

ENNISCORTHY, a borough town in the baronies of Scarewalsh and Ballaghkeen in the county of Wexford in Ireland; situated about 12 English miles above Wexford on both banks of the river Slaney, which is here navigable for sloops. The direct distance from Dublin is about 57 English miles.

Enniscorthy was incorporated by charter of the 11th James I. The corporation consists of a portreeve and 11 burgesses. The portreeve holds a court once a week with jurisdiction to the amount of 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* late Irish currency. The corporation has no revenue. The boundary is very irregular and extends in some directions two and three miles from the town.

Enniscorthy took its origin as a town from the erection of a castle here by Raymond le Gros, one of the early Anglo-Norman conquerors, about the end of the twelfth century. Gerald de Prendergast, another Anglo-Norman noble, founded a monastery here for Augustinian friars about 1230; and Donnell Cavanagh, an Irish potentate, founded a Franciscan convent for friars of the strict observance in 1460. On the dissolution of religious houses, the possessions of the Augustinians were granted to Edmund Spenser, the poet, and those of the Franciscans to Lord Henry Wallop. Some ruins of both edifices still remain. The castle also is still standing and in good preservation. It consists of a square keep flanked by round towers, and stands at the west end of the bridge, on the bank of the Slaney, opposite the remains of the Franciscan convent. Enniscorthy was taken by Cromwell in 1649, and was stormed and burned by the Irish rebels in 1798. On the latter occasion it is said that 478 dwelling-houses were destroyed. In the immediate neighbourhood is Vinegar-hill, the scene of a sanguinary engagement in the latter year.

Enniscorthy is at present a thriving and handsome town. It has a very considerable trade in grain with Wexford. The population of that part of the town which lies in the barony of Scarewalsh, in 1821, was 3557; and in 1831 was 4375. The population of the entire town as situated in the baronies of Scarewalsh and Ballaghkeen was in the latter year 5955. In 1834 there were in the parishes of St. Mary's, Enniscorthy, and Templeshannon, in which the town is situated, 13 schools educating 499 males and 469 females. Of these schools that attached to the nunnery of Enniscorthy educates 230 females. (*Brewer's Beauties of Ireland*; Inglis's *Ireland in 1834*; *Parliamentary Reports, &c.*)