

LOUTH, a maritime county of the province of Leinster in Ireland; bounded on the north by the county of Armagh and Bay of Carlingford, which separates it from the county of Down; on the east by the Irish Channel; on the south and south-west by the county of Meath; and on the west by the county of Monaghan. According to the map of Ireland published under the superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge it lies between 53° 43' and 54° 7' N. lat., and between 6° 6' and 6° 41' W. long. According to the map of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland it extends from the Mattock river on the south to the Armagh boundary on the north, 25 statute miles; and from Dunany Point on the east to the Meath boundary on the west, 15 statute miles. From the sea at the bridge of Dundalk, however, to the Monaghan boundary, its breadth is only 6½ miles. The surface, according to the latter map, consists of

	Acres.	r.	p.
Land . . .	202,336	2	36
Water . . .	813	0	4
Total . . .	203,149	3	0

or 317¾ square statute miles, being the smallest county in Ireland. In 1831 the gross population was 107,486.

From the Boyne to the river of Dundalk, comprising more than three-fourths of the county, the surface is of the same character with that of the great central plain of Ireland, of which it forms the north-eastern portion. The only eminences in this division at all conspicuous are in the southern part of the county, which they cross in a direction nearly east and west, forming a continuation of the hilly group which occupies the north-eastern angle of the county of Meath. The highest ground here is Belpatrick, near the county boundary, 789 feet. East from Belpatrick rises the round-backed hill of Collon, or Mount Oriel, wooded to the top, and forming a striking object for a distance of several miles in all directions. Near this is the very handsome though small town of Collon, adjoining the extensive demesne of Oriel Temple, the residence of Lord Ferrard. From Collon a low hilly range extends eastward, attaining its highest elevation in the hill of Tullyesker, 616 feet, and terminating in the promontory of Clogher-head, which rises 181 feet above the Irish Channel. The heights belonging to this range are cultivated to the top, and present no abrupt or striking outlines. Between them and the Boyne the country, except along the immediate valley of the river, possesses few features of interest. Near the coast, about midway between the Boyne and Clogher-head, is the village of Termonfeckin, situated on a stream running eastward from Tullyesker to the sea.

On the other side the Mattock river, rising between Tullyesker and Collon, runs southward by Mellifont to the Boyne, forming the boundary between Louth and Meath. The northern slope of the hilly range above mentioned spreads into an open gently undulating plain, almost wholly under tillage, which extends without any remarkable eminence as far as the river of Dundalk. This level district is crossed from west to east by various streams, which, uniting as they approach the sea-coast, form three moderately sized rivers; the Dee, the Glyde, and the Fane. The Dee rises in the north-east of Meath, and passing through the town of Ardee, which is, next to Dundalk, the most considerable place in the county, proceeds in a direction nearly from west to east until within four miles of the sea, where it receives the White river, running north-eastward past Dunleer, which direction the united stream preserves through the remainder of its course. The Glyde, formed by the junction of the Lagan, which rises in Meath, with a stream descending from the Monaghan border, passes for the first five miles of its course through a bare and uninteresting tract bordering on the latter county. Eastward from this the appearance of the country rapidly improves: a series of demesnes, of

which Louth Hall, the seat of the earl of Louth, is the most extensive, occupies both banks of the river for several miles of its course through the rich tract north of Ardee: the remainder of its progress to Castlebellingham, a remarkably pretty village on the great northern road leading from Drogheda to Dundalk, is through low marshy meadow lands. At Castlebellingham it turns southward, and winding through a well-improved tract bordering on the coast, meets the Dee, with which it has a common embouchure at Anagassan. The course of the Fane is nearly parallel to that of the Glyde, and the character of the country through which it runs is similar, the more highly improved portion being towards the coast, where for two miles of its course it skirts the demesne of Clermont, and then enters the sea at the village of Lurgangreen. A dead flat, beginning south of Lurgangreen, continues to Dundalk, the county town, which stands on the extreme verge of the plain, at the head of a creek formed by the embouchure of the Castletown river. The surrounding country is in a high state of cultivation: the level lands towards the sea, in particular, are laid out with great regularity and on an extended scale.

