

WATERFORD, a maritime county in the province of Munster, in Ireland, bounded on the south by St. George's Channel; on the east by the æstuary called Waterford harbour, which separates it from Wexford, and by Kilkenny; on the north by Tipperary; and on the west by Cork. Its greatest length, from east to west, is 52 miles; and its greatest breadth, from Blackball Head, near the entrance of Youghall harbour, to the town of Clonmell, is 29 miles. The area of the county, exclusive of the city of Waterford, is 395,690 acres, or 1244 square miles, which is about equal to the twenty-third or twenty-fourth part of all Ireland. The population, in 1831, was 148,235, being 318 to a square geographical mile, which is higher than the mean density of Ireland, but much below that of several counties in each of the four provinces. The number of houses, in 1831, was 24,848, inhabited by 30,191 families, and by above seven persons to each house. The number of persons to each family was 5·8, and dividing the area of the county by the number of families there would be 15·6

acres to each. Waterford city is 84 miles in a direct line from Dublin, or 95 miles by the road through Carlow, Castledermot, Ballytore, Kilocullen, Naas, and Rathcoole; in $52^{\circ} 16'$ N. lat. and $7^{\circ} 7'$ W. long. Hook Tower (light-house) at the entrance of Waterford harbour is in $52^{\circ} 7' 25''$ N. lat. and $6^{\circ} 55' 58''$ W. long. The county itself lies between $51^{\circ} 56'$ and $52^{\circ} 20'$ N. lat. and $6^{\circ} 58'$ and $8^{\circ} 8'$ W. long.

Coast-line.—From Blackball Head, near the entrance of Youghall harbour, the western extremity of the coast of Waterford, the general direction of the coast is east for three or four miles, where it trends to the north-east to Helwick Head, the western head of Dungarvan harbour. This harbour does not afford very good anchorage. From the opposite headland the coast runs more directly east to Tramore Bay, which has a level beach three miles in extent. The coast is flat, and very dangerous to shipping, as the tide sets in with great force, and with the south-west winds there is a heavy sea. There are beacons on the eastern and western headlands of the bay. Between Tramore and Dungarvan, a distance of twenty miles, the whole coast is rocky, and often unsafe from the want of shelter. About five miles east is Red Point, the south-western extremity of Waterford harbour; and a mile farther, within the harbour and about fourteen miles below Waterford, is the port of Dunmore, which has a pier and breakwater, and is the post-office packet station. The width of Waterford harbour is here about two miles. There is a light-house on Hook Head, at the entrance of the harbour on the eastern side. There are some remarkable caverns on the coast.

Surface and Geology.—The general character of the county is mountainous. The great mountain-tract which extends from Waterford on the east coast to Dingle Bay on the west, comprehends the whole of the county of Waterford: it is interrupted on a line from Dungarvan to the valley of the Suir, west of Clonmell, by the southern extremity of the great plain which occupies the central part of Ireland. The Cumberagh Mountains, which occupy the part of the county west of Dungarvan, are among the highest and wildest in Ireland: the height of Monavallagh is 2598 feet above the sea. There are four small lakes in the Cumberagh Mountains, two called Cummeloughs and two are Stilloughs, but the area of the largest is only five or six acres: they contain several kinds of trout, and in one char are found. The Waterford mountains contain two varieties of slate: first, the old transition slate, coloured grey, which is quarried at Glenpatrick, and is extensively used for roofing. The second or newer slate rests on the older; the lower portions of its strata consist of alternating beds of brownish-red quartzose conglomerate and coarse red slate. These strata are succeeded by alternations of red and grey quartz rock, red quartzose slate, and clay-slate, the grain becoming gradually finer as the beds accumulate and recede farther from the conglomerate, till at length the upper beds produce varieties of purple, brownish-red, and reddish-grey clay-slate, which are quarried and used as roofing-slate, particularly in the valley of the river Blackwater near Lismore. These strata form successive undulations, the ridges of which have an east and west direction, and the beds always incline towards the valleys of the principal rivers, and thus form troughs, which are filled by indurated sandstone and secondary limestone, whose strata rest conformably on the clay-slate. The newer slate series contains abundance of marine and even vegetable organic remains. The limestone in the valleys contains all the fossils of the carboniferous limestone; and the grey slate, which sometimes alternates with the lower beds of the limestone, also contains fossils similar to those found in the limestone. The subjacent sandstone frequently contains calamites, and other vegetable remains, resembling those which occur in the coal-formation. (Mr. Griffiths, 'On the Geology of Ireland,' in the *Report of the Railway Commissioners*.) The clay-slate district contains several copper and lead mines, some of which, as at Knockmahon, are worked: valuable iron-ore is found at Minehead and Ardmore, and at the latter place copper and lead also. Chalybeate and vitriolic springs exist in several parts of the county.

