

LONDONDERRY, a city in the barony of Tyrkerin and county of Londonderry, in 54° 49' N. lat. and 7° 19' W. long., on the west bank of the river Foyle, five miles above the point where that river spreads into the harbour of Loch Foyle, and 144 statute miles from Dublin by the present mail-coach roads.

The municipal boundary, by which the jurisdiction of the corporation is virtually limited, includes an irregular area of 37,714 acres, of which 12,615 are on the west and 19,098 acres are on the east side of the Foyle. These limits are considerably restricted by the boundary adopted for parliamentary representation. The site of the city within the walls measures 1273 feet by 635 feet. The area of the hill on which the old town stands is nearly 200 acres.

Derry, antiently called Derry-Calgach, first became a place of note in consequence of the foundation of a monastery there, about A.D. 546, by Columba, the celebrated apostle of the Picts. It is probable that before this time the place had been consecrated to religious purposes, as the oak-grove, which originally covered the hill, and from which it takes its name, continued to be regarded as a sanctified spot for many ages. A small town soon grew up about this church, which stood on the declivity of the hill towards the south-west. Its whole early history consists of the record of successive burnings and pillagings by the neighbouring Irish and by the Danes. In 1162 eighty houses which had encroached on the old Abbey Church were pulled down, and an area was enclosed round the building. A new church, called the Temple More, or great church, was built in the next year by the assistance of Murtagh O'Loughlin, king of Ireland. Derry does not appear to have been a place of any military strength at this time, as it fell an easy prey to the English under De Courcy in 1198. [LONDONDERRY, *County.*] In 1311 King Edward II. granted the town of Derrycolumbkill, as it was then called, to Richard de Burgho; but the great rebellion of the succeeding reign rendered this grant ineffectual until after the inheritance had returned to the crown in the person of King Henry VII. On Sir Henry Dockura arriving here, in 1600, he describes it as 'a place in maner of an iland, comprehending within it forty acres of ground, wherein were the ruins of an old abbay, of a bishopp's house, of two churches, and at one of the ends of it an old castle, the river called Loughfoyle compassing it all on one side, and a bogge, most comonlie wett, and not easilie passable except at two or three places, dividing it from the maine land.' Here the English immediately commenced the construction of a fort, which appears to have occupied the north-eastern declivity of the hill, containing within it a considerable town, and having a straggling suburb reaching from the gate to the river side, where there was a castle for the protection of the wharf. This fort and town were for the most part burned down in the rebellion of Sir Cahir O'Dogherty in 1608, and on the London Companies obtaining their grant in 1613, a more extended plan was adopted for their reconstruction. The new fortress was made to embrace the entire crest of the hill, and was surrounded with a strong wall and rampart protected by seven bastions and three demi-bastions. The four principal streets, leading from as many gates in the several sides of the parallelogram, were laid out at right angles, a handsome square for the corporation-house being left in the centre. The progress of the city was now rapid. In 1622 the town-house was erected. Up to the year 1629 the total expenditure of the London companies in building and fortifying the walls, erecting houses, constructing quays and wharfs, and making roads, was 27,197*l.* In 1633 the cathedral was completed at a further cost of 4000*l.* The cancelling of the company's charter in 1637, and the subsequent breaking out of the great rebellion, put a stop to these improvements. The city now became an asylum for the distressed Protestants of the counties of Londonderry, Tyrone, and Donegal. In 1649 the city was garrisoned for the parliament by Sir Charles Coote, who endured a siege of four months by the royalists under Sir Robert Stewart. The defeat of the Roman Catholic forces under Bishop MacMahon at Skirifolas in Donegal, the following year, left the parliamentarians in peaceable possession until the conclusion of those troubles, for the time, by the restoration of King Charles II. In consideration of the services of the

citizens, their charter was renewed by letters patent of the 6th April, 1662, and the city again began to prosper. About 1685 however a great decay took place in trade and commerce, and two years after, on a *quo warranto* brought against the corporation by the government of King James II., the corporation were deprived of their charter. The subsequent proceedings of the government excited universal alarm among the Protestants of Ireland, and a report of an intended massacre having reached the city in the latter end of the year 1688, decided the inhabitants on refusing admission to Lord Antrim's regiment, which had been despatched by the lord-lieutenant Tyrconnell to garrison the place. The gates were closed by some resolute young men of the town, on the 7th of December, just as the advanced guard of the king's forces appeared on the opposite side of the river. The northern Protestants now generally took arms, and Derry became their principal rendezvous. Lord Mountjoy, a Protestant nobleman, holding a commission in the army of King James, was, with some difficulty, admitted by the citizens, who stipulated that one-half of any force he might introduce should be Protestants, and that until their apprehensions should be allayed by a pardon for the late commotion, the citizens themselves should keep the guards. In the meantime arms and ammunition were provided, and applications for assistance urged on the London companies. Lord Mountjoy being despatched to Paris, the command was bestowed on Colonel Lundy, who professed himself strongly attached to the Protestant cause.

