

LEINSTER PROVINCE.

the ancient round towers in this county, situated respectively at Lusk, Swords, and Clondalkin. The manufactures of Dublin county are various, but not extensive—the metropolis, and its immediate vicinity, are the seats of the principal, which may be said to include, under this head, woollen cloth, cotton goods (at Balbriggan and other places), paper, bleach and dye works, flour mills, besides various establishments noticed in their respective localities; and in the succeeding pages. There are several lucrative fisheries—numerous wharves and docks belong to Howth, the Skerries, Balbriggan, &c.; while between Dublin and Kingstown the salmon and herring fishery, in their respective seasons, employ twenty or thirty smacks. In September, 1843, there were one hundred and eight national schools in this county, attended by eighteen thousand six hundred children.

DIVISIONS, POPULATION, REPRESENTATION, &c.—The county comprises nine baronies and the county of the city of Dublin; the baronies are Dublin, East Balrothery, West Balrothery, Castleknock, Coolock, Nether Cross, Upper Cross, Newcastle, and Rathdown; these are divided into ninety-nine parishes. The population of the county, by the census taken in 1841, was, males, 170,930; females, 201,843; total, 372,773. The number of houses inhabited, at that period, was 42,221; uninhabited, 3,002; and houses building, 237. Prior to the Union the boroughs of Swords and Newcastle sent each two members to the Irish House of Commons; since that period two representatives have been returned for the city of Dublin, two for Dublin University, and two for the county at large—the present members for the latter are James Hans Hamilton, Esq., Abbotstown, in this county; and Captain Thomas Edward Taylor, of Ardgallan Castle, in this county, and Carlton Club, London. Lieutenant of the county, the Right Hon. the Earl of Meath. Quiddery, county of Wicklow; Vice-Lieutenant Lord Brabazon, same place; Custos Rotulorum, Sir C. Dromville, Santry House, in this county. From the district of Fingal, the ancient name of a large tract to the north of Dublin, the distinguished family of Plunkett derives the titles of Earl and Baron.

KILDARE.—This is an inland county, bounded on the east by the counties of Dublin and Wicklow, on the west by King's County and Queen's County, on the north by Meath, and on the south by Carlow. Its greatest length from north to south is forty miles, and its breadth from east to west twenty-five; comprising an area of 418,436 acres; of which about 357,000 are arable; 8,300 plantations; 490 sites of towns; about 1,000 occupied by water, and the remainder, more than 50,000, irreclaimable or uncultivated land. The surface of the county is mostly level, and abundant in some parts, in excellent land, both arable and pasture; from 10 to 30,000 acres consist of rich loam, and almost inexhaustible, while the Curragh of Kildare, a sheep walk of from 4,000 to 6,000 acres forms a beautiful lawn as the hand of art ever made—and of which the celebrated racing-ground forms a portion. Nothing can exceed the extreme softness of the turf, which is of a verdure that charms the eye, and is set off by the agreeable inequality of its surface. The soil, through a considerable portion of the county, is a fine dry loam on a sandy bottom. The western, but chiefly the north-western division of the county, to the superficial extent of fifty thousand acres, is a main part of the Bog of Allen. The average rent of land is 13s. per acre. The climate of Kildare is considered peculiarly humid, for not only are passing clouds attracted by the great expanses of morass, but exhalations frequently arise from them as to occasion dense fogs and mists. The eastern division is more pure, from its upland character, and the natural ventilation along the vale of the Liffey. The county is not rich in minerals; a wing of the great granite field of the county of Wicklow extends into the south-east extremity of Kildare. West of Kildare town are many quarries, the produce of which is of a quality equal to the foreign marbles; and copper ore is said to exist at Dunmurry hill, but no works have been constructed to extract the treasure. The corn trade, including the mills, comprise the staple commerce of the county; and woollen, cotton, and paper are manufactured upon a limited scale. The Grand Canal to the Shannon, at Banagher, as well as branches of it to Athy, Miltoy, and Naas, intersects the county; and along its northern border passes the Royal Canal; these navigations furnishing a ready conveyance to different markets for the productions of the county. The rivers by which Kildare is benefited are the Liffey, the Barrow, and the Boyne; these have some important tributaries, as the Feale, the Blackwood, the Finnery, the Griese, and the Leer. In 1843 there were fifty-seven national schools established in the county, attended by more than 6,400 children. The celebrated College of Maynooth belongs to this county, and it contained at one period many richly endowed monastic institutions. There are five of the ancient round towers so peculiar to this island; they are respectively situated at Kildare, Taghader, Kildallen, Oughterard, and Castle Dermot.

