

QUEEN'S COUNTY, a county of the province of Leinster in Ireland, bounded on the north-west and north by King's County, on the east by the county of Kildare and a detached portion of King's County, on the south-east by the county of Carlow, on the south by that of Kilkenny, and on the south-west by that of Tipperary. This county is comprehended between $52^{\circ} 45'$ and $53^{\circ} 13'$ N. lat., and between $6^{\circ} 54'$ and $7^{\circ} 47'$ W. long. Its greatest length is from east by south to west by north, from the bank of the river Barrow, opposite the town of Carlow (in Carlow county), to the neighbourhood of Roscrea (in the county of Tipperary), 37 English miles: its greatest breadth, at right angles to the length, is from the neighbourhood of Killeigh, a village in King's County, between Tullamore and Portarlington, to the junction of the three counties, Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Queen's, 33 miles. The area is estimated at 476,181 English acres, or 744 English square miles (*Population Returns*; and *Map of Ireland*, by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge): it was given by Dr. Beaufort, in 1792 (*Memoir of a Map of Ireland*), at 378,023 acres, or about 590 square miles; and by Mr. Wakefield, in 1812 (*An Account of Ireland, Statistical and Political*), at 602 square miles. The population, in 1831, was 145,851, giving 196 inhabitants to a square mile, upon the statement of area given in the 'Population Returns.' Among the counties of

Leinster, it is the second in respect of size, the fifth in respect of number of inhabitants, and the eleventh in respect of density of population, being inferior in this respect to all except Kildare. Indeed both in amount and density of population it is inferior to most Irish counties. Maryborough, the capital, is on the road from Dublin by Kildare to Limerick, about 49 or 50 miles in a direct line south-west of Dublin.

Surface, Geological Character, Hydrography, and Communications.—Two principal groups of hills traverse the county. The Slievh Bloom, or Bloom Mountains (part of the range of highlands which separates the basin of the Shannon from the basins of the Barrow and the Suir), occupy the north-western part of the county, and in one part separate it from King's County. Portions of this group, which has its greatest extension from south-west to north-east, are respectively known as Garrinbawn Mountain, the Glendine Mountains, and Capard Mountain. The northern slope of the Slievh Bloom is more fertile than the southern, which is chiefly waste, and covered with heath. These hills have sometimes been called 'the height of Ireland,' from an erroneous supposition that they were the loftiest in the island. They are traversed on the border of the county by a narrow defile, the pass of Glendine, which forms the only communication in this part between this and King's County. The Dysart Hills occupy the south-eastern part of the county, and separate the valley of the Barrow from that of its tributary the Nore. They are situated in the best wooded part of the county, to the picturesque appearance of which they much contribute: they do not form a continuous ridge, but consist chiefly of isolated hills. The rest of the county is flat, or varied only by gentle undulations.

The greater part of the county is included in the limestone district, which overspreads so large a part of Ireland. The Slievh Bloom are composed chiefly of sandstone, and a portion of the Dysart Hills is formed by the coal-measures. The coal-field extends from this county into the adjacent county of Kilkenny, and there are several coal-pits in each. The coal-field occupies a basin in the limestone formation, by which it is surrounded on every side. The coal burns with little flame; but it consumes slowly, and sends out a strong heat: it is excellent fuel for malting, and also for forges and other iron-works, but not well adapted for domestic use. Its price places it above the reach of the poor of the vicinity. Iron, copper, and manganese are found, but not worked: ochre, fullers' earth, and potters' clay are also met with; the last is employed in making tiles, garden-pots, and other coarse earthenware. Sandstone of a soft texture, suited for hearth-stones and chimney-pieces, and slates, are quarried. Limestone is quarried in almost every part, and marble in a few places.

The county is for the most part comprehended in the basin of the Barrow; but a small portion on the north and a yet smaller portion on the west side belong to the basin of the Shannon. The Barrow rises in the Slievh Bloom, and has a winding course, first north, and then east, to the border of the county, a little above Portarlinton: it then continues its course eastward, forming the northern boundary of the county (which it separates from King's County and Kildare county) until it reaches Monasterevan in Kildare. From Monasterevan the course of the stream is southward, and it forms, except just about the town of Athy (in Kildare county), the eastern boundary to the neighbourhood of Carlow, just below which it quits the county. Its whole course in this county and on the border is about 55 miles: it is navigable from Athy, about 40 miles from its source. It receives several small tributaries on its right (or Queen's County) bank, also several on the left (or King's County, Kildare, and Carlow) bank.

The Nore does not fall into the Barrow till long after it has quitted this county: it rises in the adjacent county of Tipperary, enters Queen's County on the south-western side, not far from Burros-in-Ossory, and flows first north-eastward, then eastward, to Castletown. Below Castletown it turns to the south-east and flows to the border of the county, which, before finally quitting it, it separates for a short distance from Kilkenny county. That part of its course which belongs to this county may be estimated at 28 miles. It receives the Tonnet and several other small tributaries on the left bank.

The Lower or Little Brosna, or Brusna, which joins the Shannon below Banagher, rises just within the western boundary of the county; and the Clodagh, whose waters

fall into the Brosna, which also joins the Shannon above Banagher, rises within the northern boundary.

The only lake is Lough Annagh, on the northern border of the county; it does not exceed a mile in length: a stream which flows from it at its south-western extremity joins the Shannon. Bogs are numerous in the central part of the county, between the Slievh Bloom and the Dysart Hills.

A branch of the Grand Canal enters the county at Monasterevan, at its north-eastern corner, and there divides into two branches, one of which runs westward about twelve miles to Mount Mellick; the other, known as the Athy Canal, runs twelve miles southward to Athy, just below which town it joins the Barrow: this latter branch is partly in Kildare county.

Two railways have been projected, which will have part of their course in this county; one from Dublin to Kilkenny, which will follow the right bank of the Barrow, and another from Dublin to Limerick, which will run nearly parallel to the present coach-road.

