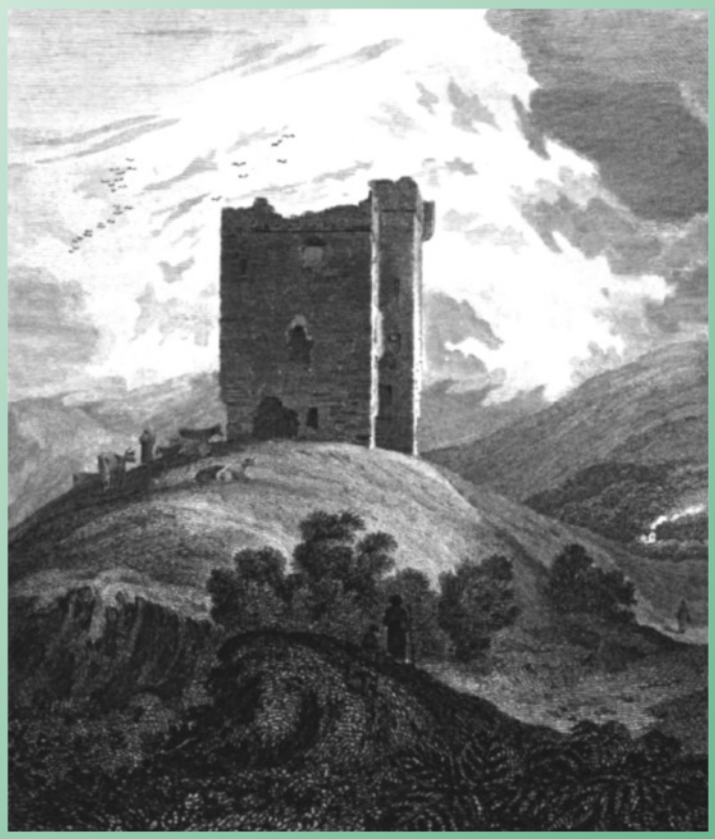
Excursions Through Ireland
Leinster



Thomas Cromwell

Volume II

1820

EXCURSIONS
through
IRELAND;
VOL. 2.
PROVINCE of LEINSTER.

Illustrated with
ENGRAVINGS.

Cromlech At Kilternan
Co. Of Dublin

EXCURSIONS THROUGH IRELAND:

COMPRISING TOPOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL DELINEATIONS OF EACH PROVINCE;

TOGETHER WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF THE RESIDENCES OF THE NOBILITY AND GENTRY,

Remains of Antiquity,

AND EVERY OTHER OBJECT OF INTEREST OR CURIOSITY.

FORMING A COMPLETE GUIDE FOR THE TRAVELLER AND TOURIST.

ILLUSTRATED WITH Four Hundred Engravings.

BY THOMAS CROMWELL.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.—VOL II

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWN;

GREIG, BACK ROAD, ISLINGTON;
AND P. YOUNGMAN,
WITHAM AND MALDON,
ESSEX.

PRINTED BY P. YOUNGMAN.

EXCURSION VII

Through the Environs of Dublin, lying within the County of Dublin, and within a circuit of eight miles from the City.

THE tourist who, in the preceding Excursion, accompanied us to Howth, will doubtless prepare himself for numerous objects of equal interest, dispersed through the remaining environs of Dublin; and in this respect we fear not that he will experience disappointment. But, owing to the contrariety in the geographical positions of the places mentioned in this Excursion, we have found it impossible to sketch such a route as the traveller would be easily enabled to follow from our description of them; and have therefore thought it best to arrange them in alphabetical order, at the same time giving their several distances and bearings from the capital. Upon which plan, we shall first notice:-

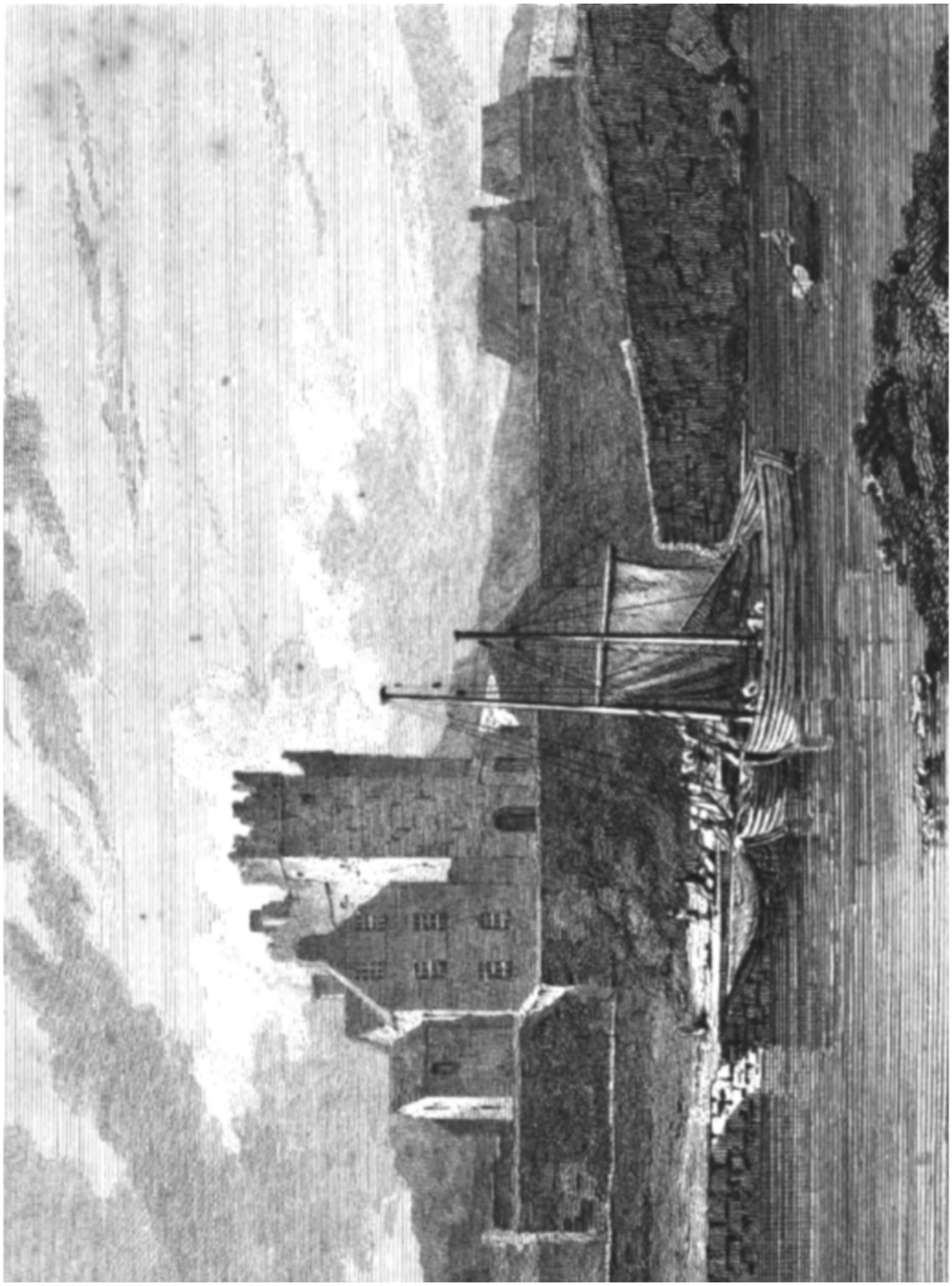
BALDOYLE, six miles and a half N. E., upon the Irish Sea. This is a pleasant little bathing-village, commanding from its open beach a fine prospect of Howth and the adjacent islands. The air is keen, but pure and salubrious.

BALLYFERMOT, three miles and a half W. by S., is interesting only for its ruins of an ancient Castle.

BLACK Roca, four miles S. E. This is a large and handsome village, agreeably situated upon Dublin Bay, and which, with WILLIAMSTOWN and **BOOTERSTOWN,** villages uniting with it, may be said to form a town of considerable size. From the last-mentioned place, which lies in the approach from Dublin, the marine and coast view is eminently beautiful; embracing the general features of the bay, with the pier and harbour, Howth, and the islands beyond its sandy isthmus, a rich country finely studded with villas, and the promontory of the Black Rock, with the plantations contiguous, which slope down to the water's edge. To see these places to the greatest advantage, the tourist should visit them either at bathing-times, or on a Sunday; when the bustle and hilarity of the crowds who proceed hither in their endless succession of cars[1] and other vehicles, exhibit a scene not to be paralleled in any of the outlets to the British metropolis.

On Sundays more particularly, perhaps, this road is actually clogged with the numbers who are going to or returning from Black Rock or Dunleary (the latter place about a mile and a quarter farther along the coast) and whose supreme pleasure appears to be that of fellowship on the ride, or in partaking of the Snack at one or other of the Snack-houses which abound in these villages, and seem to present their signs, decorated with this alluring and peculiar word, in perpetuity.—A snack, it should be mentioned by the way, is another name for what is generally a tolerably substantial substitute for a dinner, without being so expensive as a meal under the latter appellation might prove.—In addition to the cars, and a comparatively small number of jingles, Dunleary and Black Rock Royal Mails' and Flys' are continually passing and repassing along the road, besides a few gigs and carriages of other descriptions.—The Rev. Sir Harcourt Lees, Bart. has a handsome seat at an inconsiderable distance from Sea-point, and but little farther from Black Rock.

Note 1: The Jaunting Car of Dublin is very frequently an agreeable and not unhandsome Conveyance. This machine holds from four to six persons, (besides the driver) who sit back to back, the wheels, concealed from their view, revolving under them. Though ever so heavily laden, one sorry horse only is afforded for the draught; and the rate nt which the animal proceeds, is, under these circumstances, really astonishing. The use of this vehicle has of late years nearly supplanted that of the Jingle, before described, in Dublin.



BULLOCK CASTLE COUNTY OF DUBLIN

BULLOCK, anciently written Bloyke, six miles and three quarters S. E., is a village possessing a small quay upon the bay. It has also a Castle and Ramparts, the date of which is unknown; but these defences are with great probability supposed to have been intended for the protection of commerce, both from the Tories of the mountains, and the pirates who in former times infested the neighbouring seas. The name of Booterstown, just noticed, may be conjectured to be a contraction for Freebooterstown; and that the place was so called either from its affording an occasional retreat to these pirates, or from its being the spot most frequently plundered by them ;—but this is simply conjectural.

Canon Brook, about seven miles W., contiguous to Lucan. The land being held under the Minor Canons of St. Patrick, and a pretty stream gliding among rocks through it, give rise to its name. The great improvements in regard to planting effected here by James Gandon, esq. deserve the warmest commendations, and are exemplary to the nobility and gentry of the island.

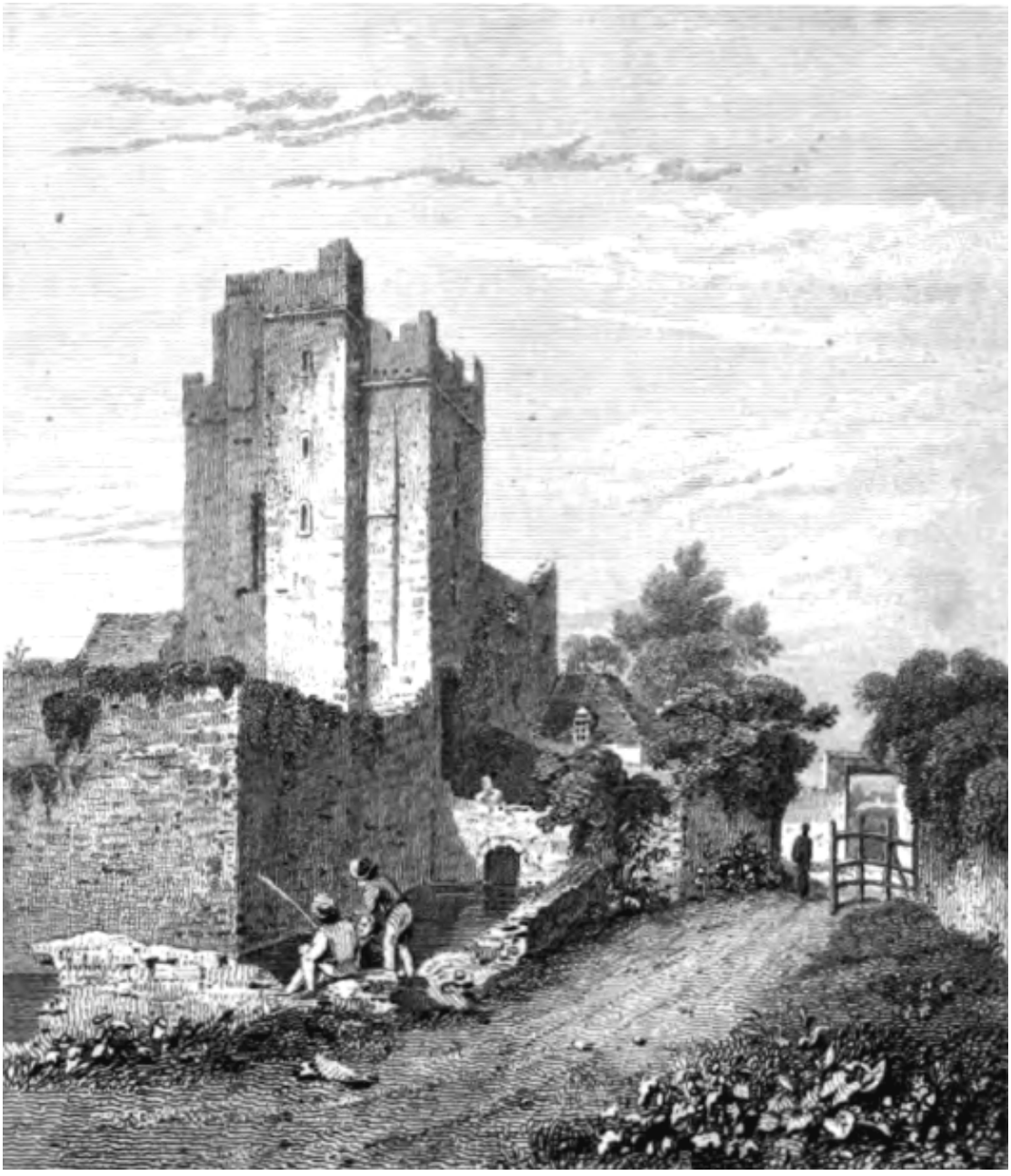
CASTLE KNOCK, four miles N. W. Here, as the name denotes, was a Castle, formerly of great strength ; but the remains of which, though respectable as to age, (the edifice having been bestowed by the famed Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, &c. his intrinsic friend Hugh Tyrrel') are now perfectly inconsiderable. It is worthy of a visit, however, were it only to enjoy the ample and beautiful prospect it commands from its bold site; while, as having constituted the head of a large seigniory, and been. possessed by a family who were of importance through a lung period of Irish history, it claims a degree of regard, which it were unnecessary to bestow on many of the numerous ruins of such edifices in Ireland.

The lord of Castle Knock was a Hugh Tyrrel in the year 1288, and so was another of the same name in 1486. In 1316, it was taken by the Scotch adventurer, Edward Bruce, together with Lord Hugh Tyrrel and his wife; but these personages were afterwards ransomed: and in June, 1642, it fell into the hands of Colonel Monk, with the loss of 80 men to the insurgents, besides those hung by order of this commander after his success.—Traditions, magnified by the exaggerations of successive ages into the most absurd impossibilities, assert that there was a spring of water at Castle Knock, the use of which was salutary to the human frame, but poisonous to beasts; and that a window of the castle, which was neither glazed nor latticed, would admit of a candle being placed within it, and kept burning, in the most violent storm, as well as in the calmest weather. In the thirteenth century, Lord Richard Tyrrel founded an abbey at Castle Knock, for Regular Canons following the rule of St. Augustin, and in honour of St. Bridget: its remains until recently constituted the Parish-church; but the present sacred edifice is a handsome new erection, for which Castle Knock is indebted to its late incumbent.

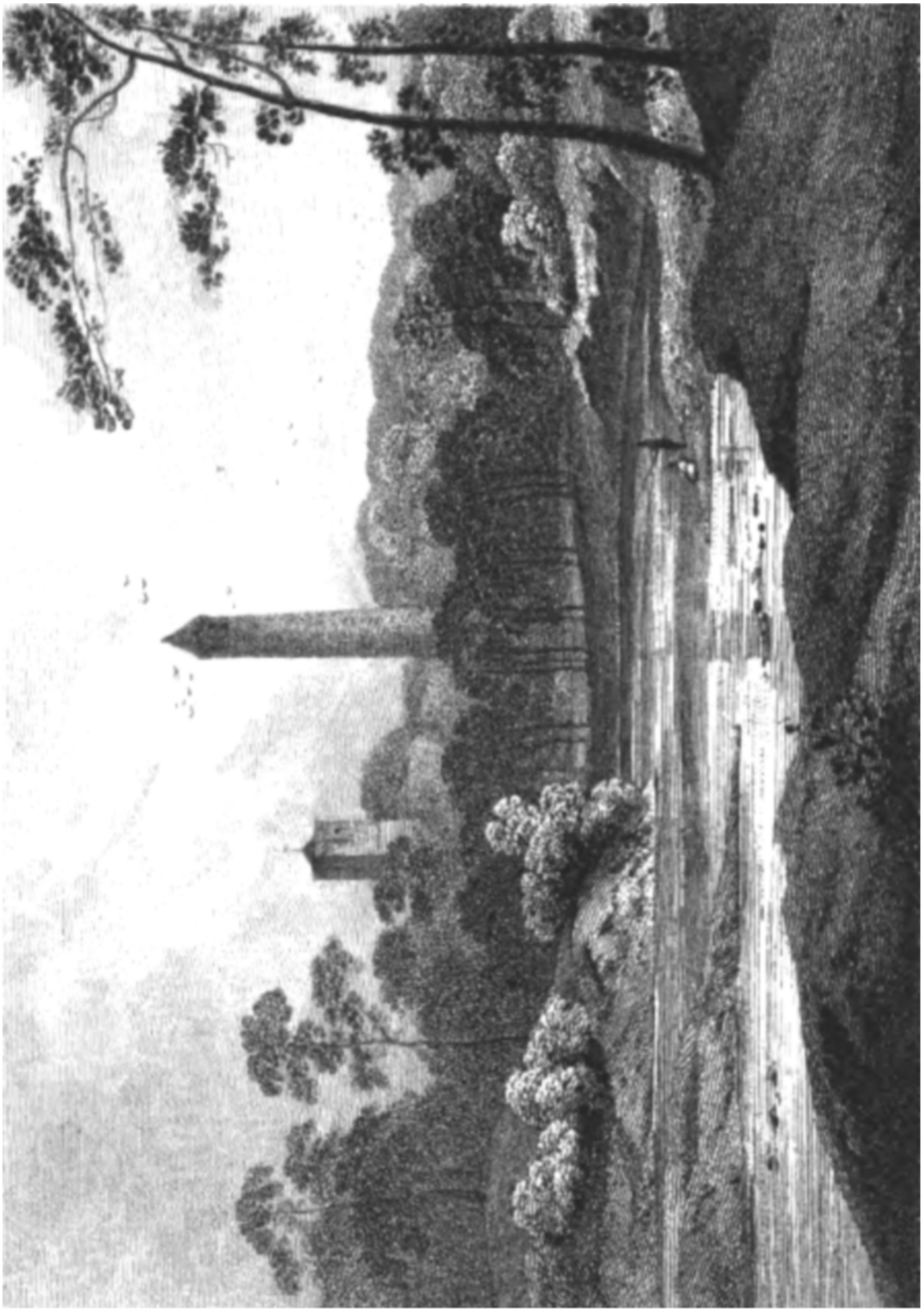
Drymnagh Castle, distant from Castle Knock eight miles, is situated on a romantic spot, of which our accompanying view may convey some idea to the reader. James the Second, after his defeat at the Boyne, slept one night within the walls of this castle.

CHAPEL IZOD, two miles and three quarters W., is prettily situated on the banks of the Liffey, and adjoining the Phoenix Park. It is said to take its name from La Belle hod, the daughter of Aongus, king of Ireland. Here is a barrack, which was formerly a depôt for the royal Irish artillery. The north bank of the Liffey, between this village and Lucan, rising abruptly from the river, and presenting an aspect fully exposed to the hottest rays of the sun, has been very successfully adapted to the culture of strawberries, which are from hence exhaustlessly supplied for the Dublin markets; and it is one of the most pleasing of the citizens' recreations, to resort to this spot, and partake of strawberries and cream, while surrounded by the beautifully wooded scenery of the sloping valley. The Church of this village is ancient, and its ivy-mantled tower' has an imposing and venerable aspect. The view of Chapel-Izod from the park-gate of the Vice-regal domain, leading to the seat of Thomas Kemris, esq. from which the windings of the Liffey are seen, to advantage, is picturesque in a high degree.

DRYMNAGH CASTLE COUNTY OF DUBLIN



DRYMNAGH CASTLE COUNTY OF DUBLIN
Plate 2



ROUND TOWER - CLONDALKIN
COUNTY OF DUBLIN

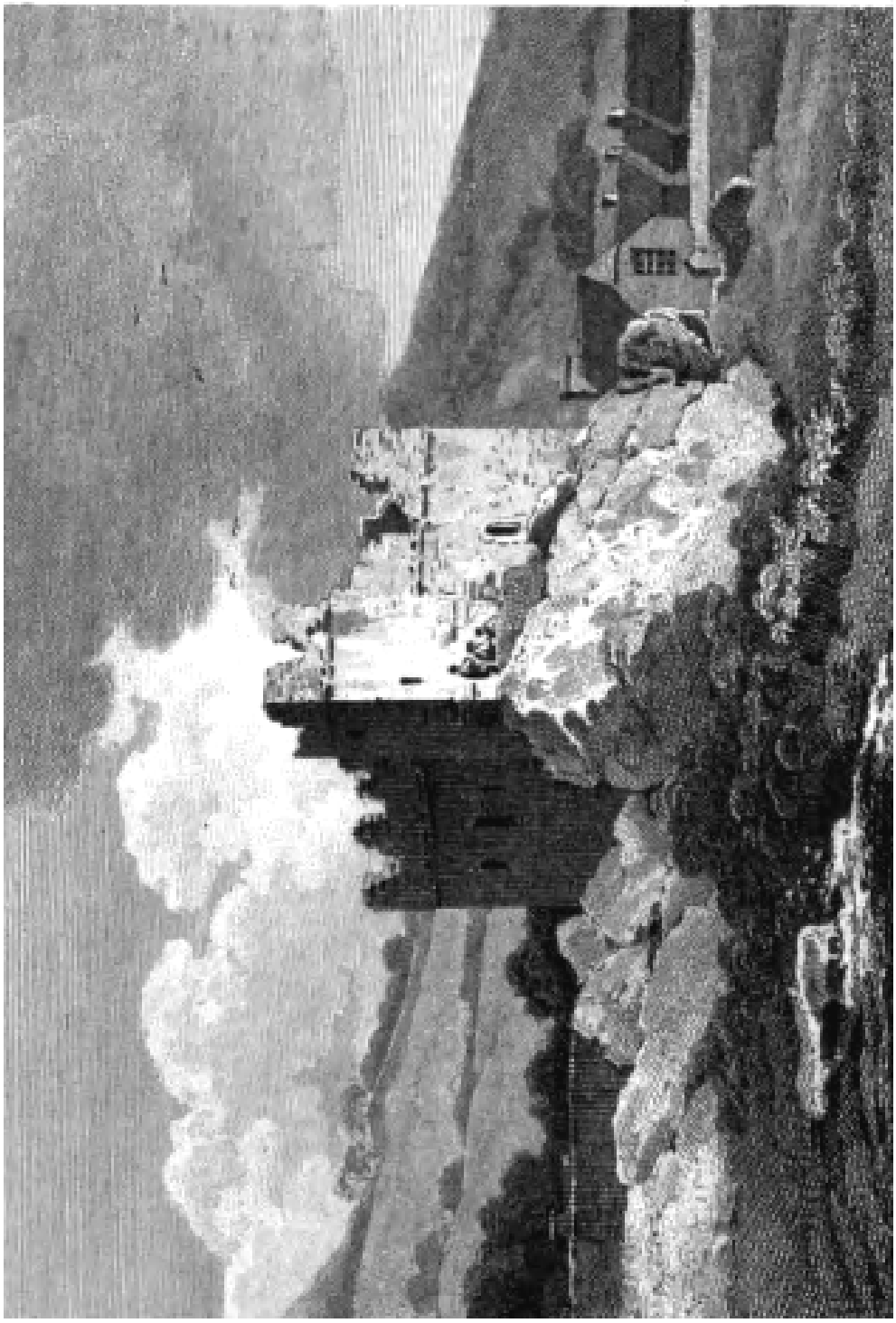
CLOGHRAN, five miles and a half N., boasts an extensive view from its Church, perched upon a lofty eminence.

CLONDALKIN, five miles S. W. The most remarkable object here is a Round Tower, 84 feet high, the conical top of which is perfect, and the whole in good preservation. The door is 12 feet from the ground. Dr. Ledwich, in his Continuation of Grose's Antiquities of this country, seems to entertain no doubt that this, as well as the round towers in general, was an erection of the Danes; and derives the name of the village from St. Olave, corrupted into Auley, Dun Auley, and Clondalkin—a derivation which appears sufficiently far-fetched. He farther informs us that Auliffe, the Ostman king of Dublin, about 865, built a palace at Clondalkin, which was afterwards destroyed by fire by the Irish; and that in the confusion thereby occasioned, 1000 of the principal Danes were slain: to revenge which injury, Auliffe, by an ambuscade, is said to have surprised a body of 2000 Irish, most of whom were slain or taken prisoners. Clondalkin was anciently an episcopal see, and Cathald, in 859, is mentioned as abbot and bishop of it. In the wars between the Irish and Ostmen, it was more than once demolished; particularly in the years 1071 and 1076. The Church, a small building with a square steeple, nearly adjoins the round tower, and is in good repair. Some remains of ancient Stone-Crosses exist in the church-yard. CRUMLIN, two miles and a half S. W., was formerly a fashionable outlet from the metropolis, but seems now much neglected. The Church, rebuilt in 1819, is a neat stone structure. This was one of the four ancient manors in the county of Dublin (the other three being Esker, Newcastle, and Tassagard) which, as being annexed to the crown, were called The King's Land.' The Parliamentary army under Cromwell encamped on the common at Crumlin, and numerous stripes of the land were portioned out by him to his victorious soldiery.

DALKEY, a village seven miles and a quarter S. E., was formerly a place of much greater importance than at present, having been resorted to, with commercial views, by foreigners, so early as 1480; and we find that markets and fairs for their encouragement were at that period established. Here were also no less than seven Castles, erected for the protection of the goods of merchants and others, three of which are still in tolerable preservation; one forming part of a private house, another being occupied as a house and store, and the third as a forge. Of the other four, one was pulled down in 1769 for the sake of the materials, and remnants of the remaining three enter into the composition of modern cabins. At the extremity nearest the coast of a large common, on which the inhabitants of Dalkey claim the right of pasturage, are lead mines, which in the time of Rutty were extensively worked, but all operations are now discontinued. Opposite to them lies the Island of Dalkey, forming the south-easten point of the bay of Dublin, and conspicuous from the sea by its martello tower. It contains about 18 acres of good marsh land for cattle. It was formerly dedicated to St. Benedict, and there are still to be seen on it the ruins of a church, and Kistvaens, or receptacles of human bones, are found near the shore. Tradition says, that the citizens of Dublin retired here when that place was visited by the great plague in 1575. Dalkey Island is separated from the main land by a channel called the Sound of Dalkey, 3650 feet long, 1000 feet wide at its south-east, and 700 feet wide at its north-west extremity, with a sunken rock near its centre, and a rocky shore on each side. This place had been surveyed, among others, as affording a proper site for an asylum harbour; and a plan was proposed by the committee of inland navigation, but, from the objections to which it was liable, it was abandoned. It was considered, however, in former times, a very safe and convenient harbour, where vessels lay secure in 10 fathoms water, protected from the north-east wind, and ready to sail at any hour. Hence the port of Dalkey was that used on state occasions. In 1538, Sir Edward Bellingham landed here, and proceeded to Dublin. In 1553, Sir Anthony St. Leger also landed here; and in 1558, the Earl of Sussex shipped his army from this port, and proceeded to oppose the Scotch invaders at the island of Raghery on the coast of Antrim.[2]

2. Whitelaw and Walsh, U. 1278.

DONNYBROOK, two miles S. by E. is a pleasant village; its Church ancient, but commodious. The cotton manufactories established here, employ a considerable portion of its population. It



DALKEY
COUNTY OF DUBLIN

is at the Fair held at this place, as is observed by Mr. Walsh, that the natural humour and peculiar character of the lower classes of the metropolis are best seen. It is kept on a green, regularly proclaimed, and always attended by police officers, 'whose interposition is indispensable to preserve the peace. This fair, which is for the sale of horses and black cattle, lasts a week; during which time, every amusement and gymnastic exercise peculiar to the Irish are in request; each day usually concluding with a pitched battle, in which much blood is spilled, and many heads broken, but rarely any life lost. The green is completely covered with tents, or with pipers, fiddlers, and dancers; and of late years mountebanks have also been introduced, together with shews of wild beasts, &c. During the continuance of the fair, all the avenues leading to it present extraordinary spectacles, particularly in the evenings.

Almost all the carriages which ordinarily ply at other parts of the town, now assemble here, and are crowded at all hours with company going to and from Donnybrook. The din and tumult is inconceivable; and from the union of the vociferation, laughter, quarrelling, and fighting of these turbulent cargoes, together with a similar medley of sounds from the foot passengers, a noise ascends that is heard for several miles in all directions. The attachment of the populace to this annual amusement, which occurs in August, is so great, that the Lord Mayor finds it necessary to proceed in person to Donnybrook at the expiration of the limited time, and, striking the tents, to compel the people to go home. "These annual scenes of turbulence and riot," Mr. W., however, remarks, " ought not to detract from the general good principles and quiet demeanour of the Dublin populace. They are even now by no means so prevalent as formerly, though not so much on account of any improvement in the morals of the people, as from that depression of spirits which is the consequence of the decline of the manufactures in the Liberty, and the state of abject misery which the lower classes at present suffer from the pressure of the times, but which it is hoped will not be of very long continuance,"

The Hospital for Incurables at Donnybrook, formerly the Lock Hospital, is a praiseworthy institution; its object being to shield from mendicity, and shroud from public view, those miserable human beings, whose disgusting maladies baffle all the efforts of the healing art. Its situation is retired, but salubrious, and calculated to afford the unhappy inmates all the solace their state is susceptible of. There are 50 patients; in whose reception the degree of pain or hopelessness attached to the particular complaint, their age, and their former conduct in life, have been, as they continue to be with the governors, especial considerations. Of these patients, a certain number are supported by particular subscriptions from individuals. About a mile from this village is seen the beautiful mansion of Merville, the seat of the Lord Chief Justice Downes: the whole southern road from hence to nearly the borders of the county, indeed, is studded with the seats of an opulent gentry.

Doolock's, ST., five miles and a half N. E. The Church of" St. Doulough, or St. Doulach," according to Dr. Ledwich, in his Continuation of Grose before quoted, remains a monument of-the Danish style of architecture, the most ancient in this kingdom. It is a curious structure, with a double stone roof; the external one which covers the building, and that which divides the upper from the lower story. The whole is 48 feet long, by 18 wide. You enter this crypt by a small door at the south. Just at the entrance, the tomb of St. Doulach presents itself; the tomb occupies the entire room; it served as an altar, and seems designed for no other use than the separate admission of those who came to make their prayers and offerings to the saint. From this room, by stooping, you pass a narrow way, and enter the chapel. This is 22 feet by 12, and is lighted by three windows: the arches are pointed, the decorations Gothic; these, with the square tower, are later additions. The roof is of stone, and carried up like a wedge: so well bedded in mortar are the stones, that, after a lapse of many centuries, neither light nor water is transmitted. Near it is a holy well of great celebrity: it is within an octagon enclosure, adorned with emblematical fresco paintings: a bath is supplied from the well. The crypts at Cashel, Glendaloch, and Killaloe, are similar to St. Doulach's. Malachy O'Morgair, archbishop of Armagh, built in 1135, at the Abbey of Saul, two stone-roofed crypts, seven feet high, six long, and two and a half wide, with a small window.—St. Doulach is a corruption of St. Olave. He was born in 993,

and died at the age of 35, so that the structure could not be older than the eleventh century. As the Danes possessed all- the shore and land from Dublin to Howth, on the north side of the Liffey, they would naturally venerate a saint of their own country, and raise edifices to his honour. In Dublin, of which they were masters for many ages, there was St. Tullock's or Olave's-lane; in it were a cross, a well, and an oratory, sacred to him."

On this description we will only remark, that, admitting this church to have been built by the Danes, (a t supposition that there is certainly no evidence to disprove) we have still considerable doubts, the reasons for which may appear in the following pages, as to the correctness of the doctrine, that the Danish style of architecture, is the most ancient in this kingdom.

DRUMCONDRA, one mile and three quarters N. E., is a pleasant and cheerful-looking village; but contains fewer seats of gentlemen and the wealthier tradesmen, than are observed in contiguity with the southern and western outlets from the metropolis. The fine level road through this village, was formed early in 1817, with other improvements in the different avenues leading into Dublin, at the expense of nearly £19,000, raised by public subscription for the employment of the poor, in consequence of the extreme wetness of the season, and the scanty crops of the preceding year. Here, about 30 summers back, a number of tea-houses were erected for the recreation of the citizens, but met with little encouragement; and the city, extending in this direction, having since obliterated their gardens, amusements of this nature have expired in the vicinity of Dublin, mit having been revived on any other spot. The village may now boast of an extensive building, adapted to a more useful purpose; namely, the education, upon Dr. Bell's plan, of 700 poor children of both sexes. This erection, which is constructed in the most permanent manner, has flues in the walls, instead of stoves, for the purposes of warmth, in winter; and the ventilation in summer is equally complete. It consists of two floors, each 70 feet long by 35 broad; and, being inclined planes, the scholars sit so as to be always under the eye of the superintendants; while a visitor commands both the boys' and girls' school at one view. This seminary was founded in 1811, on a liberal bequest of £5000 by Miss Kellet, of Fordstown, in Meath, for that purpose. A Sunday-school for young sweeps, is held iii its spacious rooms; and forms an institution, the most fanciful perhaps in its design, of all those in which the exuberant charity of Dublin has indulged.

The Retreat, also at this place, is a temporary asylum, for the orphan and the widow, the unsheltered, the aged, and the infirm, under every species of undeserved distress. Here also the artisan, whose usual means of support are suspended, finds refuge and employment until enabled to resume his customary occupation. The benefits derived from this institution are very extensive; yet, humble in its pretensions, and unobtrusive of display, it is solely supported by the contributions of a few individuals. It was founded in 1814. A new Fever Hospital, for the accommodation of the northern inhabitants of the city, and others in that vicinity, was likewise commenced, in September, 1817, near the canal, at Drumcondra.

The Church of this village has been neatly modernized, and contains a handsome monument to the memory of Mr. Coghill, Chancellor of the Exchequer in the last century; but the picturesque tourist will be more interested by the grave of the well known antiquary, Captain Francis Grose, F. R. S. whose graphic hand moulders into dust near its entrance. Coming to Ireland for the express purpose of investigating the antiquities of the country, and sketching its ruins, he was in the act of relating a humorous story at the house of Mr. Hone, of Dorset-street, Dublin, when he was struck with a fit of apoplexy, and expired. He had written but seven pages of his intended work, which was afterwards completed and published by a gentlemen, whose learning at least will not admit of question, Dr. Ledwich.

DUNDRUM, three miles and three-quarters S., is considered a particularly salubrious place of residence, and is much resorted to by valetudinarians, both on account of the purity of its air, and the goats' whey to be had in its neighbourhood. It has therefore much improved in the appearance and number of its habitations within a very short period.

DUNLEARY, five miles and a quarter S. E., is a village which, from the new harbour erecting near it, has of late become of considerable interest; as the village itself, for the same reason, has increased greatly in extent and consequence. Indeed, from the pure air, dry soil, and bold coast of this vicinity, joined to its fine marine prospects, Dunleary has become generally preferred as a summer residence to places nearer Dublin; and the villas lately erected around, are distinguished by no common degree of neatness, and even elegance. The white martello towers, which line the whole southern sweep of the bay, are not unpleasing objects in the general view.

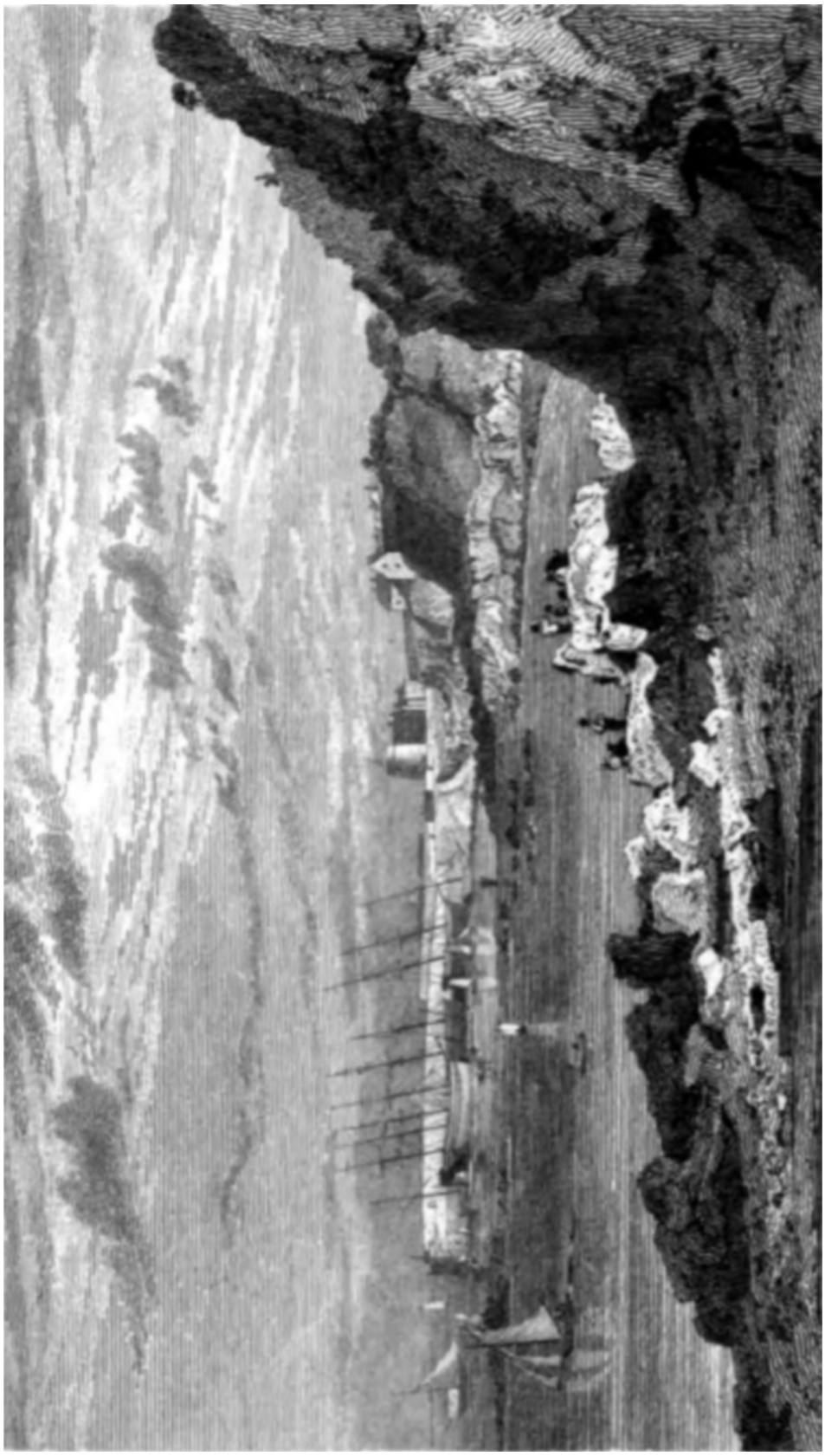
The first stone of Dunleary Harbour was laid by Lord Whitworth, on May the 31st, 1817. It consists of a pier, which, when finished, will extend 2800 feet into the sea, and comprise four parts; the first running directly from the shore to the distance of 1500 feet with a north-east bearing; the next making a slight return in a northward line of 500 feet; the third continuing north-west 500 feet, and the last 300 feet west. Its situation is about half a mile eastward of the little old pier of Dunleary, and immediately to the west of a rock, called the Codling Rock; while all to the westward of itself is a fine sand. Close to the pier-head, at low water, there will be a depth of 24 feet; consequently, though the depth varies nearer the shore, a frigate of 36 guns, or an indiaman of 800 tons burden, might find this harbour a secure refuge even at the lowest springs; and at two hours flood, a man-of-war might enter with perfect safety. The stone of which the pier is constructing, is granite, brought from Dalkey Hill, two miles distant, by means of rail-ways. Its breadth at the base will exceed 200 feet, and that of the quay, which is intended to run along the top, will be 50; while a beacon will mark the extremity of the latter, and a parapet eight feet in height, defend it on the outside. The estimate of the expense sent up to parliament was £505,000; which it was enacted, should be defrayed by the imposition of certain duties upon the tonnage, &c. of all vessels entering the port of Dublin.

The objections with justice applied to Howth Harbour, cannot, it is easily seen, obtain with respect to this of Dunleary; as the anchorage here is good, the access easy, the water of sufficient depth, and the shelter, particularly if a western pier should be afterwards formed, ample. The importance of such an harbour, and even the positive necessity for its formation, must be obvious, when it is considered that the whole bay of Dublin presents not another place of security to vessels, in the event of their being confined within its limits by storms from sea, at times when the bar, from the shallowness of the water, may be rendered impassable.

DUNSINK, four miles N. W. Here is Trinity College Observatory, a very conspicuous object from its elevated site. It is founded on a solid limestone rock, of some miles in extent, which, near the building, rises to within six inches of the surface of the ground, and is so hard as to require to be blasted with gunpowder, for the ordinary uses of the farmer. The horizon is here very extensive at nearly all points, being without interruption except on the south, where it is bounded by the Wicklow mountains, 15 miles distance, rising about a degree and a half. We extract the particulars relative to this structure, from Whitelaw and Walsh's History.

The principal front of the building is to the east. It presents a façade of two wings and a projecting centre, the latter surmounted by a dome. The principal apartments of the interior, devoted to the purposes of astronomy, are the equatorial and meridian rooms. The former is that surmounted by the dome; it overlooks every other part of the building, so as to command the entire range of the horizon. For this purpose, the dome is moveable, containing an aperture of two feet six inches wide, which opens six inches beyond the zenith, and, by means of a lever fixed in the wall, and applied to cogs projecting from the base of the dome, it is readily moved round, and the aperture directed to any part of the horizon. The equatorial instrument, with which the observations here are taken, rests upon a solid pillar of masonry, 16 feet square at the base, which rises from the rock below, and issues through the floor in the centre of the dome.

The pillar is so constructed, that it stands insulated and unconnected with the floor or walls; and the instrument which rests on it, remains undisturbed by any motion of any part of the building: round this dome is a platform, which commands a most extensive and varied prospect. The



THE OLD PIER - DUNLEARY
COUNTY OF DUBLIN

THE COAST BETWEEN DUNLEARY AND BULLOCK COUNTY OF DUBLIN

meridian room stands on the west side of the building. It is intended for observations on the heavenly bodies passing the meridian, and on their meridian altitudes. It required, therefore, that uninterrupted view from north to south which it commands, and an attention to a variety of particulars which has been carefully paid. A mass of solid masonry, forming a broad cross, rises from the rock, and is totally unconnected with the walls.

On one end is laid down a solid block of Portland stone, nine feet two inches in length, three feet in breadth; and one foot four inches thick. This block supports the pillars of the transit instrument; these pillars are seven feet six inches in height, three feet in breadth at the base from north to south, and two feet six inches from. east to west. They are formed each of a solid piece, and all effects arising from lime, mortar, and iron cramps, are avoided. Such minute attention has been paid to these particulars, that the blocks were selected as they lay beside each other in the quarry, and though, they are heterogeneous in their parts, yet the relative portions at given altitudes are perfectly similar; thus the effects of unequal expansion or contraction, from variations of heat, cold, or moisture, are guarded against. The temperature of the pillars, at different heights, is shewn by thermometers; the tubes of which are bent, at right angles, and their bulbs inserted into the stone surrounded with its dust. At the other extremity of this cross of masonry rise four pillars, for the support of the frame of the great vertical meridian circle; the vertical axis of which is placed on another block of Portland stone, and so placed as not to touch the pillars or floor. Besides these precautions to ensure the stability of the instrument, similar ones, no less judicious and necessary, are adopted to provide for equability of temperature, by admitting as free a passage of external air as is consistent with the safety of the instruments and the observer. A transit instrument of six feet in length, was early furnished for the observatory, but the circle, of eight feet diameter, without which it was of comparatively little use, was not finally completed until after 20 years had been occupied. in its construction.

This noble instrument consists of a circle supported in a frame, the latter turning on a vertical axis. The axis of the circle is a double cone four feet in length, and the pressure of the weight of the circle on it is relieved by an ingenious application of friction wheels and the lever. The circle of brass is divided into intervals of five minutes, which are subdivided by micrometic microscopes into seconds and parts of a second. There are three microscopes, one opposite the lower part of the circle, a second opposite the right, and a third opposite the left extremity of the horizontal diameter. By these microscopes, the minute subdivisions of the circle, which are indistinct to the naked eye, are marked with the greatest accuracy. From the vast size of the instrument, and the. great interval between the upper and lower parts, the temperatures above and below must occasionally differ; and hence, the relative positions of the points of suspension of the plumb-line, 10 feet long, which adjusts the vertical axis, and the point below, over which it passes, must be changed; to obviate this, which would be fatal to the accuracy of the observations, the point of suspension and the point below are on similar compound bars of brass and steel; and thus the distance of the plumb-line from the vertical axis remains always the same, as has been proved in a most satisfactory manner. The circle and the frame are also found to turn on their respective axes with equal steadiness.

This splendid and highly useful Observatory was founded by Dr. Francis Andrews, Provost of the College, who, dying in 1774, left by will a rent charge of £250 per annum, for supporting, and the sum of £3000 for erecting it, and furnishing the necessary instruments. Some years elapsed before the bequest took effect; but the Provost and Fellows, in the mean time, began the erection, and expended very considerably more than the sum bequeathed. The first Professor appointed, was Doctor Henry Usher, Senior Fellow of the College, under whose superintendence the building was completed, and the instruments ordered. He died in 1790, and was succeeded by Doctor Brinkley, the present Professor, who has much aided the students of astronomy in the college, by a treatise for their use, and by a course of lectures delivered on the subject in Michaelmas term, in the Philosophy School.

FINGLASS, three miles N. "An Abbey," says Archdall, "was founded in this village in the early ages, and probably it owed its origin to our illustrious St. Patrick. It is now a parish church, and dedicated to St. Kenny.[3]

A tepid well of many reputed virtues was early known at St. Margaret's, near Finglass, about four miles north of Dublin. It was dedicated to St. Bridget, and enclosed by Plunket, of Dunsoghly Castle, with a battlemented wall; forming a pleasant bath, six yards long and three broad, which is still in good preservation. The temperature of the water is very low, being colder than the air in summer, but perceptibly warmer in winter, when it raises the thermometer to 51. It is said to contain lime, muriate of soda, nitrate of kali, and sulphur, but the latter, in a much smaller proportion. The water, which is extremely pure, soft, and limpid, is frequently bottled and sent to Dublin; but the bath is seldom used. Finglass is farther memorable as a spot on which William III, when in Ireland, pitched his camp. A Stone Cross, now standing in its churchyard, affords a curious instance of the at least occasional accuracy of long established tradition: it having lain buried in this cemetery during a long series of years, and at last discovered only in consequence of directions given to search for it by the Rev. Mr. Walsh, Curate of this place, one of the Editors of the History of Dublin' repeatedly alluded to in our pages, who had the satisfaction to procure its restoration to the light, and that from the identical spot to which village anecdote had so long pointed.

