A GUIDE

TO THE

GIANTS' CAUSEWAY.

Wm. Miller Sculp.

BELFAST FROM TURF LODGE

A GUIDE

TO THE

GIANTS' CAUSEWAY,

AND THE

NORTH EAST COAST

OF THE

COUNTY OF ANTRIM.

ILLUSTRATED BY ENGRAVINGS, AFTER THE DESIGNS OF GEORGE PETRIE, ESQ.

And a Map.

A NEW EDITION.

DUBLIN:
WILLIAM CURRY, JUN. AND COMPANY.
SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL, LONDON.

1834.

Printed by P. D. Hardy, Cecilia-street, Dublin.

ADVERTISEMENT.

In presenting to the public a new Guide to the Causeway, the publishers deem it only necessary to mention, that the great proportion of the work is from "Wright's Guide;" the copyright of which they have purchased, and endeavoured to improve, by making such additions and alterations as were deemed necessary to render the work a faithful Guide, not only to the Giants' Causeway, but along the entire of the Antrim Coast.

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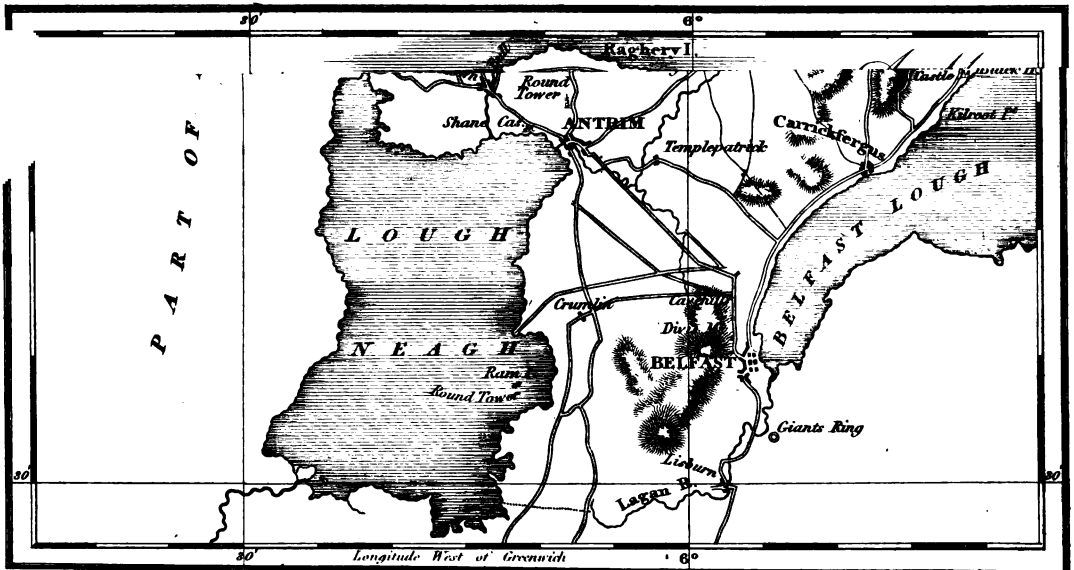

Drawn by W. Jones Esq.r Dublin.

Engraved by Sid.y Hall Bury St.r Bloomsb.y

Published by William Curry Jun.r & Co.

A GUIDE

TO

THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY.

BELFAST.

The Giant's Causeway, and the Northern Coast of Ireland, have so long been considered objects of interest to travellers visiting Ireland, that it will not be considered necessary to waste many words in the way of introducing them to the notice of the reader.

The natural history of the County of Antrim has for years engaged the attention of some of the most intelligent and scientific men in Great Britain. The basaltic area extending along the northern shore, in this direction, is the most spacious yet known; the articulation of the columnar basalt, forming the natural pier called the Causeway, is, by far, the most perfect specimen of this species of basaltes hitherto discovered in any part of the world.

As, however, the town of Belfast, from its size, and its importance in a commercial point of view, may justly be considered the metropolis of the northern portion of our island, we shall suppose the traveller to make it the starting point from which he shall commence his tour of observation and pleasure. Previous to starting on his journey, therefore, it may be well to give him a slight sketch of the town itself, and of the surrounding country.

The town of Belfast may be considered the great emporium of the north of Ireland; being one of the few towns in this island which has had the boldness to aspire to, and enjoy the commercial advantages derivable from, a maritime situation. It stands at the mouth of the river Lagan, one hundred miles from Dublin, in a low and sheltered position: to the east is the Bay or Lough of Carrickfergus; to the west, Devis Mountain; and to the north lies the Cave Hill.* Its ancient name was Beal-a-Farshad, *i. e.* the mouth of the ferry, from a ferry which was across the Lagan, where the long bridge was subsequently erected.

Although Belfast is mentioned by Spencer, as having been invested by Edward Bruce, in the fourteenth century, yet it is totally unnoticed by

* By the latest measurement, the height of Devis Mountain is ascertained to be 1,475 feet, and of Cave Hill, 1,064.

the early English writers who have enumerated the havens in the north of Ireland.

The castle must have been erected at a very remote period, but all record of its founder and date of its building have long since perished. We learn, however, that it was twice taken by the Earl of Kildare, first in 1503, and a second time in 1512. Prior to the reign of Elizabeth, though the precise year is unknown, it was inhabited by Randolphus Lane; and in 1598 the town is described as lying eight miles up the river from Carrickfergus, and the river itself is represented as being then fordable at the town. Elizabeth granted the demesne, castle, and village of Belfast, to Sir Thomas Smith, and to Thomas Smith the younger, on condition of their raising and supporting a body of horse and foot, which should serve her majesty when required, and should assemble in Antrim. In the reign of James the First, the fulfilment of this condition was required; but neither horse nor foot appearing at the appointed rendezvous, Sir Arthur Chichester laid claim, as Lord Deputy, to the forfeited lands, and was confirmed in the possession by his majesty. In the fifth year of the same monarch, Sir Arthur procured a charter, constituting Belfast a corporate town, to be governed by a sovereign, twelve burgesses, &c. with the privilege of sending two representatives to parliament. Sir Arthur was also appointed constable of the castle, and, upon

the 23rd of February, 1612, created Baron of Belfast. The following year Thomas Vesey was appointed Sovereign, and Sir John Blennerhasset Baron of the Exchequer, and George Trevillian, Esq. chosen to serve in parliament; these were the first persons selected for such services under the new charter of incorporation. For many years after this period, Belfast continued an inconsiderable village. In 1635, Lord Chichester's house is mentioned by an English traveller in terms of admiration, but the town is not even noticed by the same author; and at this period, also, many emigrants from Devonshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire, settled here.

The privilege then enjoyed by Carrickfergus, of importing foreign goods at one-third of the duty payable at other ports, completely militated against the commercial prosperity of this town; but in 1640 this disability was removed by the purchase of this peculiar advantage from the corporation of Carrickfergus, which was effected, on the part of the crown, by Lord Strafford, for the sum of £3,000; from which period the origin of Belfast, as a commercial mart, may be dated, and to this one stroke of policy is to be attributed the decay of one town, and the great prosperity of the other.

Its rising greatness was much retarded by the rebellion of 1641. In 1643, a rampart and wall were thrown up on the west, or land-side of the

town; and in 1648, it was occupied by General Monk, for the Parliament. James the Second attempted to impose a new charter upon the corporation, but their resolute attachment to William III. compelled them to reject it. The rapidity with which the population, trade, and wealth of this flourishing town have increased, is such as seldom falls to the lot of any settlement, and is only equalled by the persevering steadiness with which its inhabitants continue to pursue that honourable and spirited commercial conduct which has exalted them so greatly amongst the ports of Europe.

The increase of this town, as to population, may be ascertained, with tolerable accuracy, by a comparison of a map of Belfast in 1660 with the map of the town at the present day. The ancient map represents the town partly inclosed by walls, having a castle within, and containing only five streets and five rows, which consisted of 150 houses. In 1790, the number of streets or avenues was 75; in 1811, they amounted to 111. At present, the population amounts to nearly 40,000, and, according to the usual mode of estimating the number of the inhabitants from that of the houses, it might, in 1660, have been about 600. Neither walls nor castle are now to be seen: the former are lost in the expansion of the town, with the growth of civilization and tranquillity; but the castle was destroyed by fire in the year

1708: the regret occasioned by this event, was greatly increased by the melancholy death of three daughters of Lord Donegall, who perished in the flames.

The bridge of Belfast is not remarkable for its architecture, but exceedingly so for its great length, and for the number of its arches; the latter, amounting to twenty-one, are all turned with hewn freestone, raised in the hill of Scraba:* eighteen of these are in the County of Down, and three in Antrim, the channel which divides these counties passing under the third arch. The entire length, including the dead work at each end, is 2,562 feet, of which length the arched part occupies 840. It was erected, at the joint expense of both counties, for the sum of £12,000; and though the foundation was laid in 1682, it was not completed until the revolution; soon after which, in the spring of 1692, seven of the arches fell in, the bridge having been weakened by the Duke Schomberg's drawing his heavy cannon over it, while the work was yet fresh, and also by a ship driving against it. These were shortly after repaired, and have continued in tolerable preservation to the present time.

The chief public buildings are, Anne's Church in Donegall-street, and the Chapel of Ease in High-street, the portico of which formerly orna-

* A hill in the County Down, 483 feet in height.

mented Ballyscullion-house, in the County of Derry (once the mansion of Lord Bristol), but ceasing to be occupied by any member of that family, the house was taken down, and the materials disposed of. There are, besides, several handsome meeting-houses, and other public buildings. There are two public schools here—the one called the Academy, of very ancient foundation; the other of much later, called the Institution. This latter is a long range of brick-building, having a spacious area in front, and a broad commanding avenue leading up to the gate. The poor-house, and other public works, would admit of interesting details in a more enlarged view of this town, but we find it incumbent to delay our fellow-traveller here no longer, and shall, therefore, at once proceed coastwise.

TO THE CAUSEWAY BY THE COAST.

The road to Carrickfergus, for some miles from Belfast, lies close to the sea-shore; and when the tide is in, and, as is generally the case, a number of vessels in the offing, the scene is picturesque and pleasing. On the left is a succession of seats, belonging to the wealthy merchants of the town, upon a sloping bank, commanding a view of the Lough and the shores of the County of Down, at a few miles distance only. In many places, where

the entrance of the Lough is concealed by occasional interruptions, it presents the appearance of an extensive lake, whose surface is continually enlivened by the passing of shipping from end to end. The number of villas along this beautiful shore is very considerable, and many of them built in the best taste.

The ruins of Green Castle are passed on the left, and about two miles farther, stands White House, the seat of —— Stewart, Esq. Here is a very extensive cotton factory, belonging to Mr. Grimshaw. The chapel of White Abbey is seen a little to the left; and a village of the same name stands on the bay at the same place.

The left of the distant view, for some miles from Belfast, is occupied by a very remarkable mountain, called the Cave Hill: it is a large and lofty mass, 1,064 feet above the sea; it is composed of a base of limestone, which may be traced to an elevation of 769 feet, upon which rests a cap of basalt, 295 thick. In the dark precipitous cliffs, near the summit, are several caves, evidently hollowed out of the rock by the hand of man. The summit of the hill is usually called M'Art's Fort, and is enclosed by a fosse and mound. The view from this eminence, across the Lough, commands the whole of Down County, the Irish Sea, and Coast of Scotland; and the ascent is very easily accomplished.

The noble sheet of water, the Vinderius of

Ptolemy, which forms the chief feature of the view, is called indiscriminately the Bay of Carrickfergus and Belfast Lough. It is about twelve miles long and five broad, measuring from Groomsport in Down, to Whitehead on the Antrim side. The breadth gradually diminishes from the entrance to the embouchure of the river Lagan, and the channel, formerly very shallow near that place, has been so deepened, by skilful management, as to admit vessels which draw thirteen feet of water, close to the wharfs. There is a deep pool called Carmoyl, or Garmoyle, about one mile from the south shore, opposite Hollywood, where vessels ride at low water, when the bank within twenty yards is completely dry. There are scarcely any rocks in this bay, except one reef on the north side (which is covered at high water), called by the Irish, the Briggs, *i. e.* the Tombs; but by the Scotch, the Clachan, from its resemblance to a village, when uncovered at low water. There is a shoal a little S. W. of Carrickfergus, over which lies three fathom of water at ebb tide. The Speedwell, a Scotch ship, in King William's reign, was the only vessel ever known to suffer on it. The Down coast is distinctly seen during the drive to Carrickfergus, and is beautifully diversified with seats and villages. Of these the most important are Hollywood and Bangor, whose sites appear peculiarly well chosen. Near the latter town, at a little inlet called

Groomsport Bay, the Duke Schomberg first cast anchor, on the 13th of August, 1689, with 10,000 effective men, to assist the Protestants, and support the cause of King William in this kingdom. At the entrance are seen the Copeland Isles, so called from a family of that name that settled on the coast of Down in the twelfth century; and passing a few miles onward, by several beautiful seats and villas, the town and castle of Carrickfergus are presented in the front of the field of view. The latter is a bold and magnificent object, standing upon a reef of rocks, projecting into the bay, by which means, in this approach, its outline is most clearly and strongly defined to the eye of the spectator. The ruins of Cloughnaharty Castle and Woodburn Abbey are passed, before the town of Carrickfergus is reached; but one was never of any consequence, and of the other not a wreck remains behind. It is said to have been founded by the Bissets,* in 1242, dedicated to the Holy Cross, and called, in ecclesiastical records, a daughter of Dryburgh. Upon the dissolution of monasteries, it was surrendered, by Gillerath M'Cowagh, into the hands of Henry's commissioners, March 1st, 1542.

The shore near Carrickfergus becomes perfectly free from the muddy ooze, which prevents bathing nearer to Belfast; and several cottages, erected

* See Glenarm.

along the shore, are let at high rents during the bathing season. On the strand are several pits of gypsum or alabaster, of a very superior quality, used for coating ceilings, and becoming every day an article of still greater profit to the proprietors.

After a journey of eight miles the ancient town of Carrickfergus is reached.

THE TOWN OF CARRICKFERGUS.

Carrickfergus was formerly a place of much importance; and, from its noble harbour, became inviting to the navigator, and exposed to the pirate. The town is situated on the very shore of the bay, and the castle stands upon a natural foundation of a basaltic structure, and of a peninsular form. The name "Carrick Fergus,"* is supposed to be compounded of Carigor Crag, a rock, and Fergus, the name of a Scotch prince, said to have been wrecked near this place, 300 years before Christ. This part of Ireland, immediately subsequent to the English invasion, was granted to John De Courcy, provided he subdued, civilized, and

* It is called, in ancient Maps, Knock-Fergus, and not unfrequently Rock-Fergus. And in the Collectanea it is said to have been anciently styled Dun-Sobarky, *i. e.* the impregnable fortress.

finally reduced it under the English yoke. This De Courcy soon accomplished, and, at the same time, the extirpation of many ancient Irish chiefs, the O'Donnels, O'Loughlins, &c.

The De Courcys and De Lacys next turned their arms against each other, and, after the murder of one of the former, the De Lacys were compelled to escape to France, where they remained a short time, when, having paid a considerable fine, they were pardoned by King John. Hugh, Earl of Ulster, in the year 1230, first founded this town, from which period it grew into importance, and continued to be the principal strong hold of the English in the North of Ireland. The De Lacys continued in uninterrupted possession of this country until about the year 1312, when they were expelled by John Bermingham: a few years afterwards, by the assistance of the Scots, they were enabled to return, and conduct the invasion of Ireland by Lord Edward Bruce. In the year 1316, Robert Bruce landed at Carrickfergus, and disembarked a considerable body of troops here, to whom the town and castle ultimately surrendered, after having been reduced to the most dreadful extremities. Upon this occassion the besieged are said to have eaten eight Scotchmen, prisoners in the castle.

The town of Carrickfergus was repeatedly besieged by the Scots, and as frequently recovered by the Irish and English, and the varied

history of its defences will be found in the highest degree interesting;* but the nature of this work does not admit of a minute detail of the historic events of each town through which the tourist passes; though not to notice, however slightly, so ancient an establishment as the town and castle of Carrickfergus, would be unpardonable. Some few historic facts are all that shall be added, and those of the deepest interest alone. It was here, then, that Sir Henry Sidney, the Lord Deputy, landed in 1568, when he received the submission of Turlogh Lynogh O'Neil, the celebrated Irish chieftain. The 12th day of August, 1689, the Duke Schomberg, with a force of about 10,000 men, appeared in Carrickfergus Lough, and landing at Groomsport, near Bangor, on the opposite shore, proceeded thence by land to Belfast, and thence to Carrickfergus, into which the enemy had thrown themselves. M'Carty More, the Irish general, stood an obstinate siege for some time, but having lost 250 men, he thought proper to surrender. In 1760, the French, under Thurot, made a descent here, and levied contributions upon the inhabitants.

Paul Jones, the pirate, appeared in the bay in 1778, and engaged his Majesty's sloop of war, the Drake; when, after a bloody engagement, the

* For these see M'Skimmin's History of Carrickfergus.

Drake was compelled to strike, having lost her captain and lieutenant, who were both killed in the action.

There are many remnants of antiquity still discoverable in the neighbourhood of this old town. The walls may be distinctly traced, and the north gate is yet a pleasing specimen of architecture. They were commenced by Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy, about 1576. The ruins of Joymont house, once the princely residence of the Chichesters, built in 1610, are still shown; and in many cases, where no castles are to be seen, the place preserves the name.

In the year 1232, according to Archdall, a monastery of Franciscans was founded here, either by Hugh De Lacy, Earl of Ulster, or by O'Neil. And in 1243 or 1253, according to MSS. quoted by Dean Dobbs, the Earl of Ulster, Gerald Fitzmaurice, and Richard De Burgh, were interred here.

"In 1408, Hugh M'Adam M'Gilmore, the fell destroyer of forty sacred edifices, fled for refuge to an oratory of this church, in which he was soon after massacred by an English colony of the name of Savage: as the windows of this building had been formerly robbed of their iron bars, by his sacrilegious hands, his pursuers found a ready admission to him."*

* Monas. Hib.

At the dissolution of religious establishments in this kingdom, this monastery and its possessions were granted to Sir Edward Fitzgerald, who again assigned them to Sir Arthur Chichester, ancestor to the Marquis of Donegall. This distinguished personage, several times Lord Deputy of Ireland, erected a noble castle on its site, which he called Joymount, in compliment to Charles, Lord Mountjoy.

Several other religious establishments are mentioned in the Monasticon, and in M'Skimmin's very accurate history of this city; the chief of which appears to have been Woodburn or Goodburn, about half a mile west of the town. This priory was dedicated to the Holy Cross, and was a daughter of the abbey of Dryburgh. It is supposed to have been founded by the Bissetts, a very powerful family from Athol, in Scotland, in atonement for the murder of Patrick, Earl of Athol, of which horrid deed they were the instigators. No traces of this once great building can now be met. In removing the foundation of this abbey, several curious coins were found, which are now in the possession of Mr. Chaplin of Woodburn.*

The church of St. Nicholas stands in a central situation, within the old town walls. It is an old, irregular structure, so deformed by alterations and

* M'Skimmin, p. 35.

repairs, as not to be referable to any class or style of architecture. It appears to have been cruciformed, very narrow, and much too low; nor was it originally intended for a parish church, being merely a chapel attached to the Franciscan monastery already mentioned.

The present appearance of the interior bespeaks much neglect. The walls of the choir are whitened, and the eastern window is ornamented by a representation of St. John baptising our Saviour in the river Jordan, tolerably executed on stained glass: this, with two more pieces of like workmanship, were presented to the church by G. Burleigh, Esq. and were brought from the chapel of Dangan, in the County of Meath, formerly the seat of the Earls of Mornington.

In a small vestry room, attached to the church, is a monument to the memory of Dean Dobbs, at whose expense this room was erected. Beneath the choir several illustrious persons lie entombed, amongst them Rose, Countess of Antrim, who died in 1682. The church walls were, not long since, decorated with the escutcheons of various noble families related to the Countess, but of these only some fragments remain, which lie in the ruined transept, where the Donegall monument stands. There are two seats (one on either side of the pulpit) belonging to this noble family, and near them the pews of the Mayor, Aldermen, &c.

In the northern arm of the transept stands the once splendid monument of the Chichesters, now exalted to the Marquisate of Donegall. The splendor of their former deeds, and the wisdom of one of the ancestors of this noble family, will always ensure a dignified place in the page of history to this illustrious house, and cannot fail to be a lasting source of gratifying anecdote to the inquisitive traveller.

This monument was one of great splendor and beauty, consisting of several chambers and niches, occupied by figures in large and small life, adorned with the costume of their ranks when living, and is composed of marble and alabaster. The principal figures are Sir Arthur Chichester, first Baron of Belfast, and his lady, in the attitude of prayer; between them lies their infant son: below these, in small life, is the effigy of Sir John Chichester the younger, who was slain in a sally from the town against James M'Sorley M'Donnell, Earl of Antrim, who beheaded him upon a stone near the Glynn.* On the black tablets, in front of the pedestal, are inscriptions, setting forth the courage and the virtues of the knights who lie buried beneath.

* In King James's reign M'Donnell going one day to view the family monument in St. Nicholas's Church, at Carrickfergus, and seeing Sir John's statue thereon, asked, "how the de'il he came to get his head again, for he was sure he had ance ta'en it frae him."—*Lodge.*

In this chapel, or rather arm of the transept, were formerly shown the faithless sword and armour of Sir John, and the walls were decorated with escutcheons and banners; but the latter have crumbled to dust: the sword, which is rather curious—the blade being partly of open work—with the gauntlets and armour, are thrown aside in the vestry room, and the chapel and every monument are hastening to decay, from absolute neglect, the chapel being nearly unroofed.