Beyond the Castletown river, which runs out of the county of Armagh in a direction from north of west to south of east, the surface is of quite a different character. A group of mountains, ranging from 1000 to 1900 feet in height, and extending over a district fifteen miles long and five miles broad, stretches across the Armagh border, and extends eastward into a great peninsula forming the northern boundary of the Bay of Dundalk and the southern limit of the Lough of Carlingford and basin of the Newry river.

The general direction of these mountains is from north-west to south-east: the group is divided into two nearly equal portions by a ravine traversing it from north to south, and forming a direct line of communication between Dundalk and Newry. Through this defile the great northern road is carried at a considerable height above the bed of a mountain-stream, which has been taken advantage of in the formation of a pretty sheet of water in the demesne of Ravensdale, a romantic seat of the late Sir Harry Godericke. The steep declivity of the mountain, which rises about 1500 feet above the level of the glen in which the mountain stands, is clothed with wood to a height of several hundred feet; and this hanging screen of foliage is prolonged on the south by a succession of similar plantations extending as far as the bay of Dundalk. A remarkable wooded eminence, called Trumpet-hill, rising between the main mountain-range and the shore, forms a prominent feature in this scene, which, to the traveller approaching Dundalk from the north, is one of peculiar variety and grandeur: this effect is considerably heightened by the bleakness and monotony of the boggy tract of Killeavy, through which the road passes for several miles before entering the defile. The mountains lying to the west of this ravine are situated chiefly in the county of Armagh, and consist of the Slieve Gullion and Forkhill groups. The latter lie immediately along the boundary of Louth, and are distinguished by the extreme ruggedness of their outline, a feature more or less characteristic of all the heights of the range. The Kilcurry river, descending from the southern declivities, joins the Castletown river a short distance above the bridge of Dundalk. The glens and vales which lie along this border of the mountain-region possess much picturesque beauty. On the eastern side of the pass of Ravensdale the chief heights are Clermont, 1462 feet; Clermont Cairn, 1674 feet; and Dorlary, 906 feet. Trumpet-hill rises 465 feet, but from its extreme steepness appears to be much higher. From the eastern side of Ravensdale the mountains stretch back to the river of Newry and bay of Carlingford, which they overhang in masses rising almost immediately from the water's edge. The chief heights here are Corrakite, 1869 feet, and Carlingford mountain, immediately over the town of Carlingford, 1935 feet. Towards the extremity of the peninsula and along that side bounding the bay of Dundalk the mountains leave a considerable margin of level land between them and the sea. This open tract is several miles in width at the extremity of the peninsula, where it terminates in the low point of Ballagan, forming the southern boundary of the bay of Carlingford. A considerable valley, watered by two streams called the Big and Little Rivers, penetrates the mountain-region on this side, running up between the heights of Barnavave, 1142 feet, on the east, and Slieve Nagloch, 1024 feet, on the west. On the north the plain is

contracted to a narrow strip along the shore of Carlingford Loch and valley of the Newry river by the mountain-group above mentioned. The town of Carlingford, a place of considerable antiquity and historical interest, stands at one extremity of this tract, and the castle of Narrow-water at the other. The latter however, being built on the opposite side of the river of Newry, is in the county of Down. The harbour of Carlingford is described under the article Down. The only other harbour, with the exception of a shallow creek at Anagassan, and a small fishing-pier at Clogher-head, is that of Dundalk. Clogher head is the only bold feature of the coast between Dundalk and the mouth of the Boyne. A broad sandy beach, in some places extending at low-water to a distance of two miles, skirts this part of the coast at every other point. The danger of these great sandy shoals is however much diminished by the prevalent direction of the wind, which for nine months of the year is off shore.

