

Dublin To Ardfert 1835

*Leigh's New Pocket Road-Book of Ireland,  
Containing An Account  
All The Direct and Cross Roads ;  
Together with  
A Description of Every Remarkable Place,  
Its Curiosities, Manufactures, Commerce, Population, Inns,  
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Samuel Leigh

1835

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If, as has been well observed, the knowledge of the natural situation, the political institutions, and the local advantages, even of a foreign nation, be an object of considerable magnitude, and a source of gratification to every enquiring and enlightened mind, surely as acquaintance with these relations, as they respect a country forming part of the same empire of which we ourselves are subjects, is of much greater importance, and much deeper interest. It is under a conviction of this truth that the following pages have been written ; and should they be the means of exciting an interest respecting Ireland, amongst the gentry of England and Scotland, and of inducing them more frequently to visit their less wealthy but warm-hearted neighbours, my labours will be amply rewarded, their amusement greatly promoted, and Ireland essentially benefitted.

No. 3. From DUBLIN to ARDFERT. First Road. Through KILDARE, MARYBOROUGH, LIMERICK, and NEWCASTLE.

RATHCOOLE, a post town in Dublin. The Cork mail coach road passes through *Kilmainham*, and at two miles from the capital, by a handsome bridge, crosses the grand canal. Leaving *Clondalkin* half a mile on the right, with its celebrated round tower, eighty-four feet high, we reach the village of Rathcoole ; it has a charter-school for female orphans ; twp miles beyond it begins Kildare county. Pop. 602.

SEATS : *Athgoe ; Castle-Warden ; and Killeel Castle*, about four miles from Rathcoole.

JOHNSTOWN, in Kildare, is seated on the river Moral, where there is a good inn. Pop. 101.

SEATS : two miles before we come to Johnstown, is *Bishop's Court*, the elegant mansion of Lord Ponsonby ; on a hill to the right is seen *Oughterard* church and tower. *Palmerstown*, the ancient family mansion of the Earl of Mayo.

NAAS, a borough, market, and post town, in Kildare, was once fortified with several strong castles, and is seated on a height. Assemblies of the States were long holden at Naas, antecedent to the ninth century ; its name signifies the place of the Elders. Naas was the residence of the Kings of Leinster. In all the civil wars this town was an object of severe contest ; it was a scene of action in 1798, when one thousand insurgents were repulsed in the

street, with considerable loss. At the foot of the rath at Naas was a cell for Augustine Eremitics, or Friars, whose house here was founded in 1484 : there is also an artificial moat raised at the opposite end of the town. The Dominican monastery is a ruin in the centre of the town ; it was founded by the family of Sir Edward Eustace, Lord Chancellor.

There are barracks, a court house, a market house, and the county gaol ; also a church, a Roman Catholic chapel, and a dispensary. The grand canal passes within two miles, and there is a cut from it to the town. Here are also flour mills, and the corn market is conducted in an extensive manner.

*Pop.* 3808. *Market Days* : Monday and Thursday. *Fairs* : Feb. 16, Mar. 17, May 8 and 19, Aug. 10, Oct 20, and Nov. 22. *Inn* : the King's Arms.

*SEATS* : the Duke of Leinster has a ruined castle. Within half a mile south of Naas, is Jigginstown House, built by the Earl of Strafford, who was beheaded in the reign of Charles I. : this palace fell into decay upon his attainder. Craddockstown, one mile distant.

NEWBRIDGE, a post town in Kildare. This village receives its name from the bridge across the River Liffey. See on the left hand *Great Connell Abbey* ; twenty years after this magnificent abbey was built, its founder, Meyler Fitzhenry, natural son of Henry I., was interred in the chapter-house, with this inscription : —

Conduntur tumulo Meyleri nobilis ossa,  
Indomitus domitor totius gentis Hibernæ.

At *Old Connell* there is a handsome rath. *Pop.* 577. *Fairs* : May 3, and August 15.

