

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

THIS is the smallest, least populous, and most western province of Ireland. It is bounded on the north and west by the Atlantic; its north-eastern limits are marked by a line from Donegal Bay by Lough Melvin to Lough Swilly; from the middle of this lake on the west to the west of Ballytaganran, and midway between Killeshandra and Carrigallen to Bruce-hill, and thence to the river Crumlin. This line separates Connaught from Ulster. The course of the Crumlin and the Shannon, as far as to the middle of Lough Derg, marks its limits towards Leinster on the east; and an irregular line thence, through the Baughta mountains to Galway Bay, parts it on the south from Munster. Connaught comprises the five counties of Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, and Sligo; these are divided into forty-seven baronies, and subdivided into three hundred and nine parishes. The circumference of the province, following all its sinuosities (exclusive of islands) is full five hundred miles or more; but measured in straight lines, from projection to projection, it is only about three hundred miles. The greatest length, nearly north and south, from Bundoran, on Donegal Bay, to the extremity of Galway county, on Lough Derg, is eighty-six miles, and the greatest breadth, due west from the Shannon, below Athlone, to Slyne Head, in Cunnemara, is about eighty miles. The area of Connaught comprises 2,220,200 acres of arable land, 1,906,000 of uncultivated land, 48,300 of plantations, 3,890 of towns and villages, and 212,800 of water; total, 4,391,100, in round numbers.

GALWAY: this is a maritime county, and the largest in the province of Connaught. It is bounded on the west by the Atlantic Ocean, on the north by Mayo, and on the north-east by Roscommon; on the east it is separated from the King's County and Tipperary by the river Shannon, and on the south it is bounded by Clare and Galway Bay, the largest bay in the island. This county is the second in size in the kingdom, its extent being little less than Cork. Its greatest extent from north to south is about fifty-four miles, and from east to west about ninety-six miles. Its surface comprises 1,566,354 statute acres, including 90,030 of water. The soil is generally composed of a light limestone gravel, which rears numerous flocks of sheep and herds of light black cattle. The surface in many places is much encumbered with rocks, consequently rugged, and unfavourable to extensive agriculture. The climate, though subject to heavy storms from the Atlantic and rain, is peculiarly salubrious. Frost or snow is seldom of great duration on the western coast, and cattle of every kind remain out during the winter, but the summers are commonly wet. The mineral productions are lead ore, in the north-east and the vicinity of Tuam; and marble of superior beauty and limestone. The most considerable rivers are the Shannon, the Suck, and Blackwater; the Clare, Galway, and Dunmore rivers are also of considerable magnitude and impetuous in their career. Besides these there are other numerous streamlets flowing in all directions. The coast abounds with bays and islands, and there are several light-houses. The engagements of the population are chiefly agriculture and fishing. The average rent of land is 12s. 1d. per acre; coarse linens and worsted hose are manufactured, and kelp also on the coast. A branch of the Grand Canal passes from Shannon Harbour to Ballinasloe. There were eighty national schools in 1843, attended by 10,000 children.

DIVISIONS, POPULATION, REPRESENTATION, &c.—The number of baronies comprised in this county are eighteen, namely, Aran, Athery, Ballymoe, Ballynahinch, Clare, Clonmacnowen, Dukkellin, Dunmore, Galway, Kilconnell, Kilian, Kiltaran, Leitrim, Longford, Longhrea, Moycullen, Ross, and Traquin. These (together with the Isles of Aran, which belong to the county) are divided into one hundred and twenty parishes. The population of the county, by the census taken in 1841, was males, 219,564; females, 220,634; total 440,198. The number of houses inhabited, at that period, was 73,325; uninhabited, 1,874; and houses building, 193. Prior to the Union, Galway sent six representatives to the Irish parliament, viz.—two for the county at large, and two each for the boroughs of Tuam and Athery; it now returns four members to the Imperial Parliament, viz.—two for the town of Galway, and two for the county; those at present sitting for the latter are John Jas. Bodkin, of Quarry Mount, and Killooney House, Dunmore, Esquire, and Thomas Barnewell Martin, of Ballinahinch Castle, Esquire. The Marquess of Clanricarde, Portunna Castle, is lieutenant and custos rotulorum of the county. Galway confers the title of Viscount upon a branch of the Arundel family.

