

night of meeting by the members in succession. The Belfast Medical Society hold their meetings once a month, in the Belfast Hospital, in the library of which building there is a valuable collection of medical and surgical books for the use of the members. Within about a mile of the town are the Royal Botanic Gardens, which are laid out with great taste, and contain a large and valuable collection of native and foreign plants. The conservatory is of considerable extent, and built on a light and elegant plan. The Theatre-Royal, situated in Arthur-street, is externally a plain building, but its interior is well fitted and embellished, and satisfactorily conducted by the present lessee and manager, Mr. T. Cunningham. The Anacreontic Society, instituted for the cultivation of vocal and instrumental music, holds its meetings in the Music Hall, a fine spacious building in May-street, capable of accommodating an audience of about seven hundred. The members meet for practice weekly, and, during the winter season, give concerts. Among the clubs in Belfast may be noticed the 'Northern Rowing Club,' the 'Belfast and Ulster Cricket Clubs,' the 'Northern,' the 'Union,' the 'Maclean,' and 'Burns' clubs. The House of Correction, erected in 1817, near the upper end of Chichester-street, is a substantial structure; and the new bridge, situated in the Crumlin-road, in the suburbs, is one of great strength and magnitude, calculated to contain six or seven hundred prisoners. The grounds belonging to the New Water Works Company are situated in the Antrim New road, within about a mile of the town. The view from the walk surrounding this beautiful sheet of water is very fine, comprehending the opposite hills of the county Down, and an extensive view of the lough down to the Irish Channel. There are no fewer than nine newspapers issued from the press of Belfast weekly, besides a monthly publication: they are, for the most part, conducted with very considerable talent, and take an elevated stand among the literature of the day. Their titles and publishers, &c. are given under the proper head.

**TRADE and COMMERCE.**—In 1740 Lord Strafford purchased on the part of the crown, from the corporation of Carrickfergus, their privilege of importing foreign goods, at one third of the duties payable in other places. This most judicious measure would have been of small consequence, had not Belfast and the surrounding country been at that period inhabited by an industrious people, who applied themselves closely to the manufacture of linen, which created a demand for articles of importation; but the wars subsequent to the year 1741 caused considerable interruption to the rising prosperity of Belfast. From the day that peace was re-established, and attention paid to its interests, a wonderful source of prosperity was then discovered, and in the beginning of the last century Belfast became well known in Europe, as a place of considerable trade. Since that period it has risen to a degree of prosperity seldom exceeded, and it now ranks the first provincial town in Ireland for the extent of its commerce and manufactures. Its imports, a few years since, amounted nearly to four millions sterling, and its exports to four millions and a half—consisting of grain, linen, cattle, fowls, eggs, &c. Twenty-five steamers ply regularly between this port and London, Liverpool, Dublin, Glasgow, Fleetwood, Carlisle, Ardrossan, Stranraer and Whitehaven. The passage to Liverpool and Fleetwood averages twelve hours; to Glasgow ten. There is also an extensive trade to the United States and British America, the West Indies, Mediterranean and the Baltic. In 1843 the total number of vessels was 3,370—tonnage, 363,038 tons: the quantity of coal imported in the same year amounted to 171,000 tons. An extensive branch of trade is the curing of pork; the number of pigs brought into the town from the adjacent country being immense—one house in this trade has not unfrequently paid on a single market day upwards of £5,000. for pigs alone; and the value exported in a season frequently exceeds one million sterling. In the vicinity of the town there are about sixty flax and cotton mills in active operation, and many others are in progress. In the Brown Linen Market, Donegal street, considerable quantities of fine yard-wide brown linens are sold on each Tuesday and Friday. Among other large establishments are two distilleries, twelve breweries, several flour and corn mills, foundries and tan yards, two vitriol works, a

patent felt manufactory, saw mills, &c. Belfast Lough forms one of the safest and most commodious havens in the world, the entrance being in breadth about five English miles, and the length about twelve, gradually narrowing as it approaches the bridge. There are both wet and dry docks under the best regulations. The corporation for preserving and improving the port and harbour of Belfast (established by statute in 1831), is authorized, by act of parliament, to exact certain sums on registered tonnage, for the purpose of improving the harbour, making docks, employing pilots, &c. Extensive improvements have of late years been effected in the harbour, by deepening the channel, and making a straight cut towards the Whitehouse roads. Formerly at high tide there were not more than eight or nine feet of water at the town; now, by the judicious labours of the corporation, vessels of fourteen or fifteen feet draught may be moored close to the quays. The same body has purchased all the docks and quays, which were formerly private property; and it is in contemplation to fill up several of the old docks and construct new ones, on a far more extensive and useful plan. A light-house, serving also as a depot for pilots, has lately been erected in the harbour, which will be of great service to vessels entering the lough: the building is of an octagonal form—constructed of timber, and elevated on piles nearly thirty feet above water—the platform on which the house stands is upwards of thirty feet across, and the structure is secured upon the new patent screw principle discovered by Alexander Mitchell, Esq. of this town. The monetary establishments in Belfast comprise that of the Belfast Banking Company, Donegal street; the Bank of Ireland, Donegal place; the Northern Banking Company, Castle street; the Ulster Banking Company, Waring street; and the Provincial Bank of Ireland, Donegal street:—there are also the Belfast Savings' Bank, and the Mont de Piété Loan Fund: the former, situated in King street, was instituted in 1816—in November, 1844, the balance in the bank amounted to £106,075, the property of 5,094 depositors. The Loan Fund was established by act of parliament, the business of which is carried on in Church street. Loans are made to honest, sober, and industrious persons by this society, in sums from £1. to £10. upon two sureties guaranteeing the re-payment, at the rate of one shilling for each pound every week—fourpence per pound for twenty weeks being charged as interest. The surplus funds are appropriated by the committee to the charitable institutions of the town. With the subject of commerce we may properly place our notice of railways, as connected or about to be connected with this town. The only line yet established in this part of Ireland is the 'Ulster,' open as far as Portadown, twenty-four English miles, and passing through the towns of Lisburn, Moira and Lurgan. Application was made to parliament during the session of 1844-5 for an extension of the line to Armagh; and at Portadown, on this line, the Belfast and Dublin Junction Railway will branch off. The Belfast and Ballymena Railway is now in progress through parliament, as is a bill for the Belfast and Downpatrick line.

**MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.**—In the year 1613 Belfast was erected into a corporate borough, by charter from James I, the body to consist of a sovereign, twelve burgesses, and a commonalty; a lord and constable of the castle were also added, the former office directed to be fulfilled by Lord Chichester and his heirs; these officers ranked as burgesses, and enjoyed privileges equal to those of the other twelve. At this period Belfast does not appear to have been a place of much note or extent, as it is styled in the charter 'town or village.' The borough of Belfast is now governed by a corporation elected from five municipal districts, namely, Saint Ann's Ward, Dock Ward, Smithfield Ward, Saint George's Ward, and Cromac Ward—each division returning two aldermen and six councillors, and from the former a mayor is annually chosen. General sessions of the peace are held, in the court-house, four times a year, before the residing barrister (J. Gibson, Esq.), and the mayor and magistrates; petty sessions in the town-hall, before W. Malony, Esq. the resident magistrate, daily, at twelve; and a manor court is held every third Thursday, in the court-house, for the recovery of debts not exceeding £20, at which S. McDowell Elliott, Esq. the seneschal, presides. In the town is situated

the dwelling of the county resident magistrate, and it is the head quarters of the northern military district, and of the constabulary for the district. Persons charged with serious offences are committed to the county gaol at Carrickfergus, and those for light ones to the new bridewell on the Crumlin-road. The corporation has the controul of the paving, lighting, and cleansing of the town; the average annual expense of which is about £10,000. The borough returned two representatives to the Irish Parliament from the date of its incorporation by James I. till the Union, after which it sent one to the Imperial Parliament until the passing of the Reform Bill, when its original number was restored. The constituency numbers about two thousand—the present members are James Emerson Tennent, 17, Lower Belgrave-street, London, Esquire; and David Robert Ross, of Rosstrevor, county of Down, Esquire. Belfast confers the titles of earl and baron on the ancient family of Chichester, Marquesses of Donegal.

The PLACES of WORSHIP in Belfast are numerous, as will be seen from the list appended to the directory—we shall in this place direct attention only to the principal edifices. The Parochial Church of Saint Anne's, situated on the east side of Donegal-street, is a handsome structure, the body of brick, the front of stone—the latter is adorned with a handsome doric portico and attic balustrade; it has a tower and cupola, surmounted with a spire. Saint George's Church, on the south side of High-street, is an elegant edifice, with a portico which is justly regarded as one of the most beautiful pieces of architecture in the kingdom. The portico, which is Corinthian, originally belonged to Ballyscullion House, the Irish Fonthill, built by Lord Bristol, Bishop of Derry, and at the taking down of that edifice was procured and placed in its present position by the Bishop of Down & Connor. Christ Church, in College-square, is more of a neat than a magnificent building; it is of brick chiefly, with an Ionic colonnade of stone, surmounted by an entablature. Belfast is the seat of the Roman Catholic See of Down and Connor, and the residence of the Bishop. There are two spacious chapels in the town, one of which, erected in 1811, and considered the cathedral, is an elegant edifice, in the later style of English architecture. There are also other chapels at Ballymacarrett, Holywood, Green-Castle and Ballyclare, all in the Roman Catholic parish of Belfast. There are several places of worship for Presbyterians, some of which are truly elegant—that for the third congregation in Fisherwick-place, built in 1831, is one of this character: it was erected by Mr. Millar, a native and resident architect, at a cost of £10,000. That of the fifth congregation, in Townsend-street, and that for the sixth, in May-street, are spacious and elegant structures. The names of the other places of worship for various religions denominations, with their localities, including Independents, Baptists, Methodists, Unitarians, the Society of Friends, &c. are furnished in the list before referred to. At the head of the LITERARY ESTABLISHMENTS must be placed the Royal Academical Institution: the building is of brick, neatly ornamented with cut stone, and its appearance is light and elegant. It was opened in 1814, under the superintendence of a board of managers and visitors. The school is conducted by several masters, and the collegiate department under the direction of a faculty of arts and one of medicine. The Faculty of Arts comprises professors of mathematics, logic and *belles lettres*, natural philosophy, Greek and Latin, Hebrew and moral philosophy. The medical professors are those of anatomy, chymistry, surgery, materia medica, medicine, midwifery and botany. The number of students in attendance in the college is considerable, amounting on an average to 150. This institution was erected by voluntary subscription, amounting to £22,000, and is justly considered most creditable to the town, and highly beneficial to the country. The Belfast Academy, in Donegal street, was founded in 1786, under the direction of a president, trustees and patrons; the branches of learning taught in this institution are the classics, mathematics, French, English, arithmetic and writing. The Belfast Sunday and Day Schools, in Brown-street, form a commodious edifice, wherein about six hundred children are instructed in the ordinary branches of learning, for the small sum of one penny per week each child. The Frederick street

