

Ireland Journal 1806

JOURNAL
or
A TOUR IN IRELAND,
A. D. 1806.

BY

SIR RICHARD COLT HOARE, Bart.
F.R.S. F.A.S.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR W. MILLER, ALBEMARLE STREET,
AND FOR J. ARCHER, AND M. MAHON, DUBLIN.

1807.

•

PREFACE.

“Erranti, passimque oculos per cuncta tuenti.”

To the traveller, who fond of novelty and information, seeks out those regions, which may either afford reflection for his mind, or employment for his pencil, and especially to him, who may be induced to visit the neglected shores of HIBERNIA, the following pages are dedicated.

Whilst the opposite coasts of WALES and SCOTLAND, have for many successive years attracted the notice and admiration of the man of taste, and of the artist ; whilst the press has so teemed with publications, pointing out their natural beauties, and works of military and monastick art, tibat little more is left to be described ; whilst WALES and SCOTLAND, I say, have had the assistance of the Historian’s pen to record their annals, and of the artist’s pencil to pourtray their natural and artificial curiosities ; the Island of HIBERNIA still remains unvisited and unknown. And why ? Because from the want of books, and living information, we have been led to suppose its country rude, its inhabitants savage, its paths dangerous. “ Were we to take a view [says an Irish Historian] of the wretched condition in which the History of IRELAND stands, it would not be a matter of astonishment, that we should be considered as a people, in a manner unknown to the world, except what little knowledge of us is communicated by merchants, sea-faring men, and a few travellers ; while all other nations of Europe have their historians, to inform their own people, as well as foreigners, what they were, and what they are [1].”

The love of literature, however, seems to be gaining ground daily in Ireland, as well as in the remoter districts of the sister kingdom [2] ; and particularly that class of it which will tend ultimately to make its provinces more frequented, and better known ; which will not only excite the attention of the *stranger*, but point out natural beauties and curiosities unexplored even by the *native*. I allude to the general Topography of the Country, which has received a partial illustration from the Statistical Surveys lately published [3].

When we consider, that the first well digested *Tour through Wales*, bears so late a date as 1781 [4], and when we look over the voluminous list of subsequent publications on the same

subject, that have issued from the press in the short period of twenty-five years, may we not expect that the same spirit of enquiry will extend itself gradually into this country ?

The English are regarded by foreigners as a *rambling* nation ; but I am proud to think, that this *vagabond* spirit arises, not from any dissatisfaction with our own home, our country, or our government ; for where shall we find their equals ? “ *Quando ullum invenies parem ?* ” but from a laudable desire of research and information. The spirit and even the power of *foreign* travel is now checked ; we can no longer trace on the spot, those classical scenes described to us by the ancient Poets and Historians, and which in our younger days of study, we even *read* with enthusiasm ; we can no longer in safety ascend the steps of the CAPITOL, nor wander peacefully along the luxuriant shores of BALÆ or MISENUM ; even the frozen regions of MONT BLANC are interdicted to us by the ferocious decrees of a CORSICAN DESPOT. Let not, however, that laudable spirit of enquiry droop, nor grow less active by such an unexpected interdiction.

Our own, kingdom still remains unexplored ; a kingdom abounding in a variety of the most amusing and instructive objects, suited to every taste, to every genius ; a kingdom furnishing the most interesting and ample materials for the *pen* as well as for the *pencil* ; a more intimate knowledge of which will, in the end, prove more satisfactory perhaps than the information collected during a *foreign* tour. The knowledge of *one's self*, and of *one's country*, is truly desirable, but it is a knowledge that few are able, or bold enough to attain.

The traveller who makes IRELAND the object of his excursions, will experience a double mortification, in finding the books relating to that country so few, when compared to those descriptive of every other part of our kingdom ; and in finding so few amongst the natives who are able to give him such general information as he could wish, concerning the objects most worthy of his attention ; but he will every where find a *hand* ready to assist, and a *heart* open to receive, him in all his difficulties.

It is not my intention to give a *detailed* account of all the different publications that tend to illustrate the History of Ireland, but to mention a few only of those which I consider the most useful and important. They who are desirous of gaining more ample information on this subject, may consult Bishop NICHOLSON'S *Irish Historical Library*, and Sir James WARE'S account of Irish Writers.

