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A Memorial to the Founder
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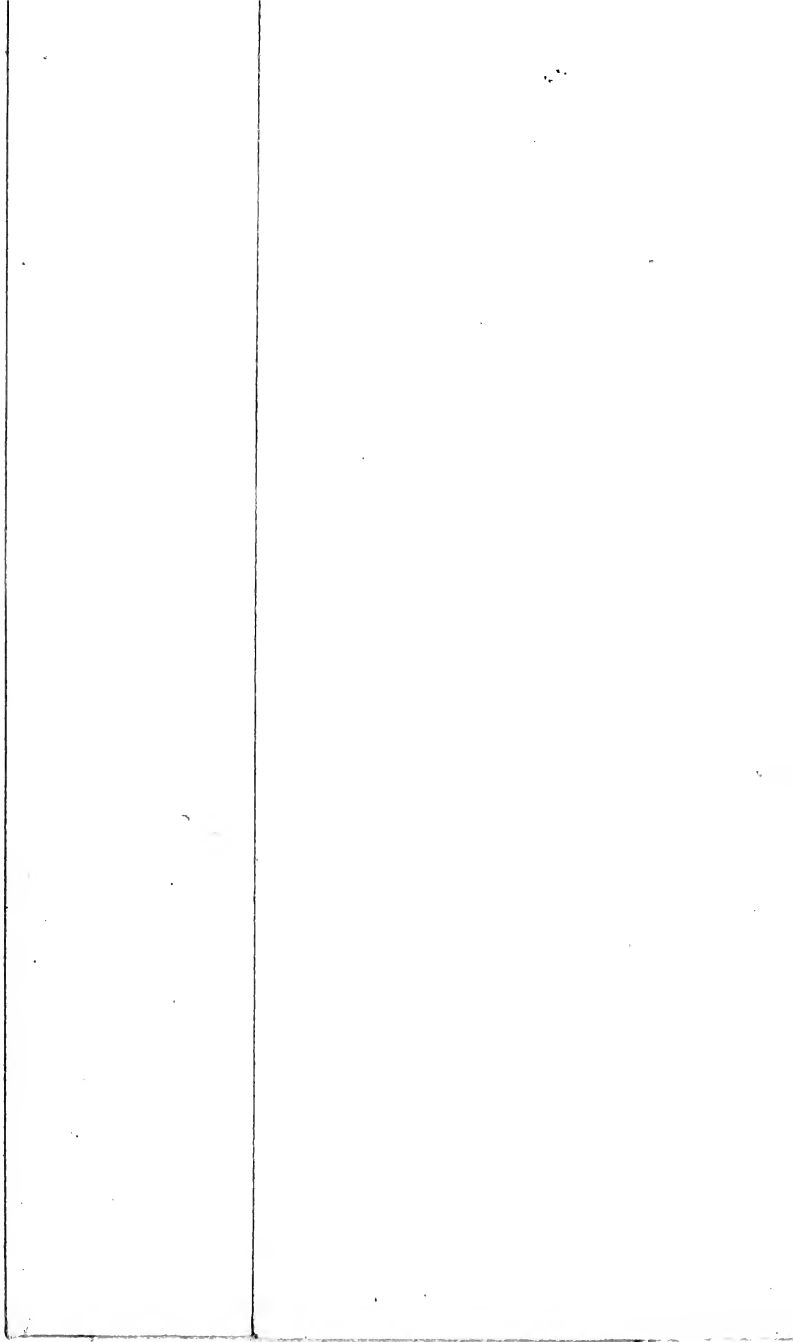
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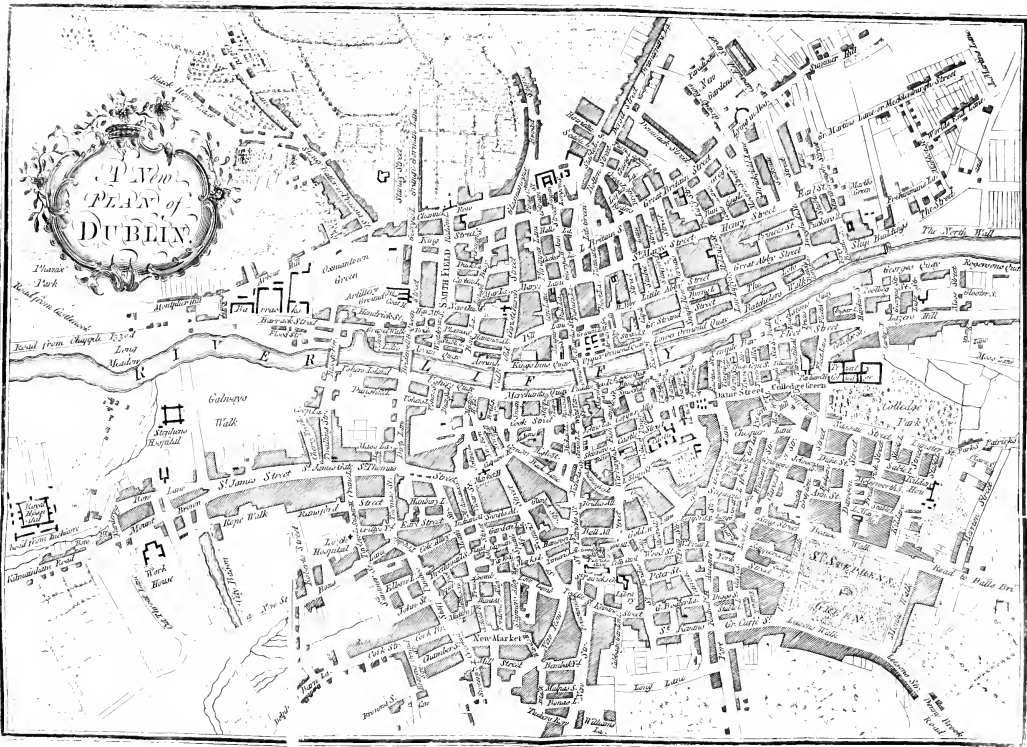
BUSH, D --) Hibernia Curiosa. A Letter from a Gentleman his Friend at Dover in Kent. Giving a general View of the Dispositions, etc. of the Inhabitants of Ireland. Concerning the State of Trade and Agriculture in the most remarkable Curiosities, such as Salmon-Leaps...Water-falls...in the Year 1764...With Plans...from Drawings. London (1767).