3. Monast. Hilbern. p. 215.

GLASNEVIN, a romantic village, one mile and three-quarters N., has been long celebrated for its salubrity, and the mildness of its temperature; and though latterly it may have derived its chief reputation from its grand national botanic garden, it should be known also that it has some pretensions to classic fame, if the names of Addison, Swift, Steele, Delany, Tickel, and Panel, all of whom made its vicinity their constant or occasional residence, can confer such honour on the spot distinguished as that of their former abode. The botanic garden itself was formerly the demesne of the poet Tickel, and was purchased for £2000 from his representatives. One of the walks, a straight avenue of yew trees, was planted under the direction of his friend Addison, and is to this day called Addison's Walk; and tradition says, it was here Tickel composed his ballad of Colin and Lucy, commencing with "In Leinster famed for maidens fair," &c. The garden descending, either gradually or abruptly, to the river Tolka, (which forms on one side a sweeping boundary) on the opposite bank of the stream stood Delville, laid out by Delany, the friend of Swift, in a style then new to Ireland, being said by Cowper Walker to have been the first demesne in which the obdurate and straight line of the Dutch was softened into a curve, the terrace melted into the swelling bank, and the walks opened to catch the vicinal country.' But, notwithstanding this praise, it still retains much of the stiffness of the old style; the walks in right lines terminating in little porticoes, and the valleys being crossed by regular artificial mounds. In a temple on the most elevated point appear specimens of Mrs. Delany's[4] skill in painting; among which is a whole-length of St. Paul, in fresco, and above a medallion of the bust of Stella, esteemed an excellent likeness, but representing a face made up of sharp and disagreeable features, and conveying a totally unfavourable impression of the celebrated original. On the frieze in front appears—*Fastigia despicit urbis*—an inscription attributed to Swift, and supposed to contain a punning allusion to this rural retreat, as seated on an eminence which literally looks down on the city. The house also displays many proofs of Mrs. Delany's talents and taste, in admirable imitations of Chinese paintings on crape, which cannot be distinguished from the originals; and the ceiling of the domestic chapel is ornamented with real shells, disposed in the manner of modelled stucco, with singular delicacy and beauty. The demesne is now in the occupation of J. K. Irwin, esq.

4. This highly accomplished lady was Dr. Delany's second wife; the widow of a Cornish gentleman, and daughter of Lord Lansdown. She excelled also in botany, and completed a British Flora, containing 980 plants.

The once celebrated demesne of Mitchel, now the property of the Lord Bishop of Kildare, extends along the banks of the Tolka, opposite that once Ticket's. Hampstead, farther on, was the residence of Sir Richard Steele; and Parnel, who was vicar of Finglass, lived in the contiguous parish. Thus the remembrance of the men, who ennobled their own age, and whose writings have for nearly a century instructed or amused the public, is naturally associated with a visit to the pretty village of Glasnevin; whose name, derived from Glaseeneven, the pleasant little field,' of itself records the amenity of its situation on the sloping banks of the Tolka. Though somewhat less noted than formerly, as the favourite retreat of the wealthy and refined, it continues to boast numerous elegant residences.

The Botanic Garden now extends over a portion of grounds not Tickers, but which, having, been added to the poet's demesne, has swelled its size to that of an area comprehending 30 English acres. Nothing can exceed the command of aspect, which the irregular beauty of the surface presents; and of which the planners of the garden, having ample room for every botanical purpose, have been careful to 'avail themselves; in no instance sacrificing taste to convenience, by disturbing such objects as contributed, to the original beauty of the grounds. Thus, the clumps of venerable elms, or other forest trees, which shaded the sloping steeps, or ran along the ridges, irregularly but picturesquely dividing the demesne, retain their primitive positions; and the ivied,' imitative ruin of some venerable arch is still allowed to present an entrance to various compartments of the garden, rendered striking by the union of its effect with that of the sombre trees adjoining it. In the arrangement of the plants also, the hand of taste appears, embellishing the formal face of science. To avoid the irksome sameness of every plant following in its order, and labelled with its name, (a sameness which generally pervades botanic gardens,) each class is subdivided into smaller compartments, insulated in green swards, and communicating` by pathways, the intervals being filled up with scattered shrubs; so that while the most regular classification is actually preserved, and all the series follow in such succession that the most minute can be immediately found, the whole presents an appearance of unstudied yet beautiful confusion.

The arrangement and contents of the entire grounds may be conceived from the following detail.

1. HORTUS LINNÆENSIS.
Garden laid out on the system of Linnæus. Subdivided into Plante Herbaceæ.—Herbaceous Division. Fructicetum et Arboretum.---Shrub, Fruit, and Forest-tree Division.

2. HORTUS JUSSIEUENSIS.
Garden laid out on the system of Jussieu.

3. HORTUS HIBERNICUS.
Garden of Plants indigenous to Ireland.

4. HORTUS ESCULENTUS.
Kitchen Garden.

5. HORTUS MEDICUS.
Plants used in Medicine.

6. HORTUS PECUDARIUS.
Cattle Garden.

7. HORTUS RUSTICUS.
Plants used in Rural Economy. Subdivided into Gramina Vera.—Natural Grasses. Gramina Artificiosa.—Artificial Grasses.

8. HORTUS TINCTORIUS,

Plants for Dyers' use.

10. PLANTÆ volubiles repentes et scandentes, fructu-ogoe et herbaceæ. Twiners, creepers, and climbers; shrubby and herbaceous.

11. PLANTÆ Saxatiles,
Rock Plants.

12. AQUARIUM,
lacustre et palustre, Aquatic and Marsh Plants.

13. Cryptogamia Cryptogamics.

14. FLOWER GARDEN.

15. HOT-HOUSES and CONSERVATORIES for EXOTICS.

16. PROFESSOR'S HOUSE and LECTURE-ROOM.

17. ORNAMENTAL Grounds,

We shall mention what appears most deserving of notice under these heads.

The garden arranged according to the system of Linnæus has not less than six acres assigned to it, whose position, as to the rest of the grounds, is centrical. The system of the great naturalist is illustrated to perfection: and the botanist may here, among so many thousand vegetable beings, instantly discover the individual he is in search of, see its relations with those that surround it, and at once appropriate its rank in the scale, and its link in the chain, of vegetation.

The garden arranged according to the method of Jussieu, though small in comparison, suffices to convey a perfect understanding of the system of that justly eminent botanist.

The Hortus Hibernicus must still be considered far from complete, yet its collection amounts to nearly 1400 species; a proof of the spirit of enquiry which this noble establishment has excited, and of the zeal and assiduity with which the study of botany has, subsequently to its foundation, been pursued. Among the more remarkable plants in this division are the Rosa Hibernica, an entirely new species of rose, recently discovered in Ireland by Mr. Templeton; the Erica Dabæcia, a beautiful heath, peculiar to a particular district of the island; and the Arenaria Ciliata, and Turritis Alpina, not supposed to be native to any part of the British European dominions, until the former was lately found in Sligo, and the latter in Conemara, by Mr. Mackay, of the Botanic Garden near Ball's Bridge, belonging to Trinity College.

The Hortus Medicus is arranged on the plan of Woodville's Medical Botany; and contains every plant, which, agreeably to modern opinions, possesses medical virtue.

In the Cattle Garden, arranged on the Linnæan system, "the farmer sees at once before him the results of long experience, and without the tedious and expensive test of his own practice, he may at once adapt his stock to his field, promote the growth of such vegetables as are useful, extirpate such as are injurious, and convert the hitherto despised weed into an useful and wholesome pasturage."

The benefits of the Hortus Rusticus are of a nature equally important; and, from the wonderful disposition of the soil of Ireland to grass, the researches here conducted acquire a character which may be called national. White, one of the gardeners attached to the institution, who appears to possess almost an intuitive knowledge of botany and its nomenclature, since he derives no

assistance from education, nor has the slightest acquaintance with the learned languages, has-found 26 genera, and 84 species, of grasses, to be indigenous to his native island;[5] and, to complete the usefulness of this division, a distinct course of lectures on grasses are gratuitously delivered by the Professor, which never fail to be numerously attended.

5. This singular and valuable man has been very properly patronized by the institution, under whose auspices he has prosecuted his discoveries in various parts of Ireland; and has also published a work on native grasses, not only of great utility in itself, but curious for the different appellations in Irish, which his knowledge of that language enabled him to affix to them.

The compartment for Bock Plants is not among the least remarkable; the mount on which they grow being entirely artificial, consisting of masses of rock selected at Howth for the mosses and lichens growing upon them, and brought from that insulated spot for the purpose of completing the treasures of this garden. These fragments being beeped as it were promiscuously, appear piled by nature in their present form; and the visitor, ascending by the spiral walks round the sides of the mount to its summit, is gratified by seeing every grey stone enlivened by its appropriate vegetation, while in every fissure of the rocks some Alpine plant has struck its roots, and issues forth to shade the mimic cliffs with its waving foliage. From the summit of this rocky mount, is obtained a pleasing view of the entire garden.

The addition of Aquatic and Marsh Plants has been comparatively recent. A sheet of water, 200 yards in length, but of irregular breadth, has been obtained by excavating the bank of the Tolka, the water of which of course, inundates a site the surface of which is lower than its bed. The bosom of this lake is covered with aquatics, and its swampy shores with marsh plants; while verdant headlands projecting into the water, and the high grounds which arise round the lake, (the latter being solely devoted to ornament) create a picturesque variety. American pines, and other natives of a transatlantic soil, flourish on the banks of this interesting aquarium.

The compartment for Cryptogamics is still very incomplete; but this arises from no want of seal or industry in the conductors in this particular, but from the difficulty of procuring a situation adapted to their growth. The spot selected, being a bank which descends swiftly to the river, shaded with high trees to an actually gloomy degree, appears as adapted to the natural propensities of this tribe of plants as any that could be chosen; although the results of the labour bestowed on this division of the garden, have not been commensurate with the expectations originally formed.

The Flower-garden is not remarkable either for the beauty or variety of its productions: but the art of the florist is peculiar to himself, and little connected with the more systematic though less splendid rewards of genuine botany.

The Conservatories are of large dimensions, and nobly provided. The exotics reared in them are no less eminent for rarity than beauty: the Cactus Grandiflora, and the Dombceia, or Pine of Norfolk Island, are perhaps the most deserving of remark. The former is the flower elegantly apostrophised by Darwin:—

" Nymph, not for thee the radiant day returns;
" Nymph, not for thee the glowing solstice burns:"—

—as this singular exotic, it is well known, blows only in the night, beginning to expand when the sun declines. below the horizon, and to fade when he rises above it. A few years back, this nocturnal beauty attained to an extraordinary magnitude; the flower, when measured at midnight, being found to be two feet and a half in circumference. The magnificent Dombæia, which in its native soil attains to the altitude of 200 feet, has here grown to such an height, as to have outstripped all its European competitors; and a conservatory has therefore been erected around it, at the expense of £500, with a dome, so constructed as to be capable of any degree of elevation

to which it is possible the plant should rise—a magnificent idea, and calculated to render this specimen of natural grandeur unrivalled in our northern climes.

The Professor's House, which comprises the Lecture-Room, is that once the residence of Tickel. It is contiguous to the entrance recently erected in consequence of a donation of £700 from Mr. Pleasants, and which consists of handsome gates, connecting lodges, one of which is for the superintendent, and the other for his assistants. The house affords no subject for - comment beyond the lecture-room, a large apartment, the frieze of which is ornamented with pipes, lyres, &c. decorations probably by the former poetical resident. The lectures, which are extremely well attended, are continued on three days in each week from May till September. They embrace every object of botanical research, which concerns the physician, the farmer, and the artist, besides the necessary scientific details; and specimens of every plant described are laid before the auditory. The gardens are also thrown open on two days in the week for every one to visit; it being only required, that those who avail themselves of this permission should enter their names in a book lying open on a desk in the lodge.
This grand ornament to the environs of the metropolis is the property of the Dublin Society; and was instituted by them, and is still supported, out of grants from parliament. The annual expense varies from £1500 to £2000; including salaries to the professor, superintendent, two assistants, 12 gardeners, six apprentices, rent, and casual expenditure for alterations, repairs, the purchase of plants, tools, &c. &c.

At Glasnevin are Quarries of that species of lime-stone called black-stone, or calp, a substance in some measure peculiar to the county of Dublin, and supposed to form the general sub-soil of the city. It is usually found under a bed of vegetable mould and layer of lime-stone gravel, and commences with black lime-stone; in some places separated by layers of argiltaceous schist, which descends into calp by an imperceptible transition. Kirwan, in his Elements of Mineralogy, placed calp under the genus Argyl; but more accurate analyses have since discovered its proportion of that earth to be so compare-lively small, that it cannot with propriety be classed under that generic character. The appearance of this stone in building is well suited to the graver styles of architecture; and it has been used with effect in Gothic structures, such as the chapel in the Castle-yard, noticed in Excursion II., &c.—The Lord Bishop of Kildare has a noble mansion and demesne at Glasnevin.

IRISHTOWN, one mile and a half E., is a small bathing village. A stranger, who should proceed along the entire coast from Ringsend, and through this place to Sandymount, in the summer months, and at a particular time of the tide, would not be a little struck with the swarm of naked figures presented to his view, enjoying the luxury of a sea-bath on the beautiful sands which margin this portion of the bay. On the occasions, almost the whole population of Dublin, he might suppose, were seized with the bathing-mania; so great sometimes is the concourse, and so numerous the vehicles, both public and private, which roll along the road to the spot selected for courting the healthful waters. This recreation appears entered into with a peculiar zest by the citizens; and, indeed, from the noise and merriment that usually prevail, it would seem as though amusement were their primary object, and salubrity only a secondary. 20,000 people are estimated to bathe every tide in Dublin bay during the summer months, and many even continue the practice through the winter.

SANDYMOUNT, which is large and populous compared with Irishtown, has of late years been the principal resort of the city bathers.

KILGOBBIN, six miles S. by E. Its antique Castle is a mass of ruins.

KILLEENY, eight miles S. E., is situated on the bay so called. The Obelisk, on the hill of the same name, commands the most extensive and charming prospects.

KILGOBBIN CASTLE
COUNTY OF DUBLIN

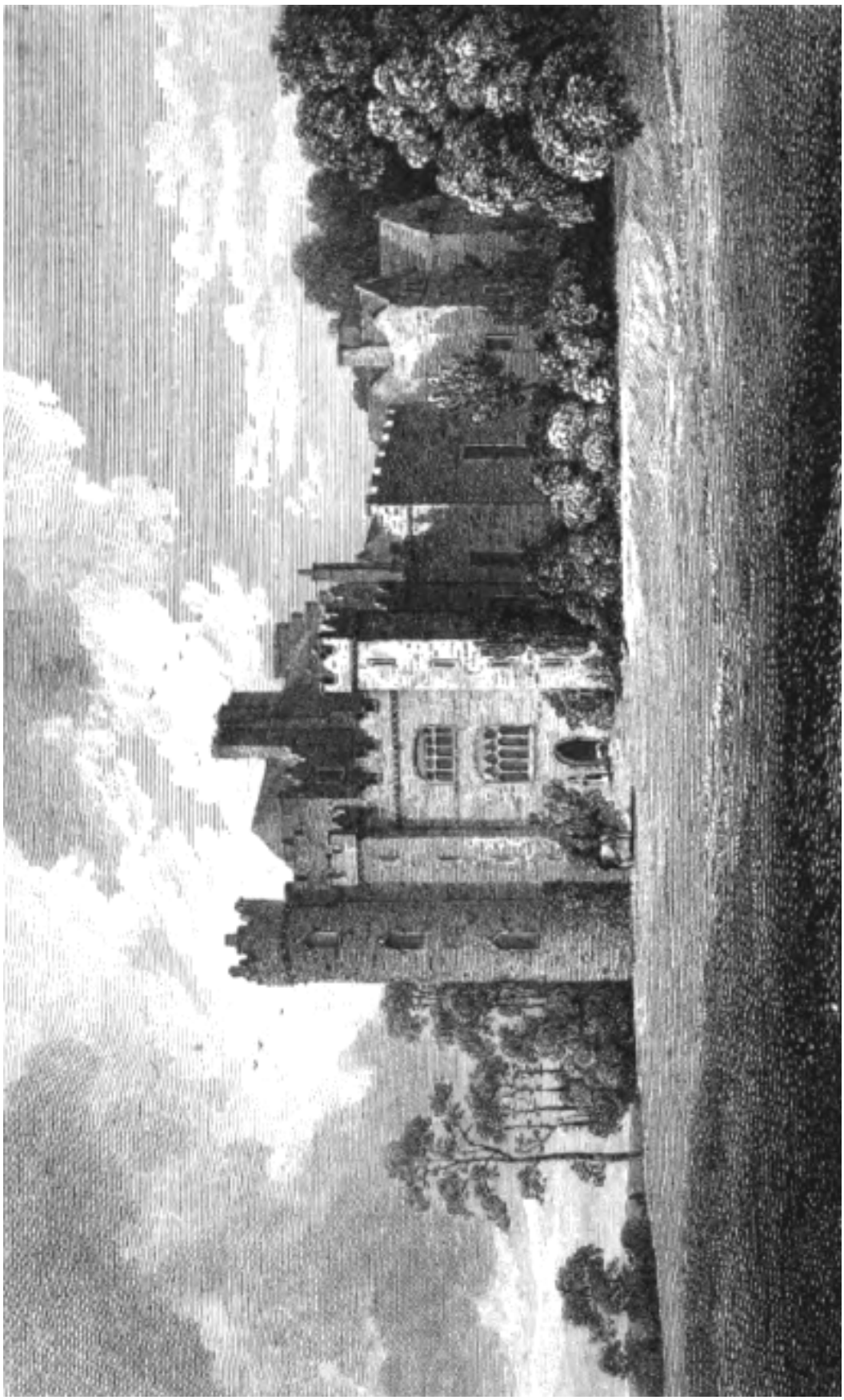
LOUGHLIMSTOWN
COUNTY OF DUBLIN

KILLESTER, an agreeable village, three miles N. E. Here is a handsome seat of Lord Viscount Newcomen, Banker in Dublin, son to the late Sir W. G. Newcomen, Bart. and who, on the demise of his mother, (a peeress in her own right) became possessed of his present title.

LUCAN, six miles and a half W., on the banks of the Liffey, is greatly frequented by the inhabitants of Dublin during the summer season, on account of its medicinal springs, of experienced efficacy in cutaneous and other disorders. Having been now for several years the resort of the gay and fashionable, a spacious hotel and range of lodging-houses have been erected here for their accommodation. The well, which is very superficial, being not more' than 15 inches deep, contains about 80 gallons of water, and, when emptied, Dills again in an hour. The water, though limpid, emits a peculiarly offensive odour, and the taste is equally disagreeable; effects caused by the sulphurated hydrogen gas with which it is strongly impregnated. The soil from which it issues is a lime-stone gravel, supposed to contain coal: it throws up a bluish scum to the surface, and after rain becomes whey-coloured. This sulphur-eons spring was discovered in the year 1758; but its situation being low, and immediately contiguous to the Liffey, it was constantly overflowed by that river, until Agmondisham Vesey, esq. on whose estate it was found, protected it by a wall. George Vesey, esq. the present proprietor, has a handsome seat here; and his demesne, extending along the Liffey to Leixlip, (in the adjoining county of Kildare) affords a charming perambulation to the stranger who may be courteously admitted. Besides the hotel, there is a good inn established at Lucan. The Iron Works of this place, and its Milk for printing calicoes, deserve notice. Here is also a noble Bridge over the Liffey. The whole neighbourhood abounds with the species of stone called calp, described under The domain of Woodlands, near the Phoenix Park, formerly Luttrelstown, and the seat of Earl Carhampton, is of considerable extent, including upwards of 400 acres, Irish, and is now the property of Luke White, esq. M. P. for the county of Leitrim. The fine lawn in front of the house is bounded by rich woods, in which are many ridings; some leading through a romantic glen, where falls a stream over a rocky bed, and along the sides of declivities, at the bottom of which the Liffey is heard or seen at intervals. The whole forms a. most picturesque and• truly delightful retirement; to which its short distance from the capital is an additional recommendation.

MALAHIDE, six miles and a half N. E., is one of the neatest and most rural bathing-villages in the vicinity of the metropolis. The circumstances in which its celebty in this respect originated, however, (the failure of the cotton-trade at this place, at Balbriggan, farther north, and at Prosperous, in Kildare) formed an epocha in the annals of misery, unparalleled perhaps in any other country. Parliament had liberally contributed to the expenses of the projectors and proprietors of the works at these places at their outset; but, refusing a second grant, they became insolvent; and crowds of artisans being suddenly dismissed from their employment, the several colonies which, a few hours, prior to the event, had displayed such a picture of regular and thriving industry, exhibited scenes of the wildest confusion, heart-rending distress, and dismay. But as the village erected at this spot was well built and laid out, and the situation• beautiful and healthy, the houses are still kept in repair, and are generally occupied during the bathing season by families from Dublin.

The Castle of Malahide, the seat of R. W. Talbot, Esq. is said to have been first built in the reign of' Henry IL but to have received considerable repairs and additions in that of Edward IV. This edifice, large, irregular, and unequal in its height, stands upon a rising ground, is surrounded by fine timber, and commands a most extensive and beautiful prospect of the coast and country adjacent. The basement story, the whole of which is vaulted, and contains only the servant's offices, is entered by a low stone Gothic door: the rooms above are approached by spiral stone stairs, which lead into a striking Gothic apartment, lighted by a pointed window of stained glass. The wainscotting of this room is of Irish oak, divided into compartments ornamented with sculptures from Scripture history. The saloon, adjoining the latter room, is a spacious handsome apartment, fitted up in a light but unobtrusive style, and containing some good paintings, one of which is a portrait of Charles It by Vandyke, and others are-by Sir Peter Lely. There is besides a valuable little picture, once an altar-piece belonging to Mary, Queen of Scots, which represents



MALAHIDE CASTLE (Seat of R. W. Talbot Esq.)
COUNTY OF DUBLIN

MALAHIDE ABBEY
COUNTY OF DUBLIN

the the Nativity, Adoration, and Circumcision, and was painted by Albert Durer. The cheerfulness of this, contrasted with the gloom of the former apartment, has been observed to produce a particularly pleasing effect. The original moat of the castle has become an ornamental slope; but the battlements, still remaining, form a fine front, terminated at the angles by circular towers.

Malahide was formerly a place of much consideration, and had several singular immunities and privileges annexed to it. It was granted to the Talbot family (under the name of Mullagh-hide, the headland of the extremity of the tide') by Henry II In 1372, Thomas Talbot was summoned to parliament by the title of Lord Talbot; and by a grant of Edward IV. bearing date March 8, 1475, besides the manorial privileges of receiving customs, holding courts leet and baron, &c. "Thomas Talbot is appointed high-admiral of the seas," with " full power and authority to hear and determine all trespasses, &c. by the tenants, or vassals, or other residents within the town of Mullagh-hide, in a court of admiralty, &c." In 1641, Thomas Talbot was outlawed for acting in the Irish rebellion; and the castle of Malahide, with 500 acres of land, was held for seven years by Miles Corbet, the regicide; during whose occupation of the estate, a dilapidated chapel still beside the edifice, is stated to have been unroofed, for the purpose of covering a barn with the materials; and tradition yet says, that, for the same period of time, a figure of the Virgin, which now forms part of the sculpture over the mantel-piece of the of this apartment described, removed from the unhallowed presence of the new owner, and did not re-appear in the compartment until the morning of his departure—since when she has been constantly visible. In allusion to the powers granted to the Talbot family, noticed above, the Castle is still very commonly, styled the Court of Malahide. There is a curious Well, dedicated to the Virgin, and protected by a stone building, in the place; and near it are rather extensive Quarries of variously coloured lime-stone.

MALAHIDERT, five miles and three-quarters N. N. W. Here is a ruined Church; and in its vicinity another Well, of very pure water, also dedicated to the Virgin, and, equally with that just mentioned, reverenced by numbers of the populace.

MILLTOWN, two miles and a quarter S., gives the title of Earl to the family of Leeson. The new Church of. Church-town, (in which parish Milltown is situated) for whose site John Giffard, esq. gratuitously allotted a portion of his beautiful demesne, from its elevated situation, and lofty steeple, forms an imposing object for a considerable distance around. Whether seen with the Dublin mountains forming a back ground to the view, or from other points, graced and surrounded by the woods of Mount Merrion, the seat of the Earl of Pembroke, its effect is striking in a rather unusual degree.

MONKSTOWN, five miles and a half S. E., upon Dublin Bay. Here is a Castle; and the Church is a handsome modern edifice, frequented for public worship by all the gentry of the rich and populous vicinity. Here, according to Archdall, was a grange belonging to the Monks of the Priory dedicated to the Holy Trinity, in Dublin; from whence probably the appellation of the village.

MONTPELIER, four miles and a half S. E., is situated on an eminence, from which a delightful prospect is obtained.

OLD MERION, two miles and a half S. E. •by S.; at which is a Castle.

PALMERSTOWN, three miles and three-quarters W., situated on the banks of the Liffey, appears decayed; but is said to be reviving, and likely again to flourish, in consequence of the extensive cotton-manufactory established here. It gives the title of Viscount to the family of Temple. Here is annually held a Horse-fair. Agreeably to Archdall, there was anciently a Leper-house near this place; but it was a foundation of which very little is now known. Palmerstown House, the noble mansion of Lord Donoughmore, adjoins the village; the majestic woods of his lordship's domain, crowning the heights which here impend over the Liffey, have

a very fine effect; and the entire intervening space from hence to Lucan is almost exclusively occupied by Seats, which, also overlooking the windings of the river, and its well-planted valley beneath, are deservedly remarked for the beauty of their situation, as well as for the taste with which they are very frequently erected and decorated.

PORTMARNOCK, seven miles N. E., upon the Irish Sea, has many local beauties, and numerous residences of the opulent in its vicinity.

RAHENY, fouv miles and a half N. E., is called Raheny in the Country, to distinguish it from Raheny on the Strand; the latter being a pleasant little village on the Bay of Dublin. There are a number of handsome seats at Raheny, and in its vicinity.

RATHFARNHAM Castle, two miles and three-quarters S., was formerly the seat of the Marquis of Ely. Here, among numerous fine paintings and other objects of interest, was to be seen a portrait of a once celebrated personage in Dublin, Dolly Munro, who was for some time the reigning beauty of the metropolis, and had captivated, it was said, the heart of the then Viceroy; the picture is by Angelica Kauffman, but is more distinguished by the name of that artist, and the repute of Dolly's charms, than by any intrinsic excellence. Of the sensation created in Dublin by its subject, an idea may be formed from the description of a contemporary writer, who says: " Her stature was majestic, and her air and demeanour were nature itself. The peculiar splendour of her carriage was softened and subdued by the most affable condescension; and, as sensibility gave a lustre to her eye, so discretion gave security to her heart; and while her charms inspired universal rapture, the authority of her innocence regulated and restrained it. The softest roses that ever youth and modesty poured out on beauty, glowed on the lips of Dorothea; her cheeks wore the bloom of Hebe, and the purity of Diana was in her breast. Never did beauty appear so amiable, or virtue so adorned, as in this incomparable virgin."—Rathfarnham Castle has of late become nothing less than a Dairy far Buttermilk!

RATHMINES, a small village, one mile S. by W., famous for the memorable defeat of the Marquis of Ormond, by the parliament's forces under Colonel Jones, which took place here in 1649.

RINGSEND, one mile and a half E., is noticed for its Salt-Works, and decayed appearance, in our first volume: its name has been derived from Rinn-ann, the ‘point of the tide,' from the confluence of the waters of the Liffey and the Dodder which occurs at this village. The last-mentioned river, though of inconsequential size, has been noted from very early times as a turbulent and dangerous torrent; and various plans, therefore, have been projected for altering its course, by turning its channel to the low grounds between Irishtown and San-dymount; but none were ever carried into execution, and they are now rendered unnecessary by the secure embankments which have been formed to its old channel, and are found effectually to repress its violence.

About 1649, Sir William Usher was drowned in crossing the current here, though many of his friends, both on foot and on horse-back, were beside him. Immediately afterwards, a stone bridge was erected over it; on which an odd circumstance occurred : the bridge was scarcely built, and a safe passage effected across the stream, when it suddenly altered its channel, leaving the bridge on dry ground and useless, "in which perverse course it continued," says Boate, " until perforce it was constrained to return to its old channel.[6] In 1802, an inundation destroyed the old bridge; upon which the present handsome and substantial one, of mountain granite, was erected, and is supposed capable of resisting any possible force of the water. At Ball's Bridge, about half a mile westward, is established an extensive and flourishing cotton-manufactory; and here is also the Botanic Garden of Trinity College, very inferior to that belonging to the Dublin Society, but still well worthy of the botanical traveller's inspection. This garden contains three and a half acres Irish, is of an irregular figure, and bounded on every side by a substantial wall 12 feet in height. There are distinct arrangements on the system of Linnæus and Jussieu: the collections of grasses

and medicinal plants are both very full; and there is a good conservatory, and small aquarium. In this neighbourhood also, until recent times, stood Baggotsrath Castle, a fortress of much former importance, a sketch and description of the ruins of which occur in Ledwich's Continuation of Grose's Antiquities.

6. Ch. VIII. p. 36.

SANTRY, three miles and a quarter N. The Charter School, for 60 girls, and the handsome old mansion and spacious demesne belonging to Sir Compton Domville, who has here made considerable improvements, are all that are worthy of notice in this village.

STILLORGAN, four miles and a quarter S. E. by S., may be visited for the fine view from its Obelisk: and Newtown Park, Stillorgan Park, and the mansion of the late Lord Viscount Fitzwilliam, now the property of the Earl of Pembroke, at Mount Merrion, in the same vicinity, are also worthy of the tourist's notice.
The market-town of **SWORDS**, seven miles N., deserves particular attention on account of its remains of former ages. Of these, the most remarkable is the Round Tower, 73 feet high, and, at the base, 55 feet in circumference. There is an apparent break in the architecture of this structure near the top; from which, and the cross surmounting its conical apex, an opinion has been entertained, that the superior portion is of much later date than the rest. The four apertures just beneath the cone, which may possibly have belonged to an upper story, answer to the four cardinal points of the compass; these, (which are almost always, if not invariably, seen when the building is sufficiently perfect to admit of it) are round-headed; but four smaller ones, which may have lighted so many separate floors beneath, are square-shaped. The door-way, on the east side, is square at top, and narrower at that part than at the bottom : it, however, appears to have been long filled up, so that no entrance can be now obtained to the interior. In the instance of this tower, as in others, there is no projecting base; or, if there should be, it is buried beneath the surface of the earth: similarly to a specimen at Brechin, in Scotland, described by Mr. Gordon, it seems to shoot out of the ground like a tree.' Our engraved view of this interesting remnant of antiquity, will convey a very accurate idea to the reader of its most prominent features.

The Church, its Steeple, and the Round Tower, are so many detached buildings within the church-yard. The separation of the two former, is owing to the body having been recently rebuilt, by Mv. Johnson of Dublin, at a few yards distance from the old steeple, which was left standing. The age of the latter cannot be ascertained with any degree of precision; but it is evidently a later erection, by some centuries, than the round tower. The church consists of a choir only, like the chapel, built by the same architect, in the Castle-yard at Dublin ; to which it bears a general resemblance, though it is infinitely less rich in decoration. The material is the same, being calpe, or Irish black stone.

A noble window of stained glass has been lately given by the rector to this church, executed by Mr. Braddely of Dublin. In the church-yard are numerous small, shapeless blocks of stone, placed, as for memorials, at the heads of the graves; and a minute but apparently very antique cross, whose inscription, (a seeming compartment for which remains,) is obliterated, served as a desk for the memoranda retained in these remarks.

The remains of the Castle, at this town, are sufficiently extensive to contain a gardener's ground within the walls. We found the tenant obliging and communicative; and if the, information he very readily afforded to our enquiries did not always wear the garb of authenticity, it never failed in the article of amusement. According to our cicerone, then, the ruins of this castle occupy the site of a more ancient Abbey, founded by St. Columbkill in the year 550;[7] and to St. Columbkill he also attributed the building of the Round Tower, in comparison with which, he seemed to consider the old church-steeple an erection of yesterday. Here, as he likewise informed us, the justly celebrated Irish king, Brien Boromhe, was prayed over' after his fall at the battle of

ROUND TOWER - SWORDS
COUNTY OF DUBLIN

REMAINS OF THE CASTLE AT SWORDS
COUNTY OF DUBLIN

Clontarf;[8]the ruins of a chapel, in which this ceremony was said to have beets performed, being pointed out to us.

A stone, inserted in the interior of the wall of this chapel, and containing a good sculpture of a cinquefoiled head to a Gothic arch, with a cross at top, was described as representing 'death and the cross.' In the abbey, now become castellated for defensive purposes, it was added, that the first parliament which met in Ireland had been convened; marks of fire upon the walls were farther ascribed to a conflagration that occurred while it was sitting; a second conflagration was said to have taken place when the castle was besieged by Cromwell; and our informant concluded, by pointing out the ruins of a chapel at Moortown, in the vicinity, (which he said had been a chapel of ease' to the Abbey,) having interlarded much of his narration with notices, that both his father and grandfather, had held the garden, as he still held it, (through the medium of a good middle-gentleman') of the Archbishop of Dublin.[9]

None of the buildings, once existing within the area of the walls, are remaining; if we except a small fragment near the entrance, which, having been converted into a modern dwelling, forms the gardener's abode. The form of the walls is irregular; five of the towers, which connected them at so many angles, yet exist, in a state more or less ruinous: we ascended that which is least so, and were rewarded for some slight degree of danger in the attempt, with a good prospect of the church, round tower, and surrounding country. Many of the battlements are yet perfect; and beneath a great part of them runs a platform for the archers, to whom the defence of the castle was in former days entrusted.

7. Archdall says: "A sumptuous Monastery was founded here, A.D. 512, by the great St. Columb, who gave to it a Missal, written by himself, blessed the Well there, and placed St Finan Lobhair, or the Leper, over the Abbey. It is now a parish-church. There was also a Nunnery here, but of which very little is known."—Monast. Hibern. p. 250.

8. Noticed by Archdall.

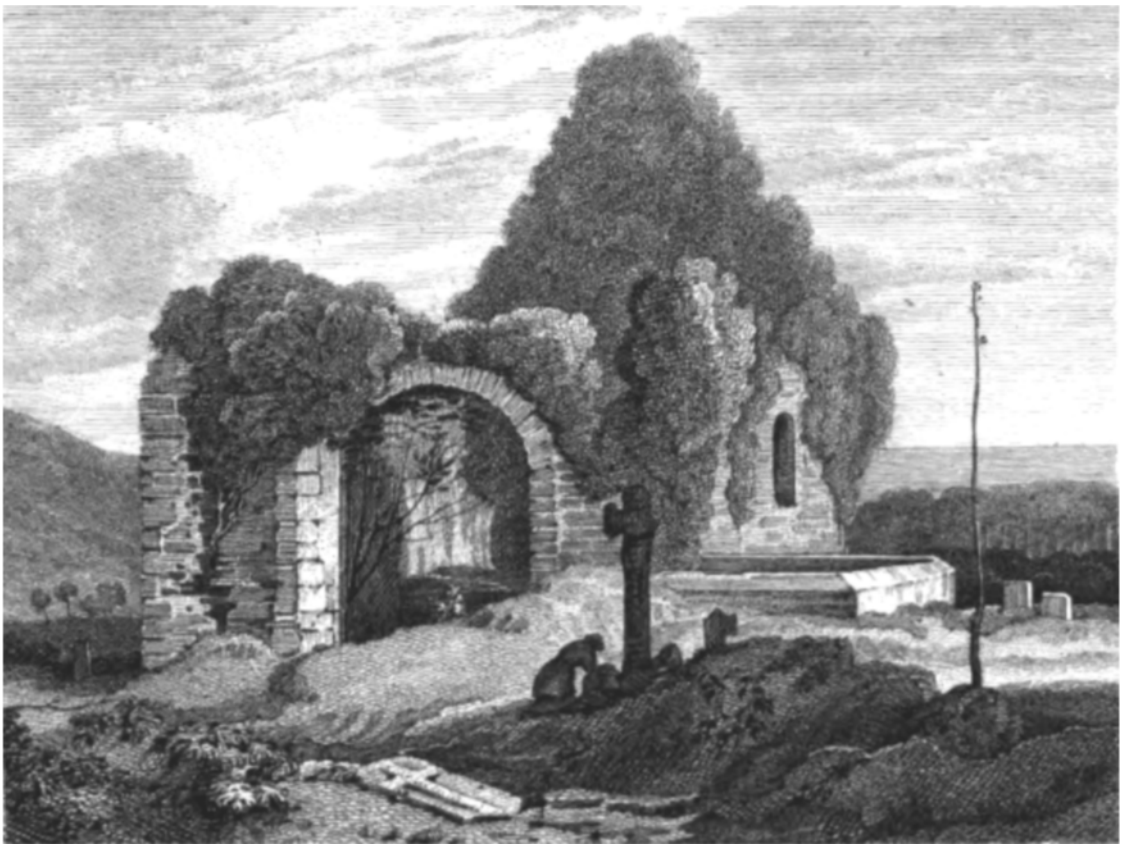
9. Here are some remains of a Palace, which was formerly the residence of the Archbishops of Dublin."—Archdall Monast. Hibern. p. 258.

At TALLAGHT, five miles S. W. by S., an irregular straggling village, is the ancient and venerable-looking Palace, or former summer-residence, of the Archbishops of Dublin: its external air is that of little adornment, but rather of strength and durability. The reception-rooms, en suite, are spacious and lofty: but latterly the Archbishop has discontinued to reside here. The gardens are extensive, and in good order. At Tallaght, says Archdall, an abbey was founded in an early age, of which St. Mælruan was the first bishop.

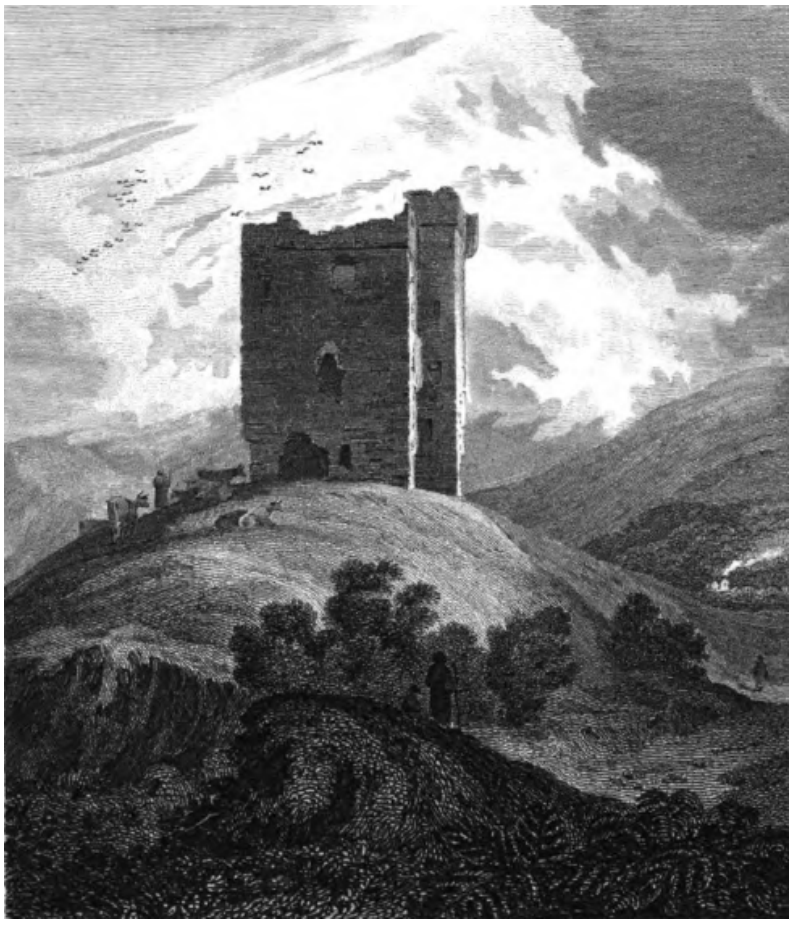
TASSAGARD, eight miles S. W. The Church of this village, now in ruins, is noticed by Archdall, as having been first founded by St. Mosacre.

Timon Castle, is situated on an eminence about four miles south-west of Dublin, and is one of these fortresses formerly attaching to every considerable landholder, and a complete chain of which at one time extended round the metropolis. lf, as is probable, the interior building alone, divested of its bawn or out-work, constitutes the present Timon Castle, the ancient bawn must have been long demolished, as not a vestige of it, or of any species of exterior defence, is now discoverable.

TULLAGH, OR TALLAGH, Six miles and a quarter S. E. by S. Here are the ruins of a Church, which, as we are informed in Grose's Antiquities, was "founded by the Ostmen, and dedicated to their king and patron, St. Olave; (of which name, Tallagh, it is asserted, is an Hibernian corruption.) He was king of Norway, and being instructed in evangelical truths in England, he went from thence to Rouen, where he was baptized. On his return home, he carried with him



REMAINS OF TULLAGH CHURCH COUNTY OF DUBLIN



REMAINS OF TIMON CASTLE COUNTY OF DUBLIN

sonic ecclesiastics to convert his subjects; but they refusing to listen to them, and being offended at the severe means he used for their conversion, expelled him his kingdom, and, at the instigation of Canute, he was murdered on the 29th of July, on which day the anniversary of his martyrdom is celebrated. He had a church in Dublin, the site of which is not known; and this of Tallagh, near Lough-linstown, seven miles from Dublin.

" Every circumstance relative to this edifice bespeaks its antiquity: its smallness, its semi-circular arches, and various crosses in its church-yard. One cross mounted on a pedestal has four perforations in its head, through which child-bed linen was drawn to secure easy delivery, and health to the infant. These holes were also used in matrimonial contracts among the Northerns settled here; the parties joining hands through them, and no engagement was thought more solemn or binding. Such promises in Scotland were called the promises of Odin. This superstitious appropriation of stones fully evinces its origin to be from the North, and derived from thence to us."

EXCURSION VIII

From Dublin to Swords, as described; and through Turvey, Balruddery, Balbriggan, Drogheda, Dunker, and Castle-Bellingham, to Dundalk; returning by Ardee, Carlanstown, Kells, Navan, and Dunshaughlin, to Dublin.

ALMOST all tourists, it is probable, prior to their examination of a country with their own eyes, form a confused but frequently vivid idea of its general features; an idea, obtained either from books of travels, from oral information, or, as commonly perhaps, from mental glimpses, whose sources are unknown, of its supposed appearances. But the descriptions of travellers, whether written or orally communicated, are to a proverb exaggerated—or, at the least, very frequently convey such general notions of a whole country as will in truth apply only to particular places—while the scenery of the imagination, in this as in other cases, is usually obliterated at the very outset of actual survey.

Yet that some such general idea of a country, if it bear but a resemblance to the truth, may be usefully imbibed by the tourist, preparatory to his departure, cannot be denied; if it serve only as a scale, by which to measure the infinity of exceptions to it, that will occur on the right hand and on the left, at every stage of his journey, or as a focus, from which particular truths will diverge to their relative distances in the statistical view. Our Historical and Descriptive Sketch,' though it may prove of some slight service in this respect, necessarily, from its limits, and the variety of topics it embraced, gave but an imperfect account of the general Face of the Country, and was next to silent in regard to its Antiquities—points on which an enlargement of our plan will now permit us somewhat to dilate, with candour, and, as we trust, not entirely without usefulness.

The science of statistics has been defined, " the knowledge of the present state of a country, with a view to its future improvement." The accurate development of this species of knowledge is the avowed object of our labours; and if we have been led to entertain a zealous, however humble, "view to the improvement' of the country undertaken to be described, we hope we shall at least be pardoned.

No one will be so hardy as to assert that the Face of the Country, in Ireland, is unsusceptible of improvement; and, as the term improvement, and every idea connected with it by the British traveller, is necessarily relative, Ireland must be contrasted with Britain, and with itself, in order to obtain clear notions of its actual state, and of the means, if they should appear to be wanting, to accomplish its amelioration. Let us then first broadly remark, that though the face of this country is almost invariably less rich than that of England, yet that it rarely presents the continuity of uncultivated moorland so prevalent in Scotland, and not frequently the rude rocky grandeur

which characterizes so considerable a portion of Wales; that the apparent monotony of its surface, though so generally cultured, is a consequence of the want of trees and hedge-rows rather than of exuberance in the cultivated productions of the soil; that its mountains, though inferior in altitude, and sublimity of outline, both to those of North Britain and Cambria, may boast a picturesque character, generally unknown to those of the two latter countries; that its coast views, particularly on the western shore, are altogether unequalled by those of the British island, and its lake scenery as superior in all the features, if not of the beautiful, of the sublime; while, last, though not least in the train of comparison, its bogs, let it be. observed, as regards their composition, extent, and use, as well as the singularity of their appearance, are without parallel in the other British dominions.

Dublin in itself presents a complete and striking contrast to the whole interior of the island. In England, many are the cities and principal towns, affording strong features of resemblance to its metropolis: their public buildings are not much inferior, and their habitations, whether designed for the wealthy or the poorer orders, upon an equality with those belonging to the same classes in London: and while, every where, traces of variety in the face of the soil are perceptible only in differences as to modes of culture, or diversities of produce, the abundance of trees, and the almost universal prevalence of enclosures decorated with hedgerows, give to the whole an appearance, with which no country in Europe can vie, of a well-ordered and richly cultivated garden. The mellowed contrasts presented to the eye of the traveller, are shades only of the same colouring in the picture: England is, in comparison perhaps with the world, all unison, beauty, wealth, comfort, and harmony.

But vainly do we look in Ireland, even in its very, first provincial cities and towns, for public buildings to compare with the splendid architectural decorations of its capital; but few, very few, in proportion, are their mansions of the gentleman or the opulent trader; and the long avenue of mud cottages, by which we usually approach and quit them, exhibits a marked deterioration even in comparison with the wretched alleyed erections of Dublin; a deterioration, surpassed only by that of the rural cabins -congregated in petty villages, or scattered, still more thickly than in England, over the surface of the country.

Yet, true it is, the very converse of this sketch, in some most important points, is seen to obtain in detached spots, dispersed like blooming Edens on a wild, where the hand of some benefactor to his species has reared the industrious and thriving manufacturing town, or the neat, white, comfortable village. The view as we approach, it may be noticed also, of a very considerable number of the towns, is striking in no common degree; though the illusion thereby created, being dispelled immediately upon their entrance, is subservient in the end to less of pleasure than disappointment.

The seats of the gentry are, in many parts, sufficiently numerous ; and if here, as in other countries, some are remarkable for a style of meretricious decoration, there are others, and not a few, where the principles of a correct taste evidently predominate.—Yet in this instance again, the immediate contiguity of the miserable hovels of the peasantry with many of these princely abodes, is hurtful both to the eye and to the feelings. The monotony of view, occasioned by the absence of foliage, particularly where the country is flat, may be readily supposed; yet, where it rises into gently swelling hills, the brightness of the verdure, and general luxuriance of the crops, unite to produce an effect of peculiarly softened beauty, to which the very frequent recurrence of water becomes an additional charm. We may take this opportunity of observing also, that, notwithstanding the prevailing rudeness in agricultural practices, there are, independent of lands managed upon the most excellent systems by some spirited and intelligent proprietors, large tracts of country most richly cropped, though the traces left by the plough describe lines which are any thing but straight, and though the hedges and ditches (where there are any) are in a state so different to what is technically called ‘clean', that, to the eyes of numerous English agriculturists, they would appear infallible evidences of ‘bad farming.'

Indeed, the crops throughout the province of which we have commenced the description, exhibited at the period of our visit, a degree of luxuriance, to which we had witnessed nothing equal in our progress across England; and if a Coke or a Curwen might have smiled at many features in the agricultural management, they would have been proud, we believe, to have produced as substantial proofs of their success.

As to all that regards a very great majority of the population, penury, discomfort, and the rudest habits of domestic life, are, alas! the prevailing attributes of poor Erin. There are few intelligent Irishmen, but will acknowledge this; nay, there are even many, (too many, as with submission we conceive) who not only seem pleased to insist upon the present barbarism of their poorer countrymen, but are as eager to contend for their utter barbarity in every past age—a subject, the consideration of which intimately connects itself with a view of the Antiquities of their country.

Our opinions on several points illustrative of the ancient history of Ireland will speedily appear; and we will now, by the way, observe that, notwithstanding the wild and uncouth features so apparent in the dwellings and domestic conveniences of the poor in this island, the charge of general barbarism against them would appear to us highly calumniatory: the Irish peasantry are indeed, as we have had abundant evidence to prove, far, very far, from the state properly described by that word: for if, as is probably true, the English poor are some centuries in advance of them as to modes of life, the Irish are as much their superiors in general quickness of capacity, in manners, and in intelligence.[10] The existing disposition among so many of the Irish to degrade their country at every period of its history, is not only singular, to say the least, in itself, but affords a curious illustration of the sway of fashion even in regard to theories of antiquities; as not very many years have passed away, since the rage among the inhabitants of the same island, was to magnify Erin of old, for the splendour of her learned, religious, political, and warlike institutions, as though she excelled in those particulars, as well as in the liberal arts, the most celebrated nations of antiquity.

10. We particularly mark this latter word, because we have ourselves witnessed the surprise of most respectable and most intelligent Englishmen, at hearing it thus applied, though we have subsequently heard them confess the justice of the application. In truth, as the candid traveller will soon find himself constrained to admit, the poor Irishman is, compared with his equals in many other countries, conspicuously intelligent: mind, and a certain refinement of manner, are seen to emanate from his grey frieze garment, or his rags, to the full as often as coarseness and stupidity are observed to harbour beneath the more comfortable habiliments of the English rustic: in proof of which let us now only observe, (since we have already commented upon this point in our introduction to the first volume) that if the travelled Englishman has attended only to the replies of this class of persons to common enquiries upon the road, he must in very numerous instances recollect the stare, the gape, and the grits, es preludes to the wandering and unsatisfactory answer of the English clod pate, while he cannot fail to contrast with it the almost infallibly prompt, pertinent, and civil information afforded by the Irish countryman.