Hydrography and Communications.—The Suir, which rises in the north-east of Tipperary, after being joined by the Nier, from the Cumberagh Mountains, forms the boundary-line between Waterford and Tipperary and Kil-

kenny. The united waters of the Suir and Barrow form the æstuary called Waterford Harbour. The Suir is navigable for large vessels up to Waterford city, and to Carrick-on-Suir for those of which the draught does not exceed eleven feet. The Suir is the channel by which the produce of Tipperary, Kilkenny, and the western parts of Waterford are exported. The Blackwater, which rises in the Kerry mountains, enters the county on the west, and runs due east to Cappoquin, where it turns southward, and discharges itself into Youghall harbour, after receiving midway the river Bride. The Blackwater is navigable for vessels of a hundred tons to its confluence with the Bride, and for vessels of seventy tons as far as Cappoquin. The Bride, a sluggish stream, is affected by the tide for the whole of its course within the county, and is navigable for small craft. From Cappoquin to Lismore there is a canal three miles long, made at the expense of the duke of Devonshire. The Lickey, Brickly, Colligein, Mahon, Phinisk, Clodagh, and some others, none of them of importance, except for drainage, fall into the sea at various points of the southern coast.

The mail-coach road from Dublin to Waterford, 75 miles, enters the county within two or three miles of Waterford city. The mail-coach road from Waterford to Cork, $71\frac{1}{2}$ miles, passes through Killmacthomas, Dungarvan, Cappoquin, Lismore, and Tallow, between which place and Youghall it leaves the county, but again touches Waterford before it finally leaves the county a short distance before reaching Youghall. The other roads are— from Dungarvan to Youghall, through Clashmore; also Dungarvan to Youghall, through Pilltown, both over the mountains; one from Cappoquin to the mountains; one from Waterford to Tramore. The above are the roads of most importance. Those to places north-north-east or north-west of Waterford leave the county a very short distance of Waterford, except the Limerick mail-coach road, which runs within the county to Carrick-on-Suir on the Waterford bank of the river, and from Carrick to Clonmell on the Tipperary side.

Agriculture and Condition of the People.—It is estimated that 353,000 acres are cultivated, and 118,000 unimproved. The estimated rental for the county averages about 12s. 6d., including extensive districts which scarcely yield any rent, and others which are altogether unproductive. Waterford is the principal dairy county in Ireland. A large part of the best land is occupied in dairy-farms, and the Waterford butter bears a high character. When Arthur Young visited Ireland sixty years ago, not one-thirtieth part of the county was under tillage; but the proportion is now much larger. The Appendix F. to the Irish Poor-Law Inquiry, contains the result of inquiries both into the state of agriculture and the condition of the people in the baronies of Decies-without-Drum and Middlethird; and the following information is chiefly derived from this source.

The barony of Decies-without-Drum contains a large mountainous district, with a great breadth of low undulating ground extending from the hills to the sea-coast. The thin soil on the mountains affords a very moderate pasture to sheep and store cattle; but descending to the more level land, where the soil is deeper and better, attempts are made to bring it into cultivation; and though some wheat is grown, yet, from its elevated situation, oats are the most suitable crop. The fences on these reclaimed lands are very imperfect, and cattle and sheep cannot be kept out of the corn-fields without herding. There are facilities for the erection of dry stone walls, but the general practice is to make the ditches with high banks, the sides and tops of which are planted with furze, and partially faced with stones picked off the tillage land. The lower ground of the barony is chiefly in tillage, but every farmer has also a dairy, and the soil, lying on limestone or gravel, is well suited for either tillage or pasture. Farms of from twenty to seventy acres are a very general size. The old Irish cow is the standard breed in the district, and is now crossed with half-bred English bulls by the dairy farmers. The advantage gained is in the increased size and improved fattening qualities of the animal. The dairy cows are not unfrequently left unhoused a great part of the cold weather. Clover has been partially introduced, but nothing is generally grown for winter food for cattle but hay and potatoes. A few patches of half an acre each of turnips and mangold-wurzel are grown here and there. Vetches are grown for