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









A Plan of DUBLIN

Pharos Park
Rough from Castle

Road from Chappel 1737
Lough Malin

Galway Walk
St. James Hospital

Work House

St. James Street
St. James Walk

New Market

ST. PATRICK'S

Head to Balls Br.

The North Wall

St. Martin Lane or Market Street

St. Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's Church

HIBERNIA CURIOSA.

A
L E T T E R
F R O M 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.

L O N D O N:

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

T O T H E

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,

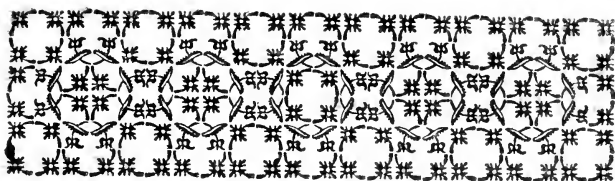
J. BUSH.



The Reader is desired to correct the following ERRATA.

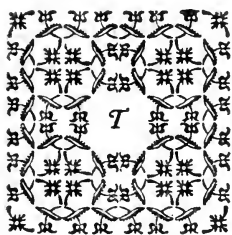
<i>Page</i>	<i>Line</i>	<i>Of the Editor to the Reader.</i>
6,	10,	for copy, read copies.
11,	12,	for alderman, read aldermen.
		<i>Of the Letter, &c.</i>
5,	1,	for Buthign, read Ruthign.
11,	29,	for adjoining, read adjacent.
23,	18,	for than old, read than an old.
Ibid,	25-6,	for channel, read kennel.
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,	<i>Dele</i> 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.





T O T H E

R E A D E R.



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 bear-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 re-tailed 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 tasteful 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 departments, 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

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

(xvi)

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,



GREENABLE 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.

B

Perhaps

* Tunbridge Wells.

Perhaps it may not be altogether unenter-
taining 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 apprehen-
sive 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 fanative 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 Clويد, 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, Ruthin, 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 Snow-down 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 cheerful 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 cabin and a bed of salt water. — Have you never a fellow among your crew with a *galloves-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 cabin 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 cabin 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 pleasing

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 surpris'd 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, Effex-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 agreeable 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 Effex-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 Effex-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.

