is in broad ridges, now commonly called lazy-beds; in some very few places, with the plough and drilling: that of grain, except in bogs, always with the plough and harrow.

*Barony*

*Barony of Burrisbool.*

All with the spade in the whole barony; there are not more than five or six ploughs. Part of Lord Sligo's demefne runs into it, which is the only exception to the statement.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

In the champaign parts, which, compared to the great tracts of mountain it contains, are few and little, the plough is used; in the mountainy parts, the spade. Drill, and every species of tillage, has been here extensively and successfully practised by the Marquis of Sligo.

*Barony of Carra.*

All the grain cultured with the plough; potatoes with the loy.

*Barony of Clannorris.*

All here is done with the plough, potatoe-tillage, as well as corn; with this difference, however, that



they afterwards mince, dress, and finish with the loy, which, experience proves to the people, encreases the crops very much.

The potatoes are planted by dibbling with the loy, sometimes with a sharp-pointed wooden instrument; but this last practice is almost exploded. The common people plough four horses abreast; the leader holds his horses, and walks backward. In hurrying the horses, this leader generally strikes them in the face, by which confusion and delay are always produced, instead of expedition, until the horses get well trained to this aukwardness. Colonel Browne plants potatoes in the drill way, and every species of tillage and husbandry is now executed for him in the neatest and most improved manner.

#### *Barony of Gallen.*

In this barony, where the rockiness of the champagne parts admits the plough, it is used; where it does not, and among the bogs, the loy culture is resorted to.

#### *Barony of Kilmaine.*

A great part of this fine country being very rocky, obliges the people to use the loy; but the plough also  
plies

plies here in great plight, that is, in their own way; for it is found impossible to get the common people out of their old habits of ploughing their horses four abreast.

*Barony of Costello.*

There is in this barony some little degree of improvement in its mode of tillage. But still the implements of husbandry, and execution of the work, are both of a very inferior kind; in the mountainy parts being too soft for horses, and also in many other parts, which are too rocky, the spade is used; the plough in the open parts of the country, which are not very many.

This very bad description, however, does not apply to Mr. Costello, and a few other gentlemen, residents of this barony.

EXTENT OF IT, AND OF EACH SPECIES OF GRAIN  
SOWED,

*Barony of Tyrrawley.*

The extent is very considerable, chiefly in potatoes and oats, and, on the sea-coast, barley; of all which great quantities are exported to the North, across the great bay of the Atlantic, in some places not twenty

miles over, which divides Connaught from Donegal: here the land carriage would be about seventy miles.

Even to Dublin and England the export of oats, for the last few years, has been very considerable. The culture of flax in this barony is rather considerable; the poor take care to raise, beside a sufficiency for their own use, as much as their families can spin into yarn; and large quantities of it, both in yarn and linen, are sold at the market of Ballina, and the neighbouring fairs.

*Barony of Burrisbool.*

Here the extent of culture is very great, in potatoes, oats, and barley; no less than 150 ton of oats, 50 of barley, and 100 of potatoes, are annually exported from Newport, beside an abundance for home consumption, and this extent is constantly encreasing.

The Rev. Dr. Graydon assured me, that, from his knowledge of the encrease of tythes, agriculture must have extended itself, to one-third more than it had been ten years ago, in this barony.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

This may be called a tillage country in oats, barley, potatoes, and flax: the mountainous parts are applied  
to



to the purpose of rearing young cattle, for fattening in other baronies and counties.

*Barony of Carra.*

The extent of agriculture in this barony is very great, chiefly in oats, of which great quantities are exported. Barley is also much cultivated, carried into Tyrawley and Gallen, and there smuggled for private distilleries. From Ballyhaine to Partry, in all about five parishes, all a good wheat country.

*Barony of Clannorris.*

Is very considerably encreased within a few years. The export, which is great in oats, is to the Castlebar market: they also raise a great quantity of flax; and the rents being high, from twenty-two to thirty-seven shillings per acre for new-let lands, they are obliged, in order to provide for the rent, to pare and burn where permitted, and, with only this manure, grow potatoes for the market. In the southern parts, some of the gentlemen grow wheat for home consumption, as well as for the market. Bere is also grown here, but not to a considerable extent.

*Barony of Gallen.*

The chief extent is in oats and potatoes. In some parts they grow flax and barley: wheat is only grown by a few gentlemen, for their own use.

Great quantities of oats and potatoes are sent to Castlebar market, which, together with some flaxen yarn, are the principal means of providing for the rent.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

The extent of agriculture here is great; they grow for sale vast quantities of oats, barley, flax, and wheat, which last is sent to the neighbouring flour-mills.

*Barony of Costello.*

The only extent is now in potatoes and oats. Formerly this was a great barley country, but the prohibition against malting, which prevented the gentlemen from taking from their tenants barley in payment of the rent, has completely stopped the culture of that article, and materially hurted the tillage of this barony; as, before that act, the tillage was here double as much as now. Edmondstown alone is, perhaps, the only place where wheat is grown.

## COURSE OF CROPS.

*Barony of Tyrrawley.*

On the sea-coast, potatoes and barley are the common succession; sometimes, but rarely, one crop of oats succeeds the barley.

In the interior of the barony, two crops of oats succeed the potatoes; or else, 1. potatoes; 2. flax; 3. oats.

*Barony of Burrishoole.*

1. Potatoes; 2. barley; 3. oats; 4. after a fallow, flax.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

Round the sea-coast, 1. potatoes; 2. barley; 3. flax. In the interior, 1. potatoes; 2. oats; 3. flax, and then left to retrieve by time.

But an alternate succession of green and white crops has been introduced here, by the Marquis of Sligo and the Hon. Denis Browne, to a prodigious extent, on the improved system of husbandry. Lord Sligo has now in tillage and progress, for the next year, twenty-five acres



acres of oats, fifty of barley, ninety-three of turnips, thirteen of peas and beans, twenty of rape and cabbage, and forty-five acres of wheat in ground.

*Barony of Carra.*

1. Potatoes; 2. oats; 3. barley; 4. flax. When wheat is grown, it comes sometimes first after potatoes, and sometimes after barley, by fallowing.

*Barony of Clanmorris.*

1. Potatoes; generally 2. potatoes; 3. either bere or flax; 4. oats; sometimes 5, 6, 7. oats, according to the goodness of the soil, or permanence of the manures.

Wheat, when not sowed in fallow, is shaken in after digging the potatoes; but neither the grain nor the flour is so good, as when the land had been fallowed.

*Barony of Gallen.*

1. Potatoes; 2. better potatoes (where the dry moor had been manured with limestone-gravel); 3. oats; 4. oats; 5. flax; 6. oats; and then, rest.

The naturally fertile few parts of this barony are, without manure, not much inferior to the above statement.

ment; but the moor and poorer parts, without the limestone gravel, will not exceed a third crop.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

1. Potatoes; 2. potatoes (after paring and burning, which is here grown the rage); 3. barley, or wheat; 4. oats, or flax; 5, and 6. oats; 7. often a fallow and wheat; 8. not unfrequently a crop of oats.

This is not an exact rule. Many proceed in this way, but the difference of soil, and will of the farmers, often produce more and sometimes fewer crops, and different succession.

*Barony of Costello.*

In the best parts, suppose at Edmondstown and Balladerrin, 1. potatoes; 2. potatoes; 3. flax; 4. wheat; 5, and 6, and sometimes 7. oats.

In the mountainy and less fertile parts, when well manured with limestone gravel and dung, and drained, 1. potatoes; 2. potatoes; 3. oats; if fallowed 5. flax; and then laid down with grass it becomes good pasture or meadow.

But in those less fertile and mountainy parts, with only the common horse dung and common husbandry, the crops are only two or three poor ones.

## USE OF OXEN—HOW HARNESSSED.

*Barony of Tyrrawley.*

Colonel Cuffe, Mr. Ormsby, and Colonel Jackson use oxen; much cannot be said for the manner they are harnessed in. None others worked here.

*Barony of Burrisbool.*

Here are none at all.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

Lord Sligo uses oxen harnessed like horses, with neck collars and bridles.

*Barony of Carra.*

Oxen are worked here by one gentleman; they are harnessed badly, and goaded as they go lagging before the pikeman, who attends the work.

*Barony of Clanmorris.*

No oxen. Colonel Browne had used them, but now prefers horses and mules.



*Barony of Gallen.*

None.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

They are used by many gentlemen of this barony for ploughing, and work of every kind, harnessed with the common neck-yoke.

*Barony of Costello.*

They had been used at Edmondstown: they are now disused, Mr. Costello having removed to Glasnevin; and none in the barony. But he has experienced so much their utility, that he is again getting into the use of them.

NATURE AND USE OF IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY.

*Barony of Tyrawley.*

The implements of husbandry consist here of only the common plough, spade, harrow, and the others usual throughout Ireland.

*Barony of Burrisboole.*

The common loy, five or six common ploughs, harrows with wooden pins, very few with iron, and very frequently a handrake, which is used for harrowing in the grain, are the only implements here; unless, perhaps, the flane for cutting turf, or some other instrument common to the kingdom at large.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

I have just now looked over the notes I have taken in the several baronies, of their implements of husbandry, and see, that repeating them here would be only repeating the same words; I shall therefore only observe, that throughout all the baronies I have observed no new machine, or implement of husbandry; nor is it to be expected in a country so backward in mode and manner of culture, notwithstanding its prodigious abundance and extent.

The Marquis of Sligo, Colonel Browne of Castle-magarret, and a few others, have English ploughs, and other implements. And diffusing them, or an imitation and knowledge of their use through the county, would be of the highest and most important benefit.

There

There is a sort of spade peculiar to Erris, and very unique in its construction; as Erris shall be treated separately, it will appear there.

With the article of implements I cannot have done without observing, that in general all through the county they are of the most inferior kind. The ploughs never sink deep enough, and the slight scratching they give the surface is left in unbroken lumps, by the light and wood-pinned harrows, which in some of the mountainous parts are fastened to, and drawn by horses tails; the rakes, shovels, and all, are bad. It has appeared, notwithstanding, how immense is the extent of tillage here, and the vast abundance exported of potatoes and corn; it may, therefore, be hoped, that the increasing wealth of the peasantry, and the examples set by the gentry, will not only soon improve the mode but also the implements of tillage.

#### *Markets for Grain.*

*Barony of Tyrrawley.*—Ballina and Killalla.

*Barony of Burrishoole.*—Newport-Pratt alone.

*Barony of Murrisk.*—Westport.

*Barony of Carra.*—Castlebar.

*Barony of Clanmorris.*—Clare.

*Barony*



*Barony of Gallen.* Swineford, Castlebar, and Foxford.

*Barony of Kilmaine.* Ballinrobe. The flour-mills buy up the wheat.

*Barony of Costello.* Balladerrin.

#### USE OF GREEN FOOD IN WINTER.

##### *Barony of Tyrrawley.*

A couple of gentlemen cultivate turnips, which is the only green food in this barony.

##### *Baronies of Burrisbool and Gallen.*

None.

##### *Barony of Murrisk.*

No use of green food in this barony, except by Lord Sligo, and the Hon. Denis Browne; they use it to great extent, such as turnips, cabbages (the former washed, and thrown to the cattle in the fields, as well as stalls), rape, rye, and vetches.

*Barony of Carra.*

None, except by Colonel Fitzgerald, and Mr. Ellifon.

*Barony of Clanmorris.*

No green food is used here, except at Castemagaret. It is managed for Colonel Browne in the best and most economical manner.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

This article is here confined to Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Rutledge.

*Barony of Costello.*

It is not used in this barony. Mr. Costello feeds his sheep with hay, and gives each one pint of oats per day; they not only keep up their fat in high perfection, but fatten on this food, as do his cows and bullocks, by feeding them abroad on hay and potatoes.

## PASTURE—NATURE OF IT.

*Barony of Tyrrowley.*

A few veins of excellent ground answer for fattening about the Moy and the Laggan; Deel-castle demesne, Gortnarabbey, Abbeystown, Errew, and some other spots, are of the best quality. In general it may be called a mixture of good upland, and moory pasture, which, together with boundless tracts of mountain, serve as excellent nurseries for rearing young cattle, and preparing them for the fattening grounds of Roscommon, Munster, and Leinster.

*Barony of Burrisboole.*

The grass of the champaign parts is very sweet; in wet weather it is apt to dissolve: there are also immense quantities of mixed and mountain pasture. The bulk of the barony being in tillage, there is, of course, except for the private use of a very few families, no part allotted for fattening cattle of any sort, nor are the lands suited to that purpose.



*Barony of Murrisk.*

Here is very little pasture, the very few good grounds being mostly employed in tillage; the mountainy mixed pasture is what may chiefly be counted on. Most villagers have one or two cows, and one horse, beside a few sheep, in proportion to their tenures.

*Barony of Carra.*

The pasture of this barony must vary, as the soil appears to have varied. In some parts, such as the neighbourhood of Ballyhaine and Castlecarra, the people call it kindly and good for rearing young cattle, but not fit for fattening. In the neighbourhood of Barnagee and Partry, is a mountainy heathy pasture, fit only for light cattle, and summer feeding. The lower part of Partry is a light sweet pasture.

*Barony of Clanmorris.*

The pasture here is almost throughout sweet and rich, all fit for rearing; in many parts fit to fatten both sheep and neat cattle of considerable weight, but not so adapted for the weightiest cows and bullocks, as Roscommon, Meath, and Westmeath.

*Barony of Gallen.*

The green parts of it, which make about one-third of the whole, are a light pasture, fit for rearing cattle from two to three years old, and, in some parts, sheep.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

The description given of the barony of Clanmorris, is applicable to that of Kilmaine.

*Barony of Costello.*

The few good grounds, which this barony exhibits, are of a remarkable quality for fattening, and return of tallow. Those only make part of one half of the barony, the other half being mountain, and the remainder is a light, moory, or reclaimed pasture.

BREED OF CATTLE, HOW FAR IMPROVED—HOW FAR CAPABLE OF FURTHER IMPROVEMENT.

*Barony of Tyrawley.*

Not at all improved here, except in a few instances. The lands and pasture being of a good quality, they  
are

are capable of very great improvement, by the introduction of good bulls, either to be given free to the tenantry by the landlords, or to be hired at small prices by individuals, who might keep them partly for that purpose. And that point seems now answered, as well for the other baronies as this, by observing, that the capability of improvement is proportioned to the goodness of the soil, and nicety of care taken in a *judicious* selection from cattle of the same or any other breed or family.