Beneath is the family vault, in which many members of this illustrious house are deposited. In this cemetery is interred the Lady Catherine Forbes, only daughter of Arthur, Earl of Granard, second wife of Arthur, third Earl of Donegall; a lady, says Lodge, distinguished for her piety, charity, and conjugal virtues, and delineated in the following lines, by the elegant pen of Swift, published at Belfast on her interment:

Unerring Heaven, with bounteous hand,
Has formed a model for your land,
Whom love endow'd with every grace,
The glory of the Granard race:
Now destined by the powers Divine
The blessing of *another* line.
Then, would you paint a matchless dame,
Whom you'd consign to endless fame,
Invoke not Cytherea's aid,
Nor borrow from the blue-eyed maid;
Nor need you on the Graces call,
Take qualities from Donegall.

There are no other objects of interest or attention connected with the church, and even these will be found to belong more to its ancient than its present greatness. In the year 1778, an octagon spire was erected upon the steeple at an expense of about £500, chiefly raised by subscription. The other places of worship here are a Presbyterian meeting house, and a Methodist chapel; near the town is a Roman Catholic chapel.

The next object of curiosity is the castle: this noble edifice, which might almost bear comparison with Edward's castle of Caernarvon, is in excellent preservation, and affords accommodation to a large garrison.

It stands on a rocky eminence, which projects into the bay, and, in every view of the town, is a most conspicuous and magnificent object.

It is supposed to have been erected by John De Courcy or Hugh De Lacy, shortly after the conquest, although attributed to Sir Henry Sidney by Ledwich, Seward, and others.* It consists of a regular fortified inclosure, with a keep in the centre; this latter is about 90 feet in height, and of considerable internal dimensions. In 1790, the castle being in a ruinous state, was repaired, and mounted with twenty pieces of artillery.

* John De Courcy is ascertained to have been the founder of this castle, with tolerable certainty, by M'Skimmin, in his very accurate history of this town.

The office of governor has always been considered a situation of rank and confidence; and in the fourteenth century an act was passed, limiting the selection to Englishmen alone.

The entrance is rather imposing; it is by a gate, between two circular projecting towers, of considerable height and circumference, built, it is supposed, by Sir Henry Sidney, with apertures above the portcullis for annoying the assailants, as in all the old Norman castles. Admission to the castle may be obtained without the least trouble.

The next building of any consequence is the County Sessions House. The elevation is very neat and unassuming; it consist of a façade, surmounted by a balustrade, the length corresponding to the breadth of the main street in front of it, and is without wings or pavilions. The foundation was laid in 1777, and it was completed in two years from that date. The gaol is attached to the court house. There is a second court house, and a prison, belonging to the county of the town of Carrickfergus. The market house, custom house, &c. are too insignificant either to be noticed here, or to detain the tourist.

The inhabitants are employed in the manufacture of cotton and linen; and the fishery of the bay affords employment and benefit to numbers. Cod, lobsters, and oysters, are taken here in large quantities.

Before leaving Carrickfergus, we should mention some of the natural curiosities of the soil and country. The soil, near the sea-side, contains some valuable earths, such as pipe-clay, potter's-earth, and brick-clay. Pipe-clay was formerly an object of commerce, and was exported in great quantities; but this trade appears to be lost at present. Here, too, trap makes its appearance, accompanied by the white lime-stone, sand-stone, and gray lime-stone, and various kinds of flints; and the regularly crystalized basaltes may also be found along the shore, endeavouring to escape, as it were, into the sea: also zeolite and gypsum; of this latter three distinct species are discoverable in many places; the gypsum occurs almost always on the sea-shore. Amongst the various wood fossils found on the shore, the most curious is the hazel-nut; this is met with beneath a bed of peat, accompanied by great bodies of timber, elder, sallow, hazel, &c. The nut-shells are sometimes quite perfect, and the kernel is completely petrified.

The assizes for the county being held, and a garrison quartered in this town, it will continue to preserve the name and semblance of a city; but its wealth and trade have long since been transferred to the flourishing town of Belfast.

FROM CARRICKFERGUS TO LARNE.

The drive from Carrickfergus to Larne, by either the high or low road, will be found exceedingly agreeable. The high or western road is exposed, rugged, and hilly for a great part of the way, but the character of the scenery all along is bold and magnificent. The view of the town of Carrickfergus, with its castle and spire; the county of Down, on the opposite shore, adorned with the plantations and mansions of the nobility and gentry; the beautiful situation of the villages of Bangor and Hollywood on the same coast; and the distant view of Belfast, is a panoramic display of natural beauty but rarely met with. This delightful prospect is enjoyed from the road between the town and the common; but the traveller should, if possible, *return* to Carrickfergus by this road, or half the magic of the scene will be dissipated by its gradual development; whereas, in descending from the common, it bursts upon the sight in all its effect and magnificence.

Proceeding upon the old road to Larne, the common and racing ground, an uncultivated tract, are passed, and on the right lies the elevated lake of Lough-morne. This sheet of water occupies the summit of an eminence about 500 feet above the level of the sea: from it issues a stream which

turns a cotton mill; its banks are uncultivated and unplanted, and it is probably about one mile in diameter. From its great elevation, it is not likely that its banks will be chosen as the site of future demesnes; and, perhaps, it is impossible to conceive any body of water more opportunely disposed, or affording greater facilities for draining. The only fish taken here are pike and eels; but in winter it is frequented by great quantities of wild fowl.

The name Lough-morne is probably a corruption of Lough-more, the great lake; but the ingenious author of the History of Carrickfergus has added the following fabulous derivation, which is preserved by the neighbouring peasantry:—

"This place was once a large town, when one evening an aged mendicant came to seek for lodging, which being refused, he exclaimed, 'Although it is now a town, yet shall it be a *lough ere morn.*' Immediately he left the town, and withdrew to an adjacent hill; upon which, the ground began to sink: eels are said to have risen about the hearth-stones, and, ultimately, the whole town sunk into the abyss, and the water rolled in over it; from which time, says the legend, it has been called Lough-morne."

Not far from Lough-morne is the glen called the Noisy Vale, from a small subterranean river, which falls with much violence into an aperture

in the ground, and whose identity is not afterwards, with certainty, ascertained: it is supposed to be the same river which rises after at a place called Sulla Tubber, or the Sallow Well, about two miles from the disappearance of the rivulet. About a quarter of a mile further, on the road to Gleno, is a meeting house, belonging to the sect called Covenanters; but their congregation here is very small.

The little village of Gleno is soon reached, situated in a most romantic dell. Here are now two roads by which Larne may be reached, the one more westerly, by Castle and Mount Agnew, a wild and dreary prospect; the other, that commonly called the old road to Larne, which is a more interesting drive, as you approach the sea sooner, but a much more uneven road. As the traveller is recommended to return to Carrickfergus, if possible, by the Gleno road, he is here supposed to set out for Larne by the new line.*

On leaving Carrickfergus, the tourist should not neglect taking an occasional view of the town; the castle and spire here again interrupting the monotony of the landscape, by the distinctness with which they are relieved on the dark brow of the Cave Hill. The country assumes a rich

* Larne from Carrickfergus (by the new road, or shore road) is nine miles; by the Gleno road, seven miles; and from Dublin, it is ninety-seven and a half miles.

and cultivated character. About one mile from the town the little village of Eden is past, about half a mile from which the Larne road turns to the left, while the road to Island Magee continues on in a direct line. Of the Island, which is about two miles from this separation, we shall speak more fully when the tourist shall have reached Larne, which is the most convenient place from whence to visit this mis-named peninsula. Turning to the left, and ascending the rising ground, at the distance of two miles and a half from Carrickfergus, on the right stands Castle Dobbs, a noble mansion, embosomed in trees, and surrounded by an extensive demesne. Here the family of Dobbs appear to have been seated for many years. On the left of the road is seen, on a very commanding site, the mansion of Marriott Dalway, Esq. and his beautiful demesne called Bella-hill. Mr. Dalway is the representative of a long line of ancestry in this county, some of whom have been returned to serve in parliament for the town of Carrickfergus. Passing under the demesne wall of Bella-hill, on the road side stands the castellated mansion of the Dalways, consisting of two large towers, connected by a curtain wall, in the centre of which is the entrance. It is kept in excellent repair, and is now used as stables.

From the summit of the next hill, is the first view of Island Magee, which appears to be a long tract of ground, exceedingly fertile, thinly inha-

bited, and without a single tree to diversify the prospect. It greatly resembles the cold view of Anglesea Island from the Caernarvon shore, and the resemblance is much strengthened by the intervening arm of the sea, which is about the breadth of the Menai. One mile from Bella hill is the little village of Ballycarry, or Ballycarey; it consists of a few houses, forming one street of no great length. The site for a village was badly chosen, being too high, and without water. Fairs are held here the 21st of June, the second Friday in August, O. S., and the 31st of October.

At the entrance of Ballycarry, on the right, stands the once famed ruins of Temple-coran Church, in the diocese of Connor, and attached to the prebend of Kibroot: it was to this last preferment that Dean Swift was presented, by Lord Capel, the Lord Deputy of Ireland, and which he resigned, according to Lord Orrery, for the following reasons:—"It was not (says his noble biographer) sufficiently considerable, and was at so great a distance from the metropolis, that it absolutely deprived him of that kind of conversation and society in which he delighted. He had been used to very different scenes in England, and had naturally an aversion to solitude and retirement. He was glad, therefore, to resign his prebend in favour of a friend, and return to Sheen."*

* Orrery, Lett. 2.

Though this would appear a natural inference, from the well-known character of the Dean, yet there is good reason to believe he resigned this ecclesiastical benefice, which was £100 per annum, at the earnest solicitation of his friend and patron, Sir William Temple, who would have supplied him with a better, if he had lived until an opportunity had presented itself. In the cemetery of the church of Temple-coran may be seen the tombstone of the Rev. E. Brice, the minister of the first Presbyterian congregation assembled in Ireland, in the year 1611.

Half a mile further is Red Hall, the seat of —— Ker, Esq., commanding a noble sea view, beyond which is another subterranean river. The ingress of this stream takes place in a small circular pit, about forty yards in diameter at the mouth, gradually diminishing in breadth as you descend, at the very lowest and central point of which, the stream enters, and *is seen no more:* this very curious natural basin is called the "Salt-hole."

It was here that Sir John Chichester the younger was slain, the 4th of Nov. 1597; he was governor of Carrickfergus at this time, when James M'Sorley M'Donnell, (afterwards Earl of Antrim,) having concealed a strong detachment of Highlanders in the Salt-hole, advanced with but a small body towards Carrickfergus; and, braving the garrison, Sir John was induced to sally out against

him. M'Donnell pretended to fly in the greatest confusion, nor halted until he reached the place of ambuscade, when, turning upon Sir John, who was now attacked by the Highlanders lying in ambush, he defeated his party, and took him prisoner shortly after; M'Sorley cut off Sir John's head, upon a stone at the entrance of the Glynn.* Here, also, in the same year, another engagement took place between the M'Quillans and M'Donnells, in which the ill-fated M'Quillans were defeated, with great slaughter.

From the Salt-hole to the town of Larne is a most agreeable drive: the road, which is formed of the white lime-stone of the country, is always in excellent order, although very hilly, and in dry weather it is of a snowy whiteness. About three miles from Larne a splendid landscape is unfolded to the traveller's eye: before him, in the distance, is the sea, from which the Scottish hills are seen rising in the softest colouring imaginable; beneath, lies the harbour called Larne Lough, a fine broad inlet, which is entered by a narrow strait between the Curraàn and Island Magee. On the edge of the Lough is seen the town, continuing some distance along its banks; the situation of Olderfleet Castle, on the very extremity of the peninsula of Curraàn, is bold and picturesque, conveying ideas of grandeur and beauty in the dis-

See page 17.

tant view, which, from the insignificance of the ruin, it fails to produce on a closer inspection. The eastern side of Larne Lough is bounded by Island Magee, which, although not very beautiful, is a comfortable looking object, being richly cultivated, and, from its commanding position above the Lough, affords complete shelter to the shipping in the harbour, and preserves a placid surface within, when Neptune rages fiercely without.

The great want which every tourist will perceive is wood. A tree is scarcely to be seen in any direction about Larne, with the exception of Mr. Ferrall's plantation, although it is certain, that almost every species of timber would thrive here, from the instances which occur to the north and south along this line of coast. The sallow, in particular, thrives in this soil. Besides, the village of Glynn, within a mile of Larne, is inclosed by a very luxuriant little plantation.

LARNE.

The town of Larne, or, as it was anciently called, Inver,* is situated in the southern extremity of the barony of Glenarm, on a harbour or lough of the same name. It is a post town, and fairs are held here on the 31st of July and

* Inver signifies lowly situated.

1st of December. The trade of Larne was once of some importance, and even yet it is not contemptible. The duties, in the year 1810, amounted to £14,000, and there is still occasion to make it the residence of a collecter. The chief articles of commerce here are rock-salt and lime-stone, both of which are exported in very considerable quantities. There is a good deal of cotton weaving, and a manufacture of sail-cloth, with some other traffic connected with nautical affairs, Larne being the best harbour on this coast, from Belfast Lough to Derry.

The town consists of two divisions, usually called the old and new towns; the old one is built on rather an irregular plan, the latter consists of one long avenue, in which there are several excellent houses. The population amounts to about three thousand souls. There are, besides the parish church, one Methodist meeting house, three Presbyterian, and one Roman Catholic chapel.

The most interesting historical record, in the vicinity of Larne, is the castle of Olderfleet, before mentioned, standing on the extremity of the peninsula called the Curraàn,* a sort of natural pier, forming the northern side of the Larne harbour, and completely commanding the strait

* Curraàn is a corruption of the Irish word carràn, a hook, which the curved form of the peninsula suggested originally.

by which it is entered. On the road from the town to the castle, the ruins of a little chapel, called Clondumales, are passed. The castle is now an insignificant ruin, but the advantage and dignity of its situation can never fail of attracting the visiter. It is supposed to have been erected by one of the Bissetts, a powerful Scotch family, upon whom Henry the Third bestowed large possessions in the Barony of Glenarm, some of which were forfeited by Hugh Bissett, in the reign of Edward the Second, for rebellion. James M'Donnell, Lord of Kantyre, asserted his claim to this land in right of the Bissetts, but his son Æneas was content to accept of them on conditions approved of by Elizabeth, viz. that he would not carry arms under any but the kings of England, and would pay an annual tribute of hawks and cattle.

It was on the peninsula of the Curraàn, that Edward Bruce effected his landing, in 1315, with the expectation of making himself king of Ireland, which vain and foolish ambition caused so much bloodshed through the east of Ireland, and was productive of such dreadful calamities to the English settlers particularly.

The castle of Olderfleet became important as a defensive fortress against the predatory bands of Scots who infested the north-eastern coasts, and was generally under the direction of a governor. In 1569 we find Sir Moyses Hill held this office,

but in 1598, being thought no longer useful, it was abolished. After changing proprietors several times, the castle was finally granted to Sir Arthur Chichester, in 1610, by James the First. At Olderfleet will be found a ferry-boat, which plies regularly between that Point and Island Magee, for which passage one penny is demanded; and having landed, the pedestrian will find two roads, one towards Brown's Bay, another along the Larne side: let him take the former. Of this island a curious and brief account is to be met with in a private MS. in this county, which mentions, that in the reign of Elizabeth it was a complete waste, without any wood, although a fertile soil; and that the Queen had granted a lease of it to Savage, a follower of the Earl of Essex. At this time, says the MS., it was inhabited by the Magees, from whom it derives its name.

Not far from the landing place stands a druidical cromlech. The covering stone, which rests on three supporters, is six feet in length, and of a triangular shape; its inclination is to the rising sun. On the east of Brown's Bay is a rocking stone, or giant's cradle, which was said to acquire a rocking, tremulous motion at the approach of sinners or malefactors: there were many of these over the face of the kingdom, but they are now dislodged in most places, so that the few which remain are more interesting curiosities. They were so ingeniously poised, that the slightest

impulse was capable of rocking a mass which the greatest strength was unable to dislodge; nor does there appear to be any contrivance adopted but the circumstance of placing the stone upon its rude pedestal. Until a very late period, Island Magee was the residence of witches, and the theatre of sorcery: in 1711 eight females were tried upon this extraordinary charge in Carrickfergus, and the memory of Fairy Brown is still a cause of terror among the neighbouring peasantry.

About two miles farther, on the eastern coast, and beyond Portmuck, are the stupendous basaltic cliffs, called the Gobbins,* which extend as far as Black-cave Head, and are upwards of two hundred feet in height. Upon the 8th of January, 1642, a party of soldiers from Carrickfergus castle, then under the command of Colonel Munro, a Scotch puritan, is said to have sallied forth from the garrison to this peninsula, and to have put to death, without any provocation, thirty persons, then residing upon the peninsula: this act of atrocity was committed in retaliation for some outrage previously wreaked upon those of their own party. By some they are supposed to have driven them over the Gobbins into the sea:—

* This name appears to be derived from Gob, the mouth, and ben, a promontory.

"Now to the heughs of black polluted shade,
He sees the fierce Monro, with gory blade,
Sweep like a driving flame before the wind,
And headlong hurl the poor defenceless hind."

Drummond.

This melancholy and much to be regretted occurrence has been much misrepresented, through the prejudice of one party, and the ignorance of another; but, fortunately, the depositions of the relatives and friends of the deceased, preserved in the MS. room of the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, contain the refutation of the partial, and the correction of the ignorant historian.* At Portmuck are the ruins of an ancient castle; and to the south of the Gobbins, on a level sandy beach, stands Castle Chichester, one of the holds of the Earl of Donegall. There are two religious establishments mentioned in the Monasticon as existing formerly in this place, viz. Kill Keran or Doran, and White Kirk. The former appears to have been a place of some consequence as a sanctuary, for Murtagh M'Anullowe, the last abbot of Kells, in the County of Antrim, retired there after the surrender of his abbey, A. D. 1542. But all the church lands of Island Magee did not pertain to the religious houses

* *Vide* Antrim Survey, p. 438—Drummond's Causeway, p. 119-20—Notes to M'Skimmin's History of Carrickfergus—Vol. Depositions, lettered "County Antrim," p. 2716, Trinity College, Dublin.

existing there; for we find that the tithes of two town-lands on the Island, viz. Ballypor Magna and Ballypor Parva, were the property of the Abbey of Woodburn, near Carrickfergus.

At the west end of the peninsula is a small rivulet, called Slaughter-ford, in commemoration of the memorable event of 1642, which is said to have been begun here: a hill near this, on the top of which is seen the round tower of a light-house, is denominated Murder-slay, from the same circumstance.

Beneath the Gobbins are several small caves, now used as boat-houses; but in 1798 they were the retreats of outlaws. Along the shore are found large quantities of dullisk, a marine plant, which is an article of some profit at the country fairs. Many sea-fowl nestle in the face of the Gobbins, the most remarkable of which, for various reasons, are those called the Gobbin-hawks: these are the Irish goss-hawks, so famed in ancient days as being the objects of chace to the nobles of this country, and the sister kingdom. The chief rent paid formerly for Island Magee, was a pair of goss hawks and a pair of gloves; but the sport of hawking has been long neglected, and a less romantic chiefry required.

The *lifting* of hawks, on Midsummer-day, was a scene of gaiety of a very animated description. The hawkers were lowered down the front of the precipice, by a rope fastened round their waists,

and having a basket for the young birds slung to their sides. After the baskets were filled, and the hawkers drawn up, the merriment began; dancing, racing, and various rustic sports followed, and the day was spent in a succession of innocent and happy pastimes. The necessity of hawking no longer exists, since the golden commutation has superseded it; but the custom of nest-robbing is still continued, which can only be accomplished in the manner already described.

Along the shore of Island Magee there is excellent fishing; herrings, turbot, and a species of fish called blockens, are taken in great abundance. Kelp is manufactured along the eastern coast, but not in any great quantities.

The inhabitants of Island Magee are fully impressed with the belief of the existence of coal-beds beneath the surface, and also in the neighbourhood of Larne, but there is not sufficient evidence of the fact. The substratum of the Island is basalt, which first exhibits itself at Black-head, and forms the magnificent range already mentioned, called the Gobbins; there the chalk emerges from this northern extremity, and the lias from beneath the chalk. This character is also applicable to the structure of the beach on the Larne side of the Lough.

From the circumstance of a salt spring being in this neighbourhood, it has been conjectured, by skilful geologists, that rock salt will probably

be found here. Gypsum could also be raised near Portmuck, where a fruitless attempt was made to discover coal. There is also a bed of red-ochre existing here, upwards of two hundred feet in thickness.

Such are the internal treasures of this very fertile peninsula, which abounds in several articles of exportation, sufficient to establish a comfortable and independent trading port at Larne, exclusive of its agricultural production; and, probably, Larne, from the great advantage of a sheltered harbour, may yet rank very high amongst the trading towns of the north.

ROAD TO GLENARM.

From Larne to Glenarm is ten miles. The road passes at first through a country well cultivated, but rather thinly inhabited. Here, for a time, the scenery is tame, and the road sheltered; but at the distance of about two miles, the bold scenery of the Antrim coast, which continues to the very Causeway itself, begins to attract attention. On the left stands Agnew's Hill, a long range of lofty precipitous mountain, 1,450 feet in height, presenting its dark basaltic brow. In the view of the country between the base of the hills and the sea, are seen scattered here and there a few solitary huts.