spring food. The sheep are a cross of the Leicester; the pigs of an improved kind; but the greatest attention has been paid to the breed of horses, which are superior in most points to those in other parts of the south of Ireland, and very active strong animals may frequently be seen in the common country carts. A better description of agricultural implements has been introduced within the last few years, such as iron Scotch ploughs and double harrows. A few farmers use rollers, but winnowing-machines are only used by the largest landholders, the corn being commonly winnowed by women in the open air: the old single heavy harrow is still used by the majority of farmers. The greater part of the barony is held under lease, the terms depending upon lives, and running from twenty to fifty years before they fall in: the farms are rather above an average size for the south of Ireland. In all recent leases clauses of non-alienation and non-subletting have been introduced. Rents depend rather on the price of butter and pork than, as in England, on corn. There is a large field for the profitable employment of labour in road-making, draining land, improving fences. The statement of the farmers in the barony is that they employ one man to every six or eight statute acres under the plough; a much smaller proportion of land than in England gives employment to one man; but this labour costs only 1*l.* 5*s.* in Ireland, and between 3*l.* and 4*l.* in England.

In the barony of Middlethird, which the assistant commissioner visited, it is stated that an experiment was about to be tried, whether it would be more profitable for the dairy farmers to make cheese instead of butter. Con-acre, in the barony of Decies-without-Drum, is called 'dairy-ground': the farmer ploughs and manures the land, which varies from half an acre up to three acres, and the labourer and his family do all the other work; the rent, either money or labour, being paid before the crop is allowed to be taken from the ground. There is often a difficulty in getting regular labourers, unless potato-ground is given to them. Con-acre is common in the barony, but not quite so general as it once was. Farmers' servants who used to take con-acre, and then sell the potatoes, do not now do so to the same extent.

Both landlords and farmers object to giving sites for cabins, and it is much more difficult to procure them than formerly. The consolidation of farms would go on much more rapidly, but for the fear of outrages. It is objected to the small tenants, that they constantly sow the same seed for years together; they cannot afford to buy manure; and their system of cropping exhausts the land. The usual rotation of crops in the barony of Middlethird is potatoes, wheat, potatoes, oats, and grass-seeds, but the smaller farmers often take two corn-crops together. Out of 812 farms in this barony, 484 were under 20 acres, including 227 under five acres, and only 101 exceeded 50 acres.

The general state of the peasantry is much the same as in TIPPERARY and CORK.

Divisions, Towns, &c.—The county is divided into seven baronies, as follows: 1, Coshbride and Coshmore, on the west; 2, Decies-without-Drum, north-west; 3, Decies-within-Drum, south-west or central; 4, Gaultier, east; 5, Glenahery, north-west; 6, Middlethird, south-east; 7, Upper Third, north.

The capital of the county of Waterford is the city of WATERFORD. The other towns of most importance are the following:—

Cappoquin, or Caperquin, is a post-town, about 30 miles west by south from Waterford, direct distance: it is situated on the east or left bank of the Blackwater. The town has the appearance of decay, though there has been some increase in the population, which in 1821 was 1886, and in 1831 was 2289. It was antiently a place of much thoroughfare, and had at a very early period a wooden bridge over the river, which was rebuilt in the reign of Charles II. Near the bridge are the ruins of a castle.

CARRICK-ON-SUIR.