*Barony of Burrisbool.*

Here is extant the common, old, bad breed. The soil and pasture being here of inferior quality, the capability of improvement is not very promising of perfection.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

The breed of this barony seems to have been as much improved as the moory mountainy pasture admits of, by the importation of English breeds by the Marquis of Sligo and his father; and not only this, but the neighbouring baronies, have benefited much by this cross.



*Barony of Carra.*

Forty years ago the English bull, called Johnny Ghant was introduced by Mr. Lindsey of Turin. About that time Mr. Annesley Gore, of Ballina, and subsequently, the Earl of Altamont introduced good English breeds, which greatly refreshed and improved the blood, not only of this barony but of the county, in neat cattle. The breed of sheep has been highly improved, by the importation of English rams by Mr. Wade of the county of Galway, and brought to this barony by him.

*Barony of Clanmorris.*

The breed of this barony is very much improved. It is grown a system to take every pains in the improvement of sheep and neat cattle; and for many years back English breeds have been gradually coming into this barony. One gentleman sold from this barony, at the last fair of Ballinasloe, three hundred sheep in one lot, at fifty-four shillings each, and fat cows and bullocks rate proportionably high.

*Barony of Gallen.*

The breeds of horned cattle and sheep are not improved; and the poorness of the soil, except in a few places, promises no great capability of it.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

Cattle of every kind are here in a high state of improvement, and every care is taken in continuing this improvement. Sheep still require and are capable of some improvement.

*Barony of Costello*

Is now, and only now, in a commencing state of improvement; and, though a few spots of the ground are of excellent quality, yet one half of the barony being mountain, and much the greatest part of the remainder only either very light or moor ground, does not promise a great capability of improvement in the breeds of either sheep or neat cattle.

## MARKETS OR FAIRS FOR CATTLE.

*Tyrawley.*

The principal fairs are Moyne and Crossmalina; out of the barony, Bal and Dunamona.

*Barony*

*Barony of Burrishoole.*

Newport, four times a year.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

Westport; and for the extensive tracts of mountain and moor extending from Westport to the county of Galway, Louisbourg.

*Barony of Carra.*

Principal fairs are, Bal, Ballyhaine, and Donamona; and out of the barony, Ballinasloe.

*Barony of Costello.*

Balladerrin, Ballina, Costello, Kilkelly, and Ballyhavness.

*Barony of Clanmorris.*

Bal, Kilmaine, Clare, Ballindangen, and some others of less note.

*Barony of Gallen.*

Foxford, Straid, Swineford.



*Barony of Kilmaine.*

Kilmaine, Neal, Ballinrobe, and Holleymount; but the grand mart is Ballinasloe.

But as a particular LIST OF THE FAIRS may be wished for, they are as follows, according to Stewart's almanack.

*January.*

1. Westport.

*February.*

2. Balladerrin, Belcarra, Tulrahan.
5. Neal.
12. Carracastle.

*April.*

19. Shrule.

*May.*

1. Balladerrin.
6. Killala, Neale.
10. Turlough.
11. Castlebar.

11. Castlebar.
12. Ballina.
13. Ballively.
15. Burcey's-barn, Foxford.
17. Holleymount.
18. Moyne.
19. Bake-street.
20. Swinford.
22. Bues.
24. Bunfinglafs, Clare, Crossmolina, Westport;
26. Donamona.
29. Ballyvary.
31. Straid.

*June.*

1. Ballyhavnes, Lisfoughery.
2. Minola.
3. Bellinacostello.
4. Belcarra, Carracastle.
7. Ballinrobe, Castleaken.
8. Gallowshill, Newport.
11. Ball.
15. Burcey's-barn, Castletownlands.
21. Ardnaree.
22. Clare.
24. Aughagower, Balladerrin, Louisbourg.
25. Foxford.
28. Cappakernane.
29. Bues, Melcome-regis.

*July.*

*July.*

- 2. Ballyhannis, Swinford.
- 5. Ballahean.
- 7. Bunfinglass.
- 9. Castlebar.
- 12. Kilmaine.
- 22. Ballindangen.
- 26. Moyne, Shrule.
- 30. Straid.

*August.*

- 2. Balladerrin, Melcombe-regis, Newport-Pratt.
- 4. Aughagower, Louisbourg, Neale.
- 6. Westport.
- 9. Ballinacostello.
- 10. Bake-street.
- 11. Brize.
- 12. Ballina.
- 14. Agclare.
- 17. Ballyvary, Gallowshill, Turlough.
- 25. Rathfran.



*September.*

2. Carracastle.
6. Keelogue.
8. Balladerrin.
13. Crossmalina.
15. Bues.
16. Castlebar.
20. Kingscourt, Lough-mask.
22. Ballyhaunis.
24. Ball.
29. Aughagowen, Castletownlands, Louisbourg.

*October.*

1. Lisloughery.
2. Ballively.
4. Foxford.
11. Ardnaree, Ballindangen.
14. Moyne.
18. Donomona, Tulrahan.
19. Ballinacostello.
23. Straid.
28. Kilmaine.
29. Ballyhaunis.
30. Aughagower, Louisbourg.

*November.*

1. Balladerrin, Westport.
3. Minola.
5. Neale.
8. Gallows-hill, Killala.
10. Belcarra.
11. Rathfran, Shrule.
15. Ballyvary, Bunfinglafs.
18. Castlebar.
27. Straid.

*December.*

1. Bourcey's-barn, Melcombe-regis.
3. Cappakernan, Moyne.
6. Ballinrobe.
7. Ballindangen.
8. Bakestreet, Turlough.
10. Foxford.
11. Hollymount.
13. Ardnaree.
15. Bunfinglafs.
16. Ballinacostello.
17. Crofsmolyna.
18. Swinford, Tulrahan.
20. Gallows-hill, Newport-pratt.
22. Balladerrin.

## GENERAL PRICES.

In the baronies of Tyrrawley, Clanmorris, Kilmaine, and Carra, best store bullocks sold this year at 18*l.* per, and downwards to nine guineas; year-old calves from 3*l.* to 7*l.*; dry cows from four, to eight, and ten guineas; and fat and milch cows from 10*l.* to 15*l.*; sheep in general high, from 30*s.* to 3*l.* per.

In the other baronies of Burrishool, Murrisk, Costello, and Gallen, and in the less fertile parts of those already mentioned, dry cows sell from 4*l.* to 8*l.*; milch cows from 6*l.* and 7*l.* to 10*l.*; yearling calves from 30*s.* to 3*l.*; and sheep from 20*s.* to 30*s.*

Those several statements, however, are not without their exceptions; for, in the mountainy skirtings of the first mentioned baronies, the price of cattle comes on a lowness of level with the second class; and a great many of the fertile spots of the other baronies, those particularly of Costello and Gallen, emulate, in richness and goodness, those of Clanmorris and Kilmaine; so that those partial varieties cannot be understood to controvert the first and general description.

The Marquis of Sligo, for instance, and Mr. Browne sell, in the barony of Murrisk, cows and bullocks at the highest Dublin prices; but, they will allow me to observe, not off the mere pasture of the barony, but by the help of green and white feeding.



## MODES OF FEEDING—HOW FAR HOUSED IN WINTER.

*Barony of Tyrrawley.*

None of the bullocks are ever housed, or any of the young cattle, except calves; those, and the milch cows, are housed from about the middle of December till May, and fed with hay and straw. In severe weather, deep snow particularly, the out-lying cattle are fed occasionally abroad with hay and straw.

*Barony of Burrishoole.*

This not being a cattle-feeding country, the only stock are those of the poor, and they are fed in the houses throughout the winter half-year.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

The cottagers here most frequently divide the house and the potatoes with the calves and cows, from December till April; they then turn them to the mountains: while in the house, they get a little hay and straw. The Marquis of Sligo houses and hand-feeds during the winter and spring; the Hon. Denis Browne does the same the greatest part of the year.

*Baronies of Carra, Clanmorris, and Kilmaine.*

In those baronies, the common mode of feeding is with grass in summer, and hay and straw in winter. The poor feed cattle, horses, hogs, and poultry with potatoes, on which they thrive remarkably well. Very few cattle, except those of the poor, are housed in those baronies. When the weather is very severe, or that the grass had dissolved, or been otherwise consumed, the unhoused cattle are fed with hay and straw.

*Barony of Gallen.*

The poor house their cattle during the winter months, and feed them with straw, very little hay, potatoes, small oats, and chaff. The graziers have winter grass; when this becomes reduced, which is generally the case in spring, they feed the cattle out with hay.

*Barony of Costello.*

The cattle housed here are generally milch cows, which are brought in to make part of the family during the winter; the others are fed abroad in hard weather, frequently on the dunghill, which is always at the door.

## NATURAL GRASSES.

The grounds, throughout the county, of prime quality produce the natural grasses peculiar to them; such as the flote, darnel, and meadow fescue grasses, brome grasses, the meadow grasses, and sweet-scented spring grass, the darnel, melic, and wood and great meadow grasses, &c. &c.

The coarser soils produce many of the bent, brome, and darnel grasses; sometimes, but rarely, some of the wheat, barley, and oat grasses, and many other genera, species, and varieties, which of themselves would swell out a book to enumerate.

Here too are a prodigious abundance and variety of the natives of the moors and mountains. Here are all the mountain, heath, and water hair grasses; earthy hair grass, matweed, matgrasses (small); and those and many other overshadowed by flags, bulrush, common clubrush, prickly bogrush, and in many places only heath and moss.

Various however, innumerably various must be, and are, the assemblages, combinations, and separations of the growth of those grasses in a country so widely various and extensive as this.

*Artificial Grasses.*

In all the county I have found no artificial grasses reared, except in the baronies of Murrisk and Carra.



In Murrisk they are used by none but the Marquis of Sligo, and the Honorable Denis Browne, who rear and feed with clovers and artificial grasses of all sorts.

But in the barony of Carra not only the gentlemen make use of them, but even the poor have got into the practice and knowledge of the great benefit arising from laying down their fields with grass seeds.

#### MODE OF HAYMAKING.

##### *Baronies of Tyrrawley and Carra.*

After the scythe it is shaken out from the swarth, the next day turned once or twice with a fork, and then made into lapcocks; and after a few days, as the weather may be good, or the meadows heavy, made into trampcocks, and after a few weeks more into the haggard.

##### *Barony of Burrishoole.*

Here very particular; for they do not shake the hay after the scythe, but immediately roll it out of the swarth into very small lapcocks, there to remain for four or five days; out of which it is spread a couple of times, as the weather may answer, and made into cocks four or five feet high, and after seven or eight days into trampcocks.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

As Tyrawley and Carra, except that Lord Sligo has not his hay tramped in the meadow.

*Baronies of Clanmorris and Gallen.*

Here is a considerable improvement in hay-making, as formerly it lay in the swarths until dried by time; now it is immediately after the scythe shaken out, and made up first into lapcocks, then into larger, and at length, as the season favours, after a few days, into trampcocks.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

The hay is here saved as in the two last baronies, Clanmorris and Gallen, but that it is left too much exposed to the weather.

*Barony of Costello.*

The method of hay-making is here very good; it is picked, shaken, and put into lapcocks from the swarth,

the day it is mown, and shaken out daily, and cocked before night, till saved; by which process the substance and colour are both preserved.

#### DAIRIES, THEIR PRODUCE.

In the whole county there never was a dairy but two; one kept by the Hon. Denis Browne, near Westport, and the other had been kept by a Mr. Plunkett, near Balladerrin.

The extent of Mr. Plunkett's dairy is said to have been very great and productive, as he is thought to have died very rich, and would have benefited considerably more, if he had not been cheated by servants, who used to drink or some way dispose of the milk, and, in order to make up the deficiency, add water to the remainder, by which the buyers got a hydrophobia, and the trade fell into disrepute.

But they order those things better for the Hon. Mr. Browne. As the lids of his milk-vessels are locked, the servants may draw off by the spicket and faucet, but can add nothing to adulterate; and the quantities measured into those vessels for market being known, cheatery is at defiance.

This, though I have not seen myself, Mr. Browne not having been at home when I was in that country, I have from such authority as not to doubt; and the

caution



caution and improvement are too valuable not to communicate to many in that business, who may benefit.

The extent and produce of Mr. Browne's dairy must be considerable, as the wants of all the neighbourhood are supplied by it, beside the export sale of great quantities of butter.

PRICES OF HIDES, TALLOW, WOOL, AND QUANTITIES  
SOLD.

*Barony of Tyrrawley.*

This barony requires for its own consumption all the wool it possesses. Hides this year fell at three pence halfpenny per pound. No export of tallow; the quantities sold, of either hides or tallow, are very little, as no beef is slaughtered, except for home consumption.

*Barony of Burrisbool.*

The hides and tallow of this barony are of so trifling consideration as to deserve no mention; nor is there any more wool than is necessary for cloathing its inhabitants.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

Hides sold here this year from five to six shillings per stone; tallow from eight to nine shillings; and wool from eighteen to twenty shillings per stone. The quantity of hides and tallow only supply the wants of the barony. The principal farmers export great quantities of wool to Ballinasloe; the country is supplied by the mountain farms.

*Barony of Clanmorris.*

Hides last season sold at about five shillings and five pence the stone; tallow from five to seven shillings per stone; wool at Ballinasloe fair from fifteen to seventeen shillings per stone. The quantity of hides and tallow was only produced by what was slaughtered for home consumption; the quantity of wool is not very considerable, as the grounds here are stocked with neat cattle as well as sheep.

*Barony of Gallen..*

The prices and quantities of hides, tallow, and wool, are the same in this barony as in Clanmorris, with

with this exception, that for five sheep in Clanmorris there is not one in Gallen.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

This barony, as the last, agrees in every respect with Clanmorris, as to quantities and prices of wool, tallow, and hides, but that the quantities of wool exported from this barony are very great; it being, the greatest part, a fine, champaign, sheep country.

*Barony of Costello.*

The common price of wool here is sixteen shillings per stone; hides three pence per ponnd, and tallow eight shillings and eight pence per stone. The quantities sold are not considerable, the hides and tallow being only from the home consumption of beef, and all the wool bought up by the poor of the country for their cloathing.

FARMS—THEIR SIZE.

*Barony of Tyrawley.*

The farms in this barony are in general large, scarce one under an hundred, and they contain from that  
number



number to five hundred acres; as the common tenantry hold in partnership, and the gentlemen and graziers occupy wide tracts.

But latterly, though the tenants take in common, they begin to subdivide to ten and twelve acres each, and every two or three, which number still wish to keep together, hold in that proportion.

