BALTINGLASS, a parish and town in the county of Wicklow, in Ireland: the town is on the south side of the river Slaney. It was once a place of considerable importance, a parliament having been held in it. (See Additions to Camden's *Britannia*, art. 'County of Wicklow,' p. 551.) The assizes for the county were also formerly held in Baltinglass, at which time it returned two members to parliament. (Dr. Beaufort's *Memoir of a Map of Ireland*.) The name is supposed to be derived from Beal-tinne-glass, which signified the Fire of the Mysteries of Beal: it is also conjectured to have been the grand Beal-tinne of the southern states of Leinster. In the neighbourhood are the remains of several Druidical altars. In 1787 many graves or tombs were discovered at Saunder's Grove, which is in the vicinity of the town: they were composed of large flag-stones, set edgeways, without a bottom, and covered on the top with other shapeless stones. Within the tombs were urns, made of baked earth, of a pale colour, and formed in such a way as showed that they were intended to be ornamental. The interior of the tombs was full of burnt bones and ashes. (See *Dublin Chronicle* of October 2, of the same year, quoted in Additions to Camden's *Britannia*.) Not far from the town is Baltinglass Castle, which is a venerable and spacious structure: the age of the building is not recorded. In Baltinglass there is an abbey, which is still in good condition, though built between the years 1148 and 1151: it belonged to the Cistertian order of friars, and was founded by Dermod Mac Murrogh, king of Leinster. He was interred in the abbey. (Archdall's *Monasticon Hibernicum*.) Upon the authority of Ware, the abbot sat as a baron in some of the Irish parliaments. King John confirmed the lands of the abbey, and granted others, among which were the lands of Arklow, containing a salt-pit of considerable value. The name of the last abbot was John Galbally, who surrendered on the 15th December, 1537, in consideration of which he received a pension. In the thirty-third year of the reign of Henry VIII. (1541) a grant of the abbey and its possessions was made to Thomas Eustace, Viscount Baltinglass. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth another grant was made to Sir Henry Harrington. (Grose's *Antiquities of Ireland*.)

Baltinglass belongs to the Earl of Aldborough, whose father did a great deal for the enlargement and improvement of the town. Wilson, in his *Post-chaise Companion*, says that he had nearly doubled the houses in the eight years ending 1786. He also established manufactories of linen, woollen, and diaper, which still exist, and give employment to a great number of the inhabitants.

Baltinglass has six annual fairs, on the 2nd of February, 17th of March, 12th of May, 1st of July, 12th of September, and the 8th of December. The magistrates are a sovereign, deputy, recorder, and town-clerk. The town has a church but no glebe. The living is a rectory, in the diocese of Leighlin.

About seven miles north-east of Baltinglass is Sliebh Guth, or Church Mountain. On the summit of this mountain is a large pile of rough stones, inclosing an area, within which is a well, which has from time immemorial been much frequented by pilgrims. According to the current traditions of the district, these stones were collected in the twelfth century, for the purpose of building a church, and afterwards making a paved pathway over the mountain from old Kilcullen, in the county of Kildare, to Glendaloch. Part of the project was carried into execution, and is still to be seen in a wonderfully perfect state. (Camden's *Britannia*.)

Baltinglass is 38 miles S.W. of Dublin; the distance by the road is 49 miles. The parish contained a population of 2303 in 1821; and the town a population of 1500. By the census of 1831, the population of this parish was 4110, and of the town 1670. (See Camden's *Britannia;* Beaufort's *Memoir of a Map of Ireland;* Carlisle's *Topographical Dictionary;* Wilson's *Post-chaise Companion to Ireland;* Grose's *Antiquities of Ireland;* Archdall's *Monasticon Hibernicum; Population Reports.*