KILDARE is the county town of Kildare. The approach to this town, so much celebrated in history, is across the *Curragh*, which is the most beautiful race-course in the kingdom. The King's plate is run for here in April, in June, and September. King George IV. visited this spot in 1821. The *Curragh* of Kildare comprises 3000 acres, and presents the remains of several barrows or raths, supposed to be Druidical. This ancient town long gave title to the Fitzgeralds ; in 1766, the Earl of Kildare was created Duke of Leinster. Chilledair, the Wood of Oaks, was a gloomy forest of great extent ; the arm of the Danish invaders severely depressed the rising town. Here may be seen the ruins of several abbeys. The nunnery was founded by St Bridget, about A.D. 500 ; and within its walls she established a perpetual sacred fire, which was first extinguished by Henry de Loundres, Archbishop of Dublin, in 1220, and, having been relighted, was continued till the dissolution in the sixteenth century. The place where this relic of superstition was exhibited is now called the Fire House. Several famous princes of Ireland abdicated and became Abbots of Kildare : among others, Aod Dubh (black Hugh) king of Leinster, in 638. The Grey Friars and the White Friars were founded, the first in 1260, and the latter in 1290, by William Lord de Vescey, Earl of Kildare. At *Tully*, near Kildare, are the ruins of an ancient abbey. The house of the Knights Hospitallers of *Tully* was made a grant of to Sir Henry Harrington : its estates are now held *in commendam* of the Bishop of Kildare.

The beautiful and perfect round tower in the churchyard at Kildare is 130 feet in height ; at the distance of fourteen feet from the foundation is the door ; which, being placed so high, is approached by steps on the outside. The basement beneath the door is of a white granite, and the upper part of the tower is dark, and surmounted by a battlement. A part of the castle is in tolerable repair ; the cathedral is classed among the ruins ; but the choir is used as the parish church. The deanery of Christ Church forms the most valuable portion of the present diocese. There is a Roman Catholic chapel, and also a parish school. The town suffered much

during the last rebellion ; in former times its ramparts were sufficient to protect it from a minor force. It possesses some public buildings ; amongst which are the county infirmary, the turf club house, and the market house, contiguous to which is a well. The town is governed by a Sovereign and a Recorder.

In the vicinity is the *Hill of Allen*, a cave which is said to be the place of sepulture of Oscar and other Ossianic chiefs, this being formerly the *Hill of Temora* : this hill contains rich veins of copper, and gives name to the great Bog of Allen. Above a mile beyond Kildare is the ruin called *Lackagh Castle*.

SEATS : *Moore Town* ; and *Mount Rice*.

*Pop.* 1753. *Market Day* : Thursday. *Fairs* : Feb. 12. Easter Tuesday, May 12, June 29, Sept 19, and Oct 29. Inn : the Kildare Hotel.

MONASTEREVEN is a market and post town in the county of Kildare, pleasantly situated on the Barrow, over which is a bridge of five arches. A south branch of the grand canal, in its course towards Athy, passes by this town. It has a modern church, a Roman Catholic chapel, a market house, a dispensary, and a seminary for the charter schools of Leinster : there is also an extensive brewery and distillery. The abbey, in which St Evan, in 620, placed monks from Munster, was formerly very magnificent. It was granted to Lord Audley ; and now belongs to the Marquess of Drogheda, whose mansion and demesne of *Moore Abbey* is on the Barrow river ; the park is beautifully laid out, and contains a fine lake skirted by a mountain. Three miles beyond this town is *Ballybrittas*, a village and post town; and near it *Clanmalliere*, the mansion and seat of the Dean of Kildare.

*Pop.* 1441. *Market Day* : Saturday. *Fairs* : Mar. 28, Whit Tuesday, July 31, and Dec. 6. Inn : the Drogheda Arms, by D. Fleming.

EMO, a post town, in Queen's County. SEATS : *Dawson's Court*, Earl of Portarlington. This mansion is surrounded by a beautifully-wooded park, which contains some fine avenues. The groves skirt the border of a charming lake, the resort of a surprising assemblage of aquatic fowl. Beyond Emo are *Rathkeen Castle* and *Common*, and on the right *Sheen Castle*, on a steep mountain. This old castle was an appurtenance of Dunamase, and was repaired and embellished by Dean Coote. Above two miles from Emo, to the left of the high road, is the ancient ruin of *Dunamase* or *Dun Mace Castle*, upon a precipitous rock, once the fortified residence of Earl Strongbow : it was last dismantled by Cromwell. *Pop.* 102.