The oracles of that period were the native historians, whose day-dreams, though often extremely absurd, should obtain a portion of our respect, were it only for the *amor patræ* in which they so evidently originated: the oracle of .more modern times, who fights and slays them all, is Dr. Ledwich; and he, entering the arena of antiquities with nearly the single object, as it should appear, of proving the ancient natives of his country to have been sunk into that utter state of barbarism, from which it was " impossible for them ever to emerge"—i. e. without the assistance of the " English or Normans"—employs his whole learning and genius in contending that buildings of " lime and stone " never entered into the conceptions of the Irish; that every scrap of antiquity, too old to be English, must be " Danish;" that the Teagkmor, or grand palace, of. Tara, never existed but in the rhapsodies of the bards; and that St. Patrick himself, if ever he existed, was he does not precisely inform us what—but, as we should judge from the context, "a river," or "mountain!"

We will not charge the Doctor, (since neither justice nor politeness would warrant such a charge) with " ignorance and anility" as the ground of his assertions ; though he has not scrupled to bestow them on a native writer, whose zeal, industry, and abilities, were as conspicuous as his own;[11] but we will venture to express, the hope, that, in the last mentioned notable discovery, the Ledwich-mania attained its climax; and that henceforth Irishmen will adopt those medium conclusions, between the Doctor's and their old historians, relative to the antiquities of their island, which are not only the most honourable to their country's reputation, but, in the nature of things, since truth usually takes a middle path, the most likely to be consistent with her dictates.

Our sentiments, in regard to particular antiquities, will accompany their description; but we deem it a necessary preliminary, as regards our English readers at least,, to treat of them in this place in the form of a general view. With this design, as deservedly taking precedence in Irish Antiquities, the Round Towers will first come under consideration. Of these very singular edifices, one or two have been already noticed; Dr. Ledwich, in his usual strain, ascribes them one and all to the Danes; but, in common fairness, we shall give a summary of the doctrines of other authors on this head; and, if we subjoin an opinion of our own, it will be with deference to all who may be better informed. The origin, period of erection, and intended uses, of these towers, have all been very warmly contested; though, after all, the subject really appears one which is involved in almost impenetrable obscurity. ,They are not, however, so strictly peculiar to this country as Sir Richard Hoare was led to imagine, when he remarked that there were " none in England or Wales, and only two in Scotland;" as they are found, thinly scattered, attached to the country churches of England, and are even frequent in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.[12] In Ireland, these erections vary much as to their distances from the several churches, though they are most commonly situated nearly at their north-west angle: in their respective altitudes and dimensions they are also unlike; as well as in the number of their floors, and in the height of their entrances from the ground.

11. The Rey. Mervyn Archdall: author of the Monasticon Hibernicum.

12. In these latter counties, it is but justice to Dr. Ledwich to remark, the universal tradition assigns them to the Danes : there are however several points of dissimilarity between them and the Irish round towers.

Their architecture is uniformly simple, but the masonry exceedingly substantial. Mr. Gordon's description of the Round Tower at Abernethy, in Scotland, would answer almost equally well for any one in Ireland. He says, "at Abernethy, the ancient capital of the Pictish nation, I could discover nothing except a stately hollow pillar, without a staircase, so that when I entered within, and looked upward, I could scarce forbear imagining myself at the bottom of 'a deep draw-well. It has only one door or entrance, facing the north, somewhat above the basis; the height of which is eight feet and a half, and the breadth two feet and a half. Towards the top are four windows, equidistant, and five feet nine inches in height, and two feet two inches in breadth, and each is supported by two small pillars.

At the bottom are two rows of stones, projecting from beneath, which served for a basis, or pedestal. The whole height of the pillar - is 75 feet; the external circumference at the base is 48, but diminishes somewhat towards the top, and the thickness of the wall is three feet and a half."—Giraldus Cambrensis, who wrote in 1185, distinctly calls these buildings '***turres ecclesiasticæ,***' and seems to ascribe their erection to the native Irish; while John Lynch, an Irish writer of the seventeenth century, asserts that they were erected by the Danes, about 838; in which opinion he is followed by Peter Walsh, who supposes them to have been at first used as watch-towers against the natives, and afterwards appropriated to holy uses, as steeple-houses, and belfries.—Dr. Molyneux, in 1727; unites with the two latter writers in attributing them to the Danes, but conceives them to have been erected solely as Bell Towers for calling the people of large districts to join in religious ordinances.—Mr. Harris thinks, that (like many similar pillars

in eastern countries) they may have been designed for the reception of anchorite monks: and mentions the tradition that an anchorite lived at the top of one at Drumlahan, in Cavan, which retained the name of Cloch-Aucoire, or the Stone of the Anchorite.—Dr. Smith, in his History of Cork, quotes an Irish manuscript, in which the use of these towers is said to have been to imprison penitents, and adds that they were called "Inclusoria, or Anti inclusorii ergastula," the prisons of narrow inclosure.

The same author observes, in his History of Waterford, that " the Round Tower at Ardmore had been evidently used as a belfry, as a part of the oak beam remained from which the bell was suspended; and that two channels were cut in the sill of the door, where the rope came out; and thus the bell, was sounded by the ringer, who stood below on the outside of the door-way."—General Vallancey, however is disposed to assign them to a very remote period of antiquity; supposing them to have been built by the Old Irish, or Aire Coti, as he styles them, the primitive inhabitants of Britain and the western isles, who, after the religion of the Brahmins, are stated to have worshipped fire; observing that " the pyramidal flame seems to have given the idea of the Round Towers, which were conical, and ended in a point at top, both in Hindostan, and in Ireland."—Upon a review of all these discordant opinions, Sir Richard Hoare expresses himself inclined to favour the opinion of Dr. Smith, grounded as it is upon the tradition of an ancient Irish manuscript. " The figure of our Saviour on the cross," the Baronet remarks, " which is sculptured over the key-stone of the door-way to the Round Tower at Donaghmore, will at once overturn the ingenious system of General Vallancey, and prove these buildings to have been of Christian, not of Pagan origin." "I should suppose them," he continues, " to have been erected about the ninth century, and nearly at the same time with the stone-roofed chapels, at which period Ireland abounded with holy men, and was much resorted to as a seminary for learning and religion.

I think we may also safety give the credit of their construction to the native Irish : that they were very numerous in former days, the modern survivors will amply testify; and that they were built after the usual method and plan of the country, ("more patrio") and had a connexion with the adjoining churches, being called "T***urres ecelesiastiæ***," the words of Giraldus will sufficiently prove."—To these opinions of Sir Richard's, from 'which we by no means venture a general dissent, we may add that some of these towers are, it is probable, of even later erection; as may be instanced in that at Roscrea, in Tipperary, which, at the distance of 38 feet from the ground, has a pointed, or Gothic arch; a style of architecture, which, it is generally agreed, was not introduced into this country till the twelfth century. This arch, it is true, may have been a more modern addition to the original structure; while it is possible also, that some of the towers may claim a Pagan origin, though certainly not so high an antiquity as is ascribed to them by General Vallancey;[13] nor is even this latter notion, we think, altogether inconsistent with the general accuracy of Sir Richard's conclusions; for though the majority of these edifices, it does appear likely, were erected for Christian purposes, about the ninth century, (and a few perhaps from one to four centuries previously, a period which will embrace the introduction of Christianity into the island,) yet their prototypes, of which some few may be still standing, might have been the pagan erections of fire-worshippers, (very strong fires, it is evident, having been burned in the interior of that at Drumbo, and others) but which had become belfries and penitentiaries in the hands of their Christian successors.

13. Since buildings of stone, compacted with lime-cement, were unknown in Gaul and Britain previously to the arrival of the Romans, it follows, nearly of course, that they were then equally unknown in Ireland, whose inhabitants were derived from the same parent stock, the Celts and the Belgæ; but it by no means follows, that buildings so constructed were altogether wanting in the latter country, after the establishment of the Romans in Britain; and, indeed, while successive arrivals of the expatriated Britons in Ireland, may be naturally supposed to have proved the means of introducing architecture, and the other arts, of Romanized Britain into the island, we have literally nothing beyond assertions in evidence of the contrary.

Peculiar styles of building have, in other instances, prevailed through successive ages; and why may not the Round Towers of Ireland have been partly erected at a period extending nearly to the earliest, and partly at the latest supposed era? The obvious utility of appropriating such as were already erected as belfries, would be a sufficient inducement with the early Christians to rear others expressly for a similar purpose; and as, prior to the introduction of steeples, many of the edifices for public worship were still, probably, as well as the houses, of slight construction, it might become a custom with the ministers of religion to build them in the immediate vicinity of these towers, in order to profit by the latter in a double sense; namely, by using them to call the people to their devotions, and by retiring to them on occasions of danger, which, in times of intestine divisions, might be of frequent recurrence.—Indeed, were not defence a main object in the erection of some, (though this is a circumstance which hitherto has been little noticed) it is difficult to suggest a reason for placing the entrance, in numerous cases, at very considerable heights, sometimes so much as 20 feet, from the ground; though, if we admit this idea, the reason is sufficiently obvious.

We may add, that the churches now standing may naturally be supposed tq occupy the sites of the primitive sacred edifices of the Christians; and that they have now generally the adjuncts of steeples, notwithstanding the previous existence of the round tower, may be accounted for by the parade of ecclesiastical architecture, which prevailed at the periods when the majority of these steeples are known to have been originally erected.

Earthen Works. These, according to Sir Richard Hoare, may be classed in the following order.

> **1)** A mound of earth formed in the shape of a cone, and finishing in a point at top, encircled generally by a slight ditch.—I have no doubt (he continues) but these tumuli were originally raised for sepulchral uses, and by the early Celtic or Belgic tribes who inhabited Ireland. Many of these have been opened, and found to contain ashes, bones, urns, and other ornaments, in a great degree corresponding with those discovered by me in Wiltshire; a proof that the respective inhabitants of the age, when these mounds of earth were thrown up, made use of the same modes of burial. Some of these mounds are flat at top, but whether originally made so, or levelled in subsequent times by art, I will not pretend to decide; the surface however appears too small to have answered any military or civil purpose; and ham rather inclined to think that they are sepulchral.
>
> **2)** A large circle, surrounded by a raised *agger* of earth, and a slight ditch.—Of similar works I observed several during my tour, and frequently there were two near to each other. The name of Rath may, I think, be more appropriately applied to these; as, from their dimensions, and slight elevation, they were calculated for those conferences and meetings which the word literally implies; and the circumstance of finding two adjoining each other, seems to strengthen this supposition. (The term Rath has been thought to be a corruption from Raad, which, in the Danish language, signifies a council; and which is interpreted by Lhuyd, in his Irish-English Dictionary, a village, a prince's seat; also, an artificial mount or barrow.) These cannot be sepulchral, as no such elevated form is to be found amongst the great variety of barrows which the chalky downs of the west of England present.
>
> **3)** High-raised circular tumulus, with more than one fosse. These are evidently military works; as are likewise.
>
> **4)** Those with ramparts and out-works.—The most common plan is a high-raised circular mound, with a square or oblong work attached to it, the whole surrounded by one or more ditches. This mode of fortification was adopted also in Wales; and from the circumstance related in the Chronicles of that country, of their frequent demolition, and their very speedy re-edification, I have reason to suppose that the

buildings upon them were made of wood ; otherwise they never could have been so quickly destroyed and restored. There is a greater uniformity in the military earthen works of Ireland, than in those of England and Wales; neither are they so complicated in their form, nor so stupendous in in their proportions.[14]

14. Tour in Ireland, pp. 294. 5. 6.

STONE CROSSES. On these Sir Richard remarks, "that they are neither of that light and taper form, nor elegant Gothic workmanship, by which the crosses, erected by our English monarch, Edward the First, to the memory of Eleanor, his queen, were so particularly distinguished: but though simple in their design, they are yet rich in sculpture. In the second volume of Vallancey's Collectanea, are engravings of two Crosses standing in the church yard of Castle Dermot, in the county of Kildare, with inscriptions said to be in the Ogham characters, and supposed to bear the date of the tenth century. It is difficult to fix the period of their construction, but I should imagine them coeval with the Round Tower, and the work of the ninth or tenth century; but I cannot think that the Ogham character (if such a character ever existed) was in use so late as the tenth century." A prevalent idea in Ireland, respecting these Crosses, is, that they were transmitted, at a very early period of Christianity, to the Land of Saints, sculptured as they are now seen, from Rome, by order of the Pope.—This, however, does not appear extremely likely, when it is recollected that the religion of Ireland, at the remote era alluded to, although it doubtless emanated from, had very early discontinued its connection with the Papal hierarchy.

ORATORIES AND CHAPELS. The construction of these is almost uniformly simple: they are generally small, entirely of stone, but many of them of a date long prior, (as strong prejudices only, we think, will disallow) to the arrival of the Danes, to whom the modern doctrine ascribes all antique buildings of that material.

CROMLECHS. Of these some mention has already been incidentally made. We will only add, that all our acquaintance with the Druids, whose religion preceded Christianity in all the British islands, points to their probable origin as derived from them.

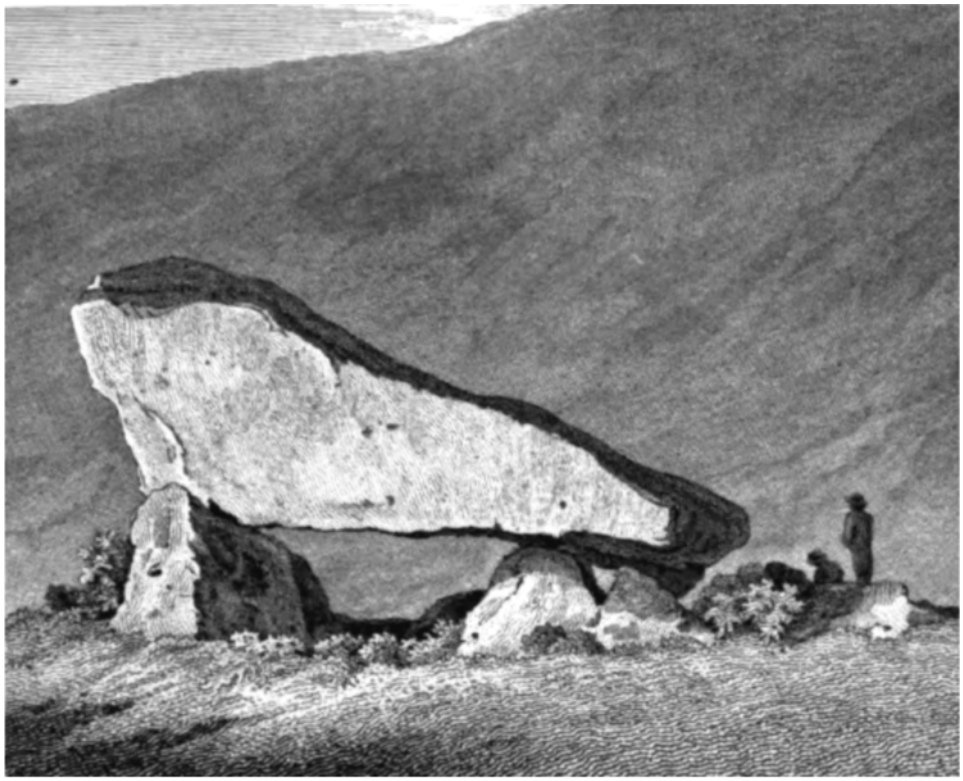
THE RUINS OF ABBEYS AND RELIGIOUS HOUSES, the productions of Norman times, are usually inferior in interest to those of the sister kingdom: the pointed style of architecture, the beauty of which in Britain constitutes their chief attraction, appearing in Ireland to have been brought to an infinitely less perfect state.

The province of Leinster is the most level and best cultivated in the island. Dublin county, through the northern portion of which we are about to conduct the reader, is said, in its bogs, heaths, rocky mountains, wild glens, sombre landscapes, and sea views, in connection with its cultured districts, to present a complete epitome of the country at large.

Yet the tract through which we shall immediately travel, will afford but few instances of this diversity. The cottages by the wayside, as far as Swords, we found almost always comfortable looking; and few, as are the generality in Ireland, without chimneys. But many of the peasants, the females more particularly, were barefooted, even at this trifling distance from the capital. The aspect of the country all along would have deserved, in the fullest sense, the epithet of rich, had it but possessed the appendages of trees and hedge-rows.

This part of our first journey to the north of Leinster having been performed in one of the public jaunting-cars, we were subjected to the perpetual inconvenience of stopping to permit the passage of droves of cars, of a somewhat different description, (the agricultural) carrying hay and straw to the metropolis; these, without the least compunction, straggling over the otherwise sufficiently wide road, in such a manner as to allow of no alternative but that of waiting till they had passed. The rule of the road,' it should appear, is in truth a ‘paradox' to Irish drivers; since on every

CROMLECH ON SHANKHILL
COUNTY OF DUBLIN



CROMLECH BRENNANSTOWN
COUNTY OF DUBLIN

direction-post we noticed conspicuous instructions to them to keep their proper side; notwithstanding which, we were subjected nearly every ten minutes to the delay complained of.

We observed several Scotch carts, along with these agricultural cars, as well as farther in the interior; and with some confidence we anticipate, that the former will ere very long entirely supplant the latter for every purpose of husbandry. When, indeed, the rude and ill-adapted construction of the car is considered, it might appear wonderful to such as are not aware of the deep-rooted. partiality every where existing to old practices, that it should yet obtain admirers in opposition to its lighter and every way superior substitute. Whatever were the load, both car and cart were uniformly drawn by a single horse.

TURVEY, the first village after passing Swords, is wholly uninteresting to the general tourist. But,

LUSK, on our right, is well worthy the notice of the antiquary, on account of the curious architecture of its Church; which consists of two long aisles, separated by a screen of seven arches; and at its west end is a remarkable square steeple, with round towers connected with three of its angles, whilst opposite to the fourth is a detached round tower, in very good preservation, and loftier than the others. The east end only of this structure is at present appropriated to the purposes of public worship. The walls of a church, said to have been part of an ancient nunnery, are mentioned here by Archdall.

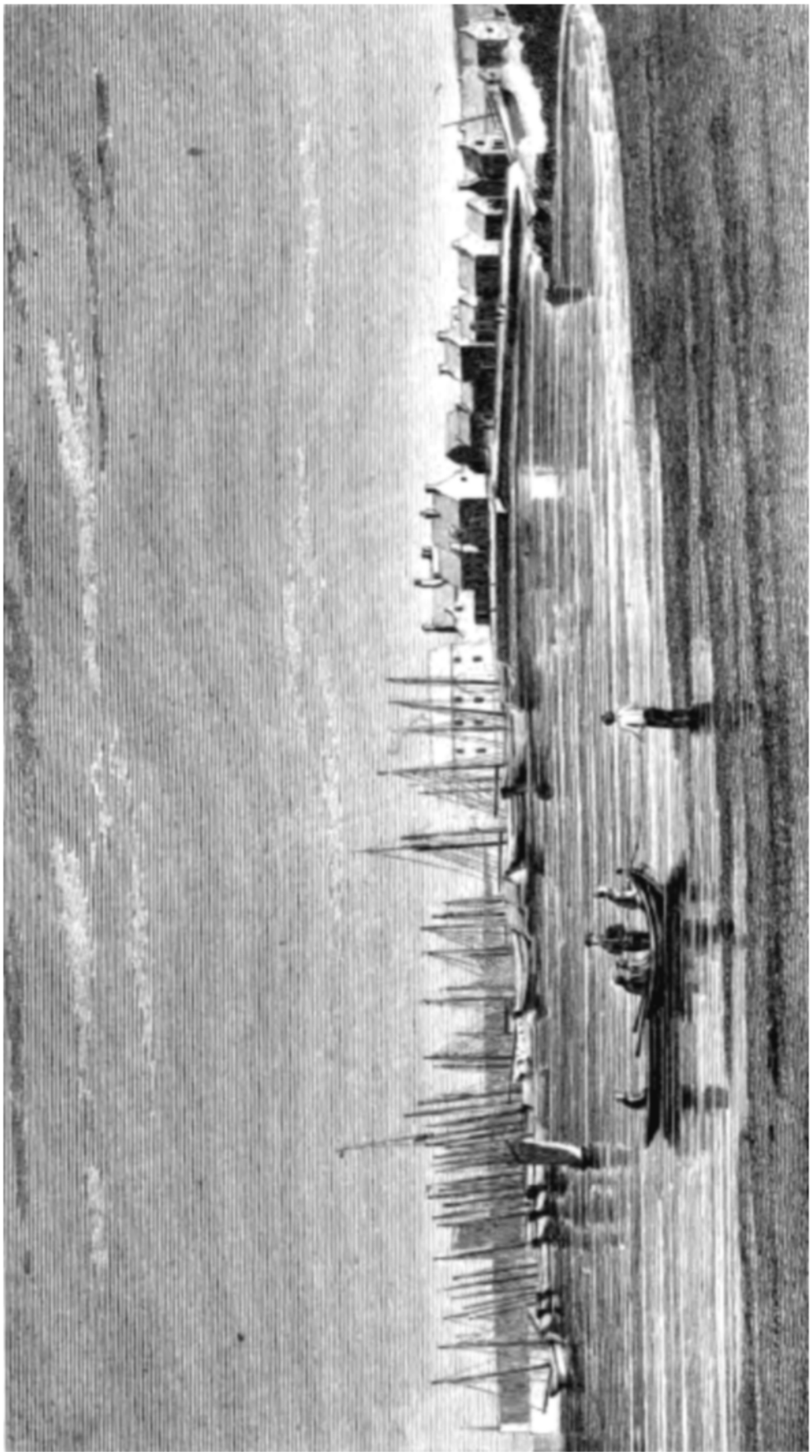
Between Russ, yet more to the right, celebrated for its Cured Ling, and **SKERRIES,** (both on the coast, and pretty considerable fishing-towns,) there are large rocks, interesting to the mineralogist, of the Lapis Hibernicus, or Irish slate, the vitriolic particles of which we seen to effloresce in various places. They are remarkable also for producing great quantities of seaweed, from which kelp is made. Near are several elegant seats and villas: Rush House, amongst others, the seat of Lady Palmer, boasts a noble collection of paintings by the old masters, well worthy to be inspected by the eye of taste.

St. Patrick's Isle, almost opposite Skerries, is said to be the spot on which the renowned saint of that name first landed ; and the church upon the isle, the ruins of which still exist, is recorded to have been founded by him. At that period, tradition farther says, the isle was separated from the main land by a trifling stream only at spring tides, and that it was at other times accessible on foot; but the interval is now impassable at the. lowest ebb of the tide, and in consequence the sacred pile has been suffered to fall into ruin. For, this church having been anciently a place of worship for the inhabitants of Skerries, the want of communication with it has occasioned the erection of another edifice at the latter place, called St. Patrick's New Church. On this island a priory also, the ruins of which are still visible, was founded by Sitric, the son of Murchard, between the years 1213 and' 1228; but, the situation being found inconvenient, it was removed by Henry, Archbishop of Dublin, to Holm Patrick, a village contiguous to Skerries.

To GRACE DIEU, three miles N. of Swords, agreeably to Archdall, "about the year 1190, John Comyn, Archbishop of Dublin, removed the nunnery from Lusk, and dedicated it to the Virgin Mary on her Nativity: he, filled it with regular canonesses following the rule of St. Augustin, and granted an endowment to it. Part of the ruins yet remain; in which is a head carved in stone, which shews that the building of Grace Dieu, though, not spacious, was by no means a work of an inferior order. The ancient road leading from this nunnery to Swords, formerly a town of note, is still to be seen, paved with a reddish stone, whereon are several small bridges.[15]

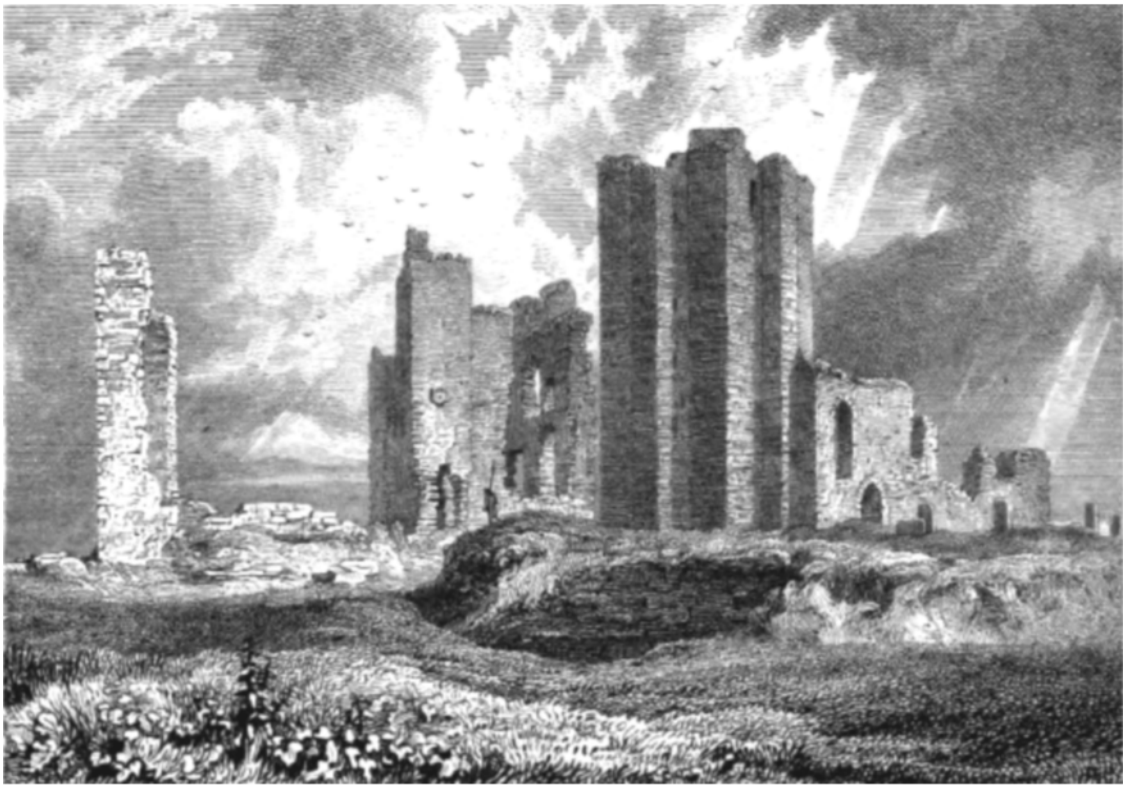
15. Monet. Hibern. p. 216.

Passing the Man of War, an inn much frequented on this road, and through the decayed village of Balruddery, we reach, two miles from the last-mentioned place, **BALBRIGGAN.**



THE QUAY - SKERRIES
COUNTY OF DUBLIN

THE PIER AT BALBRIGGAN
COUNTY OF DUBLIN



THE CHURCH AND CASTLE OF BALDONGAN COUNTY OF DUBLIN

This is a small port, (principally supported by its fishery,) which owes its origin to the late Baron Hamilton: the cotton-manufactory, stated to have failed here, has been converted into flour and corn stores. Within the pier, which was built under the eye of the Baron, ships, bringing coal and culm from Wales, &c., some of 200 tons burden, can lay their broadsides, and unload at the quay. Baldungan Castle, near this coast, is now a mass of ruins, having been taken and dismantled by Cromwell; yet enough remains to give interest to the legendary tales connected with it, which say, that it once contained a friary and nunnery within its walls, whose inmates, during the troubles of early times, here sought and found a sure protection. Its architecture, of the thirteenth century, combines the domestic with the castellated form, in the then usual style of a baronial residence. Two large towers at the west end, with a parapet in front covering the passage between them, the whole richly mantled with ivy, are yet remaining; besides which, the chapel and cemetery, with many of the interior apartments, may be traced in the ruins. The situation must have been a delightful one to its ancient owners, as it commands a widely-extended prospect in every direction.

MAUL, on our left, bordering on the county of Meath, has many charms for the traveller of taste in its very beautiful Glen, whose romantic rocks, cascade, and rugged caves, are finely contrasted by the picturesque ruins of its antique Castle. Though a visit to this spot will occasion a trifling detour from the main road, we recommend its inspection to every tourist. It will bear comparison even with some of the romantic scenery in the far-famed county of Wicklow.

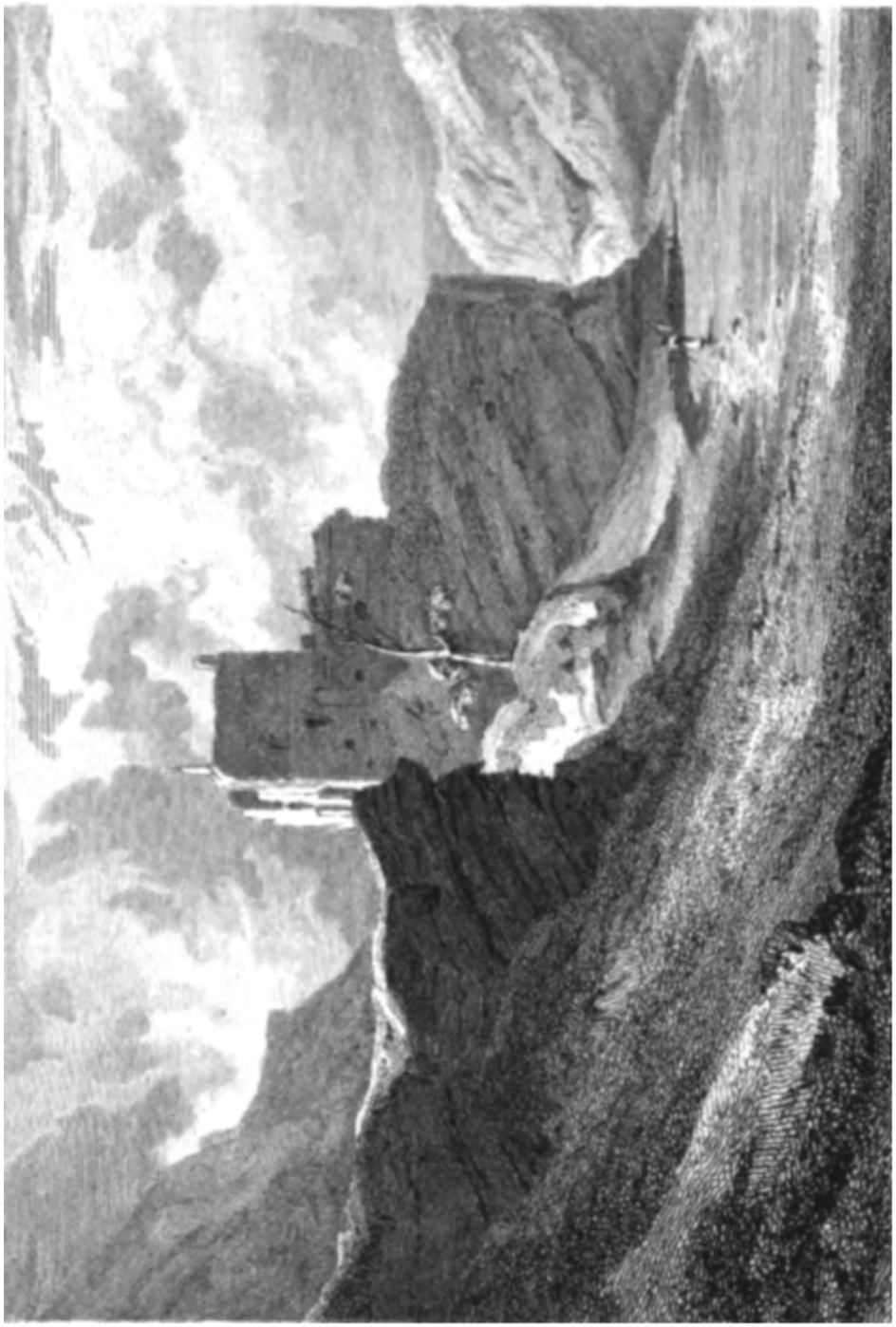
BRENNANSTOWN, in the same direction, is remark. able for a Cromlech, consisting of six upright stones, supporting one placed horizontally, the latter of which is 14 feet long, by 12 broad: it is not the least curious among these very remote remains.

At the distance of a mile and a half N. W. from Balbriggan, is Gormanstown, remarkable only as it contains the ancient Seat of Lord Gormanstown. Having now entered the county of Meath, it is incumbent on us to remark, that for its mansions of the nobility and opulent gentry, as well as for the general style of its cultivation, it may vie with any other in Ireland: we are concerned .to be unable to add, that the comforts of the cotter inhabitants are commensurate with these signs of apparently general prosperity; although, perhaps, as many exceptions to the usual wretchedness of the lower classes are here to be met with as in most districts of the island. The surface is most commonly flat; intersected by the rivers Boyne, (which divides the county into nearly two equal parts) Blackwater, Nanny-water, Rye-water, and Moynally.

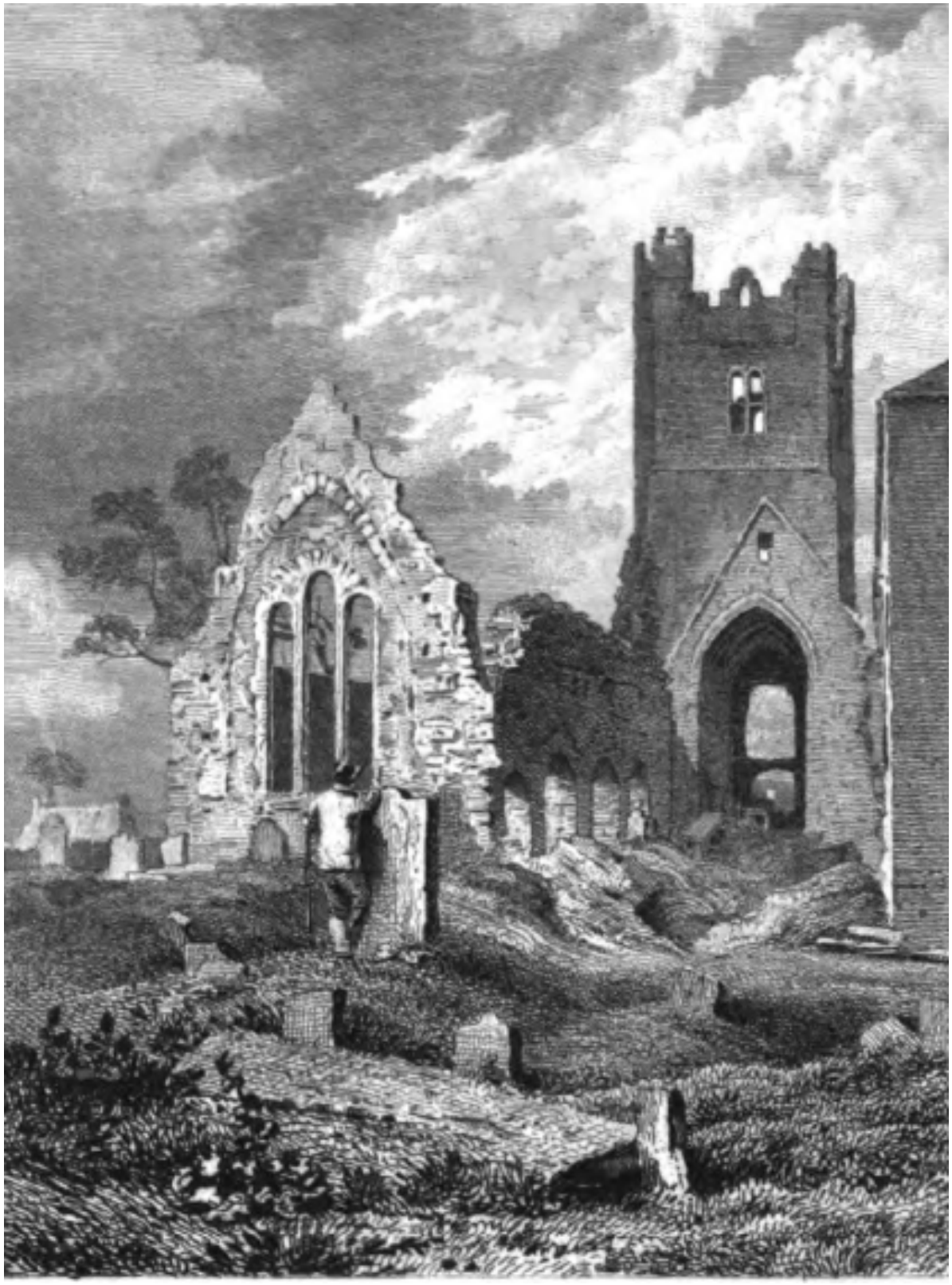
DULEEK, a few miles westward of our road, is pleasantly situated on the Nanny-water. This now decayed town was an episcopal see for many ages; and the ruined Abbey-Church, with its venerable and majestic tower, it, with justice perhaps, supposed to have been the first stone edifice, of its kind, erected in Ireland. St. Cianan, or Henan, is said to have founded the abbey about 488: it was frequently plundered by the Danes, as well as by the Irish in their intestine wars; notwithstanding which, it contained great riches at the Dissolution, and was possessed of a very large property in lands mid tithes.

The bodies of Brian Boromhe, and Morogh, his son, both slain at the battle of Clontarf, were brought by the monks of Swords to this Abbey, and from thence conveyed to Louth by those of St. Cianan. The annals of the Four Masters, at the year 1169, remark, that this church of Duleek was a Damliag, or stone building; very properly remarked as a proof that such were then not common in Ireland. Athcarne Castle, romantically situated in the midst of trees, not far from the Nanny-water, which flows by its north side, is a large square building, defended at the angles by towers; the whole in good preservation. To the west, adjoining the main building, are offices, which appear to be of the same date. The principal entrance, which is on the south side, is through a pointed arch. In the upper corners of a defaced coat of arms, cut on a square stone, are the letters:—

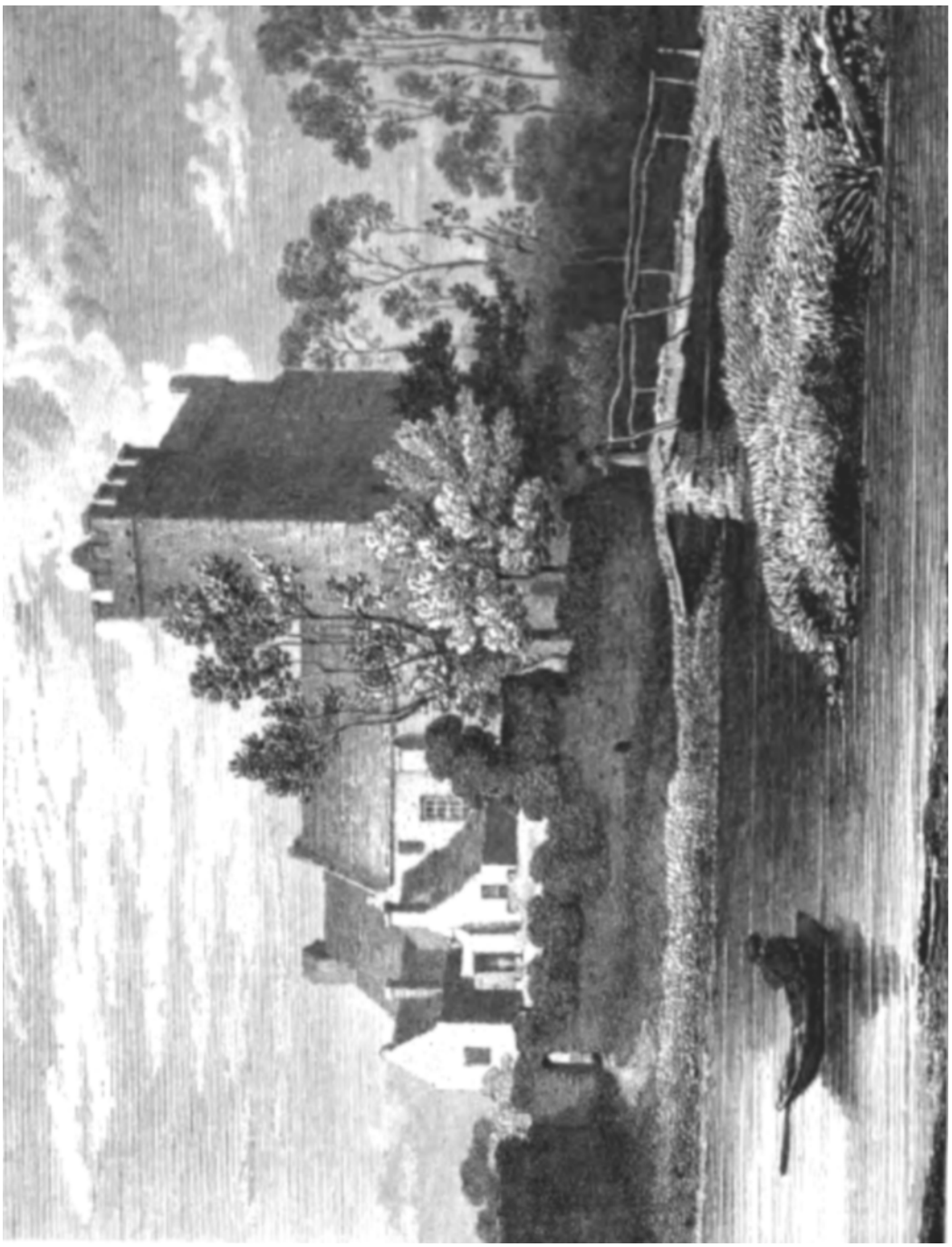
W. B. L. D.



THE BLACK CASTLE OF THE NAUL COUNTY OF DUBLIN



THE CHURCH OF DULEEK
COUNTY OF EASTMEATH



ATHCARNE CASTLE
COUNTY OF EASTMEATH

The date is 1590. The ditch, which surrounded the castle, and the walls, the latter of great thickness, must have rendered it capable of sustaining a protracted siege, particularly as the edifice is not commanded by any eminences in its immediate vicinity.

The city of DROGHEDA, on the Boyne, is for the most part in the county of Louth, but is also a county in itself. The approach to this place is somewhat striking; the river, with the vessels lying in it, and the bridge, forming the foreground in the view; while the city, with the house of the Catholic Primate of Ireland, a conspicuous object, rise up the slope behind it. The harbour is good, and the Boyne navigable as high as the bridge. Drogheda sends one member to Parliament, who is elected by the freemen and freeholders. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, two sheriffs, a town clerk, mayor of the staple, two justices of the peace, two coroners, and a law agent. It gives the titles of marquis, earl, and viscount, to the family of Moore.

This city is large, and respectable-looking, being built with tolerable regularity. It is encompassed with high but antiquated walls, pierced by four gates; but these defences, were they even modern and in a perfect state, would appear to be of little importance to its safety, since the place is entirely commanded by the adjacent eminences.

The extension and improvements of Drogheda have been rapid within the last few years; the principal street, as well as the new houses on the quay, are substantial and handsome; and should the corporation, whose revenues are ample, succeed in permanently deepening the bed of the river, so that vessels of larger burden might lade and unlade at the quay, the commercial benefits derived would doubtless be considerable. The Tholsel here is a handsome edifice, as is the Corn-Market. There are several more than commonly opulent residents, and the society is generally agreeable.

The parishes are two; St. Peter's and St. Mary's.

The Church of the former is elegantly finished, but of that of the latter little more than the bare walls is remaining. A chapel, formed probably out of its early ruins, stands in the church-yard, (as do the mouldering remnants of a castle) and is adapted for divine worship by the parishioners. The monastic institutions, prior to the Reformation, were numerous:[16] attached to the catholic population, there are still nine chapels, two friaries, and two nunneries.

16. We are told that a Priory, for Canons Regular, following the rule of St. Augustin, was founded here, but are totally in the dark as to the period of its erection.—St. Mary's Hospital, situate without the west gate of the city, was founded by Ursus de Swemele! at the suppression of monasteries, this house and its pot-sessions were granted to the mayor of Drogheda.—St. Lawrence's Priory, situate near the ancient gate of that name, and said to owe its foundation to the mayor and citizens of Drogheda, was likewise, on the Suppression, granted to them.—A' Dominican Friary we. founded, under the invocation of St. Mary Magdalene, in the north part of the town, by Lucas de Netterville, Archbishop of Armagh, who began the erection A. D. 1224.—A Grey Friary is said to have been founded in the year 1240, near the north side of the river Boyne; but Friar Wadding places its foundation 30 years later.—An Augustinian Friary was founded here in the reign of king Edward the First: at the Suppression, it was granted to the mayor and citizens of Drogheda.—Mention is also made of the houses of St. James and St. Bennet here.--On the Meath side of the river, we find the Priory and Hospital of St. John, of the order of Cross-bearers; to which Walter de Lacie (if not the founder) was at least a principal benefactor, in the reign of King John. This priory, or hospital, belonged to the grand Priory of Kilmainliam, near Dublin.—The Carmelite Friary, also situated on the Meath side of the river, was founded by the inhabitants of Drogheda, for Carmelites or White Friars, to the honour of the Blessed Virgin. Part of this friary was afterwards repaired for the service of the parish, Archdall's Monast. Hibern. pp.452. et seq. and p. 530.

ST. LAWRENCE'S GATE DROGHEDA
COUNTY OF LOUTH

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DROGHEDA
COUNTY OF LOUTH

ST. MARY MAGDALEN DROGHEDA COUNTY OF LOUTH

About 600 yards from St. Mary's church, is Beoric Mount, a large artificial tumulus, from whence, tradition says, Cromwell employed himself in battering the church; but that commander, it has been justly observed, had other business in Ireland than that of wreaking his vengeance upon religious structures. A thin Blue Stone, near this place, which is shaped like the bottom of a boat, is also firmly believed by numbers of the vulgar to have been the identical conveyance of St. Denis to this island from France.

In 1641, Drogheda, then called Tredagh, suffered much by a siege it sustained from the rebels of that disastrous period; but who finally, however, retreated with precipitation. In 1649, the relentless spirit of Cromwell subjected it to a still greater calamity. The utmost pains had been taken to strengthen and furnish this place for a vigorous and protracted defence; but Cromwell, actuated by the fierce and steady determination which characterized him, and sensible of the advantage of prompt and striking execution, was not to be impeded by any ordinary obstacle. Disdaining the regular approaches and forms of a siege, he thundered furiously for two days against the walls with his great guns, and having effected a breach, issued orders for a general assault. The desperate valour of the assailants was encountered by the desperate valour of the garrison, so that with appalling havoc on both sides the troops of Cromwell were twice repulsed. But, determined on conquest, he led his troops in person a third time to the breach, and with an intrepid, steady, and impetuous charge, bearing down all opposition, gained possession of the ground. A scene more tremendous, if possible, ensued; the deliberate carnage of the garrison, officers and privates, and Romish ecclesiastics, found in the place; a carnage commanded by Cromwell, and reluctantly executed by the soldiery. From this butchery, which was continued for five days, a few escaped in disguise, and about 30 were spared; but these were transported as slaves to Barbadoes.

To strike terror into his opponents appears to have been the only object of the ferocious general in issuing his orders for the slaughter: and in this he appears to have succeeded; for so panic-struck were the garrisons of the neighbouring towns of Trim and Dundalk, by the tidings which quickly reached them of the event, that they fled precipitately, without attempting so much,as a show of resistance.

The tourist should by no means quit Drogheda, without making an excursion along the north bank of the Boyne, which he may advantageously extend as far as Slane. The views, naturally picturesque, are embellished with numerous remains of ancient castles and abbeys; and the appearance of the river itself, although its general character is monotonous, derives a degree of beauty from the number of aquatic plants with which it abounds. Two miles from the city is the Ford, where William III. passed the river to encounter the forces of the weak and irresolute James: a rock at the identical spot forms an appropriate base for the obelisk erected upon it, to perpetuate the memory of that great event.

The gallant Duke Schomberg, to whom a tablet is erected in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, fell in this battle, by a volley fired, it is said, by his own men, on perceiving him surrounded by a party of the enemy, who had been previously mistaken for friends; the error not being discovered, until he was actually a prisoner in their hands, the rash revenge of his followers thus became the cause of his destruction. About the same time fell George Walker, the brave defender of Derry, whose military ardour had unnecessarily carried him into this battle. The view of this well foughten field, from an adjacent eminence which commands it, is extremely fine; here the vale is seen losing itself amidst bold acclivities; while the commemorative obelisk, a noble pillar, most judiciously placed on a rising ground, appears to the greatest advantage.

MONASTERBOICE, about a mile farther westward, is in itself an uninteresting spot; and the monks, who erected the Abbey, whose ruins are yet to be seen here, certainly did not shew their usual good taste and skill in the choice of its site. Speaking of these monastic remains, Mr. Archdall says, "Here we find the ruins of two small Chapels; and although nothing remarkable is to be seen in their structure, yet do they evince the .great antiquity of this foundation. (He has

previously observed that the founder was St. Bute, or Boetius, who died in 521, and from whom the monastery was anciently called Monaster-Bute.).