On the 12th March, 1690, King James landed at Kinsale, and immediately proceeded to Dublin, where it was resolved to make the reduction of Derry the object of the army's first operations. On the approach of King James, who proceeded on the expedition in person at the head of 20,000 men, Lundy declared the place untenable, and dissuaded some English forces which had just arrived in the bay from landing in the face of the superior force advancing against them. The citizens, indignant at his cowardice, rose tumultuously, seized the gates, and fired upon the advanced guard of the Irish. Lundy having fled from the city in disguise, the citizens elected two new governors, Walker, rector of Donoghmore, and Major Baker, and formed themselves into eight regiments, amounting to 7020 men and 41 officers. Eighteen clergymen of the establishment and seven dissenting ministers, laying aside all sectarian animosities, joined their ranks. The besiegers having seized the fort of Culmore, erected batteries on both sides of the river, and stretched a boom across for the purpose of preventing the arrival of supplies. They then proceeded in their operations against the city by regular approaches on the western side, and pushed some of their works close to the foot of the rampart. The citizens conducted their defence by a vigorous fire from the walls, and by irregular sallies, which were generally attended with success. After the first eleven days of the siege, King James withdrew, leaving the command to Marshal Rosen. On the 30th July, after the inhabitants had been reduced to the necessity of eating dogs, horseflesh, hides, and tallow, and when even these were failing, two ships laden with provisions and convoyed by an English frigate entered the bay. The foremost victualling ship, after passing Culmore and the batteries on either side uninjured, struck the boom and broke it. The siege, which had lasted 105 days, was immediately raised. The garrison lost 3200 men; and, of the 4300 who remained, more than 1000 were unfit for duty. The loss of the besiegers, between the number slain in the siege and retreat, and those who died from disease in their camp, was 8000. On the representations of the heroic Walker, the twelve London Companies advanced 100*l.* each for the repair of the city; wood was supplied by the Society, abatements made in the rents, and the terms of many leases rendered more favourable to the tenants. The town-hall, which had been destroyed during the siege, was rebuilt in 1692. In 1789 a wooden bridge was commenced over the Foyle, where, previously, the only means of passage had been a ferry. The architect was Lemuel Cox, an inhabitant of Boston in New England. The original expense was 16,294*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.* Two years completed the work, which, having been frequently repaired at an expense rather greater than the original cost, is still standing. The length is 1068 feet, and the breadth 40. A turning bridge near the western end of the structure admits the passage of vessels up the river. The greatest depth of the Foyle here at low-water is 31 feet, and the rise of the tide is from five to nine feet.

The depth of water at the quays is from 12 to 14 feet at low-water of neap tides. The velocity of the current is from three to four miles an hour in the narrowest part of the channel, and from two to three in the widest.

The charter of the corporation bears date the 11th Jan., 18 Car. II. The governing body is the common-council, consisting of 12 aldermen, including the mayor, 24 chief burgesses, and two sheriffs. The mayor is chosen by the common-council from the aldermen. The freedom is acquired by birth, servitude, marriage, and special favour. The recorder is presented by the corporation and appointed by the crown. The city sessions, to hear and determine felonies, are held three times in the year. A court of record, with civil jurisdiction, unlimited in amount, is held before the mayor or recorder once a week. With the exception of the rent of the market tolls, amounting to 170*l.* per annum, the corporation do not now possess any property not held for special public trusts. In Feb., 1833, they owed a total debt of 66,444*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, of which 34,690*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* was paid off by a sale of their then remaining property. The balance due has since increased to 32,971*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, to pay which there are not now any funds, save the above rents, available.

Prior to the Union, Londonderry city returned two members to the Irish parliament. Since that time it is represented by one member only. The franchise is now in the 10*l.* householders and freemen. On the 1st April, 1835, the constituency consisted of 724 electors.

