BUSH, D --) Hibernia Curiosa. A Letter from a Ge
is Friend at Dover in Kent. Giving a general View
ispositions, etc. of the Inhabitants of Ireland.
tions on the State of Trade and Agriculture in th
uriosities, such as Salmon-Leaps...Water-falls...
n the Year 1764...With Plans...from Drawings. Lo
1767).

vo., calf, folding frontispiece map of Dublin and
lates, one a little torn with no loss.


A New PLAN of DUBLIN
RIVER LIFFEY
Phenix Park
Road from Castleknock
Black House
Road from Chappl. Izod
Long Meadow
Galways Walk
Stephens Hospital
Road from Rathfarn
Road from Ballyboghil
Kilmainham Road
Work House
Hope Walk
Brown Row
Lane
Street
Road
Walk
Square
Place
Row
Lane
Quay
Bridge
Hill
Green
Park
College Park
College Green
Dame Street
Essex Bridge
Essex Quay
Capel Street
Sackville Street
Henry Street
Mary Street
Abbey Street
Eden Quay
Custom House
Custom House Quay
Beresford Place
Amiens Street
North Wall
Ringsend
Irishtown
Sandymount
Merrion
Donnybrook
Ballsbridge
Clontarf
Drumcondra
Glasnevin
Phibsborough
Arbour Hill
Royal Barracks
Royal Hospital
Kilmainham
Inchicore
Crumlin
Rathmines
Ranelagh
Dolphins Barn
Kilmainham Gaol
Richmond Barracks
Grand Canal
Grand Canal Dock
Ringsend Dock
Liffey Bridge
Ha'penny Bridge
Carlisle Bridge
Wellington Bridge
Queen's Bridge
Whitworth Bridge
Richmond Bridge
Portobello Bridge
Baggot Bridge
Leeson Bridge
Dodder Bridge
Dodder River
Tolka River
Dublin Bay
Pigeon House
Poolbeg Lighthouse
Bull Island
Howth
Howth Head
Ireland's Eye
Lambay Island
Dalkey
Dalkey Island
Killiney Hill
Killiney Bay
Bray Head
Bray
Kingstown
Dunleary
Dunleary Harbour
Dublin Bay
Pigeon House
Poolbeg Lighthouse
Bull Island
Howth
Howth Head
Ireland's Eye
Lambay Island
Dalkey
Dalkey Island
Killiney Hill
Killiney Bay
Bray Head
Bray
Kingstown
Dunleary
Dunleary Harbour

A

LETTER

FROM A

GENTLEMAN in DUBLIN,

TO HIS

FRIEND at DOVER in KENT.

Giving a general View of the

MANNERS, CUSTOMS, DISPOSITIONS, &c.

OF THE

INHABITANTS of IRELAND.

With occasional Observations on the STATE of TRADE and AGRICULTURE in that Kingdom.

And including an ACCOUNT of some of its most remarkable NATURAL CURIOSITIES, such as SALMON-LEAPS, WATER-FALLS, CASCADES, GLYNNS, LAKES, &c.

With a more particular DESCRIPTION of the GIANT'S-CAUSEWAY in the North; and of the celebrated LAKE of KILARNY in the South of IRELAND; taken from an attentive SURVEY and EXAMINATION of the ORIGINALS.

Collected in a TOUR THROUGH THE KINGDOM in the Year 1764: And ornamented with PLANS of the principal ORIGINALS, engraved from DRAWINGS taken on the SPOT.

LONDON:

Printed for W. FLEXNEY, opposite Gray's-Inn-Gate, Holbourn.

TO THE

Right Honourable the Lady

LOUISA CONOLLY,

The following

STRICTURES of a CIVIL and NATURAL
Hiſtory of IRELAND,

Are moſt humbly inſcribed,

By

Her Ladyſhip's

Moſt reſpectful,

And moſt obedient,

Humble ſervant,

J. BUSH.

The Reader is desired to correct the following ERRATA.

Page	Line	
		Of the Editor to the Reader.
6,	10,	*for* copy, *read* copies.
11,	12,	*for* alderman, *read* aldermen.
		Of the Letter, &c.
5,	1,	*for* Buthign, *read* Ruthign.
11,	29,	*for* adjoining, *read* adjacent.
23,	18,	*for* than old, *read* than an old.
Ibid,	25-6,	*for* channel, *read* kennel.
25,	14,	*for* canicles, *read* curricles.
49,	5,	*for* curiosity, *read* curiosities.
53,	2,	*for* pontagonal, *read* pentagonal.
58,	32,	*for* long, *read* large.
60,	17,	*for* Druid temple, *read* monumental pile.
63,	32,	*for* butment, *read* abutment.
66,	6,	*for* tails almost, *read* tails round almost.
Ibid,	16,	*for* in, *read* of.
73,	21,	*for* the beauty, *read* the ideas of beauty.
Ibid,	26,	*Dele* astonishing.
76,	24,	*for* five to fifteen or twenty, *read* from five to ten or fifteen.
78,	13,	*for* mouldered, *read* moulder'd.
Ibid,	32,	*read* it is very apparent.
85,	14,	*for* verdent, *read* verdant.
Ibid,	18,	*for* in, *read* on.
Ibid,	24,	*for* Neck, *read* Neagh.
88,	21,	*for* fertile were, they, *read* fertile, were they.
95,	7,	*for* perspective, *read* prospect.
98,	3,	*for* vanity, *read* variety.
103,	11,	*for* those, *read* these.
104,	5,	*for* cannons, *read* cannon.
Ibid,	6,	*for* situation, *read* situations.
109,	15,	*for* grow, *read* grows.
110,	6,	*for* one, *read* out.
112,	28-9,	*for* a gentle, *read* an easy.
113,	32,	*for* that, *read* what.
156,	18,	*for* mountains above the water, *read* mountains above, the waters.
117,	26,	*for* Mongarton, *read* Mangarton.
189,	18,	*for* vegetable, *read* vegetative.
Ibid,	29,	*for* quadruped, *read* quadrupeds.
120,	3,	*for* as, *read* that.
128,	28,	*for* these, *read* those.
131,	22,	*for* truly, *read* most.
133,	28,	*for* last, *read* late.
135,	10,	*for* these, *read* the.

TO THE

READER.

THE following ſheets are intended to give him a general view of the preſent natural and civil ſtate of Ireland, and to ſerve, principally, as a conduct, to the curious traveller, to ſome of the moſt remarkable natural curioſities of that kingdom. The writer has not introduced many of them, indeed, for the iſland he writes on is fertile of voluminous natural hiſtory; but ſuch as he has taken notice of are ſome of the principal in their kind, of thoſe that occurred to him in his journies through the country; —— and his intentions, at preſent,

are not ſo much to write a natural hiſtory of the kingdom, as to exhibit a view of what may be expected from one.

Natural hiſtory, ſo long as the deſcriptive is employed on ſubjects worthy the notice of the curious, and carefully taken from nature itſelf, inſtead of ſpurious, unnatural pictures of it, collected into a fifth ſtory *for the ſedentary, domeſtic traveller to draw his copy from, is a ſcience, perhaps, of all others, the moſt generally pleaſing, and fertile of entertainment.* ——— *Nor is there a country in the world, perhaps, of equal extent, where the curious naturaliſt will find a greater ſcope, or variety of ſubjects, for his entertainment than in this fertile, Hibernian iſle; yet it ſeems to have been almoſt totally neglected by the natural hiſtorians, and tour-writers, of our own times and country, from hence, as it ſhould ſeem, that they had no materials to compile from.*

Excepting Mr. Smith's hiſtory of one or two counties in the ſouth of Ireland, wrote within theſe twenty years, and in which ſome of the natural hiſtory of thoſe counties is included, there have been but one or two writers, and thoſe of the laſt century or the beginning of this, who have attempted to give any

any thing like a natural hiſtory of Ireland, and the greateſt part of theſe appear to have been wrote implicitly from tradition or the hear-ſay of other people; for no perſon would imagine, on a compariſon of their accounts with the originals, that they had ever ſeen them: and the blunders of theſe have been retailed out by the writers of our own times, who have, occaſionally, dip'd their pens into Iriſh hiſtory; for to ſee the originals, either of this or their own country, is quite out of the way of our natural hiſtorians, tour-writers, and illuſtrators; *which is the reaſon, I preſume, why their productions are now treated with ſo much negligence and contempt. And how, indeed, can the writers, or rather their employers, expect it ſhould be otherwiſe, when every gentleman that has ever been through his country knows that one half nearly of what they palm upon us for natural hiſtory, has no exiſtence but in their own, or the imaginations of others, from whom they have collected or compiled their accounts and deſcriptions; and which even of ſuch ſubjects as have ſome exiſtence in nature, are as much like the originals, indeed, as a ſixpenny picture of KING-GEORGE & QUEEN-SHARLOT, ſtuck up with a* cat's head *in a* pottage-pot *againſt the walls of a cottage in* Lancaſhire.

They are domeſtic travellers, *or rather, if you pleaſe,* garret-riders, *employed, and*

their expences borne, by our hiſtoriographical dealers. And, indeed, whoever ſhall have had opportunity of comparing the originals with the repreſentations given of them by our tour-writers and illuſtrators, *will have ſufficient reaſon to believe, that from* Homer's-Head *to the neareſt* chop-houſe *was one of the longeſt journeys the traveller had taken. — You gentlemen, in the paper and calf-ſkin trade, have a little patience, and you ſhall have an* original *natural hiſtory, or tour, to work upon, to pick out, ſtick in, curtail, tranſpoſe, digeſt,* methodize, *or however you pleaſe, according to the art and myſtery of your profeſſion. We aſſure you, Sirs, by This is not meant the following production, for though 'tis perfectly original, and therefore ſhould be one of the beſt ſubjects in your ſhops to work upon, yet is it beyond your profoundeſt art to* methodize.

If it were allowable to judge of the opinions of others from one's own, I ſhould, without any heſitation, take it for granted, that the reaſons why the generality of our tour-writers and illuſtrators *are ſo dull and unentertaining, are, in the firſt place, from their fooliſh attachment to what is called order and method in the claſſing the ſeveral ſubjects that are taken into their account. But which methodical proceſs, indeed, is far from being naturally*

rally adapted to, or by any means neceſſarily connected with the purpoſes of entertaining the reader, on the contrary is, for the moſt part, ſubverſive of them.——But the ſecond, and more general reaſon is, from their ſtuffing us with a heavy, ſickening load of dull inſignificant deſcriptions, which whether true or falſe are, at beſt inſipid, and can ſerve only to nauſeate the appetite againſt every thing that is taſtful and digeſtible.

Suppoſe, for once, we ſhould have a tour hiſtorical, in order to realize it, in a manner, to the imaginations of the reader, wrote a little more conformable to the general plan of a tour itinerant. Why, for inſtance, muſt a gentleman whoſe taſte and inclination for travelling ſhall carry him through the kingdom, to gratify his curioſity with a view of the general face of the country, and of what is really curious and deſerving his notice, either in the artificial or natural productions of it, why muſt he, againſt all ſenſe and taſte, be confined to the dull, ſtupid, and unnatural method of circulating and zig-zagging through all the inſignificant towns of every county he gets into, before he can leave it; or why muſt he waſte as much time and patience in one county, as would carry him with pleaſure through half a ſcore. You, grave Sirs, that are dealers in method and margin, and imagine it

is

is making the moſt of your tours and illuſtrations —may call this travelling methodically ; — *but the devil's in't if it is travelling with pleaſure, or making the moſt of the journey. — And 'tis to be preſumed, indeed, there are but few gentlemen who would not ſoon be tired of their journey, were this to be the preſcribed plan of their entertainment, that by ſuch tedious advances wears out their time and patience, within the circuit of fifty miles, perhaps, while they might be going on for five hundred, through a conſtant diverſity of proſpects, and variety of entertainment.*

One would imagine, indeed, that the writer of a natural hiſtory, or a tour through his own or any other country, would be apt to conſider his reader as a traveller through the country, and himſelf as his guide or conduct to ſuch objects or curioſity, whether of art or nature, that ſhould be ſuppoſed naturally to engage his notice and attention, and that the moſt promiſing, or the moſt natural method for keeping up the entertainment of his reader, ſhould be the ſame with the moſt eligible plan of a journey, that is to ſay, —— That which afforded the greateſt mixture and diverſity of entertainment ; and, therefore, that in the execution of his office he ſhould have no right, like moſt of our public undertakers, and commiſſion gentlemen, to protract as long as poſſible,

ble, the poſſeſſion of his office, in order to make the moſt of it, by ſtopping him at every market town he ſhould go thro', to examine into the antiquities of it, for the uſeleſs acquiſition of knowing who built the firſt houſe, or laid the firſt ſtone of the pariſh church, —— whether the markets were kept on Wedneſdays or Saturdays,———if more ſheep than bullocks were brought to the fair,———or if more Farnham than Canterbury hops were generally ſold there ;——and whether the town were governed by a Mayor and Alderman, or by a ſet of old women in long-riding-hoods.

Such pompous illuſtrations *as on this plan may be compiled, whether copies of, or the errors and blunders of preceding illuſtrators* methodiz'd, *may be calculated indeed, from their figure and price to ſupport the vanity and ſelf-importance of a ſtarch'd pedantic prig of a bookſeller, who may be ſuppoſed, for his own emolument, to ſet the compiler to work, but it muſt be at the expence of the time, patience and pocket of the reader.*

Much a-kin to theſe are thoſe other claſſes of hireling authors of various deportments, who are employed for the emolument of theſe dealers in paper and calve's ſkin, to retale ye out, numerically, *at a ſmall and* inſenſible *expence, a hiſtory, a dictionary, or a bible,*

(and

(and to cheat the poor devils at Cambridge and Oxford) with notes explanatory, &c. &c. *But before their numeric productions are finiſhed, take care to extract a moſt exorbitant expence of, eventually, three times the mercantile value.*

But ſtill nearer a-kin is that claſs of hireling pedagogal priggs, the abridgers, or rather mutilators of our civil hiſtory, who, for their own and their maſter's intereſt, engage to furniſh you, at a very eaſy expence, *with the* medullam *of your civil hiſtory, or any thing elſe, —— but inſtead of entertaining you with the* marrow *only, will cram ye with the very ſkin, hair and offal, and for the pretended moderate expence of fourteen or fifteen numbers, will, by an infamous ſpecies of extortion, put ye to the moſt immoderate expence of fifty or threeſcore, before what you have already taken, can become of any value, —— and like true, and well-bred* knights of the poſt, *who while they* beg your honor *for* two-pence, *will* pick your honor's pocket *of* forty ſhillings. ——— *Damn the whole fraternity of 'em.* —— *Sir, I mean of* knights of the poſt, —— *from Pall-mall to Pater-noſter.*

In the drawing up the following looſe and curſory hints, for the writer himſelf thinks them

them no better, he has been careful to introduce nothing to the reader, but what he ſuppoſes would naturally engage his notice as a ſtranger, were he travelling through the country. They include the ſubſtance of a correſpondence during his travels through the kingdom, but are intended, indeed, to give the reader no more than the general out-lines of the appearance of things, ſuch as they will offer themſelves to the tranſient ſpectator, including a ſketch of ſome, amongſt many, of the ſpecies of natural entertainment *he may expect to find in the country.*

He has this farther recommendation to offer on the merits of the contents of the following ſpecimen, they are wrote with candour and ingenuity, untinctured with prejudice or partiality; ſuch as the originals appeared to him, with an honeſt freedom, and without reſpect of perſons, he has, in every caſe, endeavoured to depicture them to his readers.

If any claſs of gentlemen of the kingdom he writes from, whether civil or clerical, ſhall think themſelves too freely or too ſeverely dealt with, he takes this opportunity of declaring, that to none, but thoſe who deſerve it, has he the leaſt deſire, or intention, that any degree of cenſure ſhould derive; and, in perfect confidence of this, likewiſe, that none but thoſe,

whoſe

whoſe inſuperable conſciouſneſs ſhall point the application, will ſuggeſt to themſelves any offence.

Who claims the picture knows his right.
GAY.

The ſeveral plans exhibit a natural repreſentation of the originals as far as they extend.

In the deſcriptive, he has copied immediately from nature, without the leaſt implicit reliance on any accounts whatever: from this, at leaſt, he hopes ſome merit will be allowed to the attempt, that it is perfectly original, and for the truth of which, the reader has this general ſecurity, that there were no materials to be found, within the bills of mortality, *from which to palm upon him the* domeſtic travels *of the writer.*

The univerſal abſence, indeed, in the warehouſes of literary commerce of any thing modern of this kind, relative to Ireland, added to the advice of ſome few gentlemen of both kingdoms, on whoſe judgment of the merits he could with more ſafety rely than his own, was an encouragement to offer this novel ſketch of civil and natural hiſtory to the publick. Such as it is, the performance is ſubmitted to the candid

cenſure

cenſure of the reader. ——*The curious votariſt of nature, he preſumes, will derive ſome entertainment from it.* ——*The incurious, from a narrow and ſelfiſh confinement of his taſte and purſuits, will think, perhaps, neither the ſubject nor the country worth his notice. To the all-ſufficient gentlemen of this claſs he makes no appeal, nor expects from them any encouragement.*

Should the following ſpecimen of Hibernian entertainment be found acceptable, the writer propoſes in ſome future opportunity, not very far off, perhaps, to offer a more extenſive natural hiſtory of this, in the natural *view of it, particularly, entertaining country, on the plan he has above hinted at, on one that will be new, and he hopes entertaining to the reader, on a plan that ſhall, at leaſt, have this merit in it, that if ever the reader goes through the country, he may have the ſatisfaction of finding the natural appearances of things correſpond to his hiſtory and deſcription of them.*

He has only to add, that to have contributed, even by the preſent ſhort and imperfect out-lines, towards the removal and obliteration of any national and illiberal prejudices, and to the promoting a greater intercourſe of our gentlemen of fortune and curioſity, with

with a country that, in a natural *view of it, especially, deserves more attention than is generally given to it, will be the source of the most agreeable reflections to*

The EDITOR.

HIBERNIA.

HIBERNIA CURIOSA.

To Mr. W. A—D—N.

Dear Sir,

AGREEABLE to promiſe in our laſt from Dublin, I will, now, that I have finiſhed my tour through the greater part of Ireland, give you ſome account of the country, its inhabitants, and, what you more particularly deſired from me, a deſcription of ſome of its greateſt natural curioſities. Indeed I never was ſo happily ſituated for providing materials for the entertainment of a taſte like yours, for the curious and romantic ſubjects of nature, cultivated by a life for many years converſant with ſcenes of this kind,* as I have been while traverſing through Hibernia.

* Tunbridge Wells.

Perhaps it may not be altogether unentertaining to you, by way of introduction, to have a little ſketch of our journey and paſſage thither. — From London our firſt courſe was to Weſt Cheſter, diſtant from Ireland about 150 miles, and from London 190. From Cheſter there are two paſſages to Dublin, either of which may be taken as ſhall beſt ſuit the convenience of the traveller.

The one from Park-Gate, a little ſea-port for packets and traders, about 12 miles below Cheſter. — The other over-land, for 80 or 90 miles, to Holy-Head, the moſt weſtern point of North Wales, in the iſle of Angleſey, and diſtant from Ireland about 23 Leagues.

The paſſage is likewiſe frequently made from Briſtol by thoſe who are not apprehenſive of danger from the ſea. And this is generally taken, I believe, by the quality and gentry from Ireland that viſit Bath. — The diſtance from Briſtol to the neareſt port in Ireland is about 200 miles.

The ſhorteſt paſſage that can be made from Great-Britain to Ireland is from Port Patrick in Galloway county, Scotland, from whence to Donaghadee in the county of Down, is about ſeven or eight leagues, or nearly the ſame diſtance as from Dover to Calais. But it is hardly worth while to go at leaſt 200 miles by land extraordinary to ſave 40 by ſea from Holy Head, and there-

therefore very few, except thoſe whoſe buſineſs calls them to the north of Ireland, will go to Port Patrick for a paſſage.

There is, however, but little danger in croſſing the Iriſh ſea from any of theſe places, except at the vernal and autumnal ſeaſons of the year, at which times, eſpecially in the autumnal, the winds are frequently very high and tempeſtuous, and the channel conſequently extremely rough and dangerous.

Thoſe who ſhall take the Cheſter road, if they have much baggage to carry and are not fearful of the ſea, will find the paſſage from Park-Gate much the eaſieſt and the moſt convenient, as it is very troubleſome and expenſive getting heavy luggage for 90 miles over the mountainous country, wide and rapid ferry ways of North Wales. —— However, the paſſage over land is, of late years, made much ſafer and more convenient, by the making a turn-pike road through the country, and by the running of a coach or two from Cheſter to the Head, which they perform in two days very well; or otherwiſe you may be accommodated with horſes and a guide from Cheſter quite on to the Head; the road to which lays through Flint, Denbigh, and Carnarvon counties; and the variety of land and ſea proſpects in fine weather, makes a ride over the mountainous country of North Wales extremely entertaining.

St. Vinifred's well, at Holy-well in Flintſhire, and the firſt ſtage from Cheſter, is well worthy the notice of the traveller, from the ſingularity of the place, and the veneration that is paid to it by great numbers of religious devotees, foreign as well as domeſtic, that annually viſit the well; many from devotion to the fair ſaint that is ſuppoſed to preſide here, but more loaded with faith and infirmities, with expectations of a cure from its pretended miraculous ſanative virtues.

'Tis a very remarkable ſpring of fine water, in ſuch quantity that at the diſtance of 20 yards it keeps a water-mill continually going. The place where it riſes is incloſed in the form of a bath, about 12 feet long by ſix or ſeven wide, over which has been built, by the monks of former ages, a moſt curious and venerable Gothic ſtructure, in honour to St. Vinifred, who firſt beſtowed her benediction on the ſpring. 'Tis an excellent cold bath, and when it proves ſerviceable as ſuch, the ſituation it is in, under ſuch a venerable ſuperſtructure, are circumſtances ſufficient to poſſeſs the minds of ſuperſtitious credulity with imaginations of a ſupernatural cure.

The vale of Cloid, a very extenſive and beautiful vale, through which you paſs between Holy-well and Conway, which runs through this north part of Wales for a great many miles, from the borders of Shropſhire

on

en to Wrexham, Buthign, Denbigh, and St. Aſaph, northward to the ſea, is judged to be ſome of the moſt fertile land and productive of the richeſt paſturage in Great-Britain.

The firſt day's journey is generally finiſhed at Aberconway in Carnarvonſhire, the capital or reſidence of the ancient princes of Wales; into which you deſcend from the moſt enormous mountains, ſome of them, in Great-Britain, properly enough called Snowdown hills, for the ſnow may be found on them for eight or nine months of the year. From the top of ſome of theſe mountains, in clear weather, may be ſeen the hills about Dublin, particularly the promontory of Hoath at the extremity of the bay, to the ſeaward, and diſtant at leaſt 80 or 90 miles. — And in a very clear day, in the morning, I have ſeen the tops of theſe Welch mountains from the hill of Hoath and the mountains of Wicklow, on the oppoſite ſide of the Iriſh ſea.

At Aberconway there is an old caſtle, as magnificent in its ruins as perhaps any in Great-Britain, and that is well worthy the notice of the curious traveller.

I was much pleaſed with an old cuſtom that ſtill prevails in ſome parts of this North Welch country, that of entertaining the company at the ſeveral ſtages with the Welch harp, during their ſtay at their inns. From the novelty of the cuſtom, and ſome of them perform very well, I aſſure you we were

very much entertained. It has the appearance of a chearful and hoſpitable welcome, and relieves the mind as well as body from the heavineſs and torpidity often acquired from the noiſe and joſtling in a long confinement to a ſtage coach; eſpecially when the partners in the journey happen not to be the moſt ſociably humoured.

After jumbling up and down theſe North Welch mountains for 80 or 90 miles, you at length reach the *Head*, the *Ne plus ult.* of *Terra firma*, from whence to Dublin, about 60 or 70 miles, you muſt, if you proceed on your journey, truſt your life and body to the chance of ſea-room.

The timorous traveller, unuſed to the ſea, here ſtops, and, with apprehenſions not unmixed with fear, ſurveys the fluid intractable road before him, ſurveys his floating carriage that is to convey him over this yawning, unſubſtantial element, with but a few inches between his life and death. Doubtful and precarious tenure. If the wind blows and the waves run high, his reſolutions ſtagger. But intereſt, curioſity or ſhame at length get the better of his timidity. The gulph muſt be paſſed; and he reſolves to hazard it.

To quiet his anxiety, however, and for his imagined greater ſecurity, he carefully conſults his pilot. ——— Is there no danger, captain, in this ſame paſſage to Dublin? — Why

Why, 'faith, Sir, I will not poſitively aſſure you there is none, for fear you ſhould be diſappointed. The ſailor, to be ſure, is never out of danger on his element: however, I never went a-croſs yet but I came ſafe to the other ſide, and *I hope* I ſhall do ſo now. — Aye, captain, but the ſtory of the pitcher — This ſame hope is but a weak ſecurity when a man has but three inches between his cabbin and a bed of ſalt water. — Have you never a fellow among your crew with a *gallows-mark* upon his face? —— I hope not, Sir. —— But is there no inſurance of a man's life for 60 miles only? —— Oh, yes, the beſt in the world, my noble maſter, a bottle of claret, to put the want of it out of your head.

From a little town and harbour juſt at the Head, there are ſeveral veſſels, or packets, in the ſervice of the government, that paſs every week to and from Dublin; in any one of theſe, for half a guinea, you are accommodated with the uſe of the cabbin and bed; into which if you get yourſelf laid before the ſhip is under way, and there lay faſt to the end of your paſſage, you may, if you are fortunate, eſcape being ſea-ſick, if you are not ſo, you muſt take, and will probably have the chance of a good ſtomatic ſcowering.

