

Connaught Tour 1752

Pococke's Tour in Ireland in 1752

Dr. Richard Pococke

On the 25th, I set out for Donnegal : In three miles we came to Dinhonely and a mile farther to Brocla's bay, on which there is a Castle ; two streams fall into the bay of Killibegs and three into this. We had St. John's point to the south, where there is a hole like that called MacSuines Gun : There is also a large cave with a table in it, cut in the rock, which they call Temple Sugan. Three miles farther we came to Inver another large bay, where I observed a kind of granite lying loose in the bay of a light liver colour with large grains in it, of a kind of sparr. The country to the north is mostly beautifull and well improved and particularly three miles farther about Mount Charles on the Bay into which the river of Donnegal falls : Here the country consists of small hills all covered with herbage or corn, and some wood to add to the beauty of it. The land running sometimes into the bay in such litle hills, makes the view from Mount Charles which is almost all covered with wood one of the most delightful I ever saw. Three miles more brought us to Donnegal which stands on the east side of the river Eask that rises out of a Lough of that name three or four miles to the north west of the town. It is but a poor small town built almost all round a sort of triangular Green : There is an old Castle which had been improved into a good house with the help of some addition to it, particularly there is in it, a very well designed chimney piece in the style of Inigo Jones, but not executed in the best manner : It was the Castle of the O'Donnels formerly Lords of this Country, and now belongs to Sr. Arthur Gore ; whose Grandfather lived in it. A quarter of a mile out of the town are the remains of an old Convent of Minorites, said to be founded by Odo surnamed Rufus O'Donnel in 1473 and that there was a good Library in it. The cloyster consists of small arches, supported by couplets of pillars on a basement : in one part are two narrow passages one over another, about four feet wide, ten long and seven high, which seem to be places for depositeing valuable effects in time of danger ; the upper one is covered with stones laid along on the beams of stone that cross it, and the lower one with stones laid across on the walls, both exactly after the Egyptian manner ; and in a building over it are plain marks of a regular Roman pediment tho' there had been some other building raised against it, which made me conclude that this was the remains of some very ancient building either converted into a Convent, or it may be new founded by O'Donnel. Donnegal is a Corporation consisting chiefly if not altogether of out Burgesses. There is a way when the tyde is out to Balintra five miles off, but I went the inland way and struck out of the high road to the south east to go to the Caves called the Pulleins near Colonel Hamiltons house a mile from Balintra, by which place I ought to have come instead of going chiefly along by a rivlet a very bad road for three miles : These caves are large and a rivlet runs at the bottom of them, goes under ground and afterwards comes out, but they were so overflowed that I could not go in. Colonel Hamiltons is a fine plantation and a well improved estate. I came through Balintra a very poor town, and in five miles more came by a very fine road to Ballishannon, where Mr. Conelly being to make some short stay there was such a concourse of people, that the Inns were full ; So I sent to Mr. O'Neal the Minister to accommodate me with a bed, which he did with great politeness. Ballyshannon is most delightfully situated near the mouth of the Erne, on the north side of it on a bold rising ground, this river rises in the County of ——— and forms that beautifull lake which is known by the name of Lough Erne, and perhaps exceeds any in the world for the beauty of Land round it, and of the Islands in it covered with wood. The mouth of this river is blocked up not only by sand, but by a ridge of rocks that cross it, above which there is a fine basin ; above that is a shelf of rocks crossing the river which forms most beautifull cascades of water, that fall about fifteen feet which has a fine effect from the height under the church, as well as from the other side : and here is a famous salmon leap.

On the 26th I walk'd to see it and met Mr. Conolly, who was pleased to take knowledge of me, and to desire me to joyn—and to go and dine with him at Colonel Foliots : We went to Church, where a dependent of Mr. Conolly's preached before him, after church Colonel Foliot invited me to dine with him, and introduced me to Lord Adam Gordon brother to the Duke of Gordon, an officer of his Regiment, who is with him at his country house, and his Lordship took me with him in the Colonels chaise ; and we dined a large company at Colonel Foliots, who brought me back near two miles in his Chaise.