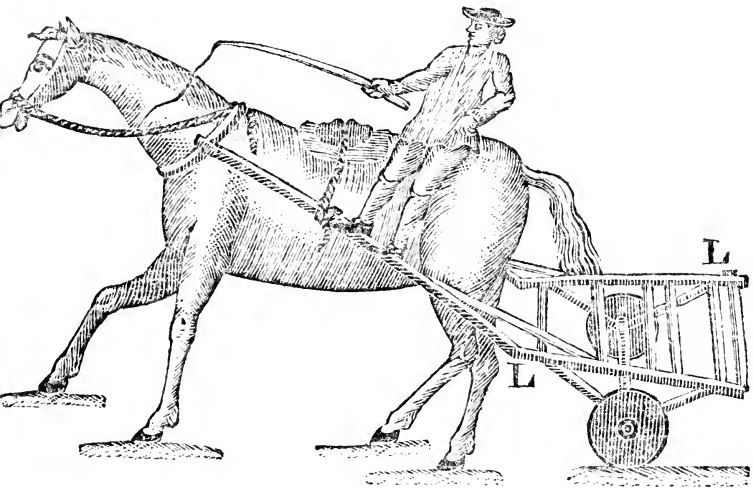
The rates of hackney-coaches, and sedans, are established here as in London, for the different distances, or *set-downs*, as they are called. But they have an odd kind of hacknies here, that is called the *Noddy*, which is nothing more than old cast off one horse chaise or chair, with a kind of stool 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 ungentle 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, Sligo, 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,
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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

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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%. 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 connected, 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 preheminnence 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 cabins. — 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 Neagh*, 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.

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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 theatre 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
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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
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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.

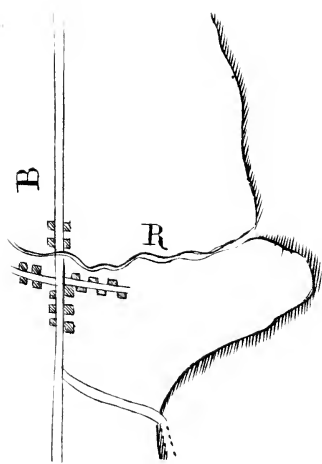
Happily for the citizens, in this alarming and desperate situation, they had just before this event, taken, in a sally from the town, several noblemen and gentlemen of the first distinction belonging to the army of James. For these a lofty triple gallows was constructed, and, by order of the governor, 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

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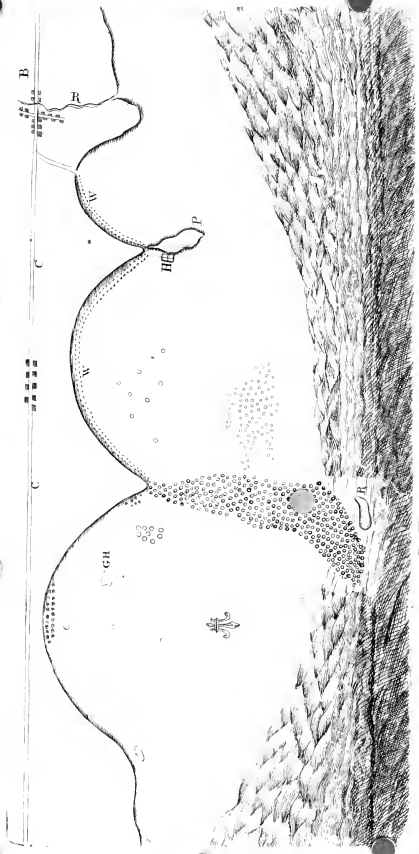
to subsist 'till relief arrived from England; immediately upon which the siege was raised.

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



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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; GH 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

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close

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
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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 phenomenon, 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 phenomena of this kind

kind about the place. The figure of these columns is almost unexceptionably pentagonal, 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.

