

THE WOODS OF IRELAND

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That the climate and soil of Ireland are naturally suited to the growth of timber of nearly every useful kind indigenous to Europe, and that the island was anciently stored with woods and forests of vast extent, is proved not only by the testimony of all who have considered its physical and geological formation, but by the express statement of historians and chroniclers, and the convincing implication of our topographical nomenclature. The woods of Ireland, and especially those formerly adjacent to our capital, were famous even before the coming of the English. It was from the fair green of Oxmantown, once covered with woods that extended westward over the whole of what is now the Phoenix Park, that William Rufus drew the timber for the roof of Westminster Hall, where, as the chronicle of Dr. Hanmer has it, 'no English spider webbeth or breedeth to this day.'[1] And, as tradition avers, it was from Cullenswood that, only a generation after the coming of the Normans, the Byrnes and Tooles made the descent upon the Bristolmen who had settled in Dublin for which Easter Monday was long had in remembrance in Dublin as 'Black Monday.'[2]

Giraldus Cambrensis states in his 'Topographia Hibernica' that the woodlands of Ireland exceeded in his day the plains or cleared and open land. And not even the zealous fervour of the author of 'Cambrensis Eversus' has seriously endeavoured to refute this assertion of our earliest descriptive chronicler.[3] Anyone who looks into Dr. Joyce's suggestive book on Irish names of places will be astonished to note the extent to which the root words expressive of woods, forests, and trees are found in the names of hills and valleys, townlands, and districts which are now bare of every vestige of the abundant timber of which these names have long been the only memory. For example : — The barony of Kilmore, near Charleville, gets its name from the great wood which in the sixteenth century formed, as the 'Pacata Hibernia' tells us, one of the strongest barriers against the soldiers of Elizabeth. Dr. Joyce has calculated that in at least seven hundred cases the 'kils' and 'kills' so numerous in the place names of Ireland really represent the word 'coill,' and are witnesses to woods no longer visible ; while 'coillte,' the plural, and 'coillin,' the diminutive of 'coill,' account for many more. 'Fidh,' or fíoth [fih], another term for wood, also occurs frequently, and the two baronies of Armagh, called the Fewes, are of this origin. 'Ros,' too, occasionally stands for wood, as in the Abbey of Rosserk in Mayo, Roscrea, New Ross, and best known of all, Roscommon. 'Fasach' (faussagh), a wilderness, 'Scairt' (scart), a thicket of scrub, and 'Muine' (munny), a shrubbery, are a few among many arboreal terms which abound in the *index locorum* and contribute to justify the term 'Inis-na-veevy,' or woody island, which is among the bardic names of Ireland. Over and above the terms signifying woods, are those which denote particular trees, of which Daire (Derry), an oakwood, with its many variations, is the most important.[4] 'The 'Annals of the Four Masters' abound in references to the ancient woods of Ireland, which prove that in a great part of the country a dominant characteristic of the social system of ancient Ireland was the forest life of the people. And if we may accept as accurate a passage in the 'Annals of Ulster,' for the year 836 a.d.,[5] the acorn and nut crop was so large in that year as to close up 'the streams, so that they ceased to flow in their usual course.

That this state of things survived to an era well within historical memory is abundantly demonstrated by many authorities. Sir John Davies, a writer whose observations and con-

clusions, even when we disagree with them, are always suggestive, has noted the degree in which the political system adopted by the Norman colonists of Ireland, and pursued, whether by choice or necessity, by the English Government for many centuries, had the effect of preserving this feature. That system was to drive the native population from the plains to the woods ; with the result that the Irish territories tended to become ever more and more a succession of forest fastnesses. Had a different plan been adopted, the woods, as Davies points out, would have been wasted by English habitations, as had happened just before his own time in the territories of Leix and Offaly, round the new-made forts of Maryborough and Philipstown.