The principal roads are as follows:—the road from Dublin to Limerick by Kildare and Roscrea crosses the county from north-east to south-west, passing through Monasterevan (Kildare county), Ballybrittas or New Brittas, Maryborough, Mountrath, and Burros-in-Ossory. The road from Dublin by Athy and Cashel to Cork passes through Stradbally Ballyroan, and Abbeyleix. Other roads are numerous, but of less importance: those to the market-towns are generally well laid out, and in good condition; but some of the cross-roads and those in remote parts are bad.

Soil; Agriculture; State of the Peasantry.—Almost every kind of soil is found in the county, from a very stiff clay to a very light sandy but fertile loam. There are extensive tracts of bog, and a good deal of cold wet ground, especially near the mountains. Mr. MacCulloch, who gives the area of the county at 396,810 acres, states that 335,838 are in cultivation, and 60,972 are uncultivated mountain or bog. (*Statistical Account of the British Empire.*) Considerable part of the waste might be reclaimed with great advantage; but, the poverty of the tenantry, and the absence of any material assistance from the landlords, prevent this improvement. The same causes prevent also the draining of a considerable quantity of land which, though under cultivation, is comparatively unproductive for want of this improvement, as well the building of farm-houses and other erections, and making fences and roads, the cost of which is generally left to the tenant. The consequence is, that the farm-houses and out-buildings are insufficient, and are usually out of repair, damp, dirty, and miserable. (*Appendix to first Report of Commissioners for inquiring into the Condition of the Poorer Classes in Ireland; Parliamentary Papers for 1836, vol. xxxiii., p. 385.*)

Some improvements have however been made by the more judicious proprietors. The demesne of one of these (in the barony of Portneinch) exhibits some extremely interesting improvements in reclaiming bog-land, which have been effected under the directions of his steward. These improvements are in every stage of progress, from the cutting of the first ditch through the shaking and worthless bog, to its conversion into fine productive land. One field, which between four and five years ago was a quaking bog, in which no stock could be put, even in the driest weather, without danger of being mired, is now perfectly sound, and feeds heavy cattle. It produced this year a fine crop of hay. The first crop (turnips) which was taken after the draining was completed, paid the whole expense of the improvement. Another field, which was only drained three years ago, and was previously not worth one shilling per acre, has since produced fine crops of turnips and oats, and after giving this summer three tons of hay to the acre, is now, in October, carrying a large stock of fattening cattle and sheep. The bog-land is intersected at every 40 to 60 feet by deep drains made with stones, from six to ten inches in diameter. The cost of this is about 3*l.* 10*s.* or 4*l.* per acre, and it cost about 2*l.* more for the clay and other condensing materials which are spread upon and ploughed in with the surface-soil of the bog. (*Report of Commissioners, as above, p. 386.*)

In the baronies of East and West Maryborough, comprehending between them, considerably above 29,000 Irish plantation acres, or 37,000 English acres, only seventeen persons held farms of more than 100 Irish or 127 English acres: by far the greater number of holdings in the barony

of West Maryborough were under 5 Irish or 6½ English acres. The principle of consolidating these small holdings has however been adopted by some of the landlords, and is gaining ground, but not very rapidly. In some other parts of the county (e.g. the barony of Portneinch) the small holdings do not bear so great a proportion to the large ones. The smallest holdings are generally through the county occupied by tenants at will; but farms of 10 Irish (13 English) acres and upwards are usually held on leases which are granted for life or 21 years. The system of 'con-acres' ground tilled and manured by the farmer, and let for the season to the labourers) is prevalent in the county, though not equally so in all parts of it.

The cottiers, especially those who hold under 'middle-men,' usually pay their rent in labour; but other small tenants usually pay in money, though a part is sometimes taken by the landlord in labour, such as carting, at busy times. The number of 'middle-men' (persons who take land of the proprietor and sub-let it) is diminishing: there are still however many of them, and to such an extent is the practice in some places carried, that frequently three or four 'middle-men' will intervene between the proprietor and the occupier of land. Rents are considered high, especially in the case of small farmers who hold under 'middle-men.'

The prevalent rotation of crops is, on the larger farms, as follows:—first year, potatoes with manure; second, wheat or barley, and third, oats; some persons then lay down the land to grass from two to five years. The small holders know little of rotation of crops; they raise potatoes and corn, either wheat, barley, or oats, alternately. The only artificial grasses cultivated by the small holders are clover and seeds. Some of the larger farmers grow clover, a few vetches, rye-grass, and trefoil: turnips and mangel-wurzel are grown, though not to a great extent, by some of the gentry and large farmers. The cultivation of potatoes has increased: peat or bog-stuff is commonly used as manure. The potatoes grown by the small farmers are 'lumpers,' a coarse but very productive variety.

The harvest is generally got in with care, except that the barley, and sometimes the other crops, are cut late, so as to occasion loss from shedding. It is commonly threshed as soon as cut, for the purpose of paying rent; and is usually sold by the sample: there are good corn-markets at Maryborough and Mount Mellick, at which last-named town much corn is ground into flour for the English and other markets.

Grazing-farms are not numerous, and are generally occupied by gentlemen farmers. The grazing-land is not commonly very good, and the quantity of it has rather decreased. There are no dairy-farms, but each of the large farmers keeps a few cows. The breed of cattle has been much improved, but the subject is not so well understood as in some of the neighbouring counties: the kinds most in request among the larger farmers are the short-horned or Durham, and the Ayrshire, but the small farmers think the native Irish breed is best, as being more accustomed to the food and climate of the country. The dairy cows most approved are either the native stock of a cross-breed between the native stock and the Durham or the Ayrshire. More cattle are fattened for exportation than formerly; the increase may be attributed to the introduction of steam-navigation as opening a means of communication with England, and to the improvements in rural economy. Little or no cheese is made at present, but a considerable quantity of butter. The increased intercourse with England has led to a great improvement in the making of the butter. The number of sheep kept is considerable, chiefly by the large farmers. This breed is generally large, and has been much improved within the last twenty years; it is a cross between the native Irish breed and the Leicester. The introduction of the Leicester sheep has led to improvement both in the quantity and quality of the fleece and the weight of the carcass. The horses are not kept in proper condition for working; nor is the breed of pigs so good as in some other counties of Leinster. Oxen are not much used for agricultural purposes.

