

chain of elevations which bound the valley of that river on the west, and constitute the most remarkable feature of the interior of the county. These heights slope with a gentle declivity eastward and northward, but present steep and often precipitous escarpments towards the west, in which direction they overlook an extensive tract of undulating country extending from their bases to the eastern shore of Loch Foyle, and bounded on the south by the mountain range which separates the counties of Londonderry and Tyrone. Between the southern extremity of the first-mentioned range and the shore of Loch Neagh a comparatively level tract is interposed. The country between the rivers Bann and Foyle may thus be conveniently considered as divided into the district of the Bann, the district of Loch Foyle, and the district of Loch Neagh.

The Lower Bann, from Loch Neagh to the sea, a distance of upwards of thirty miles, has a fall of only 48 feet. The sea flows up to the Cutts above Coleraine, a distance of six miles, between low banks, which are encumbered towards the mouth of the river with extensive tracts of sand. The north-eastern liberties of Coleraine here occupy an irregular semicircle of about four miles in radius, surrounding the town [COLERAINE] on the eastern side of the river. The general characteristics of this district are similar to those of the north coast of the county of Antrim. The elevations are however inconsiderable, and the general aspect of the country is tame and bleak. On a low rocky peninsula at the extreme north-east of the county is the thriving town of Portrush; and nearer the Bann, on an exposed strand running down between low headlands of basalt is Port Stewart, a well built and fashionable watering-place, but quite unprovided with shelter for any craft above the size of a fishing-boat. West of the sand-banks which occur at the embouchure of the Bann the coast has a bolder outline, rising in a series of precipitous cliffs over the sandy beach. These cliffs extend a distance of rather more than two miles, increasing in height as they trend westward, until at the north-western extremity of the basaltic tract, of which they form the northern boundary, they have an elevation of from 350 to 400 feet. At this point the escarpments which mark the western boundary of the basaltic area commence, and may be traced along the brows of all the heights which have been mentioned as overlooking the district extending from this line to Loch Foyle. Of these heights the most prominent are Benyevenagh, at the northern extremity of the range, which rises abruptly over the sandy flat of Magilligan to a height of 1260 feet; Donald's Hill, nine miles farther south, 1315 feet; Benbradagh, three miles south of Donald's Hill, 1531 feet; and, separated from Benbradagh by the bold amphitheatrical valley of Glenshane, the upper or eastern boundary of which is formed by Carrtoghher mountain, 1521 feet high, is Craginashock, 1773 feet, with its subordinate heights of Altæglish, 1261 feet, and Tamniarin, 1272 feet, which together form the south-western extremity of the basaltic area, and complete a nearly continuous range of mountain of 24 miles in length from north to south. With the exception of some small streams which form striking cascades in falling over the escarpments of Avish and other minor heights north of Benyevenagh, all the waters which rise in the area included between the western fronts of the above-mentioned mountains and the river Bann take their course in the direction of the latter river. Of these the most considerable are the Macosquin and Agivey rivers, the former of which has its sources in the *slack*, as mountain-passes are here provincially termed, between the mountains of Benyevenagh and Keady, and the latter of which unites the waters of several streams descending from the range of Donald's Hill and Benbradagh. On the road leading from Kilrea on the Bann, westward through the *slack* separating the Donald's-hill range from the group of Benbradagh and the other mountains, which on this side form the valley of Glenuller, is the town of Garvagh. The Clady river, rising from the eastern declivities of Carrtoghher mountain, also joins the Bann at Portglenone, a point of considerable intercourse between the counties of Londonderry and Antrim. South of this the drainage of the county is towards Loch Neagh, through the rivers Mayola and Ballinderry, the latter of which forms part of the county boundary on this side. The Mayola has its rise at the bases of the mountain groups which form the head of Glenshane and the valley of Ballynascree, and carries a considerable body of water to Loch Neagh, which it enters at its north-western extremity. The town of