MARYBOROUGH, the capital of Queen's County, is a market and post town near the river Barrow. The county and county town alike receive name from Mary I., in whose reign their institution as such was granted. The castle of Maryborough, destroyed by Cromwell, although a ruin, has its constable. This town is governed by a burgomaster, and has a barrack : its situation is in a charming and highly-embellished country.—Here are a neat church, a handsome Roman Catholic chapel, a commodious gaol, school houses, a county infirmary, and lunatic asylum. There is also a small manufactory of cottons and woollens. This place gives title of Baron to one of the Wellesley family.

*Pop.* 3223. *Market Day* : Thursday. *Fairs* : Jan. 1, Feb. 24, March 25, May 12, July 5, Sept 4, Oct. 23, and Dec 4.

SEATS : *Rathleague*, a fine seat of Sir Henry Parnell, Bart., is half a mile beyond the town. *Ballyfin House* is a magnificent residence : the most distinguished objects of the park are the wide-expanding lake, and the large forest timber which shades its banks.

MOUNTRATH, a market and post town in Queen's County, situated on the river Nore. In this small town, a woollen manufacture, a cotton factory, and several forges are established. The modern church has a handsome spire and clock. Here also are a Roman Catholic chapel, a Quakers' meeting house, Methodist chapels, a modern school house on the Lancasterian system, and a free school for Roman Catholics. The market house is a good structure ; and a handsome street, named Coote Street, is added to the old town.

*Pop.* 2593. *Market Day* : Saturday. *Fairs* : Jan. 6, Feb. 17, Easter Monday, 2nd Thursday in May, June 20, Aug. 10, Sept. 29, and first Thursday in Nov.

CASTLETOWN is a village of Queen's County, upon the river Nore. It has the ruins of a castle which once belonged to Sir Oliver Mac Morres, noted for his gigantic stature and surprising strength. *Pop.* 376. *Fairs* : May 1, June 29, and Oct. 18.

BURROS-IN-OSSORY, in Queen's County, is a pretty village and post town. Three miles from Burros are the ruins of *Ballaghmore Castle*. *Pop.* 770. *Fairs* : nine in the year.

ROSCREA is a post town in Tipperary, and has a considerable trade. The old church is a fine structure, the doors and mouldings of which are Saxon : near it is a large cross called St Cronan's Shrine, as well as a round tower, eighty feet high, having a pointed window. The castle is used as a barrack. There are many antiquities in or near Roscrea, it having in early times been a bishop's see. Roscrea has also a church, erected in 1812, a Roman Catholic chapel, meeting houses, a market house, a bridewell, and a free school. The principal trade is the woollen manufacture.

In *Monela Bog*, a branch of the Bog of Allen, three miles from Roscrea, are the ruins of a Culdean abbey, founded by St Columba, which still displays a grand Saxon arch, richly carved. A church and a chapel at this place stood on two islands. This bog, in early ages, was a lake. In Ledwich's antiquities there is an account of the Culdees of this abbey of Monaincha, a sect which opposed the Romish tenets. It was granted by Elizabeth to Sir Lucas Dillon. Some fine ash trees are growing upon its dilapidated walls.

*Pop.* 5512. *Market Days* : Thursday and Saturday. *Fairs* : Mar. 25, May 7 and 13, June 21, Aug. 8, Oct 9, and Nov. 29. *Inn* : the White Hart

*Dunkerrin* is a village in King's County, four and a half miles beyond Roscrea. It has a charter school, and a capacious church, built in 1818. Upon the road from Roscrea, the ruins of *Rahanvegue Castle* are seen, about a mile from Dunkerrin.

*Moneygall*, in King's County, is a post town, seven miles beyond Roscrea: with little to engage the traveller's attention.

TOOMAVARA, in Tipperary. This village contains the ruins of a preceptory of the Knights Templars. Knockane Castle is at a short distance ; and beneath a lofty hill is the ruin of *Blane Castle*. *Pop.* 790.

SILVERMINES, in Tipperary. The lead mines of this place have proved very valuable and productive. Near it are the ruins of *Dunally Castle*. Near this is *Rilbay Castle*, the seat of Lord Dunally. One mile and three quarters beyond Silvermines is *Shallee* turnpike. *Pop.* 852. *Fairs* : April 27, last Thursday in May, July 2 J, and Oct 23.