The manures in general use are bog-stuff, animal manure, lime, marl or limestone gravel, and road scrapings. The small farmers have no knowledge of the advantage of stall-feeding over grazing considered as a source of manure. Lime is burned with culm, sometimes with turf; but is not used to the extent to which it might be used. Burning land

is very little practised; the landlords generally consider it injurious.

The fences commonly consist of a bank with a ditch, and generally a hedge: but the hedge is usually irregular and insufficient, composed of whitethorn, oriar, furze, or brambles, frequently with gaps of several yards in extent. Some of the gentry and large farmers have orchards, of which part of the fruit is sold. The farm-buildings and sheds are generally insufficient, and, among the smaller farmers, usually in bad repair. Modern improved agricultural implements are little used, except the light Scotch plough. Threshing-mills, rollers, and winnowing-machines are found only in the yards of resident proprietors or large farmers.

A great number of persons have emigrated of late years, almost exclusively to the United States or to Canada. Many of them were Protestants, and possessed of some little property.

The labouring population very far exceeds the means of employment: of 3401 labourers in the three baronies of East and West Maryborough and Portneinch, 1104 were constantly employed, 1857 occasionally employed, and 440, from illness, old age, or other causes, were seldom or never employed. Wages are very low; for constant labourers about 6d. a day with 'diet,' i.e. breakfast and dinner; 8d. or 10d. and in some cases 1s. a-day without diet. In hay-time and harvest the wages are occasionally as high as 1s. 6d. or even 2s. and 2s. 6d. In the colliery districts the colliers, according to the nature of their work, receive from 1s. 2d. to 2s. 2d. a-day. The 'diet' given by farmers to their labourers consists chiefly of potatoes and milk, sometimes 'stirabout,' or oatmeal porridge; some of the wealthier and more liberal occupiers add meat on Sundays and holidays. The labourers are not considered equal to the English in steadiness and skill; this inferiority may be partly ascribed to bad and insufficient food. Great distress prevails among the labourers from the beginning of June till harvest, so that the wretched peasantry are at times obliged to boil the charlock or wild mustard to eke out a miserable subsistence; and in years of scarcity or failure of the potato crop the distress extends upward to the small occupiers. The labourers live on the land of their employers, and usually have some land with their cabins: they pay their rent in labour: for a cabin alone they pay 1l. to 2l.; for a cabin which an acre of land (usually the worst on the whole farm) 3l. to 4l.: some proprietors allow their labourers more land (sometimes as much as six acres) for about the same rent that would have been charged to a farmer. The number of these 'cottiers,' or labourers who work regularly for a master under whom they rent their cabins, is in some parts of the county fast diminishing. The cabin is frequently built and almost always repaired by the labourer.

There is little employment for women or for children under the age for going out to service. What little work is done by women is chiefly by the labourers' grown up daughters or other unmarried women, or by married women who have no family. Children above 14 or 16 sometimes get employment at 5d. a-day without diet, or 3d. a-day with it. There is rather more employment for women at some busy seasons, as harvest and potato setting and digging. Most labourers' wives keep fowls, by which they earn a trifle. The labourer usually keeps a pig.

Potatoes form the principal food of the labourers, and those chiefly of the coarsest sort called 'lumpers.' Meat, eggs, and fish are rarely enjoyed even by the small farmers, by the labourers never. The cabins of the peasantry are generally of clay and straw; some have a foundation of stones, and a few are entirely of stones; most of them consist of two apartments, a living room occupying two-thirds of the cabin, and a small chamber. There is never an upper story, and the roof is of sod covered with thatch; they are altogether miserable habitations, except the few belonging to the gentry and larger farmers, and occupied by their labourers. Many have no windows; others have only an unglazed opening, blocked up in cold or wet weather with straw or by a shutter, and some have glazed windows of all sizes. The general fuel is turf. The dress of the peasantry is generally wretched; the children, especially the boys, are half-naked, and go barefoot; the women and elder girls, through the cheapness of materials, are enabled to dress a little better; and the wives and daughters of the more comfortable labourers wear shoes and stockings. The furniture of the cabins and the supply of bedding is commonly

wretched, and in the poorer cabins the inmates sometimes sleep on straw, hay, or rushes. In some parts of the county the cabins are altogether more comfortable and better furnished. Those round Mountmelleck, inhabited by persons connected with the trading or manufacturing establishments of that town, are of superior character. Drinking is, or was lately, rather on the increase; the drunkards are chiefly of the class of small tradesmen.

Divisions, Towns, &c.—The county is divided into nine baronies, as follows:—

Name.	Situation.	Population in 1831.
Ballyadams . . .	E. . .	8,954
Cullinagh . . .	S. . .	15,447
Maryborough (East) . . .	Central. . .	10,931
Maryborough (West) . . .	do. . .	16,725
Portneehinch . . .	N.E. . .	15,382
Slieumargy . . .	S.E. . .	15,804
Stradbally . . .	E. . .	8,328
Tinnehinch . . .	N.W. . .	17,113
Upper Ossory . . .	W. & S.W. . .	37,167

145,851

We have no authorities which give the areas of the respective baronies; but it may be stated that Upper Ossory is probably twice as large as any other; and that of the rest, Portneehinch, West Maryborough, Cullinagh, and Tinnehinch are the largest; Slieumargy has probably the most crowded population, a pre-eminence which may be ascribed to the mining district which is comprehended within it.