The mineralogist should make a pedestrian excursion along the shore from Larne to Black Cave Head, a low basaltic cliff, and thence to the bold promontory called Ballygelly Head. This latter is a specimen of the basaltic strata, in a state of incipient columnization. The different strata are composed of rudely formed pillars, whose joints measure from eight to ten feet, and all have a dip towards the land, as is the case along the whole Antrim coast. Under Ballygelly Head stands a bold rock, which, at high water, is completely insulated. Upon its summit are the ruins of an ancient castle, said to be erected by a prince of former days, to preserve his daughter from the unwelcome addresses of a suitor; but love could not be controlled, and the fair one was ultimately carried off by her adoring and enterprising admirer. The ruin is called *Cairn* Castle from its situation. From the high-road is seen the mansion of the Shaws, erected in 1625, a venerable looking edifice, in a bleak and desolate situation, hanging over the sea; and on the right are the hills called the Salagh Braes, under which is seen the little church of Cairn Castle parish.

The view now back towards Ballygelly Head, is extremely grand; the head-land appears to rise abruptly from the sea, a property which basaltic promontories possess in a very eminent degree, while the shore winds in a semicircular sweep from its base by Shaw's Castle for a considerable

distance, and forms a magnificent estuary. The view is not unlike the Bay of Killiney, on the coast of the County of Dublin, but the indented outline of Bray Head renders it rather a nobler object than Ballygelly promontory. The Salagh Braes, a continuous range of dark precipitous hills, limit the prospect, and arrest the attention. They are composed of a lime-stone base, supporting a stratum of basalt, and capped with a rich and verdant turf. A little to the east of the Salagh Braes stands an insulated hill, of the like gloomy aspect, and in form resembling the frustum of a cone. Its structure is analogous to that of the adjacent hills, and its name, Knock Doo, *i. e.* the black hill, is quite characteristic of its appearance. On the summit of the Salagh Braes is an extensive flat of table land, affording tolerable pasture. The goats and sheep which graze upon these plains, walk toward the brink of the precipice, and gaze at the passing traveller with a sort of habitual courage and indifference. The distant view is also extremely grand: the coast of Scotland and Ailsa Isle, the mountains of Arran, and the *Mull* of Cantyre, are all distinctly visible across a great expanse of water. Near to the shore may be observed the Maiden Rocks, extremely dangerous to navigators, being without a light-house. These are generally laid down in maps as much nearer the shore than they really are.

The scenery presents the bold majestic character already mentioned, until the traveller reaches the summit of the very steep hill which separates him from the valley of Glenarm. This ascent is extremely difficult for carriages, or loaded cars, and must for ever militate against the improvement of the village of Glenarm, as far as that is connected with intercourse by land.

As the traveller ascends the hill, with "measured steps, and slow," he can while away the time in an enjoyment of the splendidly expanding view which is developed all around, and in occasionally reflecting upon the extraordinary structure of the land he travels. Here, along the roadside, are found large pieces of flint, rounded as the pebbles on the shore, by attrition: they are easily broken, and not considered so valuable as those found in the lime-stone quarries.

GLENARM.

Having reached the summit of the hill, the village and castle of Glenarm suddenly present themselves, in the very lowest bottom of a deep sequestered glen. The hills appear to hang over the village on either side, and it would seem that in former years this retreat was inaccessible, except by sea, or the narrow pass along the glen. On one side of a mountain stream stands the little

village, with its salt works and lime quarries, and on the other the ancient castle of the Earls of Antrim, with the meeting house and parish church, whose modest spire is the only rival of the neighbouring hills, and which serves as an index to the way-worn traveller, who else might seek in vain for the habitations of men, so completely concealed and sheltered is the lovely retreat of Glenarm. There are two beautiful villages in North Wales, to which we might compare Glenarm; but the one, Beddgelert, wants the bold sea-beaten shore, and the other, Tre-Madoc, the closely impending hills.

The village of Glenarm consists of about two hundred cottages, and appears originally to have been built for the clans-men of the noble family whose castle stands beyond the river. The castle is a stately, ancient pile, in a commanding position; from one front there is a view of the bay and its inclosing promontories, and from the other a prospect up the wooded glen towards the Deer Park. The castle is large, and contains some excellent apartments; its exterior presents something of the character of a baronial castle of the fifteenth century. The approach to the castle is by a lofty barbican, standing on the northern extremity of the bridge. Passing through this, a long terrace, overhanging the river, and confined on the opposite side by a lofty, embattled curtain-wall, leads through an avenue of ancient lime-

trees, to the principal front of the castle; the appearance of which, from this approach, is very impressive. Lofty towers, terminated with cupolas and gilded vanes, occupy the angles of the building; the parapets are crowned with gables, decorated with carved pinnacles, and exhibiting various heraldic ornaments.

The hall is a noble apartment, forty-four feet in length by twenty in breadth, and thirty feet high, in the centre of which stands a handsome billiard table. Across one end passes a gallery, communicating with the bed-chambers, and supported by richly ornamented columns, from the grotesque ornaments of which springs a beautiful groined ceiling.

On the principal floor are several noble apartments; the dining parlour, forty feet by twenty-four, and the drawing room, forty-four by twenty-two, are the most spacious: the small drawing room, library, &c. though of considerably less dimensions, are most commodious apartments. The demesne of Glenarm is very extensive, and beautifully wooded: it has latterly been much improved, and many obstructions to the view removed. There is also an inclosure in the glen called the Great Deer Park, which is generally supposed to be the most comprehensive park in the kingdom, and the venison fed here the choicest.

The parish church stands near one of the en-

trances to the demesne, upon the beach, with a small inclosed cemetery around. There are no monuments in the interior.

In the burying ground, around the church, stand the remains of a cruciformed building, formerly a monastery for Franciscan Friars of the third order.

This monastery was founded in 1465, by Robert Bissett, a Scotchman, who was banished his country for aiding in the murder of the Duke of Athol, and was established here by Henry the Third. The estates were subsequently forfeited, by the rebellion of Hugh Bissett, in the reign of Edward the Second. About this time, John More M'Donnell, son of John, Lord of the Isles, landed here, and marrying Mary, daughter of Sir John Bissett, claimed the lands called Glenshiesk, that is, the Baronies of Carey and Glenarm; and thus it was that the Antrim family became entitled to the Bissett's property. The Barony of Dunluce became the property of the M'Donnells, in right of M'Quillan's daughter, who married a M'Donnell, and so the claim of the M'Donnells to three baronies of the county becomes perfectly plain. This family was ennobled by the title of Viscount Dunluce, in the person of Sir Randal M'Sorley M'Donnell of Dunluce, June 25th, 1618. The same distinguished personage was, two years after, raised to the Earldom of Antrim. His son Randal, afterwards Marquis of Antrim, was equally

remarkable for his abilities and misfortunes. He was treacherously arrested on one occasion, by Munro, while entertaining him with hospitality at his castle of Dunluce, and confined in the castle of Carrickfergus, whence he escaped to York, and complained to the Queen. Returning to Ireland again with instructions, he was seized once more by the avaricious and treacherous general, and committed to the same castle, from which he a second time effected his escape, and flying into England, by the assistance of the Marquis of Montrose, was commissioned to raise a force in Ireland for his Majesty, and transport it into Scotland to oppose the covenanters. The Marquis married, first, the widow of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, and secondly, Rose, daughter of Sir Henry O'Neill, of Shane's castle; but dying without issue, the title of Marquis became extinct, and the earldom devolved on his brother Alexander.

The monastery of Glenarm, though founded by the Bissetts, appears to have been retained by the Crown from the time of Edward the Second, and granted to Alexander M'Donnell in 1557, in the reign of Queen Mary, at which time he was presented by the Lord Deputy, the Earl of Sussex, with a gold sword and silver-gilt spurs for his services against the Scots.

The remains of the monastery are very insignificant. Near the eastern end stands a monu-

ment, dated 1720, bearing the crest of a hand and dagger, but the inscription is not legible. The tomb-stones all round are ornamented by the arms of each family carved thereon; and, from the ages on the slabs, it would appear, that longevity is a gift bestowed upon the innocent inhabitants of Glenarm. The ages on the tombs, some exceeding one hundred years, may, perhaps, prove this to be that blessed portion of "this sainted Isle," where the inhabitants live so long, that they sometimes find a continuance of existence burdensome, in which case their friends are said to convey them to an adjacent country, where the spirit will sooner relax its tenacious hold.*

There are some members of the Antrim family buried at Glenarm; but the Abbey of Bona Margey, near Ballycastle, is their place of rest. In the fifteenth century, O'Neill the Great was killed in the camp of Sorley Boy, and his body being removed to Glenarm, was interred in the Franciscan Monastery of that place. Not long after, a friar from Armagh appeared at the monastery, and was admitted to its shelter and hospitality; and when now about to take his leave, he thus addressed the Abbot:—"Father, I am come from our brothers of Armagh, to beg that you would grant me leave to remove the body of the

* This property is also attributed to the North Islands of Arran, on the western coast of Ireland.

great O'Neill, who lies buried here, to the grave of his ancestors at Armagh."

The Abbot paused a while, then answered—"Have you brought hither the corpse of my Lord James of Cantyre, which was interred amongst the strangers at Armagh?" To which the friar replying that he had not, "Then," said the Abbot, "while you walk over the grave of my Lord James of Cantyre at Armagh, I will trample upon the great O'Neill at Glenarm," and so, at midnight, dismissed his guest.

On a commanding eminence, enjoying a view of the bay, stands the meeting house, erected 1762, in front of which is the following inscription:—

> This house was built in the year of our Lord, 1762; and the inclosed ground on which it stands, with thirty guineas, was the bountiful donation of the Right Hon. Alexander Earl of Antrim, to the Dissenters of Glenarm.

The situation of the meeting house is certainly much the most beautiful and commanding in the glen, but the building itself is not attractive.

The bay of Glenarm is formed by a deep circular winding of the shore, and is protected on each side by lofty headlands. There is deep water here, and a quay might readily be formed by building upon a natural basaltic pier on the

north side of the bay. This would be not only of great advantage here, but of very universal benefit to the shipping in the northern part of the Irish sea; for, from the tremendous swell and precipitous shore, the land is unapproachable when the wind blows from the N. E. nor is there a sheltering harbour on this coast from Lough Foyle to Larne. Further, the fishing along the coast is at present so exceedingly precarious, that it does not yield a sufficient return to the poor seaman who has the hardihood to prosecute it. This would be remedied, to a certain extent, by the erection of a pier in this harbour, where the little skiff might fly for protection when the sea assumed one of those angry perturbations which are so sudden and so frequent on the Antrim coast. At present, for seven months and upwards, the fisherman's boat is drawn up upon the beach, and the inverted hulk secured by a quantity of large stones, until the return of the milder season; for as he has no place of retreat in the hurricane, and he dares not approach the shore while it continues, he is obliged to abandon this vocation altogether, and seek another and less perilous mode of subsistence.

Small craft can reach the village of Glenarm, whence salt, lime-stone, and flints, are exported in great quantities. Excellent flints are found along the pebbly strand of the bay, near the salt works, but those in the lime-stone are generally

preferred. Red ochre, which is to be had at a place called "The Bull's Eye," in the Glenarm river, might also be made an article of exportation, and it is not improbable, that, with a diligent investigation, coals may be discovered in the vicinity. There is an adit of an ancient level, evidently intended for draining off the water from a coal-pit, discoverable in the Trap, near the village; and there is a belief amongst the villagers, of the existence of coal in the little deer park.

Upon the south side of the bay is the little deer park, the most attractive curiosity at Glenarm to the tourist. It consists of a natural platform of considerable extent, so large as to be employed for the purposes of a park, the substratum of which is lime-stone. This base is washed by the ocean, and worn into grotesque caverns and natural arch-ways. While the sea forms the boundary or inclosure of one side, the other is protected by a mural precipice of basalt, about two hundred feet high, completely impassable by the most active deer, and thus, by natural barriers, this secluded spot is rendered a perfectly secure inclosure. Over its surface, which is covered with a tolerably rich verdure, huge *debris* lie scattered in bold and wild magnificence and irregularity. Its situation and appearance, from the summit of the precipice, greatly resemble the wild scene of devastation at the foot of the promontory of Fair-head.

One of the projected improvements in this vicinity, is the cutting of a new line of road round the headland over the deer park, by which the hill, which almost intercepts communication between Glenarm and the south, will be avoided. The entire coasting line of country will derive material benefit from this great work, and the tourist a considerable accession of scenic enjoyment. The structure of the coast may be studied with great advantage from Gerron Point, on the north of the bay, to the harbour of Larne. The bay of Glenarm is inclosed by lofty chalk hills, capped with basalt: the range, with which these are connected, sweeps in a bold semicircle round the bay, receding considerably from the line of coast, which generally presents only a flat beach. Towards the centre of the bay, however, a low crag of red sand-stone occurs, distinguished by the name of the Red Braes of Carnallock. Half-way between these and the village of Glenarm, the clay of the lias formation may be traced, interposed between the red sand and the green-stone which underlies the chalk. But this formation is far better displayed after doubling the cape of Glenarm, in the cliffs beneath the little deer park, where it emerges from beneath the chalk and green stone, and exhibits a thickness exceeding one hundred feet.

Leaving Glenarm, by the northern line of coast, the road will be found very tolerable, and quite

passable for conveyances of any description. The country, like the view between Larne and Glenarm, is well cultivated, but not thickly inhabited, having only a few scattered cottages, and some small villages. On the left, from Glenarm to Cushendall, many noble glens are passed, the direction of which, being nearly east and west, while the road lies north and south, affords the traveller an opportunity of looking down each, to the very remotest extremity. The first village entered, after leaving Glenarm, is called Straitcalye, a poor miserable fishing place, consisting of a few mean huts. To the left lies the grand expanded valley of Glenclye. From this place the country improves rapidly in romantic beauty.

The village of Cairnlough offers nothing to detain or interest the traveller, and the opening scenes of sublimity and wonder incline him to hasten forward. On the right is the sea, over which the road hangs in a bold and awful manner; and on the left the dark mountains rise, in precipitous cliffs, to an enormous height, and cast a gloom over the path of the traveller.

At Drumnasole is the noble mansion of F. Turnly, Esq. lately erected, in a most romantic and sheltered situation, completely protected by the proximity of the perpendicular hills behind, and the luxuriant and healthy shrubberies in front. In rainy seasons there are several very noble waterfalls down the front of these dark hills, and

even in the dryest season the great fall in the glen behind Mr. Turnly's residence is a beautiful object. From Drumnasole house, the plantation extends to a great distance along the base of the hills, and in a few years promises to render perfect, in every part, this splendid continuation of romantic scenery. On a very elevated spot, close to the road, at Drumnasole, stands the school house, an extraordinary edifice, two stories in height, and ornamented by a cupola, containing a clock and bell. The basement story is divided into two distinct parts for the different sexes, and the surrounding inclosure is disposed with becoming neatness and simplicity.

Nothing can be more sublimely picturesque than the scenery along this road for several miles. Here now is seen a little ruined chapel, enveloped in trees, on the left, with the dark basaltic cliff impending over it; and opposite is the little plantation, with a neat lodge in the centre, called Knappan. Passing Knappan, the extraordinary and beautiful natural fortification of Dunmaul begins to appear; it stands upon the sea-shore, above which it is elevated about three hundred feet. The front, towards the sea, is composed of strata of rude basalt, which, from the inclination of the cliff, which the Trap formation of Antrim uniformly possesses, viz. inward, towards the centre of the county, produces the appearance of having been thus built to resist the attacks of the

billows: the land side of the rock is covered with verdure, and is easily ascended. Here are certainly some appearances of entrenchments; a fosse and mound may both be traced, without much exertion of the fancy or imagination.

The ancient forts of this kingdom were generally insulated rocks of this description—for instance, Dunamaise; and *Dun*, which is evidently analogous to the Welsh *Dinas*, will be always found applied in this sense.

The fort of Dunmaul, or probably Dunmail, is said to have been so called, because here the tribute of black mail was collected. The unlearned historians of the glens assert, that all the rents of Ireland were once paid here, as many private debts were paid at the tomb of Strongbow in Christ Church, Dublin.

Probably the Scotch, who were in the continued habit of making predatory excursions into the Northern parts of Ireland, compelled the inhabitants to purchase tranquillity and peace by the payment of a tribute annually at this fort.

Upon the shore, adjoining the fort of Dunmaul, is the Gerron Point, a very conspicuous headland. From Glenarm it appears to be a sharp point, having a small insulated rock at its extremity, not unlike the Baily of Howth, but upon approaching the Gerron, this extreme acuteness vanishes, like the cape called 'Point no Point,' in the usually ridiculous nomenclature of Ame-

rica. Gerron Point, so called from gear, sharp, and rinn, a promontory, consists of three pinnacles, united by precipices of basalt, like the curtain walls of a fortification, while the three projecting points resemble so many salient angles. The strata here also possess the appearance of being formed to resist the violence of the sea from the inclination of the dip; and the alternations are very distinctly exhibited in the face of the point: the ascent to the summit of the highest is extremely easy, along a gently ascending verdant bank; and the mural precipice in front is so nearly perpendicular, that the eye can be directed to the very base of the rock where it first emerges from the beach. On this point there is generally placed a flag-staff of colossal dimensions, which might be used with advantage for telegraphic purposes, or be a useful index to the navigator during day-light.

After passing Gerron Point, the tourist had formerly to proceed by a road called the Foaran Path, which, from the extreme rapidity of the descent, was nearly impassable by carriages. This, however, has been recently remedied by Francis Turnly, Esq., to whose patriotism and liberality the traveller is indebted for an excellent road, cut at great expense and with much labour, out of the side of the mountain, along the edge of the coast.

The road from the foot of the Foaran path winds along the shores of Red Bay: on each side

lie enormous blocks of lime-stone, having nodules of flint inserted in them, lying so loosely in the cavities, that they can be taken out by the hand without any exertion. The lime-stone has the appearance of having once been burned, and so dried by the heat as to lose its tenacious hold upon the flint, which now lies independent in the cavity, where, before, it was imbedded and incorporated. These great masses are thrown in the wildest confusion upon every side, from the foot of the Foaran path to the vale of Glenariff.

A few yards from the Foaran path, on the right, upon the shore, stands an extraordinary lime-stone rock, not unlike a colossal figure seated on a ledge of rock. This curious object is called 'Clocken Stooken;' it was formerly supposed to be the most northern point of Ireland, and appears to be regarded still with some superstitious feeling.

On this shore are seen innumerable piles of sea *wreck*, gathered for the manufacture of kelp, which is an object of exportation along this coast. The piles of wreck are so disposed on each side of the road as to produce an extraordinary effect, and may probably startle timid horses. The road now winds along the bold and rugged shore, strewn with these enormous masses of lime-stone rock, in which the nodules of flint are found deposited in the manner already described. On the left the bold hills of Carrig Murphy and Slieve

Baraghad rise with great sublimity, and completely overhang the road.

The little townland of Ardclinis is now soon reached, the only memorial of whose former importance, now discernible, is a little ruined chapel, standing on a very pleasing eminence, at the foot of a lofty ridge of mountain. Ardclinis is not mentioned in the Monasticon, or in Lanigan's Ecclesiastical History, unless, probably, it is identical with Aradnachill, founded by St. Patrick, whose site is undetermined. Near this little ruinous edifice a stream falls down the mountain's front; and just when it has attracted the attention, by its pleasing murmuring and splashing foam, sinks completely into the earth, and, passing under the hill, which the road crosses, falls into the sea. The noble vale of Glenariff* is soon reached, remarkable for the extreme wildness of the prospect, and the extensive scene of desolation presented to the wondering eye of the traveller. The road crosses the entrance of the glen, and commands a view of it from end to end. On either side, the mountains rise with much regularity and a monotony of character. At the bottom are verdant sloping banks; above, a mural precipice of dark basalt, and on the summit a flat tract of table land, affording tolerable pasture. This is the general appearance of most basaltic moun-

* Glenariff is also called Glen-aireamh, the valley of Numbers; and Glen-aireachaib, the valley of Chiefs.

tains, and from this very sameness the peculiar character of the vale of Glenariff is derived.

The eastern end of the glen is washed by the sea, and the shore is formed of a deep body of fine sand, which greatly intercepts the line of road. Near the entrance of the vale is Bay Lodge, the seat of —— Dobbs, Esq. tolerably sheltered with plantations; and, indeed, this is much required in this very dreary region; for in the spring and autumn the winds blow down the glen with such extreme acuteness, that it requires the hardy constitution and frame of a mountaineer to withstand its penetrating chill.

In the centre of the glen lies the Ballymena road, distant about twelve miles, which also leads to the waterfall called Isnaleara, about one mile and a half distant. In rainy weather the dykes on either side of the glen, in front of the lofty basaltic mountains, become suddenly supplied with foaming torrents, which rush down the hill with considerable fury, but just as quickly disappear again upon the cessation of the showers. The only never-fading cascade Glenariff has to boast, is Isnaleara, on the river Glenariff, which waters the glen, and ultimately falls into the sea, at Naireamh, near the caves of Red Bay, through the little village of Waterfoot. The prospect to the west is terminated by the lofty conical summit of Cruach-a-Crue; while that to the north is limited by the extraordinary mountain of Lur-

geidan, not unlike the frustum of an enormous cone of considerable altitude, but whose base is disproportionately narrow. On the summits of each are observed thick basaltic masses, resting, at considerable elevations, on strata of chalk; in the former mountain the inferior beds are concealed by grassy slopes, while in the latter the red sand-stone is exposed in several points adjacent to its central region.

Passing the small neglected hamlet of Waterfoot, at the mouth of the Glenariff river, the caves of Red Bay are reached: they are excavations, probably formed at some remote period by the inroads of the tide, which is now excluded by the embankment in front, in a species of soft red sand-stone. There are three of tolerable magnitude, one of which is very appropriately converted into a smith's forge, and affords a very Cyclopian appearance. A second is reported, in all probability with sufficient reason, to have been the residence of a female, whose trade was the sale of illicit spirits. The third is not converted to any important purpose.