Amongst the ancient manuscripts, the *Annals of Innisfallen*, and the *Psalter of Cashel*, are the most frequently quoted, but it appears doubtful, if any perfect copy of either of them exist at this day.

Of old historians, we have GIRALDUS DE BARRI, or CAMBRENSIS, who wrote the *Topography* and *Vaticinal History* of Ireland, which was published in Latin by the celebrated Antiquary CAMDEN, in a folio volume, entitled, *Anglica, Hibernica, Normannica, Cambrica*. A translation of the *Vaticinal History*, which relates to the invasion of Ireland, by Earl STRONGBOW, in the year 1167, was made by JOHN HOOKER, and published (with a continuation to the year 1586), in the first volume of *Hollinshed's Chronicles* ; in which also there is an old description of Ireland, by STANIHURST [5]

A folio volume was published in the year 1662, by JOHN LYNCH, [under the feigned name of GRATIANUS LUCIUS,] entitled *Cambrensis eversus*, &c. in which he endeavours to expose the mistaken falsehoods and calumnies of GIRALDUS.

The miraculous stories which GIRALDUS recounts most seriously in his *Topography of Ireland*, are so truly ridiculous, that I could almost fancy, that by so doing, he meant to satirize the credulity of the Irish Nation [6].

To his second treatise upon the Invasion of Ireland by RICHARD STRONGBOW, ROBERT FITZ-STEPHEN, and MAURICE FITZ-GERALD, we must give greater credit, though even in this work, he is accused by the Irish writers of partiality, and frequent misrepresentation: owing to his near relationship to the two latter chieftains, I will allow that his pen may sometimes have been guilty of *partiality*, but when we consider that this manuscript was composed in the year 1187, and only seventeen years after the invasion of Ireland took place, and when we consider also the near connexion between the *actors* and the *author*, who visited Ireland himself in the year 1183 : we must not, I think, (as the Irish writers would wish us to do,) consider this history of GIRALDUS as a mere fable, or a miraculous tale.

GEOFFRY KEATING, an Irish priest, composed a history of his country, from the earliest times to the period of its invasion by the English, in the reign of King Henry the Second. This manuscript was translated into English, by DERMOD O'CONNOR, and printed, first in 1723, and afterwards in a more costly manner in 1738. No great credit is allowed to this work by more modern historians. SIR RICHARD COX calls it “ *an ill-digested heap of silly fictions :*” and PETER TALBOT styles it, “ *Insigne planè, sed insanum opus,*” and such indeed, on examination, it appears to be. This large volume is entirely devoted to the *early* history of the Irish, which, like that of all other nations, abounds in fable and fiction.

Another author, O'FLAHERTY, published a book, entitled, *Ogygia seu rerum Hibernicarum Chronologia*, A. D. 1685, which has been translated into English, and relates chiefly to the more ancient history of the country.

But the most esteemed and authentic Irish historians, overlooking the *early* and fabulous annals of their country, have commenced their histories from the period of the English invasion ; amongst these is

SIR RICHARD COX, whose history is continued to the end of the reign of King CHARLES the SECOND.

Dr. WARNER published an History of Ireland, and of its Rebellion, in three *quarto* volumes, 1763-7. This author neither wholly credits the histories of *Keating* and *O'Flaherty*, nor at the same time rejects them as *wholly* fabulous. He says, “ The native Irish writers betray so much vanity, and deal so much in the fabulous, as gives an air of *romance* to the whole, or to speak of it in the most favourable and candid terms, as makes it appear to be a *mythological* rather than a *real* history,” The first volume of his work, comprehends the ancient History of Ireland, to the period of the English invasion, wherein he endeavours to reconcile the traditions and apparent fictions of the Irish writers.

Dr. LELAND has published the same number of volumes in *quarto*. He begins at the period of the Invasion, in 1167, and terminates his work with the war of 1691.

The much esteemed Annals of Ireland, by SIR JAMES WARE, were first published in a small volume, 1654, and 1658, and being afterwards much enlarged, were reprinted in *folio* at Dublin, A. D. 1705.

The valuable manuscripts of this author were again revised by Mr. HARRIS, who printed them in two thick *folio* volumes, A. D. 1764.

This work, which is now become exceedingly scarce, is by far the most esteemed book we have on Ireland.

The same author has also published, both in *folio* and *octavo*, a collection of treatises, entitled, *Hibernica* ; amongst which is a curious account of the invasion of Ireland, written by MAURICE REGAN, servant and interpreter to DERMOD MAC MURROGH, King of Leinster.