LONDONDERRY, a maritime county of the province of Ulster in Ireland, bounded on the north by the Atlantic Ocean, on the east by the county of Antrim and a portion of Loch Neagh, on the south by the county of Tyrone, and on the west by the county of Donegal. According to the map of Ireland published under the superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, it lies between 54° 38' and 55° 22' N. lat., and between 6° 28' and 7° 24' W. long.; and, according to the map of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, extends from the Tyrone boundary at New Bridge on the Ballinderry river on the south to Portrush on the north, 40½ statute miles; and from the Donegal boundary near Londonderry on the west, to the Antrim boundary at Kilrea Bridge on the east, 34 statute miles. The area, according to the same map, consists of—

		Acres.	r.	p.
Land	.	507,997	1	27
Water	.	10,404	0	3
		518,401	1	30

or 810 square statute miles. In 1831 the gross population was 222,012.

The county is of an irregularly triangular area, of which the eastern side may be considered as formed by the shore of Loch Neagh and the line of the river Bann, the south-western by the Tyrone boundary, and the north-western by the river Foyle and coast-line. From the Bann the surface gradually rises westward for about ten miles, forming a

Maghera is situated about midway between the Clady and Mavola rivers, on the road westward from Toome, at which latter place the Lower Bann first issues from the lake. The towns of Castle Dawson, Magherafelt, Tobermore, and Moneymore are situated in the open country between the Moyola and the Ballinderry rivers. This tract is bounded westward by the detached mountain of Slieve Gallion, which rises to the height of 1730 feet, and is in its structure similar to the mountains of the basaltic tract abovementioned, although throughout the wide intervening valley of Ballinascreen there are no traces of any connecting formation. West of the valley of Ballinascreen commences a mountain-chain which with little interruption extends to the valley of the river Foyle, forming the boundary between the counties of Tyrone and Londonderry. The highest of the group is Sawell, which rises to a height of 2236 feet, about midway between Slieve Gallion and the western extremity of the chain. The other chief heights on the range are Muinard, east of Sawell, 2057 feet; Dairt mountain, west of Sawell, 2037 feet; Finglen, east of Muinard, 1875 feet; and Slieve Kirk, which forms the western extremity of the range, 1224 feet. The district included between these mountains and Loch Foyle, constituting the western division of the county, is divided by a central tract of high land into the valleys of the rivers Roe and Faughan. The former, rising in the upper part of Glenshane, is joined by the Owenreagh and Owenbeg rivers at the entrance of that valley, from which it pursues a northern course nearly parallel to the line of abrupt declivities terminating the basaltic region, to Loch Foyle, which it enters by a sharp turn to the west immediately under the base of Benyevenagh. Several streams join the Roe from the comparatively level tract interposed between it and these mountains, rendering it, next to the Foyle and Bann, the most considerable river of the county. The valley of the Roe, especially towards the embouchure of the river, is flat and open, and contains much good and highly improved land. The thriving town of Newtown Limavady is situated on this river about five miles above its mouth, on the high road between Coleraine and Londonderry city, next to which places it is the most important town of the county. Dungiven, also a place of some consequence, occupies a romantic site on the same river near its junction with the Owenreagh, in the opening of the valley of Glenshane. The principal roads from the east to the west of the county pass through these towns, which severally occupy points at which the leading mountain-passes converge. The open rich country of this valley, called Moyroe, or the plain of the Roe, extends westward along the southern shore of Loch Foyle by Muff, and at the lower extremity of the loch opens into the valley of the Faughan. The Faughan river, which springs from the northern declivities of Sawell, after skirting the bases of the several mountains which extend from that point westward and northward to within two miles of the Foyle, makes a sharp turn to the east of north, and runs through a highly improved open valley to Loch Foyle. From the village of Claudy, situated near the sources of the Faughan, to the point where the river turns northward, a distance of twelve miles, the valley is occupied by well-improved grounds and numerous bleach-greens. The fertile vales of Bond's Glen and Glenrandle open from between the mountains forming the county boundary on this portion of the valley of the Faughan. The district between the valleys of the Roe and Faughan is considerably encumbered with moor and mountain. Legavannon, the principal eminence, which occupies nearly the centre of the tract, has an elevation of 1269 feet. Other heights, varying from 600 to 900 feet, spreading southward and westward from Legavannon, form the valleys of Burntolloght and Faure, from each of which a considerable stream descends to the Faughan.

