

thousand acres, consisting of loam so rich as to be difficult to exhaust, while the Curragh of Kildare, a sheep walk of from 4 to 5,000 English acres, forms as beautiful a lawn as the hand of art ever made. Nothing can exceed the extreme softness of the turf, which is of a verdure that charms the eye, and is highly set off by the gentle inequality of its surface. The soil is a fine dry loam on a sandy bottom. The grand canal to the Shannon at Banagher, as well as a branch of it to Athy, intersects the county, and along its northern margin flows the Royal Canal; these severally affording a ready transport to different markets, for the rich and varied productions of the county. Cotton and linen manufactures are also carried on to a great extent. West of the town of Kildare are quarries of marble, which take a polish even equal to that of Italy.

KING'S COUNTY is bounded on the North by East and West Meath, on the East by Kildare and Queen's County, on the South by Tipperary, and on the West by Galway, from which it is separated by the Shannon. Its greatest extent from East to West is thirty-two miles, and from North to South thirty-one miles; it contains 282,200 acres, Irish plantation measure, of which 126,262 are bog, mountain and waste. It is divided into 11 baronies, which contain 52 parishes; the baronies are Coolstown, Warrenstown, Philipstown, Ballycowen, Kilcoursey, Garrycastle, Geashill, Ballyboy, Eglisli, Ballibritt, Clonlisk. In this county generally the soil of the arable land is not naturally very fertile, but chiefly consists of either a deep moor, or a shallow gravelly loam; however, the soil in the baronies of Warrenstown and Philipstown, on the Boyne, and that of Kilcoursey, on the river Brosna, is rich, and in a high state of cultivation. King's County is watered by the Brosna, from West Meath, and by different streamlets, its tributaries; and the Grand Canal traverses it from Edenderry to Banagher. Much corn and flax are produced in this county, and much of the latter is spun into thread. There are also several manufactures of linen, cotton and coarse woollen cloths. The great mountains, called Slieve Bloom, are situated on the South Eastern extremity, extending a range of 15 miles, through which there is but one steep, narrow and craggy pass, named Glandine Gap, not more than five feet wide, and may be aptly deemed the Thermopylae of Ireland. The soil of these mountains is argillaceous, thickly interspersed with free stone rocks. No traces of those vast forests, for which this county was anciently so celebrated, now exist.

THE QUEEN'S COUNTY, so called in honour of Queen Mary, is bounded on the West by the King's County, on the North by Kildare, on the East by Carlow, and on the South by Kilkenny and Tipperary. Its greatest extent from North to South is about 25 Irish miles, and from East to West about 21 Irish miles. Its surface is estimated to contain 235,300 acres, Irish plantation measure, including bogs, mountains and wastes. It is divided into 8 baronies, viz. Slewmargin, Ballyadams, Stradbally, Cullinagh, Maryborough, Upper Ossory, Portnehinch, and Tinehinch, which are divided into 51 parishes. The soil, originally marshy, is now considerably reclaimed. The North Western part of the county, in the vicinage of the Sleibh Bloom, is somewhat hilly, the rest level and fertile. In the South Eastern angle, especially, which forms the barony of Slewmargin, the soil is exceedingly rich. This county gives origin to the Barrow, which washes its borders from Portarlinton to Monastereven, and thence to Carlow; and the Nore, like the former from the Sleibh Bloom, which flows through the midst of the county to Kilkenny, by Durrow. Iron and marble are found in the Sleibh Bloom, and fuller's earth in the neighbourhood of this chain near Burros. Ochre abounds near Ballinakill, and copper six miles North of this town. Seams of coal exist near the cut from the Grand Canal to Athy, four miles west of that town.

THE COUNTY OF CARLOW is bounded on the North by Kildare, on the East by Wicklow and Wexford, on the South by Kilkenny, and on the West by the Queen's County. Its greatest extent from North to South is about 26 Irish miles, and from East to West about 18 Irish miles. Its surface comprises 137,000 acres, Irish plantation measure, including bogs, mountains and waste. It contains five baronies, Ravilly, Catherlough, Idrone, Forth, and St. Mulling, which are divided into 49 parishes. The river Barrow, navigable from New Ross to Monastereven, traverses this county from North to South. The Slaney crosses it in its course, from Wicklow to Wexford. The portion of this county situated on the West of the Barrow, although rough and mountainous, is beautifully fringed with timber, gradually ascending nearly to the summits of the loftiest hills, and thickly interspersed with elegant mansions, whose snow white chimnies are sometimes visible through the trees. Another mountainous tract stretches along the boundaries of Wexford, from the lofty rocks of Mount Leinster to Black Stairs. The scenery throughout this county is delightful. The champaign portions are ex-

tremely rich and fertile, equally adapted for tillage or for pasture. The soil is generally composed of limestone, and limestone gravel. These limestone quarries abundantly supply the inhabitants occupying the Western mountainous districts of Wicklow and Wexford with lime, conveyed either by land or water carriage. The mineral productions are granite, which makes its appearance in Mount Leinster; ochre, in the Black Stairs Mountains, between the former and the Suir; talc, North of Ballyellin; granite, East of the county town; and fine marble, West of the river Slaney, near the borders of Queen's County. This district was formed into a county by King John, in the year 1210.

