
This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

Google™ books

<https://books.google.com>





61



ALPHABETIC
AND ENCYCLOPEDIA



1184

1184

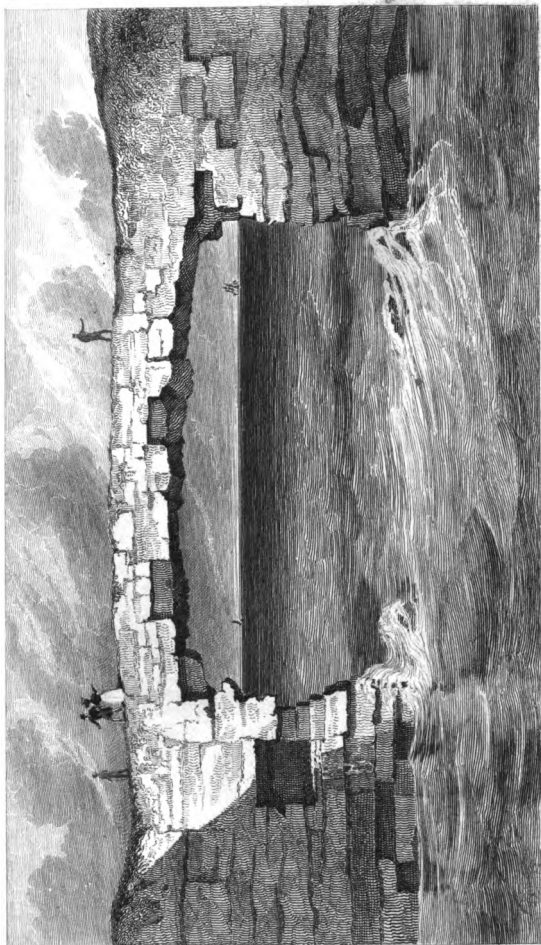


TWO MONTHS

AT

KILKEE.





NATURAL BRIDGE, ROSS, CO. CLARE.
(near Loophead)

Engraving on the spot by John Adair

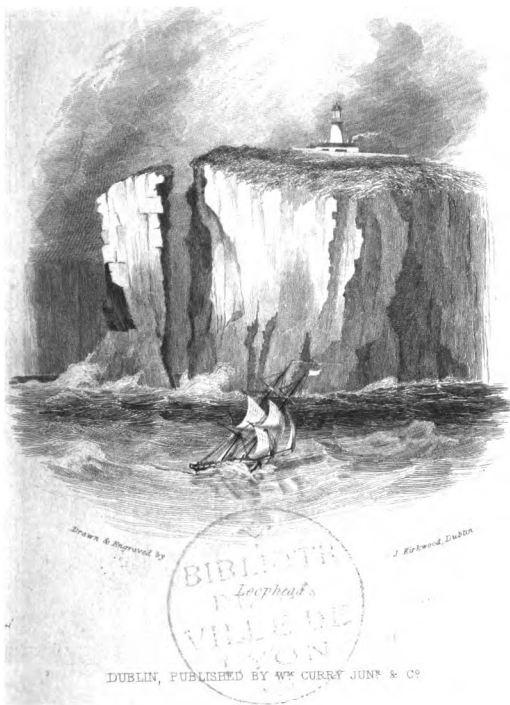
Designed by J. Richardson, Drawn by Dublin.

422206

SOCIÉTÉ
TWO
BIBLIOTHEQUE
MONTHS AT KILKEE.

BY

MARY JOHN KNOTT.





TWO MONTHS
AT
KILKEE,
A WATERING PLACE IN THE COUNTY CLARE, NEAR
THE MOUTH OF THE SHANNON,
WITH AN ACCOUNT OF
A VOYAGE DOWN THAT RIVER

FROM
LIMERICK TO KILRUSH,
AND SKETCHES OF OBJECTS OF INTEREST IN THE NEIGH-
BOURHOOD, WHICH WILL SERVE AS A GUIDE TO
THE COAST SCENERY.

BY
MARY JOHN KNOTT

WITH ENGRAVINGS, &c.

DUBLIN
WILLIAM CURRY JUN. AND CO.
AND RICHARD M. TIMS.

G. RIDINGS, CORR; C. O'BRIEN, Z. M. LEDGER, G. M'KEEN, LIMERICK;
EDMUND FRY AND SON, R. GROOMBRIDGE, AND SIMPKIN, MARSHALL
AND COMPANY, LONDON.
GEORGE DAVY, BRISTOL; J. DAVENPORT, LIVERPOOL;
AND FRASER AND CO. EDINBURGH.

1836



P. D. HARDY, PRINTER.



PREFACE.

It must gratify every lover of his native land to perceive that Ireland has of latter times become increasingly attractive, not only to the inhabitants of the sister kingdom, but to foreigners, and that public attention has been turned by various writers to the numerous objects of beauty and interest which enrich and ornament this fair island.

In attempting to describe some of the objects of interest at and in the neighbourhood of Kilkee, the writer feels that she is entering upon an untrodden path; and, notwithstanding this spot has of late years been the favourite retreat of the invalid, as well as of the admirer of nature in her wildest mood and attire, yet, so far as she knows, neither

the pen nor the pencil has been employed in pourtraying to the public the attractions of this interesting watering place. From a feeling of her own insufficiency to do justice to the subject, she has to solicit the indulgence of the learned and scientific reader, whilst in simple language she attempts its delineation; her object being to excite, rather than to gratify, the curiosity of the naturalist, the antiquarian, and the philanthropist.

Much of the information respecting objects which did not immediately come under her own observation was supplied by the pen of a near relative who resides in Limerick, and in whose company she visited most of the scenes she is about to describe. If the work have any recommendations, its chief one will be that of *truth*. “Every eye sees its object through a different medium, according to the influence of circumstances—a bright day brings out beauty, and a cloudy sky effaces it; she, perhaps, may have seen sunshine where others saw shadows, or the contrary: a sunny mind or a gloomy one gives its own hue to every thing with which it comes in contact.”

The writer visited Kilkee for the benefit

of her health in the summer of 1835. A few days after her arrival, the melancholy death, by drowning, of two young persons, soon after their marriage, induced her first to take up the pen ; and a further acquaintance with the character, domestic habits, poverty, and privations of the kind-hearted natives, actuated her to take notes for the purpose of exciting an interest in their behalf, in the minds of those who, like herself, may derive pleasure and reap benefit from the salubrious breeze and invigorating waters of this romantic little spot. She therefore purposes introducing to the notice of the reader a few circumstances which came under her own observation ; and, as other objects of interest happened to present during her visit to the south-west, she does not mean altogether to confine her pen to the occurrences of the county of Clare. Some of her readers may be ready to think that she has entered too minutely into the concerns of humble life ; but to become well acquainted with human nature, we must visit the hut where many a noble heart pines in cheerless poverty—the school-house where the infant mind is trained in the love of knowledge, virtue, and reli-

gion—the alms-house, where the widowed matron is cheered and sustained by public benevolence, and the heart of the destitute orphan can sing for joy—the hospital, which furnishes a lesson of the sufferings which afflict poor human nature—and the prison, the receptacle of misery and crime, where, alas! vice is often inculcated by precept and example.

From the frequent and unavoidable allusions to the Shannon, and the pleasure the writer experienced in passing down its beautiful windings, she has been induced, for the gratification of strangers, to collect authentic information respecting this magnificent river, from its source to the city of LIMERICK.—See Note A.

Through the kindness of a friend she is enabled to lay before the reader a map, &c. published in the early part of *this year*, describing *the newly discovered* rise of the Shannon in the county of Cavan, and its course to Lough Allen.—Note B.

In conclusion, the author feels that something by way of apology may, by some, be considered due for the many imperfections, and for the want of method and arrangement

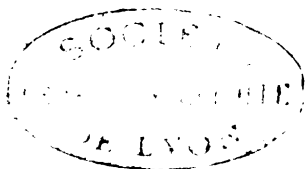
which is too frequently apparent throughout this little volume, as well as for the extreme simplicity which attaches to some of the passages. Still, she trusts that there are others, and probably the greater number of its readers, who will be willing to receive it in a measure of that feeling which has called it into existence ; and encouraged by this belief, she ventures to commit her little work to the public eye, and to hope for it a lenient, if not a favourable reception.

M. J. K.

Dublin, 6th Month 20th, 1836.

PLATES, &c.

Flat Bridge	Frontispiece.
Loop Head Light-house.....	Title-page.
Arched Bridge	Page 130
Curious Rock at Moher	154
Sepulchral Stone—Ogham Inscription.....	161
Moose Deer	173
Map of Rise of the Shannon	199



CONTENTS.

CHAP. I.

Sail down the Shannon—Landing at Kilrush—Arrival at Kilkee. 13 to 35.

CHAP. II.

Description of Kilkee—Ancient Danish Fort—Spa—Markets—Inhabitants—Fishing Canoes—Excursion on the water—A young married couple drowned; particulars of the melancholy event—The weather—Barbarous customs—Cruelty to Animals—Donkeys—Non-observance of the Sabbath—Anecdote—Bathing—Vicinity of the town; cliffs, sea-birds, marine beauties, and ruins on the Coast. 36 to 80.

CHAP. III.

Notices of the Cliffs on the opposite side of the Bay—Carrigeen Moss—Anecdote—Benevolence of the Natives. 81 to 95.

CHAP. IV.

Anecdote—Method of securing the thatch on the Cottages from the effect of Storms—Account of an interesting poor man—Destitute state of many of the inhabitants—Schools—Observations on temperance, connected with education—Visit to a magnificent Cavern in "Look-out Bay;" description of the interior. 96 to 117.

CHAP. V.

On confining Cattle in pounds—Observations on humanity to animals—Description of a County Clare Funeral—View from the Telegraph at Baltard—Anecdote of the Coast-guards stationed there—That part of the coast described. 118 to 123.

CHAP. VI.

Excursion to the Natural Bridges of Ross, over an inlet of the Atlantic—Notices of the Roads and Scenery—

Ancient Burying-place at Kilballyhone—Bay and Bridges of Ross—Interior of a Fisherman's hut—Localities of the place—Loop-Head—Magnificent view of the coast and mountain scenery from the Light-house—Part of the Spanish Armada, wrecked on the coast at Mal-bay (or Bad-bay) in 1588. 124 to 137.

CHAP. VII.

Celebrated Caves of Ballybunian, as described by W. Ainsworth—Information respecting the best way of proceeding to visit them from Kilkee—Volcanic appearance of some of the Cliffs explained—Birds seen on that coast. 138 to 145.

CHAP. VIII.

Route to the Cliffs of Moher—Hagg's-head—Watering-place of Miltown-Malbay—Comfortable cottages of the tenantry of Cornelius O'Brien, M.P.; Castle erected by him, *for the accommodation of Visitors*, on the highest of these Cliffs—Dangerous descent to the Cliffs—Callan Mountain—An "Ogham" inscription on a rude stone, supposed to be the tomb of a heathen Prince—Druid's altar—Sobriety of the inhabitants—Departure from Kilkee—Arrival at Limerick—Information respecting the Dublin Steam Company—Notices of the Minerals and Animals of the County Limerick—Castleconnell—Conclusion. 146 to 181.

NOTES.

- (a) The Shannon. (b) Map of its rise, discovered in 1836. (c) Mungret Abbey. (d) Extract from the Diary of T. W. Tone. (e) On Temperance. (f) Shipwreck of the *Intrinsic*. (g) Seal Caves, Mutton Island. (h) Spanish Armada. 183 to 220.

ADDENDA.

Further Accounts of the peculiarities of the Coast of Ross—Geological Notice of the Clare Coast, by Captain Sabine—Directions for Excursions of Three, Four, and Five Days—Interesting information relating to Temperance. 221 to end.

TWO MONTHS
AT
KILKEE.

CHAPTER I.

ARRANGEMENTS having been made for passing some time at Kilkee, on the morning of the 2d of sixth month (June) 1835, our company, consisting of four individuals, embarked on board the Dublin Steam Company's much admired iron vessel, "Garryowen," bound for Kilrush, distant forty-two miles from Limerick, with every prospect of a quick passage, the weather delightfully calm, and the river Shannon like a glassy lake. Whilst at the quay, various objects of interest successively arrested our attention. Immediately before us stood the beautiful Wellesley bridge, just finished, which, for lightness and flatness of its arches, is considered to equal any in the united kingdom: the model was taken from a bridge in Paris: in the back ground the

B

mountains of Clare, and the steeple of the ancient cathedral built by Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick or North Munster, A. D. 1180, upon the site of his palace. This king met Henry II. on the banks of the Suir, and surrendered his city of Limerick and other territories, which were confirmed to him, and he was then created a baron. To the right may be seen the quays, with parts of the new town and Rice's Pillar, with a figure of that statesman ornamenting the top; on our left are several gentlemen's seats situated in the suburbs, and in the distance, a little further down, both the ancient and modern steeples of Mungret Abbey appear in view.* On the Clare side appear the new embankments, roads, plantations, and improvements recently made by the Marquis of Lansdowne and Matthew Barrington in front of their lands, to the pier and ruin of Little Kilrush, beyond which a very extensive embankment has been made, reaching for miles opposite to and below the marquis's property, by which a large tract will be enclosed, and become rich meadow land: this

* Note (c.)

small, well-managed estate being mostly in this nobleman's own hands, and under the care of an intelligent agent, presents a good model for absentee landlords. Excellent roads and fences have been made through it at the marquis's expense ; the land is not set to the highest bidder ; and a preference is always given to the occupying tenant, to whom allowance is made in the rent for building substantial slated houses, &c. As may be expected, there are few, if any, paupers on this property.

Proceeding down the windings of the river, we had a distant view of the Keeper and Gaultee range of mountains in the County Tipperary. We were soon attracted to the scenery in our more immediate neighbourhood by the fine woods and mansion of Tervoe, the residence of the high sheriff of the county, William T. Maunsell. A little further on appeared the house and demesne of Cooperhill, also richly wooded. Behind, on an eminence, stands the stately, ruined fortress of Carrig-o-gunnel, or the " Rock of the Candle," which belonged to the O'Briens of Thomond, that powerful family having been formerly kings of Limerick. This conspicu-

ous pile of shattered towers, whose battlements are elevated 200 feet above the level country, is based on a bold moss-clad rock, affording to old King Donald an ample view of his city and surrounding territory. After having been taken by a detachment from King William's army, under General Sgravenmore, at the siege of Limerick, this important fortress was blown up in the year 1691. At present the interior presents such a scene of ruin as is seldom beheld; great masses of strongly cemented walls, angles, stairs, &c. lie scattered around, as if fresh from the hand of destruction.

On the opposite side rise the hill and back woods of Cratloe.* After passing two old castles on the flat ground near the river, stands Cratloe House, the present residence of Stafford O'Brien of Blatherwick Park, Northamptonshire. Two miles further on appears the fine old castle or palace of Bunratty, a great quadrangular building, the re-

* These woods were sometimes the haunt of the celebrated Freny, the robber, where he successfully eluded all attempts at arrest. Government at length offered him pardon and a provision for life if he surrendered, which he accepted, and was appointed tide-waiter at New Ross.

sidence, for centuries, of the earls of Thomond, among whom was the great ——— O'Brien, president of Munster, and famous for his support of Queen Elizabeth and James I. At the close of the year 1645, according to Fitzgerald's and M'Gregor's History of Limerick, a fleet and army, sent by parliament, sailed up the Shannon, and made themselves masters of this castle, whence they drove the Earl of Glamorgan, who brought a small army to dispossess them; he again attacked them, and, after a siege of six weeks, they surrendered. The castle and lands have since become the property of the Studdert family. The present possessor has erected a more comfortable mansion on the hill behind, which, with his plantations, gives a rich back ground to the landscape. A little further down is another handsome residence, the seat of the late Captain Palliser. We passed a beacon tower on "The Scarlet Rock," opposite Cratloe, and for the next four miles steered among the nine diversified islands, of which the principal are named Sod Island, Grass Island, (which is reckoned nine miles from the city, and about one-fifth of the way to Kilrush,) Key and Saints'

Island ; the latter appears to be the residence of a thriving farmer, and only wants trees to produce both shelter and ornament.

Some distance further down on the left, the picturesque River Mague, after meandering among the old abbeys and castles of Adair, the seat of the Earl Dunraven, and adding fertility and beauty to the rich valley through which it pursues its serpentine course, glides by the lawn of Mellon, the seat of Mountiford Westropp, and falls into the Shannon, where the latter washes the front of his lands: few gentlemen have two such river boundaries to their lawn and grounds. Further on we observed Shannon Grove, the seat of Bolton Waller, and a few miles below, on a hill sheltered by fine timber, stands Castletown, the mansion-house of his brother, John Waller; and near the river is Bushy Island, the much-admired residence of Peter Lowe. We soon after passed the ruins of Begh Castle, situated on a wave-worn rock. Some idea may be formed of the speed of our vessel, propelled by an engine of one hundred horse power, when, on the previous week, and with a favourable tide, she passed this place, seventeen miles

from Limerick, in an hour and a quarter; one of our company, being on board, noted down the time.

As I presume that an *iron* vessel will be a novelty to some of my readers, as it was to myself, it may not be unacceptable to them to know a few of its advantages. One is in its lightness, from the iron being so very much thinner than timber frame-work and planks; the vessel therefore sinks less, and consequently goes considerably faster, with less liability to accident from striking the ground: even this contingency is guarded against, the inside being divided into four compartments, each water-tight; so that if, from accident, one of them filled, the vessel might pursue her passage with impunity. From her great length, compared with her breadth, she sails with more steadiness than might be expected, and without the rolling motion so disagreeable to fresh water sailors.

A considerable expanse of water soon attracts the eye, when the mouth of the river Fergus, four miles wide, studded with several islands, and navigable up to Clare Castle adds to the extensive lake-like appearance which the river here assumes from its bend-

ing course, and the projecting headlands which intercept the view both up and down : this wide expanse is considered half way to Kilrush. On the Limerick side is the river Deel (which runs through Askeaton, and falls into the Shannon.) Here another beacon tower, on a dangerous sunken rock, called the "Beeves," rises like a faithful watchman from the waves. Those useful buildings were erected by the Limerick Chamber of Commerce some years since ; they are circular, strongly constructed, and roofed with stone ; they have a floor above high water mark, with a door-way, and originally had a flight of steps leading up from the rock, affording refuge to the shipwrecked mariner, who might get into the tower, and remain until relieved. Further down, on the Clare side, a ruined abbey, with its tower and roofless buildings, may be seen on Cannon Island.

As we proceeded onwards, the shores were bounded by more elevated hilla, and the view of their diversified tops and sides kept continually changing, from the rapidity of the motion of our vessel. Soon after, the Company's boat, with passengers for our vessel

from Foynes Island, arrived, who obtained the necessary care and exertion of our active captain and watchful pilot, until they were all handed on board.

Cahircon, the fine demesne of Bindon Scott, is seen to much advantage on the Clare side ; the mansion and gardens are extensive, backed by hills covered with fine woods, whose richly tinted foliage adds much to the beauty of this part of the river. The elevated Island of Foynes, on the Limerick side, presents a different aspect, although planting is commenced in that quarter. To the rear is seen the conspicuous hill of Knockpatrick, bearing the ruins of a small ancient chapel on its summit. Our attention was next engaged by the house and improved demesne of Mount Trenchard, the seat of Thomas Spring Rice, Chancellor of the Exchequer : the house, which is spacious, stands on an eminence, commanding a fine prospect ; the grounds and extensive plantations, notwithstanding the frequent absence of the distinguished proprietor, appear to be kept in excellent order. On the Clare side, the sheltered bay of Labasheeda, in which there is good anchorage, and the village of Labasheeda, are

seen in the distance. A few miles further, the little town of Glin, on the left, with a new row of neat bathing lodges in front, arrests the attention. The old castle here, once the residence of the Knights of Glin, a branch of the Desmond family, was besieged and taken A. D. 1600, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by the president of Munster, assisted by a ship of war moored in front: the plan and particulars of the siege, in which the constable and most of the garrison were slain, are recorded in "*Pacata Hibernia*." The modern castle of the present knight is well placed on a gentle elevation, and commands a very extensive prospect both up and down the river: the hills behind are covered with fine timber, which stretches down almost to the water's edge, and a new gateway and entrance, leading up through a wood which is being made, will add to the beauty of this noble residence. The knight's property, which comprises about eight thousand English acres, stretches for miles along the river above the town. Just below are some very handsome cottages amongst the trees, and further on a small stream marks the boundaries of the counties of Limerick and Kerry: the latter now forms the southern shore

to the sea. The new light-house of Tarbert, about three miles off, soon catches the eye ; it is erected at the end of a promontory like a natural breakwater, which forms the fine Bay of Tarbert, affording shelter during the westerly storms from the sea, which on these occasions rushes with considerable force from the Atlantic. Here fifty vessels might ride in safety ; whilst outside, especially when the tide ebbs, the white-crested billows roll by in angry commotion from the opposition of winds and waves. The hill above the light-house is crowned by a battery, and another has been placed on the opposite point for guarding this passage of the river, which, being comparatively narrow, causes a strong current and rough sea, well known as the "race of Tarbert," and much dreaded by squeamish passengers, until the present steady going packet was established, which regularly comes to an anchor in this bay, alongside a large decked lighter, which is prepared to receive the passengers, and various descriptions of merchandise, for the county Kerry. This produces great bustle and activity for about a quarter of an hour. When the packet proceeds on her way, the

lighter is towed in, with her cargo, to a moveable iron pier or platform, lately erected by the Steam Packet Company, (on a new and peculiar construction, which being mounted on wheels of different heights, is rolled down an inclined railway to the level of the tide ; the largest wheels being foremost in the descent, keep the floor level,) when all are conveniently landed. The passengers for Killarney, who have taken advantage of this delightful route from Dublin, can now take cars at Tarbert, and proceed about thirty miles forward to Castle Island, through which a mail-coach and a car pass daily from Limerick, and reach Killarney in the evening.

The scenery round this little bay, and the river, which here also appears like a still greater lake, with the castle and woods of Glin in the distance, and a fine mansion embosomed in thick woods, the seat of the Leslie family, are objects of much admiration ; the latter leads to the town, a mile distant, which, with its spires, may be seen through openings of the wood. The deep bay of Clounderlaw, which, being open to the south-west, does not offer the shelter of its opposite neighbour, was seen to a consi-

derable extent as our vessel swept in graceful curve round the light-house, marking her track through "the race" by a *double* line of little rippling waves, which, as they caught the sunbeams, might be seen sparkling in the distance.

And now what may be styled the *broad* channel appeared before us several miles across. The ancient round tower on Scattery Island could be plainly discerned about eight miles off, and, as it lies opposite to Kilrush, showed where our interesting voyage was to terminate. We soon passed Monney Point, and saw the extensive flag quarry situated there, from which the supply of thick brown flags, called "western flags," heretofore so much in use in the south of Ireland, are procured: their advantages are likely soon to be more extensively known, as the Steam Company have taken the quarries, and, by means of their inland navigation, are sending them in various directions; they are raised to the highest part of the rock, and being very heavy, it is curious to see the men push them over the edge, in order that they may slide down the front of a *very steep* inclined plane. On the left may be seen several old

castles in the direction of Ballylongford, but the river being from five to six miles wide, the distance was too great for us to observe much more than their forms: the principal one, Carrigafoyle, stands near the end of a considerable island of that name, and history informs us that it was a stronghold of O'Connor of Kerry, surrounded by water, and defended on the land side by double lines of fortification; it was taken by Queen Elizabeth's forces in 1580. The abbey of Ballylongford may also be seen further inland.

In crossing the river towards Kilrush, a fine open prospect of its mouth, presents itself twenty-five miles distant, beyond which nothing intercepts the eye until the Atlantic's edge seems to unite with the blue concave above. Although the headlands cannot be seen, yet the land view on the right is interesting. The modern lighthouse of Kilkredane, built on the point of a high ridge of land, stands boldly out to view. This light on the sea side is *red*, to distinguish it from Loop-head light-house outside. Further on is seen Rehy Hill or Head, on which the Chamber of Commerce used to have a large fire of turf kept in cloudy weather, before the erection

of the light-house. Holmes, who visited this place in 1797, says, that while the French fleet lay in Bantry Bay the year before, two large ships of war anchored under Rehy Head, and sent their boats for provisions to the neighbouring county, for which they paid quietly.”*

As porpoises frequent this part of the river, the passengers are often much amused in watching their great dark backs and fins ris-

* The mention of this fleet induces me to inform the younger classes of my readers, who may not otherwise have heard of it, of the providential deliverance which this country, and probably “the homes of their fathers,” experienced from the bloodshed and desolation of war, which then scourged many of the nations of Europe. This powerful armament, according to the *Limerick Chronicle* now before me, dated December 28th, 1796, which consisted of twenty-four ships of war, with several transports, had arrived in the bay, having on board a large French army and warlike stores intended for the conquest of Ireland. After anchoring in the bay, *but before they could land*, a violent storm arose, which, blowing off the shore, forced them out to sea, where they were dispersed, and never permitted to return:—a preservation to be remembered with gratitude. For a further confirmation of this wonderful interposition of Providence we are indebted to the recently published life of Theobald Wolf Tone, a native of Ireland, who served as an officer on board one of the French vessels. Note (d.)

ing above the water: they generally appear to swim with a sort of tumbling motion. A salmon was observed to leap entirely out of the water, followed in the act by its huge destroyer, whose superior powers of swimming probably soon enabled him to overtake and devour his prey.

As we approached Kilrush, the celebrated Island of Scattery, together with its high-backed neighbour, Hogg Island, appeared to have been placed as natural breakwaters, to afford shelter to vessels from the westerly tempest. On the former island, of 100 English acres, is one of the ancient round towers, which, at a period now unknown, was split from top to bottom, it is supposed, by lightning: yet there it stands, above 120 feet high, with its conical stone roof, and serves as a conspicuous way-mark for the pilots navigating this part of the river, and a monument of the workmanship of the ancients. The precise use of this and such other buildings remains a mystery to the present day, notwithstanding the many learned and conflicting opinions on the subject. The ruins of seven monastic buildings are also on the island: a battery on the south side com-

mands the river to the Kerry shore. It is stated in the Annals of Munster, that in the year 975 Brien Boiromhe recovered this island from the Danes; it also appears that Queen Elizabeth granted it to the mayor and corporation of Limerick and their successors, who lately established their right thereto by a suit at law. The present possessor, a gentleman of taste, has fitted up a handsome lodge, and added many improvements. It may be interesting to the reader to learn, that there is another of those remarkable towers so peculiar to Ireland, together with the walls of several smaller buildings, now standing on Holy Island in Lough Derg, sixty-six miles up the Shannon.

As we rapidly passed many neat white houses on the shore near Kilrush, our attention was directed to the point of landing—the pier crowded by a motley group of jaunting-car drivers, carmen, porters, seamen, &c. &c., the countenances of the former expressive of great anxiety to be “engaged.” After some *delay* in getting *close* to the pier, and seeing our luggage landed and packed, which, as usual, was taken charge of by the owner of the house which we were to occupy

at Kilkee, we got seated on a jaunting-car, and were quickly driven to the town of Kilrush, half a mile distant, passing a neat square of bathing lodges, with a hotel in the centre, situated near the pier.

This thriving little seaport stands at the head of a creek, and is well calculated for trade. Large corn stores, good shops, and substantial houses in progress of being built, evince its rising prosperity. Here is a very neat sessions house, a commodious market-house, and we have since learned that a branch of the Agricultural, and one of the National Bank, are established here. May we not hope, that ere long a *savings' bank* will be added to these useful institutions, which would be of much benefit to the poor of Kilkee as well as Kilrush, who put together a little money in the summer, but not having a safe place to deposit it in, it is soon spent.

Kilrush is built on the property of Crofton Moore Vandeleur, whose mansion stands in a fine demesne, extensively wooded, near the suburbs, and it can be seen to advantage as we ascend the hill. On our road to Kilkee, these plantations, with a beautiful spire

rising above the trees, the town, shipping, river, islands, round tower and ruins on Scattery, with the hills behind and rising over all, the distant tops of Mangerton, M'Gillicuddy's reeks,* and the other Killarney mountains, form a splendid landscape.

On a distant hill, over the river, stands Mountpleasant, the seat of Joseph L. Cox. The sea flows between the two hills through a narrow passage, and, when the tide is in, covers several square miles of low land, named Moyarta. In a short time we had a distant view of the extensive mouth of the Shannon, with Kerry Head running far out; beyond it, at a still greater distance, the lofty Brandon-head mountains, rearing their blue peaks, apparently out of the ocean, to a great height, the double mountain of Sleibmesh over Tralee, with several others more inland, forming a bold outline on the Kerry side. In descending, we lose sight of the latter, and passing through extensive bogs or banks of turf, go close to the end of Moyarta, and near the great turf-yards of Scagh,

* The highest mountains in Ireland. The most elevated point is 3405 feet high.

where the small sloops which convey this useful article to Limerick come up to load ; and when the tide is out, the strand being pretty hard, the country people, with a number of horses and cars, set about drawing down the turf from piles previously collected in the yard, and, before the flood returns, the cargo of from thirty to forty tons is on board : the vessel again floats, and sets out for her destination. The value of turf sent thither by boats from the neighbouring bogs is estimated at £10,000* annually. In driving through this part, the traveller is struck with the great quantity of bogwood, mostly the roots of ancient pine forests : in many places the undisturbed stumps are seen protruding ; in others they have been dug out and made up into piles to dry. Here and there a stump may be seen to fill up a gap in the hedge, with the jagged arms of the roots projecting around, the dimensions evincing that the trees must have been of great size. At times the trunks are dug out straight, sound, and large enough to be cut into beams for supporting the roofs of houses, some of which

* See History of Limerick.

we saw in the lodge which we occupied at Kilkee, cut apparently in quarters which measure eight inches by nine, and of considerable length. The roots make excellent firing, and, from the quantity of turpentine pervading even the smallest fibre, it lights like a candle ; some of it is torn into long thin shreds, which, being very flexible, are twisted into ropes, and used for a variety of purposes :* they are very durable, and answer particularly well for drying clothes on, as they do not cause any stain from the application of wet. These remains of trees are very remarkable in this place, as the storm from the sea *now* blights all trees that rise above a wall or other shelter.

