

Ireland Reference 1877

*Reference Book  
of  
Ireland  
Contains A Complete List of  
Provinces, Countries, Baronies, Cities,  
Parishes and Villages,  
With Their Location, Population, &c., &c.  
Complete Map of Ireland, Showing  
Railroads, Post Roads, &c.  
Illustrated  
Compiles From Latest Statistics,  
Information, &c.,*

James Miller.

1877.

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Ireland is a detached island of an oblong form ; is situated between Latitude 51°, 26' and 55°, 21' North, and Longitude 58°, 20' and 10°, 26' West ; separated from England and Scotland by the Irish Sea, and projects further west into the Atlantic Ocean than any other portion of Europe.

The length from Northeast to Southwest (which is its greatest distance) exceeds 300 miles. The average breadth is about 180 miles, and in several places less.

It partakes largely of England's genial nature, and requires but common industry to make it extremely productive in all the comforts of life.

Its estimated extent is about 40,000 square miles, and its shores show a continuous waved outline on the East coast, but deeply indented by numerous inlets on its other sides, with rock bound coasts North and West. Surface, mostly level or undulating. Most of its mountains, as the Wicklow and Mourne mountains, and those of Galway, Donegal, Mayo and Kerry, are in isolated groups towards the coasts and extremities of the Island, surrounding a central plain of Limestone formation, comprising a large extent of bog land, and traversed only by a few low hill ranges, and the Sliebhloom mountains. McGillicuddy Reeks, in Kerry, of which Carran Tual is the highest summit in Ireland, rises to 3,414 feet above the sea. Granite, flanked by Silurian Strata forms the Wicklow range of mountains on the East coast. The same primary Strata prevails in the Mourne mountains, and an extensive trap formation in Antrim of 800 square miles is succeeded by Clay and Slate on the West. Granite also appears in the Galway mountains, and Red Sandstone extensively prevails in Munster. The plain in the centre is formed of mountain Limestone and contains 7 Coal districts ; the Leinster, or Castlecomer, the Sleeve Aada in Tipperary, the Munster, Loch Allan, Monaghan and Tyrone, besides a small Coal field in County Antrim. The coal found South of Dublin is Anthracite ; that in the North is Bituminous. Copper and Lead are found in the Silurian and mountain Limestone. Chalk beds and Green Sand formations partially prevail, but no tertiary beds.

The principal rivers are the Shannon, Suir, Liffey, Barrow, Blackwater, Nore, Bainfoyle, Boyne, Bandon, Slaney and Erne. The principal Lakes are Loughs, Neagh and Erne in Ulster,

Loughs, Allen, Corrib, Mask and Deirgeash, in Connaught, and the famed Loughs of Killarney in Munster, near the Southwest extremity of the island. The aggregate surface of these Loughs is estimated at 336 square miles ; Lough Strangford or Belfast Lough, Lough Foyle and Lough Swilly on the North and Northeast coasts are inlets of the sea, other principal inlets are Carlingford, Dundrum, Dundalk and Dublin Bays on the East, and Bantry, Dunmanus, Tralee, Dingle, Galway, Clew, Blacksod, Killala, Sligo and Donegal Bays, with the estuaries of the Shannon and Kenmare rivers on the West coast. Ireland is much indented by the sea, no locality being above 50 miles from the shore, and this conduces to the general mildness of its climate. Mean Summer temperature,  $60^{\circ} 6$ , mean Winter,  $39^{\circ} 9$  ; mean temperature of year,  $49^{\circ} 6$ . Annual fall of rain, 30 to 40 inches ; the greatest fall being in the South and Southwest. The Arbutus and the broad leaved Myrtle grows luxuriantly in some of the Southern Counties, and other plants of South Europe flourish, while Alpin plants of the extreme North of Europe are also found in some of the mountains. Nine-tenths of the lands were confiscated by the government of Cromwell and William the III. and bestowed on English proprietors, by whose descendants the bulk of Irish property is still possessed.

The wool produced in Ireland has been estimated to amount in annual value to £400,000 Sterling. Woolen stuffs are made in centre of the Country, besides mixed stuffs and silks in Dublin, Waterford and other principal cities. The conversion of Grain into Flour and Meal has become an extensive business. The principal exports are raw products, such as Wheat, Oats, Flour, Butter, Bacon, Beef, Eggs, Wool, Flax, Linen, Ore and Spirits ; Imports comprise Coal, Culm, Fish, Salt, Woolen and Cotton Yarn, Fabrics and colonial produce. Value of exports amount to about £22,000,000 Sterling Annually; of imports about £18,000,000 Sterling, mostly to and from Liverpool, Bristol, Glasgow and other British ports. The principal commercial ports are Dublin, Belfast, Limerick, Cork, Waterford and Londonderry. The Grand and Royal Canals with Railroads intersect Ireland throughout from East to West, and from North to South. The population of Ireland in 1871 was 5,412,377, distributed as follows : Leinster, 1,457,635, Munster, 1,393,485, Ulster, 1,833,228, Connaught, 846,213. The general valuation of houses and lands in Ireland in 1871 was £13,257,673. There were in the Workhouses 48,926 persons, in Hospitals 2,894, and in public Lunatic Asylums 7,116 ; there are 6,742 idiots, 9,763 lunatics, 81,000 paupers, 3,467 convicted prisoners, of persons 100 years old and upwards there were in Leinster 27 men and 62 women, in Munster, 101 men and 187 women, in Ulster 92 men and 133 women, and in Connaught 39 men and 83 women.

