

MONAGHAN, a county in the province of Ulster in Ireland, bounded on the north by the county of Tyrone, from which, toward the north-east, it is separated by the river Blackwater; on the east by the county of Armagh, from which, in one part, it is separated by the river Fane; on the south-east by the county of Louth, on the south by that of Meath, and on the south-west by that of Cavan, from all three of which it is partly or entirely separated by the Lagan, a feeder of the Glyde; and on the west and north-west by the county of Fermanagh. The form of the county is that of an irregular quadrangle. Its greatest dimensions are the diagonals of the quadrangle: one from north by west to south by east, from the banks of the Blackwater to those of the Lagan, 37 miles; the other from west-north-west to east-south-east, from the neighbourhood of Clones to the neighbourhood of Inniskeen, on the Fane, 32 miles. The area of the county was given by Dr.

Beaufort (*Memoir of a Map of Ireland*), in 1792, at 450 square English miles, or 288,000 English acres, and by Mr. Wakefield, in 1812 (*Account of Ireland, Statistical, and Political*), at 509 square miles. In the Population Returns for 1831 the area is given, 'from the best authorities extant,' at 277,472 acres; in the 'Map of Ireland' published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, at 313,682 English or statute acres; and in Lewis's 'Topographical Dictionary of Ireland,' from the Ordnance Survey, at 327,048 statute acres, of which 9236 are unimproved mountain and bog, 6167 under water, and the rest cultivated land. The county is one of the most densely peopled in Ireland, being surpassed only by the counties of Dublin, Armagh, and Down: by the census of 1831 there were 195,536 inhabitants. Monaghan, the assize-town, is situated in the northern part of the county, 68 English miles in a straight line north-north-west of Dublin, or 76 miles by the mail-road through Drogheda, Carrickmacross, and Castle Blaney, in 54° 15' N. lat. and 6° 57' or 58' W. long.

Surface.—The whole county is hilly, but the hills seem as if scattered in an irregular manner, without forming continued ridges or chains. (Wakefield.) The principal heights are, Slieve Baugh or Slieve Beagh Mountains, in the north, which define in that part the basin of the Blackwater; and those in the east, which rise about the sources of the Fane, and are connected with the Fewes Mountains of Armagh. (Beaufort's *Map*.) Mully Ash hill in this group is 1035 feet high. The Slieve Beagh Mountains form an uninteresting waste along the boundary of this county and Tyrone, and are sterile without being picturesque.

Geological Character.—In the southern part of the county is a small district, extending to Kingscourt in the county of Cavan, occupied by the new red-sandstone or red marl. This formation contains a valuable deposit of gypsum, in which however no workings have yet been commenced for commercial purposes. Immediately adjacent to the red-marl district on the east is a small coal-field. Though many trials have been made to obtain coal, none has yet been found of sufficient value to defray the expense of working; but one bed of 14 inches, another of 12 inches, and several of inferior thickness, have been discovered. The coal-field rests on a small tract of carboniferous limestone, which crops out from beneath it on every side (except where the coal and red-marl districts are contiguous), and is itself insulated in the transition district of the east of Ulster. Carboniferous limestone appears again in that part of the county which lies north-west of a line drawn through Monaghan and Clones. The Slieve Beagh or Slieve Baugh Mountains in this part are composed of the rocks belonging to the Calp series of this formation. These rocks were long considered to belong to the true coal formation; and sanguine but fallacious hopes were long entertained of the discovery of workable beds of coal. This part of the county is comprehended in the great limestone district of the north and middle of Ireland. The yellow sandstone and sandstone conglomerate, which form the lowest members of the limestone series, appear in some places along the northern border.

The rest of the county is occupied by the rocks of the transition formation, which cover an extensive district in the east of Ulster and north of Leinster. These transition rocks consist of grauwacké slate, fissile clay-slate, flint slate, and chlorite slate, with hornblende slate, schistose porphyry, and other metamorphic rocks, where the transition and crystalline formations (granite, &c.) come in contact or approach near each other. Escars, or eskers, which are low steep ridges of alluvial matter, usually composed of clay and limestone gravel, are found in several parts of the county. Those near Tyhallon, not far from Monaghan, are composed entirely of jasper, quartz, agates, and argillaceous sand. (*Irish Railway Commissioners' Second Report*; Lewis, *Top. Dict.*)

Limestone of great variety and excellent quality is quarried; also fine marble, and valuable freestone for building. A fine white sandstone, dug in the Slieve Beagh Mountains, is extensively used for architectural purposes. Ironstone is found, but of inferior quality, and several quarries of slates or flagstones are worked. Lead-ore has been found, and considerable works were erected for smelting it, but they were afterwards abandoned. Some potters' clay is found, and brick earth in nearly all parts of the county. (Lewis's *Top. Dict.*)