Near the west end of one of these chapels is a Round Tower, 110 feet high, beautifully diminishing in the manner of a Tuscan pillar, from a base of 13 feet; its circumference is 17 yards; and the wall, built of a slaty stone, of which the surrounding hills are composed, is three feet six inches thick; the door is five feet six inches in height, 22 inches in width, and six feet from the present level of the ground; it is arched, and built of free stone, as are the windows of the chapels; in the inside, the diameter is nine feet; and above the door it is divided into five stories, by rings of stones slightly projecting. There are two large crosses on the south side of the chapels; the principal one is said to be of an entire stone, and is called St. Boyne's Cross, which is the most ancient religious relique now extant in Ireland: the ornamental figures on it are rudely engraven, and at once shew the uncivilized age in which they were executed; there is also an inscription on this cross, in the Old Irish character, equally inelegant with the figures; some letters of which appear, and evidently form the word MIIREDACEI, who was for some time king of Ireland, and died A. D. 534, about 100 years after the arrival of Saint Patrick. This Abbey continues to be a burial-place, of note."

It was in reference to the above-quoted account of St. Boyne's Cross, that Dr. Ledwich so warmly remarked upon the "ignorance and anility that could call it the most ancient relique in Ireland, when the word Muredach is said to be legible on it. For if Muredach lived A. D. 534, neither the letters nor language of that time would be intelligible now, as the impossibility of deciphering the Brehon laws, of a much later date, abundantly proves.

Three Anglo-Saxon coins, with many more, were found by a man, who was digging a grave near St. Boyne's Cross: two have the words Edmund Rex, the other Edelstan. It is probable the Ostmen, (or Danes) who inhabited Ireland in great numbers, acquired these in their predatory incursions into the Saxon heptarchy, or that they were procured in the way of trade. Let this be as it may, the sculptures seems to belong to the ninth or tenth century, and the coins support this opinion."—Leaving the farther discussion of this point to more zealous antiquaries, with the single remark, that we cannot perceive the impropriety of attributing this and others of the stone crosses to, the same era, and the same native artists, who produced the stone-roofed chapels, and round towers, we beg to recommend the ruins at Monasterboice, collectively, to the tourist, as a most singular and interesting groupe; comprising, as they do, within the compass of a small church-yard, two perfect stone crosses, and one imperfect, a large round tower, and the shells of two chapels.

The two perfect crosses are both of elaborate design and sculpture. Round the base of the inferior in altitude, St. Patrick's, (of which a view is given) is an inscription, beginning, as it appeared to Sir Richard Hoare, with the words:–

O DOMINE

And the Baronet appropriately observes, that neither can the sister kingdom of England, nor the principality of Wales, produce their equals.' The summit of the round tower is in great decay.

About a mile and a half from the banks of the river, in a valley five miles west of Drogheda, are the not less interesting ruins of the once stately Abbey of Mellifont; from the modern inspection of which, it has been observed, we neither can nor ought to judge of their former situation and appearance; since both nature and art have been robbed by time of their respective. Decorations.

The site of this renowned abbey, however forbidding in its present state, well answered the situation that was usually selected by the monastic orders; and, before the valley was stripped of its sylvan honours, would have formed a most pleasing religious retirement.

ST. PATRICK'S CROSS MONASTERBOISE COUNTY OF LOUTH

Fragments of a chapel, a few arches and pillars, with four sides of an octagonal baptistery, the only present remains, are calculated to convey but a faint idea of the original state of this magnificent pile. The entrance to the chapel was by a superb Gothic arch, exquisitely finished,' of which a plate and description occurs in Wright's Louthiana, published 1758; but this is not now to be seen, having, as Sir Richard Hoare was informed by an Irish gentleman, been played for as a stake at piquet, and lost. From the remains of the groined roof and windows, this chapel seems to have been executed in a good style. The baptistery, mentioned by mistake as a bath in the Louthiana, appears to have been built of a light grey freestone.

Mellifont Abbey was founded in 1142 by O'Carrol, prince of Uriel, for Cistertians; St. Bernard furnishing the monks from his own abbey of Clairvaux, in France. The fame of St. Bernard, and the reputed sanctity of the monks, soon procured it ample possessions, and a seat for the abbot in parliament. In 1192, Devorgilla, the wife of O'Rourke, prince of Breffiny, whose ravishment by Mac Morrough, king of Leinster, afforded Henry H. a plea for his subjugation of the island to the British crown, died and was interred here. On the suppression of the monastery in 1540, its vast possessions were conferred on Sir Edward Moore, ancestor to the present Marquis of Drogheda, who had greatly distinguished himself in the wars between the restless natives and the inhabitants of the pale. Sir Edward made Mellifont his principal residence, strongly fortified it, and built a castle for additional security.

But in 1641, the Irish sat down before it with a body of 1300 infantry; to oppose whom, there were but 24 musqueteers and 15 horse-men in the place: notwithstanding this disparity, however, the besieged made a most vigorous defence, until their ammunition was exhausted; when they cut their way through the Irish camp to Drogheda, with the exception of 11 of their number, whom their enemies sacrificed to the manes of 120 of their own men, killed in the contest.

Before we reach the village of **NEW GRANGE,** we have again entered the county of Meath. At this village is a most singular and extensive Tumulus, in outward appearance very similar to those met with on the chalky hills of Wiltshire and Dorsetshire; but differing from them in having been encircled by enormous unhewn upright stones, some of which are yet remaining. It differs also from those seen in the west of England, in containing beneath its verdant surface a subterraneous temple;[17] constructed of the rudest materials and certainly of very great antiquity. The discovery of this most singular perhaps among the antiquities of Ireland, was made about the year 1699, by a Mr. Campbell, who resided at the village; and who, observing stones under the green sod, carried many of them away, and at length arrived at a broad flat stone covering the mouth of a gallery, the dimensions of which are thus given by, Dr. Ledwich.

17. Cromlechs we are told by Sir R. C. Hoare, are sometimes found beneath the surface of the barrows is parts of Somersetshire and Wiltshire, where stone abounds.

"At the entrance, it is three feet wide and two high: at 13 feet from the entrance, it is but two feet two inches wide. The length of the gallery, from its mouth to the beginning of the dome, is 62 feet; from thence to the upper part of the dome, 11 feet six inches. The cave, (or dome) with the gallery, gives the exact figure of a cross: the length, between the arms of the cross, is 20 feet.. The dome forms an octagon, 20 feet high, with an area of about 17: it is composed of long flat stones, the• Upper projecting a little below, (beyond) the lower, and closed in and capped with a flat flag."

Sir Rickard Hoare's observations on this building are so comprehensive and judicious, that we have great pleasure in collecting and transcribing them, in preference to submitting our own remarks. The area beneath the dome, he says, resembles the upper part of a cross, as the avenue does the stem : the avenue, leading to the area, is formed by large upright stones, pitched perpendicularly in a row on each side, and supporting the flat stones that form the roof; this covering rises gradually till it reaches the dome, which is not (like our modern cupolas) formed by key-stones converging to a centre, but after the manner of our stair-cases, each long stone

projecting a little beyond the end of that immediately beneath it; and a large flat stone making the cove of the, centre. The tallest of the stones forming the adit to the sacellum, is seven feet six inches in height: its companion, on the opposite side, about seven feet.

Three recesses (the head and arms of the cross) open from the area, one facing the avenue or gallery, and one on, each side: in the one to the right is a large stone vase, which antiquaries have denominated a rock basin, within the excavated part of which are two circular cavities, each about the size of a child's head. Several of the rude stones composing this recess, are decorated. with a variety of devices, circular, zigzag, and diamond-. shaped: some of this latter pattern seem to bear the marks of superior workmanship, the squares being indented. Many of the stones on each side of the edit hate similar rude marks upon them, and one of them has spiral zigzags. Some antiquaries have carried their zeal so far, as to discover (in idea) letters on the stones, which they have attributed to the Phænicians; whilst others have denominated them Ogham characters; these marks bear very little resemblance to letters, but
possess a great degree of similarity to the ornaments found on the ancient British urns discovered under the tumuli of Wiltshire. In the opposite recess, there are the fragments of another rock basin; and some authors assert (though, perhaps, without much foundation) that the centre recess contained a third vase.—For a short space from the entrance of the avenue, the roof is so low, that admittance can only be obtained by crawling; but after passing under one of the side stones, which has fallen -across the passage, it becomes sufficiently elevated to admit a person at his full height.[18]

18. Sir Richard observes, however, that " though the form of this building certainly bears some resemblance to that of a cross, I can by no means attribute the construction of it to so late a period, viz, after the introduction of Christianity into our island; long before which time, if I may be allowed to judge from the researches I have made in Wiltshire, the custom of burying under tumuli, or barrows, had ceased." In Ireland, Christianity is supposed to have been preached by St. Patrick about the middle of the fifth century: and, though the Period at which this very singular structure was erected, will for ever, it is probable, remain unknown, yet we cannot but conceive that an era sufficiently remote will be assigned to it, in naming the century posterior, or that immediately prior, (since Christianity was not totally unknown here even before the arrival of St. Patrick) to that event. The figure of a cross is, we think, sufficiently described, to establish the idea that such a figure was intended; the mere rudeness of the resemblance in so remote an age, cannot be considered as a proof to the contrary: why, then, may we not derive this form from that union of Christianised notions with the more ancient Celtic practices, so likely to have prevailed at the time we are contemplating? We must also submit, that, agreeably to Mr. Whitaker's remarks, the custom of burying under tumuli evidently did survive the introduction of Christianity in England;—and why not also in Ireland? It has even been supposed, that this very antique custom was not entirely relinquished in Britain until about the middle of the eighth century, when Cuthbert, Archbishop of Canterbury, commenced the practice of forming cemeteries within the walls of cities: however this may be, we can but ascribe Dr. Ledwich's idea of the construction of this cave and mount as in the ninth century, to the passion, with which that writer appears animated, for approximating, as fur as may be possible, the dates of numerous objects of antiquity in his own country to a comparatively modern era.

From the floor of the cavity to the summit of the tumulus, is about 70 feet; the circumference at top is 300; and the base of the mount occupies no less than two acres of ground; the whole forming a most stupendous achievement of human labour.

SLANE, six miles from Drogheda, is a neat and newly-built town, and presents other curious relics of antiquity. The situation of the place, at a remarkably picturesque part of the river, is such as could not be overlooked, either by the cloister-loving monk, or the more solitary anchorite. Accordingly, as Archdall informs us, "an Abbey of Canons Regular, was founded at a very early age, on a hill, adjoining the town, and was remarkable for being many years the residence of Dagobert, king of Austrasia, who (A. D. 653) at the age of seven years, was taken

by Grimoald, mayor of the palace, and, by his direction, shorn a monk, rendered unfit to hold the reins of government, and banished into Ireland. He was received into this abbey, where he obtained an education proper for the enjoyment of a throne, and continued here during the space of 20 years, when he was recalled into France, and replaced in his government."[19]

Ireland, at this early period undoubtedly held intercourse with France, and was the mart of literature to the whole western world. The ruins of the abbey at present consist of a large chapel and a lofty tower at the west end; in the latter there is a handsome ramified window. It was frequently Pillaged during the prevalence of the Ostman power in the island; but in the year 946 the Ostmen received a signal defeat in this town, in which their chieftain, Blacar, and 1600 of his best troops, fell. The English, with Mac Morrogh, king of Leinster, burnt and sacked the town, A. D. 1170. In the time of Hugh de Lacy, first Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, Slane was a considerable town, being one of the boroughs in his palatinate of Meath.

19. Archdall quotes the French historian, Mezeray, for these facts; but they are somewhat differently stated in L'Art de Verifier les .Dates,' tom. I. p. Me.

The Hermitage of St. Erc, of which some trifling remains are yet visible in the grounds of a neighbouring nobleman, Lord Conyngham, derived its name from the first bishop of Slane, who was consecrated by. St. Patrick, and died A. D. 514. In 1512, Malachy and Donat O'Brien were two hermits who resided here; but they were removed from the hermitage to the abbey, then rebuilt, after its demolition by the English and Mac Morrogh, for Friars of the Third Order of St. Francis, as appears by the charter granted by Christopher Fleming, Lord of Slane, a copy of which is preserved in Grose's Antiquities.

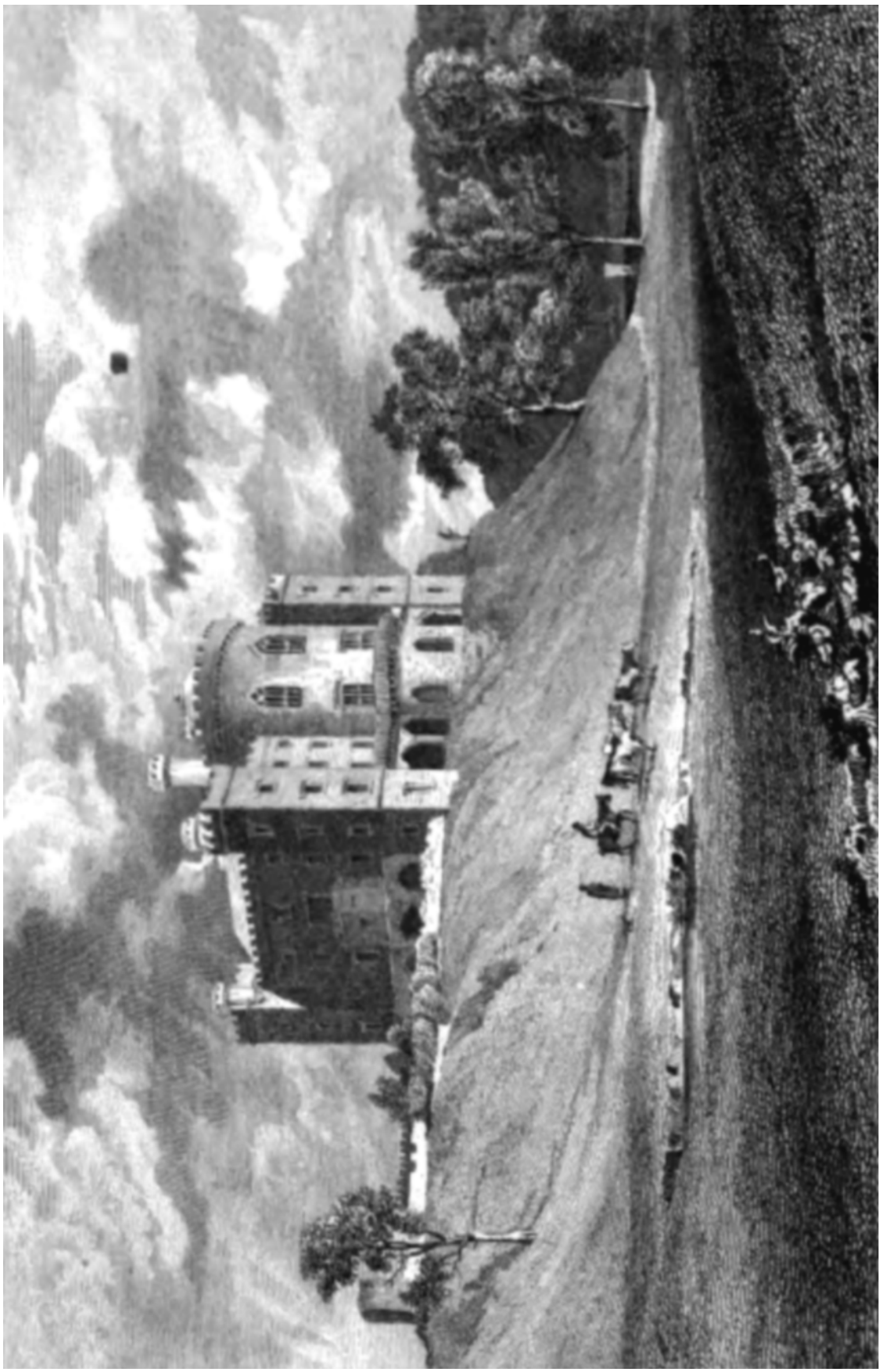
Lord Conyngham's seat, Slane Castle, is placed in a romantic situation, surrounded by a great extent of wood ; and while it commands a beautiful view of the Boyne and its rocky margin, the woods at Beau Park, a neighbouring estate, contribute greatly to its embellishment. The grounds are very boldly diversified, rising around the castle in noble hills, or beautiful inequalities of surface, with an outline of flourishing plantations. Through the midst of the domain the river winds its course, forming a reach broken by islands, with the fine shore of rock on• one side, and wood on the other.

At Beau Park, in the opinion of Sir Richard Hoare, "all would be perfect, if the architecture of the mansion-house accorded with the surrounding scenery of rock, wood, and water; but so inappropriate and discordant a building was never before seen. Here indeed projecting towers, bastions, and battlements, would have their due effect. On the other side of the river are some fine rocks, whose strata are very singularly disposed in the form of Gothic arches." Not-withstanding, the mansion of the Lambert family, at Beau Park is in itself handsome, and the interior unites much elegance with every possible convenience.

The Rev. Mervyn Archdall, from whose ***Monasticon Hibernicum***' we have more than once quoted, was rector of Slane, where he died in 1791. He was both an exemplary divine, and learned antiquary. His native place was Dublin, in whose university he was educated. His passion for collecting coins, medals, and other antiques, having acquired him the notice of Dr. Richard Pocock, Archdeacon of Dublin, and subsequently Archbishop of Ossory, he was preferred by that prelate to the living of Attanah and a prebend, which not only produced him a comfortable support, but enabled him to pursue zealously his Monastic History of Ireland, in which he had already made considerable progress.

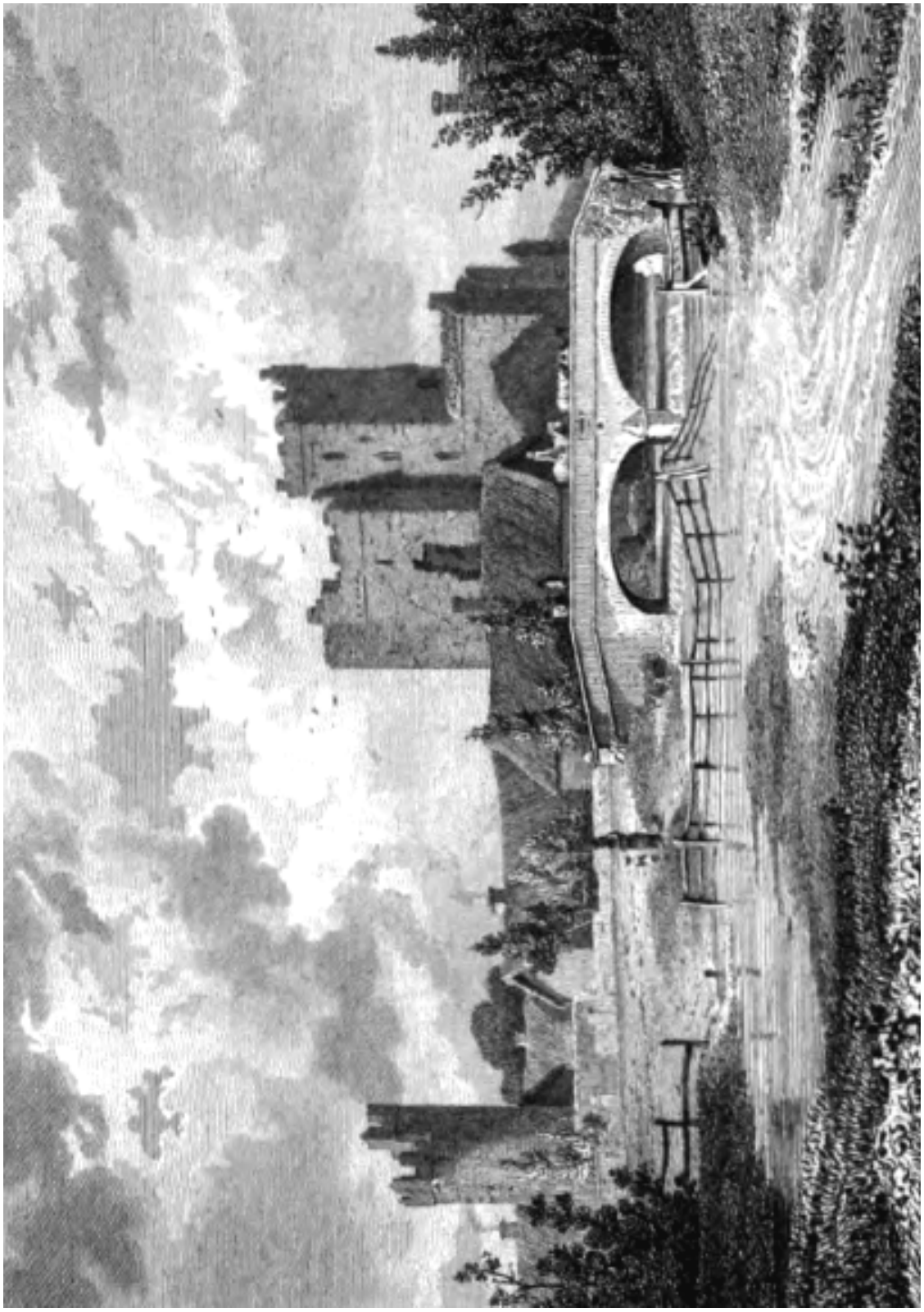
Like numberless ingenious men, he wanted but the enlivening and maturing warmth of patronage, not only to be highly useful in the different departments of learning, but even to attain eminence in them. The excellent bishop, his patron, quitted life, in 1765. Mr. Archdall had, at that period, been so indefatigable in his researches, that his collections amounted to nearly two folio volumes, and these on a subject interesting to every man of property in Ireland; as the records relating to

THE HERMITAGE OF ST. EIRE, SLANE COUNTY OF EASTMEATH



SLANE CASTLE
COUNTY OF EASTMEATH

DUNMOW CASTLE
COUNTY OF EASTMEATH



TERMONTFECKEN CASTLE
COUNTY OF LOUTH

the monastic foundations, both from the original donors, and the grants of these by the crown, to the present possessors, include more than a third of all the land in the island; and yet, invaluable as• these records were, for they were the fruits of 40 years intense application, there was found no individual of generosity and patriotism enough, to enable the collector to give them to the world. He was therefore obliged to abridge, the whole, and contract it within a quarto volume, which he published in 1786. He also, three years afterwards, published an enlarged edition of Lodge's Peerage of Ireland, which he extended from four to seven volumes octavo. His memoirs, at greater length, occur in Ryan's Biographia Hibernica, or Biographical Dictionary of the Worthies of Ireland,' from which these particulars are extracted.

DUNMOW CASTLE, with numerous others in this vicinity and throughout the county, was built by Hugh de Lacy, for the security of his palatinate; but in a great measure rebuilt while James II. was in Ireland, and then made a castellated house, as it appears at present. In its lofty bastions and massive walls diversified by a very few windows close under the battlements, it affords a good specimen of the style of building considered necessary for defence' in the turbulent times when it was re-erected. Its name, as well as that of the town so called in Essex, is conjectured by Dr. Ledwich to be derived from the Anglo Saxon Dunmawan, signifying the fruitful hill, which yields rich crops to the reapers;' and he observes that in Domesday Book Dunmow is written Dunmaw. This may be correct: though Hugh de Lacy, who most probably gave name to the castle, was undoubtedly of Norman extraction.

During the civil wars of Ireland, this castle frequently changed masters: In 1641, after the defeat of the English forces near• Julian's Town, by the Irish, a detachment of the latter was sent to take Dunmow and the neighbouring. castles: Captain Power; who commanded there with 30 men, bravely resisted their' assault; nor did he submit, until the Irish produced a forged order from Parsons and Borlasse, the Lords Justices, requiring him and the other commanders to surrender, and join them at Dublin with their garrisons. The strength of this castellated mansion is still great, and it might even yet afford an advantageous strong-hold against a foreign or domestic enemy.

TORFECKAN CASTLE, three miles and a half north-east of Drogheda, is not worth the tourist's leaving the main road to examine, although, the ruins are sufficiently picturesque, and, to those whose main object is the inspection of antiquities, might prove interesting. It stands near the sea, in the centre of a mean Village, where, when the place was of greater note, there existed an Abbey, for Regular Canonesses, which was confirmed by Pope Celestine III. in 1195. Torfeckan is stated by Ledwich to be a contraction from Termon-fechan, the Sanctuary of St. Fechin, who was abbot of Fowre, in the county of Westmeath; and that the manor belonging to the see of Armagh, the primates usually resided three months in the year in this castle; Archbishop Usher being the last who did so.

The county of Louth, through the heart of which we are about to proceed from Drogheda, presents a considerable variety of surface, undulating in small hills, which are occasionally wooded. Its rivers, besides the Boyne, are the Dee, the Fane, the Lagan, the Dundalk, and the Jonesborough; which, traversing the county from west to east, discharge their waters into the Irish Channel, It is the smallest county in Ireland.

Shortly after leaving Drogheda, we saw ploughing in a field by the road-side, with six horses, two abreast, having collars of straw, and ropes for traces. This mode, though sufficiently outré for the present period in agriculture, is certainly a great improvement upon the ancient custom of ploughing by the tail, mentioned by the celebrated pedestrian Scaachman, Lithgow, who in the reign of James the First published an account of his travels on foot, over Europe, Asia, and Africa.[20] He speaks of the remarkable sight' in Ireland's north parts, of ploughs drawn by horse-tails, wanting harness: they are only fastened with straw, or wooden ropes,[21] the horses marching all side by side, three or four in a rank, and as many men hanging by the ends of that, untoward labour."

It is as bad a husbandry,' he continues, as ever I found among the wildest savages alive; for Caramins, who understand not the civil form of agriculture, yet delve, hollow, and turn over the ground with manual and wooden instruments: but the Irish have thousands of both kingdoms daily labouring beside them; yet they cannot because they will not learn, to use harness, so obstinate they are in their barbarous consuetude, unless punishment and penalties were inflicted;, and yet most of them are content to pay 20 shillings a-year, before they will change their custom.'

Not more than 50 years back, we believe, the custom of ploughing by the tail was not wholly extinct in the island. The relics of the rudest practices in -agriculture, are, yet more generally visible than most English people would suppose possible in a civilized kingdom of the nineteenth century: amongst others which we frequently noticed on this road, may be mentioned the method of sowing potatoes with a spade, the handle of which is commonly four feet in length, and the operation performed by women, barefoot. Other women were observed spreading manure. over the fields—not with forks—but their fingers!
20. At the conclusion of his work, this remarkable man informs us, that his painful feet had travelled ever, (besides passages of seas and rivers) 36000 and odd miles; an extent of surface considerably more than the circumference of the earth.

21. Wooden ropes, made of thin slices from the roots of the moss-fir, and platted nearly in the same way as ladies' straw-bonnets, ate to be met with, eves yet, in parts both of Scotland and Ireland.

From this picture of comparative barbarism, the tourist will turn with delight to the scene of universal improvement in the agricultural, moral, and domestic habits of the peasantry, produced by the benevolent labours of a truly illustrious individual, at the neighbouring village of **COLLON.** From the remarkable change in the style of the farm-houses, cabins, and other buildings, and in the general appearance of the inhabitants, exhibited by this village, and its vicinity, the stranger might be almost led to fancy that, in the course of his progress across the country from the Dunleer road to Collon, a whole century devoted to improvement had elapsed, so strikingly different is the aspect of all things around him.

The Great Improver, as he is called by Mr. Young, (and whose name many of our readers will have anticipated as that of FOSTER) has made a barren wilderness smile With cultivation, planted it with people, and made those people happy. Such ire the men to whom monarchs should decree their honours, and nations erect their statues.' The estate of this gentleman, comprehending 5000 acres, naturally as un-genial to tillage as any in the whole island, was originally a waste sheep walk, covered chiefly with heath, dwarf furze, and fern: yet, as the great agriculturist just quoted, expresses himself, the country is now a sheet of corn,' interspersed with plantations, which, in spite of the sterility of the soil, the elevated situation of Collon, and its uninterrupted exposure to the winds from the sea, flourish luxuriantly. These plantations are conspicuous in every direction for many miles.

The village, which is eminently neat, was entirely built by Mr. Foster. The walls of the cabins are whitewashed, and the roofs covered with Welsh slate. The Church; a handsome building, has a tower of very chaste Gothic: the architect, a neighbouring gentleman, well known both by his taste for literary and agricultural pursuits, the Rev. Dr. Beaufort. A cotton manufactory, a school on Dr. Bell's system, and a dispensary, are also established in the village.

COLLON, it may be observed, is probably the most protestant parish in a county, where the average of Catholics to protestants is estimated at 15 to one. The church is attended by about 160 persons, and the popish chapel by about 1100. There is also a methodist meeting-house. The domiain of Mr. Foster commands a prospect of singular magnificence. The immediate foreground, as was noticed by Mr. Wakefield, looking north-east, consists of a declivity of tilled land, bordered on each side by beautiful plantations. The eye, then passing over some miles of country, catches a view of Carlingford Bay, forming a watery expanse of great extent,. and of

the coast stretching to a considerable distance, with the mountains surrounding the bay, and those of Mourne still higher, which have a blacker appearance.

The blue colour of the bay, contrasted with the yellow tint of the sandy beach by which it is bordered, the Carlingford mountains in the neighbourhood, and the more elevated dusky ones of Mourne, stretching inland in the form of an immense amphitheatre, and to the eastward the sea terminating the view, form altogether a spectacle grand and magnificent. Mr. W. farther observes: though there are many other seats in the county, I must in a particular manner call the traveller's attention to this interesting spot, which in every point of view is superior to them all: no place in the island is more worthy of notice.

By the improvements around, the stranger will perceive, long before he reaches it, the plans of a great and comprehensive mind, executed with much taste and judgment. The roads in the neighbourhood are in as good order as any in Europe:[22]

22. Account of Ireland, I. 484

DUNLEER, much decayed from its former consequence, is situated upon a streamlet flowing into the river Dee. It was a borough-town previous to the Union. At Greenmount, on the right, are some curious earthen works on the summit of a hill, with a tumulus, from which the prospect is most extensive. Clonmore, three miles east of Dunleer, has the remnant of an old castle, once the habitation of the Verdons, who are said to have represented the county in parliamert; and a tradition exists that St. Columbkill founded a church there.

Most of the inhabitants of this village and its vicinity speak English, but they prefer the Irish for domestic intercourse. The children almost universally in this neighbourhood understand English, and are always able to explain and interpret to strangers, when their parents are unacquainted with it. In their style of dress, the peasantry of this part of the country, the females more particularly, have much improved within these few years, a turn for a cheerful decency of appearance having evidently gained ground among them: shoes and stockings, it may be observed, (since the observation will far from generally apply in Ireland) are universal with both sexes. Rathdrumin, south of Clonmore, is visited for it; large Rath, supposed to be Danish, which appears in excellent preservation. It consists of an elevated area, 60 yards in diameter, surrounded by a double fosse and mounds; the whole forming a circle 130 yards in diameter.

Just beyond **CASTLE BELLINGHAM**, a village pleasantly situated, the road leads directly to the edge of Dundalk Bay, and is continued along the beach for the distance of three miles; but from Lurgan Green, where is a seat of the Earl of Clermont, it runs more inland to Dundalk. The bay, being extensive, affords a pleasing object so long as it remains in sight; but, owing to its shallowness, which is so extreme that scarcely a fishing boat can near the shore, its use is very limited. At low water, the extent of sand appears immense, and immediately suggests an idea of the vast tract of it that English industry would speedily reclaim and cultivate. Sheep and cattle thrive on the salt-marshes; and wild geese and barnacles, with all the various tribes of sea-fowl, are here abundant. Cockles are sometimes gathered by myriads in the bay.

At this part of our Excursion, curiosity suspended our progress for a few minutes, to observe a Funeral, which, coming from Dundalk, occupied the road for a considerable length. To a stranger in the country, exhibitions of this kind possess many features of singularity; and, as our driver, who happened, however, to be English, took occasion to guess, we might have lived all the days of our lives, and not seen such a thing in England.

The person whose obsequies were here celebrated, was an unmarried lady of Dundalk, who, being very generally respected, every vehicle of every kind in the town was put in requisition to do honour to her memory. Altogether, the concourse of cars and chaises, with horsemen and foot followers, appeared prodigious. The hearse, as is is usual in Ireland, was of an open form, having

slender pillars at the angles sustaining a canopy: beneath the latter was a handsome coffin. Notwithstanding the general effect was interesting, many of the details, as is very common, were wanting in appropriate solemnity.

That a multitude should all appear in mourning habiliments on such an occasion, of course is not to be expected; but the mixture of black with every variety of colour–-of every degree of respectability from gentility to the threadbare garment, in the. dress of the followers—together with that of vehicles of all shapes, sizes, and pretensions, as to soundness and smartness of appearance, in their conveyances—produces ideas rather ludicrous than grave in the unaccustomed spectator. We could not avoid observing also, that the feathers, surmounting the canopy, which we witnessed at this and some other funerals, had undoubtedly been white once; but that their hue, at the period of our observations, was such as would not be allowed to possess any claim to that colour in England.

DUNDALK is an ancient and populous town, perhaps one of the oldest in Ireland. The principal street is a mile in length, irregular, but in parts neat and well-built: several smaller streets diverge from it. In the centre of the town stands the seat of the Clanbrassil family, now descended to Lord Roden. A spacious garden, and well-wooded demesne, but apparently neglected, extend behind the house: the surrounding meadows are rich. In this mansion are two curious old portraits of Henry the Eighth and Anna Bullen, painted In the style of Holbein. A Court-house, Gaol, Barracks, and Charter School, are also to be observed here.

Being at the very extremity of the English pale, this town was formerly a mass of castles and towers, erected to repress the incursions of the Irish of Ulster, and has made some figure in the history of the island. In 1315, Edward Bruce, landing with a large body of Scots at Carrickfergus, and being joined by many of the natives, marched to Dundalk, which surrendered to him on the 29th of June, when he immediately committed it to a general conflagration. In the next year, he here caused himself to be crowned king of Ireland; and, growing insolent from success, still more extended his ravages, sparing .neither women nor children, and levelling abbeys and churches with the ground; until at length Lord Bermingham, with a body of English troops, encountered, vanquished, and slew the invader, in this neighbourhood, and thus ended his transitory reign.

Soon after which, O'Hallan, an Irish chief, came to Dundalk to demand contributions; but was so warmly received by Robert Verdon, the governor, that he retreated, leaving 200 of his followers behind him. . In 1566, the chieftain Shane O'Neal made two successive attempts upon the town with no better success. During the rebellion of 1641, falling into the hands of the Irish, Sir Henry Tichburne assaulted the place, which at that time was defended by a double wall, and double ditch; having the advantages besides of a marsh on one side and the sea on the other; but, in spite of these discouraging circumstances, and a most obstinate resistance from the besieged, the English commander succeeded in obtaining, possession: In 1649, Colonel Monk being commander for the parliament in Dundalk, was obliged by his own garrison to capitulate to Lord Inchiquin.

The most perfect remnant of antiquity here,, is a Tower of a Grey Friary, at the east end of the town, where this monastic edifice was erected in the reign of Henry III. by John, Lord de Verdun : its east window is said to be particularly admired for its curious and elegant workmanship. On the west side of the tower is a Gothic window, over which is a projecting stone cut into a grotesque head, and the terminations of the arch are finely ornamented. The prospect from the summit is fine and extensive. Another monastic foundation in. this town was a Priory for Cross-bearers, folloying the, rule of St. Augustine, and whose patron was St. Leonard it was instituted by Bertram de Verdun, Lord of Dundalk, about the end of the reign of Henry II. and was: subsequently converted into an hospital, for the sick, the aged, and the infirm of both sexes.

The great northern road from Dundalk, leading to the county boundary, skirts the rich plantations of Ravens-dale Park, another seat of Lord Clermont, which are backed by a fine heathy mountain;

and in its vicinity also occurs the seat of Baron Mc Clelland, likewise known by the appellation of Ravensdale, from the little village of that name in the neighbourhood.

On the east side of the winding road to Carlingford, two miles from Dundalk, is the estate of J. Wolfe Mac Neale, Esq. bearing the marks of much improvement as to soil, but by no means well planted. **BALLY MASCANLON**, so called from the Scanlon family, who resided here until banished by James the First, is a village on this road, near which is to be seen a Cromlech, consisting of a stone of enormous size, incumbent on three others, and called The Giant's Load. A range of heathy mountains, but affording tolerable pasturage in summer, extend upwards of seven miles, along the eastern part of the parish of Ballymascanlon; they have no general appellation, but one of them has obtained the name of Carriquit.

Vast iron mines may be supposed to exist in these mountains, from the number of chalybeate springs which rise among them.. Here are also extensive quarries of limestone. Bellurgan Park, on the right, stretches pleasantly to the south along the sea shore. Piedmont, three miles farther, on the left, a pretty residence, is also the property of Lord Clermont.

CARLINGFORD, in itself an inconsiderable town, deserves a visit on account of the beauty of its situation, at the foot of lofty mountains, with the bay in front, as well as for its remains of antiquity. Formerly, like Dundalk, Carlingford was entirely made up of towers, castles, and castellated houses, strongly garrisoned, for the protection of the pale against the northern Irish: the principal of these, a part of which is still standing, is by tradition attributed, like so many other castles both in this Country and in England, to king John; but the probability is, that it was erected either by De Lacy or De Courcy.

The object of this Castle appears to have been the defence of a narrow pass at the base of the mountains, close by the sea, where but few men could march abreast; dangerous and steep rocks hanging over the deep on one side, and mountains, the altitude of the least of which is 700 yards, rising on the other. The figure of the ruins is triangular; the foundation is the solid rock; and the walls, 11 feet in thickness, are washed by the ocean. The divisions of the apartments, on the south side of a wall which separated the building in the centre, are yet visible; as is the appearance of a platform or battery, intended probably for the defence of the harbour.

The view from it is grand, embracing the bay, the ocean, and, on the north-east, the lofty mountains of Mourne. The bay, which is so completely land-locked and surrounded by mountains that it appears more like a large inland lake than an arm of the sea, is three miles long, and as many broad, and capable of receiving the largest vessels; but the number of rocks rendering the navigation dangerous, it is of course but little frequented. The finest green-firmed oysters are caught on its shores, and vast quantities of them transmitted every season to Dublin.

On the south side of the town are the remains of an Abbey, founded here in 1305 by Richard de Burgh, the red Earl of Ulster, and dedicated to St. Malachy, whose festival is celebrated on the 3rd of November. The ruins, covered with ivy, are picturesque, and, the mountain views around added, have an air of romantic wildness. The church of the monastery is the only part of the buildings remaining, whose form can be traced with distinctness: it appears to have consisted of two long chapels, and a square centrical tower, supported by a lofty arch: the west end has a square tower at each angle, and a small turret in the centre. There is another small ruin, which also probably was a chapel.

CARLINGFORD was a borough previous to the Union, and gives the title of viscount to the family of Carpenter, whose present representative has been created Earl of Tyrconnel. It is observed, that from the relative situations of the place and adjacent mountains, the inhabitants are deprived of the sun's rays, by, the intervention of the latter, for a considerable time before sun-set in the plain country. The whole promontory, of which this town is the principal, appears, doubtless on account of the security afforded by its natural advantages of wild, rocky, and

mountainous surface, to have been selected by successive races of invaders, as a fastness and stronghold ; for numerous are the remains, not only of comparatively modem castles, but of the mounds and raths of more ancient date, to be found on it.

The tourist may vary his return from Carlingford to Dundalk, by taking the road leading northwestwardly, parallel with the bay, until, arriving on the banks of the Narrow or Newry water, a turn to the left will conduct him to the high north road, by which he will again reach the latter. By this route we pass Ravensdale, beforementioned, and approaching Dundalk, observe on the right a raised earthen-work, with a building on its summit, and just below it a castle. These are seen for several miles along this road, and are deserving of a walk to examine them.

CASTLETOWN CASTLE, for such is the name of the structure at the foot of the hill, of which the earthen-work crowns the top; is a handsome old edifice, in tolerably good repair, being adapted to the purposes of a kitchen and servant's hall by the owner, who lives in an adjoining modern house. Some castellated gateways, added as an approach to it, are certainly no embellishment. The castle has a square tower at each angle, and was formerly defended by a strong wall and works of circumvallation: its date, as appears by an inscription on the building, is 1361, at which period it was erected by Lord Bellew. A little above stands a Church in ruins, ivy-clad, to which is attached a cemetery, thickly strewn with the little mounds which denote the slumbers of mortality, but used as a place of interment by Catholics only.

On the plain below was formerly a very considerable fort or camp, in strength little inferior to that above it, and more advantageously situated in regard to the river which runs close to its side. The town, from which the castle derives its name, having been sacked and destroyed by Edward Bruce, brother to the king of Scotland, during his incursions upon Ireland, these latter works may probably be vestiges of those times.

The fine old Danish Mount, as it is reputed, above, commands a most pleasing and extensive view of the bay, the ocean, river, of Sliebhguillen, and the mountains of Carlingford. From this mount, Cromwell, it is said, battered and dismantled the chapel once attached to the castle, and finally made himself master of the castle itself, in spite of the vigorous defence of the Bellews. The Folly, or building noticed as standing on the mount, was erected, and so called, by the owner of the ground:—probably it occupies the site of the battery planted by Cromwell.

About four miles from Dundalk, to the left of the road to Armagh, are the majestic ruins of Roche Castle, formerly one of the frontier castles of the pale. In situation and general appearance this castle much resembles that of Bolsover in England. Placed on the summit of a rocky hill, it must have been capable of holding out to great advantage against an enemy; and it commands a view of the neighbouring country to a great extent. The area within the rampart walls resembles the form of a triangle, but rather inclining to a semicircle, following the shape of the rude hill which sustains the massive remains. The great chord, which is the front and longest side, extends 80 yards, and the versed sine about 40.

The remnant of a lofty tower, under which is a sally-port, stands at one angle; but this, with all the other works, was dismantled by the victorious Cromwell, in 1649, when the castle was for a while retained by the adherents of the unfortunate Charles the First. Tradition reports the edifice to have been constructed by a Rose Verdun, of an ancient English family of large property, and from her called Rose, since corrupted into Roche, Castle.

At our first visit to Dundalk, when we quitted it to take the road to Kells, our departure was for a while delayed by fruitless efforts to obtain a chaise, car, or conveyance of any kind, to proceed with, on account of the funeral, described to have passed us on our approach to the town, having engrossed every vehicle which it afforded; and none of these being expected to return before night-fall, we preferred occupying the remainder of the day by an effort at pedestrianism to Ardee, disposing of our baggage as we might, to staying at Dundalk till morning. To this

alternative we were the more readily reconciled, by the recollections of our past experience in dilemmas somewhat similar; by which we had been and are convinced, that the traveller in a strange country loses the most favourable of all opportunities for the inspection of national manners, customs, and character, who is not occasionally at least from choice, or cannot, from temporary necessity, become, a pedestrian. And let not the English reader, whose imagination is not uncommonly imbued with ideas of all that is wild, terrible, treacherous, and banditti like, as applying to the lower Irish—let not, we say, the mere Englishman, if his lordly pride will permit us to designate him by the title which his forefathers unscrupulously bestowed on the Irish of old—let him not, we pray, now tremble for the safety of our persons, because we have undertaken an expedition of 12 miles Irish, by a cross-road, in the county of Louth, on foot!

To calm his fears, let us remind him that, throughout the whole of this our projected expedition, we shall not for a moment quit the hallowed precincts of the pale; and, if he be still credulous of danger, let us, dropping irony, inform him, that not in this county, nor in the province of Leinster, only, but, whether—placed in similar circumstances--our feet were plodding in the north, the south, the east, or the west of that misreported country, whether treading the desolately-sublime rocks of the coast of Antrim, the mountain-passes of Donegal or of Kerry, or the wildest and most trackless parts of Connaught, still was the conduct of the rudest peasantry not only such as to prevent alarm, but as to excite attachment; still, whether their language were English, or the language which they love, that of their country, their religion that of the Church of England, Presbyterian, or Romish, still were their habits and their manners mild, their address civil, their actions obliging, their conversation intelligent, their peculiar expressions endearing.

If the reader yet doubt these facts, facts sufficiently notorious to all who have travelled, with liberal views towards a knowledge of the real national characteristics, in Ireland, we can only recommend that, before he prejudges the majority of the people of this country, he should travel the country for himself; and if he be liberal and open to conviction, (which we shall not presume to question) he will be unlike the wisest and most enlightened of Englishmen who have preceded him, if he do not acknowledge on his return, as they have done, many prejudices, acquired probably he knows not how, removed, and many errors, of whose source he may be equally ignorant, corrected.

Very soon after entering upon the cross-road, a change rather for the worse was perceptible in the cabins of the poor, and their interior accommodations; as well as in the style of the agriculture, if we may so express ourselves, if not in its productiveness. We mean that the appearance of the fields, and their enclosures, was yet less trim than that of any on the high road we had left: a greater quantity of the land was also devoted to the culture of potatoes. The road itself was excellent;[23] as are most of the cross-roads in Ireland, and for two reasons; viz. the excellence of the materials, generally also to be had near at hand, of which they are composed, and the immense sums annually expended in their repairs.

23. The roads extending from this neighbourhood, and Ardee, southwards, to that of Drogheda, are chiefly formed of a black siliceous kind of stone, procured from quarries in the vicinity, and broken into sufficiently small pieces (which is not always the case in English road-making) for the purpose. This stone has at first the appearance almost of coals; and forms so hard and compact a bottom, that the traveller may proceed many miles without experiencing the inconvenience of a rut. Besides which, throughout the counties of Dublin, Louth, and Meath, and in Fermanagh (in Ulster) also, conspicuous direction posts are every where to be seen; (the directions which several of them in the county of Dublin give to the Sea' appear curious to the English traveller) but in most of the other counties, we believe, there is too much ground for the idea, that the pressing want of fuel experienced by the lower classes, would occasion their conversion into that necessary article almost immediately upon their erection.

We may have previously alluded to this subject, but we shall take the present opportunity of explaining to the uninformed, that the making or repairing of roads in this country is effected as

follows. Any person who wishes to have a new road constructed, or an old one repaired, presents a memorial to the grand jury at assizes, together with an affidavit of the utility and necessity of the object proposed. If the jury allow 4 the presentment,' the road is made or repaired, the accounting presentment sworn to, and must receive the sanction of the judge.

The ' undertaker,' (i. e. the maker of the road,) afterwards procures an order from the grand jury to receive the money from the treasurer of the county; but, in the mean time, it is liable to be traversed by any land-holder in the barony, on his giving the parish 21 days' notice of his intention to oppose it at the assizes. The money is raised by a baronial tax, each barony paying the expense of the roads within its boundary, although it receives the authority of the grand jury to assess the whole county. (Mail-coach roads, the expense of which is defrayed by a tax upon the county, are determined upon by his Majesty's Post-master General.) From this account we may easily perceive, that it may become too frequently the interest of individuals to pro. pose a new road, where more conducive to private convenience than to public utility; an additional inducement to which abuse must be, that the proposer is very commonly the ‘undertaker.'

In proof of the justice of these remarks, we may add the observation of a native writer, the Rev. Dennis Magrath, vicar of Ballymascanlon, Louth, who, in his description of that parish, drawn up to be included in the Statistical Account, or Parochial Survey of Ireland, mentions as a calamity, and an obstacle to the improvement' of the people, road jobbing, which comes every half-year, a most heavy and unexpected burden to the poor.

It is now, he adds, become a tax of such magnitude, as nearly to equal the revenues necessary to support the government, and to save the state.[24] The philanthropic traveller could be content to endure the inconvenience of roads somewhat less sumptuously preserved, if the burdens of the people should thereby be lightened, and their situation .proportionally improved.

24. We must be permitted, since our opinions upon this, and other subjects somewhat connected with it, have been thought too forcibly expressed, to subjoin the following reflections of the same gentle. man, given like the former, under the head of Suggestions for Improvement, and Means for Meliorating the Condition of the People.' For we have not presumed, with this native writer, to remark, that did " the gentry shew an example of that good conduct, which they would wish to see in the people; did the great landed proprietors, in their treatment of the peasantry, decline in general to make their own capricious will the law, and thus deprive the ever watchful rebel of his wished-for opportunity, to diffuse the destructive poison of his doctrines, these measures would tend much to fix the peace, contentment, and industry of the people." Another observation, from one of these reverend gentlemen, applying to absentees, is, that " the parish which has no resident gentlemen to consider and promote its advantages, can scarcely expect melioration, Again, absenteeship, under the head of the parish of Inver, in Donegal, is spoken of as " the great bar to improvement." Again: "the parish (that of Kilmacahill, in Kilkenny) is at present uncommonly unfortunate: not a single proprietor resides on his estate; and of course no attention is paid to the inhabitants, except to collect their rents, that they may be elsewhere expended " Numerous, as we hope, are the resident gentry in Ireland, whose exertions towards the improvement of their poorer countrymen, entitle them to praises far above any that we can bestow; and such, we conceive, cannot feel offended at strictures, which, while they uphold to general observation the anomaly, as in every country it ought to be considered, of the country gentleman so wanting in patriotism as to be uninterested in the amelioration of all to whom his influence will reach, reflect the stronger lustre on their public characters, by contrast, We conclude this note, by the expression of our sincere wishes for the speedy completion of the Statistical Account' of Ireland, the commencement of which has been marked by the concentration of so many valuable materials towards a general and accurate view of the present state of the country at large, and various important hints for its improvement. In the prosecution of this work, we trust that The Clergy' will continue tot step forward with alacrity and spirit;' and, remembering ' that In promoting a scheme for the general improvement of the country, they are but fulfilling an essential part of the duties of their own profession,' that they will not cease to be actuated by

the same spirit of enlightened philanthropy which guided the conduct of the Scotch clergy; respecting whose (similar) labours an able writer has declared " that the very valuable accounts collected in them will ever remain an extraordinary monument of the learning, good sense, and genuine information of the clergy of Scotland."