On the 27th Mr. Oneal rid with me to Bاده three miles where there is a fine hanging ground, wood, Islands and several cascades, altogether making a most beautiful appearance ; we rid four miles further opposite to Sr. James Calwells house, this gentleman has spent most of his time abroad, was Aid de camp in the Austrian service to General Odonnel, whose father dined with us yesterday, and they say is the head of that family descended from the Earl of Tyrconel and tho' he has only leases, yet he is the head of the Roman Catholicks in this country, and has a great interest, is a sensible man, and well vested in the Irish History, both written and traditional : and it is said that Sr. James being agreeable to the Empress was made a Count of the Empire, which title he does not take upon him. Lough Erne and the Islands appear very beautiful from this Hill, there being many considerable seats on it as at Bel Turbet Ld. Lansborough's, Castle Hume, the seat of Loftus Hume, where there is a black marble with a brown cast and so not an agree-able black, but polishes pretty well ; and many others. The Lough is divided into two parts the communication being by a narrow channel, on which stands the town of Enniskilling. The road we were in is the way to Lough Derg, where is the famous place of pilgrimage, called St. Patricks Purgatory. There is a good road as far as to Pettigoe where Mr. Skelton lives, who has lately wrote very well against Deism. Lough-derg is three miles beyond it through a very rough road. I return'd and dined with Colonel Murray (who had come to see me in the morn-ing) I dined in company with Mr. Conolly, and many others, this Gentleman is brother to Lord Elebanck and to Mr. Murray who made so much noise in the Parliament of the year 1750 and is Lieutenant Colonel of foot. I had also in the morning been to visit Mr. and Mrs. Moore and Mr. Taylor her brother, son to Sr. Thomas Taylor, who with two four wheel'd Chaises were come from Lough Erne and were going to Giants Causeway &c. : I walked in the even to see a cascade three quarters of a mile above the town : The river falls in a narrow channel between the rocks, and there is a descent for a great way, which makes the river very rapid. I observed in the rocks of Marble the Trochi, Entrochi and Asteriae. I walked also down towards the mouth of the river on the east side to a house of Lord Foliot to whom this estate did belong, but descending to the Heirs General, it was sold to Mrs. Connelly : The house is particular as it is brick on the outside and stone within. The Ancestor of that Lord came over from England in office ; And the Colonel and Captn. Foliot are descended from Collateral branches. The Lime stone is seen here in many places on the surface of the ground, and the softer parts being worn away, it appears in many odd figures above ground. On the opposite side Colonel Foliots estate is well improved : Beyond it is Clary Castle, the strong-hold of that family who have since taken the name of Clark, and beyond that is a curious Grotto, the top of which appears like a fine Arch.

On the 28th Mr. Oneal went out with me three miles to the south to see Lough Melieri, which to the south is bounded by the mountains in the County of Leitrim and extends from the north east to the south west about eight miles and Lough may be between two and three miles long ; there are about half a dozen Islands in it covered with wood, a river runs into it from Lough Cane which has a communication with Lough Nilly, and the water of it falls into the sea at Bundroose, and all these waters are this way the bounds between Ulster and Connaught and between the Counties of Donnegal and Sligoe. I went to take leave of Mr. Connolly and Col. Murray, the former was not at home : and I set out for Sligoe, stopped on the other side of the river at Bundroose, where there is a Castle on the river which comes out of the