The population is very uncertain, in consequence of the large immigration, together with various other causes, but at the present time the population may be estimated at 6,000,000—the census of 1871 giving 5,412,377. Ireland having less barren land than either Scotland or England has its advantage in being capable of abundant supplies to England. It is divided into four provinces, each province containing several Counties. The Parliament is now incorporated with the British, but they retain all their Law Courts and other establishments for the distribution of Justice.

Ireland has since the year 1800 been represented in the British House of Lords by twenty eight temporal and four spiritual peers ; (elected for Life,) who take office in rotation, and since the Reform Act in the House of Commons, by 105 members ; two elected by each County, two by each of the cities, Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Belfast, Galway and Waterford, also Trinity College, Dublin ; and by each of twenty-five other boroughs.

The local government is vested in a Lord Lieutenant assisted by the Secretary for Ireland and a Privy Council nominated by the Crown, besides an indefinite number ; the Bishop of

Meath being always one, *ex-officio*. The Judicial power is with the Lord Chancellor, the Master of the Rolls and twelve Circuit Judges.

In 1834 the religious denomination were, Roman Catholics 6,427, 712 and Protestants of all Sects 1,300,220. The Protestants are mostly confined to Ulster and portions of Leinster. The Protestant Church has two Archbishoprics (Dublin and Armagh) and ten Bishoprics. The Roman Catholic Church (unendowed) has four Archbishoprics and twenty five Bishoprics.

The most important institutions for instruction are the University of Dublin, Trinity College, the Queen's Colleges of Belfast, Galway and Cork, in connection with the Queen's University in Ireland, (Established in 1850,) the Roman Catholic College of St. Patrick, Maynooth College, St. Jarlaths, Tuam, Carlow, Armagh and Thurles, the Belfast Academical Institution, St. Kyran's, Kilkenny, Clonegroves, County Clare, All-Hallows, Drumcondra, near Dublin, Missionary College, endowed Mercantile School, endowed Classical Schools, Parochial Schools, National Educational Schools, Church educational, Kildare Place Schools, Christian Brother Schools and Sunday Schools. The National Schools, aided by Parliament grants in 1851 of £164,577, amounted in 1862 to 6,576, attended by 978,326 children.

Christianity was first introduced into Ireland in the year 432 by St. Patrick ; from the eighth to the twelfth century the Country was a continual scene of warfare between the various Kings and their chiefs, and in the year 1174 Henry the VII. of England conquered the country, which he portioned out among his Anglo-Norman followers.

During the reign of King John the division into Counties took place, and English laws and customs were then partially introduced, still the Irish continued to resist the government of Henry the VII. James the I. and Elizabeth, by repeated rebellion and outbreaks ; the most important of these were in 1641, 1698, 1798 and 1848.

In the year 1800 a union with Ireland and England took place ; in 1829 the Roman Catholic Emancipation Act was passed ; in 1832 the Irish Reform Bill ; in 1838 the Poor Law Bill ; in 1844 the Irish repeal agitation was at its height ; in 1847 the great famine took place in consequence of a failure in the potato crop ; in 1848 an insurrection of the people took place but was subdued ; in 1868 the disendowment of the established church took place ; in 1870 the Land Bill was passed ; and in 1871 the Party Possession Act was passed.

The great decrease of the population of Ireland consequent with the calamities of 1845, 1846 and 1847, has effected more than anything in showing the result of those calamities before the mind forcibly.

Taking periods of ten years, the Commissioners of Census gives us the following numbers, viz : 1811, 5,937,856 ; 1821, 6,801,827 ; 1831, 7,767,401 ; 1841, 8,175,124 ; 1851, 6,661,830 ; 1861, 5,757,821 ; 1871, 5,412,377 ; an increase of population until 1841 to 1845. Three years of a very meagre crop, (1845, 1846, 1847,) together with a very large Immigration is the cause of this large decrease in population. It is estimated that during the period from 1841 to 1851 about 1,300,000 immigrated from Ireland, or about 130,000 Annually.

Population of Ireland at each Decennial Census, from 1821 to 1871.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Per Cent.
1821	8,341,920	3,459,901	6,801,827	
1831	3,794,880	3,972,521	7,767,401	14.19 increase.

1841	4,019,576	4,155,548	8,175,124	5.25	“
1851	3,212,523	3,361,755	0,574,278	19.58	decrease
1861	2,839,370	2,901,597	5,798,967	11.79	“
1871	2,638,741	2,773,636	5,412,377	0.72	“

This table shows a steady decrease since 1841.