But it ought not to be disguised, that habit hath done so much towards reconciling actual discomfort to the feelings of the Irish poor, that numerous instances occur of their neglecting the opportunity to amend their customs of domestic life when really possessed of the means. Examples of this kind now sometimes presented themselves in cabins, through the open doors of which the smoke issued in volumes from the fire in the centre of the only apartment, although these dwellings were provided with what appeared intended as substitutes for hearths and chimnies.

In the case of such huts, the windows, to add to the appearance of misery, were almost uniformly unglazed ; and frequently small square apertures in the mud walls were, with the doorway, the only conductors of air and light to the occupants—if we except crannies and even holes in the roof, fully capable of admitting not only those essentials to human existence, but the weather also, to the parlour, kitchen, dormitory, stable, and piggery (for one and the same room is commonly all these) beneath. Our friend, the pig, was usually the first person who met us at the door of a hut of this description, when, curiosity induced the always welcome intrusion to observe the interior; and that he was not the least respected among the numerous inhabitants was evident from many trifling circumstances, frequently reminding us of a little anecdote we were told by a native gentleman, which is our authority for the appellation by which the grunter at home' is here designated.

It should be noticed, that the main object of keeping an animal of this species, is to satisfy the landlord of the cabin, who receives it, or the money raised by the sale of it, at the stated period; an arrangement which, though his honour' scruples not his assent to it, is attended with such an accession of filth to the habitation, as must materially contribute to that predisposition to low fever-so common. with the Irish poor.

A medical gentleman from England, a visitant, from motives of humanity, to a poor family residing in a cabin by the road-side, who were all what is called down with the fever,' was not a little surprised to observe the pig wallowing on a part of the same straw on which reposed the wretched inmates. "My good people," said he, " how is it possible you can expect health, while you permit a pig to live in the same house with yourselves?" Striving to be pleasant even while under the debilitating influence of disease, the peasant readily replied: "Please your honour, and who has so much right to live in the house, as the person that pays the rent of it?"

The Halfway House between Dundalk and Ardee, afforded us, we are happy to observe, with a pleasing contrast to the scenes we have just-endeavoured to depict, in the decent pride exhibited both in the persons' and furniture of our host and his family, as well as in the abundance, comparatively, of comforts with which they seemed supplied. A village whiskey-house in exterior appearance, the apartment on which we looked around at entering had the aspect rather of the comfortable kitchen of the small .farmer; for though the floor was of earth, and a dog, a kid, and a brood of chickens appeared to be equals in possession with the family themselves, yet a large store of smoked provisions, added to the before-mentioned appearances of superiority and cleanliness in the habiliments, utensils, and furniture of the occupants, bespoke a situation in life many degrees removed from poverty.

A man, seated by the fire, was occupied with a young child, which he held in his arms, in a manner commonly observed in parents only; while an elderly woman, apparently his mother, was engaged in some culinary preparation, and a neat, good-looking young woman, the wife or sister to the host, was busily employed at spinning. Content and cheerfulness appeared to reign in this little whiskey-house, and the various brute animals under its roof to afford a frequent

theme for joke and comment to their superior inmates: the kid, we are not ashamed to confess, was entertaining to more than themselves.

With other intelligence, procured along with our refreshment of diluted whiskey, we here learned, that (as our host had been informed) a castellated and recently modernised seat, at a small distance nearly opposite, was erected by the Earl of Essex during his lieutenancy of the island in the time of Queen Elizabeth. On departing, a trifling addition to the charge, made as a gratuity to the young woman, who had officiated as waiter, was handed by her, with a blush of pride, to the senior female; and by the latter, after twice asking what will I do with the change?' retained only by actual compulsion!

ARDEE, anciently called **ATHERDEE**, is rather a neat-looking town, with a good inn, at which, with every possible accommodation, we slept.

The Castle was the first object of enquiry the next morning. This fortress, now used as a gaol, stands in the middle of the town; the east and west fronts defended by projecting towers, which rise above the other parts of the building. The whole, except the front to the street, is surrounded by houses; but enough is visible to the eye, to impart an air of gloom sufficiently corresponding with its present purposes.

This structure was erected, about the year 1207, by Roger de Pippard, styled Lord of Atherdee, and must have possessed very considerable strength as a frontier defence to the pale. The town also was formerly walled and ditched; but the fortifications proved inadequate to resist the powerful inroads of the sept of O'Neal, who in 1538, made themselves masters of the place and burnt it: a descendant also of the same family, Sir Phelimy O'Neal, obtained temporary possession in 1641, but was driven from the town with great loss by Sir Henry Tichburn. Ardee gives the title of Baron to the family of Brabazon, Earls of Meath; and, before the Union, returned two members to the Irish parliament. Though pleasantly and conveniently situated on the river from whence it derives its name, it exhibits evident traces of decay from its former importance.

The Church, described in Grose's Antiquities as formerly attached to a monastic establishment for Crouched Friars, founded by the same Roger de Pippard who built the castle, and nodding to decay,' has been supplanted by a neat modern edifice. In 1315, the ancient church, filled with men, women, and children, who had fled to it for protection, was mercilessly fired by the Scots and Irish commanded by Edward Bruce,

A mount of considerable elevation, called Castle Guard, is seen at a short distance from Ardee. It is surrounded by a deep and wide trench; and, being tastefully planted, has a picturesque appearance. Its height is 90 feet; the circumference, at the base, 600 feet, and, at the summit, 140. Remains of two concentric octagonical buildings are still visible at its top; and it is supposed to have been intended as a place of consultation for the chiefs and their dependents of old.

Approaching this town by the Collon road, Millextown is on the right; where is an ancient church, the gable end of which, standing at some distance, is gravely reported to have been blown to the situation it now occupies in a gale of wind! Mr. Young, who travelled by this road to Rossy Park, and thence to Ardee, in 1776, says, one of the finest sheets of corn I ever beheld is seen from the hill which looks down on Atherdee. “It is a glorious prospect, all waving, hills of wheat as far as the eye can see, with the town in a wood in the vale."

Near Rossy Park, on the Lagan, is the Mill of Louth, an inconsiderable village; and, in its vicinity, the decayed town which gives name to the barony and county. Here no vestiges remain of an Abbey, which, according to an Irish writer, was founded by St. Patrick himself, and reared 100 bishops, and 300 presbyters, all distinguished for learning and piety; nor of a Priory, modern in comparison, which, erected after the conflagration of the abbey in 1148, was consecrated by Malachy, Archbishop of Armagh, and appointed a sanctuary. That arch enemy to religious

foundations, Henry VIII. gave the death-blow to this rich monastery at the Suppression; granting its site, and all its extensive possessions, to Oliver Plunket, Baron of Louth.

The want of every species of conveyance from Ardee to Kells, though it might have appeared a serious inconvenience to some travellers, was, for reasons already noticed, by us regarded as affording little matter for regret. The road, (now re-conducting us to Meath) lying over a perpetual succession of small hills, presented sufficient variety to the eye for many miles; and we were even tempted to go a short distance out of our way, to visit the little post-town of Nobber, the birth-place of the Last Minstrel of Ireland, the celebrated **TURLOUGH CAROLAN**.

Blind and untaught, this minstrel-bard may with justice be considered both a musical and literary phenomenon. It was in his infancy that Carolan was deprived of sight by the small-pox ; a deprivation which he supported with cheerfulness, merrily observing, " my eyes are transplanted into my ears." His musical genius was soon discovered, and procured him many friends, who determined to aid its cultivation: accordingly, at the age of 12, a proper master was engaged to instruct him on the harp; and though his diligence in profiting by the regular modes of tuition was not great, yet the instrument was rarely unstrung, his native' genius assisting him in composition, whilst his fingers wandered among the strings in quest of the sweets of melody.

In a few years, this child of song' becoming enamoured of Miss Bridget Cruise, his harp, now inspired by love, would echo only to its sound; but though this lady did not give him her 'hand, yet, like Apollo, when he caught at the nymph, he filled his arms with bays,' and the song which bears the name of his fair one is considered his chef-d'oeuvre, coming, as it did, warm from the heart, while his powers were in their full vigour. Solacing himself, after a time, for the loss of Miss Cruise, in an union with Miss Mary Maguire, a young lady of good family in the county of Fermanagh, he built a neat little house on a small farm near Moshill, in the county of Leitrim; but his wife whom he tenderly loved, being gifted in a small degree both with pride and extravagance, and he practising hospitality on a scale more suited to his mind than his means, the produce of his little farm was speedily consumed; and, soon left to lament the want of that prudence, without which the rich cannot taste of pleasure long, nor the poor preserve their modicum of happiness, he commenced the profession of an itinerant musician.

And now, wherever he went, the gates of the nobility and gentry were thrown open to him ; he was received with respect, and a distinguished place assigned to him at the table: Carolan, says Mr. Ritson, "seems, from the description we have of him, to have been a genuine representative of the ancient bard." It was during these peregrinations that he composed those airs, which are still the delight of his countrymen, and which a more modern bard, possessed of a congenial soul, has, in the fullest sense of the words written up to' in his poetical melodies.

Several anecdotes, bordering almost on the miraculous, are told of Carolan; and, amongst others, the following. An eminent Italian music-master of Dublin, wishing, from the fame of the Irish bard, to put his abilities to a severe test, singled out an excellent piece of music, and highly in the style of the country which gave him birth; here and there, however, he either altered or mutilated the piece; though in such a manner that none but a real judge could make the discovery. This piece being played before Carolan, who bestowed on it the deepest attention, he declared it upon the whole admirable; but, to the astonishment of all present, humorously added, in his own language, "*ta se air chois air bacaighe*"; that is, here and there it limps and stumbles.

Being requested to rectify the errors, he did so; and the piece in its restored state, being returned from Connaught to Dublin, the Italian no sooner glanced his eye over it, than he pronounced Carolan to be a true musical genius. In 1733, he lost the wife of his bosom, and survived the melancholy event but five years, dying at the age of 68. The manner of his death has been variously related; but that his partiality for a more sparkling stream that flows at Helicon was the cause of his decease, is a point on which all his biographers are agreed. Goldsmith says, "his

death was yet more remarkable than his life. Homer was never more fond of a glass than he. He would drink whole pints of usquebaugh, and, as he used to think, without any ill consequence.

His intemperance, however, in this respect, at, length brought on an incurable disorder; but, when just at the point of death, he called for a cup of his beloved liquor. Those who were standing round him, surprised at the demand, endeavoured to persuade him to the contrary, but he persisted; and, when the bowl was brought him, attempted to drink but could not; wherefore, giving away the bowl, he observed with a smile, that it would be hard if two such friends as he and the cup should part, at least without kissing, and then expired."

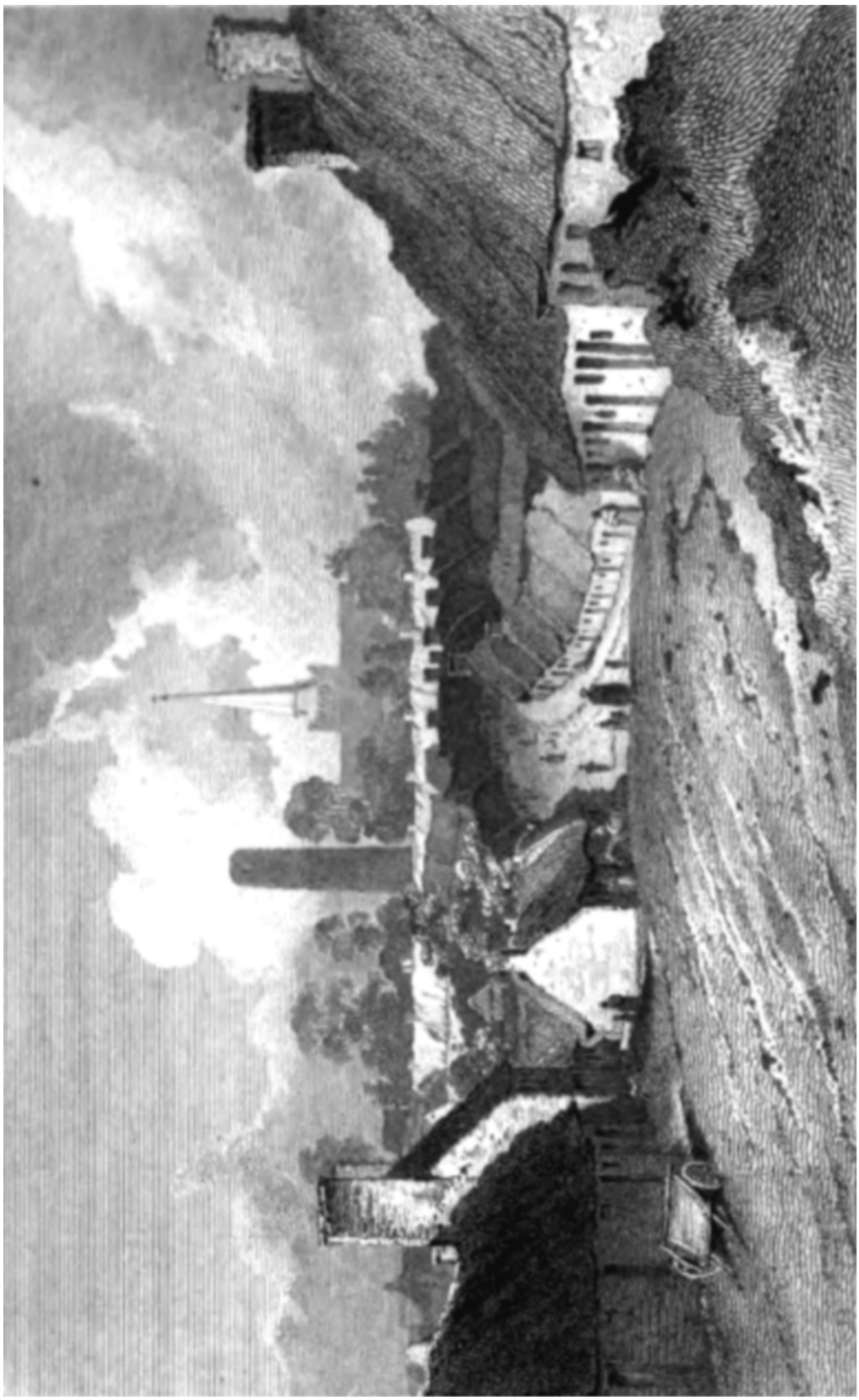
There is a prettiness of fancy playing about this anecdote, that may be thought to show the relator of it to have been, as he was, a poet; but we have doubts of its authenticity, and partly, at least, because we think such a termination to the life of a man of such superior powers as were Carolan's, borders on the profane equally with the poetical: such an end would have been perfectly characteristic of the heathen Anacreon; but the sweet, last bard of Erin, we are inclined to hope, since the tenor of his life was not immoral, (although exhibiting a melancholy example of human weakness in his attachment to inebriation) did, if conscious of the ebb of his earthly moments, elevate his thoughts to more momentous things than the bowl, when on the brink of eternity.

"Carolan's inordinate fondness," observes Walker, in his Account of the Irish Bards, " for Irish wine (as Pierre le Grand used to call whiskey) will not admit of an excuse ; it was a vice of habit, and might therefore have been corrected. But let me say something in extenuation. He seldom drank to excess; besides, he seemed to think--nay, was convinced from experience—that the spirit of whiskey was grateful to his muse, and for that reason generally ' offered it when he intended to invoke her.

Nor was Carolan," he continues, " he only bard who drew inspiration from the bottle: there have been several planets in the poetical hemisphere, that seldom shone, but when illuminated by the rays of rosy wine." By then proceeding to infer the advantages of a state of demi-drunkenness, so far as regards poetic composition, and instancing Homer, Cunningham, and Addison, as evidences of the justice of his theory, it would appear probable that Walker, as well as Carolan, thought talent similar to those richly painted vases in the east, the most brilliant tints of which could not be discovered unless wine, were poured into them.[25]

Somewhat relevant to the subject of our meditations, on returning from the native town of Carolan, were nearly the first words of an English soldier who addressed us just as we regained the road we had quitted; and, having asked the way to Ardee, and discovered by the accentuated of our reply that he was not in Irish company, delivered a round oath in abuse of whiskey, which he protested was abominable drink in a hot day to a thirsty foot-traveller; adding that he would give a day's pay for a draught of good beer, such as he could have obtained at every country alehouse in England.

Having previously discovered that the malt liquor of the country was generally in truth villainous, we could readily sympathise with our countryman's perturbation on this account; but could net suppress a smile at the farther discovery which it appeared he had made, that even the mile-stones in Ireland committed blunders. But he was not the first Englishman, of the military profession, who had been posed by the length of the miles in Ireland, as compared with these of his own country; for, just after the exchange of the militias of the two kingdoms, (as we were informed in Hibernia) a private of a British regiment quartered in Kerry, who was toiling in a summer's day, laden with his knapsack and accoutrements, along a road remarkable as one of the worst of the very inferior ones to be found in that county, at length, bursting into a tremendous passion, accosted an Irish peasant, with an enquiry as to the reason why the miles were so d—d long in Ireland?' Please your honour, was the acute reply of the Hibernian, you see the road is but bad—but we give good measure!' An answer this, which; as it seemed an attempt to compensate for inferiority of quality by additional quantity, was, as applied to the road, any thing but



KELLS
COUNTY OF EASTMEATH

STONE CROSS - KELLS
COUNTY OF EASTMEATH

satisfactory to the sturdy Englishman, who, with oaths of redoubled vehemence, continued his journey.

25. See Moore's Lalla Roukh.

And, giving the best information we possessed to the soldier who had accosted us, we also resumed ours; and, passing through Carlanstown, where is a seat of the Marquis of Buckingham, arrived ere long in sight of Kells. With all our attachment to pedestrianism, we confess that the offer of a seat in the carriage which overtook us a few miles short of this place, was accepted with as much pleasure as it was made with politeness.

The heat had become excessive; and we were besides gratified with the opportunity thus afforded of making enquiries of a gentleman, who might be resident near a town to which we had. no letters. Though not a resident in the vicinity, this gentleman obligingly communicated some valuable information, and, with the urbanity which more particularly distinguishes the upper classes of his countrymen, acted as our guide to the antiquities of Kells; and did not quit us, till we were seated in a chaise from the **Bective Arms**, (a good inn) and were once more on our way to Dublin.

KELLS has the appearance of a very respectable town, and is undoubtedly a very ancient one. It is by no means improbable, as tradition reports, that it owed its origin to an abbey founded here by St. Columbkill in the sixth century. On the arrival of the English, it was walled and fortified with towers; and in 1178, a castle was erected on the site of the present marketplace, which still bears a' castellated appearance. Opposite to where the castle stood, is a fragment of a very fine Cross, sculptured in the richest manner; but which is said to have lain neglected on the ground for a length of time, until raised on its pedestal by the desire, and at the expense, of the celebrated Dean Swift.

The Church, dedicated to St. Senan, a respectable edifice, and neatly fitted up, stands at the upper end of the principal street: on its north aide appears an, insulated square tower, supporting a handsome spine, and bearing an inscription, on the wall nearest the church, purporting that the latter, being in decay, was re-edified A. D. 1572, (20 Elisabeth) by Hugh Brady, Bishop, of Meath. Over this inscription,, are three busts carved in stone; one of which represents a bishop, (probably the re-builder of the church,) and the two others also appear intended for ecclesiastical personages. Beneath is au escutcheon of arms, bearing a dragon holding a standard.

On the south side of the cemetery is a Round Tower, 9) feet high, 16 feet in diameter, and the walls three feet thick. It does not taper so much towards the summit as many others. The roof has fallen in; but the windows at the four cardinal points are still perfect. In situation, this tower varies from the generality of those in Ireland, being placed to the south-west instead of north-west, of the church; but this seeming discordance is reconciled, Sir Richard Hoare tells us, by the information he procured of the old church having stood southward of the tower. In the church-yard is the fragment of another Cross, very richly decorated with figures of men, beasts, flowers, &c.

St. Columbkill's[26] Cell, said, without much foundation, to be the first built of the very singular stone-roofed chapels or oratories of Ireland, is not likely to be observed by the tourist, unless previously aware of its existence here, being situated in the rear of a filthy lane of mud cottages, and actually forming a wood-house and turf repository to one of them.

26. St. Columba, or Columbkill, the apostle of the Pieta, was alas one of the greatest patriarchs of the monastic order in Ireland. To distinguish him from other saints of the same name, be was called Columbkill, on account of the number of monastic cells, called by the Irish kills, of which he was the foamier. Be was of the noble extraction of Neil, born at Gartan, county of Tyrconnel, in 521, and early becoming acquainted with the Scriptures, and the lessons of an ascetic life,

under the celebrated bishop of St. Fermin, in his great school of Cluain-iraird, he esteemed nothing worthy of his pursuit• that did not assist in the disengagement of his mind from the world, and the advance of religion and holiness in his heart. Being advanced to the order of the priesthood in 546, he gave admirable lessons of piety and sacred learning, and was soon attended by many disciples. He founded, about the year 550, the great monastery of Dair-magh, now Durrogh, and Sir James Ware mentions a MS. copy of the four gospels of St. Jerome's translation, adorned with silver plates, as extant in his time, preserved in this abbey. He likewise founded many other monasteries of less note; and the same antiquaries observes, that a Rule composed by St. Columba then existed in the old Irish. This rule he settled in the 100 monasteries which be founded in Ireland and Scotland. Bing Dermot, like great men of more modern times, being offended at the zeal which reproved public' vices, St. Columba determined on leaving his native country; and with his 12 disciples passed into Scotland, where he was successful in converting the king of the northern Picts, together with his subjects. These Picts having thus embraced the Christian faith, gave St. Columba the little island of Hy or Iona, called from him Y-colin-kille, 12 miles from the land, in which be built the great monastery, which was for several ages the chief seminary of North Britain, and continued long the burial-place of the kings, and other superior personages. Here St. Columba's manner of living was most austere; his fasting extraordinary, the bare floor his bed, and a stone his pillow; yet he was mild and cheerful, and his general beneficence won him the hearts of all. He considered time of so much value that he suffered no minutes to pass without employment; and that employment of the best kind, promoting religion and virtue in his own person, and communicating the same by example and precept to all around him—an example, in this respect, to the priesthood of all denominations. In the MS. life of hint by O'Donnell, it is asserted that, being of the blood-royal, he was offered, in the year 544, the crown of Ireland; and that Dermod McCerball, his competitor, succeeded only because our holy abbot preferred the cowl to the diadem, an evident proof of the sincerity of his devotion,and the humility of his mind. He died in the 77th year of his age, and was buried in the island; but his remains were some ages after removed to. Down, in Ulster, and laid in one vault with the remains of St. Patrick and St. Bridgit.—Biograph. Hibern. pp.485, 8. To the monasteries of the age of St. Columbkill, it has been well observed, that "the learned resorted; here the ancient manuscripts were collected; here religion and learning found a safe and peaceful asylum. The monks imparted their knowledge and doctrines to numerous students, who disseminated them widely over the world : neither have their public services been confined to the cloister, for they were extended to the cultivation of the wildest desert, and most barren wilderness; and thus, by the sanctity of their morals, and by their enlightened understandings within doors, and their industrious labours without, they at once instructed, civilized, and benefited mankind."--Sir R. C. Hoare's Tour. Introduction, p. XXVI.

It appears to have escaped the notice of Sir Richard Hoare, who speaks of that at Killaloe as probably the original sanctuary of the holy man who founded the abbey;' a supposition for which there are at the least equal grounds in the case of the cell, or oratory, of St. Columbkill.

To what a remote period, allowing this supposition, (which, though it does not admit of proof, we conceive to be equally incapable of a decisive denial) do we look for the erection of this structure! Nearly 1300 years ago, this little edifice might be trod by the steps of St. Columba! a man who, in the age when Christianity was pure from the corruptions that afterwards defiled it, practiced the austere virtues which he preached, refused the proffered crown of his country, and, in holiness and humility of heart, went about doing good.

Simple, as was himself, still stands the cell of the venerable apostle: rude massive stones alone compose the front, rear, sides, and roof; the single aperture is the door-way; and the floor of the cell the same bare earth, which, but for the unavoidable accessions of years, would present the very surface on which the form of the saint often, perhaps, reposed.

Spite of the scepticism of modern times, the imagination here wings its way to the distant era we have been contemplating; and delights to picture to itself the patriot-saint, whom no pleasures

could allure, and no elevation could dazzle, blessing a devoted people by the diffusion of his learning, by the light of his precepts, and the force of his example: and while, with such teachers, possessing such extensive influence, the extreme barbarity of these people appears impossible, how repugnant to the heart of every real lover of his country must those modern doctrines be, which inculcate that the Irish nation was necessitated to wait 600 years after the lessons of such men, for the arrival of a foreign armament, to be instructed (at the point of the pike, we presume, or of the arrow from the renowned Norman cross-bow) in the elements of civil union, in the first principles of the simplest arts- and sciences, in the fundamentals of the rudest learning, and _in the commonest notions of justice and humanity! Doubtless, the ravages of the barbaric Norwegians and Danes, continued for three centuries previously to the coming of the English, had done much to efface the very remembrance of the learned and religious institutions of anterior times: consequently, the inferences to be drawn from the history of the invasion of Ireland by Giraldus Cambrensis, (who was contemporary with, and a kinsman to, the invaders) although they should with justice apply to the then state of the Irish, cannot reasonably be brought to bear upon a period so long prior--and still less can the descriptions of the poet Spenser, written in the sixteenth century, afford any illustration of the manners, customs, and the arts of civil life, to be found among the natives in the sixth—even on the common but erroneous supposition, that so considerable a lapse of years must necessarily have been attended with improvement.

And when or where did that nation exist, whom 1000 years of slavery (for slavery, during that period, in strict justice it may be called) would not have degraded? The Irish had degenerated in the time of Henry II.; they had degenerated yet more in that of Elizabeth; and the solution of these facts, as with all humility we presume them te be, is not, we think, difficult. We certainly shall not yield to Dr. Ledwich himself, in the opinion he appears to entertain of the mighty effect of the laws of a country upon the manners of its inhabitants; we cannot yet, with him, conceive that any possible system of laws should possess a tendency to perpetuate ignorance and barbarism! we would rather attribute such effects to those intestine commotions, which at once disturbed the operation of the laws, and prevented their amelioration.

Besides, though the Brehon code were rude and imperfect, as have been the early institutions of all nations, is it not probable, that the fragments of it that have come down to our times, are the additions, made in times of foreign invasion and civil warfare, rather than the original constitutions of an age of lettered ease and religious prosperity? Yet the principle mainly recognised even by these, that of compensation from the offending. party to the offended, appears to be implanted in our nature, and pervaded, it is likely, every aboriginal legal code: we must have lost all respect-for the Mosaic system of laws, inspired by God himself, and throughout which this principle prevails, if we pronounce it necessarily tending to barbarism: and we may with confidence presume, that the Brehon laws, and the people which they governed, would have gone on mutually benefiting and improving each other up to the present period, as have the laws and the inhabitants of every country favourably circumstanced, if the circumstances in which the Irish nation were so long placed had but been favourable to such improvement, That the reverse of such mutual improvement, did here for so long a period obtain, is both the melancholy fact, and its own best possible solution.

But the learned Doctor does not seem aware of the sentence of condemnation he passes on the very people whose reduction of his country be so highly applauds, in this sweeping charge of barbarism against its ancient legal institutions; for, were the manners, customs, and laws of the natives so utterly barbarous—and did the English settlers (to whom he ascribes piety," bravery,' and almost every virtue under heaven) adopt them? In a majority of instances, they actually did, notwithstanding the nominal abolishment of the Brehon code by Henry; and the reflection so curious an historical fact produces in our English bosoms is this; that, had the Roman and Saxon conquerors of our own country acted as did the Anglo-Normans in Ireland—had they adopted the rude institutions of the Britons, in preference to implanting their own improved systems of legislature—at the same time that, instead of amalgamating with the natives, they kept them without a pale of demarcation—England at this day, in lieu of her admired constitution, (the

result of Saxon law contending with Norman tyranny—of the eternal spirit of Alfred conflicting with the feudal genius of the Conqueror—) might have tanked lower in the scale of nations than the Hibernia of the sixth century.

To return to the stone-roofed cell of St. Columbkill. It seems not to be disallowed, even by Dr. Ledwich, that this building was either built by the direction, or adopted for the use, of the saint whose name it bears; and it appears to be composed of walls, whose masonry has defied •the ravages of nearly 1300 years, and of a roof, whose arch has been bare to the heavens for an equal period of time. The air of rudeness impressed upon the structure, had it not attached to it when fresh from the hands of the workmen, must infallibly have prevailed in the aspect of a building of such simple form, exposed as this has been to the war of ages; and, upon the whole, it appears but natural to infer, that, as the people who erected this cell, were certainly possessed of the first principles of architecture, they sometimes applied them to the construction of edifices more complex.

This, as appears from its smallness, as well as from the appellation it still bears, was probably a mere sanctuary for mortification of St, Columba's; what then may have been the palaces erected at the same period? We are perfectly willing to admit, that stone was seldom, if ever, used in the construction of the latter; and Dr. Ledwich himself assures us, that "the doctrine and discipline of the Irish Church were averse to stone fabrics ;" but why are we forbidden to suppose, that the extreme commonness of stone in this country might render it of little esteem for public buildings of any kind ?—and, since all our ideas of beauty and costliness are but relative, depending in a great degree on the supposed rarity of the thing called costly or beautiful, why, either, are we to deny elegance to the minds and manner of the courtiert of Tarah,[27] who had the models of all that was then esteemed elegant or rich before their eyes, or refinement to the generality of a people, with whom the treasures of classic lore, and the informing light of a pure religion, are with every reason supposed to have been familiar?

Be it true, then, that, as Sir John Davies observed, 'the Irishry,' whom he allows to have been lovers of poetry, music, and all kinds of learning,' did never build any houses of brick or stone, before the reign of King Henry II., (though we are at a loss to conceive how he knew that they did not six centuries prior to that event,) still we cannot allow, that the people who built such a cell as that of St. Columbkill, who, from the evidence. of that specimen alone, may be reasonably supposed to' have been capable of productions very superior, and who, by the common consent of all writers, engrossed the literature and the piety of Europe, can with justice be disgraced by any epithet below that of civilized.

The demesne of the Marquis of Headfort, in the vicinity of Kells, is extensive, and well-planted; but, according to Mr. Curwen, most legibly marked with the ruinous effects of absenteeship:—it was not necessary to be told that the estate was deserted by its owner.[28] Sir R. C. Hoare, remarks, on the same demesne, that he cannot commend the architecture either of the mansion-house, or its appendage, an ornamental tower, belonging to the same nobleman:[29] the latter, however, is not only for miles around a most conspicuous object, but affords from its summit a very fine view of the surrounding country. Mr. Wakefield calls the seat of the Marquis of Headfort, near Kells, a noble mansion his farther remark, that these fine places (the numerous and very frequently tasteful residences of the gentry in this county) contribute to render more striking the wretched hovels in which the peasantry dwell, and which are uncommonly bad throughout all Meath,' is as just, as the inferences to be deduced from it are unpleasing

27. The ancient residence of the Irish kings.

28. Letters on the State of Ireland, II. 184
.

29. Journal of a Tour in Ireland, p. 174.
.

THE DOOR OF ST. FECHIN'S CHURCH
FORE
COUNTY OF WESTMEATH

THE DOOR OF ST. FECHIN'S CHURCH
FORE - PLATE 2
COUNTY OF WESTMEATH

The tourist, if he chooses to make a circuit from this point, may embrace Fore, and Castletown-Delvin, iii Westmeath, together with Athboy and Trim, in the way to Navan: for in this, as in countless instances, travelling by the map is practicable to a degree not known in England: roads innumerable have been created since the tour of Arthur Yeung; yet, even at the period of his a,cute and judicious remarks, he could say, I will go here, I will go there; I could trace a route upon paper as wild as fancy could dictate, and every where I found beautiful roads without break or hindrance to enable me to realize my design.

FORE, or **FOURE,** is described, as to its monastic remains, by Mr. Archdall, with his usual learning and ability; besides which, some interesting records of the place by Sir Henry Piers, are preserved in Vallancey's Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis,' which are as follows:

"Foure, an ancient corporation, sending two members to parliament, is seated on the north side of a hill, which interposeth between it and Lough Lene. This town is said to have been anciently a town or university of literature; and its name, signifying in the Irish language the town of books, and Lough Lene, the lake of learning, together with an island in it bearing the like name, may seem to give countenance to this old tradition.

But if this town were not the mart of learning, surely it was of devotion, there being in it no less than the ruins of three parish churches, more by two than the greatest and best town of our county hath; one monastery, one church or cell of an anchorite, the sole of the religious of this kind in Ireland. This religious person at his entry maketh a vow never to go out of his doors all his life after, and accordingly here he remains pent up all his days: every day he saith mass in his chapel, which also is part of, nay almost all his dwelling house, for there is no more house, but a very small castle, wherein a tall man can hardly stretch himself at length, if he lie down on the floor; nor is there any passage into the castle, but through the chapel.

He hath servants that attend him at his call in an outhouse, but none lyeth within the church but himself. He is said by the natives, who hold him in great veneration for his sanctity, every day to dig or rather scrape (for he useth no other tools but his nails) a portion of his grave; being esteemed of so great holiness, as if purity and sanctity were entailed on his cell, he is constantly visited by those of the Romish religion, who aim at being esteemed more devout than the ordinary amongst them: every visitant at his departure leaveth his offering, (or as they phrase it) devotion on his altar; but he relieth not on this only for a maintenance, but hath those to bring him in their devotion, whose devotions are not so fervent as to invite them to do the office in person; these are called his proctors, who range all the counties in Ireland to beg for him, whom they call 'The Holy Man in the Stone. Corn, eggs, geese, turkeys, hens, sheep, money, and what not; nothing comes amiss, and no where do they fail altogether, but something is had, insomuch that if his proctors deal honestly, nay if they return him but' a tenth part of what is given him, he may doubtless fare as well as any priest of them all.

The only re. creation this poor prisoner is capable of, is to walk on his terms built over the cell wherein he lies, if he may be said to walk, who cannot in one line stretch forth his legs four times." From an inscription still existing in a ruined chapel under the hill, which was the burial-place of the Westmeath family, and to whom there is a monumental tablet bearing date in 1680, it appears that a hermit resided here so late as the year 1616.

"Besides the ruins of these parish churches, city walls, and gateways, there is the shell of a spacious monastery,[30] situated in the vale below, and, as Sir H. Piers observes, built in a bog, but founded on a firm spot of ground.' This monastery presents a large pile of simple and unornamented masonry: the chapel is still in a tolerable state of preservation, and has three narrow pointed windows.

The valley in which this abbey is placed, must in the time of its prosperity have been a delightful retreat; the outline is still good, and nothing is wanting but wood to render it an attractive spot

in modern days; the approach to it from the east was protected by a strong fort, of which the earthen mounds only remain. Religion still maintains her rites at Fore, though forsaken by its cloistered inhabitants; one of the church-yards being thickly crowded with tomb-stones, though the church is in ruins;"[31] (a circumstance by no means uncommon in Ireland.)

LOUGH LENE is. small, compared with other lakes in Westmeath, but gives birth to two rivulets, which, flowing from it, discharge themselves into the sea it opposite sides of the kingdom. The banks are flat, though well cultivated, and therefore less romantic than those of many others; but the soil being fertile, and in general sufficiently wooded, the district around may rank with the most beautiful in the island. Lough Lene produces good trout and pike, and becomes interesting to the lover of angling, from the three woody islets which picturesquely emerge from its surface, and afford him good stations for his favourite sport. On its north side, the waters penetrate beneath the rock, and reappear on the opposite side of the hill near Fore, where they turn a mill.

30. At Fore we find a Priory of Canons Regular, which was built by St. Fechin about the year 630. He died of the plague, A. D. 665, after having governed 3000 monks in this abbey." Archdall's Monast. Hibern. p. 711.—From the annals of the monastery, collected by the same author, we learn that it was founded in 1209 by Walter de Lacie, under the invocation of St. Taurin and St. Fechin, for monks of the order of St. Benedict, whom he brought for that purpose from the abbey of St. Taurin, in Evereux, Normandy, and made this a cell to that abbey; from which period, this religious house appears to have been generally known by the appellation of the Priory of St. Fechin and St. Taurin.

31. Sir 'R. C, Hoare's Journal, p.26.

Towards the south, at a small distance, is a raised earthen work, traditionally called The Fort of Turgesius, the Norwegian chief who is represented by Giraldus Cambrensis to have completed the conquest of Ireland. The circumstances attending the death of this tyrant are stated by the same historian to have taken place in a certain island in the province of Meath, and, in the absence of all historical testimony as to the island meant, we may as naturally conclude it to have been one of these in Lough Lene as any other.

"The Norwegian chieftain had conceived a violent passion for the daughter of the king of Meath, who, knowing the ferocious disposition of the tyrant, did not dare to irritate him by a denial. He therefore apparently acceded to his proposal, and promised to send his daughter, attended by 15 young damsels, to a certain island in the province of Meath, at an appointed time.

In the mean while, Melaghlin (king of Meath) selects 15 of the most resolute and beautiful youths, without beards, orders them to be habited like young women, and to carry each of them a sword concealed under their garments. Thus accoutred, they proceed to the place of meeting; where they find the amourous chieftain, and his youthful comrades, eager to receive the princess and her supposed females: but no sooner had Turgesius transgressed the bounds of decorum, than the young men drew.forth their secret weapons, and, throwing off the disguise they had assumed, put the Norwegian and his companions to death: .thus saving the honour of the royal father and of his daughter, and delivering their country from the hands of a most oppressive tyrant.[32]

At Castle Pollard, in this vicinity, is a seat of Mr. Pollard, the plantations of which adjoin to those of Pakenham, the property of the Earl of Longford; but their situation presents nothing striking or picturesque. The ruined churches of Clonarny and Archerstown, possessing no remarkable feature, are also in this neighbourhood. Clonmellon, nearer Bells, has an elegant church, with a steeple and spire, all in very tolerable modern gothic.

At **CASTLETOWN DELVIN,** a town of small note, a part of the ancient baronial castle of the Earls of Westmeath is yet standing[33] near it is a Rath.

CASTLETOWN DELVIN
COUNTY OF WESTMEATH

The road from hence to Baronstown, where is a seat of Lord Sunderlin, is through a charming country, richly diversified with lakes and commanding eminences. Lerd Sunderlin's mansion extends 300 feet in front, including the wings : it stands in the midst of a considerable park, is surrounded by excellent plantations, and is possessed of a choice and very extensive garden. The Grand Canal from Dublin passes by the park walls. Lord Sunderlin is a resident proprietor, and a nobleman of whose exertions to benefit his country, and appropriation of fortune to the same end, it is impossible to speak in terms of too much praise. But let his actions speak for him t His lordship is a warm advocate for the education of the lower classes: he has therefore built a neat School, inscribed "

.

32. Giraldus. Topographia Hibernia.

33. Delvin, in the barony from it named, a large oblong square castle, high raised, having at each corner a large round tower, which equalleth, if not surmounteth the castle, a structure speaking ancient magnificence. It is now wholly waste, without roof or inhabitants giveth the title of a Lord Baron to the Right Hon. Richard Nugent, Earl of Westmeath, of an ancient illustrious family descended from Baron Jones, (who, without the style of lord) was of the first English conquerors, and seated here."—Vallancey's Collectanea, 192.

Opened December, 1807, for the cheap and easy instruction of children of all religious denominations," in which 100 boys and 80 girls are at present under tuition. It may be observed, that the Lancastrian plan was here attempted, but failed. The order and method introduced among the children, alarmed the parents : they thought it partook of military discipline, and formed part of a scheme to entice or entrap them into the army : they objected also to their children being made monitors, erroneously conceiving that their own time and learning were sacrificed to the teaching of others.

Preposterous as such notions may appear to the better informed, the feelings of the parties should be considered before judgment is passed on them: but this would only lead to a review of the calamities of the past—let us hope a happier period may soon arrive, when the sorrows and resentments still too prevalent shall be forgotten. Catholic parents ought to have every assurance, that no interference with the creed of their children is intended; when this point is placed beyond suspicion, the best effects have never failed to- result; but when and wherever the narrow principle of exclusion, or that of conversion, has been adopted, the efforts, however sincere, of the promoters of such seminaries, have produced at the best very limited good.

A beautiful Church, at the entrance of the park, has also been erected by the present noble possessor. Its architecture deserves attention, and the interior is characterised by an elegant simplicity. The windows being of ground glass, a dead and solemn light is created, very appropriate to a sacred edifice; and a very judicious improvement upon the common plan, is the position of the pulpit on one side of the communion-table, by means of which the whole congregation are brought within view of the minister. A family mausoleum adjoins the church, and at a short distance is the parsonage-house, exhibiting every appearance of comfort. Besides these buildings, the country is indebted for the Bridge of Ballycock, in a great measure, to Lord Sunderlin.

By this a communication is obtained with Granard, in Longford, by which the inhabitants of a large extent of country are no longer under the necessity of taking a circuit of five or six miles Irish, in order to dispose of their produce at that town. In all these improvements, appear evidences of that benevolent consideration, the fruits of which are as pleasing to the eye as they are gratifying to the heart.[34]

AT MITCHELSTOWN is the seat of R. S. Tighe, Esq.; and the general appearance of the district between this vicinity and Trim, is much enlivened by numerous others, with the plantations attached to them. Wood, however, is still generally wanting, to what were otherwise

a most lovely district; and yet its growth is here so rapid, that the encouragement to plant can no where be exceeded. The luxuriant growth of the shrubs attracts equal surprise and admiration; and perhaps a spot could not easily be found, more favourable to the increase of every Species of the vegetable world.

Reynella, on the. Mullingar road, is the residence of Mrs. Reynell, a lady who, upon the premature death of the late. Mr. Reynell, followed up those plans of improvement, by which her husband had obtained a distinguished rank among the ameliorators of Ireland. The decease of Mr. R. was indeed a public loss. By increasing the demand for labour, and thus creating a spirit of industry highly beneficial to the lower orders, (who entertained a due sense of their obligations, and acknowledged them with gratitude), this gentleman became at once their adviser, friend, and benefactor.

34. See Curwen's Letters, Vol. IL

When the Rebellion of 1798 first made its appearance, Mrs. Reynell was actively and anxiously employed in completing a sheet of water which had given employment to a great number of people. Conscious that the interests and happiness of the labouring classes in her neighbourhood had never been neglected, and confiding in the gratitude of some, and the commonsense of the remainder, this lady had the intrepidity to remain in her mansion, and, putting arms into the hands of her servants, and being otherwise prepared to protect her property in case of emergency, she resolved to wait the event. It agreed with her anticipations. The veneration and attachment of the people proved her complete protection and defence, and she sustained not the slightest loss or injury of any description.

"This circumstance," (says our highly respected authority[35] for this anecdote,) "furnishes another instance of Irishmen, who, though feeling no respect for the laws of their country, and thoroughly disregarding every personal consequence that might attach to the violation of them, were yet gratefully alive to the remembrance of obligations, and revolted at the idea of repaying their benefactors by lawless and inconsiderate violence.

35. Mr. Curwen. See Letters, II. 266.

A people, on whom consideration and kindness have such influence, are more to be pitied than condemned, when acting wrong. Where many and real grievances exist, in any community, it cannot be surprising that they should be exaggerated, and, when fomented by mischievous parties, lead to the fatal adoption of measures for redress, that in the end do but augment the sufferings previously endured."

ATHBOY is a tolerable town, and has a large inn, possessing the accommodation of good post-horses. The country around is well enclosed, and the tillage better than ordinary. But, notwithstanding the fertility of the soil, and its great returns to the occupiers, the condition of the labourers bears no affinity to either: extreme privation and poverty are still the characteristics of their pitiable situation. We are not disposed to deny, that a modicum of happiness may be enjoyed even by a peasantry, whose whole existence argues a suspension of the chief possessions and privileges which in England teach the labourer self-respect, and, nationality will not prevent our adding, too frequently a bearish self-importance; we do not deny, that the Irishman and his family have very frequently a plenty of their ordinary food, which the English cottager as frequently has not; that the children are in consequence well formed and healthy, although a piece of sacking, tied on with a rope or halyard may be their only garment;[36] or that hilarity does sometimes preside over the feast of potatoes and buttermilk, at which, if the smoke permitted the exercise of vision, the parents, the children, the fowls, and the pig would be discovered equal sharers in the mess; we do not even deny the occasional predominance of such joys, as the tenderest and most devoted family attachment will, in all possible circumstances perhaps, inspire; but, in spite of these admissions, still is the situation of the poor Irishman such, as, since it

evidently degrades him in his own eyes, must deprive him of that first and most rational source of happiness in the existing state of society—the consciousness of possessing equal rights, if not equal wealth, with the community of his fellow men.
St. Lucy, the property of Sir Benjamin Chapman, who keeps in hand a farm of near 6000 Irish acres, and Ballinlough, with its well wooded demesne, belonging to Sir Hugh O'Reilly, are seats in the neighbourhood of Athboy.

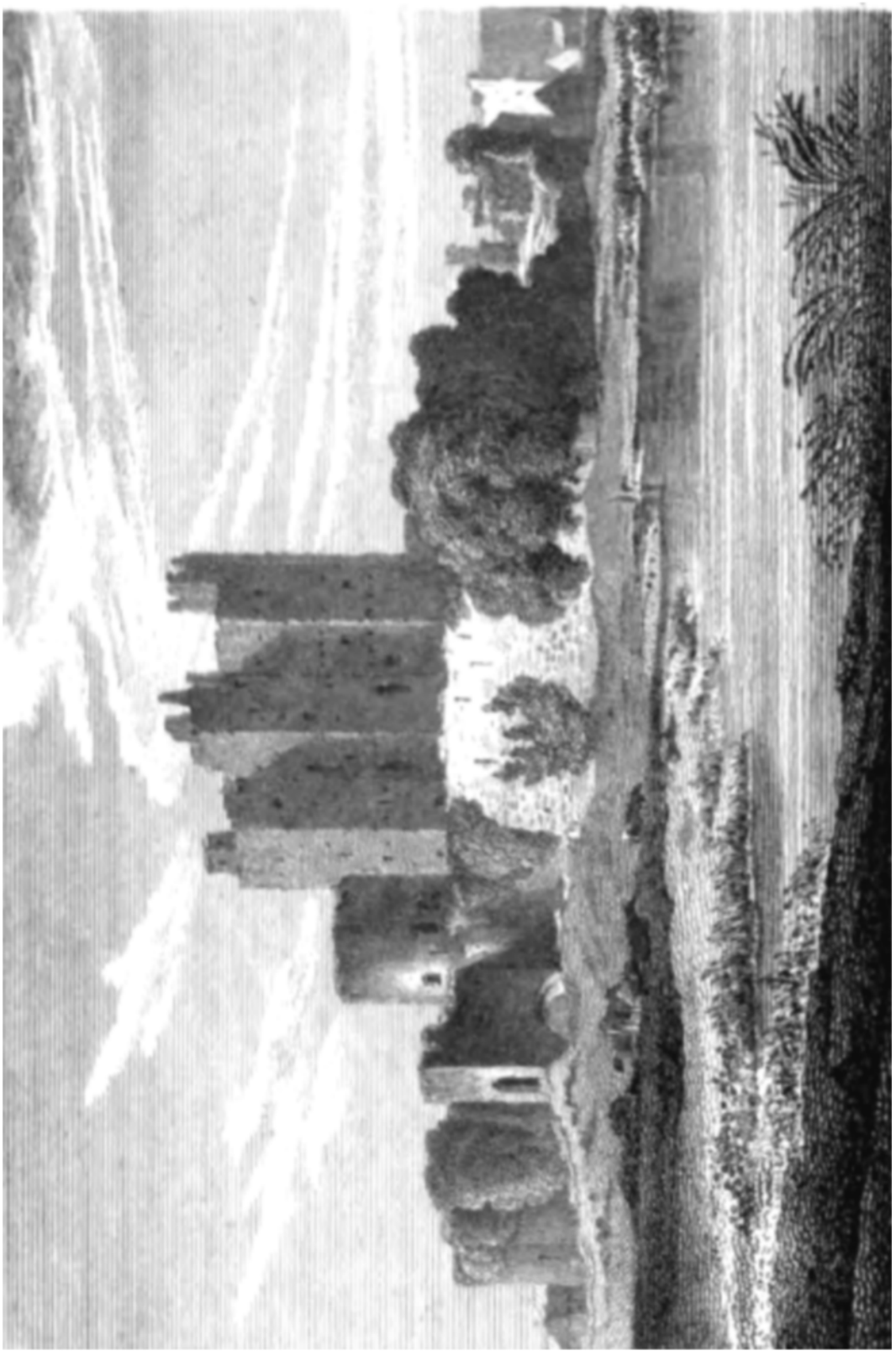
36. A circumstance we have repeatedly witnessed. VOL. II.

