

# STRABANE, LIFFORD, CASTLEFINN, AND NEIGHBOURHOODS.

**STRABANE** is a large and flourishing market town, the seat of important manufactures (formerly a parliamentary borough), partly in the parishes of Leekpatrick and Urney, but chiefly in that of Camus-juxta-Morne, barony of Strabane, county of Tyrone, 129 miles S.W. from Dublin, 192 W. by N. from Belfast, 26 W. S.W. from Dungiven, 18 N. N.W. from Omagh, 14 S. S.W. from Londonderry, 13 E. by N. from Stranorlar, the same distance N.W. from Gortin, 10 N. N.E. from Castlederg, 9 N. N.W. from Newtown-Stewart, and 8 S.W. from Duncannonagh; fine y seated on the river Mourne, and on the mail road from Londonderry to Dublin. The environs of Strabane are replete with interest and beauty; the hills and the mountains, the valleys and the streams, contending for the palm of the picturesque. The Mourne river that laves the town, and, with the Finn, forms, at Lifford, the Foyle, is one of the most beautiful rivers in Ireland; and the valleys of these rivers vie with one another in luxuriance and loveliness. The town was formerly in the district of Mountlony, but, on the formation of part of the territory of Sir-Owen into the county of Tyrone in 1591, it was made the head of the barony of Strabane. It was, however, but an inconsiderable village until James I in 1611 granted the surrounding district to the Earl of Abercorn, who subsequently erected a strong castle and built a town, which now ranks as the third in the county, and is still progressing in extent, population, and commerce. The town consists of ten principal and several smaller streets; the houses generally are well built, and many of them are spacious and handsome, especially in such of the principal streets as are of more recent formation. Since 1831 great improvements have been made; the town has been gas-lighted; new roads to Londonderry, Newtown-Stewart, and Castlefinn, have been constructed; the bridge over the Mourne widened, and three arches added to that which bestrides the Foyle. The appearance of the town altogether is strikingly prepossessing, and its aspect rendered additionally pleasing by the thriving orchards and gardens attached to the houses skirting the town, producing apples, pears, and cherries, in abundance.

The manufacture of linen and the business of bleaching are carried on very extensively in Strabane and the neighbourhood. The respectable establishments of Messrs. Gwynne and Co., in the town, and those of Mr. F. O'Neill and Mr. J. Scott in the vicinity, are extensive; so are the flax and tow mills ('Sion Mills') of Messrs. Herdmans and Co., three miles distant; and the cotton works of Mr. F. Rogan, Castlefinn. At Holy-Hill and Artigarvan is a large manufactory for spades, shovels, and other farming implements, and in the town is the 'Strabane Iron and Brass Foundry,' conducted upon a large scale by Messrs. Cooke & Co. The trade in grain is very considerable; great quantities are annually shipped from this market for Liverpool, Glasgow, and other ports, and some of the merchants have extensive stores and warehouses in the town, and on the banks of the Canal, two or three miles below it. Mr. Patterson, whose oatmeal mills are two miles distant, was the person who brought the first vessel into the Strabane Canal direct from Scotland. The extension of this Canal is projected to the deep water at Donelony, a distance of nine miles, when it will assume the character of a ship canal, for vessels of any tonnage. In the vicinity of the town are the extensive and fine nursery-grounds of Mr. J. Brodie, occupying seventeen acres, noted for cabbages of extraordinary size, and of which large quantities are annually exported to England and Scotland. The 'Belfast Banking Company' and the 'Provincial Bank of Ireland' have branches in operation here, and there is a bank for savings. There are several good inns in Strabane—of these 'Doherty's Hotel,' in Bridge-street, and the 'Abercorn Arms,' in Main-street, are well known establishments for comfort and respectability. In the 10th of James I Strabane was made a free borough, and a charter of incorporation granted, by the style of the 'Provost, Free Burgesses, and Commonalty of the

Borough of Strabane,' with a weekly market and annual fairs, and the power of returning two members to the Irish Parliament; together with the privilege of holding a court of record, &c. The borough enjoyed the elective franchise until the Union, when it ceased to be represented. Strabane gives the inferior titles of Baron and Viscount to the Marquess of Abercorn. The court of record has fallen into disuse for many years, but general sessions of the peace are held here in April and October, and petty sessions on the second Monday in every month. Strabane is the head quarters of one of the five districts of the constabulary force of Tyrone county.