The early Plantagenets made some attempt to establish the forest laws in Ireland. In the neighbourhood of Dublin, at all events, a considerable tract must have been brought within their operations, for in 1229 Henry III. granted permission to Luke, Archbishop of Dublin, to carry out the disafforesting of certain lands formerly belonging to the see of Glendalough. It is certain that a royal forest was formed at Glencree, in the county Wicklow. In 1244 sixty does and twenty bucks were ordered to be 'taken alive in the king's parks nearest to the port of Chester to be sent to the port of Dalkey, Ireland, and delivered to the king's Treasurer of Dublin to stock the king's Park of Glencry'[6] ; and that the King's lands were not limited to a mere park, but included a forest properly so called, may be inferred from the language of a mandate of Edward I. permitting William Bumel, constable of the Castle of Dublin, 'to have in the king's forest of Glencry twelve oak trees fit for timber of the king's gift to construct his house of Glenecapyn.'[7]

A reference to the misconduct of the Abbot and monks of St. Mary's, Dublin, in hunting in the King's forest without license supports the same conclusion.[8] But the royal forest of Glencree disappears from view, like so much else, amid the confusion that followed the wars of the Bruces. No mention of it is to be found subsequent to the reign of Edward I. The whole district comprised in the modern county of Wicklow relapsed after the Bruce disturbance into the control of the Irish septs of the Byrnes and Tooles ; nor was it effectively redeemed by the Crown until the opening of the seventeenth century.[9]

Apart, however, from this formation of the royal forest of Glencree, no attempt was made for above three centuries after the arrival of the English in Ireland to encroach to any serious extent upon the native reserves of the Irish inhabitants, though a Statute of Edward I., passed in 1296, contained a clause which was designed to provide highways through the country. [10] But the wars of the Bruces which followed within a few years of this enactment, and the subsequent decadence of English power, prevented the taking of any effective steps under this Statute.

Down to the middle of the sixteenth century, it may fairly be said, no substantial alteration took place in the face of Ireland in this regard. In Chief Justice Finglas's 'Breviate of the Getting of Ireland and of the Decay of the Same,' written about 1529, occurs a passage which shows that well on into the reign of Henry VIII., the period, indeed, at which the English Pale had shrank to its narrowest limits, the districts in which English law remained supreme were everywhere hedged round by impassable forests. Finglas prescribed a remedy very similar to that enforced by Edward I., more than two centuries earlier : — ' Item — That the deputy be eight days in every summer cutting passes of the woods next adjoining to the king's subjects, which shall be thought most needful,' — and he enumerates above thirty passes, most of them adjacent to the Pale, which required to be made or maintained.[11] The numerous writers to whom we owe our knowledge of Elizabethan Ireland and of the age immediately succeeding, concur in representing the great forests as having survived in most places to the middle of the sixteenth century, and in many till well into the seventeenth.[12]

Sir Henry Piers, in his 'History of Westmeath,'[13] designed to illustrate the Down Survey, speaks of that county as deficient in nothing, 'except only timber of bulk, with which it was anciently well stored.' Yet barely a century before this was written, Westmeath had been one of the most secure fortresses of 'the king's Irish enemies,' as the native septs were called ; and it was for this reason that under Henry VIII. the county was severed from Meath to which it had anciently belonged.[14]

During the wars of Elizabeth it was still a proverb that 'The Irish will never be tamed while the leaves are on the trees,' meaning that the winter was the only time in which the woods could be entered by an army with any hope of success ; and the system of 'plashing' by which the forest paths were rendered impassable through the interlacing of the boughs of the great trees with the abundant underwood, was the obstacle accounted by most of Elizabeth's soldiers the most dangerous with which they were confronted. Derricke, in his 'Image of Ireland' written in 1581, gives a description of the woods which, even if we discount the figures on the score of poetic licence, must be held to show that in his day the forests still covered enormous areas. He speaks of them as often twenty miles long.[15]