*Barony of Burrisbool.*

The tenantry in this barony are getting as much, and as quickly as possible, into the practice of taking and dividing farms into pieces of from four to eight acres. They find that the tenant, who in conjunction could not pay twenty shillings, can easily pay, for a separate division of the same ground, one guinea and a half per acre; in general, however, the tenants hold in conjunction large farms, from thirty to an hundred acres, and have the houses clustered in villages.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

Here the villagers (partnership tenures having in a great measure dissolved) hold farms at a bulk rent of from five guineas to ten pounds; the mountain farms are more extensive.

*Barony of Carra.*

Stock farms contain from one to five hundred acres; other farms, held immediately by occupying farmers under the proprietors, are from six to ten acres; those under the middlemen are still less.

*Barony of Clanmorris.*

The farms here descend in size from two hundred to an hundred acres, and many under that size.

*Barony of Gallen.*

The size here is from sixty to two hundred acres; the poor are just beginning to take separate leases and holdings.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

The extent of the farms of this barony is from fifty to three hundred acres.

*Barony of Costello.*

The farms here being set at a bulk rent, and great pieces of mountain generally attached to them, are of considerable extent, from one to four hundred acres, mostly in the possession of villagers.

*Farm Houses and Offices.*

As I understand this enquiry not to mean the habitations of the poor, which are enquired after in another place, I therefore suppose it alludes to the habitations of an upper order of the inhabitants; and of such it may be reported, that their houses are neat and orderly, consisting of a ground floor, with a kind of attic story, chiefly for bed-rooms, and lighted from the gables, the side-walls not being high enough for that purpose.

The offices, such as barn, cowhouse, and stable, are suitably large and convenient; all thatched with straw, and built of lime and stone.

*Baronies of Burrisbeol and Murrisk.*

The upper farmers have snug houses with chimneys and separate offices.



*Barony of Carra.*

In this barony are a great many neat and good houses of this description.

*Barony of Clanmorris.*

The upper little farmers have here snug houses built of stone and clay, sometimes mortar, with one partition, and a chimney, and separate offices.

*Barony of Gallen.*

The houses are in this barony made of dry walls, and dashed inside with lime and mortar; they have generally a chimney and two partitions, with a little suite of cow-house, barn, and stable, besides a little recess called *bag*, which is made into the side wall, opposite the family fire, for one bed; this is divided from the fire and the body of the house by straw mats, which hang parallel with the wall from the roof, by way of curtain.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

Farm houses here are in general neither neat nor good.

*Barony of Costello.*

The richest of the yeoman farmers have not a second hearth, nor windows to subject them to that tax, although paying an annual rent of from one to two hundred pounds; the houses are built of stone, and dashed with clay-mortar, and seldom in any of them a chimney.

*Mode of repairing them, whether by Landlord or Tenant.*

I shall here not only mention of the barony of Tyrawley, but of this county at large, and all the other counties I know any thing of in Ireland, that totally different from England, the houses are invariably repaired by the tenant, as it suits his wish or convenience, at his own expense, never by the landlord; and by an express clause in every determinable lease, the tenant is bound to keep his house in repair, and all the improvements of the farm.

NATURE OF TENURES, GENERAL STATE OF LEASES,  
OR PARTICULAR CLAUSES THEREIN.*Tyrawley and Burrishool.*

The villagers of those two baronies have been in the usage of getting leases for only from fifteen to twenty-one years, but of late they have been further indulged by extending those leases to one or more lives; the better order of tenantry have and get leases of three lives.

In looking over the notes, which I have taken in the different baronies separately, I see that the report, which answers for one, may be made of them all, that is, that the terms now granted are one, two, and sometimes three lives, or thirty-one years; sometimes, but rarely, and chiefly in the barony of Gallen, leases don't exceed twenty-one years.

The only particular clause, not universally but sometimes inserted in leases, is that against alienation under certain restrictions.

A clause has been recently introduced into leases made in the baronies of Tyrawley and Burrishool, for reclaiming bogs and mountain, by which a certain stipulated allowance is agreed upon to be made the



tenant out of the reserved rent for every acre so reclaimed.

TAXES OR CESSSES PAID BY TENANTS.

*Barony of Tyrrawley.*

Quit-rents are paid sometimes by the landlord, sometimes by the tenant; all the other taxes, county, contingent, parish, &c. paid by the tenant.

*Barony of Burrishboole.*

Church-money annually comes to about four pence per acre; quit-rent is paid by the tenant; the two grand jury cesses amount annually to about twenty pence for every green acre, and this average statement may answer for the whole county. Sir Neal O'Donnell's estate, I have been told, pays no quit-rent, being originally an allodial grant to the Butler family.

*Baronies of Carra and Costello.*

In those two baronies the quit-rent is commonly paid by the landlords, but in all the other baronies by the tenants, together with all the other usual cesses.

PROPORTION OF WORKING HORSES OR BULLOCKS TO  
THE SIZE OF FARMS.

*Barony of Tyrrawley.*

Already it has appeared how few bullocks are worked in this barony. A farmer, having an hundred acres, will not have more than five or six horses for the cultivation of his farm, and the use of his family; but a farm of that extent, occupied by villagers, will support ten families, each of whom always has a horse, which they join to make up a team, and complete the spring ploughing, although they may have previously subdivided their farms, which is now most frequently done for their own convenience. In this case then the average computation would be, one horse to each subdivision of ten acres.

*Baronies of Burrishoole and Murrisk.*

In those two baronies in general every villager has a working garran; and those villagers proportion of green (reclaimed generally) ground is about six acres. No bullocks are worked here, except by Lord Sligo; as to the proportion, therefore, no rule can be ascertained.

*Baronies of Clanmorris, Carra, and Kilmaine.*

In those baronies, the grounds being mostly in pasture, no proportion can be established; but the tillage farms have about one horse to every sixteen acres.

*Barony of Gallen.*

Almost every poor man, of ever so small a holding, must have his poney to work and ride; the poney is here considered more indispensibly necessary than the cow.

*Barony of Costello.*

The villagers here, who are in partnership, divide themselves, according to their numbers, into four or eight parties; each party keep a horse, the joint property of the whole, which horses do in common the work of the village. By this method it turns out, that every two villagers, holding about ten or twelve acres of green ground, will have one horse.



## GENERAL SIZE OF FIELDS OR ENCLOSURES.

*Barony of Tyroneley.*

In this barony the common size among the villagers is from one to three acres; among the upper farmers and gentlemen, from five to twenty acres.

*Baronies of Burrisbool, Murrisk, Gallen, and Costello.*

The common size of fields and enclosures in those baronies, is from four to twenty acres.

*Baronies of Carra, Kilmaine, and Clanmorris.*

Some of the farmers in Carra have fifty acres of wheat in one field; and in the baronies of Kilmaine and Clanmorris they descend from that size to twenty, ten, five, and sometimes even less; but some of the gentlemen and graziers have scopes of an hundred acres and more in the same fields.

## NATURE OF FENCES.

*Barony of Tyrrawley.*

Among the villagers, stones and stone quarries being very scarce, their only fences are bad ditches, made of fods; but the better order of tenantry and gentlemen enclose with quicked ditches and stone walls.

*Barony of Burrisbool.*

There are some, but very few good quickset ditches and walls here: in general the fences are very bad; only a few fods thrown upon one another behind a little grip, the size of a potatoe-furrow.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

Here are for fences small fod ditches, and small, low, loose stone walls.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

Stone walls in general, many of them loose and bad, are the fences here.

*Barony*

*Barony of Costello.*

The only fences here, with little exception, are single bad stone walls.

*Barony of Carra.*

All stone walls, many of them well made, and very good fences.

*Barony of Clanmorris.*

Dry walls, from five to six feet high, where stones are convenient; and quickset ditches, and little fences raised of fods, where stones are not to be found. The fences of the poor are very mean and bad.

*Barony of Gallen.*

The common people, in order to clear their fields, which nature has bestrewed with stones, collect them into walls, which look more like ramparts than common fences: where there is not a convenience of stones, they substitute for walls, small, bad, fod ditches.



Mention here must serve as a general exception, that some parts of the demesnes of the Marquis of Sligo, and the Hon. Denis Browne, extend into Burrischool, and do not come into the small calculations suited to the inhabitants at large; nor do the demesnes or improvements of gentlemen of the other baronies come into the common description, intended to shew the general state of the country. The fences, for instance, and hedgerows of the gentry are of superior excellence in those very baronies, where those of the low tenantry are the worst possible.

**MODE OF HEDGEROWS, AND KEEPING HEDGES.**

*Barony of Tyrrawley.*

In this barony, in all the county, there are no hedgerows, except in ditches, and the only mode of keeping them is to preserve them from cattle, which the bank generally does, and the fosse; no such thing as paling being used to protect them, as in England.

*Barony of Burrischool.*

Here are no hedgerows.

*Baronies of Murrisk, Carra, Clanmorris, &c. &c.*

Were I to write down all the baronies, the answers would be none, none, and so on. The poor of this county, none indeed but the gentry have got into the practice of hedging ditches with thorn, or any thing else; where they are put down they thrive prosperously, which is the case at all the gentlemens' seats.

## MODE OF DRAINING.

No baronial distinction is necessary on this subject, because throughout the whole county, in the very little draining that is practised, there is but one method pursued, that is, common open draining.

Fortunate indeed would it be, if the principles and the practice of Mr. Elkington, in draining, were known and used in a country, which so much requires both; and it is equally strange, that in this county, where whole tracts, in many places almost the whole visible horizon is a quagmire scope of bog, that some person's wish of drying his property did not lead him, as it did Mr. Elkington, to the easy, plain principle, of *cutting off the main spring*, from which issued the inundation.

In many parts of the county, where all the mischief does not proceed from the invisible course of subterraneous water, but from the imperviousness of some of the upper strata, which retain the water on the surface, which I am very sure is the case in many parts of the baronies of Gallen, Costello, Clanmorris, and Kilmaine, and in many other parts, but particularly in the barony of Gallen, I think it very necessary to recommend the use of hollow draining, which would answer two very material purposes; first, the removal of the surface water, and also the removal of a troublesome and injurious incumbrance of scattered stones, which here are a very great annoyance, and with which those drains could be filled, instead of collecting them, as is done, on the surface.

However, it is pleasant to hear, that Mr. Elkington is engaged to be in this county early in the approaching summer, to drain different parts of the Marquis of Sligo's estates, when practice and example will diffuse more benefit, than writing over pages upon pages of theory.

In the county of Donegal, so violent is the rage for irrigating meadows, and so vast the benefits arising from its use, that so very great is the demand a Scotch gentleman is in, who manages and professes this branch, that the Farming Society of Raphoe were obliged to enter a resolution on their books, that no one gentleman should monopolize his instructions, at any one  
time,



time, longer than seven days. And it is to be earnestly hoped, that Mr. Elkington's company and assistance will be sought in Mayo with the same avidity.

#### NATURE OF MANURES.

##### *Barony of Tyrrawley.*

Dung of cattle is here the chief manure; but limestone-gravel, for the little reclaiming, that is done, of bogs and mountain lands, with which this barony much abounds, is in great use. Strange to tell, no paring or burning is here used in deep bogs; in upland lea grounds they burn the furrows, and manure the lazy-beds with the ashes of the burned clay; this produces them, without dung, one crop of potatoes, and one of oats.

Lime at considerable labour and expence they use, without any ingredient or assistance, to reclaim and manure deep bogs and mountains, where limestone-gravel or marle cannot be had. Marle is here very rarely to be met with, but, where found and used, proves excellent manure for reclaiming and fertilizing.

Where burning upland or common lea soil has been practised repeatedly to a third or fourth time, they find it necessary to renovate the soil, by laying on a coat of  
 moss,

moss, or bog-foil, sometimes mixed with earth, dung, or any other rubbish about a farmer's house.

It is a general practice among the peasantry, to add to their little dunghills strata of bog-foil, which they work and incorporate either with or without lime, limestone-gravel, or loam, which proves an enriching compost. This excellent practice they have intuitively fallen into, or they have rather derived it from natural ingenuity and experience; for certain it is, they have not learned the use of them from the Agricultural Reports of England, where, in volume the first precisely, such composts are so strongly recommended, because I find the practice and use of them existed in this county, long prior to the date of any such Reports in England; near the sea, shelly sea sand and sea weeds.

#### *Barony of Burrisbool.*

Black mud and sand or lime mixed, beside dung, and near the sea its weeds, are here the common manures. Here is also plenty of limestone-gravel, seldom in the champaign parts requiring long carriage.

#### *Barony of Carra.*

*Burning.*—I am now writing under the direction of as good authority as may be, and it states, that in the  
course

course of the last three years the country would absolutely have starved, if the law against burning had been enforced. This law, therefore, if it should not be repealed absolutely, should at least be modified, so as to oblige the tenants, as in England, to put down improving crops, and let out the land not in a worse condition than it was when first tilled. In this Report it would be idle to say any thing in favour of burning, and of ashes as a manure; all Europe has already pronounced it one of the best; witness Scotland, witness Holland, witness England, where sacks of ashes are sold at as high prices as sacks of oatmeal are sold in cheap seasons in this country.

*Barony of Clanmorris.*

Here composts are made at the doors, of peat, moss, lea soil, and dung; lime is or can be seldom added, from the scarcity of turf: those are left to ferment in alternate strata, and then incorporated after a regular lapse of time, as if those people had been instructed in the theory of fermentation, and its resolvent and fertilizing effects on their little dunghills and potatoe gardens.

Paring and burning is much practised here; but the lands are generally too much exhausted to recover soon from the repetition and ill choice of crops. Every  
where



where in this barony is plenty of lime and limestone-gravel.

*Barony of Gallen.*

Limestone-gravel is every where diffused throughout this barony; in many parts marle. Paring and burning is not much known; it commences, but is restrained by the land-proprietors.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

Lime, limestone-gravel, every where to be found; some, but not much marle; paring and burning, but not much, and composts are here the currency of manures.

*Barony of Costello.*

In the north-east part of the barony limestone-gravel is found every where; in the north-west mostly marle; in the southern parts gravel is the principal manure; it is sometimes of limestone. The inhabitants here are just getting into the mode of paring and burning; those are all they have, and use beside composts and dung.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

Near the sea-coast shelly sea sand and weeds; some marle, lime, and limestone-gravel, frequently not very convenient, beside their little dung and composts, are here the manures.

I shall conclude this account of the manures of Mayo, by undertaking to assure the husbandman there, that, until a critical examination of the different soils takes place by chymical analysis, which, it is to be hoped, gradual improvement will soon arrive at making general—I say, till then, he may rest on the joint experience, one may say, of the farming world, that lime and limestone-gravel are, under proper regulation, which in general is only draining and common labour, the principal, the true, fertilizing manures.