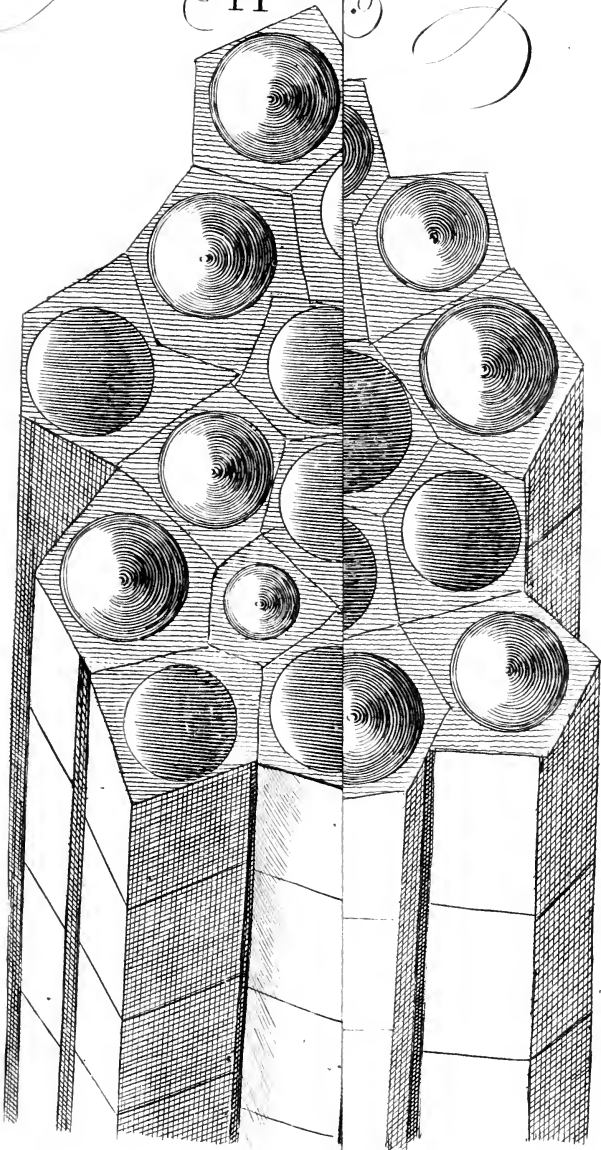
If there is here and there a smooth top to any of the columns above water, there are others just by, of equal height, that are more or less convex or concave, which shew them to have been joined to pieces that have been washed, or by other means taken off. And undoubtedly those parts that are always 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 phenomenon, 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

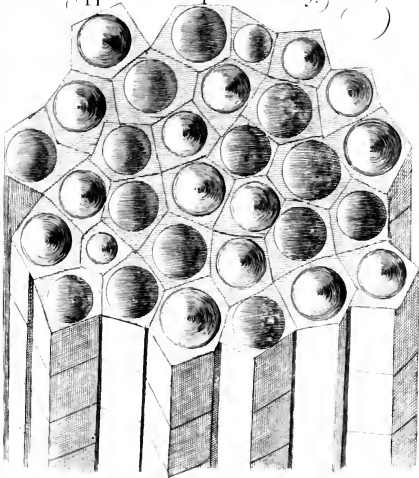
either on the sides or angles. And it is really a most curious piece of entertainment to examine the close contexture and nice insertion of such an infinite variety of angular figures as are exhibited on the surface of this grand parade. From the infinite dissimilarity of the figure of these columns, 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
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*A sketch of them as they
appear.*



*Sketch of the Figures of the Columns as they
(appear on the Top of the Carzey.)*



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 high, 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 phenomenon 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.

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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
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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 concretion 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 increased 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.

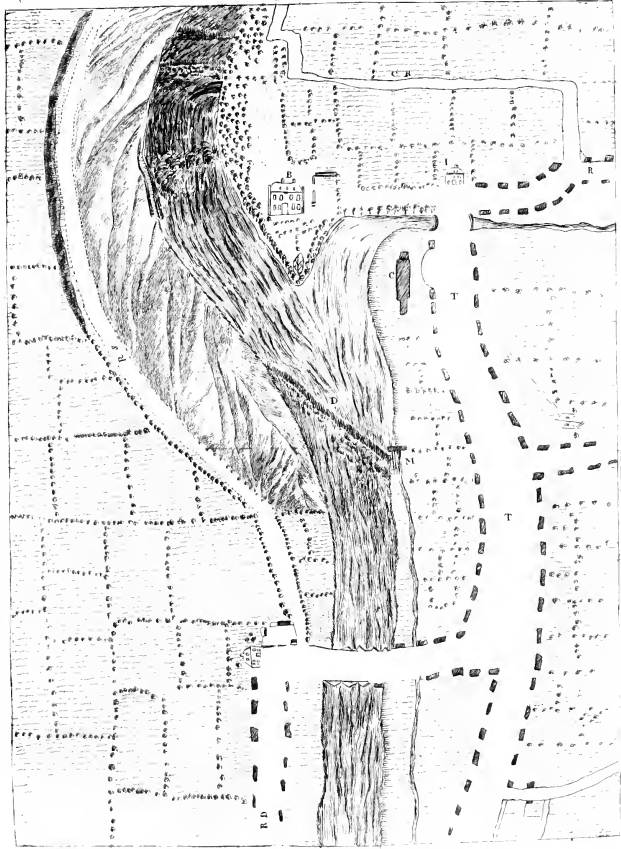
But, indeed, whether they grew to this surprizing and most singular form and connection with each other, by any natural vegetative process, or were originally brought into it at once by the omnipotent *Fiat* of nature, is, at this time, and probably ever will be, an absolutely undiscoverable secret. The singularity, however, as well as figure of the phenomenon, 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 Lewislip
() 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 undoubtedly 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 Powercourt, 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

