

LONDONDERRY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

LONDONDERRY, a city, sea-port, and borough, the capital of its county, and of the extreme north of Ulster, partly in the parish of Clondermot, and barony of Tirkeeran, but chiefly in the parish of Templemore, and barony of Londonderry, is 143 miles N. W. from Dublin, 80 N. W. by W. from Belfast, about the like distance N. E. from Sligo, 71 N. N. W. from Antrim, 35 N. from Omagh, 29 W. S. W. from Coleraine, about the same distance N. E. by N. from Stranorlar, 16 W. S. W. from Newtown-Limavady, and 15 N. by E. from Strabane; pleasantly and advantageously situated on the western or Donegal side of the river Foyle, about five miles above the point where it spreads into Lough Foyle, and chiefly on the summit and sides of a hill projecting into the river. This hill, called the "Island of Derry," and which is of an oval form, one hundred and twenty feet high, commands, from its summit and all sides, richly diversified and charmingly picturesque views, of a well cultivated country. This city was originally and is still popularly called **DERRY**, from the ancient Irish *Doire*, signifying 'a place of oaks,' and expressive likewise of a thick wood. Adamnan, abbot of Iona in the seventh century, called it *Raboretum Calgagi*. About the end of the tenth century the name Derry-Calgach, gave place to *Derry Columbkille*, from the abbey of canons regular founded here by Saint Columbkille. It acquired the English prefix *London*, in 1613, on the incorporation of the Irish Society, by charter of James I, and was, for a long time, retained by the colonists, but has likewise fallen into popular disuse. The city appears to be indebted for its origin to the abbey founded by St. Columbkille, according to the best authorities about the middle of the sixth century, and said to have been the first of the several religious houses established by that saint; but the exact period of its foundation, and its early history, are shrouded in obscurity. Derry, at various periods, has suffered by fire, by tempest, and the sword, and has been the scene of sieges and conflicts, sanguinary and obstinate. In 1556 the rebellion of the celebrated Earl of Tyrone rendered the establishment of an English garrison, for the first time, necessary in Derry, and from this time, to the year 1600, when the insurgents were finally subdued by Lord Mountjoy, who then held the government of Ireland, the city sustained, at different times, all the horrors of warfare. But the most celebrated and severe siege of Derry is that which occurred in 1689, and figures so prominently in history. The city became the asylum of the Protestants of the north, who, in number about thirty thousand, fled to it for refuge before the marauding forces of James, who vigorously laid siege to the town, and practised the greatest enormities on the prisoners who fell into their hands. The struggle for possession of the city lasted one hundred and five days, and the besieged were so reduced that the flesh of horses and dogs, and hides and tallow, were purchased at great price, and eagerly devoured. Londonderry has given titles to the noble families of Ridgway, Pitt, and Stewart—the last named family is more immediately associated with the present period. Robert Stewart, Esq. was the descendant of John Stewart, Esq. of Ballylawn, in the county of Donegal, who settled in Ireland in the reign of Charles I, was created Baron Stewart, of Londonderry, in 1789; Viscount Castlereagh, in 1795; Earl of Londonderry, in 1796, and Marquess of Londonderry, in 1816. Robert, the second Marquess of Londonderry, better known as Lord Castlereagh, figured prominently as a statesman during twenty-six years; he succeeded his father as Marquess of Londonderry, in April, 1821, and committed suicide in 1822; he was succeeded by his half-brother, Charles William Vane, the third Earl of Londonderry. This nobleman married Lady Vane Tempest, the only daughter of Sir Henry Vane Tempest and the Countess of Antrim, and by this alliance became possessed of the vast Tempest coal estates in the north of England.

The site of Derry is the oval hill before noticed, which is nearly insulated by a noble sweep of the Foyle. Two suburbs, respectively called Waterside and Edenballymore, stand on opposite banks of the river—the latter the most populous section, extending from the base of the hill down the flat valley of the river towards the

lough. The work which we have, on more than one occasion, been beholden to for vivid and truthful descriptions of Irish towns we shall again resort to:—It says of Derry, "While the ancient part of the city rises tier above tier till it acuminates in the spire of the cathedral, and presents a museum of military strength and architectural romance, this principal suburb" (Edenballymore) "expands in a brilliant street of opulence, prosperity, and urban beauty and pretension."—"If," says another writer, "historical recollections endear this place to every lover of liberty, its situation and time-worn walls must render it interesting to all admirers of picturesque scenery." The walls of Londonderry are now its most ancient remains, and have been repaired at different times, particularly between the years 1806 and 1808, when upwards of £1,100. were expended for that purpose. The original gates of the city were Bishop's-gate, on the west; the New-gate, now called Butcher's-gate, on the north; the Ship-quay-gate, on the east; and the Ferry-port, or Ferry-gate, now called Ferry-quay-gate, on the south. Two other gates, commonly called the New-gate and Castle-gate, were subsequently constructed; and between 1805 and 1808 Butcher's-gate, Ship-quay-gate, and Bishop's-gate, were re-built at a cost of £1,400. and upwards. The last named is a chaste architectural work, and the sculptural embellishments are allowed to possess considerable merit.