The adoption of a resolute policy in Ireland by the Tudor sovereigns was the first step towards the reduction of these immense woodland areas. The gradual extension throughout the country of the measures first applied to Westmeath led, under the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth, to a rapid clearance of large tracts of the country. Fynes Moryson, in the closing years of Elizabeth, found the central plain of Ireland nearly destitute of trees. 'I confess myself,' he writes, 'to have been deceived in the common fame that all Ireland is woody, having found in my long journey from Armagh to Kinsale few or no woods by the way, excepting the great woods of Ophalia;[16] and some low, shrubby places which they call glens.[17] The Pale had, of course, for centuries been denuded of its woods, if it ever possessed them on a large scale, and as early as 1534 an ordinance of Henry VIII. had directed every husbandman to plant twelve ashes within the ditches and closes of his farm. With the disappearance, in the person of Tyrone, of the last Irish chieftain powerful enough to hold independent sway in the island, this clearance was extended towards Ulster. By Strafford's time Wicklow, Wexford, and Carlow, and the Queen's County were the only districts in which the forests were still extensive. And even here they had begun to decline. Sir William Brereton noted in 1635 that in the neighbourhood of Camew, in Sir Morgan Kavanagh's once thick woods, there remained 'little timber useful save to bum, and such as cumbreth the ground.' He adds that wood is ' a commodity which will be much wanting in this kingdom, and is now very dear at Dublin.' [18] The civil war which followed the Rebellion of 1641 doubtless tended largely in the same direction, and by the time of the Commonwealth Boate noted in his ' Natural History of Ireland ' that in some parts you might travel whole days without seeing any trees save a few about gentlemen's houses. This was especially so on the northern road, where for a distance of sixty miles from the capital not a wood worth speaking of was to be seen. ' For,' he adds, ' the great woods which the maps do represent to us upon the mountains between Dundalk and the Newry are quite vanished, there being nothing left of them these many years since, but only one tree standing close by the highway, at the very top of one of the mountains, so as it may be seen a great way off, and therefore serveth travellers for a mark.'[19]

The destruction of the woods, due in the first place to deliberate policy and in the next to the accidents of war, was accelerated both during the long peace that preceded the Rebellion, and afterwards in the years following the Restoration, by the progress of the arts of peace. The revival of Irish industries was nearly as fashionable a shibboleth in the middle of the sixteenth century as it has been at intervals in later ages. In those days the favourite objects of solicitude were the manufacture of pipe-staves, and the development of the iron-works which

were then supposed to be the true El Dorado of Irish enterprise — most people holding with Bacon that 'Iron is a brave commodity where wood aboundeth.' Both industries depended for their success upon the woods, which were accordingly drawn upon regardless of the consequences. From Munster whole shiploads of pipe-staves were exported, to the great profit of the proprietors and the great destruction of the woods ; and Boate says, ' it is incredible what quantity of charcoal is consumed by one iron-work in a year.'^[20] Richard Boyle, the well-known Earl of Cork, was reputed to have made 100,000*l.* by his iron-works, and the sale of timber must have brought him almost as much again. Sir William Petty's was another of the great fortunes in part accumulated by the destruction of the woods of Ireland. But that Petty, undoubtedly one of the most large-minded Englishmen whom the confiscations of the seventeenth century attracted to Ireland, was not unmindful of the need for maintaining the timber supplies of the country, may be inferred from the fact that in his 'Political Anatomy of Ireland,' he recommends the 'planting' of 'three millions of timber trees upon the bounds and mears of every denomination of lands ' in the country.^[21] So rapid was the consumption, however, that the want of fuel, formerly abundant, began to make itself felt. Thomas Dinely writing in his Journal,^[22] about the year 1681, remarks on the consequent substitution for the first time of turf for wood firing. 'The wars,' he says, 'and their rebellions having destroyed almost all their woods both for timber and firing, their want is supplied by the bogs.' A century later Arthur Young noted that in the neighbourhood of Mitchelstown there were 'a hundred thousand acres in which you might take a breathing gallop to find a stick large enough to beat a dog, yet is there not an enclosure without the remnants of trees, many of them large.'^[23]

