

CLONMEL, the assize town of the county of Tipperary, in Ireland; situated chiefly on the north side of the river Suir, in the barony of Iffa and Offa East, in the county of Tipperary, and partly on Moore and Long Islands in the same river, in the barony of Upperthird and county of Waterford; 108 miles from Dublin; 52° 19' N. lat., and 7° 43' W. long. The limits fixed by the Boundary Act include only 361 statute acres, comprising the town on the north side of the river with the islands. A population of about 1000 are excluded by the new boundary line, which cuts off many mean cabins in the suburbs.

Clonmel is a place of considerable antiquity. It is said to have been walled by the Danes. Otho de Grandison, who had a grant of Tipperary, and a considerable portion of Cork, was the first English possessor. He founded a Franciscan Friary here, A. D. 1269.

Clonmel, from its situation on the frontiers of the pale, was a convenient station for assembling on any emergency. The town appears to have continued faithful to the crown until the rebellion in favour of Simnel and Warbeck. A disposition to revolt was also manifested by the inhabitants on the death of Queen Elizabeth. On the breaking out of the war in 1641, Clonmel declared for the Roman Catholic cause. Clonmel continued a strong hold of the ultra Roman Catholic interest until the end of the war, and made a good defence against Cromwell, who besieged, and finally took it in 1650. Clonmel was now dismantled, but continued to adhere to the losing party until after the conclusion of the wars of the revolution by the treaty of Limerick. Few antiquities remain: a gate-house at one end of the main street is the only part of the old works standing.

The town is governed under charter of the 5th July, 6th James I. The corporation consists of the mayor, five burgesses, and commonalty; and is one of those subject to the regulation of the 'new rules' of the 25th Charles II. The patronage is in the family of Bagwell. Prior to the passing of the Reform Act, the same family had also the return of the member for the borough. The assizes for the county of Tipperary are held here twice a year; petty sessions for the same county, which do not take cognizance of any matters arising in the town or liberties, are held once a fortnight. The mayor's weekly court has jurisdiction to the amount of 10*l.* Irish. The court, in which the mayor also presides, has unlimited jurisdiction in civil, but none in criminal matters. This court has fallen into disuse from the heavy stamp duty on the admission of at-

torneys to practise in it. There is no corporation gaol, but a county gaol, house of correction, and workhouse. The corporation has no criminal jurisdiction. The property of the corporation has been mismanaged. Their estate, of 4800 Irish acres, produces only 416*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* per annum. Many of the leases under which it is at present held have been executed lately, some of them to the patron, at an under value. There are twelve monthly fairs, ten of them the exclusive property of the patron; and markets twice a week. (*Report of Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in Ireland.*)

The present condition and appearance of the town are highly respectable. Southward from the main street, which runs parallel with the river, diverge three streets, leading to as many bridges, two of which are carried over the islands in the Suir. Adjacent to the lowest bridge are the works which supply the town with gas: a house of instruction stands near the upper. There are barracks for a regiment of foot and two troops of horse, a fever hospital, a parish church built in the form of a cross, a Roman Catholic chapel, and a large cotton manufactory. The market-house is strong and well built. The lunatic asylum for the county of Tipperary, opened here in 1833, cost 16,587*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*, and is calculated for sixty patients. The cost is to be defrayed by fourteen annual instalments by the county. Commissioners, appointed 25th Sept., 1828, under 9 Geo. IV., c. 82, regulate the lighting and watching of the town: for the last seven years gas has been employed. The amount of watching and lighting tax, levied annually, is 753*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* The streets are paved and cleansed by the corporation. The expense of paving and cleansing for 1833 amounted to 417*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.* For the last fifteen or sixteen years Clonmel has been steadily advancing in prosperity. 'It is,' says Mr. Inglis, 'the great point of export for Tipperary, which is one great granary, as well as for parts of other counties, for it is the first point at which water-carriage commences.' The exports are chiefly corn, bacon, and butter: of the first article from two to three hundred thousand barrels of wheat are annually brought into the town. The flour mills are very numerous and extensive. The family of Grubb, and other members of the Society of Friends, have been chiefly instrumental in bringing the milling trade to its present importance in this district. The bacon trade is also very extensive; 50,000 pigs per season is the average. The butter trade, though large, has lately been somewhat on the decline. Another considerable source of employment is the great posting establishment of Mr. Bianconi, of which Clonmel is the depôt. There are also several breweries, and an extensive distillery in the vicinity; and a large cotton manufactory, which occupies about 200 persons. There is consequently little want of employment; and the town, up to 1821, rapidly increased. Since 1821 the population has been nearly stationary. There are great facilities for building. Limestone, sand, and good quarries are abundant in the immediate vicinity of the town. An improvement of the navigation of the Suir is very desirable.

The borough, as laid down in the Boundary Report for 1831-2, contains 1532 houses; of which 419 are thatched, and 1113 are slated, and 771 have seven windows and upwards; with a population of 12,256, and a probable constituency of 652. The population of the whole town, in 1821, was 1590, consisting of 7272 males and 8318 females: in 1831 the numbers were respectively 6654 and 8480. In 1821 the number of inhabited houses was 2035, and of families 3847: and in 1831 the numbers were respectively 1793 and 2734.

The population of the entire parish of St. Mary, in which Clonmel is situated, was, in 1834, according to the first Report of the commissioners of public instruction, 17,853; of whom there were 1737 members of the Established Church, 15,848 Roman Catholics, 44 Presbyterians, and 206 other Protestant Dissenters. According to the second Report of the same commissioners there were in the same parish, in 1834, 25 daily schools, educating 830 males and 246 females; total, 1172. Of these schools there are two endowed. One is a boarding and day school. The endowment, amounting to 400*l.* Irish annually, is by the families of Mountcashel and Ormond: the other is a parochial school, with a small endowment of 7*l.* Irish per annum. There does not appear to be any free school, except one for ten females, nor are any of the above in connection with the Board of National Education.

(*Cox's History of Ireland*; Carthehaven's *Memoirs*; Inglis's *Ireland in 1834*; *Post Chaise Companion*, Pub