As we proceeded, the telegraph on Baldard cliff, which marks the edge of the coast, appeared before us : it stands to the right of Kilkee, and shall be hereafter noticed. Drawing near to the end of our journey, we passed Shannon View, the comfortable residence of Simon O'Donnell, on whose well-

* A scientific gentleman from America lately took home a specimen of both rope and root, as a curiosity to deposit in his museum, as they had not any such in his own country.

cultivated land the admirers of fine cattle may see a handsome stock, principally of the Durham kind. An improved new piece of road, to avoid a very steep hill, and shorten the way, brought us near the Spa of Lisdeen, one mile from Kilkee, which was soon reached over good ground recently reclaimed from bog. We passed groups of the inhabitants who had assembled in the streets, anxiously awaiting the arrivals from Kilrush, drove through the village, and soon found ourselves comfortably settled in a neat lodge on Marine Parade, which had been previously engaged for our reception.

Scarcely had we taken possession of our new abode, and were anxiously watching the arrival of our luggage cart, which also contained some refreshment, when a knock was heard at the door, announcing, not that our dinner was brought, but, as our Kilkee servant informed us, that a county Clare lass wished to know if we wanted to buy *porcupines** or *dilisk*.† Although both hungry

* A species of echinus, found with the spines on.

† *Fucus palmatus*, a species of seaweed, which is dried and eaten in this county.

and fatigued, we were not a little amused at her merchandise and our own disappointment.

3d. Assured of the honesty of the good people of Kilkee, we slept soundly last night, although without bar, bolt, or shutter to our parlour windows, or any fastening on them, or those of our chambers, (which are on the same floor,) except a small screw to keep the sashes together. Our house commands a fine view of the sea and distant cliffs, and is situated about fifty paces from high water mark: the sound produced by the ceaseless action of the water has a delightfully soothing influence on the mind.

CHAPTER II.

KILKEE, or Kilqui, is situated at Moore Bay, on the western coast of Ireland, in the county of Clare, about fifty English miles from Limerick, one hundred and seventy from Dublin, and twenty-five from Ennis, and its shore is washed by the Atlantic. Comparatively but a few years since it was only known as the residence of fishermen, whose habitations formed the row of cottages now called "Old Kilkee." At present there are upwards of one hundred comfortable houses and lodges for the accommodation of visitors, independent of the cottages in which the natives reside ; since that period the town has been gradually rising into importance, and it is probable will ere long, from the safety of its strand, and other peculiar circumstances, be one of the most desirable watering-places on the coast.

The town, which commands a fine view of the bay, is built close to the sea, and assumes a semi-circular form from the shape of the strand, which presents a smooth, white, sandy surface of above half a mile in length,

where the invalid can, without fatigue or interruption, enjoy the exhilarating sea-breeze and surrounding scenery. The principal street runs nearly from one end of the village to the other, occasionally intersected by smaller ones ; these extend to the strand, and at every few steps afford a view of the Atlantic wave dashing into foam against the cliffs which circumscribe its power, and the rocks of Duggana, which run nearly across the bay. Some of the houses at the "*west end*" of the town, as well as a few in the village, are modern, with sufficient accommodation (including stabling and coach-houses) for the family of a nobleman or gentleman of fortune, and every gradation can be had down to a cottage with a parlour, two small bed-rooms, and kitchen, the rent varying according to the accommodation and demand. A few of the largest, fully furnished, pay from £15 to £20 per month ; but the average for comfortable, good lodges is from £6 to £8, and the smallest from £3 to £4, including a plentiful supply of milk, potatoes, and turf, according to the custom of the place. One circumstance which strongly recommends this place is the

prevalence of *cleanliness*, for which the houses, beds, and natives are remarkable. The walls of several new lodges are now built, and I am informed that upwards of thirty are in progress. It is, however, evident, that many of the people, anxious to possess a lodge, and reap the summer fruits, have overbuilt themselves, to use their own words. A large Roman Catholic chapel has been lately erected near the road; the Protestant place of worship is but temporarily fitted up at the end of the Marine Parade. I understand it is intended to build a handsome edifice for this purpose in the centre of the new square, at the west end. The surrounding country presents a very bleak aspect, without a tree, shrub, or garden flower to enliven its surface. A number of poor cabins diversify the scene from the village to the hilly distance, to the extreme point of which the hand of man has carried cultivation. We were informed that the miserable huts on the south side are to be taken down, and in their stead comfortable cottages are to be built by the occupying tenant, for which the landlord will make him an allowance in the rent: we saw the plan of the new dwellings, and think them calcu-

lated to elevate the mind, and raise the moral condition of the inhabitants ; that kindness and consideration for the widow and the fatherless which has been manifested by his agent, reflects credit on his character.

An extensive bog reaches to the skirts of the town, and affords a plentiful supply of fuel at a very low rate, which confers an incalculable benefit on the inhabitants : a cheerful fire generally enlivens the hearth of the poorest cottage. There are three hotels or boarding-houses in the town, where board and lodging are provided for about twenty-five shillings per week : tolerably well appointed jaunting-cars are *now* amongst the advantages which this town affords. There are two chalybeate spas in and near Kilkee, which, it is said, possess properties similar to the celebrated waters of Castle Connell. One of them is situated, as already mentioned, about a mile distant ; the other is adjoining the town, but, from its present neglected state, and difficulty of approach, we believe it is little frequented by strangers. These obstacles might, however, be removed at a trifling expense, if a path were made from the road along the stream, and the spa covered

in and placed under the care of some deserving poor person, who, by a small allowance from visitors, might be able to gain something towards a livelihood : these healing waters could be made both attractive and useful to the invalid visitors of Kilkee.

Near to this spot the antiquarian may gratify his taste by viewing a fine old Danish fort, the most perfect in this neighbourhood, where they may be said to abound. It lies behind the town on a little hill, and has a thick bank thrown up all round, of about 700 feet in circumference ; the moat or ditch is about 25 feet wide, the centre gradually rises from 16 to 20 feet, the summit is about 300 feet in circumference, and nearly level. On the south side are two rather small openings, which lead to subterraneous chambers, and occupy the interior of the centre elevation : they are said to be extensive. The neighbourhood was thrown into consternation some time since by a ventriloquist, who caused sounds of distress and anguish apparently to proceed from these vaults. If the apertures were enlarged, it might afford an inducement to the curious inquirer to descend and explore the probable store-houses of the northern de-

predators. The lads of the village are now the chief visitors of this antique circle. One of our party was informed by a youth that it was a fine place to dry clothes in, "for if all the rogues in the county Clare came, they could not steal them; that out of a joke some of them tried, but could not touch one, because of the 'spirits (or ghosts) which are said to frequent it;' also that some time since the landlord wished to have the mound removed, but could not get the men to work at it, as they got afraid." If it were really the landlord's intention to have it removed, we need not be surprised at the result, as a disposition prevails in most places amongst the country people not to level their favourite old circles.

The market is well supplied with good mutton, occasionally with beef, which, during our visit was from 4d. to 4½d. per lb.; young poultry at a low rate; but the supply of fish very much depends on the state of the weather: for the last few years they seem to have in a great measure left the coast. Turbot and other fine fish are frequently brought to market; shell-fish of various kinds in abundance; vegetables scarce; in conse-

quence of the prevalence of harsh winds along the coast, vegetation is much injured : excellent butter and milk, and good bread, can likewise be had. All kinds of provisions are brought in neat baskets to the houses, and we found an advantage in having a *native* servant : as few of the people can speak English, the bargains consequently must be made in the Irish language. The natives appear to have but little idea of the gradations of society : the simplicity of their manners, though not always convenient, is often amusing. If the hall-door happened to remain open, which is frequently the case here, the citizen would hardly be prepared for a barefooted country lass walking without ceremony into the parlour, carrying to the breakfast table a dish of fine fish just caught, without her entertaining an idea that she had transgressed the rules of propriety.

The natives of Kilkee are, as it were, emerging from an uncultivated state, and but young in the arts of civilized life. We found them remarkably honest, sober, kind-hearted, civil, and benevolent ; by no means deficient in intellectual endowments : but I am not about to imply that these excellent and ami-

able qualities are not shaded by the frailties of human nature. It is a pleasing fact, that during the disturbance that some time since prevailed in the county Clare, the inhabitants of Kilkee took no part.

Much of the toils of husbandry devolves on the women, who are very expert in the management of horses ; even little girls of ten years old, standing up in the car, often drive them with a single rope rein. Such is the harmony and good feeling existing amongst them, that when a woman who has an infant (and finer children are seldom to be seen) is obliged to labour in the field, she leaves her babe with a neighbour, who also has an infant, but who can stay at home and nurse her child ; and it is not uncommon to see several of the cottage doors shut, and a number of children playing outside the *open* door of another, the poor woman to whom it belongs having kindly taken them in charge, in order to liberate their parents.

6th Mo. 9th. The strand this morning presented an unusual scene of bustle.

“ Spring tides return’d, and Fortune smiled ; the bay
Receiv’d the *rushing ocean* to its breast.”

Men and women were to be seen in all di-

rections removing sea-weed which they had cut from the rocks, and brought to the shore in canoes, together with large quantities of the long-weed, which they tied together in great bundles, and which floated in with the tide, propelling with them all that was loose between them and the shore. This scene brought to our recollection Captain Cooke's description of the inhabitants of Otabeite. The women appeared quite as active as the men in leaping in and out of the canoes, standing in the sea up to their waists, in that state filling carts and creels, which were placed contiguous to the sea to receive the loadings. There is one kind on which they set the highest value ; it consists of many leaves, some of them three yards long, attached to a stalk of considerable strength ; this they use for manuring potato ground, the soil here being particularly poor and sterile. This was a scene of enjoyment to the young natives, especially the little girls, who, with their frocks drawn up and neatly fastened round their waists, to keep them dry, ran in and out of the water like amphibious creatures ; to young and old it appeared like the joyous scene of a harvest home.

We were much amused in observing the dexterity of about a dozen young girls, who went to assist in pushing off a canoe with two men in it, who had long laboured, without success, to get clear of the land, owing to the resistance of the waves ; with a considerable effort the little folk pushed it off ; but whilst the men were congratulating themselves on getting clear of the land, and preparing to row away, the light-hearted lasses, bent on diversion, watched the returning wave, and archly uniting their efforts, drew the canoe and its cargo on dry land, and ran away, highly delighted.

The day being unusually fine induced us to take an excursion on the water ; but here, as in some other bathing places, much cannot be said of boat accommodation. The natives use canoes for fishing, which are the only description of boat to be found along this coast. About twenty of these comprise the fishing establishment at Kilkee : they are composed of a frame of light timber or strong wicker work, covered with sail-cloth rendered waterproof with pitch and tar. The best kinds have slight timber hoops to support the cloth, which is an improvement. A

D

few years since they were covered with horse and cow hides, after the custom of the ancient Irish: these little vessels have neither keel nor rudder; they are particularly calculated to skim over the surface of the waves, and pass *safely* amongst the rocks on this dangerous shore, where a timber-boat might be dashed to pieces. The expert rowers, with a light paddle or oar *in each hand*, glide very swiftly over the waves, and turn them with great dexterity. It is surprising, at times, to see them going along shore: when a breaker approaches that would fill the canoe over its *side*, they instantly turn the head, which, from its being elevated, enables them to ride over in *safety*, and as quickly return to their course; they are considered much safer when well managed, than timber-boats of the same size. The weight of the latter would preclude their general use along the coast: when there are not any sheltered harbours the fishermen on landing have to carry their canoes above the reach of the waves; when the sail-cloth happens to be torn, it is most expeditiously repaired; a sod of lighted turf is held near the rent until the pitch is melted, a fresh piece is stuck on

the aperture, and the canoe is immediately launched ; the water hardens the cement, and without further ceremony the fishermen jump in and row off.

On a calm day, our party of six embarked in one of those frail vessels upon the Atlantic. As we skimmed over the surface the town presented a handsome appearance ; its neat white cottages forming a crescent round the sandy shore, which, with rocks and cliffs on either side, formed an interesting landscape ; rendered more so by the busy scene before mentioned. On remarking to our intelligent boatman that they appeared to set a high value on the long sea-weed, he replied—“ *uvvery* creel of that is a ridge of *pweaties*, with the blessing of God upon it.” This being our first cruize we were content to be rowed about the bay, and had an opportunity of admiring the fronts of the cliffs and mouths of some caverns. The water, clear as crystal, allowed us to see the beautiful weeds that grew at the bottom : some very long, resembling rich frills ; others with spreading heads ; whilst the tenants of the sea, passing in shoals, occasionally intercepted our prospects ;

and with the sun's ray, sparkling on the tops of the swelling waves, produced a *tout ensemble* beyond my powers of description. When approaching the beach, another peculiar and beautiful effect is sometimes perceived on the sand below, occasioned by the sun shining through the gentle smooth waves, whose convex surface, condensing the rays, throws them in brilliant quivering streaks of light over the smooth bottom; and as the surface changes position and shape every instant, this peculiarly vivid and beautiful appearance partakes of a similar variation.

After enjoying the scene for a considerable time, we returned highly delighted to the shore. Soon after we landed, the great assemblage of people who thronged the shore, announced that some accident had happened; we soon learned the painful certainty. A young married couple who had gone out in the morning to cut sea-weed had both been drowned: the body of the youthful wife was just then brought to the beach. Her afflicted father, on seeing the corpse, rushed into the water and received it in his arms, and then placed the inanimate form of his beloved

child on the bosom of her bereaved mother, who sat in a cart brought to convey the remains to her late happy home.

In the evening I took a solitary walk on the strand which was quite deserted—the total absence of every sound, save that of the advancing and retreating wave—heaps of sea-weed which lay scattered around, the mementoes of the destruction of human life which marked that eventful day—all conspired to lead the mind to serious contemplation on the uncertainty of time, and the necessity of seeking a preparation for that awful moment which is fast hastening upon *all*—when the hand of death shall be imprinted on every feature, and the frail body can no longer detain the immortal soul.

The idea of visiting the desolated family who lived a few miles distant was suggested, and we were amply repaid for the toil of ascending a mountain-road, by the interesting particulars which we gathered respecting this melancholy catastrophe. The deceased was the daughter of a native, named William Fennell, and but eighteen summer's suns had passed o'er her youthful brow ; a few months before she had been united in mar-

riage to an amiable young man, aged twenty-one. She and her husband had remained under her parental roof, but were building a cottage, and on that eventful morning they had gone to cut sea-weed to manure a little potato-garden, intended for their future support. The youthful couple had repaired to the rocks of Moveen Bay for that purpose. We had the following particulars of this melancholy circumstance from a by-stander. The husband stood on a cliff, whilst his wife at the bottom cut the sea-weed, and loaded a basket which he by a rope drew up, to save the labour of carrying it round by the rocks ; whilst she was thus employed an *unexpected large wave*, to which this coast is liable, swept her and a faithful dog who stood beside her into the sea ; her husband saw the awful event, but was at too great a distance to render her *prompt* assistance. In a state of distraction he was in the act of plunging into the water, which from the force of the waves would probably have been inevitable destruction, when some women who stood by laid hold on and prevented him. No other man being present, he seized a canoe that was at some distance, and which is con-

sidered a sufficient load for two men, carried it down to the water, launched it, and paddled towards his wife, who had seized the dog, held it in her arms, and continued to float till he reached the spot. On approaching he found the weeds which she had cut were wrapped about her head, and the mandate had gone forth—

“ Spirit ! leave thine house of clay !
Ling’ring dust resign thy breath !
Spirit cast thy chains away !
Dust be thou dissolved in death !”

This was too much for the heart of her affectionate husband ; he became faint, called to the women on the shore that he was going, desired them to pray for him, became immediately overpowered, and fell almost in a state of insensibility. His weight upset the boat, and he “sunk to rise no more :” their faithful dog remained in the water until life was extinct in both, and then watched from the rocks until a boat was sent round from Kilkee to bring the young woman’s corpse to the strand. The poor animal followed along the cliffs, keeping the boat in sight, and was waiting at the water’s edge by the time it had arrived, howling most piteously ; he accom-

panied the remains home and then returned to the rock where he last saw his master, who was not found until next day; there he stayed the remainder of that day and night without food, and showing every demonstration of distress. After considerable exertion the body of the young man was found; his leg having got fast in a cleft of the rock prevented his rising to the surface. The poor animal on seeing his master's body taken up appeared rejoiced, and followed the procession to the house of mourning, and continued there until he attended the remains to the silent tomb; and after the melancholy duties were performed he took up his abode with a brother of his late master, with whom they had both lived before his marriage. The mother said, "Captain" used to go to their house at night and examine for him, and that he long continued to go to the different houses of his master's friends, and sometimes get in and search about, and at night howl at their doors. My brother struck with the fidelity and sagacity of poor wandering Captain, prevailed on his owner to sell him, and he has now become quite attached to his new friends. There is another circumstance con-

nected with this case so honourable to one of the parties, that I cannot well refrain from mentioning it. The young couple had possessed a cow and horse ; their friends, from poverty, were unable to make up sufficient money to pay their funeral expenses, and the cattle in consequence were sold. A small balance remained after the sad duties were performed, which was insufficient to pay trifling debts they had incurred in building their house, together with their rent. Such was the integrity of his affectionate brother, that he proposed making up the deficiency when his own little crops came round, adding, that "he would sell the coat off his back, rather than that any one should have it in his power to reflect on his brother's memory by saying that he owed them a shilling." William Fennel, the father of the young woman, informed us that about twenty years ago he, with two men and one woman belonging to his family, were swept off the rocks, in the same bay, by an unexpected large billow, and that his life alone was saved.

16th. Thermometer 101.

18th. Gathered a bouquet of wild flowers, which grow here in great variety and beauty,

to decorate our table in the absence of those cultivated by the hand of art, of which we have not seen either flower or tree, save that of the (*Lavatera arborea*) or mallow, since our arrival.

“ Not a tree,
A plant, a leaf, a blossom, but contains
A volume. We may read, and read,
And read again; and still find something new;
Something to please, and something to instruct
Even in the humble weed.”

“ It matters not to what page of nature’s volume we turn, we discover the impress of the Almighty hand.”

The soil here is poor and sandy; we might almost fancy ourselves on the borders of the deserts of Arabia. On a windy day clouds of dry sand from the beach, meet or overtake the passenger leaving the shore, in beautiful little waves, comparable to the ripple on a lake.

22d. The wind blowing a storm; occasional clouds of sand eclipsing the view; the waves are seen from our windows dashing to the tops of the cliffs, upwards of sixty feet high: the scene truly magnificent. A number of horses and cars, men and women, are to be seen in the water; some of the latter nearly

up to their necks collecting the weeds thrown up by the tide; the rain pouring on them; one poor creature gathering them in her petticoat; the men catch it with a fork, and the women convey it to the kishes which they carry on their backs. On asking a poor woman how many loads she was able to carry in a day, she replied, twenty: these she had to take half a mile, which obliged her in going and returning to walk twenty miles.

We this day purchased a beautiful bird blown in by the storm, called the sea-parrot, or "*alca artica*," with the species of which we were then unacquainted. It was too young to feed itself, but very expert in using its bill which was remarkably strong.

23d. A violent shower of hail last night, and this morning the weather not so cold, but the sea still boisterous. Spent some time on the cliffs watching the breakers dashing over the rocks, and falling in beautiful white cascades, or occasionally rising through the "puffing rock:" the effect very fine. The inhabitants here are generally very healthy, and some of them live to a good old age: not long since a woman died, aged 102, who, to use the words of her grand-daughter, "never

was sick in her whole life until the death came which took her away in three weeks." I am glad to have to say, from my own knowledge, that they have the advantage of an excellent dispensary, and are kindly attended by a skilful practitioner.

24th. Midsummer-day. Thermometer in the air 54, in the sea 60; very cold. Blowing a gale; wind north-west. The sea magnificent; quantities of light white foam, resembling snow-balls or flocks of white birds, blown into the country. Obligated to keep within doors. A telescope, microscope, a fine blazing turf fire, and a determination to look at the bright side of everything, made our time pass pleasantly. A fine field of potatoes, which this morning looked green and flourishing, by three o'clock presented the appearance, in many places, of black-burnt stalks standing up out of the ground.

26th. Blowing a hurricane; the stoutest men scarcely able to keep their feet; the sand driven in a continued shower with force against the face of the passenger comparable to "a little army of gnats;" many of the people on the strand obliged to turn their backs to the wind, moving on in that way as

well as they could. Thermometer 53 in the air. Our situation at the end of the circular strand enables us to see the heightened breakers following in quick succession, and forming beautiful foaming curves of half a mile across the bay. The sea looks fearfully agitated and covered with mist from the curling tops of the waves being blown off. On the opposite side we can see the dark rocks of Cream-head covered with foam and spray, as the tempest carries up the tops of the billows that struck against that frowning headland like beautiful white clouds.

Evening quite calm ; the storm only continued a few hours.

27th. This morning presents a striking contrast to yesterday : the face of nature looks calm and lovely ; the air quite warm.

A barbarous custom exists here, and in *many other parts of Ireland* ; that of plucking *living* fowl, especially geese. Torturing the poor animals by cruelly tearing from their bodies the soft covering which kind nature had supplied to keep them warm during the inclemency of winter. It is truly melancholy to see the unfledged animals walking about with a few coarse feathers scattered

over their bodies ; until some fine or a forfeiture of the *creature so abused* takes place, it is to be feared that the custom will be continued to make a few extra pence.

Another practice we had to set our faces entirely against, and which is not confined to this place, is the way that crabs and lobsters are prepared for table, by what is called plugging. Some of the limbs are torn from the body, and the points forced back into the wounded part of the *living* animal : they are then put on the fire in cold water, and thus as the water gradually heats subjected to a slow and torturing death, merely because the gourmand, regardless of animal suffering, *fancies* they are better than if plunged into boiling water by which they would be instantly killed. If a cook were to tear the feathers from a fowl, spit and roast it alive, it is probable that the cries of the tortured creature would bring from the drawing-room the tender-hearted mistress to enquire the cause. Let me then ask, where is the difference between this and the manner in which crabs and lobsters are generally prepared and dressed ? Yes ! there is a material difference. The fowl could complain, but the

lobster and crab could not, therefore these poor voiceless creatures are tortured with impunity. Roasting unopened oysters and crimping fish is another part of the same cruel system, as well as driving wooden pegs into the joints of lobster's claws to prevent their opening: this unfeeling custom is rendered unnecessary by tying a bit of twine round the claw; if people refused buying those so barbarously treated, it would be likely to produce humane results.

Persons residing on the sea-coast, from being obliged to deprive of life so many tenants of the sea, seem almost to imagine that they are devoid of feeling, and often treat them very cruelly. Those animals which have been given to man for food should be spared all unnecessary pain in taking away life.

“A cruel heart ill suits a manly mind.”

Humanity is a conspicuous feature in the Christian character.

Some of the donkeys here are remarkably pretty: they are round, plump, and very clean; and so gentle, that we have seen them passing quietly along without any bridle, carrying a panier on either side, a small

child or two, sometimes sitting behind, apparently without the least fear. Whether it be the sea-weed on which some of them *choose to feed*, or the boiled potatoes that are given to them when young I cannot say, but certainly they do much credit to their owners. The horses in the interior are in very good condition; in the absence of oats many of them get a stone of boiled potatoes per day.

The men here are generally clad in grey frize coats, except those who are raised above the labouring class; their linen, poor as they are, is remarkably *well coloured*; they mostly wear shoes and stockings, and I do not recollect to have seen a *broken stocking* amongst them during our stay, which speaks well for the care and industry of the females. The women are generally dressed in coarse home made blue flannel gowns and petticoats; very few of them wear either stockings or shoes. The more comfortable amongst them grow, spin, and manufacture their own linen. All of these interesting people with whom we conversed appeared anxious for information; but I regret to say, that we did not see a book of any kind in the cottages which we

entered, except where schools were kept. As many of the rising generation are receiving the first branches of education, and will stand in need of food for the mind, we were impressed with an idea of the advantages likely to arise from the establishment of a lending library of well chosen books.

The want of a Savings' Bank either here or in the neighbourhood is much felt. A poor woman remarked, that "while she had a shilling in her pocket she could not keep from spending it."

I do not wish to use either the pen of partiality or prejudice, but simply *to state things as we found them*. I therefore cannot help expressing my regret that there is not a more strict *observance of the Sabbath*. Country produce is brought to the doors on that day as usual, and the people were surprised to find that we would not purchase. It is, however, satisfactory to know that the men do not fish on the Sabbath, and that the foregoing remark does not extend to the whole population; for many of the inhabitants spend the day quietly at home with their family, after having been at their place of worship.

29th. We have been nearly a month in this place without seeing any person under the influence of drink: certainly we reside in a retired situation a little out of the town, and the busy season has not commenced. This day being extremely wet, a carman who brought some luggage from Kilrush, had taken a stimulant, under the mistaken idea of keeping out the rain, and with much good humour, told us he was hard set to make out the house, "but if the basket had been directed to 'Quinlan's lodge?' he would have had no difficulty, for he knew 'Quinlan's lodge' *before ever it was built.*" We are often amused at the native wit, transpositions, and blunders of our simple countrymen and women, who are not by any means forward in their manners or in the habit of intruding their concerns on strangers; at the same time they are ready to speak of them when asked. A casual question made us acquainted with the following circumstance, which I notice in the hope that the subject may claim attention from the benevolent visitor.

A very poor woman who was nursing a lovely infant, informed us that, previously to its birth, she had to pawn the only good gar-

ment in her possession to make some preparation for her approaching confinement. On this article she got three shillings which was the extent of her resources. During her illness she suffered many privations, some of which I shall describe in her own words:—"It happened in the long winter nights, and many a time I had to sit in the dark, not having the price of a farthing candle or a sup of milk; but the Lord brought me through all, glory be to his holy name." (Whilst relating the hardships she underwent on that occasion, she could not refrain from tears,*) adding, "and often since that time when we got up in the morning, we had not the price of our breakfast, and my poor husband's heart used to sink, thinking of our hard lot: then I used to say to him, the Lord was good and often helped us, and we ought still to put our trust in him. Some how or other before night we would have enough; he would get a day's work, or I would be sent

* If a small fund could be made up for supplying the very indigent women with even a few baby-clothes and little indulgences, such as oaten meal, tea, &c. so needful on those occasions, yet out of their reach, it would in no small degree contribute to their comfort.

to do a little job, but still it is a hard thing to get up in the morning and not have a bit for ourselves or our children, and both of us able and willing to labour for our living."

The genuine simplicity with which the young woman related her sorrows has induced me to give an account of them here.

So far these poor people in general, seem to have suffered but little from their intercourse with the vicious part of society.

A heap of turf lies outside of our door quite exposed, and I believe has not been touched by a pilfering hand since placed there; it is not uncommon to see an apron, a pair of shoes, &c. lying on the rocks or in the fields, and no one seems to think of meddling with them except the owner. After the influx of strange beggars who generally arrive as the season advances, more caution is necessary. One of the peculiar advantages of this watering place is the safety of the strand, which is sheltered from the force of the waves by the rocks of Dugganna. On a calm day I have counted as many as ten or a dozen little children, the oldest not more than six or seven years, and some much younger, with their frocks tucked up, amusing

themselves in and about the water, without any person to look after them or the slightest apprehension of danger ; even small children bathe by themselves.*

Several extraordinary recoveries from accidents, complaints of the spine, &c. &c. have from time to time taken place here. A lady who had received a serious injury on the back by a fall from a horse, and for several years was unable to walk, was brought some time since on a litter to Kilkee, where she spent most of the summer. Soon after her arrival she used the warm bath and began to amend ; and before she left it, she was able to walk miles along the cliff, and has continued a healthy woman since. In fine weather the invalid is brought on a couch to the strand, to enjoy the animated scene, and inhale the refreshing breeze. The mode of bathing occasionally used in spinal complaints was new to us. The patient is laid on a wide board, which is carried by two persons into the

* The arrangements heretofore made by the magistrates, assigning separate parts of the strand for men and women's bathing, require better enforcement. It is hoped this subject will receive closer attention, so as to render any allusion unnecessary in a future edition.

water, where, without the slightest personal exertion the invalid is gently dipped. A species of sea-weed grows on this coast; the natives boil it to a jelly with which they rub weak limbs; they consider it excellent for removing "pains out of the joints."

In the summer of 1834, a friend of mine was accosted by a well-dressed young man, who asked for charity. On expressing her surprise at seeing him begging, he said that he was a horse-rider, and that a considerable time back he had been thrown from the saddle, by which his thigh was broken, and he became quite disabled and went on crutches. Being recommended to try the water at Kilkee, the gentleman to whom the horse belonged gave him a pound to pay his expenses: by bathing, and the use of the sea-weed already mentioned, at the end of a month he was able to lay aside *one of his crutches*; and "now," said he, "I am six weeks here to-day, and thank God, this morning *I broke up my last crutch to boil my pwayties*, (potatoes) and if the ladies and gentlemen will give me as much as will keep me for another week, I'll go home as whole and sound as ever I was."