NEWPORT, in Tipperary, is a post town, pleasantly situated upon a stream which falls into the Shannon. The church has a square tower. To the left of the village is *Derryleagh Castle*, in ruins. Three miles from this is *Castleconnell*, a post town in Limerick, on the bank of the Shannon : it possesses the ruin of a castle : this famous fortress, situated upon a high and steep rock, was built by Connel the chieftain. There is an excellent spa, noted for the cure of scorbutic diseases and worms, a neat church, and a Roman Catholic chapel. The scenery here is beautiful : below the town commence the rapids of the Shannon ; above them, the water is forty feet deep, and about three hundred yards wide, making its way over rocks and stones for nearly half a mile. Castleconnell has an excellent inn. *Pop.* 1312. *Fairs* : April 20, June 1, July 16, and Oct. 4.

*Annacotty*, in Limerick, is a village on the road, within three miles of the city. To the right, on an island of the river Shannon, is *Castle Troy*, about a mile from Annacotty. To the left of the high-road is *Newcastle*, in which King William III. had his head-quarters.

LIMERICK, which is reckoned the third city of Ireland, and gives name to one of the most extensive counties, is advantageously situated on the Shannon. It has its mayor, aldermen, sheriffs, and recorder ; and the garrison is commanded by a governor and a town major. It is a city returning two members to Parliament, and a bishop's see, united with Iniscarthy in the 12th century, and with Aghadoe and Ardfert in 1663. The town is styled a county in itself, and consists of three parts ; the English town, built on King's Island in the Shannon ; the Irish town ; and Newtown Pery, so named from the ancestor of the Earl of Limerick who planned it in 1769. The streets in this quarter are regular and handsome ; but those in the old town are narrow and gloomy. The bridge communicating with King's Island, consists of three wide arches. In 1800 it had but 3000 houses ; but in 1831 there were 7800.

The general style of the buildings is neat, and some of the public edifices are handsome : amongst them are the exchange, erected in 1777 ; the commercial buildings in Rutland Street ; the new courthouse ; the custom house ; the linen hall ; the county gaol, built in 1822, and said to be the most perfect prison in Ireland ; the county infirmary opposite to it ; the house of industry ; the lunatic asylum, and the barracks. A magnificent new bridge, with a drawbridge across the Shannon, from the New Town to the county of Clare, is completed ; of which the late celebrated Mr. Nimmo was engineer. It is called Wellesley Bridge ; and consists of five arches, each seventy feet span. This bridge, with the docks attached, have already cost upwards of 80,000*l.* ; and an Act has been lately passed, granting a further sum of 80,000*l.*, for the purpose of forming an extensive floating dock, which when completed, will be one of the most useful undertakings in Ireland. A fine square has been marked out and planted, though not yet built upon, the centre of which is adorned with a fluted pillar, surmounted by a statue, executed by Kirk, of the Right Hon. Spring Rice, M.P., to whom the city is greatly in its numerous improvements.

The cathedral, dedicated to St Mary, is of Gothic architecture, with a handsome interior. It contains the tomb of the Thomonds, and part of a monument in honour of the Galway family : the tower commands a fine view of the town, and the river. The first episcopal church here was founded by St Munchin in the sixth century, and was destroyed by the Danes. There are several parish churches, as well as Roman Catholic chapels, friaries, a nunnery, and meeting houses, of the Wesleyans, Independents, and Quakers. The Dominican chapel is a handsome edifice in the Gothic style ; and the Augustine chapel in George Street, at one time the theatre, is worthy of notice.

Thomond bridge is among the most curious of the ancient monuments of Limerick ; it is supposed to have been built about the year 1210, and consists of fourteen arches, of irregular

construction. It crosses the main arm of the Shannon, from the north-east extremity of the debted for English town.

Limerick possesses many charitable institutions :—amongst which may be mentioned the magdalen hospital, the foundling hospital, the fever and sick hospitals, and the Diocesan school : also Barrington's hospital, lately built at the sole expense of Sir J. Barrington, Bart and his sons.

The town manufactures woollens, linen, thread lace, and paper ; and there are several breweries and distilleries, tanneries, and salt works ; also a considerable manufacture of gloves. The trade of this port is considerable : ships of 850 tons being able to reach the quay. The principal exports are corn and butter, which have rapidly increased ; the chief imports, provisions. A canal, on which steam-boats are established, forms a communication with Dublin.