## GENERAL SUBJECTS.

*Population.*

The best sources, from which a knowledge of the population, not only of individual counties, but of the kingdom at large, could be derived, was always supposed to be the reports of parish priests and hearth collectors,

collectors, as they both are generally thought to keep lists of the number of families in their districts and parishes.

However, on mature consideration, I am convinced that the report of neither one nor the other is to be depended on, as a criterion to judge by of the population of this kingdom. Not that I would mean to insinuate a disposition in either the priest, or the collector, to mistake facts in matters, which to them might be indifferent, but because the priest, for instance, will not encumber his list with the families of the widows, the beggars, the insolvents of any description; nor has the hearth collector any interest in being very minute in his returns; the smiths for instance, who pay for two hearths, it is said, are not noticed, nor many other families, by the priest or collector, although those families consume potatoes and milk, could fight for his Majesty, and have every just right to be marked in the population of this country.

To the best source, therefore, left of information on that subject we must resort, and that I conceive to be Mem. Roy. Irish Acad. for 1789. According to the return made them by Mr. Bushe, the number of houses in the county of Mayo then were 27,970, and consequently the number of inhabitants, calculating on 5-8 to each family, makes 140,000 souls in the county of Mayo.



NUMBER AND SIZE OF VILLAGES AND TOWNS.

*The number of towns, large and small, are forty-six; their names are as follows:*

- Agclare,
- Aughagower,
- Ardnaree,
- Balladerrin,
- Belcarra,
- Ballina,
- Ballively,
- Burcey's-barn,
- Bake-street,
- Bues,
- Bunfinglafs,
- Ballyvary,
- Ballyhaunefs,
- Ballinacostello,
- Ballinrobe,
- Ball,
- Ballyhean,
- Ballindangen,
- Brize,
- Carracastle,

Carracastle,

Castlebar,

Clare,

Crosmalya,

Castleaken,

Castletownlands,

Cappakernan,

Donamona,

Foxford,

Gallows-hill,

Hollymount,

Killala,

Kilmaine,

Keelogue,

Louisbourg,

Minolla,

Moyne,

Melcombe-regis,

Neal,

Newport,

Rathfran,

Straid,

Straid,

Shrule,

Swinford,

Tulrahan,

Turlow,

Westport.

By far the greatest number of those towns should, from their smallness and insignificance, be styled rather villages; and in fact, the only right they can claim to the name town, is merely being the place where fairs are held. The principal towns of size or consideration are Castlebar, which is one of the prettiest inland towns in the kingdom, though not a very commercial one; Westport, though built within thirty years, may be called a pretty, and not a small town, already of some consequence in trade, and improving every day; Ballina, Killala, Clare, Ballinrobe, and Newport, are the others.

The villages are almost as numerous as the tenanted farms, because till very lately, that the partnership begins to dissolve, numbers of the common people used to take farms in conjunction, and build their houses in clusters; but though they now begin to subdivide the farms, and take any leases they now get mostly separate,



rate, still the houses are as yet very little undetached, and the number of villages, as stated, almost equal to the number of tenanted farms.

HABITATION, FUEL, FOOD, AND CLOATHING OF THE  
LOWER RANK—THEIR GENERAL COST.

*Barony of Tyrrawley.*

*Habitations* still in too many instances poor indeed; most of them now begin to be built with lime and stone; the progress of improvement in this article is visible and considerable; still, however, the cow, calf, &c. inhabit the same cabins with some of the poor; but in this, too, improvement commences, and detached huts are made to separate the brute from the human species.

*Fuel*, is bog-turf; *food*, potatoes, a little oaten bread, milk, butter, herrings, and, on two or three grand festival days in the year, some bits of flesh-meat.

*Cloathing* for the men is made chiefly of the wool and flax of the barony, manufactured into frizes and linens; the women also wear druggets and flannels, made of the wool and flax of the country; for Sunday-clothes the women wear cottons and stamped linen gowns, stuff petticoats, with cloaks made of finer stuff than frize, and bought in the shops; but those fineries  
are

are chiefly confined to the young women, and rather upper class of the peasantry; and for Sunday clothes, fairs, markets, and weddings, the young beaux and artificers wear Manchester waistcoats, and thickset breeches.

*Cost* of the cabin and little office, from three to five pounds, including the villager's own labour and assistance.

The fuel being saved by the labour of the family, is of very small expence; it cannot, however, be rated at less than about forty shillings.

Clothing likewise, being manufactured mostly by themselves, is of very trifling expence. If the frize is bought at market, it generally costs 3*s.* 6*d.* a flat, measuring four feet two inches in length, and about two feet two or three inches wide; calculating, then, on the quantity of this necessary for a suit, and on the expences of lining and making, it comes to about two guineas the full dress; the woman's, about forty shillings; but the young and other persons, who wear the fineries, will have to pay ten or twelve shillings more.

*Baronies of Burrisbool, Murrisk, and Gallen.*

*Habitations*; some very poor, made of turf sods, badly roofed and thatched, and full of smoke and dirt, as they have neither chimneys nor offices, except a very few;

few; but since the commencement of separate tenures, the cabins begin to improve, and a separate cowhouse and barn are not unfrequently seen.

*Fuel*, turf; *food*, potatoes, oaten bread, milk, flumery, and on the sea-coast, fish.

*Cloathing*. The men and women appear clean and decent on Sundays, generally in their own manufacture of frizes, flannels, and druggets; thicksets, cottons, stuffs, and baizes, are frequently worn by them.

The common frize sells here at 2s. to 2s. 4d. the bundle of thirty-two inches; ten bundles will be necessary for a suit of cloaths; four yards of flannel to line it, at 13d. per yard, and taylor 3s.; the suit will come to 1l. 15s. 10d. beside shoes at 5s. 5d. stockings 1s. 1d. hat 4s. 4d. shirt 5s. 5d.; all this together with the great coat, which they always wear, in summer for shew, and for cold in winter, value about 16s. makes 2l. 17s. 3d.; and this calculation, to prevent repetition, may serve as a standard for the cost of cloathing throughout the county.

#### *Baronies of Carra and Clanmorris.*

Habitations here are all built of stone; those, who live under the immediate proprietors, are in general comfortably lodged, with chimneys, and mostly separate offices. *Fuel*, turf; *food*, potatoes, oaten bread,  
milk,



milk, butter, herrings; in festival times a piece of pork, or bad beef or mutton. Cloathing, frize of their own manufacture, and linens, flannels, and druggets. There is here, as all over the county, a great improvement in the neatness and dress of both sexes.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

The upper ranks of the poor are some snugly lodged; the very poor have very bad cabins, some made of fods, and some of loose stones, badly thatched, in which the cattle herd with the family; those met on the road side, and made of fods, are only temporary habitations for the very poorest and beggars. The cabins of villagers, and those who have holdings of land, are in general built of stone, and plaistered inside with mortar. The cost of one of those cabins, with a little office (and the computation stands for the county), as the people themselves do most of the work, cannot be highly rated; the medium may be about three pounds. Fuel, turf; the cost may for the whole county be rated, in proportion to the distance of carriage of the turf, from thirty shillings to three pounds. Food, potatoes, oaten bread, thin flummery, gruel, &c. as in the other parts.

*Barony of Costello.*

Habitations in general, though bad, not the worst in the county. Fuel, plenty of turf; food, potatoes, oaten bread, milk, flummery, cabbage mixed with salt and butter, thin gruel.

The cost (and this computation too may stand for the county) of six in a family will come to about twenty-seven pounds, calculating on the average price all, that the potatoes, meal, milk, and butter they consume, at two cows to a family, if sold, would bring. But although the articles, if sold, might bring prices to make up that sum, a more reasonable calculation might be from fifteen to twenty pounds.—Cloathing very good; the men wear frizes, and some a finer cloth, thickset breeches, and red coating and pressed cloth waistcoats; the women too are neatly dressed, many of them in cottons and red cloaks.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*

Here too I see, in looking over this head, as stated under the different baronies, in the notes I have taken in them, so near a resemblance and equality of price, as not to require a separate baronial distinction; for

it may with every degree of correctness and truth be stated, that the general price of labour all through the county, with the subsequent exceptions, is eight pence per day without food, six pence per day and dinner; the cottiers have about six pence per day short and long, but have good bargains of house, land, and turbary.

The widest deviation from the above general medium is, that at Killala the wages are six pence in winter, and eight pence in summer, without meat or drink; while at Castlebar the wages are eight pence per day with breakfast and dinner, and thirteen pence without food. Occasional workmen, such as sheerers and mowers, get from ten pence to twelve pence with food.

Provisions are now (December) a drug; potatoes sell at 1s. 1d. per hundred weight, and must be cheaper when the armies are reduced; good beef three pence, and mutton three pence halfpenny per pound, and a proportionate cheapness in all other sorts of provisions.

*State of Tithe—its general Amount on each Article—what Articles are exempt, and what charged by Modus.*

*Potatoes* in this county are every where exempt.

*Corn* of every kind pays every where a tenth part, in kind, in value, or composition.



*Hay* is generally charged a tenth part, but in some places exempt, such as Clanmorris, Gallen, &c.

*Sheep* in some places, such as the barony of Carra, pay by composition a tenth part in lambs and fleeces.

*Small dues*, such as marriage-money, christening-money, couple money, widows, widowers, &c. are not the modus in this county, though in case of disagreement they are sometimes exacted. In case of disagreement, too, between the proctor and farmer, the tithe is drawn in kind; and in many parts an auction is advertised, to which the neighbours flock and cant each other.

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

The dearness of provisions for the last three years, the suppression, or rather suspension of the distilleries, and the act against malting, have completely over-ruled the use both of beer and spirits throughout this county, in consequence of the dearness of price, to which those causes have raised them.

In the barony of Tyrawley, and the interior of the county, the vigilance of the revenue-officers has kept down private distilleries, but in the remote and mountainous parts they went on in the worst of times, and are now working in full plight in the baronies of Clanmorris, Costello, and in many other places; so  
much

much so, that now once more, as they have plenty to eat, they are resolved to have plenty to drink.

There is a great deal of beer brewed in Castlebar; a great deal had been brewed in different parts, for instance, in the barony of Costello, until the act had been made against malting, which in a great measure prevented the growth of barley, the use of that innocent and nourishing beverage beer, and checked in some degree the career of agriculture.

#### *State of Roads, Bridges, &c.*

The roads and bridges of this county are in so very good a state, that one can hardly complain of the few that are bad. However, it must be told, that the north road, from Tyrawley to Newport, is such a burlesque upon roads, such a satire on the county, that, for its honour, this road should be either entirely stopped, or made passable.

The days being short when I passed here, and the road so basely bad and deep, across about twelve miles of a black mountain, night overtook me, the horse I rode got into the mud, and there he stuck! I could expect no great relief from the only inhabitants of this region, the grouse; fortunately, however, it was not far from the glen of Bohedoore, where a private still had been at work, and to this place a parcel of men

were



were passing with some hobbies loaded with little sacks; but those hobbies had pieces of boards, about four times the breadth of the hoof, fastened to the feet to prevent their sinking. Almost instantly they picked up my horse, and with that charming suavity of kindness, which so conspicuously identifies the Connaught peasant, whipped those trappings off one of the hobbies, fastened them to my horse's feet, and conveyed me in safety upwards of a mile, where I landed on a somewhat passable road.

The roads from the continent, as I may say, to Erris are so completely bad and devious, as to be in winter almost impassable; a new road, however, direct from Tyrawley is almost finished in this barony. The bridges also in general are in very good order.

#### *Of Navigations and navigable Rivers.*

*The river Moy* is navigable from the Atlantic, for boats of fifty tons, up to Killala, and to Ballina, six miles and a half into the county.

By one lock at the castle of Belleek, ships of heavy burden, it is said, could come up to Ballina, if the river at one part near the town was deepened.

*The river of Lung*, which runs into Lough-gara, is navigable for eight or ten miles, from above the bridge of Crenan, for boats of ten ton, except in a few spots,

not



not amounting in all to a mile. Lough-gara is ten miles long to Carrowmore, within a mile of Boyle, and navigable for boats of any weight; from Carrowmore to Lough-kay, by the river of Boyle, a distance of about one mile and a half, could at an easy expence be made navigable; and from thence to the Shannon, a space of about five miles, by the excavation of about one mile, could also be made navigable.

Lough-gara, near Boyle, touches on the borders of Roscommon, Sligo, and Mayo; it is in some places five miles across; its banks are for the most part excellent for tillage and fattening; those banks are likewise in the neighbourhood of coal and iron ore, consequently opening this navigation might eventually prove of extreme public utility.

Those are the only navigations or navigable rivers in this county, except the Marquis of Sligo's canal, which winds for several miles through his demesne; it serves for conveying sea and other manures to different parts of the demesne, for conveying among the fields turnips and green feeding, and for several purposes.

#### *Of Fisheries.*

Fifty fishing-boats are plying about Killala: the fishery is frequently a good one here; it is now (November) a bad herring season.

For

For two or three years, under an idea of the herrings having deserted the coast, the fisheries have been totally neglected about Newport and Westport. However it is presumed watch should be kept, lest they may come, and again steal away unperceived, to the great prejudice not only of this country, but of the kingdom.

At Newport and Burrishool rivers there are small salmon fisheries set at sixty pounds a year.

At Killery bay there is a salmon fishery, producing an annual rent of an hundred and fifty pounds to the lessee of Lord Sligo. There are two other considerable salmon fisheries at Belclare and Louisbourg.

Probably all the lakes and rivers of the county abound with all sorts of fresh-water fish, and many of them are the depots for all the salmon to deposit their spawn in.

*Clonlomey river*, in the barony of Costello, is the chief nursery for the Ballina fishery, and is now in care of bargers. Those bargers, or persons appointed to watch the rivers where the salmon come up to spawn, are extremely troublesome, in entering the houses of peaceable inhabitants at late hours, abusing and beating them when not in bribe. This I write by desire of a gentleman in the barony of Carra, who is ready to prove it.

The Killala and Ballina fisheries are very considerable, beside a great many of inferior note on small rivers communicating with the sea.

Fresh-water fish of every kind, and the best qualities, abound in all the lakes and rivers of this county.

In times of scarcity of provisions, if the children were instructed in fishing with fine hooks, lines, and proper baits, they could positively in summer time have abundance in fish alone, without meal or potatoes.