DIVISIONS, POPULATION, REPRESENTATION, &c.—The number of baronies comprised in the county are fourteen, namely, Carbury, Clane, Connell, Ikeny, and Oughterard, Kildallen, Killea and Moone, Naas North, Naas South, Narragh and East Reban, Narragh and West Reban, Offaly East, Offaly West, Salt North, and Salt South; these are divided into one hundred and sixteen parishes. The population of the county, by the census taken in 1841, was, males, 58,030; females, 56,458; total, 114,488. The number of houses inhabited, at that period, was 18,556; uninhabited, 716; and houses building, 116. Prior to the Union Kildare sent ten representatives to the Irish Parliament; two knights of the shire, and two members for each of the boroughs of Athy, Kildare, Harristown, and Naas; but since that period its representation has been confined to the two members for the county at large—these at present are the Right Hon. Richard More O'Ferrall, Ballina, and Baggot-street, Dublin; and Robert Archbold, Esquire, Davidstown, Castle-Dermot, in this county, and Cox's Hotel, Jermyn-street, London. Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum his Grace the Duke of Leinster, Carton, county Kildare; this nobleman derives the inferior titles of Earl and Marquess from this county.

KILKENNY.—This county forms the extreme south-west portion of Leinster province, and is bounded on the north by Queen's County, on the east by those of Carlow and Wexford; on the south and south-west by that of Waterford, and on the west by Tipperary county. Its greatest length, due north and south, is nearly fifty miles; its extreme breadth, east and west about the centre, is twenty-five; comprising an area of 509,732 acres; of which about 470,000 are arable; 8,300 plantations; nearly 500 sites of towns; 3,000 covered by water, and the remainder, about 21,000, irreclaimable or uncultivated land. An argillaceous soil may be considered as predominant throughout the county, within the limits of which there is comparatively but little ground, except the mountainous districts, unfit for tillage, or which does not form good meadow or pasture. There is a considerable extent of mountainous land in the county, much of which is unimproved. The average rent of land is 17s. per acre. The climate of Kilkenny is considerably superior to the average climate of Ireland; less rain falls than in the county of Dublin, and vegetation is generally earlier than in the circumjacent counties. The chief mineral production of the county is coal: this is of the anthracite kind, burning without flame, smoke, and emitting a peculiar sulphury smell; the collieries are chiefly in the neighbourhood of Castlemore, about twelve miles from Kilkenny, and ten from Carlow. Yellow ochre is found in different parts; pipe-clay, of a good quality, and potter's clay in the south; limestone quarries are numerous, and manganese is found in some of them, as also on the banks of the Barrow. Copper and lead exist in the county, but no works have been established to make the ores available. Quarries of beautiful black and white marble are wrought near Kilkenny, at which town are extensive machine works, for polishing what is called the Kilkenny-marble. With the exception of some woollen goods, and a considerable quantity of starch, the manufactures of the county are of little note. Kilkenny has the advantage of three navigable rivers—the Nore, the Suir, and the Barrow; and there are besides many considerable streams which materially contribute to the beauty of the county, and for which acts of parliament have been obtained. In September, 1843, there were twenty-seven national schools established in the county, attended by more than eleven thousand children.