The church, built here in 1619, by the Earl of Abercorn, has since 1641 been the parish church of Camus-juxta-Morne, and has been enlarged from time to time: it is now a spacious cruciform structure, in the Grecian style, with a cupola, and the arms of the founder over the principal entrance. The Roman Catholics have a spacious chapel; the Presbyterians three meeting-houses, and the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists a chapel each. There are several excellent public schools for gratuitous education of both sexes; these, together with a fever hospital, a dispensary, and a union work-house, comprise the benevolent and remedial institutions. About a mile from the town is a beautiful glen, much admired by the tourist; and the same distance, on the Londonderry road, is a chalybeate spring of considerable strength. The market days are Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, for corn, provisions, and various commodities, together with linen. Fairs February 1st, May 12th, August 12th, and November 12th; there are likewise monthly fairs, on the first Thursdays in January, March, April, June, July, September, October and December. The town of Strabane, including the suburban town of Lifford (which see), contained, in 1841, 5 456 inhabitants.

**LIFFORD**, formerly a market-town and parliamentary borough, is in the parish of Clonleigh, barony of Raphoe; situated on the western bank of the Foyle, opposite to Strabane. Although ranking as the county and assize town of Donegal, it is, in fact, notwithstanding in another county, no other than a suburb to Strabane, with which town it is allied in matters of business and local interests. It consists principally of two streets, and contains the new county gaol and court-house the former is a very handsome and spacious building, in the castellated style, adapted to the classification of prisoners; the latter, convenient for holding the various courts; which are the assizes and the December quarter sessions. Lifford, or *Liffer*, as it was then called, was incorporated in the 9th of James I, and the corporation returned two members to parliament until the Union, when the borough was disfranchised. Lifford confers the titles of Baron and Viscount on the family of Hewitt.

The places of worship are the parish church, a neat edifice; a Presbyterian meeting-house, and a Roman Catholic chapel. The county infirmary, and a bequest by Sir Richard Hansard, Bart., for educating children of the parish, are the charities. The fairs and markets have been transferred to Strabane. Population of the town, in 1841, 752.

**CASTLEFINN**, formerly a market town, is in the parish of Donaghmore, same barony as Lifford, about six miles S. by W. from that town; situated on the river Finn, which is navigable to the Foyle for vessels of light burthen. This place, which was anciently called *Castle-Fynyn*, belonged, about the close of Elizabeth's reign, to Sir Neill Garbh O'Donnell; and consists of a single street. The parish church, which stands at no great distance from the town, is a plain old edifice, repaired, some few years since, by the ecclesiastical commissioners. In the parish are places of worship for Roman Catholics and Presbyterians, and several schools partly free and others wholly so. Fairs Easter Monday, Whit-Monday, the Monday before the 10th of October, November 22nd, and the Monday next after Christmas. Population of the town, in 1841, 567.

**POST OFFICE**, New street, STRABANE, Andrew Jenkins, *Post Master*.—Letters from DUBLIN and various parts SOUTH, also from ENGLAND and SCOTLAND, arrive every morning at five minutes past nine, and are despatched every afternoon at twenty-five minutes past two.—Letters from LONDONDERRY arrive every morning at ten minutes before ten, afternoon at twenty-five minutes past two and evening at half-past five, and are despatched every morning at nine and five minutes past ten and afternoon at ten minutes past four.