The assize town is Maryborough: there are one parliamentary borough, Portarlington; five market and post towns, viz. Abbeyleix, Ballinakill, Mountmellick, Mountrath, and Stradbally; and five post-towns which have no market, viz. Ballybrittas, Ballyroan, Burros-in-Ossory, Clonasee, and Rothdowney. Graigue is a suburb of Carlow. The largest villages are Arles, Ballylinan, Castletown, and Emo.

Maryborough is in a central situation, in the barony of East Maryborough. It was constituted the assize on the formation of Queen's County, by an act of 3rd and 4th of Philip and Mary, and received its name of Maryborough in honour of that queen. The town consists of several streets, narrow, irregularly laid out, badly paved, and altogether inconvenient; the principal street is on the road from Dublin to Limerick. The number of houses in 1831 was 508, of which 484 were inhabited by 641 families, 10 were uninhabited, and 14 building. Above 200 of these were comfortable houses, the rest were miserable cabins. The principal public buildings are the new county gaol and the lunatic asylum, the last being for the district which comprehends four counties, King's, Queen's, Westmeath, and Longford; a courthouse, and rooms adjacent for county business, formed out of part of the old gaol, an infirmary, a handsome range of infantry barracks, a parish church, a large and handsome Catholic chapel, three meeting-houses for Protestants, and a nunnery adjacent to the Catholic chapel. There are some remains of a strong castle which existed at the time when the town was fixed upon for the county town; the remains comprehend a bastion and part of the walls. Near the town are the ruins of the antient church. The lunatic asylum stands in the midst of an enclosed area of above twenty-two acres, handsomely laid out and planted. The building has a front of hewn stone, 365 feet long, and will accommodate from 150 to 160 patients. It had 131 on the 1st of January, 1837. The county gaol is a spacious and well-arranged prison on the radiating plan; the management of it is well spoken of by the inspectors. (*Inspectors' Reports for 1837.*)

Maryborough was incorporated by charter of 12 Eliz. (A.D. 1570). The limits of the borough extend to the distance of 8000 feet from the walls of the castle (which is in the centre of the town), and comprehend an extensive rural district; a now and more contracted boundary has been therefore recommended. (*Reports from Commissioners of Boundaries of Municipal Corporations in Ireland.*) The burgesses were in 1833 reduced to three. The burgomaster is a justice of the peace within the district; but petty-sessions are held weekly by the county magistrates. There is no corporation police, but from 15 to 30 of the county constabulary are usually quartered in the town.

The town has little trade. The market, which is on Thursday, has improved: wheat, which was formerly scarcely brought to it, is now sold in considerable quantity. A

branch of the cotton-manufacture, but on a small scale, is carried on. Shoemaking is prosperous. There are eight yearly fairs. The population of the town, in 1831, was 3223; that of the whole parish of Borris, in which the town stands, was 5300. There is neither benefit society nor savings' bank nor house of industry in the parish; but there are forty spirit-shops and one pawnbroker's shop.

The living is a rectory and vicarage, united with the rectory and vicarage of Killcolemanbane and the vicarage of Straboe, all in the diocese of Leighlin, and comprehending altogether a population of about 8700, in 1831, of which about 1200 or 1300 belonged to the established church, while the rest were nearly all Catholics. There was a Roman Catholic chapel at Straboe, in the union, besides that of Maryborough. The net yearly value of the united benefice was returned at 525*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* There were, according to the Parliamentary Returns for 1835, ten schools in Maryborough parish, and two in that of Killcolemanbane; twelve in all in the union, with 811 scholars, viz. 445 boys and 366 girls: of these schools, two, both at Maryborough, with 253 boys and 221 girls, were national schools; two were classical schools for boys, with 32 scholars; two were girls' schools of the better sort, with 25 children (four of them little boys); three were connected with religious or charitable societies, with 84 boys and 93 girls; and three were hedge-schools, with 72 boys and 31 girls.

The quarter-sessions for the division, at which the civil business of the borough is transacted, are held here twice a year; the county assizes are also held here, and it is the place of election for the county. Maryborough returned two members to the Irish parliament, but was disfranchised at the Union. It gives the title of baron to W. Wellesley Pole, brother of Marquis Wellesley and the duke of Wellington.

Portarlington is on the river Barrow, what separates in this part King's County and Queen's County, in each of which part of the town is situated. It is about forty-four miles west-south-west from Dublin, through Naas and Monasterevan, and about twelve miles north-north-east from Maryborough. The part which is in King's County is in the parish of Clonehorke, in the barony of Upper Philips-town; that which is in Queen's County is in Lea parish, in the barony of Portneehinch. The town took its rise in the time of Charles II., who granted a large extent of country in this part of Ireland to Lord Arlington. The town consists of two principal streets, which meet in an area or square, the centre of which is occupied by one of the two churches or chapels. They are in some parts paved or flagged by private subscription, but are not lighted. Few towns in Ireland present so respectable an appearance, owing to its being the residence of an unusual number of private gentlemen. In 1831, there were in the town 505 houses, of which 486 were inhabited by 579 families, 16 uninhabited, and 3 building: a somewhat later return gives 580 houses, of which 300 are slated and the rest thatched; most of them built of lime and limestone. The population, in 1831, was 3091: a part of the inhabitants are descended from some French and German Protestant refugees settled here by Lord Arlington. There are two bridges and two churches (or more properly chapels), neither of them parochial; those of St. Michael and St. Paul, or, as they are sometimes called, the English and the French, from having been originally appropriated to the use respectively of the English and French settlers. Both the churches were erected by Rouvigny, earl of Galway, to whom the lordship originally held by Lord Arlington had come. The English church has a handsome spire. There is a handsome Roman Catholic chapel, with a spire 140 feet high, and a Methodist chapel. Over the market or town-house there are three rooms, the largest occasionally appropriated to assemblies. There are a small tobacco manufactory, a soap and candle manufactory, and a tan-yard: the rest of the trade of the town is retail. There is a corn and general market held on Wednesday, and a meat-market on Saturday: there are also eight yearly fairs for horned cattle, horses, sheep, and pigs. A branch of the Grand Canal passes near the town. The town was incorporated by charter, A.D. 1667. Courts leet and baron and a court of record are held under the lord of the manor, and petty-sessions are held by the county magistrates. From eight to ten of the county constabulary are generally stationed here. There are no public charities except schools, but there is a very excellent savings'-bank. Public-houses and spirit-shops are very numerous.

