

CORK,

WITH THE VILLAGES OF BLACKROCK, GLANMIRE, RIVERSTOWN, DOUGLAS, BLARNEY, AND THEIR SEVERAL VICINAGES.

CORK is the capital of the county of the same name, a bishop's See, a parliamentary borough, and an important port, 157 miles s.w. from Dublin and 76 w.s.w. from Waterford, seated on the navigable river Lee. It was originally built on an island formed by the river, which separates it into two branches a short distance above the town, and unites again immediately below it. The town, however, as it increased in size, soon spread beyond this natural boundary, and, at present, the two channels may be said to trisect the city all through, thus affording the advantages of two navigable rivers, enabling the merchants to ship and discharge their cargoes in the very centre of the city. Saint Finbarr founded his abbey near the site of Cork, it is said, in the seventh century, at which period the region around was a wilderness; but his establishment, with its school for seven hundred students, caused a population to congregate, which grew into a town, and the town into a city and a see, and now Cork is the second city in Ireland in extent and population, and third as regards commerce—ranking, in this respect, after Dublin and Belfast. It is supposed that the city owes its conformation mainly to the Danes, who, in the ninth century, fortified and surrounded it with walls; but it never was a place of very great strength, although it resisted for five days, in the year 1690, the Earl of Marlborough, who recovered it from King James' forces, and made the garrison, consisting of four thousand five hundred men, prisoners of war. When Cromwell paid a short visit to Cork during the civil war, he ordered the church bells to be cast into guns, and in reply to a remonstrance, he wittily remarked, that as a priest had invented gunpowder, he thought it due to the bells of the church to promote them to *canons*. Cork is fifteen miles distant from the sea, but its harbour, or, as it is termed, its 'Cove,' is celebrated for its capaciousness, and the river up to the bridges, of which there are no fewer than nine, is navigable for vessels of two hundred tons burden. The environs of Cork are greatly admired, by strangers, for the almost unrivalled landscapes which, in every direction, present themselves—a circumstance which causes the number of respectable private dwellings within the city to be comparatively few—the merchants and professional portion of the inhabitants generally availing themselves of the salubrity and convenience of the suburbs for places of residence. The scenery on each side of the river, from Cove to the city, presents an uninterrupted succession of elegant villas and tastefully laid out pleasure grounds. In summer the citizens resort to Cove and Monkstown, both on the shores of the harbour, for the benefit of sea-bathing, for which, and at Passage (seven miles below the town), every facility is provided. The air of Cove, in particular, is much celebrated for its genial effects on invalids, who, of late years, have flocked thither, in large numbers, from all parts of the kingdom. Numerous handsome river steamers ply between all these places several times daily, during the summer. The districts of Sunday's Well and Glanmire, both situated on high grounds on the north side of the river, and that of Blackrock on the south, are thickly populated districts, mostly inhabited by gentry and merchants.

The city of Cork itself, though not distinguished for any peculiar architectural beauty, is a fine substantially built town, many of the streets being open and commodious. One remarkable feature is their irregularity (sometimes, perhaps, producing an agreeable effect), a circumstance chiefly caused by the fact of their having once been docks, which, being filled up, became converted into streets, without regard to any regular plan. A stranger is generally struck with the appearance of the dwellings, the fronts of many being covered with slates, which impart, in some instances, a peculiarly sombre appearance to them. The principal streets are Patrick-street, the Grand-parade, South-mall, Great Georges-street, North Main-street, and South Main-

street. These are entirely occupied by shops and places of business, while the South-mall is appropriated by gentlemen of the learned professions. The Dyke is a favourite promenade of the citizens to the west of the town, about a mile in length, and planted on each side with rows of lofty elms. A large space of ground, on the banks of the river below the town, is now being reclaimed from the tide, for the formation of a city park. It contains over three hundred acres, surrounded by an amphitheatre of hilly scenery. The length of the city, from north to south, is two miles, and its breadth nearly one mile and a quarter.

The PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS, religious, municipal, benevolent, scientific, or otherwise, with their respective officials, are all given in a list appended to the directory of the city at a subsequent page. We shall, however, briefly describe those most entitled to especial notice. The court houses, in Great Georges-street, are ornamented with a fine Corinthian portico, and are replete with convenient offices. The savings' bank, lately erected in Warren's-place, presents two beautiful Ionic facades. The commercial buildings, in the South-mall, with its reading rooms and hotel, is a tastefully designed building. In Patrick-street is a commodious structure, with a fine front of hewn stone, called the chamber of commerce, containing also a reading-room and hotel. The county and city gaols, at opposite sides of the town, are prisons on the most approved plan. The 'County,' 'Daly's,' and the 'Grand Parade' club-houses, are well adapted for their purposes. On a commanding eminence stands the capacious military barracks, capable of accommodating several regiments of cavalry and infantry. The quondam botanic garden, once so popular as a place of recreation, was sold in 1826, and its new proprietor, the celebrated Father Theobald Mathew, has changed its gaieties into a mournful cemetery, after the plan of Père la Chaise at Paris—it is now very beautiful, but very sad; many of the sculptured mementos are strikingly touching. An equestrian statue of George II ornaments the end of the Grand-parade, and in one of the apartments of the mansion-house, there is a fine marble statue of the great Earl of Chatham, and a second, a plaster cast, one of William III. The exchange has been supplanted by the 'commercial buildings.' The custom-house cannot boast of beauty, but is venerable for age, being under twenty-one; the original custom-house stood higher up the river.