Geology.—The level portion of the county south of the river of Dundalk belongs generally to the extensive clay-slate formation, which follows the northern margin of the limestone plain from the Irish channel on the east to the verge of the Upper Shannon on the west. One considerable patch of carboniferous limestone, skirted with a narrow belt of yellow sandstone and conglomerate, is included within the county boundary to the west of Ardee, and minor deposits of the same rock occur in several other localities through the west and north-west of the southern division; but the greatest extent of this formation within the county is in the district north of Dundalk, where the level space between the declivities of the mountains and the shore, from the town of Carlingford to the bridge of Dundalk, and thence westward on both sides of the Castletown river to its junction with the Kilcurry, is occupied by a limestone formation, which, as it is surrounded on the landward side by transition and primitive rocks, may probably be in connection with that part of the great central field which is known to be overlaid by the waters of the Irish Channel farther south. The structure of the mountainous region is similar to that of the group of Mourne, consisting of a nucleus of granite supporting the clay-slate and limestone of the surrounding field on its flanks; the clay-slate near the line of contact being altered, and passing into greenstone slate. A great protrusion of crystalline greenstone trap occurs at the eastern extremity of the range, constituting the central mass of the mountains between the Big River and Carlingford. On the northern declivities of these heights the clay-slate re-appears, skirting the southern shore of the bay of Carlingford. Iron and lead ore are the only minerals which have been observed, but nowhere in sufficient quantity to warrant mining operations.

Soil, &c.—The soil of the southern division of the county, although not so rich as that of the limestone plain of Meath, is well calculated for every kind of grain-crop. Wheat is grown in large quantities in the district round Ardee; oats and barley are the chief crops raised off the tillage lands of the rest of the southern district. The tract north of the bay of Dundalk, between the mountains and the sea, also produces heavy wheat crops. Farming in general is carried on in a superior manner. Green crops are grown by almost all the gentlemen farmers. The fences are usually of quick-set, and the lands well drained. In the mountain-district the condition of the people is much inferior, and the improved system of husbandry unknown. Spade-cultivation is here very general, and the old slide car without wheels is still in use. The dwellings and appearance of the peasantry inhabiting the dreary tract through which the northern road passes before entering the defile of Ravensdale contrast strongly with the comfortable habitations and decent dresses of the rural population of Down. The condition of the peasantry throughout the southern district is however considerably better in all respects than in most of the counties of Leinster. The rate of wages for agricultural labourers varies from 8*d.* to 10*d.* per day, for 210 working days in the year.

There is no regular return of the sales of grain in the several market-towns. The sales in Dundalk in 1835 were—

Wheat	242,100 cwts.
Barley	377,074 „
Oats	146,037½ „

The sale of oats at Ardee in the same year is estimated

at 73,400 cwts., and at Castlebellingham 3500 cwts. The wheat and barley of the above return are chiefly the produce of Louth and Monaghan; the oats, of Cavan, Monaghan, and Fermanagh. The greater part of the oats produced in Louth is used for home consumption.

The linen manufacture is carried on with some activity at Ravensdale and Collon, where there are large bleach-greens, but chiefly in Drogheda and its neighbourhood, where the trade is generally very brisk. In Drogheda there is a steam-power mill for spinning flax, which employs 450 spinners. The quantity of linen made in the town is 1500 webs weekly, six-sevenths of which are manufactured from yarns spun in the town and neighbourhood, or imported from Belfast, and the remainder of British yarns. The number of persons employed in the linen manufacture in the county in 1831 was as follows: bleachers, 20; flax-dressers, 6; reed-makers, 2; weavers (including some woollen weavers) 972. In the same year there were in the county 6 brewers, 7 maltsters, 30 tanners, 64 coopers, 14 corn-dealers, 60 millers, and 15 millwrights. A pin manufactory was established at Drogheda, in 1836, by a Manchester house, who were unable to procure a sufficient number of hands at their English establishment. The hands employed are children, who earn about 4*s.* per week. In 1838 there were 260 employed, and the proprietors were looking out for the site of another establishment in a populous part of the county. The fisheries off the coast give occasional employment to 13 decked fishing-boats, 11 half-decked ditto, one open sail ditto, and 313 open sail-boats, having an aggregate tonnage of 1765 tons, and manned by 1315 fishermen.

