

which he held the castle of Belfast, and, because he neglected to appear, his possessions were forfeited to the crown. The castle, town, and manor, together with large estates, were then granted by King James in 1612 to Sir Arthur Chichester, then Lord Deputy, with the title of Baron Chichester of Belfast. In the year 1613, Belfast was constituted by charter from James the 1. a corporation, to consist of a sovereign, twelve burgesses, and a commonalty; a lord, and constable of the castle were also added, the former situation to be fulfilled by Lord Chichester and his heirs, both these officers were likewise to be burgesses with privileges similar and equal to those of the other twelve. At this period Belfast does not appear a place of much note, as it is styled in the patent *town or village*. From its erection into a borough till the year 1641 its history exhibits a stern, inflexible spirit of opposition on the part of the Presbyterians against the established church. In 1648 it was taken possession of by General Monk for the parliament, and during the protectorate seems to have enjoyed tranquillity. In 1740 Lord Strafford purchased on the part of the crown, from the corporation of Carrickfergus, their privilege of importing foreign goods, at one third of the duties payable in other places. This most judicious measure would have been of small consequence, had not Belfast and the surrounding country been at that period inhabited by an industrious people, who applied themselves closely to the manufacture of linen, which created a demand for articles of importation; but the wars subsequent to the year 1741 caused considerable interruption to the rising prosperity of Belfast. From the day that peace was re-established, and attention paid to its interests, a wonderful source of prosperity was then discovered, and in the beginning of the last century Belfast was well known in Europe, as a place of considerable trade. Since that period it has risen to a degree of prosperity seldom exceeded, and it now ranks the third town in Ireland, for the extent of its commerce and manufactures, as well as for the wealth of its inhabitants. The population, including Ballymacarrett, may be estimated at considerably above 40,000, and the progressive improvement of its trade has kept pace with its increase in population. The average amount of customs for five years previous to the year 1824, amounts to the sum of 365,932*l*. The government of the town is vested by charter in the lord and constable of the castle, the sovereign and the burgesses. The principal duty has devolved upon the sovereign, who holds a court for the trial of petty offences; and he has authority to make regulations with regard to the markets, weights, and some other matters of a minor description within the borough; he is also an *ex-officio* magistrate of the county of Antrim; all regulations, however, respecting the paving, lighting, and cleansing of the streets, are under the superintendence of the police commissioners and committee, who are vested with such authority by Act of Parliament. Another board of commissioners is likewise authorised by law to regulate the supply of water, which is conveyed through the streets principally by metal pipes. The Commercial Buildings, erected at the foot of Donegall-street, hold a distinguished place. They are strong and substantial, chiefly composed of granite, and adorned in front with eight Ionic pillars of the same material, supported on a broad cornice above the windows of the first story; independent of the many advantages they afford to merchants, and the numerous offices they contain, they form a conspicuous and beautiful ornament. In one of the apartments of these buildings the chamber of commerce, instituted in 1800, holds its meetings. Its principal duties are generally understood to be the preservation of the rights and privileges of the commercial body, and the collection of documents connected with trade and commerce. The Exchange, founded in 1769, is built of brick, partially ornamented in front with cut stone, and possesses but little architectural beauty. There is a piazza on the ground floor, and above it a very elegant and spacious apartment, generally used either as an assembly room, for town's meetings, or for public