The troubles of the Revolution and the succeeding changes were also injurious to the woods. The Commissioners of Forfeited Estates comment severely on the general waste committed by the grantees of these properties, instancing in particular the woods round Killarney, where trees to the value of 20,000*l.* were cut down and the Muskery district, where the destruction was almost as great.^[24] That this reckless dealing with the timber supply of the country was continued for the best part of a generation may be inferred from a passage in the seventh Drapier's letter, in which Swift asserts his belief 'that there is not another example in Europe of such a prodigious quantity of excellent timber cut down in so short a time with so little advantage to the country either in shipping or building.'^[25] This process of rapid consumption of the anciently abundant woods of Ireland continued far into the eighteenth century, and notwithstanding a succession of enactments designed to encourage planting, the woodland areas diminished so rapidly that, to quote Arthur Young once more, 'the greatest part of the country continues to exhibit a naked, bleak, dreary view for want of wood, which has been destroyed for a century past with the most thoughtless prodigality, and still continues to be cut and wasted as if it was not worth the cultivation.'^[26]

Although some maps of the time of Henry VIII. are extant which indicate very roughly the wooded districts, nothing approaching to a statistical record of the distribution of the woods of Ireland is available for an earlier date than the seventeenth century. Baron Finglas's rough list of passes has already been referred to, and is the earliest specific notice on the subject. In Dymmok's 'Treatise of Ireland' 1599, is given 'A particular of such strengths and fastnesses of wood and bog as are in every province in Ireland'^[27] in which the principal forest districts are set out by name. It is evident, however, that Dymmok derived his information not from any first-hand acquaintance with the whole country, but from the notes of one of the most diligent inquirers into the condition and resources of Ireland who had ever visited the country, the well-known Sir George Carew. In the Lambeth Manuscripts, which bear his name, are to be found Carew's observations on the subject.^[28] They are much fuller than Dymmok's list. Half a century after Carew's time, the Books of Survey and Distribution, compiled in 1657, and preserved in the Irish Record Office, show the dimensions of the woodlands throughout

the country as ascertained at that date. The maps of the Down Survey also indicate in a rough way the distribution of the woods. And a list of the iron-works through the country in the seventeenth century would indicate as many places in which substantial woods still existed at that period.

It appears from these and other sources, that at about the close of the seventeenth century the woods or forests of importance were distributed roughly, thus :

1. Leinster : In the counties of Wicklow, Wexford, Carlow, and Kilkenny, and in the great territories of Leix and Offaly, covering the greater portion of Queen's and part of King's County.
2. Ulster : In the counties of Tyrone, Londonderry, Antrim, and Down, particularly on the east and west shores of Lough Neagh, and the territories adjacent.
3. Munster : In Cork, Kerry, and Limerick, the southern borders of Tipperary, and East Waterford.
4. Connaught: In the barony of Tyrawly, in Mayo and North Sligo, in Roscommon, and along the course of the Shannon.

It is obvious, however, that the rapid diminution of the woodland area during the seventeenth century was not an absolutely unmitigated misfortune. It was the natural consequence of that social transformation which necessarily followed the effective assertion of the authority of the English Crown throughout the island in the reign of James I. Apart from all questions between the races, it was as desirable as it was natural that large districts formerly usurped by the forest should be restored to agriculture. Had the clearances effected, first by the soldiers of Elizabeth and next by the planters of James, ended with those which followed the Restoration, there would have been no great reason to complain. But an era of confiscation was necessarily unfavourable to the development of the resources of the land ; and successive owners, threatened with the early determination of their interest in their estates, utilised the short period of possession to turn their timber into gold.. Thus the woods that had survived fell at an alarming rate, and the Government were obliged to intervene. Accordingly, the Irish statute-book, from the Restoration to the middle of the eighteenth century, contains many measures which had for their object the encouragement of planting, and the replacing of the timber in districts from which it had disappeared. Some of these are of great interest, and well deserve attention.