This is but a trivial remark, indeed, but it is confirmed by common experience in

theſe ſhort paſſages, that the beſt chance you can have for eſcaping that moſt ſickly of all ſickneſſes is to continue in the poſition you are in when the ſhip firſt begins her motion, and the reclined poſition is the beſt, as the body, in that poſture, is put into the leaſt motion by the toſſing of the veſſel; not to mention that in the cabbin you are nearer the bottom of the ſhip, where the motion is not ſo great by one half as on the deck.

The extent of the kingdom of Ireland, from the beſt obſervations that I could make, is about equal to that of England with an exception of Wales and the four northern counties of Durham, Weſtmoreland, Cumberland, and Northumberland. With theſe reductions, I believe, that England will not be found to exceed the limits of Ireland; though the difference is generally ſuppoſed much greater than it really is.

The firſt object in Ireland that naturally engages the notice of a ſtranger from England, by the way of Holy-Head, is the city of Dublin, the capital of the kingdom, ſituated on the river Liffy, near two miles above the bottom of a beautiful bay, into which it diſcharges itſelf about ſeven or eight miles from the ſea.

After 40 hours rolling and traverſing the boiſterous Iriſh ſea, for 20 leagues only, with the wind, as the ſailors ſay, *right in our teeth*; there was ſomething peculiarly pleaſ-

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ing on entering the beautiful bay of Dublin, which is about three or four miles wide at its entrance, and ſeven or eight deep, with the hills and promontories on either hand, that promiſed us a ſmooth and ſafe paſſage up to the city, in proſpect before us at the bottom of the bay.

With a fair wind, however, the paſſage from the Head is frequently made in 10 or 12 hours.

Dublin is a large, populous, and, for the greater part of it, well built city; not much ornamented, indeed, with grand or magnificent buildings, a few, however, there are, of which the college or univerſity, the only one they have in the kingdom — the parliament houſes — the king's and the lying-in hoſpital, and Swift's for lunatics — with the marquis of Kildare's houſe are the principal. Their churches in general make but a very indifferent figure as to their architecture; and, what I was very much ſurpriſed at, are amazingly deſtitute of monumental ornaments.

The two houſes of parliament are infinitely ſuperior, in point of grandeur and magnificence, to thoſe of Weſtminſter. The houſe of lords is, perhaps, as elegant a room as any in Great-Britain or Ireland.

The college library, from the number of volumes it contains, the magnificence and neatneſs of the room, and the convenient diſpo-

diſpoſition of the books and deſks for the uſe of the ſtudents, is well deſerving the notice of the traveller.

The Caſtle, as it is called from its having been the ſituation of one, I ſuppoſe, of which at preſent there are very few remains, is the reſidence of the lord lieutenant when in Ireland, but has very little of grandeur in its external appearance beſides the large ſquare court-yard, which it encloſes. But the rooms, ſome of them, are large and elegant.

The whole extent of the city of Dublin may be about one-third of London, including Weſtminſter and Southwark, and one-fourth, at leaſt, of the whole, from the accounts we received, has been built within theſe 40 years. Thoſe parts of the town which have been added ſince that time are well built, and the ſtreets in general well laid out, eſpecially on the north ſide of the river; where the moſt conſiderable additions have been made within the term above mentioned. There are on this ſide many ſpacious and regular ſtreets: one in particular in the north-eaſt part of the town. *Sackville-ſtreet*, about 70 feet wide or nearly, with a mall encloſed with a low wall, which, but for the execrable ſtupidity of the builder, would have been one of the moſt noble ſtreets in the three kingdoms, had it been carried, as it might have been, and was propoſed to him at the time of laying it out, directly up

to

to the front of the lying-in hoſpital, the moſt elegant and the beſt finiſhed piece of architecture in Dublin, and I believe in Ireland: and if, beſides this, the projected addition of a ſtreet from the bottom of it, on the ſame plan, directly on to the Liffy, to which the preſent ſtreet directs, had been executed, and terminated, as was intended, on the oppoſite ſide of the river by a view of ſome public building that was there to have been erected in front of the ſtreet, it would have been one of the grandeſt and moſt beautiful ſtreets perhaps in Europe. But as the firſt abſurdity of carrying up the preſent ſtreet juſt by the end of the hoſpital has taken place, this projected improvement will hardly ever be carried into execution, and the obſtinate fool of a builder will deſervedly be damned by every ſtranger, of common ſenſe and taſte, that ſhall ever walk up Sackville-ſtreet.

The view of Dublin from the top of any of their towers is the moſt beautiful, perhaps, of any large city in the king's dominions, in a ſimilar point of view, from the neatneſs of the blue ſlating with which the houſes of this city are univerſally covered. The bay below the city to the eaſt, with the country adjoining round, will afford a very entertaining proſpect.

The river Liffy, which runs through almoſt the center from weſt to eaſt, and contributes,

tributes, as much as the Thames to that of London, to the health of this city, is but a ſmall river, about one-fifth as wide in Dublin as the Thames in London, conſequently can bring up no ſhips of great burden. I believe that 150 or 200 tons is quite as much as can be navigated up to the city.

Over this river there are five bridges, one only of which deſerves any notice, Eſſex-bridge, the loweſt of all, which is really a well built, ſpacious and elegant bridge, with raiſed foot-paths, alcoves, and balluſtrading, on the plan of Weſtminſter-bridge, and about the ſame width, but not above one-fifth part ſo long. The ſouth-end of this bridge fronts to a new ſtreet called Parliament-ſtreet, about the length of Bridge-ſtreet over Weſtminſter-bridge, which, when the intended improvements are made, by continuing it on in a line up to the caſtle with an area, in which is to be built an exchange, much wanted in this city, will be one of the moſt beautiful trading ſtreets in the three kingdoms.

There are two elegant theatres opened in this city, the old and the new, as they are commonly diſtinguiſhed; the former in Smock-alley, the latter in Crow-ſtreet; beſides a third in Aungier-ſtreet, more magnificent they tell ye than either of the others, which for ſeveral years has been ſhut up. But indeed the *two* that are opened are *one* too many to be well ſupported. If the two kings

kings of Brentford, that are the managers, and are fighting, *totis manibus*, againſt each other, were to unite in the largeſt houſe, and the ſame zeal and induſtry that is employed for the deſtruction of each other were exerted for their united intereſt and the entertainment of the public, with a good company of comedians, which out of the two houſes might be collected, they might undoubtedly make great advantages, and theatric entertainments might be exhibited in Dublin in as great perfection as in any town in the king's dominions; for *one* houſe might be able to pay *ſome* of the beſt actors that could be found, equal to their merit, which *two* can neither procure a ſufficient number of, nor pay them if they had them.

The old houſe of Smock-alley, though not ſo large as the new, which is about equal to that of Drury-lane, is one of the moſt elegant and beſt conſtructed theatres for the advantage of both the audience and actors of any that I ever went into.

They have their ſummer entertainments too, in imitation of thoſe in London. Adjoining to the Lying-in hoſpital above mentioned, and belonging to it, is a large ſquare piece of ground encloſed, and three ſides out of four very prettily laid out in walks and plantations of groves, ſhrubs, trees, &c. on the fourth ſtands the hoſpital. In the middle, nearly, of this garden is a ſpacious

and

and beautiful bowling green. On the ſide of the green oppoſite the hoſpital, the ground being much higher, is formed into a fine hanging bank of near 30 feet ſlope, on the top of which is laid out a grand terrace walk, commanding a fine view of the hoſpital; on the upper ſide of this terrace, and nearly encompaſſed with the groves and ſhrubberies, is built a very pretty orcheſtra.

This, the moſt agreeeble garden about Dublin, is their Vaux-hall in the ſummer ſeaſon, and is much frequented in the fine ſummer evenings by the genteel company of the city. And though the whole garden is not ſo generally calculated for a muſical entertainment as the garden of Vaux-hall near London, yet there are ſome walks in it where the muſic has a finer effect than in any that I ever found in the London Vaux-hall.

The inhabitants of this city, and indeed throughout the kingdom, thoſe of them that are people of any fortune, are genteel, ſprightly, ſenſible, and ſociable, and, in general, well affected to the Engliſh. Their dreſs, faſhions and diverſions are taken from them; and whoever ſhall carry over any ſpecies of popular entertainment from London, will be ſure to meet with encouragement, if he has but the good fortune to be ſingular in his profeſſion.

They pique themſelves much on their hoſpitality from all parts of the kingdom. I have

have no objection at all to allowing them all the merit and importance that is due to this commendable virtue. But ſhould there be any appearances of this Hibernian hoſpitality, that to a candid ſpectator ſhould ſeem to be miſcalled, and rather to deſerve the name of oſtentation, from all of this kind I muſt beg leave to object to every degree of their preſumed merit: and I am afraid, indeed, that too much of their boaſted hoſpitality in every province has a much greater right to be denominated oſtentation. — If, inſtead of *killing twenty ſheep to furniſh out a diſh of* KIDNEYS *to an epicurean viſiter*, a few of thoſe hoſpitable gentlemen, of the firſt rank and fortune in the kingdom, would concur for the ſetting on foot ſome generous and humane eſtabliſhment for the relief of thouſands of their miſerable poor, whom oppreſſion, poverty, and want of employment, drives almoſt to deſperation, their names would deſerve to be engraved in characters indelible in the temple of hoſpitality. I will take upon me to ſay, that the Engliſhman that can drink will find them as hoſpitable as any people in Europe; for if he will but *drink* like an *Iriſhman*, he is welcome to *eat* like an *Engliſhman*.

I remember to have heard a very hoſpitable gentleman of this claſs expreſs himſelf in favour of a ſtranger from England, that was juſt introduced into the company, after a little

little converſation had removed the ſtiffneſs and reſerve of a firſt interview —— *Well, Sir, as you are come over quite a ſtranger to the country, it behoves us to make it as agreeable as we can. — There is a company of us to meet at the Black Rock on a jolly party on Sunday next, and, by Jeſus, there is to be five or ſix dozen of claret to be emptied, will you give us the honour of your company?* —— *Sir, you'll excuſe me — I ſhall be engaged.* — 'Twas very hoſpitable, though.

To be ſerious, — for you may think, perhaps, that I have too freely given into the ſatyric ſtrain, and at the expence of my hoſpitable friends. I am very willing to believe, that in their own acceptation of the term, as taken from the too frequent exhibition of it amongſt them, they have as much hoſpitality as any people in the world. But as in this view of them, as well as in every other, I would write with an honeſt frankneſs; and without reſpect of perſons, or fallacious colouring, repreſent things juſt as I found them, I am very free to ſay, that their hoſpitality ſeems to partake ſo much of intemperance, is attended frequently with ſo much inconvenience to the party entertained, as to have given me, from a few trials of it, almoſt a diſguſt againſt every of their pretenſions to it. The ſum and quinteſſence of hoſpitality is expreſſed in that ſingle line of Pope,

" Welcome

" Welcome the coming, ſpeed the going friend :"

By which is implied, an abſence of every ſpecies of compulſion or reſtraint, and, which is the true ſterling hoſpitality, the making the choice of your gueſt the meaſure of your friendſhip and entertainment. But to attempt to ſend him away drunk is ſurely ſetting him off with but very ill ſpeed. If a temperate man accepts of an invitation from one of theſe hoſpitable gentlemen, he can very ſeldom eſcape, but by being abſolutely, and even to a degree of ill manners, peremptory, without having five times as much liquor poured down his throat as he would chuſe. To do juſtice to their generoſity, however, he is free and right welcome to *eat* juſt as much as he pleaſes; and why he ſhould not have the ſame liberty with reſpect to his *drink*, however hoſpitable the reſtriction, or rather forced profuſion, may be thought by theſe gentlemen, I own is to me a paradox in urbanity. But, ſo far as there is any intention of trying the depth or ſoundneſs of the conſtitution, or the bottom, as the expreſſion is, of their unſuſpecting friend over the bottle, their hoſpitality is ſuperlatively contemptible; and to raiſe a merit to themſelves from having made their gueſt moſt nobly drunk, is betraying, at beſt, but a ſottiſh and groveling taſte. —— You

would hardly think that from the ſimple dictates of hoſpitality, a gentleman ſhould have his horſe and boots locked up for two or three days, and himſelf, by that means, in a manner forcibly detained for eight-and-forty hours, when he only intended, and his buſineſs, perhaps, would only admit of his taking a dinner and a chearful bottle. Yet, inſtances of this I have known, I aſſure you, in this hoſpitable country; to ſuch ridiculous extravagancies may the moſt commendable virtues of humanity be perverted by a falſe notion of things ſupported by the authority of example. Among the ſenſible part of the natives, however, the abſurdity of deriving ſuch a practice or inclination from the dictates of hoſpitality is too glaring to eſcape detection, or to meet with any countenance; with theſe therefore, in every country it will deſervedly be exploded.

What I have wrote on this ſubject has been with the utmoſt impartiality, and on which I have been more particular becauſe it is a favourite topic among them. It is a point of view in which the natives of every province appear to aſſume a diſtinguiſhing merit. In any mixed company of different provincials, you will ſeldom fail of having this for one of the ſubjects of your entertainment. In ſuch a ſituation the ſtranger has a natural right to examine into the merits of it.

But

But after all, however doubtful he may be from experience of the juſtice of their claim, yet, if a requiſite degree of candour enters into his examination, he muſt allow there is a native ſprightlineſs and ſociability, a ſpirit of generoſity and frankneſs in their general manner, that is conſpicuous and engaging, and that cannot fail to recommend them to ſtrangers. And whatever apprehenſions he may have of the eventual inconvenience, can hardly refuſe to accept of an invitation given with ſuch appearances of friendſhip and urbanity.

It is very extraordinary that in this large and populous city there ſhould be ſuch an almoſt total want of good inns for the accommodation of ſtrangers and travellers. There is abſolutely not one good inn in the town, not one, upon my honour, in which an Engliſhman of any ſenſe of decency would be ſatisfied with his quarters, and not above two or three in the whole city that he could bear to be in; and every body that is acquainted with the place gets into private lodgings as ſoon as they come to town. But this is a circumſtance that the ſtranger from England, or elſewhere, is often unacquainted with, and conſequently frequently meets with difficulties at his firſt landing that will make it appear to him an inhoſpitable country. It

may happen, indeed, that he may be in diſtreſs even for a night's lodging, if the very few tolerable inns ſhould be full. Nor is there above one bagnio that I could find in the whole city, where a gentleman that had any regard for his reputation or ſafety, would venture to lodge himſelf, this is in Eſſex-ſtreet; and here it is more than an equal chance that he is obliged to pay a ſhilling for a bed about two feet wide, in a room not much above four, perhaps. This has been my own caſe. 'Tis true, you are generally lodged clean and quiet: and a perſon not more delicate than wiſe, will compound with theſe inconveniencies for the want of room and elegance. I do not know a town in the three kingdoms where a large houſe well fitted up with as many neat apartments as poſſible, could be more likely to anſwer the wiſhes or expectations of the owner than in this city. Every ſtranger, therefore, that propoſes making any ſtay in Dublin, if it be but for a fortnight, I would adviſe to have immediate recourſe to the public coffee-houſes, of which he will find ſeveral in Eſſex-ſtreet by the Cuſtom-houſe, and there get directions to the private inhabitants of the town who furniſh lodgings; and almoſt every one in the public-ſtreets that can ſpare an apartment lets it for this uſe: and in an hour's time, perhaps, he may meet with one for

for any time that will be convenient for his uſe; but, if his room is neat, will ſeldom get it under half a guinea per week.

The chief magiſtrate in Dublin, as well as in London, has the dignity of lord mayor annexed to his office for the time being.

The proviſions of this city are generally good and at a reaſonable expence; — Their liquors eſpecially; — you have the beſt of ſpirits at half the price they generally go at in London: for three pence per quartern, or naggin as it is called there, you have the beſt that can be drank.

Their wine is chiefly claret, the beſt of which, that the town produces, may be had at 2s. 6d. the bottle — the common price is two ſhillings — and to thoſe who are unaccuſtomed to a claret of a greater body, it will ſoon become very pleaſant, and the moſt agreeably palated wine he will meet with in Ireland. 'Tis light, wholeſome, and eaſy of digeſtion. You will think it rather of the marvellous, but it is no leſs true, that a middling drinker here will carry off his four bottles without being in the leaſt apparently diſordered. A man is looked upon, indeed, as nothing with his bottle here, that can't take off his gallon coolly. I believe it may be ſaid with a great deal of truth, that the Iriſh drink the moſt of any of his majeſty's ſubjects with the leaſt injury.

'Tis hardly poſſible, indeed, to make an Iriſhman, that can in any ſenſe be called a drinker, thoroughly drunk with his claret: by that time he has diſcharged his five or ſix bottles, he will get a little flaſhy, perhaps, and you may drink him to eternity he'll not be much more. One very favourable circumſtance for the drinker, cuſtom has here eſtabliſhed, their glaſſes are very ſmall: the largeſt of theſe in common uſe will not hold more, I believe, than about one-third of a gill, or quartern.

This is an excellent cuſtom in favour of the moderate drinker; for many a one of this claſs, I make no doubt, would be more intoxicated with three half pint glaſſes, than he would be by three times three half pints drank in very ſmall quantities at a time. But let my countryman be cautious of making compariſons relative to his wine; be careful not to call your claret, at any private gentleman's houſe, what yet it generally very juſtly deſerves to be called, a *pretty* wine, or even a *very pretty* wine. For though a very common expreſſion in England for good wines, yet the terms are not ſufficiently expreſſive or emphatical for an Iriſhman, who, before you are aware of it, or apprehenſive of having given any offence, will, very probably deſcant away and explain upon the meaning of your expreſſion, in a manner that

that will, perhaps, diſconcert you, or, at beſt, give you but a very unfavourable opinion of the temper and underſtanding of your hoſt. For conſcious of the inferiority of his claret to that of London, if he has ever known the difference, he will be jealous of every expreſſion that has but even a diſtant appearance of being comparative. —— The above caution is the reſult of my own experience in the country; and as it may eventually be a very uſeful one, I have introduced it.

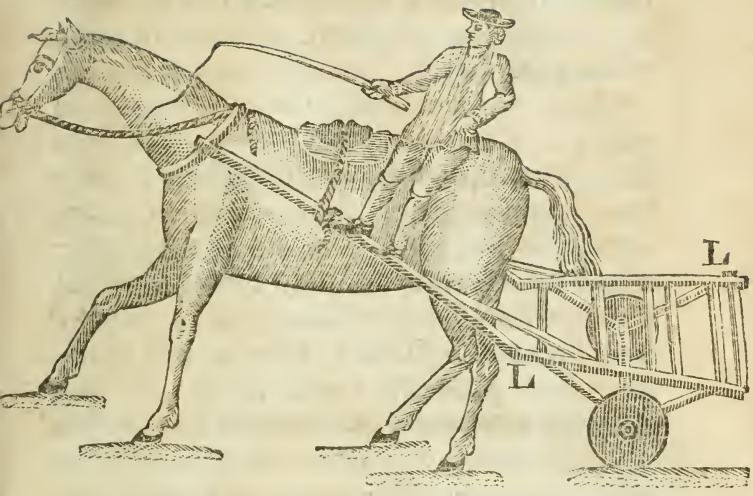
The rates of hackney-coaches, and ſedans, are eſtabliſhed here as in London, for the different diſtances, or *ſet-downs*, as they are called. But they have an odd kind of hacknies here, that is called the *Noddy*, which is nothing more than old caſt off one horſe chaiſe or chair, with a kind of ſtool fixed upon the ſhafts juſt before the ſeat, on which the driver ſits, juſt over the rump of his horſe, and drives you from one part of the town to another at ſtated rates for a *ſet-down*; and a damn'd ſet-down it is ſometimes, for you are well off if you are not ſet down in a channel by the breaking of the wheels, or an overſet-down, nor can you ſee any thing before you but your nod—nod—nodding charioteer, whoſe ſituation on the ſhafts obliges his motion to be conformed to that of the horſe, from whence, I ſuppoſed, they have

obtained the name of the *Noddy*. I aſſure you, the eaſe of the fare is not much conſulted in the conſtruction of theſe nodding vehicles. However, they are convenient for ſingle perſons, the fare being not more than half that of a coach, and are taken to any part of the kingdom on terms as you can agree.

But the drolleſt and moſt diverting kind of conveyance for your genteel and ungenteel parties of pleaſure is what they call here the *Chaiſe-marine*, which is nothing leſs or more than any common *carr* with one horſe. A ſimple kind of carriage, conſtructed with a pair of wheels, or thin round blocks, of about 20 inches in diameter, an axle, and two ſhafts, which, over the axle, are ſpread out a little wider than by the ſides of the horſe, and framed together with croſs pieces, in ſuch manner as to be nearly in a level poſition for three or four feet acroſs the axle. Theſe ſimple conſtructions are almoſt the only kind of carts, in common uſe, for the carrying or moving of goods, merchandize of every kind, hay, ſtraw, corn, dung, turf, &c. throughout the kingdom.

A ſketch of the figure and conſtruction of one of theſe carrs I have here given,

and



and, when uſed for parties of pleaſure, on the level part L L is laid a mat, for the commonalty, and for the genteeler ſort of people a bed is put on this; and half a dozen gets on, two behind and two on each ſide, and away they drive, with their feet not above ſix inches from the ground as they ſit, on little pleaſurable jaunts of three or four or half a dozen miles out of town; and are the moſt ſociable carriages in uſe, for ten or a dozen will take one of theſe chaiſe-marines, and ride it by turns, the rate being ſeldom, in ſuch caſes, more than foot-pace. I aſſure you they are the drolleſt, merrieſt carricles you ever ſaw. We were infinitely diverted at meeting many of theſe feather-bed chaiſe-

marine

marine parties, on the Sunday that we landed, coming out of town, as we went up to it from Dunlary.

Upon my word, Sir, the inhabitants, in general, of this kingdom are very far from being what they have too often and unjuſtly been repreſented by thoſe of our country who never ſaw them, a nation of wild Iriſh: ſince I have been in Ireland, I have traverſed from north to ſouth and from weſt to eaſt the three provinces of Ulſter, Leinſter and Munſter, and generally found them civil and obliging, even amongſt the very loweſt claſs of the natives. Miſerable and oppreſſed, as by far too many of them are, an Engliſhman will find as much civility, in general, as amongſt the ſame claſs in his own country; and, for a ſmall pecuniary conſideration, will exert themſelves to pleaſe you as much as any people, perhaps, in the king's dominions. Poverty and oppreſſion will naturally make mankind ſour, rude and unſociable, and eradicate, or, at leaſt, ſuppreſs all the more amiable principles and paſſions of humanity. But it ſhould ſeem unfair and ungenerous to judge of, or decide againſt the natural diſpoſition of a man reduced by indigence and oppreſſion almoſt to deſperation. For a peaſant of Ireland to be civil and obliging is a work of ſupererogation.

Need

Need and oppreſſion ſtare within their eyes,
Contempt and beggary hang upon their backs;
The world is not their friend, nor the world's law.

What reſpect for law or government, what dread of juſtice or puniſhment, can be expected from an Iriſh peaſant in a ſtate of wretchedneſs and extreme penury? in which, if the firſt man that ſhould meet him were to knock him at head and give him an everlaſting relief from his diſtreſſed, penurious life, he might have reaſon to think it a friendly and meritorious action. And that ſo many of them bear their diſtreſſed, abject ſtate with patience, is, to me, a ſufficient proof of the natural civility of their diſpoſition.

The province of Connaught, the moſt weſtern province of Ireland, and in form and ſituation, not much unlike Wales in England, is the leaſt inviting to a traveller of any part of the kingdom. Our curioſity carried us only through the eaſtern counties of Roſcommon, Sligoe, Gallway, and Clare, that border on the Shannon, which are the beſt and moſt civilized parts, and as far on as to Gallway, the capital of the province.

The province of Connaught is the thinneſt of inhabitants of any part of Ireland. Their agriculture is chiefly grazing. There are immenſe numbers of ſheep and bullocks bred in this province; particularly in the counties of Clare

Clare and Gallway. We were at one of the largeſt ſtock fairs, at Ballynaſloe, a ſmall town in the eaſtern part of the province, that perhaps is to be ſeen in the king's dominions, which continues for a week. The toll of the ſtock brought to this fair, which is kept twice in the year, in the Spring and at Michaelmas, is worth, to the poſſeſſor, on an average, 600*l.* per annum. — I think it is a penny a head for bullocks, and ſix-pence per ſcore for ſheep, for all that are brought. — The moſt diſtant parts of the kingdom are ſupplied in general from this fair.

The Shannon is the greateſt river in the kingdom, and conſiderably larger than any river in England, running from north to ſouth upwards of 300 Engliſh miles; and, in its courſe, ſpreads out into many large and beautiful lakes of different extent, from five to ten and fifteen miles, ornamented, ſome of them, with fertile and beautiful iſlands. There are ſeveral conſiderable towns ſituated upon this river, the principal of which are Limerick and Athlone.

The river abounds, alſo, with ſalmon and pike, &c. of a very large ſize. But the navigation is ſtopped at about 60 or 70 miles up the river by a cataract, or fall of the water over a ridge of rocks that extends acroſs the river about 20 miles above Limerick.——— If in any part of the kingdom there are any wild Iriſh to be found, it is in the weſtern

parts

parts of this province, for they have the leaſt ſenſe of law and government of any people in Ireland, I believe, except that of their haughty and tyrannic landlords, who, in a literal ſenſe, indeed, are abſolute ſovereigns over their reſpective towns and clans, which the weſtern part of this province may not improperly be ſaid to be divided into. Their imperious and oppreſſive meaſures, indeed, have almoſt depopulated this province of Ireland. The will and pleaſure of theſe chiefs is abſolute law to the poor inhabitants that are connected with them, and under whom the miſerable wretches live in the vileſt and moſt abject ſtate of dependance.