COUNTY OF EAST MEATH is bounded on the North by Louth, and a small portion of Monaghan and Cavan, on the West by West Meath, on the South by Kildare, and on the East by Dublin and the sea. It extends from East to West about 35 Irish miles, and from North to South about 29 Irish miles. Its surface covers an area of 327,900 acres, Irish plantation measure, of which 27,909 acres consist of bogs and waste. The whole surface of this county is level and unvaried; many parts are yet engrossed by detached portions of the bog of Allen, the remainder is highly fertile. The pastures feed innumerable herds and flocks, and the arable land, ever rich, is in many places luxuriant to excess. This county is divided into nearly two equal portions by the river Boyne, from its entrance into Meath at Clonard, until it empties itself into the sea below Drogheda. The Black Water which issues from Lough Ramar, in the county of Cavan, falls into the Boyne at Navan; the tributary streams of the Nanny, the Ryewater and Moynally, intersecting this county in different directions, materially contribute to beautify and fertilize its surface. The splendid mansions and highly cultivated demesnes of many noblemen and a numerous and opulent gentry, indicate its prosperity; and the numerous mouldering piles of ruined castles, monasteries, friaries, and abbeys, still exist as monuments to record the gloomy grandeur of their ancient proprietors. It is divided into twelve baronies, which contain 147 parishes. The baronies are Upper and Lower Duleek, Dunbeyne, Ratoath, Skyrne, Upper and Lower Slane, Morgallion, Upper and Lower Deece, Upper and Lower Navan, Lune, Upper and Lower Kelly, Demi Fowse, Upper and Lower Moyferragh.

THE COUNTY OF WEST MEATH. This county on the North West adjoins that of Longford, on the North that of Cavan, on the East those of Kildare and Meath, and on the South King's County, while on the West Lough Ree and the Shannon divide it from the county of Roscommon. Its greatest extent from East to West is about 33 Irish miles, and from North to South about 27 Irish miles. Its surface comprises 249,943 acres, Irish plantation measure, including bogs, mountains and waste. It contains 12 baronies, Moygeesh, Corkerry, Moyashill, Magheredernon, Delvin, Farbill, Racorath, Kilkenny West, Brawny, Clonlonan, Moycashel, Partullagh, and Half Fowre, which are divided into 59 parishes. This county is interspersed with a number of beautiful lakes, of which Lough Leign, Lough Derrwaragh, Lough Ennel, Lough Drin, (the trout of which lake have an emetic quality) and Lough Annagh, are the most extensive. Both the pasture and arable land of West Meath are very fertile, so much so the latter, that in several instances large tracts, from 10 to 30,000 acres, have such depth and richness of soil that it cannot be abused or exhausted. Copper is found in this county, North of and near Lough Sillin, on the borders of Cavan; lead, East of the head of Derrivaragh; coal, East of Lough Ennel; and marble, East of Athlone.

THE COUNTY OF LONGFORD is bounded by Leitrim and Cavan on the North, by West Meath on the East and South, and is washed on the West by Lough Boffin and the Shannon. Its extent from North to South is about 20 Irish miles, and about 16 Irish miles from East to West. Its surface comprises 134,700 acres, Irish plantation measure, including bogs, mountains, and waste. It contains six baronies, Longford, Ardagh, Granard, Moydoe, Rathline, and Shrulle, which are divided into 23 parishes. The Southern part of this county is flat, with rich land, and near the river Shannon subject at times to inundations; the northern part is elevated, but generally fertile. The source of the river Erne is in a lake of the figure of a rude T six miles from North to South, and the stem of equal length, pointing East. Great crops of oats are annually raised in this county, and sent to Drogheda market; the women are industriously occupied in spinning, and the linen manufacture is extensive. The Shannon forms its western boundary; the river Inny waters a portion of the Southern district; the rivers Camlin and Fallin, with many other streamlets of inferior note, irrigate the remaining districts in various directions. Lough Gawnagh is its most considerable body of fresh water; besides which there are numerous small lakes, too inconsiderable