The earliest instance of legislation for the protection of trees was the application to Ireland by Strafford of an English statute of Elizabeth 'to avoid and prevent divers misdemeanours of idle and lewd persons in barking of trees.' An Act of 10th Charles I. (chapter 23) gave this measure force in Ireland ; but it appears to have been designed mainly for the protection of the orchards and young trees in the plantation districts, and not to have been directed to the conservation of the larger woods. The seventeenth century had almost run its course before any further statute was passed. In 1698, however, the ministers of William III. felt it was time to intervene. ' An Act for Planting and Preserving Timber Trees and Woods ' recognises in its preamble the operation of the causes which had led to the too rapid destruction of the old woods. It runs thus: — 'Forasmuch by the late rebellion in the Kingdom and the several iron-works formerly here, the timber is utterly destroyed, so as that at present there is not sufficient for the repairing the houses destroyed, much less a prospect of building and improving in after times, unless some means be used for the planting and increase of timber trees.'

The remedies prescribed by this act were threefold :

I. All resident freeholders, having estates to the value of 10*l.* yearly and upwards, and all tenants for years at a rent exceeding that sum, having an unexpired term of ten years, were required, under a penalty from and after March 25, 1703, to plant every year, for thirty-one years, ten plants of five years' growth of oak, fir, elm, ash, or other timber. Owners of iron-works were required to plant five hundred such trees annually, so long as the iron-works were going.

II. Every occupier of above five hundred Irish acres was required to plant and enclose, within seven years of the passing of the Act, one acre thereof, and to preserve the same as a plantation for at least twenty years.

III. All persons and corporations seized of lands of inheritance were charged with the planting of their respective proportions of 260,600 trees yearly of oak, elm, or fir for a period of thirty-one years. The proportions in which these trees were to be planted in each county is set out in a list in the fourth section of the act, and the proportion in which each county should be planted was to be apportioned by the grand juries, by baronies, and parishes at each summer assizes.[29]

A further provision gave tenants planting pursuant to the statute a right to one-third of the timber so planted. This was increased by a later Act to one-half.

The legislation of William III. was followed by several acts passed in succeeding reigns with the same object. An Act of Queen Anne abolished the duties on unwrought iron, bark, hoops, staves and timber, and forbade exportation of these commodities except to England. And a further Act forbade the use of home-grown gads or withes, or the erection of May-poles of home-growth. These Acts, however, failed to produce the desired effect.[30] Thomas Prior, in the appendix to his List of Absentees, attributed this failure to the insufficient interest given to tenants in the trees planted by them, and suggested that planting should be encouraged by obliging owners, on the fall of leases, to pay their tenants the timber value of all trees planted by the latter. An Act of George III. passed in 1775 expressly recognised in its preamble the failure of the earlier legislation, which it accordingly repealed. It made fresh provision for the preservation of trees, and did something to carry out Prior's views, which were zealously supported by the Royal Dublin Society, an institution of which Prior was one of the founders, and which has always been honourably distinguished by the interest it has displayed in the preservation of the woods of Ireland.

The stimulating criticism and suggestions of Arthur Young, who, as already noted, visited Ireland just at this time, undoubtedly had much to do with the more enlightened views on the subject which, towards the close of the eighteenth century, began to characterise the majority of Irish landowners. One or two of his observations on this subject are worth quoting. 'I have made,' says Young, 'many very minute calculations of the expense, growth, and value of trees in Ireland, and am convinced from them that there is no application of the best land of the kingdom will equal the profit of planting the worst of it.'[31] The remark savours, perhaps, of the accustomed optimism of the reforming stranger who has never submitted his theories to the test of practice, and is ready to sell wisdom before he has bought experience. But no more competent observer than Arthur Young has ever applied a trained and cautious intelligence to the consideration of the economic problems of Ireland. It is certain that, however wisely we may hesitate to adopt literally this epigrammatic summary of his views on planting, Young's opinions were based on an unusually thorough statistical investigation of the country, coupled with an exceptionally wide knowledge of agricultural conditions in other European countries.