Hydrography and Communications.—The northern part of the county belongs to the basin of the Blackwater, the southern to the basins of the Fane and the Glyde, and the western to the basin of the Erne. The Blackwater has about 10 or 12 miles of its course along the north-eastern boundary, and several streams which rise in the Slieve Beagh Mountains fall into it in this part. The Fane rises not far from Castle Blayney, and flows south-east, partly upon and partly within the border of the county, for 12 or 15 miles, before it enters the county of Louth, through which it flows into the Irish Sea. The Glyde rises in the south part of the county, and has a course parallel to the Fane; the Lagan, a feeder of the Glyde, and a much more considerable stream, has about 13 miles of its course along the southern boundary of the county. The Finn is the most important of the streams which flow into the Erne; it rises in the Slieve Beagh Mountains, and has about 20 miles of its course in this county. None of these rivers are navigable. There is one navigable canal, now in progress, the Ulster Canal, which is to unite Lough Neagh with Lough Erne. It commences in the river Blackwater at Charlemont, and crosses the county in a south-west direction near Monaghan and Clones. Its whole length, when finished, will be about 46 miles, of which about 20 will be in this county.

There are several loughs, but all of them small. The principal are, Muckno Lough, near Castle Blayney, in the eastern part of the county, and Inner Lough, on the south-west border, near Rockcorry. Muckno or Barrac Lough is of very irregular form, about 3 miles long from north-west to south-east, and in some parts about a mile wide: it contains a number of small islands. The river Fane runs through it. Lough Inner is about 3 miles long from east to west, exceedingly narrow throughout and of very irregular form. Lough Emy, near Emyvale, and Glas Lough, near the town of Glaslough, in the northern part of the county; Lough Leesborough, between Rockcorry and Newbliss, and Lough Long, near the village of Drum, in the western parts; the White Lough and Corfin Lough, near Ballybay, in the central parts; Lough Egish, or Eglish, Lough Avaghon, and Lough Bawn, near Ballytrain, in the southern part; Lough Ballyhoe (through which the Lagan runs), on the southern border of the county, and Lough Ross, on the eastern border, are next in size to Muckno and Inner.

The principal road is the mail-road from Dublin to Londonderry, which enters the county on the south-east side by two branches, and runs north-north-west through Carrickmacross (at or near which town the branches unite), Castle Blayney, Monaghan, and Emyvale, into the county of Tyrone. This is the only mail-road. A branch road runs from Carrickmacross by Ballybay, and rejoins the main line at Monaghan. Other roads lead from Carrickmacross to Dundalk, from Castle Blayney to Newry and to Armagh, and from Monaghan to Armagh, and by Clones to Cavan. A road from Dublin by Navan (Meath), Kingscourt, and Cootehill (Cavan), passes through Clones on the western side of the county, and joins the Londonderry mail-road at Omagh and Tyrone. The principal traffic is from the port of Dundalk (Louth), on the one hand, to Carrickmacross, and from thence to Shercock and Cootehill, in the county of Cavan; and on the other hand, to Castle Blayney and Monaghan: from the port of Newry (Down), on the one hand, by Castle Blayney, to Ballybay and Newbliss in this county, and to Shercock and Cootehill, in the county of Cavan; and on the other hand, by Newtown Hamilton (Armagh) to Monaghan: and from the port of Belfast (Antrim), by Armagh, to Monaghan, Clones, and Newbliss. The portion of road most frequented by travellers is that from Castle Blayney, where roads from Dublin, Dundalk, and Newry converge, to Monaghan.

Soil; Agriculture; Condition of the People.—The soil of the county varies much, and the variation is partly dependent on the character of the surface; the low lands being generally wet and moory, especially in the north-western parts near the Slieve Beagh Mountains. The central districts, comprehending the baronies of Monaghan, Cremorne, and Dartree or Dartry, are more fertile than any other part of the county; although the southern extremity consists of rich and productive land. The western side has a soil naturally wet, but capable of great improvement by manuring. (Lewis, *Top. Dict.*)

The following particulars from the Reports of the Com-

missioners for inquiring into the State of the Poor in Ireland' (*Parliamentary Papers for 1836*, vol. xxxiii.) have reference chiefly to the barony of Monaghan, but may be probably extended, without much variation, to the county at large. The soil of the barony is mostly a good loam, upon a firm subsoil of clay mixed with lime, gravel, or sand. In the elevated parts the soil is moory or peaty, with the subsoil frequently clayey. Lime, dung, clay, ashes, and peat are used for manure; lime is dug near Monaghan and Glaslough (barony of Trough) marling is little practised, but burning the soil is common, though very injurious in most cases. The barony of Monaghan is altogether a tillage district, except some 'rough grazing' in the mountains, on which some young cattle are kept: there is no grazing-land in the district capable of fattening cattle. Sheep are so rare that the assistant commissioners did not see one in the barony, except in gentlemen's demesnes. The farms are too small to admit of keeping them with advantage, and the number has been gradually declining. The average size of farms is 8 to 10 acres; a few farmers, and but a few, in the barony held over 50 and not exceeding 80 acres. The only persons holding above 80 acres are gentlemen who farm their own estates. The size of the farms has diminished with the increase of population; and though the consolidation of the small holdings has been an object of desire with the landowners, little has been done to bring it about, except the insertion in leases of clauses to prevent alienation and sub-letting. About a fourth or fifth of the farm is always left for grazing. Ejections have been resisted by the peasantry when they have taken place from any cause.