Carrickbeg is a village suburb of Carrick-on-Suir, on the Waterford side of the river Suir, over which there is a good stone bridge, which connects the suburb with the town. It is about 12 miles west-north-west from Waterford, direct distance. The population, in 1831, was 2704. James, first earl of Lincoln, founded a Franciscan priory at this place in 1336. The steeple, which still remains, is

said to be very curious, rising like an inverted cone to the height of sixty feet.

CLONMELL.

Dungarvan is a post-town, 23 miles west-south-west from Waterford, situated in the bay or haven of Dungarvan, on the æstuary of the river Colligan, which is crossed by a fine bridge of one arch, built entirely at the expense of the Duke of Devonshire. Part of the town is on the west shore, and part on the east shore, which latter is called the Abbey Side, from an abbey which was formerly there. Dungarvan is an old seaport, and was incorporated in 1463. Within the walls of a castle, built by King John, and now in ruins, the barracks are established. The streets are for the most part narrow and dirty, but there is a handsome church, a Roman Catholic chapel, and a good market-house. There are two banks, the National Bank and the Provincial Bank. The population, in 1821, was 5105; in 1831 it was 6519. The inhabitants are chiefly employed in fishing. It is a good deal frequented in summer as a bathing-place. In the year 1835 the exports from the port of Dungarvan were—corn, 97,224 cwts.; provisions, 13,359 cwts.; copper-ore, 26,800 cwts.; cows and oxen, 215; sheep, 210; swine, 1498; the estimated value of which was 69,086*l.*, which, with other articles, estimated at 400*l.*, gave a total estimated value of 69,486*l.* In the same year (1835) the imports were—coals, culm, and cinders, 9877 tons; iron, 280 tons; oak-bark for tanners, 100 tons; sugar, 90 cwts.; tea, 480 lbs.; salt, 6010 bushels; glass and earthenware, 20 packages; the estimated value of which was 11,012*l.*, which, with other articles estimated at 5300*l.*, gave a total estimated value of 16,312*l.* The amount of the excise duty on malt was 2219*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, for 17,181 bushels of malt. Dungarvan returns one member to parliament.

Killmacthomas, a small post-town, seated on the river Mahon, about 15 miles west by south from Waterford, contains about 700 inhabitants.

LISMORE.

Mayfield, a village in the neighbourhood of Waterford, has an extensive cotton manufactory, which gives employment to about 1000 persons. The calico finds a market not only in Ireland, but to some extent in England.

Passage, distinguished as East Passage, is a village on the west bank of the Suir, or rather of Waterford Haven, opposite which is a safe roadstead where hundreds of vessels of large burthen may anchor in safety. The village, which is chiefly inhabited by fishermen and pilots, is five or six miles below Waterford, and about the same distance from the mouth of the river.

Portlaur, a neat little sub-post-town to Waterford, on an affluent of the Suir, about nine miles west by north from Waterford, has an extensive cotton factory, which is said to employ more than 1000 persons: the machinery is worked by two water-wheels, one of very large diameter, and both of copper.

Tallow, or Tallagh, a post-town, near the west or right bank of the river Bride, is about 40 miles west by south from Waterford. James I., at the request of the earl of Cork, granted it a charter of incorporation, by which the liberties of the borough were extended one mile in every direction from the parish church. The population, in 1821, was 2329; in 1831 it was 2998. There are some remains of a castle formerly the residence of the earls of Desmond.

Tramore, a small but neat and regularly-built town on the Bay of Tramore, about nine miles south from Waterford, is much resorted to by the inhabitants of Waterford as a bathing-place, the beach being very firm and convenient for the purpose. The bay is very dangerous for shipping; it is sometimes mistaken for the Bay of Waterford, and shipwrecks occur occasionally. The town has a church, a chapel, a market-house, and an assembly-room. The population, in 1821, was 889; in 1831 it was 2224.

Before the Union, Waterford sent eight members to the Irish parliament: two for the county, and two each for Dungarvan, Lismore, and Tallow. The number of members now returned is two for the county and one for Dungarvan.