On the extreme end of the southern cliff stands the ruined Castle of Red Bay, upon a similar argillaceous conglomerate. Beneath the bank are three distinct excavations of considerable dimensions; one of which was not long since used to dispense the blessings of education in, by a poor schoolmaster, but is now degraded into a nightly

sheep-pen. The new road here passes outside the cliff, close to the shore; and in excavating the red clay to continue this new line, a lofty gothic archway has been fantastically cut in the bank, through which the road to Cushendall passes. The castle, which is now totally ruined, stands in a very commanding, but very exposed situation. It was built by the Bissetts, from whom the Antrim family derive this barony; but of its former extent or style of architecture, nothing important can now be traced.*

From Red Bay Castle the scenery changes very much; the dreary wilderness of Glenariff is exchanged for a rich, pleasing, cultivated country, in the neighbourhood of Cushendall. There is a fine open tract of fertile land between the mountain and the sea, in the centre of which is situated the very beautiful and interesting little village of Newtown-glens, or Cushendall, which the traveller is now looking out for.

CUSHENDALL.

Cushendall† is one of the most agreeable ham-

* This ruin has sometimes been called Castle Carey, but it certainly has no just claim to this appellation.

† Cushendall appears to be derived from Cush, the foot, and means the foot of the river Dall; or from Cois an da ealladh, the river foot of the two swans.

lets on the northern coast; it is pleasantly situated, and in the immediate vicinity of many interesting objects, whether we suppose the taste of the tourist to regard mineralogy, ancient history, poetry, or the language of nature. The basaltic ranges are no where more grand or more inviting to the geologist. The monastic remains in the neighbourhood are not yet recorded in the Ecclesiastical History of Ireland. The remnants of Danish intrusion are here most prominent features, and some of the legends of Ossian may be heard repeated by the innocent inhabitants of Cushendall.

Here is a comfortable, neat inn, originally intended for a private residence, and erected with a good deal of taste. There is a yarn market held here once a week, and eight fairs in the year. Many improvements have been introduced, under the direction and at the expense of a very energetic and spirited proprietor, F. Turnly, Esq. whose name appears intimately connected with every beneficial change effected about this village, and, indeed, in several other parts of the country, through which the tourist passes. Amongst the new buildings in and near the village, the most extraordinary and conspicuous is the tall, square, tapering turret, at the cross-ways, erected by Mr. Turnly, as a place of confinement for idlers and rioters. This prison, although only a few feet in diameter, is amply capacious for the offenders of this neighbourhood.

The road in front of the inn leads towards the sea-shore, and also to the church of Lade. Not many yards from the inn is an agreeable patch of verdant mead, washed by the sea, and opposite to the central part of the small bay. Here we are told that Dall or Dallas, a Danish or Scotch intruder, landed, during the harvest of the year, when a number of reapers were engaged in this very field, who, not being provided with other weapons, despatched the gigantic invader with their reaping hooks, and interred him on the shore. Others assert, that Dallas was a Scotch pirate, who was slain on this spot by the illustrious Ossian; but the decision of the controversy does not appear to be of very great importance.

In this neighbourhood the poems of Ossian are perfectly well known, and from tradition totally, which has induced a belief that this was actually the country of that celebrated bard of antiquity. But the intercourse between the Scots and inhabitants of the north of Ireland was so close and constant, that it cannot possibly determine for either, as the same thing occurs in the Highlands of Scotland.

About one mile south of the village, close by the shore, and in a sequestered glen, stands the ruined chapel of Lade, said to be founded by the M'Fails. The choir was about eighty feet in length, and rather narrow in proportion. At the

western end some apartments remain, a small dormitory, and a vaulted apartment on the basement story, twenty-four feet by twenty-one. The guides here call this ruin the Nunnery of Lade: it has been totally neglected by Archdall and Dr. Lannigan. The cemetery around is a favoured burial ground, though the same disrespect of the relics of the dead prevails, which is so generally apparent in the burial grounds throughout the country.

Behind the village, viewing it from the sea, rises a Danish *rath*, which the legends of Cushendall call Court M'Martin, and attribute to Martin M'Owen, Lord of the seven glens, who erected his castle upon the summit. Martin, says tradition, was the son of a fisherman of Cushendall, who, when returning from casting his net at the mouth of the river Dall,* perceived a large vessel, then an object of great admiration and astonishment, at anchor in the bay; and on the deck sat the captain, consulting an astrological volume. The captain called Martin into the vessel, and told him, it was fated that he should wed a lady of Cushendall before a certain hour. "Retire, then, Martin," said the astrologer, "in my ship's boat, and endeavour to persuade some fair one of the village to become my bride; and fear not, for

* River Dall is called Ballyeemin in Geolog. Trans. p. 202.

I have wealth for thee and thine to bestow in compensation." Martin entreated many fair ones to accept the unexpected riches, and accompany him to the great vessel in the harbour, and at length prevailed. Having reached the vessel, and being about to ascend, the captain exclaimed, "Martin, I thank you; you have performed your part, but my hour is past, and I must withdraw from hence; here is the fulfilment of my promise and your wishes," at the same time throwing a bag of gold into the boat. Martin eagerly seized on the treasure, but his happiness was not unmingled with alloy at the astrologer's rejection of the bride, who was no other than the wife of Martin. However, since fate had so ordered, he submitted to the disappointment, and, returning home, erected his court on the summit of the hill already mentioned, and became lord and master of the seven great glens along the coast.

"Such is the tale the Nubians tell."

The site of Court Martin is now occupied by a school, erected by Mr. Turnly. The court occupied a space of one hundred and sixty feet in circumference, and was of an octagonal form; and many noble apartments could be traced within its walls.

The lofty conical hill of Lurg Edan, or Leirgethan, whose vertex appears to have fallen off, and left a regular frustum of an upright cone, is

every where conspicuous, and every where beautiful. Its summit is a flat plain, perfectly green, where formerly the great Fin M'Comhal and Ossian, with their Clan-na-buiske, were lodged, within a fortress. There is a mound on the summit not unlike a rath, called Dun Clanamourne; the origin of this also is ascribed to Fin M'Comhal or Ossian. The term Clan-na-buiske, the natives here derive from Besco, in Spain, whence, they say, Fian's followers came into this country.

The summit of Lurgeidan* is a mass of basalt, about three hundred feet in thickness, supported by a stratum of chalk. The stratum of the country between the mountain and the sea is not easily discernible; but sand-stone appears to prevail in these regions, and continues to the shore, where is found also a conglomerate, in which fragments of quartz are imbedded. Near Red Bay Castle, several basaltic dykes are seen traversing the conglomerate, which, while the adjacent cliffs yield to the violence of the waves, continue to present their bold detached crags to its incessant lashes. On the south-west of Lurgeidan, remarkable formations of porphyry may be traced, and Court M'Martin is also another locality of the same.

Opposite Court M'Martin, on the south side of the road, stands Knock-na-chich, or Gallows Hill.

* Lurgeidan, *i. e.* the tracked-face, or foot-step on a face.

There was a very large cave here, which has lately fallen in and totally disappeared.*

The tract of red sand-stone and conglomerate, extends from Cushendall to Cushendun, and along the coast for a distance of four English miles, and about the same in an inland direction.

CUSHENDALL TO CUSHENDUN.

To the west of Cushendall a majestic range of hills appears, forming an amphitheatre of many miles in extent. Lurgeidan joins the lofty hill of Teabuliagh, which extends between the confluence of the Ballyeemin and Glenaan rivers. The highest summit of Teabuliagh is one thousand two hundred and thirty-five feet, and the stratum of basalt which caps it, about five hundred feet in thickness.

From the new road to Cushendun, there is a very grand and very extensive mountain view. The Trostan mountain, fifteen hundred feet in height, is seen in the distance, raising its dark and lofty summit above the nearer but less majestic mountains of Glenaan and Glendun or Ishirry.

* The traveller who approaches Cushendall from Ballymena, will be much gratified by the pretty waterfall at Esstochar Bridge, forty feet in perpendicular height, and bounded on either side by a basaltic colonnade of forty feet in height.

The country along the base of the hills is rich and cultivated, and the drive to Cushendun particularly pleasing.* At the distance of about two miles from Cushendall, two roads again present themselves—one straight forward to Cushendun, a mile distant; the other, to the left, passes into the vale of Glendun, and over the mountain to Ballycastle. Proceeding by the direct road, the little hamlet of Cushendun is soon reached, delightfully situated on the sea-shore, in a small sheltered bay, into which the river Dun empties itself. The place itself is scarcely entitled to the dignity of a village, consisting of but a few cottages, mostly inhabited by fishermen, a house lately erected for the water-guard, and one or two neat cottages, let during the bathing season to visiters.

The chief objects of curiosity here, are the caves of conglomerate, on the sea-shore, about three hundred yards from the mouth of the river. There are three of these, very curious and very interesting subjects to the naturalist; one of which, of very considerable magnitude, is used for housing cattle in the winter; the others are used for car-houses, boat-houses, and various other purposes.

* There are two roads to Cushendun, one by the church of Lade along the coast, the other, a much better one, more inland, along the foot of the mountains. Cushendun (*i. e.* the foot of the river Dun,) is three miles from Cushendall.

These caves are formed of the conglomerate, spoken of before, and are beneath a cliff called Cranagh, one hundred and twenty-three feet and a half in height. This, however, is an escarpment of the Ieveragh, near Cushendall church, where the sand-stone attains an elevation of five hundred and twenty-two feet above the level of the sea, its greatest altitude in this district.

The conglomerate of which the caves are formed, contains large pebbles of quartz, and more rarely of horn-stone porphyry: also a species of green-stone porphyry; and, finally, mica slate. The coarsely granular variety consists of quartzose pebbles, sometimes imbedded in an argillocalcareous cement. It has been observed, that this cement has often passed from a mechanical to a chemical state, and assumed all the characters of a regular clay porphyry, of a reddish colour.

On the northern side of the river, are seen the mansion and grounds of —— M'Neill, Esq. beyond which are the ruins of Castle Carra,* from whence to the bay of Murloch, beyond the point of Tor, the cliffs of Cushleak consist of mica slate containing subordinate beds of primitive lime-stone, syenite, and felspar porphyry. The hills behind the cliffs, as they approach Murloch bay, become covered with beds of red sand-stone,

* Probably a corruption of Carey.

and chalk towards the summit, and some of the highest points exhibit caps of basalt. The point of Tor is about five miles distant from Cushendun, and is a projection of the cliffs of Cushleak. It is the nearest point of land to Scotland, being not more than eighteen miles from Cantyre. This proximity of countries was turned to an important purpose by the Scots, who invaded and seized on territories in the County of Antrim: they used to kindle great fires upon the point of Tor, whenever they apprehended danger from the Irish, to warn their countrymen of its approach; in consequence of which Tor point was formerly called "The Scots' Warning Fire." Upon the head of Tor are the remains of an old building, called Dunavarre, and also the great fort. It is supposed to have been erected by giants, whose burying place is shewn at a little distance from the fort, called Sleacht-na-Barragh.

A little beyond Tor is Murloch bay, from whence the basaltic hills are visible, whose formation has just been described. The promontories, on the north side of the bay, exhibit cliffs at the base composed of beds of mica slate, below which are immense lines of rude fragments of primitive rock. On the beach is a very remarkable basaltic dyke, rising in a projecting crag; and to the north is the detached conical mountain of Drimnakill, formed by a vast subsided mass of columnar green-stone, thrown together with the most in-

conceivable disorder and confusion. Close by the Whyndyke, in the bay, the conglomerate of Cushendun again present themselves; so that this rock appears to limit the primitive formations of Cushleak cliffs at either extremity. The base of the cliff, from this to Fair Head, continues to be strewn with enormous fragments; amongst the masses, columnar green-stone forms the prevailing feature: and here the chalk and red sand-stone withdraw, and yield their elevated position to the great columnar basaltic masses which form the majestic unrivalled cliffs so well known in the mineralogical kingdom by the name of Fair Head.

This little excursion from the bay of Cushendun by the cliffs of Cushleak, the point of Tor and Murloch bay, is intended for the pedestrian whose object is the study of mineralogy, geology, and the great mysteries of nature in the formation of this region: nor is he the only one to whom this excursion will afford infinite variety and endless sources of admiration and astonishment; for no part of the coast possesses more sublimity and boldness. Besides, the very distant view of the Scotch coast enjoyed in this excursion is extremely interesting, and excites feelings of a very peculiar nature, both as to the intercourse between these countries in former ages, and the possibility of their being once not divided by the

unsocial waters which now intervene, whose greatest depth across does not exceed fifty-three fathoms.

To accommodate those who are unable, from various causes, to pursue the bold shore to Ballycastle, let us return again to Cushendun, and, retracing the road for about a mile, turn at the bridge, up the vale of Glendun, and, crossing the river Dun, ascend the mountain. To the left lies Glendun, a long, narrow, fertile vale; down the very centre of which flows the river, which gives name to the valley and the mountain: this is the most inland of the three roads, by which Ballycastle may be reached; it is much the best for carriages, and commands a more extensive prospect than the middle one; but is certainly very inferior, in point of interest, to the shore road, which is unfortunately impassable by any but pedestrians.

Ascending Grange Hill, the road crosses an extensive, wild, unprofitable waste: turf is sometimes cut here, but in a coal country even this produce of the soil becomes unprofitable. After a patient journey of four miles through this *moor*, the Island of Raghery appears in front, the paps of Jura in the distance, and the straight between Raghery and Fair Head. To the left, across the mountain country, are discovered the lofty hills of Knock Lade, eighteen hundred and twenty feet

high, and Sliebh-na-aura,* fifteen hundred and thirty above the level of the ocean. Ballycastle soon becomes visible in the low country to the left, and beyond it, projecting into the sea, are seen the snow-white cliffs of Ken-baan.† As the traveller is above Fair Head, the flat table land upon its summit, and the little loughs, which have collected in that very elevated situation, alone are presented to his view.

The descent to Ballycastle is very rapid: the scene before you is converted into a more minute view of what was but indistinctly seen from the heights of the Carey Mountains; and, passing Acrevally and Culfeightrin Church, the Abbey of Bona Margy is seen close to the road, within a walled cemetery: this ruin is sufficiently perfect to excite interest, and to indicate the style of its architecture, and the burial ground is preserved with more respect for the miserable remains of mortality than is to be found in the cemeteries in the country parts of Ireland in general. The mountains of Knocklead and Sliebh-na-aura, which were seen on the approach to Ballycastle, are objects of very considerable interest, and the reader will, consequently, find them spoken of

* Sliebh-na-aura, is also written in the maps, Slieuenorry, and Nory. In the MS. in the possession of the Countess of Antrim, Sliebhnahoragh.

† Ken-baan, *i. e.* the white head.

more fully after his arrival at Ballycastle, which appears the most appropriate place for the introduction of any anecdote or fact connected with them.

The Abbey of Bona Margy was founded in the year 1509, by Charles M'Donnell, for Franciscan Friars of the third order, and is one of the latest monastic edifices erected in Ireland. In 1595, Æneas Voighragh, who was slain by O'Neil, at the battle of Glenshiesk, was interred here. And here, also, rest the ashes of the famous James M'Sorley, who defeated the last of the M'Quillans.

The chapel measures about one hundred feet in length, by thirty-four in breadth, and is now unroofed. The eastern end is ornamented by some tolerably executed bas reliefs, and the eastern window was of considerable dimensions, and highly enriched with sculpture. On the south side is a tomb, bearing this inscription, in Roman capitals :—

Here lyeth the bodie of JOHN M'NAGHTEN, first Secretaire to Randal, first Earl of Antrim, who departed this Mortalitie in the year of our Lord God 1630.

On the north of the choir, may be seen the ruins of the refectory, dormitory, and other apartments generally attached to religious houses; and a small oratory has been lately roofed, within which the illustrious family of Antrim are interred. Over the window, in Roman characters, now

nearly obliterated, is the following commemorative inscription :—

In Dei, Deiparœque Virginis honorem, nobilissimus, atque illustrissimus, RANDOLPHUS M'DONNELL, Comes de Antrim, hoc sacellum fieri An. Dom. 1621.

M. S. Manwaring Stewart.

About one mile from Bona Margy is that part of the town of Ballycastle* usually denominated the Quay, from a quay or pier formerly erected here, but since demolished by the violence of the tides; and less than half a mile further, is the town of Ballycastle.

Proceeding forward, Fair Head and Raghlin appear to the right, Ballycastle to the left.

The tourist is now conducted to the N. E. point of Ireland, along the eastern coast, to a distance of about one hundred and twenty miles from Dublin. The part of the coast which occurs between Carrickfergus and this point, was scarcely ever attempted to be brought before the inquiring public, although the portion from Fair Head to the Causeway has been the subject of much philosophical controversy, and of many interesting publications.†

* Ballycastle is twelve miles from Cushendall; from Belfast forty-nine.

† Hamilton's Letters.—Drummond's Poem, "The Giant's Causeway."—Antrim Survey, &c.; and many tourists have minutely and accurately described the wonders and the scenery of the coast, from Fair Head to Port Rush.

The town of Ballycastle, anciently Bally Cashlain, or Castlestown, derives its name from a castle erected there, in the sixteenth century, by Viscount Dunluce, one of the ancestors of the illustrious house of M'Donnell. It is divided into two parts, the upper and lower. The latter is usually called the quay, where are the houses of Captain Boyd, H. Boyd, Esq., E. Macildowney, Esq., and the old Custom House, now converted into a barrack. On a bank, divided from the quay by a narrow channel, stands the Glass House, in a state of ruin and dilapidation. The upper town is approached by a long, straight avenue, sheltered by rows of lofty full grown trees. At the entrance of this avenue are some excellent houses, and the approach to the town is, altogether, an agreeable drive.

The town of Ballycastle may be said to be the creation of one enterprising man solely, Hugh Boyd, Esq., to whom Alexander, Earl of Antrim, in 1736, granted a lease, in perpetuity, of all coals, pits, mines, &c. from Bona Margy monastery, on the west, to the cliff called Fair Head, eastward; and three miles southward from the sea coast. The only rent paid for this grant is the twelfth ton of coal, delivered at the mouth of the pit: the banking, shipping, &c. are charges deducted from the chief rent, and are estimated at two shillings and eight pence per ton. Mr. Boyd becoming possessed of so valuable an interest in the

vicinity of Ballycastle, undertook improving the harbour, as the most certain mode of establishing the commercial character of the place. The situation of the bay is particularly exposed to the north-west winds, which, encountering the Island of Raghery in their way, drive in a tremendous sea between that island and Ballycastle. While the shipping were without protection from these winds and turbulent waters, it was in vain to expect Ballycastle could become a place of commerce.

Application was made, and parliamentary aid, to the amount of £23,000, granted for the erection of a pier. After the expenditure of this sum, and the erection of glass furnaces, breweries, tan yards, and various other useful establishments, the violence of the tides overthrew the pier, the harbour filled up with sand, and the trade of Ballycastle appears destroyed for ever. At present, the breweries are in ruins; the glass house as useless as one of the ancient round towers of Ireland; the custom house converted into a barrack, and even the collieries but tamely worked. The upper town consists of about two hundred houses, disposed with some regularity. The church, which was built by Mr. Boyd, the founder of Ballycastle, is a handsome stone building, ornamented with a spire; it is surrounded by a wall, and the inclosure prettily planted. The founder was interred here upon the very day of its consecration.

In front of the church is an open space, where fairs and markets are held. The other places of worship, besides the church built by Mr. Boyd, are one Roman Catholic chapel, one Presbyterian, and one Methodist meeting house. The parish church is at a short distance from the town. Near this church is a poor school, endowed by Hugh Boyd, Esq. with twenty acres of land, rent free for ever; and his mother, Mrs. Rose Boyd, bequeathed £20 to its support. There are two inns in the town, and chaises may be had to hire. There are two springs of mineral water in the neighbourhood, one a chalybeate water, remarkably light, and strongly impregnated with iron; the other an aluminose vitriolic water.

Before we conclude our description of Ballycastle town, both as to what it was and what it is, it may not be amiss to mention why it claimed the advantage of a pier, erected at the public charge, and, therefore, whether a second effort should be made to accomplish its construction. The exports of Ballycastle were, coal; earth used in china manufactories, equivalent to Kaolin; this was procured on Fair Head: granite, from Ballypatrick Mountain, resembling petunse, also used in the composition of china: potter's clay, brick clay, and excellent fire-stones; sand for glass making, kelp, and manganese. To these may be added free-stone, lime-stone, and flints. From

this enumeration, it is obvious, that the wealth of Ballycastle is of an inexhaustible, imperishable nature, and such as to render it a matter of public benefit to re-establish this harbour, upon such improved principles, that the billows of the ocean shall roar against it in vain.

KNOCK LADE.*

This hemispherical mass, at whose base stands the village of Ballycastle, is composed of three distinct strata, a schistose, a calcareous, and a basaltic stratum. It is situated partly in the parish of Ramoan, and partly in that of Armoy, and is remarkable for presenting the same *phase* in every direction: it rises to a height of eighteen hundred and twenty feet above the level of the sea, and the cap of trap upon its summit is nine hundred and thirty feet in thickness. Cultivation has gradually crept up its sides for the last half century, and even the very summit is clothed with natural verdure, so that it forms a beautiful back ground to the view of Ballycastle. Here various petrifactions are found, particularly bivalves and volutes, of the species which are now extinct.