The *Pacata Hibernia*, by CAREW, is a valued work and the *Life of King William III.* by HARRIS, contains many interesting plans and views of the different sieges, battles, &c. that took place in Ireland during his reign-

There are besides several detached histories of particular epocha. FYNES MORYSON, in his Book of Travels, has given a detailed account of the rebellion of HUGH, EARL OF TYRONE, from the year 1599, to 1603. The Poet EDMUND SPENSER, SIR JOHN DAVIS, and SIR WILLIAM PETTY, have each written political treatises on this Country ; and the Memoirs of the DUKE of ORMOND, by CARTE, and of LORD CLANRICARDE, throw much light upon the affairs of Ireland.

The *Monasticon* of Mr. ARCHDALE, contains a most valuable collection of monastick annals. A *Monasticon* was printed in the year 1722, in *octavo* ; but in every respect inferior to the more enlarged edition, in *quarto*, edited by Mr. ARCHDALE.

The *Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis*, published by General VALLANCEY, and extending to six *octavo* volumes, contain many curious and learned treatises, particularly on the origin, language, and manners, of the ancient Irish. There are also several volumes published of the *Transactions of the Irish Society*.

Dr. LEDWICH has published a large *quarto* volume, embellished with plates, and containing a valuable collection of papers relating to the various antiquities of Ireland. The *second* edition of this work is considerably augmented.

Mr. GROSE, in his two *folio* volumes of Antiquities, has illustrated, by views and short descriptions, the greater part of the most remarkable castles and abbies in Ireland ; and Mr. MALTON has engraved magnificent series of the principal buildings in Dublin.

Of *Parochial and County History*, the catalogue is short. The city of DUBLIN has been described by Mr. HARRIS, and by Mr. FERRAR; the Counties of CORK, KERRY, and WATERFORD, by Dr. SMITH, and that of LIMERICK, by Mr. FERRAR ; there is also an *octavo* volume, describing the County of DOWN ; and in VALLANCEY'S *Collectanea*, there is an old account of WEST MEATH, by Sir HENRY PIERS, and the History of IRISH-TOWN, or KILKENNY.

The list of *Tours* also is very scanty, and very imperfect, if I except the excellent *Letters on the Coast of Antrim*, by the unfortunate Mr. HAMILTON, who fell a sacrifice to the fury of the rebels, during the disturbances in 1797.

Twiss published a very cursory Tour through the Northern and Southern Provinces, in 1775 ; and Dr. WATKINSON an other, through the latter provinces only, in the same year. Since that period, a short Tour through the Southern Provinces, in 1797, has been published by HOLMES ; and there is a collection of Letters, by BUSH, entitled, *Hibernia curiosa*, 1769 ; giving a particular account of the GIANT'S CAUSEWAY. These may be distinguished by the title of *Picturesque Tours*. That by ARTHUR YOUNG, in the years 1776-7 and 8, is more properly styled an *Agricultural Tour* ; but the observations of this well-known author are so just, and his descriptions of natural scenery so accurate, and at the same time so animated,

that all future Tourists will have reason to regret, that his remarks were so much confined to one favourite subject.

But in one, and to the generality of travellers, the most *important* respect, the Irish Tourist may think himself fortunate, in having two good maps, and an excellent *Itinerary*, to direct his steps. The Map by TAYLOR is the best for travellers, but that by Dr. BEAUFORT, annexed to his Memoir, is much fuller, and contains the names of many more places : it is more properly called an *Ecclesiastical Map* of Ireland. There is also a Book of Roads, by TAYLOR and SKINNER, which may be found useful. The *best* Itinerary is that by WILSON, entitled, the *Post Chaise Companion*, and far superior to the one lately published by SLEATER. It is indeed the *best* I ever saw, as it points out the greater part of the antiquities and objects worthy of notice. The descriptions of the two *Irish wonders*, the LAKE OF KILLARNEY, and the GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, are ample, and well drawn up. In two respects only, it seems to fail, namely, in giving more merit and beauty to the gentlemen's demesnes than they deserve, and in not pointing out to the traveller, the best inns on the road, and those especially where he can find a supply of post horses.