#### STATE OF EDUCATION, SCHOOLS, AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

Notwithstanding the backward situation of this county, it cannot, in point of the education common to the poor of the kingdom, be said to be inferior to the other parts of it. In the

##### *Barony of Tyrrawley*

There are no endowed schools. Common country schools, teaching to read and write, are pretty frequent; no charitable institution.

##### *Barony of Burrishoole.*

Here is an institution established by the Rev. Mr. Vesey, late rector of the parish at Newport, who contributed six hundred pounds, and by Sir Neal O'Donnell,



nell, who contributed two hundred pounds, beside a dwelling and school houses, and a plot of ground of a few perches. Into this school children of all descriptions are admitted, and taught English and writing. Sir Neal O'Donnell is the trustee.

Here is beside one of the charter-schools for forty children. No other charitable institution.

### *Barony of Murrisk.*

A free-school is just now opened at Westport, for the education of poor children.

So great is the population of this part of the country, that every two or three villages have a school numerously attended. Here is beside the 40s. school of the parish.

*Charitable institutions.* None here, except casual donations by the Marchioness of Sligo; they should not, however, be called casual; they are constant, abundant, and extensive to all the poor.

### *Barony of Carra.*

There is at Castlebar a charter-school for fifty girls; the parochial and common schools are every where dispersed; at Castlebar, too, is the county infirmary, consisting of twelve beds.

*Barony of Clanmorris.*

State of education here is very defective; no encouragement whatever. The common school-masters are much fewer than before the rebellion. No charitable institution.

*Barony of Gallen.*

The state of education in this barony is confined to common schools for reading and writing English, and a little arithmetic; at which most of the children of the poor attend, while the parents can spare them from working. No charitable institution.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

There is at Ballinrobe a charter-school for forty boys; no other endowed school. The young are generally sent to common schools, where they pay 1s., 1s. 6d., and sometimes more per quarter, according to the progress of the children. No charitable institution.

*Barony of Costello.*

Petty schools, kept and paid for by the poor, are the only source of education here, except Mr. Costello's school, supported by him for the poor of his estate in this barony. I am desired by good authority to state, that there is not one school of the 40s. endowment in any or either of the eight parishes of this barony; and indeed I am sorry to observe, that few, very few of them are kept in this or any other county I am acquainted with. No charitable institution.

## OF ABSENTEE AND RESIDENT PROPRIETORS.

*Barony of Tyrrawley.*

## ABSENTEE.

Arran, Earl of

Bishop and Dean of Killala. Bishop's house occupied as a barrack.

Burke, Captain William, in the militia

Cormick, Captain Michael

Knox, Major John—militia

Knox, Arthur, Woodstock

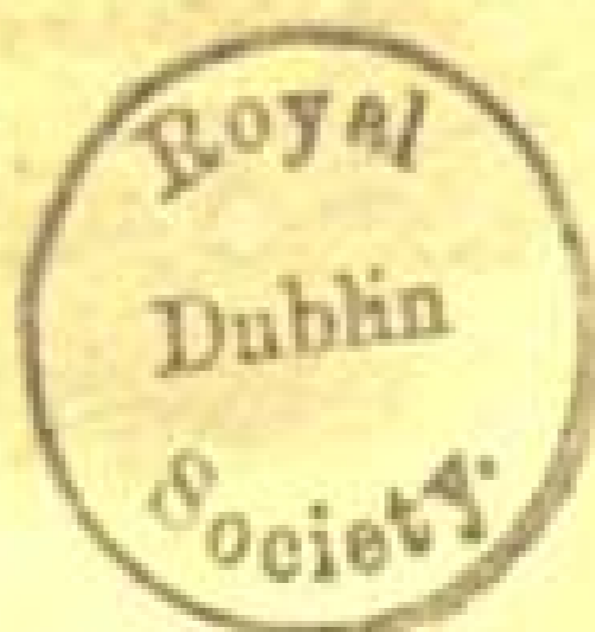
Knox,



Knox, Counsellor, Bartra  
 Gore, Honorable Richard  
 Handy, Samuel  
 King, Honorable Colonel  
 Palmer, Captain Thomas, Summer-hill  
 Palmer, Sir John, Castlelacken  
 Palmer, Roger, Palmerstown  
 Tyrawley, Lord

## RESIDENT.

Atkinson, Charles  
 Burke, Joseph, Carrokeel  
 Cuffe, Colonel, Deel-castle  
 Jackson, Colonel, Prospect  
 King, Rev. Archdeacon, Ballina  
 Knox, Francis, Rappa  
 Orme, William, Abbey-town  
 Ormsby, John, Gortnarabbey  
 Orme, Robert, Millbrook  
 Paget, James, Knockglafs  
 Palmer, Roger, Carrowmore  
 Pue, Robert, Strahan  
 Vaughan, Arthur, Carrowmore



*Barony of Burrishboole.*

## RESIDENT.

Sir Neal O'Donnell

Minor O'Malley

## ABSENTEE.

Captain Michael Cormick

*Barony of Murrisk.*

## RESIDENT.

Marquis of Sligo

Boniface Garvey

## NON-RESIDENT.

Clanricarde, Earl of

Lucan, Earl of

O'Malley, Samuel

Palmer, Roger

Tuam, Archbishop of

*Barony of Carra.*

## RESIDENT.

Browne, Dodwell, Rahins  
 Blake, Mark, Ballinafad  
 Blake, Major, Towerhill  
 Browne, Dominick, Breaffy  
 Fitzgerald, Colonel, Turlow  
 Gildea, Anthony, Port-royal  
 Lynch, Captain Henry, Cloonlahin  
 Lynch, Patrick, Clogher  
 Moor, George, Moorhall

## NON-RESIDENT.

Avonmore, Lord  
 Blake, Sir Walter  
 Blofs, Sir Robert  
 Erne, Lord  
 Lucan, Lord  
 Palmer, Roger

*Barony of Clanmorris.*

## RESIDENT.

Browne, Colonel, Castlemagarrett; occasionally  
 with his regiment.

Browne,



Browne, Lieut. Colonel, Brown-hall, Ditto  
 Lynch, Peter, Moat  
 Lynch, Andrew Crane, Bulybegg  
 Kirkwood, ———, Cottlestown  
 Moore, Joseph, Ballintaffy

## NON-RESIDENT.

Blofs, Sir Robert  
 Blake, Walter, Dunmacreeny  
 Bell, Edmond, Streamstown  
 Fitzmaurice, Mark  
 Kirwan, Edmond, Dalgan  
 O'Moore, Garrett, Cloghan-castle  
 Trench, Thomas, Ballykin  
 Trench, Frederick, Queen's county

*Barony of Gallen.*

## RESIDENT.

Browne, George, Browne's-town  
 Joice, John, Oxford  
 Jordan, Myles, Rofslevan  
 Jordan, Charles, Thornhill  
 Lynch, James, Cullen  
 M'Manus, ———, Barley-hill  
 Martin, Thomas, Germany  
 Moore, Robert, Cloonger  
 Ormsby, Thomas, Ballinamore  
 Taaff, Henry, Woodfield

NON-RESIDENT.

## NON-RESIDENT.

Brabazon, Sir Anthony  
 Knox, Minor, Woodstock  
 Gore, John, Woodford

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

## RESIDENT.

Browne, Arthur, Turin-castle  
 Blake, John, Heath  
 Bowen, Christopher, Hollymount  
 D'Arcy, ———, Gortain  
 Gildea, ———, Port-royal  
 Kirwan, Edmond, Dalgan  
 Kirwan, Martin, French-grove  
 Lyndsey, Thomas, Hollymount  
 Miller, Major, Millford  
 Rutledge, ———, Bloomfield

## NON-RESIDENT.

Blake, Minor, Lehiach  
 Blake, Charles, Moyne  
 Browne, George, Mount-Browne  
 Clanmorris, Lord  
 Edward, Anthony  
 Jennyns, ———, Moant-Jennyns

Kilmaine, Lord

Tyrawley, Lord

*Barony of Costello.*

RESIDENT.

Costello, Charles, Edmondstown

Bettagh, ———, Mannin

Dillon, John, Lung

Dillons, Miss, Cottage

Dillon, Luke, Anna

Hughes, James, Balladerrin

M'Donnell, Myles, Cloonmore

O'Malley, Alexander, Eden

Nolan, John, Logboy

Ormsby, Bowen

Taaffe, Henry, Woodfield

Trench, Frederick

NON-RESIDENT.

Bermingham, John, Dalgan

Costello, Patrick, Galway

Dillon, Colonel, Hazel-hill

Dillon, Lord

French, Arthur, French-park

Knox, William, Dublin

Knox, Arthur, Woodstock



*Of Circulation of Money or Paper.*

Among commercial and literate persons, money and paper are equally current; but the natives of the wild mountainy parts neither give nor take paper.

*Of farming or agricultural societies.*

There is no such thing in this county, and those best acquainted with its economical and political constitution apprehend there is no prospect of any for some years to come.

## OF MANUFACTURES—WHETHER ENCREASING.

*Barony of Tyrawley.*

None, except in yarns and linens, which is very considerable, though they cannot be said to be on the encrease. Here is no bleach-green; the linens, of course, are sold grey, and sent into other countries.

*Barony of Burrisheel.*

Almost all the cabins have every one a loom, some two, and they spin and weave pieces of linen for the Castlebar and Westport markets. A straw manufactory was introduced and encouraged here by Mrs. Graydon; there are now in Newport and its neighbourhood a great number\* of girls employed, whose manufacture is sold at from 4s. to 26s. the hat or bonnet; very small girls earn from six pence to sixteen pence per day; the most fashionable ladies of this and the adjacent counties buy and wear them, not for charity, but for their fineness and excellence.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

The linen manufacture was introduced here and patronized by the late Earl of Altamont; it did and does prosper exceedingly. Two very extensive bleach-greens, one of them remarkably so, are now established and at full work in this neighbourhood. Coarse frizes, flannels, and stockings are manufactured in this barony for the use of the country.

*Barony*

\* I believe the number to be upwards of an hundred children, most of whom maintain themselves and their families by the straw manufacture. G.

*Barony of Carra.*

The linen manufacture is in this barony arrived at a high degree of improvement, and has been, by pains and premiums, brought to its present perfection by the late Lord Lucan. Here is at Castlebar a linen-hall, where upwards of five hundred pounds are laid out every Saturday. No other manufactory, except for the use of the country, frizes, flannels, &c. which is common to all the baronies.

*Barony of Clannorris.*

None but the linen-yarn manufacture, which has encreased, and is encreasing.

*Barony of Gallen.*

The linen and yarn trades are here in an infant, trifling, yet encreasing process.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

The chief manufacture here is of yarn; there are some, but very few weavers.

*Barony*



*Barony of Costello.*

The flax and yarn trades are here in very brisk plight; large quantities of both are sold raw and in linens.

*Of Encouragement to them, and the peculiar aptness of Situation for their extension.*

The principal encouragement to the principal manufacture of the county has appeared to have been given by the late Earls of Altamont and Lucan, which not only has improved their own estates and neighbourhoods, but diffused the linen trade, and gave that branch a very active spring through the county. The migration too of the northern weavers, during the late troubles, into this county has very much promoted the linen manufacture.

As to the peculiar aptness of situation for the extension of manufactures, it may be called peculiar, but very general with regard to its diffusion and frequency in different parts of it.

That there are inexhaustible quantities of coal in the mountains of Mayo, every appearance confirms as near as possible to a certainty; and I am ashamed to tell of

the

the Marquis of Sligo, that, though he has received those assurances, he is disinclined to adventure a few hundreds in the search.

In Slieu Carn, and Mr. Costello's mountains in that barony, coal certainly lies hid.

If those discoveries were ascertained, as there is every where abundance of ore and water, we could again have iron manufactories, as they had before, while fuel lasted in this county.

There are near Westport clays for potteries and porcelain, and the manganese for printing and glazing; but for want of enterprize we export those articles to our ingenious and adventurous sister, England.

At Ballina, Costello, and different parts of the county is abundance of fuel and water, and consequently every aptness of situation for bleach-greens, many of which are still necessary in this county, so extensive and considerable is grown the linen business; and every branch of trade could be here promoted, which requires fuel, water, an abundant provision country, and conveniently intersected and indented with good roads and safe harbours.

the Marquis of Sligo, that though he has received those assurances, he is disinclined to adventure a few

**OF MILLS OF EVERY KIND.**

In Sligo Carr, and Mr. Colclough's mountains in that

*Barony of Tyrrawley.*

If those discoveries were ascertained, as there is

every where abundance of ore and water, we could  
**Here are plenty of oat and barley mills; no flour-  
 mill.**

while fuel is not in this country.

There are several water-powers and

*Barony of Murrisk.*

poteries, and the materials for printing and glazing.

but for want of capital we export those articles to

**In this barony are two bleach-mills, many oat-mills,  
 and one threshing-mill, on the most improved and ex-  
 tensive construction, on Lord Sligo's demesne.**

At Dalrymple, Colclough's mountains, there is a

abundance of fuel and water, and consequently every

applies of fuel for the purpose of which

*Barony of Burrisboole.*

are still necessary.

liberal is grown the linen business; and every

branch of trade could be here.

quies fuel, water, an abundant provision of corn, and

consequently interests with good success

*Barony of Carra.*

and the labour.

**Three bleach-mills about Castlebar; one good flour-  
 mill, beside a great number of common oat and tuck-  
 mills.**



*Barony of Clannorris.*

There are here two flour and many oat mills.

*Barony of Gallen,*

Has oat and tuck mills.

*Barony of Kilmaine.*

In this barony are one windmill, one extensive flour-mill, with many common corn-mills.

*Barony of Costello.*

Here are common corn-mills in abundance; rape-mills, from the quality of the grounds, and number and course of the rivers, call here for encouragement.

## PLANTATIONS AND PLANTING.

*Barony of Tyrrawley.*

This barony is very naked in that respect; there is a great deal of grown timber and planting at Deel-castle, and Colonel Cuffe has planted and is planting extensively in a style (it may be supposed) of very good taste. Mr. Ormsby and several other gentlemen begin to disclose a taste for improvement in this line.

*Barony of Burrisbool.*

All this country and the beautiful islands of Newport are as naked as mother earth had been created. The very few hedges and trees about Newport are a living proof of the facility of growing trees here, and a reproach to the proprietors for the bare bleakness of the views and islands, which, if planted, would be a paradise to live among.