On the highest point is a large heap of stones, called, in the Gaelic tongue, Cairn-an-Truagh, *i.e.*

* Sometimes written Laid, Leid, and Laide.

the Hillock of the Three: the existing tradition concering this cairn states, that three Danish princesses, sisters, after various misfortunes and wanderings, were buried here.* In Seward's Topography of Ireland, there is an accurate description of an eruption, said to have occurred on this mountain in 1788, by which many lives were lost, and the village of Ballyowen destroyed: Seward does not give his authority for the account, but it can be traced to the Dublin Chronicle for June 7th, 1788, where an extract from a letter, supposed to have been written in Ballycastle, minutely specifies the circumstances attendant on the volcanic eruption. The tourist may rest assured, however, that the whole narration is fabulous; for, in the first instance, Dr. Hamilton published a second edition of his Letters in 1790, in which there is not the least notice of such an event; and the writer of this volume made personal inquiry from the neighbouring gentry in 1823, who remember that such a fable was once circulated.† The coal beds of Fair Head are supposed to extend to the base of this mountain; and if a flame had burst out of the earth here at any time, it would not be likely to meet with so decided a disbelief, as beds of coal do constantly take fire; but the account of the

* Parochial Survey of Ramoan.

† See Topographia Hibernica; also, Dublin Chronicle June 5th, June 7th, and June 12th, 1788.

eruption of Knock Lade, does not insinuate even the possibility of any thing but a formal flow of Lava.

SLIEBH-NA-AURA.

To the south of Knock Lade is seen the beautiful and majestic hill Sliebh, or Slieve-na-Aura, oftentimes the scene of many a deed of blood: it was here that the M'Donalds and M'Quillans fought the decisive battle, which established the title of the one, more powerfully than the laws could then have done, and the total extinction of the splendor of the other.

About the middle of the fifteenth century, the famous battle of Aura was fought, between Sorley Boy of Dunluce, and the M'Quillans, in which many of the latter were slain, and their army totally routed. This defeat was the result both of bravery and artifice combined; Sorley Boy resolved to procure, by stratagem, what he feared the alliance of the O'Neills with the M'Quillans might prevent courage alone from accomplishing; and, observing a dangerous bog between the enemy and himself, he caused a number of rushes to be cut in the night time, and strewn over the surface of the bog, to form a safe path across: in the morning, sending a party to the brave O'Neills, in their very camp, their fiery chief immediately

ordered out his cavalry; but the challengers, with real Parthian courage, now fled towards their own camp, by the rush path they had laid, while O'Neill's cavalry pursuing, were ingulphed in the treacherous road. In attempting to retreat, O'Neill and his followers were cut off by Hugh M'Ilveal, to whom the unhappy chieftain offered, as a ransom, "all the young horses, and all the fair damsels of Claneboy." "Sir," said M'Ilveal, "if all the horses in Ireland were Sorley Boys, I would rather go on foot," and straightway clove his helmet in two.*

Near the summit of Aura mountain, an elevation of fifteen hundred and thirty feet above the ocean, two cairns are pointed out as the burying place of O'Neill and one of his followers.

After the battle of Aura, Sorley Boy withdrew to the vicinity of Trostan, a lofty and conspicuous mountain, over Cushendall, where he was entertained by Macauley, lord of the glens, and where a cairn was erected to commemorate the place of festivity. "After this conflict," says the manuscript, "M'Quillan leaped across the river Dervog, and so left the rout for ever." Sorley Boy enjoyed it eleven years, and, dying, was buried at Bona Margy. In one of the feigned retreats, made by Sorley Boy, to deceive O'Neill, the party was retarded by the inactivity of an officer,

* MS. in the cabinet of the Countess of Antrim. Also, notes to Dr. Drummond's Causeway.

named Dool Oge, many years a follower of the M'Donalds. Upon being chid for loitering by Sorley Boy, he replied, " Sir, it is impossible for me to run with you, and with your father before you."

The immense estates, the right to which had here been decided, by force of arms, as belonging to the M'Donalds, were shortly after about to be contended for by two brothers of the same family, Randall and Æneas: but this dispute was terminated by the aid of superstition, whose reign was evidently not yet extinct, as the following fact evinces. When the two armies were drawn out, and ready to engage, O'Dornan, the clerk of St. Patrick, stepping in between, and ringing a bell, denounced the curse of the great Patron Saint of Ireland upon the unjust claimant. The effect was immediate; the brothers became reconciled, and the right of primogeniture acknowledged.

FAIR HEAD—COLLIERIES.

To the east of Ballycastle bay, the majestic promontory of Fair is seen boldly overlooking the foamy sea that divides it from the Isle of Rathlin. As this sublime and terrific scene is one of such very universal notoriety, we shall suppose the inquisitive traveller to proceed thither from the inn at Ballycastle; and although the collieries are

Geo. Petrie del.

Geo. Cooke fc

BENMORE OR FAIRHEAD, COUNTY OF ANTRIM.

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passed upon the way, yet they shall be postponed until the chief object of interest, Fair Head, be minutely described. Leaving the quay, and proceeding by the road along the shore for a distance of about one mile, the precipitous bank which contains the coal mines, and in whose front a stratum of black shining slate is observable, is to be ascended in the first convenient place. The path forward then to Fair Head cannot be mistaken, as the object of inquiry remains always in view. From this elevation the island of Raghery is so very distinctly seen, that houses, fields, &c. are readily recognized. The hills and isles of Scotland are less distinctly perceived at various distances. The angry waters between this Head and the Island are either in a continued sheet of foam, or possessing a majestic swell. With every change of tide or wind, a corresponding change takes place in the state of the surface of the waters, so that the view from Benmore is subject to infinite variety.

Fair Head, or, as it is generally and more properly denominated, Benmore, *i. e.* the Great Head, is incorrectly stated, by Dr. Hamilton, to be the Rhobogdium of Ptolemy. It is not the most northern point of Ireland, which certainly was what Ptolemy meant to designate by this name, nor is it so called in any copy whatever of Ptolemy's map. The name Rhobogdium is evidently and unequivocally attributed in the ancient

map of this geographer to Malin Head, or Innishowen Head.

This splendid promontory, whose highest point is five hundred and thirty-five feet above the ocean's level, is composed of a body of columnar green-stone, of such colossal dimensions, that its rude articulations are not at first very obvious; but upon surveying attentively one of the gigantic columns, the joints and separatrices are distinctly marked. The whole structure of the promontory consists of two parts; the one at the sea-side is an inclined plane, strewn with enormous masses of the same stone, in the wildest and most terrific chaos; above this rises the mural precipice of columnar green-stone, two hundred and fifty feet in height. The scene of ruin at the base of these Titanian pillars is probably not exceeded in Europe. Here the sea heaves in a solemn, majestic swell, the peculiar attribute of the Atlantic waters, and in every retreat discloses the apparently endless continuation of convulsive ruin, covered by the waters beneath the promontory. Upon this region of desolation, on the shore, enormous debris, either assuming the character of rude columnization, or in a perfectly shapeless mass, whose weight is calculated at from four to five thousand tons, are thrown together in all the savage sublimity of which we can conceive the wildest scenes in nature capable.

The scene just now described, is discovered

below the feet of the traveller, as he cautiously paces along the brink of the precipice. The surface upon which he treads, upon examination, will be found to consist of a regular pavement, formed of the extremities of enormous prismatic masses, composing the precipice, perfectly denuded, and completely level. These prisms vary in form; some are quadrilateral, and appear to be composed of a congeries of smaller prisms, aggregated in such a way, as to suggest very obviously the clustered assemblage of shafts, which occur in the formation of a gothic column. In tracing the summit of this bold head, several natural curiosities are pointed out; the first, to the west, is a fissure in the face of the precipice, called Fhir Leith, or the Gray Man's Path: the entrance to the pass, at the top, is extremely narrow; and a joint of green-stone, which has fallen across it, forms a sort of natural gate, through which the bold inquirer must descend, and which conducts to a gradually expanding passage, which leads to the chaotic heaps at the base of the great colonnade. There are one or two similar chasms along the summit, which have frequently proved fatal to the cattle left pasturing upon the head-land. There are several places along the brink of the precipice, where the guide directs his followers to lie flat upon the ground, and cast the eye down perpendicularly to the foot of the column, a depth of

two hundred and fifty feet; this can be done in many places without the least danger. Some of the columns are magnetical.

Near the highest point of Fair Head is an extraordinary cave, said to be artificial, and called a Pict's house. Not far hence are two small lakes, at an elevation exceeding four hundred feet above the sea, called Lough Caolin and Lough-na-Cressa; one of these discharges its overflowing waters into the sea, through the whyndyke called Carrick Mawr, or the Great Crag. The pedestrian may now continue his excursion along the edge of the precipice for about two miles, after which the scenery he is already acquainted with re-appears. And here we shall suppose him to return to Ballycastle.

The next object of interest and curiosity is the colliery; of which, probably, a brief history as to its discovery and importance to the country, rather than a minute detail of its geological situation, would be both the most acceptable to the tourist and the most appropriate for a work of this nature.

The collieries occupy an extent of one mile along the coast of the bay; they have been wrought for many centuries, as we shall shortly demonstrate, and were found extremely productive: they once sent from ten to fifteen thousand tons to market annually, whereas, probably, one

thousand or fifteen hundred is the present limit. The inhabitants appear to prefer turf fuel, and even the islanders from Raghery carry over turf from the main land. There were twelve coal pits opened here formerly, of which only four continue to be worked.

The coal found at Ballycastle collieries, particularly in the Gob pit, is not unlike the coal of Campbell Town, and is called here blazing coal; but there is another species in the same region called blind coal, by no means so useful. In 1807, the miners working this coal came to a fault, consisting of a bed of limpid shells, which they cut through, and recovered the coal. These two species are never found together; they are separated by a whyndyke, at a place called Whaley's Folly. The fossils usually attendant upon the coal of this district are iron-stone, black shivery slate, grey, brown, or yellowish sand-stone, and basalt or whynstone; all which strata preserve much regularity, and exhibit their arrangement in the steep cliffs: they are inclined to the horizon in a small angle. These strata are sometimes cut through by vertical dykes, some of which are impenetrable; and these stops, or interruptions, are called faults. There is one remarkable case of a bed of trap, lying in a conformable position between strata of sand, at White-nose-crag, near

Port-na-crea, called here an horizontal dyke: it is about two feet in thickness, yields a black enamel before the blow-pipe, and acts on the magnet. The cliff in which the coal beds are deposited, is traversed by several dykes: the Carrickmore dyke, which throws out the measures of the Gob colliery; the Salt-pans dyke, producing a similar effect on the west; the North-star dyke, which is frequently cut through without producing a fault to the miner; but the coal on either side, for a distance of nine feet, is reduced to cinders, as if the basalt had been poured in in a fluid state. Towards Ballycastle, a subsidence or fault takes place, and the coal beds are surrounded by trap rocks. The collieries are worked to a considerable distance below the sea, and there is much water within, which, together with the constant attendance of foul air, prevents their continuing below more than eight hours at a time.

That the Ballycastle collieries have been worked at a very remote period, is a fact sufficiently established by the following anecdote, taken from Hamilton's learned work upon this coast.

About the year 1770, while the miners were pushing forward an adit towards the bed of coal, in an unexplored part of the Ballycastle cliff, they unexpectedly broke through the rock into a narrow passage, so much contracted and choaked up

with various drippings and deposits on its sides and bottom, as to render it impossible for any of the workmen to force through, that they might examine it farther. Two lads were, therefore, made to creep in with candles, for the purpose of exploring this subterranean avenue; they accordingly proceeded for a considerable time, with much labour and difficulty, and at length entered into an extensive labyrinth, diverging into numerous apartments, in the mazes and windings of which they were completely bewildered and lost. After various vain attempts to return, their lights were extinguished, their voices became hoarse and exhausted with frequent shouting; at length, becoming completely fatigued, they sat down together in utter despair. Meanwhile, their friends without, alarmed for their safety, used equal exertion to indicate their presence, but in vain; at length it occured to one of the subterranean wanderers, that the sound of his hammer against a stone would be better heard than the sound of the human voice, which artifice succeeded in directing their friends to the place where the two young adventurers were seated in despondence, and so ultimately restored them to the light of the sun after an absence of twelve hours.

Thirty-six chambers were discovered here, all trimmed and dressed by excellent hands; also baskets and mining implements, and other demon-

strations of the original miners' knowledge and expertness in the art, equal to that of the present age. No tradition remains in the country of the working of this mine; and the peasantry, who attribute all works of antiquity in this kingdom to the Danes or the giants, in this instance prefer the former. But this conclusion is erroneous, as is very satisfactorily proved by the writer of the above extract. Another argument, in favour of the supposition that these collieries were wrought anciently, is derived from this curious circumstance. Bruce's Castle, on the Island of Raghery, appears to have been built with lime, which had been burned with sea coal, some of the cinders of which may still be detected in the mortar, and bear a strong resemblance to those of the Ballycastle coals. Now these coals, in all probability, were brought from Ballycastle; for the English collieries were not then in general use, and this was more than five centuries ago.

RAGHERY ISLAND.*

Returning to Ballycastle, after visiting Fair Head and the collieries, a very interesting excursion is open to the tourist, namely, a visit to the Island of Raghery. In the voyage to Raghery, the tides and state of weather are to be consulted, nor should the excursion be attempted without a proper boat, and four stout hands. These are both readily procured at Ballycastle for a moderate price. If the tide should be at such a period as to admit of falling down by Fair Head, and then crossing over to Ushet Point, this should, by all means, be accomplished; for in this excursion the view of Fair Head will be found to be the noblest object on the whole range of the Antrim coast. This voyage is somewhat longer than the passage over to Church Bay.

The strait which divides Raghery from the main land, called Slunk-na-marra, the hollow of

* This island is called by Pliny, Ricnea—Ricina, by Ptolemy—Riduna, by Antonius—Recarn and Recraln, by the Irish historians—Raclinda, by Buchanan—Rachlin, by Ware—Rathlin, by modern map makers—and Rachery, or Raghery, by the inhabitants. Dr. Hamilton derives the name from Ragh Erin, the fortress of Ireland, which appears rather fanciful. Others have derived it from Riadalean, the habitation of the waters. It was anciently called Rochrime, from the multitude of trees with which it abounded.

the sea, is about six miles broad, and so exceedingly troubled, that its navigation is a matter of difficulty, and sometimes even dangerous, owing to the great current occasioned by the narrow channel. From the continued swell, which even in the calmest weather does not cease, and the conflux of tides, broken and interrupted by islands and headlands, many melancholy accidents have occurred at various periods: lately, a long boat, containing a water guard and nine men, was lost; and several boats have been seen to sink in the very midst of this channel, to which, from the instantaneous overwhelming, by the irresistible swell, no assistance could be rendered. But in many cases, the losses have been chiefly attributable to want of sobriety, or total ignorance in the helmsman. An experienced sailor will scarcely ever run any risk in these very troubled straits.

Upon approaching the coast of the island, an exact analogy is observable, in its geological structure, to the main land; and on that point of it lying immediately opposite Kenbaan Head, a singular combination of dykes occurs, apparently continuations of those which, at the latter place, appear to have been attended with such extraordinary disturbances. Three black dykes are here seen traversing the chalk, which is converted into a finely granular marble. These dykes are a little to the west of Church Bay.

Here also, at a place called the Black Rock,

fragments of the old sand-stone are found associated with blocks of syenite, in great abundance. The shores of Raghery rise very abruptly from the sea, particularly about Kentruan, three hundred and eighteen feet above its level. Here the cliffs appear to be continued down under the water with artificial perpendicularity. The principal landing place is at Church Bay, where the visiter must not expect to find either a village or an inn. The island is the property of Mr. Gage, who holds it by a lease in perpetuity, under the Countess of Antrim. This gentleman is completely lord of the isle, and banishes his subjects to the *continent* of Ireland for misconduct, or repeated offences against his laws. Raghery is about five English miles in length by three and a half in breadth; it contains about two thousand acres, one quarter of which grows corn, &c. There are three townlands, called Shandra, Alla, and Knockard, upon which the majority of the inhabitants, generally about one thousand, reside: it appears, from a late census, that its population is not increasing, and varies very little. There are two places of worship here, a Protestant church and a Roman Catholic chapel.

The extreme western end of the island is called Kenramer, and is three hundred and fifty-two feet above the ocean: here is the Bull Point, an elevation of two hundred and eighty feet. At the same end of the island is a fresh water lake, called

Lough Cliggin, whose height, above the high water-mark, is two hundred and thirty-eight feet. And near Ushet is Lough Runaolin, only one hundred and forty-four feet above the same level. It may be observed, that the surface is in general greatly elevated above the ocean, the lowest point, Altahony, being eighty-three feet high, and the highest, Sliebh Ard, three hundred and seventy-two. The mean elevation is two hundred feet. Formerly, distinctions existed between the inhabitants of each end of the island, and the qualifications of Ushet and Kenramer men were looked upon as totally dissimilar. This, however, is now quite extinguished.

Near Ushet, at a place called Doon Point, the disposition of the basaltic columns is very remarkable, some being perpendicular, others horizontal, and others curved. The base of this little promontory is a natural pier or mole, above this is a collection of columns of a curved form, apparently assumed in conformity with the surface on which they rest, and inducing a belief that they were so moulded when in a state of softness; and above both these arrangements, there is a variety of differently disposed columns, partaking of every position in which basalt has been discovered at other places.

The form of Raghery Island is that of a right angle, whose sides or legs are Kenramer and Ushet points: on the external vertex of the right

angle stands Bruce's Castle, and in the internal vertical is Church Bay. In the early ages of our history, the proximity of Scotland and Ireland invited mutual predatory expeditions, to which it certainly appears the Scotch were more addicted than the Irish: in these occasional petit and partial invasions, the Island of Raghery was found very useful, both as a depot and a place of retreat. In a small plain, in the centre of the island, several tumuli were recently discovered; and upon opening them, they were found to contain various implements of war, brazen swords, spears, &c. A large fibula, found in one of these, is now deposited in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin. A stone coffin was also found, inclosing a human skeleton, beside which stood an earthen vessel, in which a residuum was deposited which appeared to be of blood. Collections of bones were found in several of the others.

During the civil wars which devastated Scotland, between Robert Bruce and Baliol, the former fled to Raghery for shelter; and, fortifying himself in the castle which now bears his surname, made a bold and successful resistance to his enemies. The short time which Bruce remained upon the island may be very fairly assigned as a reason for his not having been the founder or builder of the castle; besides, in all probability, it was the existence of this strong castle on

Raghery Island which induced the exiled king to fly thither for shelter. This is the more insisted upon, as the date of the erection of this building may help to throw some light upon the date of the period at which the Ballycastle collieries were originally worked, as has been mentioned before, from the lime used in the castle walls having been burned with sea coal,* some of the cinders of which are discoverable in the mortar.

In the beginning of the fifth century, "Saint Comgall landed on this island, with an intent to erect a cell; but he was instantly seized by a band of thirty military men, who, holding his hands, drove him out of the island." We are not informed by whose orders this holy man was so inhospitably received and so rudely treated; but St. Columba, the founder of the Abbey of Derry, A. D. 546, succeeded: he founded a church here, and placed over it Colman, the deacon, the son of Roi. Dr. Lannigan attributes the foundation of this chapel to Segenius, Abbot of Hy, in the year 653. In the year 795, this island was invaded or infested by the Scandinavian freebooters, vulgarly called Danes, who pillaged the church, and burned and destroyed what they could not remove; and in 973, these ruthless despoilers crowned with martyrdom St. Feradach, the holy abbot of this church. In 1551, it was invaded by the English,

* See Collieries, page 88.

who were repulsed with the loss of one vessel;* and in 1558, the Scots took possession of Raghery, but were soon after expelled, with dreadful slaughter, by the Lord Deputy, Sussex, who seized upon it for the English crown.

There is a tradition of a dreadful massacre having been perpetrated here some years back by the Highland clan of the Campbells; and a place called Glar-na-Calleach is pointed out as the scene of a wanton and cowardly murder, committed upon a number of old women, who were thrown over the rocks, at the instigation of a monster, called M'Nalready. In 1575, General Morris landed here with a body of men from Carrickfergus; and having killed two hundred and forty of the islanders, seized upon the castle.

Raghery is considered part of Antrim county, and is a rectory in the diocese of Connor.

ROAD FROM BALLYCASTLE TO BALLINTOY.

About three miles from Ballycastle, on the Ballintoy road, lies Kenbaan, *i. e.* the White Head.

* Amongst the English captives was found Captain Bagnal, a person of some rank, who was afterwards exchanged for Sorley Boy, then a prisoner in the Castle of Dublin.

This is one of the most interesting and extraordinary promontories in this apparently unnatural region; it is the most conspicuous object in the view, as Ballycastle is approached from the Carey Mountains, from the snowy whiteness of its chalky cliffs, and a nearer survey tends to increase admiration and astonishment. A mass of chalk, about one furlong in extent, is seen in the face of the cliff, abruptly terminated, and with every demonstration of violent convulsion at both extremities. Towards the east, it is both over and under-lain by basalt, and forming a sort of tongue, is at last lost, and inclosed in that rock; here also the chalk, which is horizontal in most other places, is perceived to assume a curved position.

Towards the west, the chalk extends into the sea, and forms a sharp, narrow tract of land, whose highest point is seventy feet above its surface, connected to the main land by an isthmus completely broken through; over this chasm hang abruptly the ruins of an ancient castle, the gateway of which is tolerably perfect, once the strong hold of the M'Alisters, a hardy, stubborn enemy to the Queen, in the deputyship of Sir John Perrot: this site, like that of Dunluce, appears to have been selected for the narrowness of its approach, and its consequent security of defence.

Beneath M'Alister Castle, on each side of the

chasm, enormous whyndykes may be distinctly traced, and in every direction the promontory appears shattered and convulsed; masses of basalt (mingled sometimes with chalky debris, and flints), are seen protruding through numerous fissures. In some instances, the chalk is converted into a compact crystalline marble, viz. when it comes into contact with these dykes. The entire chalky mass is capped with basalt; but near the summit of the cliffs, which rise to a height of three hundred feet, two beds are seen, which at a distance appear like chalk; but, upon a nearer examination, are found to be a breccia, composed of chalk, intermixed with flints and basaltic concretions. The external surfaces of these fragments appear to have undergone considerable alterations, and they are penetrated by nests of a greenish substance, apparently steatite.