Portarlington returns one member to parliament. Before the Union it returned two members to the Irish parliament, but at the Union was reduced to one. By the Irish Reform and Boundary Acts, the franchise was extended, and the limits of the borough defined. The number of voters on the register, in 1834-5, was 156. The living of Lea (in which parish the part of the town which belongs to Queen's County is situated) is a vicarage, of the clear yearly value of 272*l.* (including the value of the glebe), and a glebe-house. There is a small parish church at Lea, and there are the two churches, founded by Lord Galway, in the town of Portarlington. These places of worship have (by the Parliamentary Returns, 1835) congregations amounting in the aggregate to more than 1000 persons. The Roman Catholic chapel had a congregation of 1300, and the Wesleyan of 100. In the whole of the two parishes of Geashill (of which Clonehorke is a dependency) and Lea, there were, according to the returns made to parliament in 1835, thirty-five day-schools, containing 1108 boys and 872 girls; and an adult school of 29 scholars: giving a total of thirty-six schools, and of 2009 persons under daily instruction. Five of the schools were in connection with the National Education board; four were partly supported by the London Ladies' Society, or London Hibernian Society; one was connected with the Kildare-place Society; and six were partly supported by private subscription. Of the private schools, one was for adults, three were classical schools for boys, two were girls' schools of a superior kind, three were ordinary day-schools, and eleven were hedge-schools. A loan-fund and a mendicity society have been established. There were also in Geashill parish eleven Sunday-schools for religious instruction, ten of them for Roman Catholics. Portarlington gives the title of earl to the Dawson family.

Abbeyleix is 9 miles south-south-east of Maryborough and 60 south-west from Dublin. The parish is chiefly in the barony of Cullinagh, but partly in that of West Maryborough, and partly in that of Fassadining, in the county of Kilkenny; the town is wholly in Cullinagh. Abbeyleix took its origin and name from a Cistercian Abbey in the territory of Leix, now Queen's County. The town is neatly built, the late Lord de Vesci having caused the old town to be entirely razed, and laid out the present one on a more eligible site. The number of houses in 1831, was 141, viz. 126 inhabited by 178 families, 10 building, and 5 uninhabited. There are a good market-house, a sessions-house, where the quarter-sessions for the division are held twice in the year, and a new bridewell. The population, in 1831, was 1009 for the town, and for the entire parish 5990. A considerable woollen manufacture is carried on: about two hundred persons are employed in combing, spinning, and weaving. There is a weekly market (on Saturday) and six yearly fairs. Freestone, limestone for burning, and potters' earth are procured in the neighbourhood. Abbey Leix, the seat of Lord de Vesci, surrounded by a demesne of more than 1100 acres, and thriving plantations, is near the town. The area of the parish is 11,974 acres. There are in the parish two parish churches, one rarely used: the other, a handsome modern building of Gothic architecture, with a tall spire, has a congregation of five hundred: there are a Roman Catholic chapel, with a congregation of two thousand, and a Wesleyan meeting-house, with a congregation of seventy. The living is a vicarage: the net value of the benefice (including a small glebe) is about 138*l.* There were, by the returns of 1835, six day-schools, with 203 boys and 151 girls; together 354 children: two of the schools are private schools, three are partly or wholly supported by subscription, and one is partly supported by the London Hibernian School Society and by local subscription. There are some almshouses, and a dispensary and infirmary.

Ballinakill is in Dysart Gallen or Galon parish, in the barony of Cullinagh, 13 miles south-south-east of Maryborough, and 64 south-west from Dublin. The town is in a bye-situation, and in a declining state; the streets are neither paved nor lighted. The number of houses, in 1831, was 360, viz. 335 inhabited by 346 families, 4 building, and 21 uninhabited: the population was 1927 for the town, or 4014 for the entire parish. The manufacture of woollens, though declined from what it formerly was, is still carried on, and there is a brewery. Formerly two markets were held weekly, but the Wednesday market has been long disused, and the Saturday market has been injured within

the last few years by the establishment of that of Abbeyleix on the same day. Ballinakill was incorporated by James I., and returned two members to the Irish parliament, but the franchise was lost at the Union, and the corporation has since fallen into disuse. Quarter-sessions and petty-sessions were once held here, but have been removed to Abbeyleix. A body of the county constabulary are posted in the town. The parish of Dysart Gallen, or Dysert Galon, contains 10,557 acres. The parish church, a small modern building with tower and spire, is in Ballinakill; it has a congregation of from 150 to 250 persons. There are two Roman Catholic chapels, one in the town, and another in the rural part of the parish; they have congregations of nearly 4000. There were in the parish, by the Returns of 1835, nine schools with 429 boys and 407 girls; together 836 children. Of the nine schools, the two largest (containing 594 children) were connected with the National Board of Education; two were partly supported by subscription or other extraneous sources; the other five were hedge-schools.