AT TRIM, we again reach the Boyne, silently flowing on through weeds and rushes, and amidst a profusion of the Nymphæa Alba, or white water-lily. This is the shire-town of Meath, *here the assizes are held, and possesses a handsome and strong-built Gaol, to which some recent additions have been made.

It is governed by a portrieve, and town clerk. The Charter School, for 60 grils, was liberally endowed by the late Earl of Mornington. A Trophy to the Duke of Wellington has been recently erected in this town: it is a Corinthian column, surmounted by a statue of the hero. Here, according to Mr. Archdall, were many religious foundations; St. Patrick, so early as the year 432, having founded an Abbey of Canons Regular, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and built on a piece of ground given for that purpose by Fethlemid, the son of Laoghaire, and grandson of Niall.

The steeple, usually called the Yellow Steeple, of which a conspicuous fragment still remains, was a lofty, handsome, square tower, the remainder of which was demolished by Oliver Cromwell, against whom it held out a considerable time as a garrison. This church possessed an image of the Virgin, which, notwithstanding the celebrity it had obtained in the performance of miracles, and the many pilgrimages and offerings consequently made to it, was publicly burned in the year 1538.—The Grey Friary was dedicated to St. Bonaventure, and generally called the Observantine Friary of Trim. It has been disputed whether it owed its foundation to King John, or to the family of Plunket. In 1330, a great part of the building was undermined by the waters of the Boyne, and fel) to the ground. Father Richard Plunket, who wrote an Irish Dictionary, now in the Public Library of Dublin, resided in this convent; on a part of the site of which the present Sessions-house has been erected.—The Dominican Friary, situated near the gate leading to Athboy, was founded in honour of the Virgin Mary, A. D. 1263, by Geoffrey de Geneville, Lord of Meath. The same Geoffrey, in the year 1308, resigned the lordship of Meath to Roger de Mortimer, the rightful heir, and entered himself a friar of this monastery, wherein he died, and was buried in 1314. Many others of his family were also interred here.—The Priory of Crossbearers, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was founded by one of the Bishops of Meath, and his successors in the see were among its greatest benefactors. We are told that this was a truly magnificent building; and it is probable, that the parliaments of Trim were held in the great hall of this house, or perhaps in the Dominican friary: one of their enactments was, that the Irish should not wear shirts stained with saffron.—Here also was a Convent of Nuns.—And an ancient church was called the Church of the Grecians; which, Mr. Archdall thought, might be some proof that the Grecians of old made a settlement in this kingdom.—We also find, in the parish-church of St. Patrick in this town, a Perpetual Chantry of Three Priests.

TRIM CASTLE, on the banks of the Boyne, forms a pleasing subject for the pencil. "This," says Sir R. C. Hoare, "is almost the only building I have seen in Ireland, that deserves the appellation of castle; the generality of buildings so called are only small forts, resembling each other very much in the style of their architecture. The natives, perhaps, whose eyes have not been accustomed, as mine have, to view with rapture the stately fabrics of Conway, Caernarvon, and Harlech, may think this remark fastidious; but, in comparison with the English, Welch, and Scotch castles, and as far as my observation has extended in this country, I cannot allow it to be ill-founded."



TRIM CASTLE
COUNTY OF EASTMEATH

INTERIOR TRIM CASTLE
COUNTY OF EASTMEATH

Originally erected by Hugh de Lacy, to secure his large possessions in Meath, or, as Camden asserts, by William Peppard, previously to the grant of Meath to De Lacy, this castle continued during successive centuries to be the most important stronghold of the English pale. According to, an historical fragment by Maurice Regan, published by Harris, in his ***Hibernica,*** Hugh de Lacy, on completing the building, departed for England, leaving it in the custody of Hugh Tyrrell, 'his intrinsicke friend.'

The King of Connaught, taking advantage of De Lacy's absence, assembled all his powers, with a view to its destruction; and though Tyrrell, advised of his coming, dispatched messengers to Strongbow for assistance, and though the Earl marched towards Trim in all haste, yet Tyrrell, seeing the enemy at hand, and thinking himself too weak to resist their numbers abandoned the castle, and burnt it; upon which the Irish monarch, satisfied with the success of his expedition, returned home. Strongbow, however, pursued him, and, falling upon the rear of his army, slew 150 of the Irish; which done, he retired to Dublin, and Hugh Tyrrell to the ruined castle of Trim, to re-edify it before Hugh de Lacy should return from England.

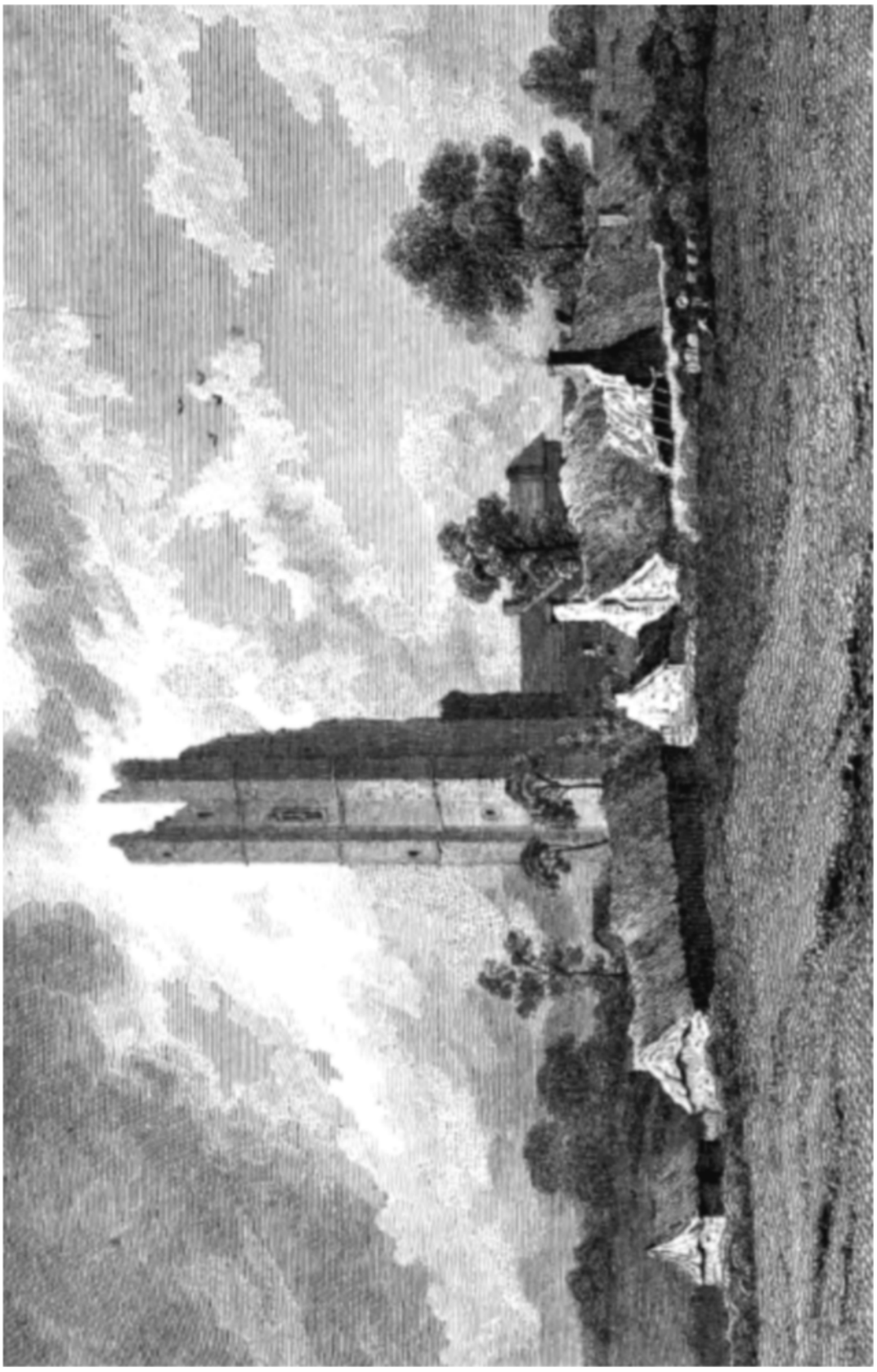
In 1221, the province of Meath being much harassed by private dissensions between Hugh de Lacy, son and successor of the original Palatine, and William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, " Trim," says Ware, " was besieged, and brought to lamentable plight; and when the rage and fury of their broils were somewhat abated, to prevent the like in future, the Castle of Trim was built:" (that is, rebuilt, and in a much stronger manner, upon the ruins of the old one.) Here, in 1399, Richard the Second, who was then in Ireland, hearing of the progress of the Duke of Lancaster in his English dominions, imprisoned the sons of his rival and of the Duke of Gloucester; the former of whom was afterwards drowned on his passage to England. In 1423, Edmund Mortimer, Earl of Meath and Ulster, who had possessed the inheritance of Trim, and, as Lord Lieutenant of the island, had enjoyed more than customary authority in that office, died of the plague in this castle.

During the rebellious and troublesome reign of the unfortunate Charles I. the town of Trim became again a scene of tumult and disorder. In 1641, it was, with the castle, surprised by the insurgents, but retaken the next year by Sir Charles Coote, a gallant gentleman, whose very name was a terror to the Irish,' according to Ledwich; but who has beet' by another writer more justly described a soldier of fortune, trained in the wars of Elizabeth, morose, cruel, and inveterately hostile to the Irish, particularly on account of depredations on his lands:[37] Being employed in petty expeditions,' he had previously taken Wicklow castle, but sullied his victory by an unprovoked and indiscriminate carnage, which rivalled in atrocity the excesses of the northerns ;' he had committed some ravages and indiscriminate slaughters, at Santry and Clontarf, and had wasted the country around Swords without mercy;' but he ended his remorseless career at Trim; for, pursuing in the dark a party of the enemy, who had been repulsed in an attempted surprisal of the place, he received, a shot, whether from his own men or from the enemy was never known, and expired:

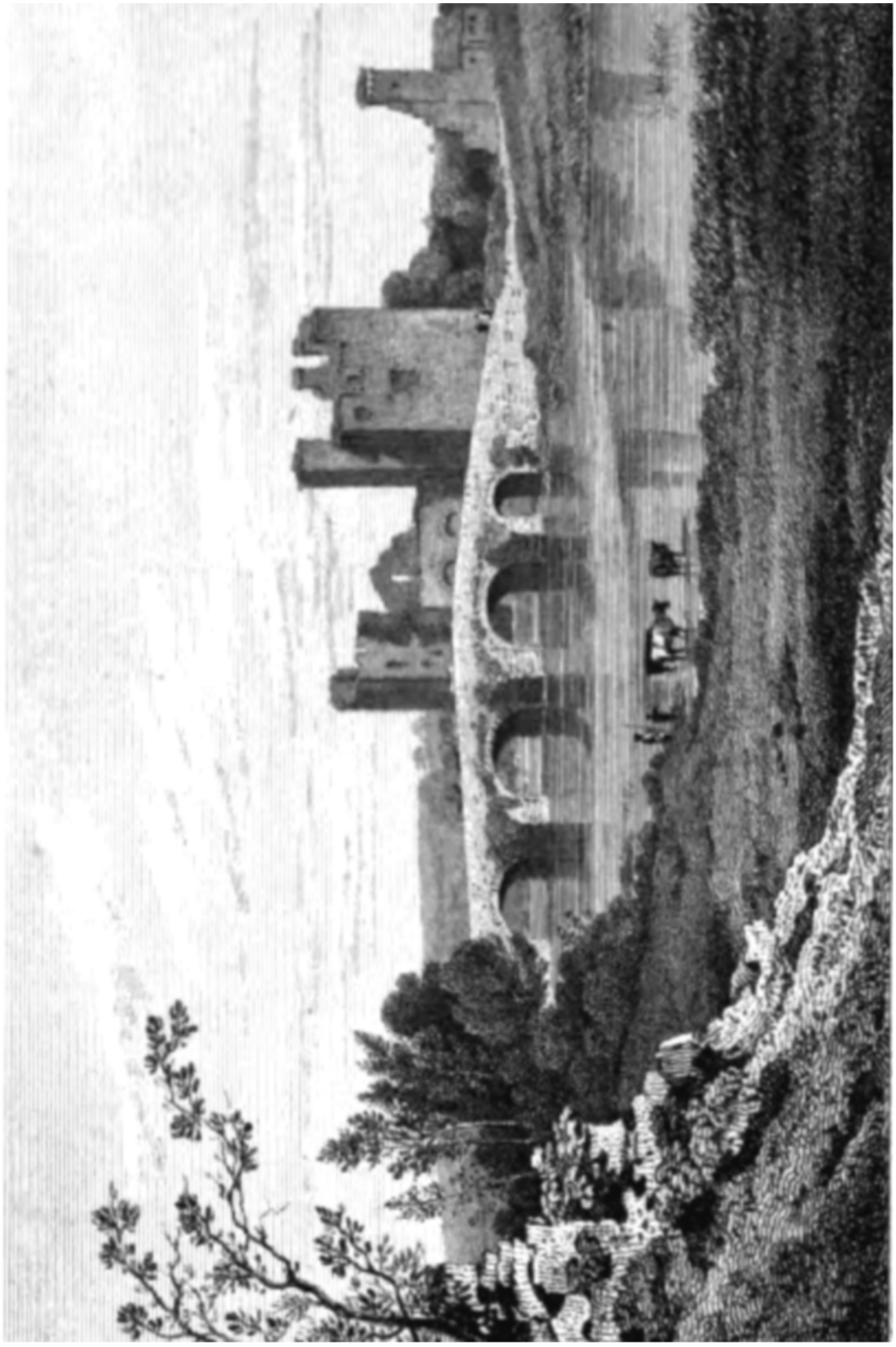
37. Gordon's Hist, of Ireland, I. 197.

His body,' continues the antiquarian just mentioned, was brought to Dublin, and there interred with great solemnity; floods of English tears accompanying him to the grave!

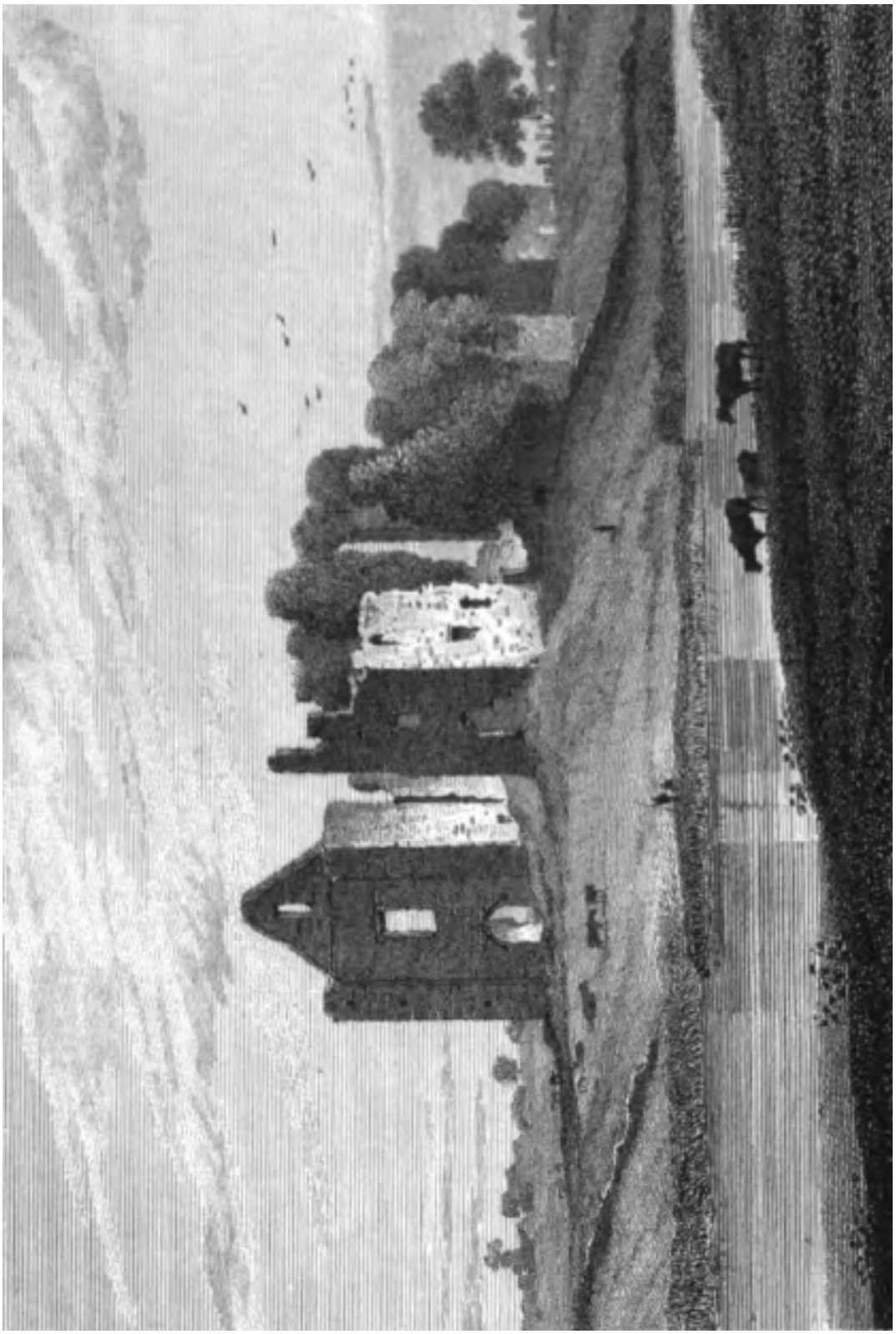
In the: immediate neighbourhood of Trim, occur the ruins of two .more monastic edifices, besides those in the town itself, which have been described; the Priory of Newtown, north of the Boyne, and another, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, on the opposite side of the river. The former was founded in 1206, for Canons Regular of St. Victor, by Simon de Rochefort, Bishop of Meath, who afterwards converted the church into a cathedral, under the invocation of St. Peter and St. Paul. Here were made, by this prelate, in 1216, the remarkable constitutions which changed village bishoprics into rural deaneries; the canons of this synod are to be found in Wilkins's Councils. Bishop Simon died in 1224, and was interred in the large old church, the remains of



THE YELLOW TOWER - TRIM
COUNTY OF EASTMEATH



THE BRIDGE AND PRIORY - NEWTON COUNTY OF EASTMEATH



NEWTON ABBEY
COUNTY OF EASTMEATH

which still exist. Mr. Archdall, and Dr. Ledwich, following him, notice an ancient tomb, said to have been placed here for a daughter of King John. Upon which Sir Richard Hoare remarks, " I own this escaped my observation; but I observed another altar-tomb, exposed to the rude elements, on which there were the recumbent effigies of a male and female figure, habited in the costume of Queen Elizabeth's time. On its base is an -inscription, which I had not time to decypher; but I am told, by a gentleman of the country, that this monument was erected to the memory of two personages of the Roscommon family."

The ruins of the Priory of St. John the Baptist partake of the castellated style of architecture, and are very considerable; and, as they adjoin a bridge over the Boyne, form an interesting group in connection with that object and the river. The Priory was erected in the thirteenth century for Crouched Friars; and the Bishops of Meath were either its founders or most liberal benefactors. The remains of these monasteries are seen on the road from Trim to the Black Bull Inn, a single house at the point where it unites with the mail-coach road to Navan and Kells: on crossing the Boyne, the ruins of a square fort, having circular turrets at the angles, appear on the left; they are called **SCURLOUGHSTOWN CASTLE.**

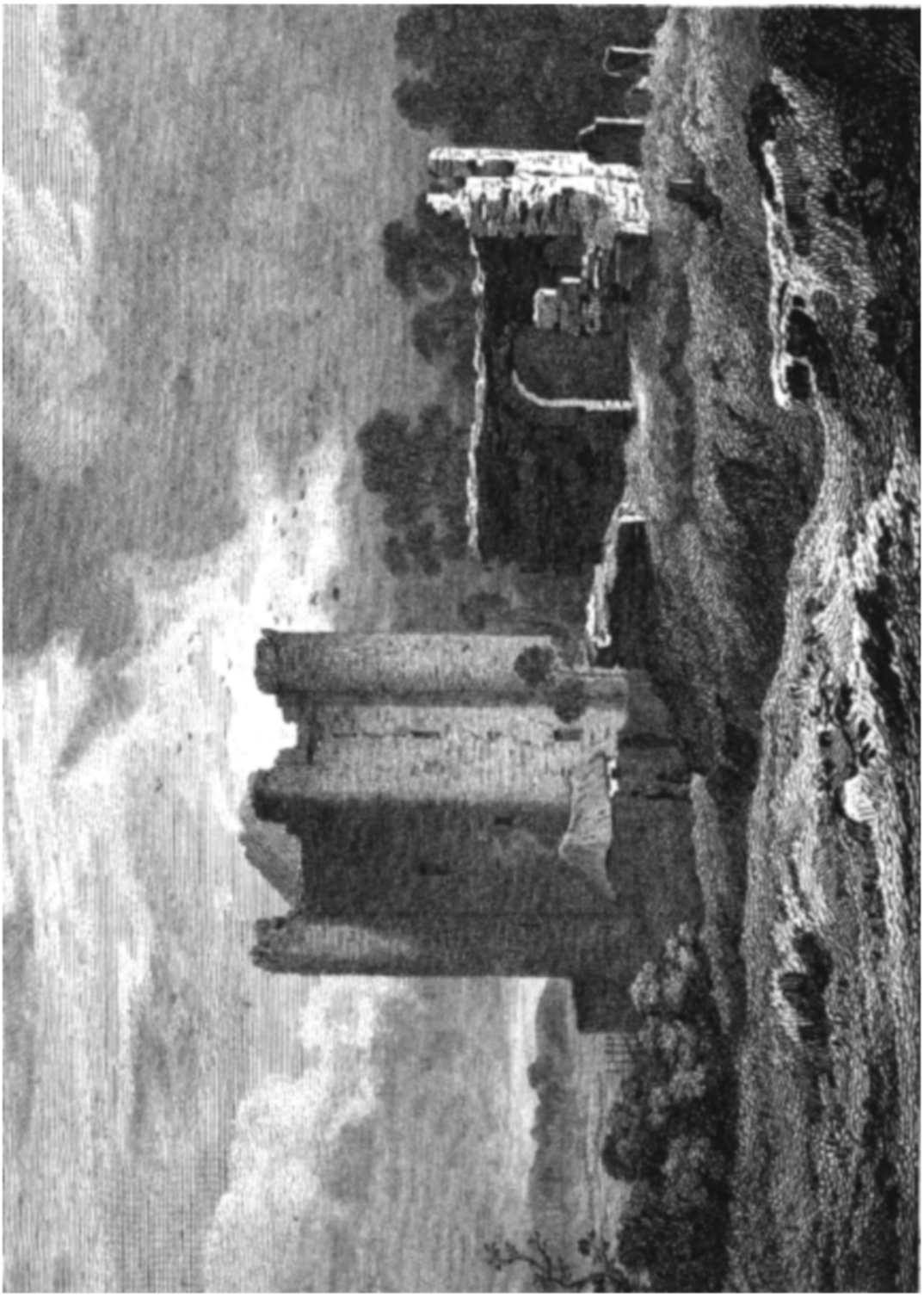
The ruins of a Church also nearly adjoin. This whole road is fiat, and, unless as regards the objects named, uninteresting: miserable hovels continually recur to hurt the feelings of the compassionate traveller.

A pleasant drive from Trim to **SUMMER HILL** conducts through a tract of country studded with the seats of the nobility and gentry, but affording little variety as to its state of cultivation: the road is more than usually excellent. Summer Hill gives the title of baron to the family of Rowley, now represented by Viscount Langford, and contains the beautiful Seat of his lordship. The mansion was burned down some years since, and it is only a part of that fine edifice, which is now in his lordship's ,occupancy.

Taking the road to Navan, the tourist will not proceed more than three miles, before he is presented with a view of the ruins of Bective Abbey, standing commandingly on a high bank of the Boyne. They consist of a tower, with projecting angles, and the cloisters, both almost entire, together with parts of the walls of the church. Their outline is picturesque; to the full as castellated in appearance as monastic. The Abbey was founded, either in 1146 or 1152, for Cistertian monks, by Murchard O'Melaghlin, king of Meath, and called the Abbey de Beatitudine, from which Bective appears to be a corruption. Hugh de Lacy, the great palatine of Meath, who, while attending the building of Dervath or Durrow Castle, in King's County, and stooping forward to give directions, was slain by one O'Chahargy, a labourer at the work, was interred with much solemnity in this abbey in 1195.

The ruffian had seized his opportunity to sever the head completely from the body of the unfortunate man; and, after being long detained by the Irish, the latter was buried here, as has been mentioned; but the former, by direction of Matthew O'Heney, archbishop of Cashel, then apostolic legate, and John, archbishop of Dublin, was deposited in the Abbey of St. Thomas in that city.

Much controversy between the monks of Bective and the canons of St. Thomas ensued, concerning the right to the body of De Lacy; till at length Simon de Rochefort, bishop of Meath, and his archdeacon, together with Gilbert, prior of Duleek, being appointed by Pope Innocent the Third to decide the matters sentence was given in favour of the Abbey of St. Thomas. The possessions of this religious house were ample: when the Abbot, who sat as a baron in parliament, surrendered to Henry the Eighth, he was found seized of a church, hall, cloister, with other buildings; 205 acres of arable land, as a demesne, in Bective; a water-mill and fishing-weir on the Boyne; the rectory of Bective; and much land, of the value of 422 68. 8d. besides all reprises. From hence to Navan, the road leads through an increasingly productive corn country. A little to the left, as we approach this town, is Ardbraccan, distinguished by the beautiful Palace of the



THE CHURCH AND CASTLE OF SCURLOGSTOWN COUNTY OF EASTMEATH

INTERIOR OF THE CLOISTERS
BECTIVE ABBEY
COUNTY OF EASTMEATH

Bishops of Meath, which is allowed to be, if not the first, certainly the second ecclesiastical residence in Ireland. It will prove a lasting monument of the genius and liberality of that munificent, truly pious, and charitable personage, Dr. Henry Maxwell, late bishop of this see; who expended very considerable sums of his private property in its erection, in a manner suited to his refined taste, as well as in laying out the extensive gardens, and fencing, improving, planting, and ornamenting that part of the see-lands adjacent.

Qf these lands a very considerable portion is not mensal. When, therefore, Bishop Maxwell was advised to make a lease of this portion, in, trust, for the benefit of some member of his family, the generous prelate declined it; observing, that as he had built a princely residence for the use of his successors the Bishops of Meath, so he would leave them the uncontrolled and unlimited power over a princely domain annexed to it, for their amusement and accommodation. In the garden, cedars of Lebanus, and the Papyrus of the Nile, (the latter apparently not differing much from the common flags,) both brought over by Dr. Pocock, formerly Bishop of Ossory, are still Reserved.

The spire and vane, surmounting the old square Tower[38 in the church yard of Ardbraccan, and forming a pleasing relief to the eye, fatigued by the general flatness of this part of the country, were reared besides in Bishop Maxwell's time.

38. This tower is perhaps, a remnant 9f the Abbey formerly exist ins here; from St, Braccae, an abbot of which, who died in 650, the place is named. It was one of the many ancient bishoprics now forming the diocese of Meath; and in 1641 was a place of considerable strength.

In the church-yard is also a Monument, to the memory of Bishop Montgomery, the figures on which, representing the bishop, his wife, and daughter, are some of the rudest productions of the chisel that can well be conceived, Under the figures on the pedestal are the words S**URGES, MORIERIS, JUDICABERIS;** and over them a Latin inscription, purporting, that the monument having suffered from the devastations of time, or sacrilegious hands, was repaired in the year 1750; and that the bishop, who was of the house of Eglinton, was promoted to the see in 16i0, and died in 1620. The original inscription, which is on the east side, appearing as on the two opposite pages of a book, is to the following purpose:

Deo 4 Epiecopo Midensi posuit Georgina Montgomerius Scoto-Britannus divine providentia Episcopus Midensis and Clogherensis, ætatis suæ 51.

This, if written with any precision, shews either the low state of ecclesiastical revenues at that time in Ireland, if, for the support of one bishop, it was found necessary to unite two of the richest sees, or that the weak and pusillanimous James indulged in Ireland also his passion for accumulating preferments upon favourites.

On the same side is a bust, with three plumes, surmounted by a mitre; and over the mitre, a cup, with the sacramental bread or wafer used in the church of Rome: underneath the bust are two swords, crossed, interspersed with *fleurs de lis*, and under all, "1614."

On the west side is an angel, sounding a trumpet, a shield with armorial bearings and the motto "***non nobis nati,"*** and underneath "**REPOSE. S. M.**" (Sarah Montgomery, the bishop's wife.) The shield on this side also js surmounted by a cup, and the sacramental bread or wafer; the latter, a device so unsuitable to the tomb of a Protestant bishop, as to leave room for a conjecture, that the reparation of the monument falling into unskillful hands, a part of some memorial to a bishop who lived in times anterior to the Reformation, was made an addition to this. The manner in which this part of the work is fitted to the rest, seems to countenance such a conjecture; which besides derives support from an inscription surrounding the cup, in a character different from that of the other inscriptions, and indeed far from easily legible.

Supposing, however, these devices to form a part of the monument as it originally stood, it affords proof that Protestantism was at that tune by no means firmly established in Ireland.

South of this monument, appears a small Slab, in memory of that great and singular traveller, Bishop Pocock. By a strange fatality, it has fallen to the lot of a most unlettered muse,' to record the place where are deposited the remains of a most amiable and learned prelate, whose thirst after knowledge prompted him to encounter so many labours and dangers. The Church here, is perhaps one of the handsomest country churches in Ireland: in the erection of which also the munificence of Bishop Maxwell was evinced, it having been reared under his auspices, and liberally subscribed to from his purse.

Remains of various castles are found in this neighbourhood: the principle of which, Liscarton Castle,.was formerly, it is said, a monastery, and is situated to the right of the great north-western road, which leads through Navan to Kells. The loop-holes, adapted to the cross. bow, shew that it was built before that weapon came into disuse. The outworks appear to have been formerly considerable; but all that now remains of them is a gateway, about 60 yards distant from the main edifice.

Their site, however, is still plainly discoverable on the eastern side of the building; although, on the other sides, no evidences of them remain. A part of the principal -structure at present constitutes the residence of Thomas :Gerrard, Esq.

Little now exists of the Fort, or Moat, of Liscarton; :though what remains was probably the citadel (if that expression may be .adopted) of an extensive fortification, which comprised within its circuit an area of four or five acres. It is situated on the banks of the Blackwater. There is another fort on the lands of Allenstown, and A conical moat on those of Meadstown, on the verge of the bog so called, which, if planted, would somewhat interest -the observation,in glancing over a peculiarly bleak and dreary region. The bog above mentioned, with those of Allenstown, Aungenstown, and Tullaghanstown, form an extensive and continuous trace westward of Ardbraccan.

The limestone quarry at this place, called the White Quarry, demands- particular notice. The produce when chiseled, is of a beautiful whitish colour; if polished, .it Assumes a greyish hue; and, if long exposed .to the .air, contracts a tint approaching to black, but may be .restored to its original white colour by re-chiseling—an operation, however, that must evidently, in process of time, injure the solidity of any building constructed with it.

THE SEE HOUSE is of this stone; and there is reason to believe that the quarry has been worked for some:centuries, as the quoins and most of the window frames of Liscarton Castle appear to be of the same material. The stonecutting trade in the neighbourhood of the White Quarry, naturally varies much with times and circumstances: the predominant occupation, independent of agricultural labours, is linen-weaving; and there are a few cotton looms dispersed around. The Charter-School of Ardbraccan, an institution in no respect differing from the other establishments of its kind in Ireland, has a work-shop, containing 12 of these looms, in which the Children (60 of whom may be accommodated within the walls) are employed between three and four hours each day.

With very few exceptions, the lower orders of Protestants, throughout this vicinity, are tradesmen; and by far the greater number of the Roman-catholic population are employed in agriculture. The Protestants are observed to dress more neatly, and fare more generously, than their Romish brethren of even higher rank and greater wealth. But dress is in general a very slight indication of differences in circumstances, the appearance of farmers and day-labourers being much alike; potatoes, oaten-bread, and stirabout, with or without butter-milk, and occasionally butter and eggs, constituting the almost universal diet. But few of the poorer sort ever partake of animal

food; the small farmers even seldom tasting it, except on festival days, family feasts, and other solemn occasions.

The usual apparel consists of home-manufactured frize; and young or old men, of the farming and labouring classes, are not fashionably dressed, even in the dog-days, except, over a frize-coat, and perhaps a frize-waistcoat, they wear a great outside coat, called a trusty. This garment, though cumbersome, unwieldy, and an impediment to every exertion, appears to be the pride of manhood, and the hope of youth, in this and other parts of Ireland; it is with the utmost difficulty, whatever may be the employment of the peasant, that he can be persuaded to lay it aside; and, be the wearer ever so stout or so athletic, he is lost in the capacity of his trusty.

As to the dwellings, those of the more substantial farmers are rarely comfortable: and those of the petty farmers and labourers commonly stamped with all the attributes of wretchedness so prevalent in the appearance of the hovels of Meath. Wealth and complete poverty are the extremes only of a more improved state of society; but here it is difficult to discover any medium. The genius of the poorest, however, is in general acute, and their disposition kind: the language most in use is the Irish, or rather a jargon compounded of that and the English. Together.

There is a Patron, as it is called, annually held in this neighbourhood, (near Martry-mill, on the banks of the Blackwater) on the 15th of August, that being the. Assumption of the Virgin Mary. Patron-days are very commonly celebrated in Ireland: they mean days set apart as festivals, either of a religious nature, or as mere occasions for hilarity, and dedicated to the honour of the saint whose name they bear. No religious ceremony of any kind takes place at this particular meeting; but the custom on which it is founded is probably of very high antiquity.

Tradition says, that **TELLTOWN**, (Tail-tean) situated on the other side of the Blackwater, was the residence of a long line of Irish princes; and the site of a celebrated annual mart, frequented by merchants, as well as by persons distinguished for excellence in mental or personal endowments; when it became the point of union for all the talent, beauty, and virtue of the surrounding country. At this renowned emporium,4 games similar to the Olympian are described to have been held for 15 days before, and 15 days after, the 1st of August; and the time appointed for this grand festival was also that commonly chosen for giving young people in marriage.

Allowing this account any portion of credibility the present patron, may possibly be derived from a custom boasting such eminent antiquity: but, however this may be, we are disposed to put somewhat more faith in this and other traditions, not manifestly absurd, than the pride of modern learning, which can accept only of written authorities, is wont to do; for, after making every deduction from tales of this nature for poetical amplification, we are still doubtful whether the wildest possible tradition could have grown out of an absolute nullity, since we firmly believe perfect invention to be a thing without the limits of human ability, and foreign to the human heart.

Another patron, of the religious kind, was formerly held on the lands of Martry, on the 1st of February, at a cross, dedicated to, St. Bridget. Multitudes of pious Catholics assembled at this cross, to offer up their supplications to the holy personage. The custom has, it seems, been for some years discontinued; but a considerable number of the popish clergy continue to assemble, and perform the rites of their religion, on the saint's day, at a farmer's house near where the cross was situated.

The system of agriculture pursued in the district between Athboy and Ardbraccan—precisely that to which we are now directing our remarks—is considered by Mr. Curwen to be the best, generally speaking, that he had seen in Ireland: yet the great modern improvement in English agriculture, the turnip husbandry, appears to be almost unknown. It is usual here to plough up lay-land, that is considered of middling or bad quality, for oats; when, according to its quality, it may, produce two, three, or four crops of this grain before it is found necessary to fallow it.

After fallowing, it generally produces a crop of wheat, and then successive crops of oats, until it again becomes necessary to renew it. In the same manner vetches are sometimes sown, as a substitute for. fallowing. Some farmers pill-fallow their lands: that is, after the first crop of wheat is stacked, they immediately plough up the land for a second; but this practice (it is not always the case) is, in this part of the country, considered as ruinous and destructive. In regard to land of what is called good quality, it is customary, after potatoes, to sow it with a crop of bere; and then one, perhaps a second, of wheat, &c.

In lay lands of prime quality, one or two crops of potatoes are first sown, and then successive crops of oats, until fallowing becomes necessary; then comes wheat, &c. As oats seldom fail, the poorer farmers. in general sow them immediately after potatoes. Rape seeds are sometimes sown in fallows, particularly for laying down the land. Clover seeds are sown in wheat lands, for the double purpose of invigorating the soil, and affording food for horses, sheep, &c. The rent of land here varies from under £2 to upwards of £4 per (Irish) acre.[39]

Before taking leave of Ardbraccan, it were un- pardonable to omit noticing, " that it would be difficult to place a princely revenue under the administration of a philanthropist who, in its judicious-disposal, would display greater benevolence and urbanity than the (present) Bishop of Meath."[40]

39. For the greater part of these particulars relative to Ardbraccan and its vicinity, we are indebted to the account of the parish by the Rev. R. Moore, rector, and the Rev. T. Toomy, curate, inserted in the " Parochial Survey."

40. Curwen's Letters, II.178.

The attention paid by his lordship to the comforts of the surrounding cotters, is highly creditable to his feelings and humanity; and his exertions to encourage agriculture, and promote the reformation of abuses in the church establishment, are equally commendable. Disorders, it cannot be disguised, had long prevailed in the established church, which had been a source of the, deepest regret to its friends: yet the obstacles to their removal were many and powerful. But, notwithstanding the odium and unpopularity attending the attempt, the Bishop has accomplished much. More than 30 churches and parsonage-houses have been rebuilt or repaired; and the strictness with which residence is now, enforced, has obtained his lordship the approbation of every candid individual. Whether these measures may have the effect of promoting the cause of Protestantism, is a distinct consideration; and one, as we venture to submit, comparatively very unimportant; but, as they have a tendency to remove a stigma from the establishment, they are doubtless of the very first consequence, and their utility must remain unquestionable.

NAVAN, on the Boyne, is a tolerable town, anciently in high repute, and a palatinate: it was walled by Hugh de Lacy. "An Abbey for Regular Canons was erected here under the invocation of the Virgin Mary: whether it existed before the end of the twelfth century we are at, a loss to determine; but, about that period, it was either founded or re-edified by Josceline de Angulo, or Nangle. In the burial-ground are the remains of many ancient tombs, with figures in alto-relievo; and the present Horse-barrack is erected on the site of the Abbey.[41]

Here is a School, founded by Alderman John Preston in in 1686. The Tholsel is a respectable stone-building. Within these few years, Navan has become a considerable market for grain, in consequence of the facilities afforded to its transportation to Drogheda, by means of improvements effected in the navigation of the Boyne (with which the Blackwater here unites) by locks between these places. Mr. Curwen speaks in terms of praise of the spirited exertions of Mr. Matthew Codd, a gentleman largely concerned in the distilleries at Drogheda, who has " not only greatly contributed towards promoting the corn trade at Navan, but has set the neighbourhood a good example in the management of a farm he occupies, and in the use of the Scotch cart, which he has the merit of introducing.[42]

41. Archdall's Monast. Hibern. p. 558.

42. Letters II. 170.

At our Inn in this place, which is good and provides post-horses, we saw a book, apparently placed in the, way of the traveller for his entertainment, purporting to be a translation of a History of the Revolution in France,' the tendency of which was highly jacobinical, and probably afforded a specimen of the works so industriously spread throughout this country during the prevalence of the revolutionary mania. A note appended by the Editor to some violently democratical remark—"That is true, faith! Bravo!"—was amusive. Of the present state of public feeling in Ireland, we profess ourselves wholly unqualified to pass a general opinion: political sentiments, particularly if their expression be inimical to the interests, or likely to compromise the personal safety of men, usually lie-too deep to be obvious to those who have the most favourable opportunities, and the strongest desire, to become acquainted with them; how much more difficult, then, must their investigation prove to the temporary resident, or general traveller?

Besides, the native cunning of the lower Irish would in most cases completely baffle the stranger's enquiries of this nature, however sagaciously disguised by his method of proposing them: yet not by appearing to penetrate the veil in which the state partisan might attempt to enshroud himself, would the attack be disconcerted by its object; but, by a refinement of art, the utmost apparent simplicity would conceal the fullest perception of the designs of the querist, and the readiest information be seemingly brought forward, where none was actually afforded. Are there then no means of obtaining a knowledge of this point, besides attention to the language of the inhabitants?—may be perhaps asked by the inquisitive reader: is not the countenance, in most instances, a mirror of the heart?—and, upon general principles, deduced from the common history of nations, may not the political sentiments of a people be inferred from their actual state?

There are those—and we believe they are neither the worst logicians, nor the most lukewarm lovers of their country—who would answer these questions tremblingly. For he must have travelled in Ireland with his observation but little directed to this subject, who has not traced even in the features of the peasantry, when not illumined by the animation of discourse, and not smoothed by the expression of their natural urbanity, a distinctive character—as marked as ever stamped a national similarity on the faces of a people—which can only be described as speaking a sullen, though patiently settled gloom.

Every where in Ireland, we meet with lengthened and pale if not darkened visages, the indexes to the minds of men employed in the common agricultural labours, which, contrasted with the ruddy open countenances of English rustics, might appear to the traveller from the latter country those of banditti, of beings detached from civilized society, and ready for the perpetration of any attack upon its legal institutions, rather than of men constituting the far greater portion of a population united under an established form of lawful government.

We need scarcely remark, that a general conclusion of the latter nature would be egregiously false; though it must be admitted that outrages too frequently occur in this country, backed by numbers unprecedented in the commission of similar crimes in England. What, then, upon the whole, is to be inferred from these facts? The question is too ample to be discussed in this place; and did we not conceive it one of abstract political economy, rather than as one involving the conduct of the present government of the country in any shape, we should perhaps wholly abstain from its consideration. But the present government may do, and we really think has done, much, to remedy the evils which it had no hand in producing: in this light we submit the present remarks; trusting that, it and 411 who have power and influence in the country, will continue to do more as more shall appear necessary to be accomplished.

The national distinction we have just drawn between the peasantry of the two countries—to what is it to be ascribed, if not to national differences in their situation, as respects their domestic

comforts, and the relation they stand in to their superiors? The English tourist in Ireland must have indeed shut his eyes, if the use of the faculty of vision alone has not convinced him, that, in both these points of view, (notwithstanding the legal institutions are the same) the condition of the Irish labouring classes is infinitely below that of the English.

But long must such a state of things have existed in a country, and grievous, during that long period, must have been its endurance, ere it could have affixed a national portraiture on a considerable body of the people: yet the history of the world teaches, that the continuance of the degradation of a majority in any country cannot be for ever; and who, that really prises the blessings of order and civil union, but must view with alarm a population rapidly increasing under such circumstances, unless he also perceives the enlightened and the wise of every Christian denomination stepping forward with liberal views toward the gradual, but still unceasingly-progressive amelioration of their inferiors, rather than attempting to crush the discontents they will use no efforts to prevent, by violent means, the resources only of weak and timid minds, and which the experience of past ages proves are ever ultimately unavailing? "Privations to the extent endured in Ireland," says a manly and ingenious British senator,[43] "must produce discontent, the parent of disloyalty and disaffection; and however the great, the glorious work of reform in this most beautiful island may be deferred, it must be seriously undertaken, to prevent those fatal consequences which await procrastination.—The inefficacy of force has been manifested by the experience of centuries. Coercion, sustained by an overwhelming military power, by depopulating the country, might produce a temporary calm; but it is the last expedient which ought to be resorted to for the attainment of permanent order, and obedience to the laws and civil authorities."

43. Mr. Curwen.—Letters 11. 281

.

Happy are we to believe, that the resident gentlemen of every religious persuasion in Ireland, at once possessed of talent and of philanthropy, and entirely coinciding with these sentiments, ate numerous, and, we would fain believe, active: may their exertions be speedily followed by the effects they anticipate, which will prove their most appropriate reward!

We were led to these reflections, both by the little incident just mentioned, and by the information of a townsman, that the mail was stopped between this place and Dunshaughlin, on the Dublin road, a few years back, by a party of men, who, whether they succeeded in their attempt or not (for we have no accurate recollection of the circumstances) were formidable by their numbers, at least, to a degree that makes the idea of the state of a country, in which so many associates could be found in such a design, eminently fearful. Instances of these attacks have in Ireland unfortunately been too common; and sometimes not less than several hundred desperadoes have been known to act in concert for the achievement of their enterprise:—could that number of men, in any periods of distress, be induced to congregate, for such a purpose, in England?

The great road leading through Navan, to Kells, we did not travel on this, but on a former occasion; when we much remarked the numerous gentlemen's seats occurring in its vicinity, but were at the same time pained to observed that the cabins of the poor were in no respect less miserable.

A walk of five miles from Navan, along the north bank of the Boyne, as far as Slane Castle, the point to which we had conducted the reader in the excursion from Drogheda, will amply repay the trouble of the tourist. Mr. Curwen, who pursued the road between these places, noticed in its vicinity some very good fanning: No one, who has not pedestrianised his detour, would suppose that so many natural beauties could lie hid within a short distance of the river's brink.

Beside attending to which, an opportunity will be afforded for inspecting the ruined Church and Round Tower, of **DONAGHMORE**, occurring on an eminence to the left The Church, it is probable, was in former ages attached to the Abbey of which Mr. Archdall speaks, when he tells

us that " St. Patrick founded an abbey here, called Biletortain, over which he placed St. Justin: it was afterwards named Domnach-tortain, and now **DONAGHMORE**. The Abbot Robertagh, the son of Flinn, died A. D. 843."

The Round Tower, rising from a projecting plinth, is in height 70 feet; and its circumference, four feet from the base, about 60. The doorway, on the east side, is six feet from the ground; on the key-stone is sculptured a representation of Christ suffering on the cross; a fact which, according to Sir Richard Hoare, "will at once overturn the ingenious system of General Vallancey, and prove these buildings to have been of Christian, not of Pagan, origin."

We have already expressed our opinion, that many, nay doubtless the majority, of the Round Towers in Ireland, were erections of Christian times; and the figure described assuredly evinces this at Donaghmore to have been such; but we cannot conceive the occurrence of such an emblem upon a single round tower in this country, a species of proof in anywise applicable to them all.

The probability, as we before ventured to suggest, is, that these structures are of ages almost as various as the theories respecting them: or, at the least, that some were erected before, and many after, the propagation of Christianity in the island: the passion for establishing a theory by generalizing, or by compelling individual facts and circumstances to square with one sweepingly inclusive idea, is peculiarly apt to prove delusive in regard to antiquities. This Round Tower is nearly perfect, a portion only of the stone roof having fallen in.

ATHLUMNEY AND ASIGH CASTLES are both contiguous to the Boyne, but higher up the river, and on its opposite bank. The former, a large irregular mass of building, in form somewhat approaching an oblong square, stands about a quarter of a mile south of the town of Navan. Projecting square towers appear at the east and west ends; and the walls, and divisions of the apartments, yet remain entire.

Asigh Castle commands an extensive southward view of the hills of Tarah and Skryne: in every other direction, nearer hills confine the prospect. Though scarcely anything but a square tower of this castle is now to be seen, many circumstances induce the belief that the building was formerly considerable. To the north, about 30 yards distant, appear the ruins of a small chapel. Proceeding on our way to Dublin, the road to the village of **SKRYNE** occurs, soon after leaving Navan, on the left.

"This place, in former times," says Mr. Archdall, "was called Scrinium St. Columbæ, from the shrine of that saint, which in the year 875 was brought from Britain into Ireland, to prevent its falling into the hands of, the Danes. In the year 1175, Adam De Feypo erected a castle in this town.—The abbey of regular canons was plundered by the Ostmen, A. D. 1207. 1341, the Lord Francis de Feypo granted to the Eremite Friars of the order of St. Augustine a piece of ground adjacent to his park, for the space and term of 99 years, at the rent of a pepper-corn annually. The ruins of this building, situated near the church, may still be seen.—The same Lord de Feypo founded here, about the,year 1342, a perpetual chantry."

The Church of Skryne is old, and in bad repair; and as the site is inconvenient, the parishioners have been some years preparing a fund for building one on a more central spot. On account of the elevated situation of this building, the tourist may enjoy from the belfry a most extensive and delightful view of the surrounding country. The edifice is in a general state of dilapidation, with the exception of a chapel at the east end, in which service is performed. Over the south door is the figure of an ecclesiastic, in relief, holding a book in his hand. A little to the north-east stands a cross, the sculptures defaced; and .there are several falling crosses, and antique tomb-stones.

The ancient family of Marwood possessed the title of Baron of Skryne in the fifteenth century, and until the time of Elizabeth; when Walter, the last baron, died, leaving an only daughter,

Genet, who married William Nugent, younger son of Richard, Lord Delvin; but, by the pedigree of the family of Dillon, it appears, that Sir James Dillon, third son of Gerald, Lord of Drumrany, acquiring, about the year 1400, a large estate near Tarah, in this vicinity, built his mansion-house of Proudstown, and a castle, with a parochial church, in his manor of Skryne.

There are none, acquainted with ancient Irish history, but will approach the Hill of Tarah with recollections of its fame in the 'olden time;' but whether those recollections are accompanied with the elevated sympathy we bestow on objects enhaloed with historic rays—beaming on the 'mighty fallen,' and greatness sleeping in the dust—or whether such reminiscences are repelled from the mind with true sceptical contempt, will depend on opinions and ideas previously formed.