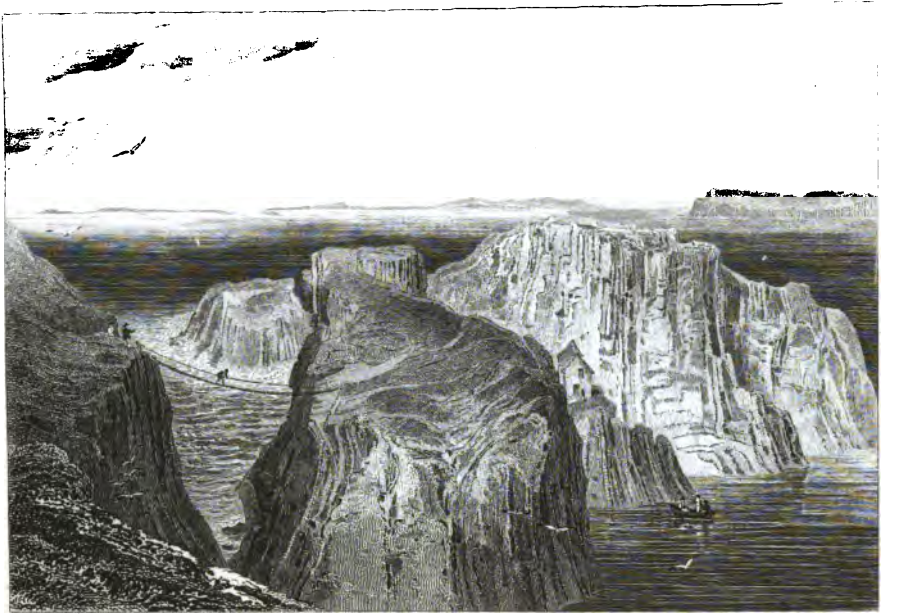
Beneath Kenbaan Head are numerous caves in the chalky cliffs, only capable of being visited by a boat, extremely beautiful and curious. These caves are perfectly dry, and are used as boat-houses in winter, and places for boat-building in summer. The excavation usually called Grace Staples Cave, between Kenbaan and Ballycastle, is particularly remarkable for the columnarity of its sides, and is a miniature of the Cave of Staffa. On the western side of Kenbaan Head is an enormous fissure in the rocky cliff, known by the epithet of Buly, which the guides assert to be the

impression of the great Cuchullin's sword. There is no excursion by water along the coast, more seriously worth the attention of the tourist, than this from Ballycastle to Raghery, and thence along the coast to Ballintoy.

About one mile farther, turning towards Kenbaan Head, lies Ardmoy, or Armoy, the Yellow Hill. Armoy is a fair town, having six of these public markets annually. The base of a round tower (not enumerated by Ledwich) is found at this place, and about two miles from this, more inland, an old castle, inclosed by plantation, of which the history is lost.

CARRICK-A-REDE.

The next important object of inquiry and curiosity, is the swinging bridge of Carrick-a-Rede, or Carrick-a-Ramhad, *i. e.* the rock in the road; because it interrupts the salmon in their passage along the coast. The Carrick-a-Rede is an insulated crag of rudely prismatic basalt, connected with the main land by a bridge of ropes, thrown across a chasm sixty feet in breadth and eighty-four in depth. This flying bridge, which is not unlike the connecting bridge between Holyhead Mountain and the South Stack, is thus formed: two strong cables, parallel to each other, are fastened to rings, inserted in the solid rock,



CARRICK-A-REDE, COUNTY OF ANTRIM.

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on each side of the chasm, and the narrow interval of the ropes is occupied by a boarded pathway. The danger in crossing is attributable to an irregularity in planting the foot upon the board, which of course recoils against the impression too soon, and precipitates the unguarded and courageous venturer into the deep chasm below. Persons accustomed to walk along planks may safely venture over, and the women and boys attached to the fishery, carry great loads across with the utmost contempt of danger, and apparent ease. This dangerous mode of communication exists only for a part of the year, viz. during the fishing season; immediately after which it is removed, but restored again the ensuing season. It should be remarked, that the Island of Carrick-a-Rede is of nearly equal elevation with the main land, three hundred and fifty feet. In the cliffs, near the island, is a very beautiful cave, about thirty feet in height, formed entirely of columnar basalt, of which the bases appear to have been removed, so that the unsupported polygonal columns compose the cave.

The chief use of this insulated rock appears to be that of interrupting the salmon, who annually coast along the shore in search of rivers, in which to deposit their spawn. Their passage is generally made close to the shore, so that Carrick-a-Rede is very opportunely situated for projecting the interrupting nets. It will here be inquired,

why the fishermen do not spare themselves the trouble of throwing across this very dangerous bridge, and approach the island by water; but this is perfectly impracticable, owing to the extreme perpendicularity of the basaltic cliffs on every side, except in one small bay, which is not accessible but at particular periods. This fishery, and, indeed, all those along the northern coast are very productive. The only residents in the little cottage on the island are the clerk and fishermen, and they remain only during the summer months. The fishermen are paid, and all the expenses of fishing defrayed, by proportionate allowances of salmon.

BALLINTOY.

In approaching Ballintoy, the road passes over the basaltic hill of Knocsoghy, where the heads, or extremities of the columns, appear level with the road, and form a sort of polygonal pavement or causeway; the same is observable on Fair Head, but on a more gigantic scale.

The village of Ballintoy contains about seventy houses, boldly and romantically situated, on a sublimely barren and denuded shore. The steeple is a very conspicuous object in so bleak a view, and the spire has now become a useful land mark to the navigator. The hill of Cruaghmore, an

elevation of four hundred and seventy-one feet, is exceedingly curious, being totally of basaltic formation, and near the very summit may be seen some basaltic columns: this is a truth of very great importance in the decision of the question as to the origin of basaltes.

Near Ballintoy is Mount Druid, the seat of the Rev. Mr. Trail, on whose grounds a druidical cromlech may be seen; the covering stone is six feet six inches in length, by five feet and a half in breadth, and is supported by four large rocks, one at each end, and the same number on either side; it was formerly inclosed by a circle of stones, forming an area of thirty-three feet in diameter: enough of these still remain to point out the extent of the inclosure, and the rudeness of their form.*

In the year 1756 a vein of wood coal was discovered near Ballintoy, and worked with so much effect as to be able to supply the salt works of Portrush and Coleraine. It is usually found in veins varying from two inches to four, of five feet in thickness, alternating with beds of basalt. It is also found in the cliffs of Portnoffer, on the east of the Giant's Causeway, underlaying the columnar strata at Killymorris, near the centre of the basaltic area, and at Portmore, and several places along the eastern shore of Lough Neagh.

* See a drawing of this cromlech in the Antrim Survey p. 532.

The beds at Portmore are said to be twenty-five inches thick in two instances, and a third is nine feet thick at the depth of eighty yards. The texture of the wood is often remarkably distinct, and indicates it to be a species of fir: it has been asserted, that the roots and branches of the trees could be traced, and the annual rings are oftentimes perceptible. The wood coal at Portnoffer has the exterior surface of some of its fragments penetrated by small nests of augite, imperfectly crystalized. Some years since the pits of Ballintoy unfortunately caught fire, and continued to burn for several years, until at length the flame was smothered by the falling in of the incumbent basaltic mass. Wood coal cannot be used in forges, and the smell, resembling that of rotten wood, renders it unpleasant for domestic purposes.

Ballintoy is a rectory, in the diocese of Connor; there are three fairs held here in each year, and it has the advantage of a tolerable bay.

From Ballintoy to Bushmills there is no object of attention or interest to detain the traveller, with the exception probably of Dunseverick Castle, an ancient fortress situated on an insulated rock, which is mouldering away with such rapidity, that the work of art in this case appears a more durable structure than that of nature. There is very little of the military or ecclesiastical history of this county yet collected. The

wretched epitome of its monastic history, contained in Archdall, is scarcely sufficient for the purposes of a catalogue; and even the learned Dr. Lannigan's ecclesiastical history, a yet more recent work, says but little on the same subject. Of the castles along the eastern and northern coasts, very little information can now be collected; and of this ruin we find only one sentence in Camden, viz. that it was given to Sorley Boy, about the year 1570; after which time it became the residence of O'Cahan, an Irish chief from the banks of the river Bann, from whom the county of Coleraine was denominated O'Cahan's country; he was the friend and ally of Sorley Boy, who, together with Bryan Carrough, united their forces with his to oppose the deputy, Sir John Perrott.

The tourist may now proceed without delay to Bushmills, about one mile from the Causeway, where there is a comfortable little inn; this is to be considered the Causeway inn, being the nearest place of rest or refreshment. From Bushmills, then, the tourist is supposed to make an excursion to the Causeway, and along the coast in an eastern direction by Pleaskin. Here, then, we shall commence our description of the great object of inquiry, the Causeway itself; and for this place the various theories upon the formation of basaltes have been reserved, as the most appropriate occasion of their introduction. We shall first describe the general appearance of the Causeway, and the

different curiosities in its vicinity likely to interest every tourist, and afterwards explain, with as little technicality as possible, the objects of scientific investigation; and ultimately take a review of the different and opposite doctrines, laid down by our greatest natural philosophers, upon the formation of the coast of Antrim in general, but of the Causeway more particularly.

On approaching the shore, at a place called the Rock Heads, it becomes imperative on the tourist to abandon both vehicles and horses, and trust to pedestrian activity solely for the remainder of the path to the Causeway.

The first object of curiosity, to which one of the many guides who present themselves generally conducts the visiter, is Port Coon Cave. This magnificent excavation is accessible both by sea and land. In the west side are two apertures by which it can be entered at all times, but the violence of the billows at its mouth sometimes forbids the most adventurous sailor to approach. The cave is of considerable length, and boats may row in, an hundred yards at least. The formation of the interior is very extraordinary, and extremely interesting to the mineralogical tourist: the roof and sides are composed of rounded stones, imbedded in a basaltic paste, of extreme hardness. These stones again are formed of concentric spheres, resembling the pellicles of an onion. The appearance of the cave, viewed from

the innermost recess is not unlike the side aisle of a gothic cathedral, the roof being a tolerably regular pointed arch: the sides appear greasy, and do actually feel so: one of the unbidden attendants, who takes the trouble to accompany the party, is generally provided with a loaded gun, upon the discharge of which, a tremendous reverberation of sound is produced: musical instruments also, when played with judicious management, *i. e.* by allowing a short pause between the succeeding notes, will be found to produce most agreeable echoes. This property of affording musical echoes is also attributed to Fingal's Cave in the Island of Staffa.

Adjoining this cave is the little inlet called Port Coon, formed by a very remarkable* whyndyke; it seems to have been composed of seven walls, and to have been separated from the dyke in front of the precipice, by some great convulsion. In this shock a small pyramidal basaltic rock was detached from the great mass, and stands now insulated in the centre of the small bay. The ruins of the whyndyke are attached to its eastern side, separated into a number of distinct walls, exhibiting their construction by horizontal prisms, and forming, altogether, a very instructive object. Beyond the projecting excavated rock, of which

* The construction of whyndykes was originally observed by Dr. Richardson, and will be found very ably detailed in the appendix to the Antrim Survey.

Port Coon Cave is composed, is a second of these whyndykes, being one side of the little estuary of Port Nabau.

On the west of Port Coon Cave and Dyke, in the dark perpendicular cliff, is a deep and lofty cave, accessible by water alone. The entrance assumes the appearance of a pointed arch, and is remarkably regular. The boatmen are very expert in entering these caves; they bring the boat's head right in front, and, watching the roll of the wave, quickly ship the oars, and sail in majestically upon the smooth rolling wave. The depth of Dunkerry Cave has not been ascertained, for the extremity is so constructed as to render the management of a boat there impracticable and dangerous; besides, from the greasy character of the sides of the cave, the hand cannot be serviceable in forwarding or retarding the boat. Along the sides is a bordering of marine plants, above the surface of the water, of considerable breadth. The roof and sides are clad over with green confervæ, which gives a very rich and beautiful effect: and not the least curious circumstance connected with a visit to this subterranean apartment, is the swelling of the water within. It has been already frequently observed, that the swell of the sea upon this coast is at all times heavy; and as each successive wave rolls into the cave, the surface rises so slowly and awfully, that a nervous person would be apprehensive of a ceaseless in-

crease in the elevation of the waters until they reached the summit of the cave. Of this however, there is not the most distant cause of apprehension, the roof being sixty feet above the high water mark. The roaring of the waves in the interior is distinctly heard; but no probable conclusion can be arrived at from this as to the depth It is said too, that the inhabitants of some cottages a mile removed from the shore, have their slumbers frequently interrupted in the winter's nights, by the subterranean sounds of Dunkerry Cavern. The entrance is very striking and grand, being 26 feet in breadth, and inclosed between two natural walls of dark basalt; and the visiter will enjoy a much more perfect view of the natural architecture at the entrance, by sitting in the prow with his face to the stern as the boat returns.

Landing again, and returning to the Causeway road, pursue its windings beneath the wild and barren cliff for about a quarter of a mile, when the first view of the Causeway is afforded. The impression at first produced, is that of the building of an extensive pier, for which the stones, blocked out, had many years ago been laid upon the beach; but from some great national calamity, or other unknown cause, the work was interrupted, and the labourers all dismissed. And so the natives believe, that the giants once commenced this colossal task of forming a causeway into Scotland, but that, being expelled by the ancient Irish

heroes, they left the great work imperfect. It is not, however, the magnitude of the Causeway which surprises, nor the distant view which commands attention; the wonder and admiration of the tourist are to be reserved until he steps upon the very surface of this great work of nature, when the expectation of the most sanguine and the amazement of the most experienced traveller will indeed be fully realized.

To the left are seen some bold projecting rocks, called the Stookins, forming a partition between Port-na-Baw and Port-na-gange; and a little farther west, close to the shore, stands the insulated rock called Sea Gull Isle; and between Port-na-gange and Port-Noffer the Causeway runs out into the sea.

The Causeway consists of three piers or moles, projecting from the base of a stratified cliff, about 400 feet in height: the principal mole is visible for about 300 yards in extent at low water, the others not more than half that distance. It is composed of polygonal pillars, of dark coloured basalt, so closely united, that it is difficult to insert more than a knife-blade between them; and the formation of a continuous surface at each point in the pavement, by polygons, whose angles vary so much in value, would have surprised even Proclus, yet no artificial formation can exceed this in accuracy. Towards the centre of the whole mass the pillars ascend; and from the peculiar appear-

THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, COUNTY OF ANTRIM.

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ance of the surface, this vertex is usually called the Honeycomb. The pillars are irregular prisms of an uncertain number of sides, varying from three to nine: there is one of three sides near the centre of the Honeycomb, and several of nine have been detected, but the hexagonal form prevails most generally.

Each pillar is in itself a distinct piece of workmanship; it is separable from all the adjacent columns, and then is in itself separable into distinct joints, whose articulation is as perfect as human exertion could have formed them, the extremities of each joint being concave or convex, which is determined by the terminations of the joints with which it was united; but there is no regularity as to the upper or lower extremity being concave or convex; the only law on this point is, that the contiguous joints, are the one concave, the other convex. In order to ensure stability to this piece of architecture, the angles of the inferior joints frequently overlap those of the superior so finely, that the force required to dislocate them, frequently fractures the joints. If the concavity of any pillar be examined, it will be found to represent a circle inscribed in a polygon; the interval in each angle intercepted between the periphery of the circle, and the sides of the polygon being perfectly horizontal. To make this more intelligible—suppose the extremity of the pillar or joint had been originally in a soft state, but in a poly-

gonal form, and that a heavy iron ball, whose diameter was equal to the shortest diameter of the polygon, was laid upon it, and being removed again, left a basin-formed impression on the stone; this would give a perfect idea of the appearance which the concave ends exhibit: the convex, on the other hand, appears as if the ball was inclosed within the pillar still, and a portion of the sphere projected through the extremity of the column. This very mathematical appearance of the circle inscribed in an irregular polygon, has led some fanciful theorists to suppose, that these curious columns might have been formed by the compression of a number of liquid globules, which at first only touched at one point, but when the pressure was increased indefinitely, were formed into angular masses.

Though the polygons are all irregular, yet the contiguous sides of the adjacent pillars are equal, so that the contact of the columns is complete. And we have already mentioned, that notwithstanding the number and different values of the concurring angles in each point, yet their sum is found to be so precisely equal to four right angles, that there is not the smallest aperture or open space left over the whole arena of basaltic pavement. So close is the flooring of this natural quay, that wherever any subsidence of the surface has occurred, water will be found to lodge, and remain for a length of time. And this suggests

also a curious circumstance, to which the attention of the visiter will be called, upon his arrival at the Causeway; that although the union of the columns has been just represented as impervious to a lodgment of water, yet on the west side of the Causeway is seen a spring of water bubbling up between in the interstices of the columns, through which the blade of a knife could, with much difficulty, be introduced. This is called, of course, the Giants' Well, and the water found in it is extremely pure. It may be observed, also, that the pillars, between which the water issues, are not the least worn, nor are their angles less accurate than those of any pillar in the Causeway.

In the early ages of natural history many ridiculous questions were proposed relative to this extraordinary piece of nature's architecture, which would degrade the naturalist of the present age; amongst the rest, it was seriously proposed, as a difficult and important question, to discover the depth which the Causeway pillars run perpendicularly into the ground, and in the Encyclopedia Britannica we find this solemn sentence: "How deep they are fixed in the strand was never yet discovered." But the modern geologist can assure these sage inquirers, that the mole or quay, called the Giants' Causeway, is only the continuation of a basaltic stratum, whose breadth may be measured in various parts of the range along

the coast, and is ascertained to be forty-five feet in thickness or depth. The answer to the query, to what distance does it extend under water, is not so satisfactory in a nautical point of view; but it is supposed to obey the same law here as the stratum to which it belongs is found to do elsewhere.

The Causeway, which is entirely composed of basaltic pillars, is inclined to the horizon in a small angle, and may be traced up the cliff in an easterly direction, and culminates at the distance of one mile from the Causeway, where it attains the height of two hundred and fifty feet above the level of the sea. It still proceeds towards the east, and ultimately immerges at Portmore. This is not the grandest nor most magnificent stratum of basalt: the next stratum but one to this forms the noblest natural colonnade in the world, the columns being more perfect in their articulation than the great columns of Fair Head, and of more collossal dimensions than those of the Causeway.

An expert guide will afford much satisfaction to the tourist in pointing out the variety of form and position in the different columns around the Causeway; some are remarkable for the great length of their joints, others are seen in the lowest range of the precipice, lying in an horizontal position; but this is evidently attributable to external causes, as all the columns in these have a

vertical position. In the face of the bold stratified cliff east of the Causeway, some very perfect and regular colonades of clustered pillars are seen, the most perfect of which are called the organs, from a very striking resemblance which the façade bears to the range of frontal tubes in a large church organ. And opposite these is another, called generally the Giants' Loom, but the term giant has lost its distinguishing power in this vicinity now, as every stone around derives an epithet or name from its relative situation amongst these great men's supellectilia, their chairs, their well, &c.

The scenery east of the Causeway is truly sublime: the dark precipitous cliffs which rise regularly in gradually retiring strata, certainly suggest the idea of their having been deposited age after age, as Werner thought; and the extraordinary appearance of the various colonnades might, for a moment, seduce the fancy of the contemplating visiter, and lead him to imagine, that here whole palaces have been overwhelmed in ruin. These successive capes, which are visible from the Causeway, are but a part of one great headland, called Bengore, the rival of Benmore or Fair Head, and similarly formed. On a lofty projecting cliff, east of the Causeway, stand a few shattered columns, usually known by the appellation of "the chimney tops," said to have been mistaken by the crew of the vessels composing

the invincible Armada of Spain, who forthwith fired upon the inoffensive columns, and registered in their fronts their foolish error. The Spaniards might probably have been led to mistake the chimney tops for a castle, from the very bold situation in which they might have observed the castles of Kenbaan, Dunseverick, and Dunluce: other traditions say, that the Spaniards thought they recognized the chimney tops of a village in these detached columns, and, directing their course thither, their unwieldy vessels were cast away upon the cliff beneath. A little to the east also of this place is a small bay, called Port-na-Spagna, to perpetuate the occurrence of this event. The bay between the Causeway and this is called Port Noffer, in which stands another insulated basaltic mass, called the Lion Rock. In this port or bay are three of these extraordinary whyndykes, the most remarkable of which is called the Rovinvalley Dyke; when viewed from the sea, it exhibits the appearance of a wall running through the front of the cliff, and is only interrupted in one place, and there but for a few yards.

In Port-na-Spagna is another dyke, not so readily detected, which emerges in the rubble at the foot of the façade.

If the tourist has taken boat at Port-na-Baw, he can sail along the coast under Pleaskin to Bengore, and back again; which will be found the

most desirable mode of visiting the scenery in this spot; for if he should proceed along the summit of the cliff to Pleaskin, he overlooks the interesting part of the view, the front of the cliff; nor is it very practicable to proceed along the shore by the foot of the precipice. However, a walk of two miles will accomplish the excursion to Bengore from the Rock Head, and little more than one from that to Pleaskin. The little bays look very curious from the top of the cliff, and the descent to them is very dangerous; it was here that Adam Moring lost his life, whose story has been transmitted down to after ages with so much elegance and feeling by Dr. Hamilton.

The land above the shore is a bleak pasturage for some miles, and the extraordinary property which it possesses, of being elevated towards the sea, and dipping towards the centre of the county, is no where more conspicuous or obvious than in the walk to Bengore.