Mountmellick is on the Oweness, one of the feeders of the Barrow, 7 miles north by west of Maryborough, and 51 miles west-south-west of Dublin. It stands chiefly in the parish of Rosenallis, in the barony of Tinnehinch, but a small part of it is in the parish of Coolbanager, in the barony of Portneehinch. The whole town had, in 1831, 710 houses; of which 687 were inhabited by 805 families, 15 were uninhabited, and 8 were building. There is one principal street; several of the houses are very neat and even elegant, and the town may be regarded as the most important and prosperous in the county. Cotton-weaving and coarse woollen-weaving are carried on to a considerable extent, and furnish employment to from 3000 to 4000 people in and round the town. There are an iron and brass foundry for the manufacture of machinery, a tan-yard, breweries, soap-houses, potteries, a distillery, and a corn-mill. A branch from the Grand Canal at Monasterevan to the town has tended greatly to increase its trade in corn, butter, and general merchandise. There are two weekly markets, and ten yearly fairs. A body of the county constabulary are stationed in the town: the quarter-sessions for the division are held here twice in the year. There is a chapel-of-ease in the town, in the parish of Rosenallis, which has a congregation of 350 persons; the two parish churches of Rosenallis and Coolbanagher (or rather, of Ardea, a parish united with Coolbanagher) are at a distance from the town. There were in the two parishes, in 1835, four Roman Catholic chapels, with aggregate congregations of 4000; four meeting-houses or other places of worship for Wesleyans, with congregations amounting to 350 persons, and one Quakers' meeting-house with a congregation of 140: we know not which of these places are in the town. There were at the same time twenty-six day-schools; viz. seven in connection with the National Board; ten connected with the London Hibernian Society, the London Ladies' Hibernian Society, the Kildare-place Society, or supported by subscription, or by Erasmus Smith's fund; a Quakers' boarding-school, five private day-schools, and three hedge-schools: in these schools there were 1627 children, viz. 930 boys and 697 girls. There were also in Rosenallis two large Sunday-schools, kept by the vicar and the curate.

Mountrath is in the parish of Clonenagh, in the barony of West Maryborough, 8 miles west-south-west of Maryborough, and 60 west-south-west of Dublin, on the great road to Limerick. The foundation of the town was laid early in the seventeenth century, by Sir Charles Coote, who, in 1628, obtained a grant of two fairs and two markets, and established a linen and fustian manufactory. The Rebellion of 1641 interrupted the rising prosperity of the town. In 1831 it contained 442 houses, of which 420 were inhabited by 448 families, 13 were uninhabited, and 9 were building. The population at the same time was 2593. There are a respectable market-house, and a court-house and bridewell lately erected. The church is a handsome building; and there are a large Roman Catholic chapel, a convent of the order of St. Patrick, and a Bridgetine nunnery. The Methodists and Quakers have also meeting-houses. Calico and stuffs are woven, and there are a large brewery, a malthouse, and an oil-mill. There is a considerable weekly market for corn and butter; there are six yearly fairs. The quarter sessions for the division are held here twice in the year; and there are petty-sessions held weekly. Ballyfinn House, the splendid seat of Sir C. H. Coote, is in a beautiful and well-wooded

desmesne near the town. There were in the whole parish in 1835, nineteen schools, viz. nine national schools, four schools partly supported by subscription, two convent schools, a classical day and boarding school, two private day-schools, and a hedge-school. The two convent schools are attached to the Bridgetine nunnery in the town of Mountrath; one is for the education of children of the higher order, the other for the poor: the classical school is superintended by monks of the order of St. Patrick, who have a convent in the town. There is a large school-house in the town, erected chiefly through the liberality of Sir C. H. Coote; but by which of the above-mentioned schools it is occupied does not appear. The total number of children in the schools at the time of the return was 1780, viz. 1037 males and 743 females. There is a dispensary in the town.

Stradbally is in the parish and barony of Stradbally, 7 miles east of Maryborough, and 48 south-west of Dublin, on the road by Athy and Cashel to Cork. Antiently there was a Franciscan monastery here. The town, which is on a small feeder of the Barrow, in a pleasant situation, had, in 1831, 306 houses, viz. 296 inhabited by 331 families, 8 uninhabited, and 2 building. The principal street is spacious, the houses well built, and there is a bridge of three arches over the stream. The church is a handsome building. Near the town are Stradbally Hall and Brockley park, two mansions with their demesnes. The market is on Saturday, and there are five yearly fairs. There is a station of the county constabulary in the town. The quarter-sessions for the division are held here twice in the year, in a neat court-house with a small bridewell attached; and there are petty sessions every fortnight. There are a dispensary, a savings' bank, and a large Catholic chapel. There were in 1835, in the parish, seven schools, viz. two boarding-schools, three day-schools, two of them on the system of the Kildare-place Society, a hedge-school, and a national school.