There is a rather numerous resident gentry. The only nobleman permanently resident is Lord Viscount Ferrard. The Earl of Roden has a mansion and fine park adjoining Dundalk, but is usually resident in the county of Down. The other principal proprietors are Sir Patrick Bellew, Sir Allan Bellingham, Sir Richard Robinson, and the families of Fortescue, Balfour, Taaffe, Chester, &c.

Divisions, Towns, &c.—Louth is divided into the baronies of *Lower Dundalk*, on the north-east, containing the town of Carlingford, population (in 1831) 1319; *Upper Dundalk*, on the north-west, containing the town of Dundalk (pop. of borough and town 13,078); *Louth*, in the centre, containing the town of Louth (pop. 613); *Ardee* on the south-west and centre, containing the towns of Ardee (pop. 3975) and Castlebellingham (pop. 611), and the village of Anagassan (pop. 235); and *Ferrard*, in the south, containing the towns of Collon (pop. 1153), Dunleer (pop. 710), and Clogher (pop. 592), and the villages of Termonfeekin (pop. 470) and Baltray (pop. 428).

Dundalk, the assize town of the county, has had various charters of incorporation. The governing charter bears date the 4th March, 1674. The corporation consists of a bailiff, 16 burgesses, and an indefinite number of freemen. The governing body is the corporation at large. The freedom is acquired by special favour of the governing body. There is no criminal jurisdiction beyond that of a justice of the peace, which rank, for the borough, the bailiff and recorder hold *ex officio*. The court of record is disused. The average revenue is 80*l.* per annum, and the expenditure 150*l.* The corporation in 1835 were 1126*l.* 10*s.* in debt. The patron is the Earl of Roden, who is proprietor of almost the entire site of the town. The present boundary of the borough comprises an area of 445 statute acres.

Prior to the Union, Dundalk returned two members to the Irish parliament. It is now represented by one member in the imperial parliament. The right of election formerly lay with the corporation. It is now, by the 2nd Wm. IV., c. 88, vested in the resident freemen and 10*l.* householders. The number of voters at the last general election was 376.

Dundalk is a place of a very remote antiquity, being the *Dundalgan* of the Irish Ossianic poems, the residence of the hero Cuchullin. It is extremely probable that some earthen and stone works in the neighbourhood of the present town formed a portion of the old *cahir* or city. The situation of the place, on the lowest ford of the Castletown river, in the direct road to Ulster, rendered it early a port of importance to the English. It was here O'Hanlon opposed the march of De Courcy northward in 1179, on which occasion a great number of the Irish were drowned in the fords. The result of the battle was doubtful, but Dundalk remained in the hands of the English. The site and vicinity of the town were afterwards bestowed on Bertram de Verdon, to whom probably the present town owes its origin. On Edward

Bruce's invasion of Ireland in 1315, Dundalk was among the first places that fell into his hands, and here in the succeeding year he caused himself to be crowned king of Ireland. Bruce, after ravaging the south of Ireland with various fortune, returned to the neighbourhood of Dundalk in the latter end of the year 1318. Here he was encountered at the Faughart, a height on the northern side of the Castletown river, by Lord John Bremlingham. In this battle Bruce was slain, and his predatory army entirely dispersed. Bremlingham for his services was created earl of Louth, and had the manor of Ardee bestowed on him. During the rebellion of Shane O'Neill, in the reign of Elizabeth, Dundalk was besieged by the insurgents, but without success. On the breaking out of the rebellion of 1641, Sir Phelim O'Neill took it without opposition, the garrison having surrendered on the first summons. On the 26th of March, 1642, Lord Moor and Sir Henry Tichbourne, after having driven the Irish from before Drogheda, and retaken Ardee, advanced against Dundalk, which after some resistance they carried by storm, having broken open the main gate with pickaxes. After the capture of Drogheda by Cromwell in 1649, Dundalk surrendered to the parliamentarians. In the war of the Revolution it was evacuated by the forces of James II. on the advance of the army of King William, who took possession of it before he proceeded to the Boyne.