It now remains to describe the stratification of Pleaskin and Bengore, and the appearance they exhibit to the unpractised eye; after which we shall introduce a brief review of the various theories of the formation of basaltes now before the world. At Pleaskin the natural basaltic rock lies immediately under the surface; about twelve feet from the summit, the rock begins to assume a columnar tendency, and is formed into ranges of rudely columnar basalt, in a vertical position, and

exhibiting the appearance of a grand gallery, whose columns measure sixty feet in height. This basaltic colonade rests upon a bed of coarse, black, irregular rock, sixty feet thick, abounding in blobs and air-holes; below this coarse stratum is a second range of pillars, forty-five feet high, more accurately columnar, nearly as accurately formed as those of the Causeway itself; and in general it may be observed, that the lower the range, the more accurate the columnarization will be found to be. This latter range is supported by a bed of red ochreous stone. These natural façades, with the intervening strata, form a perpendicular height of about one hundred and fifty-four feet; and from the base of this precipice, a sloping bank is continued to the sea, strewn with debris and clothed with verdure, whose altitude is about two hundred feet, making altogether a height of three hundred and fifty-four feet above the sea. The stratification in Bengore, which lies a little to the east of Pleaskin, is not so distinct, nor is the headland itself so beautiful, so that the description now given of the strata at Pleaskin will answer for both. Although the entire aggregate of capes near the Causeway, properly speaking, composes the headland of Bengore, *i. e.* the Goat's Head, yet there is one precise cape so called, whose height is three hundred and twenty-eight feet above high water. Here a vein of wood coal was found, between the strata of basalt, but

it did not repay the expenses of working. In the severe season of 1817, a vein of fossil coal was discovered near the Causeway, which the poor, who were then much distressed for fuel, commenced working for themselves; but, being situated under a stratum of basalt pillars, the roofing fell in, and several persons unhappily perished: this unlucky event has deterred others from renewing the attempt. Fossil coal has been already mentioned as existing at Ballintoy, on the road from Ballycastle to the Causeway; it has also been discovered at Knocnagor, in the County of Down.

Travellers visiting the Causeway, will be presented, by a number of poor people, who crowd around, with collections of augite, calcareous spar, steatite, and zeolite, some of which are very beautiful: there is a very extraordinary substance found in the precipitous cliffs, hanging over the Causeway, for which no technical name has yet been discovered; it very much resembles cinders, and is known by no other name here: being very porous and light, it will be found to float upon the water: the guides know it by the name of cinders, and will provide specimens for their employers without the least delay or trouble.

The term basaltes is derived either from basal, iron, or the Greek Βασαλιζω, to examine diligently. It is a hard, heavy stone, either black or green, consisting of prismatic crystals, the number

of whose sides is uncertain. The English miners call it cockle, the German schorl; its specific gravity to that of water is three thousand or upwards to one thousand. It frequently contains iron, and consists either of particles of an indeterminate figure, or of a spongy, fibrous, and striated texture. It has a flinty hardness, is insoluble by acids, and is fusible by fire. It has a very strong resemblance to lava, and was for many years considered identical with it; but this error is now fully rectified: although it was more difficult to correct from the circumstance of basaltes having been constantly found in volcanic districts as well as in other places. It was originally discovered in Ethiopia, and in the river Tmolus; it is also to be met in Russia, Poland, and Saxony, both in a columnar and massive form, but the noblest basaltic areas in the world, are those of the County of Antrim, and of Staffa in the western isles.

Great quantities of basaltes are likewise found in the vicinity of Mount Etna in Sicily, of Hecla in Iceland, and of the volcano in the Isle of Bourbon. These three are the only active volcanoes in whose neighbourhood it is to be met with; but it is found adjacent to many which are extinct, particularly the silent craters of Italy, although not about Vesuvius. The area of basaltes, in the County of Antrim, is probably the most extensive known; it underlays the whole of

the county, and passes through Lough Neagh, in the direction of its diagonal. In Staffa one end of the island rests upon basaltic columns, about fifty feet high, formed into colonades projecting or receding in an analogous form to the sinuosities of the shore; and this continued colonading stands upon a firm basis of unformed rock. The basalt of the Causeway is both the most accurately crystalized and the grandest specimen in the world; and the pillars of Pleaskin and Fair Head exceed all others in magnitude, the latter being two hundred and fifty feet in perpendicular height. Sir Joseph Banks observes, that the bending pillars of Staffa differ considerably from those of the Causeway; for that in the former they lie on their sides, formed into circular segments, and in one place resemble the ribs of a ship, while at the Causeway they are vertical; but he was not sufficiently acquainted with the northern coast of Ireland, or he would have known that the comparison of the ribs of a ship is also applicable to the basaltes of Ballintoy, and of Doon Point, in Raghery Island.

There are two very distinct and opposite theories of the formation of basalt, called the Plutonian and Neptunian, the one attributing its origin to fire, the other to water. There are other theories not deserving of distinct titles, being but deductions from these; but there is a third class of naturalists who appear disposed to an amicable ad-

justment of the dispute, who allow that both the elements of fire and water are, or may be, instrumental in the production of basalt. The argument adduced in support of the igneous or volcanic origin of basalt may, with some degree of accuracy, be reduced to the following :—

First. That basaltes and lava agree almost entirely in their elementary principles.

Secondly. That the iron of basaltes is, in a metallic state, capable of acting on the magnetical needle, which is also the case with that found in compact lava.*

Thirdly. Basaltes and lava are both fusible *per se.*

Fourthly. Basaltes is a foreign substance, superinduced upon the lime-stone soil of the country, in a state of softness capable of allowing the flints to penetrate considerably into its inferior surface.

Fifthly. The beds of red ochre found in basalt regions are supposed to be an iron earth, reduced to that state by the powerful action of heat.

Sixthly. Zeolite is presumed to be a constant attendant of volcanic products. Instance, the

* The action of basalt upon the needle is only partial: some of the columns at Fair Head are found to derange the compass, while the adjacent columns do not possess that power.

volcanic regions near Hecla in Iceland, and also in the Isle of Bourbon.

Seventhly. The substances found in our basalt country, such as crystals of schorl, peperino stone, pozzolana earth, pumice stone, &c. are all found in volcanic districts.

There are many other arguments of a less obvious nature, which consequently are passed over in a sketch of this nature; but it would be an unfair state of the argument not to mention the assertion of Sir William Hamilton, that lavas running into the sea, have a tendency to crystalize; and also Mr. Ferber's argument, derived from the crystals which he discovered in the black lava, with which the road from Rome to Ostia was paved.

In the most modern, and one of the most elegant treatises upon the formation of basalt now in being, we find the following epitome of the conclusions of many philosophers.

"It appears," says Klaproth, the celebrated chemist of Berlin, "that naturalists emancipated themselves, by degrees, from the volcanic illusion. Bergman, the first of the chemists, who employed himself with diligence and success in examining mineral substances, and who, to an intimate acquaintance with the effects of heat, joined an extensive knowledge of mineralogy, could not bring himself to consider basalt as a product of volcanic eruptions. The Swedes adopted his view of the

question. It is some forty years, since every body in Germany considered basaltic mountains as ancient volcanoes. Werner raised the Neptunian standard; and now among all the German mineralogists of any reputation, I know of but one (Voigt) who still maintains the old doctrine." We have seen how Klaproth, who had most opportunities of observing the effects of fire on mineral substances, and has besides studied the history of basaltic mountains with that correctness for which he is remarkable, has pronounced upon the subject. In Ireland, Mr. Kirwan was a supporter of the volcanic doctrine; but the numerous chemical experiments which he made on minerals, and other considerations, led him to a change. Dr. Mitchell, one of the best mineralogists, and Professor Jameson, author of the Mineralogical Travels in Scotland, and the greater part of the British naturalists, consider basalt as having been produced in the humid way. The celebrated geologist of the Alps, Saussure, found reason to yield, to a certain extent, to the Neptunian theory; and Dolomieu, who was at the head of the volcanists, but in whom the love of truth was paramount to the spirit of party, admitted, that some basaltes might have been produced in the humid way.

Thus stands the question at the present day: a few arguments, however, for the Neptunian theory may be added, to militate against a charge

of partiality in deciding in favour of the marine deity, without allowing our reader sufficient opportunity of concluding for himself.

First, it is acknowledged, that in stones composed of many ingredients, transitions or gradations are frequently observed, from the more simple to the more compound, or, *vice versa*, &c.; so that if any term of the transition be volcanic, the whole graduating series must be of like origin; and if, on the other hand, any of the terms be decidedly of Neptunian origin, the whole series must be Neptunian. This is Werner and Kirwan's argument. Secondly, Beddoes has shown an evident connection between basalt, trap, and granite; and a connection of this sort, extorted from Ferber an avowal, that basalt might be produced in the moist way. Thirdly, some singular basaltic pillars were lately discovered in Bohemia, containing indurated marl, with the impression of a vegetable resembling cerastium or alpine Mouse-ear. The consequence is plain. The difficulty, then, which now remains, is to account for the prismatic or columnar form; but this is more easily explained by the Neptunian than by the volcanian theory; for we can produce many instances of similar prisms in fossils, produced in the humid way *undoubtedly*, and none at all *undoubtedly* formed in the dry way. This form, according to Kirwan, seems to proceed from the sudden bursting of basaltic masses, either

from drying, or the absorption of the air. Kirwan was confirmed in this opinion, from the occurrences of a similar kind which took place in a large block of calp brought to Dublin, for a foundation stone of the present Custom House; this stone split into as regular prisms as those of the Causeway. This stone resembles basalt in its composition, but contains a much larger proportion of calcareous earth, and a much smaller of iron.

Again, in the province of Volterre, Mr. Dolomieu found micareous marls to assume a prismatic form on drying. Near Capo del Bove, he found tufas split into regular hexagonal pillars, six or seven feet long. Mr. Strange discovered granitic pillars in the Euganeon Mountains, undoubtedly formed in the same manner. Several columnar porphyries have been observed. We should therefore, with the learned mineralogist, no longer wonder at seeing basaltic pillars formed by the same accidents.*

We have now visited the great object of inquiry, and certainly one of the most extraordinary and unexplained works of nature; for although much learning and more ingenuity have been employed in the development of the mysteries of nature, in the operation whereby basalt has been crystalized, yet candour extorts the confession, that upon this one point of the dispute, no satisfactory result has been attained. As to the aqueous origin of basalt,

* Appendix to Kirwan's Mineralogy, p. 338.

in the chief points we agree, although we would willingly permit both elements to be considered instrumental, and suppose Vulcan to have interposed through the medium of his more cool and placid brother Neptune; but this only as a conjecture.

The coast to Portrush is of a similar structure to many parts of the coast already passed, but the peninsula itself requires more accurate description. It is about one mile in circumference, formed on the west, north, and east, by low cliffs; those on the west presenting a rudely prismatic green-stone; those on the north and east, tabular masses of the same stone, sometimes alternating with a very remarkable rock, which is still a subject of discussion amongst the advocates of the opposite theories. It is a flinty slate, exactly similar to the indurated clay slate of Carrick-Maur dyke, in the Ballycastle collieries. In this flinty slate are contained numerous impressions of the *cornu Ammonis*, invested with pyrites, the shells being similar to those found in the slate clay underlaying the chalk near Ballintoy.

The Neptunists consider this rock as a variety of the basalt, and refer to its included fossils triumphantly, as affording a decisive argument against the Vulcanists.

But, on the other hand, Professor Playfair, the advocate of the Vulcanian, though not of the Volcanian system, in his Illustrations of the Hut-

tonian Theory, expresses his belief, "that the rock containing the shells, is the schistus or stratified stone which serves as the base of the basaltes, and which has acquired a high degree of induration by the vicinity of the great ignited mass of whynstone; and in this opinion, Mr. Conybeare, in his Geological Relations of the North-East of Ireland, entirely concurs. The Skerries Rocks, at some distance from the shore, and the little village of Portrush, may be seen distinctly from the heights near the Causeway; but if we except the interest excited by its mineralogical subjects, there is no inducement to the tourist to visit Portrush.

DUNLUCE CASTLE.

From Bushmills to Coleraine, by way of Dunluce, is a very pleasing ride; it is rather more circuitous than the inland road; but the ruin and site of Dunluce-castle, one of the ancient residences of the Earls of Antrim, who derive the title of Viscounts of Dunluce from this castle and barony, seduce the traveller from the shorter way.

The ruins of Dunluce-castle stand on a perpendicular insulated, or rather detached rock; the entire surface of which is so completely occupied by the edifice, that the external walls are in continuation with the perpendicular sides of the rock. The walls of the building were never

DUNLUCE CASTLE, COUNTY OF ANTRIM.

very lofty, but from the great area which they inclose, contained a considerable number of apartments. One small vaulted room is said to be inhabited by a *Banshee*, whose chief occupation is sweeping the floor: this story originates in the positive fact, that the floor is at all times as clean as if it had been just then swept; but this difficulty can be explained, without the introduction of Maw Roi, the fairy, by the fact that the wind gains admittance through an aperture on a level with the floor, and thus preserves the appearance of cleanliness and freedom from dust, just now described. In the north-eastern end is a small room actually projecting over the sea, the rocky base having fallen away, and from the door of this apartment there is a very awful view of the green sea beneath. The rock on which the castle stands is not surrounded by water, but is united, at the bottom of the chasm, to the main land, by a ledge of rock, a little higher than the surface of the ocean. The castle was entered by a bridge, formed in the following manner:—two parallel walls, about eight feet asunder, thrown across the chasm, connected the rock with the main land: upon these, planks were laid cross-wise for the admission of visiters, and removed immediately after the passage was effected. At present, but one of the walls remains, about thirteen inches in thickness; and the only path-way to the castle is along its summit, over the awful rocky chasm.

The distance at which the other parallel wall was placed, may be perceived by the traces of its adhesion to the opposite rock.

On the main land, close to the castle, a second collection of similar buildings are seen, erected at a later period, by one of the Antrim family, in consequence of a melancholy occurrence amongst the domestics in the castle. A small apartment on the verge of the rock gave way, and fell into the ocean, which so alarmed the female part of the family, that additional apartments were erected for their accommodation upon the main land. This is said to have happened during the occupancy of Catherine Manners, widow of George Villiers, the great Duke of Buckingham, who married Randal, the first Marquis of Antrim.

Beneath the rock on which the castle stands, is a cave, penetrating completely through, from the sea to the rocky basin on the land-side of the castle; it may be entered by a small aperture in the south end, and at low water there is a good deal of the flooring uncovered, which consists of large round stones; this form is the consequence of the action of the waves. The sides and roof are of basalt, possessing merely the usual characters: here also is a very remarkable echo, when the surface of the water is unruffled.

Though all accurate knowledge of the date of erection, and name of the founder of Dunluce Castle are completely lost, yet the history of its proprietors for the few last centuries is extremely in-

teresting, and affords a very characteristic account of the state of society in the feudal periods of the 15th and 16th centuries. It has been conjectured, that De Courcy, Earl of Ulster, originally founded this castle; but the architecture is not of so very ancient a date. In the fifteenth century it was held by the English; at which period it appears to have fallen into the hands of a noble English family, called by Camden, M'Willies, from whose hands it passed into the possession of the M'Donalds of the Isles, and to their descendants it belongs at this day. The M'Willies, now generally called M'Quillans, were the descendants of the De Burgos, a noble English family, who were once lords of that part of the county of Antrim usually denominated the Rout.

In Hamilton's Letters is a tolerably perfect account of the unfortunate family of the M'Quillans, from the first moment of their intercourse with the M'Donalds. The following is nearly the same; whatever variations occur in the narrative, rest upon the authority of a MS. in the possession of the Countess of Antrim, from which her Ladyship permitted these and many other little extracts in this volume to be made.

About the year 1580, Colonel M'Donald, brother to James, Lord of Cantyre, came into Ireland* with a band of men, to assist Tyrconnell

* To settle the dispute between Irish Coll and M'Quillan.—Antrim MS.

against the great O'Neill, with whom he was then at war. In passing through the Rout, he was hospitably received and entertained by M'Quillan, the lord and master of the Rout and Kilconery. At that time, there was a war between M'Quillan and the men of Killiteragh, beyond the Bann; the custom of the people was to rob from every one, and the strongest party carried it, be he right or wrong.

On the day when Colonel M'Donald was taking his departure to proceed on his journey to Tyrconnell, M'Quillan, who was not equal in war to his savage neighbours, called together his militia, or *gallogloghs*, to revenge his affronts over the Bann; and M'Donald thinking it uncivil not to offer his services that day to M'Quillan, after having been so kindly treated, sent one of his gentlemen with an offer of his assistance in the field. M'Quillan was right well pleased with the offer, and declared it to be a perpetual obligation on him and his posterity. So M'Quillan and the Highlanders went against the enemy; and where there was a cow taken from M'Quillan's people before, there were two restored back; after which M'Quillan and Colonel M'Donald returned back with a great prey, and without the loss of a man.

Winter then drawing nigh, M'Quillan gave Colonel M'Donald an invitation to stay with him at his castle of Dunluce, advising him to settle there until the spring, and to quarter his men up

and down the Rout. This M'Donald gladly accepted; and in the mean time seduced M'Quillan's daughter, and privately married her: upon which ground the M'Donalds afterwards founded their claim to the M'Quillans' territories. The men were quartered two and two through the Rout; that is to say, one of the M'Quillans' galloglogh and a Highlander in every tenant's house. It so happened that the galloglogh, according to custom, besides his ordinary, was entitled to a *meather* (noggin) of milk, as a privilege; this the Highlanders esteemed to be a great affront, and at last one of them asked his landlord, "Why don't you give me milk, as you give the other?" The galloglogh immediately made answer, "Would you, a Highland beggar as you are, compare yourself to me, or any of M'Quillan's galogloghs?"

The poor honest tenant (who was heartily tired of both) said, "Pray, gentlemen, I'll open the two doors, and you may go and fight it out in the fair fields, and he that has the victory, let him take milk, and all to himself." The galloglogh was soon put to his last breath, after which the Highlander came in and dined heartily. M'Quillan's galloglogh assembled to demand satisfaction, and, in a council which was held, where the conduct of the Scots was debated, their great and dangerous power, and the disgrace arising from the seduction of M'Quillan's daughter, it was agreed, that each galloglogh should kill his com-

rade Highlander by night, and their lord and master with them; but Colonel M'Donald's wife discovered the plot, and told it to her husband. So the Highlanders fled in the night time, first to Knocklade, thence to Bally-castle, and in attempting to escape to Scotland, were driven into the Island of Raghery.

Coll and M'Quillan were restored to friendship, and lived happily together: but, upon the death of M'Quillan, his nephew, who lived at Ballylough, set up a claim to the property of Dunluce, and the wars which ensued between the M'Donalds and M'Quillans continued for nearly half a century, till the English power became so superior in Ireland, that both parties appealed to James the First, who had just then ascended the throne. James had a predilection for his Scotch countryman, the M'Donald, to whom he made over by patent four great baronies, including along with other lands, all poor M'Quillan's possessions. However, to retain some appearance of justice, he gave to M'Quillan* a grant of the great barony of Inishowen, the old territory of O'Dogherty, and sent to him an account of the whole decision, by Sir John Chichester.

* The Antrim MS. states, that M'Quillan and Sir John waited upon the King, and endeavoured to prejudice the suit of M'Donald with him, by representing M'Quillan as an Englishman, being descended from the De Burghs, English settlers.

M'Quillan was extremely mortified at his ill success, and very disconsolate at the difficulties attendant upon transporting his poor people over the river Bann and Lough Foyle which lay between him and his new territory. Sir John Chichester, who was remarkable for cunning and prudence, took advantage of his situation, and persuaded him to cede his title, by an offer of some lands which lay nearer to his old dominions. Thus, the Chichesters, afterwards Earls of Donegal, became possessed of this great estate, and honest M'Quillan settled himself in one far inferior to Inishowen.

The new estate of the M'Quillans was called Clanaghurtie, which proving unequal to sustain the lavish expenditure to which the proprietors had once been accustomed, soon passed into more frugal hands.

The history of Dunluce Castle, from the marriage of Colonel M'Donald, is inseparable from that of the Antrim family, into whose possession it fell upon the death of the father-in-law of Coll. In 1585, Sorley-Boy, *i. e.* Yellow Charles, lord of Dunluce Castle, still preserving a rebellious disposition, was besieged in his castle by Sir John Perrott, Lord Deputy of Ireland. The following account of the siege is to be met with in the Life of Sir John Perrott.* The Deputy planted a

* Also in the Antrim Survey, and in the Notes to Drummond's Poem of the Giants' Causeway.

battery of culverins and cannon before the castle, which being brought by sea to Skerries (Port Rush), the Lord Deputy caused to be drawn thither (being two miles from Dunluce) by force of men, wherein he spared not the labour of his own servants; and when small shot played so thick out of the fort, that the common soldiers began to shrink in planting the artillery, the Lord Deputy caused his own men to fill the gabions with earth, and made good his ground, until the ordnance was planted, and the trenches made. This being done, the Lord Deputy himself gave fire to the first piece of ordnance, which did no great hurt; but, shortly after, the pile beginning to shake, they sent to the Lord Deputy to be received into mercy, and obtained leave to depart, in order to save the expense of battering the place and re-building it again, it being a place of great importance.

Shortly after this siege, the castle was again lost to the English by the treachery of its governor. Upon the surrender of Dunluce, the Lord Deputy appointed a pensioner, named Peter Carey, to be constable, with a ward of fourteen soldiers, believing Carey to be an Englishman; but it was afterwards discovered, that he was one of the Carews of the north. The constable confiding in his own countrymen, gradually discharged the English soldiers, and supplied their places with Irish. Two of these, having confederated with

the enemy, drew up fifty of them at night with ropes made of withies, and having surprised the castle, assaulted the tower wherein the constable lay; and at first offered him his life and permission to depart, but he chose rather to pay the price of his own treachery, in admitting the Irish to his confidence, and was slain bravely fighting in the midst of them.