Letters from SLIGO arrive every afternoon at ten minutes past four, and are despatched every morning at ten minutes before ten.—Letters from LETTERKENNY and STRANORLAR arrive every afternoon at a quarter morning at a quarter before ten, and are despatched every morning at half-past ten.

Letters from CASTLEDERG arrive every morning at a quarter before ten, and are despatched every afternoon at twenty-five minutes past two.—Letters from OMAGH arrive every morning at nine, and are despatched every afternoon at half-past five.

**POST OFFICE**, LIFFORD, Daniel McMenamin, *Post Master*.—Letters from DUBLIN and all parts of the SOUTH OF IRELAND, also from ENGLAND and SCOTLAND, arrive every forenoon at eleven, and are despatched every afternoon at one.—Letters from LONDONDERRY and the NORTH arrive every afternoon at three, and are despatched every morning at nine.

## GENTRY AND CLERGY.

Allen Rev. Charles, Irish st  
Armstrong Mrs. Lucy, New st  
Atkinson Rev. Edward, Greenfield  
Blair Miss Isabella, Main st  
Brady Mr. William, Lifford  
Brown Rev. William, Marlog  
Chambers Miss —, Lifford  
Clarke Rev. Edward, Lifford  
Crosbie Mr. James, Bowling green  
Edie Alexander C. D. L. Esq., Thornhill  
Fleming Miss Isabella, Main st  
Gamble Miss —, Main st  
Gordon Rev. David, Church st  
Goudy Rev. Alexr. P. Bowling green  
Hamilton Lieutenant John, Irish st  
Hazlett Rev. William, Woodden  
Henderson Miss Jane, Lifford  
Hume Rev. Robert, Urney House  
Humfrey Captain Benjamin G. Cavenacor [House  
Humphrys Major John, Milltown  
Jones Walter, Esq. Lifford  
Knox Andrew Ferguson, Esq. J. P. Urney House  
McCormick Mr. Daniel, Lifford  
McCrosan Rev. Bernard, Lifford  
McIlwaine Mr. John, Main st  
Mothrell the Misses Jane & Ann, Main street  
Neilson Miss Esther, Main st  
Porter Mrs. —, Trafalgar  
Porter Captain William, Carrick-Lee  
Sinclair James, Esq. Holy Hill  
Sinclair William, Esq. Broomfield  
Smiley Miss Ann, New Town  
Smiley Robert, Esq. Camus  
Smyth Rev. James, Bearney  
Smyth William, Esq. Bowling green  
Spence Mr. John, Main st  
Sproule Mrs. —, Mellinmont  
Sproule Mr. Robert, Bowling green  
Young Miss Ann, Lifford

## ACADEMIES AND SCHOOLS.

Allen Rev. Charles, Irish st  
Anderson Margaretta, Main st  
Arnold Harriet, Irish st  
CHURCH EDUCATION SCHOOL, Irish st—John McGuire, master; Margaret McCormick, mistress  
ENDOWED SCHOOL, Lifford—James Graham, master; Sarah Ann Graham, mistress  
ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOL, Camus  
Johnson S. O'Donnell, master  
INFANTS' SCHOOL, Derry road—Ellen McBride, mistress  
Lane William, Irish st  
NATIONAL SCHOOL, Townsend st—John McCaffry, master  
O'Brien Francis, Irish st

## AGENTS.

(See also *Fire, &c. Office Agents*.)  
Knox George (land), Lifford  
Paterson John (commission), Ballymagory [street  
Porter James (commission), Church

## APOTHECARIES.

See *Physicians and Surgeons*.