Value of Land and Buildings is between £12,000,030 and £15,000,000 Sterling ; number of vessels employed in the fisheries, about 14,000, manned by about 59,000 persons around the coasts where Herrings, Pilchards, Cod, Ling and Hake are among the most plentiful fish taken and in the estuaries where Salmon and Eels are abundant. But the salt fish consumed in the country is still imported, chiefly from Scotland and other places. Mineral products comprise Marble of the finest quality, Coal, Copper, Lead, Antimony, Manganese, Fullers Earth, Slate, and Peat from the bogs, which forms the principal fuel for fire and is of high importance owing to the general deficiency of timber. Manufactures consist of Paper, Glass, Tobacco, and especially Linen Goods, the chief seat of latter is Ulster. The Malt trade and distilling of whiskey are extensively carried on.

The Province of Munster has 9 territorial Divisions, Counties and 3 Cities.

The Province of Ulster has 10 territorial Divisions, 9 Counties and Carrickfergus.

The Province of Connaught has territorial Divisions, 5 Counties and one town.

The Province of Leinster has 15 territorial Divisions, 12 Counties, one town and two Cities.

#### Colonization of Ireland.

WESSELING the latest editor of DIODORUS, acknowledges he cannot account for Ireland being thus named instead of *Ierne*, *Iouernia*, and *Iernis*. But DIODORUS who had penetrated far into the North of Europe, there first heard and has happily preserved the genuine name of our Isle, a name almost two thousand years old, and yet unaccountably passed over by all our antiquaries ; a name which removes every difficulty about the country designed by DIODORUS.

*Iri*, or as now written *Eri* in Irish, is the great Isle. In Teutonic *Er-aii*, contracted into *Eri*, is the farther Isle. It received this appellation from the Teutonic tribes, who then possessed Europe, and has been invariably used by them in every age. Here are the proofs :

A. D.

540. GILDAS left the school of ILTUTUS in Wales and went to *Iris*.

870. In Islands Landnamaboc, one of the oldest Islandic Sages, *Ireland* is named *Ir-land*. In King Alfred's Anglo Saxon translation of *Orofius*, Ireland is styled Ireland.

891. *Three Irishmen*, says the *Anglo Saxon Chronicle*, came in a boat from *Yr-land*.

918. In the same record under this year our Isle has the same name :

1048. In the same Chronicle, Harold flies to *Yr-land*.

1105. ELNOTH in his life of St. Canute calls the Irish *Iros*.

1141. ODERICUS VITALIS styles the Irish *Irenses*, and their country *Ire-land*.

In WORMIUS'S RUNIC LITERATURE, the Irish alphabet is called *Iraletur*. The identity of DIODORUS' *Iris* with the *Iris*, *Ira*, *Iros*, *Irenses*, *Ire* and *Ir* of the Gothic and Teutonic people, and that traced for above six hundred years clearly evinces that this Greek Author has preserved the genuine and original name of our Isle. There are other proofs no doubt which have escaped the writers research as to the change of *Iris* into *Ierne*, whoever is acquainted with the alteration of words by Greek dialects and the effect of their epenthesis and paragogue will easily account for the mutation.

If it be asked why this original name has been hitherto unnoticed, the answer seems to be, that antiquaries find it much easier to build systems on conjectures than to laboriously enquire after truth and certainty.

The earliest notice in Roman writers of the name of Ireland (Hibernia) is in JULIUS CÆSAR and was given probably by him or his countrymen from its supposed coldness, for it was the practice of antiquity to give appellations to countries and people from their situation, productions, or some peculiarity. STRABO, who wrote long after CÆSAR, describes Britain as frigid from its vicinity to the North, and Ireland as scarcely habitable from its coldness. Hibernia was then an appellation suitable to such conceptions.

That the Romans had separate Maps of their whole Empire, and even of parts not under their dominion (as was the case of Ireland) has been shown. Whether BALBUS'S Commentary containing the names of cities, rivers, promontories and tribes was ever published or at what time we are nowhere told. It is certain MARINUS of Tyre, and PTOLEMY the celebrated astronomer and geographer of Pelusium, obtained information of these and transmitted it to posterity. PTOLEMY flourished A. D. 150 ; it might therefore be expected that the names of places in Ireland which he records would have been purely Celtic ; this our native antiquaries positively deny, unless in a few instances. The country, particularly the maritime parts, was possessed at different times by such various tribes of foreigners, that we need not wonder at the instability and change of names in those distant ages. The Celts, however were the majority and preserved their language. They adopted the religion and manners of these foreigners, causing a mixed superstition of Celtic and Scythic to spring up, which both British and Irish writers call, (but very improperly,) Druidic ; for the Druids were the Priests of the Celtes. On this distinction, and on this alone, rests the true and accurate explanation of the antiquities of Ireland. To establish this point it will therefore be necessary to detail with some minuteness the names and progress of the foreign colonies which arrived here.