This account, however unfavourable, is not exaggerated, I aſſure you, for it is taken from ſome of the more ſenſible people of the very province. Too much, indeed, of this is ſeen throughout the kingdom to be pleaſing to an Engliſh traveller. I never met with ſuch ſcenes of miſery and oppreſſion as this country, in too many parts of it, really exhibits. What with the ſevere exactions of rent, even before the corn is houſed, a practice that too much prevails here among the petty and deſpicable landlords, third, fourth and fifth from the firſt proprietor (of which inferior and worſt kind of landlords this kingdom abounds infinitely too much for the reputation of the real proprietors, or the proſperity of agriculture;) of the pariſh prieſt,

in

in the next place, for tythes, who not content with the tythe of grain, even the very tenth of half a dozen or half a ſcore perches of potatoes, upon which a whole family, perhaps, ſubſiſts for the year, is exacted by the rapacious, inſatiable prieſt. I am ſorry, to tell you the truth, that too many of them are Engliſh parſons. —— For the love of God and charity, ſend no more of this ſort over, for here they become a ſcandal to their country and to humanity. —— Add to theſe, the exactions of, if poſſible, the ſtill more abſolute catholic prieſt, who, though he preaches charity by the hour on Sunday, comes armed with the terrors of damnation and demands his full quota of unremitted offerings. For, unhappily for them, the loweſt claſs of inhabitants in the ſouth and weſt parts of the kingdom are generally catholics, and by that time they are all ſatisfied, the poor, reduced wretches have hardly the ſkin of a potatoe left them to ſubſiſt on. I make no doubt, this has been the principal ſource of the many inſurrections of the White-boys, as they are called, in the ſouth, from my own obſervations and enquiries in the midſt of them, and likewiſe drives them, in ſwarms, to the high roads, which, throughout the ſouthern and weſtern parts, are lined with beggars; who live in huts, or cabbins as they are called, of ſuch ſhocking materials and conſtruction, that through hundreds of them you may ſee the

the ſmoak aſcending from every inch of the roof, for ſcarce one in twenty of them have any chimney, and through every inch of which defenceleſs coverings, the rain, of courſe, will make its way to drip upon the half naked, ſhivering, and almoſt half ſtarved inhabitants within.

This is no exaggeration of the whole truth, upon my honour, and it is the moſt diſagreeable ſcene that preſents itſelf to an Engliſh traveller in this kingdom. Happy would it be for the loweſt claſs of people (whom oppreſſion and want of employment too often and unjuſtly ſubjects to the imputation of being idle) if the method of parochial proviſion in England were introduced into this country, eſpecially the ſouthern parts of it, where the poor really are infamouſly neglected. And the caſe of the lower claſs of farmers, indeed, which is the greateſt number, is little better than a ſtate of ſlavery, while the prieſt and ſubordinate landlords, in eaſe and affluence, live in haughty contempt of their poverty and oppreſſion, of which the firſt proprietors are but too ſeldom, indeed, for the intereſt of this kingdom, ſpectators. ——— The natural conſequences of this ſcene of things among the inhabitants, is viſible even upon the lands in this country in general; which, though by nature, a very conſiderable part of them, rich and fertile, yet they almoſt univerſally wear the face of poverty,

poverty, for want of good cultivation, which the miſerable occupiers really are not able to give it, and very few of them know how if they were: and this, indeed, muſt be the caſe while the lands are canted (ſet to the higheſt bidder, not openly, but by private propoſals, which throws every advantage into the hands of the landlord) in ſmall parcels of 20 or 30*l.* a year, at third, fourth, and fifth hand from the firſt proprietor. —— From the moſt attentive, and minute enquiries at many places, I am confident, that the produce of this kingdom, either of corn or cattle, is not above two-thirds, at moſt, of what, by good cultivation, it might yield. Yet the gentlemen, I believe, make as much or more of their eſtates than any in the three kingdoms, while the lands, for equal goodneſs, produce the leaſt. The conſequences of this, with reſpect to the different claſſes, are obvious, — the landlords, firſt and ſubordinate, get *all* that is made of the land, and the tenants, for their labour, get poverty and potatoes.

With reſpect to grazing, which is, at preſent, the moſt profitable kind of agriculture, and which annually extends in this kingdom (and is an inexhauſtible ſupply of Iriſh chairmen in London,) that inſatiable avarice of moſt of the ſtock farmers, as they are called here, after black cattle (bullocks,) will, in time, ſpoil much of the beſt paſturage in Ireland.

Ireland. The advantages of grazing, I ſhould imagine, would be much greater if ſheep-grazing, which is almoſt confined to the province of Connaught, and two or three counties beſide, were more extenſively introduced and underſtood.

Ireland would, indeed, be a rich country if made the moſt of, if its trade were not reduced by unnatural reſtrictions and an Egyptian kind of politics from without, and its agriculture were not depreſſed by hard maſters from within itſelf.

Indeed, how the encreaſing wealth of this kingdom, from whatever ſource, ſhould be injurious to England, with which it is ſo cloſely conected, or that the putting it into the power of the former to derive ſuch immenſe additional ſums to the public wealth, in which both kingdoms muſt participate, ſhould be injurious to the general welfare of either, I own is intirely beyond my comprehenſion.

To prohibit the importation of ſuch commodities as our own country ſhall be already ſufficiently provided with, muſt, even to an Iriſhman, appear juſt and reaſonable, but that they ſhould be excluded from, or reſtricted in their trade to almoſt all the reſt of the world, is a ſpecies of policy, the wiſdom of which, with deference to our adminiſtrators of the Hibernian department, I own, is to me, not eaſily intelligible. ——

However, this is a ſubject I by no means profeſs to be a competent judge of, and have only thrown together a few obſervations on the ſubject, as they were ſuggeſted to me from a general view of the ſtate of things in the country.

And thus much for trade, agriculture, and poverty, which, in this kingdom, appear to have too great a connection, either for its own intereſt or that of any country it is connected with.

As to the cuſtoms, and dialect of the inhabitants in general of this kingdom, there is ſuch an univerſal ſameneſs almoſt from north to ſouth, that Ireland affords the leaſt entertainment in this view of it, perhaps, of any country, of like extent, in the king's dominions. I have met with greater variety in ſome two or three counties in England, in theſe reſpects, than in all the three eaſtern provinces of Ireland.

Engliſh is the univerſal language of the country among people of any fortune, and very few of the loweſt claſs are met with that cannot ſpeak it. In regard to language, indeed, they exceed the higheſt ſort of people, who, in general, are too genteely bred to underſtand any thing of the language of their native country, which ſeems to be the neareſt to the Welch of any language upon earth; whereas you'll meet with thouſands of the loweſt rank, who ſpeak both Engliſh and Iriſh

Iriſh with equal eaſe; and, what you will hardly credit, perhaps, they really ſpeak better Engliſh than the ſame claſs in England. The reaſon is obvious, here, the loweſt claſs have, many of them, learned it from ſchools, in which there may be ſuppoſed a general ſameneſs throughout the kingdom.

But this ſuperiority is, in my opinion, far from being diſcoverable among the people of higher rank any where. Tho' the inhabitants of Dublin, indeed, have the ridiculous vanity of pretending to ſpeak better Engliſh than thoſe of London. From the moſt attentive and frequent obſervation, however, on the language of the coffee-houſes, and places of public buſineſs, in Dublin, compared to that of ſimilar places in London, I can ſee not the leaſt reaſon for this vain preſumption: as little does it appear from a compariſon of the language of the pulpit or of the courts of judicature in both cities. The language of the theatres I exclude from the compariſon, for that is all preſcription in both. And if their Engliſh be even as good, their pronunciation, I am ſure, is much worſe, even amongſt the genteeleſt of them. I ſhould not have taken ſuch particular notice of this circumſtance, but from hence, that an Engliſhman can hardly paſs a day in Dublin, if he much frequents the coffee-houſes, without finding this the topic of converſation ſomewhere, in one or other of them, the

ſuperiority of the Dublin Engliſh to that of London.

Nor is this the only preheminence which the citizens of Dublin, in particular, arrogate to themſelves to thoſe of London. If you will believe them, their gentility as much exceeds that of London as their language. For invariably, almoſt, whenever the ſubject is introduced, if the gentility of Dublin is ſpoken of, with any view to a compariſon with that of London, it is with an air and manner that plainly beſpeaks a preſumed ſuperiority on the ſide of Dublin. Indeed, I have often thought there was ſomething characteriſtic in this *Hibernian importance*, as I would chuſe to call it, or, in the language of orator Henley, this *Dublin aſſurance*, that, if any thing among them can be thought ſo, is really original. But how the Devil the inhabitants of this metropolis, whoſe dreſs, faſhions, language, and diverſions are all imported from London, ſhould come at a ſuperiority in either, unleſs from a natural genius or capacity to improve upon their originals, is beyond my comprehenſion. That Hibernian importance, which I have taken notice of, I make no doubt includes in it a preſumption of ſuch a capacity. But here, likewiſe, as well as in the matter of fact, that they really have made ſuch improvements, they muſt forgive me if I take the liberty of diſſenting; nor will I pay ſuch a compli-

compliment to their vanity at the expence of my own country, as to ſuppoſe that their talents or genius for improvement upon any originals whatever are in any degree ſuperior to thoſe of the Engliſh.

You will readily conceive that the obſervations from which I have made the preceding remarks, were taken of, and entirely refer to the middling claſs of gentry, and the people in trade. For it muſt be between the claſſes of theſe ranks that, in the preſent queſtion, any compariſon can be made. The nobility, and people of quality, *in*, or rather *of* this kingdom, are to all intents and purpoſes, almoſt, very Londoners. — This is too well known in Ireland.

The part of the kingdom whoſe inhabitants, in their manners and dialect, are the moſt like thoſe of the Engliſh, is the province of Ulſter; which including within itſelf almoſt the whole, or by far the greater part, of the linen manufactory, the beſt branch of trade in the kingdom, they have conſequently the greateſt intercourſe with England: an Engliſhman in ſome parts of it, indeed, will imagine himſelf in his own country, from the ſimilarity of their language and manners.

The roads of this kingdom are generally tolerably good for riding, but by no means equal to the Engliſh for a carriage. Turnpikes are eſtabliſhed on all the principal roads

in the kingdom; and at the inns, though they are very far from making the appearance of thoſe in England, yet the Engliſh traveller will univerſally, almoſt, meet with civil uſage, good proviſions in general, and, for himſelf, clean decent lodging. But an Engliſh horſe, could he ſpeak as well as Balaam's aſs, would curſe the country, for moſt of theſe articles. —— Their oats, indeed, are, for the moſt part, tolerably good; but their hay and litter are the worſt I ever met with; for excepting two or three counties in the eaſt of Leinſter, and one or two in Ulſter, almoſt every handful of ſtraw the earth produces, goes on upon their houſes and cabbins. —— Their litter is generally the bottoms of their hay-ſtacks, and the ſpoiled hay from the rack, which the greater part of it often is before it comes there, from their injudicious method of harveſting it, the proviſion of the rack is ſeldom much better than what goes under their feet, and thither one half of it, at laſt, generally goes.

I abſolutely did not get above one bed of clean dry ſtraw for my horſe in the three eaſtern provinces; and that was at a farmer's who kept an inn at Lurgan, near Lough Neah in the county of Armagh, one of the prettieſt little market towns in the north, and the moſt like ſome of our ſpacious thoroughfare towns on the high roads near the capital of any that I met with in all the country.

try. His men happening to be thraſhing of barley and throwing the ſtraw out plentifully juſt by the ſtable door, I was determined that once in the kingdom my horſe ſhould have a clean and warm bed. I don't exaggerate, I aſſure you, nor depart in the leaſt from truth, when I tell you, that excepting at my landlord's, at, if I miſtake not, the Crown and Wheat-ſheaf, at Lurgan, I did not once get any thing like a good bed of ſtraw for my horſe in the kingdom. It may ſeem a little remarkable this, but it is no leſs true, nor do I intend by it a reflection upon the reſt. In general, they have not the requiſite proviſions for a horſe upon the road. —— They are very far from having a ſufficiency of ſtraw, and their hay is almoſt univerſally badly harveſted. But they might have plenty of both very good; and 'tis an infamy to the proprietors of this fertile country that they have not, who ſuffer ſome of the beſt land in the king's dominions to be torn to pieces, and cultivated in the vileſt manner by a ſet of abject, miſerable occupiers, that are abſolutely no better than ſlaves to the deſpicably lazy ſubordinate landlords.

We are generally apt to think every thing favourable of a place where we have been agreeably entertained. Not only thoſe of our horſes, but our own accommodations likewiſe, at the Wheat-ſheaf were ſo remarkably decent, comfortable, and friendly, the

diſpoſition to oblige us in our agricultural hoſt and hoſteſs, was ſo conſpicuous, that I cannot help wiſhing to perpetuate the memory of a place where we ſpent two or three days with as much pleaſure as in any town in the kingdom. They ſeemed indeed to exert themſelves to ſupport the reputation of their town, which, from the ſimilarity of its general figure, of the language, manners, and diſpoſitions of its inhabitants to thoſe of the Engliſh, had for many years acquired the name of *Little England*; and an Engliſhman at Lurgan, indeed, will think himſelf in his own country.

Its ſituation is extremely pleaſant, in a fine fertile and populous country, and in the midſt of the linen manufactory. It ſtands on a gentle eminence, about two miles from, and commanding a fine proſpect of, *Lough Neah*, the largeſt lake in the kingdom.

The inhabitants are genteel, ſenſible, and friendly; and though the town is not very conſiderable, yet, from a general concurrence in the ſame ſociable diſpoſition, they have eſtabliſhed a very ſociable and entertaining aſſembly, to which, throwing aſide all the ridiculous diſtinctions and excluſions on the circumſtances of birth and fortune, the offſpring of pride, upon vanity and ignorance, every perſon is welcome, who is qualified to appear with decency and to behave with good manners.

The

The country, from hence to the eaſtward, by Liſburn, on to Belfaſt and Antrim, is rich, fertile, and as well cultivated and encloſed, as any in the north part of Ireland. But the greater part of the north of Ulſter, as well as of the moſt ſouthern parts of Munſter, and almoſt the whole of the province of Connaught, are open and mountainous.

The province of Leinſter, and the middle parts of the kingdom in general, are the beſt cultivated, and the moſt generally encloſed. Over ſome of theſe open countries the turnpike roads are laid out, for 10 or 15 miles together, as ſtrait as a line. Woods you meet with but very few of in this country, though a ſoil, by nature, capable of producing very fine. —— I make no doubt there is as much wood and timber growing in the county of Kent as in the whole kingdom of Ireland.

There are but few large, populous, or well-built towns in this country. —— The ſecond city in Ireland is Corke, in the ſouth-weſt part of the kingdom, in the county of the ſame name, which is by much the largeſt and moſt populous, next to Dublin, in the kingdom; and, next to the capital, has by far the greateſt trade of any, and, indeed, is in the beſt ſituation for commerce of any town in Ireland. Its exports, which are the principal parts of its trade, of beef and butter, are greater, I believe, than thoſe of any

town

town in the king's dominions. 'Tis amazing the quantity of beef that is killed here from Michaelmas to Chriſtmas. — For three or four months at this time of the year a ſtranger would imagine it was the ſlaughter-houſe of Ireland.

Corke is very nearly, or altogether, as large as Briſtol in the weſt of England, but infinitely better ſituated as to its navigation, at the bottom of a large, capacious and well ſheltered bay or cove. A very conſiderable part of the city, and the principal mercantile part of it, is really ſituated on a flat, that was originally a moras or under water, which by the induſtry of the inhabitants has been raiſed ſeveral feet; many ſpacious ſtreets have been built on this new made land, to which they are annually making additions, and extending the town farther over the flat by the ſides of the navigation.

But what contributes greatly to the beauty, as well as convenience, of this part of the town and its trade, is the channels that are carried through moſt of the principal ſtreets; ſo that the merchandize of every kind can be brought by water to, or ſhipped from the very ware-houſes of the merchants, who reſide chiefly in this lower, and modern part of the city, in houſes really magnificent and ſuperb, that at the ſame time exhibit the wealth of their owners, and are an ornament to the city.—A large and elegant threatre has been

been lately built here, for the entertainment of the citizens, with dramatic performances, which have hitherto been under the management of Mr. Barry, from the theatre royal in Crow-ſtreet, Dublin, who, with his company, exhibits here during the ſummer vacation at the capital.

Cork, indeed, may very juſtly be eſteemed the moſt flouriſhing city in Ireland. The houſes, in general, are well built, but the ſtreets are many of them too narrow. Its churches are unexceptionably the neateſt and the moſt elegantly finiſhed, of any in the kingdom, for the number it contains. But excepting this city, and the metropolis, there are few towns in Ireland that are larger than the town you live in; though there are many indeed, that are nearly of that extent; amongſt which, the cities of Kilkenny, Waterford, and Limerick, in the ſouth, and Galloway, Athlone, Sligoe, Inniſkillen, Belfaſt, and Derry in the weſt and north, are ſome of the principal.

The city of Kilkenny, in the ſouth, is very pleaſantly ſituated on the river Neor, a navigable river, that diſcharges itſelf into the Haven of Waterford. 'Tis, indeed, one of the moſt conſiderable and populous inland towns, in Ireland. —— You have heard, I make no doubt, of the four peculiarities, as they are deemed, that are remarked of this city; two of which, are founded in truth, the other

two

two in imagination. That its air is without fog; its water without mud; its fire without ſmoke; and its ſtreets paved with marble.

The two latter, are, indeed, matter of fact. They have in the neighbourhood a kind of coal, that really burns from firſt to laſt, without ſmoke, and is not much unlike our Welch coal. And their ſtreets are actually paved with marble, almoſt throughout the city, and with a very good ſort of black marble, of which they have large quarries near the town, that takes a fine poliſh, and is beautifully intermixed with white granites. But, the two former peculiarities, appeared to me to be ſuch only in imagination. The air, indeed, is certainly good and healthy; but I ſaw no reaſon to think it very remarkably clearer than in many other parts of the kingdom. Here is the ancient ſeat of the Ormond Family, and is an ornament to the city. The country, in general, about it for ſome miles, appear very fertile, and their agriculture ſome of the beſt, I met with, in the kingdom.

The cities of Waterford, and Limerick, are large and populous, and well ſituated for trade and navigation. The former, on the river *Sure*, about 15, and the latter, on the *Shannon*, about 60 miles, from the ſea.

But what ſpoils the figure and appearance of the much greater number of even their largeſt towns in Ireland, is the generality dirty

dirty entrances into them, and the long ſtrings of deſpicable huts, or cabbins, that moſt of them are prefaced with. The inland towns eſpecially, into which you are generally introduced through a line of 50 or 100 of theſe habitations of poverty and oppreſſion, on either hand; a whole ſtreet of which, might be built for 150l. for abſolutely the materials and workmanſhip together, of many of them, are not worth 20 ſhillings. Even the metropolis itſelf, on ſeveral of its moſt publick entrances, is not without this diſgraceful deformity, that at one view exhibits the poverty and wretchedneſs of the tenants, and the mean-ſpiritedneſs of the landlord, who, too generally, for their own or the reputation of their country, impoſe the building the houſes on their lands, upon a ſet of people, whoſe abilities will not enable them to build with better materials, than clay or ſtraw, and to the infamy of the proprietors may it be ſaid, that moſt of the farm Houſes in Ireland, are conſtructed of no better materials. The towns in the province of Ulſter, have, in general, much the leaſt of this Ruſtic deformity: there are many, indeed, in this province, that have hardly any, and that are neat and well built.

The city of *Derry*, in particular, is perhaps, unexceptionably the cleaneſt, beſt built, and moſt beautifully ſituated of any town in Ireland, and, excepting Cork, as con-

conveniently as any for commerce, foreign, or domeſtic; and, but for the reſtrictions on the trade of Ireland, would, in a few years, become a flouriſhing and wealthy city. It is ſituated on a gentle eminence, of an oval form, and almoſt a peninſula at the bottom, and in a narrow part of Lough, or Lake Foyle, which ſurrounds, for a quarter of a mile broad, two thirds or more of the eminence, and might eaſily be brought entirely round the city. Through this Lough, it communicates with the ſea, on the very north of Ireland.

The whole grounded plot of this city, and its liberties, belongs to the twelve trades of London; from which circumſtance, it has obtained in our maps, the name of *London-Derry*, but by the natives in, and about it, it is commonly called by its original name of *Derry*.

It is memorable, and for ever memorable it ought to be, for the ſevere ſiege it nobly ſuſtained for thirteen weeks, in the reign of king William, in defence of the glorious cauſe of Liberty. Indeed, I make no doubt, that from its natural ſituation, it is capable of being made one of the moſt tenable and defenſible cities in the kingdom.

In this ſevere ſiege was exhibited one of the moſt infamous ſpecimens of French policy and catholic humanity, that the hiſtory of their own, or any other the moſt gothick

and

and ſavage nation can furniſh. ——— Not content with ſtarving the natives and gallant defenders of the city, the French general, under James, collected together the inhabitants of half a dozen counties round, and drove them, men, women, and children, old and young, like ſheep to the ſlaughter, before the walls of the city, there to be ſtarved with the beſieged.

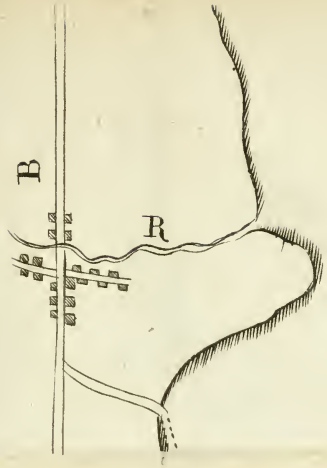
Happily for the citizens, in this alarming and deſperate ſituation, they had juſt before this event, taken, in a ſally from the town, ſeveral noblemen and gentlemen of the firſt diſtinction belonging to the army of James. For theſe a lofty triple gallows was conſtructed, and, by order of the governor, erected on an eminent part of the city, conſpicuous to the army in their camp, and a meſſenger was diſpatched to the French general to certify the governor's determination, that if thoſe miſerable wretches were not immediately ſuffered to return, he would, the next day, in ſight of the army, hang up every gentleman among the priſoners, of what rank or diſtinction ſoever. This meſſage had its deſired effect. The army mutinied in favour of their ſeveral friends and relations who were among the captives, and the general was obliged to permit that miſerable multitude, to paſs from whence they came to their reſpective homes. This enabled the beſieged

to

to ſubſiſt 'till relief arrived from England; immediately upon which the ſiege was raiſed.

From this general account of the country, its inhabitants, &c. in which I have been as comprehenſive and conciſe as I could, conſiſtently, with giving you a general view of Ireland in theſe reſpects; nor have I, in any inſtance knowingly, departed from truth; I will now proceed to the greateſt ſource of entertainment to an Engliſh traveller in this kingdom, its natural curioſities, of which this iſland has the greateſt number, I believe, of any country of equal extent in the king's dominions, and ſome, perhaps, ſuperior, in their kind, to any in the known world; and as it is from this part of my account of Ireland that I know your expectations of entertainment will be raiſed the higheſt, I will give you a particular deſcription of ſome of the greateſt of every kind, as they have occurred to me.