The COMMERCE of Cork has, for many years, been of great importance, and its character, as a city of great trade, remains unimpaired. The exports are chiefly grain, butter, provisions, hides, candles, soap, porter, whisky, sheep, pigs, and cattle. The imports comprise groceries, wines, brandy, rum, hardware, earthenware, cloth, coals, oil, timber, staves, flax-seed, tar, turpentine, &c. &c. The number of sailing vessels belonging to the port, in 1843, was one hundred and twenty-three under fifty tons; two hundred and thirty-seven above that tonnage, and seven steamers. The number of sailing vessels that entered the port, during the same year, in the cross channel trade, was 2,525 and 291 steamers. The number of vessels that left the port, in that trade, was 1,815 and 302 steamers, and, in the colonial and foreign trade, the number entered inward was one hundred and eleven, and outward one hundred and eight. The gross produce of the customs, in 1843, was £275,981. Nearly 300,000 firkins of butter are sold in the butter market annually, and upwards of 6,000 barrels of corn have been sold in one day. The principal manufactures are leather, gloves, glass and iron. Brewing, distilling, and tanning, are carried on extensively, so is the making of candles, soap, ropes, and tobacco. There are large establishments in the timber trade, and in the salt, lime, and chymical works. There are three proprietary banking concerns, numerous assurance agencies, and twelve principal inns or hotels in the city.

In most of these, accommodations of the first order may be found for families of distinction or commercial gentlemen. Three newspapers issue from the Cork press—the 'Constitution,' the 'Examiner,' and the 'Southern Reporter,' all admirably conducted, and enjoy an extensive circulation; one appears each day, except Sunday.

The CORPORATION of Cork is very ancient, and originally existed by prescription. The first charter appears to have been granted by John, Earl of Morton, while viceroy in Ireland, in the reign of his father Henry II; the original of this curious document is lost, but a copy of it is preserved amongst the Harleian MSS in the British Museum. The earliest charter in existence is that granted by Henry III, under which the chief officer was styled 'provost.' Succeeding monarchs conferred other charters and privileges. These have been either superseded by or embodied in the Municipal Reform Act, passed in the 2nd William IV; the corporation in which is styled 'the mayor, sheriffs, and commonalty of the city of Cork,' and comprises a mayor, recorder, sheriff, sixteen aldermen, and forty-eight town councillors, chosen from the eight wards of Lee, St. Patrick, Glanmire, Corn Market, St. Finbarr, Mansion House, Exchange, and Custom House. The mayor, recorder, and all the aldermen, are justices of the peace for the County of the City, and the mayor is also a judge of assize, justice of the peace for the county at large, a judge of the courts of record and conscience, and president of the council, and of the court for the hundred of D'Oyer. The courts of the corporation are, the mayor and sheriffs' court, held weekly; the courts of city sessions, quarterly; and the court of conscience, for the recovery of debts not exceeding 40s. The income of the corporation is nearly £7,000. a year. Under the new police bill there are a chief constable, a head constable, eleven constables, and sixty-two sub-constables. The city is within the Munster circuit: the assizes for the county at large are held here, and at the same time those for the County of the City. The recorder holds a weekly court for personal actions every Thursday, and a civil bill court monthly. The city returns two members to parliament, and the county two. For the city, the present members are, Francis L. Murphy, sergeant-at-law, Brick-court, Temple, London, Esquire, and Daniel Callaghan, Sydney-place, Cork, and Suffolk-street, London, Esquire. For the county, Daniel O'Connell, Derrynane Abbey, county of Kerry, and 30 Merrion-square, Dublin, Esquire, and Edmund Burke Roche, Trillick House, Cloyne, Esquire. Cork confers the title of Earl on the descendants of the great Boyle family.