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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

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impetuous

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 alleviated 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
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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 immensely 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
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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
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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 Suffex, 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 extremely

ly fibrous combination of the roots of this heath, which univerfally grows on the furface of thefe bogs; and, fo 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 fuppose that even the very firft and original growth of this heath, at the bottom of the prefent bog, in any fenfe fprang from the fallen wood, its neighbouring fubftratum.

Wherever thefe woods were thrown down, by an inundation, which probably was the cafe, or otherwife, there was undoubtedly fome quantity of earth washed down upon them from the adjacent hills, and declivities, the uncultivated furface of which, every where produces this kind of heath. This firft covering of earth would naturally throw out the fame kind of vegetable in the bottom, as in its former fituation on the hills, and having by this defcent into the flats, obtained a richer foundation, and, being fupplied with conftant moifture, which before it often wanted, and, no doubt greatly fertilized by the very trees and their mouldering leaves, and fmall 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 courfe, a finer, mat of it than any of the fucceffive and fuperior growths would run into, and this the
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generally clofer and finer texture of the turf at the bottom feems to confirm; not to mention that the very roots, from the constant moisture of their fituation and their fibrous texture must be continually vegetating and thickening into a clofer mafs under the furface.

The fame caufes, in general, take place for producing thefe turf bogs even upon the tops, and on fome of the very declivities of the hills, where they are frequently found: But it is ever in very moist, land-fpringy grounds, or in flats on the hills where the water fettles and fupplies them with moisture. There feems, indeed, to be, in fome degree, a kind of fpongy quality in this heath, which prevents the moisture from finking away from it, by an attraction of the fluids from the infinite number of capillary fibres, which are of the very component fubftance of this vegetative mafs. — In this fenfe, and only in this fenfe, it is that the waters can be faid to produce them, and not from any boggy quality in the water itfelf, as is pretended by fome writers on this fubject.

I can fee no reafon in the world for fup-
 pofing any other natural tendency in them to produce thefe bogs of turf, or any other connection whatever with the effect, but the natural and univerfal property of fluids to encourage and fupport 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 outfides, 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.

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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 luxuriously, 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.

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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 radicious 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
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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 kingdom, 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
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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 Erne 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 Kilarney; 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 Killybegs, 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 curious 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)



Plan of the Lake of Kilarney in the County of

KERRY.



- A. An Old Abbey.
- B. The Bay behind the Long Island.
- C. Rabbit Island.
- D. The Devils Punch Bowl.
- E. The Eagles Nest.
- F. Fraughfallon Island.
- H. Maurus House.
- I. The Long Island.
- K. L^d Kearnes House.
- L. The Lower Lake.
- M. The Middle Lake.
- N. Entrance into the Straights.
- PP. The Passes into the Middle Lake.
- R. Ross Island.
- T. The Ture.
- U. The Upper Lake.
- W. The Shaft of the Mine.
- V. A Village at the West End of the Lake.
- B. A Boat House.
- M. The Maygarren.
- S. Arbutan Island.

Kilarney

Abbeys

Road to South 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 privilege, 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 rabbits, 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 across 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 Kilarney, 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 unequal'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 Kilarney*, the best plan for obtaining the highest entertainment, should seem to be the sailing from one beauty

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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.

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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-mountainous 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,

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 erasing, in some degree, the impressions on his mind from the enchanting scene he has just passed through, prepares him for the more perfect enjoymēt 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 straits, 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 Kilarney. 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 uncultivated 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 chase 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 chase, 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 Kilarney*. 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 afunder—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 Kilarney.

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 Kilarney, in a delightful situation, as every place in the vicinity of this beautiful lake must be, and in the summer time, from the number of visitors to the lake, is a very cheerful, lively town. So great is the resort here indeed, that the fashionable cant, at our publick spas, *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 Kilarney, 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 Mongar-ton 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 Kilarney.* 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 surprizingly 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 Kilarney.

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 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 beset 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
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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.

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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 seven 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 outfides, 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
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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 separable 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 ash-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 matured, 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 Kilarney, 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 Kilarney, 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

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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 re-
stricted

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 withoutside 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-

terfions 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 privileges 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
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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.

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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 3^d, 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.

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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.