Lake Melvin ; Here I sat down in the County of Sligoe in Connaught and dined, the river being beautifully divided into four streams, by beds of pebbles on each of which are boxes to take salmon. In the road from Ballihaven in two miles I passed by Finnah Church, and then travelled two miles to the river Drock, at the mouth of which is a Castle called Bundrouch, in half a mile we came to Castle Duncarbery, and in a mile more to the manor of Ward-house belonging to Mr. Gore who has a jayl for Debtors for a certain sum. Half a mile further we came to a rivlet there being an opening to the south in the mountains called Glanedy, through which there is a road to Bally-Hamilton. I observed beyond this a fine mountain called Gartue, which seemed to be detached from the rest, but when I came to the west of it, I saw it joynd on to them : beyond this is the most beautiful mountain I ever beheld, called Ben Wallben. The upper part is perpendicular, but being worn in a sort of rough pillars by the rain, it appears like a Gothic work, the rest of the mountain is a steep descent and a fine verdure ; I saw on it many flocks of sheep which added to the beauty of it : the top of this mountain is flat and here the hills turn to the south. I came to Bundutt in about a quarter of a mile, and had Millino head to the south west, a mile further to Castle Buiskin, in two miles to Der Innis, and as many more to Rahamly, in a mile to the river Grause, where we turned to the south, in three to Faranangam river and in a mile to the river Drumdive, where in a churchyard is a curious old cross, on one side of which is a relief of Adam and Eve at the tree of knowledge, and some other defaced reliefs on the other side. Turning to the west I came in three miles more to Mr Knoxes fine farm to Sligoe, having been informed of something curious this way, on the shoar seven miles from Sligoe, but omit-ted to make a particular enquiry concerning the nature of it. Sligo is situated on the south side of the river Gilly : There is also a sort of suburb to the north in which there is a barrack, and there is another barrack a little way out of the town, called the Strand barrack, both which are for horse ; There is a foot barrack on the other side, within an old regular fortification in Olivers time, without any fossee, that now appears the bastion being built high. It is a town of some small trade, tho' a ship of 100 tun can come up only at spring tides, and the ships of any burthen commonly lye down at Poole, about a mile or two below the town. There are remains of an old Convent here, in which the high altar is seen entire, adorned with Gothick reliefs, and there are two or three old monuments in the church ; In the Cloyster are remains of a stone pulpit. The church of Sligoe the design of Mr. Castels is in this shape, with windows at w, and galleries at every end except the east ; the roof is a curious piece of work, and every way it is one of the best designs [1] I have seen. Mr. Ormsby has a large house in the town ; but the thriving state of the town and the country round, next after the barracks, and Colonel Wynnes improvements, is chiefly owing to the industry and spirit of Mr. Knox ; and it may be reckoned the capital of this north west part of the kingdom.

On the 29th I went two small miles to see Col. Wynnes house on Lough gilley, and in the way viewed the charter school, which is building out of Erasmus Smiths Charity : There are three good rooms on a floor, a kitchen and two schools, being built for sixty children, the Governor of Erasmus Smiths Schools gave first £500 and then £200, and Colonel Wynne gave 4 acres of ground for ever ; They have raised it to the first floor, it is built of the slaty lime stone near it. Col Wynnes house is situated on an eminence ; which has the Lough to the south and east, which is most beautiful in Islands and in the fine rocky hills that are on the south and east sides of it, both the one and the other in great part cover'd with wood. The house is built of a marble, in which I saw shells, as in the Kilkenny marble, and it appeared as if it would polish of a black colour. It is Mr. Castels design, six rooms of a floor and very well finished insomuch that it may be looked on, as one of the best houses in the Kingdom. I had met Captn Wynne the second son on whom I waited, he introduced me to his elder brother, who in the fathers absence, with great politeness showed me the house and pressed me to stay dinner, and invited me to stay two or three days. I took leave returned to Sligoe and waited on Mr. Knox, Mrs Stewart of Hornhead her brother, and afterwards Mr. Mitchelburn Knox, the person to whom this Town and County are so much indebted ; After dinner I set out on my