Young's observations on the subject are the more worth noting in view of modern conditions because he bestowed much attention on the means of enlisting the peasantry in the cause of planting, and displayed a firm confidence that 'instead of being the destroyers of trees they might be made preservers of them.' With this view he recommends in his 'Observations' that premiums should be given to farmers who planted and preserved trees, and suggested that the tenantry should be obliged to plant under a special clause in their leases, requiring them to plant a given number of trees per annum in proportion to the size of their holdings.

APPENDIX I

WOODS AND FASTNESSES IN ULSTER.

Glenbrasell, by Lough Eaugh (Longh Neagh), a great boggy and woody fastnes.
Glencan, a boggy and woody country environed with two rivers viz. : the Blackwater and the Ban.

Killultagh, a safe boggy and woody country, upon Lough Eaugh.

Kilwarlen, the like bounden together.

Kilautry, lying between Kilwarlen and Lecale.

Glenconkeyn,[32] on the river Ban's side, in O'Chane's country, the chief fastnes and refuge of the Scotts.

THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE WOODS AND FASTNESSES IN MUNSTER.

Glengaruf, in O'Sullivan More's country, 4 miles long and 2 broad.

Glanroght, in Desmond, 3 long and 2 broad.

Leanmore, in Desmond, 3 long and 3 broad.

Glenglas and Kilmore in the Co. Limerick, 12 long and 7 broad.

Dromfynine, in the County Cork, on the Blackwater, 6 long and 2 broad.

Arlo and Muskryquirke, in Tipperary, 9 long and 3 broad.

Kilhuggy, in Tipperary, bordering on Limerick, 10 long and 7 broad.

Glenflesk, 4 long and 2 broad.

WOODS AND FASTNESSES IN CONNAUGHT.

The woods and bogs of Kilbigher.

Killcallon, in MacWilliam's county.

Killaloe, in county of Leitrim.

The woods and boggs near the Corleus.

WOODS AND FASTNESSES IN LEINSTER.

Glandilour, a fastness in Pheagh M'Hugh's countrie.

Shilelagh, Sir Henry Harrington's, in the county of Dublin.

The Duffries, in the County of Wexford.

The Drones and Leverocke, in the county of Catherlogh.

The great bog in the Queen's County, which reacheth to Limerick.

The Fuse in the County of Kildare.

The woodland bogs of Monaster-Evan, Gallin and Slievemargy in the Queen's County.

The Rowry, near St. Mullins, where the Nur and Barrow unite together, and makes yt halfe an island.

Part of Coulbracke, joyning upon the County of Kilkenny.[33]

APPENDIX II

STATUTE 18TH WILLIAM III. CAP. I. SECTION 4.

And be it further enacted, that the proportion of each county, county of a city, and county of a town of the said two hundred and sixty thousand six hundred trees aforesaid, is and shall be as hereinafter is declared.

1. Antrim county and Carrickfergus, nine thousand seven hundred and fifty.
2. Ardmagh county, four thousand seven hundred and fifty.
3. Catherlagh county, three thousand two hundred and fifty.
4. Cavan county, four thousand six hundred.
5. Clare county, seven thousand eight hundred.
6. Cork county and city, twenty-six thousand six hundred.
7. Donegal county, eight thousand three hundred and fifty.
8. Down county, eight thousand four hundred.
9. Dublin county (whereof the city and its liberties, twenty-one thousand five hundred) thirty-one thousand nine hundred.
10. Fermanagh county, four thousand five hundred and fifty.
11. Gallway county (whereof on Gallway town and liberties, one thousand three hundred) eleven thousand eight hundred.
12. Kerry county, four thousand six hundred.
13. Kildare county, seven thousand one hundred and fifty.
14. Kilkenny county (whereof on Kilkenny city and liberties, seven hundred) nine thousand.
15. King's county, three thousand nine hundred.
16. Leitrim county, three thousand two hundred and fifty.
17. Limerick county (whereof on Limerick city and liberties, one thousand three hundred) nine thousand six hundred.
18. Londonderry county, city and barony of Colerain, six thousand five hundred.
19. Longford county, two thousand six hundred.