For, on the one hand, the bards, and old historians, of Ireland, celebrate this place for its triennial parliaments; for its Teaghmor, or great house, wherein those parliaments assembled; for its sumptuous palaces, and spacious buildings, the residences of a long and illustrious line of monarchs ;—and, on the other, many ingenious and learned writers treat all these things as airy nothings,' as the mere imaginations of the poets, or the senseless rhapsodies of enthusiastic historians, because—because, what reader?—because

it can be proved, to the general satisfaction very probably, that the palaces of Tarah were not built with stone! Dr. Campbell, for one, "declares that he more than once examined the Hill of Tarah, and was convinced there never was a castle of lime and stone upon it. There were indeed five or six circular entrenchments, like Danish forts, in which the Irish monarchs might have pitched their tents.[44] The supposition that the magnificence of Tarah consisted in buildings of lime and stone' is very possibly erroneous; but, as we have elsewhere surmised, a considerable degree, of elegance might attach to structures less substantial; while either a reservation might be made of stone for certain religious edifices, or, from its abundance, it might be little prized for architecture of the ornamental kind. Hollinshed observes: 4' There is in Meath a hill, called the hill of Tarah, wherein is a plain which was named the Kempe, as a place that was accounted the high palace of the monarch.

44. Philosophical Survey of Ireland.

The Irish historians hammer many fables in this forge, (it were idle to dispute that much is fabulous in their histories) of Fin M'Coile and his champions, as the French historians doth of King Arthur and the knights of the round table. But doubtless the place seemeth to bear the shew of an ancient and famous monument." Dr. Ledwich quotes this passage in confirmation of his opinions; from which it is plain, either that he chose to overlook the last sentence, or that his inferences from it are very dissimilar to our own. For though it may not be very apparent, of what nature Hollinshed conceived this ancient and famous monument' to be, and though we are not precisely informed as to what might be its shew' in his day, yet surely this extract countenances rather than disproves the idea, that some memorial of ancient Irish magnificence once marked the Hill of Tarah.—In later times, during the progress of the unhappy rebellion of 1798, a numerous band of insurgents was routed, on the evening of the 26th of May, upon this hill, by a body of 400 fencibles and yeomen. The earthen fort on its south side is usually considered to have been the work of Turgesius, the Danish chieftain, who for a series of years lorded it over the greater part of the island.

DUNSHAUGHLIN is a neat little town, with one or two clean and comfortable inns. Here St. Seachlan, nephew to St. Patrick, founded a church in 439: he died on the 27th of November, 448, and was interred on this spot. In the vicinity are Dunsany and Killeen Castks, seats of Lords Dunsany and Fingal. At Brownstown, also not far distant, a stratum of potter's clay has been discovered; considered equal, if not superior, to that of Staffordshire. The mansion of Kilbrue, in the same neighbourhood, handsome in itself, is also pleasantly situated: and, nearer Skryne, are the ruins of Macetown Castle.

DUNSANY CASTLE
THE SEAT OF LORD DUNSANY
COUNTY OF EASTMEATH

KILLEEN CASTLE
THE SEAT OF THE EARL OF FUGAL
COUNTY OF EASTMEATH

AT RATOATH, on the left, part of the walls, and the west window, of an abbey, which existed in 1456, remain; and, in its parish church of St. Thomas the Apostle, latterly called the church of the Holy Trinity, was a perpetual chantry of three priests, according to Archdall, Though but a poor village, this place, previously to the Union, returned two members to the Irish parliament. Near the church is a conspicuous Mount, on which Malachie the First, one of the ancient kings of Ireland, is said to have held a third convention of the states of the kingdom.

The Black bull Inn, the single house before mentioned, at the angle where the road branches off to Trim, should it happen to be the first at which the traveller stops, who may be proceeding by the great north-western road from Dublin, will give him no very favourable idea of the inns in Ireland. One of the parlour windows here, still sshews the trace of a bullet, shot into the room during the rebellion.

GREENOGUE, on the borders of Dublin county, westward from this spot, contains nothing interesting beyond its ruins of an ancient church. The general soil of this district is a very tenacious clay, under which strong blue limestone gravel is invariably found: cuts for draining must always be carried to this gravel, at whatever depth, or they are sure to prove ineffectual.

At DUNBOYNE, a village on the right, is the handsome Seat of Lord Gormanston. Its Fair, held on the 9th of July, is one of those in the vicinity of Dublin much frequented by the citizens. The well-known Matthew Dubourg, the friend of Handel, an eminent musician, is said to have visited this fair in the disguise of an itinerant fiddler, for the purpose of witnessing one of these scenes of Irish hilarity, of whose humours he had heard much. What followed was at once a proof of his own musical skill, and of the discrimination of the common Irish in musical excellence. He was soon engaged to play in a tent, and endeavoured to acquit himself in the discordant notes of the character he personated : but, like the lyre of Anacreon, his instrument would not utter the sounds he wished; and the dancers, arrested in their motions, suspended the jig, and crowded round him to catch the sweet tones they felt so irresistible. With some difficulty he escaped from their hospitality, and was not inclined to renew the experiment.

Almost immediately after passing Clonee Bridge, over the Tolka, we re-enter Dublin county. Many mud cottages in ruins, in this neighbourhood and that of Malahudert, are yet existing evidences of the relentless fury which animated numbers of all parties, in the late sanguinary rebellion.—Our road now speedily conducting us to Castle Knock and the Phoenix Park, both already described, we omit farther mention of them; and request the Tourist's attention to our next Excursion, commenced from the point to which we have returned in this, the city of Dublin.

EXCURSION IX

From Dublin to Lucan, as described; and through Leixlip, Maynooth, Kilcock, Cloncurry, Clonard, Kinnegad, Mullingar, Rathconrath, and Ballimore, to Athlone.

LEIXLIP, in the county of Kildare, is a romantic village on the Liffey, about eight miles from Dublin. The river is here thickly ornamented with gentlemen's seats; but they are in general so immured by lofty fences, that the passenger can scarcely obtain a glimpse of them. The village is altogether extremely prettily dispersed among its rural scenery, and affords many picturesque groupings of rock, wood, and water.

The cascade here, called the Salmon Leap, is a subject of more than common beauty for the pencil. On the rising ground overhanging the Liffey, on one side of it, is a magnificent old Castle, late the property of the Right Honourable Thomas Conolly; and near is the fine Aqueduct over the Royal Canal, described under that head.

Castletown, at a small, distance, Mr. Conolly's seat, is one of the very finest country residences in Ireland, built by the father of the late occupant abovementioned: it is surrounded with noble plantations, in addition to a charmingly wooded country.

The Tepid Spring, distant about a quarter of a mile north-west, was first discovered by the workmen employed in excavating for the Grand Canal, in 1793, by cutting into it; when it immediately issued in a narrow perpendicular stream from the bottom of the bed, to the astonishment and alarm of a labourer with whose naked leg it came in contact. The engineer communicating the discovery to Mr. Conolly, on whose estate it was found, and some of the waters being sent to a well-known chemical professor to be analysed, a wine-gallon measure of it yielded the following contents:—Gaseous, at the heat of 212, Carb. acid gas, and atm. air, four cubic inches: Solid. Muriate of Soda, 30 grains; Lime, 23 grains; with a small quantity of sulphur of kali, magnesia, argillaceous and siliceous earths, and bituminous matter: heat of the water, 75 ½ degrees, Fahr.

This water was recommended to the notice of the Canal Company, who secured the current of the spring by directing its course to the neighbouring bank, under which it was conveyed into a cistern, and the redundant water received in a basin, formed for the purposes of a bath. It was much used, particularly by the poor; and the spa at Leixlip was for some time the rival of that at Lucan. A rumour, however, was spread, that the original spring was lost; upon which, in 1803, it was highly recommended to the public, in a pamphlet published in Dublin by Ch. Fletcher, M. D. who denied the fact. It has, notwithstanding, greatly declined in reputation, and is now but little frequented.

At ST. WOLSTAN'S, two miles south-west, there are remaining two towers, and two large gateways, of a Priory, founded in 1202, by Adam de Hereford, in honour of St. Wolstan, Bishop of Worcester, then newly canonized. It was at that time a building of very considerable extent. At the Suppression, the site and lands were granted to Allen of Norfolk, Master of the Rolls, and afterwards Lord Chancellor; in whose family they continued till the year 1752; when, by a decree of the court of exchequer, they were sold; the purchaser being Dr. Robert Clayton, Bishop of Clogher, by whom they were bequeathed to his niece Anne, wife of Dr. Thomas Bernard, Bishop of Killaloe. One of the Aliens, well known for his taste in architecture, and who planned the noble house intended for.. the unfortunate Earl of Strafford at Jigginstown, in this county, erected the mansion now known by the name of St. Wolstan's, and which, by the considerable alterations and additions of the Right Reverend owner, has been rendered an elegant edifice.

CELBRIDGE, on the Liffey, is two miles and three-quarters, south west. Here is a handsome stone Bridge over the river. The village is generally modern-built; and has at its lower extremity an elegant Church, lately erected by the parishioners in the room of a more ancient one, which had fallen to decay. While the building was going on, the inhabitants regularly attended divine service in a convenient apartment in the mansion-house of St. Wolstan, just mentioned. South of the place stand the remains of an Abbey, which, having been renovated as to its interior, has been converted into a comfortable habitation; but, externally, it still wears much of the monastic gloom appropriate to its former uses. An extensive Woollen Manufactory may be also visited.

CLANE, also on the Liffey, has a Castle, an extensive Rath, and the ruins of an Abbey.—"St. Ailbe (we are informed by Archdall) founded an abbey of regular canons here, and made St. Senchell, the elder, abbot of it: who afterwards removed to Killachad Dromfod, where he died on the 26th of March, A. D. 548.—A Franciscan Friary was erected here some time before the year 1266: some writers give the foundation to Gerald Fitz-Maurice, Lord Offaley, but this account is not confirmed. The effigies of the founder, (who he was is not certainly known) remained, about the beginning of the last century, on a marble monument, which was placed in the midst of the choir, in this Friary. The seal of this convent was in being in the beginning of the last century; on which was the following inscription: Sigill. coiatis from minor. de Clane. Hortus Angelorum."

Crossing the Royal Canal, we arrive, at the distance of two miles from Leixlip, at the town of **MAYNOOTH,** chiefly remarkable on account of the Royal College of St. Patrick, for the education of the Roman-catholic clergy, there situated.

This establishment, founded, in pursuance of an act passed in 1795, by the Irish Parliament, stands at the south western termination of the principal street; which, being very wide, forms a spacious vista to the front of the building, while it extends from it to a noble avenue leading to Cartown, the princely and picturesque country residence of his Grace the Duke of Leinster. The edifice of which the centre is formed, was originally a handsome private house, built by the steward of the late Duke of Leinster, from whom it was purchased by the trustees of the institution.

To this, extensive wings, of the same elevation, were added; so that the whole front now presents a grand and ornamental façade, 400 feet in length, and consisting of three stories; the centre pile, or original building, standing forward 50 feet, and the extremities of the wings, which are similar in form, having a corresponding projection. In this front, besides the spacious lecture-rooms, &c., are the chapel and refectory, both neat and commodious: the latter is of considerable dimensions, and judiciously divided into different compartments by handsome Ionic columns and arcades, which support the ceiling. It was originally intended, that this front range should form one side of a square; and the supplementary buildings, to be added behind it, a spacious quadrangle of the same elevation; but, for want of sufficient funds, the front and north-west wing only have been as yet completed.

The latter is principally laid out in dormitories, opening from galleries, each about 300 feet in length, and which serve as ambulatories for the students in wet weather: the whole on a plan, not only judicious in arrangement, but, neat, simple, and inexpensive. The kitchen is lofty and spacious: over the principal fire-place, the stranger notices the follow-admonition, in large letters, to the cook:

Be always cleanly, show your taste,
Do not want, and do not waste.

—a piece of grave advice, which obtains, as we have chanced to see, and as it deserves, an equally conspicuous situation, in the kitchens of many mansions, hotels, &c. in England.

The library, so important a part of a seminary of this nature, is yet in its infancy : the books are arranged on plain shelves around a not very large room. They are. in number 5000; and principally theological works; including commentaries on the Scriptures, written by men of all religious persuasions. The collection, on other subjects, is so limited, that the professor of philosophy is obliged, from its paucity, to compile his treatise, and dictate it to his pupils. In this library, all students, of a certain age, are permitted to read.

Attached to the College are about 50 acres of land. In front is a lawn of nearly two acres, laid out in graveled walks, and separated from the street by a handsome semicircular iron railing, on a dwarf wall, erected by the original proprietor of the building: but, either because it was supposed to be an insufficient barrier on the side of the town, and a greater degree of seclusion considered more favourable to study and to the maintenance of internal discipline, or from some other motive—of any of which the visitor must lament the necessity–-a wall of coarse masonry and mean appearance has been built in front of this fine railing, and completely conceals it from public view. In the centre, the piers of the principal gate of entrance are ornamented with sphinxes, while others gracefully break the railing into parts, and are decorated with lions couchant and sculptured urns.

The piers, dwarf walls, and decorations, are of the finest Portland stone, and the workmanship in the best style.

The lawn is terminated on the right hand by the tower' of Maynooth Church, beautifully mantled with ivy, and on the left by the stately ruins of a Castle, the ancient residence of the Fitzgeralds, ancestors of the Duke or Leinster; features which, as they appear to great advantage in perspective, as the traveller approaches, render the whole scene extremely interesting.

In rear of the building, is an extensive tract of level ground, part of which forms a garden, and part is laid out in spacious retired graveled walks, for the recreation of the students: the latter is well planted, and there is in particular a fine avenue of majestic elms.

The number of the students is about 250. The proportion to be sent from each district of the island was prescribed by the statutes:—the ecclesiastical provinces of Armagh and Cashel to furnish 60 each, those of Dublin and Tuam 40 each; but, in consequence of an additional grant from Government, 50 more have been added to the establishment, who are sent in the same proportions.

The whole are provided with lodging, commons, and instruction from the funds; but each student pays the sum of £10, as entrance money; and his personal expenses for a year, are estimated at about £20. They have a recess during the months of July and August; and another, for a few days only, at the festivals of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. As it is requisite, even during these vacations, for students, who may wish to absent themselves, to obtain permission from their respective prelates, they, for the most part, remain at College during the whole year, employing themselves, in the intervals, in preparations for the ensuing course. During term, the obligation to residence, imposed by the statutes, is strictly enforced, For the admission of a student, besides other things specified, the recommendation of his prelate is required: the usual mode as to which is, to select a certain number from the candidates in each diocese, as recommended by their respective parish priests; but as, in the diocese of Cashel, a severe examination is previously held, and those only who appear best qualified permitted to be sent hither, the students from that district are, in consequence, said to maintain, a decided superiority in the course. On their arrival, they are examined in the classics, and admitted by the majority of examiners.

The following out-line of the course of studies prescribed, may be interesting to our English Protestant readers; and for their sake, it is hoped, those who are acquainted with the details will pardon its insertion. The students are divided into seven classes: Humanity, Logic, Mathematics, and Divinity, the four first; the the fifth, sixth, and seventh, Modern Languages.—Humanity: under class; Latin and Greek; Sallust, Virgil, and Horace, explained; select passages of Goldsmith's Roman History occasionally translated into Latin; portions of the Greek Testament, Lucian, and Xenophon, construed and explained.—Belles Lettres: or first class of Greek and Latin: Greek; Gospel of St. Luke, Acts of the Apostles, Epistles of St. Paul, Homer, Epictetus, Xenophon, explained, &c.—Latin: Cicero's Orations and Offices, Livy, part of Seneca, Pliny's Letters, Horace, explained, &c; rules of Latin versification.—Philosophy: Logic, Metaphysics, and Ethics; Seguy's Philosophy, and Locke.—Natural and Experimental Philosophy: different branches of Elementary Mathematics, Algebra, Geometry, Conic Sections, Astronomy, Mechanics, Optics, Hydraulics, &c.; Chymistry.—Divinity: Dogmatical, first course, de Religione; second course, de Incarnatione et Ecclesia: third course, de Sacramentis in genere, de Eucharistia.

The Professor is obliged to compile these treatises, which are chiefly taken from the following books; Hooke, Bailly, Duvoisin, Le Grand, Tournely, N. Alexander, P. Collet, E. Tour.—Moral: first course, de Actibus Humanis, de Conscientia, de Peccatis, de Matrimonio; second course, de Legibus, de Virtutibus, Theol. et Moral; de Sacramento poenitentiæ: third course, de Jure, de Justitia, de Contractibus, de Obligatione Statuum, de Censura, &c.: P. Collet, Continuator Tournellii. There is at present no regular Professor of Sacred Scriptures; but a portion of the New Testament is committed to memory every week; the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles are explained, the Epistles from Dom. Calmet, Maldonatus, Esthius, Synopsis criticorum, and other biblical expounders. The modern languages taught, are English, native Irish[45], and French: these are merely incidental, and not a necessary part of the course. There are, on an average, 60

students annually in the Irish class; to promote whose progress the Professor has published a copious Irish Grammar in the native character.

The following is the general order of each day:—The students are summoned by a bell: at half-past five, they meet for public prayer; from six, they study in the public halls; at half-past seven, mass is performed; at eight, they breakfast; at nine, study in public halls; at ten, attend class; at half-past eleven, recreation; at twelve, study in public halls; at half-past one, attend class; at three, dinner; at five, class for modern languages; at six, study.

45. It is an extraordinary fact, that there was originally no provision made for a Professor of Irish in this College; notwithstanding the want of such a Professorship was felt and lamented, by all of the Roman-catholic communion, in Connanght, Munster, and indeed in every part of the country where the majority speak Irish. Many young candidates for orders, born and bred in towns, where English is almost universally spoken, were unable, when sent to country parishes, to perform the duties of their profession, for want of a practical knowledge of the native language. To remedy this, a pious scrivener, of the name of Keenan, sunk £1000 of his hard earned property, the acquirement of a long, laborious, and economical life, for £60 per annum, to support an Irish Professor for "teaching and instructing the students of the College of Maynooth in the Irish language in the Irish character."

From this fund, Dr. Paul O'Brien, who, according to the donor's wishes, was appointed the first Irish Professor, and still continues to fill the Irish chair, is paid his annual salary. in public halls; at eight, supper; at nine, common prayer; and, at half-past nine, all retire in silence to their chambers.

There are two public examinations held each year; at Christmas and Midsummer; when premiums are given, whose value is proportioned to the merits of those who best pass these ordeals. The period of study is usually five• years: two devoted to Humanity, Logic, and Mathematics; and three to Divinity.. But sometimes the period is shortened by the omission of Mathematics.

The bye-laws chiefly relate to internal regulations, enforcing much of discipline and formality, tending to train up the students to the habitual observance of great exterior decorum: yet there are three anniversary days observed with unusual festivity—Foundation Day, Christmas Day, and St. Patrick's Day. On these occasions wine is allowed, three bottles being given with each mess. During meals, the Scriptures, and other profitable books, selected by the President, are to be read. The students are to be obedient to the President, and to use only such books as shall be recommended by him or the Professors.

The statutes describe the duties and qualifications of the members of the institution. The President must be a native subject of the British empire, not under 30 years of age, in priest's orders, and must have passed through a complete course of academical learning. It is his duty to superintend the general discipline of the college; in the performance of which office he is assisted by a Vice-President. The Dean, who is likewise styled *Magister Officii,* inspects manners and morals, and is to be of the same order, age, &c. as the President. The allegiance of the members to the government from which they derive their support, is to be testified in various ways:—each student, on his admission, to take an oath, that he is, and will remain, unconnected with any conspiracy, &c. The duty of fidelity to the civil government is strongly and earnestly inculcated by the theological professors; and prayers for the King are offered on Sundays and Holidays in a prescribed form.

The following are the Institution's present Officers:

President, REV. B. CROTTY, D.D.
Vice-President, REV. M. MONTAGUE.
Dean, REY. JOHN CANTWEL.

Bursar, REV. JOHN CUMMINS.
Sub-Dean, Ray. P. DOOLEY.

THE PROFESSORS:

Of Dogmatic Theology, REV. L. DELAHOGUE, D.D. Moral Theology, REV. F. ANGLADE, L.D. Sacred Scriptures, REV. JAMES BROWNE. Dunboyne Establish. —REV. P. MAGENNIS, D.D. Natural Philosophy, ..REV. C. DENVIR.

Logic, REV. C. M`NALLY.
Greek and Latin, REV. R. GIBBONS.
Hebrew, REV. C. BOYLAN.
PROFESSORS OF MODERN LANGUAGES:
Of Irish, REV. P. O'BRIEN.
French, REV. F. POWER.
English Elocution, REV. C. BOYLAN.

LECTURERS:

On Dogmatic Theology, . REV. J. McKEALE.
Moral Theology, ...REV. D. MALONE.

The college is supported by parliamentary grants; aided, in some degree, by private donations and legacies, which, since its foundation, have amounted to more than £8000. The annual grant from parliament, until 1807, was £3000: but, in that year, application was made for an augmentation, and the yearly sum of £2500 granted besides; and by means of this increase, the 50 students before-mentioned were added to the original number of 200. The buildings have cost £32,000, and are yet far from completed.

Mr. Walsh, from whose work the foregoing account of this institution is mainly derived, with much truth and feeling, in connection with his subject, observes: that, whatever controversy the original colonization of Ire, land, and other facts of her early history, may have caused; however the advocates of her early civilization, may differ from the more recent asserters of her barbarism; there is yet one claim that is openly or tacitly admitted by all—a passion, for literature in every period of her history.

When hordes of northern barbarians had overrun southern Europe, and centuries of war and rapine had extinguished almost every ray of knowledge, Ireland, remote and insulated, enjoyed a happy tranquillity: devoted to learning, she not only produced men of genius,[46] who were successively eminent in different parts of Europe, but also, at home, displayed an attachment to the sciences, and a generous ardour to promote them, unparalleled perhaps in the annals of literature. She not only liberally endowed seminaries for the instruction of native pupils, but she invited every foreigner to participate in the same pursuit; and, with a disinterested liberality, unknown in the similar establishments of any people in their highest state of refinement, she defrayed every expense, and gratuitously supplied her literary guests with every accommodation.[47]

46. Did the subject call for extensive illustration, it were easy to prove, from undoubted testimony, that Ireland, at a very early period, produced men eminent in the different departments of literature. Let the notice of one or two, suffice, Johannes Erigena, in theology, the friend and preceptor of Alfred, opposed the Real Presence, and other doctrines then first promulgated, with great acuteness; and the letter of Pope Nicholas, bearing testimony to his excellent learning, but charging him with heterodox opinions, is still extant.—Virgilius, surnamed Solivagus, afterwards Bishop of Saltzburgh, taught the sphericity of the earth, and held the doctrine of the Antipodes. He drew his opinions, it is said, from the early Grecian writer,, who adopted the theory of

Pythagoras, having travelled into Greece to consult them. These illustrious men were the precursors of Wickliffe and Luther, Galileo and Copernicns: one was therefore the harbinger of reformation in religion, as the other was of astronomy, in Europe.—See Ware, Usher, Mosheim, Spotswood, Dupin, &c.

47. Bede.

defrayed every expense, and gratuitously supplied her literary guests with every accommodation.[48] It was thus, that not only the natives were highly improved, but Ireland was crowded with learned strangers,[48] who, having no means of prosecuting their studies at home, flocked to this Athens[49] of the middle ages from every part of Europe; and, while native genius received liberal encouragement, and was highly cherished in its native land, foreign talents were invited to participate, and received into a secure and hospitable asylum.

But how different was the scene in more modern centuries! when all the calamities of the most savage piratical warfare burst into this hitherto tranquil island; when every peaceful and pious establishment was overturned; every monument of previous improvement lost; and every vestige of a former high state of refinement, by the united operation of external force and civil dissension, gradually destroyed!

48. Alfred, among others, who was the politest and most learned monarch in Europe, retired here to study:—" in Hibernia omni philosophia animum composuit." (Gul. Malms. lib. 1.) On his return to England, he invited Johannes Erigena to his court, and ahout the same time founded the University of Oxford—possibly on the model of that at Lismore, or some other in Ireland at which he bad studied.

49. "Amandatns est ad disciplinam in Hibernia," was the necessary character to constitute the polite and learned gentleman of the mid.. die ages, no less sought after than the " Doctus Athenis vivere" among the Romans.

" Certatim hi properant diverso transite ad urbem
" lismoriam, juvenis primos ubi trausigit aims,"

says Morinus, in his life of the founder of the University of Lismore. Ivit ad Hibernos Sophia mirahili claros.— Vita Sullegeni in Cambden. Du temps du Charlemagne, 200 ans apres manes fere docti etoint d'Irelande.—Scaliger the Younger.

Still, the energies of the unsubdued mind remained; although the illumination they never ceased entirely to emit, shed a light over the unfortunate land, that only served, by contrast, to make the ruins of its ancient institutions appear clothed with darker shade: still, under every vicissitude, a passion for poetry and letters continued among the people, which is to this day remarkable among the poorest and remotest peasantry.[50]

While the better, and more enlightened, quitting at different times their native soil, now become so uncongenial to their exertions, pursued abroad[51] the cultivation of those talents which adverse circumstances denied them at home, and sought for those literary asylums in foreign lands, which their ancestors had so generously afforded to all the world.

In these our days, it is most true, liberal reflections on the sorrows of the past, and extended intercourse, are wearing down the asperities of once mutual intolerance; and enlightened systems are dispelling the darkness of past prejudices, Native talents are no longer compelled to seek elsewhere for protection, and the means to improve themselves, Schools are at length every where establishing for the young, on principles not infringing upon that sacred liberty of conscience, which is the first of treasures to every ingenuous and manly mind; the honourable

pursuit of every liberal profession, at least, is thrown open, without bar or restriction as to modes of faith; while the establishment at home of a seminary for the Catholic priesthood, and for giving a munificent education, in their own country, to those, who are with reason supposed to exercise a strong, and, under all the circumstances, very natural controul, over the principles and opinions of the larger mass of the community, was no less an act of strict justice, than of sound and enlightened policy.

50. The proficiency of the peasantry of the county of Kerry in classical knowledge is well known: and Greek and Latin form part of the course of education in almost every hedge-school in the country, it is not uncommon for women to acquire a knowledge of the former, and the latter is the language always used in common conversation in every school where it is taught.

51. By especial provision made in various continental countries, previously to the French Revolution, for the education of Irish Catholics,

At the period when this important concession to the majority in the sister island was made, all intercourse between these kingdoms and the continent was suspended; and it was of course impossible for a subject of Great Britain to avail himself of any advantages offered him in a country where his presence was interdicted. But, that the Irish Catholic should at the same time be denied the means of education at home, that he was prevented by the untoward state of Europe from obtaining it abroad, was a proscription of the human faculties which no people were ever before subject to: accordingly, this institution was formed: and it may safely be pronounced one, highly deserving the most bounteous support of government; and that, not merely from considerations of justice and conscience, but as its foundation was a measure of the very first political expediency; forming perhaps the strongest bond of attachment, from the majority of the nation towards the civil authority under which they live.

While so lavish are the grants from government for the Irish service, in support of institutions whose merits are far below this; and of plans, many of which are of questionable utility; it is painful to hear, that the present state of the College of Maynooth is such, that its funds are inadequate to the wants of the Irish church: if such be the case, it is indeed earnestly to be wished, that the same liberal and enlightened policy which dictated the establishment, may complete its boon, so as to render it effectual to all the purposes for which it was intended, Maynooth College was founded exclusively for such as are designed for holy orders: and at its benefits could not, therefore, be imparted to any who were to be of lay professions, the idea of a Lay College was conceived; and, in 1802, a subscription entered into, by means of which, such an institution was established, in the vicinity of that whose objects were all comprehended in the priesthood.

The plan of education adopted here, comprises the Latin, Greek, French, and English languages; together with history, ancient and modern, sacred, and profane; geography, arithmetic, book-keeping, and mathematics. This building is on a handsome plan, and sufficiently spacious to accommodate 90 students.

Another seminary of the same kind, called the Jesuits' College, has been established within these few years at **CASTLE-BROWN,** about 14 miles front Dublin, lying southwards from Maynooth, and near the village of Clane. The college here was the family residence of Wogan Brown, who sold it to the Jesuits. It consists of a Gothic building, flanked with four round towers, and has a demesne of 50 acres. It is superintended by three principals, Jesuits; and receives 150 pupils, who are uniformly clothed, and, besides the usual classical course and modern languages, are instructed in music, and in every other polite accomplishment. Each boy is clothed, dieted, and educated, at the estimated ex-pence of £50 per annum.

Maynooth itself is, for the most part, a modern built town, with a handsome Market-house and spacious Inn. There is also a Charter-School for 50 girls. The Castle, before noticed, was, in 1534, besieged by Gerald, the ninth Earl of Kildare; when, though defended by a strong garrison,

it surrendered after holding out seven days: previously to this, the abundance of its furniture is said to have obtained for it the reputation of being one of the richest residences in the island.

KILCOCK is a populous but straggling village, still presenting marks of the dreadful ravages to which it was subjected in the Rebellion of 1798. From hence, a southward road leads, by Donadea Castle, to **PROSPEROUS;** now much misnamed, though at a former time bidding fair to become what it is now only by appellation.

This ruined town owed its creation to the wealth, directed by public spirit, of a Mr. Robert Brooke; who, returning to Ireland with a large fortune acquired in the East, embarked largely in the cotton business, both here and at Dublin; but was destined to prove as unfortunate as those whom his -example had stimulated to similar enterprises at Malahide and Balbriggan, where their failure has been already noticed. When the freedom of commerce was first bestowed on Ireland by the British legislature, this gentleman was among the first to avail himself of its advantages; and suddenly raised an obscure and scanty trade, into a great national manufacture.

He commenced, by drawing to Dublin English artists, and importing the most improved machinery. These he established and set to work in the Liberties of that city; but his great undertaking was this at Prosperous. Here, in order to remove the manufactures from the confinement, insalubrity, and expensive living of the metropolis, he began to build a new town, on purpose for their reception; and, in the short space of three years, it was completely finished for all the different branches, including the printing linen and cotton goods on a very extensive scale; while, that nothing might be wanting to give permanency to the establishment, he commenced also, in co-operation with a Mr, Kirchoffen, the business of making machinery on the most perfect and approved models.

In these spirited pursuits, he expended the sum of £18,000; and it was from the fair and flattering prospects with which he for a short time proceeded, that he called his rising colony by the name of Prosperous. But at length, having, by constructing aqueducts, and by other very expensive improvements of his works, expended sums considerably exceeding his own private fortune, it became necessary to apply for assistance to the Irish Legislature; who very liberally granted him £25,000; besides affording aids to those who had engaged in the manufacture at Malahide and Balbriggan.

But, in a work undertaken by people accustomed to different pursuits, and established in a country where such things had never been before seen, it was no more to be wondered at that ill success should ultimately accrue, than that men of liberal views and ardent minds should, as in so many other undertakings, be found to speculate beyond their means of accomplishment. In 1786, Mr. Brooke being compelled again to apply to Parliament for aid, and they refusing it, he was no longer able to answer the immediate demands of his widely extended establishment, and became insolvent; and thus, without notice or the slightest expectation of the event; the whole machine of industry suddenly stopped; and, in the course of 24 hours, 1,400 looms, with all their apparatus and dependencies, were struck idle; and the artists dismissed from their unfinished work, with the contemplation only of a poverty, the causes of which, in the first moments of confusion, they found it difficult to comprehend. Mr. Brooke never again attempted to revive the manufacture.

The situation of this establishment, it may be observed, was not altogether judiciously chosen. The place stands in a low marshy country, surrounded with bogs—which are extremely common throughout Kildare—and, though an abundance of turf, for fuel, may be thus obtained, it naturally commands no water. Notwithstanding, the manufactures continued here, on a small scale, till the year 1798, when they became an object of attack from the rebels: since which time, Prosperous has gradually descended to decay, and only a few scattered weavers now linger among its ruins. The other adventurers, who had embarked in these magnificent schemes, have been stated. to have proved equally unsuccessful; and thus a few short years saw the rise and fall of as extraordinary a commercial enterprise, as was perhaps ever contemplated and pursued by so small a number of private and unconnected individuals,

Near this place, the Grand Canal encounters the Hill of Downings, consisting of loamy gravel, and through which it is carried, as mentioned in our former brief notice of this grand national work; and, soon after its outlet, enters the Bog of Allen, the largest in the island.

This, like the other bogs of Ireland, is formed of decayed vegetable substances; and, in illustration of the idea, that the principal agent in the creation of bogs is stagnant water, it is found to occupy a stituation the best possibly calculated to produce it—namely, a level space, almost without a descent to carry off its waters, and on which of course every stream would creep with a lazy current. That it was originally covered with wood, appears from the fact, that wherever the operations of opening or boring have been practised, timber, at various depths, has been discovered, Of this timber, the lowest stratum is generally oak, and the others fir; and on both the marks of fire, or of the hatchet, are frequently visible. It is also an extraordinary fact, that the original soil has every where completely disappeared; being no longer distinguishable from the bog, which every where rests on a bed of gravel, without any intermediate stratum of clay or mould.

The turf from hence varies much in quality, according to the depth from which it is taken; being more or less porous, and in consequence heavier or lighter, as well as of swifter or slower combustion, in proportion, Agreeably to Mr. Walsh's mention of this bog, a boat containing about 200 kishes of it pays a toll to the Canal Company of about £6. and is brought to market by a single horse and two men; but, from the effects of combination, and otherwise, it is sold at a price that renders it, even when of the best quality, much more expensive than foreign coal; which circumstance, together with the room required for stowing such bulky fuel, must exclude every idea of its becoming an efficient substitute for that essential article: it is, however, the source of great convenience and comfort to the poor of the capital, who, too indigent or too improvident to lay up coal, can still purchase turf, even in so small a quantity, if required, as an halfpennyworth.

The eye of the traveller, however familiar with the generally wretched hovels of the poor in this country, must be immediately struck with the singular construction of those he will meet with in the Bog of Allen. To a moderate distance on each side of the canal, the bog is let in small lots to turf-cutters; who, for convenience, and the facility of guarding their property from theft, take up their residence on the spot, however dreary or uncomfortable. The first care of one of these is, to seek a dry bank above the influence of the floods; and here he excavates his future habitation, to such a depth that little more than the roof is visible: this is sometimes covered with scanty thatch, but oftener with turf pared from the bog; which, as the herbage is upwards, so perfectly assimilates with the surrounding scenery, that the eye would pass over it as an undulation of the surface, were it not undeceived by seeing an occasional sally of children, accompanied by the pig or the goat—or by the issue of a volume of smoke—from a hole on one side while, to his yet greater surprise, the tatter, rising from the endless crannies in the roof, sometimes presents the momentary idea of its being caused by subterranean fires.

It is properly remarked, that the wretched manner in which the lower class of the inhabitants of Ireland is lodged, may be traced to other sources than to rack-rents, unfeeling landlords, &c. in this scene; the proprietors of these hovels earning an easy subsistence; and one of them in particular having been known to have accumulated the sum of £100; and yet his habitation, the only one he possessed, was perfectly similar to those of his neighbours. To what, it is asked, must we impute this seeming inconsistency?—not, surely, to any peculiar attachment in the Irish peasant to inconvenience and dirt; but, to the neglected state of his mind, (and still more to that depressed state of ideas and feelings, which, as to himself, mainly induces that neglect) and to the want of an education, which, raising him above the semi-barbarism that now marks his character, would give him a taste for, and a pride in the possession of, the comforts and conveniences of life.

This vast level supplies but few objects, on which the attention, fatigued by its sameness, can repose; on the south, the high grounds of the Isle of Allen present some pleasing scenes of intermingled plantation, pastures, and corn-fields: to the east, the Dublin mountains appear, melting into the horizon; while, to the north and west, the distant hills of Carbery and Croghan start, like elevated islands, from the dreary waste, and are visible at a great distance: the intelligent traveller, however, who should be proceeding by one of the passage-boats, which afford a pleasing conveyance, on the canal, would perhaps find amusement of a superior kind, in reflecting on the wonders human ingenuity can perform, in the construction of these vast artificial waters; and in anticipating, in idea, the seats that may arise, the plantations that may flourish, and the harvests that may wave, at some more or less distant period, over the tracts at present consigned to heath and sterility.

The advantages, naturally calculated to result, both to the metropolis and the country, from such great inland navigation, are certainly very important: among the local ones, which experience has already afforded, it may be mentioned, that large tracts of bog have been already reclaimed and improved, and that the lands, in the vicinity of the Grand and Royal Canals, have doubled their former value. By both lines, flour, corn, potatoes, and other provisions, with native timber, turf, stone, bricks, gravel, lime, sand, &c. are conveyed with safety, comparative cheapness, and expedition, to the capital; which sends in return, coals, culm for burning lime, bricks, manure, foreign timber, iron, ale, spirits, groceries, &c.: to which must be added, the many comforts and conveniences which the traveller finds, by the establishment of clean and commodious passage-boats, constantly passing, and arriving at stated hours, at the regulated stages: these, uninterrupted by any change of weather, proceeding with a rapidity and security, that, added to the reasonable terms of their accommodations, afford one of the most pleasant, comfortable, and expeditious modes of travelling, to be found in any part of the world.

The entertainment, on both canals, besides is excellent; and, to prevent imposition, the prices of every article are stated in tables hung up in the cabins: there is no charge for attendance; and, to preserve sobriety of manners, no individual is allowed more than a single pint of wine, and the use of spirits is prohibited. There are at present 10 of these boats plying on the Shannon and Barrow lines of the Grand Canal; and these now traverse the gentle waters with such expedition, that the passage from Dublin to Shannon Harbour, which is 63 Irish, or above 86 English miles, is performed in one day (namely, between the hours of 4 in the morning and 10 in the evening) and at an expense, exclusive of entertainment, of £1 1s. for the first cabin, and 14s. 1d. for the second; the passage to A thy, of above 54 English miles, requires 12 hours and 35 minutes, and the intermediate stages are performed in periods nearly in the same proportion to their distances.

The Royal Canal as yet employs only four passage-boats; and the passage to Mullingar, of 42 Irish, or 53½ English miles, is performed in 13½ hours; at the expense, exclusive of entertainment, of 12s. 6d. for the first, and 7s. 7d. for the second cabin.

The Hill of Allen is traditionally celebrated for its Cave, in which are said to repose the remains of Oscar and other Ossianic chiefs: this having been the Hill of Temora of ancient times.

After travelling little more than four miles from Kilcock, we arrive at CLONCURRY, a small town on the Blackwater, which gives the title of Baron to the family of Lawless: it has a ruined Church. Here a Carmelite Friary, under the invocation of the Virgin Mary, was founded, in 1347, by John Roche, who obtained a license for so doing from Edward III. according to Archdall: the church, it is therefore probable, was formerly attached to that religious foundation.

From hence a road leads to **CARBERY**, or **CASTLE CARBERY**, situate on the verge of the Bog of Allen, and giving the title of Baron to the noble family of Pomeroy, now represented by Viscount Harberton.

Here is a Charter-School, which was endowed by the late Mrs. Elizabeth Colley, and her sister, Mrs. Pomeroy, co-heiresses of Castle Carbery, with two acres of land in perpetuity: they also granted 20 acres adjoining, at a moderate rate for three lives; and gave £20 per annum, as a rent-charge for ever, towards the support of the school. Mrs. Elizabeth and Mrs. Judith Colley, aunts to the same ladies, built the school at their own expence: and the sum of £100 was bequeathed to it by the late Thomas Dallyel, Esq.

At the distance of a quarter of a mile from the place, are the ruins of a large Castle, built about the year 1180: it is situated on a high, peninsulated hill, rocky and steep on three sides, and from which there is a very extensive prospect: it was formerly the residence of the Cowley family.

NEWBURY, in the vicinity, is the handsome and commodious seat of the family of Pomeroy.

Rather more than three miles from Carbery, pursuing the same road, is **EDENDERRY,** a neat town, much inhabited by the people called Quakers: it has also the ruins of a Castle, which was once the seat of the Blundel family. Some little trade is carried on at this place.

Twice crossing the Royal Canal, we reach **CLONARD**, which, as well as Cloncurry, is in the county of Meath, although we have travelled from the 'latter to the former through an intervening part of Kildare. This town, situated on the Boyne, has long fallen to decay, but 'was in earlier ages a bishop's see. St. Keran, the son of the carpenter, (says Archdall,) who was born A. D. 506, gave Clonard, with its appendages, to St. Finian, some short time before his death, which happened about the year 549; on which St. Finian, who was of a noble family, a philosopher, and an eminent divine, founded an Abbey here, and dedicated it to St. Peter; in which was a school, celebrated for producing many men who acquired fame in the learned world, and were of exemplary piety.

This saint died of the plague, December 12, 548; on which day his feast is still commemorated. The entrance into the abbey, on the west side, was through a small building, with a lodge over it, which led into a court: to the right of this court stand the kitchen and cellar; and, over them the dormitory; ranging with the river, and overlooking the garden, which sloped down to the water's edge: opposite the .entrance was another small apartment; and adjoining it the refectory, which was carried for some length beyond the square, and united with the choir; the latter a large and elegant building, with its windows finished in a light Gothic style, most part of which still remains.

On the south side of the altar, fixed in the wall, is a small double arch, in the old Saxon style, and divided by a pillar through which iron bars were fixed: this is supposed to have been the founder's tomb. There are many remains of walls adjoining the other parts of the abbey; but in so ruinous a state, that little information can be gleaned from them. At a little distance from the east window, in the burial ground, stands a small chapel; in which is a table monument, ornamented with the effigies of a man and woman, in a praying posture, and in the costume of Queen Elizabeth's time: its sides are adorned with many coats of arms; of which that of the family of Dillon is the most conspicuous.—The Nunnery of this place, for Regular Canonesses, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was endowed before the arrival of the English, by O'Melaghlin, King of Meath: this nunnery was afterwards so much reduced, as to become a cell only to that of St. Brigitt of Odra.

KINNEGAD is a mere village, but has good accommodations for the general tourist, or picturesque wanderer. On a hill near it are the ruins of Ardmullan Castle; and at Kilbride Pass, about four miles distant, are those of two castles and a church. We are now in Westmeath, a not 'very large county, but extremely rich in verdure, and mostly flat; though in some places pleasingly diversified. with hills, several of which are tolerably wooded. Though not so inviting, in point of scenery, as many other districts in the island, the draughtsman will not want for subjects for his portfolio, if he visits its lakes; which are frequently fringed with luxuriant plains, and rich woodlands. But the tract of country through which we are immediately conducting the

tourist, bears but a ragged appearance, from the general want of trees and hedge-rows, and the slovenly state of its cultivation.

MULLINGAR, the assize and shire town, was an ancient palatinate, and gave the title of Baron to the family of Petit. It is 38 miles from Dublin: possesses good accommodations. Its elegant Church has been recently erected.--The Priory of St. Mary here, we are informed by Archdall, which was formerly known by the name of The House of God of Mullingar, was founded in 1227, for canons regular of the order of St. Augustin, by Ralph le Petyt, Bishop of Meath, who died in 1229. The Dominican Friary, part of the bell-tower, and some other ruins of which remain, was founded by the family of Nugent in the year 1237.

An eminence, about two miles distant from the town, commands, in opposite directions, very fine views of Loughs Ouil and Ennel: the eastern banks of the latter, which are more abrupt than the western, are well wooded, and decorated with numerous gentlemen's seats. Among these, is Rochfort, a charming residence; and Belvedere, the seat of Lord Belvedere, has the celebrity of being one of the most enchanting spots in the island.

"The house," says Mr. Young, (in his Agricultural Tour) " is perched on the crown of a beautiful little bill, half surrounded with others, variegated and melting into one another. It is a most singular place; spreads to the eye a beautiful lawn of undulating ground, margined with wood: single trees are scattered in some places, and clumps in others: the effect so pleasing, that, were there nothing further, the place would be beautiful; but the rest of the canvas is admirably filled. Lough Ennel, many miles in length, and two or three broad, flows beneath the windows. It is spotted with islets; a promontory of rock, fringed with' trees, starts into it, and the whole is bounded by distant hills. Greater and more magnificent scenes are often met with, but no where a more singular one."

The charming demesne, and elegant mansion, of the Nugents, are situated north of the town: there are remains of a venerable Castle in their vicinity. South, about six or eight miles, is Horse-Leap, where are the ruins of another and very stately castle, built by Hugh de Lacy, the early English adventurer, and Palatine of Meath: there is also another about two miles from it.

On the northern sides of the town lie the lakes Ouil and Derveragh: the former a singular inland water, situated on the highest part of the great plain extending from the Irish Sea to the Shannon River, and from this circumstance, most desirably placed as a natural reservoir to the Royal Canal, the Undertakers of which have availed themselves of its inexhaustible supplies, by a cut into it from Mullingar. Its surface is about 18 inches higher than the summit level of the canal; and it is of pretty considerable size; being six miles long, and one broad, and spreading over an area of 1785 Irish, or 2856 English acres.

It is environed by a fine fertile country, interspersed with villas, and appears to be fed by copious springs, as it receives but one small rivulet, and yet emits two rivers, running from it in opposite directions: one of these, formerly known to the natives by the name of the Silver Hand, issues from its north-western extremity, and falls, after a short but rapid course of one mile, into an expansion of the river Inny, called Lough Iron; the other, which used to be denominated the Golden Hand, flows with a gentle stream from its south-eastern point, visits Mullingar, and is soon lost in Lough Ennel, from which issues the river Brosna. Hence it happens, that Lough Ouil, with the rivers Inny, Brosna, and Shannon, completely insulate a considerable portion of Westmeath, Longford, and King's County: a geographical singularity, more frequently represented in maps, than really occurring in nature. The property of the two little rivers just described, has been purchased by the Canal Company; who, to secure as ample a supply of water as possible, have cut off the former, and dammed up the latter; by which means the lake is always kept full to its winter level; and, these precautions having been taken, it is supposed that no canal in Europe can boast a more abundant reservoir.

A road branches north-westwardly to Longford, the principal town of the county so called. This the tourist will do well to follow in a separate excursion, as it embraces several objects of interest which we shall take this opportunity to describe.

Of these, the first occurring is Wilson's Hospital, most delightfully situated between Lough Ouil and Lough Derveragh. The hill, on which this establishment stands, is considered as the centre of Ireland; and commands a prospect not only of the lakes in its vicinity, together with Lord Portlemon's charming Seat, but gives a view into five distinct counties. Of the hospital, Mr. Curwen gives the following very satisfactory ac-count.—The revenues are upwards of £4000 a year, applicable to the support of 150 boys, and 20 old men: the building is large, commodious, and well adapted to the objects of the institution.

The Rev.—Radcliffe presides over the establishment; throughout every department of which, we were highly gratified in observing the greatest order and neatness to prevail; not less commendable, than creditable to those entrusted with its superintendence. Dr. Bell's system of education is here pursued. The children are admitted from 10 to 12 years of age, and they remain for three years, when they are apprenticed to some handicraft trade: the apprentice-fee, which the governors have now in contemplation to increase, is at present but five pounds: the children acquitted themselves very well, both in reading and accounts.