The main street of Dundalk is built along the line of the great northern road, and runs nearly north and south: the other leading streets run eastward from the main street, and parallel to one another, occupying the extreme verge of the plain along the southern bank of the creek, where the Castletown river expands into the sea. At the northern extremity of the main street is the bridge, and south from it the linen-hall and church. The market-house, a decent brick building, and the county-court house, a very handsome edifice of cut stone, are situated nearly in the middle of the main street. The county infirmary, a brick building in the Tudor style, stands at its southern extremity. The demesne of Dundalk-house, a residence of the earl of Roden, skirts the western side of the main street through its entire length. An extensive cavalry barrack terminates the town eastward. The general appearance of Dundalk is highly respectable. The provisions of the lighting and paving act were put in force here in 1832. The amount of the assessment for lighting, paving, and watching for the year 1836 was 6967 8s. 11d.

The corn-trade is very extensively carried on. In the town are a steam-power mill for grinding wheat, a large distillery, and two breweries. Dundalk is the chief point of export for the counties of Cavan, Monaghan, and Fermanagh. The exports of agricultural produce in 1835 consisted of

	Cwts.
Wheat	142,097
Wheat, meal, and flour	16,280
Barley	56,280
Malt	53,875½
Oats	229,542½
Oatmeal	129,260

There is also a large export of butter and eggs, collected principally from the counties of Monaghan, Cavan, and the northern parts of Longford. The butter exported is about 550 tons for the season: the number of eggs exported in 1835 was 2,410,800; of yards of linen 60,000; of lbs. of wool 15,680; of heads of cows and oxen 3932; of horses 100; of sheep 7266; and of swine 48,183. Total value of the exports for that year 452,813l. In the same year the imports amounted to 107,953l., of which the chief items

were for coal, culm, and cinders 19,021l.; cotton manufactures 13,800l.; woollen manufactures 10,500l.; haberdashery 6500l.; iron 8960l.; fish (herrings) 7000l.; oak-bark for tanners 4,800l.; sugars 2100l.; and teas 1400l. Two steam-vessels, each of 200 tons register, the property of a Dundalk company, ply regularly between the port and Liverpool. Since the establishment of these, there has been a considerable increase in the amount of imports. The port, although it has not much depth of water, is considered a safe one. A freight will be taken for it in an English port at a less charge than for either of the ports of Newry or Drogheda. There are no harbour dues.

Dundalk is the head of an excise district, embracing Newry and Warrenpoint in the county of Down, Ardee in Louth, and the entire county of Monaghan. The amount of excise paid in the district in 1835 was 112,189l. 18s. 7½d. The customs paid for the port of Dundalk, in the same year, amounted to 3598l. 5s. 7d. A branch of the bank of Ireland is established here.

Ardee is an antient corporation, at present governed by charter of the 28th of February, 1712. The corporation consists of a portreeve, burgesses, and freemen. The governing body is the common-council. There is no criminal jurisdiction beyond that of the portreeve, who is a justice of the peace *ex officio* within the borough. The civil court of the recorder is now disused. It is asserted by the inhabitants that corporate estates to the value of 1000l. per annum have been spoliated. The present income of the corporation is 125l. [ARDEE.]

Dunleer is incorporated by charter of the 3rd of August, 1678. The corporation is virtually extinct. The town itself is inconsiderable.

Carlingford is an antient corporation, having been, during the existence of the English pale, a place of considerable importance, as commanding the only pass at that time practicable between Dundalk and Newry. The governing charter is dated 19th of August, 1619. The corporation is virtually extinct.