Lancasterian National School, erected and supported by subscription, is conducted by a committee, and has an infants' school attached. Besides these, there are, belonging to nearly all the churches, spacious school-rooms, wherein a considerable number of poor children receive daily instruction. The remedial charities for the sick and indigent are valuable and many: the Dispensary was established in 1792, for the relief of the sick at their own habitations connected with the Dispensary is the Fever Hospital, containing upwards of two hundred beds; it is supported by voluntary subscription, aided by county presentments. The Lying-in Hospital, a neat building, situated on the Antrim road, was instituted in 1794, and is liberally supported by the ladies of Belfast and its neighbourhood. The District Lunatic Asylum, opened in 1829, is a handsome and commodious edifice, with extensive grounds attached, situated on the Falls road, within a mile of the town. The district comprehends the counties of Down and Antrim, and the county of the town of Carrickfergus. The number of patients is generally about two hundred and fifty. The Ulster Female Penitentiary, Brunswick street, is a noble institution; its objects are too well known to need explanation, as inducement to its support. The Magdalene Asylum, for the like purpose, is in the vicinity of the town, and attached to it is a chapel. The Belfast Poor-house and Infirmary, belonging to the Charitable Society, is situated at the head of Donegal-street, and is incorporated by act of parliament, for the maintenance and instruction of poor children, and support of the aged and infirm poor: at present it contains two hundred inmates. It is supported by annual subscriptions, bequests, and donations. The Belfast poor-law union ranks as the second, and was declared in December, 1838; it comprises twelve electoral divisions, for which there are twenty-two elected guardians and seven *ex-officio*. The workhouse, situated on the Dublin-road, a mile from the town, will accommodate one thousand persons; the first admission of recipients was May 11th, 1841.

**MARKETS, FAIRS, and POPULATION.**—There are six market places in Belfast, exclusive of the Brown Linen Hall and the White Linen Hall. The following are their localities, &c. Friday is the principal market day.

**CASTLE-PLACE MARKET**, is for fruit, vegetables, meal, and fish, *daily*.

**ORMOND MARKET**, Great Patrick-street, is for vegetables, oats, hay, meat, and fish, *daily*.

**GEORGE'S MARKET**, St. Georges-st. is for pork, *daily*.

**YORK-ST. MARKET**, is for grain, fruit, and meat, *daily*.

**TOMB-STREET MARKET**, is for firkin butter, *daily*.

**MAY'S MARKET**, is for grain and meal, *daily*, and on *Fridays*, in addition, fruit, meat, poultry, and flax.

**MONTGOMERY'S MARKET**, off Calender-street, is for potatoes, meat, fish, fruit and vegetables, *daily*.

**SMITHFIELD MARKET**, is for potatoes, hides, hay, and straw, *daily*; fat cattle on *Wednesdays*, and cattle, hardware, and pedlery on *Friday*.

The **BROWN LINEN HALL**, in Donegal-street, is open every *Tuesday* and *Friday* for the reception and sale of brown linen and coarse sacking.

Fairs, principally for horses, are held August 12th and November 9th. The population of Belfast within the municipal boundary, in 1841, was 70,477; and including those parts outside the boundary, with part of the parishes of Knockbreda and of that of Shankill, so situated, the number of inhabitants was 75,308.

**HOLLYWOOD, or Holywood**, is a post village and parish, in the barony of Lower Castlereagh, county of Down, 5 miles N. E. from Belfast; delightfully situated on the eastern shore of Carrickfergus bay, on the road from Belfast to Bangor. Previously to the year 1800 it contained only about thirty dwellings, chiefly poor cabins, but from its proximity to Belfast, its fine sandy beach, beautiful sea-view and salubrious air, it has become a favourite place of resort for sea-bathing. There are several good lodging-houses in the village and its environs, and some neat villas, in the Elizabethan style of architecture, sheltered by thriving plantations, and commanding a richly and diversified prospect of the bay, the black mountain, Carnony mountains, and other eminences, with the town and castle of Carrickfergus, terminating with the basaltic column of Black Head. Close to the shore is an extensive