Limerick is very ancient : the Danes, about the year 900, increased its commerce, and wine was imported in great quantities at that early period. The English acquired possession of Limerick in 1174 : it has gained great historical fame by its gallant resistance, when laid siege to, in both the civil wars. Ireton took the town in 1642 ; William III. in vain attempted its reduction in 1690 ; but his troops, under Ginkle, took it in 1691. Vestiges of the castle are seen on the river side, partly concealed by houses ; but the fortifications and city gates have been demolished. There existed several monasteries, and a nunnery, founded by the Kings of Thomond and Limerick, or by citizens ; the ruins of some of them still endure ; namely, of a Dominican friary, founded in 1241, seen at the barrack and tanyard ; of the Grey Friars, the site of which is now occupied by the county court house, and its church is at present an hospital ; besides which there were two other monasteries and a nunnery, all of the order of St Augustine.

*The Shannon*, on which Limerick is seated, deserves the noblest encomium for its picturesque variety, and its majesty, it being the broadest and principal river in Ireland, and the most considerable in the British isles. Its whole course is about 234 miles ; and it washes the shores of no less than ten counties, Leitrim, Roscommon, Longford, Westmeath, King's County, Galway, Tipperary, Clare, Limerick, and Kerry. Lough Allen, in Leitrim, supplied by several rivulets, or even Lough Clean, is the parent water from which the Shannon descends : near Lanesborough it is entered by the royal canal. The Shannon next fills the superb basin of Lough Ree ; below Banagher it is joined by the grand canal, and again expands into the beautiful Lough Derg. It thus separates the provinces of Connaught and Leinster, and serves to promote the commercial relations of the metropolis with all the centre of the kingdom : below Limerick it forms a great expanse, reaching northward to Ennis, while its powerful stream, generally three miles broad, pursues its course for above fifty miles, from Limerick to its embouchure betwixt Cape Lean in Clare, and Kerry Head, where it is nearly eight miles broad ; thus forming a superb western harbour. The beautiful islands and interesting antiquities which its waters embrace are regularly described in this volume.

SEATS on the Banks : (on the Limerick side), *Mount Trenckard*, Right Hon. Spring Rice, M.P. ; *Castletown Demesne*, and the fine ruin of *Carrig-o-guncel Castle*, (On the Clare side), the fine demesnes of *Cahvicon*, *Cooperhill*, *Tervac*, and *Bauratty Castle*.

*Pop*, 66,554. *Market Days* : Wednesday and Saturday. *Fairs* : Easter Tuesday, July 4, Aug. 4, and Dec. 12. *Inns* : the Clare; Swinburn's ; Molony's ; the Mail Coach ; and Glen's.

*Loughmore*, in Limerick, is a village on the road, three miles from the city. Mungret Abbey is a mile to the right of Loughmore : the Psalter of Cashel records that this abbey had

six churches, and 1500 religious ; the royal author, M'Culinan, bequeathed to Mungret Abbey, in 908, three ounces of gold, a vest, and his blessing. The ruins are not such as would indicate any considerable monastic edifice.

*Patrick's Well* is a long village and post town, two miles farther on this road.

ADAIR, a post town, in Limerick, once of consequence, is now a picturesque village, embellished by the ruins of its interesting edifices. The monasteries were for Franciscan friars, and were founded by the Earls of Kildare, in the reign of Edward I., in 1315, and in 1465. The first, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, has a tower resembling the keep of a castle, but built, like many Irish monastic steeples, over a groined arch ; it is on the south side of Adair. Here also we observe the Augustine friary, having a similar tower and arch, with a fine nave and cloisters. Ivy covers all the monasteries. The river Maig, which has here a bridge of nine arches, is navigable, and adds much to the beauty of Adair : on its bank is seated the ivy-clad castle, once strongly garrisoned by the Earl of Desmond, but reduced in 1641. Two miles beyond this charming spot is the ruin of *Grannebrue Castle*, and, farther on, of *Amigan Castle*. Near this is *Adair Abbey*, the mansion and demesne of the Earl of Dunraven ; also *Mount Shannon*, Earl of Clare; and *Curragh*, the beautiful seat of Sir Aubrey De Vere. *Pop.* 766. *Market Day* : Saturday. *Fairs* : Jan. 20, Feb. 20, Mar. 27, April 27, May 27, Sept 15, Oct 14, and Dec. 15.