Between the Lower Faughan and the Foyle is a range of undulating ground crossed by a valley through which the high road from Dungiven is carried to the village of Waterside; from thence a wooden bridge completes the communication with Londonderry city. The city of Londonderry occupies a boldly rising ground on the west bank of the Foyle, along which the county embraces an irregular tract extending from about four miles above the city to a mile below Culmore, where the river expands into Loch Foyle. The distance from end to end of this out-lying portion of the county is ten miles, and its breadth from one to three and a half. It is all arable and in a

good state of improvement, as is also the opposite bank of the river. The Foyle here makes a noble appearance, varying in breadth from 300 yards to half a mile, and being capable of floating ships of 800 tons up to the bridge of Londonderry.

The most remarkable feature of the coast-line is the tract which extends from the north-western extremity of the hilly region to the low point of Magilligan and southward to the mouth of the Roe. On this tract is measured the base-line of the trigonometrical survey of Ireland now going on under the superintendence of the Ordnance, 53,200 feet in length. The same tract appears to occupy the greater portion of the bottom of the loch, and rises towards its centre in a bank which confines the navigation to that portion of Loch Foyle lying along the coast of Donegal. The length of the loch, which is of a triangular shape, bounded by the low coast of Londonderry on the east and south, and by the bold shore of Ennishowen on the west, is above 18 miles, and its greatest breadth 10. The entrance to the loch, between Magilligan Point and Ennishowen Head, is about a mile across, and from this point to Londonderry city is a safe and tolerably sheltered navigation of 23 miles. Eastward of the entrance is a shoal called the 'Tuns,' which renders the loch difficult of access in stormy weather. The safer channel is by the western side of this shoal. Except the small and at present inconvenient harbour of Portrush, there is no other shelter for vessels on the coast of this county. It has been proposed to render the Bann navigable from Loch Neagh to the sea by deepening the channel at Toome, and clearing away the ledges of rock which cross it at Moyvannagher, Portna, and the Cutts. There is however an extensive sand-bar at the mouth of the river, which could not be kept open without constant dredging. Under these circumstances Portrush is likely to continue the port of Coleraine.

The roads throughout the county are in general excellent. The immediate valley of the Bann and the district of Loch Neagh in particular are closely intersected with lines of communication. The western district is not so well opened. The chief lines here are those connecting Newtown Limavady by the southern shore of Loch Foyle and the valley of the Lower Faughan with Londonderry, and that which runs by the Upper Faughan from Dungiven to the same place. One road only crosses the rough country interposed between these lines. The valley of the Roe is well provided with roads, which extend southward by Banagher to Clady, giving ample means of communication to the country between the heads of the rivers Roe and Faughan. The communication southward is chiefly by the valley of the Foyle on one side, and by the head of the valley of Ballinascreen on the other. Besides these there are several passes from Tyrone into Londonderry among the mountain groups which lie between these points.

By a rain-gauge, kept with great care at Londonderry, it appears that the maximum annual quantity of rain, on an observation of seven years, was somewhat less than 35 inches, the minimum somewhat less than 26 inches, and the mean 31.1 inches. From the same observations it appeared that on an average of seven years there were in each year 129 days fair, 202 showery, and 34 wet. The climate is by no means favourable to early sowing. The frequency of the showers, rather than the quantity of rain, renders the air more humid than in many districts where a greater quantity of rain falls.