Almost the whole county belongs to absentees, and the estates are consequently managed by agents. Farms are not commonly held by lease, and tenancy at will is becoming more common; where leases are granted, they are commonly for one life or for 21 years, formerly they were granted for three lives or 31 years. Middlemen are very rare. The rent of tillage land ranges from 25s. to 30s. and 32s. 6d. per Irish acre (121 Irish = 196 English acres), and in some instances it is as high as 40s.

The usual rotation of crops on a small farm is, potatoes, wheat or barley, oats (sown with clover), clover, then potatoes again; another not unusual rotation is, potatoes, flax, wheat or barley, oats with clover. The wheat grown is generally red wheat, and it is of inferior quality; this is partly ascribed to its being grown after potatoes, instead of on a naked fallow; partly to the weeds which are allowed to grow up with it; and partly to the want of proper machines for winnowing and screening it. It is not uncommon to thrash in the field, and winnow it in the open air by means of wind alone. The grain is sold in Monaghan market in the bulk: the peasantry keep little of their own grain, some cannot even keep the seed. Flax is grown to a great extent in the county, and is most valuable as a source both of industry and profit, but it is not equal in quality to that of the county of Armagh.

Clover and vetches are grown in abundance, but few turnips or mangel wurzel. Green crops, especially clover, have been increasingly raised of late years. The potato crop is very uncertain; the ground is commonly prepared for it by burning it for manure; the kind of potato cultivated for the peasantry are 'caps,' which will grow on inferior ground and yield a plentiful return. There are few orchards; the farmers do not consider them profitable.

From the want of good pasturage, no cattle are fattened, except a few on the demesnes of the gentry. The cattle of the district are chiefly of the native Irish breed, of a reddish colour with a streak of white along the back. They are mostly brought from Connaught, and are turned out to graze on the mountains. Many of them are housed in winter, but those of the poorer farmers get little hay, only some straw, and the run of the stubble-ground. The breed of cattle has been much improved; the Devon, Durham, and Hereford breeds have been introduced, and a few Ayrshire cows. The native breed has been crossed in several instances with the imported stock. The price of cattle is declining.

The quantity of butter made has much increased from the increased intercourse with England; the supply at Monaghan has trebled of late years. It is chiefly taken to market there, but some of it is sent to Newry. It is considered to be injured in the making by the smoke of the

cabins, but increased pains have been taken with it, and it has been much improved. There is no cheese made.

The usual fences are loose stone walls, clay ditches, and some hedges of hawthorns and whins. There is much ground wasted in ditches and headlands.

The population of the county has been stated to be very dense; the number of labourers has increased, and the decline of the linen manufacture, which once furnished them with employment, has left the great majority with little other work than that which they bestow on the small spot of land which they occupy (for the con-acre system is generally prevalent), or such occasional occupation as they may receive. The daily wages of agricultural labourers are estimated, in the 'Appendix to the Third Report of the Commissioners for inquiring into the Condition of the Irish Poor' (*Appendix H.*, part 1, table iii.), at 10d. on the average of the year; and the average amount of work obtained by able bodied labourers is only about 180 days in the year, or little more than three days in the week. In this wretched condition they commonly marry early, and without making any provision. They usually pay their rent in work done for the farmer under whom they hold their con-acre and cabin. There is little employment for labourers' wives or children, except that the former earn the merest trifle by spinning, if they can spare the time, or a very few keep poultry; and the latter get a day's work now and then at weeding or looking after the cattle, for which they get about 3d. a day without diet, or from 10s. to 15s. for the summer season. The common food of the labourers is potatoes, which they prefer as constant food to bread or meal. They get a little milk or buttermilk, but very rarely. 'We think as much of a drink of buttermilk,' said a poor woman to the Commissioners, 'as you gentlemen do of the finest breakfast.' Their habitations are wretched cabins, sometimes with one room, it may be of 12 feet square and of 7 or 8 feet high; sometimes of two. The floor is the bare ground, usually dug up and trampled to make it harder; and sometimes, but not often, lime is mingled in with it. The cottages or cabins are thatched with straw, and mostly have chimneys built with sticks and clay, with perhaps an old firkin stuck up as a chimney-pot. The windows are about a foot square, rarely glazed; the doors and shutters usually have iron hinges, latches, bolts, &c. The cottages are without privies, but some have wretched little places for keeping a pig. They are inferior to those in the counties of Armagh and Down. The common fuel is peat or turf, which is used by all classes of the community: if they have not sufficient turf, they make up the deficiency with bushes and brambles.

The peasantry are wretchedly off for clothing. Many of them and their children are obliged to stay away from prayers for want of clothes; they borrow from each other, and some go in the morning and some in the evening.