The case of the individual to whom I am indebted for this interesting anecdote, presents another striking instance of the efficacy derived from the use of the sea-weed, &c. ; a violent pain of the hip was *entirely removed* at the end of a month : of this complaint she has not since had any return. Persons even in health generally remain a week in town before they go into the water, to allow the system to accommodate itself to the change of atmosphere ; by omitting this precaution, some individuals during our stay sustained injury from taking cold, &c.

A neat stone bridge unites Marine Parade to the village, and leads to the " West End " of the Town. Situated at the back of the houses is a very ancient and highly-esteemed well, to which the natives attach *healing virtue*, and also a stream of most excellent water. A road from the village by the Parade leads directly to the cliffs, and affords the invalid an opportunity of viewing from these heights the mighty ocean, whose expanse at times presents a glassy surface on its gentle swells ; and again, the strong westerly winds dashing its wild waters into foam. On the hill to the left is an extensive flag quarry, which affords

an abundant supply of materials for building, and when laid horizontally and well united with mortar forms a strong, thick, durable wall ; a single one of these flags, measuring upwards of nine feet in length, is placed as a bridge across a rivulet. The rocks along the southern point of the bay are thus described by W. Ainsworth—"The strata consist of alternating beds of clay slate, and ampelite, and of extremely compact quartzose rock, without cement and scarcely any fissures of stratification." From their stair-like regularity they can be descended in some places with ease to the water's edge ; and when the tide allows, the naturalist is afforded an opportunity of admiring the beautiful marine productions which occupy the cavities. After passing a little cove, we arrive at the rocks of Duganna. At low water they are traversed by numbers of poor women searching for shrimps and small shell-fish. In attempting even a faint description of some of the beautiful tribes of the animal and vegetable kingdom that exist on these and the neighbouring rocks which the sea covers at its flowing, I shall generally avoid scientific names, my desire being to induce the admirers of nature's varied pro-

ductions, to visit those scenes of untiring gratification, in rambling amongst the endless variety contained in the little lakes and pools left by the receding tide. Here marine plants growing upright, present their tops like miniature groves of trees and underwood, rich in hues and foliage. The cavities in the rocks are lined in many places, like little grottos, with the rarest sea-mosses, enlivened still more by coral of a pink shade, sea anemones, shells and stones of different colours; whilst the sea urchins or *echini* in thousands have either embedded themselves in the rock or lie like pavement, throwing their dark shade into the picture. The edges of other cavities are ornamented with incrustations, likewise of a pink hue, formed sometimes on the patella or limpet shell, in whose concave cells the infant urchins are found cradled; but to the transparent brightness and delicate emerald tinge of the unruffled crystal-like water, these repositories of ocean are much indebted for their peculiar beauty.

In viewing them, or gazing in admiration at the sheets of feathery spray dashed up when the returning breakers meet this rocky frontier, it is dangerous to loiter long after

the tide flows, as the low passage near the shore is covered some time before the outside rocks, and persons who remain there are often placed in great peril and sometimes lost. The latter, we lamented to hear, was the case with a poor woman last spring, who stayed heedlessly gathering shell-fish (probably for food). The sea was so rough as to prevent all relief, and she ultimately perished as the rising waves broke over her last refuge. The body was soon washed into the bay, hot-baths and other means of restoration were humanely applied, but alas! without success. By going when the tide is half out one may stay three or four hours rambling in perfect safety. Care is necessary not to tread on the *green* sea-weed, which is extremely slippery. Many parts of the rocks are incrustated like honey-comb, with a small shell-fish of the *lepas* class, which affords firm footing. On a flat rock, about twenty feet high, immediately overlooking Duganna, a gaily attired party were not long since seated, enjoying the magnificent prospect, and partaking of refreshment. One of the ladies had just raised a glass to her lips and was in the act of taking the wine, when a

wave unexpectedly dashed against a rock, and enveloped the whole group for a moment "in a crystal case." They were lost in astonishment, from which they were, however, soon aroused by the merriment their awkward situation had excited in some company who were higher up on the cliff. When a little recovered from their surprise, they endeavoured to shake the water from their clothes which were completely drenched, and good-humouredly joined their neighbours in a hearty laugh. We had this anecdote from a gentleman who witnessed the scene.

Very near the juncture of this reef with the south point of the bay, is a large rude opening, nearly circular, with projecting shelves of rock, resembling benches and floors around at different heights, and contracting as they descend like an amphitheatre, by which name it is known. This sombre specimen of natural architecture is well worth the attention of the geologist. It is about forty feet deep, and through the centre is a passage to the bottom by irregular steps, which the fractured edges of the rocks present at this point, having rather a narrow opening to the sea, through which the break-

ers are thrown up in rough weather with great force and fine effect, as the snowy tops dash up on the floors one after another. The exertion of a descent, though very slippery, is well repaid by the beauties of the grotto-cavern on the left, which far exceeds my descriptive powers, and may be safely visited for an hour before and after low water, even in rough weather. In addition to all the attractions of the outside pools, those in this place are lined with a thin pink incrustation. Here the sea anemonies are found in great variety, tinted with all the colours of the rainbow, from light orange to dark green, and their circular mouths, when open, present numerous fringes like feelers, resembling the fine petals of a flower: on the slightest touch they collapse, and nothing but the smooth exterior of this polypus is to be seen. The grotto appears to be about sixty feet long, and forty feet wide at the entrance, and from this little spot the setting sun, reflected in the pools, and sinking just opposite into the ocean, has a very fine effect. On the left of the entrance is an oval cavity, called the "Lady's bath," which for natural beauty seems to surpass all we had before seen: the vivid colour of its

incrustations, heightened by the depth of its pure still water, makes one wish to bathe in it; but it is guarded from disturbance by rough edges, and numerous spines of the urchins that hold quiet possession. Near the amphitheatre in a small bay detached from the cliffs, stands a mass of rock fifty to sixty feet high, which from its shape is called "the ruined tower:" over its summit, even in summer storms, the tops of the waves are seen to dash, as they break into this bay with great violence; from its contiguity to the village it is a favourite resort, but when the wind is very high, the visiter may expect a good wetting from the spray and light froth that collects there, and is blown up over the land like showers of snow. The sea rushes in where it has undermined the cliff on the left of the bay; and if the visiter walk round to the other side of the head, he can distinctly hear when the breaker strikes the inner end of the cavern.

As the cliffs are high on both sides of Kilkee, the visiter may take delightful bracing walks, inhaling the pure health-restoring breeze, charged with imperceptible saline particles, which imparts an effect, in some degree,

comparable to sea-bathing, whilst the short close verdure, by its elasticity, greatly assists the foot of the invalid, and may be almost compared for softness to a thick Turkey carpet. In following the numerous and ever varying bays, heads and stupendous island-rocks, whose untiring scenery would far exceed my ability or space to describe, I must, therefore, leave to my readers the agreeable employment of examining for themselves amongst the ruins of a coast, which has for thousands of winters been assailed by the overwhelming force of the mountain billow of ocean, urged on by the westerly tempest. Ruins of nature may be expected after centuries of such assaults, and are here presented in abundance; in some places they stand, far out from the cliffs, as Bishop and Bird Islands, which are immense masses 150 feet high, the former affording grass on its surface to feed several sheep in summer. From the height of those and other islands, and the strata and colour of the rock being similar to the adjacent cliffs, no doubt exists that they were once united, but as the strata behind them were less compact, the incessant beating of the waves having worn chambers

underneath, the roofs in time fell in ; and the connecting mass being once shaken, was gradually washed away ; the sea at length making a wide passage through, separated those islands, leaving great fragments of rock in the channels, which rear their dark heads above the waters, and are seen when boats are passing. The smaller pieces after being worn round by the action of the water are rolled by currents into the bays and thrown up in surprising quantities, as at Ross, Farahee, and some near the amphitheatre at Kilkee.

These ruins differ materially from the works of man, which by the silent lapse of ages crumble into dust, but here the remaining boundaries which prescribe limits to the proud waves of the ocean remain as high and formidable as they appear to have been at their formation. A quarter of a mile from the Amphitheatre, to the south, the Puffing Rock, about fifty feet high, and thirty feet square, is an object of much attraction, and has an opening down through the middle, to a large chamber beneath ; and when the breakers are driven in by strong wind and high tide, after filling the lower space, the water is spout-

ed up through the aperture like graceful feathery plumes, and, descending in mist, produces, when the sun shines brightly, a most vivid and beautiful iris, whose arch may be seen by standing with your back to the sun. The left side of this rock forms an inclined plane with the "diamond rocks," so called from the small crystals of quartz* found in their veins. These rocks are extensive, and, when the tide is out, well worth traversing. They descend in many places like steps to the water's edge: *there* the waves are considered to break with more grandeur than at any place in the vicinity of Kilkee. From the safety at all times of their situation with respect to the tide and the number of natural seats, this is a place of favourite resort. Ascending to the plain we perceive, further on, the high cliff called the "Look-out," whence the coast-guard can take observations for forty miles. This precipice was measured, and found to be 225 feet above low water. A glance across the "Look-out Bay," beneath the cliffs, presents a picture of the ravages of ocean seldom equalled. In the farthest angle of this bay, inside Bird Island, is situated the celebrated

* The German word for *flint*.

cave or cavern, of which I shall hereafter speak. Bird Island, about 150 feet high, is a nestling place for sea-gulls, and is likewise the resort of numerous sea-birds. On this coast are seen the common white, large grey, and *very* large white gull, with cranes, ravens, cormorants, hawks, rock-pigeons, puffins, sea-larks, and choughs ; these latter are very like crows, but with bright red beak and legs. When viewed through a telescope the large gulls on the island are very beautiful objects, appearing very near, some standing perfectly at their ease, others sitting on their nests, without fear of molestation from the land ; but I regret to say, that some of the gentlemen, when amusing themselves, take aim, and with rifle balls shoot these pretty creatures, leaving their helpless little brood to perish under the wings of their lifeless parent, and this they call *sport*.

“ An inadvertent step may crush a snail
That crawls at evening in the public path ;
But he that has humanity, forewarned,
Will tread aside and let the reptile live.”

Were it not that sheep are seen on the top of Bishop's Island, it would appear incredible that they could be dragged up its rough and

nearly perpendicular sides. It is customary for persons to go from Kilkee to see the hardy coast climbers ascend to bring the sheep down, for which purpose they tie a collar of grass-rope round the neck of the animal, and pulling it to the edge go down a step or two, and then draw the poor terrified creature after them, whose firm resistance by keeping its feet against the edges of the cliff, prevents it from tumbling over. Thus continuing the process, they reach the bottom, much to the relief of the anxious spectators, whose nerves are strongly excited during the perilous descent. Practice from childhood enables the men to scale and overlook these giddy heights without danger. The south side of this island is the most interesting. Farther on is Moveen Bay, of considerable extent, where the young couple were drowned. (See p. 48.) A very remarkable natural pillar stands a good piece out from the land and with other less elevated remains of rock, indicate that the sea has made considerable encroachment. At some distance may be seen the top of the ancient Castle of Doonlicky, which guarded a small fortified head or island of that name. It is well worth extending the walk to this ruin

and scenery. From the pieces of shells seen in the hard mortar of the walls, it appears that burned sea-shells were substituted for lime, which is not to be had in the neighbourhood. On the south side of the island, the great sheets of "flat rocks," with the breakers widely extending over them, are much admired, and present a contrast to the deep, fearful chasm that separates the island from the cliff on the north. On proceeding along the coast for a mile, the tourist passes enormous islands of rock not far from the cliffs, and soon reaches a picturesque little bay and strand, into which the sea rushes through a very narrow entrance. Between high rocks above the beach are two of the most ancient-looking thatched mills for flour and oatmeal. Should the walk of about six miles back to Kilkee be too long, a company might have a jaunting-car sent round to wait at the mills; and on returning, they pass the way leading up to the hill of Knocknagaroon, with its dismantled telegraph; and if an extensive prospect be desirable, it can be obtained by an easy ascent on foot up the road made by Government when the tower was built. The view round the horizon embraces a great part

of the Shannon from Tarbert to its mouth—Carigaholt castle and bay—the light-houses, backed by the Kerry mountains on the other side, and the cliffs of Baltard—the distant tower on Hagshead—the cliffs of Moher, with the islands of Arran, and a great extent out to sea. Should a party wish to proceed about twelve miles farther along the coast to Loop-Head, passing by the bridges of Ross, it would afford scenery still more wild on the south side of Cape Lean; but as there is not any hotel in that direction, it would be proper to have a well-stored basket, as the sharp air of this coast gives a keen edge to the appetite: a jaunting-car should be sent round to the light-house, or village of Kilbaha; to bring the company back to Kilkee.

CHAPTER III.

Having noticed the south western coast, I shall now introduce my reader to the right hand or village side of the bay. Near the commencement of the cliffs stands a small house affording the accommodation of hot baths, for which the water is pumped up from the sea. There the land is not very high at first, but gradually becomes more elevated. Underneath are some caverns which may be entered at the lowest ebb of spring tides, and many pools in front, beautifully ornamented by the hand of nature, present the same attractive appearance as those described at Duggana. Beyond these, the rocks are singularly perforated with rude arches. This course leads on to an object well worth visiting, namely, the northern point, called "Cream Head," from the white foam dashed up by the continual breaking of the waves. Its dark front is divided by great chasms or chambers from top to bottom, which may be safely viewed on the plan adopted by the

natives when looking over these stupendous heights. They lie down, with the head projecting over the edge of the cliff, and this prevents the danger which might arise from giddiness. The rocks on the upper part of this headland are about one hundred feet high, and are remarkably worn into deep channels, and the surface is curiously excoeriated by the top of the waves, which are thrown up by the storms. When standing on this height, it is astonishing to think of the water reaching such an elevation, but it only requires examination to be convinced by the effect; even in summer storms the breakers are here thrown up from fifty to sixty feet, and form grand objects of admiration from the windows of the lodging-houses in the village. Besides the inclination which the breakers have to rise on striking against the cliffs, the extraordinary force of the wind assists in carrying the spray over the land, of which an instance was strikingly evinced during a storm, when some of our party, in going towards Cream Head, were surprised on perceiving at a distance something like smoke ascending from the face of the cliff. On getting nearer, it was found to proceed

from a little stream that crosses the path and which was now swollen by the rain. As soon as it fell over the edge, the wind drove it upwards, and dashed it back over the land as if thrown from a great fire engine, and it fell like heavy rain. At the other side of Cream Head is a considerable bay, called, from its shape, the "Great Horse Shoe," and into this the sea rushes with a violence, of which some idea may be formed from an account given by one of the proprietors of Kilkee, and the officers and men of the coast-guard. After the continuance of a violent storm from the Atlantic, the sea rises from the bay to the top of the cliff, rushes down the green fields in view of the village, and falls into the little river at the foot of the hill. Over the bay stands the high cliff of Corballe, which is two hundred and twenty feet above low water mark ; and from its summit, in a northern direction, on a clear evening, some of our party saw the isles of Arran and the Cunnemara mountains, in the county of Galway, apparently standing out of the sea ; and in the opposite direction a good view may be obtained of the tops of the Killarney and other Kerry mountains, as described,

from the road. The walk by the cliffs may be continued to the telegraph at Baltard, along the shore, passing by the strands of Killard, Dunbeg, and Seafield, to Milltown Malbay, about sixteen miles from Kilkee. From Milltown the tourist need not come back for lodging as a very large hotel has been built there and fitted up on an extensive scale, including baths, &c. &c. Mutton island lies off that part of the coast, and is of considerable extent. A party of the water-guards were stationed at the telegraph there, to correspond with the signals made from Baltard tower on the approach of smuggling or suspicious vessels. The tower by the road is about six miles from Kilkee, but there is a shorter route to Farahee bay, where, leaving the car, and passing over a great bank of large boulder stones, persons can ascend by a gentle elevation through the fields direct to the tower, or go along the cliffs at the right side of the bay, and they soon fall in with a very remarkable tunnel or passage, of 320 feet long, through the rock which forms the headland from this bay into the next Ooubawn bay. The centre of the roof has fallen in for 200 feet, but the ends remain like

natural bridges, one 120 feet, the other 110 feet in length. The sides of this extraordinary place are of perpendicular rock, 102 feet high, the breadth at bottom only sufficient for a boat to be pushed through by placing the poles against the sides ; and even this cannot be done at low water. A fisherman who lives near, on being asked to take some of our party through, said, that until the tide had flowed for some time, a boat would not float over the rocks in the passage ; to the truth of this we assented on looking down, and concluded that it would scarcely be safe until the tide was half in. Very calm weather is required to pass through it. The best entrance is from Ooubawn bay, which is more sheltered. It is strongly recommended, in all such excursions, to have a spare canoe in attendance, in case of an accident. Some of the arched caverns are also well worth examining in a boat. On going up the hill to the Telegraph, another well-known "Horse-Shoe," an amazing excavation or cavity, strikes the visitor with awe. It is so named from its shape, and is some hundred yards round the edge, with sides of perpendicular rock. At the south side of the

entrance, which is the lowest, the measuring line was thrown over, and gave the depth of water to be 48 feet, and precipice above it 150. A little farther up, on the highest part of the cliff, the line gave 230 feet when it rested on the rocks below, which are calculated to be 20 feet above low water, making the whole 250 feet.

A mile or two beyond Baltard, the strands, of Killard and Doonbegg are often visited by parties in search of shells. Here and at Kilkee we collected fifteen kinds—some of them pretty, but none rare, except the large blue shells peculiar to this western coast, called *janthina*, which were first noticed here about ten years since; before that time the conchologist obtained them from Madagascar. The fish often discharge a purple fluid, which stains the hand with the tint of the Tyrian dye; but their most remarkable peculiarity is, that they have a transparent air-vessel or membrane nearly as large as the shell by the aid of which it is said they float on the surface of the waves. This extraordinary appendage is seen protruding from the mouth of the shell when found, but from its delicate texture is extremely difficult to pre-

serve. The shells are about as large as those of the snail, but vary in size. They may be found occasionally on the strands in autumn, but are most numerous at the time of the equinoctial storms. This shell is extremely thin, and often broken by the waves, particularly if left for a second tide; great numbers have been found at Doonbegg after one of those gales. The ruins of three old castles, Killard, Doonbegg, and, I believe, Doonmore, stand near these strands.

Carrigheen moss abounds on this coast, and was scarcely known until 1830. The circumstance which brought this valuable marine production into use is thus noticed in an English publication:—"During the famine in Ireland, in 1830, multitudes of the inhabitants along this coast were preserved from actual starvation by the use of a species of lichen or fucus, (a sea-weed,) which they call carrachan moss.

"This plant is now brought into very general use as an article of diet, especially for infants and invalids. It is found to be as nutritious as isinglass, at about one-twentieth the expense, and as palatable as it is wholesome.

“It is well said, that necessity is the mother of invention, and chance has been called the parent of discovery. We would rather acknowledge the goodness of the Creator, who thus overrules the necessities and circumstances of his creatures to exemplify the riches of his bounty and beneficence.”

One evening two of our company took shelter from a shower of rain in a cabin, where the poor man of the house, surrounded by his little ones, was nursing an infant on his knee. When we entered, he immediately arose, banded us the only two chairs his house afforded, with a degree of courtesy and good-nature which would have done credit to the owner of a mansion, at the same time regretting that he had not a better seat to offer. His wife was without a gown, although the weather was cold, for the only one she had possessed was a short time before stolen by a strolling beggar from the place where it was hung up to dry. A pot with potatoes for their evening meal was suspended over a nice, blazing, turf fire, lighted on the hearth in a large open fire-place. The window-frames were filled to the top with sods of grass and mud, except one, where a space

was left in the upper part to admit light and air, and it was now stuffed with cabbage-stalks, turf, and other vegetable substances. "It is scarcely possible for the Christian to enter the cottages of the poor, and to witness their various afflictions and privations—to mark the tender ties which subsist among them, of father, mother, wife, and child—without partaking of their feelings, and confessing our common nature." Notwithstanding the poverty of these people, they gave their own little room, with all the straw they could collect in the house, to a poor stranger for several weeks, who, they were aware, had it not in her power to make them the slightest recompense, and on being offered a small weekly sum by a generous neighbour, so long as she remained under their roof, the man nobly refused to accept it for himself, but said he would give it to the poor woman for God's sake, as she wanted it the most.

"Reveal in splendour deeds obscure—
Abase the proud, exalt the poor."

The disinterested benevolence of the kind-hearted people of Kilkee, in general, struck us with pleasure and surprise; they appeared ready to share almost their last morsel with

a distressed fellow-creature; and many of their cottages are open to receive and lodge, without compensation, the sick poor who come for the benefit of the water. They say, "in lodging beggars they serve the Lord."

As some of our company were ascending the rocks, their attention was arrested by a person from behind, who addressed them in these words, "*Gintlemen*, ye have an *aisey* life of it, that haven't to be *draggin'* loads on yer backs." On turning round they perceived an elderly man climbing the rocks, who was bending beneath a heavy basket of of wet sea-weed, which he carried on his back. His appearance, and striking salutation, excited their interest, and induced them to enter into conversation with him. He appeared to be an intelligent man, well acquainted with the annals of his native village, and instructed in the school of nature. They learned from him that he was very poor, and, like many of his countrymen, depended chiefly for subsistence on his little potato garden: being unable, from his poverty, to pay for sea-weed to manure it, he was reduced to great difficulties, as the season was far advanced, when a high tide threw

up a large quantity, and, to use his own expression, "God sent him twelve kishes for nothing." Whilst conversing with this man, his new acquaintances endeavoured to convince him that no situation in life was exempt from trouble, and although they were not obliged to carry *loads on their backs*, yet they might have cares and perplexities quite as irksome for them to bear as those of which he complained. The sense of a superintending Providence, which appeared to pervade the minds of these poor illiterate people, and which they evinced under all their privations, is truly instructive.

Having heard an interesting account of a poor family in the village, we determined to call on them, and were directed to a habitation in the corner of a potato field, which had the appearance of having been intended for a cow-house. On entering, we perceived a child in the small-pox lying on a miserable bed in the corner. This bed, a table, a form, and an iron pot, which stood on the fire containing their evening repast, (of potatoes not much larger than wall-nuts,) composed nearly the whole of the furniture of this wretched dwelling, which did not appear to be much

more than ten feet by seven, and afforded accommodation to six individuals. The mother informed us that she originally came from the County of Limerick, and, about twelve years since, had lost the use of her limbs, which prevented her assisting in the maintenance of five children; her husband, being unable to provide for so large a family by his own exertions, they were all turned out on the world, and the poor man had to beg from door to door, carrying his wife on his back, followed by their little ones. In the hope of being benefitted by sea-bathing, her kind-hearted husband brought her in this manner to Kilkee; soon after their arrival she began to feel the good effects of the water, and, by degrees, her limbs acquired strength. Her description of the delight it afforded her husband to see her once more able to raise herself, and at length to walk, was highly gratifying to us; her account of his affection and tenderness, throughout her tedious and trying illness, was most interesting, (especially to the heart of a wife,) which she thus described, "Oh! he was the best of husbands—he never beat me, nor he never cursed me, but he dearly earned me."

"Sickness ! aye, sickness, it touches the heart
With a feeling, where how many feelings have part ;
'There's a pleasure in soothing the wearisome hour,
Pity rears up the stem, and hope looks for the flower."

At length her husband had the satisfaction of seeing her completely restored to health, and she is now a hale, stout countrywoman. After her recovery their prospects began to brighten, and they settled themselves in a comfortable cabin, both contributing their labours to support a family of five children. Matters went on in this way until the cholera spread desolation and dismay through this country ; that awful disease separated this attached couple, and the poor widow,

"Like the ocean-weed upturn,
And loose along the world of waters borne,
Was cast companionless, from wave to wave,
On life's rough sea."

The shock was so great, that it deprived the bereaved mourner of her senses ; but the Almighty arm that had hitherto sustained her, raised up friends amongst her benevolent neighbours, who sheltered her and her children until reason once more resumed its seat. When she had concluded her affecting recital, which occasioned considerable emotion of feeling, she said, in broken English,

G

to this effect, "I have one of the best of sons—"("as one prop is withdrawn, how the heart of man fondly clings to another!")—he has been working all the summer for a man from whom we have a quarter of an acre of potato ground, in order, by his labour, to pay the rent, that we may have something to subsist on during the winter, when he cannot earn anything. He could have got plenty of work this time back for which he would have received wages, but he preferred doing what he could to provide for me and his sisters, and only for that, my poor boy would not be in such rags." She then desired him to come forward and show himself. A fine, interesting, intelligent youth, of about eighteen, came from behind our backs, where he had screened himself; and, truly, I did contemplate his well-patched but tattered clothes with *pleasure*. The poor woman informed us that her children were all dutiful, affectionate, and well-disposed, and expressed a mother's anxiety for their future welfare. We encouraged the amiable youth to continue his kind care of his mother and sisters, and alluded to the blessing which descends on the duteous child; recommended

his mother still to put her trust in "the Father of the fatherless, and the friend of the widow," who had brought her through deep and sore troubles ; and that if He put it into the heart of any of his creatures to do her a kindness, to give to Him the praise.

We then took our leave, with mingled feelings of pleasure, sympathy, and admiration. An individual to whom we related the circumstance, soon supplied this youthful pattern of filial love and fraternal affection with the means of procuring a better coat.

Thrice happy he, who with the heart enjoys
The power of doing good ! If e'er my soul
Asked aught that Heaven denies, 'twas when I conned
The power of wealth to bless. Yes—then I wished
That Fortune with her showers would fill my urn,
And lend the trust to guide, in many a rill,
Her bounty, to enrich the indigent,
And gladden humble worth.

CHAPTER IV.

IN one of our rambles amongst the rocks, we met with a miserable looking girl, who was gathering a species of sea-weed, which the natives dress and eat : she was scarcely half covered, and shivering with the piercing blast. Struck with her wretched appearance, we were induced to call at her habitation, and on entering, the first object which arrested our attention was a child of three years old, whose entire clothing consisted of the remnant of a frock body, with a small strip of the skirt hanging in front ; and a girl of about eight, who had only a part of the skirt of an old gown fastened round her waist. The owner kindly invited us to be seated, when the only chair in the house was presented to me, and my companion took her seat on a turf kish ; the poor man sat on the table, and the wife and children on the earthen floor. On enquiring the cause of such extreme poverty, he gave us a most interesting but sorrowful account of occur-

rences which had happened in the last year. In consequence of wishing to retain some land that had been held by his father, he became involved in debt, and during the summer he had, with his family, patiently endured the greatest privations, hoping that the harvest, which was then fast ripening, would in some degree relieve him from his difficulties. A youth, about 18 or 19, of a most amiable and prepossessing countenance, was *contentedly* sitting in the chimney-corner, eating his dinner of *potatoes of a greenish, waxy appearance*. Such inferior food we had never before seen made use of by a human being; he had not even a sup of milk or a morsel of salt. The potatoes here are extremely bad: those with which we are supplied, though considered the best in the town, require, after they have been boiled, either to be baked or toasted before they are fit for use; yet inferior as they are, some of the poor were heard to say, they would be *quite happy* if they had *enough* of them. Bread is a luxury of which the poor seldom partake.

It would be conferring a real benefit on the inhabitants of Kilkee, if the landlords or other influential persons would introduce a

good description of seed potatoes, better suited to a soil manured with sea-weed than any which they have at present. I have since been informed, that if potatoes are sufficiently covered with earth they cannot become green, and that the sea-weed should be kept a year before it is used for manure.

We were surprised at a singular practice which prevails here. The day before a cow is killed, some of the butchers drive her from house to house, in order to afford the inhabitants an opportunity of admiring and passing their opinion on her condition, and of informing her owner what part they wish to be supplied with. It does not strike the mind with a pleasing sensation to observe the harmless creature, gentle as a lamb, standing in the street, her sides being pressed by half a dozen hands, to ascertain her fitness for the table.

The cottages, especially the new ones, present rather a tasteful appearance. Short plugs are placed all round the upper part of the walls; from these a net-work of straw rope is woven, which entirely covers the thatch. This needful precaution is taken to prevent the roof from being blown off by the storm.

A visiter was not a little surprised at seeing two men, two women, and a boy, lying on the roof of a house, to keep on the thatch, which did not happen to be secured in the usual way. Not finding their weight sufficient, they descended, in order to procure heavy stones for the purpose, but before they could raise them the wind got under the thatch, lifted it up like a sheet, and in a few minutes a considerable part of the roof was scattered about the country. That others had shared the same fate was evident from the quantity of straw which was seen flying in all directions. Straw is a *very scarce* article here.