Geology.—The basaltic tract corresponds in all respects to the remainder of the field on the opposite side of the Bann [GIANTS' CAUSEWAY], with this remarkable difference, that the dip of the strata is reversed; the surface, and the masses which compose it, on the Londonderry side of the Bann dipping towards the north-east, whereas their direction on the Antrim side is nearly to the south-west. The basalt, as in Antrim, attains its greatest thickness at the northern extremity of the field, the cap of Benyevenagh measuring upwards of 900 feet. Chalk, lias, limestone, and red sandstone, succeed in descending order, one or more of the members being frequently absent, and constitute the remainder of the system, which throughout reposes immediately on the primitive rock. The geological structure of the district may thus be described as a floor of primitive rock overlaid in part by a field of secondary formations, capped by basalt. The boundary line is marked by the abrupt declivities forming the eastern limit of the valley of the Roe from the southern extremity of this

range it passes across the Mayola river to the east of Slieve Gallion, and so to Loch Neagh, on the opposite side of which it reappears at the mouth of the Glenavy river. The main constituent of the rest of the county is mica slate. This rock covers about 450 square statute miles of the surface of Londonderry. In general the line of demarcation between it and the red sandstone, which is the most prominent member of the secondary field, is well defined. One mass however, that of Coolcosrahan mountain, which rises nearly 1300 feet above the level of the sea, is wholly composed of this rock, although almost surrounded by the advanced basaltic heights of Craignashock and Benbradagh. Upwards of two-thirds of the mica slate of this district belong to the talcose variety. Primitive limestone is of frequent occurrence throughout this field. At a height of 800 feet above the sea, on the north-west side of Carnogher mountain, it is found with veins of coloured spar, quartz, and green chlorite. It also occurs near Dungiven and Claudy. On the east side of Slieve Gallion there is a granular limestone, which contains quantities of crystallized hornblende: hornblende slate is found at several places in the valley of the Roe; a bed, four hundred yards in extent, occurs near the old church of Dungiven, where it runs parallel to the bed of primitive limestone above mentioned. The structure of the south-eastern extremity of the county is more complex. Slieve Gallion, besides having a cap of basalt, with the usual underlying formations, exhibits towards its base beds of sienite in connection with porphyry. On the north-west side the sienite verges into greenstone. Several masses of greenstone, unconnected with the tabular basalt of the summit, also crop out on the east side of the mountain. All along the western verge of the basaltic region the red sandstone, which forms the lowest member of the field, projects beyond the superior strata in a belt varying from one to two miles in breadth. This is the surface rock of the eastern valley of the Roe, from the head of which it sweeps across the opening of the valley of Ballinderry, and so between Slieve Gallion and the line of basalt into Tyrone. A detached patch of floetz limestone occurs near the outer edge of the sandstone field at Desartmartin, on the north-east of Slieve Gallion, where it is worked for burning. There are no mines worked in this county.

Soil, Agriculture, and Trade.—The soil of that part of the valley of the Bann where the subsoil is hard basalt consists for the most part of a rusty loose grit, without sufficient strength or cohesion for wheat crops. Numerous tracts of bog, interspersed with shallow pools, and frequently separated by craggy knolls of basalt, are scattered over this part of the county. There are however tracts of good land along the banks of the several rivers which traverse the district, and especially at their junctions. In general these superior portions consist of rolled gravel banks: clayey tracts occur in the neighbourhood of Coleraine, beyond which, on the Antrim side of the river, the basaltic soil is of a better quality than in the rest of the tract. The same characteristics mark the basaltic field in the district of Loch Neagh; but between the basalt and the primitive district farther west is a tract of rich open country, extending southward into Tyrone. This is the most extensive tract of good ground in the county. The soil of the basaltic field towards its western border is of a better description than in the immediate valley of the Bann and Loch Neagh. The basalt is here copiously intermixed with zeolite, which renders its detritus comparatively fertile. A soil of this kind covers the summits of Benyevenagh and Benbradagh, forming extensive tracts of sweet pasture. The subjacent valley of the Roe possesses a variety of soils, all of a superior kind. The rich flat of Moyroe, extending from the base of Benyevenagh across the opening of the valley, consists of alluvial deposits, which form a deep loamy soil of considerable strength and fertility. A strip of loamy land, also of alluvial origin, accompanies the windings of the river as high as Newtown Limavady. High gravel banks, rising in a natural terrace on each side beyond these flats, mark the more immediate valley of the river throughout the greater part of its course. The soil of these banks is generally a fertile though not very rich loam. Beyond the eastern terrace commences a tract of red clay, arising from the decomposition of the sandstone, which at this side forms the surface-rock up to the immediate acclivities of the mountains. This clay contains extensive beds of marl, and with good treatment bears excellent grain crops. The schistose district, lying between the valleys of the Roe and Faughan, is to a great extent moory and mountainous.