Few of the women make their own clothes, but since the failure of employment at spinning, they are becoming more skilful with the needle. There are few cottages which do not contain some sort of bedstead, but this frequently contains five or six people; and if the family is very large, some straw is shaken down for a portion of them. Pawning appears to be on the increase, and the people are becoming used to it. 'At first, some years ago,' said a witness to the Commissioners, 'we used to go in the dusk to the pawnbroker's, but now I wouldn't care if all the people on the market-cross saw me. They know it is mighty pressure makes us do it.' Drunkenness has much increased. Retail spirit-shops have been multiplied, and there are a number of shebeen-houses, or unlicensed spirit-shops, which, being in remote places and under no control, are the sources of great immorality. Almost all the cases which come before the magistrates arise out of drunken squabbles; and young people steal flax or potatoes or meal from their parents to pledge them for liquor at the shebeen-houses. The intoxicating liquor in almost exclusive use is whiskey; beer is very little used. The tradesmen about the town, and the farmers who attend the markets, are the chief drunkards; the extreme poverty of the labourers prevents them from drinking.

Emigration has been considerable during the last few years, principally to the United States of America and to the Canadas. A very few persons have gone to Van Diemen's Land or New South Wales. Many farmers have sold their farms and gone, also some tradesmen, and a few labourers; but the emigrants have chiefly been persons of a station in life above that of common labourers, and have

emigrated at their own expense. Several of them have been Protestants, and persons of good character and enterprising spirit.

Divisions, Towns, &c.—The county of Monaghan is divided into five baronies, which, with their situation and population, are as follows:—

		Pop. 1831.
Cremorne	Central and E.	51,892
Dartree or Dartry	Central and W.	40,135
Farney	S.	41,561
Monaghan	Central.	42,728
Trough	N.	19,220

195,536

It contains the corporate, assize, and market town of Monaghan, formerly a parliamentary borough; the market and post towns of Carrickmacross, Castle Blayney, Ballybay, Clones, and Newbliss; and the post towns of Emyvale and Glaslough. The principal villages are Ballytrain, Smithsborough, Tydavnet, Scotstown, Scotshouse, Drum, Rockecorry, and Magheraclone.

Monaghan is on the mail-road from Dublin to Londonderry: the distance from Dublin has been already given. The antient boundary of the borough is stated in general terms in the charter to consist of 'the town of Monaghan,' that is, as far as the mere buildings are understood to have extended at the date of the Charter (A.D. 1613); but there is a district extending in every direction about three-quarters of a mile round the town, known by the name of 'The Corporation,' and divided into ten parts or 'townlands.' (*Report of Commissioners of Municipal Boundaries.*) The town itself consists of an irregular assemblage of streets, the three principal of which meet in a square called the Diamond, in the centre of the town. There is another square on the south-east side of the town called Shamble-square. The town contained, in 1831, 540 houses, inhabited by 690 families, forming a population of 3848 persons: there were 16 houses building and 25 uninhabited. In the Reports of the Commissioners of Irish Poor, the number of houses is given at about 900 (*Answers of Rev. John Caulfield to Queries for Parishes in large Towns, Third Report, Appendix C.*, part i.), of which about 376 were good houses, 300 middling, and the rest mere cabins. The difference in the number of houses in the two statements is owing probably to the larger space included by Mr. Caulfield under the term 'town.' The population had however much increased in the interval, chiefly from the unwillingness of landlords to allow cottiers on their estates. The rest of the parish contained, in 1831, 1499 houses, inhabited by 1554 families: there were 13 houses building and 82 uninhabited. The population was 8027; giving a total for the town and the rest of the parish of 2039 inhabited houses, 2244 families, and 11,875 persons.

The principal public buildings are the county court house, a handsome modern building in the centre of the town; the county infirmary on the east side of the town, on an open elevated site; the county gaol on the north side; and the diocesan school on the west. There is a large and handsome parish church lately erected in the Gothic style of architecture, two Presbyterian and two Methodist meeting-houses; one Roman Catholic chapel in the town, and two others in other parts of the parish. There are a market-house and a linen-hall. Some antient walls, near the Diamond-square, are said to be the relics of an old monastery built for conventual Franciscans on the site of a former religious house; from one or other of which establishments the town (and from it the county) took the name of Monaghan or Muinechan, 'the monks' town.' There is also an earthen mound marking the site of a castle or fort erected here early in the seventeenth century, by Sir Edward Blayney, who had the military command of the county.

Monaghan has no manufacture: its principal trade is in the agricultural produce of the surrounding districts, which is brought to market here; and in linen, for which it is a considerable mart. The market-days are Monday for linen and for pigs, of which great numbers are slaughtered and sent to Belfast to be cured for exportation; Tuesday for corn, except oats, for which there is a market on Wednesday; and Saturday for oats and potatoes. The corn and potato markets are held in Diamond-square; the meat market in Shamble-square. Considerable quantities of flax, yarn, butter, and provisions of all kinds are sold. There is a fair on the first Monday in each month. The Ulster canal,

when completed, will pass close to the town. The poor inhabitants are engaged in occasional labour about the town, but wages are very low, and the earnings of a labourer, if constantly employed, amount only to 8*l.* or 10*l.* in the year. The condition of the poor has been deteriorating for the last fifteen years: they subsist on potatoes, with sometimes a little milk. The tradesmen are better fed. There is a savings' bank, to which the principal contributors are farmers, tradesmen, and servants.