LEITRIM county is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the province, having Donegal Bay on the north, and bounded eastward by Fermanagh and Cavan; on the south by Longford, in Leinster, and westward by Sligo and Roscommon, from the latter of which it is parted by the Shannon. Its greatest extent from east to west is about fifty-eight miles, and its greatest breadth about twenty. It embraces a surface of 392,363 acres, of which 23,748 are water. Like most hilly countries, the valleys are fertile, and profusely watered with streamlets of different magnitudes. The surfaces of the mountains are barren, but to compensate for this want of fertility of exterior, their bowels are rich in iron and lead. Coal is raised in Sleive Inerim mountain and on the south side of Lough Allen. This lake, more than thirty miles in circuit, is encompassed by high mountains; and, to the north of it, clays of almost every tinge, and of various specific qualities, abound. There are many springs of mineral water in different parts of the county, some being chalybeate and others sulphureous. In addition to agricultural employment, linens and coarse woollens are manufactured. The average rent is 10s. 6d. an acre. The climate of Leitrim is cold and damp, and, perhaps, more variable than any other county in Ireland, owing to its great elevation. Forty-six national schools, in 1843, contained more than 6,000 children.

DIVISIONS, POPULATION, REPRESENTATION, &c.—The number of baronies comprised in the county are five, namely, Carrigallen, Drumahaire, Leitrim, Mohill, and Ross Clogher; these are divided into seventeen parishes. The population of the county, by the census taken in 1841, was males, 77,501; females, 77,796; total 155,297. The number of houses inhabited, at that period, was 25,912; uninhabited, 712; and houses building, 25. Prior to the Union, Leitrim sent six representatives to the Irish parliament; it now only returns two for the county; those at present sitting are Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel White, of Portland, and Lord Viscount Clements, Lough Rynn. The Earl of Leitrim is lieutenant and custos rotulorum of the county. Leitrim confers the title of Viscount on the family of Clements.

MAYO, a maritime county, is bounded on the south by Galway, on the west and north by the Atlantic Ocean, on the north inland by Sligo, and on the east by Roscommon. Its extent from north to south is about seventy-six miles, and from east to west about sixty-three. Its surface comprises 1,363,882 acres, including 56,976 of water. The principal lakes are Lough Mask, Carr, Raheens, and Lough Conn, besides numerous small lakes. The most extensive rivers are the Moy, the Guishenden, the Aile, the Owenmore, the Castlebar, and the Robe, with many other fine streams undistinguished by particular names. Near the sea the county is mountainous, and the coast is indented by numerous bays. Above Lough Mask rises the lofty Mambasna, and Mount Nephin above Lough Conn; but these high protuberances afford pasture, and the valleys near the sea are well cultivated. The remarkable peak of Crough-Patrick or the Reek rises from the shore of Clew bay to an elevation of 2,530 feet, embracing, from its summit, a magnificent prospect of the neighbouring islands and bays. The romantic coles of the county have fixed on this as the spot from which St. Patrick drove all the venomous reptiles of the island into the sea; and it is still a favourite place for devotional rites. In the interior the soil, mostly fertile, consists much of limestone and limestone gravel. Abundance of iron ore is found in various parts with ochres, granite, coal, and slate of a superior quality in the Derinky mountains; in the barony of Morisk, beautiful black marble without speck, and manganese; so that adventure and industry are only wanting to render this county highly opulent. Agriculture (grazing more than tillage) and fishing are the chief engagements. In 1843 there were 1,100 fishing boats, employing 5,500 men and boys. The salmon