## ATTORNEYS.

Colhoun Samuel, New Town  
Doherty John, Irish street  
Elliott William (and commissioner for taking acknowledgments of deeds by married women, seneschal of manor court, public notary & town clerk), Bowling green  
Glasse William, New street  
Joyce John, Beech Mount

## AUCTIONEERS.

Devlin John, Main st  
Watson Thomas, Back st

## BAKERS.

Blair Andrew, Main st  
Doran James, New st  
Gormans Edward, Main st  
McGrotty Constantine, Main st  
McLaughlin John, Main st  
Sweeney Alexander, Back st  
Wilson John, Main st

## BANKS.

BELFAST BANKING CO. (Branch), Bowling green—(draw on Denison, Heywood & Co. London)—Mr. William Smyth, manager  
PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND (Br.), Bowling green—(draws on Spooner, Attwoods & Co. London)—Mr. James Crosbie, manager  
SAVINGS' BANK, Bowling green—Mr. John, Kyle, manager

## BLACKSMITHS.

McLoughlin Neal, Castle st  
Ward John, Church st

## BLEACHERS.

Gwynne William & Co. Main street  
O'Neill Francis, Mount Pleasant  
Scott Joseph, Spa Mount, Castlederg

## BOOKSELLERS & STATIONERS.

Gray John, Main st  
Jenkins Andrew, New st  
Walker Cowper, Main street  
BOOT AND SHOE MAKERS.  
Blair Samuel, Main st  
Dunbar Joseph, Back st  
Frizell Archibald, Main st  
McMonagle James, Bridge end  
Snodgrass John, Main street

## DRAZERS.

See *Tin-plate Workers & Braziers*.

## BUTCHERS.

Conolly James, Main st  
Dillon Patrick, Butcher st  
Donnelly James, Bridge st  
Murray Thomas, Main st

## BUTTER MERCHANTS.

Blair John, Main st  
Burk James (and egg), Main st

## CABINET MAKERS AND UPHOLSTERERS.

Boyle Bolton, New st [lane  
Brooke & Hanniford, Market-House  
McCurry Thomas, New st  
Toner James, Main st

## CARPENTERS.

Kerney John, Bowling green  
Simpson John, Bridge st  
Wilson Hugh, Meeting-House st

## CART MAKERS.

See *Wheelwrights and Cart Makers*.

## CLOTHES DEALERS.

Burns James, Bridge end  
Devlin John, Main st  
Floyd John, Bridge st  
Floyd Patrick, Bridge st  
McLoughlin Mark, Bridge st  
O'Neill James, Bridge st  
Toland Patrick, Bridge st  
Turish Hugh, Bridge st  
Watters James, Bridge st

## CORN MERCHANTS.

Baird John, Irish st  
Boyd William, Canal basin  
Hall Robert, Bowling green  
Porter James, Church street

## COTTON MANUFACTURER.

Rogan Francis, Castlefinn

## EARTHENWARE DEALERS.

Parton George, Market-House lane  
Stevenson William, Main st

## FIRE, &c. OFFICE AGENTS.

ALLIANCE, James Crosbie, Bowling green  
ATLAS, John Anderson, Main st  
BRITISH (life), Wm. Ramsay, Main st  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND, William Boyd, Canal basin

## FLAX & TOW SPINNERS.

Herdmans & Co. SION MILLS

## GROCERS.

Aikin William, Main st  
Anderson John, Main st  
Bates William, Back st  
Campbell Thomas, Bridge st  
Donnell Samuel, Back st  
Elliot Thomas, Castlefinn  
Gallagher Patrick, Castlefinn  
Gill Thomas Edward, Bridge st  
Hamilton Hugh, Main st  
Jamison Thomas, Main st  
McGowan William, Church st  
McGrotty Constantine, Main st  
McKee Joseph, Main st  
McLaughlin Jeremiah, Castlefinn  
Maguire Ann, New st  
Martin James, Main st  
Maxwell John, Bridge end  
Nelson Eliza, Castlefinn  
Nickels William, Back st  
Quin Felix, Castlefinn  
Thompson James, Main st  
Thompson James, Castlefinn  
Warnock Leighton, Irish st  
Wilson John, Main st

## HABERDASHERS.

(See also *Linen & Woollen Drapers*.)

Blair Anne, Main st  
Blair John, Main st  
Boak Jane, Main st