The corporation was created by a charter of 11 James I. (A.D. 1613), and consists of a provost, twelve free burgesses, and an indefinite number of freemen. The borough sent two members to the Irish parliament before the Union. Lord Rossmore, the patron, received 15,000*l.* as a compensation on its disfranchisement. The borough court of record has long fallen into disuse. The quarter-sessions for the division and the assizes for the county are held here; and there are petty sessions held by the county magistrates every week. The town is watched and lighted; and is the chief station of the county constabulary. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Clogher; the tithe composition rent is estimated at 553*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* per annum; there is a glebe of 38 statute acres, valued at 114*l.* per annum, and a neat glebe-house. The Catholics form about two-thirds of the population. There are ten public schools, with about 1400 children; and seven private schools, in which are about 300 children. There are a dispensary, a mendicity society, and another society for the relief of the poor.

Carrickmacross is in the barony of Farney, in the south part of the county, 51 miles from Dublin on the Londonderry mail-road. It consists of one principal street along the road, and of several smaller streets or lanes leading from it. The number of houses in the town, in 1831, was 524 inhabited (by 555 families), 34 uninhabited, and 4 building; the population was 2979, one-fourth agricultural: the rest of the parish of Carrickmacross contained 1771 houses, inhabited by 1777 families; and 9621 inhabitants: together 2295 inhabited houses, and 12,600 inhabitants. Many of the houses are of respectable appearance. There is a church, a neat but small stone building, with a tower and spire; a Catholic chapel, and a Presbyterian meeting-house. There are two other Catholic chapels in different parts of the parish. Malting, brewing, and distilling are carried on in the town; coarse hats, soap, and candles are manufactured; and a considerable retail business is done. There are corn-markets on Wednesday and Saturday, and a general market on Thursday, at which many pigs are sold. There are quarries of freestone and limestone in the parish, and several lime-kilns near the town. A portion of the county constabulary is stationed here; there are a bridewell, a dispensary, and a mendicity society. There are two schools, one for boys and one for girls, connected with the Board of National Education, and nine other schools, in which the children are taught gratuitously; in these schools from 1400 to 1500 children are instructed. There are besides a number of private schools and hedge schools. The children on the roll of the two national schools amounted, by Mr. Carlile's statement in the Report of the Irish Education Board, July, 1837, to 538 boys and girls. There is a dispensary. The living is a vicarage, the gross yearly revenues of which are 646*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* composition for tithe; and 252*l.* estimated value of the glebe, which comprehends above 181 statute acres. There is a glebe-house. The inhabitants are almost entirely Catholics.

Castle Blayney is in Muckno parish, in the barony of Cremorne, 62 miles from Dublin on the Londonderry mail-road. The town lies near the western shore of Lough Muckno, and comprehended in 1831, 307 houses, inhabited by 350 families, 2 houses building, and 32 unoccupied: the population was 1828, about one-fourth agricultural. The rest of the parish contained 1470 houses, inhabited by 1495 families, 3 houses building, and 89 uninhabited; with a population of 7888: the total population of the parish was 9716. The town derived its origin and name from a fort built here early in the seventeenth century by Sir Edward Blayney; and consists of three streets meeting in the market-place, in which is a good market-house. Many of the houses are built of stone, and are of respectable appearance. The parish church of Muckno, capable of holding 350 persons, is at Castle Blayney, and there is a Catholic chapel. The linen manufacture was flourishing here formerly. There is a market on Wednesday for yarn and flax, and a fair once a month for live stock; there are markets for corn and but-

ter on Tuesday and Friday. Sessions for the division are held here in a neat sessions-house once a quarter; and petty sessions every fortnight; and a body of the county constabulary is stationed here. There is a small bridewell. The mansion and demesne of Castle Blayney, the seat of Lord Blayney, are near the town. There are a parochial school and a girls' school, supported by Lady Blayney. Besides the Catholic chapel at Castle Blayney, there is another at Orum in the parish, and at different places in the parish there are four meeting-houses for Presbyterians and one for Methodists. The Catholics form half the population, and the Presbyterians above a third. The living of Muckno is a rectory and vicarage, with a gross yearly revenue of nearly 475*l.*, above 436*l.* of which arises from tithe composition, the rest from a glebe of more than 32 statute acres. There is a glebe-house.

Ballybay, or Ballibay, is in Cremorne barony, 64 miles from Dublin, on a road branching from the Londonderry mail-road at Carrickmacross, and rejoining it at Monaghan. The town comprehended in 1831, 382 houses, inhabited by 384 families; and 19 houses uninhabited: the population was 1947: the remainder of the parish comprehended 781 houses, inhabited by 911 families, forming a population of 4738; or for the whole parish 6685: a small part of the parish extends into the barony of Monaghan. The town rose to importance through the linen manufacture, and now contains many respectable and comfortable houses. There are a market-house, a tolerably large church, a Catholic chapel-of-ease, and a handsome Presbyterian meeting-house. The linen manufacture is carried on, and there are markets on Saturday for butter and flax, and on Tuesday and Friday for grain, at all which much business is done. There is a monthly fair, at which large sales of cattle, horses, and pigs take place. Petty sessions are held at irregular intervals, and a party of the county constabulary is stationed in the town. There is a reading society with a library of 1000 volumes. There are in the parish a Catholic chapel (at Ballintrugh) and two Presbyterian meeting-houses, besides those in the town of Ballybay. The Catholics form not quite half of the population of the parish: the Presbyterians less than a third. There are a dispensary, four public schools, with about 260 children, and six hedge-schools, with about 200 children, beside two Sunday-schools.