While sitting in the parlour one evening, my attention was arrested by an unusual passing sound. On looking out of the window I saw a most uncommon figure of a man, pretty well dressed, without any hands and but one leg, and as he was unable to use either crutch or stick, he appeared like an upright moving pillar tapering to the base; by poising his body, he hopped over the ground with an ease and agility quite astonishing. Unlike the "good Samaritan," my first impulse was to turn from the affecting, humi-

liating sight: this sensation, however, afterwards gave place to a more christian feeling, and a desire to converse with the poor creature. I soon discovered, that although the casket was maimed and disfigured, yet it contained the inestimable treasure of a noble mind. He informed me that he was born in the state in which he then was. With his short arms, without any fingers, that just met across his chest, he could reach to his mouth when he stooped his head, and could feed himself, dress and undress, and was famous for his expertness in swimming. He had received a tolerably good education; and on my asking him how he gained a livelihood, he said, "The gentlemen are very kind to me, and do not let me want. Although Providence has not given me limbs like other people, yet *I have much to be thankful for.*" To this striking testimony of resignation to the Divine will, the calm subdued expression of his countenance bore pleasing evidence. Without money, houses, or lands, or probably a change of raiment, and depending on charitable assistance for his support, this poor but interesting man, in the little kingdom of his own heart, appeared

to possess that peace "which the world can neither give nor take away." Our heavenly Father regardeth not man for the beauty of his person or the height of his stature, and taketh no account of the reputation in which he is held by his fellow men, for "He seeth not as man seeth: man looketh at the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh at the heart." On finding he could read, I gave him some publications on Temperance, hoping they might procure him a welcome in the cottages: forgetting that he had not any hand to receive them, I reached out mine, and he immediately bent his head towards his arm, and with much dexterity took off his hat, at the same time requesting me to deposit them in it, and again put it on. He afterwards informed me that the people were much pleased with them, and that they not only insured him a welcome, but got him many a dinner. Every interview increased my interest in the poor fellow's welfare. The last time I saw him, I asked him if he felt contented with his lot; he replied, that he had no reason to complain, that the Lord was good to him, and he was quite contented with his condition, *as no one could feel hap-*

pier in his mind than he did. On my remarking that many who were surrounded by the gratifications and luxuries attendant on wealth could not make such a declaration, he said, "There is not any man in the world with whom I would wish to exchange my situation." If true philosophy consists in being contented in an humble station, or under whatever circumstances we may be placed, ascribing all the blessings we enjoy to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, surely we may gather an instructive lesson from this poor contented man. It appears that he is not in the habit of begging, but thankfully takes whatever is given to him by those who commiserate his affecting condition: that he is not avaricious we may suppose from the following circumstance. An individual whose sympathetic feelings were excited by his helpless situation, kindly offered to collect a small weekly allowance for him, when he modestly and gratefully replied "that he did not stand in need of it."

Being informed that he could write well, I asked him for a specimen, which is now in my possession. It is nicely written, and was

accomplished by placing the pen between his arms; but it was a work of labour, and certainly is an original production, concluding with the following sentence:—"Written by ———, although having no hands, and but one leg.—July 28, 1835."

A wretched hut on the summit of a high cliff, without any other roof than a few scraws or sods taken from the surface of the bog, was pointed out by a fine athletic young man as his habitation. On an individual expressing her regret that he was not better lodged and accommodated, he cheerfully replied, "Oh! there's one below there a great deal worse." I do not mention this circumstance, or any of the foregoing, with a view to lessen the humble class who are obliged to reside in such miserable habitations, but rather to excite sympathy for their sufferings, in the breasts of those who are blessed with the comforts of life. "He who has this world's comforts, and does not feel for those who have them not, is unworthy to possess them; and he who can feel for the wants of others, and relieves them not, according to his means, is equally heartless." Well were it for us

all, if we could supplicate in the language of sincerity—

“Teach me to feel another’s woe,
And hide the faults I see ;
The mercy I to others show,
That mercy show to me.”

The Irish are proverbial for patient endurance of privations. “Amongst the peasantry we may behold men struggling with adversity with all the strongest powers of the mind and body, and supporting irremediable evils with a degree of cheerful fortitude which must excite at once our pity and admiration.” This passive submission, to unavoidable circumstances, does not arise from a want of sensibility or indifference to the social comforts of the family hearth, as few nations more highly value domestic enjoyments.

Scarcely half a dozen families of respectability reside permanently at Kilkee, and very few of the inhabitants are raised above the labouring class: the greater number appear to have quite enough to do to support their families, whilst others are in a state of deplorable wretchedness, and from being so much on a level they are able to do but little in assisting each other. The money circulated

during the bathing season is of great advantage, enabling many of them to pay their rent and purchase comforts and conveniences. The want of clothing amongst the poor, shocks and distresses the benevolent visiter ; who, unprepared to administer to such destitution, can do little but commiserate. If individuals who come to the place would previously collect the cast-off clothes (however old) of their families, and distribute them amongst the poor, it would be a truly charitable act. The useful article of old linen is *particularly scarce*. If every family who come in search of health and pleasure to this invigorating place, would, during their stay, expend five, ten, fifteen, or twenty shillings, or upwards, according to their means, in charitable purposes, and that the money were *judiciously* expended, much good might be effected. " Although comparatively speaking, not many possess the power of doing much, individually, yet a few active, benevolent minds may, with even very scanty means, be able to accomplish great things by bringing the objects openly before others, and calling in their aid."

Some may be ready to say, " We have

enough of poor at home, without giving to strangers." 'Tis true; yet be it remembered, that relieving the poor *at home* will not warm the shivering limbs of age and infancy at Kilkee.

The foregoing *extinguisher* is sometimes put on applications made in behalf of poor strangers by individuals who have not the heart to relieve them; which saying is like unto this—"Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; yet notwithstanding giving them not those things which are needful for the body."

To my youthful readers, whose hearts glow with kindly feeling towards the afflicted and destitute, but who as yet have but partially entered into the delightful work of benevolence, I wish to give a gentle hint—to be very careful not to crush the "bruised reed." Some well-meaning persons when conferring an obligation do not sufficiently consider the feelings of the obliged, and by a harsh unkind manner wound the mind, rendered still more sensitive by the pressure of adversity, and thereby season their gifts with bitterness: Whilst others by the tenderness and delicacy with which they minister to the wants of their

afflicted fellow-creatures doubly enhance the benefit—for even the bitter waters of affliction can be sweetened by the soothing voice of sympathy.

On expressing my approbation of a poor woman's conduct, who had made a great personal sacrifice in order to assist a suffering fellow-creature, she said, "I hope it will do something for my soul." Alas! how often does *self* spoil our best actions. I endeavoured to make her understand that it was not by alms-deeds, or "any works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saveth us." When I had finished, she exclaimed with uplifted eyes filled with tears, "May the Lord help us." To this pious ejaculation my heart responded.

When the heart is filled with the love of our heavenly Father, we love His creatures for His sake. Every act of benevolence should spring from this pure source, and the ruling motive of all our actions should be to promote His glory. Not that we are for a moment to suppose that any act of the creature could add glory to the Creator: the stars in the firmament reflect the light of the sun, so does the holy life and conversation of the

humble self-denying Christian reflect the glory of his Lord.

There are six schools in this town, one for Protestants and five for Roman Catholics. We were informed by the master of the first at which we called, that he had one hundred scholars: they appeared to be of all sizes, and so closely placed that it was with difficulty we could get in or stand between the forms. The school-room measured only fourteen feet by thirteen and a half, and a door at either side had to be open in order to allow them to breathe. We could hardly expect to find much *system* in so crowded a place, but saw some tolerably good specimens of writing; the want of spelling-books, &c. &c. deprived the children of the means of improvement.*

About two years since a school was established for girls, which chiefly owes its exist-

* Since the foregoing account of the schools was written, a lady much interested in the welfare of the inhabitants of this remote place informed me, that a subscription has been commenced for building a commodious school-house, forty feet by twenty, at Kilkee. I therefore avail myself of the present opportunity to inform the benevolent of all classes that I should gladly receive contributions, however small, to promote this very desirable and important undertaking.

ence to the exertions of two benevolent ladies from Dublin during a summer visit; but the proficiency of the children is to be attributed to the superintendence and unwearied exertion of a resident lady. There are about thirty children in the school, who appeared well-grounded in the different branches of education in which they had been instructed; their knowledge of the Old and New Testament surprised and gratified us; but the great deficiency of all kinds of books is much to be regretted.

A classical school of from ten to fifteen boys likewise appeared deficient in books. We also visited a school for girls lately opened. The Irish language has from time to time been taught in another school, as the master informed us, to sixty or seventy boys. The children were not collected when we called, not having returned from their breakfast. We next directed our steps to a school kept by an aged man: he was surrounded by a group of children of a very intellectual and interesting appearance: we were surprised to see the writing-desks drawn up to the ceiling, and on enquiring the cause, the master informed us that "the children had not paper

H

since last Easter." In this school the Irish language was taught, and we heard it read by a little boy of eleven years old, with a fluency which surprised us. He told us that his usual number was from forty-five to fifty, except in the summer months, when several of them remained at home to assist their parents in the labours of the field: there appeared to be about 30 present, amongst whom there were only eight spelling-books, and a few primers and catechisms. While these were in use the remainder of the children had to sit with their hands before them. Their venerable master, who appeared to possess more kindness of heart than scholastic knowledge, "charged only a shilling a quarter for any poor little orphans." His conscientious distribution of some paper, with which he was afterwards supplied, gave us a favourable opinion of his character. We gave temperance publications to each of the school-masters.*

The description of this last, though not least interesting school, closes our account of the seminaries of Kilkee, in which there is not any parochial or endowed school. We were informed that the resident population of

* Note (e.)

the town and its vicinity is estimated at about seven hundred.

1856
(1860)

7th Mo. 24th. The sea has now become smooth by the wind blowing off shore for two or three days, and the weather is settled, and being kindly accommodated with a ship's small boat which was picked up at sea by some fishermen, we this evening set out to visit a cavern about two miles from Kilkee. After rowing out of the bay, and finding ourselves on the mighty Atlantic, I may acknowledge we felt more at ease in a boat with a *keel* and *rudder* than we had done in a canoe, although the motion was much slower, from the boat being heavier. We were accompanied by another party in a canoe who soon got a-head of us. Having cleared the rocks of Duganna, the great expanse of water presented a magnificent appearance; the nearest point on the opposite shore was that of Newfoundland, two thousand miles distant. In passing along, the dark cliffs, the Amphitheatre, the Puffing cavern, the flat or diamond rocks, in succession arrested our attention and excited admiration. As we glided over the glassy surface of the water in "Look-out-bay," we did not anticipate that

it would so soon be the scene of a dreadful shipwreck, where a large number of our fellow-creatures who were on board the "Intrinsic," were instantaneously hurried into an awful eternity, when she went to pieces.*

Having arrived at the mouth of the cave, we lay to, in order to take soundings, and to examine the majestic perpendicular cliffs, one hundred and fifty feet high, by which we were surrounded, throwing their dark shade on the water, which gave it the appearance of a *sea of ink*. The water here was thirty-three feet deep. We were gently wafted into this magnificent cavern, of which I can only give a faint sketch, but to enable the reader to form some idea of its size, I shall give the best computation we were able to make. The height of the rude arch at the entrance, by comparison with the cliff above, appeared to be about sixty feet, and lowered as it receded, to thirty or forty; the breadth at the bottom was the same; there were great blocks and angles of rock projecting on either sides; within the entrance, to the left,

* The name of this place has been since changed to "Intrinsic Bay." For particulars of the melancholy shipwreck, see note (f).

were a number of stalagmites, formed by the dropping from above, and standing on a sloping rock like small brownish sugar loaves. The roof presented a beautiful variety of rich metallic tinges, from the copper, iron, and other mineral substances held in solution by the water, which kept continually dropping from the top, and gave increased effect to the light thrown in at the entrance, which formed a striking contrast with the darkness at the upper end ; on the right a number of stalactites lined the side, having the appearance of a drapery of sea weeds, and produced a handsome effect. The echo here is astonishing. After proceeding inward about 250 feet, the light becomes very dim, and the cavern narrower, making an angle to the left. A jutting rock at the entrance of this angle shuts out the little light, on which account the inner chamber is rendered nearly dark. Proceeding on slowly, and having a boat not liable to be injured by touching a rock, we allowed it to float in by the effect of the swell, until the awful and profound silence was broken by the noise of the boat touching the rock at the extreme end, which broke upon the ear with an indescribably deep and

impressive sound, as it reverberated from the roof and sides. Whilst in the dark part, we perceived, what was also noticed by another party, that the dipping of the oars, and the dropping from the roof, produced a sparkling appearance under the water—caused, no doubt, by the air bubbles reflecting the little light which we could scarcely perceive. On leaving this gloomy place, and emerging into day, the sunbeams were shining outside the entrance of the cave, about two hundred and fifty feet distant, and hence reflected on the dark rippling water within; and again, being thrown upon the rough arched roof, rendered still more brilliant by its beautiful metallic tints, broke like a scene of fancied enchantment upon the delighted vision. We were followed into the cave by two men in a canoe, who brought some very fine fish just caught; and this curious coincidence probably occasioned the first market that ever was held in this magnificent cavern.

I would recommend parties not to explore this sombre region of awful grandeur without having a second boat in company, as a slight inclination to either side might occasion an

upset, the consequence of which might be very serious, as the precipitous nature of the sides of the cavern afford no footing. I omitted to mention, in its proper place, that the water in the middle was twenty-two and a half feet deep, and nine near the extremity.

We were so much pleased with exploring this place, that we planned a second visit in order to measure its extent; at the same time, we were not at all sorry to find ourselves once more in the light of day. We then rowed round Bird and Bishop islands: great care is necessary in passing amongst the great masses of dark rock which rise above the water. On examining the strata of these islands, which were exactly similar to the adjacent cliffs, no doubt exists but that they were once united. The next evening we repeated our visit, and the cave presented a more gloomy appearance, in consequence of the water being rougher and the evening less clear. We were preceded by a canoe, and, having provided ourselves with candles, we rowed on until the noise of the breakers, at the further end, resounded through the cavern like distant thunder, and induced the

hardy seamen "to push back." On arriving at the wide part of the cave we lay to for a while, in *utter darkness*. Having struck a light we were enabled to examine the inner chamber, which was much more extensive than we had supposed, presenting a lofty arched roof, apparently fifty feet high. The men informed us that it was rocky on the left hand, where it appeared to turn off. Some detonating powder was here exploded, which produced so violent a concussion that our boatmen assured us they "thought they were *kilt*." We stuck the lights to the side of the cavern, which produced a fine effect as we rowed out to sea. Disappointed in our intention of again arriving at the extreme end, and of bringing some mementos therefrom, we were obliged to leave this interesting scene without any other memorial than that of hearts filled with admiration, and reached the open sea just in time to witness a magnificent sunset.

" Great source of day ! best image here below
Of thy Creator, ever pouring wide,
From world to world, the vital ocean round,
On nature writes with every beam His praise."

Being prevented from measuring the cave

by the roughness of the water, and the lateness of the hour, arrangements were made for a third visit; but the wind changing, the weather became too unsettled again to venture. The early part of the day is recommended for taking this excursion.

CHAPTER V.

KILKEE being the centre of many attractive objects, we made several delightful excursions by land and water. On our way to the cliffs of Baltard, a little beyond the village, our attention was attracted by one of those square enclosures, known by the name of "pounds," where cattle are punished with imprisonment, starvation, and exposure to the inclemency of the weather, for the negligence of their owners or caretakers, &c. &c. Within its walls stood a grey horse, nearly up to his fetlocks in mire; it was evident, from the cleanness of his appearance, that the poor animal had not lain down since placed there, and, in the expressive language of nature, he asked in vain for food. It is a matter of surprise that the wisdom and humanity of the legislature have not enacted a law obliging persons entrusted with the care of pounds to provide food for the cattle, at the expense of the owners, or in some way to remedy the evil. He who hath de-

clared, "the cattle on a thousand hills are mine," hath likewise said, "open thy mouth in behalf of the dumb." This injunction appears to me to comprehend the whole scope of animated nature, from the king of the forest and monarch of the ocean to the most minute creature in existence. That animals are indued with a capability of feeling pleasure and pain, there cannot be a doubt—the wisdom of the great Creator originally placed every creature exactly in that situation best calculated to promote its enjoyment—consequently, humanity towards the animal creation is the indispensable duty of man, whilst cruelty must be highly displeasing to Him whose tender mercies are over all His works.

A few miles from the town we overtook several decent looking peasants, in their best attire, who informed us they were going to attend a funeral of a respectable farmer, who, having been at work in his fields, was suddenly seized with illness, and died in the course of a few hours. We adverted to the necessity of not burying persons who had died suddenly, at least until they had evinced some signs of mortality. However, on our

return a few hours after, we saw the funeral of the individual before mentioned, followed closely by that of a youth, the whole procession occupying nearly a quarter of a mile. The latter presented a novel and particularly interesting appearance. The young men, with their hats entirely enveloped in a white handkerchief, which was ingeniously fastened round it, followed in couples ; the car, which bore the remains to the silent tomb ; a vast number of horsemen, who carried behind them the matrons and lasses of the county of Clare, closed the melancholy procession. We do not recollect, at any time, to have seen a better dressed peasantry : the men were attired chiefly in blue coats, overtopped by the collars of their shirts, which, for whiteness, would have done credit to the county of Down—few of them wore any neckcloth, the collar was simply fastened by a black string ; the women were attired in *warm* blue or scarlet cloaks, (the latter being the prevailing colour in this part of the country,) without any covering on their heads, save that of a cap, in which they displayed a tasteful variety of form and texture, which struck us with surprise.

The view from the top of the Telegraph at Baltard, to which strangers are admitted, is very fine, including Mutton Island,* the Strand of Seafield, and over it Trummera Castle, the extensive hotel and villas of Miltown, the Isles of Arran, Hagg Head, Liscannor, and the numerous comfortable whitened cottages of the tenantry of Cornelius O'Brien, M.P. thickly scattered over the hill behind, rendered still more distinct and interesting by the assistance of an excellent telescope with which we were kindly accommodated. Inland may be seen the "gloomy mountain of Callan," of which I shall speak hereafter. Here the high cliffs terminate on the north side, and are succeeded by extensive flat rocks, at whose farther end an enormous high mass projects into the sea, separated by two openings from top to bottom, through which the breakers roll with violence.

We had heard of an interesting circumstance that occurred at these rocks, highly creditable to the humane feelings of the coast-guard and the natives, which was fully confirmed and further explained to us by John Roche, the present sentinel at the Telegraph,

* See Note (g).

who acted a conspicuous part on the occasion. Some time since, three of the natives, without informing their families, went in a canoe to the outside rock, and having rowed into a little bay, with a narrow entrance between the rocks, they landed ; but not having drawn up the canoe sufficiently high, the breakers washed it away, and left them in a most isolated and exposed situation, where they were next morning observed in a suffering state. The wind had risen during the night, and the waves broke on the rocks with such force as to prevent the approach of a boat from the land when they were seen by their friends, who were unable to get nearer to them than the inside rock for several days. Various means to give them food were tried without success ; the only possible way of relieving them was by conveying a rope from the land across the middle rock and both passages. To effect this, the water-guards made a paper kite, and tried to fly it over to the distant rock, and to let it fall so that the poor men might catch the twine, to which a stronger line was to be attached, until it would bear a basket of provisions to slide along. Disappointed in this, they tied a

twine to a little cutter of three or four feet long, and set the sails and rudder to guide it to the bay ; but it was upset by the breakers and dashed to pieces. They then ingeniously fastened twines, by a wire, to bullets, and after they had fired several such balls over the rocks, the men succeeded in catching the string, to which a rope was firmly fixed : thus the poor sufferers got the long expected relief, and their lives were providentially preserved until the sea became sufficiently calm to allow canoes to go out, when they were safely restored to their anxious families. On enquiry it did not appear that the ingenious and persevering efforts of the water-guards were rewarded farther than what arose from their own enviable feelings of having rendered important service to their distressed fellow-creatures. As their names are known, perhaps this may yet fall into the hands of those who have the ability, and who desire that merit should not go unrewarded. The cliff here measured 230 feet above low water mark.

CHAPTER VI.

AFTER a residence of seven weeks, an excursion was planned to visit the unfrequented village and bay of Ross, near Loop-Head, whose natural bridges of rock over an inlet of the Atlantic, are considered amongst the greatest curiosities on this romantic coast; and finding my health and strength so much recruited, that instead of being unable to go a mile on a jaunting-car without feeling quite exhausted, I undertook a *ride* of twenty-four miles.

Having hired a good horse and car, we left home *early*, and drove about five miles on the Carrigaholt road, which is kept in excellent order, as is the remainder of the line called "Heads of Bay" roads, that lead as far north as Ennistymond. These were made under the superintendence of the late eminent engineer, John Kilally, who was sent down by government in the year 1822, whilst famine prevailed along the west of the county Clare, in order to give employment to the

peasantry ; thus enabling them to *purchase* the provisions sent from other markets. This judicious disposal of the funds not only relieved the necessities of the starving peasantry without destroying their independence, but conferred a benefit on that part of the country which will be felt by posterity.

Our drive was enlivened by a *few* green trees scattered up and down. As we advanced, the crops and the cultivated appearance of the country gave fresh interest to the scene. We observed few potato-gardens, however small, without a strip being appropriated to the growth of flax, whose delicate stalks gently waving with the breeze, supported their beautiful blue flowers in rich abundance.

We passed, on our right, the cultivated hills of Moveen, and the more lofty one of Knocknagarroon, with its deserted Telegraph. At about five miles from Kilkee we turned off on a rougher line, to the right, for the village of Cross, which stands on elevated ground ; and on the road leading up is a view of the fishing village, bay, and celebrated castle of Carrigaholt, and the picturesque light-house of Kilkredane already

mentioned, standing on the top of a bold steep, overhanging the river. This attractive specimen of improved modern light-houses, together with the castle, and a battery situated between them, are often visited by parties from Kilkee during the season, the distance being about eight miles. Below the light-house, the back of the lofty Rehy-hill mentioned at page 27, is sloping inland, and near it the little bay of Reinvilla.

A short distance beyond the village, on the left, stand the walls of the ancient chapel of Kilballyhone, where we alighted to examine the ruin: the roofless walls, and a few sculptured arches, alone remain; on the walls are to be found some stunted specimens of "juniper." The interior is converted into a depository for the dead, and the emblems of frail mortality, bleached by the elements, lay scattered around. Near the ruin are some singular vaults, with raised walls and flagged roofs, resembling very small huts. To a reflecting religious mind, there is an awful seriousness—"a kind of atmospheric solemnity" to be felt within the precincts of a graveyard. The surrounding scene is calculated to check the risings of vanity—it exposes the

littleness of human greatness, and presents an instructive lesson of the uncertainty which is stamped on all terrestrial enjoyments. Here all worldly distinctions cease—the rich and the poor moulder together—“the Lord is the maker of them all.”

“To some warm heart the poorest dust was dear;
From some kind eye the meanest claimed a tear.”

On the left of Killballyhone lodge, the neat villa of Richard Kenny, of Limerick, arrested our attention; the attractive whiteness which pervades the house, offices, and walls, of this tasteful little spot, are unusually striking, as the scenery around begins to look somewhat wild to the eye of a citizen. The arrangement within doors corresponds with the neat appearance of the outside.

In addition to the view of a part of the harbour, and a very splendid range of mountains on the Kerry side, we were informed it affords the novel prospect in clear weather, at night, of the lamps of *four* light-houses: three belonging to the Shannon, viz. Loop-Head, on the northern entrance of the river, Kilcradine, just mentioned, and the new one on Tarbert Rock, and the fourth on one of the islands of Arran. Our road now lay for three

or four miles towards the south side of the promontory off Cape Lean. The rocky bays and high cliffs that indent this coast, approach in some places within a short distance of the road. In one of these, nearly a mile beyond the lodge, the proprietor has since mentioned that there are three remarkable puffing-holes or caverns, close to each other, into which, when the tide is at a certain height, it rushes furiously, filling the entrance: the air inside becomes compressed to a degree, that even its elastic nature can no longer bear; and in endeavouring to extricate itself, spouts out the waves with great violence and a succession of loud reports. At this place he stated there was also a strong spa, similar to one of the well-known spas of Lisdoonvarna in the north of the county; and as he intends making a path down to it, future tourists may have an opportunity of visiting this remarkable scene. We also passed on the left, a good road leading to Kilbaha village and bay, the last within the harbour's mouth, from which new roads are being made to Loop-Head light-house. Nothing worthy of note occurred, with the exception of an occasional caution from our careful driver, of "will you

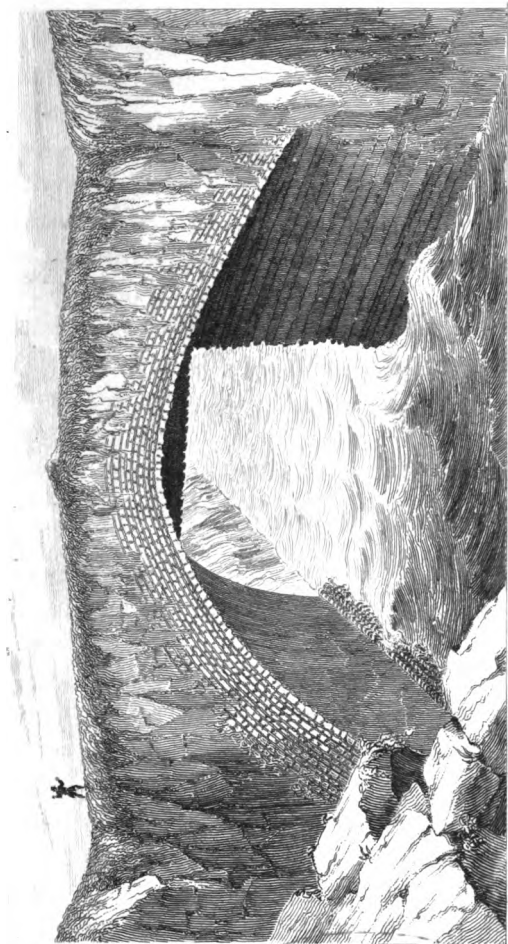
be *plazed* to *howld* fast," or of having to get occasionally off the car, in passing over sundry *hollows* in the road ; otherwise we might have found ourselves on the ground, *without the trouble of alighting*. On stopping to enquire the shortest path to the "Bridges," the good countenanced natives flocked around us, but as they could not speak English, we were at a loss for direction, until a little lad, who understood our language, came up and offered to act as guide. After passing over two fields, we reached these remarkable objects—both picturesque, yet quite different, extending across the same natural canal or inlet, which appears as if cut out of the solid rock, and varies from fifty to sixty feet in width, and in its course it makes nearly a right angle. The inner bridge, (p. 130) next to the termination, and which is first seen, is beautifully arched, and formed of numerous thin strata of rock, like sheets lying closely over each other. The underside of the arch looks as smooth as if covered with a coat of dark plaster. It would appear that at some period the whole was a mass of rock, whose strata took an extraordinary curved or arched direction inland, which is likewise apparent in

many other places here and along the cliffs to Loop-Head, and that by some convulsion of nature a portion of the under strata was forced out; as the broken edges can be seen at low water, appearing like a sort of abutment from which the perfect arch springs: lines of these indented edges are apparent in an undulating course along the side of the canal, nearly to its mouth, and appearing as if chiselled out by the hand of art.*

This bridge, together with that delineated in the frontispiece, and now about to be described, "are formed of coarse arenaceous clay slate, with crystals of quartz in the fissures."

The latter bridge is a remarkable structure, being nearly as level on the upper as the under surface. When we consider the span, which is 45 feet, the thickness above

* Span of the arch	...	...	...	72 feet.
Height from the water	...	...	...	49
Thickness of the arch at the crown, composed of rock covered with earth and poor verdure	...	...	...	19
Width of the sheet of rock underneath the arch	...	...	...	45
Width of the grassy walk on top	...	...	...	30



Engraved by J. Kirkwood, from a sketch by J. D. Smith.

NATURAL BRIDGE, MONTECATINI, ITALY.
(near Livorno)

Published on the spot by John Hall.

