

ARDEE (or ATHERDEE), a market town, in the barony of Ardee, county of Louth, Ireland, forty-three miles N. by W. of Dublin, on the Lifford and Derry road. It is pleasantly situated on the river Dee, which is a small stream uniting its waters with those of the Lagan, and flowing into the Irish sea. The town had in 1821 a population of 3588 persons, and the rest of the parish contained 1773. The living is a vicarage, which has been united from time immemorial with those of Shenlis, Smermore, and Stackallen, and from a later period with the rectory and vicarage of Killdemock. The united parishes are in the diocese and province of Armagh. There are in the town two schools on Erasmus Smith's foundation, one containing eighty-four boys, and the other eighty girls, on the Lancasterian system; there is also a dispensary.

Ardee returned two members to the Irish Parliament, but lost its franchise with the Union; it has four fairs in the year. It gives the title of baron to the Brabazon family, earls of Meath.

Ardee was antiently a walled town, and defended also by a strong castle, erected by Roger de Pippard, lord of Atherdee, about the close of the twelfth or the beginning of the thirteenth century. There were two monastic establishments here; an hospital for Crouched Friars, following the rule of St. Augustin, founded in 1207 by the above-mentioned Roger de Pippard, and a Carmelite friary, the church of which, filled with men, women, and children, was burned by the Scots and Irish under Edward Bruce in 1313. Near the town is a remarkable mound called Castle Guard, of ninety feet perpendicular height, 600 feet in circuit at the base, and 140 feet at the summit. It is tastefully planted, and is surrounded by a deep and wide trench, or, according to other accounts, a double ditch and vallum (*i. e.* embankment). The remains of two structures, one seemingly a castle or tower, and the other a kind of parapet, are on the summit. These mounds, which the Irish call *raths*, and attribute to the Danes, are more numerous in the county of Louth than in any other county. (Carlisle's *Top. Dict. of Ireland*; *Traveiler's New Guide through Ireland, &c.*; Beaufort's *Mem. of a Map of Ireland, &c.*) 53° 50' N. lat., 6° 30' W. long. from Greenwich.