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IRELAND ILLUSTRATED,

FROM ORIGINAL DRAWINGS

BY G. PETRIE, ESQ., AND OTHERS.

WITH HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTIONS,

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“ There were islands in the ocean,
Once upon a glorious time,
Fair, Hesperian islands blooming
In a golden clime!
Rich and bright beyond compare,
Mid the waves, we know not where !”

MARY HOWITT.

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INTRODUCTION.

“The very rocks—the streams—the trees,—
The perfume scatter'd on the breeze,—
The sky—the clouds—have eloquence
That steals and captivates the sense.”

T. C.

WHILE the Mountains of Switzerland, the Passes of the Tyrol, the Banks of the Rhine, and the classic Shores of Italy, attract the curiosity of British Tourists, the Beauties of Irish Scenery have lain neglected. At length, the current of popular taste having set in so strongly in that direction, the Publishers are induced to present a new Edition of their ILLUSTRATIONS of that picturesque Island.

The Scenery of Ireland is more varied in character than that of any other country in western Europe. Proverbial for fertility, its plains are clad with verdure,—adorned with many mountain chains, it possesses all those graces which Valley and River, and Lake and Forest, confer upon the prospect. Her insular position, while it confers the reciprocal advantages of external commerce, gives her a superiority in the extent and sublimity of her Coast Scenery—and, the presence of so many species of valuable mineral productions, has created an opportunity for the introduction of Architectural Embellishments in the large towns in Ireland—of which the genius of her children has happily availed itself.

The Illustrations of Ireland appear at an auspicious moment, when a growing curiosity as to her pictorial charms, an accurate knowledge as to her capabilities of rapid and solid amelioration, begin to excite the most lively interest: and, from the combined character of this Volume, incorporating both “a panorama and a history,” no form is, perhaps, better calculated to convey clear and distinct notions of the peculiar features of Irish Scenery, than that which has here been chosen.

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I R E L A N D

ILLUSTRATED.

DUBLIN, the Metropolitan County of Ireland, is situated on the eastern coast of that Kingdom, and in the Province of Leinster. It is bounded on the north by the County of Meath, on the west by Kildare, on the east by the Irish Sea, and on the south by the shire of Wicklow. It extends from north to south about thirty miles, and its greatest breadth is about nineteen; its area, measuring 228,200 acres, is divided into six Baronies, exclusive of the City and Liberties of **DUBLIN**, and these are subdivided, ecclesiastically, into eighty parishes. The present population of the County alone, amounts to 150,011 souls, and the number of habitations is 21,000. **DUBLIN** was erected into a distinct county by King John; but, at a much earlier period than even that of the English Invasion, the city of the same name appears to have possessed a primary territorial dignity, and to have been one of the seats of government. Joselin, the fabulous biographer of St. Patrick, assures us, that that remarkable person, from an eminence between the Tolka river and the present line of the Royal Canal, pointed out the destined magnitude, blessed the promised city, and foretold its future prosperity. Dr. Lanigan also, a more worthy authority, has clearly shewn, that the northern part of the County of **DUBLIN** (Anat-Caltrain) was the first part of Ireland visited by this holy personage; whence being repulsed, he withdrew to the island called Holm-Patrick, on the coast of the county, and sailed thence towards Ulster. Here, subsequently, the patron saint of Erin founded a monastic establishment, the site of which is now enclosed within the boundaries of the cathedral of the Arch-diocese of **DUBLIN**. Both previous and subsequent to the age and mission of St. Patrick, the coast of **DUBLIN** was visited and occupied by the Danes, who lived in a perpetual strife with the native Irish; and, during the latter period of the Danish intrusion, **DUBLIN** became familiarly known to the inhabitants of North Wales, of Anglesea in particular. Supplies of troops were frequently contributed by the kings of **DUBLIN**, to assist in the prosecution of the

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continual petty wars of the Cambrian princes. On the island of Holy-Head is the shrine of Sirigi, a Pictish king of DUBLIN, who was canonized by his countrymen, and interred within a chapel called, at this day, "*Capel Llan-y-Gwyddel*," or the Chapel of the Irishman. This intercourse continued uninterrupted, and to it are the Welsh indebted for that now national instrument of music, the Welsh Harp, which was brought over from Ireland, into North Wales, by Gryffyd-ap-Conan, himself born in Ireland, and descended from Irish ancestry by the maternal line. In fact, the proximity of this county to the coast of North Wales, appears to have influenced the English invaders in the adoption of a metropolitical shire. Although Henry II. landed at Waterford, near to which, and on the noble river Suir, the capital of Ireland should have been erected, yet was it at DUBLIN he built his temporary palace, and received the homage of the Irish princes. Here, too, his successors have placed the Vice-regal residence, fixed the halls of justice, founded a university, and established the principal communication between Ireland and the capital of the empire.

The natural features of this small county are of an imposing character: its littorale, extending from the Nanney Water on the north, to Bray river on the south, is indented and picturesque. The northern part is adorned by the elevated islands of Lambay, Holm-Patrick, Ireland's Eye, and by the bold and conspicuous peninsula of Howth; while many little embayments, further improved by the erection of small piers, afford a grateful asylum to the hardy fisherman, who seeks a perilous existence along this dangerous shore. The hill of Howth, forming the northern boundary of DUBLIN Bay, rises to a height of about 800 feet directly from the surface of the ocean, and, by its commanding attitude, while it shelters the mariner from the keen northern blast, presents a sublime foreground in the panoramic view of DUBLIN Bay, as seen from the entrance. Dalkey Island, and the hills of Killiney, which confine the bay to the south, are rivals in beauty, though not in altitude, to the noble promontory of Howth. It is here, in the vicinity of Killiney, that the scenery of the coast acquires a singularly beautiful and picturesque character. The three hills of Killiney appear to start precipitously from the waters, the central being crowned with an obeliskal edifice, in commemoration of a famine amongst the people, and of the benevolence of an individual (Col. Malpas,) whose name it bears. To the west, occupying the centre of the view, are seen the Vale of Old Connaught, and the Cone of Shankhill, backed by the lofty hills of the great Wicklow chain. The inland surface is divided naturally, in a manner somewhat analogous to the features of the sea coast. The northern Baronies, *i. e.* north of the river Liffey, which nearly bisects the county, are level, tame, and not picturesque, but verdant, fertile, and agriculturally productive; while the southern Baronies, less fruitful in the production of grain, are more varied and agreeable. In the former division are but few eminences, and fewer streams, the usual companions of grateful scenery; in the latter are found great inequality of surface, and many delightful rivulets. The former, therefore, supplies the city with the necessaries of life, the latter ministers to its gratifications.