Clones is in the barony of Dartree, in the western part of the county, 79 miles from Dublin through Navan (Meath) and Kingscourt and Cootehill (Cavan). The town contained in 1831, 386 houses, inhabited by 435 families; forming a population of 2381: there were 39 houses unoccupied and 4 building. The rest of the parish, which extends into Monaghan barony, and into the barony of Clonkelly in the county of Fermanagh, comprehended 3609 houses, inhabited by 3834 families, forming a population of 19,822, or with the town 22,203. Clones was, in antient times, nearly surrounded by water, and an abbey was founded early in the sixth century: from these circumstances the place obtained its name, Cluan Innis, 'the island of retreat'; from whence, by corruption, has been formed, first Cloanish or Clownish, and more recently Clones. The abbey continued till the dissolution under Henry VIII.: there are still some remains of the antient monastic buildings. The more modern houses in the town are slated; but the older ones are covered with thatch. The church was rebuilt in 1824, and is capable of holding 700 persons. There are a large Catholic chapel and a Wesleyan Methodist meeting-house. The market-place is of triangular form, and has in it a market-house, a pump, and an antient stone cross. There is a large brewery in the town; and in other parts of the parish are extensive iron-works for the manufacture of agricultural implements, and several flour-mills. Limestone and good freestone for building are quarried. A market is held weekly on Thursday for yarn and linen, and there are two monthly fairs, one in the town for pigs and live stock, and one at Rosslea, in that part of the parish which is in the county of Fermanagh. Petty sessions are held every fortnight, and a manorial court once a month for the recovery of small debts: a portion of the county constabulary is stationed in the town.

Beside the places of worship mentioned above, there are in the parish two chapels-of-ease, three Roman Catholic chapels, two Presbyterian meeting-houses, and one Wesleyan Methodist meeting-house. There are a number of schools in the parish, aided, if not wholly supported, by subscription, and affording instruction to about 1900 children.

Some of them are in connection with the National Board. Nearly 300 children are under instruction in private schools. There is a dispensary. The living is a rectory and vicarage, of the gross yearly value of 2000*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, of which 950*l.* arises from tithe composition, and the rest from a glebe of above 1242 statute acres. There is a glebe-house. By the Romish church the parish is divided into two districts, Clones East and Clones West; each part has two chapels. Near the ruins of the abbey is one of the ancient round towers. The internal diameter is 10 feet; and there are resting-places for the joists of five floors. There is a doorway about 4 feet from the ground; and at the top of the tower are large embrasures. There is another round tower in the parish.

Newbliss is in Killeevan parish, in the barony of Dartree, about 5 miles from Clones. It is a small place, containing in 1831 only 85 houses, inhabited by 105 families, making up a population of 497; there were 9 houses unoccupied, and 1 building. The number of houses in the rest of the parish, which extends into the barony of Monaghan, was 1393, inhabited by 1538 families, making up a population of 7764; or, with the town, of 8261. The town consists of a single street of good width: the houses are of respectable appearance. The parish church of Killeevan is nearly midway between Newbliss and Clones: but there is a neat Presbyterian meeting-house in the town. There is a neat market-house: the market is on Saturday, chiefly for pigs and flax; and there is a monthly fair, chiefly for pigs and live stock. There are in the town a dispensary and a school which is maintained by the London Hibernian Society. There are in other parts of the parish a Catholic chapel, six public and four private schools, in which (taken together) above 900 children are taught. The church and Catholic chapels are neat buildings. The living is a rectory and vicarage, with a gross yearly income of 653*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, of which 518*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* is tithe composition; the rest arises from a glebe of about 110 acres: there is a glebe-house.

Emyvale is in the parish of Donagh, in the barony of Trough, in the northern part of the county; it is 91 miles from Dublin and 15 from Monaghan, on the Londonderry mail-road. It contained in 1831, 112 houses, inhabited by 122 families, beside 10 unoccupied, and 1 building: the population was 571. The town consists chiefly of one street, and is on the north bank of a small stream running into the Blackwater. On the bank of the stream is a large flour-mill, and in its bed is a quarry of greenstone. A body of the county constabulary is stationed here.

Glaslough, or Glasslough, is also in the parish of Donagh and barony of Trough, six or seven miles north-east of Monaghan. It is rather larger than Emyvale, containing, in 1831, 153 houses, inhabited by 168 families, and 5 unoccupied houses; the population was 812. The town is on the margin of a beautiful lake (Glas Lough, 'the green lake'), and contains a number of good houses roofed with slate. A large flour-mill, a mill for spinning flax, and a linen factory have been erected; and a weekly market on Friday for corn and flax established. There is a monthly fair for stock and agricultural produce. There is a dispensary. A castle and demesne, the residence of Mrs. Leslie, are near the town. The parish church of Donagh, built half a century ago, and capable of containing 400 persons, is in the town. The parish of Donagh is large, and has a gross population of 11,068. It has two Catholic chapels, a Presbyterian and a Wesleyan meeting-house. The benefice is a vicarage, with a gross yearly revenue of 221*l.*, viz. 155*l.* tithe composition, and the rest the produce of a glebe of above 71 acres.