The valleys of Faughan-vale and Muff-glen, running southward from the open tract along the margin of Loch Foyle into the schistose region, have good tracts of fertile land, composed of a mixture of gravel, loam, and strong clay. The main valley of the Faughan river is in its structure and soil similar to the western half of the valley of the Roe, having gravel terraces reaching back to the schistose region at each side. These are well cultivated, and towards the lower part of the valley spread over a considerable tract. Gravel and mica-slate are also the chief constituents of the soil on the opposite bank of the Foyle. A cold blue clay occurs here in a few detached spots. The best improved portions of the county are the district of Loch Neagh, the valley of the Roe, the valley of the Faughan, including the coast of Loch Foyle, between the embouchures of these rivers, and the immediate vicinity of Londonderry on both sides of the Foyle. There is a very general scarcity of timber. The chief mansion-house in the county is that of Down-hill, the residence of Sir James Bruce, Bart., built by the late earl of Bristol, bishop of Derry. It is an imposing architectural pile, situated on the brow of the basaltic field where it rises over the sea, about a mile and a half west of the mouth of the Bann. The cliffs immediately behind the house rise upwards of 100 feet above the beach, and the situation is so bleak that planting could only be effected in the deep ravines which surround the demesne on the landward side. There is here a splendid collection of paintings, by the old masters, and of other articles of virtue, removed from the galleries at Ballyscullion when the palace erected by the same prelate there was taken down. Ballyscullion house, as it stood in 1802, was by much the most magnificent residence in the north of Ireland. The situation, on the bare flat near the point where the Bann issues from Loch Beg, was however extremely unfavourable to the formation of a demesne corresponding to the magnificence of the building. The house was accordingly taken down on the death of the earl, and the materials sold.

The progress of agriculture in this county has been materially forwarded by the establishment of an agricultural school near Muff by the company of grocers of London, who here hold large estates under the crown. There are 130 acres of land attached to the school, for experimental farming; a classical school is likewise connected with the establishment. Oats and barley are the principal grain crops. The system of greencropping is practised by the gentry only. There is but little land in pasture, and the breed of cattle, with the exception of pigs, of which great numbers are reared, is in general not much attended to. The following table exhibits the quantity of grain sold at the chief market-towns, exclusive of Londonderry and Coleraine, in the years 1830 and 1835:—

	Wheat. (tons.)		Oats. (tons.)		Barley. (tons.)		Bere. (tons.)	
	1830.	1835.	1830.	1835.	1830.	1835.	1830.	1835.
NewtownLima-								
vady . . .	1,113	926	2,227	1,853	..	..	1,113	926
Dungiven . .	371	308	742	617	..	..	371	308
Garvaugh . .	..	..	340	330	..	..	..	..
Magliera . .	..	..	690	616	114	17	..	..
Money more .	47	68	214	251	4	54	..	..
Kilrea . . .	..	30	300	..	..	..	..	..
Magherafelt .	300	1,000	1,200	700	..	..	..	..

The condition of the labouring population is superior to that of the same class in most parts of the north of Ireland. The general rate of wages for agricultural labourers is 1s. per day for 180 working days in the year. The population are to a considerable extent of Scottish and English descent. Their dwellings and persons are distinguished by a superior air of comfort. Those of the native race occupy the more mountainous and remote districts: they are a simple and interesting people, preserving vivid traditions of early times, and are generally on the most friendly terms with the rest of the population. The Irish language is very commonly in use among them.