RATHKEALE is a market and post town, on the river Deel, in Limerick. It was once a fortified town, defended by a castle. It has a small church and a Roman Catholic chapel. Two great names, those of Sir Walter Raleigh, and Spencer, secretary to Lord Grey, are connected with the capture of Rathkeale by the troops of Elizabeth ; the generals ordered the massacre of the garrison in cold blood, and to the tender poet devolved the task of palliating this action, by denying that the lives of the sufferers had been secured by a convention. Here also are the ruins of an Augustine abbey ; and in one of its windows is the painted figure of a monk. Two miles beyond the town is *Ballyalena Castle*. The gentlemen's Seats are numerous. The church of *Cluancagh*, near this town, was once a part of a monastery founded by St Maidoc, about 600. The name signifies the Rath in a wood. *Pop.* 4972. *Market Day* : Saturday. *Fairs* : Feb. 7, April 4, June 1 and 19, Aug. 25, Sept 18, and Nov. 18. *Inn* : the King's Arms.

NEWCASTLE, a post town in Limerick, is seated upon the Deel. Here is a fine park ; the district to the south is romantic, and the road conducts us over mountains. This town forms a square, and amongst its public buildings are some of remarkable beauty ; the modern church has a square turret surmounted by a cupola and eight pinnacles ; here are also a Roman Catholic chapel, and a free school. The market house has been converted into barracks. Amongst the antiquities are the remains of the castellated mansion of the Knights Templars, a part of which is modernised. Many of the knights of this chivalric monastery here became the victims of the people, who, being excited against them, slew them by surprise. The ruins of their dwelling stand near the church. *Pop.* 2908. *Fairs* : May 3, Aug. 20, and Oct 1.

COOLNAKENNY, in Limerick, is a village, in a mountainous and dreary tract, which extends to Abbeyfeale.

ABBEYFEALE, a post town in Limerick, is seated on the Feale, which flows into the Cashin river, and joins the Shannon at its mouth. The celebrated Cistercian abbey at this place was founded in 1188. Half a mile beyond the town is the ruin of *Purt Castle*. For our present route by Listowel, turn to the right along the north side of the Feale ; six miles and a half from Abbeyfeale on the Feale, is the fine mansion of *Woodford*. *Pop.* 607. *Fairs* : June 29, and Oct 18.

LISTOWELL, a post town in Kerry, is a small but neat town, on the Feale, with a tolerable inn. It possesses the remains of a justly celebrated castle, on the banks of the river. *Lis* signifies an earthen fort, and *Tuathal* was a renowned chief, according to the remote traditions of this country. The castle held out for Lord Kerry, with obstinacy, but was taken by Wilmot, in 1600, when the garrison were put to the sword. Listowell has a pretty church, with a spire, and a Roman Catholic chapel, both situated in a neat square. *Pop.* 2289. *Market Day* : Saturday. *Fairs* : May 13, July 25, and Oct. 28.

ABBEY ODORNEY, in Kerry. At this village are the ruins of the once celebrated abbey, built in 1154, upon the river Brick. Two miles and a half from it is *Grotto*, a very beautiful mansion of the Ponsonby family.

*Pop.* 338.

ARDFERT, a post town, the ancient capital of Kerry, once the seat of a bishop, and a famous university. This see has been held by the bishops of Limerick since 1663. St Brandon founded the ancient abbey in the sixth century; a curious sculpture of him, in alto-relievo, still exists in the venerable ruins of the cathedral church, and a still mere lasting memorial of him, Mount Brandon, is beheld across the bay. He was the disciple of St Ert, the first Bishop of Ardfert and Kerry. The great civil war in 1641 caused the destruction of this magnificent church ; and the round tower, 120 feet high, also fell in 1771. In the church there is a fine monument of one of the bishops. Here are the ruins of a Franciscan abbey, founded in 1253, by Thomas, Lord Kerry ; the cemetery was the burial-place of the celebrated Knights of Kerry. The former abbeys and the ancient city had previously, on several disputes, been laid waste with fire. There is a fine inscription in an ancient, perhaps an unknown character, round an arch of an old ruin, near the mansion and delightful parks of the late Earl of Glandore (Crosby.)