SOCIÉTÉ
DE GÉOGRAPHIE
G. LE LYON

the arch 9 feet, and the width 30 feet, and reflect how impossible it would be for man, with all his boasted powers, to construct, or for a moment to support so great a mass, without a curve underneath, the mind can only contemplate this extraordinary structure as formed by the creative touch of nature's Divine Architect. From its exposed situation, close to the ocean, it has for ages withstood the force of the overwhelming billows during the westerly tempest. Nearly under this bridge are low caverns or openings between the rocks, as if caused by the coast having been shaken and rent into great fissures, into which the guide (who afterwards joined us) threw large stones, that were heard bounding and echoing to a great depth. Many of the fissures in some places are lined with minute crystals, which sparkle beautifully in the sun's rays. One of our party picked up a remarkably fine specimen. The guide attempted to disengage some good pieces, but failed for want of proper tools. The canal or wild *rocky valley*, when the *tide is out*, is above a quarter of a mile in length, and when the visiter walks along the bottom of it, he can only see naked rocks, the sky,

and the breakers foaming in at the end. The bay is lined by a high bank of "boulders," or large rounded stones, which from their bulk appear to have been accumulating for centuries; they are similar to those of Forrahee bay, near Kilkee, but in much greater quantity. The ruins of an ancient little chapel, and those of a dwelling-house, for many years the residence of the Keane family (in whose possession the property still remains,) are to be seen near the village.*

Although the weather was oppressively warm on the road, yet the sharp breeze from the Atlantic rendered our cloaks very acceptable. Whilst the remainder of the company amused themselves in taking sketches of the bridges, or wandering amongst the rocks in search of crystals, I was glad to take shelter in a fisherman's hut. The poor woman received me with a courtesy of manner which cultivation may improve, but nature alone can impart. The interior of this dwelling soon presented the most complete picture of an *Irish cabin* I had ever seen. Seated on

* Patrick Nelson, guide to the Spa, Puffing-holes, and Bridges, to be found at Kilballyhone Lodge, noticed page (127.)

the only chair in the house, in a short time I found myself surrounded by all the women and children belonging to the few contiguous huts, most of whom seated themselves on the floor. A numerous family of domestic animals, consisting of cocks, hens, cats, and a dog, quite at their ease, were interspersed amongst us; but at my particular request, a *large pig* was not allowed to join the company, although extremely anxious for admission. From the fisherman's wife, whose propriety of manner, as well as that of her neighbour's, quite struck me, I learned many interesting particulars respecting the localities of the place, she being the only one present who could speak English, and acted as my interpreter. It appears they have a very good landlord, and that the tenants were tolerably well off; the poorest but was not without a feather bed, and many of them had two, which bespeaks a degree of comfort seldom to be met with in an Irish cabin. In this one I observed a new style of "waggon roof" bedstead, with timber curtains (if I may use the expression,) the back roof and foot were covered with nice white deal boards nailed on, as well as the side next the

wall: the *tout en semble*, however, looked most comfortable. She likewise informed me that her husband was a pilot, and then out in the bay ; that they paid £2. per acre, with liberty to cut as much turf as they chose. That they availed themselves of this privilege was pretty evident, from the fine fire that blazed on the hearth. Here also the women toil in the field, and draw sea-weed for manure on their backs. A remark made in Irish by a sweet little boy, and interpreted by his mother, amused me. His sister was giving him a drink of water rather awkwardly out of a large wooden noggin, and looking innocently up in her face, he said, "Don't spill it, *agra* (my dear), for 'tis *very good*." How easily are the wants of *nature* satisfied ! Finding that the women did not know how to make fishing-nets for their husbands, and for which they had to pay ; and being furnished by them with a rude netting-needle and twine, I set to work to instruct them, at which they seemed much gratified. After pleasantly spending more than an hour with this interesting group, when about to take my leave, my new acquaintance asked, if, when I got home, I should ever think of the

people of Ross. I replied, there were too many agreeable circumstances connected with my visit to allow me soon to forget them. Being joined by my party, attended by a numerous escort we reached our vehicle, and with mutual expressions of kind feeling we bid each other farewell.

On our return we repassed the road to Kilbaha and Loop-Head light-house. Being unable to visit it myself, I obtained the following account from my brother, who has been there. It is remarkably situated *far* out in the Atlantic, on the extremity of a narrow neck of land, and from its elevation, the view is most commanding. The manager of the edifice politely admits strangers to view this useful structure, the only visible director of the poor benighted "tempest-tossed mariner," approaching this coast, and for whose sake a light-house is always interesting. From the balcony round the lantern on the top, the prospect is almost unrivalled. The building stands close to the edge of a towering cliff, from whose point a dark yawning chasm separates an enormous mass of rock. (See Vignette.) To the *south*, and as it were under the spectator, the Shannon dis-

charges its waters in a mighty volume, eight miles wide, to Kerry Head, beyond which this magnificent estuary still further expands itself, extending southward to Tralee Bay. In the back ground the mountains of Brandon-Head rear their enormous bulk of some thousand feet, appearing to rise abruptly out the ocean. Thence a continuation of other hilly chains reach inland to Mangerton, near Killarney, which latter mountain was distinctly pointed out by the manager. So far as the eye can reach in the distance to the west, the waves of the Atlantic impart their beautiful emerald tinge along an extended horizon; and on the north may be seen the Islands of Arran, and this broken coast for thirty miles, with many a frowning headland overlooking the ceaseless billow that foams against its rocky base. The perspective of this gigantic boundary of nature, wisely set to resist the encroachment of the ocean, (whose waves, when urged on by the westerly tempests for hundreds of miles, break against the rocks with a force and effect beyond description,) is in itself worth a visit. From this magnificent scene the mind reluctantly turns as from a great panorama of nature,

combining much in which the works of the Creator are strikingly displayed, whether we contemplate the boundless ocean, islands, mountains, cliffs, or the noble river studded with sails, and bearing its abundant shoals of the finny tribes, as blessings to the inhabitants.

The line of coast just described, which is very dangerous to vessels driven too near, has been appropriately named "Mal Bay," or "Bad Bay," where, in the year 1588, some ships of the Spanish Armada were cast away; when pursued up the British channel by the English fleets they tried to escape by going round the North of Scotland and Ireland, but were driven on the rocks at Spanish Point, near Miltown Mal Bay, and wrecked. A large, antique, curiously carved chest was washed on shore, said to have contained the dresses of the bishop or chief ecclesiastic of the expedition: it is still preserved by the Fitzgerald family, into whose possession it fell at the time. (Note *h*.)

CHAPTER VII.

ON our return, and near the village of Cross, we noticed what had escaped our observation in the morning—a prospect of some of the mouths of the celebrated caves of Ballybunian, on the opposite or Kerry coast. The greater caves are situated more to the southward, which, with the bay, are thus described by William Ainsworth, being visited by him in 1833:

“ The bay of Ballybunian is about five hundred paces in width, and its sands, which are piled up the sides of its inner portion, are dry and firm, though the prevalence of westerly winds, and the strength of its currents, mar the pleasantness and security of the bathing. The cliffs, which front the northern side, extend about two hundred and ninety yards, and rise gradually from the east to the west, or towards the sea, where they attain a height of one hundred and ten feet. They preserve throughout great perpendicularity, and are composed of two great beds,

from thirty to forty feet in thickness, of compact ampelite, divided by a seam of the same slate, but fissile and anthracituous, and pouring out streamlets of water, which contain iron and salts in solution, and tinge the rocks with bright yellow ochreous colours. These cliffs are also penetrated by several caves of small dimensions, which open upon the bay, and are crossed in one place by a fissure, occasioned by the fracturing of the rock which dips at a small angle of inclination (4° to 5°) to the east. The last cave on the sea side, which has also an entrance from the bay, immediately curves round, and allows the sea to be seen, breasting its foamy way with much impetuosity, even on calm days, up two distinct apertures, through which the light gleams with almost starlight brightness.

“ Any attempt to describe the connexion and relation of all these minor caves would be obviously a tedious enumeration, not warranted by the importance of the subject: they are most easily navigated in a boat from the northern side, when the rocky passages may be traversed for a considerable distance without any communication with the open sea; and during this navigation, which is

chiefly carried on in a line parallel to the western face of the cliff, the various entrances are often crossed at right angles, affording the most striking contrast of light and shade—the colour of the waters being often of a hue so sparkling bright, and so extensively vivid, as to resemble molten silver, while the boat, hurrying through the deep and wave-worn arcades into light and airy arched or vaulted chambers, only in their innermost recesses dark and repulsive, and passing from cave to cave, and hall to hall, with inlets pointing to the sea, or high cliffs affording their protection against the waves, and occasionally well-like apertures, which open through the roof to yield a telescopic view of the heavens, assist, more especially with the sudden transitions from absolute darkness to the most brilliant light, in giving to the whole an appearance of fairy scenery.”

W. Ainsworth having entered from the Kerry shore, does not allude to the entrance from the Clare side; and as I know that much disappointment occurred to a party from Kilkee, who went by way of Carrigaholt, and, attempting to get back the same way, were carried by the tide up to Kilrush, and did not

reach home until next morning, I am enabled to give the following hints, as they were communicated to a friend of mine by James Patterson of Kilrush, from whose well-known nautical knowledge and experience the information may be useful to future visitors, and prevent danger and disappointment. This gentleman, it appears, was one of the first who explored the dark and extensive recesses of the great caves, into which he took with him blue lights and torches. He says, that it requires the wind to blow for two days off the land, say easterly or south-east, in order that the sea may be sufficiently calm ; should it be at all from the west, the water is so rough that a boat could not enter. When the weather is favourable he advises to take a boat at *Kilrush*, and go down with the first ebb of the tide, which may not be half out when the caves are reached, at ten miles distance ; three or four hours can then be spent in examining them, and on the boat coming out the flowing tide, rushing in, brings them back to Kilrush with ease. Parties should also get the opinion of some person well acquainted with the place as to providing suitable boats, for large ones can get into but few

of the caves, the entrances being low and narrow, and *very* small boats are unsafe to cross the river.

The cliffs of Ballybunian contain a great quantity of alum, iron pyrites, &c. which have occasionally taken fire from being exposed to the action of the atmosphere, and which fire was formerly supposed to be of volcanic origin. I shall insert a short account of this phenomena, from a tourist who visited them forty years since—his description is well worth the perusal of every lover of science.

“Some years back a part of these cliffs (between the castles of Lick and Dune) assumed a volcanic appearance. The waves, by continual dashing, had worn and undermined the cliff, which, giving way, fell with tremendous violence into the sea; several great strata or beds of pyrite, iron, and sulphur, were, in consequence, exposed to the action of the air and salt water, the natural effects of which were, that they heated and burned with great fierceness; the clay near it is calcined to a red brick, mixed with iron ore, melted in many places, like cinders thrown from a smith’s forge. Many who did not consider well the causes, and the effects

naturally to be expected from them, have supposed this to be volcanic.”*

To the kindness of Captain Sabine I am indebted for an account of the birds which he met with on these coasts. “Of sea birds, I recognised, in flight, of terns, the *hirundo* and *minuta*; of gulls, the *argentatus*,† *fuscus*, and *tridactylus*, and I heard of a gull with very red legs, which was, I suppose, the *ridibundus*; of guillemots, the *troile*, *brunnichii*, *grylle* and *alba*; cormorants, and oyster catchers, abundant; the oyster catchers more frequently in groups than in pairs, although it was the breeding season; puffins and razor-bills. Of land birds, the only species worth particular remark, is the chough, which breeds in the rocks at Ballybunian, as does the rock pigeon.”

Before leaving Loop-head, the visiter is recommended to walk about a mile along the cliffs towards Ross, where their fancifully curved strata present extraordinary appearances. In the face of the rock one of the

* J. Holme's Sketches.

† The dimensions of one of these beautiful gulls, shot there this year, was—breadth from tip to tip of the wings, *four* feet; length from beak to tail, 1 foot 10 inches.

bays is the resort of thousands of sea-gulls, whose young, in the autumn, ranged on narrow shelves of rock that line the bay, loudly scream for food, which the parent birds seem to answer, as they skim along the surface of the water looking down for their prey ; altogether the noise was so great that a party who lately visited it rushed forward in amazement to see what could have produced such extraordinary clamour. Near this is a conical hill, called Cahir Croghaune, situated a short distance from the road, and well worth ascending ; the view all round will well repay for the trouble. A visit may be made to the light-house and bridges of Ross on the same day, by first going to the former. On returning to the village of Kilbaha, by taking the cross road on the left, which leads direct to Ross, the increase of distance, say eight miles, makes the whole about thirty-two, which will require the party to set out *early*, as it is disappointing to be obliged to hurry away from interesting scenes for want of time.

In the spring 1834 one of the cliffs, which had been undermined by the waves, fell into the sea with so loud a noise that the manager

at the light-house thought it was thunder. When a party recently visited this place they found it dangerous to approach, as many of the fragments appeared ready to follow the fallen masses.

CHAPTER VIII.

As the visitors who have leisure and inclination may wish to see the very high cliffs of Moher at Hagg's head, I am enabled to furnish information of the route, obtained from my brother, who has frequently been there. The road from Kilkee lies through Miltown Malbay, distant about sixteen miles, and in many places commanding fine views of the ocean. After passing the high lands at Baltard the coast continues low. The long and exposed strand of Dunbeg may be visited by turning a little off the road, and fording a small river at the near end. The passage from the road to the far end leads through high hills of sand, carried up by the wind from the beech; they are so extensive that in the middle the traveller cannot see anything but their inhospitable sides, by which he is surrounded. Some of our party after separating found it very difficult to regain their friends. Tradition says that some of them are *quick-sands*. The road leads to Sea-

field strand and Trummera Castle, mentioned at page 121, which latter affords a good view of Mutton Island, with its telegraph, and the waves breaking against its cliffs. The tourist soon passes the handsome bridge built over an arm of the sea by the late J. Killally, and enters Miltown, so called, but that name really belongs to a village a mile inland; however, the difference of names is nothing to travellers who may want refreshment or rest, and which can be had at the large hotel just at hand. This extensive building is three hundred feet in length, and stands so near the edge of the rocks that the spray is often dashed up on the back windows; it was fitted up in expensive style, some years since, by a company of the resident gentry, whose houses and villas ornament the neighbourhood as far as Spanish Point, mentioned in page 137.

The screen of trees at Miltown house, the seat of Thomas Morony, presents a singular appearance from the blighting effect of the sea blast; those next the wall rise but little above the shelter it affords, the next row behind rise a little higher, and so on with each receding row. As the chance of obtaining

fresh horses at Miltown is at present rather doubtful, it may be a prudent precaution to send them forward from Kilkee the previous evening, in case visitors intend to go to Hagg's Head, and return same day to Ennistymond or Miltown to lodge; and while in the neighbourhood of the latter, it will be well worth while to visit several objects of interest which it presents, particularly the Strand at Spanish Point—a long chasm between the rocks, called Poulakirk—a remarkable dropping well in the neighbourhood—and a celebrated puffing cavern, four miles on the road to Hagg's Head, which spouts up the sea in sheets of foam, with a bellowing noise, when the tide is about one-third in, or two-thirds out. If the sun happens to shine, the continual iris from the descending mists, following the discharges in beautiful prismatic clouds, resembling the rainbow; but in stormy weather one cannot go near its mouth, from the height and extent of its spouting. Outside some of the most frightful ridges of rock on the coast present their dark heads through the foam. If the tourist be an antiquarian, he may wish to take advantage of the opportunity, and visit a very great curiosity in the

neighbourhood, hitherto but little known; but as a particular description in this place would too much interrupt the account of the journey to Hagg's Head, I shall return to it again. From the apparent nearness of the Head to Miltown, the distance from thence appears much less than the reality of 12 to 16 miles, according to the route taken. The shortest is through the village of Lahinch; and if the tide be out, it is better to cross the ford of the Ennistymond river—but if that be not practicable, the road is two miles further to Ennistymond. Cross the river there, and return by its farther bank to the village of Liscanor. A bridge is now being built close to the ford, under the superintendence of the Board of Works, which will be of great use to the district, when it is finished; and the shortest route may then be taken. The road to Lahinch is kept in excellent order. If the sea be rough, and the tide full in, as the travellers pass Paving-stone Bay, a mile from the hotel, they may hear a noise like distant firing of musketry, from a vast pile of boulders or large rounded stones, when set in motion by the heaving breakers. Should they have deferred a visit to the puffing ca-

vern until proceeding on their journey home, or miss the proper time at a former visit, they can now turn off the road to it. After passing the sides of some dreary looking hills, a spot of rich cultivation catches the eye in a steep valley, called Glenville, where art has assisted nature in ornamenting with trees and shrubs the sides of a rivulet that falls in a cascade over some picturesque rocks. An avenue at a short distance leads to the top of this attractive glen, through which winding walks descend near to the road, and it is somewhat like the Dargle, in the county of Wicklow, in miniature. Servants in charge of the house that stands at the top, admit strangers to pass through, and it forms a pleasing contrast to the bleak coast scenery on the opposite side of the road. Moy House, the marine villa of Sir William Fitzgerald, is pleasantly situated.

The sea-bathing town of Lahinch, with the hotel, &c. just at hand, is situated at the inner end of a fine strand that runs out towards Hagg's Head, the northern point of Malbay. Should the tide not answer for crossing at the ford as the tourist proceeds, as before mentioned, to the sheltered town of Ennisty-

mond, the plantations on the road side evince that he has left the immediate vicinity of the sea-coast; but the number of remarkable hills that surround the town in all directions are in themselves worth a visit. The river, which winds through them, descends in foam below the bridge over continued beds of rock, like stairs, for thirty or forty feet, and presents a most picturesque view when seen from the woody bank in the much admired demesne of Andrew Finucane of Ennistymond House. After winding up an ascent or two, the road to Hagg's Head and the cliffs of Moher is about seven miles. After passing the castle and new bridge-works near the village of Liscanor, the demesne of Birchfield, the seat of Cornelius O'Brien, M. P. for the county, with the comfortable cottages of his tenantry scattered over the side of the hill, as seen from the tower of Baltard, (page 121) are the most interesting objects, until, by a long gradual ascent, we gain the dismantled Telegraph on the edge of the cliff, which the late A. Nimmo's report to government states to be 600 feet above the ocean, whose breakers, when viewed from the top, appear like silvery fringes against the foot of those amazing

cliffs. The traveller is now in a situation to look over a precipice higher than the pyramids of Egypt, the most elevated works of man ; and from the gigantic scale of nature's operations around, he is not prepared at once to appreciate the effect, without a canoe or some other craft should chance at the time to pass beneath. To the left of the Telegraph the cliff projects into the sea : the sides, which slope part of the way down, are covered with large fragments of rock : amongst them are paths by which the guides conduct the more adventurous visitors 200 to 300 feet down to a little green spot on the top of the last precipice, on the south, whence new views are obtained of the face of those surprising boundaries ; but to accomplish the descent requires courage. Our guide entertained the company by telling of a gentleman who not long before descended with a companion to the green spot, and was not able "to put one foot before another" to get back, which surprised him much ; and he said it was "the queerest or most comical thing that he ever saw, that all at once a man could not walk." Those who have got down with their nerves at all excited, will easily under-

stand that the fear of falling, in the descent, 400 or 500 feet over the edge of the little path, had operated so strongly on the gentleman's nerves, that when arrived at the green spot already mentioned, where the scene below is really frightful, he became paralyzed with fear: at one place there is a precipice at each side. The guide said, that "himself and *the other gentleman* had to pull him up, and that he was just *kilt*" (or dead.) The following hints may be of service in descending:—To avoid looking down at the sea, or letting the eye wander off the path—to keep the guide close in front, and the party together, as from the steepness and winding of the descent, those who are left behind soon lose sight of their companions, and often get alarmed. On the top of this point is a large hollow, discernable from a great distance, called the "Hagg's Jaw," with a flat rock, like a roof, projecting over part of it. Outside on the point rises a huge rock or pinnacle, whose shattered sides seem ready to fall to pieces. A wild looking boy, who followed our party, offering for money to climb up to the top, one of the company, who had been affected somewhat like the poor *gentleman*,

but wisely turned back in time, lost his patience with the boy at such a proposal, as if he had not been frightened enough before.

The little girls from the cabins nearest to the top, followed the travellers with dishes of potatoes smoking from the pot, and butter or milk. They do not press the provisions, the best the house affords; neither ask for payment, but thankfully receive a trifle; for, as may be supposed, in this wild region money is an object of much rarity.

From the Hagg's-jaw, so called, is shown a perpendicular rock, shaped something like a steeple, rising above the waves, in which the sea-eagle builds in a very inaccessible part.

To some who have descended without fear, these remarks may appear superfluous; but instances having repeatedly occurred, when some of the company who were left a little behind, became so much alarmed as to be unable even to retrace their steps without assistance, a caution in this respect may not be unnecessary.

There are some singular projections or piles of rock at this place, one of which is presented in the annexed sketch.



Singular pile of Rocks on the front of the Cliffs of Moher near Hagg's Head.

A little to the southward of the Telegraph, a very awful chasm, running into the land, the sides, 400 to 500 feet high, and not more than 30 to 40 feet wide, presents a most terrific appearance, as the eye is strained to discern the sea beneath the dark projecting rocks on either side. The edges of the gulf being composed of loose earth, cannot with safety be approached. On pushing a stone over, it took 15 seconds to reach the sea at the bottom, having in its descent rebounded two or three times from one side to the other. Captain Sabine tried this experient several

times, and found the average descent of the stones to be 13 seconds without striking the sides.

About three miles north of the Telegraph, the cliffs increase in elevation, and are supposed to be 800 feet high. The proprietor, Cornelius O'Brien, M. P. for the county, lately began to erect a small castle on the most elevated part, to consist of two towers, with furnished apartments, connected by large buildings for culinary purposes, and stables and coach houses adjoining—all for the accommodation of visitors to this stupendous scenery, who, on taking up provisions, can have servants to attend, and the only return allowed by the kind-hearted owner, is, that they should make a remark in a book kept for the purpose, stating the manner in which they have been accommodated. I am informed that one of the towers and apartments are already finished; also, that at a short distance there is a zig-zag path from top to bottom of the cliffs, and that a journey down to the beach is well repaid by the amazing view overhead.

The dangerous employment of bird-catch-

ing is practised in the season by the hardy natives along those cliffs, for which purpose twelve or fourteen men come near to the edge, and sit down in a row behind each other, holding a rope sufficiently long to reach to the bottom. One of the party ties the end of it round his body, and being provided with a basket, goes over the edge, placing his feet against the face of the rock, and holding the rope firmly, and is gradually lowered by the men seated on the top, who allow the rope to pass through their hands. On the man arriving at a part of the rock where he has good footing, and within reach of the birds which frequent these cliffs in great numbers, he unties the rope, which is soon pulled up, and another of the men is let down in the same way. Being furnished with a long stick, something like a fishing-rod, with a nooze at the end, he proceeds to put it gently over the neck of one of the birds, and if he succeeds, by a dexterous twitch, in snaring the unsuspecting creature, he draws it to him, twists its neck, and quietly putting it into the basket, makes an easy prey of the remainder, who remain unconscious of danger. It is remarkable, that if the bird-

catcher does not succeed with the first, the rest take the alarm, and either dive into the water or fly off. Being unused to molestation from man at the foot of those unfrequented precipices, they seem to be divested of fear, and are killed in such abundance that the feathers alone produce to each man, on an average, 2s. 6d. to 3s. per day. During these operations, one of the party is stationed on some point where he can see those above and below, and makes a signal for the rope to be let down when necessary. This pursuit is not commenced until the young birds are hatched.

Proceeding a few miles further over the cliffs belonging to Major M'Namara, M.P., his seat, Doolen House, near the little bay of that name, may be seen in the distance below. The coast thence northward is not very high, but rocky and wild, such as is termed by mariners "iron bound," with a few small sandy bays, extending by Fanore Point and Bay, to the black head of Galway bay, along the southern side of which lies Ballyvaghane bay, off the barony of Burren, whose shore furnishes the well known oysters of that name; and farther in are taken the

Red Bank oysters, at Curranrere bay, for the sale of which, establishments have been opened in Dublin and many of the towns in the south-west of Ireland.

Having now introduced the reader to the most striking objects along the Clare side of the Shannon, from Wellesley Bridge at Limerick, to Loop-Head, the southern point of the county, thence by the sea coast to Black Head, the northern extremity, I shall turn inland to Callan mountain, near the top of which lies a very large stone, with a long "Ogham" inscription, supposed to be the tomb of a heathen prince. The circumstances which led to its discovery are as follows.

I shall make a short extract from the Dublin Philosophical Journal and Scientific Review of 1826, relative to this Ogham inscription :—

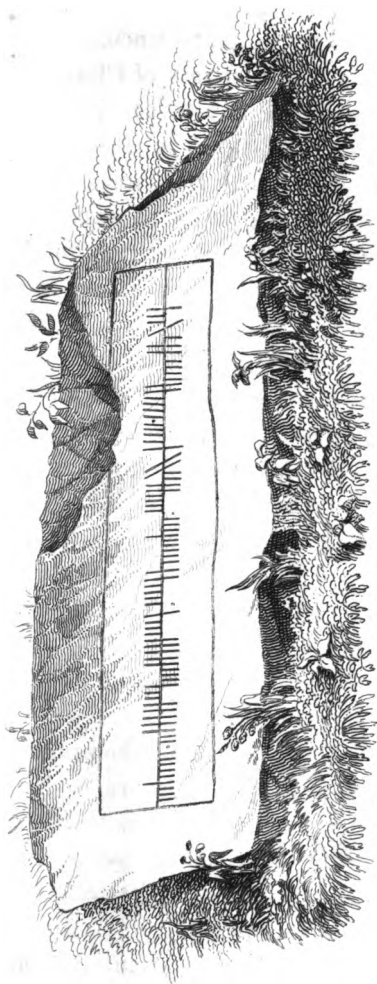
"We are desirous of calling the attention of our readers to a circumstance connected with the ancient history of Ireland, that appears of sufficient importance to excite a greater degree of curiosity than it seems to have done when first brought forward. We allude to the Ogham inscription said to have

been discovered some years since, on the Callan mountain, in the county of Clare.

“The existence of a method of secret writing, of great antiquity in Ireland, is placed beyond all doubt. Sir James Ware, in his *Antiquities*, tells us he possessed an ancient manuscript, entirely written in the *Ogham*. This character appears to have been much noticed just before the civil war of 1641, when considerable curiosity existed relative to Irish antiquities. It was known by Charles I., who corresponded with Lord Glamorgan in the *Ogham* character, as appears by the letters now remaining in the British Museum.”

History says—“The Ogham character was used by the Druids previous to the introduction of Christianity into our island.” This stone is said to have been brought to light by reading a poem, entitled the Battle of Gabhra, which, according to the beforementioned Journal, page 142, appears to have been fought A.D. 295. It purposes to be the funeral monument of a celebrated ancient chieftain, named Conan; and the following is a translation of that passage of the Poem, by an esteemed Irish antiquarian, the late

Measuring 11 Feet 6 Inches in length, 3 Feet in breadth & from 9 to 12 Inches in thickness.



\odot a x i d a x i c a c o x a n c o g a c e o m d a
x f n l f l s . s . s . s . s b l

Engraved by John Kirkwood II. Crown St. Dublin.

THE INSCRIPTION DECIPHERED.

Digitized by Google

Theophilus O'Flanagan, student of T.C.D., viz.:—"The fierce and mighty Conan was not at the desperate battle of Gabhra; for in May, the preceding year, the dauntless hero was treacherously slain by Fenii of Fin,* at an assembly met to worship the Sun. His sepulchral monument was raised on the north-west. His wailing dirge was sung! and his name is inscribed in Ogham characters, on a flat stone, on the very Black Mountain of Callan." The following is the translation by the same author—"Beneath this sepulchral monument is laid Conan the fierce, the nimble footed."

The annexed plate represents the stone, with a copy of the inscription.

To get a sight of this remarkable inscription, the antiquarian is to proceed along the Ennis road for seven English miles, where, on the left, his attention will be arrested by the well known Druid's Altar, designated "Darby and Joan's Bed," consisting of three flat stones or flags, all about 9 feet 9 inches long, and 10 inches thick; two are placed on their edges in the ground, standing about 4 feet 8 inches above the surface. On those

* The clan of another chieftain.

is laid the third stone of 8 feet wide ; underneath is an excavation, said to have been made by persons searching for money, of which they had dreamed. At one end lie some large pieces of the same sort of stone, supposed to have belonged to the ancient erection. Near the road, passing close by the altar, he is to ascend by the best path he can find, to the top of the mountain, distant about a mile ; and there, on the north-west side, near a small lake, lies the celebrated stone. As the peasantry on the mountain are well acquainted with the "*owld* stone," he will not be much at a loss for a guide, if required ; but this is hardly necessary. If the weather be clear, the prospect from the top of this mountain, which is about 2,000 feet high, is very extensive, and delightfully fine.

I shall here mention a singular custom which prevails in some parts of this district, which may be new to many of my readers, as it was to myself. When driving past a cottage where the females are spinning wool or knitting, one of them suddenly rushes across the road, holding a thread which is held by another at the opposite end, and a tribute

from the passenger is expected. The driver, not at all deficient in politeness to his female friends, pulls up, being loath to "break the thread." A demand is then made, in Irish, for something to buy oil or to forward the work, which the charioteer interprets. On a trifle being given, the impediment is withdrawn, and the party proceeds. This ceremony generally takes place at every cottage, if the inmates are timely apprised, until money and patience are both exhausted. Those who have missed their object in the first instance, having, perhaps, heard of the success of their neighbours, watch for the party returning. When the change happens to be run out, which may often be the case, from the frequent demands, it seems almost in vain to attempt to get past on that ground, particularly if the tourists' expectation of seeing objects of curiosity, or getting timely home, depends on what is termed a "stopping horse," who is more inclined to go back than forward on being suddenly checked. One of these strings (I believe accidentally) rubbing across the nose of our horse, occasioned him to take fright; and but for the dexterity of the driver in seizing him by the head, might

have upset the car, and broken some of our limbs. If these demands were only occasionally made, they might be complied with ; but the inmates of every cottage think they have a right to do so every day. It has now become a complete annoyance, and it is high time that it should be put an end to. If strangers choose to give the poor people a trifle, surely it ought not to be at the risk of life and limb.

At the end of nearly two months, I rejoice in being able to state, for the credit of my sex, that we have not seen *one* woman under the influence of drink, and only *two* men. I am not about to say that the people here do not use spirituous liquors, otherwise there would hardly be six licensed public-houses in Kilkee ; but it is evident that the demoralizing effect of drunkenness does not generally prevail. Some of our company visited the cottage of one of the defaulters, in order to read some papers on temperance, and met with a cordial reception. The man's wife did not appear disposed to deny that he had been overtaken in the temptation of drunkenness, or to vindicate him in what was wrong ; but like a prudent affectionate wife, sensible

of her own imperfections, she endeavoured to throw the mantle of charity over the failings of her husband. They collected their children and some neighbours, listened with attention and pleasure to "Philip and his Friends," &c. on the bad effects of selling and drinking spirits: their visitors accepted an invitation to come again and read for them; and there is reason to hope that the advice given on the occasion was not altogether without a good effect.