The general appearance of the city is highly imposing. The hill on which it stands rises boldly over the Foyle, the banks of which on both sides are steep and wooded. On the summit of the hill, 119 feet above the level of the river, is the cathedral, the spire of which rises to the height of 178 feet from the churchyard. Walker's testimonial—a fluted Doric column, 90 feet high—springs nearly from the same level on the central western bastion. These objects, with the cupola of the town-house, give a very striking outline to the mass of buildings which stretches from the water's-edge up the northern and eastern acclivity of the hill, and spreads westward into an extensive suburb occupying the lower part of the valley which separates the hill and site of the old town from the adjoining eminences. The bishop's palace stands within the walls at the southwestern extremity of the town, near the cathedral. Between the cathedral and palace is the court-house, a very handsome edifice, exhibiting a façade of 126 feet, consisting of an Ionic portico of four columns with wings adorned with Doric pilasters, and surmounted by statues of Peace and Justice. The building was commenced in the year 1813, and cost 30,479*l.* 15*s.* Outside the walls, on this side, is the county gaol, a very spacious and strong building, completed at an expense of 33,718*l.* (Irish) in the year 1824. The crown-prison department is somewhat too extensive for the demands of justice in so peaceable a county. Outside the walls, at the opposite extremity of the town, facing the river, is the custom-house, a hollow square of buildings, 170 feet by 130. The quays extend from the bridge northward for rather more than half a mile, and terminate in a patent slip, constructed in 1830 at a cost of 4000*l.* This slip is found to answer all the purposes of a dry-dock for vessels of 300 tons register. A general ship-yard is attached, in which vessels of 200 tons and upwards have been recently built. The walls and ramparts are still kept in repair, and form an agreeable promenade for the citizens. Between 1803 and 1808 the three principal gates were built at a cost of 1403*l.* 3*s.* Bishop's-gate, which forms the entrance at the side occupied by the cathedral and court-house, is a handsome triumphal arch with lateral passages, erected by the corporation in 1789.

The lighting, cleansing, and watching of the city are managed by a committee under the act of 2 and 3 Wm. IV., c. 107. The gas-works which supply the city were established by a joint-stock company in 1830, at an expense of 7000*l.* The supply of water is from a tank on the opposite side of the river. The water is conveyed across the bridge by pipes which close by the operation of the same machinery that opens the turning platform in the bridge for the occasional passage of vessels. Turf-fuel is procured from the bogs of Clondermot, on the eastern bank of the Foyle. The quantity of coal and culm imported in 1835 was 13,966 tons, of the value of 8728*l.*

The port is under the control of a committee acting under the provisions of the 2nd and 3rd Wm. IV., c. 107, which act also regulates the tonnage duties. The quays, which

up to 1831 were the property of the corporation, are now in the hands of private individuals and companies. There are twenty-one such quays and wharfs, including two on the waterside bank of the river. The shipping belonging to the port in 1837 consisted of forty sailing vessels of an aggregate tonnage of about 6000 tons, and of six steam-boats of an aggregate tonnage of 1063 tons.

The number of vessels employed in the foreign trade which entered inwards in 1837 was forty-six, of an aggregate tonnage of 8385 tons; outwards fifteen, of an aggregate tonnage of 4886 tons. Coastwise, in the same year, the number inwards was 687, and the tonnage 79,935 tons; outwards 543, tonnage 66,260 tons. These returns, compared with those of 1826, exhibit a considerable decrease in the foreign trade; but a much more than corresponding increase in the trade coastwise, which, within the last ten years, has more than doubled.

Exports of Londonderry in the year 1835 (exclusive of re-shipments of Sugars).

Articles.		Quantity.		Estimated value.
		Number.	Tons. cwt.	
Corn, meal, and flour	cwts.	416,042	20,802 2	£ 120,676
Provisions (including butter)	cwts.	85,890	4,294 10	273,566
Flax and tow	cwts.	81,120	4,056 0	212,940
Feathers	cwts.	3	0 3	15
Spirits	galls.	63,480	233 6	10,580
Linen	yards	5,035,992	839 6	314,749
Cotton manufactures	yards	968	0 3	24
Oxen and cows	head	855	285 0	5,130
Horses	head	73	36 10	1,440
Sheep	head	313	9 10	265
Swine	head	11,103	740 4	13,830
Eggs	No.	33,056,000	1,130 11	55,094
Hides and calf-skins, untanned	No.	22,960	574 0	11,235
Other articles	value	.	.	21,080
				£1,040,774