PLACES OF WORSHIP, SCHOOLS, &c.—The cathedral, dedicated to Saint Barr or Saint Finbarr, is an inelegant mixture of modern and ancient materials; the tower and steeple are the remains of the former church, the greater portion of the other parts were built between the years 1725 and 1735; the interior is furnished with stalls and a bishop's throne, which alone distinguishes the edifice from an ordinary parish church. There is a doorway, with pointed arches remaining of the ancient building, which is worthy of notice. The bishop's palace and the diocesan library adjoin the cathedral. Archdeacon Pomeroy's school likewise is connected with the library. The church of St. Ann Shandon, stands on the northern side of the river, and is conspicuous for its lofty steeple, and pleasing for its musical bells. St. Peter's has a handsome zinc spire, lately erected, and possesses much interior beauty. St. Mary Shandon, united with St. Catherine, is an unpretending structure. Christ Church has been lately re-built, and though its outward form cannot boast of beauty, its internal comeliness is superior to any other church in Cork. St. Paul's is a neat building, without a steeple. St. Nicholas' is small, but neat, and steepleless. St. Luke's, at the northern end of the city, is newly built, and is a handsome specimen of church architecture, with a tower and spire. The Cork Episcopal Free Church is a large wooden structure without embellishment. The chief Roman Catholic chapel, or the cathedral of the diocese, is cruciform and spacious, having three altars, and its decorations display great richness and elegance: on one side is a nunnery, on the other a school. The South parish Roman Catholic chapel is large but plain; within it is a monument to Doctor

McCarthy. There are two other Roman Catholic chapels, besides four within the monastic establishments. The new Dominican chapel, on Pope's quay, is of great beauty, highly decorative to the city. There are several other chapels now building of great elegance. The Presbyterian, the Baptist, the Independent, and the four Wesleyan chapels, are all handsome structures, and there are meeting-houses for the Society of Friends and the Plymouth brethren. The ministers of all the above places of worship will be found at the end of the Cork directory, as well as in the gentry list. The monastic communities are the following: an Augustinian friary, in Brunswick-street; the Franciscan, in Cross-street; the Dominican, in Dominic-street; the Capuchin, in Blackmoor-street; the Christian Brothers, in Peacock-lane; the Presentation Nunnery, in Cove-street; the North Presentation, in Clarence-st., and the Sisters of Mercy, on Eason-hill, and in Rutland-street. The chapel of the Capuchins, now building, has already cost £20,000. It is after the design of Salisbury Cathedral. The principal schools are the following:—Saint Stephen's Blue Coat Hospital, the funds of which support twenty-two boys, sons of decayed Protestant citizens, and maintain four at Trinity College, Dublin. The Green Coat Hospital was founded in 1715, for the instruction of twenty boys and the same number of girls in the rudiments of knowledge and Protestant principles. Deane's Charity Schools date from the will of Moses Deane, in 1726, who bequeathed a certain sum to accumulate till it amounted to £12,000., to be invested in land for the education of children of both sexes in the parishes of Christ Church, Saint Peter, St. Mary Shandon, and St. Nicholas. The Diocesan Schools include a certain number for gratuitous education. Archdeacon Pomeroy founded a school, which is at the east side of the cathedral, containing a library of several thousand volumes. Besides the above, each parish has a school for free instruction. The institutions, which have for their object the dispensation of charity to the indigent, relief to the sick, and the promotion of science, literature, and education, are numerous in this respectable city, and well sustained; when not noticed in this article, they will all be found named, as previously stated, in the list headed 'Public Buildings,' &c. at the end of the Cork directory. The Cork County and City Horticultural Society was established under the patronage of the Duchess of Kent, and published its first report in the month of January, 1835: the society is supported by subscription, and promises to be conducive to the horticultural and agricultural improvement of the district. The Cork Royal Institution was founded in 1803, by subscription, for diffusing the knowledge and facilitating the introduction of all improvements in the arts and manufactures: in 1807, the proprietors obtained a royal charter of incorporation. The institution possesses a valuable museum, a library of five thousand volumes, and philosophical and chymical apparatus. The Cork Scientific and Literary Society was revived in 1834, after the demolition of a former society; essay meetings are held in the lecture-room of the Cork Royal Institution. The Society of Arts, established in 1815, although not eminently prosperous, still affords patronage and assistance to youthful talent. The School of Physic and Surgery was established by Dr. Woodroffe, in 1811, and continues to flourish. This school is connected with the South Infirmary, and the hospital of the House of Industry; and lectures are delivered during the winter half-year.

MARKETS, FAIRS, AND POPULATION.—There are twelve public markets, exclusive of the corn and coal marts, and the butter weigh-house, viz.:—The Grand-parade market, for meat, fish, and vegetables, *daily*; Barrack-street, Blackpool, Capwell, New-lane, and Old Market-place markets, for potatoes, milk, and vegetables, *daily*; Corn Market-street market, for meat, oatmeal, &c. *daily*; North Main-street market, for potatoes, *daily*; Shandon market, for meat and vegetables, *daily*; Moncrea-marsh market, for corn, hay, straw, and slaughtered pigs, *daily*; Barrack-street market, for cattle, &c. *Wednesday*; and Cattle Market-street market, for cattle, &c. *Monday and Thursday*. The corn market, Albert-quay, and the contiguous bridge leading to it, cost £17,460. The coal market is on the quay. FAIRS, at Gallows-green, March 28th and 29th,