20. Lowth county (whereof Drogheda and liberties, six hundred and fifty) five thousand two hundred.
21. Mayo county, six thousand five hundred.
22. Meath county, twelve thousand three hundred and fifty.
23. Monaghan county, four thousand five hundred.
24. Queen's county, three thousand nine hundred and fifty.
25. Roscommon county, six thousand five hundred.
26. Sligo county, five thousand two hundred.
27. Tipperary and Holy-Cross, eighteen thousand two hundred.
28. Tyrone county, six thousand five hundred.
20. Waterford county (whereof on Waterford city and liberties, one thousand and fifty) six thousand five hundred and fifty.
30. Westmeath county, six thousand six hundred.
31. Wexford county, six thousand five hundred.
32. Wicklow county, three thousand two hundred and fifty.

[1] 'Meredith Hanmer's Chroniolo,' *Ancient Irish Histories*, ii. p. 194. The practice of using Irish timber for buildings intended to be durable seems to have been usual in England in early times. The spire of the thirteenth century belltower of Worcester Cathedral, taken down in 1647, was of 'massive timber, Irish and unsawed.'— *Journal of Kilkenny, Archaeological Society*, 1856-7, p. 236.

[2] Meredith Hanmer's Chronicle,' *Ancient Irish Histories*, ii. p. 370.

[3] Celtic Society's Edition, ii. p. 110.

[4] 'Joyce's *Irish Names of Places*, i. pp. 491-52S.

[5] *Ibid.* i. p. 887.

[6] *Ibid.* 1286-92, p. 281.

[7] *Cal. S. P. (Ireland)*, 1171-1251, p. 898.

[8] *Chartulary of St Mary's Abbey* (Rolls Series), i. p. 4.

[9] For an excellent account of the Forest of Glencree see a paper by Mr. T. P. Le Fana, M.R.I.A., in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* for 1898, p. 268.

[10] The clause ran as follows : 'The Irish enemy, by the density of the woods and the depths of the adjacent morasses, assume a confident boldness ; the King's highways are in places so overgrown with wood, and so thick and difficult, that even a foot passenger can hardly pass. Upon which it is ordained that every lord of a wood, with his tenants, through which the highway was anciently, shall clear a passage where the way ought to be, and remove all standing timber as well as underwood.'— Betham's *Origin and History of the Constitution of England and of the Early Parliaments of Ireland*.

[11] The following are the names of the passes as given by Finglas :— 'The Passes names

here ensueth, Downe, Callibre, the Newe Ditch, the Passes to Powerscourt, Glankry, Ballamore in Foderth, going to Kearnes (or Ferns), Le Roge, Strenanloragh, Pollemounty, Branwallehangry, Morterston, two passes in Feemore in O'Morye's country, the passes of Feneynobegane, Killemark, Kelly, Ballenower, Taghenefine, two passes in Reymalagh, the passes going to Moill, two in Kalry, the passes of Brahon Juryne, Kilkorky, the Lagha and Ballatra, Karryconnell and Killaghmore, three passes in Oriore : one by Donegall, another by Faghert, and the third by Omere ; Ballaghkine, and Ballaghner.'— Harris's *Hibernica*, p. 51.

It is not now possible to identity all the oonnties in which these passes were sitoate.