The manufacture and bleaching of linens is the staple trade of the county. The most extensive bleach-greens lie along the rivers Roe and Faughan, on the latter of which there is abundant water-power and numerous sites admirably calculated for this branch of the manufacture. In 1831 there were in the county 2543 weavers, 46 reed makers, 258 flax-dressers, 21 bleachers, 64 cotton-spinners, 3 brewers, 1 distiller, 6 maltsters, 153 coopers, 53 hatters

and hosiers, 50 millers, 24 corn-dealers, 18 millwrights, 25 tanners, and 18 tobacconists. The export and import trade of the county is carried on at the ports of Londonderry city and Portrush, the latter being the seaport of Coleraine. The exports of Londonderry city in 1835, including 20,802 tons of corn, meal, and flour, amounted in value to 1,040,918*l.*, and the imports to 708,054*l.* [LONDONDERRY, *City*.] The exports of Coleraine and Portrush in the same year amounted to a value of 105,685*l.*, and the imports to 65,900*l.* The quantity of corn meal and flour included in the exports of the latter port in that year was 5137 tons.

Divisions, Towns, &c.—Londonderry is divided into the half barony of *Coleraine*, on the N.E., the barony of *Kenaught*, in the E. and centre, containing the towns of Newtown Limavady (pop. 2428) and Dungiven (pop. 1163), and the village of Ballykelly (pop. 290); *Loughinshelin*, on the S.E., containing part of the town of Moneymore (total pop. 1025), and the towns of Magherafelt (pop. 1436), Kilrea (pop. 1215), Maghera (pop. 1154), Tobermore (pop. 379), Castle Dawson (pop. 674); and *Tyrkerin*, on the W., containing the villages of Muff (pop. 192), Claudy (pop. 180), and Faughanvale (pop. 123). Besides these, there are within the county the liberties of Coleraine, containing the town of Coleraine (pop. 5752) and the village of Portstewart (pop. 475); and the liberties of Londonderry, containing the city of Londonderry (pop. with its suburbs, 19,620).

Coleraine was incorporated by charter of 28th June, 11 James I. The common-council, including the mayor, are the governing body. The corporate authorities have jurisdiction within the borough, similar to that of the lord-mayor and aldermen of London, but the court is now fallen into disuse. Their revenue arises from rents averaging 418*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* per annum, and tolls averaging 314*l.* 0*s.* 4½*d.* per annum, which income was chiefly applied in 1835 to the reduction of a debt amounting to 1500*l.* The marquis of Waterford is the patron of the borough. Coleraine is now the seat of a most flourishing linen manufacture. [COLERAINE.]

Newtown Limavady was incorporated by charter of 30th March, 11 James I. The corporation is now extinct. The town is remarkably well built, and has a very cheerful appearance. There is a handsome sessions-house; but the market-house is old and inconvenient. It is a place of considerable trade in grain, and is the centre of an extensive

linen-bleaching district. The surrounding scenery is highly beautiful.

Magherafelt is also a handsome though small town. It consists of a spacious square with the market-house in the centre, from which the four principal streets diverge. The houses are stone-built and slated. There is a great market for linens and yarns once a fortnight. The linen manufacture is carried on extensively in the vicinity: there are also large brewing and distilling establishments in the town.

Portrush, in consequence of the recent improvements in the harbour, is rapidly rising into importance. Steam-boats ply regularly from hence to Liverpool, Glasgow, and Londonderry. Dungiven is the emporium for the whole of the mountainous district round the sources of the Roe and Faughan. It had formerly a considerable manufacture of linens, but it has latterly fallen off. It has more the air of a rural village than the other towns, and is, from its secluded situation and the primitive manners of the people of the vicinity, a place of peculiar interest.

