

LISMORE, a bishop's see, late in the archiepiscopal province of Cashel, and now in that of Dublin, in Ireland. It includes portions of the counties of Waterford and Tipperary, and extends 37 statute miles by 38. The chapter consists of a dean, precentor, chancellor, treasurer, archdeacon, and 8 prebendaries. In 1792 the diocese was divided into 73 parishes, constituting 35 benefices, and having 22 churches. In 1834 the numbers were: parishes, 75; benefices, 43; churches of the Establishment, 36; other places of Protestant worship in connection with the Establishment, 1; and Roman Catholic churches, 65. In the latter year the total population of the diocese was 216,236 of whom there were 5970 members of the Established Church, 164 Presbyterians, 382 other Protestant Dissenters, and 209,720 Roman Catholics; being in the proportion of about 32 Roman Catholics to 1 Protestant. In the same year there were, in this diocese, 236 daily schools, educating 17,609 young persons, being in the proportion of 8.14 per cent. of the entire population under daily instruction; in which respect Lismore stands thirteenth among the 32 dioceses of Ireland. Of the above schools, 12 were, in 1834, in connection with the National Board of Education.

St. Carthag, commonly called Mochuda, of Ratheny in Westmeath, where he had a famous school, was the founder of the cathedral and school of Lismore, in A.D. 631. Cathaldus, afterwards bishop of Tarentum in Italy, succeeded. During his time and that of his predecessor, the school of Lismore was greatly celebrated for the number of its students; and the town or city is said to have been almost exclusively inhabited by ecclesiastics. Soon after the arrival of the English, the antient see of Ardmore was annexed to the diocese; and in the bishopric of Thomas de Reeve, who succeeded A.D. 1358, the see, so increased, was added to that of Waterford. By the 3 and 4 Wm. IV., c. 39, the see of Waterford and Lismore, being void, has become annexed to the united see of Cashel and Emly, and the temporalities are now vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The town of Lismore is situated in the barony of Coshmore and Coshbride, and county of Waterford, on the southern bank of the Blackwater, three miles from the point where that river changes its course from east to south near Cappoquin. The Blackwater, opposite Lismore, is joined by the Owenshad, a rapid stream descending from the Knockmeledown mountains, which form a prominent object in the surrounding country. A handsome bridge, the centre arch of which has a span of 100 feet, crosses the main river a little above the point of junction, and leads to the town, which occupies the summit of the southern bank. At the eastern extremity of the town is the cathedral, a plain handsome building, with a tower and spire, boldly situated on the crest of the hill. It is in the later English style, and was chiefly built by the Earl of Cork in 1663. The castle, a magnificent pile, originally erected by King John in A.D. 1185, and greatly enlarged and strengthened by the first Earl of Cork, stands on the summit of a rocky bank, which rises to the height of nearly 100 feet above the Blackwater, at the opposite or western end of the town. Lismore is the property of the Duke of Devonshire, by whom it has been greatly improved of late. The town is also much indebted to the late duke, who built the bridge at a cost of 9000*l.*, and restored the castle, which had been reduced almost to a ruin during the civil wars of the seventeenth century.

Lismore was erected into a borough by charter of James I., and was represented in the Irish parliament by two members. The franchise was abolished at the time of the Union, and the compensation, amounting to 15,000*l.*, was paid to the trustees of the late Earl of Cork and Burlington. By the same charter, granted in 1613, the borough was incorporated; but the corporation is now defunct. The Blackwater is naturally navigable to within a mile of the town, and a canal has been constructed by the late Duke of Devonshire, by which lighters can now come up as far as the bridge. There is a small export of grain and flour; the imports are trifling, consisting chiefly of coal and timber brought by lighters from Youghall.

In 1831 there were in the town 366 houses and 2998 inhabitants. In 1834 there were in the parish of Lismore 22 day-schools, educating 705 males and 498 females. Of these schools two were chiefly supported by the dean and chapter, one by an annual grant from the Duke of Devonshire, one by an endowment by Lord Cork, and one by a grant from Sir Richard Musgrave