Dr. BEAUFORT'S *Memoir*, and SEWARD'S *Topographical Dictionary*, will be found useful books. There is also an *octavo* volume of well-written Letters on the Irish Nation, by Mr. Cooper, which will both amuse and instruct the reader. The *Almanack* and *Register*, published annually, will give every necessary information respecting the City of DUBLIN, its officers of state, &c. &c.

The voluminous works of PLOWDEN, Sir RICHARD MUSGRAVE, and Mr. GORDON, will afford ample details of the late Irish Rebenion in 1798.

The beautiful scenery of KILLARNEY, has lately been most fully illustrated, with ample descriptions, and many highly finished engravings, by a well-known traveller, ISAAC WELD, Esq. and supplies one of the great topographical *desiderata* of Ireland. The coast of ANTRIM would furnish materials for an equally interesting volume, and form a fine contrast, between the *beautiful* and the *savage* features of nature.

Having slightly mentioned those authors, whose works appear to throw the greatest light upon the History and Antiquities of Ireland, [a previous reference to which will be highly useful to those who intend visiting that country [7],] I shall add a few words respecting the mode of *travelling* in Ireland.

The love of liberty and independence is by nature implanted in the breast of every Englishman ; it is not only his birth-right, but his guide and upholder through life. On no occasion, and in no place, will *independence* be more requisite, or more useful, than during the progress of an *Irish Tour*. The traveller must not expect to find those comforts and conveniences which he will meet with on the Bath road, or even in many of the remotest provinces of England ; he must not expect to find post chaises and post horses, ready at a moment's notice, to waft him from the LAKE OF KILLARNEY to the GIANT'S CAUSEWAY ; for these accommodations are to be found only on the great roads of communication from one city to another. On the *cross roads*, he must bear with patience the delays of postboys, and the indifference of postmasters ; his purse will be taxed, and his time lost. To remedy these inconveniences, the tourist must make himself *independent*, by being his own postmaster, and his own post boy ; in shorty he must travel with his own carriage, and with his own horses ; all difficulties will then cease ; for if he makes a proper choice of resting places, and avoids such a *gite* as BALYSHANNON (more of which hereafter) all will go on smoothly ; for he will find excellent roads, with better inns and fare than he would expect from the

descriptions he has heard, and the impressions he may have formed of the general state of the country.

The traveller also who does not, previous to his journey, supply his purse with the necessary provision of cash and notes, will be subject to repeated delays and impositions during his progress. These may be avoided by exchanging at Dublin his English money into Irish, or by supplying himself solely with the latter, which I think the most advisable.

The coin, or rather the tokens of the country, are six shilling, ten-penny, and five-penny pieces. The difference between the English and the Irish currency, is one penny in every shilling ; so that the guinea passes for £1.2s.9d. Irish ; but a premium varying from one to two or three shillings, according to the fluctuation of exchange, is given for them ; so that the English traveller should exchange his guineas into Irish money at Dublin. The English shillings, if good, will sometimes, but not always, pass in the provinces : some object to them, if there is no impression of the head ; and others weigh them with a little machine made for that purpose. Dollars also are current at 5s. 5d. but the supplies that will be found most convenient, are Bank of Ireland Notes, and the several Irish tokens, which may be procured in *rouleaus* at the National Bank, or will be supplied by your banker. With these you will have no difficulty in paying your bills on the road, and avoid the necessity of taking in exchange any of the small Irish shilling notes, many of which, as well as others of larger amount, are forged.

From no one circumstance during my *first* Southern Tour, did I experience more delay or inconvenience, which were obviated during my Northern Tour, by the provision of tokens. It is necessary however to hint to the traveller, on leaving Dublin, to leave his tokens behind him, for they will not prove current in Wales.

If by a faithful description of the large tract of country I have lately traversed, I can either contribute to the amusement or information of any *future* tourist in Ireland ; if I can in any degree smooth his path, or lighten his burden ; or if I can so far excite the curiosity of the *natives*, as to induce them to complete the outline of my imperfect sketch, the end of this publication will be fully answered ; and if either through ignorance or inattention, I may have committed any local or historical errors ; let the failings of human nature, the novelty of the subject, and the words of my friend GIRALDUS, plead before the public in my behalf.