In the same year the imports amounted to an estimate value of 708,054*l*. The chief articles were sugar, 58,744*l*.; iron, 24,520*l*.; British spirits (chiefly Scotch whiskey), 21,820*l*.; tea, 19,255*l*.; flax-seed, 16,896*l*.; haberdashery and apparel, 13,550*l*.; fish (chiefly herrings), 10,811*l*.; tallow, 9570*l*.; glass and earthenware, 8980*l*.; tobacco, 8213*l*.; and coal and culm, 8728*l*. The customs of the port for the year 1837 amounted to 99,652*l*.

It is estimated that the quantity of goods of all kinds carried annually into the city by inland conveyances is 58,400 tons, of which 37,000 tons are for exportation; and that the total quantity of goods carried out of the city is 67,500 tons, of which 54,400 tons consist of goods imported. The grinding of grain (chiefly oats) is the chief branch of manufacture carried on in the city and suburbs. There are two extensive distilleries, a brewery, copper-works on a large scale, and a metal foundry. In these seven steam-engines are employed, of an aggregate of 116 horse-power. The salmon fishery of the Foyle gives employment to 120 men besides water-keepers. The fish are exported to Liverpool, Glasgow, Bristol, and Dublin, in boxes, packed with ice. The produce has increased greatly within the last ten years, in consequence of the introduction of stake-nets. In 1835 the total number of fish taken in stake and draught nets in the Foyle was 55,906, weighing 143 tons 9 cwt. This fishery belongs to the Irish Society.

In 1618-19 the total number of houses in the city was 92, inhabited by 102 families; in 1814 the number of houses was estimated at 1458, and of inhabitants at 10,570; in 1821 the number of houses was found to be 1329, and of inhabitants 9313. In 1831 the numbers were—houses 1405, inhabitants 10,130, comprising 1972 families: of which number 34 families were chiefly employed in agriculture; 1297 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft; and 641 were not included in either class. According to the Report of the Commissioners of Public Instruction, the numbers in 1834 were—

Within the walls . . .	2,121
Without the walls . . .	11,164
	13,285

and these appear to be still increasing.

There were, in 1836, in the city, suburbs, and liberties, 31 daily schools, supported wholly by the pupils, educating

748 males and 504 females; and 12 daily schools, supported wholly or in part by contributions and bequests, educating 680 males and 564 females. Gwyn's Charitable Institution has an income of 1870*l*. 13*s*. per annum; in 1836 there were 81 boys on the establishment. The Diocesan and Free Grammar-school has an income of 600*l*. per annum, 567*l*. 6*s*. 2*d*. of which is contributed by the London companies, the Irish Society, and the bishop. The Irish Society also contributes to the support of eight other schools. Two schools, in 1836, were in connection with the National Board of Education. In the city is a public library and news-room, with a collection of about 300 volumes, established in 1819, and in 1824 transferred to a new building now partly occupied by the Chamber of Commerce. There is also a literary society, established in 1834. The savings-bank, established in 1816, had deposits amounting to 16,226*l*. 15*s*. 6*d*. on the 10th Nov., 1835. The number of depositors was 699. Two weekly newspapers are published in the city.

Of the charitable institutions the principal are:—the Mendicity House, established in 1825 by Bishop Knox, and supported by voluntary donations averaging 600*l*. per annum; the Poor-Shop, established in 1821 to provide the indigent with clothing and bedding at prime cost, supported by contributions averaging about 45*l*. annually; and the Ladies' Penny Society, established in 1815, for the relief of sick and indigent room-keepers, supported by subscriptions averaging 200*l*. per annum. There are also a charitable loan-fund, a penitentiary for females, and some minor charities. The district lunatic asylum stands on the north of the city. It was opened in 1829, at a cost of 25,678*l*. 2*s*. 4*d*., and is calculated for 104 patients. The funds for its support are advanced by government, and repaid by the counties of the district. The county infirmary and fever-hospital, opened in 1810, and the dispensary, established in 1819, are supported by annual subscriptions and grand-jury presentments. The annual average of patients relieved in the former is 407, and of those relieved by the latter 1564.

(*Ordnance Memoir of the City and North-western Liberties of Londonderry*, 4to., Dublin, 1837; *Report of Railway Commissioners, Ireland*, 1838; *Leland's History of Ireland*, &c.)