CAMDEN is explicit that Ireland was originally peopled by Britons, but after, (from the revolutions arising in other countries,) Gauls, Germans and Spaniards were compelled to seek refuge here ; SPENSER, who published his " View of Ireland," a few years after CAMDEN, tells us the Gauls were the first inhabitants of Britain and Ireland : that Gauls from Belgium and Celtica settled in the South, Scythians in the North, and Spaniards in the West of Ireland ; as to the latter, he doubts whether they were Gauls or of some other country. He is correct in making the Gauls or Celts the primeval possessors of Britain and Ireland. But not so when he

says the Gauls from Belgium were the same people. In the infancy of antiquarian disquisitions such errors are pardonable. He confirms the Scythic derivation of the Irish by an ample comparison of their customs and manners.

CÆSAR informs us that Gaul (or now France) was divided between three races of men, the Celts, Belgæ and Aquitani, who differed in language, manners and laws. He confounds the Celtic and Belgic practices, calling them Druidic, and in this he has been but too closely followed by subsequent writers. The Celts having colonized Britain passed from thence into Ireland. Hear what a man of consummate abilities advances on this subject : without recurring, says he, to the authority of story, but rather diligently observing the law and course of nature, I conjecture that whatever is fabled of the Phœnicians, Scythians, Biscayners, etc, of their first inhabiting Ireland, that the places nearest Carrickfergus were first peopled, and that by those who came from the parts of Scotland opposite thereto. He thinks the Britons might come from Holyhead or St. David's Head but that the primitive possessors arrived from Scotland, the passage being short and easily performed in the frailest boats. The almost identity of the *Erse* and *Irish* is complete evidence of the fact. The Irish are not descended from the Welsh Britons, because their dialect greatly deviates from the Irish ; insomuch that LHUYD, LEIBNITZ and ROWLANDS acknowledge the Welsh to be but a secondary colony ; being Cimbri, Cumri or German Celts. The original Irish were then Celts, who about 300 years before our era were disturbed by the Fir-bolgs, or Belgæ, a branch of the great Scythian Swarm.

The Irish Fir-bolgs were Belgic men, Viri Belgici, or Belgæ, from the Northern coast of Gaul. They possessed no inconsiderable portion of Britain before the arrival of the Romans, and by Richard of Cirencester, are said to have come here a little before Cæsar's attempt on Britain. Ptolemy mentions the Menapii and Cauçi in Ireland in the middle of the Second Century ; they must have come from Belgic Gaul and Germany, for we meet with no trace of them in Britain ; Menapia in Wales being founded by the Irish Menapii. This Teutonic people inhabited the sea coast of Wexford and Waterford, and by the Irish are called Garmans or Germans. Our antiquaries assure us these Belgic tribes divided Ireland into five provinces, and particularly held Connaught and gave it Kings to the end of the third Century. Numberless places were called after them, and many families are derived from them : as the O'Beunachan's of Sligo, the O'Layns of Hymania : the Nials, McLaughlins and others are of Scandinavian ancestors. LHUYD puts an end to all doubt as to the power of the Belgæ in this Isle, by exhibiting a long list of words springing from the Teutonic and by adding :—We have no room for supposing, unless it be in a very few examples, that the Irish have borrowed these words from the English ; because they are extant in the old Irish MSS. written before the union of the two nations ; and moreover, they have several hundred Teutonic words that are not at all in the English.

The Picts, another Gothic or Teutonic people, early established themselves here as they had long before in Scotland. The same may be said of the Scots, both were Scythians and part of the Saxon nation ; which, in the middle of the fifth Century, as we learn from Stephen of Byzantium was seated on the Cimbric Chersonese. Part of this people settled in Norway, and from thence sent colonies to Scotland, where they were called Albin Scutes ; some came to Ireland and were named Irin Scutes. Hence SIDONIUS APPOLLINARIS in the fifth Century, speaks of them as a kindred people, who united in pillaging the Roman provinces.

It is conjectured, that the Scots came to our Isle two or three Centuries before the Nativity, and as to their name that seems not derived from a city or particular place, or ferocity or eminence in war, but from their original country, Scythia. USHER has shown that they were

distinguished by this appellation from the third to the twelfth Century, and of course were the dominant people. After the settlement of the Balgæ, Picts and Scots in Ireland, every gale wafted over innumerable hordes of Northern rovers, these the Irish called Fomora, from Fomoir, or Finnland. There is an isle in the Baltic on the coast of Holstein named Femera or Femergen, where probably some powerful piratical chief reigned, who united under his command Danish, Swedish, Finnish, Iutish and Norwegian adventurers in predatory voyages, as was common in the middle ages, and which the words of O'Flaherty seem to intimate. In the age of Tacitus, the Finns were mere savages ; afterwards Finnland contained six provinces and various tribes, and became, as we see, superior to their neighbors. O'Flaherty relates, that Tuathal, an Irish prince, married Bania the daughter of Scalius, King of Finnland, about A. D. 130. O'Brien remarks that Tuathal, after changed into Tothil, Tohill and Toole, was the same as Totila among the Goths, and that many Gothic names are to be found among the Scots or Irish ; and O'Conor, from this marriage, concludes, that a close intercourse was maintained with the nations bordering on the Baltic in the second Century. However, the reigns of Tuathal and Scalius are antedated by some ages. So famous and respected were the Finns in Ireland that the word Finn was used as an honorable addition to the names of princes, as Fiatach-Finn, Fiah Finnoladh, Finn-Nachta, etc. The districts seized by the Finns were named Bescha-na-Fene, and their monstrous stone monuments, Leabthachana Bhfeinne, the beds or tombs of the Fene or Finns. They had the Bhearla-na-Fene or Finnish dialect.