“ Et quouiam nihil humanum omninò perfectum, omniumque habere notitiam, et in nullo peccare, potius divinitatis est, quàm humanitatis ; errores fortè si quâ ex parte irrepserunt, tam imperfectionis conditio, quàm ipsa locorum distantia reddat veniales. ”

•

INTRODUCTION

VARIOUS have been the names given to this island, and as various have been the accounts of its original inhabitants. By CÆSAR and TACITUS, it was distinguished from Britain by the name of HIBERNIA : by PTOLEMY, the Geographer, by that of IVERNIA. DIODORUS SICULUS calls it IRIS ; and STRABO, IERNE ; to the latter of which, the Irish name of ERIN bears an affinity. It bore also the appellation of SCOTIA : and though OROSIUS gives it the title of HIBERNIA, he styles its inhabitants SCOTI : “ *Sed a Scotorum gentibus colitur.* ” Archbishop Usher [8] says, “ that it was not till after the coalition between the Scots and the Picts in the

eleventh century, that both nations, viz. IRELAND and the modern SCOTLAND came promiscuously to be called SCOTLAND : and even then all correct writers, in mentioning the two countries, distinguished them by *Vetus et nov Scotia, major, or minor, ulterior* and *citerior*.” Yet Ireland seems to have retained the name of SCOTIA till the fifteenth century, at which period it is mentioned as such by foreign writers.

As to its original inhabitants, it is most probable, that IRELAND, as well as ENGLAND, were peopled from the neighbouring Continent of GAUL ; first by the CELTIC and afterwards by the BELGIC tribes ; and this supposition is corroborated, if not proved, by our adoption of the same names of people and places, as used by them. Some authors contend, that the name of SCOTI is derived from the SCYTHI and SCYTHIA ; and that of HIBERNI and HIBERNIA, from IBERIAI and the IBERI, in Spain : others claim for their country a PHENICAN and MILESIAN origin ; and others get so deeply involved in the labyrinth of fable and romance, that they cannot with any degree of plausibility extricate themselves from it.

It appears however clear, that at a very early period, and at a time when the greater portion of Europe laboured under the oppression of Gothic ignorance, IRELAND became a celebrated seat of learning and religion. After the propagation of Christianity, it was dignified with the title of INSULA SANCTORUM, or the Isle of of Saints ; so great was the number of holy men it produced in the fifth and two following centuries, and so many were the missionaries it sent forth to propagate the Christian faith in otlier parts of the world. “ Hither, says an Irish historian, the sciences fled for protection, and here their followers and professors were amply supported. The City of ARMAGH had no fewer than seven thousand scholars studying at the same time, within its university, although the kingdom contained several other academies equally celebrated, if not equally numerous [9].” In the middle of the seventh century, (A. D. 646) we learn from BEDE, that many of the higher and lower order of Anglo-Saxons, retired from their own country into this island : some to indulge their taste for reading, others to lead a life of stricter observance and solitude ; all of whom the *Scots* received with cordiality, lending them books, and affording them gratuitous instruction, as well as daily sustenance.

[10]

The learning, religion, and hospitality for which IRELAND was at this period so justly celebrated, arose from its numerous monastick establishments. Unprofitable as they may be deemed, in these our more enlightened days, when the sciences are no longer immured within the walls of a cloyster, and the seeds of knowledge are so widely spread over the whole face of the globe, when the hands of the Capucin Friar can be more usefully employed than in begging charity ; and the labour of his sturdy limbs contribute towards the service of the community, yet, at a more remote period, these religious establishments were highly beneficial. The Anachorite fixed his abode in some solitary vale ; the sanctity and morality of his life, imparted a high degree of reverence to the spot after his decease ; and the stately abbey sprang up from the ruins of the Hermit’s humble cell. Hither the learned resorted ; here the ancient manuscripts were collected ; here religion and learning found a safe and peaceful asylum. The monks imparted their knowledge and doctrines to numerous students, who disseminated them widely over the world ; neither have their public services been confined to the cloyster ; for they were extended to the cultivation of the wildest desert, and most barren wilderness ; and thus, by the sanctity of their morals, and by their enlightened understandings *within* doors, and their idustrious labours without, they at once instructed, civilized, and benefited mankind.

IRELAND seems to have enjoyed a continued state of peace and prosperity till near the end of the seventh century, when it was invaded by order of EGFRID, King of the NORTHUMBRIANS, and its lands, churches, and monasteries, were laid waste.

“ Anno sexcentesimo octogesimo quarto, (A.D. 684) Ecgfrid, Rex Nordanhymbrorum, misso Hiberniam cum exercitu duce Bercto, vastavit miserè gentem innoxiam, et nationi Anglorum semper amicissimam : ita ut ne Ecclesiis quidem, aut monasteriis manus parceret hostilis.