[12] In Payne's *Brief Description of Ireland* written in 1690, there occurs a passage illustrative of the agricultural value of the forests. 'I find by experience,' wrote Payne, ' that a man may store 1,000 acres of woodland there (in Ireland) for 30*l.* bestowed in draining, which being well husbanded, will yield more profit than so much like ground in England of 10*s.* the acre and 500*l.*. stock, for in the Irish woodlands there is great store of very good pasture, and there mast doth not lightly fail ; there swine will feed very fat without any meat by hand.'— Payne's 'Brief Description of Ireland,' ed. Aquila Smith ; *Tracts Relating to Ireland*, i. p. 18.

[13] Printed by Vallancey in 1774.

[14] By the Ststate 84 Henry VIII. cap. i.

[15] 'The woodes above and 'neath those hills,
Some twentie miles in length :
Bound compacte with a shakynge bodye,
A forte of passyng strength.'
Derricke *Image of Ireland*, Small's Edition, 1888, p. 28.

[16] A porcon of the county of Ophaly is called Fergall, a place so stronge as nature could desire to make yt by wood and bogge, with which yt is environed.'
— Dymmok's 'Treatise of Ireland in 1599 ' ; *Tracts Relating to Ireland*, ii p. 48.

[17] See also Part II. p. 228 *infra*.

[18] See Brereton's *Travels*, Part II. *infra*.

[19] Boate's *Ireland's Naturall History*, chapter xv.

[20] Boate's *Ireland's Naturall History*, chapter xvi

[21] Petty's *Political Anatomy of Ireland*, chapter ii.

[22] Reprinted from *Kilkenny Archaeological Society's Journal*, Second Series.

[23] Young's *Tour in Ireland* ii. p. 62. The clearance at Mitchelstown deplored by Young has been largely made good by plantations within the last century.

[24] Lecky's *History of England*, ii. p. 330.

[25] Swift's *Worksy* ed. Sir W. Scott, vii. p. 62 ; *Prose Works*, ed. Temple Scott (Bohn's Library), ti. p. 200.

[26] Young's *Tour in Ireland* ii. p. 62.

[27] Irish Archaeological Society's *Tracts Relating to Ireland* ii. p. 36.

[28] Lambeth MS. 685.

[29] 10th Wm. III. cap. 12. As the list given in Section 4 throws some light on the relative needs of each county in regard to timber at the time, it is printed in Appendix II. to this paper.

[30] Swift, in his seventh Drapier's Letter, already quoted, recommended 'that the defects in those Acts for planting forest-trees might be fully supplied, since they have hitherto been wholly ineffectual, except about the demesnes of a few gentlemen,' and recommended that owners should be restrained from 'that unlimited liberty of cutting down their woods before their proper time' 'to supply expenses in England,' as he puts it elsewhere in the same letter.

[31] Young's *Tour in Ireland*, ii. p. 64.

[32] Sir John Davies described Glanconkeyn in 1608 as 'the great forest of Glanconkeyn, well nigh as large as the New Forest in Hampshire, and stored with the best timber.' He suggested that the timber should be used for the royal navy, but it was eventually devoted to the building of Londonderry.— *Ulster Archaeological Journal*, vi. p. 153.

[33] Of the places enumerated which are not sufficiently indicated in Carew's note have been thus identified :

Kilwarlen, in the co. Down, was the fastness of the Magenis sept in the co. Down.

Glenroght or Glenroghty is now Kenmare.

Leanmore is the modern Killarney.

Glenglas is Clonlish in co. Limerick.

Arlo is the Arlo Hill of Spenser.

Illustrations of Irish history and topography, mainly of the seventeenth century (1904)

Author: **Falkiner, C. Litton (Caesar Litton)**, 1863-1908; Moryson, Fynes, 1566-1630;

Bodley, Josias, Sir, 1550?-1618; Gernon, Luke, d.1673?; Brereton, William, Sir, 1604-1661;

Jouvin, Albert, of Rochefort

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