The Irish intermarrying with them, formed a militia to protect the coast against their marauding countrymen. This was the body of National forces, celebrated in Irish romantic history under the name of Fionn Eirionn, and led by the great Fin MacCumhal their general. It is pretended that the names of the stations and officers of this Finnish militia are still extant. Among the latter we find Oshen MacFinn, Fian MacFenrasse, Boge MacFinn, Row MacFinn, and Rogsklaygh MacFinn. Camden informs us that the tales and songs concerning the giants Finn MacHuyle and Oshin MacOwen were popular among the Irish in his time. Let every reader appreciate the value of these traditions and also those in Mr. Macpherson's Ossian.

Another colony of Northerners are recognized by our historians under the names of Tuatha de Danans, Danir, Dansfir or Danes ; they came from Denmark. O'Flaherty saw no objection to this, but, that the name of Dane was not known until the sixth Century, however, as he well observes, like those of the Picts and Scots, the name might have been long known among the people of the North before the Romans became acquainted with it ; O'Flaherty allows they spoke the German or Teutonic and inhabited the cities Falia, Gorla, Finnia and Muria in the North of Germany. In the black book of Christ Church, Dublin, the arrival of the Danes here, before the age of St. Patrick is recorded. O'Conor with the scantiness of information asserts that the Scandinavian tribes which infested Ireland were not distinguished by particular names. Bishop Nicholson said that he once designed to give the Easterlings or Ostmen a Chapter, but summing up the evidence he found they did not deserve such regard, but from the specimen here given, it will be seen that the labor of investigation and not materials were wanting.

The Leathmannice or Lettmanni were another tribe settled here. They came from Letten, Letitia, or Lettenland, a part of Livonia. The name of the river running through Dublin is, in GIRALDUS CAMBRENSIS, *Avon Liff* ; in old records, Avene Liff, and Avon Liffy. CAMDEN will have it to be the Libnius of Ptolemy, but Libnius is the bay of Sligo. Avon Leivi or Lifi is the river of the Leivi, a tribe adjoining the Lettmanni. Dublin, in Ptolemy, is called Eblana ; a true Teutonic name from Eb-land, as the sea at ebb-tide left uncovered a strand of eight thousand acres ; a sight very striking to the northerners. Dublin seems to have derived its name

from Duflin, a town in Scandinavia ; its Irish name of Baileacleath, or the town of hurdles, is a hybrid compound of Irish and Gallic.

The Martinei were a Belgic tribe probably from Martiniana in Zealand. O'Flaherty calls them the remains of the Belgæ.

Whether the Ostmanni or Ostmen, who ruled in Ireland, were a particular tribe or a general name, has been doubted. SNORRO says they came from Sweden. NICOLSON and GIRALDUS bring them from Norway. Murray denies their ever having left the Baltic, or invaded Ireland. This assertion is no proof, especially as remote tribes at this time came to Ireland. There were other Northern tribes ; as the Gottiac, the Gaill and others arrived and obtained settlements here.

This system of Northern colonization has been supported by domestic and other writers, and though these various tribes spoke a language radically the same, yet they had different dialects which are distinctly noticed. Thus the Belgæ used the Belgaid or Teutonic ; the Fene, the Bhearla-na-Fene ; the Gaill, the Gaoileag ; the Saxons, the Sagsbhearla ; the Scots, the Scotbhearla ; and there seems to have been a common language, made up of all, like the lingua Franca, and named Bhearla-na-Teibidh. Hence the Celtic became the most corrupt of any living language, and it is fortunate that it was not totally annihilated. Dr. O'BRIEN explains why it was not. " The Northern rovers, he says, always came in small bodies, and when landed were usually employed by one party of the natives against the other, by thus weakening both they were better able to establish themselves ; besides they carried no women in these expeditions, but procured wives from the natives, whereby they and their children insensibly lost their native language." And this he exemplifies in the case of the English who came over in small parties after the conquest of Ireland.