Whilst walking on the strand, we stopped to intercede for a poor little beggar-boy that a woman was dipping in a most *unmerciful* manner, by desire of his hard-hearted mother, who was seated on the strand, surrounded by a group of half naked children, who probably would have been similarly treated but for our interference. When brought out of the water, the heart of the poor little creature was quite convulsed; and in endeavouring to recover his breath, he coughed in so shocking a manner, that the sound seems still to float upon my ear. Persons employed to dip children, are not always aware of the injury they do, by putting them repeatedly under the water, without allowing them time to breathe between each immersion.

7th Mo. 28th.—This morning we left Kilkee with renovated health, and I trust with grateful hearts. As the interesting inhabitants, and their neat white cottages, receded from our view, a sensation of tenderness passed over my mind, and I could experimentally adopt the language—"Every country is my country, and every man my brother."

On arriving at Kilrush, we found the steamer much crowded by company who had taken advantage of the early part of the season, *quietly* to enjoy the beauties and health-inspiring breezes of Kilkee. The captain informed us there were about 130 adults on board, and I think there could not be less than 30 children. With a fair wind and flowing tide, we reached Limerick about six in the evening, after a most delightful sail on "the queen of British rivers."

Not having an interest in the Dublin Steam Company, either personally or through any of my friends, I feel at liberty, before taking leave of their establishment, to remark, that their improved iron vessel, the Garryowen, (with which we were much pleased) is allowed by all classes to be well adapted for the comfortable accommodation and convey-

ance of passengers, being conveniently and tastefully fitted up, besides sailing so steadily, as before noticed. Her speed is remarkable. The usual passage is four hours—from which deducting half an hour, for stopping at the different towns, there remains but a short time to sail 47 British miles: but when a strong fair wind prevailed, I am informed she accomplished the voyage with even greater rapidity. The captain, with his steward, and indeed the whole crew, seemed desirous of affording every accommodation to the passengers. The attention and care of the former, whenever a boat approached with company, gave much confidence to the lands-folk when embarking. The steam navigation introduced by the company on this river, and connected by canal with Dublin, is considered very advantageous. One of our party met, on board the packet, with a landed proprietor from Kilrush, who, when remarking on the facility they now had, of transmitting their agricultural produce to market at a low rate by the company's vessels, stated that a firkin of butter shipped at Kilrush, was in four days set down in the Liverpool market, for fifteen pence! and that formerly

the price of corn at Kilrush was always considerably under that of Limerick, from the delay, risk of damp, or loss, in stormy weather, as the navigation of the river was carried on in open vessels; but that now, the company, by lending bags to the shipper, and conveying it safely to Limerick in a few hours, for a farthing a stone, have raised the price, much to the advantage of the agriculturist. The facility of conveying goods in winter from England, via Dublin, to Limerick and the towns upon the river, is also found to be of much advantage, as before the introduction of steam navigation on the upper Shannon, the sailing boats with goods were detained at the upper end of the lakes, by the westerly winds, often for many weeks; consequently the canal and upper Shannon trade had dwindled into insignificance. The company have erected an hotel, a dock yard, and various other requisite buildings, at Killaloe, for putting their iron steamers and machinery together, which are brought in pieces to the lakes where they are to ply, being too large to pass through the bridges and narrow parts of the river. They have also built very extensive marble mills there, for cutting and

polishing newly discovered marbles, which have been lately found on the banks of the upper Shannon: many of the specimens are much admired; some are dove coloured, others reddish, and others seem almost entirely composed of masses of organic remains of shells, &c. The exportation it is hoped may repay the various parties connected with the raising, manufacturing, and transmitting those hitherto neglected treasures of this section of our country. Commodious iron boats have been provided by the company, for conveying cattle, sheep, and pigs, to Dublin, from whence they can be transmitted daily to the Liverpool market. Those boats are built high above the water, with a door-way in the side, through which the cattle are driven in and fastened in rows along the hold: the smaller animals are secured on deck by railing placed around.

The company have at present seven steam vessels plying on the Shannon, with 52 trade boats (of timber and iron) averaging 50 tons burden, for carriage of goods, produce, and live stock, by the Grand and Royal Canals and river Shannon, between Dublin, Limerick, and the interior.

Not wishing to take my leave of this interesting part of Ireland without giving a general notice of the minerals, animals, &c. of the county Limerick, I have obtained the following information chiefly from Fitzgerald and M'Gregor's History, already quoted.

“ Various districts of the county of Limerick are rich in mineral treasure. Coal has been found at Tontore, Castle Creagh, and at the foot of the Galtee mountains, near Galbally; copper, ten miles north of the latter place; and iron, north of this vein, and southwest of Limerick. Lead occurs in the limestone mountains above the Deel, near Askeaton; and a mine of this description is now worked with considerable success near Ballysteen, on the borders of the Shannon, the seat of Colonel Westropp. Within the last twenty years, in the barony of Kenry, a lead mine of a very rich quality was worked, and a cargo exported; but it has been abandoned for want of capital and enterprise. There are strong indications of a similar mine at Mount Fox, part of the lands of Mr. Lee. A coal mine has been found near Ballybrood, in the barony of Clanwilliam; but the working of it was abandoned, after a trifling

expenditure. The transition from a limestone to a shingle commences here ; and that shingle for near four miles to Longfield, where the late Mr. Apjohn also made an experiment. Irish porphyry has been found in this neighbourhood, of which some remarkably handsome chimney-pieces have been made by Mr. Barry of Limerick. A fine black marble, without any mixture of white, has been discovered at Ballysimon ; a spar, white, hard, and pellucid, near Glenogra Castle, in the neighbourhood of Lough Gur ; at Rathmore Castle, excellent pipe-clay ; and fine slate near Abbeyfeale, on the borders of the county. At Loughill, in the west, culm is raised in vast quantities, and is made much use of in burning lime.

“ The face of nature is animated by all the variety of birds and quadrupeds, common to the south of Ireland. The very minute description of their different tribes, which Dr. Smith has given in his Histories of Cork, Waterford, and Kerry, precludes the necessity of our noticing them in detail. It has, however, been observed, that some species of birds have greatly diminished since that period. Eagles, which formerly frequented

the hills of Lough Gur, are now rarely seen ; and this is also the case with the flocks of wild swans, which swarmed in the corcasses of Cahircorney, Carrigeen, and other parts of the county. In severe weather, wild geese arrive in great numbers from the bleak shores of the ocean, and remain feeding on the young grass in the marshes till the season of incubation. A considerable diminution has been observed in many species of the feathered race, which has been attributed, with great appearance of probability, to the destruction of those woods and forests which in former ages yielded them both food and shelter.

“The bones and horns of that enormous animal, the moose deer, have been found in many parts of the county, from five to ten feet deep in boggy ground.

“Five pair of these horns were discovered not long since on the lands of Castle Farm, near Hospital, and another pair at Rathcannan: seven pair were found by Archdeacon Maunsell of Limerick, near Knocktoe, in this county—one of which, with every bone belonging to the animal, he has sent to the Museum of the Dublin Society. They are supposed by Sir Thomas Molyneux, and





SKELETON
 of the
 Irish Fossil Deer
 in the Museum of the
 ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY

Drawn by T. Agnew & Sons, 11, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4



other eminent writers, to have been of the same species with the American elk or moose-deer; and Sir Thomas was of opinion, that they were formerly as frequent in Ireland as they are now in the Missouri country."

To the Royal Dublin Society I have to acknowledge my obligation, for the favour of their permission to use the copper-plate engraving of the skeleton of the fossil-deer "*cervus megaceros*," to which allusion has just been made. (See Engraving.)

The following short description of this stupendous creature has been extracted from a report "drawn up at the instance of the Committee of Natural Philosophy of the Royal Dublin Society," by John Hart, M.R.I.A.:

"We may well be excused in the present instance, for feeling a degree of national pride, that our native institution for the encouragement of the arts and sciences should have been the first public body in Europe to obtain a perfect specimen of the skeleton of this, one of the most remarkable animals which ever existed; and which, although not exclusively indigenous to, yet seems to have had its favourite haunts in our fertile plains and valleys.

M

“ This magnificent skeleton is perfect in every bone of the frame-work which contributes to form a part of its general outline: the spine, the chest, the pelvis, and the extremities, are all complete in this respect; and when surmounted by the head and beautifully expanded antlers, which extend out to a distance of nearly six feet on either side, forms a splendid display of the reliques of the former grandeur of the animal kingdom, and carries back the imagination to a period when whole herds of this noble animal wandered at large over the face of the country.

“ The skeleton measures, from the end of the nose to the tip of the tail, ten feet ten inches. The spine consists of twenty-six vertebræ, viz. seven cervical, thirteen dorsal, and six lumbar. The size of the cervical vertebræ greatly exceeds that of the other classes, and the spines of the dorsal rise to a foot in height. The necessity of these bones being so marked, is obvious, considering the strong cervical ligament, and powerful muscles, required for supporting and moving a head, which, at a moderate calculation, must have sustained a weight of three quarters of a hundred of solid bony matter.

"The extremities are in proportion to the different parts of the trunk, and present a conformation favourable to a combination of great strength and fleetness.

"I requested Doctor William Stokes to make an analysis of a small fragment of a rib, which he found to contain the following constituents :

Animal matter	-	-	-	42.87
Phosphates, with some fluates	-	-	-	43.45
Carb. lime	-	-	-	9.14
Oxides	-	-	-	1.02
Silica	-	-	-	1.14
Water and loss	-	-	-	2.38
				<hr/>
				100.00
				<hr/>

The following Table exhibits a comparative view of the measurements of different parts of the skeletons of the cervus megaceros in the Museum of the Royal Dublin Society, and in the University of Edinburgh, with some parts of the Moose :

	R. Dub. Society.		Un. of Edin.		Moose.	
	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>In.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>In.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>In.</i>
Length of the head	1	8½	1	8½		
Breadth of the skull between the orbits	0	10½	0	9		
Breadth of the skull at the occiput	0	8				
Diameter of the orbit	0	2½	0	2½		
Distance between infra orbital holes across the skull	0	7				

M 2

	R. Dub. Society.		Un. of Edin.		Moose.	
	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.
Length of alveolar processes of the upper jaw ...	0	6	0	6		
Length of lower jaw ...	1	5½	1	3½		
Diameter of foramen magnum ...	0	2				
ANTLERS.						
Distance between the extreme tips, measured by the skull ...	11	10				
Ditto, in a straight line across ...	9	2	6	8	3	7
Length of each antler ...	5	9	5	1		
Greatest breadth of the palm ...	2	10				
Length of the beam ...	1	9			0	6½
Length of brow antler ...	0	8¾				
Length of sur-antler ...	1	4				
Circumference of the beam at the root of the brow antler ...	1	0¾			0	7½
BODY.						
Length of spine ...	10	10	9	8		
Length of sternum ...	2	4				
Height to the upper extremity of the dorsal spines ...	6	6				
Height to the highest point of the tip of the antler ...	10	4				
EXTREMITIES.						
Greatest length of the scapula ...	1	6½				
Ditto breadth at the base ...	3	10¾				
Ditto depth of its spine ...	0	2¾				
Length of the humerus ...	1	4	1	3½		
Ditto of ulna and radius ...	1	8	1	6		
Ditto of carpus ...	0	2¾	0	2		
Circumference of ditto ...	0	9½				
Length of metacarpus ...	1	0½	1	0½		
Length of phalanges ...	0	7	0	6½		
From anterior superior spine of one ileum to that of the other ...	1	4½	1	6½		
From anterior superior spine to the tuber ischii ...	1	8	1	9½		
Greatest diameter of foramen ovale ...	0	4	0	3		
Least diameter of ditto ...	0	2¾	0	2¼		
Length of the femur ...	1	6½	1	5½		
Ditto of tibia ...	1	6	1	6		
Length of the tarsus, including the os calcis ...	0	8				
Ditto of the metatarsus ...	1	1¾	1	1¾		

“ In the autumn of 1828, while some workmen were employed in making preparations for planting the southern aspect of a hill of loam sand, close to Enniskerry, they dug up several bones belonging to the fossil deer, *C. megaceros*, which lay buried in the loam at a depth of three or four feet below the surface, and at an elevation of about forty feet above the level of the bed of the river, which runs at the base of this hill.

“ The hill in which these bones were found is situated on the north bank of the river of Enniskerry, opposite the village ; its height is about sixty or seventy feet above the river ; it is one of a series of heaps of diluvial gravel, dispersed through an extensive valley, lying between primitive mountains.

“ The presence of these bones in the gravel, would seem to warrant the inference, that the destruction of the animal to which they belonged was owing to the same cause which conveyed those large heaps of sand and gravel to the situation they at present occupy ; and that this was the work of a vast inundation or deluge, by which the surface of this country was once submerged, appears to be sufficiently evident from the very striking

resemblance which these gravel hills bear, on a great scale, to the smaller heaps of sand and gravel left in the beds of mountain rivers after floods.

“The bodies of animals overtaken and drowned by this inundation, after remaining for a short time under water, would naturally run into a state of putrefaction, and, having become inflated by the gaseous fluids disengaged in their interior during that process, they would rise and float on the surface until the soft parts were completely decomposed, when the bones, having their connecting media destroyed, would descend by their own gravity; and should the surface on which they came to rest at the bottom consist of a soft material, they would sink into this to a greater or lesser depth.

“It was thus, in all probability, that the bones of the fossil deer came to be deposited in their usual position in the marl, at a time coeval with, or immediately subsequent to, the formation of that substance: while the bones found in the sand would seem to owe their position there to the circumstance of the animal they belonged to happening to have been overwhelmed by the enormous

masses of gravel and clay which the water rolled before it in the violence of its first irruption."

A fine evening induced us to take a drive to Castleconnell. Our expectations, though highly wrought, were not disappointed in the justly celebrated falls of Doonas, which have been so brilliantly described by the historians of Limerick. (Note *a*.) A pleasant walk from the falls by the river leads to Castleconnell. At the entrance of that neat and healthful village are the ruins of a castle so spacious, and the ascent by steps so easy, though built on a very high rock, that history informs us a troop of horse were drawn up in the hall. This castle was blown up in 1691, on the same day which marked the destruction of Carrig-o-gunnel, and now stands, like that ruined fortress, in mouldering grandeur, a melancholy monument of the scourge of war.

In viewing the crumbling remains of ancient castles, towers, or magnificent edifices, the query will sometimes arise in the reflecting mind—"Where are the persons who planned and executed these specimens of human power? What is become of their

original inhabitants and their long line of successors? If we look at them even in imagination, we must acknowledge that the sentence pronounced upon man has had, in these instances at least, a striking verification — *‘dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return.’*”

“Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away.”

We drove through the town, but could not delay to taste of its healing waters. This was our last excursion, and brought me near to the moment of separation from my social relatives, and the beauties and attractions of the counties of Limerick and Clare.

On the 13th of 8th month I took my place in the coach for the metropolis; the company happened all to be strangers to the road, and we could not help regretting that some way-mark, at the entrance, did not point out to the traveller the names of the towns through which we passed, and after a pleasant journey of a few hours, over one of the *finest roads in the kingdom*, I found myself encircled by domestic enjoyments.

Here my narrative comes to a close; but, before I lay down the pen, I wish to express

a hope that these feeble efforts may be made instrumental in promoting the object already mentioned, which induced me to undertake the work, and to which I shall again advert, namely, to excite in the minds of future visitors an interest for the poor of Kilkee ; and I would likewise add my earnest desire, that the refreshing streams of benevolence may flow into every inlet of human misery throughout the universe, whilst I indulge the pleasing anticipation that prosperous days await my native land.

NOTES.

NOTE a.

*Description of the Upper Shannon, from Fitzgerald
and M^r Gregor's History of Limerick.*

(Published 1827.)

“THERE are few districts in Ireland deficient in that element which gives such brilliancy to every landscape. Scarcely any part is full fifty miles distant from the coast, and the country is watered by more than a hundred rivers, which flow into the sea or its various inlets; of these the Shannon is the chief. This noble river has its rise in the county of Leitrim, washes the shores of ten counties, and, after a course of two hundred and thirty English miles, falls into the Atlantic ocean, with a vast volume several miles in breadth. To this river Limerick is indebted for much of its prosperity, little as the advantages of this gift of a bountiful Providence has been

improved. It runs for a few miles from its source in an inconsiderable stream, till it diffuses itself into a spacious lake called Lough Allen. From this lake to Cloondsa, a distance of thirty-six miles, there is a tedious and difficult navigation by the river, some small lakes and short canals; the trade is, consequently, but trifling. Here the Shannon is joined by the Royal Canal; and six miles farther, near Lanesborough, it spreads into Lough Rea, five miles in breadth and fifteen in length, and then, assuming the form of a large and beautiful river, runs to Athlone; from this town it flows in a narrow stream, for seventeen miles, to Shannon Harbour, where it is joined by the Grand Canal, sixty-two miles from Dublin and forty-one from Limerick. The river from Meelick flows in a stream, from fifty to one hundred and fifty yards in breadth, to Portumna; soon after leaving Portumna the Shannon again proudly expands her ample surface into Lough Derg, eighteen miles long and four in breadth. The scenery for five or six miles, on approaching Killaloe, is very beautiful—the lake diversified by numerous islands, whilst its banks are ornamented with hand-

some seats and rich plantations. It is bounded on the east side by the mountains of Tipperary and Clare, in which are situated several valuable slate quarries. Within half a mile of Killaloe it again assumes the form of a river, and falls from about one hundred and fifty feet from Killaloe to Limerick, offering the most advantageous sites for mills. At the falls of Killaloe the river descends twenty-one feet in a mile, then proceeds to the delightful village of Castleconnell, celebrated for its chalybeate spa, and the romantic beauty of its scenery, which embraces a view of the great falls of Doonas and Hermitage, and the rapids of New Garden and Clairville. The falls of Doonas and Hermitage are some of the finest in the United Kingdom—here the whole Shannon is impelled, with tremendous force and deafening noise, over a succession of craggy limestone rocks, down a descent of fifty-five and a half feet in about half a mile; and this spot is, perhaps, unequalled in its situation and water-power for mill sites, and almost unrivalled in its picturesque beauties—here the sublime and beautiful are united, and the lovers of nature may revel in scenery congenial to

their various tastes—here are assembled the foaming cascade, the rushing torrent, the boiling flood, the craggy rock, the gently swelling lawn, the frowning cliff, the retiring vale, the wooded hill, the noble mansion, and the peaceful cottage embosomed in woods—here is the spot for those who love to study or enjoy nature, where the poet, the philosopher, the sentimentalist, the engineer, and the sportsman may alike find food for the mind and body. Although it may be difficult accurately to calculate the strength of these fine falls for the purpose of driving machinery, yet we have been informed, that in middling water the upper fall alone is equal to one thousand horse power, (in winter, perhaps, double this,) and would be adequate to driving six or seven cotton factories, of one hundred and fifty to two hundred horse power each, or two hundred pairs of mill stones for grinding corn. Is it not marvellous that this vast body of water has been allowed to spend its great powers on the rugged rocks, and run uselessly here for ages, when we consider the immense sums spent annually in England and Scotland for the moving power in factories, which could be had here for one-

twentieth part of what it costs in England for a steam-engine and coal to work it?

“In the year 1698, on the 30th of July, a violent storm arose, which stopped the current of the Shannon for three hours, so that people might walk over nearly dry. It destroyed so much corn, that wheat rose to 6s. 6d. per bushel, and barley to 20s. per barrel.

“The city of Limerick is watered in its whole length by the Shannon, which flows to the sea in a majestic volume, and returns, frequently wafting on its bosom to the quays, (a distance of 77 English miles,) vessels of 500 tons burthen. At every opening to the westward, salubrious breezes from the river inspire health and vigour, and a walk to the quays is amply compensated by the scenes of busy traffic there presented, and the various enlivening prospects which meet the eye. Here the steam-packet from Kilrush is landing her joyous passengers, whose nerves have been braced, and spirits exhilarated, by some weeks' residence on the shores of the Atlantic, at Kilkee or Malbay.”

The following extracts from a valuable work, will, I consider, be acceptable to my

readers, showing the capabilities of the Shannon for profitable intercourse, as well as the advantages likely to arise to Ireland from the establishment of inland navigation, by Chas. W. Williams :

“ The river Shannon, unequalled in the British empire, affords 234 miles of continuous navigation ; and from the circumstance of its running nearly through the centre of the kingdom, may be compared, for the purposes of intercourse, to double that length of coast. The advantages of water-conveyance are thus presented to an extent of country equal to the whole line of coast between Belfast and Cork, or to more than the entire eastern coast of England.

“ The great feature of this extraordinary river, is its diversified character. For a distance of 60 miles, from the sea to the city of Limerick, it presents a magnificent estuary and tide-way, without bar or other impediment whatever, and with a flood equal to a height of 20 feet at the city quays. This part of the river possesses several deep bays or inlets, and receives the water of sundry rivers, some of which enjoy the tide-way for a considerable distance up their channels,

and all are susceptible of great improvement. By these the benefit of water-conveyance may be extended to many rising towns, and to extensive, rich, populous districts.

“ The great estuary of the Fergus, extending ten miles to the town of Clare, with the means of further extension to Ennis, the capital of the county of Clare, here pushes the benefit of navigation into the centre of a district, unrivalled perhaps in Britain, for depth and fertility of soil.

“ Of the city and port of Limerick much may be said. With a rapidly increasing trade, it yet possesses comparatively but few advantages from its commanding position on the river. The communication between it and the adjoining districts, even those along the navigation, is carried on principally *overland*; while above the city, until within the last few years that steam navigation has been introduced upon its waters, the river has been, as it were, a sealed book.

“ Above Limerick, at Killaloe, a distance of 15 British miles, the navigation is varied, being part still water and part river.

“ From Killaloe, in the county of Clare, to its source in the county of Leitrim, the river

assumes a great variety of character. In some places it stretches out into seas, or lakes—two of which, Lough Derg and Lough Ree, are above 20 British miles long each. In other parts the river assimilates itself more to that of the river navigations of England, with the combined advantages of sailing and tracking, as seen in the Thames, the Mersey, and the Severn. Again it forms a succession of small lakes, peculiarly in want of artificial helps, which, however, the use of steam navigation would effectually overcome. And lastly, in many situations it approaches almost to still-water navigation. The falls and rapids, which on the whole river amount to an elevation of 146 feet 11 inches,* are overcome by lateral canals and locks.—Throughout its course, however, it possesses the rare quality of having a sufficient depth of water for all the purposes of internal intercourse. From this diversity of character, it is manifest how much its navigation is open to improvements, by the removal of difficulties and obstructions; constructing small harbours, quays, and landing-places, and making approaches to the same; widen-

* See next page.

ing and raising arches of bridges ; establish-
ing beacons and other guides, to aid the
navigator through the intricacy and windings
of its channels, and in seasons when the
water extends beyond its natural course ;
the cutting the banks, and deepening many
parts ; and, on the whole, affording abundant

DISTANCE IN BRITISH MILES BY
WATER ALONG THE SHANNON.

	<i>Miles.</i>
Loop Head to Scatterry ..	24
Scatterry to Foynes ..	21
Foynes to Limerick ..	26
<hr/>	
The Sea to Limerick....	71
Limerick to Killaloe ..	15
Killaloe to Portumna ..	24
Portumna to Meelick ..	9
Meelick to Banagher ..	6
Banagher to Shannon Bridge	9
Shannon Bridge to Seven Churches ..	6
Seven Churches to Athlone	9
<hr/>	
Limerick to Athlone....	78
Athlone to Lanesbro' ..	20
Lanesbro' to Tarmonbarry	7
Tarmonbarry to Roosky ..	10
Roosky to Drumsna ..	10
Drumsna to Carrick ..	8½
Carrick to Leitrim ..	6½
Leitrim to Arigna River ..	9
Arigna River to source of Lough Allen ..	10
<hr/>	
Athlone to Head of L. Allen	81
<hr/>	
Entire Navigable Length ..	230

FALLS OF WATER ON THE
SHANNON.

	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>In.</i>
Killaloe to Castle Con- nell	20	8
Castle Connell to Castle Troy	55	4
Castle Troy to Limerick	11	7
Salmon-leap, Limerick	9	6
<hr/>		
Between Killaloe & Limerick	97	1
At Meelick, one Lock	7	3
At Banagher, do.	3	0
At Shannon-bridge, do.	0	7
At Athlone, do.	4	0
At Lanesbro', do.	1	0
At Cloondraw, do.	3	6
At Roosky, do.	3	6
At Jamestown, do.	6	0
At Battle-bridge, do.	3	3
At Drumboy ..	3	10
At Drumharrieff ..	8	8
At Arigna River ..	5	3
<hr/>		49 10

Lough Allen to the tide-
way at Limerick .. 146 11

opportunities for the application of human skill and judgment.

“ The Shannon washes the shores of ten counties out of thirty-two, viz. Leitrim, Roscommon, Longford, Westmeath, King’s County, Galway, Tipperary, Clare, Limerick, and Kerry. All of these are abundant in population, and susceptible of great agricultural improvement; and although many of them are periodically exposed to the greatest distress, and even famine, yet are without the power of mutual relief or co-operation.

“ Taking, then, the double length of coast which the ten counties present to the navigation, at 500 miles, and which, considering the extent of the bays, inlets, and rivers, is under the fact, *it leaves an average of fifty miles of coast to each county.* This fact alone is sufficiently indicative of what may be done through the instrumentality of *this one river.*

“ Running from north to south, the several counties on the Shannon naturally present great diversity of soil, and even climate. Some of the counties are mountainous, with deep productive valleys, on which may be cheaply fed, vast quantities of sheep and cattle. Other counties are flat and humid, yet susceptible of great amelioration from

the labour of their population, with the aid of skill and capital. Several, with soils on a substratum of limestone, are in all seasons warm and dry, and peculiarly adapted to the production of the finest qualities of grain and other produce; while some, to the southward, possess deep and tenacious soils, requiring strong manures and much labouring.

“Under such circumstances, it is evident that the several parts of this great territory must be variously affected by the seasons. Wet seasons are beneficial to some, and almost ruinous to others. Some are abundant in seasons of drought, which bring scarcity, and even famine, to others. Some divisions of counties on the Shannon are well adapted for descriptions of produce which are unattainable in others. Some excel in wheat and potatoes; others in barley, oats, and rape; while their neighbours’ are better adapted to pasturage.

“*Natural manures*, also, those essentials in agricultural districts, are not only excellent, but equal to any demand, throughout a great portion of the river, yet unknown in the rest. The black and white marls of the Shannon, which are easily raised, and acces-

sible and free to all, are amongst the most bountiful gifts of nature to this extraordinary country.

“ Again, *turf*, that prime necessary of life in Ireland, is abundant in the greater number of districts on the Shannon, yet deficient or inferior in quality in many. Building materials, as stone, sand, lime, flags, bricks, slates, and marble, are cheap and abundant in many, while frequently the adjoining counties are wholly without them.

“ The *bogs* on both sides of the Shannon, contiguous to the line of the Grand Canal, may be noticed as illustrative of their improvable value. There bog-land, originally of no value, now lets at thirty shillings an acre. In many parts of the Shannon, and over districts of from five to ten miles long, the deep rich callows, annually submerged and improved by the rising waters of the Shannon, produce abundant crops of *hay*; yet in other and easily-approached parts, and in many towns on its banks, *hay* is extremely scarce and dear.

“ Of the *reclaimable bogs*, callows, and marsh lands, it is unnecessary to say more, than that in no part of Ireland are they more

extensive, or more within the reach of human means for improvement.

“ In a country, then, so extensive—so variable in soil and climate—so various in produce and natural products, can there be a question of the importance of interchange by means of water-conveyance, particularly for bulky commodities ? Is it not an unnatural state of things, that in such a country, and with such a river flowing through its centre, some districts should be in want, not merely of comforts and conveniences, but of *the common necessities of life—food and fuel—* and almost approaching to famine ; while adjoining districts, on the same river, have them *in abundance and to spare ?*

“ Nature appears to have done its part—the capabilities of the river almost provoke the population to industry and intercourse. All the elements of internal and profitable traffic are in abundance : it cannot, therefore, be necessary to urge more strongly than by the bare enumeration of these facts, the value of an intercourse, which, from some cause or other, Ireland has never yet possessed.

“ How then can we convey to English eyes the picture of the Shannon, through its great

course. Let us suppose a navigable river, taking its rise in some distant county in England, as far from Liverpool as Essex or Middlesex. Suppose it occasionally spreading itself into noble and picturesque sheets of water, of more than twenty miles in length, with numerous islands, receiving the waters of many rivers, and stretching its bays into the adjacent counties, as it were to increase the measure of its utility and beauty. Imagine it winding its way through Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, and the rich soil of Leicestershire, and after passing by Staffordshire, Derbyshire, and Cheshire, and running a course of 230 miles, falling into the estury of the Mersey, in Lancashire: see it presenting to each of these counties the benefit of fifty miles of navigation, and we shall have a correct idea of the extent and capabilities of this river.

“ But how shall we describe the state in which it has remained for ages, as to trading intercourse, and in which three-fourths of it remains to this very hour—absolutely wanting in all the incidents of navigation. For nearly 100 miles of its length, not a sail or boat to be met with on its waters. No ap-

pearance of utility—no indications of industry or capital—even its beauties unknown; deficient to an extent scarcely credible in roads and approaches to it, and consequently having but little connexion with the interior, to which nature designed its influence should extend; without any employment of its waters, it flows unheeded by, and unproductive of any good. Over many of its districts of great extent, from the absence of the control which human skill and means could have effected, its waters have become a source of wide spreading waste.