*Barony of Murrisk.*

There is a prodigious extent and variety of plantations belonging to the Marquis of Sligo in this barony,  
but

but dispersed far away from Westport, and from those islands and scenes, which, if wooded, would surpass all nature, and easily exceed any thing, that imagination could picture. There are however some plantations handsomely disposed on this bay and demesne of Lord Sligo's, some of them quite near the sea, which helps to prove what I have undertaken, in describing the face of the country under the head of *soil and surface*, that trees, by pains, shelter, and thick planting, will grow in situations ever so exposed to sea-storms.

*Barony of Carra.*

Very few here, except at Tower-hill, Moor-hall, Turlow, Cloher, and Breaffy.

*Barony of Clannorris.*

I never saw so much full-grown timber as on the demesne of Castlemagarret, that is, of artificial growth. Plantations are going on there too, as also at Browne-hall, Moat, and several other places. Planting is in this barony quite the rage and order of the day.

*Barony of Gallen.*

None, except a little on a few gentlemens demesnes.



*Barony of Kilmaine.*

The gentlemen are all planting about their houses and demesnes.

*Barony of Costello.*

None here of any note but on the demesne of Edmondstown, which is extensively planted and wooded, and a little at Mr. M'Donnell's of Cloonmore. Lord Dillon has a small wood near Balladerrin.

*Of the Effects of the Encouragement heretofore given by the Society, particularized in the List annexed.*

This list recites premiums granted to the Earl of Altamont in the year 1789 for enclosing plants. 10 acres.

In 1791	ditto	10 do.
In 1796	ditto	10 do.
In 1797	ditto	12 do.
In 1798 planting oaks,		20 do.
To C. Costello In 1794 enclosing plantations		10 do.
To Martin Kirwan In 1790 planting oaks,		1 do.
To Peter Bourke for planting Danish forts	{ 2 R. 25 P. planted, 60 P. enclosed }	

Those

Those plantations are all in good growth and preservation, except those of Mr. Bourke, of which not a trace remains. The gentleman himself has been dead some time; his family say those forts had been planted, but were destroyed by an exposed situation, and by cattle.

As to the effect produced by those grants, it is clear they had not been very considerable in diffusing example and emulation, as many more premiums had not since those dates been demanded. But whatever may be the cause, one effect is visible, that planting young trees is the pride and fashion of this county.

*Of any Improvements, which may occur for future Encouragement, and particularly for the preservation of the Trees when planted.*

The continued care, protection, and premiums of the Dublin Society are, together with the growing pride and emulation in that article, the surest pledges of future encouragement.

As to the preservation of the trees when planted, I have certainly taken some pains and observation, enough to offer an opinion on this subject—it is, that only two things are necessary to preserve them; first, to fence, so as to exclude all sorts of cattle, rabbits, or any other noxious animals; and next, to plant as thickly as the  
nature

nature of the trees will permit; the outside rows, in exposed situations, being always of hardy and fast growers, such as chefnuts, Canada poplar, alder, broom, &c.

*Of Nurseries within the County, and Extent of Sales.*

There are only three public ones in the county; two in the barony of Clanmorris, and one large very good one at Castlebar: there had been a small one at Rappa in Tyrawley, it is going to decay; and in Gallen some mountain ash is reared and sold.

The extent of sales indeed is very considerable, and must be where such a desire of improvement shews itself.

*Price of Timber, and state of it.*

Three colonels are the only three fellers of living trees in this county; but life indeed is nearly exhausted, before any are sold at Castemagarret by Colonel Browne, who is a druidical amateur of the groves; and Lieut. Colonel Browne preserves life in his as long as he can at Browne-hall; Colonel Cuffe too is only felling the rampeked and ill arrayed part of his trees and underwoods; the prices are moderate, but cannot be ascertained, as none are sold by measure. I

said



said a while ago the three colonels were the only sellers of *living* trees, because in the barony of Murrisk *dead* trees are sold, which are found on the mountains, where they lay for centuries, and where they grew in the face of the western storms.

The bog-deal thus found sells at two guineas a ton, bog-oak at one guinea.

#### QUANTITY OF BOG AND WASTE GROUND.

Although the extent of the different baronies had been before described, together with their situation and connection, I shall here again mention their extent, in order that at one view the proportion of bog and waste ground may be seen, according to the best information I could collect from the most intelligent proprietors and residents in each barony.

#### *Barony of Tyrrawley,*

Is twenty-eight miles long by sixteen broad; the proportion of mountain and bog, if all was together, is eighteen miles long by six broad.

In describing the other baronies, I shall collect into one tract the quantities of bog and waste ground, although they are detached and scattered by nature.

*Barony of Burrisbool,*

Is forty miles long and thirty broad; its bogs and waste grounds forty long by seven.

*Barony of Murrisk,*

Is twenty-four miles long and twelve broad; bogs and waste grounds about twelve long by six broad.

*Barony of Carra,*

Is twenty-eight miles by fourteen; bog and waste grounds ten miles by ten.

*Barony of Clanmorris,*

Is fourteen miles by seven. Here is very little bog; it does not bear a proportion of one-tenth part of the whole.

*Barony of Gallen,*

Is sixteen miles by thirteen; and the proportion of bog is three to one.

*Barony*

*Barony of Kilmaine,*

Is about eighteen miles square; the proportion of bog and waste ground is about one-eighth part.

*Barony of Costello,*

Thirty miles by twenty; bog, mountain, and waste, fifteen by ten.

## POSSIBILITY AND MEANS OF IMPROVING IT.

*Barony of Tyrrawley,*

The greatest part of the extensive mountains of this barony is reclaimable by draining, paring, and burning, and by making roads into those mountains for the conveyance of lime and limestone-gravel, with which this barony abounds.

*Baronies of Burrisbool, Murrisk, Carra, Gallen, and Costello.*

The mountains and bogs of all those baronies are every foot reclaimable, by the already mentioned and



well known means of burning and fanding after draining, where necessary; but vast tracts of those mountains are naturally dry and absorbent, and the best manures no where unreasonably inconvenient; so that in fact the work only requires hands and encouragement. In one of those baronies Mr. Costello twenty-one years ago set a large mountain farm, at 130*l.* a year, to a number of tenants, with certain allowances for draining and fanding. At November last the lease expired, and they renewed at 400*l.* annual rent, with the like clauses for improvement.

*Baronies of Kilmaine and Clanmorris,*

Are reclaimed by nature; the quantity of bog in those two baronies is little, if any thing more, than is necessary for fuel.

*Obstacles to it, and best means of removing those Obstacles.*

In my clear conviction, the obstacles are three in number—*superfluous grazing, expatriation, and short leases.*

*Superfluous grazing* drives the natives away from the fertile fields into swamps and mountains, where they die

die of wet, cold, filth, and famine; while, living in a rich productive soil, in health and abundance of food provisions, their families would soon encrease to myriads, that from necessity must encroach upon and gradually cover the mountains with culture, verdure, and population.

In the first instance the peasant dies in the attempt, because he is ignorant of the method of improvement, and wanting in means to forward it.

In the second instance, as I remember to have mentioned on a similar occasion, the peasant will attack the mountain, instructed in the method of doing so; and flushed with spirits and capital, he will live in health and affluence on the very mountain, where his ancestors perished for cold and hunger.

I here again repeat it, that this superfluous grazing should not pamper individuals on the ruins of agriculture and population, on account of any view to the necessary supplies of the navy, because salt provisions are slow poison to the sailors, and vegetable food would conduce infinitely more to their health and activity.

*Expatriation* of the most useful part of the community must obviously enervate the sinews of industry, and weaken every effort towards the cultivation of mountains. This is too plain to attempt enforcing by any argument. I therefore only anxiously hope, that some personage of ingenious talents, an ingenuous heart,

and influence and consequence for such an undertaking, may devise and mature some means, by way of European committee or otherwise, to prevent a renovation of war—a renovation of scenes, at which in the abstract the human heart, the heart of the bravest man must shudder.

*Short leases* are the third, the last, and not the least obstacle to the improvement of bogs and waste grounds; this too is of itself so obvious, that to say a word in confirmation of it must insult the meanest capacity.

When I speak of electioneering views, I really do not allude particularly to the county of Mayo; but the general cry is, that the poor were much better off by their old leases of thirty-one years, than by one or two lives ever so good; for leases of this duration, if I have not been misinformed, are more frequent than those of three lives or a longer term. And until some change takes place in this respect, the poor will remain dispirited to improve on lands, that may so soon or so precariously revert to the proprietors.

The obstacles to the improvement of bogs and waste grounds I have, to the best of my conception of the subject, enumerated.

As to the best means of removing those obstacles, it remains with the Dublin Society to suggest to the Imperial parliament their best opinion.

However,



However, as in the queries the question is directly put to me, as one of the reporters to the Dublin Society, I shall first observe, as to *superfluous grazing*, that, as I have endeavoured to shew, it is one of the principal remote causes of the sterility of waste grounds, and that no disposition or means of superseding it by agriculture should be deterred, under the idea of salt beef being an absolute necessary for the navy; it is absolute poison—I rest upon the expression, it is absolute though slow poison; and the wisdom of the nation and of the faculty should converge to substitute a food productive of health and activity, instead of scurvies, decrepitude, and all the disorders consequent on the destruction of that fountain of life, the blood.

This opinion, as a novel one, may be treated lightly. Fair discussion must always benefit every subject. Some capable person or persons, if this is admitted into public view, may improve it beyond any expectation, that could be formed from those crude hints.

It may be asked, what *could* be the substitute to beef? I reply, suppose oatmeal stirabout in the morning with beer, and potatoes, butter, and grog for dinner; rice—various varieties. How could a sufficiency of those articles be carried for a ship of war? Either as ballast in the ship herself, or in a small detached boat or ship sailing in company.

Convinced I am, strange as this innovation may appear to some, that, if it is adopted, or some measure of  
this

this sort, it will do more sudden and more seriously material service to the navy, and to agriculture, than all the georgical essays, that ever were printed.

*Expatriation* I hope, as there is an end of the war, we shall hear no more of. The inventive power of some glorious mortal will immortalize his name, by devising some means to prevent that for ever.

*Short leases* are the last obstacle to be removed; my ignorance on that subject, and incompetency to suggest any palliative, I acknowledge. The removal therefore of that cause, or devising means for so doing, I beg to commit into abler hands.

#### *Habits of Industry, or want of it among the People.*

In some parts of the county there may be some little appearance of laziness and want of industry. Let advantage be pointed out, and ignorance removed, they will prove a strong, active, industrious people. Those symptoms of laziness are generally proportionate to the badness of the soil, the smallness of encouragement to reclaim, and want of manufactories.

Example more than precept, encouragement to reclaim, chiefly by long leases, and a livelier stir in manufactures, would soon give a spring to the latent energy and spirit of those people.

*The use of the English Language—whether general, or how far encreasing.*

The use of the English language through this county is rather general, though still in a defective state. Most of the old people speak a little but bad English; the children, being most commonly sent to school, speak in general some English.

*Account of Towers, Castles, Monasteries, Ancient buildings, or places remarkable for any historical event.*

ROUND TOWERS.

The round towers in particular, wherever I have met, I examined with a scrutinizing eye, in hopes I might possibly discern the use of them; a subject, on which the antiquaries seem so much divided and astray.

At the town of Bal there is one of those; the upper part is worn or tumbled off; it remains still high, about fifty feet; just near it are the walls of a small plain church; the stones and workmanship are the same as those of the tower. In the middle of the  
north



north side-wall, about four feet from the ground, in the inside of the church, I discovered a stone, making part of the wall; it is quadrangular, and the lateral lines about twenty inches long, with a cornice round the edges in high relief, projecting a little both off the wall and the stone by way of ornament, and perhaps protection for the inscription, which is in the words and letters following.

The form of the letters, distance between them, and connections, are here represented as faithfully as possible.



I have seen no more than four of those towers in the county, namely, that at Mileck, three miles from Swinford; another at Turlow, remarkably high and beautiful;

beautiful; one at Killala, exceeding them all in height and grandeur; the fourth, as mentioned, is at Bal, which, though it is the lowest, most worn, and oldest looking, may, on account of this little church and inscription, prove not the least interesting. In plain writing the inscription reads thus. Hic jacet Cor. Meaghir—ob. 26<sup>o</sup> Feb. 94, lector ora pro ejus anima.

There is on the stone no space left between the letters *feb.* and the figures 94, which could give room to suppose, that any figure implying a later date could have been prefixed to the figures; neither is there any manner of obliteration or defacement. The letters on the stone, such as they are, are strong and visible, and in a wonderful state of preservation; the cornice kept off outward injuries, even rain.

How to reconcile this fact with the ideas of some modern gentlemen, who, among some writers of respect, give it as their opinion to the world, that no stone building existed in Ireland prior to the eighth century, appears to be impossible.

In my Report of Leitrim, upon reading Doctor Keating, Giraldus Cambrensis, and some others, particularly Roger Hovedon's account of Henry II. having built a palace of smooth rods near St. Andrew's church, Dublin, in the year 1171, where he and the kings and princes of Ireland celebrated the festival of Christmas, I have concluded, for the reason just mentioned, that, if stone buildings had been in use or known, the king

§

could



could not have built a hovel of rods; and I rested therefore satisfied, that we had none prior to that period, unless perhaps a few convents or abbeys; but even then it astonished me why those, who contributed to build churches and houses for monks, should not like to be well lodged themselves.

However, all that opinion I am now very doubtful of, and rather believe, that they and I have only skimmed the surface of enquiries on a subject, which requires an acquaintance with different parts of this country, with its language, its ancient commerce, inhabitants, and heathen religious rites; all which serve as necessary clues to the formation of an opinion, whether we had in Ireland towers or stone buildings, coeval with, how soon after, or prior to Christian worship.

That the town of Bal in this county was so called from Baal, I think the word itself demonstrates, and the round tower here further demonstrates that fact, and that it was erected for the worship of that Baal, after whom the town received its name; for it sometimes is to this day, and no doubt originally was always spelled *Baal*. And this Baal is to this day a most extraordinary place of superstitious worship. Here are a couple of small chapels, vaulted over a river, which runs through the town; and once a year, I think in autumn, immense swarms of people crowd from all parts to perform certain circuits and evolutions on their knees, dropping, as they proceed in describing those figures,



figures, a certain number of beads to various intentions, and in expiation of various sins; but the day closes most chearfully in eating and drinking. Mr. Lynch, who lives just at the town, assured me that not less than three hundred sheep are consumed at this festival.

Too sudden a change in mode of worship, as it is in politics, was, it seems, considered by the early missionaries, imprudent to attempt. They suffered those people to assemble in the same place they did when heathens, and to worship a great deal in the same manner, changing only the object of adoration from a Baal to the TRUE GOD; and to this day similar assemblages to those of heathen times, and somewhat similar forms of worship, continue discernible; for it is known, that rivers and waters were almost as favourite places of heathen worship as the oaks and groves.