At the time when the present town was founded the only remains of the former city within the walls were the ruins of a church which had belonged to an Augustinian monastery, and was subsequently repaired for the use of the London colony. The streets of the present town within the walls have undergone little alteration in form since they were originally constructed. A quadrangular area, called the Diamond, is situated in the centre of the town, and has the Corporation Hall in its own centre; and from this four of the principal streets branch off and lead to the same number of original gates, thus dividing the town into four principal parts or sections. From the 'Ordnance Memoir' we extract the following notice of Londonderry:—"The city now boasts of a variety of important buildings and valuable institutions. The private residences, too, of every description are now built in a superior style; and many of the shops are spacious, handsome, and richly furnished. Of the original houses several still remain, particularly in the Diamond, and contiguous streets. They may be distinguished by their high pyramidal gables, as represented in the old plans, but in other respects have been so modernized, as to retain but little of their original character. The extension of Londonderry beyond the Hill, evinces the cessation of an ancient prejudice that to reside without the walls was not respectable. The most recent addition is Great James-street, in which stands the new (or third) Presbyterian meeting-house. A list of the civil public buildings, edifices of religion, institutions, schools, &c. will be found in the directory of the city; we shall, in this place, therefore, notice the principal ones only. The Corporation Hall, in the Diamond, was re-built, by the corporation, in 1825, on the site of the original town-house, built by the Irish Society in 1622. The south front, in which is the principal entrance, is circular: the upper story contains a council room, an assembly room, and an ante-chamber; and on the ground floor, formerly used as a market for meal, &c. is a news-room. The Court House, completed in 1817, at an expense of about £30,500, including fittings and furniture, is a handsome building of white sandstone, ornamented with Portland stone, and exhibits a facade judiciously broken by a portico of the enriched Ionic order; over the pediment are the royal arms, and the wings are surmounted by the statues of Justice and Peace, sculptured in Portland stone. It contains the usual apartments for the assize and mayor's courts, jury rooms, the public and private offices of the city authorities, &c. The Gaol, situated in Bishop-street, was erected between the years 1819 and 1824, at an expense of £33,718. Irish. Its front formed a portion of the previous prison, but was re-modelled in the Gothic style, and is partly built of Dungiven stone

and partly coated with cement. The interior is constructed upon the circular or radiating plan; and is adapted to the separation and classification of criminals and the accommodation of debtors. The governor's house, which includes the chapel and committee-room, is surrounded by a gallery. The regulations of the prison are excellent; and the prisoners are constantly employed at various trades, and at the expiration of their imprisonment receive a proportion of their earnings. The Custom House, on Ship-quay, forms a hollow quadrangle, facing the river: it was originally rented for a government store, and exhibits no attractive feature. Walker's Testimonial, erected on the central bastion, was completed, in 1828, at an expense of £1,200. obtained by subscription. It consists of a Portland stone column, of good proportions, in the Roman Doric style, surmounted by a statue, measuring nine feet, of that distinguished governor, celebrated in the siege of Derry in 1689. The column, which is ascended by a spiral staircase within, measures, including the pedestal, eighty-one feet in height. The District Lunatic Asylum, situated in Edenballymore, was built in 1827-9, at an expense of upwards of £25,600., and is a handsome structure, uniform with the asylums of Belfast and Armagh, and occupies an airy and pleasant site. The Diocesan Free Grammar School, or Foyle College, situated near the river, in the northern environs of the city, not far from the Asylum, was originally founded in 1617, and erected in 1814, at a cost of more than £12,000. It forms a simple but handsome stone edifice, consisting of a centre, two wings, and two terminating pavilions. The school, called Gwyn's Charitable Institution, erecting (or about to be erected), will, according to the architectural design, be an ornamental and elegant building. The New Barrack, situated on the east side of the Foyle, is a convenient range of building, erected in 1837. The Linen Hall, the Theatre, and some other public structures, require no particular notice. The bridges, however, are an exception, which are deserving inspection, and the ecclesiastical edifices we shall briefly and presently notice. The manufactures of Londonderry are not very considerable, but its trade altogether is extensive and important, and its exports and imports are of a large amount. The former comprise linen and linen yarn; eggs, in large quantities; butter, oats, oatmeal, and wheat. Londonderry is the place of export for the agricultural produce of a large tract of fertile country, which renders the coasting trade very extensive, especially with Great Britain. The principal articles of foreign produce, imported direct, are staves and timber from the Baltic; barilla, from Spain; sugar, rum, and other produce from the Colonies; wine, from Spain and Portugal; tobacco, from the United States, and flax-seed from Riga and Holland. The salmon fishery of the Foyle affords employment to, perhaps, about a hundred men exclusively of water-keepers. The fish is shipped principally to Liverpool and Glasgow, and some pickled for the London market. In the town and neighbourhood are powerful corn, meal, and flax mills, several tanneries, and extensive distilleries and breweries—of the latter the 'Foyle Brewery' and the 'Londonderry Brewery' are large establishments. Tobacco is manufactured here to some extent; there are several brass and iron foundries, and the coal trade is a branch of consequence. The merchants of Londonderry are of the first standing, and many of the retail traders have very large establishments. The principal hotels, of which there are six, are well conducted houses, and are respectively situated in Ship-quay-street, Ship-quay, and Foyle-street. The 'Bank of Ireland,' and the 'Belfast,' the 'Northern,' the 'Ulster,' and 'Provincial'