exhibitions. In the front of it the merchants formerly assembled on Mondays and Wednesdays at twelve, and on Fridays at eleven o'clock, to transact business; but they now meet at the Commercial Buildings, in the piazzas erected for that purpose. The Custom House is an old, gloomy, and inelegant edifice, situated on Hanover-quay, and close to the edge of the water. The building has appropriate offices for transacting the business of the port, but it is not such as might be expected in a town which contributes so largely to the revenue of the country; and it is at present so defective in convenience, that stores have to be rented in various parts of the town, a circumstance extremely annoying to the officers, and frequently very inconvenient to the merchants. The Ballast Office, formed in 1795, is authorized by Act of Parliament to exact certain sums on registered tonnage, for the purpose of improving the harbour, making docks, employing pilots, &c. By its exertions a graving dock, capable of containing three vessels of two hundred tons each, has been made, and a second of much greater extent is begun. Its surplus funds are appropriated to the support of the Poor House. The Belfast Incorporated Charitable Society, or, as it is more generally denominated, the Poor House, for the reception of aged and infirm persons, as well as for the support and instruction of children destitute of protectors, has long remained a noble proof of the general philanthropy, which prevails among the inhabitants of Belfast. Since its commencement it has preserved annually about three hundred individuals, old and young; the former from want and misery, the latter from idleness and vice. The children are instructed in the elementary branches of education, till they are considered capable of being apprenticed out to trades; the old are carefully attended to, and permitted to increase their comforts by their own industry. It is supported by collections at charity sermons, donations, the surplus funds of the Ballast Office, &c. &c. The House of Industry, instituted in 1809 for the suppression of mendicancy and for giving employment to indigent females in spinning flax, &c. may be considered one of the best and one of the most useful institutions in the town; it is supported by voluntary contributions, donations, &c. The Dispensary was established in 1792, for the relief of the sick at their own habitations. The benefit of this institution will be apparent, when it is stated, that in the first four years more than 2000 persons received advice and medicines. Connected with the Dispensary is the Fever Hospital, where, in the year 1817, in the short space of three months, 959 patients were admitted, of which number 46 only died. This is supported in the same manner as the House of Industry, aided by a county presentment. The Lying-in Hospital was instituted in 1794, and is supported by the ladies of Belfast and its neighbourhood. The House of Correction, erected in 1817, near the upper end of Chichester-street, is a good brick building, and possesses excellent regulations. The White Linen Hall, built by subscription in 1783, is situated at the end of Donegall-place, to which it gives a picturesque effect. This building is spacious, convenient and handsome, and the business transacted in it considerable. In one of its apartments the Belfast Society for Promoting Knowledge hold their meetings, and in it they have a public library, containing a valuable collection of books, and an extensive museum. This society is supported by annual subscriptions. The Literary Society was instituted in 1801, and is also held in the White Linen Hall. In the Brown Linen Market, Donegall-street, considerable quantities of fine yard-wide linens are sold on each market day. Belfast has two markets for flesh meat, with which it is well supplied, one in Hercules-street, the other in Castle-place, better known by the name of Montgomery's-market, which has also accommodations for the sale of fish, vegetables, fruit, &c. A market for the sale of eggs, butter and vegetables, has lately been established on May's-ground; lower Chichester-street. There is also a well supplied fish market in William-street, South. A market is held in Smithfield three

days a week, for the sale of grain, and four days a week for the sale of hides. There is another market for grain by sample, in the Commercial Buildings, three days a week. There are four newspapers printed in Belfast. The Belfast News-Letter, published twice a week, is said to be, with the exception of one, the oldest periodical print in Ireland. The Commercial Chronicle is published three times a week; the Irishman, and the Northern Whig, each once a week. The news rooms are three; one in the Commercial Buildings, another in the White Linen Hall, and a third in Nelson's Club-house, Donegall-place. They are all well supplied with the papers of the three kingdoms, magazines, reviews, &c. &c. The places of worship are numerous and well attended. They consist of the parish church of St. Ann, and St. George's chapel of ease; four Presbyterian, three Seceding, one Covenanting, one Independent, three Methodist, one Baptist, two Catholic chapels, and a Quakers' meeting-house. At the head of the literary establishments must be placed the Academical Institution, both as evincing great zeal on the part of the inhabitants to enjoy the advantages of education, and liberality of sentiment, from the manner in which that object is carried into effect. The building is composed of brick, neatly ornamented with cut stone, and inspires the spectator with the idea of lightness, airiness, and convenience. It was opened in 1814, under the superintendence of a board of managers and visitors. The school department is conducted by several masters, and the collegiate department under the direction of a faculty, consisting of several professors. The building itself forms a fine termination of Chichester-street. This institution was erected by voluntary subscription, amounting to 22,000*l*., and is justly considered the glory of the town, and highly beneficial to the country. Its regulations are admirable, and the number of students and scholars amounts to some hundreds. The Belfast Academy in Donegall-street, was founded in 1786, under the direction of a president, trustees and patrons; the branches of learning taught in this institution are the classics, the mathematics, French, English, arithmetic, and writing. The Lancasterian School, Frederick-street, supported by subscription, is open