In a word without indulging any idle or absurd hypothesis or conjecture, but taking the evidence of ancient writers as they fairly lie before us, there are ample grounds for believing the first Northern invasion of this Isle was many ages before the incarnation. Ptolemy proves the existence of German tribes here in the second Century, and Latin poets and historians evince the connection between the Irish and Northerns to the end of the fourth Century. The author of the Eulogium particularly remarks the invitation of the Gothic nation of the Picts into Britain, by Gratian and Valentinian, A. D., 382. Some time after Gratianus Municeps drove the Irish back to their country ; but on his death in A. D. 407 they returned and brought with them the Scots, Norwegians and Dacians or Danes and wasted Britain. Throughout the fifth Century they infested England, and about A. D. 450, the Anglo Saxons arrived in that Island. The perpetual wars excited by these foreigners was as subversive of literary repose as it was destructive of literary memorials, and Irish writers unanimously complain of the latter being lost in these convulsions. Very little can therefore be expected previous to the ninth Century ; from that time the Northerns themselves had some imperfect records of their achievements, and partly supply the defects of our domestic annalists. Thus the Icelandic chronicles have the names of Glromal in A. D. 890 ; of Murchard, about A. D. 962 ; of Conchobar in A. D. 1018, and of Dubnial and Kyriawal in the ninth Century, as Kings of Ireland. But the most extraordinary omission of our historians is their not enquiring who Turges was, from whom descended, and when he flourished. Instead of these interesting facts we are amused with childish tales of his cruelty and amorous adventures. It would have been strange indeed of a leader who subdued the Irish, castellated and garrisoned their country, and with a triumphant army for many years held sovereign sway, should not have found one Scald to transmit his name and actions to posterity. The Icelandic records introduce us to this celebrated chief, under the name of Thorgils. The Irish not using the letter " H," but as an



aspirate, and dropping one where two consonants come together, make from Thorgil's Torgis, thus Torges or Torgesius, an Ostman, was bishop of Limerick, and Thorgils is, at present, in Norway pronounced Torges.

Harald Harfagre was monarch of Norway about A. D. 890 ; he gave to Thorgils and Frothe, (two of his sons,) a well appointed fleet to plunder the coast of Scotland, Wales and Ireland. They landed in Dublin and reduced it under their power ; Frotho was taken off by poison, but Thorgis reigned long in that city, and at length fell by the machinations of the Irish. Thorgils was attended by 120 ships and numerous forces ; the Northerns dispersed over our Isle, quickly flocked to his standard and recognized the son of the great Harald ; for thirty years he possessed the sovereignty of Ireland. He built castles, forts and wards, cast up trenches, banks and ditches for safeguard and refuge, was enamoured with the fair daughter of O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, who agreeing to send his daughter to him, accompanied her with sixteen young men in female attire, who dispatched Thorgils- with their skenes—such is the Irish account.

The interval between the Irish and Icelandic accounts is probably not very great.

Such is the scheme of colonization concisely sketched out and now laid before the reader. It admits of enlargement even to lassitude. This scheme is founded on the sure basis of written authorities, and which, while it dispels the obscurity, casts a steady light on every branch of Irish antiquities.

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#### PLACES IN IRELAND : ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED.

AGHRIM ; or AUGHRIN.—A parish of County Galway 13 miles Northeast Loughrea. It is famous in British history for the great victory obtained here in 1691 by the troops of William III. over those of James II. Area, 7,252 acres. Population, 2,127.

AHASCKAGH.—A town and parish of County Galway, on the Ahascragh, 17 miles North Northeast Loughrea. Area, 17,305 acres. Population of parish, 5,380 ; of town, 775. The town is neat and clean.

ADRAHAN.—A parish of Connaught, County Galway, 7 miles North by West of Gort. Area, 17,984 acres. Population, 4,191.

ATHENRY.—Is a town and parish of County Galway, Connaught, it is situated 13 miles East of Galway. Area, 24,952. Population, 5,988; of town 1,236. It is poor and dull, but is one of the oldest towns in the county, and parts of its ancient walls, gates, &c., are still traceable.

BALLINASLOE.—Is a town of Counties, Galway and Roscommon, Connaught. It is situated on the river Suck, 22 miles South of Roscommon. Population, 4,934. The Suck River divides it into two parts, connected across an Island by a causeway and two bridges. The town is very neatly built and has a curious church, and several fine buildings. The largest fair in Ireland for the sale of cattle and sheep is held here annually. About 50,000 to 60,000 cattle, and from 6,000 to 7,000 sheep, are the average numbers sold at each fair. This is also a station of the Galway Militia.

BUNRATTY.—(Upper and Lower,) Are two baronies ; the Upper in County Clare, Munster, on Shannon river. The Lower in County Clare, Munster, 11 miles South Southeast of Clare. Area, 2,755 acres. Population, 1,320. It also contains a village, and an ancient Norman Castle of the 13th Century.