journey, going first southward three miles to Belerejoneh bay and soon to Belesedair bay, where if the tyde had been out we should have crossed the strand, but being obliged to go round, we passed a road that goes to Cloninè and came to Beltrace, where there is a Church ; we had almost all the way gone round a fire hill called Knockrach which makes the head to the west of Sligoe, on the top of it is a remarkable Kerne or Mount, which if I mistake not is called Muscarrow. [2] I saw in all this road the stones full of that petrifications of Coral. I have reason to think from observations I have since made, that they extend all the way along that country to Newport Pratt on the western Ocean. We turned to the west and in a mile came to Balinley rivlet, and saw near it the ruins of an old Convent, called Balinley Abbey, for here they call all Convents Abbies and in Irish Monastere. Just beyond this we passed by Bureen Castle and in three miles came to Arnaglans, where there is a large old Castle and two mounts near the village ; a mile farther we passed by a height where there were some foundations of Castle Arragh and had to the right Gargaandouch, a hunting Lodge of Mr. Wynnes. We then came to a bay and turned up Donecoi, about two miles from Castle Arragh, where there is a large old Castle on a rivlet that runs of a rocky bed, in which I observed the stones lay very much as in square rocky pillars and in their strata. I saw Grange Castle about a mile to the east and passed by a Danish Mount and in two miles came to a poor Village called Doneal where there is a Castle and rivlet ; here I lay in a very indifferent Inn.

On the 30th I set for-ward and in a mile came to Bellonrow rivlet, in two miles to Eskan bridge, here is the shell of a good Church and of the Priests house adjoining to it : Towards this place I had seen the Mycetites or petrified Corraline growth of the fungus kind, and saw towards the sea a place called Leught, I here also observed a sort of large square pillar on each side of which there are niches as for statues, which probably was a Cross. We came in a mile to a rivlet called Finich and being come to the bay of Killalla turned southwards ; and here the country is no more stony, except a sort of rubble stone under the good soil ; I observed that it is a very fine pasturage, which is converted to sheep walks. In a mile we came to Ricleheny rivlet, and as much farther nearer to Castle Ducani, which is on the sea and two rivlets run by it, having an old Church on the east called Kiliaglass, we passed thro an old Kath, opposite to which to the south is another a rivlet running between them ; in half a mile we came to Carrhubbuck village and rivlet, in as much more to Inniscruel, and at the same distance to rivlet Belavaddy and in a mile to Suemmore village, Castle and river, and here there is a boat to the opposite side and horses swim over : To the north of this is Delakish, and about this part there is a lime stone, which is full of the Conchae, Anomiae, as well as Cockles and continue for some way : In a quarter of a mile we came to Doneen, and soon after to Kilch village and rivlet, and in a mile to Castle Connaught where there is a rivlet, This Castle is situated on a height almost opposite to the Abbey of Rosserick, we afterwards passed these rivlets not above a quarter of a mile from each other Rallenon, Farengrohen, Tramiliese, Cayeck, Couquiseen, and Baurive which latter is large and falls in beautiful cascades down its rocky bed ; and so we soon came to Ballina on the Moye, which rises to the south falls into Lough Conn and passing out of it again runs by Foxford and so it falls into the sea below Killalla : We here enter'd into the large County of Mayo, bounded by the northern and western ocean, being the north west part of the Kingdom. Ballina is pleasantly situated on the west side of the Moye and is a market town by which, and a foot barrack it is Ballina. chiefly subsisted. It is but a poor place and belongs to ———

On the east side are the remains of a Monastery, where there is a very good Gothick door case, which consists of about twelve members. From Ballina I took a ride to Lough Conn, which extends in length about eight miles from Newtown Gore, Sr. Arthur Gores seat near as Foxford and is about a mile broad ; the high mountain of Nevin is to the south of it, and it is a fine Lake. I returned to Ballina and rid to Killalla, the Bishop was expected home on Saturday, so I took up my abode at his house.