Banking Companies have each a branch here; and there is a bank for savings, the business of which is carried on in Castle-street. Three newspapers are issued from the press of Londonderry weekly, viz., the 'Journal,' the 'Standard,' and the 'Sentinel,'—respectively on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday; they are talented organs of public opinion, and in good circulation.

Londonderry has received charters of incorporation from James I, Cromwell, Charles I, and James II; but the government, since the passing of the Municipal Reform Act, is vested in a mayor elected by the corporation; two aldermen, elected from each of the three wards—North, East, and South, and six councillors from each; together with four borough magistrates, (appointed by the lord lieutenant), and the magistrates for the county, whose jurisdiction extends over the city. The mayor is a magistrate for the county during his mayoralty, and holds courts of record and conscience; the former for pleas to an unlimited amount; the latter for debts under £20. The assizes for the county are held in the city, as are courts of quarter sessions and petty sessions; and it is the head quarters of a constabulary district, which comprises the stations of Londonderry, Claudy, and Muff. The city sends one member to the Imperial Parliament—the present representative is Sir Robert Alexander Ferguson, Bart. the Farm, in this county.

The Diocese of Derry originated in a monastery, founded by St. Columb, before mentioned; and it continued a separate bishopric until the death of Doctor Bissett, Bishop of Raphoe, in 1836, when that See, under the provisions of the Church Temporalities Act, was annexed to the See of Derry, and its temporalities became vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The diocese is one of the ten that constitute the province of Armagh, and is partly in the counties of Antrim and Donegal, but chiefly in Tyrone and Londonderry. The cathedral, which also serves as the parish church, was completed in 1633, the former one erected in 1164 having been destroyed by Sir Henry Docwra. It is principally in the later English style, with various decorations since added, but not in unison with its prevailing character. It consists of a nave and aisles, separated by stone pillars and arches, with a tower at the west end, surmounted by an elegant octagon spire. A handsome monument, of Italian marble, to Bishop Knox, adorns the interior, and there are several tablets to the memory of distinguished persons. The Roman Catholic Chapel occupies the site of the monastery of Saint Columb, and was completed in 1786. The Free Church in Frances-street, and the Chapel of Ease, in Mall wall, are the other places of worship under the Establishment. The Presbyterians have four meeting-houses, and the Covenanters, Independents, and Wesleyan Methodists, a chapel each. There are some well supported charities, by which the indigent and the sick are benefited, including the infirmary, a dispensary, a well regulated union poor-house, the lunatic asylum before mentioned, a loan fund, &c. The educational establishments are many and efficient, both for superior attainments and dispensing instruction to the poorer classes; a list of them is given in the directory.

The market places are—the Butter Market, Waterloo-place; Corn Market, Waterside; Meat Market, Rosemary-lane. On Wednesday a market is held for grain, meal, cattle, and every description of farm produce except flax: on Thursday, for flax; and on Saturday, for farm produce of every kind, except cattle and flax. Fairs June 17th, September 4th, and October 17th. The liberties of Londonderry contained, in 1841, 20,379 inhabitants, and the city, with its immediate suburbs, 15,196 of that number.

POST OFFICE, RICHMOND STREET, LONDONDERRY,

Mrs. ELIZABETH PEEBLES, Post Mistress.

Letters from DUBLIN and various parts of IRELAND, also from ENGLAND, arrive every forenoon at a quarter before twelve, and are despatched every afternoon at a quarter before one.

Letters from SCOTLAND arrive every morning at two, and are despatched every evening at five minutes before six.—Letters from BELFAST arrive every morning at two and evening at six, and are despatched every morning at twenty minutes past seven and evening at a quarter before seven.

* * Letters for DUBLIN and ENGLAND are also despatched by the BELFAST evening mail.

Letters from SLIGO arrive every evening at six, and are despatched every morning at eight.—Letters from DUNGIVEN arrive every morning at ten, and are despatched every afternoon at half-past one.—Letters from BUNCRANA arrive every morning at twelve minutes past ten, and are despatched every afternoon at half-past one.