Prior to the Union, Louth returned two county members and two for each of the above boroughs. The representation is now limited to two [county members, and one for Dundalk. The county constituency, at the end of 1836, consisted of 1194 voters. On the 1st of January, 1836, the police force of the county consisted of 4 chief constables, 22 constables, 107 subconstables, and 5 horse of the constabulary, supported at a cost of 5121l. 13s. 5d., of which 2469l. 18s. 8d. was chargeable against the county; and of 1 magistrate, 21 constables, 70 subconstables, and 2 horse of the peace-preservation police, the cost of supporting which establishment was 4400l. 16s. 5d. In the same year the total number of persons charged with criminal offences who were committed to the county gaol was 321, of whom 288 were males and 33 females. Of these 91 males and 4 females could read and write at the time of their committal, 137 males and 20 females could read only, and 60 males and 9 females could neither read nor write. The assizes for the county are held at Dundalk, and general quarter-sessions at Dundalk, Drogheda (a county in itself), and Ardee, in which last place is a court-house and bridewell. The district lunatic asylum is at Dublin. This asylum was originally built in the year 1815, by parliamentary grant, for admission of all pauper lunatics throughout Ireland. It was created a district asylum by act of 11 Geo. IV., c. 22, and is now annexed to the district formed by the counties of Wicklow, Dublin, Meath, Louth, and the counties of the city of Dublin and of the town of Drogheda. The county infirmary at Dundalk is a very extensive and complete establishment. There are dispensaries in all the minor towns. There is no local newspaper.

Population.

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 . .	11,545	..	..	..	..	..	..	57,750
1821	Under Act 55 Geo. III., c. 120	18,138	19,891	..	..	..	49,363	57,648	101,011
1831	Under Act 1 Will. IV., c. 19	18,834	19,811	12,028	3,970	3,813	52,439	55,042	107,481

Louth, at the coming of the English, formed a portion of the territory of Orgial or Oriel, by which name it afterwards came itself to be known in contradistinction to the more western parts of the territory. The native families of chief authority in the territory at this time were the O'Kervails, or O'Carrols, and the MacMahons. Donchad O'Kervail, prince of Orgial, was the founder of several religious houses in the present county of Louth, about the middle of the twelfth century: among these was the Cistercian abbey of Mellifont, the consecration of which, in A.D. 1157, was attended by a great assemblage of the Irish nobility. Among those who bestowed gifts on the new establishment on that occasion was Devorgilla, wife of O'Rourk, whose elopement with Dermot MacMorrogh shortly after led to the English invasion. The eastern part of Orgial, constituting the present Louth, having been conquered by De Courcy between 1179 and 1180, was erected into a county by King John, A.D. 1210. Being at the time accounted a portion of Ulster, it formed part of the grant to De Courcy, and after his time to De Lacey, by whom it was divided among inferior barons. The families of De Verdon, Pippard, Taaffe, Bellew, and Gernon were among those introduced at this period. During the decay of the English authority, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, Louth remained attached to the government. The preservation of the county from the general spirit of defection then abroad was owing, in a great measure, to the institution, by act of the 12th Edw. IV., of the Brotherhood of St. George, a military fraternity composed of thirteen of the chief nobility and gentry of the counties of Kildare, Dublin, Meath, and Louth, and having for its object the protection of the pale from the neighbouring Irish, and the arrest of outlaws and rebels within the above counties. The subsequent history of Louth, which was not considered a portion of Leinster until the reign of Elizabeth, is in great measure that of Drogheda and Dundalk. [ДРОГНЕДА.] The forfeitures consequent on the rebellion of 1641, and the ensuing civil wars extended over nearly the entire county. Those which followed the war of the Revolution of 1688 embraced 22,508 acres, of an estimated value, at that time, of 82,310*l*. 3*s*.