CLARE—Is a maritime County of Munster, situated with the Atlantic on the West, and on the East, North and South the Counties, Galway, Tipperary and Limerick, and being separated from the two latter by Lough Derg and the Shannon river. Area, 827,994 acres ; of which 445,009 acres are arable, 8,384 in plantations, and the balance being either water or waste. Population in 1851, 212,428 ; occupying 44,870 houses. The surface is mostly hilly and rugged, but there is some fine level land. The Fergus and its branches are the principal rivers. Average rent of land, 11s. 3d. per acre. The fisheries are very important, but there are no manufactories of any account. Clare is subdivided into 11 baronies and 80 parishes, in the dioceses of Kilfenora, Killaloe and Limerick. The chief towns are Ennis, (the capital) Kilrush, Ennistimon and a part of Killaloe. This County sends 2 members to the House of Commons. There are reputed to be the remains of 118 baronial Castles in this County.

CLONEY. — (CLONY or CLONIE) Is a parish of County Clare, Munster, 5 miles East Northeast of Ennis. Area, 10,656 acres. Population, 3,624.

CLONFERT and KILMORE.—Are two contiguous bogs in County Galway, Connaught, situated Northwest of the Shannon river. They comprise 9,615 acres, with an average depth of 30 feet. They are traversed by the Grand Canal.

CONFERT.—County Galway, Connaught, 4½ miles North Northeast of Eyrecourt. Area, 24,877 acres. Population, 5,704. Surface flat and boggy. It is traversed by the Grand Canal.

CLONTURSKERT.— CLONTURSKERT (or CLONTHUSKERT) is in County Galway, Connaught, 5 miles North Northwest of Eyrecourt. Area, 15,509 acres. Population, 3,711

CONNAUGHT.— Is a province ; being the most Westerly and smallest of the four ; having the Atlantic Ocean on its North and West ; the provinces of Ulster and Leinster on the East, and the province of Munster on the Southeast. Its greatest length is 86 miles from North to South, and breadth 81 miles. Area, 4,392,000 acres ; of which about 2,000,000 acres are waste or water. Population in 1851, 1,418,859. The Western part is divided into numerous peninsulars, the largest of which is Connemara and has numerous islands, as Achill, Innisbegil, Clara, etc. The numerous bays afford commodious harbors. The surface of the Western part is mountainous and has some highly picturesque scenery. The surface of the North and South is mountainous, while in the centre it is a level plain. The Bonnet, Uncon, Arrow, Moy, Clare and Shannon, which forms the Eastern boundary, are the principal rivers. Coal is found in Lough Allen district. The province is divided into five Counties, Mayo and Galway on the West and Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon on the East. Connaught was formerly a Kingdom of the Irish Heptarchy and ruled by the O'Connors ; and in 1590 was divided into Counties and came under English administration. The chief towns of the province are Galway, Roscommon, Sligo, Carrick, Castlebar, Tuam, Ballinasloe and Athlone.

DERG LOUGH.—Is the largest and most picturesque of the Loughs of the Shannon, and separates County Tipperary, Munster, from County Galway, Connaught. Length, 24 miles North to South. Breadth, from 2 to 6 miles. Area, 29,570 acres. It receives the surplus waters of Loughs, O'Grady and Craney.

ENNIS.—Is a parliamentary and municipal borough and market town of County Clare, Munster, on the river Fergus, 20 miles West Northwest of Limerick. Population in 1851, 8,623. It contains all the usual buildings, churches etc. Markets, Tuesday and Saturday. Fairs, April 25 and September 3. The borough sends one member to the House of commons

EYRECOURT.—(or AIRCOURT.) Is a small market town of County Galway, Connaught, 5 miles Northwest of Banagher. Population, 1,419. The residence of the Eyre family is in this vicinity.

FEACLE.—Is a parish of County Clare, Munster, 5 miles West Northwest of Scariff. Area, 36,972 acres. Population, 10,156.

GALWAY.—Is a maritime County of Connaught, having the Counties, Mayo and Roscommon on the North, Counties, Roscommon, Kings and Tipperary on the East, County Clare and the Bay of Galway on the South, and on the West the Atlantic Ocean. Area, 1,565,726 acres, of which about 800,000 acres are waste and water. Population in 1851, 298,129. The surface in the East is flat and fertile, interspersed with bogs, but in the West and on the coast is mountainous and rocky. The climate is good, being mild and humid. The Shannon, Black and Suck are the principal rivers. Agriculture is very backward, the land being better adapted for grazing, and the breed of long-horned cattle is much esteemed. Average rent of land, 12s. 1d. per acre. The fisheries are very valuable. The County, which is second in size in Ireland, is divided into 2 Ridings, East and West, and comprises 16 baronies and 116 parishes in the diocese of Clonfert, Tuam, Kilmacdaugh, Elphin and Killaloe. This County sends four members to the House of Commons. The chief towns are Galway, Tuam and Ballinsaloe.

GALWAY.—Is a parliamentary and municipal borough, seaport and market town of County Galway, Connaught, situated at the mouth of the river flowing from Lough Corrib into Galway bay.. Latitude, 53° 15' North. Longitude, 9° 3' West. Area of borough, 628 acres. Population, 24,697. It is very poorly built and the streets are narrow and dirty. It has two bridges, some remains of ancient fortresses. Church, Roman Catholic Cathedral, Grammar School, Court House, County Jail, etc. The harbor has a Light-house and good docks, capable of admitting vessels of 500 tons burthen. Markets, Wednesday and Saturday. The borough sends two members to the House of Commons. It gives title of Viscount to a branch of the Arundel family.