And having juſt made a tranſition to the north, before we leave the neighbourhood of Derry, our firſt deſcription ſhall be of a natural curioſity on the moſt northern point of Ireland, in the county of Antrim, of which it would be unpardonable in me not to give you the moſt particular account that I am capable of, as we made it our buſineſs twice to viſit and examine it while we were, in the neighbourhood, at a little town called *Buſh*, ſituated on a river of the ſame name about two



t northern extremity of the island, and

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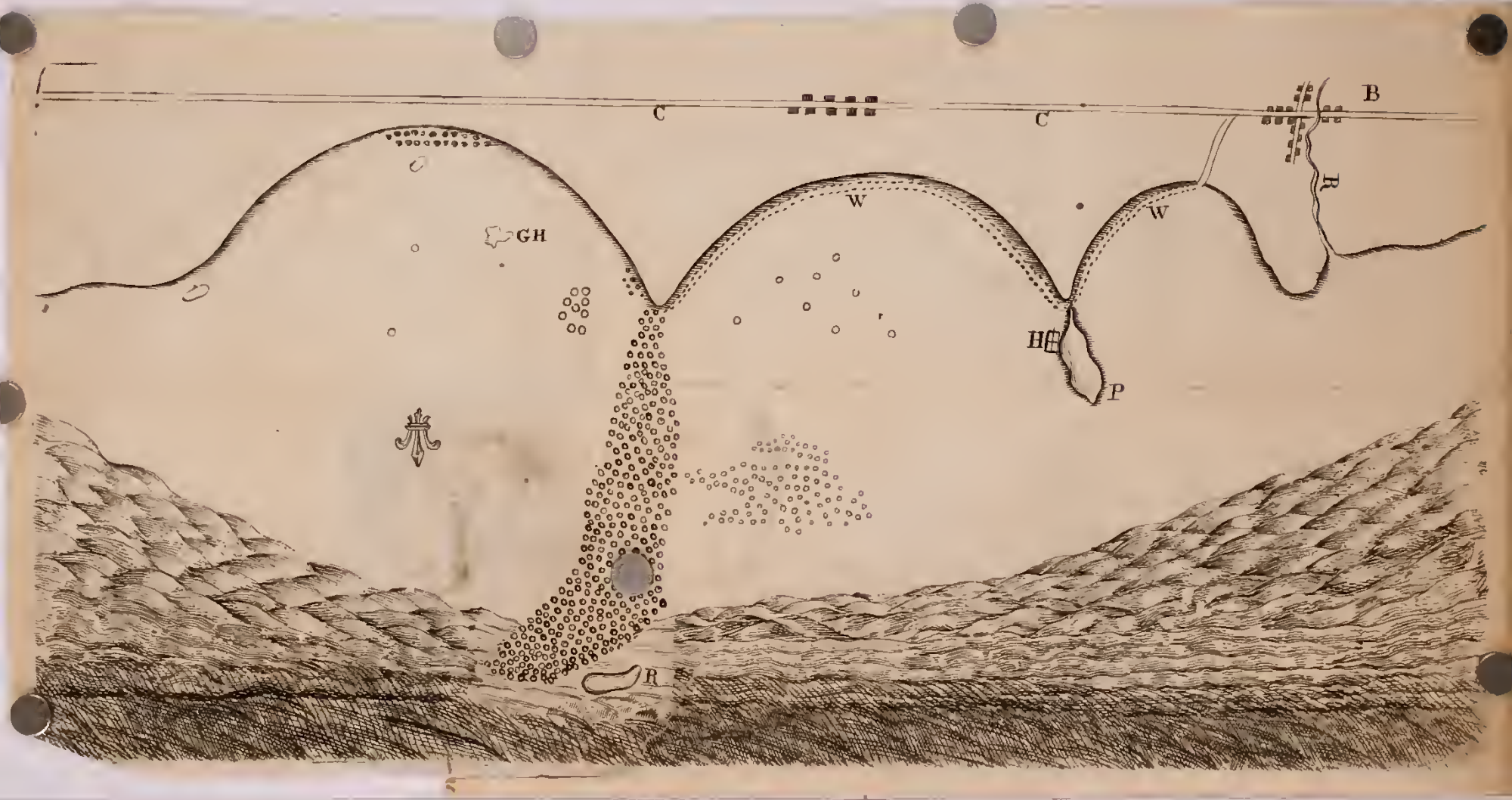
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two miles from it, I mean that moſt ſuperlatively curious and aſtoniſhing work of nature, the *Giant's Cauſeway*; which is perhaps unexceptionably one of the greateſt and moſt ſingular of natural curioſity in the known world, for it is, indeed, the only exhibition of the kind that was yet ever met with in the known world.

A ſketch of the out-lines and general figure of the component parts of the cauſeway is given in the annexed plates.

The firſt repreſents the two bays, &c. between which the cauſeway runs out to the ſea; GG the grand cauſeway; A the point of the cliff from whence the cauſeway projects; G H the giant's chair; W the way leading down to the cauſeway; O the organs; R a rock at the foot of the cauſeway, viſible at low water; P a promontory, cut off at I from the cliff; H a houſe built by lord Antrim on the ſtrand, and intended for an inn, but never inhabited; B the town of *Buſh*; R a river of the ſame name; C the road from Bally-caſtle to Buſh, and thence to Derry.

The other plate exhibits a view of the mixture of concavities and convexities on the top of the cauſeway, as well as the general figure and inſertion of the pillars.

The ſituation in which this moſt extraordinary phænomenon is diſcovered, is in the moſt northern extremity of the iſland, and

cloſe by the ſea, into which it runs out, for 200 yards, in a direction very nearly north from the foot of a lofty cliff, that projects to an angular point between two ſmall bays, which are about half a mile wide, and about half that diſtance deep. The ſituation of the cauſeway between theſe two bays or rocky lofty amphitheatres, on either hand, has ſomething peculiarly ſtriking, and adds greatly to the natural curioſity of the cauſeway itſelf.

I have ſent you a rude ſketch of the general form and ſituation of this really moſt curious and ſingular phænomenon, of which it is impoſſible to give a juſt repreſentation by any draught whatſoever, for ſome of the moſt curious appearances will eſcape the pencil. However, I will give you the moſt perfect idea that I can by a deſcription of the ſeveral parts.

The principal or grand cauſeway, for there are ſeveral leſs conſiderable and ſcattered fragments of ſimilar workmanſhip, conſiſts of a moſt irregular arrangement of many hundred thouſands of columns of a black kind of rock, hard as marble, almoſt all of them are of a pentagonal figure, but ſo cloſely and compactly ſituated on their ſides, though perfectly diſtinct from top to bottom, that ſcarce any thing can be introduced between them. The columns are of an unequal height and breadth, ſome of the higheſt, viſible above the ſurface of the ſtrand, and at the foot of the

the impending angular precipice, may be about 20 feet, they do not exceed this height, I believe, at leaſt none of the principal arrangement. How deep they are fixed in the ſtrand was never yet diſcovered. This grand arrangement, I believe, extends nearly 200 yards, viſible at low water, how far beyond is uncertain, from its declining appearance, however, at low water, it is probable, it does not extend under water to a diſtance any thing equal to what is ſeen above.

The breadth of the principal cauſeway, which runs out in one continued range of columns, is, in general, from twenty to thirty feet, at one place or two it may be nearly forty for a few yards. I exclude, in this account, the broken and ſcattered pieces of the ſame kind of conſtruction, that are detached from the ſides of the grand cauſeway, as they did not appear to me to have ever been contiguous to the principal arrangement, though they have frequently been taken into the width; which has been the cauſe of ſuch wild and diſſimilar repreſentations of this cauſeway, which different drawings have exhibited.

The higheſt part of this cauſeway, is the narroweſt at the very foot of the impending cliff, from whence the whole projects, where for four or five yards, it is not above 10 or 15 feet wide. The columns of this narrow part, incline from a perpendicular a little to

the weſtward, and form a ſlope on their tops, by the very unequal height of the columns on the two ſides, by which an aſcent is made at the foot of the cliff, from the head of one column to the next above, gradatim, to the top of the great cauſeway, which, at the diſtance of half a dozen yards from the cliff, obtains a perpendicular poſition, and lowering in its general height, widens to about 20 or between 20 and 30 feet, and for 100 yards nearly is always above water.

The tops of the Columns for this length being nearly of an equal height, they form a grand and very ſingular parade, that may be eaſily walked on, rather inclining to the water's edge. But from high water mark, as it is perpetually waſhed by the beating ſurges on every return of the tide, the platform lowers conſiderably, and becomes more and more uneven, ſo as not to be walked on, but with the greateſt care. At the diſtance of 150 Yards from the cliff, it turns a little to the eaſt for 20 or 30 yards, and then ſinks into the ſea. Thus far we have traced the general figure and outlines only of this moſt ſingular phænomenon, I will now point out the circumſtances that are particularly curious and extraordinary in this cauſeway, which are, the figure of the Columns, their Conſtruction, and, cloſe combination with each other; together with the general diſpoſition of the ſeveral phænomena of this kind

kind about the place. The figure of theſe columns is almoſt unexceptionably pontagonal, or compoſed of five ſides, there are but very few of any other figure introduced; ſome few there are of three, four, and ſix ſides, but the generality of them are five ſided, and the ſpectator muſt look very nicely to find any of a different conſtruction: yet what is very extraordinary, and particularly curious, there are not two columns in ten thouſand to be found, that either have their ſides equal among themſelves, or whoſe figures are alike. Nor is the compoſition of theſe columns or pillars leſs deſerving the attention of the curious ſpectator. They are not of one ſolid ſtone in an upright poſition, but compoſed of ſeveral ſhort lengths, curiouſly joined, not with flat ſurfaces, but articulated into each other, like ball and ſocket, or like the joints in the vertebræ of ſome of the larger kind of fiſh, the one end at the joint having a cavity, into which the convex end of the oppoſite is exactly fitted. This is not viſible, but by disjoining the two ſtones.

The depth of the concavity, or convexity, is generally about three or four inches. And what is ſtill farther remarkable of the joint, the convexity, and the correſpondent concavity, is not conformed to the external angular figure of the column, but exactly round, and as large as the ſize or diameter of the column will admit; and, conſequently, as the

angles of theſe columns are, in general, extremely unequal, the circular edge of the joint is ſeldom coincident with more than two or three ſides of the pentagonal, and from the edge of the circular part of the joint to the exterior ſides and angles they are quite plain.

It is ſtill farther very remarkable, likewiſe, that the articulations of theſe joints are frequently inverted; in ſome the concavity is upwards, in others the reverſe. This occaſions that variety and mixture of concavities and convexities on the tops of the columns, which is obſervable throughout the platform of this cauſeway, yet without any diſcoverable deſign or regularity with reſpect to the number of either.

The length, alſo, of theſe particular ſtones, from joint to joint, is various; in general they are from 18 to 24 inches long, and, for the moſt part, longer toward the bottom of the columns than nearer the top, and the articulation of the joints ſomething deeper. —The ſize, or diameter, likewiſe, of the columns is as different as their length and figure; in general, they are from 15 to 20 inches in diameter.

There are really no traces of uniformity or deſign diſcovered throughout the whole combination, except in the form of the joint, which is invariably by an articulation of the convex into the concave of the piece next above

above or below it; nor are there any traces of a finiſhing in any part, either in height, length, or breadth of this curious cauſeway.

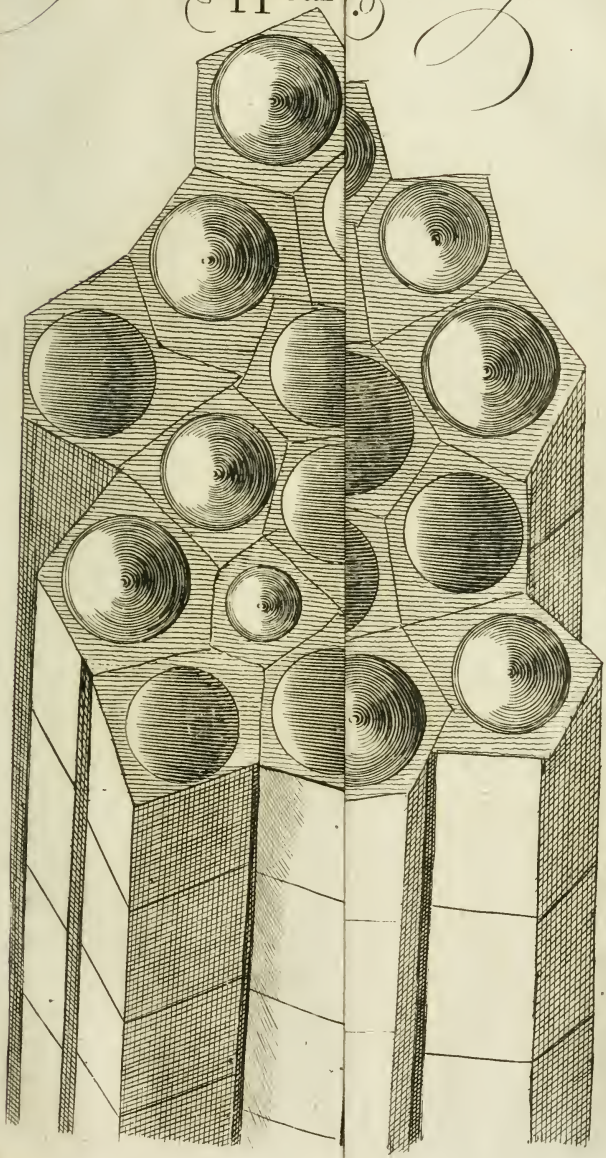
If there is here and there a ſmooth top to any of the columns above water, there are others juſt by, of equal height, that are more or leſs convex or concave, which ſhew them to have been joined to pieces that have been waſhed, or by other means taken off. And undoubtedly thoſe parts that are always above water have, from time to time, been made as even as might be; and the remaining ſurfaces of the joints muſt naturally have been worn ſmoother by the conſtant friction of weather and walking, than where the ſea, at every tide, is beating upon it and continually removing ſome of the upper ſtones and expoſing freſh joints. ——— And, farther, as theſe columns preſerve their diameters, from top to bottom, in all the exterior ones, which have two or three ſides expoſed to view, the ſame may, with reaſon, be inferred of the interior columns, whoſe tops only are viſible.

Yet what is very extraordinary, and equally curious in this phænomenon, is, that notwithſtanding the univerſal diſſimilitude of the columns, both as to their figure and diameter, and though perfectly diſtinct from top to bottom, yet is the whole arrangement ſo cloſely combined at all points, that hardly a knife can be introduced between them

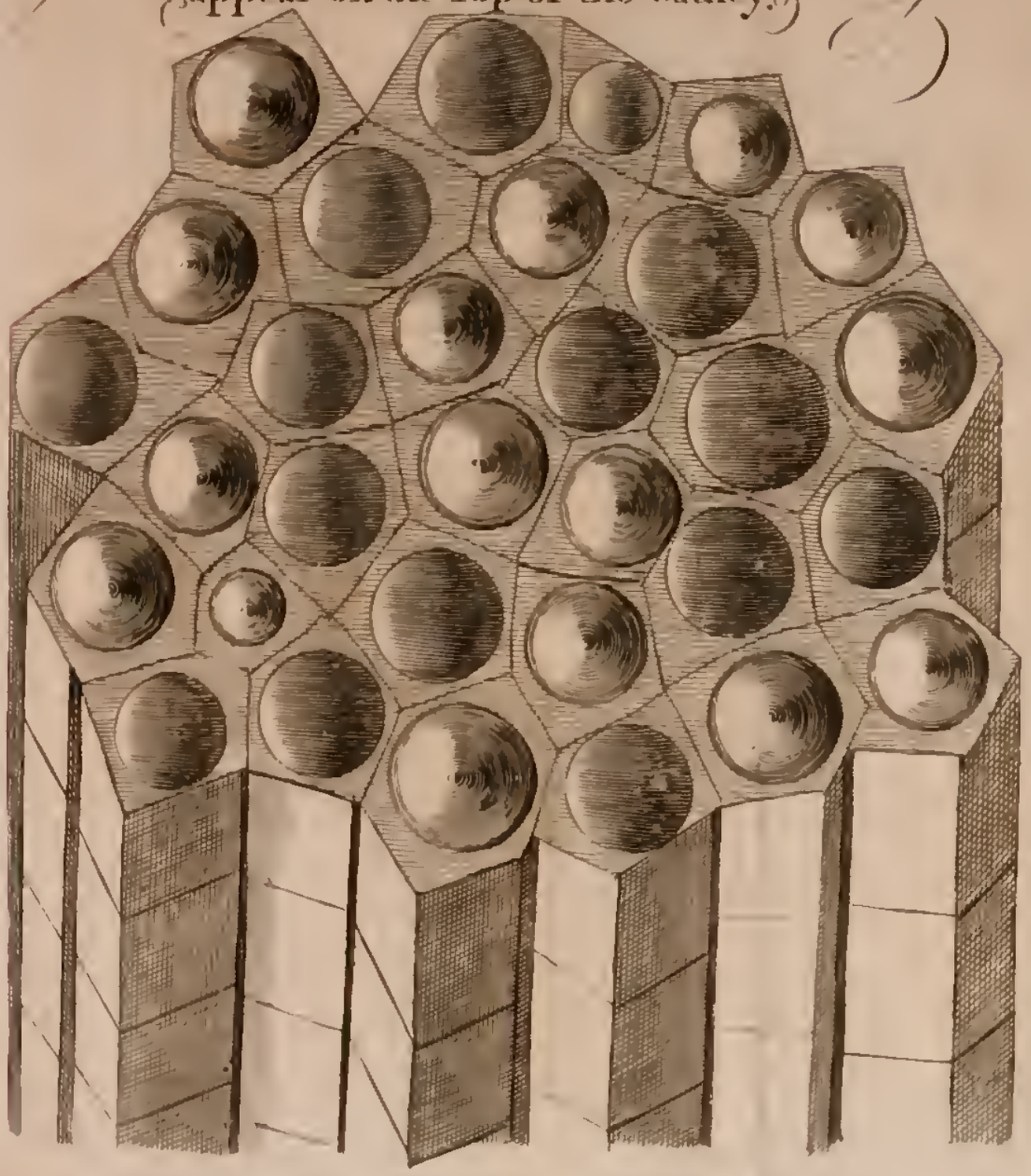
either on the ſides or angles. And it is really a moſt curious piece of entertainment to examine the cloſe contexture and nice inſertion of ſuch an infinite variety of angular figures as are exhibited on the ſurface of this grand parade. From the infinite diſſimilarity of the figure of theſe columns, this will appear a moſt ſurprizing circumſtance to the curious ſpectator, and would incline him to believe it a work of human art, were it not, on the other hand, inconceivable that the wit or invention of man ſhould conſtruct and combine ſuch an infinite number of columns, which ſhould have a general apparent likeneſs, and yet be ſo univerſally diſſimilar in their figure as that, from the minuteſt examination, not two in ten or twenty thouſand ſhould be found, whoſe angles and ſides are equal among themſelves, or of the one column to thoſe of the other.

That it is the work of nature there can be no doubt to an attentive ſpectator, who carefully ſurveys the general form and ſituation, with the infinitely various figuration of the ſeveral parts of this cauſeway. There are no traces of regularity or deſign in the out-lines of this curious phænomenon; which, including the broken and detached pieces of the ſame kind of workmanſhip, are extremely ſcattered and confuſed, and, whatever they might originally, do not, at preſent, appear to have any connection with the grand or prin-

A sketch of them as they appear.



A Sketch of the Figures of the Columns as they
(appear on the Top of the Cauſey.)



principal cauſeway, as to any ſuppoſeable deſign or uſe in its firſt conſtruction, and as little deſign can be inferred from the figure or ſituation of the ſeveral conſtituent parts. The whole exhibition is, indeed, extremely confuſed, diſuniform, and deſtitute of every appearance of uſe or deſign in its original conſtruction.

But what, beyond diſpute, determines its original to have been from nature, is, that the very cliffs, at a great diſtance from the cauſeway, eſpecially in the bay to the eaſtward, exhibit, at many places, the ſame kind of columns, figured and jointed in all reſpects like thoſe of the grand cauſeway; ſome of them are ſeen near to the top of the cliff, which in general, in theſe Bays to the eaſt and weſt of the cauſeway, is near 300 feet hight, others again are ſeen about midway, and at different elevations from the ſtrand. A very conſiderable expoſure of them is ſeen in the very bottom of the bay to the eaſtward, near a hundred rods from the cauſeway, where the earth has evidently fallen away from them upon the ſtrand, and exhibits a moſt curious arrangement of many of theſe pentagonal columns, in a perpendicular poſition, ſupporting, in appearance, a cliff of different ſtrata of earth, clay, rock, &c. to the height of 150 feet or more, above. Some of theſe columns are between 30 and 40 feet high, from the top of the

ſloping

ſloping bank below them; and, being longeſt in the middle of the arrangement, ſhortening on either hand in view, they have obtained the appellation of organs, from a *rude* likeneſs, indeed, in this particular to the exterior or frontal tubes of that inſtrument; and as there are very few broken pieces on the ſtrand near it, 'tis probable that the outſide range of columns that now appears, is really the original exterior line, to the ſeaward, of this collection. But how far they extend internally into the bowels of the encumbent cliff, may be worthy the examination of any curious gentleman in the neighbourhood, by running an arch or cavern on one or both ſides, to trace the internal ſcope of this particular arrangement, which may be about 30 feet wide, and is compoſed of the loftieſt columns of any that are found in, or about, the cauſeway.

The very ſubſtance, indeed, of that part of the cliff which projects to a point, between the two bays on the eaſt and weſt of the cauſeway, ſeems compoſed of this kind of materials, for beſides the many pieces that are ſeen on the ſides of the cliff that circulate to the bottom of the bays, particularly the eaſtern ſide, there is, at the very point of the cliff, and juſt above the narrow and higheſt part of the cauſeway, a long collection of them ſeen, whoſe heads or tops juſt appearing without the ſloping bank, plainly

ſhew

ſhew them to be in an oblique poſition, and about halfway between the perpendicular, and the horizontal. The heads of theſe, likewiſe, are of mixt ſurfaces, convex and concave, and the columns evidently appear to have been removed from their original upright, to their preſent inclining or oblique poſition, by the ſinking or falling of the cliff; nor do I make any doubt, that the whole cauſeway, that runs out from thence to the ſea, was, originally, concealed in the very bowels of a ſuperencumbent cliff, that, by degrees, has fallen off it; and the looſer earth being waſhed away, has left this more fixed and moſt curious columnal combination expoſed to view, and which will probably remain for ages a monument of the ſuperior and exquiſite workmanſhip of nature.

The circumſtance of its being the only phænomenon of the kind that has yet been diſcovered is no diſproof of its *natural* origin, or it is an equal preſumption againſt its being the work of human art. For neither art or nature, perhaps, in any part of the known world has exhibited a conſtruction like it. — That there is nothing of the ſame kind to be met with, makes this, indeed, the more extraordinary, and the more juſtly deſerving the notice and admiration of the curious; but nothing can be inferred from thence alone as to its origin.

The

The romantic ſuppoſition of its having been a cauſeway from Ireland to Scotland is ridiculous and abſurd at firſt view. The neareſt coaſt of Scotland to this place is at leaſt 30 miles; if any uſe or deſign of this kind can be imagined ever to have taken place, it muſt have been to ſome iſland not far from the ſhore, which the ſea has ſwallowed up. But the general form and conſtruction of the ſeveral parts is at the utmoſt diſtance from favouring ſuch a ſuppoſition.

Nor is the ridiculous opinion that is met with in ſome of the old natural hiſtories of this kingdom leſs abſurd, on a compariſon that is made of this to Stonehenge on Saliſbury-plain, that this, as well as that, may have been originally a Druid temple, or ſome ancient place of worſhip, for there is no more likeneſs in the compariſon than would be found between two of the moſt diſſimilar productions of art or nature. —— Into ſuch ridiculous fancies will men ſuffer themſelves to be led, who have never ſeen the originals, of which they pretend to give a deſcription; but implicitly write from the authority of others, equally with themſelves, unacquainted with them.

The truth is, that from the moſt exact ſurvey, and the minuteſt examination, of this moſt ſingular and curious phænomenon, the total abſence of every appearance of deſign or uſe that can be diſcovered, it may juſtly be

be looked upon as a *luſus naturæ*; if there are any exhibitions in nature that may be called ſuch, this is ſupereminently one of them. With reſpect to the manner of its original production, it ſhould ſeem to be a rocky concreſſence or vegetation, of a ſimilar natural proceſs with many ſparry or lapidar productions that are found in ſome parts of both England and Ireland. This, however, I ſpeak with diffidence, and ſubmit to the judgment of more curious naturaliſts. That ſtones of many (and perhaps of all) kinds do really grow from a leſſer to a larger ſize, is, at this time a well known truth. Whether theſe have encreaſed in their magnitude ſince the memory of man, there have been no obſervations made, that I could find, by any gentleman in the country: though ſuch eaſily might have been made, with reſpect to any particular pillar or column, a little detached from the reſt.

But, indeed, whether they grew to this ſurprizing and moſt ſingular form and connection with each other, by any natural vegetative proceſs, or were originally brought into it at once by the omnipotent *fiat* of nature, is, at this time, and probably ever will be, an abſolutely indiſcoverable ſecret. The ſingularity, however, as well as figure of the phænomenon, is very extraordinary, that there ſhould never, in any part of the world, be any production of a ſimilar kind to this

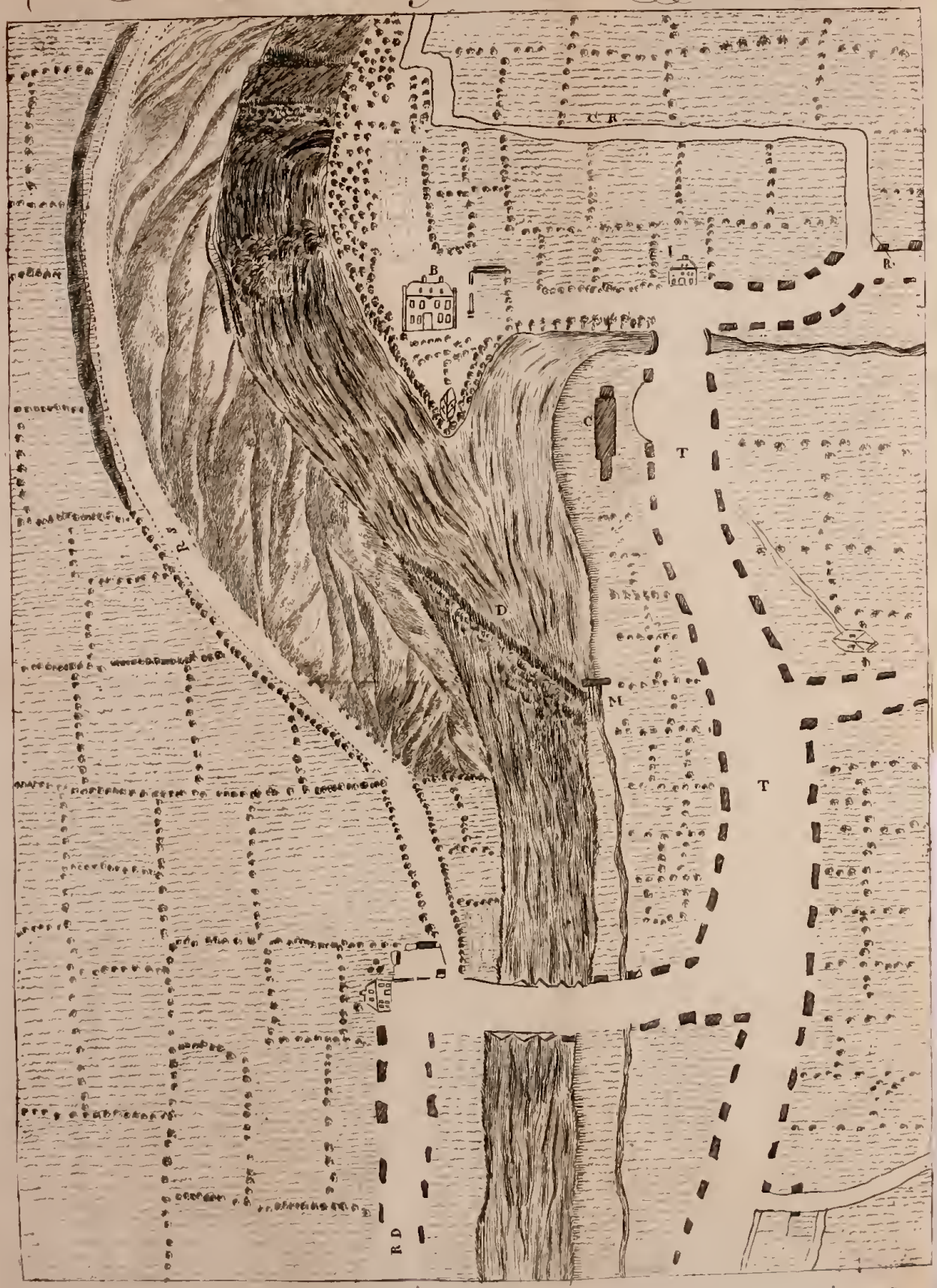
yet

yet diſcovered, not even in Ireland itſelf, is a circumſtance, indeed, amazing, and that very juſtly places this at the head of natural curioſities.