every day in the week, except Sunday, for the instruction of children of every religious denomination. The Brown-street School was erected, some years ago, by public subscription, donations, &c. for the purpose of a Sunday school; for such poor children as, being necessarily employed during the week, could not attend the Lancasterian school. It has latterly been used as a day school, as well as a Sunday school. It differs from the Lancasterian in this; that each pupil, who attends the day school, pays a small weekly sum for his education. A regulation of this kind has been found to be more agreeable to the wishes of the poor of this country, than to have their children educated gratuitously. The Belfast Savings' Bank yields to few institutions in point of real substantial advantage. No deposits, however small, are rejected; and the funds, which the poor are thus enabled almost insensibly to form, prove of inestimable benefit in time of need. The Female Society for Clothing the Poor, commenced in 1812, is supported by voluntary contributions, and has been productive of much good. A branch of the Association for Discourteuing Vice was established here in 1815, and distributes moral and religious tracts. An auxiliary branch to the institution at Claremont, near Dublin, for the education of the Deaf and Dumb has also been lately established, and by its praiseworthy exertions several individuals are now receiving incalculable benefits. The only place of amusement is the theatre, in Arthur-street; Mr. Montague Taibot, proprietor. It may finally be observed, that Belfast is to Ireland, what Glasgow and Liverpool are to their respective kingdoms; and it has been compared to these places by intelligent travellers. The independence, which marks the public character of its inhabitants, is equalled by their readiness to meet the calls of humanity. One circumstance highly honourable to them is, that here the traveller sees none of those wretched objects, that too often meet his eye in large towns, nor are his ears stunned with the vociferous calls of those, who frequently are not real objects of charity. There are daily markets at Belfast, but that, which is considered the principal one, is held on Friday; there are also two fairs, one on the 12th of August, the other on the 8th of November.

POST OFFICE, Church-street—*Post Master*, Thomas Whinnery, esq. The Dublin mail arrives every day, except Monday, at a quarter after nine in the morning, and is despatched every day, except Saturday, at a quarter before five in the evening. The English and Scotch mails, by Donaghadee, are despatched at twenty-four minutes before ten in the morning, and arrive at a quarter before nine in the morning. The Londonderry, Coleraine, Antrim, Ballymena, and Randlestown mails are sent daily, Sundays excepted, at twelve at noon, and arrive at a quarter before nine in the morning. The Armagh, Aughnacloy, Belturbet, Cavan, Newry, Cootehill, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Lurgan, Moira, Monaghan, Portadown and Rich-Hill mails leave at a quarter before five in the afternoon, and arrive at a quarter after nine in the morning. The Carrickfergus, Larne and Glenarm mail is despatched at half past nine in the morning, and arrives at half past eight in the morning. The Castlewellan, Clough, Comber, Down, Killiuehy, Killileagh, Portaferry, and Kercubbin mail leaves at twenty-four minutes before ten in the morning, and arrives at a quarter before nine in the morning.

RATES OF FOREIGN POSTAGE.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
London, by Donaghadee	1	9	4	4
London, by Dublin	2	0	4	0
Edinburgh	1	5 <i>½</i>	3	8
North America and West Indies, via Dublin	3	4	3	9
Heligoland	3	6	4	8
Italy	3	9	2	2
Turkey, Germany, Prussia, Russia, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, and all parts of the North	3	6	2	3
Gibraltar	4	0	3	0
Malta, Sicily and Sardinia	-	-	4	4
Spain	-	-	4	0
Portugal	-	-	3	8
Madeira	-	-	3	9
Brazils	-	-	4	8
East Indies	-	-	2	2
Isle of Man	-	-	2	3
Guernsey and Jersey	-	-	2	4
France	-	-	3	0
Holland	-	-	3	2

NOBILITY, GENTRY AND CLERGY.

Aberdeen Captain John, 27, Patrick-street
 Adair W. R. esq.
 Agnew John, esq.
 Ashmore John, esq. 14, Donegall-square, East
 Bainbrig Colonel Philip, 2, Donegall-square, East
 Ballantine Mrs Jane, 9, York-street
 Bateson Sir Robert, Belvoir-park
 Batt Narcissus, esq.

Bell John, esq.
 Bell Mrs. Henry-street
 Berwick Mrs. Martha, 21, York-street
 Black George, esq. Stramillis
 Black Henderson, esq. 12, Donegall-square, East
 Blackwell Mrs. Ann, 38, Donegall-street
 Blair James, esq. Wheatfield
 Boomer James, esq. Sea-view