Prior to the Union, Londonderry sent eight representatives to the Irish parliament, viz. two for the county, two for the city, and two for each of the boroughs of Newtown Limavady, and Coleraine. The representation is now confined to two county members, one member for the city, and one for the borough of Coleraine. In October, 1836, the county constituency consisted of 2331 electors. The assizes are held at Londonderry, and quarter-sessions at Newtown Limavady, Magherafelt, and Coleraine. The police-force of the county, on the 1st January, 1836, consisted of four chief constables, 15 constables, 77 subconstables, and 5 horse, the cost of maintaining which establishment amounted to 3954*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, of which 1855*l.* 12*s.* was chargeable against the county. This is the smallest police-force employed in any county of Ireland. The total number of persons charged with criminal offences, who were committed to the county gaol in 1836, was 363, of whom 300 were males and 63 were females. Of these, 125 males and 4 females could read and write at the time of their committal, 112 males and 31 females could read only, and 63 males and 28 females could neither read nor write. The district lunatic asylum for the counties of Londonderry, Donegal, and Tyrone is at Londonderry city, which also contains the county infirmary. There are dispensaries in all the principal towns and villages.

pulation.

Date.	How ascertained.	Houses.	Families.	Families chiefly employed in agriculture.	Families chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, and handicraft.	Families not included in the preceding classes.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1792	Estimated by Dr. Beaufort .	25,007	..	..	..	..	..	..	125,000
1813	Under Act of 1812 . . .	31,287	..	..	..	..	..	..	186,181
1821	Under Act 55 Geo. III. c. 120	34,691	37,557	..	..	..	92,979	100,890	193,869
1831	Under Act 1 Will. IV. c. 19	39,077	41,239	25,009	10,393	5,837	106,657	115,355	222,012

History.—Of the early history of Londonderry county, pending the publication of the 'Ordnance Memoir,' little can be said, although ample materials exist in the native Irish annals similar to those made available in the published 'Memoir of Londonderry City.' At the most remote period it appears to have been possessed by the septs of O'Loughlin and O'Neill, to whom the tribe of O'Cahan, who held the eastern and central districts, was tributary. The antient fortress of Aileach [DONEGAL] was the seat of the first family, who were of the elder and royal branch of the O'Neills. The O'Cahans' chief places of residence were, first at Dunseverick, the antient Dunsobarky, in the present county of Antrim, and afterwards at the 'Dog's Leap,' or Limavady, on the Roe. Soon after the arrival of the English in 1197, John de Courcy, marched with a considerable force from Downpatrick to Coleraine, where he erected the castle of Mount Sandal, close to the Cutts' fall, and afterwards, crossing the river, plundered the country of O'Cahan. Peytoun, the English commander, who was left by De Courcy in the newly-built castle, was soon after cut off with his entire force near Faughan-vale, on a predatory excursion. Next year De Courcy again invaded the country of O'Cahan, and proceeded to Derry, which he seized; but Hugh O'Neill, of Tyrone, having made a descent on the Antrim coast at Larne, and routed the English there, compelled him to abandon his conquest. The establishment of

an English garrison at Coleraine would appear to have enabled the English very soon after to reduce at least the eastern and central parts of the county into shire-ground, for by various records of the reigns of Edward I. and Edward II. grants appear to have been made and inquisitions to have been taken in Derry in the regular manner, and in the patent roll of the 20th Edward II. is an entry of the appointment of Robert Savage to be sheriff of the county of Coulrath, or Coleraine, as O'Cahan's country was then called. It is probable that the English law continued in force in the eastern parts of the county until the great revolt of the O'Neills in 1333. [BELFAST.] After that period the native Irish continued undisturbed masters of the country until the middle of the sixteenth century, when the rebellion of Shane O'Neill, A.D. 1566, made it necessary to send a force to Derry. Seven companies of foot and a troop of horse were despatched by sea under Captain Randolph, and encamped at Derry in October of that year. An engagement ensued, in which O'Neill was defeated; but Randolph being slain, and an explosion of gunpowder having destroyed the works of the English, the place was soon after abandoned. In the year 1600, Sir Henry Dockura, with a force of 4000 foot and 200 horse, arrived in the river Foyle, and immediately commenced the construction of three forts, one on the western bank of the Foyle at Culmore, where the river opens into Loch Foyle, one on the