Nor is this the only deviation of nature, in this iſland, from her common methods of working; it ſeems, indeed, to have been her favourite ſpot for exhibiting a ſportive and extravagant fancy in the finiſhing her operations of many kinds.

There is hardly a river in the kingdom but what is ornamented, more or leſs, in its courſe, with beautiful caſcades, water-falls, or ſalmon-leaps, as they are uſually called, from the infinite number of ſalmon that, at the ſeaſon of the year for ſpawning, are ſeen leaping up the falls, many of them to the height of 15 or 20 feet. There are many of theſe falls in this kingdom, which are very curious and entertaining to a ſtranger, and the ſalmon fiſhery of ſome of them is worth prodigious ſums; there are two or three in the province of Ulſter, that rent for 15 or 1600*l. per ann.* and at which conſequently immenſe quantities of fiſh are annually caught; and yet they are ſeldom ſold at more than the moderate prices of three half pence or two pence per pound, prodigious quantities of which are ſalted and barrelled for North America from Derry. There is one of theſe fiſheries at Colerain, in the county of Antrim, that belongs to the city of London,

A Plan of the Town and Water-Fall of Leixlip
Seven Miles from DUBLIN.



don, and rents for 1500*l.* a year; and another at Ballyſhannon, the property, I believe, of lord Donnegal, that rents for 1600*l.* *per ann.*

At ſome of the deeper cataracts of this kind, in flood times, after heavy rains in the country and mountains above, the noiſe and impetuous fall of the water is aſtoniſhing, and poſſeſſes the mind of the curious ſpectator, unuſed to ſcenes of this kind, with a degree of terror mixt with admiration.

There is a very beautiful one at Leiſlip, about ſeven miles from Dublin, in the river Liffy, juſt by the ſeat of the archbiſhop of Armagh, the primate of Ireland, one of the pleaſanteſt villages in Ireland. There are ſeveral ſeats of the firſt families in the kingdom ſituated in the neighbourhood of this village; and, in the ſummer ſeaſon, it is much reſorted to by genteel company from Dublin, and many parts of Ireland, to drink of a ſulphurous ſpaw that ſprings cloſe to the edge of the Liffy, a little below the village.

A general plan of the village and view of the fall is ſketched out in the annexed plate, in which, B is the biſhop's houſe; F the grand fall, near 20 feet; L, L ſeveral leſſer falls above it; at A is an arch on the top of the fall, one butment of which is on the rocks over which the water falls, the other againſt the bank in the biſhop's garden; D is

a dam

a dam acroſs the river, to raiſe the water for the mill at M ; C the church ; T the town of Leiſlip ; J the juſtice's houſe ; R the road to Athlone and Connaught ; S a ſummer-houſe on a delightful eminence above the town ; G R road to Caſtletown, the ſeat of the right hon. Mr. Conolly ; R D road to Dublin ; R S a very pleaſant road to Salbridge and Caſtletown, by the fall. The primate's gardens here are extremely pleaſing, on an eminence along the ſide of the river, very ſteep to the edge of the water, and ſkirted from top to bottom with trees of various kinds, through which the roaring of the fall at the height of about 60 or 70 feet above it, has a very pleaſing effect, with here and there a break through the wood to get a peep down upon the river and the fall.

To a traveller, unuſed to ſcenes of this kind, it is really a moſt diverting kind of entertainment to ſee the many unſucceſsful efforts of theſe large and beautiful fiſh to gain the top of the fall before they ſucceed. I have often been highly diverted for an hour or two, in the middle of the day, at this ſalmon-leap at Leiſlip. —— When they come up to the foot of the fall, you will frequently obſerve them to leap up juſt above water, as if to make an obſervation of the height and diſtance, for by fixing your eye on the ſpot, you will, generally, ſoon ſee the fiſh leap up again, with an attempt to gain the top,

top, and riſe perhaps to near the ſummit, but the falling water drives them forcibly down again; you will preſently obſerve the ſame fiſh ſpring up again, and riſe even above the fall; — this is as unſucceſsful as the not riſing high enough, for dropping with their broad ſides on the rapid curvature of the waters, they are thrown back again headlong before they can enter the fluid. The only method of ſucceeding in their attempts is to dart their heads into the water in its firſt curvature over the rocks, by this means they firſt make a lodgment on the top of the rock for a few moments, and then ſcud up the ſtream and are preſently out of ſight. ——— One would imagine there was ſomething inſtinctive in this inclination of the ſalmon to get up the fall; for this is the point they are obſerved, by the direction of their motion, generally to aim at; and the force of the ſtream, on the top of the precipice, is undoubtedly leſs at the bottom of the water, and cloſe to the rock, than it is on the ſurface of the rapid curvature. ——— 'Tis almoſt incredible, to a ſtranger, the height to which theſe fiſh will leap: I aſſure you, I have often ſeen them, at this very fall, leap near 20 feet: you may think, perhaps, that I ſhall want more credit for this than the generality of my readers will believe I have a right to; but, upon my honour, 'tis no leſs than matter of fact; and if the opinion that prevails here in general is

true, that they ſpring from the bottom of the river, they muſt riſe often 30 or 40 feet. But this is certainly erroneous, their ſpring is undoubtly from the ſurface. The manner of giving themſelves this ſurprizing leap, is by bending their tails almoſt to their heads, and by the ſtrong re-action of their tails againſt the water it is that they ſpring ſo much above it; which, when the fiſh are large, muſt be with very great force to carry them to ſuch prodigious heights as they are ſometimes ſeen to riſe.

From this general deſcription of the ſalmon-leap at Leiſlep, you may form an idea of the reſt of this kind, of which there are many in the rivers in this kingdom. I will now conduct you to one of the greateſt beauties, of its kind, perhaps, in the world, the water-fall in the demeſne of lord Powerſcourt, in the county of Wicklow, about 14 miles from Dublin; which, from the peculiarity of its ſituation, its prodigious height, and ſingular beauty, deſerves the moſt particular deſcription.

It is found at the very bottom of a lofty ſemi-circular hill, into which, after a moſt agreeable ride through a park well planted with wood, you enter, by a ſudden turn round the extremity of one of the curvatures, and at once, unexpectedly get into the midſt of a moſt entertaining ſcenery of lofty ſlopes

on

on either hand, verdant from top to bottom, with trees of every Kind.

The diſtant view of this water-fall, at firſt entering within the ſcope of the ſurrounding verdant hills, is inexpreſſibly fine. A ſketch of this moſt beautiful ſcene, is given in the annexed plate.

At the very bottom of this ſylvan amphitheatre, and in view from your firſt entrance into it, is ſeen one of the moſt beautiful water-falls in Great-Britain, or Ireland, and, perhaps, in the world. It is produced by a ſmall river that riſes on the plains or ſhallow vallies, on the top of an adjacent range of mountains above, which have no other out-let for the waters, that, from the ſprings and rains, are collected in theſe little vallies, but by a deſcent to the edge of this precipice. Where in the horizontal diſtance of 50 or 60 feet, it falls at leaſt, three hundred; upwards of two hundred feet of it is viſible on the plain below, and is nearly perpendicular, or not above nine or ten feet from the direct. The effect of this ſmall degree of obliquity is extremely fine, for beſides the greater quantity of the water that from one ſmall break, or projection, to another, is thrown off the rock in beautiful curves, it produces an infinite number of frothy ſtreaks behind the larger ſheets of water, which, through the diviſions of theſe more conſiderable and

impetuous falls, are ſeen running down the rock, in a thouſand different and broken directions, at a ſlower rate, from their adheſion to the rocks. The general form and compoſition of this precipice contributes infinitely to the variety and beauty of the fall; for it is compoſed, not of horizontal ſtrata, but all in a poſition oblique, and the degrees of this obliquity being various in the different ſtrata, produce an infinite variety of arching curvatures in the fall, by the daſhing of the water againſt theſe little projections of the rocks, and occaſions thoſe breaks or diviſions of the more impetuous falling ſheets of water, through which are diſcovered the ſlower trickling ſtreams running in ten thouſand various and mingled directions down the very ſides of the precipice. Theſe little frothy ſtreams trickling down the ſides or front of the rocks, have a moſt pleaſing and entertaining effect, and delightfully diverſify the ſcene.

The only time to ſee this moſt beautiful and aſtoniſhing water-fall in its higheſt perfection, is immediately after heavy rains on the mountains above, which add greatly to the confluent ſprings that riſe on the plains or ſhallows on the top of theſe mountains: on ſuch increaſe of the waters, nothing of the kind can exceed the beauty, the almoſt terrific grandeur of the fall; add to this account

account the enormous pieces of rock that lay at the bottom, juſt under the fall, upon which the torrent or cataract moſt impetuouſly daſhes, and fly off in a thouſand different directions, exhibiting, likewiſe, in the morning, with the ſun in the eaſt ſhining full on it, moſt curious and beautiful repreſentations of the rainbow, on the ſpray that riſes in the air, from the daſhing of the water againſt the rocks at bottom, and the whole together preſents ſuch a ſcene, as at once poſſeſſes the mind of the curious ſpectator with aſtoniſhment, mixt with the higheſt admiration. I aſſure you there is no heightening or exaggeration in this deſcription; for the ſubject will not admit of it. The higheſt deſcription muſt fall ſhort of the beauty of the original, and of the conceptions of the delighted ſpectator on the ſpot, if it is viſited under the advantages I have recommended from my own obſervation, viz. in a very wet time, or juſt after heavy rains on the mountains above, though there is a continual fall ſupplied from the ſprings.

The trees which grow from the bottom to the top of the hill, on the ſides of this prodigious water-fall, are an inexpreſſible addition to the beauty of the ſcene, eſpecially at the diſtance of an hundred yards from the fall, and whoever will undertake the moſt laborious taſk, indeed, of climbing the hill,

from tree to tree, to view the river at the top, before it comes to the precipice, will have their curioſity amply rewarded, by viewing the many breaks and little falls of ſeveral feet, that it makes from the place where its deſcent firſt becomes ſteep, towards the edge of the precipice. Its winding, hollow, and intricate paſſage through the rocks, in ſome places open, in others almoſt concealed from the projecting ſtrata of the Rocks on either ſide its broken channel. The beautiful proſpect likewiſe from the top of the fall of the lawns below, and the ſurrounding verdant ſlope of the hills, on either hand; (the reverſed proſpect of this beautiful ſylvan amphitheatre as taken from below) the contracted area of the bottom of which, now ſeen as in perſpective, will, altogether, furniſh ſuch entertainment for their curioſity, as will amply reward them for their no ſmall toil and labour, I aſſure you, in the acquiſition.

The whole ſcenery, indeed, above and below, is the moſt extraordinary, and entertaining, in its kind, I have ever met with, infinitely ſuperior, indeed, to adequate deſcription, and juſtly deſerving the notice of every admirer of natural curioſities.

I cannot omit the mentioning an unexpected piece of entertainment in our way to this grand water-fall, as it aleviated an incidental

dental inconvenience in our ride to it, and to which inconvenience, indeed, we were indebted for it. Though the weather was tolerably good on our leaving Dublin, yet by that time we had rode a mile or two, it began to rain, and continued till we came within half an hour's ride to the fall, when it cleared up, and preſented to our view, one of the moſt aſtoniſhing caſcades that nature ever exhibited, from, nearly, the top to the bottom, of one of the higheſt range of mountains in Ireland. From the height of its deſcent, it could not be leſs than ſix or ſeven hundred yards in view, occaſioned by a ſudden torrent of rain on the mountains, what in the country they call, and very properly, a mountain flood; which, as it ſuddenly falls, it ſoon runs away, for the next day we ſaw nothing but the channel down which it had deſcended.

There was ſomething inexpreſſibly grand and ſtriking in the proſpect of this caſcade, at the diſtance of about a mile, which was the neareſt view we had of it, and we thought ourſelves ſufficiently recompenced for the inconvenience of riding a few miles with a wet coat.———This is perfectly agreeable to the common courſe of events in human life, in which the higheſt enjoyments are generally attended with more or leſs of difficulty or inconvenience in the acquiſition. To

apply this remark, it is certain that thoſe who prefer a dry coat, to the gratifying their curioſity, will have but little chance for ſeeing one of the greateſt beauties in the world of its kind, in the higheſt perfection, *the fall of Powerſcourt.*

The glyns, or dark vallies, another ſpecies of natural curioſities, of this country, are many of them remarkably beautiful. There is one particularly ſo, not far from Powerſcourt, which is much viſited in the ſummer time, by the gentry from Dublin, and moſt of the people of fortune that come to this city. It is equal, if not ſuperior, to any of the kind in the kingdom, one of the deepeſt, and at the ſame time the narroweſt, and moſt irriguous vallies, I remember to have ſeen. The ſides of the hills which ſkirt it, are moſt beautifully ornamented with trees even to the very tops, and intermixed, as they are, with rocky precipices, added to the murmuring of a little river at the bottom, that winds its way through this intricate valley, over numberleſs little breaks and falls, that greatly beautify the ſcene; altogether it affords a moſt pleaſing ſummer recreation.

The cloſeneſs of the lofty ſhading hills on the ſides, at the ſame time that it affords a moſt delightful cool retreat from the heat of the ſun, throws a kind of gloomy ſolemnity on the bottom of this deep valley, and from this

this circumſtance it is very properly called the *Dark Glyn*.—— It is rather a deep chaſm, indeed, than a valley, through a lofty range of hills, which, at this place, are contracted to about an Engliſh mile, the length nearly of this glyn or chaſm through the hills. —— At the very bottom of this glyn is a way cut out by the ſide of the ſtream, in a taſte adapted to the gloomy retirement of the place, where the lover, the poet, or philoſopher, may wander with every circumſtance, every ſcene, about him calculated to warm his imagination, or produce the moſt ſerious reflections.

There is another of much greater extent than this in the neighbourhood, called the Glyn of the Mountains, which deſerves our notice, and a mountainous glyn it is, indeed; the bottom of which is juſt wide enough for a road and a river that run through it. —— It is impoſſible to expreſs the beauty and grandeur which the curious ſpectator is impreſſed with in a ride thro' this immenſly deep, but more open and ſpacious valley, which is ſkirted on either hand with the moſt enormous aſtoniſhing mountains, that ſlope immediately down upon his road for about two Engliſh miles that it may be through it, and for the moſt part covered with trees from their bottoms to the very tops, or preſenting a proſpect of the moſt horrible impending preci-

precipices, that from their terrifying height, and broken ruins at the bottom, appear to threaten him with deſtruction. —— There is ſomething really inexpreſſibly ſtriking in this ſcene, even at firſt entrance. I never rode through a valley where there was ſuch a mixture of beauty, of grandeur, of *ſublimity*, if you will allow me the uſe of the expreſſion here, and of ſomething really awful, as is exhibited in this moſt enormous Glyn of the Mountains.

A river, likewiſe, as obſerved above, runs through this valley cloſe to the road at the foot of the mountains; and from the number of breaks and falls in it, occaſioned by the ſtones and rocks that are frequently rolling from the mountains down into it, adds extremely to the pleaſure of a ride through this moſt ſtriking and entertaining ſcene.

From theſe lofty and ſublime curioſities of nature, you muſt now make a deſcent with me into the dreggs of Ireland, down into the very bogs, with which this iſland abounds, and ſome of them to an extent of many miles. However unpromiſing the proſpect, yet, perhaps, it may not be altogether infertile of entertainment: it may ſerve, at leaſt, as a contraſt to, and give a higher reliſh for, the more pleaſing ſubjects which will afterwards occur. However, I will carry you over them as ſafe and with as much expedition as I can; ſtaying no longer on them than juſt to let

let you know what ground you are upon, and will conduct you again to proſpects more inviting and fertile of entertainment.

Though the bogs have generally been claſſed among the natural diſadvantages of this kingdom, I ſhall, notwithſtanding, take them into the number of its natural curioſities, at leaſt they will appear ſuch to an Engliſh traveller, both as to their origin and produce. But prepare yourſelf to travel as lightly as poſſible, throw off every unneceſſary weight, for the ſurface you have now to tread on is very infirm and dangerous; and ſhould you once break through, you have but little chance for ſtopping, in your deſcent, 'till you reach the ante-deluvian world, for that will probably be the firſt firm footing that your feet will find; ſuch, however, ſeems to be the moſt generally prevailing opinion here concerning theſe bogs — that the timber and trees of every kind, which are frequently found at the bottom of them at very different depths, were originally thrown down by the univerſal deluge in the life of Noah. There may be truth in this opinion, but 'tis certain, at beſt, that 'tis altogether conjectural, though not altogether improbable. —— I juſt now recollect a particular circumſtance in a ſimilar view of this kind in England. When the new harbour at Rye, in Suſſex, was firſt opened, at the bottom, they came upon a layer of timber of various kinds,

kinds, at the depth of 15 or near 20 feet under the ſtrand; on turning over one of the bodies of theſe trees, there was found the ſkeleton of a man compleat, and of a gigantic ſize, in a poſition as if he had been attempting to climb the tree, and it had fallen on him. The conjectures were various upon the phænomenon; but it was the more prevailing opinion of the many gentlemen who were preſent, that he was one of thoſe ill-fated inhabitants of the antedeluvian world who was endeavouring to ſave himſelf from the approaching deluge, by climbing the tree. —— Whatever truth there may be in the conjecture with reſpect to the original of this fallen timber, of which there are many inſtances in both kingdoms, the bogs above it, in Ireland, produce a ſweet and very wholeſome kind of firing in great plenty. In this reſpect nature ſeems to have been favourable to the inhabitants, in raiſing a very uſeful kind of firing even upon the ruins of the original fuel, in ſome of them to a very conſiderable depth, from five to fifteen or twenty feet. By the natives it is called turf, which conſtitutes the entire ſubſtance of theſe bogs, and from thence they are uſually called *turf bogs.* That of the bog of Allen, which extends almoſt acroſs the province of Leinſter, from eaſt to weſt, is univerſally eſteemed the beſt in the kingdom for burning. It is dug out with inſtruments made on purpoſe

purpoſe for that uſe, in little ſpits, in ſhape and ſize not much unlike our common bricks; and, when thoroughly dried for burning, appears to be a very maſs of roots, ſo fine and matted together, that, in its natural and moiſt ſituation in the bog, it cuts cloſe and ſmooth like drained mud. The cloſeſt and moſt combined in its natural ſtate in the bog is the beſt and moſt laſting firing when dried, as the turf of this kind has the leaſt mixture of earth, and conſequently is of the moſt lignous compoſition.

The account that is generally given by the natives for the production of this vegetative kind of ſoil is erroneous, I believe, viz. that it is a maſs of ſtuff that has grown from the fallen wood that originally grew here, thrown down by Noah's flood, or the Lord knows when; and by others, that they derive from ſome peculiar boggy property of the waters that lodge amongſt them.

That ſome of theſe boggy flats were once covered with woods is highly probable, from the vaſt quantities of timber and roots of all kinds and ſizes, particularly of fir, oak, and yew, that are found at the bottom of many of them, where the turf is taken away. But this is not univerſal, on the contrary, the moſt extenſive bogs have the leaſt of this timber at the bottom. It is univerſally obſervable, that the ſurface of theſe bogs is covered with a ſhort, thick, and matted

kind

kind of heath, which undoubtedly as it grows and thickens at the top, vegetates at the bottom into a close and extremely radicous texture, and which, from its low situation, in general, being replete with moisture, naturally throws out successive annual growths of this exceedingly ramified heath, a great part of which dies and shatters upon every return of the winter, and moulders at the bottom, where it closes, and forms another strata of mouldered heath, from which, in the spring, a new and successive shoot of heath is produced; and thus as these strata of mouldered heath are annually repeated, the inferior and internal vegetation of the roots increases and becomes extended higher, and at the bottom more consolidated; and this account seems confirmed by the appearance of the turf on the sides of the channel, where it has been dug, which is ever found of a closer and firmer texture, as they descend to the bottom of the bog.

I am the more confirmed in this theory of their derivation, from a circumstance universally observable, that the channels which are cut through these bogs, either for getting the turf, or for draining them, will in a few years, fill up again, and by a vegetative process, like what I have described above, for their original Production. The turf itself, is very apparent, from a close inspection, is nothing but a closely concreted and extreme-

ly

ly fibrous combination of the roots of this heath, which univerſally grows on the ſurface of theſe bogs; and, ſo far from being the produce of the fallen woods, which are frequently, indeed, but not always found at the bottom, I do not at all ſuppoſe that even the very firſt and original growth of this heath, at the bottom of the preſent bog, in any ſenſe ſprang from the fallen wood, its neighbouring ſubſtratum.

Wherever theſe woods were thrown down, by an inundation, which probably was the caſe, or otherwiſe, there was undoubtedly ſome quantity of earth waſhed down upon them from the adjacent hills, and declivities, the uncultivated ſurface of which, every where produces this kind of heath. This firſt covering of earth would naturally throw out the ſame kind of vegetable in the bottom, as in its former ſituation on the hills, and having by this deſcent into the flats, obtained a richer foundation, and, being ſupplied with conſtant moiſture, which before it often wanted, and, no doubt greatly fertilized by the very trees and their mouldering leaves, and ſmaller branches, intermixed with this adventitious covering of earth, it would naturally throw out an extraordinary and more plentiful growth of this heath, and very probably a thicker, and, of courſe, a finer, mat of it than any of the ſucceſſive and ſuperior growths would run into, and this the gene-

generally clofer and finer texture of the turf at the bottom ſeems to confirm; not to mention that the very roots, from the conſtant moiſture of their ſituation and their fibrous texture muſt be continually vegetating and thickening into a clofer maſs under the ſurface.

The ſame cauſes, in general, take place for producing theſe turf bogs even upon the tops, and on ſome of the very declivities of the hills, where they are frequently found: But it is ever in very moiſt, land-ſpringy grounds, or in flats on the hills where the water ſettles and ſupplies them with moiſture. There ſeems, indeed, to be, in ſome degree, a kind of ſpongy quality in this heath, which prevents the moiſture from ſinking away from it, by an attraction of the fluids from the infinite number of capillary fibres, which are of the very component ſubſtance of this vegetative maſs. — In this ſenſe, and only in this ſenſe, it is that the waters can be ſaid to produce them, and not from any boggy quality in the water itſelf, as is pretended by ſome writers on this ſubject.

I can ſee no reaſon in the world for ſuppoſing any other natural tendency in them to produce theſe bogs of turf, or any other connection whatever with the effect, but the natural and univerſal property of fluids to encourage and ſupport vegetation of every kind.

'Tis

'Tis obſervable, that very little, if any, timber, is ever found at the bottom of theſe hills, or mountainous bogs; for they are frequently found in moiſt flats, on the tops of their very mountains; yet the turf is of the ſame kind; and only differs in goodneſs for fuel, from the different Degrees of moiſture with which it is ſupplied in different ſituations, the beſt turf being ever found where it has the moſt conſtant ſupply of moiſture. In the larger and more extenſive bogs, as in the bog of Allen, which extends almoſt acroſs the province of Leinſter, there is very little Timber found at the bottom, unleſs it be on the outſides, under the neighbouring hills.

It is very evident, therefore, that the timber, frequently found at the bottom of bogs in narrow vallies, much ſurrounded with hills and eminencies, is by no means the original of the ſuperincumbent bog, or turf, though, from the cauſes above mentioned. it might help at firſt to fertilize the ſoil, and produce a more luxuriant growth of the heath. The capillary, fibrous roots of which, ſeem to conſtitute the very body and ſubſtance of the turf. From the preceding obſervations, I preſume, it will be very natural and rational to conclude, that the turf, from top to bottom, is entirely the produce of a vegetation from itſelf, in the manner, and by a vegetative proceſs above deſcribed.