“In speaking of the Shannon as a means of trading intercourse, we must not confine ourselves to the extent of acres over which that influence would have operated, but also to those towns which would have derived advantage from its improved navigation.* The

* Among these may be mentioned, Leitrim, Carrick, Boyle, Jamestown, Drumsna, Ruskey, Elphin, Longford, Killishee, Ballymahon, Moate, Roscommon, Strokestown, Athlone, Shannon-bridge, Ballinasloe, Tuam, Eyre court, Portumna, Loughrea, Woodford, Mount-shannon, Scariff, Tomgraney, Gort, Banagher, Parsonstown, Borrisokane, Nenagh, Killaloe, O'Brien's-bridge, Limerick, Adare, Rathkeale, Newcastle, Askeaton, Abbeyfeale, Glinn, Tarbert, Listowell, Tralee, Ballylongford, Newmarket, Six-mile-bridge, Clare, Ennis, Kilrush, &c.”

extension of the intercourse between the Irish and English ports, also by steam navigation, has given still greater importance to inland intercourse, and is peculiarly favourable to those towns enjoying the benefit of water-carriage to the metropolis."

Four or five years since, a survey was made of the upper and lower Shannon, by order of government, by Captain Mudge and John Rhodes. The latter engineer, during his examination, formed a bold plan for improving the Shannon at Limerick, by building a great dam or wall across the river below the city, nearly to high-water mark, so as to retain eighteen feet of water at the quays. Into this great basin of 100 acres, vessels are to be admitted by gates and locks at each end of the wall ; in which is also to be placed, at the bottom, a number of large sluices, for letting off any deposit of mud and sand, or floods in winter, from the lakes. On the top is to be fixed a light iron foot-bridge, for persons to open the sluices, which, with the river cascading over the wall as the tide recedes, will produce a very pleasing effect. To enable government to lend money for this improvement (now in progress), an



LUGBANACULLA OH

KILLINAGH PAR

L

amendment to a former act of parliament was lately passed ; and in the last session another act was passed, for improving the Shannon from its source to its mouth. Under this act, five eminent engineers were appointed commissioners, viz. Colonel Burgoyne, Captain Jones, William Cubitt, Richard Griffiths, and Thomas Rhodes ; whose report, published last spring, will be found very interesting.

There is one peculiarity respecting the Shannon, which I have not seen noticed—namely, its resemblance on a small scale to some of the American rivers, which flow through various lakes, and possess numerous falls and rapids in their course to the ocean.

NOTE B.

A correspondent of the Dublin Penny Journal, for whose veracity the Editor vouches, has announced the interesting fact, that the rise of the Shannon, which for centuries remained a matter of doubt, has at length been discovered, and is accurately traced on the annexed map, accompanied by an explanatory letter, dated “Killeshandra, March 1836.”

“ In these times, when the navigation and improvement of the river-Shannon occupy so much of the public attention, perhaps a few words relative to the source of that noble river may not be uninteresting ; and if the following description, and the small map that accompanies it, prove worthy of a place in your highly useful and national periodical, it will fully compensate me for any little trouble I have been at.

“ It is generally represented in Irish geography, that this river rises in Lough Allen, county of Leitrim ; but it is actually nine English miles farther north. It rises in the county of Cavan, barony of Tallyhaw, parish of Templeport, townland of Derrylaghen, at the head of a wild district called Glangavelin, and in the valley between Cuilcagh and Lurganacallagh mountains, close to the base of the former. The source or spring is of a circular form, about fifty feet in diameter, called the Shannon Pot, or more generally Leigmonshena. It boils up in the centre, and a continued stream flows from it, about eight feet wide and two deep in the driest season, and runs about four miles per hour. In rainy weather the flow of water is so much

increased, that its banks and all the low ground in its immediate vicinity are overflowed. There are numerous caverns and clefts on the top and sides of Cuilcagh mountain, which receive the rain water ; and from the circumstance of no streams descending this side of the mountain, I conclude that the drainage of this vast mountain, combined to its subterranean springs, here find an outlet, and give birth to this river. Two miles from its source, it is joined by the Ovenmore or Big River, (as will be seen by reference to the map.) After winding its way through the valley, and collecting its tributary branches, it falls into Lough Allen about nine miles south of its source, having in this short course swelled to a considerable river, from fifty to sixty yards wide, varying in depth from five to ten feet. I have given on the map the height of the source, also the summit of Cuilcagh above the sea, which will show how comparatively low the former is. The principal falls are before it leaves the county of Cavan, having in the distance of six miles a fall of above 170 feet ; so that, from Kerry Head to its source, a distance of upwards of 220 miles, it is capable of improvement for the purposes of navigation."

NOTE C.

The history of Limerick, and G. Holmes's tour in the south of Ireland, informs us, that this celebrated Abbey is situated two miles from Limerick, and was once a great seminary for learning. The Psalter of Cashel says "the Abbey was founded in 432." A bishop's see appears to have been established in the sixth or seventh century; and Munchin, the son of Sedna, is stated to have been the first bishop. It has been conjectured by some writers that Munchin was the same as Mancenus, whom Jocelyn calls 'a religious man, and of complete knowledge in the Scripture.' Others have supposed that he was the same with Manchenus, who is styled 'the wise Irishman,' in the book, *de Mirabilibus Scripturæ*. The Psalter of Cashel also states, "that at the commencement of the tenth century were attached to the monastery of Mungret, six churches, and that the number of religious, exclusive of scholars, encreased to fifteen hundred, five hundred of whom were learned men." Bede tells us,

that in the middle of the seventh century, in the days of the venerable prelates, Finian and Colman, many nobles, and other orders of the Anglo-Saxon, retired from their own country into Ireland, either for *instruction* or an opportunity of living in monasteries of stricter discipline; and the Scots (as he styles the Irish,) maintained them, taught them, and furnished them with books, without fee or reward. “A most honorable testimony,” says the elegant Lord Littleton, “not only to the learning, but likewise to the hospitality and bounty of that nation.”

O’Connor’s Dissertations.

NOTE D.

“December 26th.—Last night a heavy gale of wind, still from the east. Certainly we have been persecuted by a strange fatality, from the very night of our departure to this hour. We have lost two commanders-in-chief; of four admirals, not one remains; we have lost one ship of the line that we know of, and probably many others of which we know nothing; we have now been six days in Bantry Bay, within five hundred yards of

the shore, without being able to effectuate a landing ; we have been dispersed four times in four days ; and at this moment, of forty-three sail, of which the expedition consisted, we can muster, of all sizes, but fourteen. There only wants our falling in with the English to complete our destruction ; and to judge of the future by the past, there is every probability that that will not be wanting. All our hopes are now reduced to get back in safety to Brest, and I believe we will set sail for that port the instant the weather will permit. I confess myself, I now look on the expedition as impracticable. The enemy has had seven days to prepare for us, and three, or perhaps four days more, before we could arrive at Cork ; and we are now too much reduced, in all respects, to make the attempt with any prospect of success—so all is over ! It is hard, after having forced my way thus far, to be obliged to turn back ; but it is my fate, and I must submit. Notwithstanding all our blunders, it is the dreadful stormy weather, and easterly winds, which have been blowing furiously and without intermission, since we made Bantry Bay, that have ruined us. Well, England has not had such an

escape since the Spanish armada; and that expedition, like ours, was defeated by the weather; the elements fight against us, and courage is of no avail."—Pages 229, 230, 231.

NOTE e.

The subject of temperance not being immediately connected with an account of Kilkee, &c. to prevent interruption, I refer my readers to the Addenda, for some interesting matter relating to that momentous subject.

NOTE f.

Melancholy Shipwreck.

On the morning of the 30th of 1st month, 1836, after a week of storms, and during a continuance of them from the north-west, the coast-guard sentinel on duty for the day, in taking his accustomed walk along the cliffs, about seven o'clock, (soon after day-light) discovered a large vessel dismasted, riding by two anchors amidst most terrific breakers, in the little bay close under the Look-out Cliff, page 76.

The affecting intelligence was quickly communicated at the village by himself and a peasant. The officer, with the coast-guard, and several persons of influence and nautical experience, with numbers of the inhabitants, flocked to render any assistance in their power ; but, alas ! none could be given. The name on the stern could be read with a telescope, " Intrinsic of Liverpool." They saw the supposed captain, with his speaking trumpet, calling to them in vain, but nothing could be heard from the roaring of the breakers, which, after dashing with tremendous violence upwards of 100 feet high against the perpendicular cliffs, rushed back to sea, carrying the unhappy vessel with them, until it was stopped by the anchors. The next great surge dashed her in again, as far as the cables allowed, which however still kept her from striking the rocks ; but from the violence of the waves that broke most fearfully over her, it was evident that she could not long hold together, particularly as from some unknown cause, the hatches which cover the hold were off, and much water got down. During this indescribably awful period, a lady came up from the cabin, and looking round at the

towering cliffs and dreadful breakers, sunk on her knees in the attitude of prayer, but was soon obliged to go below by the waves, which washed two of the crew overboard, but who, after astonishing exertion in the water, regained their sinking vessel, which, carrying a cargo of 500 tons, was at one moment lifted so high, that the people on the cliffs over the Diamond rocks, thought she would be thrown up amongst them : the next minute she was engulfed in a valley of foam. As all human efforts were now un-availing, whilst the tempest blew with such violence that the agonized beholders could scarcely keep their feet, the kind-hearted natives, seeing the awful termination at hand, did all that remained in their power, by kneeling down and praying for their poor fellow-creatures about to be swallowed up in the mighty deep. The crew soon after went down to the cabin, no doubt to prepare for the awful change that awaited them—after which they were seen no more. The vessel at length disappeared in a huge wave, and after a short time her shattered frame rose once more, when the next enormous breaker (to use the words of a spectator) shattered it

into a thousand pieces, and rolling it over and over, carried most of it and the light part of the cargo out to sea.

A few minutes after the *Intrinsic* went down, a gull hovering over the spot, was seen to descend and pick something out of the water. The bird then rose to a great height, and let go what the wind wafted ashore, and which proved to be a *Lady's glove*. This touching occurrence gave rise to the following lines :

THE LADY'S GLOVE.

“O, where is SHE?

Ask of the wind, that far around

With fragments strews the sea.”—HEMANS.

What relic hath fallen from yon wild bird,

A bider by sounding sea?

What relic, by booming surges steer'd,

And white as the billowy spray?

Doth it speak aught of the perished there,

Gone down to their stormy graves?

Bringeth it record of brave or fair,

Sleeping 'neath ocean's waves?

A Lady's glove! O, bear it hither!

Alas for the hand it press'd!

Fair cheek hath blanch'd—fond heart hath wither'd,

And bright eyes closed in rest!

Of the cherish'd, at many a hearth and home,
There's left but this Relic—toss'd,
Fragile, and light, as the deep sea's foam ;
A type of the loved and lost.

O, when shall the voice of the mourners cease
To wail in the far-off land,
For her who has left the “ vacant place,”
And severed the kindred band ?

Whose glove, like the dove-borne branch of yore,
Is given for those that weep her ;
A pledge that the waters can chill her no more,
That sweet is the rest of the sleeper.

Kilrush, Feb. 1836.

None of the bodies of the poor sufferers were seen except one, which was observed floating near the Bath House, on the north side of the bay. Two men incautiously rushed out to bring it in, when, awful to relate, they were both carried off by the breakers and drowned. The body was soon after thrown on shore and decently interred ; but those of the two poor men were not got for some time.

This vessel was reported by the agent for the underwriters, who came to take charge of the property, to be one of the best built ships belonging to Liverpool, had just arrived from Calcutta, and was in 14 days again

laden for New Orleans with a valuable cargo, including a large quantity of iron, steel, block tin, copper, tin plates, wheels and axles for rail-road carriages, besides cotton goods, cut glass, &c. &c. They were out 14 days from Liverpool, and having sailed round the north of Ireland, were driven by a succession of storms upon the coast, and must have passed the harbour of Galway and many others to the north. Had she been anchored at a distance off the coast, out of reach of the breakers, it is the opinion of persons of considerable nautical experience, that she would have rode out the gale. The lighter part, with the wreck, were strewed for twenty miles along the coast of Malbay, greatly broken and injured, and was afterwards delivered up with great readiness, or purchased from the agent. The heavy and most valuable part, it was expected, would be found where the vessel went to pieces ; accordingly, the underwriters engaged the ingenious inventor of the new diving apparatus, C. A. Deane, to get it up. The attempt has been so far successful, and some of the heavy goods have with difficulty been recovered without much injury ; but as that little bay is greatly exposed to the sea, it

requires very calm weather to admit of the small vessel lying there, from which the diver descends ; therefore but little progress has been made.

Supposing the information will be acceptable to my readers, I shall proceed to give particulars of this remarkable application of human ingenuity, by which man is enabled to invade, as it were, the habitations of the finny tribes, to walk about the bottom of the sea, and to take a survey of those submarine territories, which are often strewed over with the dismal remains of once stately vessels or their cargoes.*

The principal agent in accomplishing this remarkable performance is the helmet, which may be best designated as a *portable diving-bell*, that slips down over the head, and, resting upon the shoulders, projects a little below them, and over the chest and back. It is composed of copper plated over, and without any opening except where the head is admitted ; in front are three large lenses, similar to the glasses of the new periscope spectacles.

* The wreck of the Royal George, at Spithead, is said by the diver to cover an acre. He lately got up some large brass guns from the wreck, about 70 feet under water.

cles—convex outside, and concave within—which assist in showing the objects around. In the back part of the helmet is fixed a round pipe, that branches off into three flat pipes; which pass over the head, and discharge on the face the air from a very powerful air-pump of three barrels, and worked by four men. This always remains on the deck of the small vessel, from which the diver descends by a wooden ladder, or, in deep water, by a rope one, with weights at the bottom to keep it straight. Previously to going down, he is warmly clothed in flannel, beside his ordinary dress; and, over all, a water-tight Indian rubber dress, with leaden soles, and covers for his hands and arms attached: and thus he is up to the chin. As the water cannot rise into the helmet as long as the air is forced down into it from above, consequently the dress, which is tied round the neck, and covered a part of the way down by the bottom of the helmet, keeps the wearer perfectly dry, and allows the air to escape as it does from the bottom of the common diving-bell. The diver has also a signal-line tied round his waist. The upper end is held by a person on deck; and, by a well-arranged code of

signals, given by certain pulls of the line, the diver is able (to use a technical term) to converse with the man above, whose business it is, at short intervals, to enquire how the diver finds himself: and, should the latter not answer at once by the signal, he is immediately pulled up; which is done with great ease and quickness, from the buoyancy of the air in the helmet. This apparatus, exclusive of its own weight of 15 lbs., requires two weights of 23 lbs. each to be fastened, one on the front and the other on the back, to keep it under water. Besides the other precautions, there is a guide-line tied to the bottom of the ladder, which the diver always holds in his hand, to find his way back after descending. When he discovers any article to be sent up, he signals for a rope, chain, or hook, &c., in order to have it drawn up. The diver was some time before he could discover where the heavy part of the *Intrinsic's* cargo lay. He says that he examined ten or twelve acres near to where she went to pieces. This was accomplished by standing on the bottom of the ladder, as the little vessel was rowed about the bay. He watched the ground as he passed over; and at length saw the

chain cables, which led to the spot where the metals had sunk in heaps ; and the bar iron having fallen upon its ends between the rocks, now stands up in a very frightful manner. He thinks, from the way in which the cargo lies in 66 feet of water, that it fell out at one side of the vessel, that she afterwards rose, and then went to pieces nearer to the shore, where they at first expected to find the cargo. The buoys now float over it, just midway between the Castle Rock and the end of the Diamond Rocks, about a furlong from each, and recall to the mind in a degree, the truly appalling and terrific scene of the wreck. It is somewhat consoling to know, that those dreadful catastrophes do not often occur here, and that in the memory of the oldest person in Kilkee, but one small vessel was wrecked,

From the great clearness of the water on this coast, the diver says he can see 50 feet distinctly—a much greater distance than he has observed elsewhere. On being asked if any large fish ever molested him, he replied in the negative ; although in one place on the coast of England where he was engaged, it abounded with great conger eels, which swam by him perfectly harmless. He always takes

down a large knife, to defend himself in case of an attack. After going down a few times in one place, he states that he walks about on the bottom of the sea perfectly at his ease. It should also be mentioned, that one person, generally the patentee, always holds the important pipe, through which the air is pumped down to the diver ; and that if any accident should occur to stop the supply, the quantity in the helmet and tube would last five minutes ; but I believe not any such has ever happened.

In a publication of this nature there will always be some allowance made by the considerate reader, for the difficulty of keeping up an uninterrupted connexion between the different subjects, owing to the distance which frequently separates the various objects. Perhaps this will be a sufficient apology for inserting the following notice, which has just been received, respecting the spas mentioned in page 128.

The little village of Lisdoonvarna or Lissdownvarna, is situated in the north of the County of Clare, within about nine English miles of Ennistymond (page 148) and four of Doolan, (page 158). Several lodges for

the accommodation of visitors (similar to the smaller class of lodges at Kilkee) are scattered around. One of the spas is a remarkably *strong chalybeate*; another within a quarter of a mile is *an aperient*; at about the same distance in an opposite direction, there is a third spa, so powerfully impregnated with sulphur that it is extremely unpalatable; the stones over which it runs are covered with a deposit of a *whitish or yellowish hue*. Not far from the last mentioned is another spa, called the "copperas well," which is used with *much efficacy* in cases of sores, or eyes injured by measles, &c. &c. The late Doctor Martin has thus written of Castle Connell spa, to which allusion was made in page 39. "The water is found to contain a considerable mixture of marine salt and absorbent earth, and has proved very efficacious in scorbutic and bilious complaints, affections of the liver, jaundice, loss of appetite, worms, &c."

NOTE g.

The following account of a visit to the Seal Caves of Mutton Island, I had from a young friend who explored one of them, in

company with another adventurous youth, in the year 1826. Having taken a canoe, they brought with them a man who had acted as guide along the coast, and landed in a little cove (one of the few landing-places on the Island,) and mounted its summit. The perpendicular sides of this commanding height, present the entrances of numerous caverns, which can only be visited in a canoe when the tide is in : this not being the case on their arrival, and determined to gratify their curiosity, they resolved to swim into them. After leaping from a rock several feet above the water, the narrator pursued his way : his companion, who preceded him, was soon lost sight of in the dark windings, and the echo prevented any interchange of words. Having swam a considerable distance, occasionally groping his way amongst the rocky masses, that often interrupted his course, he arrived at a turn which introduced him into total darkness. Within this gloomy place he distinctly heard a loud blowing, or breathing noise, and a great splash in the water. Not being inclined to come in contact with an unseen enemy in that sombre region, he prudently concluded to return, and getting on

a rock, he disengaged a stone, with which he knocked loudly against the sides of the cavern, if possible to ascertain how it fared with his enterprising companion ; but not receiving an answer after many unsuccessful efforts, he was obliged to leave the place in a state of painful uncertainty. Having returned to the rock whence he had leaped, he found the guide had gone to amuse himself on the Island, and being unable to climb up without assistance, he had to remain in the water in a state of great anxiety and exhaustion, until his return. Just at that moment he heard the joyful sound of his companion's voice, who was nearly spent, and with difficulty assisted out of the water ; and when a little recovered, he gave an awful account of his adventures. After he had swam a long way into the cave, the dark part branched off in different directions, and instead of returning, as he intended, by the passage at which he entered, he lost his way, and in several places heard splashing, accompanied by a blowing noise, proceeding, as he supposed, from the seals. He moved about for some time, not knowing whither he went, until his attention was arrested by the sound of dash-

ing waves. He endeavoured to follow that course, concluding it would lead to an opening, and at length had the satisfaction of discovering the light at the entrance, which he soon gained, after spending more than half an hour in this frightful place, which few have had the hardihood to explore. The gratification of curiosity may sometimes be too dearly purchased.

NOTE h.

This chest is now deposited in the ware-room of Henry Owens, an eminent cabinet-maker in Limerick. In the year 1822, when the workmen of the late John Killaly were excavating, previous to building the bridge at Miltown, very near to Spanish Point, they discovered a number of skeletons, which, from the place of interment and other circumstances, were supposed to have been those of some of the Spaniards, whose bodies had been washed ashore when the armada vessels were wrecked. One of the skeletons was very large, and from the measurement

given in the newspaper, it must have been a gigantic frame. The account states that they were all carefully interred at the regular burying-place of Miltown.

ADDENDA.

Since the first part of this work went to press I am enabled to add the result of a more minute examination of the coast of Ross, that will be valuable as well as interesting to visitors, therefore I shall not make further apology for its insertion here, as it may induce them to walk about two or three miles along the cliffs, towards the bridges. A guide can be had at the Lodge (see page 127,) who, after pointing out some remarkable headlands, conducts the tourists down a ravine to a *spa*, so strongly impregnated with iron, that it imparts a brilliant orange tinge to the rocks and stones amongst which it pursues its murmuring course to the beach. Of what value might its now useless medicinal properties be rendered to the invalid! Another object of interest is the foundation of the castle and outworks of Clahansevan (as most of the stones have been taken to erect cottages, &c.)

placed across the neck of a great headland with precipitous sides, similar to Doonlicky Castle, page 78. I am not aware of any account of those ancient fortifications ; but the latter is amongst the comparatively few places mentioned in a map of Ireland, printed in the reign of Elizabeth, about 250 years since, by which it may be considered to have been of consequence in those days. It seems probable that those defences were erected to provide a place of security for the inhabitants and their cattle, in case of invasion from the numerous bands of piratical northerns who infested our coasts in former times. Nearly under the spot where the castle stood, the right angles formed in the strata are very singular, running from top to bottom as if cut into mouldings. On other parts of the frowning cliffs around this bay, the strata curve and bend in an extraordinary manner. Following the edge of the coast farther to the south, after passing the wave-worn top of a high rocky precipice that stands over the three puffing caverns of Ross, situated in a small irregular craggy bay, the eye is soon attracted by a singular canopy of rock, that hangs in a regular curve from the top of the cliff, supported

at each end ; and if the waves be high, and the tide setting in, the ear will be saluted by the resounding discharges from the caverns beneath. By passing to the south side of this fearful-looking bay, the visiter may descend about 30 feet, and sit in perfect safety and shelter, surveying at 60 feet beneath, the grand effect produced by the great Atlantic swell, rushing with boisterous force over a table rock in the narrow entrance of the bay, and rearing its majestic crest of foam as it strikes against various projections, until the caverns at the end receive the agitated billow, that compresses the air inside with great force, which then, by its own reaction, rushes out with a loud report, discharging the sea before it, in clouds of feathery foam beautiful beyond description. From this position, the scenery of the bay is scarcely equalled on the coast. To the right is seen the great sheet of hanging rock, forming a canopy as far exceeding the embroidered canopy of any earthly monarch, as the grandeur of nature excels the tinselled works of art. The perpendicular sides of rock around, exhibit extraordinary contortions of stratification ; in some places running in undulating or wavy courses, form-

ing angles, arches, lines, and cavities of various shapes ; whilst below is displayed the grand effects of two powerful elements—air and water—brought into violent collision.

After leaving this interesting place, the traveller is soon stopped by a deep bay, which runs through the land as far as the road, and contains a small *spa*, but in a nook almost inaccessible. On passing to the road, the eye can hardly fail to observe the remarkable appearance of the rocks, whose strata, which in some places stand nearly upright, are succeeded by others which suddenly take a horizontal position, as level as if they had never been disturbed ; or pressed together, which appears probable, from the contortions in the strata exhibited along the northern side of the promontory of Loop Head ; and by which the extraordinary bridges and canal of Ross appear to have been formed (see Frontispiece and page 130. To give some faint idea of those rocks, suppose 100 sheets of lead, or some metal more brittle, and of different thickness, were laid evenly upon each other, and then by some powerful pressure their edges were forced inwards towards the centre, until the sheets bent and curved

in every direction; that they were kept in that position, whilst with a great irregular scoop incisions were cut from top to bottom; what a variety of arches, angles, fractures, and cavities would the edges exhibit. Such may be considered a miniature exhibition of this coast, with layers or strata of rock, varying from six inches to six feet in thickness. In beholding the wonderful works of nature displayed on this remarkable coast, how applicable seems the beautiful expression of the Psalmist, when describing the creative power: "For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast."

A walk of a quarter of a mile round the south side of this bay, gives an interesting view of the faces of what may well be termed ruined cliffs and frightful rocks. The tourist, after passing the village, soon arrives at the extraordinary bridges and canal (page 130.) After passing that which is so handsomely arched, we arrive at the other, which is angular underneath, by a little climbing over excessively rough rocks, in many places worn into curious holes, by the water dissolving the softer part of the arenaceous clay slate of which the rocks are here composed. The

view of the canal and arched bridge from the angular bridge, is peculiarly fine. On the sea side, to the south, three amazing sheets of what are termed floetz or flat rocks, (but more properly sloping to an angle of about 20 degrees,) lie piled on each other for a quarter of a mile in extent; and being one of the first barriers that oppose the southwestern billows, as the returning tide rolls past Loop Head, they break upon them with fine effect, and in rough weather may be said to finish the scene of wildness and grandeur; for after rushing up the dark sloping surface of the pile, they come tumbling in a treble cascade of foam, over the broken ends of these three great layers—caused by the upper sheet being shorter than the middle, and the middle shorter than the lower, which supports the south end of the flat bridge, from which the last view is seen with best effect. At the back of those piles lies the Rocky Valley (page 131), formed apparently by a quarter of a mile of solid rocks being torn away, leaving their broken edges as a high rampart on the sea side. Probably in the same great convulsion of nature the natural canal was formed, by which the water is conveyed under

the bridge. This canal is about 50 feet wide, 40 deep, and 500 long. This extraordinary geological phenomenon was probably caused by a disturbance of the strata, sufficient to remove considerable portions, and thus leave the upper strata which form the bridge. The opening under them is the more remarkable, as it appears not to have been formed by a rending asunder of their sides, which would have caused the bridges to fall. A further proof that it was not so caused is, that arches which correspond with the arched strata of the inner bridge, remain at the upper end of the opening, without having been disturbed; and again where it turns off with an angle to the sea. It is singular that those two great openings, close to each other, should slope differently in opposite directions, as if the contents of the valley were forced to the south, and those of the canal to the north, and afterwards turned to the west.

It seems not improbable, that by some of the partial changes which it is thought a portion of the earth's surface underwent since its formation, Cape Leane has been more or less affected; and I fully expect that future visitors will agree in the idea, that my attempt to

describe its scenery falls short, very short of the reality.

The bridges and canal are best seen at the time that, or soon after, the tide sets in. The puffing caverns will probably be increasing in violence for two or three hours afterwards. The sketches of the bridges were taken when the rocks underneath were nearly covered with water.

Captain Sabine lately visited Ross, in consequence of seeing the sketches of the bridges, and hearing a description of the rocks ; and having examined the latter, he has kindly furnished me with the following notice, which cannot fail to be interesting to the geologist :

“ The schistose rocks which form the coast of Clare, from Doolan to the Shannon, consist of alternations of siliceous and argillaceous rocks, on beds and strata of various thickness, from several feet to less than an inch. The siliceous strata are frequently extremely compact and crystalline, and suffer little from the action of the sea or atmosphere. The argillaceous rocks, on the other hand, are generally friable, and suffer much, especially from the waves. It is this difference of texture, and of the capability of resistance in

the alternating strata, which occasions the coast of Clare to abound as it does with caverns and natural bridges.

“ The general position of the strata is horizontal ; but there are many remarkable exceptions, although generally of a very local nature. The coast, for three or four miles to the eastward of Ross Bay, affords some particularly curious and very instructive sections. From Baltard to the Shannon, and as far as Kerry Head in the adjoining county, the mineralogical character of the argillaceous schists would cause them to be classed under the name of ampelites or alum-slates ; and their general black colour, which in some places is extremely deep, and their friability, already noticed, cause them to be very correctly described by Mr. Ainsworth as *fissile, and occasionally highly anthracitous, alum-slates.*”

Knowing the benefit that travellers derive from information as to the best mode of occupying their time, I am desirous of tendering the results of considerable experience on the subject. As the steamer sails from Limerick and returns but three times a week, should time only allow of going down for one day and returning the next, choose that on which

the vessel sails early ; and on reaching Kilkee at one or two o'clock, take a car and drive to the Telegraph of Baltard, on the north side of the bay ; see the views, &c. from thence, as described in page 84, and walk homewards by the Horse Shoe and Tunnel ; then cross Farahee Strand, and ascend again by the coast to the *great* Horse Shoe Cliff, and so by Cream Head to Kilkee. But if five miles' walk be too much to encounter, after arriving at the Telegraph, send the horse and car to wait at Farahee Strand, and walk thence about two miles. On driving towards home, at a mile from Kilkee desire the driver to stop at the nearest point to the great Horse Shoe ; then cross the fields to it and Cream Head, and from thence to Kilkee. If the tide has answered for the traveller to leave Limerick *early* in the day, it consequently will not answer for his return from Kilrush until a late hour on the next day, which will allow several hours on each day for recreation.