Ballybrittas is in Lea parish, in the barony of Portne-hinch, 9 miles north-east from Maryborough, and 42 south-west of Dublin. It is a neat place, of pleasing appearance, containing 27 houses, inhabited by 31 families, and 1 house building. Three fairs are held in the year. A body of constabulary are posted here, and there are petty-sessions once a fortnight. Ballyroan is in Ballyroan parish, in the barony of Cullinagh; 58 miles from Dublin on the road by Athy and Cashel to Cork. The place had, in 1831, 132 houses inhabited by 133 families, forming a population of 714. There is a station of the constabulary. There are three fairs. There are a neat plain church, a spacious Roman Catholic chapel, and a good school-house for an endowed classical and English school on Alderman Preston's foundation. There were also in 1835, in the parish, two day-schools, partly supported by subscription, and two hedge-schools. Burros in Ossory, in the parish of Aghaboc, in the barony of Upper Ossory, was antiently of considerable importance as a military post, being on the river Nore, and on a site encompassed by hogs. It now consists of one long street, on the road from Dublin to Limerick, 67 or 68 miles from Dublin, and 16 from Maryborough; and comprehends 129 houses, viz. 124 inhabited by 147 families, and 5 uninhabited. There are several fairs in the year. Quarter-sessions for the division are held here twice in the year, and petty-sessions at irregular intervals; there are a bridewell, a station of the county constabulary, and a dispensary. Clonaslee is in the barony of Tinnehinch, remote from any great thoroughfare, 9 miles west-north-west of Mountmellick, on the bank of the Barradois or Clodagh, over which there is a good bridge. The village contained in 1831, 79 houses, viz. 78 inhabited by 94 families, and 1 building: the population was 514. There is a parish or district church, also a Roman Catholic chapel. Petty-sessions are held weekly, and there are two fairs in the year. There is a school on Erasmus Smith's foundation, and one if not two national schools. Rathdowney is in the barony of Upper Ossory, 19 miles south-west from Maryborough, remote from any great thoroughfare, on a small stream that flows into the Erkin, a feeder of the Nore. The town contained in 1831, 211 houses, viz. 195 inhabited by 240 families, 11 uninhabited, and 5 building. The population was 1214. The houses are generally ill built and neglected, and the streets are ill paved. Petty-sessions are held in the town weekly, and there are several yearly fairs. There are a parish church, a Roman Catholic chapel, and a Wesleyan meeting-house in the town. There is a parochial school, connected with the Kildare-place Society, and a national school in the town, and a second national school, and several other

schools in different parts of the parish. There are in the parish the remains of three castles, of a church and burial-place, of a church and monastery, and of a very antient cross.

Graigue is in the parish of Killeshin, in the barony of Slieumargue. It is close upon the border of the county, and forms a suburb of the town of Carlow, with which it is connected by a bridge over the Barrow. It contained in 1831 324 houses; of which 305 were inhabited by 382 families, 13 were uninhabited, and 6 were building: the population was 1976. There are two tan-yards, a flour-mill, and a distillery. The parish church is a handsome building: there is a very large Roman Catholic chapel. There are a national school and a station of the county constabulary.

Arles or Arless is a neat village in the parish of Killeban and barony of Slieumargue, about 7 miles north-west of Carlow. It contains about 40 houses and 205 inhabitants. There is a small manufacture of linen and yarn carried on; the manufacture of tiles for roofing has been brought almost to nothing by the increased use of slates. Ballylinan is also in the parish of Killeban, but in the barony of Ballyadams. It has a police station, several fairs in the year, and petty-sessions weekly. It contained in 1831, 94 houses, viz. 89 inhabited by 103 families, 4 uninhabited, and 1 building: the population was 533. There are the ruins of an old church in the village. Castletown, in the barony of Upper Ossory, about 2½ miles from Mountrath, takes its name from an old castle on the banks of the Nore. The village is also on that river: it contained, in 1831, 59 houses, many of them good residences, with a Roman Catholic chapel, and is altogether a place of neat and respectable appearance. Of the houses 52 were inhabited by 60 families, 4 were uninhabited, and 3 were building: the population was 376. There are large flour and oatmeal mills. There is a yearly fair, and petty-sessions are held every fortnight. A body of the county constabulary are posted here. Emo, in the barony of Portne-hinch, 7 miles north-north-east of Maryborough, and 3 or 4 south of Portarlinton, had, in 1831, only 14 houses inhabited by 17 families, and a population of 102: but it has a neat Roman Catholic chapel, a public school, and a constabulary station. Adjacent to it is Emo park, the seat of the earl of Portarlinton.

Divisions for Ecclesiastical and Legal Purposes.—This county was formed of portions of the districts previously known as Leix and Ossory; the latter comprehending all that part of the county which is to the south and west of the Nore; the former including all the rest. The county was formed at the same time that the adjacent district of Ofally was made shire-ground. The two were named respectively Queen's County and King's County, in honour of Mary and her husband Philip of Spain, and their capitals were named after the same royal personages, Maryborough and Philipstown.

The county is comprehended in the dioceses of Leighlin and Ossory (now united) and Kildare. The parishes in the six baronies of Ballyadams, Cullinagh, Maryborough (East and West), Stradbally, and Slieumargue, are in Leighlin, except one parish in Ballyadams barony, which is in the diocese of Dublin; those in the barony of Upper Ossory are in the diocese of Ossory, except one, which is in the diocese of Killaloe; those in the baronies of Portne-hinch and Tinnehinch are in Kildare. All these dioceses are now in the ecclesiastical province of Dublin. Killaloe was in that of Cashel before the union of that province with the province of Dublin.

Queen's County is included in the home circuit: the assizes are held at Maryborough, and quarter-sessions for the divisions of the county are held at Maryborough, Mountmellick, Mountrath, Stradbally, Burros-in-Ossory, and Abbeyleix, twice in the year at each of these places. The number of persons committed for trial at the assizes and quarter-sessions in 1837 was 301; the number tried at petty-sessions and before magistrates, 418; together, 719: being considerably below the average of the counties of Ireland in the number of assize and quarter-sessions cases, as well as in the whole number of criminals, but exceeding the average in the number of cases disposed of at petty-sessions and before magistrates.

The county gaol is at Maryborough, and is well conducted, especially as it respects the male prisoners. There are three minor prisons, namely, at Abbeyleix, Burros-in-Ossory, and Stradbally, which are now remarkably well kept, clean, and regular. They are visited by the governor

of the county gaol under the direction of the Board of Superintendence.

The county returns to parliament two members, who are elected at Maryborough. Portarlington returns one member. Before the Union the county sent altogether eight members to the Irish parliament, namely, two county members, and two each for the boroughs of Maryborough, Portarlington, and Ballinakill. At the Union, Maryborough and Ballinakill were quite disfranchised, and Portarlington lost one member. The number of county electors qualified in 1834-5 was 1692, of whom 1427 voted at the contested election of that time.