The villages are all small. Ballytrain, or Bellatrain (in Aughnamullen parish, Cremorne barony), had, in 1831, 42 houses, inhabited by as many families, making a population of 220. It is the station of a body of the constabulary force, and has eight yearly fairs for cattle, sheep, and pigs. It has a small Catholic chapel and a dispensary. In the neighbourhood are several ancient forts. Smithsborough owes its name to a person of the name of Smith, who established monthly fairs in the latter part of the last century. It is in Clones parish, and in the barony of Monaghan. In 1831 it had 48 houses, inhabited by 50 families, making a population of 244. There is a Presbyterian meeting-house, a school, and a dispensary. All the fairs except one in the year have been given up. There is a body of the constabulary stationed here. Tydavnet, or Tedavnet, and Scotstown, are in the parish of Tydavnet, in the barony of Monaghan; both

are stations of the constabulary, and Scotstown has a dispensary. Tydavnet has five yearly fairs, and Scotstown one every month. Scotthouse is in the parish of Currin, in the barony of Dartree. The parish church, capable of holding 400 persons, is in the village; and a body of the county constabulary is posted there. Drum is also in Currin parish, and in the barony of Dartree. It is near a small lake, Lough Long. It has a monthly fair, a small chapel-of-ease, two Presbyterian meeting-houses, a school, and a dispensary. The population in and about Drum contains a larger proportion than usual of members of the Established church. Rockcorry, though classed by our authorities among villages, is really a small market-town; it consists of a wide street with a neat market-house, and has many houses of respectable appearance. It has a market on Wednesday, and a monthly fair. Petty-sessions are held every fortnight, and a party of police is stationed here. There are neat meeting-houses for Presbyterians and Wesleyan Methodists; and there are an infant-school, a sewing-school, and a dispensary. Magheracloone, or Magheracloony, is in the barony of Farney, a short distance from Carrickmacross. It has a neat modern church.

Divisions for Ecclesiastical and Legal Purposes.—The county is wholly included in the diocese of Clogher, and contains the whole or part of twenty-three parishes, of which only two are united so as to form one benefice. Of the twenty-two benefices, fourteen are rectories and vicarages united, two rectories, and six vicarages. With respect to value, one is of 2000*l.* a year, one 1015*l.*, one 969*l.*, two from 800*l.* to 900*l.*, one 744*l.*, four of from 600*l.* to 700*l.*, one of 551*l.*, six of from 400*l.* to 500*l.*, two of from 300*l.* to 400*l.*, two of from 200*l.* to 300*l.*, and one of 118*l.* There are twenty-two parish-churches and five chapels-of-ease. The churches are smaller than the generality of English churches; one of them (at Monaghan) is however capable of containing 1100 persons: many of them have been erected within the last twenty years. Divine service is commonly performed twice on the Sunday, beside services on holidays. In winter the second service is sometimes discontinued. The consistorial court of the diocese of Clogher is held at Monaghan, where is also the diocesan school.

In the territorial arrangements of the Catholic church the county is included in the Catholic diocese of Clogher, the bishop of which has the cure of the parish of Carrickmacross. There are forty-six Catholic chapels, and twenty-four meeting-houses for Presbyterians (of various classes) and eight for Methodists. The population of the parishes which are wholly or partly in this county is about 208,000, which may be thus distributed: belonging to the Established church 32,000, Catholics 151,000, Presbyterians or other Protestant dissenters 25,000. (*Reports of Commissioners of Public Instruction.*)

For judicial purposes the county is included in the north-east circuit, which comprehends the eastern part of Ulster. The county court-house and county-gaol are at Monaghan, where the assizes are held. Quarter-sessions are held at Monaghan and at Castle Blayney. Petty sessions are held at Monaghan, Clones, Castle Blayney, Ballybay, and Rockcorry. There are bridewells at Castle Blayney and Carrickmacross. The county-gaol is well managed; its good order, economy, and regularity are highly creditable to those who direct it; and there is sufficient accommodation in cells and day-rooms for all the purposes of classification and discipline. The prisoners are all employed, chiefly at stone-breaking; and there is a tread-wheel for those who are sentenced to hard labour. There is an excellent school, and the females are attended to under a qualified matron. The bridewells are small, but clean and orderly, and the management of them is conducted with the greatest regularity. (*Reports of Inspectors of Prisons.—Fifteenth Report.*) The number of persons committed for trial or bailed, in 1836, was 360; of these 158 were for crimes against the person; 27 for housebreaking or other offences against property committed with violence; 63 for offences against property without violence; 50 for malicious offences against property, 2 for uttering base coin, and 60 for other offences. Of the whole number, 288 were convicted, and 72 acquitted or discharged. No execution took place in the year. Of those committed or bailed, 302 were males (14 under sixteen years), and 58 females (1 under sixteen years); 156 could read and write, 116 could read only, and 88 could neither read nor write. The proportion of the number of offenders to the whole population

of the county is considerably below the average of Ireland, but above the average of the province of Ulster.