The county is in the diocese of Waterford, which is a joint see; the dioceses of Cashel, Emlly, Lismore, and Waterford having been united. The number of parishes in the county is seventy-four. It is in the Leinster circuit. The average number of committals for criminal offences is

under 300, two-thirds of which are chiefly for assaults, riots, and attempts to rescue, and similar offences. In 1836 the grand jury recommended that the assizes and sessions should be held at Dungarvan instead of Waterford. The county gaol at Waterford is one of the best managed in Ireland. The county lunatic asylum is at Waterford. There is no county infirmary. There are fever-hospitals at Waterford, Dungarvan, Lismore, and Tallow; and dispensaries at Cappoquin, Clashmore, Dunmore, Kilmacthomas, Kilbarrymeaden, Tramore, Dungarvan, Tallow, Lismore, Ballyduff, Bonmahon, and Druncannon, supported chiefly by grand-jury presentments. In 1838 the number of patients relieved by the fever-hospitals and dispensaries was 18,231, of whom 15,739 attended at the different institutions, and 2492 were attended at their own dwellings. The number of admissions into the fever-hospitals was 775, or 1 in 191 of the total population of the county. On the 1st of January, 1840, the number of patients in the lunatic asylum was 101, but the institution was only calculated for 100.

The following Poor-Law unions have been formed in the county:—

	Population.
Carrick-on-Suir	40,259
Dungarvan	57,534
Lismore	34,382
Waterford	79,664

In 1840 there were fifty schools under the National Board of Education, containing 5867 scholars—3227 boys and 2640 girls: the number of male teachers was 32, and female teachers 19.

The county constabulary (exclusive of the city) consisted, on the 1st of January, 1843, of 1 county inspector of the second class, 4 sub-inspectors of the first class, and 2 of the third; 1 head constable, first class; and 6 of the second class; 45 constables, 191 sub-constables, first class, and 28 sub-constables, second class. The expense of this force for 1842 was 8383*l*. The amount of grand-jury presentments for the year 1839 was as follows:—

	£
New roads, bridges, &c.	4,456
Repairs of ditto	6,669
Court and sessions-house, repairs, &c.	49
other expenses	968
Constabulary and payments to witnesses	2,005
County officers not included in the above	2,446
Public charities	2,846
Repayment of government advances	5,113
Miscellaneous	3,246
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	£29,094

The grand-jury presentments for the county of the city of Waterford were £7169.

The manufacturing industry of the county is insignificant. At Waterford there are some large establishments. [WATERFORD, City.] A few years ago a cotton factory, for spinning and weaving, was established at Mayfield, in which about nine hundred persons were employed. The fisheries might be profitably extended, but the unprotected nature of a great part of the coast is said to discourage this pursuit. In 1836 they employed 101 half-decked vessels, of 1668 tons, employing 595 men; 52 open sail boats, and 301 men; 266 row-boats, and 1260 men; making altogether 2156 persons.

History and Antiquities.—Dr. Smith, who in 1745 published an account of 'The Antient and Present State of the County and City of Waterford,' states, on the authority of Ptolemy, that the Menapii, a Belgic colony, were the antient inhabitants of Waterford and the adjoining county of Wexford. The Desii, from the county of Meath, were a powerful clan at the period of the English invasion, when their importance was nearly destroyed. In 1171 Henry II. granted the city of Waterford and the adjacent province to Richard Le Poer, his marshal, and by marriage the estates and honours of his descendants came to the Beresford family, who still retain large possessions in the county. The county suffered little during the rebellion in 1798. Waterford city has been the chief scene of most of the historical events of importance.

Many remains of antiquity are found in the county. At Ardmore is one of the round towers, and there are found in several parts of the county intrenchments, earthworks,

barrows, and cromlechs. A large double trench, called by the Irish 'the trench of St. Patrick's cow,' may be traced for seventeen or eighteen miles across the Blackwater towards Ardmore; it corresponds with the work called the 'Dane's Cast,' in the counties of Armagh and Down. A second trench runs westward from Cappoquin into Cork. At one period there were twenty-four religious establishments existing in the county, and the ruins of some of them still remain, as at Mothill, Dungarvan, Stradbally, and Lismore. The antient castles and fortified places were also numerous.

(Smith's *History of Waterford*; M'Culloch's *Statistics of the British Empire: Parliamentary Papers on Ireland*.)