And the reaſon why this kingdom in particular, ſhould exhibit ſuch an extraordinary quantity of theſe turf bogs, is very evidently this, that the ſoil, by nature, is replete with the ſeeds of this bog heath, and, indeed, it is found almoſt all over the kingdom, high and low, where the lands are in their rude, uncultivated ſtate, and it ſeems by nature, a vegetable inclined to flouriſh and increaſe where it has a conſtant ſupply of moiſture, and its roots being extremely thick and fibrous, naturally attract and retain the moiſture that by whatever cauſes gets among them.

'Tis well known that the bogs in many places have riſen ſeveral feet within the memory of man, and the filling or rather growing up again of the channels cut to drain the water from ſome of them, is a proof that the whole is nothing but a vegetative produce of the heath, which, by a conſtant ſucceſſion, or repletion of moiſture, grows luxurioufly, thickens into a mat above ground, ſhatters a very great part of it every winter, and a returning ſpring throws out a freſh crop from the mouldered ſubſtratum of the laſt year's growth, and by ſuch an annually repeated proceſs, together with the very conſiderable, likewiſe, internal vegetation, and thickening of the fine roots amongſt one another, the ſurface muſt neceſſarily become more and more elevated.

From

From the whole, it appears very evident, that notwithſtanding all the pretences and fanciful conjectures of the natives, of its derivation from the trees at the bottom, or from ſome boggy property in the waters, that the turf bogs which are found in ſuch uncommon quantity in this kingdom, are nothing but the natural produce of the heath, with which the uncultivated parts of Ireland almoſt univerſally abound, by being conſtantly replete with moiſture, ſhattering and ſpringing up again ſucceſſively for many years from its mouldered ruins. And a turf bog of the ſame kind, I make no doubt, might be produced in any moiſt flat in England, by ſowing the ſeeds of this ſpecies of bog heath.

The air of theſe bogs, which, by ſome writers, has been repreſented as extremely unwholeſome and unhealthy, I do not think by any means ſo bad, as what is found in many of our marſh-lands. I have been riding over the bog of Allen, the moſt extenſive of any in the kingdom, for many miles in the weſt of Leinſter, at nine and ten o'clock in the evening, and in a perfect calm, and though the air was cool and moiſt, yet I perceived no unwholeſome or offenſive vapours, nothing but the natural ſmell of the turf, in which there is nothing very diſagreeable, nor by any means equally noxious with the ſtinking exhalations from many of our moory and marſhy grounds.

This is the beſt account I can give you of theſe turf bogs of Ireland, and of their original derivation.

I do not remember to have ſeen any of the ſame kind in any part of England, though they are found in great plenty, and really engroſs no inconſiderable ſhare of the ſurface of this kingdom, and naturally engage the notice of a ſtranger to them, from the peculiarity of their internal texture, and the excellent firing they produce, a ſpecimen of which I have ſent you, to give you a juſter idea than my deſcription might do, of the moſt common burning in Ireland.

We have, indeed, a kind of ſpongy earth in ſome few counties in England, that has, by ſome, been compared to them, but it is far from being of an equally radicous or lignous compoſition with the turf of Ireland, nor conſequently by any means ſo good firing. Indeed we have none of this particular ſpecies of heath that produces it in Ireland, ſo far as my obſervation has extended.

I aſſure you, a good beef ſteak broiled on Iriſh turf, and ſerved up with a diſh of roaſted potatoes, is excellent food for an Engliſh ſtomach, and were it poſſible to tranſpoſe them, I ſhould be very glad to exchange one of my beſt acres of corn land in Kent, for two acres of the bog of Allen.

And, having thus got ſafely over the bogs, which, in general, are hardly firm enough to carry

carry a man over without ſinking into the ſurface, we will now enter upon a ſurvey of another and much more pleaſing ſpecies of natural curioſity in this kindom, which will particularly engage the attention, and afford ſcope for the higheſt entertainment to the Engliſh traveller, I mean the beautiful lakes that are met with in great numbers in this iſland, particularly in the north and weſtern provinces. Some of them in the north are very extenſive. Indeed you meet with them of all ſizes, from one mile, to twenty, and many of them beautifully ornamented with fertile and verdent iſlands, amongſt which, in the ſummer time, are made the moſt agreeable parties of rural pleaſure, either for viſiting the iſlands, or fiſhing, which is a diverſion that in theſe lakes may be enjoyed in the higheſt perfection, for moſt of them are plentifully ſtocked with fiſh of various kinds, and almoſt all of them with ſalmon, in the greateſt perfection. Some of theſe lakes have their medicinal virtues, likewiſe, particularly that of Lough Neck, the largeſt lake in the kingdom, and famous for curing ulcerous diſorders, and for its petrifying quality. There is only one iſland on this extenſive lake, which is the largeſt in Ireland, near 30 Engliſh miles long, by 10 or 15 wide, and entirely freſh water, as, indeed, are all the inland lakes in the kingdom. But on many of the lakes the iſlands are extreme-

numerous, in Lough *Earne*, particularly, in the county of Farmanagh, of the province of Ulſter, the natives tell you there are 365, or as many iſlands as there are days in the year. But this, from ſeveral proſpects I had of the lake, I rather doubt the truth of. Indeed they are ſo thickly planted on ſome parts of this lake, of ſuch various magnitudes, and ſo intermixed with each other, as to be almoſt innumerable. They are an infinite beauty to the lakes in proſpective, and very few of them are met with that have not more or leſs of theſe ornaments. There are many gentlemen's ſeats moſt delightfully ſituated in the neighbourhood, and on the verge of theſe lakes. The whole town of Inniſkillen, famous for producing that brave and gallant Regiment of its name, in the wars of king William, againſt James in Ireland, is the moſt rurally ſituated of any inland town in the kingdom, and, perhaps, of any inland town in the king's dominions, upon an iſland of Lough Earne, and at the ſame time extremely well ſituated for trade, by means of the lake, which extends to the ſouth-eaſt and north-weſt of the town for 20 miles, nearly, either way, and communicates with ſeveral counties, and with the ſea on the north-weſt by a river that might be made navigable; but at many places the lake is but narrow, and its greateſt width not more than ſeven or eight miles. This lake would

be

be of infinite ſervice to the inland trade of this part of the kingdom, were there any eſtabliſhed, at Inniſkillen or elſewhere on the borders of it, if a navigation were made for about four or five miles, from a little above Belleek, at the lower end of the lake, to the ſea, at Ballyſhannon, in the north-weſt, where the waters of Lough Earne diſcharge themſelves into the ſea, through a river, that, from Belleek to Ballyſhannon, is one continued ſeries of caſcades and water-falls, many of them extremely beautiful. The deſcent of the river in this diſtance of about three or four Engliſh miles, from the lake to the ſea below the fall, has been found, by obſervation, to be about 700 feet.

The ſalmon-leap or water-fall, juſt at the very mouth of the river, is one of the moſt conſiderable in the kingdom. The height of the fall, is about 20 feet, and from the vaſt quantity of water deſcending from the extenſive lake above, the noiſe and roaring of the fall is prodigious.

Inniſkillen is one of the moſt conſiderable inland towns in the kingdom, and if a proſpect is taken of it in the ſummer ſeaſon, its ſituation is delightful, on one of the iſlands in the narrow part between the upper and lower lake, and which you cannot enter but by a bridge, at either end of the town.

Lough, which is the native Iriſh for *lake*, Earne is almoſt every way ſurrounded by mountains or lofty eminences, from many of which a general proſpect of the lake, with its verdant iſlands, is extremely fine. — The proſpect, likewiſe, from the town, or from the iſland on which it ſtands, is inconceivably rural and beautiful: for the iſlands are planted ſo thick, eſpecially on the upper, and ſo intermixed on the ſurface of the lake, that look which way you will, the viſible and broken parts of the ſurface appear like ſo many pieces of water irregularly laid out among the riſing woods; for every iſland, unexceptionably almoſt, is fertile of wood of various kinds. The ſhade of theſe woods, and the coolneſs of the water, the diverſion of fiſhing, and the infinite variety of figures delineated by the iſlands of this extenſive lake, many of which are extremely rich and fertile were, they well cultivated by the inhabitants who live on them, though you hardly ſee a houſe in paſſing the length of the lake, they are ſuch low inconſiderable cabbins, that are concealed by the ſurrounding woods. — 'Tis, indeed, a kind of rural Venice, where the woods appear to be the habitations, and the broken and winding ſurface of the lake the ſtreets that lead from one part of this aqueo-ſylvan commonwealth to another. Such an infinitely variegated and mixed proſpect of water, woods, iſlands and mountains,

mountains, as almoſt every where on the lake preſents itſelf, makes a voyage on Lough Earne, in the ſummer ſeaſon, inexpreſſibly pleaſing and entertaining to a ſtranger unacquainted with ſcenes of this kind.

To give you a minute deſcription of many of theſe lakes would be an endleſs taſk. It is in theſe that nature ſeems to have diſplayed her greateſt wantonneſs of fancy, in the variety of their figures, extent, produce and ornaments. And to the curious Engliſhman, who meets with hardly any thing of the kind in his own country, they afford the higheſt entertainment.

But there is one of theſe lakes in the ſouth-weſt part of the kingdom, in the county of Kerry, which, from the infinite number of its beauties, deſerves the minuteſt deſcription. You will readily imagine that I mean the lake of Kilarny; the deſcription of which, though, I can now aſſure you, extremely ſhort and imperfect in many reſpects, have given us much entertainment, and which you particularly deſired me to viſit, and ſend you the beſt deſcription that I could; for indeed the higheſt that can be given muſt be unequal to the original.

We made an excurſion from Cork on purpoſe to viſit it, through a moſt dreary and almoſt uninhabited country, for 30 Engliſh miles, that we rode on the firſt ſtage, without meeting with any thing better than a

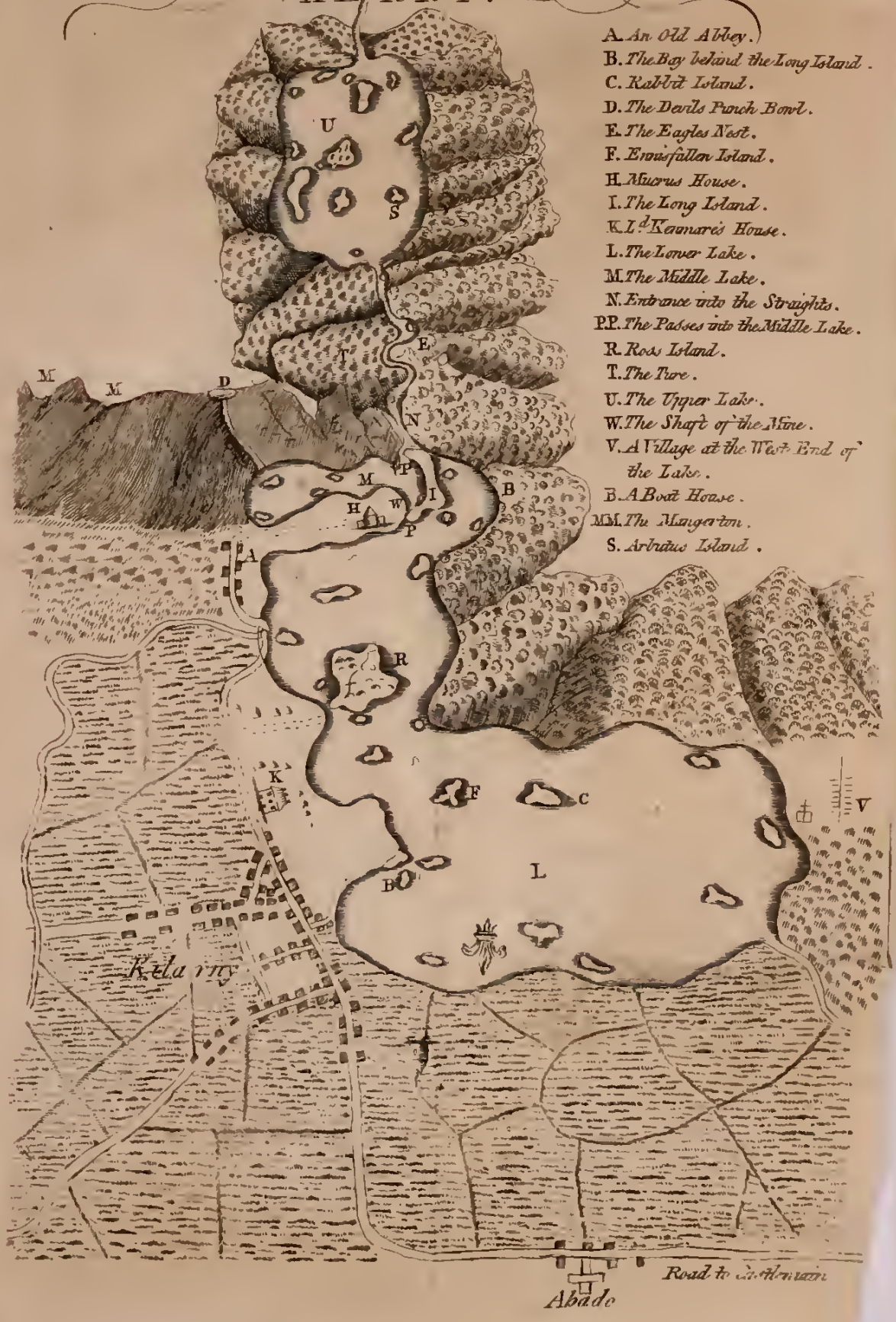
little

little bad rum and good water for ourſelves, our horſes were forced to ſtand it out. At the end of our ſecond ſtage we reached Kilarny, and were amply recompenſed for our uncomfortable ride over bogs, and through clouds on the mountains over which we had to paſs; the road, indeed, was good, but through a country the moſt infertile of entertainment of any in the ſouth of Ireland. Indeed, if it is equally ſo in every other direction to the lake, one would imagine that Nature had neglected the country round about it for many miles on purpoſe to be laviſh of beauty and fertility on this her favourite ſpot, for in both it is really infinitely ſuperior to every deſcription we have yet ſeen.

I have ſent you a ſketch of the figure of this inimitable lake, which is viſited by the curiour votaries of nature from all parts of Ireland, and many from Britain. But I deſpair, indeed, of giving you an adequate deſcription of this aqueo-inſular paradiſe; for it is impoſſible for any expreſſions to convey the conceptions of the delighted ſpectator on the ſpot. However, I will attempt to draw ſome of the out-lines of the beauty, as well as form, of this enchanting lake.

From the eaſt end of the middle lake entirely round the upper and lower lakes (for they may not improperly, as you will ſee by the draught, be diſtinguiſhed into three lakes)

A Plan of the Lake of Kilarny in the County of KERRY.



lakes) to the village at the weſt end of the lower lake, one narrow valley excepted, in the ſouth, through which runs a river into the upper lake, is one continued range of moſt enormous mountains, the immenſe declivities of which are covered with woods from, nearly, their tops down to the verge of the lakes; and without making uſe of my priviledge, as a traveller, which I have an undoubted right to do, but, at preſent, ſhall ſet aſide, becauſe I would give you, in every thing, the juſteſt idea that I can of the originals, we have none equal to them in Kent, not even thoſe lofty cliffs our friend Shakeſpear has celebrated, between Dover and Folkſtone.

The romantic intermixture of horrible impending precipices with theſe lofty mountains, that are moſt beautifully covered down their ſides, to the very verge of the lake, with arborage of every of the common ſorts of wood, mixed with ever-greens of various kinds, all which appear to be the ſpontaneous produce of the ſoil, and with their different and diverſified ſhades and tints preſent ſuch a grand and beautifully variegated ſcenery on the immenſe ſlopes of theſe ſurrounding hills as is beyond deſcription: — add to this the numberleſs rivulets caſcading in rocky channels, ſkirted with trees of every kind, down the ſides of theſe enormous mountains, ſome of them to the height of a hundred yards

yards or more at one view; while in other places are ſeen cataracts or water-falls, over rocky precipices, near or more diſtant from ſhore; and the whole together preſents ſuch a grand and ſtriking proſpect as pleaſes and entertains beyond imagination.

Theſe are beauties exterior to the lake, to be ſeen on the ſurrounding rocks and mountains either in a boat or from the iſlands, of which there are many and of very different extent, diſperſed over the lake, and all of them, of any ſize, one only excepted, which is inhabited by an innumerable ſight of rabbets, beautifully ornamented with trees of every kind, with a moſt delightful intermixture of ever-greens, as box, holly, yew, and, which is the greateſt curioſity of this kind, the Arbutus, or ſtrawberry tree, the whole of which, here likewiſe, appear to be a ſpontaneous production, and ſome of them grow to an immenſe ſize on theſe iſlands. — We ſaw, at lord Kenmare's, a table made of one of theſe yews, the leaves of which were above two feet a-croſs without any joint, and hollies of a prodigious magnitude are found here, I have ſeen many of them equal to, and ſome of above two feet in diameter in the body of the tree. On ſome of theſe iſlands there are found, likewiſe, ſhrubs of various kinds, ſuch as I do not remember to have ſeen, many of which, I make no doubt, have their medicinal virtues, from the reſemblance

ſemblance they have in ſmell to the contents of a Galenic ſhop.

The cooling and refreſhing ſhade of the woods with which theſe iſlands are ornamented, with their diverſified figures, extent, and different elevations from the ſurface of the lakes, ſome of them with flat ſhores, and riſing verdant eminences in their interior receſſes from the water, others ſo low and generally flat, that you can form but little idea of their extent, without landing or ſurrounding them, while others again are raiſed on rocks, with ſurrounding precipices that muſt be clambered if you would make a landing.

'Tis eaſier for the rural and romantic genius to conceive than for me to expreſs the pleaſure that, in every proſpect, derives to the curious traveller from ſuch a mixed and diverſified ſcene of entertainment.

A general proſpect of the beautiful ſcenery of theſe lakes may be obtained, and will amply reward thoſe whoſe curioſity is ſtrong enough to carry them up to the top of ſome of the ſurrounding mountains, particularly from the top of the rough and ſhaggy *Turc*, a name given to a lofty, rocky mountain, that ſtands a little detached from the neighbouring mangerton, on the eaſt ſide of the entrance into the narrow ſtrait that leads to the upper lake; a ſituation that commands the moſt extenſive proſpect of the ſeveral lakes

lakes and country adjacent of any that can be found on the ſurrounding eminencies.

I have given him his proper name, which he derives from the likeneſs of his white chalky top to the Turkiſh turban: you will find him on the right of, and not far from the Devil's Punch-bowl.

From the lofty ſhaggy top of this rocky mountain is ſeen a proſpect the moſt fertile of aqueous, rural, and romantic beauties within the extent of half a dozen miles on either hand, that any hill, perhaps, in the world affords, within the ſame extent. The extremities of your view, from this eminence, preſent the out-lines of the ſeveral lakes, with the ſurrounding verdant mountains, rocks and precipices; a general view, likewiſe, of the deep and moſt irriguous valley and ſtraight that leads from the upper down to the lower lake, and which, in any other ſituation is ſeen but very partially; including alſo the country acroſs the lower lake to the north and eaſtward, which is, in general, a very fertile ſoil, and not thinly inhabited; with a view of the town of Kilarny, and the ſeveral ſeats and villas in the neighbourhood of the lake; and *below*, in a literal ſenſe, indeed, from the lofty eminence it is taken from, you have a proſpect of the lakes, with the verdant, luxuriant iſlands that beautifully ornament them, intermixed with numbers of ſmaller iſles, that are chiefly bare rocks, expreſſed

preſſed by ſingle and angular lines in the draught; for they are only narrow ridges of rocks, or ſingle ones ſcattered up and down amongſt the large iſlands that lift up their heads above water, as if to view and envy their more extenſive and fertile neighbours. Taken altogether, the perſpective from the *Turc* is unequall'd, in Great Britain or Ireland, and, perhaps, in the world.

The moſt wandering eye, may here rove for hours, from variety to variety, without diſcovering all the beauties that lay within his view.

But, indeed, to aſcend with exceſſive toil and labour this lofty, craggy mountain, tho' the pleaſure of the proſpect from it, perhaps, will reward the curious and indefatigable traveller, yet it is not the plan, in my opinion, for deriving the moſt ſatisfying entertainment, that the lakes are calculated to afford.

For as a *Turk* of the greateſt ſenſibility would have his taſte and choice confounded amidſt a ſeraglio of ſurrounding beauties, and till he had ſeparated them, could neither be ſo ſenſible of their particular charms, nor have that exquiſite joy and ſatisfaction that each, in a more diſtinct and leſs interrupted ſituation, would be capable of giving; ſo here, on the *Lake* of *Kilarny*, the beſt plan for obtaining the higheſt entertainment, ſhould ſeem to be the ſailing from one beauty

ty to another, from variety to variety. And for ſuch a progreſs the general form and ſituation of the lakes are by nature moſt happily adapted, from the extreme irregularity of the out-lines, and the infinitely diverſified diſpoſition of the ſeveral parts which its curvature round the mountains from the weſt to the ſouth, and the ſtreights and narrow paſſes from one lake to the other naturally produces.

For ſail which way you will, there is continually ſome opening proſpect of iſlands unſeen, or different views of the mountains, or of the rocks and horrid precipices, a new caſcade or water-fall, before undiſcovered, from which mixture and diverſity the ſpectator is perpetually getting a variety of entertainment, either from new objects, or from different views of thoſe before ſeen. Nature, indeed, in this moſt romantically beautiful of her works, ſeems to have providently conſulted the imperfection of humanity, which is not capable of ſuch high enjoyment of her beauties, when confounded in its choice, in one point of view, by too great a multiplicity of inviting objects.

Therefore, here ſhe has been careful to make ſuch a diſpoſition of the ſeveral parts of her exquiſite workmanſhip, as that one beauty ſhall, in general, conceal another, and by this *good-natured* diſtribution has given time to her votaries to admire at leiſure, and diſtinctly,

tinctly, as they ſucceſſively come under their obſervation; but, at the ſame time, has generouſly put it into their power, if their reſolutions are equal to the difficulty and labour in the acquiſition to obtain an extenſive and more general ſurvey.

The paſſage from the lower to the upper lake, which is one among the principal beauties of the place, affords an inconceivable variety of entertainment, that cannot be had in any perfection without navigating the ſtreight. There is, however, juſt at the entrance into this narrow paſs from the lower lake, a length of about 30 or 40 yards, that is innavigable. The upper lake ſtanding about nine or ten feet higher than the lower, occaſions a ſhallow deſcent of the waters, for the diſtance above mentioned, over which the boat muſt be drawn by the rowers, the paſſengers getting on ſhore, and embarking again above the ſhallow. For the waters that are collected into the upper lake, from the mountains, and the river that runs in at the ſouth, paſs from thence into the lower and larger lake, and from that, with the rivers that are collected into it from eaſt and north, with the waters that fall from the mountains on the ſouth, are diſcharged at the weſt end of the lake, by a river, into the ſea, below Caſtlemain in the weſt of Kerry, about 20 miles from the lake.

The little check or difficulty this rapid deſcent of the waters throws in the way in his inſatiable purſuit of vanity, if properly improved, is not without its uſes to the half enraptured traveller at the place where he meets with it, who, juſt before he comes up to it, has had his mind impreſſed with the higheſt and moſt delightful conceptions of grandeur and ſublimity, perhaps, that can poſſeſs the human underſtanding, from an aqueo-mountanous proſpect, for ſuch will be the effect of the proſpect, from a boat behind the long iſland, of the beautiful bay, he paſſes through up to the ſtreight, and the lofty mountains that delightfully encompaſs the greateſt part of it. The immenſe declivities and hollow boſoms of which, over-ſpread with woods of various kinds, from the verge of the lake or bay almoſt to their very tops, preſents a proſpect that affects the mind of the ſpectator in a manner unſpeakable, and poſſeſſes the imagination with the higheſt conceptions of natural ſublimity. You may laugh at my rhapſody, if you pleaſe, but to add to the effect of ſuch a ſupereminent landſcape, what will carry his imaginations to the higheſt pitch of frantic enthuſiaſm, the melodious echoing of the horn, reſounding with ineffable ſweetneſs from the lofty circulating boſom of the mountains. If any ſcene in the world can elevate his conceptions to the ſublime of nature,

ture, it muſt be a ſituation like this. But ill prepared is he indeed, to meet with this check in the career of his inflamed curioſity. Yet nature, ever provident for her faithful votaries, has happily thrown it in his way. The debarkation at the ſhallow, above mentioned, and the ruffing through the woods that verge upon the ſtreight, at this rapid deſcent, gives him time to cool, and by eracing, in ſome degree, the impreſſions on his mind from the enchanting ſcene he has juſt paſſed through, prepares him for the more perfect injoyment of the new and opening variety that preſents itſelf in his navigation above the ſhallow.

The *ſtreights*, as they may be called between the upper and lower lakes, are three or four miles in length, running through one of the moſt irriguous vallies that nature ever formed, occaſioned by the croſſing and projecting of the rocks and mountains on either hand, upon each other, through which the navigation is continued, but by the moſt ſerpentine and intricate paſſage that can be imagined, and at very unequal breadths. At ſome places, contracted for 100 yards or more, into a narrow, but generally very deep paſs, of not much more than room enough to work the oars; thence opening into little lakes of 50 or 100 rods wide; from whence it contracts again, and winds round a projecting rock or iſland, that at a

diſtant view ſeems to deny a paſſage; and after turning round a mountain, through a narrow inflected paſs, the navigation widens again for a quarter of a mile, at the end of which, the eye meets with the ſame forbidding appearances.