The number of the constabulary force in employment on the 1st of January, 1836, was 4 chief constables or sub-inspectors of the first class, 20 constables, and 116 sub-constables, with 5 horses. The expense of this force for the year 1835 was 5110*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, of which 2411*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* was chargeable against the county. The amount of grand-jury presentments, in 1835, was 17,071*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, viz. 810*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* for new roads, bridges, &c., 7045*l.* 17*s.* 0*d.* for repairing roads, bridges, &c., 1535*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* prisons, 2537*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* police establishment, 2367*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* salaries of county officers, 1676*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* repayment of government advances, 465*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* public charities, &c., 632*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* miscellaneous expenses.

The county is in the district of the Armagh Lunatic Asylum. The county infirmary or hospital is at Monaghan, and there are dispensaries at Ballytrain, Farney, Scotstown, Castleshane, Smithsborough, Ballybay, Clones, Newbliss, Drum, Rockcorry, Monaghan, Carrickmacross, and Glaslough. There were, according to the Return of the Rev. James Carlile (May 3, 1837), in the county 43 schools in connection with the National Board of Education, on the roll of which were 5464 scholars, in attendance 3406; of those whose religious sentiments (or those of their friends) were known, 484 were Protestants and 1689 Catholics.

History and Antiquities.—In the invasion of Ireland by the Anglo-Normans, Henry II., having bestowed all Ulster on John de Courcy when he could conquer it, that chieftain overran various parts (A.D. 1177), and built castles to secure his conquests. Among others he built two in the district now the barony of Farney in this county,* and gave them in charge to Macmahon, an Irish chieftain, who had ingratiated himself with him. MacMahon demolished these castles, upon which De Courcy made an inroad into the territory of the chieftain, and drove away a great number of cattle. He was followed and defeated by the natives, who had assembled to the number of 11,000; but in the course of the following night, availing himself of their careless security, he defeated them in turn with fearful slaughter, and secured his booty.

The English dominion in this part of Ireland was very imperfect. In the reign of Henry IV. we find that the district of Farney was still held by a chieftain of the race of MacMahon, to whom Thomas of Lancaster, son of Henry, granted or confirmed it at a certain rent. The English retained however a castle in the district.

In the reign of Henry V. the MacMahons seem to have risen in arms, for they are noticed among the septs whom Talbot, Lord Furnival, the lord-lieutenant, brought into the king's peace. All he was able to do appears to have been to prevent open rebellion, without extending or strengthening the authority of the English government. Little is known of the subsequent condition of the district, or the events that occurred in it, until the reign of Elizabeth, under whom great progress was made in reducing the country to more complete subjection. In the year 1568 the Irish parliament assembled at Dublin passed an act for dividing into shires that part of the kingdom which had not yet been so arranged, and Monaghan was one of the shires constituted at this time. The country however still remained in an unsettled state, for Sir Henry Sidney, when lord-deputy for the last time, received the submission of MacMahon (A.D. 1575 or 1576). But shortly after, on occasion of a murder committed by MacMahon, the lord-deputy 'marched into MacMahon's country, and burned and otherwise destroyed it.' In 1584 MacMahon again 'submitted' to the lord-deputy, Sir John Perrot, who either divided Ulster into counties, or rendered effectual the division which had been before made, and placed sheriffs, justices of the peace, and other officers in them. The proprietorship of the county still remained in the hands of the chieftain of the MacMahons; but on a charge, true or false, of raising forces to exact the payment of the rents due to him, Hugh Roe MacMahon was tried, and executed at the town of Monaghan (A.D. 1589) by the lord-deputy, Sir William Fitzwilliams, and his lands bestowed on some of his kinsmen and other persons, to hold under a yearly rent. In the troubles excited in following years by the earl of Tyrone, the county was the scene of hostilities, and a portion of the MacMahons appear to have joined Tyrone. The English

had a fort at Monaghan. In the settlement of Ulster (A.D. 1608), on the forfeiture of the estates of such as had been engaged in the rebellion of Sir Cahir O'Doherty, Monaghan does not appear to have been included, though the adjacent counties were. The corporation of Monaghan was however one of those erected about this time to strengthen the Protestant and English interests.

In the great rebellion of 1641 Monaghan was one of the counties that early came into the power of the insurgents, and in the course of the subsequent struggle was included in the seat of war; but no events of particular interest occurred within it. In the war of the Revolution of 1688 a sharp conflict took place at Glaslough, in which the Protestants were victorious, though with the loss of their leader, Mr. Anketel, a gentleman of property in the neighbourhood. In the rebellion of 1798 the county appears to have been scarcely if at all disturbed.

(Beaufort's *Map of Ireland and Memoir*; *Second Report of the Irish Railway Commissioners*; *Reports of Commissioners for Inquiring into the state of the Poor in Ireland*; and other *Parliamentary Papers*; Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*; Wakefield's *Account of Ireland*; Cox's *History of Ireland*.)

* It is not to be assumed that the limits of the antient district and the modern barony exactly coincided.