That Baal was anciently a favourite object of adoration in Ireland, the season of the year called Baal-teine, or Baal's fire confirms; and the celebration of that rite is annually continued to this day, by lighting up bonfires in the middle of summer, being that season when Baal or the sun is most powerful in his influence, and most productive of the fruits and milk, by which the natives mostly subsisted.

## CASTLES.

These I shall enumerate, with such accounts of their founders as I have received in the county.

*Portnahally Castle.*

One mile west of Downpatrick are the ruins of this old castle; it was about twenty feet square; the walls about eight feet thick, and only about twenty high; no trace of a window is discernible in the walls. Tradition says it was erected by the Barret family.

*Ballycastle Castle.*

This ruin is quite razed to a level with the ground; it is situated about a mile and a half south-west of Portnahally castle, but no account remains when or by whom built.

*Ballynglen Castle,*

A square of about thirty feet, and fifty high; the walls, as usual in those buildings, very broad and grouted. It is situated in the glen of that name in  
Tyrawley,

Tyrawley, about two miles from the sea.—On the top of this castle is an altar; the part of the castle, in which it is, is called the altar-room.

*Carrickanafs Castle,*

About one mile west of Castlerea; it is a square of thirty feet, about forty-five feet high, surrounded by a strong bawn nine feet high, built by the Burke family.

*Castlerea,*

The ruins of a strong castle, razed to the ground, are here visible on the banks of Rathfran river, near two miles from the sea.

All those castles, of whose founders no tradition remains, are adopted, and some say very justly, by the Burke and Barret families.

*Deel Castle,*

Originally built by the Burke family, stands roofed and entire, within four miles of Ballina, on Colonel Cuffe's demesne of Deel-castle; it is about twenty feet square, and very strong. The castle itself, and the views from it over the Deel river, Lough-con lake, and  
the



the distant mountain of Nephin and some others, are no small ornament to the handsome seat of Colonel Cuffe.

*Castle of Crossmalina*

Does not seem ever to have been strong, or of any importance; only one fragment of it is standing.

*Castle of Knockglass,*

Now razed to the foundation, on which Mr. Paget has built a very good house, where he resides.

*Castle of Cloghans,*

On the eastern banks of Lough-con, one of the common square castles of this country.

*Castle-Island:*

Here are the ruins of an old castle on Lough-con, where it is said O'Connor, after getting out his eyes, confined his brother for having rebelled against him.

*Rockfleet*

*Rockfleet Castle,*

Three miles west of Newport, on the sea; only a small square building, said to have been built by the famous Grace O'Malley, known by the name of Grace of the heroes. She was so fond of sailing, that her castles were all built on the sea, and a cable of her favourite barge was always fastened to her bed-post; she herself always navigated, and by some, perhaps enemies of that name, was said to be a most fortunate and adventurous pirate.

*Carrickaneady Castle,*

South-east of Newport one mile; one of the small square castles said to have been built by the Burkes.

*Castle Derowil,*

A square building, in the common fashion of this country castles, within two miles of Baal.

*Castle More,*

A ruin of no note, within a mile of Balladerrin, built by the Dillon family; others say by the Costelloes.

*Breize Castle,*

About three miles from Baal, one of those square ruins.

*Castlemagarret,*

Within a mile of Ballindangen, also a square ruin.

*Castle of Marneen,*

Within two miles of Clare, a ruin in the square form of the others.

*Ballylahan Castle,*

One of the square towers surrounded by a strong wall in Gallen; the square of this is about thirty feet; it was built by one of the Jordan family, who also built in the same barony ten more for his ten sons; namely, those of *Othouse, Rathelvin, Bohelo, Balanamore, Tomore, Oldcastle, Newcastle, Carran mac Steven*, and two others, all in the plain, common, square fashion of the country, with very few and very small windows.



*Inver Castle,*

On the east side of Broad-haven harbour; no part of the walls up; the foundations shew the castle to have been very strong and large; it seems to have been the principal castle in all Erris. There are many ruins of inferior note.

*Knocknalina Castle*

Was very small; the ruins are just opposite Inver castle, on the harbour of Broad-haven.

*Tarran Castle,*

Was very small, about twenty feet square, situate in Erris, six miles west of the Mullet.

*Barnagh Castle,*

A very small square ruin, four miles from the Mullet, on the harbour of Blackfod.

*Corclogh Castle,*

Lies about one and a half mile north-west of the Mullet; very small.

*Dunab Castle,*

Lies on the west side of Black-sod harbour, in the mountain of Erris. Those walls are almost entire, thirty feet square, seven feet broad, with a great many appurtenant compartments, all strong and extensive, furrounded by the remains of a strong wall seven feet broad. The love of the foundress for sailing became proverbial, and her love for marriage, having had six husbands; it was for her the famous Irish ballad called *Grawnnya Wael* had been composed.

There are beside scattered through the county the castles of Lough-mask, Ballinrobe, Turin castle, Shruel castle, Ballybacca castle, Cloongashel, and many others, which have no right to particular notice, all square buildings in the then it seems current fashion of this country, and mostly built by the Burke, Barret, and Jennings families.

## MONASTERIES.

The following account I have taken from Mr. Archdall's *Monasticon Hibernicum*; I have also seen Mr. Grose's drawings of some of them. Such as are of no note are merely named, others adverted to according to their consequence or curiosity.

*Aghagower,*

*Aghagower,*

Five miles from Ballinrobe, founded by Saint Patrick; no date.

*Aghamore,*

In the barony of Costello, founded by St. Patrick. It is now a parish church; no date.

*Annagh,*

In the barony of Kilmaine, said to have been founded by Walter De Burgh for Augustinian friars.

*Ballagh,*

Eight miles south-west of Castlebar. St. Mochus or Chronan built it; he was the first abbot, and died in 637.

*Ballentully,*

No account, but having been possessed of some lands in time of its suppression.



*Ballybauness.*

This abbey was built and largely endowed in lands by the family of De Angelo or Nangle, who afterwards took the name of Costello. They came over with Henry II. and had large possessions in this barony, and also in Meath. The abbey consists of three chapels. Beneath the eastern window is the altar, with the Dillon arms under the crucifix, and in the vaults many of this noble family rest. The abbey was built for the Augustinians, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary; these monks took possession of the church at the commencement of the Irish rebellion in 1641, and repaired it. By an inquisition held the 10th of September 1625, Lord Dillon was seized of the environs. View by Cocking, 1791, taken for Colonel Conyng-ham, and copied from him into Grose's Irish Antiquities.

This abbey, as it is called, and as it now stands, consists only of the walls of a church, with two small wings, separated from the church and from each other by arches. This church, the wings, and arches are a miniature and mean resemblance of the church of Moyne, between Ballina and Killala; no vestige remains of the abbey, or residence of the friars, unless a

modera

modern house, in which some friars still reside, and built on the site of it.

*Ballina.*

Here are still entire the walls of a small church; no account of it or tradition; it is probably one of the heathen temples so beautifully described by Virgil's *templumq; vetustum*, as perhaps are many more, of which not a trace of written or verbal tradition can be discovered.

*Ballynasmall.*

Here was a friary for Carmelites, founded in the thirteenth century. This abbey and possessions were granted to Sir John King.

*Ballinrobe.*

Here was a monastery of Augustinian friars. No account of it, but having large possessions in land.

*Ballintubber Abbey,*

In the barony of Carra, seven miles from Ballinrobe; it was built by Cathal O'Conor for regular canons of  
St.

St. Austin, and dedicated to the Holy Trinity; it had a large property in land, conferred by different benefactors. It was originally a magnificent pile, the workmanship of superior excellence; a good many parts of the ruins are still entire; the great steeple is down, but the grand arch upon which it rested is entire; I should suppose it upwards of fifty feet high, of equally curious and solid elegance. The great door is beautiful, being a pointed arch supported by five columns. It is altogether a master-piece in its kind, and admired as such by the most refined judges, judges even who saw the drawings and original of the Bathala.

*Boghmoyen.*

Here it is said had been a Franciscan friary; founder and time of building unknown.

*Bophin Island,*

In the ocean, about twelve miles off the barony of Murrisk, said to contain 1,200 acres. An abbey was founded here in 667 by St. Colman, who died in 674.

*Borriscarra.*

The Carmelites had a house here.

*Bowfinan.*



*Bowfinan.*

Here was a Franciscan house and large possessions.

*Burrisbool,*

A large inelegant ruin, within about two miles of Newport. It appears by a bull of Pope Innocent VIII. dated the ninth of February 1486, that Richard De Bourke, Lord William Oughter, and head of the family of Turlow, founded a monastery here, under the invocation of the Virgin Mary, for Dominican friars, which was granted to Nicholas Weston, who assigned to Theobald Viscount Costello Gallen.

*Clara.*

A cell of white friars was founded here in 1224; the possessions still belong to the ancient family of O'Malleys, containing 2,400 acres.

*Cong,*

Formerly the residence of the kings of Connaught. St. Fechan erected a magnificent monastery here, under  
the

the invocation of the Virgin Mary, and died 664. In 1605 a lease in reversion of all its possessions were granted for fifty years to Sir John King, ancestor of the Earl of Kingston. The ruins of several churches are seen here.

*Cross.*

Here was a religious house.

*Crossmalina.*

Here was an abbey and possessions beautifully situated on the Deel-water; on the site is now erected the house of Mr. Orme of Abbey-town.

*Donnacmor,*

Founded by Saint Patrick.

*Erew,*

A friary at the end of the peninsula of that name, beautifully situated on Lough-con lake. The architecture appears to be very old; part of the stones have been converted into stables; shameful dishonourable  
destructions

destructions of this kind, bespeaking a want of antiquarian and true general taste, are common throughout the counties I have visited.

*Inchmean,*

In Lough-mask: here was an abbey; Maoliosa, son of Turlogh O'Connor, prior, died here Anno 1225.

*Inistormen.*

Here was a friary according to Allemande; it is a matter of doubt if ever there was one; at present there is not a trace of such a building.

*Killecrau.*

Here were a religious house and possessions.

*Killeden,*

A Franciscan friary on the river Moy, having, as usual, large land possessions.



*Killetrynode,*

In this county, not said where; I could not make it out.

*Kilfynan.*

An abbey by Saint Fynan, which existed but a short time.

*Kilmormoy,*

In Tyrawley, built by Saint Olcan, on the banks of the Moy, now a parish church. This ruin is not on the banks of, but upwards of a mile away from the Moy, and there is no church on its site.

*Kilnegarvan,*

In the barony of Gallen, six miles from Foxford. This church was founded by Saint Fechan, who died A. D. 664.

*Kilroe,*

*Kilree,*

In Tyrawley, said to be built by Saint Patrick. It lies within a mile of Killala, a small ruin.

*Killyn,*

In Tyrawley; no particulars in Monasticon, but its being seized of lands. I found a burial-place of this name, but no trace of any building.

*Leanamanach,*

An abbey, built by Saint Patrick on the Moy.

*Mayo.*

This humble village gives name to the county, and has its situation on a river, which falls into Lough Carra. Here was an abbey of regular canons. Here I found no village, but very considerable ruins, nor is there a river. Mayo nunnery was likewise here.

*Mons Pietatis.*

Burke alone informs us a Franciscan friary was here; now no trace of it.

*Morisk,*

On the bay of Newport; here was a friary for Eremites, founded by the O'Malleys, at the foot of Croagh-Patrick. The bay is now called Clew-bay, and the site of this ruin off the harbour of Westport.

*Moyne,*

In Tyrawley, on the river Moy; here a Franciscan monastery was founded by William Burke; date not mentioned.

This is within two miles of Killala; here are a very fine church, and large ruins of a convent, all known by the erroneous name of Moyne abbey. The church is 135 feet long by 20 broad; in some places 40 and 50 feet broad; this increase of breadth is opened by high and broad arches of magnificent size and workmanship. Off the top of the centre of the church rises the steeple, not less than an hundred feet high; it is supported by an arch, which makes part of the nave of the church; the



the eastern window is very handsome: all the walls and gables are entire; it is a charming ruin.

*Odbhacheara,*

The saints Liban and Forchern are said to have lived here in the time of Colum-kil.

*Rathbran,*

Called Rathfran, in Tyrawley, five miles from Killala, founded by the Dexters, who afterwards took the name of Jordan, for Dominicans in 1274.

There now remains but a small church of no note.

*Rathcolp,*

Wholly unknown.

*Rosserick,*

Commonly called Roserk abbey, situated on the Moy, within about two miles of Ballina, and three of Killala; it was built by the Joices, who were both in England and Ireland a family of high consideration, in the year 1400.

This monastery and church are one of the handsomest monuments of this species of antiquity. The

church

church measures ninety-nine feet long by twenty broad; in the eastern gable are the remains of a very fine window looking over the river Moy, and some of the best lands of Tirera in Sligo. Almost commensurate with the centre of the church is a grand arch of singularly exquisite workmanship and beauty; it is composed of two curved columns six feet asunder, and each three broad, both bending, as they rise, into two arches thirty feet high, and connected at top by two cross arches, and other very elegantly carved stone work, over and upon which is erected a very fine steeple about sixty feet high.

On one side of this church are the ruins of a very fine and very extensive monastery, and out of the other side issues a small church, divided from the large one by very fine arches.

Mr. Grose, in his Irish Antiquities, and in his description of this church, which he had taken from Cocking's views for Colonel Conyngham, places and depicts the steeple of this church in one of the gables, instead of its rising, as it really does, off the middle of the church, supported, as mentioned, by that noble arch, which makes part of the nave.

*Strade,*

For Franciscans, by the sept of Jordans.

*Tarman*

*Tarman Carra,*

In Erris, said to be a nunnery, of which no account.

*Urlare,*

For Dominican friars, by the Nangles, who afterwards took the name of Costello, and became lords of the barony.

## ANCIENT BUILDINGS.

In this class has some right to be enumerated a singular phenomenon, which ten miles below Killala presents itself. After travelling from Killala about nine miles due-west, then for another mile you gradually ascend upon a neck of land, which stretches into the ocean, narrowing to a point, till you arrive at a precipice three hundred measured feet from bottom to top, upon which the sea is always rough, and dashes in tremendous billows. About the same distance of three hundred feet into the sea stands a rough perpendicular rock, of the same height of the main land and precipice; it is of a triangular figure, and terminates conically from a broad base to a top, the surface of which



is about sixty yards round; on this top appear to the naked eye the ruins of some building. There is in the main-land precipice an angular indenture, and an angular prominence corresponding with it in this opposite rock; not only the prominence and indenture of the fracture, but the colour and quality of the precipice and rock, seem to correspond. Within 130 yards of the extremity of this neck of land, a strong grouted wall, seven feet broad and nine high, runs across the point from sea to sea about sixty yards; the gateway is very narrow and strong. Every thing seems to indicate the rock and the building on it to have originally belonged to the main-land, and the cross rampart to have been the fortification of the castle.