LEINSTER PROVINCE.

DIVISIONS, POPULATION, REPRESENTATION, &c.—The number of baronies comprised in the county are ten—namely, Callan, Crannagh, Fassadinin, Galmoy, Gowran, Ida, Iverk, Kells, Knocktopher, and Shillelogher; these are divided into one hundred and forty parishes. The population of the county, by the census taken in 1841, was, males, 99,114; females, 103,306; total, 202,420. The number of houses inhabited, at that period, was 32,147; uninhabited, 10,086; and houses building, 105. Prior to the Union Kilkenny sent twelve representatives to the Irish Parliament; two knights of the shire, and two members for each of the boroughs of Callan, Gowran, Innistoge, Knocktopher, and Thomastown. Since that period the only representatives have been one for the city of Kilkenny and two for the county at large—the gentlemen at present sitting for the latter are the Honble. Pierce Butler, brother of the Earl of Kilkenny, Ballycora, in this county; and Pierce Somerset Butler, Esquire, son of the Honble. Pierce Butler, the Lodge, Freshford, also in this county. Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum the Earl of Besborough, Pilltown, county of Kilkenny.

KING'S COUNTY.—This is an inland county, bounded on the east by Kildare, on the west by the counties of Tipperary, Galway, and for a short distance by Roscommon, on the north by Westmeath, on the north-east by Meath and also Kildare, and on the south by Queen's County. Its extreme length from its north-eastern border to its south-western is nearly sixty miles; and its greatest breadth north-west and south-east is about twenty; but its figure is exceedingly irregular in outline, and a high, projecting out on its north-north-western quarter for full twenty miles, does not exceed ten miles across throughout that space. Its area comprises 493,985 statute acres, of which 337,250 are arable; 8,250 plantations; 900 occupied by towns; 1,700 covered by water, and the remainder, about 145,500, irreclaimable or uncultivated land. Evident marks exist at the present day to prove that the whole surface of the county was once an interrupted forest; and the borders of the county, near Tipperary, are still well wooded and have a beautiful appearance. The general soil, in its natural state, is not fertile, but is rendered tolerably so by proper manures, and a discreet attention to the course of crops. The quality is generally either a deep moor or a gravelly loam; the former very productive in dry summers; the latter most benefited by a moist season. Limestone is the general substratum; and limestone-gravel, provincially called 'corn-gravel,' is abundant, and used as manure. A great part of the Bog of Allen lies within the county, forming, in detached portions, as remarkable a feature of its surface as do the mountains for which King's County is conspicuous. The great Slievebloom mountains lie on the south-eastern extremity of the county, and range to the extent of fifteen miles, through which there are but two steep, narrow, and craggy passes: these are the Black Gap and the Gap of Glandine; the former nearly due east of Kinnitty; the latter very nearly in the middle of the range, and aptly denominated the Thermopylae of Ireland. The soil of these mountains is argillaceous, and thickly interspersed with freestone rocks. The average rent of land is 13s. an acre. Notwithstanding the quantity of bog, the climate of this county is as wholesome as in any other part of Ireland, and is less moist than that of many districts nearer the coast. The mineralogy of the county is not of great importance; limestone in many varieties, sandstone, clay slate, grey slate, and granular limestone, of marble quality, comprise the chief sub-strata. The manufactures of this section of the province are entitled to but little consideration—the staple of its commerce being confined almost to the grain market and the traffic dependent upon agriculture. The county is watered by considerable rivers, several tributary streams, and some lakes. Of the first the Shannon is highly important, as through the whole course of its connexion with the county it is navigable, and communicates northward with the great lakes, and southward with Limerick and the ocean. The Blackwater, the Great and Little Brosna, the Clara, the Boyne, and the Barrow, are the other principal streams. The Grand Canal traverses the county from Edenderry to Banagher, and communicates with the Shannon and the Brosna. In September, 1843, forty-six national schools were established in this county, attended by more than five thousand four hundred children.