Hist. Eccles. lib. iii. cap. 26.

Towards the close of the eighth, or the beginning of the ninth century, this country was invaded by a formidable band of northern barbarians [11], who continued their depredations with success for a long series of years. Amongst their leaders, TURGESIUS, a Norwegian, distinguished himself by his tyrannical and daring spirit. According to GIRALDUS, he landed on the Irish coast in the year 838 [12], and by his successful victories, gained possession of a large district ; but this author rather transgresses the bounds of truth, when he says, “ that in a short time TURGESIUS conquered the whole Island ; “ *totam sibi insulam in brevi subjugavit.*” The curious circumstances attending the death of this tyrant, who ruled in Ireland for the long period of thirty years [13], will be related hereafter.

But the Norwegians, or Ostmen [14], undaunted by the death of their countryman, shortly after reappeared on the coasts of IRELAND, not in warlike array, but under the specious pretence of trade and commerce, “ non in bellicâ classè, sed sub pacis obtentu, et quasi mercaturæ exercendæ prætextu.” They were headed by three brothers, AULAF, SYTRIC, and IVOR, who were so well received by the Irish, and conducted themselves with such precaution and address, that they shortly got possession of the three important cities of DUBLIN, WATERFORD, and LIMERICK [15]. Profiting by the supineness of the natives, who were continually engaged, either in external feuds, or domestic broils, this warlike and commercial people strengthened the cities they had already obtained, and extended their power by further encroachments on the territory of the Irish.

For the long protracted period of nearly three hundred years, (from the death of TURGESIUS, in 858 [16], to the landing of the English in 1169) the Irish annals present only a continued detail of intestine wars between the natives and the Ostmen. Of the latter, those settled at DUBLIN appear to have been the most powerful, who, not contented with the establishment and territory they had secured to themselves in a foreign country, carried on a piratical war against their opposite neighbours in WALES, and in these predatory excursions, the rich shrine of SAINT DAVID was frequently plundered, and the city laid waste.

[1] Harris' Hibernica, 8vo. edit. p. 274.

[2] Within these few years Book Societies have been established upon a most liberal and extensive scale, in the large trading towns of England, and upon a smaller scale in many of its villages ; and I heard with much satisfaction from the Booksellers in Dublin, that all *new* publications were eagerly bought, and the *older* works, which treat of Irish History and antiquities, are not to be procured without much difficulty and research.

[3] Every lover of literature will be glad to hear, that *Dr. Beaufort*, the author of the excellent *Memoir and Map of Ireland*, is engaged in a topographical description of Ireland upon an enlarged scale ; and much may be expected from his indefatigable zeal, and the knowledge he possesses of his native country. A *History of Dublin* has also been announced for publication, in which much new and accurate information may be expected from its authors, Mr. Warburton, Keeper of the Records, and the Rev. Mr. Whitelawe, who has

already laid before the public, an interesting, though melancholy account, of the state of some parts of the metropolis.

Statistical accounts have been published of the Counties of *Dublin, Wicklow, Kilkenny, Queen's County, Cavan, Armagh, Monaghan, Meath, Down, Londonderry, Tyrone, Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, and Mayo.*

[4] *A Tour through North and South Wales*, by *H. P. Wyndham*, Esq. 1 vol. 4to. 1781. A small work, entitled, *A Gentleman's Tour in Wales*, was published by the same author, in 1774, and this is the *first* tour I recollect to have seen, that merits either credit or attention.

[5] The literary world will be shortly gratified by a republication of this curious collection of Chronicles, which has been undertaken by a society of booksellers. Should success attend their undertaking, they purpose reprinting the whole of the English Chronicles, which for many years have been exceedingly scarce and dear. When we consider, that they form the groundwork, and very essence, of our English History, it is singular, that they should have remained unpublished for so long a time. May the spirited example of Mr. *Johnes*, who at his own expence has lately printed a magnificent edition of Froissart, be followed with success by the publishers of *Hollinshed* !