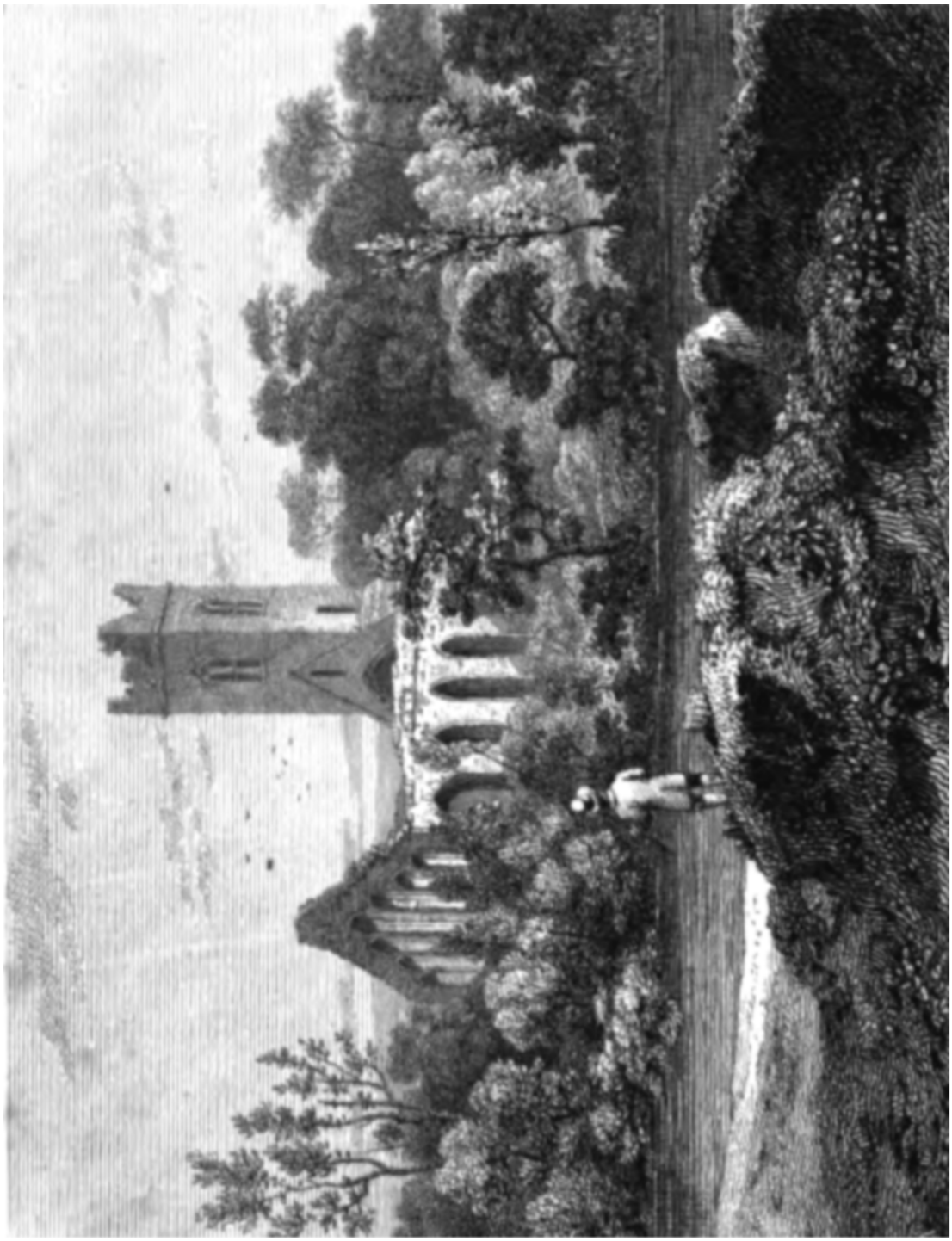
Coercion is rarely resorted to; for where a sense of shame fails to produce the desired effect in young minds, little amendment can be expected from any other kind of punishment. Few instances have occurred of any of the children conducting themselves so ill as to compel their expulsion. Steady uniformity, and well-established order, soon procure that implicit obedience, which is one of the most valuable principles of the new system; the happy and salutary effects of which appear in the cheerful compliance and content of the pupils. The garden, which is extensive, is in a great measure cultivated and managed by the children; engrafting, by this more active appropriation of their time, a certain degree of labour and industry on recreation and amusement. I should imagine it might be farther advantageous to teach the boys, as is the practice at the military academy, to make their own clothes;- which would employ those hours in which the weather may preclude work in the garden.

The establishment is so well conducted, and so calculated to be eminently useful, that it is not possible to inspect it without feelings of the highest admiration of the philanthropy that dictated the bequest; yet it is not possible also but to lament the want of liberality, which restricted its benefits to one religious persuasion—that of the protestants—by which regulation, six out of seven of Mr. Wilson's countrymen are excluded the benefit of his munificence. That every individual possessing property has an undoubted right to dispose of it agreeably to his will and inclination, conformably to the laws, cannot be questioned; nor do I mean to pass the least uncandid or disrespectful reflection on the memory of the benevolent founder; but to express my strong disapprobation of the narrow, merciless bigotry, which not only fostered and promoted the most uncharitable prejudices of Christians against each other, but which has been reproachfully encouraged and supported by the legislature of the country.

What misery has not this wretched policy inflicted on 4,000,000 of our fellow subjects, and how severely at this moment do they feel its unjust operation! A total oblivion of all invidious distinctions should be a self-imposed task on every well-wisher to the country; the practice of this virtuous sentiment would by degrees have its due influence, and highly contribute to the general happiness of every rank and denomination of the people.

Seven miles north from Mullingar, on the right of this road, is **MULTIFARNAM**, situated on the river Maine.

Sir Henry Piers, who wrote a description of the county of Westmeath in the seventeenth century, thus speaks of the once-celebrated Abbey of this now very inconsiderable spot:—



THE FRANCISCAN ABBEY KILKENNY

"The frame, or fabric, is rather neat and compact than sumptuous or towering, having in the midst, between the body of the church and the chancel, an handsome, strait, but very narrow steeple. After the Dissolution of. Monasteries, it became the property of Alderman Jans, of Dublin, who, or his successors, permitted the friars to enter again and here settle, in as great splendour as ever: here, at and before 1641, they had their church, not only in very good repair, but adorned with images, pictures, reliques, &c. In the choir, or chancel, they had their organs and choristers; they had apartments, not only sufficient for their own number, but for the reception of many horse and foot at the time; here they had also houses of offices fit to make preparation for entertainment of such as came, at all times, to visit, or otherwise to consult or debate their concerns; and here it was that the fatal Rebellion, that broke out with so much fury and havock in 1641, was hatched and contrived.

This abbey is at this time altogether out of repair."—Tradition says, that the build= ing was committed to the flames by the Rochforts, a powerful family of the country. The noble ruins, composed of a handsome black stone, evince the former splendour of Multifarnam: the workmanship appears to have been excellent: and the foundations of its cloisters, which may easily be traced, together with the east window, yet entire, and the steeple, 60 feet in height, give some idea of its pristine dimensions. This monastery, we are told by Archdall, was founded for Conventual Franciscans, by William Delmar, in the year 1236.

Lough Iron now lies at a short distance to the left of our road. On its farthermost banks, until 1783, stood one of the proudest remnants of the ecclesiastical architecture of Ireland, in the ruins of Tristernagh Abbey; the precise era of the foundation of which is unknown, but its style was that of the reign of Henry the Second, and Archdall ascribed its erection to Geoffrey de Constantine, one of the earliest English settlers here.

About 50 years after the Dissolution, a lease of this Priory was granted to Captain William Piers, of whose family was Sir Henry Piers, whose description of Westmeath has been just alluded to, and with whose descendants it yet continues. Sir Henry, in speaking of this once. magnificent pile, says that the building was in the form of a cross, with a steeple in the centre, rising from the four innermost angles of the cross in such a manner, that each of its walls sloped off as it ascended until the whole became an octagon, with a window in each of its eight sides. In 1780, the tower, though mutilated, was 74 feet high; and the walls of the edifice throughout, firm and substantial, though the whole was divested of its roof. But, about that period, the proprietor converted a part of it into a dairy, and a farther portion into a stable; and, three years afterwards, demolished the whole!

The Irish antiquary has now only the consolation of knowing, that two very able engravings of the, structure, from which a competent idea of it may be still formed, are to be found in Ledwich's continuation of Grose's work on Ireland; the drawings from which they, were taken having been made previously to the much to be lamented destruction of so noble a specimen of antiquity.

Lord Sunderlin's elegant Seat at Baronstown, in this vicinity, has been described in a former Excursion, which embraced a portion of the northern part; of Westmeath.

We are now leaving this county, and approaching, that of Longford, which is one of the smallest and flattest in the island. A great proportion of it is rude, bog, completely denuded of timber, and with few seats of any consequence to attract the notice of the traveller: yet will it be viewed with some attention by the statist, who will trace in it the effects—somewhat less beneficial, it is true, than might have been expected—of industry in the pursuit of the linen manufacture.

CLONMELLON, on the right, has an elegant modern Church, with a steeple and spire, all in imitation of the pointed style of architecture, usually called Gothic. Vile as these imitations, in an architectural sense, too generally are, we would much rather encounter them than that so

common object in this country, a church in ruins: for how does the frequent recurrence of dilapidated sacred edifices, still left to moulder into irretrievable decay, reflect upon the meagre piety of latter generations, compared with the warm, and liberal, however mistaken, flow of that of their sires of old!

One of the first objects that will now meet the tourist's eye, is the Steeple of **EDGEWORTHSTOWN** a town that must interest every traveller of taste, were it only on account of its being the residence of the distinguished literary family from whom it takes its name. The steeple mentioned, we found, upon entering the place, to be an appendage to a handsome church, and to be itself composed of cast-iron, (having been raised to its present eminence by machinery;) but, previously to our arrival, the appearance of one of these indications of a country town, so common in England, led us to regret the prevailing want of them in the sister-island; since, to an eye habituated to their recurrence, their absence is no slight drawback upon the beauty of a country. This may be but English prejudice; but; in our opinion, as in that of a British senator often alluded to in the course of our work, the spire or tower of the parish church gives great interest to every landscape.

In this vicinity, are extensive Slate Quarries; but though the immediate neighbourhood, (as was observed by the authority just mentioned) has little else deserving of remark, and little beauty to attract attention, the respect which talent inspires communicates a charm to the spot, which compensates for other disadvantages. The impressive and elegant pen of Miss Edgeworth, as the same gentleman most justly remarks, has depicted vice and folly in such forcible colours, and given such salutary warnings against their consequences, that we can have no doubt, but that by her writings the best interests of the country have been long, and will continue to be very materially promoted.

In these, the Irish character appears to be most justly and most happily represented; and that melange of wit, generosity, feeling, and folly, fairly exhibited, which are constantly producing so much to admire and to condemn at the same instant. The exposure of corruption and oppression has not been quite palatable in all instances; a cry has been attempted to be raised against her, as being deficient in patriotism: such efforts, however, will prove as ineffectual in depreciating the well deserved celebrity of this lady, as the passing cloud, which, if it succeed in obscuring the sun for a moment, serves only to give additional splendour to his re-appearance.

The description following, by this writer, of the Edgeworth family, is too interesting to be omitted.—She (Miss Edgeworth) is at once so modest and so natural, that those unapprised of her talents, would not believe it possible she could appear so unconscious of the high reputation she possesses. The admiration of the world has affected neither her head nor her heart; for, whilst she seems wholly unconscious of her own merit, she is feelingly alive to the deserts of every other individual. Miss Edgeworth, in the common intercourse of life, is free from every assumption of superiority; it is with her pen alone she exercises it, in vindicating the cause of virtue and suffering humanity.

The family is composed of children of different marriages; yet nothing can be more delightful than the harmony which prevails. The ardent sentiment of benevolence, that prompts and animates their general labours, has the effect to modify or extinguish every individual selfish feeling; while the most strenuous endeavours of every member of this pleasant community are called into action, to promote the comfort and happiness of the whole. The first care of each seems to be that of forwarding such objects as meet the general wish of the whole party.

The present Mrs. Edgeworth is a daughter of that ingenious and elegant ornament to Irish literature, Dr. Beaufort, and is not less distinguished for accomplishments, than for good sense in the conduct and arrangement of her domestic concerns. The extraordinary endowments of every branch of this family, make their acquaintance not less sought with avidity than valued when attained. Mr. Edgeworth (this gentleman has since paid the debt of nature) has long, been

eminent as a scholar, and a man of genius. His studies have principally been directed to mechanics, in which science he has been very successful: to his suggestions and hints are the public indebted for some of the most valuable modern improvements. Mr. Edgeworth's vivacity renders him a most pleasing companion: time seems to have been sensible of this, and to have kept no record against him. Such is the general outline of this charming family, who are all equally emulous to make their abilities useful in promoting the substantial interests of virtue and morality.

The smiles and flattering commendations of the world have corrupted many a heart, and diminished the estimation due to splendid talents by creating unbounded expectations in their possessors, and by obliterating the just claims of others. Not a particle of this disposition is discoverable here; the kind assiduity and attention shewn to all around justly endear them to every rank, and make their residence a real blessing to the neighbourhood.

Mr. Edgeworth had just reasons to be proud of tenantry, who appear substantial and respectable men: every thing about their farms seems to exhibit sufficiency and comfort; and the friendliness towards them, on their landlord's part, was highly creditable to both.—A singular instance of courage and humanity occurred, during the Rebellion, in Mr. Edgeworth's family: compelled as they were to quit their residence on a very short notice, a difficulty arose as to what could be done with a female servant who was too ill to be removed.

The housekeeper, who was an elderly woman, volunteered to remain and take care of the invalid; and the house was accordingly left in her charge. A few days after the family had removed, the insurgents arrived, and, surrounding the house, demanded arms. The house keeper refused to open the door:—a consultation was held, and it was resolved that it should be forced. At this moment, one who had some influence with the party came forward and remonstrated with the rest; observing, that the Edgeworth family had always acted with kindness and attention towards their poor neighbours, and that he would defend their property at the risk of his life. His courage and generosity had the desired effect; the whole of them departed without offering the least violence or injury to any thing about the premises.

When the rebellion had subsided, this grateful fellow returned to his home near Edgeworthstown. On some dispute with a neighbour, he was threatened with an information for having held a commission in the rebel army; on which Mr. Edgeworth offered him his interest to procure him a pardon. The man thanked him, but declined it, saying, he had no fears, as he had a Corny in his pocket; meaning a card of protection, with Lord Cornwallis's seal and the initial letter C, of which it appears a distribution had been made to the peasants who returned quietly to their habitations—an instance that, in the worst of times, kind treatment in Ireland would not fail of its influence even with those actually enrolled under the banners of rebellion.

Edgeworthstown is a pretty considerable village, and, having been in a great measure rebuilt of late years, has an improving appearance. The Catholic Chapel here is a large building, and is very numerously attended; yet there are a great number of Presbyterians in this neighbourhood. The Catholic congregation are in general decently dressed, and their behaviour highly becoming. A view of the interior of their place of worship usually presents several of them prostrated upon the ground; and devotion is commonly so unaffectedly displayed in the conduct of the majority, as to induce the regret that they are not better informed—we mean, as to the real non-existence of saving essentials in the differences between their faith and ours.

A husbandman's wages in the county of Longford, are, according to Mr. Curwen, for the summer months, but 12d. and in winter 10d. per day: fuel, however, one of the prime necessaries among the lower orders, is easily procured. The general appearance of the country induced the same intelligent observer to believe, that, whenever a correct return of the population shall be obtained, the numbers will exceed every estimate hitherto produced : and that, should this opinion prove correct, a very serious question may arise, whether the population may not be doubled in the

next 25 years? Fortunately, the culture of the potato, that prime support of life in Ireland, may be so greatly improved, that its produce perhaps shall be doubled likewise; and the reclaiming of bog, and the cultivation of mountain districts, comprehending together nearly a third of the country, are resources capable of being made subservient to a farther production of food. Cheering as this prospect would appear, and happy as it would be under some circumstances, it is not so here! All hope of augmenting the store of human happiness is vain, where the means of employing a superabundance of rational beings are wanting.

Man, to be happy, must be engaged in some pursuit: that of the subordinate classes is restricted to bodily labour; among the next superior in rank, intellectual researches are added to bodily exertion—yet does occupation in both form the basis of substantial human felicity. Great as the labour may appear to be of procuring subsistence, it will employ but a small portion of a civilized population :—how then is-subsistence to be found for the remainder?

GRANARD is about four miles, in a direction nearly north, from Edgeworthstown. This is a neat town, consisting of one handsome street about half a mile long; at the head of which stands the Castle, built on a singular hill rising to a considerable height. This elevation is called the Moat of Granard; and there can be little doubt, notwithstanding its eminence, that, as the surrounding country is perfectly flat, it is artificial. The prospect from its summit extends into several counties. This town gives the title of Earl to the family of Forbes; and it is somewhat noted for the annual prizes here given to the best performers on the Irish harp.

ABBEYLARAGH, situated upon Lough Coonoh, and a short distance east of Granard, has some ruins of an Abbey, founded by St. Patrick, and afterwards dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Lough Shillen, not far distant, is another and more extensive sheet of water, being seven miles in length and four broad; parts of the scenery around it are romantic. "On an island in this Lough, (says Archdall) and near to the county of Meath, the ruins of a large Friary are yet to be seen, which was built here in an earlier age: we know not to whom the erection is owing, nor to what order the house did belong; but to this day it continues a burial-place of note."

This part of Longford, which borders upon the province of Ulster, abounds in these inland waters: Lough Gams, north-west of Granard, is another of pretty considerable dimensions, but of most irregular form. One of its islands also contains the ruins of an Abbey; and a second, on which are the remains of a once noble edifice, called the Abbey of All Saints. Lough Derrick and Earne, in the same vicinity, will interest the picturesque tourist.

BALLYNAMUCK, a small village in this neighbour- hood, derives some celebrity from its having been the spot where the small French army, under General Humber, which arrived just at the close of the late rebellion, surrendered, together with the insurgents who had joined them, to Lord Cornwallis, in September, 1798.

ARDAGH lies a short distance south-west of Edgeworthstown. The see of Ardagh, which is valued in the king's books, at £11 sterling, was founded, according to Dr. Beaufort, in the middle of the fifth century. In 1658, it was united to the bishopric of Kilmore; and continued so, till Dr. Hort was promoted from those sees to the archbishopric of Tuam in 1741; when they were again separated, and Ardagh was annexed to the archbishopric; which union has continued ever since, though the diocese of Elphin intervenes between them. It extends into six counties, and yet is a very small diocese; the greatest length from north to south being 42 miles, and the breadth, which is in some places but four, never exceeding 14 miles. In this diocese there are a dean, and archdeacon, but no chapter, nor episcopal residence. The description of it given by a bishop of Kilmore, in 1630, might, with some little alteration, be but too appropriate to the present moment.

"I have been," said be, " about my diocese, and can set down out of my own knowledge and view, what I shall relate and shortly speak : much ill matter in a few words. It is very miserable every way: the cathedral of Ardagh, one of the most ancient in Ireland, and said to have been

built by St. Patrick, together with the bishop's house, are now down to the ground, &c."Of this Cathedral, slight indeed are the existing memorials; and could the good old prelate raise his head, and take a view of them, and of the neglected church-yard, he would perceive that, after the lapse of nearly two centuries, the dilapidation, very miserable every way, remain. Of the original foundation of this religious structure, Archdall speaks, when he says —"St. Patrick founded an abbey in this town before the year 454, over which, he placed St. Mell, the son of his sister Darerca, both as Abbot and Bishop. Some writers make this saint the founder; but in that particular, they must err, as Archbishop Usher informs us, that he acquired an humble livelihood by the labour of his own hands, and died on the 6th of February, A. D. 488. He was buried in his own church, and was said to have written a treatise on the virtues and miracles of St. Patrick." Proceeding to the southern parts of Longford county from this point, we pass the ruins of an old Castle at **TAUGHSHINNY**; and within a short distance, at **ABBEY-SHROWLE,** are remains of a Convent, situated near the banks of the river Inny. In this neighbourhood is a handsome house and extensive demesne called Tenelick.

A few miles previously to reaching **BALLYMAHON**, (a poor little town, surrounded by pleasing scenery,) we pass **DRUMSHA**, the birth-place of the poet Goldsmith, to which he is said to have alluded in his ' Deserted Village: in itself it possesses but little beauty or interest; but association' renders it a spot of some importance to every traveller, who can at all enter into the feeling descriptions of the bard. Nearly all southward of Edge-worthstown is a flat country, many parts of it naturally very rich, but its cultivation generally wretched. Yet there are many gentlemen's seats in this district, and several of them handsome, and of considerable magnitude.

The Royal Canal proceeds onwards from Mullinger through this portion of the county, and then in a more northern direction to Lough Allen in Connaught.

Pursuing the high road for six miles from Edgeworths-town, we arrive at LONGFORD, the shire-town, situated upon the river Camlin. It gives title of baron to the family of Pakenham. Here is a Charter-School for 60 boys. "In a very early age (says Archdall). an Abbey was founded here, of which St. Idus, one of St. Patrick's disciples, was abbot: his feast is celebrated on the 14th of July.—A. D. 400, a very fine Monastery was founded here, to the honour of the Virgin Mary, for Friars of the order of St. Dominick, by O'Ferrall, Prince of Annaly. On the 29th of January, 1615, King James I. granted this monastery to Francis Viscount Valentia. The church of this Friary is now the Parish-Church." In this town are also a Gaol, Court-House, Market-House, and Barracks.

NEWTON FORBES, north-west, is a small hut pleasing village, with a good Church.

At KILLASHEE, south-west, are the ruins of an antique Church; and, near, those of Brainstown Castle.

KENAGH, considerably more south, is a small village, amidst pretty scenery, on a river of that name: not far from which is Moss-Town, the splendid residence of the noble family of Newcomen; with the ruins of a Church and Castle in its vicinity.

LANESBOROUGH, six miles south-west from Longford, is a borough-town, returning two members to parliament. It is situated on the extreme verge both of the counties of Longford and Roscommon, where they are separated by the river Shannon; the same river serving also to divide the province of Leinster from Connaught. This town now gives the title of earl to the noble family of Butler, as it formerly did that of viscount to the family of Lane.

The magnificent river Shannon, upon whose banks the tourist now first finds himself, is the most considerable river, in regard to size, to be found in any European island, although it is inferior to the Thames in the grand point of navigable utility. It takes its rise among the mountains near Swanlingbar, in Connaught; and shortly falls into Lough Allen, a fine sheet of water, eight or

nine miles in length, and four or five in breadth. Then running through Lough Rea, a lake of about 15 miles long, and beautifully diversified with Upwards of 60 islands, it proceeds onwards by Athlone, Shannon Bridge, Banagher, &c. to Lough Derg, a still larger lake, in which about 50 islands are scattered. The most extensive of these islands, called Ilanmore, contains above 100 well cultivated and fertile acres; another is called Holy Island, and contains the ruins of seven churches, and a lofty round tower. The river now flows. on by Killaloe to Limerick, and is navigable from thence to the sea, which is 63 miles distant from that city. Its whole length therefore is as follows:

	Miles
Prom its source to Athlone	66
From Athlone to Killaloe	52
From the but mentioned place to Limerick	10
And from Limerick to the Sea	63
	Miles 191

In this course it falls, over small cascades, in the following proportions:

	Ft.	In.
Between its source and Athlone	39	0
Between Athlone and Killaloe	14	10
And between Killaloe and Limerick, or only 10 miles, not less than	97	2
	Feet 151	0

Above Limerick, therefore, the Shannon is navigable only for boats, and that only for a few miles, or upon the lakes described.

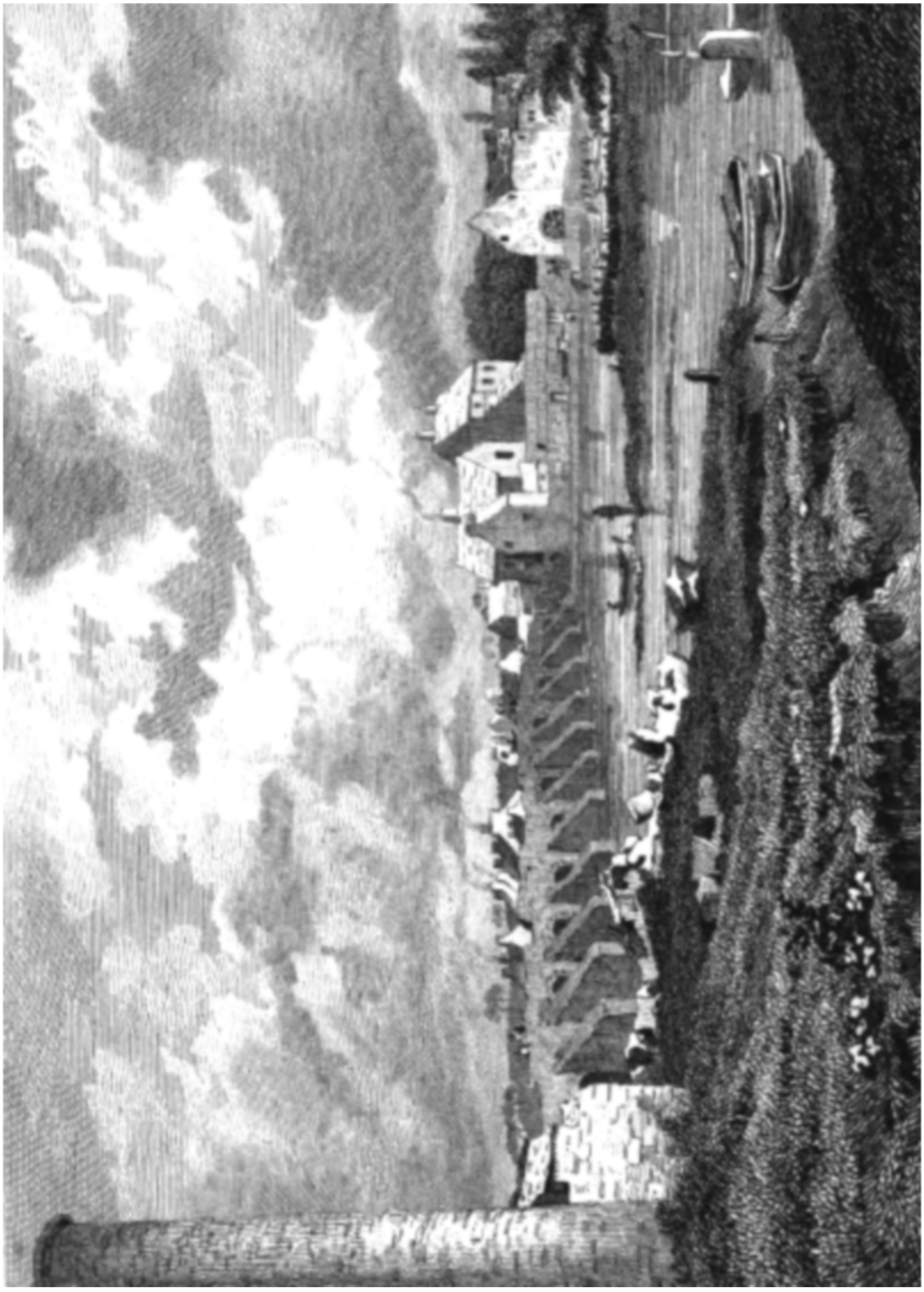
The Church of Lanesborough, standing about 400 yards' distance from the river, is usually called Lanes-borough Abbey, though no account of such a foundation appears in the **Monasticon**, or any other of the ecclesiastical records of Ireland. What remains of the, original building is little more than a belfry, and part of the walls of the chapel, which, having been re-roofed some years back, is devoted to the purposes of a parochial edifice.

Lanesborough possesses a handsome stone Bridge over the Shannon into the county of Roscommon: the town being seated on this noble river just where it spreads into Lough Rea, the large lake just mentioned, at the southern termination of which it makes its outlet, and flows on to Athlone. Lough Rea is rendered picturesque by its numerous islands, but its margin is generally tame and flat.

RATHLINE, also on the Shannon, and about two miles from Lanesborough Bridge, has a Castle on the river's bank, at the foot of the beautiful hill of Rathline. This edifice, now in ruins, having been dismantled by • Cromwell, is supposed to be one of the most ancient a its kind in Ireland. From the summit of the hill, the prospect over the adjacent country is very extensive.

We propose including the description of all the principal places to the north of the main line of the Grand Canal, and south of the high road to Athlone, in the present Excursion: and with this view, we now solicit the reader's attention to a southward detour from Mullingar, embracing in the first instance the town of **KILBEGGAN,** belonging to the Lambert family.

This is a place of little importance, but its neighbourhood commands some pretty river scenery on the Brosna, which, more northwardly, issues from Lough Ennel; and there are besides some ruins of a Monastery.



BANAGHER
KINGS COUNTY

PHILIPSTOWN, sometimes called **KILLADERRY,** though but a sorry village, seated on the Grand Canal, is the shire town of King's County. It was named from Philip II. of Spain, husband to Mary Queen of England, who made this part of the county shire-ground in 1557. It gives title of baron to the family of Molesworth. Here is a spacious Gaol; and a Castle, now in ruins, built in former ages by the Bellingham family.

Croghan Hill, three miles north of Philipstown, is beautifully clothed with luxuriant verdure to its top, which is conical, and is crowned by an ancient cemetery; at its base, are the ruins of a church.

Clara, Ballicumber, Ferbane, and Maystown, on the road from Kilbeggan to Ballinasloe in Connaught, are all places of trifling consideration, of which description were superfluous.

CLONMACNOIS,[55] sometimes called Seven Churches, the only deanry in the synod of the diocese of Meath, was formerly a bishop's see. It is situated on the east bank of the Shannon, a. few miles north of Maystown, and will greatly, interest the antiquary by the ruins of its once splendid Abbey, and some small remains of the numerous buildings anciently standing contiguous. Archdall's account of this grand religious foundation is very interesting. —"This monastery, which belonged to the regular canons of St. Augustin, was peculiarly and universally esteemed: it was uncommonly extensive, and amazingly enriched by various kings and princes. Its landed property was so great, and the number of cells and monasteries subjected to it so numerous, that almost half of Ireland was said to be within the bounds of Clonmacnoise.

55. The name of this place, pronounced Cluainmacnois, is said to be derived from Cluain, a retired lawn, or small nook of land, free from wood or rocks, near a river, and Mac-naoish, (pronounced Ænneesh) son of Ænguish, the adopted son of Enghusius, who is recorded to have been the abbot that succeeded to Kieran, the founder of the monastery here. But in the 11th number of Vallancey's Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis, William Beauford, Esq. deflnes Cluainmacnois to be the retirement or resting-place of the sons of the chiefs.

And what was a strong inducement, and contributed much towards enriching this house, it was believed that all persons who were interred in the holy ground belonging to it, had insured to themselves a sure and immediate ascent to heaven: many princes (it is supposed for this reason) chose this for the place of their sepulture; it was the Iona of Ireland. Yet, notwithstanding the reputed sanctity of this monastery, and the high estimation in which it was holden by all ranks of people, it appears that the abbey and town were frequently plundered, burnt, and destroyed, by despoilers of every kind, from the unpolished Irish desperado, to the empurpled king.

The abbey also suffered by the hands of the barbarous Ostmen; and not only by them, but (with concern do we add) by the English then settled in the kingdom; whose errand thither, we would wish to think, was to conciliate the affections of the people, to unite them in the bonds of friendship, and teach them to live like fellow-citizens and subjects: instead of this, we are compelled to say, that they too often joined in the sacrilegious outrages of other wicked men, and repeatedly disturbed and despoiled the peaceful seminary of Clonmacnoise; sparing neither book, vestment, or any other appendage of the sacred altar, which belonged to these truly inoffensive men.[56]

56. Dr. Ledwich, we conclude, must have stood aghast at this description of the brave and pious English or Norman settlers, whom he is so ready to extol for virtues, and sage colonizing principles and habits, the beneficial effects of which would have been too obvious in the present state of the island to need his pointing out to his countrymen, had they in truth ever existed. Well might he charge the modest and pains-taking Mervyn Archdall with ignorance and anility, when the information subtracted by that learned and laborious writer from so many valuable and authentic records, teemed with such proofs as those preserved in the annals of Clonmacnois, of his own gross partiality, and unfounded dogmatism; in describing the Antiquities' of Ireland!

MACARTHY'S CHURCH AND TOWER
CLONMACNOIS
KINGS COUNTY

THE CASTLE AT CLONMACNOIS KING'S COUNTY

"The situation of Clonmacnoise is delightful. It stands about 10 miles from Athlone, on the banks of the Shannon, and is raised above the river on ground composed of many small elevations, on which are a few of the buildings that did belong to this ancient house. Several other ruins appertaining to it may also be seen in the little valleys between the hills. The whole is bounded to the east and north with very large bogs.

" Here are two Round Towers, elegantly built of hewn stone; the larger, which is called O'Rourk's, and wants the roof, is 62 feet in height, and 56 in circumference; and the walls are three feet, eight inches, in thickness. The other tower, called Mac Carthy's, is seven feet in diameter within; and the walls are three feet in thickness, and 56 in height, including the conical-shaped roof. The next considerable building we find here, is the Cathedral, which was the ancient Abbey, (founded in the year 548, by St. Kieran:) the doors of it are richly carved. There are several old monuments in this church, on which are inscriptions, said to be partly in Hebrew[57] and partly in Irish.

57. Allowing this to be correct, (and it is to be observed that Archdall does not speak positively on this subject,) the fact can only be accounted for, by supposing the learned inmates of ancient Clonmacnois to have become familiar with the Hebrew characters through their acquaintance with the Sacred writings in that language: we have no passion for referring any of the Irish antiquities (and certainly, therefore, nothing to be found in the most ancient Christian cathedral) to a Phoenician era.

"At length, this Abbey, which was formerly endowed with very large possessions, suffered a gradual decline, and in the course of time was reduced and despoiled of all its property. The cemetery contained about two Irish acres, on which 10 other churches were afterwards built by the kings and petty princes of the circum-adjacent country; who, though at perpetual war whilst living, were here content to rest peaceably beside each other.

The several founders named these churches as follows: Temple Righ, or Melaghlin's Church, built by O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, and to this day it is the burial-place of that family; Temple O'Connor, built by O'Connor Dun; Temple Kelly; Temple Finian, or Mac Carthy, built by Mac Carthy-More, of Munster; Temple Hurpan, or Mac Laffry's Church; Temple Kieran; Temple Gauney; Temple Doulin, which is now the parish church; and Temple Mac Dermot: this last was much larger than any of the others; and before the west door stands a large old cross of one entire stone, much defaced by time, on which was some rude carving, and an inscription in antique and unknown characters: the north doors are very low, but guarded with small pillars of fine marble, curiously hewn.

Another of these churches hath within it an arch of greenish marble, flat wrought, and beautifully executed; the joints of which are so close, that the whole appears to be of one entire stone. Besides the cross before mentioned, there are three others in the church-yard. Here we also find Temple Easpie, or The Bishop's Chapel; and on the west of the cemetery lie some ruins of the Episcopal Palace, which may still be seen. The 9th of September is annually observed as the patron-day; when great numbers, from the most distant parts of Ireland, assemble here in pilgrimage:—A religious house for nuns appears to have been founded here early.[58]

58. Monast. Hibern. pp. 379 et seq.

In addition to the above, we gather, from the "Statistical Account or Parochial Survey," the following interesting particulars of the present state of the antiquities, and other objects worthy of remark, in the parish of Clonmacnois

.

The ruins of all the 10 churches mentioned by Arch. dall are still to be seen. At a short distance from them are remains of the bishop's palace; some parts of the walls of which have alone escaped the ravages of time. Not far off stands a remnant of the nunnery, consisting only of a single arch. The church-yard formerly attached to this extensive monastic establishment, (the abbey,)

continues to be one of the greatest burial-places in Ireland; upwards of 400 interments being supposed to take place here annually.

On the patron-day, alluded to by the author of the Monasticon, from 3 to 4000 people usually assemble, to do honour to St. Kieran, the titular saint, and for the purposes of penance: numbers come even from the county of Donegal. Tents and booths are erected round the church-yard for the accommodation of this assemblage of devotees. They continue here two days; and so often do these meetings end in quarrels, (from the effects of which many are confined to their beds for weeks' afterward,) that some respectable inhabitants have thought that their abolition would be every way desirable.

In 1816, from every information that could be procured, it appeared that there were 586 families resident in the parish; comprising 1618 males, and 1558 females. Eight only of these families were Protestant, the remainder Roman-Catholics. For the accommodation of these eight families there is a church; and a good glebe-house, with 40 acres of land attached, is associated with the living, which is a vicarage in the gift of the Bishop of Meath. Tythes are collected from all sorts of grain, at from 8s. to 12s. per acre, (there are 3723 acres of arable land in the parish;) and from sheep, at the rate of £1. 13s. 4d. per hundred; but neither meadow, potatoes, nor rape, pay tithe. There are two Roman-catholic chapels, numerously attended, with a priest to each.

As this district abounds with hills, their tops are allotted to pasturage ; and the vallies, being tilled, produce fine crops of corn, although the general appearance of the soil, which is very light and sandy, might lead at first view to an opposite conclusion. There is a lake, called Clonfalagh, which is computed to cover 90 acres, and more than double the number of acres employed in tillage are occupied by a bog. Most of the cultivated land is set in farms of from 10 to 15 acres; there are only a few comprising 25 acres: the general acreable rent is from a guinea and a half to two guineas: there are not (as is too common) any duty-services, or payments exacted from the tenants. The average wages of the labourer are 10d. a day in summer, and 8d. in winter.

The stock is chiefly cows, horses, and sheep of the old Irish breed. There is not one resident possessor of a-fee-simple estate; neither, if we except the glebe-house, is there more than one good slated house, which belongs to the holder of about 200 acres. The cottages are mostly of stone, (that material being common in the neighbourhood,) and thatched: they make a rather neat appearance, and are tolerably comfortable within.

As to the population, they are not in general in such circumstances of poverty, as from some of the facts just cited might be imagined. Potatoes and milk form the common articles of diet; to which_ fish is often added, procured either from the river Shannon or from the lake. The poorest usually keep one cow, and some have three or four: there are few who have not besides one working horse, and some two. The fuel is turf, which is plentiful and of good quality. The costume is usually of grey frieze, or coarse blue cloth.

The people are industrious; courteous to strangers, but of a stubborn disposition, it is said, in their intercourse with each other. Their general language is English, but they occasionally hold discourse in Irish. The male children are brought up to husbandry, and the females employed in spinning. There are no public schools; but the parish-clerk keeps a licensed Protestant school, which is very badly attended, not more than 15 children receiving instruction from him. There are, however, three Roman-catholic schools, whose average number of pupils fluctuates from 40 to 80: the quarterly salary for tuition in these is s. 8d. for reading and spelling; 3s. 4d. for writing and arithmetic.

The parish, which comprehends in all upwards of 12,000 acres Irish, and is about eight miles long by three broad, contains one collection of dwellings of town, or rather village-like appearance. This is called Shannon-Bridge, from a very handsome bridge there built across the river. It has a few slated houses, of two stories; the rest, in number about 300 are thatched. There

is a small barrack, capable of accommodating a company of soldiers; and a magazine has been erected in its rear. A large tower, and battery, occupy the western (or Connaught) side of the bridge; the necessity for which is supposed to be derived from its being the great pass from that province into Leinster. The want of a market at this place is severely felt by the soldiers, who are obliged to frequent that at Ballinasloe, six miles distant. The inn is nothing more than a car-driver's stage; but there are several shops which retail unlicensed spirits, better known throughout the country by the name of Shebeen-houses.

We make no apology for the introduction of these details relative to this particular parish; since they are calculated to convey an excellent statistical view, in several respects, not of Clonmacnois alone, but of this general neighbourhood. Our authority for them, as we have stated, is the Parochial Survey, already more than once alluded to; and we feel that we can add nothing of importance to the remarks of such competent judges, by situation and experience, as the parochial incumbents in the several provinces and counties.

Accident having on one occasion introduced us to the interior of one of the Shebeen-houses mentioned above, we were rather amused by the conversation of two peasants of the country, who had been taking their morning' there, and were now engaged in discourse upon what appeared to be to them a most important subject. The fumes of the whiskey were somewhat visible in the countenances of both; besides which, there was an expression of mingled archness and insinuation in the face of the one, which oddly contrasted with the good-natured, bothered, half-penetrative and half-duped, half-reluctant and half-complying, physiognomy of the other. It was easy to see, that the first was soliciting a favour, which the latter neither knew how to grant nor to refuse.—" And will you lend me the rope—were the terms in which the mighty boon desired was so earnestly requested; but never were these important words permitted to escape the mouth of the applicant, until a volley of persuasion and flattery had smoothed their passage to the ears of his companion; who, by the contortion of his features, occasioned by their at once wincing and smiling, betrayed at the same moment feelings both of gratification and distress.

In vain did the possessor of the required article endeavour to remind his urgent friend of some small pecuniary obligation, as yet un-cancelled by repayment, which he had formerly conferred on him; so well did the other, without seeming to notice any hints of this nature, intimate, without directly promising, a speedy satisfaction of this old score, and so adroitly by incessant praises of the rope-owner's honesty, kind-heartedness, and so forth, did he continue to urge his present suit, that all resistance on the part of the latter was at length overcome, and they left the She-been-house together, apparently in quest of the object that had been with so much pertinacity desired. We longed for a dramatic representation, from the pen of an Edgeworth, of this little scene: for ourselves, we are sufficiently convinced, that our utter inadequacy to follow the language of the actors, must deprive our sketch of the characteristic spirit and effect we could have wished to convey into it.

Resuming our direct route from Mullingar to Athlone, we first reach **RATHCONRATH,** a village of no importance; to the right, is **BALNA-CARIG**, and, as we proceed, **MOIVORE**; both equally uncelebrated.

BALLYMORE, or **LOUGHSENDY**, a village midway between Mullingar and Athlone, possesses some objects of interest: among others, a neat Church, and the ruins of a Castle. Loughsendy has on its banks the ancient Monastery of Plassey.—" An abbey was founded here, A. D. 700, or probably before that time. We know no more of this ancient abbey; but are told, that in 1218, the family of Lacie erected a monastery here, in honour of the Virgin Mary, for Gilbertines, which order consisted of canons of Præmonstre order, and nuns following the rule of St. Benedict; they lived under the same roof, but in separate apartments."

KILLININNEY, on the right, has a dilapidated Castle, that may be inspected by travellers in search of the picturesque; though we would not recommend others to consider it worth while to go out of their way for the purpose.

At MOATE GRENOGUE, on the left, is a good inn, for the accommodation of such as wish minutely to explore the surrounding district; which comprehends the remains of numerous other antique Castles, &c.

DRUMRANY, or **DRUMRATH**, is something more than two miles west from Ballymore. A famous Monastery was founded here, (says Archdall) A. D. 588, in honour of St. Enan, whose festival is celebrated on the 19th of August. In the year 946, this monastery, with 150 persons in it, was burnt to the ground by the Ostmen.

Kilkenny West lies three miles farther in the same direction. Agreeably to the authority just quoted, "an Abbey was founded here in the early ages; for we find that the Abbot St. Scannail died A. D. 773.

A Priory, or Hospital, was afterwards erected in this town for Cross-bearers, or Crouched Friars, under the invocation of St. John the Baptist. Some writers erroneously give the foundation to the family of Tyrell; but from the best authority we say, that Friar Thomas, a priest, and grandson of Sir Thomas Dillon, who came into Ireland A. D. 1185, was the founder of this house, and lies interred here.

There was also a Holy Well at this village, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. At Maghre-Tibot, or The Field of Theobald, in this vicinity, see the field of battle, where Sir Theobald de Vernon fell in a contest with some of the Irish clans.

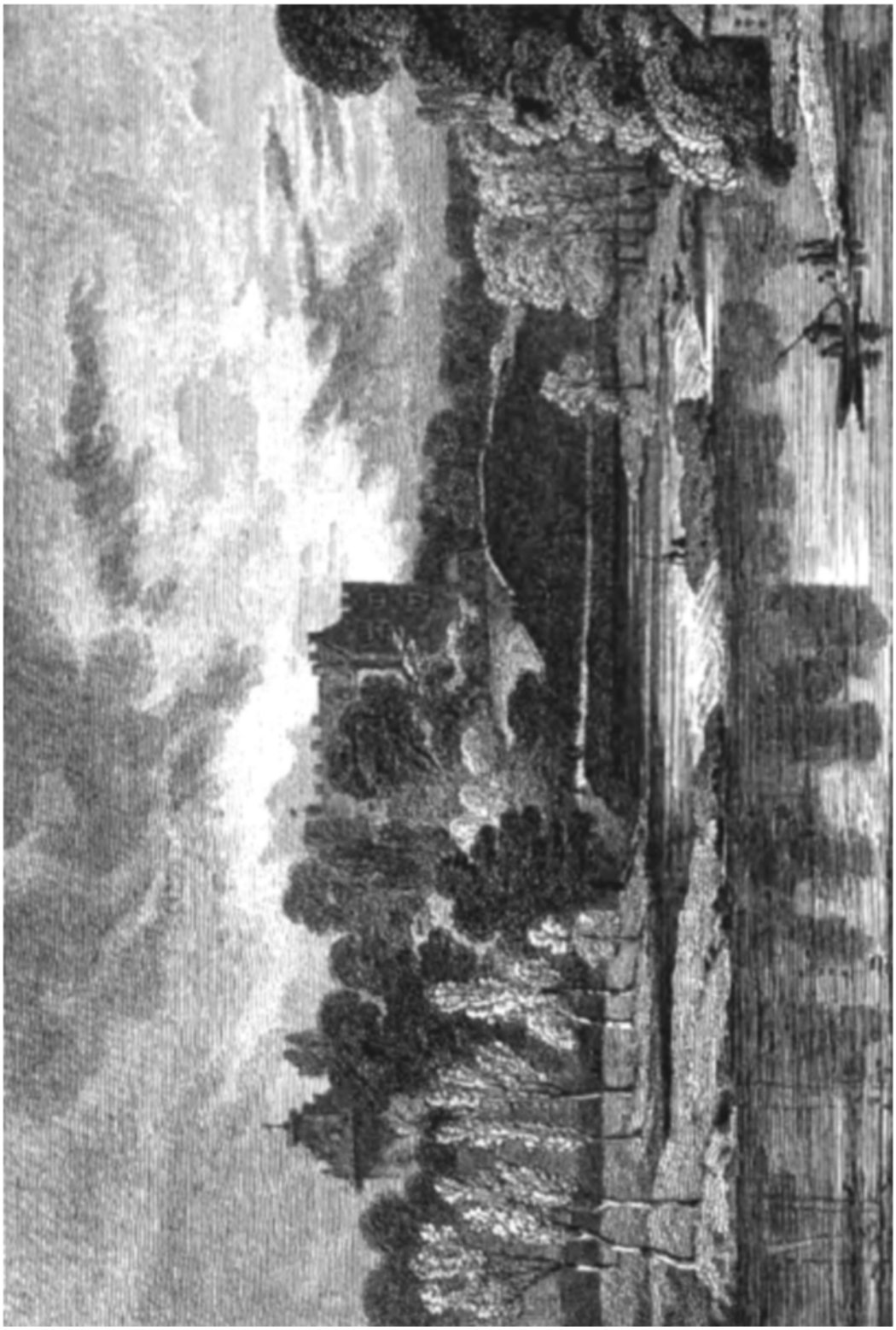
At a village in this vicinity, Mr. Curwen notices his having encountered an interesting funeral procession. ‘The dirge,' he observes, 'which had sounded so harsh and discordant at Cork, was conducted here in a manner and with an effect totally different. The performers were young females. The corpse, we were told, was that of a female under 20, who appeared to be greatly lamented, as we observed many a tearful eye. The tones and cadence of the mourners partook so much of real grief, as to give a character of feeling to the whole, and created a deep and painful interest.

I did not suspect the Irish funeral ceremony could have been rendered so truly impressive and affecting. This is characteristic; as is the following:—

How variously checquered are the scenes of life! We had scarcely recovered from the melancholy sensations the last spectacle had produced, when our attention was arrested by a large party, assembled at the entrance of a village, and engaged in dancing reels in the road. Their performance, which by no means disgraced them as dancers, exhibited so much life and spirit, that we became interested spectators of their rural festivity.

Such was the buoyancy of youth, animated by the presence of beauty, that the discordant notes of a miserable riddle called forth a joy and light headedness truly enviable.—An observation, which has been made by some, that people are often light-hearted as they are poor, applies here in its full force: perhaps, to be divested of the riches, is sometimes felt to be divested of the encumbrances of life; and we all know that people dance the lighter for their being perfectly unshackled—which, in this respect, is undoubtedly the case with the majority in Ireland.

The country, as we approach Athlone, is still flat, and has few natural beauties to recommend it. On the left are some venerable remains of Garry Castle. Athlone is a considerable town, and rendered important as commanding the passage of the Shannon, on which it is situated, and by means of which it communicates with the Grand Canal. On these accounts, it is the station of a



KILKENNY CASTLE

large military force and numerous staff. Lines have also been thrown up on the bank of the Shannon; but, though they might serve to protect the place in the event of any sudden popular commotion, they could oppose no effectual barrier to a regular force.

In Twiss's "***Tour in Ireland in 1775***," occurs a curious notice of the Canal, the communication of which with Athlone at length forms a subject of just exultation for the country at large. "In 1765," says that writer, "a canal was begun to be cut from this place, (Dublin) and intended to be continued to Athlone, which is about 70 English miles, in order to open, a communication with the Shannon:—at the rate the work is at present carried on, it bids fair for being completed in three or four centuries." We see from this the immense increase that must have taken place in the exertions of the undertakers, on the government's promulgation of their bounty scheme.

Athlone is fifty-nine miles, Irish, north by west from Dublin. It is partly in the county of Westmeath, and province of Leinster, and partly in the county of Roscommon, and province of Connaught; the divisions made by the Shannon being united by a strong, high raised, and well-built Bridge. This town sends one member to Parliament: the patronage is in the families of Lord Castlemain and St. George.

The magistrates are, a sovereign, vice-sovereign, two bailiffs, a recorder, deputy, and town-clerk. It gives title of Earl to the Dutch family of Ginckle, as a reward for the services performed by the General of that name in the year 1691. The Right Hon. Viscount Dillon is Constable and Governor of the garrison.

There is a Charter- School for 40 boys; and, near, a celebrated Chalybeate Spring. The place was formerly rich in antiquities: but they were nearly all destroyed in the civil wars of Ireland: but the Castle yet remains, defended by numerous guns.—"Here we find an Abbey, which was founded for Cistercian monks, under the in vocation of St. Peter. Other writers give the dedication to St. Benedict, and say it was founded for monks, of his order. In a table of the procurations of the Church of Elphin, this is called the Monastery de Innocentia. In that part called the English Town, situate on the east coast of the Shannon, a monastery was founded for Conventual Franciscans by Cathal, or Charles Croibh Dearg O'Connor, Prince of Connaught, who, not living to finish the building, it was completed by Sir Henry Dillon."*

*Arolidall.

NORTH GATE ATHLONE

THE NEW CHRISTIAN CRUSADE CHURCH

CALLING THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN

At last the bible makes sense!

At last we know its meaning.

Its the book of the RACE

"For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:3).”