Through the whole of this intricate paſſage you are preſented with the moſt diverſified ſcenery that imagination can conceive. In the narrow parts, with rocky ſhores in various figures and ſhapes, that are aſſimilated by the boatmen to various ſubjects, one is a horſe, another is a ſhip, a church, &c. and in the wider parts, with little iſlands, ſome of which are bare rocks, while others are adorned with trees, and verdant paſturage. In others, and more diſtant proſpects from the ſhore, you are preſented with horrible and frightful precipices, verdant declivities of the mountains and glynns covered with trees of every kind common, and ever-green, with a moſt delightful mixture of water-falls, caſcades, nearer or more diſtant, from the rocks and mountains.

In ſerious truth, the face of nature through this enchanting maze, between the lower and upper lakes, has ſuch a mixture of the ſublime, of the romantic and rural, as is infinitely ſuperior to adequate deſcription, and can be conceived only by an imagination rural and romantic like thy own.

It

It is in ſome of theſe high, craggy, and inacceſſible rocks that ſurround the lakes, that the eagles are ſometimes known to build, but their number is not very conſiderable; we ſaw but few of them while we were on the water. There is a moſt ſtupendous and frightful rock that ſtands on a ſudden narrow turning of this watery defile, which is called the eagles neſt, from its being ſeldom without a neſt of them on its top. Its front to the water is a moſt horrible precipice. Its ſides are of a pyramidal figure, and lined with trees from bottom to top, and with many of the ſtrawberry kind in particular. At a diſtance it has a fine effect, but as you approach nearer, and come under the precipice that fronts the water, its frightful impending height poſſeſſes the mind of the ſpectator, who is obliged to navigate cloſe under it, with equal terror and admiration.

After winding through this ſerpentine maze, in which the ſtranger will often think himſelf ſhut up without any outlet, but by the known backward paſſage, to enter at laſt through a narrow paſs, of not more than 20 feet, between two projecting rocks, into a ſecond lake of two or three miles acroſs, and three or four in length, beautifully ornamented with fruitful iſlands, ſome of which ſeem covered with lively ever-greens, and one in particular, whoſe beautiful pro-

duce is entirely of the arbutus or ſtrawberry tree, from one of which, the branch I have ſent you is taken. Others of them fertile of ſtately oaks, aſh, &c. mixed with yews, hollies, &c. of an immenſe ſize; the whole ſurrounded with lofty mountains, rocks, precipices, interſperſed with numberleſs caſcades, water-falls, will altogether be an opening ſcene, that after his cloſe and intricate paſſage through the ſtreights, for three or four miles, will be exquiſitely pleaſing and entertaining to the curious ſpectator.

Human nature has a ſtrong propenſity after variety in all its pleaſures, proſpects and enjoyments, and, conducted by reaſon, it is indiſputably a paſſion that may be juſtly and laudably indulged. The beauties of nature are certainly objects that may rationally engage our attention, and moſt extenſive acquaintance; to admire here, is doing honour to the God of nature, and as our friend Pope moſt elegantly expreſſes it,

To enjoy is to obey.

The lakes I have attempted to deſcribe, affords an inexhauſtible fund of entertainment of this kind. To a mind fond of rural and romantic proſpects, nothing can give a greater pleaſure, than the face of nature, on, and about the lake of Kilarny. The variety, both high and low, that every where

where offers itſelf to our view, on ſailing among the iſlands, and between the rocks and precipices; the copious and delightfully ſhaded bays found under the ſloping mountains, on the verge of the lakes; the numberleſs bays and coves of leſs extent, but not leſs beautiful, that are found among the iſlands, ſhaded on all ſides with groves of trees and ever-greens, growing on peninſulas, which the ſportive fancy of nature has delineated on thoſe fertile iſles; their different extent; their various and luxuriant, though ulcultivated produce; even the bare rocks that peep up above the ſurface in various ſhapes and elevations, that are agreeably interſperſed among the fertile, and are no inconſiderable addition, will, altogether, furniſh the higheſt natural entertainment to a taſte ſuch as I have ſuppoſed our ſpectators to be.

Nor is it the eye only that nature has laid herſelf out to pleaſe in this aque-inſular paradiſe, the ear alſo comes in for its ſhare of entertainment from the aſtoniſhing and delightful echoes that are found among the hills in the ſouthern, and more encloſed parts of the lake, but, more particularly in the winding, deep, and intricate valley leading from the lower to the upper lake. There are many of them that are inexpreſſibly fine, and infinitely ſuperior to any that I have ever be-

fore met with, even in that land of echoes, the peak of Derbyſhire.

The echoed report of a cannon in ſome ſituations among theſe mountains is really aſtoniſhing; for there are cannons placed at the moſt advantageous ſituation by the lord Kenmare, on purpoſe for the entertainment of travellers, who generally provide themſelves with ammunition for loading them. The reports, on the diſcharge of theſe cannon, are re-echoed from the mountains and lofty precipices in the neareſt reſemblance to thunder, of any thing that can be imagined in nature. So near is the reſemblance, that but for the known diſcharge of the cannon, you could have no doubt of its being a moſt violent peal of thunder rolling among the mountains, decreaſing in ſtrength with the encreaſing diſtance of the hills which take the ſound in ſucceſſion; and when, to imagination, it is dying away into ſilence, you will find it reviving again, and attaching your ears from a different quarter, in a degree of ſtrength that at once ſurprizes and aſtoniſhes. Indeed nothing but the thunder of Heaven itſelf, can equal the echoed report of exploded cannon, in ſome ſituations in this hollow intricate valley.

But the moſt delightful effect of theſe echoes is the *muſical*, particularly of the horn and trumpet, which our cockſwain, to oblige us, carried with him, and blew for our

our entertainment in the moſt advantageous ſituations, at one in particular, where we ſet him on ſhore behind a rock, near the Eagles Neſt, and croſſing over ourſelves to the oppoſite ſide, we had only the returned ſounds. —— But here the higheſt expreſſion muſt fall infinitely ſhort of the effect: —— the re-echoing, ſweet and meliorated ſounds from the boſoms of theſe lofty, winding hills and precipices, adapted to give muſic, which naturally aſcends, its moſt melodious effect, attaching the ears from all ſides in ſucceſſion, as if twenty inſtruments were blowing in concert at different diſtances and elevations. —— I enter no farther into this deſcription, for it is as much above me as the hills from whence the harmony deſcended. But like the enraptured countryman, on his return from Vauxhall, I may ſay with truth,

The ſounds I'm ſtill enjoying;
They'll always ſooth my ears.

The hunting of the echoes, with the horn, through this valley, will afford, to a muſical ear, the moſt delightful entertainment that imagination can conceive.

There is one ſpecies of diverſion which, on theſe lakes, is enjoyed in the higheſt perfection the nature of the thing will admit; nothing, to a ſportſman, can equal the ſpirit and elevating joy of a ſtag-hunt on the lake

lake of Kilarny. You may think this a little Iriſhiſm, and laugh at me, if you pleaſe; but, in truth, it is plain, good Engliſh; for it is poſitively a hunt on the water; the gentlemen who attend are generally in boats on the lake during the diverſion.

The ſtag is rouſed from the woods that ſkirt the lake, and generally from thoſe that grow along the ſtraight between the lakes, in which there are many of them that run wild by nature, like deers in an eaſtern foreſt, and are properly enough called wild ſtags. They are often ſeen feeding among the woods on the declivities of the mountains, that ſlope on this ſerpentine valley. Horſes are here made no uſe of, for they would be uſeleſs. The bottoms and ſides of the mountains are almoſt univerſally covered with woods, and the declivities are ſo long and ſteep that no horſe could either make his way in the bottom, or riſe theſe impracticable hills. And the ſtag will very rarely attempt to aſcend the mountains. It is impracticable, indeed, to follow the hunt by land, either on foot or on horſeback; the chace is along the valley in the woods, and over the few ſmall, and, from their ſoftneſs, for the moſt part, impaſſable lawns that verge upon the lake. The only place, therefore, for the ſpectator to enjoy the diverſion, without inſupportable fatigue, is on the lake, where the cry of the hounds, the harmony of

of the horns, reſounding from the hills on every ſide, the univerſal ſhouts of joy along the valleys and from the ſides of the mountains, which are often lined with foot people, who get out in great numbers, and go through almoſt infinite labour to partake and aſſiſt at the diverſion, re-echoing from hill to hill, from rock to rock, gives the higheſt joy and ſatisfaction that imagination ſhould conceive can ariſe from the chace, and, perhaps, can no where be enjoyed with that ſpirit and ſublime elevation of ſoul that a thorough-bred ſportſman feels at a ſtag-hunt on the *lake of Kilarny*. There is, however, one eminent danger that awaits him, which is, that he may forget *where* he is and *jump out of the boat*.

When hotly purſued, and wearied with the conſtant difficulty of making way with his lofty ramified antlets through the woods, that every way oppoſe his flight, the terrifying cry of his open-mouth purſuers, that thirſt for his blood, at his heels, and almoſt within ſight, no wonder, if in the few critical moments he now has to conſult for his ſafety, that he ſhould look towards the lake as his only aſſylum, or, if deſperate the choice, that he ſhould prefer drowning to being torn in pieces by his mercileſs purſuers. —— Once more he looks upwards — but the hills are inſurmountable, —— and the woods, but lately his favourite friends, now refuſe

refuſe him ſhelter, and, as if in league with his inveterate enemies, every way oppoſe his paſſage. —— A moment longer he ſtops — looks back —— ſees his deſtruction inevitable —— the blood-hounds are at his heels, their roaring attacks his ears with redoubled fury at the ſight of their deſtined victim. — The choice muſt be immediately made —— with tears of deſperation he plunges into the lake. But alas! his fate is fixed—his thread is cut aſunder—he eſcapes but for a few minutes from one mercileſs enemy to fall into the hands of another equally uncompaſſionate and relentleſs.—His antlets are his ruin—the ſhouting boatmen ſurround the unhappy ſwimmer in his way to the neareſt iſland — they halter him —— dragg him into their boat, and to the land with him in triumph. He dies—*an undeſerved death.*—— His ſpirit flies into the *Devil's Punch-bowl*, and his fleſh goes into a paſty. And thus ends the ſtag-hunt.

On our return from the upper lake, through this moſt enchanting maze, we were moſt agreeably entertained, by our pilot, with an unexpected introduction (at P) into a third, and not inconſiderable, lake, which we had yet not ſeen, and which may not improperly be called the middle lake, extending about two miles eaſt and weſt, and about one north and ſouth, lying cloſe under the Mangerton mountains and behind the peninſula on which ſtands

ſtands counſellor *H—t*'s houſe, as you will ſee in the draught, communicating with the ſtreight, juſt below the ſhallow, by a narrow paſs of not more than 20 feet, over-arched with trees, and with the lower lake, by juſt ſuch another paſs between the long iſland and the peninſula, and though not ſo much ornamented with verdant and fertile iſlands as the more extenſive neighbouring lakes, yet, from its ſituation it has its peculiar beauties. —— For beſides the affording a moſt entertaining and unexpected excurſion to the eaſtward of a mile or two, it is entirely ſurrounded with beautiful arborage that grow on every ſide moſt luxuriantly: on the ſouth and eaſtward it has the Mongerton, the higheſt mountains in Ireland, and, by an experiment with the Barometer, found to be 1020 yards perpendicular above the lake, ſloping down immediately upon the ſhore, and, for a great way up their declivities, are ornamented with trees of different kinds; and, at the bottom, delineated into the moſt delightfully ſhaded bays. On the oppoſite ſide is the fertile peninſula above mentioned, and on the weſt the long iſland, as I have diſtinguiſhed it, covered with wood of various kinds, over which is ſeen the lofty mountains that verdantly ſlope on the ſpacious and moſt beautiful bay behind the long iſland, through which we paſſed, in our navigation to the upper lake. Beſides which

you

you have in proſpect, from many parts of this lake, one of the fineſt caſcades in the world, perhaps, viſible to above 150 yards running down into this lake, and formed by the diſcharge of the ſuperfluous waters from the *Devil's Punch-bowl*, from one of the Mangerton. This laſt is a piece of nature's workmanſhip, not leſs deſerving the attention of the curious traveller than many I have attempted to deſcribe. You will find an imperfect repreſentation of it in the draught.

It is a ſmall round lake, in a moſt amazing concavity, found on the very top of the Mangerton, of about a quarter of a mile in diameter a-croſs the top, and, though immenſe, is not unlike, in its form, to a punch-bowl, from whence it has taken its name of *the Devil's Punch-bowl.* From the ſurface of the water, to the top of the ſides of this vaſt concavity or bowl may be about 300 yards; and, when viewed from the circular top, it really has a moſt aſtoniſhing appearance.

The ſides are nearly perpendicular, and of an equal degree of declivity, and, indeed, much conformed to the faſhion of a bowl; on the part, however, next to the middle lake there is a chaſm, or gap, of equal depth to the height of the circular ſides above the lake, through which the ſuperfluous increaſe of the waters from rains above, and the

ſprings

ſprings which are ſuppoſed conſtantly to ſupply it at its bottom, are diſcharged in a moſt beautiful caſcade down into the middle lake; for from its continually running there can be no doubt of its being conſtantly ſupplied with ſprings. You have heard of the bowl of punch that was ingeniouſly contrived with a ſpring at the bottom, that inviſibly recruited the continued decreaſe of the liquor within: I make no doubt this of the Devil has one. The depth of this lake, or punch-bowl, is exceſſive, though I have not faith enough to believe, with the natives about it, that it is unfathomable. However, as I had no materials with me for ſounding it, I left them in the quiet enjoyment of their credulity in that, as well as in many other caſes, in which I found them poſſeſſed of no ſmall meaſure.

The depth, indeed, of the upper and lower lakes is, in many places, ſurprizing, from the accounts our pilot gave us, equal to three or fourſcore fathom, and in ſome places, cloſe under the rocky ſhores, fifteen and twenty fathom deep. Even the depth of the middle and leaſt extenſive lake, cloſe under the Mangerton, he aſſured us was, in ſome places, equal to 70 fathom, though not above two miles in its greateſt extent. And whatever may be the depth of the *Devil's punch-bowl*, as it is called in our maps, but by the natives in the neighbourhood *Pouler infrin*,

infrin, or the Hole of Hell, it is certainly in a ſuperficial view of it from the top of the mountain, a moſt aſtoniſhing production. The horrible depth, but, at the ſame time, regular form of this immenſe concavity, the narrow chaſm found on one ſide for the diſcharge of its waters, the exceſſive depth, likewiſe, of the water within, altogether conſidered by the ſpectator, it will be thought one of the moſt ſurprizing productions of the kind, perhaps, in the world, and well worthy the notice of every curious naturaliſt that ſhall viſit the lake of Kilarny.

The northern and weſtern ſides, likewiſe, of theſe lakes, add very conſiderably to the variety of entertainment of a voyage on the lower lake. ——— From the valley at the weſt end, through which the whole collection of waters diſcharge into the ſea, is one continued range of hills, not equal, indeed, to the mountains on the ſouthern ſide, yet affording much beauty in proſpect from the lake; and as they are ornamented, from the very ſhore, with woods and cultivated encloſures, with ſome few houſes interſperſed, they make a moſt agreeable addition and diverſity, to the more immediate beauties of the lake. The ground alſo riſing with a gentle aſcent, affords a more ample and particular view from the lake of theſe rural ornaments even to the top of the hills, on the very ſummit of which, and terminating the proſpect,

proſpect, ſtand the inconſiderable remains of the ancient city of Ahadoe, very little of which, beſides the ruins of the cathedral, is now remaining.

On the eaſtern ſide is a rich and fertile plain for two or three miles, through which deſcends a river into the lower lake. On the north-eaſt ſide ſtands the town of Kilarny, in a delightful ſituation, as every place in the vicinitude of this beautiful lake muſt be, and in the ſummer time, from the number of viſiters to the lake, is a very chearful, lively town. So great is the reſort here indeed, that the faſhionable cant, at our publick ſpaws, *of good* and *bad ſeaſons*,——of *providing for the ſeaſon*,—of expectations from the *enſuing ſeaſon*, with other expreſſions of the like kind, are here very importantly introduced. We were not a little at a loſs at firſt hearing the word *ſeaſon* mentioned, 'till, upon enquiry, we found it was the *ſeaſon* for viſiting the lake, which is a very long ſeaſon, indeed, for it may be ſeen with great pleaſure, from May to November, in which month, as the fruit of the ſtrawberry tree begins more generally to ripen, that beautiful ever-green, which is one of the peculiar beauties of the lake, appears in its greateſt perfection. This circumſtance is true, indeed, but that the people of the place affirm that the month of

November is the beſt time to ſee the lake in its utmoſt perfection, I do not think ſo.

'Tis true, indeed, the variegated proſpect of fading greens among thoſe that are ever living, is peculiarly beautiful in the autumnal proſpect; but I believe in general it would be ſeen with greater pleaſure in the warmer months of ſummer. The coolneſs of the water, the delightful ſhades found in almoſt every bay, delineated by nature on theſe iſlands, and at the bottom of the mountains, the richneſs of the verdure throughout, not to mention the generally clearer ſtate of the air in ſummer, that will be in favour of one of the moſt delightful entertainments of the place, the echoes, which muſt be heard conſequently in greater perfection in the midſt of ſummer, than in November; on every of theſe conſiderations it ſhould ſeem, that a voyage over theſe lakes in one of the warmer days of ſummer, muſt afford much higher degrees of rural pleaſure and entertainment.

The extent of the lower lake, from eaſt to weſt, may be about ſeven or eight miles, and a-croſs it from north to ſouth, about half that diſtance. But from the north of the lower lake, near Kilarny, to the ſouth of the upper lake, including the winding ſtreight between them through the vallies, muſt be at leaſt ten or twelve, ſufficiently extenſive and copious of variety, to furniſh a continued ſucceſſion of pleaſure and proſpective

ſpective entertainment, for the longeſt ſummer's day, and ſtores are generally carried on board for regaling on ſome of the iſlands with which theſe inimitable lakes are ornamented in great numbers, and variety of extent and figures, the viſiting of which, from one to another, and examining their various and luxuriant produce, with the almoſt infinite number of ſubjects of entertainment that may be found on theſe lakes, will be a progreſs ſo fertile of novelty and diverſion, that the longeſt ſummer's day will be too ſhort for the curious, the ſeacher of natural beauties. To examine minutely, indeed, the infinite variety of ſubjects of entertainment that may be found in and about this lake, would employ the curious traveller for a month.

The iſland of Ennisfallen is generally the dining place, where there is a kind of hall fitted up by the lord Kenmare, out of one of the iſles belonging to an ancient abbey, the ruins of which are ſtill ſeen on this iſland, ſituate on an eminence commanding an extenſive proſpect of the lower lake. This iſland includes about twenty acres of the moſt fertile ground I ever ſaw, to judge of it by the luxuriant and ſpontaneous produce. The trees are intermixed with little plots of ſuch rich and luſcious paſturage, that the fat of a beaſt in a few weeks feeding on it, will be converted into a ſpecies of very mar-

row, even too rich for the chandlers uſe, without a mixture of a groſſer kind.

Directly oppoſite to this iſland, to the ſouth-weſt, in a beautiful bay of the lake under the mountains on the ſouth, the traveller is ſhewn a caſcade, which well deſerves his notice; the lower part of it is viſible to the iſland, but to ſee it in its greateſt perfection, you muſt land at the bottom of the bay. It deſcends from the mountains ſome hundred yards down a ſhallow Glyn that is covered with trees, and conceals the greateſt part of it. But a ſituation may be obtained near the bottom, at which you may ſee it caſcading with infinite beauty and grandeur under the arching trees, from an aſtoniſhing height, and after heavy rains on the mountains above the water, come roaring down in a torrent, that forms one of the grandeſt and moſt beautiful caſcades I ever beheld. That celebrated artificial one of Chatſworth in Derbyſhire, the manſion, or palace rather, of the late noble duke of Devon, is not, I aſſure you, comparable to it. Uniformity in an artificial caſcade, is the greateſt abſurdity that can be introduced, becauſe really the fartheſt from a juſt imitation of nature. We had the good fortune to ſee this with the advantage of an extraordinary fall, for it rained one whole night, almoſt, during our ſtay at Kilarny, and the next day morning we puſhed off our boat

again

again, on purpoſe to ſee this caſcade in its greateſt perfection.

At K is a ſeat of the lord Kenmare, and though it has not the moſt of elegance or magnificence of any houſe I have ſeen, yet is it a ſituation that is really noble.

At CH is a houſe belonging to counſellor H—b—t, in a ſituation by nature the moſt rurally elegant, romantic, and entertaining, that I ever yet found a houſe in either England or Ireland. It lies in a peninſula between two lakes, ſo that on the one hand it commands a proſpect of the larger lake and its many Iſlands covered with, and an extenſive country beyond it, and on the other a no leſs beautiful proſpect of another lake with the long chain of mountains beyond it of ſuch ſtupendous height and forms, as at once to poſſeſs the ſoul with the ſublime and beautiful. It is not above 30 or 40 miles from one of the beſt cities in Ireland, viz. Cork, to which there is a good turnpike road all the way, by which an eaſy acceſs might be always had to this moſt delightful rural and paradiſiac receſs, for ſuch you will be convinced it muſt be when you conſider its ſituation towards the weſt end of the peninſula, with the middle lake, and the lofty Mongarton on the ſouth behind it, the lower lake with its inſular ornaments before it, with the town of Kilarny and the country acroſs the lake up to the ruins of the ancient city or cathedral, for that is almoſt all the remains of

Ahadoe.

Ahadoe. A narrow paſs at P over which might be turned an elegant arch into the long iſland that is covered with a thick growth of trees of every kind, amongſt which might be laid out the moſt beautiful ſerpentine walks, as well as noble and entertaining viſtas opening inimitable proſpects to the lakes and circumjacent mountains, whoſe high uplifted verdant heads and fertile declivities, would add an inexpreſſible grandeur to the proſpects below; the whole ſcenery about it, indeed, is inimitable but by nature, for the truth of this repreſentation, I can give you alſo the teſtimony of the celebrated biſhop of Cloyne, who, in a kind of rapture with the natural beauties and grandeur of the Place, expreſſed himſelf, that *Lewis of France might build another palace of Verſailles, but Nature only could produce a lake of Kilarny.* There is, in truth, the moſt delightful and entertaining ſcenery on this peninſula, and in proſpect from it, that imagination can paint, or the moſt romantic fancy conceive. It is in the very centre of lakes, mountains, woods, lawns, and fertile rocks, for even the rocks appear to vegetate into trees and ſhrubs. This laſt is a natural curioſity of the place, I have not yet taken any notice of; there is really ſomething extremely curious and entertaining in the appearances of this rocky vegetation. 'Tis really ſurprizing to ſee the flouriſhing growth of trees among ſome of theſe rocks where there is hardly an inch of earth viſible

ſible to ſupport them; and the wild extravagant manner in which many of them grow, twiſting and curling about the rocks, is very diverting.

The bodies of ſome of them are really ſeated on the ſolid undivided rocks, with their ramified roots curling like ivy over the ſurface of the rocks, till they reach the earth down the ſides. Even the trunks of many of them are fertile of ſeveral kinds of woods. You will frequently find old trunks that ſhall have three or four trees growing out of their bodies. I have ſeen an oak, an aſh, an hazel, a birch, and a buſh, ſo incorporated into the trunk of an old lively holly, that they appeared to grow out of its very body, and to exiſt by feeding on its vitals.

The account that is given for theſe vegetable extravagations of nature, is not only very probable, but undoubtedly the truth, that the ſeeds of the different kinds of woods are carried by birds, and dropped, and ſome by the winds are blown into their hollow mouldering trunks, and there ſtrike root. And in a place like this, that, till within a few ages paſt, has been unnoticed, and almoſt uninhabited, ſince the expulſion or diſperſion of the monks, about 6 or 700 years ſince, but by the birds and quadruped, 'tis natural to expect prodigies in vegetation, and, indeed, many ſuch have been found here. But however eaſily accounted for, ſuch wild

extravagant phænomena in vegetation are very entertaining. The uncommon mixture of trees, likewiſe, as is found among theſe rocks, is very extraordinary and ſurprizing. In the compaſs of fifty or ſixty yards I have found above twenty different kinds of trees growing in a flouriſhing manner. The arbutus in particular ſeems ſurpriſingly luxuriant in ſituations of this kind, and, upon my honour, it would coſt you, or any man, more labour than you would chuſe to beſtow for one day, to be able to get a cart load of earth together from within the whole compaſs.

Even the very bowels of this peninſula, are fraught with mines of copper, and ſilver we were told had been extracted from them. I have ſent you ſome pieces of the oar that I picked up near the ſhaft (the well where they raiſe the ore from the mine) that appeared to be the moſt like the kind of ore that ſhould produce it, from its likeneſs to ſilver ore which I have before ſeen.

The mines are prodigiouſly deep, and have been worked a great way under the lake. I have marked the ſpot on the peninſula, juſt by the edge of the middle lake, where is the place of deſcent into the mines. Almoſt every kind of natural curioſities or beauties that is to be found on theſe lakes, either of vegetables, iſlands, rocks, mountains, echoes, and caſcades, in ſome degree come within view

view of this delightful peninſula. The beautiful caſcade from the devil's punch-bowl, is viſible on almoſt every little eminence of it; its ſituation, indeed, is in the centre of the whole ſcene of entertainment that is found in the lake of Kilarny.