As we have brought our traveller safe to Kilkee by the above-mentioned route, we shall now have pleasure in assisting him to extend his excursions on the other side of the

bay. He may walk along the south side to the Amphitheatre (page 71,) and by the cliffs, the Puffing Hole, Diamond Rocks, and over the Look-out Hill to Intrinsic Bay; then to Bird and Bishop's Island, and look at the ruins of the coast in Moveen Bay, with the top of Doonlicky Castle, and the lofty Knocknagaroon Hill, with its dismantled Telegraph in the back ground. From this place a guide would show a short way home by the road. If time allowed of returning by the coast, and the tide were sufficiently out, he might visit the grotto and rocks of Duggana.

Directions for a Route for Three Days.

Start from Limerick and go down by the steamer, and if time admits, on reaching Kilkee, drive to Baltard as described before. If there be not sufficient time for that, walk to the top of the Great Horse Shoe and Cream Head, by way of the hot bath house on the cliffs, as described (page 230.)

Next morning, if a walk of six or seven miles be too much, take a car and drive to the south, to the foot of Knocknagaroon Hill, as described (page 79.) If a fine prospect is desired, ascend it, and afterwards go to the

cliffs by the two old mills at the head of the little bay, and so home to Kilkee, passing the great detached mass of rock called Cascade Island,* by Doonlickey Castle, Mooven Bay, Bishop's Island, Intrinsic Bay, Diamond Rocks, Puffing Hole, to the amphitheatre, grotto, and rocks of Duggana. The steamer will have sailed up for that day—return in the evening to Kilrush, to lodge; leave on next morning by the mail car, and arrive at ten o'clock at Ennis, from whence two coaches leave for Limerick about two o'clock; and as the lead mines and abbey of Quin (page 135,) are but three miles from the coach road, there will be time enough to take a car, to drive there soon after breakfast; and both those ancient and modern objects of attraction may be visited, and the tourists may get back to the mail road in time to meet the passing coaches, which arrive in Limerick before five o'clock.

Should the vessel not sail on the first of

* This great Island, which appears of a crescent shape from the Castle, has been named from the large breakers rushing from the outside, through an arched passage in its western point, and falling, as they are discharged on the inside, over a rock six or eight feet high, and which form in rough weather a most beautiful cascade, when the tide is flowing.

the three days, the travellers may proceed by one of the early coaches, and arrive at Ennis by 11 o'clock, and proceed at 12 on the mail car, arrive at Kilrush by four o'clock, thence to Kilkee at half-past five, and walk to the great Horse Shoe and Cream Head that evening, if the days be of a pretty good length; if not, put off the walk until early next morning, and after returning, take a car and drive to Knocknagaroon Hill, and walk to Kilkee by the coast, as described in the foregoing part of three days' directions.

If the days be long, and the visit to the great Horse Shoe be performed on the evening of the arrival, it will allow of a longer excursion next day. Send a car round to wait at the two old mills in the little bay, to which walk by the coast on the south side of the bay, as described in the route for two days, passing Doonlickey Castle, Cascade Island, &c. On arriving there, drive off through the village of Cross, to the bridges and puffing caverns of Ross, &c. (see page 130); then allowing three hours for returning, cross Cape Lean to the village of Carigaholt, on the south side of the peninsula, and back to Kilkee.

Four Days' Excursion.

Proceed to Kilkee by land or water; the second day go southward to Ross, as described in the last three days. Despatch a car to Baltard, and set off early, to walk by the coast to Cream Head, Great Horse Shoe, Farrahee Strand, the Tunnel,* Lesser Horse Shoe, to the Telegraph (see page 121); then proceed by car to Dunbegg Strand and Seafield, to Miltown (see page 84); examine that neighbourhood, lodge there, and next morning leave for Ennis by the Ennistymond mail car, which arrives in sufficient time to allow of a visit to the lead mines and abbey of Quin, as described in the three days' tour.

If five days can be spared, no change need be made in the last directions; let the additional day be appropriated to the cliffs of Moher: proceed from Miltown, through Lahinch, early in the morning; visit the *puffing cavern* on the way; then crossing the new bridge at Liscannor, drive up to Hagg's Head (see page 151), then to Cornelius O'Brien's new tower (page 156), return to Ennistymond in time to see the falls of the river and plan-

* Page 84, for Ooubaun Bay, read Hoobaun.

tations (page 151); lodge there, and leave by the mail car in the morning for Ennis, as described in the last.

Although rather a hasty visit may be paid to most objects of attraction on the coast, except the light-house (pages 125—135), in three days, exclusive of going and returning; yet double that time can be employed very delightfully in examining this extraordinary scenery.

As the sailing of the steamer varies from six o'clock in the morning to three in the afternoon, to suit the tide, it is obvious there cannot be an exact account of what may be seen on the days of arrival and departure.

Notice of the County Clare Lead Mines.

The lately discovered lead mines near Quin Abbey, have become an object of much attraction: the ore is so rich, that a ton of it yields 18 cwt. of pure lead—surpassing in product any mine before known. The proprietors have, during the six months of this year, shipped at Clare, three miles distant, above 1000 tons for England, for which they obtain above £19. per ton. It is found very close to the surface, in great abundance. A

steam engine and machinery for pumping is being erected at another mine near it, the ore of which contains a portion of silver, and brings £32. per ton. A third mine has been worked, and two others are about being opened—all in the same vein. The cleansing, washing, picking, and making up this valuable commodity, even from one mine, affords employment to a considerable number of persons; so that beside enriching the proprietors, those recent discoveries are likely to be of much benefit to the surrounding peasantry. The extensive ruins of Quin Abbey, considered one of the finest in the kingdom, stand just by, and amply repay the antiquary's researches.

In the account of the voyage down the Shannon, I omitted to mention the little town of Kildysart, in the County of Clare, which can be seen from the river, between Cannon Island and Cahircon (page 20.)

The last paragraph relative to schools, and also to the want of books at Kilkee (page 110), mentioned that we gave some temperance publications at the schools;

which, beside furnishing the children with suitable reading, served the very important purpose of introducing the subject into this part of the country. The following are the observations alluded to in note *e* :

One of our party, who took down a number of temperance publications, had long been impressed with the conviction of the importance of children of both sexes being made acquainted, whilst at school, with the destructive effects produced on the human constitution by the *alcohol* contained in ardent spirits; that it is also proportionably destructive to the mental faculties; and that it has long been classed by medical men as a *slow poison*. The praiseworthy efforts which many of those disinterested professors have lately made to open the eyes of their fellow-creatures to this dreadful evil, by many well-written pamphlets, would be likely so to impress the mind in childhood, as to preserve it from the baneful influence of ardent spirits in after-life: so that, if the majority of the present race of drunkards will not listen, this demoralizing practice may be struck at the root, by educating the rising generation in the principles of temperance. He was united

Q

with in this sentiment by several teachers of schools of both sexes, as well as heads of families ; and some steps have been taken to get a little work written on the subject, suited to the youthful capacity. It would also be highly desirable, that, as this subject spreads in England and Scotland, other qualified persons should employ their talents in this invaluable cause. Would it not be well for parents to place their children only with such teachers as they knew to be temperate persons ? The attention of the latter might thus be called to the subject ; which would be very desirable, as to them, in degree, is entrusted the highly important charge of forming the character of the child, which often exerts a powerful influence in after-life.

NOTE TO SPIRIT DRINKERS.—It is well known that ardent spirits often cause cold to persons exposed to wet and fatigue : when the over-excitement which they occasion has passed off, the pores of the skin being opened, a chill succeeds, which frequently produces dangerous and sometimes fatal illness. It has latterly been found, that coffee, tea, or some mild *warm* beverage, is a much safer

remedy for both body and mind. Several of the guards and coachmen in England, I am informed on good authority, have substituted the use of coffee for stronger drink; and find it answer the purpose much better, and that it tends to improve rather than injure their health. The following extract from the *Dublin Temperance Gazette*, No. 4. vol. i., is confirmatory of the foregoing statement:—

“ *Coffee versus Whiskey.*—At a numerous Meeting of the Temperance Society, held at their rooms, No. 50, William-street, Oct. 6, 1834, William Smith O’Brien, Esq. President, in the Chair. Resolved—That the following letter (which we consider likely to prove of much public benefit) be published in the Limerick newspapers:

“ To the President of the Limerick Temperance Society.—I hope the following account may serve as a convincing proof of the efficacy of coffee, in preference to any fermented liquor, for men engaged in hard work, in wet foundations and under heavy rain:—

“ I lately employed Anthony Cooney, well-sinker, with a set of men, to clear about twenty feet of rubbish and water out of a deep pump-well at Corbally, and to build a

wall round the inside. As the water flowed in fast, it was necessary to continue the work *through the night* without stopping; the men were supplied with hot, strong, well-boiled coffee, and bread, in the proportion of about a pint of the former every five or six hours; which afforded such support, that although I wished to have them relieved by another set of men, in order that they might take sleep, they refused it as being unnecessary, and continued to work, *day and night*, from one o'clock on the 24th ultimo until six o'clock in the evening of the 27th (when they had the wall sufficiently above the water), a period of seventy-seven hours! without being over-fatigued or in any degree injured, although it rained very heavily on them for a considerable part of the time. They were visited by William Watt, the engineer, and several other persons, during the work, who expressed great surprise and gratification at the valuable result. An incalculable advantage was the clearness of the men's capacity to understand and execute orders; as any intoxication or heaviness might have endangered the lives of the men working at the bottom, to whom the stones had to be let down.

“ I send this by the men, who can give the meeting more information than the limits of a letter admit.

“ I was led to try the coffee, from having proved its utility, early last winter, against cold and wet, in having a valuable crop of mangel wurzel removed from a field that had been overflowed by the Shannon ; and although twenty persons, young and old, were employed for three days, mostly in the water, and the weather cold, yet I could not learn, on enquiry, that the health of any one of them suffered in the slightest degree : they were supplied during the work with hot coffee three times a day.

“ Hoping the foregoing information may be of use, I remain a true friend to the Temperance cause,

“ JOHN ABELL.

“ Limerick, 10th Month 6th, 1834.”

Ardent spirits appear to give strength to the human frame ; but this is only temporary : and as nature will not be put out of her course without causing bad effects, the blood runs as much too slow afterwards, as it was driven beyond its regular course, and causes such lassitude and weakness, that the

individual will require a fresh supply of spirits ; which, if indulged in, produces injury, and, I need hardly add, frequently ends in the destruction of property, health, and even life itself.

“ IMPORTANT CALCULATION.

Two glasses of gin every day, at three-halfpence a glass, cost 4*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* in a year, which would pay for—

A man's hat, 6 <i>s.</i> ; neckhandkerchief, 1 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> ;				
pair of stockings, 1 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i>	..	...	0	9 1
Pair of shoes, 8 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> ; full-sized cotton shirt, 4 <i>s.</i> ;				
quilting waistcoat, 4 <i>s.</i>	...	...	0	16 6
Fustian coat, 16 <i>s.</i> ; fustian trowsers, lined, 7 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>			1	3 6
Pair woman's stockings, 1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> ; printed cotton				
gown, 5 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> ; shift and muslin cap, 3 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	...	...	0	10 8
Pair woman's shoes, 4 <i>s.</i> ; flannel petticoat, 2 <i>s.</i>				
6 <i>d.</i> ; coarse cloth cloak, 7 <i>s.</i>	...	...	0	13 6
Pair large blankets, 12 <i>s.</i> ; pair large cotton				
sheets, 6 <i>s.</i>	...	...	0	18 0
			<u>£4</u>	<u>11 3</u>

‘ Catch ! oh, catch the transient hour,
 Improve each moment as it flies ;
 Life's a short summer, man a flower :
 He dies, alas ! how soon he dies.’

“ In a letter of Sir Astley Cooper's, he observes : ‘ No person has greater hostility to dram-drinking than myself ; insomuch,

that I never suffer any ardent spirits in my house, thinking them *evil spirits* ! And if the poor could witness the white livers, the dropsies, the shattered nervous systems which I have seen, as the consequence of drinking, they would be aware that spirits and poisons were synonymous terms.' ”

Perhaps there has never been a stronger proof placed upon record of the capability of the human constitution to bear, without the use of ardent spirits, the great fatigue, in constant wet both night and day, for many weeks, and not sustain the least injury, but rather improved health, than has occurred to the temperance crew of the “ Henry Freeling; ” a small schooner of only 100 tons, which sailed from England; in the spring of 1834, to convey Daniel Wheeler, now a minister of the Society of Friends, on a religious visit to Van Diemen’s Land, New South Wales, and the Islands in the Pacific Ocean. To use Daniel Wheeler’s own words, “ their’s was a strictly temperance vessel.” After a voyage of about eight weeks, they reached Rio de Janeiro; leaving that in about two weeks, they sailed by the Cape of Good Hope for Van Diemen’s Land, where it was

then winter, and at which they were favoured to arrive in safety in fifteen weeks. After encountering a succession of the most dreadful storms and hurricanes, which kept their little vessel so much under water, that, at times, they could not keep up the necessary fires for dressing food. To give a faint idea of what they survived, *without the use of spirits*, I shall give a few extracts from the journal of Daniel Wheeler; who, having spent the early part of his life in the navy (where he served as an officer), was well calculated, by his experience, to assist with his judgment in getting their little vessel through the mountainy billows of the great South Seas, which, even in summer, it is difficult to navigate with the largest vessels. All through, the health of the crew seemed to be an object of his attention. During this severe season, no ardent spirits were used on board. Daniel Wheeler says:

“ 6th mo. 21st (their shortest winter’s day, our midsummer). Still ‘lying to,’ in heavy gales from the south-west, with frequent squalls still more heavy, with rain and forked lightning; at the same time, the weather extremely cold and penetrating.

“ 6th mo. 22d. ‘ Lying to,’ as yesterday, the storm still raging with unabated violence; squalls, heavy rain, and lightning through the night. The sea, having risen to a fearful height, has frequently inundated the deck of the vessel; and, from the continual working of her whole frame, our bed places have been unfit to sleep in, the water having found its way through numerous chinks. This morning early, a heavy sea broke into us, bringing a larger quantity of water upon the deck than at any time before....

“ 7th mo. 7th. Still ‘ lying to;’ the storm has continued all night, and the sea makes very heavy upon us. The mercury in the marine barometer has sunk to 29.30, then rose a little, and again sunk lower in the tube. As the night advanced, the storm increased with awful violence. Captain Keen said, his last voyage was forty-six months in length, but that he had never witnessed such a night during the whole of it. The strength of the wind was incredible, and the lightning appalling, with a fall of rain and sleet; the sea broke in upon our little ship in an alarming manner. The poor men were lashed upon the deck with ropes, to prevent their

being washed away ; benumbed with cold, and, at times, floating with the vast load of water upon the deck, their sufferings are not easily described. The bulwark on the larboard side was damaged, and the spray reached more than two thirds up the mainmast....Next morning, on looking round at the ravages of the storm, I was surprised to find that so little damage was done ; and the increase of pumping had been comparatively trifling to what might have been expected from the violent and frequent strokes of the sea, and the floods of water that had rolled over the deck of the vessel. In the darkest part of the night of the 6th inst. a distinct luminous appearance or glow of light remained at our mast-head : a phenomenon only seen in dreadful weather, when the atmosphere is highly charged with electric fluid. The sailors call it a *corposant*. . . . The countenances of our men were considerably whitened this morning, by the great quantity of salt which, having been deposited by the constant wash of the sea, had dried upon their faces. In the course of the storm yesterday evening, unusual darkness gathered round us ; when suddenly the wind, which

blew with great violence, increased to a complete hurricane, and roared in a terrific manner, and, for a time, closely threatened our little vessel. The force of the wind was so great, that the waves ceased to undulate, and the surface of the ocean became level and whitened with foam. . . . As the night approached, another storm began to threaten; and the waves ran so cross, and broke in such different directions, that the motion of the vessel for a time exceeded all we had before witnessed, and the waters rushed on board of her on every side. At 10 p.m., it was so tempestuous, that we again hugged the howling blast, by 'heaving to;' as the vessel came round with her head to the wind, one heavy wave broke on board, but happily none of the crew were lost. In the afternoon, when it was thought that the storm had arrived at its greatest strength, this hope was suddenly extinguished by the mercury falling, in a short space of time, down to 29.50. The Captain said, 'We have done all we can; trust in Providence only remains.'

A few days after, he writes:—"But as the late storm approached, I felt, through unmerited favour, increasing peacefulness and

tranquillity, which nothing, during its whole continuance, was permitted to disturb ; and, in the most awful moment of uncertainty and impending danger, fear had no place to enter : this was utterly banished by the love of the ever-blessed Master that flowed in my heart, and which, in the true dignity of its heavenly power, cast it out ; and the language which at intervals never ceased to prevail and occupy the inner man, with a soothing and encouraging sweetness, was that of the Psalmist, ‘ Delight thyself in the Lord, and he shall give thee the desires of thy heart.’ Thus, indeed, was strength truly administered, according to the glorious working of His power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness, to endure, and give thanks to the Lord Most High. . . .

“ 7th mo. 28th. On looking at our forlorn and helpless situation, and the overwhelming appearance of the storm, the fury of which had been only aggravated by every change which had so far taken place, it now seemed too late for any thing to occur that could probably operate in our favour, as the sea was running in confused heaps different ways in a frightful manner, caused by the wind

having shifted to different points, and from each point blowing furiously. About three o'clock in the afternoon, the mercury fell lower and lower; when we were overtaken with a squall of wind, truly appalling and terrific, which in a short time afterwards was succeeded by a second, still more violent and alarming; but, through the medium of these two dreadful blasts, which at first threatened nothing but destruction, our deliverance was miraculously effected. Such was the fury of these two Tyfoons, that they actually, in a short space of time, changed the wild and disfigured surface of the troubled ocean from unruly mountains, to a rugged level by their boisterous breath, leaving nothing but a sea white as milk with foam. From this time the storm subsided; and, at midnight, we were again enabled to bear away for Van Diemen's Land, distant 4,700 miles. . . .

“ Towards evening, the wind and sea increased in such a dreadful manner, that the horrors of the scene cannot be faithfully described. It blew a perfect hurricane; and although we had only sufficient storm-canvas set to keep the vessel's head to the sea, yet

she seemed to be in danger of being torn to pieces with the intense pressure against which she had to struggle, through a rugged sea, for some hours together. The captain was much alarmed, and said, 'If she gets through this, she will get through any thing.' The agitated waters broke in upon us on every side like cascades, frequently loading the deck with its weight. The whole frame of the vessel trembled and shook with the strain in an unusual manner. This hurricane at length became a steady and regular gale of wind, but very heavy. . . .

" 8th mo. 8th. It is now more than ten weeks since we sailed from Rio de Janeiro; we are still more than 3,000 miles from our desired port, and yet the winds have mostly blown from favourable quarters, but often with such violence as to render them unavailing on account of the tremendous seas they have occasioned. . . .

" 8th mo. 15th. To-day the sea was considered the most lofty and appalling that had yet been permitted to assail our poor fragile bark. The wind shifted several points in the course of the gale, causing the white-crested foaming billows to run one against

another in fearful heaps; and breaking as they met in every direction, exhibited one vast ocean of white foam, in confused agitation not to be described. As the principal weight of this mighty tempest came from the southward and westward, there was nothing to break in any degree the sweeping range of the seas between us and the neighbourhood of the Pole; and the wind coming from off such vast bodies of ice, brought with it most chilling cold, and heavy falls of hail or sleet, which added much to the already accumulated sufferings of our poor drenched and benumbed seamen.

“8th mo. 17th. The weather being more gentle, the crew were assembled twice, in the course of the day, for devotional purposes. The evening was crowned with sweet peace.”

In a letter dated 10th mo. 21st, from Hobart's Town, Van Diemen's Land, when speaking of the men not having any thing stronger than water to drink for months together, he says :—Again, “It is a little remarkable, that although they have been sometimes wet, and in wet clothes, not for a day or two, but for a week together; when

their teeth have chattered with cold, with no warm food, the sea having put the fires out, even below the deck; and the water filtering through the deck on their beds below, and not a dry garment to change; yet not a single instance of the cramp has occurred amongst them, nor the slightest appearance of the scurvy, even in those who have been before afflicted with it, and still bear the marks about them: and, with the solitary instance of one man, who was forced to quit the deck for two hours during his watch, from being taken unwell, every man and boy have stood, throughout the whole, in a remarkable manner."

From Sydney he thus writes:—

"1st mo. 21st, 1835. It is so common a thing for the shipping to lose their men here, that, a few days ago, the question was put to me by General Bourke the Governor, 'Have you lost any of your men?' And it is satisfactory to know, that some of the strangers who have attended our meetings on board, have, in more than one instance, expressed, as if of rare occurrence, that our sailors look more like healthy, fresh-faced farmers, than men come off a long voyage: the generality

of those we see daily have a thin and worn-down appearance, particularly when they belong to ships that supply them daily with ardent spirits."

After a voyage of ten weeks from Sydney, D. Wheeler arrived at Tahiti, one of the Sandwich Islands. He thus writes:—

" 4th mo. 30th. Just as we were ready to go on shore to take tea at George Bignal's (to whom, as deputy consul, the mail brought from New South Wales had been delivered) the young King (or, perhaps, it is more correct to say, the husband of the Queen) came on board, with his younger brother and uncle, and several others. They behaved with great openness and cheerfulness, and seemed highly pleased to see us. Our captain was personally known to them already. They soon looked round the vessel, apparently delighted, left us a basket of oranges, and said they would come again to-morrow. To my great rejoicing, the pilot soon after coming on board, informed us (officially) of the disuse of ardent spirits altogether, by saying, 'Rum is no good here.' The total abolition of spirituous liquors has been so strongly enforced, that they have taken them

R

out of private houses, without exception, and thrown them away; and the natives have carried it to the length of coming in contact with the breath of people, to ascertain whether it had been used; and, if found to be the case, a severe fine was imposed: so that a person well known to lead a thoroughly sober life, was not allowed to have such a thing in his possession, and was liable at any time to undergo a search."

Thus it would appear that the Government of this Island, in the infancy of civilization, having, but a few years since, emerged from a state of barbarism, have come to the wise resolution of preserving their subjects from the destructive effects arising from the use of ardent spirits. May it not be said, happy would it be if the rulers of our own beloved country, and all others, would follow their example, and exclude the fruitful cause of so much misery, crime, and death. I have passed over the direful effects which have been occasioned amongst the natives of some of those islands, from the introduction of spirits by the crews of ships from civilized countries; and, if the practice be not stopped in time, it may, as it is well known to

have done in North America, destroy a great portion of the original inhabitants. The great advantages of temperance on board ships, where any incapacity or want of presence of mind may cause irreparable loss, need not be dwelt upon ; particularly as the opinion has been given, by commanders of experience in the navy and merchant service, that ardent spirits are the cause, directly or indirectly, of by far the greater proportion of shipwrecks.

THE END.

INDEX.

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Anecdote	66	Callan, Druid's altar near	161
Anecdote	71	Route from Kilkee to ..	<i>Ib.</i>
Anecdote	90	Conclusion	181
Anecdote of the Natives and Coast-guards at Baltard	122	Danish Fort	40
Amphitheatre	71	Death of two young persons by drowning	48
Appeal on behalf of the poor ..	105	Donkeys	59
Barbarous customs	57	Destitute state of a family	96
Bathing	65	Druid's Altar	161
Benevolence of the natives of Kilkee	89	Funeral in the county of Clare	120
Remarks on	107	Honesty of the Natives	64
Bird Island	77	Hint to the youthful reader....	106
Birds seen on the coast	<i>Ib.</i>	Humanity to animals, remarks on	118
Bishop's Island	<i>Ib.</i>	Hagg's-head	153
Bridges, natural, at Ross, in the county of Clare	129	Irish Cabin or Fisherman's hut, interior of an	132
Ballybunian, Caves of	138	Kilrush, arrival at	29
best route to, from Kilkee	141	description of	30
Birds seen on the coast	143	Kilkee, arrival at	34
Burren oysters	158	description of	36
Canoes	45	neighbourhood of	38
Cruelty to animals, remarks on	58	Spa at	39
Carrigeen Moss	87	Danish Fort at	40
Cliffs on the south-western side of Kilkee	73	Markets at	41
on the village side of ditto	81	Inhabitants of	42
safe plan of looking over high	82	costume of the natives	60
volcanic appearance of ..	142	departure from	166
fall of	144	Kilballyhone, ancient burying- place of	126
of Moher	151	Kilballyhone Lodge	127
dangerous descent of these	153	Knocknagaroon-hill	79
Hints to visitors of these	<i>Ib.</i>	Loop-Head Light-house	135
Castle erected for the ac- commodation of visitors to these	156	Limerick, return to	166
singular projection at these	155	Minerals and Ani- mals of that county	170
Bird-catching along these	157	Moveen Bay	50
Cavern, visit to a	111	Marine beauties	68
description of interior	112	Miltown Malbay, route to, by the cliffs, from Kilkee	84
Market in the	114	town of	147
Coast Scenery	71	Mutton Island, Seal-cave ...	<i>Note g.</i>
Ruins on the	74	Moher Cliffs described	152
Cream-head	81	Minerals of county Limerick ..	170
Contentment under privations	103	Moose-deer	172
Callan mountain	159		
Ogham inscription on ..	<i>Ib.</i>		

INDEX.

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Mungret Abbey.....	Note c.	Shannon, sail down the.....	14
Ogham inscription	166	Spa at Kilkee	39
—— translation.....	110	Sabbath, non-observance of....	61
Peasant, affecting recital of a..	63	Sobriety of the people	62
Poor Family, interesting narra-		—— remarks on	164
tive of	91	Shells	86
Poor Man, interesting account of	99	Schools	108
Pound for Cattle.....	118	Spanish Armada.....	137
Potatoes	97	Spanish Armada	Note a.
Prospect from the hill at Kilrush	31	Singular Custom.....	163
Knocknagaroon-hill..	80	Steam-packet arrangements, &c.	166
from, the Telegraph at		Shannon, account of	Note a.
Baltard	121	Rise of the	Note b.
Loop-Head	135	Shipwreck of the Intrinsic, Note f.	
Cliffs at Moher	152	Seal Caves, visit to.....	Note g.
Rocks at Kilkee, described by		Turf bog	39
W. Ainsworth.....	68	Thatch, method of securing....	99
Ruins on the coast	75	Temperance, observations on,	
Ross, in the county Clare.....	129	connected with education..	Note c.
—— localities of.....	134	Tone, T. W., extract from the	
		diary of.....	Note d.
		Water, excursion on the	47
		Weather, state of	54, 55, 56, 57

WORKS

BY

THE AUTHOR OF "TWO MONTHS AT KILKEE."

To be had of the same Publishers.

I.

LIFE OF ANNE ———, a Penitent Female.
Fourth Edition. Price 6d.

II.

MEMOIR OF JANE KENNY, an Infant
School Child. Sold for the benefit of the Liberty Infant
School, &c. Sixth Edition. Price 3d.

III.

LIFE OF A THIEF, with an Account of a
Dying Robber. Second Edition. Price 6d.

WORKS FOR TOURISTS IN IRELAND.

GUIDE THROUGH IRELAND.

In small 8vo. with a new Map of Ireland, and numerous engravings on steel, by Miller. *Nearly ready.*

This work has been in preparation nearly two years, and the utmost pains have been taken to produce a book useful to the Tourist, and creditable to the country.—Above all, conciseness and correctness have been studied; and it is hoped the Tourist in Ireland will now, for the first time, possess a book upon which he can rely; while the beauty of the embellishments will render it worthy of a place on the drawing-room table.

THE PICTURE OF DUBLIN; OR GUIDE TO THE IRISH METROPOLIS.

Containing an account of every object and institution worthy of notice, together with a brief description of the surrounding country, and of its Geology. Small 8vo. 7s. 6d. cloth.

"This volume is truly what it professes to be, 'A Picture of Dublin.' Every stranger coming to this Metropolis should purchase this Guide, and carry it with him in his researches, and if he do, we will be bold to say he may see more of the beauties of Dublin in one week than many of its inhabitants have seen in their lives."—*Dublin Evening Mail.*

"We can at length announce a complete Picture of Dublin. The publishers really merit praise for the careful and truly graphic character of this new Picture of Dublin."—*Warder.*

"A book to be read in England or Scotland as well as Ireland: we are bound to give our warmest praise to the work, which is alike creditable to the city and the spirit of the publishers."—*Dublin Morning Register.*

"A geological paper on the vicinity of Dublin, by Dr. Scouler, adds much to the value of this estimable little volume."—*Athenæum.*

GUIDE TO WICKLOW.

Small 8vo. Map and Plates. 5s. cloth.

GUIDE TO KILLARNEY AND GLENGARIFF.

Small 8vo. Map and Plates. 5s. cloth.

GUIDE TO THE GIANTS CAUSEWAY.

New Edition, corrected. Small 8vo. Map and Plates. 5s. cloth.

"No tourist ought to set foot in Ireland without these little volumes. They are worth a dozen living guides, such as the inns supply. Our personal knowledge of the routes described, enables us to speak confidently of their correctness."—*Sun.*

"They deserve the notice of the tourist, the geologist, and the antiquary."—*Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle.*

AN ACCOUNT OF THE CAVES OF BALLY- BUNIAN, COUNTY OF KERRY.

By WM. AINSWORTH, Esq. With Engravings on Copper and Wood. 8vo. 4s. cloth.

Dublin: Printed for WILLIAM CURRY, Jun. and Co.,
9, Upper Sackville-street. Sold by all Booksellers.

Killree is one section o' Township of the Parish
of Kiltcaragh. p Parish 9870 acres of Superficial
of 2827 Souls (1861) 2 Towns: Coorheen 175
Souls of Killree 1856. with bathrooms.
(Barony of Moyasta.)