[6] I cannot believe, that a man so learned, and so well versed in all the manuscripts of the classical authors, and a man so enlightened in the dark age in which he lived, could place either credit or confidence in those strange events which he so often relates : that he doubted of their truth, his own words will sufficiently testify : “ *Scio tamein et certus sum, me nonnulla scripturum, quæ lectori vel impossibilia vel etiam ridiculosa videbuntur. Nec ego volo temerè credi cuncta quæ posui, quia nec à me ipso ità creduntur, tanquam nulla de eis sit in meâ cogitatione dubitatio.* ”

[7] All who travel with a view to gain information, well know the inconvenience, nay, the *impossibility* of taking with them *many* books. Previous information therefore should be gained from the library *at home* ; the outline of the intended tour sketched out, and short extracts made of the most remarkable objects and historical events that are likely to occur, and attach to it. And here let me endeavour to impress on the minds of the younger part of my readers, the great utility of keeping a *Journal*. It is even useful *at home* to note down daily occurrences, but infinitely more so *abroad* ; it assists the mind in recollecting passed scenes, and improves it by describing them ; and by causing *observation*, it enforces *instruction*.

[8] *This learned writer, speaking of the eleventh century, says, “ Neminem qui toto antecedentium annorum spatio scripserit, produci posse arbitramur qui Scotiæ appellatione Albaniam unquam designaverit.*

[9] *O'Connor*, Dissertations on the History of Ireland, p. 204.

[10] “ Erant ibidem (*in Hiberniâ*) eo tempore (A. D. 664) multi nobilium sumul et mediocrium de gente Anglorum, qui relictâ iosulâ patnâ, vel divinæ lectionis, vel continentioris vitæ gratiâ illò seccsserant ; et quos omnes *Scotti* libertissimè suscipientes, victum eis quotidianum sine pretio, libros quoque ad legendum, et magisterium gratuitum præbere curabant,

Bedæ Hist. Eccles. lib. iii. cap. 27.

[11] These northern invaders have been distinguished by a great variety of names, viz,

Norwegians, Danes, &c. Ostmen, or Eastmen by the English ; and *Duff-Galls, Fin-Galls*, (black and white foreigners) by the Irish.

[12] Dr. *Leland*, in his *History of Ireland*, dates the landing of *Turgesius*, in the year 815 ; and Mr. *Harris*, in his *History of Dublin*, fixes the landing of the *Ostmen*, A. D. 838, agreeing with *Giraldus* ; but he places the death of *Turgesius* in 845.

[13] Annos igitur circiter triginta Norwagiensium pompa et Turgesii tyrannis in Hiberniâ perduravit : et deinde gens Hibernica, servitute depulsa et pristinam libertatem recuperavit, et ad regni gubernacula denuo successit.

Giraldi Topog. Hib. p. 749.

[14] In the Irish History these Norwegians, or Danes, are better known by the name of Ostman, or Eastmen,

“ Gens igitur hæc, quæ nunc *Ostmanica* gens vocatur, in primis terræ istius Regibus satis tractabiles fuerunt et pacifici. Sed ex quo in immensum generis numerositate jam excreerant, et civitates fossatis et muris optimè cinxerant, antiquas inimicitias, altâ mente repostas, nonniuiquam renovare, et acriter rebellare solebant.”

Giraldus, p. 750.

[15] *Giraldus*, alluding to the natural indolence of the Irish nation, says, that the Norwegians were received by the common consent of the whole kingdom.

“ Quoniam enim innatæ ociositatis vitio gens Hibernica, nec maria lustrare, nec mercaturæ indulgere aliquatenus voluerat ; de communi totius regni consilio *perutile* videbatur, ut gens aliqua, cujus operâ aliorum regionum commercia, quibus hæc terra caruerat, huc adverti possent, in aliquibus regni partibus admitterentur.”

Giraldus, p. 750.

—*Harris*, in his *History of Dublin*, places this invasion of the Danes under Aulaffe, in the year 870.

[16] In this chronology, I have followed the dates of *Giraldus* ; who says, that *Turgesius* landed in Ireland in the year 838 ; and that he reigned there as prince for the space of thirty years.

Journal of a tour in Ireland, A.D. 1806 (1807)
Author : Hoare, Richard Colt, Sir, 1758-1838
Publisher : London, Printed for W. Miller; [etc., etc.]
Year : 1807
Language : English
Digitizing sponsor : Google
Book from the collections of : Harvard University
Collection : americana
Source : Internet Archive
<http://archive.org/details/journalatourini01hoargoog>
Edited and uploaded to www.aughty.org
August 23 2013