hill of Derry, and one at Dunnaalong, a little higher up on the eastern bank of the river. This was the first commencement of a permanent settlement. The rebellion of Sir Cahir O'Dogherty in 1608, and the flight of Tyrone and O'Donnell in the preceding year, left the entire of this and five other counties at the disposal of the crown. On the 28th January, 1609, negotiations were commenced between the king and the corporation of London for the purpose of settling the terms on which the forfeited lands in this county should be conveyed to the latter for the purpose of planting them with Protestant colonists. It was at first agreed that the Londoners should spend 20,000*l.* on the plantation, in consideration of which the king granted to them the old county and town of Coleraine, with the woods of Glanconkene and Killeightra, and the town and liberties of Derry, excepting the church lands. For the management of these estates, the common-council elected a body of twenty-six, consisting of a governor, deputy-governor, and assistants, of whom one-half retire every year, their places being supplied by a new election.

In 1619 this body was incorporated by royal charter, and their estates erected into one county, to be called the county of Londonderry. The corporation, which is generally known as 'The Irish Society,' still exists as constituted under the charter granted by Charles II. after the Restoration. The division of the county took place immediately after the granting of the first charter. To the company of Goldsmiths were assigned the south-eastern liberties of Derry; the company of Grocers had the precinct of Muff; the Fishmongers, Ballykelly; the Ironmongers, Aghadowey; the Mercers, Moyvanaway; the Merchant Taylors, Moycosquin; the Haberdashers, Booevagh; the Clothworkers, part of Coleraine; the Skinners, Dungiven; the Vintners, Bellaghy; the Drapers, Moneymore; and the Salters, Magherafelt. Of these twelve companies, the Goldsmiths, Haberdashers, Vintners, and Merchant Tailors have from time to time disposed of their proportions in perpetuity. The chief proprietors so introduced are the families of Beresford, Richardson, Ponsonby, Alexander, and Conolly. Of the remaining eight companies, five have under-leased their lands, and the remaining three, namely, the Drapers, Mercers, and Grocers, retain their estates in their own hands, which they manage by resident agents. The lands not assigned to the companies still belong to the Society. The introduction of the new colony changed the entire face of the country, which, up to this period, had been one of the most desolate tracts in Ireland. Artisans, in all the chief branches of trade and manufacture, were brought over by the companies, and habits of industry and independence became at once fixed among the population. The native Irish, returning by degrees, have again increased so far as nearly to equal the descendants of the settlers in number. Although a peaceable and interesting people, they are however still far behind the rest of the population in those habits which conduce to prosperity and comfort.

There are some remains of a Cyclopean fortress at the Giant's Sconce, on the road from Newtown Limavady to Coleraine. Dungorkin, a circular mount surrounded by a wet ditch, near Claudy, is the most remarkable of the numerous earthen fortresses which occur throughout this, as throughout every other Irish county. There are several cromlechs, and other supposed druidical remains; of which the largest is at Slaught-Manus. Artificial caves and tumuli are frequent. Of military edifices the only remaining are the castles of Killoloo, Dungiven, Salterstown, and Muff, erected by the Londoners. The old abbey of Dungiven, which occupies a romantic site on a rock rising 200 feet above the bed of the river Roe, is the most interesting ecclesiastical ruin in the county. It was built A.D. 1100 by O'Cahan, and contains several well-sculptured monuments of that family. The old church of Banagher, in the same neighbourhood, is also a very interesting ruin. Farther down on the Roe is the site of O'Cahan's castle, finely situated on a rock over the river, and surrounded by woods.

The county expenses are defrayed by grand-jury presentments. The amount levied in 1835 was 23,996*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, of which 9221*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* was for roads and bridges, 8703*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* was for buildings, charities, salaries, &c., and 2066*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* was for police. For the educational statistics of the county see DERRY diocese.