Beyond the fine strand of *Ballyheigh Bay* is the grand promontory called *Kerry Head* : about this rocky point are found violet and rose-coloured amethysts, or Kerry stones. This dreary coast is often assaulted by heavy swells and surges of the Atlantic sea, which, in bad weather, seem to thunder within Poulafooca and other large caverns ; the mouth of the Shannon is eight miles across to the opposite cliffs of Cape Lean, and the river scene is truly sublime. The old fort at *Ballengary* is divided by the waves from the land precipice. *Battykeal Castle*, *Ferrit Island*, and the round tower of *Rattoo*, are also objects of interest *Pop.* 717. *Fairs*, March 27, June 8, and July 9.

No. 4. From DUBLIN to ARDFERT. Through LIMERICK, ASKEATON, SHANAGOLDEN, and TARBERT.

ASKEATON, a post town in Limerick. The old road is four miles longer through Adair and *Stone Hall*, to Askeaton. Near Stone Hall is a beautiful residence named *Holly Park*, where the finest holly trees are seen growing amongst rocks. Askeaton is upon the River Deel, and close to the Shannon. Until the Union, this now impoverished town was a borough ; it possesses many ancient remains. Askeaton Castle is seen on an island ; it was a fortified mansion of the Earl of Desmond. Across the Deel are the magnificent ruins of a Franciscan abbey, the cloisters of which are remarkably beautiful, and are adorned with marble columns. *Pop.* 1515, *Fairs*, July 30, and October 9.

SEATS : *Ballymoat Court*, Sir H. Harstonge.

SHANAGOLDEN, a post town in Limerick. To this place the usual road is through Adair and *Newbridge* : it is a very pretty village of colonists from the Palatinate in Germany, whose



improvements attracted the praise of the late Arthur Young. Shanagolden is a great thoroughfare ; the neighbouring seats are *Abbey* and *Cappo*. Near it is *Killmulan* church, and three miles and a half beyond is the castle and village of *Loghill*. *Pop.* 847. *Fairs*, first Wednesday after Trinity Sunday, and Sept. 4.

GLYNN, a post town in Limerick, is a very romantic village, seated near a bay of the Shannon, commanding a noble view of the river. The church, on a neighbouring height, is a very pretty object ; and there are a large Roman Catholic chapel, and a bridewell in the village. The history of its ancient castle, obstinately defended in 1600 by the Knight of the Glynn, against the forces under Sir George Carew, gives a certain degree of interest to this retired spot ; its brave garrison was put to the sword. The handsome residence of Mr. Fitzgerald, the Knight of Glynn, with its fine woods, is situated here. *Pop.* 1030. *Fairs* : second Wednesday in June, third Wednesday in September, and December 1.

TARBERT is a small market and post town in Kerry, well known as possessing the best anchorage in this part of the Shannon. It has a harbour formed by Tarbert point, and from the opposite shore of the river a point also projects, and narrows the stream. Steam vessels proceed every alternate day to Limerick ; the distance is 35 miles, and the fare only 4s. The church is handsome, and is built upon an eminence. Near it is the public school, and a mile distant is a Roman Catholic chapel. The inns are only tolerable.

SEATS : *Leslie Lodge*, *Tarmons*, and *Tarbert House*, which commands a grand view of the river, and is the mansion of Sir Edward Leslie, proprietor of this thriving town ; *Prymont*, a villa so named from its fine chalybeate spring.

The usual excursions from Tarbert are, to see *Carrigfoile Castle*, built by the O'Connors, in an island ; *Inis-Scattery*, an island in the Shannon, seven miles from its embouchure ; and the celebrated ruin of *Bead Castle*, with the inaccessible cliff called the *Devil's Castle*. The nearest point to Scattery Island is Kilrush, in the County Clare. *Pop.* 956. *Market-day* : Thursday. *Fairs* : Easter Monday, June 22, August 12, and December 11. *Inns* : the Leslie Arms, and M'Mahon's Hotel.

BALLYLONGFORD, a post town in Kerry. This village has a neat church. Half a mile from it is the stately ruin of *Lislaghtin Abbey*, founded A.D. 1464, for Franciscan friars. From this place, the short road is by Listowell : it divides and conducts to Ardfert on the right, and to Tralee on the left. There is also a circuitous route from *Ballylongford* to *Ardfert*, by the side of the Shannon, across to the village of Ballyheigh, and along the shore of Ballyheigh Bay. *Pop.* 1300.

Leigh's New Pocket Road-book of Ireland : Containing an Account of All the ... (1835)

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