The numerous antiquities which occur throughout Louth have been made the subject of a volume entitled 'Louthiana,' published at Dublin in 1758. Earthen mounds and entrenchments are of very frequent occurrence. The most remarkable in the county is that of Castle-Guard at Ardee. Its perpendicular height is nearly 90 feet, the depth of the main trench between 30 and 40, the circumference at the top 140, and round the base upwards of 600 feet. The mound and building called *Fahs na ain Eighe*, or 'the one night's work,' near Dundalk, is a curious combination of the earthen *rath* with the stone *cashiol*, and is probably coeval with the Dundelgan of the Ossianic romances. Stone circles and other supposed Druidic remains are also numerous. The most remarkable are at Ballirekan and Ballinahatry, near Dundalk. At Ballymascanlan is a cromlech, the covering-stone of which measures 12 feet by 6, and weighs upwards of thirty tons. Round towers formerly stood at Louth and Drogheda, and two are still remaining at Dromiskin and Monasterboyce. The last is one of the finest specimens in the kingdom: it is 110 feet high, but has lost the greater part of its conical covering. In the churchyard near the tower stand two beautifully sculptured stone crosses. The larger, called St. Boyne's Cross, is 18 feet high. On the base of the smaller, which is 16 feet in height, is an inscription, on which 'Pray for Muredoch' is legible in very antient Irish characters. The arms of these crosses are enclosed in circles, and the entire surface of each is covered with rich tracery and allegorical sculpture. St. Boyne is probably a corruption of the name of St. Buas, the founder, who died A.D. 521. Muredoch, by whom the other cross was probably set up, died A.D. 836. The ruins of the abbey of Mellifont occupy a beautiful site on the bank of the Mattock river, near the Boyne. They consist of a gate-tower, part of a chapel, and the lower story of an octagonal chapter-house. The ornamental part of the doorways and arches of the two latter buildings are formed of blue marble, and have been highly gilt. There are some very antient ruins on the hill of Faughart, where Edward Bruce is said to be buried, connected with the old cell of St. Brigid. Of the various feudal buildings throughout the county the chief are the castle of Carlingford, erected by King John, Rohe's Castle, north-west of Dundalk, Torfeckan or Termonfeckin Castle, a residence of the arch-

bishops of Armagh, inhabited last by Primate Ussher, and Castletown, still kept in habitable order, on the south bank of the Castletown river near Dundalk.

Louth lies partly in the diocese of Clogher, but chiefly in that of Armagh, which extends into the counties of Armagh, Londonderry, Tyrone, Louth, and Meath. The number of parishes in this diocese is 98, constituting 88 benefices, and having 88 churches of the Establishment, 11 other places of Protestant worship in connection therewith, 68 Presbyterian meeting-houses, 44 meeting-houses belonging to other Protestant Dissenters, and 120 Roman Catholic chapels. In 1834 the total population of the diocese was 500,636, of whom there were 103,012 members of the Established Church, 84,837 Presbyterians, 3340 other Protestant Dissenters, and 309,447 Roman Catholics, being in the proportion of 3 Roman Catholics to 1.88 Protestant, of whatever denomination. In the same year there were in this diocese 623 daily schools, in which 44,606 young persons received instruction; being in the proportion of 8.10 per cent. of the entire population under daily tuition, in which respect Armagh stands fourteenth among the 32 dioceses of Ireland. Of the above schools, in 1834, there were sixty-seven in connection with the National Board of Education.

The county expenses are defrayed by grand-jury presentments. The amount levied for the year 1835 was 11,247*l*. 2*s*. 8*d*., of which 2749*l*. 14*s*. 7*d*. was for roads and bridges, 4509*l*. 6*s*. 10*d*. for buildings, salaries, charities, &c. and 3988*l*. 1*s*. 3*d*. for police.

(Wright's *Louthiana*; *Report of the Railway Commissioners for Ireland*; Cox's *History of Ireland*; *Parliamentary Reports and Papers*, &c.)