After this piece of treachery, the Lord Deputy dispatched Merryman, to reduce Sorley-Boy to obedience, who, having slain Alexander, Sorley-Boy's son, and sent his head to the Lord Deputy, then at Drogheda, who caused it to be set on a pole, and placed over the castle-gate, so harassed the aged warrior, that he submitted to the conditions offered him, and swore allegiance to the Queen in the Cathedral of Dublin.

In 1642, Dunluce Castle was the scene of another act of treachery of as black a character. In the month of April, in that year, General Munroe made a visit to the Earl of Antrim, at this castle, and was received with many expressions of joy, and honored with splendid entertainments; and, further, the Earl offered him assistance of men and money, to reduce the country to tranquillity. But this Munroe, when these feats were over, seized on the Earl's person, took possession of his castle, and put the other castles of his lordship into the hands of the Marquis of Argyle's men. He conveyed the Earl to Carrickfergus, and im-

prisoned him in the castle; but from this he very soon effected his escape, and withdrew to England.

Shortly after this period, Ballymagarry became the favourite residence of the M'Donalds; but this noble mansion was accidentally burned, in 1750; from which time, to the present day, Glenarm Castle has been the family seat.

ROAD TO COLERAINE.

About one mile from Dunluce, on the summit of a rising ground, a very beautiful and minutely articulated colonnade of basaltic pillars is observed; this is usually called Craig-a-huller. The stratification here is that which is common to the basalt of all countries, but its position on the apex of a hill is rather contradictory to the volcanic formation.

The city of Coleraine,* or Bannina, as it was anciently styled, lies about two miles and a half from this curious basaltic structure; the road, passing the seat of —— M'Naghten, Esq. is rather an agreeable ride. The county of the city of Coleraine, otherwise called O'Cahan's country, is of ancient appointment; it was divided, as we

* Coleraine is derived from Cuil-rathen, the corner of ferns; or Cuil-rath-ean, the fort on the bend of the river.

learn from the Hibernica of Harris, into *ballyboes*, as Tyrone, and contained five hundred and forty-seven of these measures, or thirty-four thousand one hundred and eighty-seven acres. The town appears to have been originally laid out by Sir John Perrott, Lord Deputy of Ireland, in the reign of Elizabeth. In the centre was a space in the form of a parallelogram, built round with tolerable regularity, now usually called the Diamond. The energy which appears to have pervaded all classes of persons in the employment of the state during the life of Elizabeth, is no where more conspicuous than in this country; first, in the exertions of her officers to reduce it to obedience; and, secondly, in their perseverance in endeavouring to colonize and build. Coleraine was planted with English colonists, and the very houses are said to have been framed in London, and sent over here to be erected. Until very lately, some of the black oak frames, filled with plaistered wicker, were to be seen on one side of the Diamond.

After the retirement of Sir John, Coleraine fell greatly to decay; in 1618, the walls and ramparts were built of sods; there was no provision for the mounting of a single piece of artillery, and the number of inhabitants scarcely sufficient to man one-sixth part of the walls; but the introduction of a manufacture, and enjoy-

ment of a free trade, united with the industry and good conduct of its inhabitants, have rendered Coleraine not only the second town in the county, but a flourishing, beautiful, and happy settlement.

Coleraine, at present, is about three quarters of a mile in length, and is intersected by several cross streets. The old town stood on the east side of the Bann, but Captain-street, and the suburb of Killowen, are now included in the precincts of the city. There is an excellent linen trade carried on here, and it is a market, post, and fair town. The family of Hanger derive the title of Barons from this place.

About the year 540, St. Carbreus, a disciple of St. Finian of Clonard, was made first Bishop of Coleraine. To him succeeded St. Eonall, who was Bishop in the time of St. Columb, the founder of the Abbey of Derry. In 930, Ardmedius, Abbot of Coleraine, was cruelly murdered by the Danes; and, in 1171, Manus M'Dunlave plundered this church and several others. In 1213, Thomas M'Uchtry and the Gauls of Ulster, erected a castle here, for which purpose they raised all the pavement, and destroyed every part of the Abbey, the church only excepted.

To the west of the town stood a monastery, called the Monastery of the Bann, founded in the fifth century, by the noble family of the O'Cahans,

or by the M'Evelins. In 1244, it was dedicated to the Virgin Mary; and, in 1484, was reformed by the Dominican order. In 1560, Sir Robert Savage, of Ulster, Knt. an excellent soldier, was buried here. And in 1644, this monastery was erected into an University, by the general council of Rome. In the Hibernia Dominica many interesting particulars are recorded of this ancient establishment; amongst others, a remarkable triumph of the Virgin's image over the Scotch Bishop, Brutus Babington, and his attendants, is detailed at full length.

The landed property of the Monastery of the Bann was resigned into the hands of commissioners employed by James the First, and by him granted to the London Society. The last prior was Shane O'Neill. The present church is parochial, and kept in excellent repair. Coleraine is a rectory in the diocese of Connor.

The bridge of Coleraine, over the river Bann, is built of stone and wood; the piers are stone, the flooring, span pieces, and ceiling, of wood. Such bridges are very proper, where there is both a rapid current and a great body of water. From the bridge, on the north side, is seen the pretty seat of —— Jackson, Esq.; and to the south, the river view is extremely rich and beautiful. The fishery of the Bann has long been celebrated for its productiveness; it was, at different periods,

the property of different persons and bodies; viz. the Protector Cromwell, the Earls of Donegall, the London Society, &c. At present, one fishery of this river belongs to the Society, the other to the Donegall family. The value of the fisheries, of course, varies with the prices of provisions; the average rent of each is probably about one thousand pounds per annum. The Bann salmon have but one season, having thirty miles and upwards to proceed in seeking for a spawning place.

The navigation of the Bann is very difficult, owing to two causes—the extreme rapidity of the river, which repels the tide, and the bar at its mouth: this formidable obstruction is the result of the conflict of the river and the tide, and requires a skilful pilot to bring over a vessel whose burthen exceeds two hundred tons.

The navigation of this river is certainly a subject of great interest to the northern counties of Ireland, for it would appear practicable to open a communication from the Irish Sea to the Atlantic, through Lough Neagh and the Newry Canal; and then, by the assistance of the Black Water, which falls into Lough Neagh, almost all the northern countries could have a correspondence with each other by water carriage.

Near the embouchure of the river is a vale, covered with shells and various marine exuviæ, generally called the "Old Bann;" this evidently

was the ancient bed of the river, which, in the course of time, is so completely varied; its present direction is much more circuitous, and, probably, on that account, the rapidity of the current less violent than that of the ancient stream.

The tourist will find Coleraine a very agreeable resting place and station for excursions; it is sufficiently near the Causeway, Dunluce, Down Hill, &c. and the neighbourhood affords very pleasing rides and walks.

BALLYMONEY.

The tourist has now visited not only the great object of his inquiry, the Causeway, but the boldest and most magnificent coast scenery in Ireland. There remains another object of attraction, however, Lough Neagh, which shall be spoken of when Randalstown is reached.

From Coleraine to Ballymoney is a distance of about six miles; the road lies along the banks of the river for about a mile and a half, and then turns from the prospect of town and river in a southern direction.

After a drive of six miles, Ballymoney is reached; this poor village is yet the principal assemblage of houses in the barony of Dunluce: it consists of about three hundred habitations, irregularly scattered over an extent of about three

quarters of a mile, from Milltown, on the Rathsharkin road, to Roaden, or Rawdon Foot. The population has been estimated at nineteen hundred souls. There is a monthly market of linen held here, and a tolerably good trade in butter carried on with Belfast. Ballymoney is also a post, and fair town, and a rectory in the diocese of Connor.

The road to Ballymena* passes through a country of a like ungrateful aspect to him, whose eye is seeking out for nature's loveliness; a very dreary and uninteresting tract, lying open upon either side, changing from a level cultivated land to an expanse of bog.

The little hamlet of Dunloy, and the coal pits of Killymorris, are passed at the distance of five and six miles from Ballymoney; and about five miles farther, near the bridge across the Main, is seen a Danish rath, called Dun Dermot. The meeting of the Clough and Main rivers occurs one mile further, and the former is also crossed by the road. Ballymena lies about three miles from the union of these streams, and cultivation here is more attended to and more successful.

The town of Ballymena is a very thriving place, more so than any inland town in the county; it is said to contain five hundred dwellings, and about three thousand inhabitants. An excellent linen market is established here, and regular sales

* Ballymena, fifteen miles from Ballymoney.

of butter for exportation. There are two fairs held in each year. There is one excellent and wide street of modern erection, and some very old-fashioned houses, having gabled fronts, like the old English cottages: near the centre of the town is a large and convenient market house, ornamented by a steeple, sixty feet in height, and behind is seen a rath or moat whose elevation is about fifty. Ballymena is a curacy in the diocese of Connor.

At the distance of one mile and a half from Ballymena, on the Ahoghill road, and on a rising ground, opposite Gilgorm Castle, is a settlement of Moravian brethren, founded in 1746, called Grace Hill; the village is said to contain above four hundred inhabitants. Not far from this is a noble seat of the Lord Mountcashel.

The Randalstown road lies through a very uninteresting tract of country, capable of improvement by cultivation, but totally destitute of picturesque features. The village of Randalstown is very agreeably situated in a wooded glen, on the banks of the river Main. The plantations of Lord O'Neill, and the vicinity of his noble demesne, afford shelter and ornament to the landscape, which the tourist has not been accustomed to during the whole circuit of the county. There is a very pleasing view from the bridge, both up and down the river, of a rich sylvan character; the woods of Lord O'Neill's park hang over the

water with a very beautiful effect. There are a church, meeting-house, and barrack here; in front of the last-mentioned building is a parade for the military, which is now the village mall. There is a very tolerable linen market held on the first Wednesday in the month, in a handsome market-house, over which is an assembly room; and fairs are held here on the 16th of July and 1st of November. Before the Union of Great Britain and Ireland, Randalstown returned two members to parliament, the patronage being in the O'Neill family. About one mile from this village, upon the banks of the Main water, iron-works were formerly carried on, but they have ceased to be worked for some years, either from want of ore, or want of fuel.

If the tourist should be fortunate enough to have perfect control both of time and mode of conveyance, he may enjoy a very beautiful ride, by making the demesne of Shane's Castle his road to Antrim.*

The demesne of Shane's Castle, the seat of the Right Hon. Lord O'Neill, is very extensive, and beautifully situated upon the banks of Lough Neagh. Of the great variety and quantity of timber with which it is planted, some appears to be of natural growth, viz. the majestic oaks, while many thousand have been planted by the noble

* Antrim is four miles from Randalstown.

proprietors. The splendid mansion of Shane's Castle, anciently Edenduff-Carrick, was unhappily destroyed by fire in 1816, and we understand there is no immediate intention of restoring it.

The castle and demesne of Edenduff-Carrick were formerly the property of the O'Neill's, of whom we had occasion to speak in detailing the civil wars which deluged this country, during the reign of Elizabeth, and subsequently. At this day scarcely any traces of this ancient and martial race are to be found in the neighbourhood, with the exception of a monumental stone of rude workmanship within the demesne, bearing the following inscription: "This vault was erected in the year 1660, by Shane M'Phelimy M'Brian M'Shane O'Neill, Esq., as a burying place for himself and the family of Claneboy." Adjoining the demesne of Shane's Castle is the ancient and stately residence of the Skeffingtons, who derived their title from the barony of Massareen in this county. The entrance, which is adjacent to the town of Antrim, is a large gothic or pointed arch of rusticated masonry.

Near the town of Antrim, on the Kells road, is an ancient round tower, about eighty feet in height, and tapering gradually towards the top; there are abutments inside for the support of flooring, and each story is lighted by loop-holes. There are four of these extraordinary buildings in this county, viz. Antrim, Ram's Island, Trum-

mery, and Armoy. The Antrim tower preserves rather stronger indications of their uses than the generality; and certainly determines them to be of Christian purport; for over the entrance door a cross will be found distinctly carved upon the stone, and of workmanship evidently coeval with the building itself. There is also a scriptural device over the door of the round tower of Brechin in Scotland, which is believed to have been erected by Irish missionaries.

LOUGH NEAGH.

This great expanse of water, which may well be styled an Inland Sea, is bounded by five different counties, Armagh on the south, Tyrone on the west, Londonderry on the north-west, Down on a small part of the east, and Antrim on the north and east. It was anciently called Lough Eagh, *i. e.* the wonderful lake, and by corruption Lough Neagh; about the beginning of the sixteenth century it was generally styled Lough Sidney. It is the largest fresh-water lake in Europe, with the exception of Ladoga and Onega in Muscovy, and of Geneva in Switzerland. Its surface varies very considerably in extent or area, according to the season of the year, the waters overflowing considerable tracts of low grounds in winter, which are perfectly dry in summer. The

superficial area has been computed at one hundred thousand plantation acres, but later measurements have proved this to be inaccurate. Mr. Lendrick reduces its contents to fifty-eight thousand two hundred, and the Antrim Survey estimates it at sixty thousand three hundred and sixty-one Irish, or ninety-seven thousand seven hundred and seventy-five English acres. Its depth is not considerable: at the lowest height in summer time, it is about forty-five or fifty feet, and to this seven feet may be added for the increase in winter; it was once known to have risen seven feet nine inches at Shane's Castle. The overflowings of the lake and indentations of the banks are attributable to the great supply derived from the influx of seven large rivers, and many tributary streams into the same basin, from which they have no mode of escape, except by the narrow and obstructed channel of the Bann. The waste occasioned by these inundations is very great: around the lake there are about seventy thousand acres of bog; and sixty thousand acres of profitable land are covered with three feet of water every winter. The Downshire front to this lake has been sometimes overflown to a distance of eight miles from the usual margin of the waters.

The means of remedying this evil has long occupied the attention of the ingenious and sagacious persons who surveyed the surrounding counties; and Mr. Townshend, in his Report upon

the Bogs of Armagh, suggests a plan both practicable and efficacious: he suggests, first, the removal of the bar at Toome, which is only fifteen inches high; secondly, the partial removal of the rock declivity at Portna, where the Bann descends seventeen feet in the distance of half a mile: and thirdly, by diverting the river Main into the Bann, by a new cut, above Randalstown, where the Glanwherry river joins the Main; at the same time deepening the channel of the Main. These alterations would leave a depth of ten feet of water in the Bann for navigation, and afford an increase of eighty thousand acres of available land on the banks of the lake.

Another object would also be attained, by confining this body of water to more definite limits, viz. the absolute site of its basin would remain the same, which has lately been ascertained to vary, and the waters appear to have inundated one region while they have retreated from another: of this a sufficient proof is afforded by the discovery of a boat twenty-three and a half feet long and six broad, under four feet of bog, and lying beside a quay or pier: near this place a canal also was distinctly traced. The boat was of the canoe kind, hollowed out of a solid trunk of oak, which must have been upwards of seven feet in diameter. This curiosity was discovered at the foot of Knockloughrain, about four miles west of Lough Beg.

The royalties and fishery of Lough Neagh were granted to the Earl of Donegall, under the name of Lough Sidney, or Lough Chichester, and they are held in lease by the Viscounts Massareen, or their representatives. The species of fish which visit periodically are the salmon and eel; there are others which are permanent inhabitants, viz. the bodach or churl, some of which are found to weigh upwards of thirty pounds; its flesh is of a deep red, and has an excellent relish. The pollan, or fresh water herring, called by the English the shad, or mother of herrings, is taken here in great quantities: it is scaled and shaped like a herring, but the back is of a lighter blue, and the head smaller and more pointed: it is found in Lough Erne, in the county of Fermanagh, but not in such abundance, and several have been taken in the rivers Thames and Severn, and it has been asserted that one was caught in the Liffey, near Dublin.

There are, besides, pike, trout, roach, and bream, in great abundance, and they are easily taken; and, finally, the salmo alpinus, or charr, which was supposed peculiarly to inhabit the English lakes, frequents this great lake also. We had occasion to mention the occurrence of this species of fish in our Guide to the County of Wicklow, and refer the reader to the article upon Lough Dan for whatever information it was deemed expedient to afford upon either its natural

history, or place of existence in the British Islands.

There are two extraordinary properties of this immense sheet of water, yet untold, viz. its healing and petrifying qualities. The first of these I take to be fabulous; but as very grave and learned naturalists have not hesitated to mention this property, I shall quote their words, without vouching for their authenticity: "The healing property of Lough Neagh is supposed to be confined to that part of the lake called the *Fishing Bay*, which is bounded by the school lands of Dungannon. The occasion of first taking notice of this bay for cure, is said to have been in the reign of Charles II, in the instance of the son of Mr. Cunningham, who had an evil to that degree, that it run on him in eight or ten places. He was touched by the king (to whose royal touch a virtue was at that time ascribed of healing this distemper), and all imaginable means were unsuccessfully used for his recovery: his body was so wasted that he could not walk. At length he was bathed in this lake for eight days, when his sores were dried up, and he grew healthy, and married, had children, and lived many years."—*Down Survey.*

The very name of Neagh, which is probably a corruption of Neasganulcer, seems to allude to an ancient belief in this healing property of the waters; and also the more ancient name of

Lionnmhuine, *i. e.* the Lake of the Sore, bears a similar reference. The fabulous writers of the early ages assert, that Lough Neagh first burst forth in the year 65 of the Christian Era, when Lugaid Rhaibderg ascended the throne of Ireland, at which time there were but three lakes and ten rivers in the whole kingdom.

The petrifying quality of the lake is attended with circumstances of a more interesting nature to the philosopher, and has continued to puzzle our most sagacious naturalists from the time of Nennius, who wrote of this fact in the ninth century, to the present day.

Tradition states, that pieces of holly have been completely transmuted into stone in the space of seven years, by the waters of the lake, while the experiments of the philosopher prove that a lapse of twenty years was insufficient to cause the slightest apparent tendency to petrefaction in pieces of the same timber, similarly disposed. One account asserts, that a holly stake has been driven into the sandy bottom of the lake, so that one portion was buried in the sand, another under water, and the remainder exposed to the atmosphere, and the result was, that the lower part was converted into iron, the middle into stone, and the upper part retained its ligneous nature; but this harmless chimera is unworthy of belief. Such an experiment was tried, for the purpose of ascertaining to which of the three elements in question

the petrifying quality was attributable, but probably neither the duration of the experimentalist's life, nor the impatience of discovery, permitted the result of a sufficient experiment to be fairly established; and the state of the argument at this day is, that such a property or petrifying quality actually exists in the vicinity of Lough Neagh; but where this virtue resides, whether in the soil, the water, or the exhalations which arise from the lake, is still a matter of controversy amongst the learned.

The strand of the Lough abounds in very beautiful pebbles, much resembling the Scotch, and susceptible of a very high polish; they form an article of profitable trade to the peasantry, who have learned to detect the most valuable with great expertness. Several beautiful specimens may be seen in the excellent mineralogical collection of the Royal Dublin Society.

We have mentioned the various subjects of importance connected with this expansive aqueous plain, viz. its capability of improvement, by lowering the surface and deepening the rivers, so as to form a most valuable Ultonian navigation; also its natural curiosities, and useful productions. The nature of this little sketch prohibits more than a superficial view; but these subjects have been dwelt upon by very able writers, whose object was to arrest the attention of the legisla-

ture.* The tourist must not expect to find in the scenery of Lough Neagh that picturesque character for which most of the Irish lakes have been so much celebrated; the view is one tame, extensive, and unbroken scene, of a cold and monotonous character. There is no bold promontory or overhanging rock, no island crowned with wood to break and diversify the prospect. There are but two small islands in the Lough, Blackwater Island, at the mouth of the river from which it derives its appellation, and Ram Island, which is rendered remarkable by its lofty ancient round tower: this latter is about one mile and half from the shore; and from the shallowness of the intervening channel, is supposed to have been a peninsula when the tower was built: it is covered with wood. The height of the remaining part of the tower is about forty feet, and is in good preservation. Boats can readily be procured near the village of Crumlin, to make an excursion to the island, which has lately been much improved by Lord O'Neill, who purposes residing there occasionally.

* See an admirable little essay on this subject, by a member of the Royal Dublin Society, intituled "Report of the Causes of the Disorders of Ireland, &c."

TOWN OF ANTRIM.

The town of Antrim, to which the tourist is now supposed to be returned, was formerly a place of much more dignity than it is at present. It stands upon the 'Six Mile Water,' and is very conveniently situated for the trade of Lough Neagh. Here stood an ancient abbey, founded by Durtract, a disciple of St. Patrick, the records of which are very imperfect. In 1649 the town was burned by the puritan Munroe, and in 1798 there was a dreadful engagement between a body of six thousand rebels and the King's troops, in which the former were defeated with great slaughter. There is a tolerable linen market established here, and it is also a fair and post town. There is a very neat church, adorned with a spire; also two Presbyterian meeting houses, and one Roman Catholic chapel.

The road from Antrim to Belfast* passes through a rich and highly improved country, although the character of the scenery is not very picturesque. There are several bleach greens attached to the neat, and sometimes splendid, mansions of the proprietors, who are here totally divested of that mistaken pride which the Irish have been remarked to possess, of disowning their

* Antrim to Belfast thirteen miles and two furlongs.

connexion with the source and means of their wealth and respectability. This is not the character of their prudent neighbours of Britain; and the wealth, independence, and happiness of Ulster, is a palpable evidence that a dignified and honourable commercial reputation is an attendant upon national happiness, and one of the first and greatest occasions of national self-gratulation.

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THE END.

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