GORT.—Is a market town of County Galway, Connaught, 16 miles North Northeast of Ennis. Population, 3,056. It is very neatly built and completely hidden amongst trees. It gives the title of Viscount to the Vereker family, whose mansion, Loughcooter, is two miles from the town.

GRAND CANAL.— Is in Counties, Dublin, Kildare and Kings, proceeds from Dublin Westward and joins the Shannon near Banagher. Length, 85 miles. Breadth at surface, 40 feet. Depth, 6 feet. It has a branch 27 miles to Athy where it joins the Barrow river, also branches in Ballinasloe, Portarlinton, Mountmellick, etc. It was begun in 1765 and cost to complete £2,000,000. Annual amount of tolls £40,000.

INCHICRONAN.—(or INNISCROANE) Is a parish of County Clare, Munster 5¼ miles North Northeast of Ennis. Area, 17,438 acres. Population 5,118.

INNISCALTHRA.—Is a parish of Counties, Clare and Galway, Munster and Connaught, 3¾ miles East Northeast of Scariff. Area, 11,284 acres. Population, 2,378. Holy Island is in this parish.

KILCONNEL.—Is a parish of County Galway, Connaught, 7¼ miles West Northwest of Ballinasloe. Area, 6,082 acres. Population, 1,880.

KILLALOE.—Is a thriving market town and Episcopal See of County Clare, Munster, on the Shannon river, here crossed by a bridge of 19 arches, 11 miles North Northeast of Limerick. Population 2,773, including the suburb of Ballina.

KILMACDUAGH.—Is a parish of County Galway, Connaught, 3 miles South Southwest of Gort. Area, 8,804 acres. Population, 4,149. It has the ruins of a Cathedral, Abbey and a Round Tower, which leans even more than the tower of Pisa.

LOUGHREA.—Is a market town of County Galway, Connaught, 20 miles East Southeast of Galway, on a Lake of the same name. Population, 5,485. It has a neat Parish Church, several Roman Catholic Chapels and Schools, a handsome Nunnery, and a Priory, adjoining the remains of a small Abbey, founded by Richard de Burgh about 1300 ; also some manufactories of Linen.

MEELICK.—Is a parish of County Galway, Connaught, 2 miles Southeast of Eyrecourt. Area, 4,292 acres. Population, 1,710.

MUNSTER.—Is the most Southern and largest of the four provinces of Ireland. Area, 6,064,579 acres. Population, 2,896,161. Surface is highly diversified, and the soil is watered by the Shannon river on the North, and the Suir river on the East. This province is divided into the Counties, Clare, Kerry, Limerick, Cork, Tipperary and Waterford. Before the Norman conquest it was separated into the Kingdoms of North and South Munster.

PORTUMNA.—Is a market town of County Galway, Connaught, 17 miles East South-east of Lough Rea. Population, 1,643. It has a good trade.

QUIN.—Is a parish of County Clare, Munster, 5 miles East of Clare. Area, 9,585 acres. Population, 3,634 ; of village, 173.

SCARIFF.—Is a market town of County Clare, Munster, on the Scariff river, 8 miles North Northwest of Killaloe. Population, 656.

SHANNON.—Is the principal river of Ireland. It rises in a pond called the Shannon Pot, near the base of Cuileagh mountain, County Cavan, and flows generally South and empties into the Atlantic Ocean, after a course of 224 miles. It divides Connaught from Leinster, and traverses the Northern part of Munster, separating County Clare from Counties, Tipperary, Limerick and Kerry. It also, by its widening, forms Loughs, Allen, Baffin, Ree and Derg. It is navigable to near its source, although it is obstructed in many places by rapids and shallows, to overcome which, large sums have been expended. Its affluents are the Boyle, Suck and Fergus rivers on the West, and the Inny, Brosna, Mulkerna and Maig rivers on the East. It is tidal for the last third of its course, and may be ascended by vessels of 400 tons to Limerick. It is connected with Dublin by the Grand Canal from Shannon harbor near Banagher, and by the Royal Canal, which joins it at Farmonbarry, near Longford. It gives title of Earl to the Boyle family.

TOMGRANEY.—(or TOMGRINI.) Is a parish of County Clare, Munster, 7 miles North Northwest of Killaloe. Area, 14,181 acres. Population, 6,113 ; of village, 371.

TULLA.—(or TULLOH.) Is a market town and parish of County Clare, Munster, 9½ miles Northeast of Ennis. Area of parish, 24,532 acres. Population, 8,748 ; of town, 1,217.

TYNAGH.—Is a parish of County Galway, Connaught, 7½ miles Northwest of Portumna. Area, 12,520 acres. Population, 5,941 ; of village, 348. The remains of a Church and four Castles are here.

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