The place deſerves the higheſt cultivation, and I am informed that ſince my excurſion to theſe parts, no expence has been ſpared by the owner to do juſtice to its merit, in which I flatter myſelf that my country-woman has ſome ſhare, this gentleman being married to an Engliſh lady, and there is another Engliſh lady, the duke of Richmond's ſiſter, lady Louiſa, married to the right honourable Thomas Conolly, Eſq; at Caſtle-town, about ten miles out of Dublin, who, to her own, and the honour of her country, has, by the ſtrength of her own native elegance of taſte and genius for rural deſign, improved a ſpot, by nature infertile of beauty or elegance, into a ſeat, that, when the deſigned improvements are compleated, will be one of the moſt delightful rural ſituations about Dublin. But what an inimitably rural and romantic paradiſe would the peninſula I have been deſcribing be made, if to the infinite beauties it has from nature, a little art was introduced by that moſt elegantly deſigning lady.

On

On the north ſide of the entrance upon this peninſula, are the remains of an old abbey, ſpacious even in its ruins, and well deſerving the notice of the traveller. The cloyſters are yet entire, in the centre of the ſquare, encloſed by theſe cloyſters grows a yew-tree, as curious almoſt as the ruins by which it is encompaſſed. The body of it is ſix or ſeven feet in circumference, and of that magnitude runs up a ſtrait clean trunk, to the height of between twenty and thirty feet, 'till it riſes above the battlements of the cloiſters, and then ſpread over them in large and regular branches, like a ſtately oak, and really is the moſt beautiful yew-tree I ever ſaw.

The yew has always been ſacred to ſuperſtition, and none ever was more ſo than this, numberleſs are the relations of ſuperſtitious credulity here, of deaths, and dire calamities that have, from time to time befel the ſacrilegious attempts upon this ſacred tree.

In a kind of ſtone room above in the cloiſters, lives at this time, an Engliſh pilgrim, much revered by the religious neighbourhood, who ſubſiſts by the contributions of his benevolent chriſtian viſiters, and indeed lives himſelf like an honeſt good chriſtian, that is to ſay, though his lodgings, indeed, are not the

the moſt eligible, yet he eats and drinks the beſt the country affords.

On Roſs iſland ſtands an old caſtle that makes a very agreeable contraſt to the verdant beauties in proſpect, at many places, on the lake. —— A rich vein of copper is likewiſe found here in a mine that has been, but now is not worked.

This is one of the largeſt iſlands on the lake, and contains about 80 or 100 acres, well wooded and fertile of rich paſturage. — We were credibly informed, that pearls of very great value had been found about this lake, and in the channels formed by the caſcades falling into it, and particularly in the river at the weſt end, that diſcharges its waters into the ſea.

Salmon are caught in great plenty and perfection in theſe lakes, and ſold at the moderate and ſtated price of one penny per pound. The fiſhery is the property of the Earl of Kenmare, a catholic nobleman; to whom alſo belongs the greater part, if not the whole, of the lake, with its beautiful iſlands, who very generouſly diſpoſes of the profits, after defraying the expences of the fiſhery, to charitable uſes, paying, himſelf, alſo, as they told us, for all that is conſumed in his own family at the ſtated price of a penny the pound. An example truly noble and worthy of imitation.

The

The arbutus or ſtrawberry tree, which grows in great plenty and perfection on many of theſe iſlands, may juſtly be eſteemed one of the greateſt natural curioſities of the vegetable kind, as they have the appearance of being a ſpontaneous production. But, indeed, were very probably planted here by the monks that formerly inhabited theſe iſlands, and the environs about the lake. There are even fruit trees on ſome of them, that have out-lived the deſolation that has ſeized the cells of thoſe monkiſh recluſants, and that ſometimes bear a rich and fine flavoured fruit.

When in its perfection, about November, the ſtrawberry tree is one of the moſt beautiful ever-greens, perhaps, that our climate produces, having, at the ſame time, bloom, green and ripe fruit on its branches. But it has not theſe ornaments throughout the year, as, without ſufficient foundation, has been aſſerted of it.

The fruit, by the natives in the neighbourhood, is called the Cane-apple; when ripe it is in ſhape much like the wood-ſtrawberry, but nearly as large as the garden-ſtrawberry, of a fine ſcarlet colour, and hangs in beautiful cluſters among the branches.

From the tempting beauty of its form and colour, 'tis not a little mortifying to find its taſte ſo inſipid. However, I know of no danger of eating more than one or two at a time, as is aſſerted by Mr. Salmon, in his account

account of this tree. 'Tis certain, they are eat in great numbers by the people who live about the lake, without any ſenſible ill effect. —— The ſame gentleman has given us monſtrous accounts of the ſize of this tree, that it is equal to 20 inches, or two feet in diameter, and high in proportion. But he certainly, in this account, as well as in many others, wrote moſt implicitly. The largeſt to be found on theſe iſlands, were they grow in as great perfection, perhaps, as any where in the king's dominions, does not exceed ſix or ſiven inches in diameter, and from ten to fifteen feet high in general; when it ſhoots up amongſt other trees on the iſlands it will ſometimes run up to near 20 feet.

It is, really, a moſt beautiful ever-green, and mixed with others, as box, yew, holly, and the common kinds of wood, moſt agreeably variegates the proſpect. And what adds to the proſpective beauty of the iſlands, in general, is, that the ever-greens, and particularly the arbutus, grow in the greateſt plenty near the outſides, and in proſpect from the lake. But unleſs a rocky ſoil is neceſſary, or the moſt natural, for on the more rocky iſlands it grows in the greateſt plenty and perfection, I cannot ſee why the ſoil of D. ſhould not produce it in as great perfection as the iſles on the lake of Kilarny.

There are ſeveral plantations of it in Ireland. —— I have ſeen a large grove of them at

at Lord Powerſcourt's, but they are not in ſuch perfection as on theſe iſlands. —— And 'tis very probable, that moſt of the plantations in Ireland, of this beautiful tree, are tranſplantations from this fertile ſeminary; 'tis certain that plants of them have been carried from the lake of Kilarny to many parts of Ireland, and probably of England to.

It is produced from plants or ſlips, or from the ſeed that is formed in the fruit when ripe. The former it was impoſſible for me to ſend you, as I was unprovided with proper conveyances; but I broke off a branch, with the ripeſt fruit I could find, at the beginning of October that I was there, in which you will diſcover the ſeed diſtinct, and eaſily ſeperable from the pulp.

If it be poſſible for you to produce ſome plants from the fruit I have ſent, I beg that, to oblige yourſelf as well as me, you will take ſome pains for it. — It will certainly be one of the greateſt curioſities, of the kind, in the county of Kent, as being produced immediately from fruit growing on the lake of Kilarny; from whence, I aſſure you, they were taken, as well as the few acorns and aſhen-keys that I have ſent with them, which I hope you will plant in ſome odd corner of your garden, as curioſities from the place and diſtance they were ſent to you. —— From the appearance of the few ſeeds which I took

out

out of one or two of the cane-apples that were dried, by carrying in my packet, I have hopes, that by your keeping the reſt in a warm dry ſituation, as little as poſſible expoſed to a damp air during the winter, you will find the ſeed ſufficiently maturated, by the return of ſpring, to grow. —— It will not be ſafe to attempt to plant till April, or the warm weather returns. —— Let your mould be warm, and perfectly fine, that the ſeed may have every chance in its favour. Drop the ſeeds about a foot aſunder, and about 2 inches under the ſurface.—If they ſhould grow, and I doubt not but ſome of them will, it will be eaſy to remove the plants with ſafety. It will give me no ſmall pleaſure, if I live to reviſit my native country, to ſee living plants from ſeeds that I took ſo much pains to procure. — A tranſplantation, indeed, from the moſt weſtern land of Ireland to the eaſternmoſt point of England.

I know you are fond as myſelf of rural and natural curioſities, and therefore I have been the more copious in my deſcription of the inimitable beauties of the lake of Kilarny, of which we have yet ſeen no accounts that have not been extremely ſhort of the original.

It is impoſſible, in deſcriptions of this kind, where the ſubjects of entertainment are ſo mixed and various, to obſerve any regularity in the accounts of them. I have

paid

paid no attention to this, but only to introduce, ſomewhere or other in the deſcription, the principal articles, as near as I could, that were curious and entertaining. The ſeveral ſubjects, however, follow in, nearly, the ſame order that the originals occurred to me, in the ſeveral trips I made over this moſt enchanting lake; throughout the whole of which I have endeavoured to give you the beſt idea that I could, without exaggeration, of the general ſcenery, and of the principal and moſt remarkable curioſities and entertainments of this inimitable lake. The ſubject will not admit of any heightening, ſo far as the beauty and grandeur of the place, indeed, is concerned. The higheſt deſcription will be unequal to the original, and muſt fall, at the ſame time, far below the conceptions and impreſſions of the curious ſpectator on the ſpot. There is ſuch a natural and artleſs diſpoſition of the ſeveral beauties, ſuch an entertaining variety, ſuch a grandeur and ſublimity throughout, as will be ſuperior to the higheſt and moſt laboured deſcription. The fineſt copies in the world for painting and drawing in the rural or romantic taſte, are here exhibited in the higheſt perfection from nature, the ſovereign miſtreſs of theſe ingenious arts.

I am charmed with the place, and muſt finiſh at laſt where I firſt began; I hardly think that nature, in any part of this habitable

table globe has thrown together a finer collection of materials for improvement, by a little introduction of art, into a ſcene the moſt enchantingly rural and the moſt fertile of entertainment to her curious votaries.

If the encloſed branch, with its withered bloom and half ripened fruit, ſhould come ſafe to hand, I beg that you will cheriſh it as a bloſſom from the garden of Eden, as a ſprig from the bower of my beloved, from the ſtrawberry iſland in the upper lake of Kilarny, from whence I have began this epiſtle deſcriptive, and through the whole of which, I aſſure you, I have taken nothing of importance on truſt, but the whole is the reſult of my own obſervations on the originals, in every caſe in which it was poſſible for me to get at them, and to which I have kept as nearly as poſſible in the deſcriptive.

And thus, having furniſhed you with a deſcription of ſome of the principal natural curioſities of the ſeveral kinds taken into the account, of which this Hibernian iſle is remarkably fertile, though, in truth, with but very few of art, I will now give you a little reſpite. What I have already wrote will be ſufficient to give you a general idea of the country, both in a civil and natural view of it. — If the preſent ſketch ſhould afford you entertainment enough to excite a curioſity for a farther acquaintance with it, I may, perhaps, in ſome future packet, enter more

extenſively into the natural hiſtory of Ireland. Indeed, the infinite variety of ſubjects of natural hiſtory, that are found in this kingdom, very juſtly recommends it to the attention of the curious. —— 'Tis a country in which nature ſeems to have exerted herſelf for the entertainment of her curious votaries, and in which, conſequently, the gentleman of leiſure and curioſity, will find the moſt ample ſcope for the gratifying his taſte for the ſimple, artleſs, beauties of nature, for here ſhe preſides an uncontrouled ſovereign. The greateſt efforts of art, a very few inſtances excepted, have, as yet, extended themſelves very little farther than to deface the ſimplicity of nature.

'Tis a country through which a gentleman may travel at an eaſy, or moderate expence, and well deſerving of much more notice and attention than has been generally paid to it by the curious, on the eaſtern ſide of St. George's channel. — The inhabitants, even of the loweſt claſs, are generally civil. Need and oppreſſion, indeed, have introduced among them a degree of ferocity and untowardneſs that is rather againſt them at firſt view. By nature too, perhaps, they are too ſanguine and iraſcible; and, when intoxicated with liquor, theſe unhappy natural propenſities, if indeed they are from nature, will too frequently break out into miſchievous effects. Nor is this obſervation to be reſtricted

ſtricted to any particular claſs of the natives; — duels are more frequent here, I believe, than in any part of the king's dominions. — If there is any honour in running a man through the body, or perforating his ſkull with a brace of balls, for an accidental, inadvertent offence, which the aggreſſor is often obliged to defend at the hazard of his life, to eſcape the imputation of timidity, the gentlemen of this country, of every claſs, from the barber's apprentice up to the colonel, whoſe hair is dreſſed by him, have as great a right to be called gentlemen of honour as any in the king's dominions, or out of them. —— I have heard, at a coffee-houſe, a couple of journeymen, or ſhopmen, talk as coolly and familiarly of the convenience of a room in a certain tavern, for the *exerciſe* of a brace of points or piſtols, as of an alley for a match of nine-pins. —— And the gentlemen of the higher claſs in this country will excuſe me, if, in this truly gentleman-like point of honour, of deciding every little trivial diſpute by the point of the ſword, I have given them but an equal ſhare with the inferior claſs of Gentlemen at the blocks or behind the counters. — 'Tis a ſavage point of honour this, that cannot be too much ridiculed, or too ſeverely treated. —— If a gentleman that wears a ſword is attacked by an aſſaſſin, he has a right from honour and humanity, which ſhould ever be perfect-

ly conſiſtent, to defend himſelf. — But his honour, if it really has any mixture of humanity, does not, I ſhould ſuppoſe, require him to have recourſe to his ſword, for the deciſion of every trivial diſpute, or breach of friendſhip, or good manners, at even the *equal* hazard of his own, and the life of the aggreſſor, and it is eaſy to make it appear, that not one duel in ten, if in fifty, is fought on *equal*, and therefore not on *fair* terms. — To ſpeak frankly and ingenuouſly, I am ſorry to have been ſo naturally and juſtly lead into this ſeeming digreſſion, or that a country, ſo famous for its hoſpitality, ſhould be ſo remarkably tenacious of this gothic, ſanguinous point of honour. But, while ſober, and free from the maddening ſtimulations of whiſky, even the loweſt claſs are civil and frank; give them but importance, and to refuſe them this is an offence unpardonable with every claſs, and a little of your caſh, and you may do any thing with them: and the Engliſhman of temper and diſcretion will meet with as few difficulties in travelling through this kingdom, as his own; eſpecially if he has but good nature enough to ride into the dirt himſelf rather than drive a foot paſſenger into it.

To this general or curſory view of the natural, I will ſubjoin another piece of the civil hiſtory of this country. You have frequently met with accounts, in the public papers, of the inſur-

inſurrections of the White-boys, as they are called in this country. From the people of fortune who have been ſufferers by them, and who, too generally in this kingdom, look on the miſerable and oppreſſed poor of their country in the moſt contemptible light, the accounts of theſe inſurgents have, for the moſt part, been too much exaggerated to be depended on. ——— I have juſt hinted in the former part of this letter, that the ſevere treatment and oppreſſion the loweſt claſs of the inhabitants, in ſome parts of this kingdom, have met with from their prieſts and ſubordinate landlords, was the principal cauſe of thoſe diſturbances they have met with from them. I have but too much reaſon to believe this remark was well grounded, from the obſervations I had an opportunity of making in the midſt of the country where theſe inſurgents have given the greateſt diſturbance.

The original of their denomination of White-boys was from the practice of wearing their ſhirts without ſide of their cloaths, the better to diſtinguiſh each other in the night-time. —— It happened that we were at Kilkenny, in our road to Waterford, at the very time of the laſt conſiderable inſurrection of theſe unhappy wretches, in the ſouth of Kilkenny county, not far from Waterford. I was naturally led to enquire into the cauſe of theſe inſurrections, and the pre-

tenſions of the inſurgents themſelves for creating theſe diſturbances. From the people of eaſy and affluent circumſtances it is natural to ſuppoſe the accounts would be very different from ſuch as were given by thoſe of the ſame claſs with the delinquents. By comparing theſe, however, with the obvious appearance of things in the country, I ſoon had ſufficient reaſon to believe their diſquiet aroſe, in general, from the ſevere treatment they met with from their landlords, and the lords of the manors, and principally from their clergy. Our road to Waterford lay through the very midſt of theſe unhappy inſurgents, and we were, conſequently, adviſed to take a different rout. ——— Why, whence ſhould be the fear? — we have neither deprived them of their common-rights nor their potatoes —— They have no quarrel with us, who have never injured them. Perſuade your inſatiable prieſts, of every denomination, to act themſelves the precepts of charity and humanity they preach, and they will be as ſafe in their houſes by night as we ſhall probably be, in the midſt of them, by day.

We rode through the country, in which they were aſſembled in great numbers, but the very day before the laſt conſiderable engagement they had with the troops quartered at the towns in the neighbourhood; but met with no moleſtation from any of them,

them. ——— The very next day after we came to Waterford, the news was brought of this engagement, about four or five miles from the town. The opinions and repreſentations of the inhabitants of the town were various on the merits of the affair; but it was eaſy to diſtinguiſh the ſentiments of the humane from the aggravated repreſentations of thoſe whoſe inveterate prejudices againſt theſe unhappy ſufferers, inſtigated them to ſet theſe diſturbers of the peace of their country in the worſt point of view; and, without any apparent candour in their repreſentations, to place the riſe of them in an idle, turbulent, and rebellious diſpoſition of the inſurgents. —— The very officers of the troops wiſhed they would drive the whole fraternity of parſons out of the country; and with good reaſon; for if the parſon cannot live here on the great tythes of the corn, and about which they have ſeldom any diſputes with their pariſhioners, how is the unhappy peaſant to ſubſiſt on the produce of 10 or 15 perches of potatoes, the whole proviſion, perhaps, for a twelvemonth, for himſelf and family; yet even the very tenth of theſe is demanded by the inſatiable, unrelenting prieſt as his due by the law — of what? — not of charity or humanity, I think.

On the day after the engagement we left Waterford for *Carrick on Sure*, and, in our way, met with ſome of the troops that had

been engaged with the White-boys, and were aſked if we had ſeen any of them lurking about in companies. But their enquiries were ill directed; for we would ſooner have headed them, and attacked the firſt parſon's houſe we had met with, than diſcovered their retreat.

I made it my buſineſs to enquire, in the moſt friendly manner, of ſome of theſe unhappy ſufferers of the loweſt claſs, as they fell in my way, the reaſon of their expoſing themſelves to ſo much danger, by raiſing ſuch diſturbances in their country: —— To which their anſwers were invariably to this effect —— That their lives were of little value to them — that the ſevere and hard dealing they had met with from their prieſts and lords of the manors had made them deſperate — that the former wanted to reduce the ſmall ſubſiſtence they had to live on, and the latter deprived them of the very few privileges and common rights they had, for time immemorial, enjoyed —— that againſt theſe only were their reſentments pointed, and to recover their long ſtanding priviledges was the ſole cauſe of their expoſing themſelves, or other people, to any danger, and not from any diſpoſition to rebel againſt their king or the peace of their country.

I cannot but acknowledge, in favour of them, that the general civility of the people, with the apparent honeſty and candour of

their

their accounts, gave the greateſt credit to their repreſentations.

There are many little commons, or vacant ſpots of ground, adjacent to the road, upon which the inhabitants of the cabbins by the highway ſide have been uſed, from time immemorial, to *rare*, as they expreſs it, a pig or a gooſe, which they have bought very young, the ſale of which has help'd to furniſh them with a few neceſſaries. Many of theſe have been taken into the fields or encloſures on the road ſide, by the landlords, who have farmed, or purchaſed, them of the lords of the manor.

From an impartial view of their ſituation, I could not, from my ſoul, blame theſe unhappy delinquents. They are attacked and reduced, on all ſides, ſo hardly, as to have barely their potatoes left them to ſubſiſt on.

The tything of potatoes has been a conteſt of long ſtanding between the prieſt and inhabitants of this country. — 'Tis greatly to be wiſhed that the parliament of Ireland would take this ſubject into their conſideration, and decide, at leaſt the diſpute about the right — was it only ſo far as to exempt the penurious cottager from the hard terms of having his ſcanty ſubſiſtence reduced a tenth by unfeeling, unrelenting affluence.

With reſpect to their complaints about loſing their common rights, the merits of the caſe is more queſtionable.

You

You have daily diſputes in England, at this time, on the ſame ſubject: On an impartial and altogether diſintereſted view of the caſe, and favourable as I have appeared to the poor of this, and as I would ever appear to the ſame claſs in both kingdoms, were I to decide on the caſe, I ſhould give it againſt them.

'Tis certain, on a general reaſoning on the ſubject, that the better the lands of any country are cultivated, the greater plenty will be produced for the inhabitants. 'Tis equally certain, that by encloſing of commons, either by the highway-ſide or in large and extenſive common fields, they may be much better cultivated than it is poſſible for them to be in their natural or common ſtate, where every occupier has a right throughout the whole, and where, conſequently, no one can make any improvement without ſinking the advantages of it among the whole; and a concurrence in any plan of improvement of a great number of occupiers of a common, can never be expected.

If the improvements in any country do not encreaſe in proportion to the encreaſing popularity of it, 'tis very certain that an increaſed diſtreſs of the inhabitants, from want of employment, muſt be the natural conſequence. This obſervation is true, with reſpect to agriculture eſpecially, and is particularly applicable to the country I am writing about; which, from want of good cultivation,

tion, univerſally wears the face of poverty. But little work is done upon it, and the produce is in proportion.

The difficulty that is frequently objected againſt a much greater produce, from the want of a market, muſt appear ridiculous to every perſon of ſenſe that conſiders the connections, and preſent ſtate of this country.—If corn, in Ireland, ſold even at one half the price it generally goes at, and as much more was produced, and I have ſcarce a doubt that as much more might be produced, if but all the lands now in tillage were properly cultivated, there requires no great penetration to ſee that in this, or in any maritime country like this, a double produce, to the preſent, would be for the advantage of the inhabitants in general, from the greater quantity of employment in the firſt place, and of corn, ſtraw, manure, &c. that are all uſeful and neceſſary.—— Beſides that, if a greater quantity was really produced, than the conſumption required, and there was no call for it among the neighbouring inhabitants of England, there could ariſe no objection, I ſhould ſuppoſe, to its being exported from Ireland to any foreign market that could be found, which would neceſſarily call for a great number of hands that are now unemployed. And 'tis the real want of employment, in this country, that is the general ſource of the

diſtreſs

diſtreſs and poverty among the loweſt claſſes of the inhabitants.

In England, the farms, at preſent, are, many of them too large. This is a growing evil, introduced by and for the ſecurity of the landlord; but, I make no doubt, will be found by experience to be in its natural conſequence extremely injurious to the public. —— I am not at leiſure now to give you my reaſons at large for this obſervation — when I am, I will. ——— In Ireland, the farms are as much too ſmall. —— In the former the lands are monopolized — in the latter, too much divided. Though in both countries the diſadvantages ariſing to the public, and to the loweſt claſſes of the inhabitants in particular, are not, perhaps, directly from either of theſe extremes taking place, but from incidental circumſtances attending them —— in England, from the too frequent monopolies of grain, and the conſequent partial and temporary ſcarcities that will, in many places, be introduced. I ſay partial and temporary only, for with a plentiful crop, a univerſal or laſting ſcarcity of grain can never take place, while the conſumption is confined at home, which, in my humble opinion, it ought to be, as ſoon, at leaſt, as it gets to five ſhillings a buſhel Wincheſter meaſure. In Ireland, the public ſuffers from the *poverty* of the *occupiers*, by their being ſo much reduced and ſo far removed from the firſt proprietors.

proprietors. — A farmer, in Ireland, of 20 or 30*l.* a year, at a 3d, 4th or 5th remove from the firſt proprietor, and by far too many of them are as far removed as this, is little better than a ſlave to the loweſt claſs of landlords, and cannot poſſibly cultivate his land in the beſt manner; and the publick ſuffers for want of the produce the land might yield.

The following obſervation will be thought very juſt by every perſon who is extenſively acquainted with either England or Ireland, —— That where the lands are beſt cultivated there is the greateſt number of people employed, that is to ſay, in the arable way; and conſequently, in general, thoſe parts, in either kingdom, will be found the moſt populous, where agriculture is in the greateſt perfection. The particular caſes of manufacturing counties are, without doubt, excepted here.

If any one of theſe ſubaltern landlords in Ireland, of ſome property, were to take half a dozen of theſe portions of ſlavery into his own hands, inſtead of ſetting down ſupinely in the midſt of a village of ſlaves, upon 30 or 40*l.* a year, the whole income, perhaps, that he makes by farming them out under his next ſuperior, — if he underſtood his buſineſs, he might make double the preſent produce, and employ to advantage three times the hands that now work upon the lands, which would naturally call in many of the diſtreſſed mendicants by the high roads, whoſe

whoſe employment would produce them a much better ſubſiſtence than the fortuitous benevolence of travellers, or than the profits of bringing up either pigs or geeſe upon the commons.

The ſame conteſt, about the tything of potatoes, gave riſe to a much more conſiderable inſurrection a few years ſince, in the province of Ulſter, in the north of Ireland, under the denomination of Oak-boys, from a practice of diſtinguiſhing themſelves by wearing a branch of oak in their hats. —— But in this caſe, from the much greater popularity and ſpirit of liberty in this province, the vaſt numbers of the inhabitants engaged in the conteſt, carried the point in favour of the planter; for in this northern conteſt there were many thouſands aſſembled in defence of their potatoes; and though they were ſuppreſſed, and many of them taken priſoners, yet the vaſt numbers of the defendants made it unſafe to puniſh them. And the tything of potatoes, in the north, has been relinquiſhed ever ſince.

From my heart I wiſh they could as eaſily carry their point in the ſouth; for the prieſt, if he has any of that charity he preaches, may very well be contented with the tythe of what grows above ground.

And with this unclerical, though, I hope, not uncharitable obſervation, I will cloſe my Hibernian packet.

If

If the contents ſhould furniſh you with a little agreeable amuſement for a leiſure hour, I have my wiſh, and ſhall think myſelf amply compenſated, by that circumſtance, for the trouble I have been at in collecting the materials for your entertainment.

I am, dear Sir,

With great eſteem,

Your affectionate,

Humble ſervant,

J. B.

Lucas's Coffee-houſe, Dublin,
30th Novemb. 1764.