DIVISIONS, POPULATION, REPRESENTATION, &c.—The number of baronies comprised in the county are twelve—namely, Ballyboy, Ballybritt, Ballycowan, Clonlisk, Coolestown, Eglisk, Garrycastle, Geashill, Kilcoursey, Philipstown Lower, Philipstown Upper, and Warrenstown; these are divided into fifty-one parishes. The population of the county, by the census taken in 1841, was, males, 72,651; females, 74,206; total, 146,857. The number of houses inhabited, at that period, was 24,534; uninhabited, 932; and houses building, 118. Prior to the Union King's County sent six representatives to the Irish Parliament; two each for the boroughs of Philipstown and Banagher, and two for the county at large; but since that period the franchise has been limited to two county members—the present ones are Sir Andrew Armstrong, Baronet, Gallen Priory, Ferbane; and the Hon. John Craven Westcote, brother of Lord Rossmore, Sharavogue House, and Derrykeel, in this county. Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum, the Earl of Rosse, Birr Castle, Parsonstown.

LONGFORD.—This county lies nearly in the centre of Ireland, and is bounded on the east and south by Westmeath, on the north by Cavan, on the north-west by Leitrim, and Lough Ree separates Longford from Roscommon on the south and west. The form of the county is oblong, extending from north-east to south-west; measuring about thirty miles between those points, and fifteen miles in breadth from south-east to north-west. Its area comprises 269,409 acres; of which 13,600 are arable; 4,600 plantations; 360 occupied by towns; 13,600 covered by water, and the remainder, nearly 58,000 acres, irreclaimable or uncultivated land. The general outline of the county presents little to attract the eye: it is for the most part flat, and in many places overspread with large tracts of bog; while towards the north, on the borders of Leitrim, the surface rises into bleak and sterile mountains. The soil of the county, like the surface, is exceedingly various, changing from a light thin mould to a deep loamy clay. The elevated districts between Edgeworthstown and Longford have a good soil which yields abundant crops of grain; but the land in many parts is so much encumbered with surface water, as to present a serious impediment to the agriculturist. The average rent of land is 12s. 3d. an acre. Large crops of oats and flax are annually raised in this county, and the produce of the dairy, in butter especially, is extensive; the chief market for these commodities is Drogheda. Many females are occupied in spinning, and the linen manufacture prevails to some extent. The mineral treasures of Longford are few; lead ore has been found in several of the limestone quarries, likewise in some of the mountain veins. Ironstone of a good kind exists near the shores of Lough Gownagh; coal-slate in more than one locality; ochres, of various colours, in different districts; limestone and marble is plentiful in many parts; Jasper in the barony of Moydow, with fine slate in the barony of Ardagh. The principal rivers that water the interior of the county are the Camlin and the Kenagh; while the Shannon forms its western boundary, and the Liffey benefits a part of the southern district; and there are many streams, tributary and otherwise, by which the county is ornamented and irrigated. The lakes are numerous, and some of them of considerable extent; the largest one, Lough Ree, on the south and south-western boundary of the county, and Lough Gownagh, in its north-eastern quarter. The Royal Canal, with its branches, traverse a large extent of Longford, presenting a facile means of bearing the produce of the county to other parts. In September, 1843, there were thirty national schools in operation in the county, attended by four thousand children or more.

DIVISIONS, POPULATION, REPRESENTATION, &c.—The number of baronies comprised in the county are six—namely, Ardsagh, Granard, Longford, Moydow, Rathcline, and Shrute; these are divided into twenty-six parishes. The population of the county, by the census taken in 1841, was, males, 57,610; females, 57,881; total, 115,491. The number of houses inhabited, at that period, was 19,195; uninhabited, 600; and houses building, 64. Prior to the Union Longford sent ten representatives to the Irish Parliament; two for the county