On January 1, 1836, the constabulary force of the county included one magistrate, 4 chief constables or sub-inspectors of the first class, and 6 of the second class, 49 constables, and 274 sub-constables, with 15 horses. On January 1, 1838, this force comprehended one sub-inspector, 4 chief constables of the first rate and 4 of the second rate; 1 head constable of the first class and 9 of the second class; 37 constables; 230 sub-constables of the first class and 46 of the second. The whole expenditure on this force for the year preceding January 1, 1838, was 14,327*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* The total amount of the grand-jury presentments for that year was 19,566*l.* 16*s.*, namely: for new roads, repairs, bridges and roads, 4638*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*; for building, repairs, and rent of session-houses, 427*l.* 2*s.*; for building new gaol, 923*l.* 1*s.* 6½*d.*; for gaol and bridewell expenses, 2270*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*; for public and county officers' salaries, 2123*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*; for the police establishment, 4467*l.* 16*s.* 6½*d.*; for the administration of justice, 480*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*; for deserted children and malicious injury to property, 388*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*; for the infirmary and dispensaries, 1528*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*; for building lunatic asylum, 462*l.* 5*s.* 6½*d.*; for the support of the lunatic asylum, 587*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*; for miscellaneous, printing, &c., 1269*l.* 5*s.* 4½*d.* There are in the county a district lunatic asylum for Queen's County, King's County, Longford, and Westmeath; and an infirmary (both at Maryborough); a dispensary and fever hospital united; and eleven dispensaries.

The number of schools in the county connected with the National Board of Education in 1835 was 40, with 43 teachers and 5263 scholars.

History, Antiquities, &c.—Of the inhabitants of this county, in the earliest period of Irish history, nothing certain is known. At a somewhat later period the county was comprehended in the districts of Leix and Ossory. Ossory, which was originally a kingdom dependent on the greater kingdom of Leinster, was subjugated and annexed to Munster, still however preserving its separate organization as a kingdom. The chieftain or king of Ossory, one of the Macgillypatrick or Fitzpatrick race, stoutly resisted the Anglo-Norman invaders of Ireland in the twelfth century, and attacked Leix, which was then under Dermot, king of Leinster, who had called in the English. He subsequently however made his peace with the English, and managed to retain his independence. The adjacent district of Leix was included in the English pale, and was formed into a county palatine, which passed into the hands of the Mortimers, lords of Wigmore. In the reign of Edward II., O'More, an Irish chieftain, to whom Mortimer had entrusted the administration of his domain, became so powerful as to hold it in his own right, and to be a very troublesome opponent to the English in that part of the pale, and for two centuries the district was the seat of almost incessant war between the O'Mores and the English. It was either just previous to or during this unsettled period (in 1315, or rather 1316) that it was invaded by Edward Bruce and his confederates, who burned the castle of Ley near Portarlington, and a small burgh or town which had grown up under its protection. The district of Leix appears to have continued in a state of precarious independence till the reign of Henry VIII. Ossory also maintained at this time its independence, but its chiefs were usually in alliance with the English. In the reign of Henry VIII. this part of Ireland was again the scene of contest between the governors, Gerald, earl of Kildare (A.D. 1514), and afterwards Thomas Howard, earl of Surrey (A.D. 1521), and the sept or clan of O'More, but the struggle produced no decisive result. But on the death of Henry VIII., the O'Mores having again rebelled in conjunction with the O'Connors of Ofally (now King's County), were defeated by Sir Edward Bellingham, the lord deputy, who sent their chiefs prisoners to London (where O'More died), and re-annexed their territories to the English pale. A new rebellion in these two districts in the reign of Mary

was quelled with a severity which threatened to extirpate the inhabitants, and the districts were, by act of parliament, converted into shires. In the latter part of the reign of Elizabeth, the O'Mores were again in rebellion, in consequence of which the county was invaded by the lord-deputy, the earl of Essex (A.D. 1599), who broke the power of the rebellious clan: their ruin was completed by Lord Mountjoy, the successor of Essex.

In the rebellion of 1641, Roger More, head of the now reduced sept of the O'Mores, acted a conspicuous part, and was in fact the mainspring of the rebellion. The insurgents attempted to seize several places in this county: Maryborough and the castle of Ballinakill fell into their hands, as well as Shane or Sion Castle near Coolbanagher, and other places of strength. They besieged the castle of Burros-in-Ossory, but the garrison, consisting of Protestants of Upper Ossory, held out until relieved by Sir Charles Coote (A.D. 1642), who had been detached by the duke of Ormond, then posted with the government army at Maryborough. Shane Castle was retaken by the same officer. On the retreat of Ormond, the insurgents under Preston again overran the county, and Ballinakill, which had been taken from them or given up by them, was again besieged by their troops, but relieved by Colonel Monk: in 1643, it was a third time besieged, and, after a vain attempt to relieve it, was forced to surrender. Burros-in-Ossory Castle was also again besieged by the insurgents in 1642, but with what success does not appear: they took however the castle of Lea, or Ley, near Portarlington. In 1646, the insurgent force from Ulster, under Owen Roe O'Neil or O'Neal, occupied Maryborough and several other strongholds; but the Parliamentarians maintained a strong garrison in the castle of Burros-in-Ossory, by a party of which, in 1647, the neighbouring fort of Ballaghmore, held by the insurgents, was taken. The victors, on their way back, were attacked by a party of insurgents, and lost several men. In 1649, Maryborough and some other places were taken from the insurgents under Owen Roe O'Neil, by the Royalists under Ormond, with whom a considerable part of the more moderate insurgents had by this time united themselves. Shortly afterwards these places were taken from the Royalists by the Parliamentarians under Colonels Hewson and Reynolds. In the war which ensued on the Revolution of 1688, some fighting took place in the county, in which the Jacobites were defeated by William's army.

(*Parliamentary Papers*; *Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*; *Cox's History of Ireland*; *Gordon's History of Ireland*; *Map of Ireland*, by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.)