I can find no account written or traditional of this phenomenon; it certainly was a residence of extent, and a fortification of importance; and as neither its use, time of building, founder, or separation from the main land is any way recorded, it may well be supposed to be one of those very ancient buildings, coeval perhaps with the round towers and other buildings, which the invasions and rebellions of Ireland, that particularly of the first century of the Christian era, swallowed into eternal oblivion.

In approaching this point, one passes within a quarter of a mile of the extremity of it over an arch, formed by the working of the sea water, an hundred and fifty feet broad, and an hundred feet high, through  
which

which the water of the ocean rolls, and which one sees into by an aperture on the top of the arch twenty feet in diameter.

This place is called Downpatrick; in Irish it is called Dunbriste, or broken fort. Hither the common people resort to do penance about a number of stone crosses, going round and round again, and dropping beads nearly as at Lough Derg, with this exception, that here they come to pray but one day in the year, that is, on Good Friday, where the priest on that day attends to read the passion of our Saviour.

In different parts of the neighbouring shores are miniature caverns and apertures representing the large ones, owing probably to veins of decomposable limestone. To look into the large cavern, one must creep, as the Croats fight, on their belly; and even in that position the sight is so frightfully awful, it is necessary to have the feet held by to make sure of not tumbling in, while you view the rolling of the ocean just beneath, the reiterated bellowing of the noise, and the picturesque winging of flocks of pigeons and other wild and foreign birds.

Here also stand the ruins of a small chapel and steeple, said to have been built by Saint Patrick.

#### *Druidical Altars.*

I met but two; one within a mile south-west of Balinrobe, and another within about half a mile west of Ballina.



*Places remarkable for any historical event.*

*Castlebar, Killala, and Barnagee-gap* will, during any vestige of the history of Ireland, remain conspicuous for the landing of the French under General Humbert in Mayo, their progress through those places, and the events consequent thereon.

One instance of truly Spartan bravery occurred at *Castlebar*, not, I have heard, hitherto recorded in any account of the invasion or rebellion. It is that of two soldiers of the Frazer fencibles, who, just as the French rushed into and surrounded the town, stood sentinels at their boxes, while whole crowds of the English and Irish armies galloped and scrambled off in confusion through the streets, hallowing to those sentinels to make their escape; but they on the contrary fired, charged and fired again upon the enemy, till, overpowered by numbers, and covered with blood and wounds, they fell at their post, victims to bravery and truth.—Not a stone tells where they lie!

*Whether the County has been actually surveyed—when and whether the Survey is published.*

There has been no survey of this county since the general survey of Sir William Petty. The grand jury have a survey of it in contemplation.

*Weights*



*Weights and Measures liquid and dry; in what instances are Weights assigned for Measures, and vice versa.*

All over the county every thing solid is sold by weight, except in two or three baronies, where certain baskets and measures are substituted to measure potatoes; but even in those few places the measures are supposed to contain a certain number of stones.

Liquid measures all by pint, quart, gallon, &c.

*The Weight or Measure, by which Grain, Flour, Potatoes, Butter, &c. are sold.*

All by weight; no measure, except as just mentioned, and the weight is avoirdupois, sixteen ounces to the pound, and fourteen pounds to the stone.

#### HALF BARONY OF ERRIS.

##### *Situation and Extent.*

It is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the north and west, and on the east and south by the baronies of Tyrawley and Burrishool. The length of the mountain part of this half barony, from Burrishool to the sea, is from twenty-five to thirty miles; breadth from ten to eighteen.

Erris, properly so called, as appears by the annexed map, is the gut of land mostly green, which runs from the Mullet about sixteen miles into the ocean, in a direction from north-east to south-west.

The word *Mullet* means the neck of land about three hundred yards across, between the two famous harbours of Broadhaven and Black-sod, and which is the only entrance by land into Erris, properly so called, from the mountains of Erris.

All Erris is divided into three parishes, one inside of the Mullet, called Kilmore, and two in the mountain part, called Kilcommon and Kilteany. All those parishes belong to one protestant clergyman; the present incumbent Mr. Maxwell's tithe and glebe bring him about 150*l.* per annum.

The population of Erris, and the mountain part will produce, as nearly as I can ascertain—Erris, including mountain, and Ballycroy, 2,500 families, which, multiplied by six, give 15,000.

#### *Soil and Surface.*

From the Mullet southward the soil is light and sandy; the inhabitants are vexatiously annoyed by the drifting of sands, which are so penetrating as sometimes to be found within the watch-cases. The part north of the Mullet is mostly mountain, but interspersed with some reclaimed spots, and thinly inhabited.

The

The soil of the mountain is all easily reclaimable, by a siliceous marly gravel, with which all the hills of it are substrated; in carrying it to make roads, it was observed, where it fell, to change the growth of that spot from heath to grass; it was then tried for reclaiming and manuring, and found to answer extremely well for both purposes.

#### *Minerals.*

The only mineral discovered here is iron ore; it is visible in abundance in Cloneen river, and in many other places through the peninsula.

#### *Water.*

The ocean, and the harbours of Broadhaven and Blackfod, as described in the annexed map, surround Erris, except the neck called the Mullet. Large rivers descend on all sides from the mountains; the principal ones are Glanamoy, which falls into Broadhaven, and Owenmore, which falls into Blackfod bay.

#### *Agriculture.*

The mode of agriculture here is with a peculiar spade, with which alone they work in the mountain parts, and a two-horse plough. The ridges for potatoes, oats, and barley, are always from ten to twelve feet



feet broad, and running in a direction from north to south; the western edge of those ridges is raised about two feet high, and the east side quite low, so as to guard against the ravages of the western storms.

*Extent of it, and of each species of Grain sowed.*

The extent of their culture is often considerable; for in years when they escape a blast, they plentifully supply the markets of Newport and Westport with potatoes and barley. Oats they seldom have more of than for home consumption, and seldom more of flax or linens.

*Course of Crops,*

Is 1. potatoes; 2. barley; 3. oats, or flax. In the mountain region, on the banks of the rivers, and the cultivable parts of the hills, their constant succession is 1. potatoes; 2. oats or flax, and so round and round again.

*Nature and use of Implements of Husbandry.*

The two or three respects, in which the implements here differ from those of the interior of the county, are first, the peculiar lightness and badness of the plough, always drawn by two horses, and not a less peculiar lightness and badness of the harrows, the pins all of wood. The ploughing and harrowing are mostly done

in

in the mountain parts, the horses drawing by the tail.

But very peculiarly singular indeed is their spade; a two-bladed or double spade, which the natives call a *gowl-gob*.

To form an idea of it, we must conceive two iron blades, each about three inches broad, with an interstice of one inch and a half between, fixed on a two-forked socket like two separate loys; this answers for their light sandy soil, and is more hardy and light than a solid spade of the same breadth without an interstice.

Underneath is a representation of it.



#### *Pasture.*

West of the Mullet is sweet good pasture; on the east hard, mountainy, benty grasses, or heath and moss.

#### *Breed of Cattle,*

Is in general poor and bad; the soil is good enough for introducing a good deal better.

#### *Markets and Fairs,*

Are Newport, Killala, Crossmalina, Ballina, Rathfran, and Lackan. Those fairs they generally frequent,

besides

besides three of their own, namely, Carn, Cahel, and Dernmeel.

#### *General Prices.*

The milch cows fell from five guineas to nine; three-year old heifers from three pounds to five guineas; horses from three to eight guineas; sheep from ten to

#### *Modes of feeding—how far housed in winter.*

Milch cows and working horses are always housed from the middle of December to the middle of May, and fed with a little hay and straw. Dry cattle stand out the winter; within the Mullet they are fed with bent, without the Mullet with black sedge.

#### *Natural and artificial Grasses.*

The natural grasses vary here according to the soil; the mountain hair-grass, grey, turfy, and heath grasses, moor-grass, mat-grass, and most of the grasses peculiar to coarse swamps and mountains, grow on them; and some, but not all the esteemed and delicious ones, on the champaign parts.

#### *Mode of Hay-making.*

The poor people cut all the hay they have 'off' the brows of their oat and barley ridges, and save it in the

common



common way. The upper ranks have light meadow, which is sowed as usual in the interior.

*Dairies, none.*

*Hides, Tallow, Wool, &c. not worth mentioning.*

*Farms,*

Are of different sizes, from one to three hundred acres, all set to common tenants, who are always in partnership, except some to individuals of higher situation, who graze them.

*Farm-houses and Offices.*

Those of the better sort of farmers are made of stone and lime mortar, with separate apartments and offices; good generally in proportion to the circumstances of the owner.

*Mode of repairing, whether by Landlord or Tenant.*

Always by tenant.

*Nature of Tenures, general state of Leases, and particular*

*Clauses therein.*

Generally thirty-one years, or one, two, or more lives; they contain no clauses, that may be called particular.

*Taxes or Cesses paid by Tenants.*

Taxes the same as through the rest of the county.

*Proportion of working Horses to the size of Farms.*

As the extent of the farms differed from one to three hundred acres, many of them grazed, the proportion of horses cannot easily be ascertained; in the thickly inhabited parts it might; one little hobby to every ten acres.

*General size of Fields or Enclosures,*

Is from four to twelve acres.

*Nature of Fences.*

Fences very bad; made of a few fods, thrown upon one another.

*Hedge-rows and Draining.*—Neither here.

*Nature of Manures.*

Their only manures are sea-weed, shelly sand, and a little dung; no lime or limestone-gravel; the marly gravel, however, is visible on the hilly parts of the mountain every where. They sometimes make ashes of the mountain soil, with which they manure it.

## GENERAL SUBJECTS.

*Population*

Of Erris came into the gross calculation for the county; however, as some idea of the population of this particular part of the county to some may not be unpleasant, it has appeared separately in page 156.

*Number and size of Villages and Towns.*

The only fair towns here are Carn, Derrnmeel, and Cahel; they should only class among the villages, whose size is from six to fifty houses; the number not easy to ascertain, but the population may give a good idea of it, and the houses and cabins being mostly built in numbers together.

*Habitation, Fuel, Food, and Cloathing of the lower Rank—  
their general Cost.*

*Habitation.* Very bad; made of stones at the foundation, and sods at top. Those houses frequently consist of only one apartment, in which the cows and calves, men, women and children, pigs, horses and poultry, herd together; often there are more rooms than one, and sometimes a separate cow-house. *Fuel,* all turf, and bog-fir. *Food,* potatoes, oaten-bread, buttermilk, herrings, and sea-fish of all kinds, and all  
forts



forts of shell-fish, beside dulisk, and floak, or levre.—  
*Cloathing*, frizes and linens of their own manufacture;  
 in a word, they dress better than the poor of the inte-  
 rior. Cost of those articles as through the other parts  
 of the county.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*

Sixpence a day the year round, with meat and drink;  
 cottiers fourpence a day and dinner. *Provisions* they  
 have always a sufficiency of; when the *blast* is escaped  
 of the western storms, they export potatoes and oats  
 at the currency of the county.

*State of Tythe, &c.*

No tythe paid for hay or potatoes; the other articles  
 as in the other parishes.

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

No beer; use of spirits encreasing.

*State of Roads, Bridges, &c.*

The roads are but few; all in this season of the year  
 (November) impassably bad, except one, and even that  
 as rough and devious as those of the Alps or Mount  
 St. Bernard. In the course of thirty miles from New-

port to the Mullet, this alpine road is intercepted by about twenty rivers, on the banks of some of which one must stand, if there is a flood, till it subsides, without cabin or cover from the storm, as there are at least fifteen miles of this tract without a human habitation; but a new road is now almost finished from the barony of Tyrawley to the Mullet.

*Of Navigations or navigable Rivers.*

In this part of the county there are no navigable rivers; but the two famous harbours of Broadhaven north, and Blacksod south, almost meet inside of Erris, about the middle of it, and are sheltered by Erris on the west, and on the east by the mountains of it. They are perfectly safe, deep, and capacious harbours.

*Of Fisheries.*

The herrings have deserted this coast, but every other kind of fishing goes on, and some, but not considerable, salmon fisheries on the rivers, that dash down from the mountains.

*State of Education.*

The education here is nearly in the same state as throughout the county. The children learn, at such schools

schools as this peninsula affords, to read and write English in their own way, and the use of some figures.

*Of absentee and resident Proprietors.*

The only absentee proprietors are Mrs. Carter and Mr. Cormick; the resident proprietor is Mr. Bingham. There are a good many living here in a substantial snug way; the Messrs. Nashes, Messrs. Gibbons, the O'Donnells, Mr. Crump, &c.

*Of circulation of Money or Paper.*

Money is more current here than paper.

*No Farming or agricultural Society.*

*No Manufactures.*

There had been iron-works here formerly; and, if fuel could be discovered, there is every *aptness* of *situation* for their extension.

*Of Mills of every kind.*

Here are some gig-mills, and querns or hand-mills.

*No Plantations or Planting.*



*Quantity of Bog and waste ground.*

The mountains and waste grounds in all the parts of Erris cannot be less than about twenty miles long by eighteen broad. The green part of all Erris, if together in one tract, about seventeen miles long by six broad.

*Possibility and means of improving it.*

The possibility of improving the mountains of Erris is much facilitated by the abundance of marly gravel, which turns the heath, where it falls, into grass, and manured well, and subdued the gallic acidity in the few trials, that had been made of it; but outside the Mullet, all over the great tracts towards Tyrawley, roads are indispensibly necessary.

*Obstacles to it, and best Means of removing those Obstacles.*

The same as those described for the interior of the county.

*Habits of Industry, or want of it among the People.*

The people shew a greater disposition to idleness and fishing than to industry; but that is owing to want of inducement or interest in disposing of their time to more advantage.

*Use of the English Language,*

Is rather general, and in some state of improvement, but still very defective; many can't speak a word of it.

*Weights and Measures.*

Sometimes the measurement of grain, meal, and potatoes is here by the stone of fourteen pounds; but as this method is not always convenient, they substitute a ~~measure, which~~ they call *boddachan*. This is supposed to contain of potatoes six stone, of meal one stone, and of oats and barley twelve pounds. The other weights and measures as in other parts of the county.