On the 31st Mr. Carter the Curate of the place came to see me, and I set out on a journey into Erris along the northern Coast. In a mile I came to Palmerstown, a village on a rivulet which falls into the sea a little below it, Mr. Palmer lives at this place, and there are some little remains of an old Castle. Here they have a lime stone, and a little further a yellow free stone, which I observed also in the cliffs near Killalla. In about half a mile we passed near the ruins of the Abbey of Rafrane, which must be the Monastery of Rathbran : further on I observed some stones as in a circle and some set up an end, after the manner of the ancient burial places in Cornwall. I saw Castle Cariganas to the left, and in about three miles came to a village and river called Gartotui where Mr. Bark lives. We went on about two miles to another hill and began to ascend towards Donfiny where there is an old Parish Church, and from this height the high rocks are seen off the eastern point, which makes the harbour of Broadhaven : These rocks from being very high and sharp, are called the stags of Broadhaven : but the weather being very bad I put into a Cabin, and din'd and returned in the evening to Killalla, the rains making this journey impracticable. On the first of August, I rid with Mr. Carter along the strand two miles southward to Abbey Moye, which is remarkable for having a square tower built, on one side (that is not on the point) of the two Gable ends that form the quire and the body of the Church, Hexagon arches being turned on consoles from east to west, fixed in the Gable ends, which is a bold execution : there is much good stone work and Masonry about the Church Convent and Cloyster, the latter is built on plain pillars in Couplets as at Sligoe, this is called in Ware a Firiry. We went on about two miles to Rossurk or Rosserich Convent, where the tower is built in the same manner, but exactly on the middle point of the Gable ends : It is remarkable in both these Convents, that there is a closet built of hewn stone for two Confessors to sit in and hear Confessions, with a hole on each side, for the persons who confess to speak through. We went to the side of a rivulet and din'd, and I distributed what I had prepared for my western journey among the poor. In a wall I saw many of the sunci Lapidei and petrified corals called by some Tonchaenomiae. Mr. Linet a neighbouring Gentleman farmer came and invited me to take a glass of wine, I staid with him half an hour, and found the Bishop come home at Killalla. This is a poor town but very pleasantly situated on the east side of the bay near the mouth of the river Moye, which runs on the east side of some Islands that are between the river and Killalla, this river is easily crossed in fair weather : The Islands in the bay afford a very delightful prospect.

On the 2nd I preached at the Cathedral, and on the third I went through Balina, where by Capt. Owen in whose company I had dined there, I received a very kind and pressing invitation from Mr. Vaughan near Lough Conn, but being engaged to go on, I excused myself and went forward : There is a road on both sides of the river to Foxford, but the new road is on the west side, and after riding about 4 miles, we crossed a hill from which we had a view of Lough Conn, and particularly of the south east end of it, from which as I was inform'd, there is an outlet into the river Moye, on which Foxford stands. We had a view also of all that Morassy ground to the west of Foxford, to which place we came, it is situated on the edge of the bog and under rough rocky Foxford. hills to the east in a very bad air, and all the water about it exceeding bad, except a spring a mile distant ; it is a very poor town, but they are building a new Church : They have a barrack for foot, and formerly had iron works here, which before the revolution were in Judge Wards family, who was born in this Country, but on the wars that family retired to their own estate in the County of Down. They brought the iron ore from the mountain called Nevin to the west for all these mountains as far as the sea are full of iron ore ; They work it up with the ore of Lancashire, which hardens it ; otherwise it would be too soft. They have now iron works at Mullamore, nine miles to the west ; And they collect together the wastings of the ore here and carry it to those works. I dined here and visited Mr. Evelyn the Minister, and went on : They are searching for coal at Sleeve Horn a mountain near. In a mile I passed by Baky Lough Castle and went over a river of that name on a bridge and I saw Toramore Castle to the left. In about a mile more we passed by an old Church called Temple a Strada and soon after I took a view of a Convent called Strada where

the high altar is beautified with Gothick ornaments and in the middle is a dead Christ in the Virgins lap, and a person in relief in a compartment on each side. There is also a tomb adorned with curious reliefs, of four kings in different compartments ; in another one kneels before a mitred person and there is a relief of St. Peter and St. Paul : In a mile we passed by Ballicurry and saw Currane Castle to the right and Turlaws Church on a height, where I thought I saw one of the round towers : A mile further brought us to Minola, a poor small town situated on a rising ground to the West of a rivlet : It is chiefly a Colony of Protestants, settled here as Free-holders by Mr. Brown of the Neal, who founded a Charter School here for 12 boys and 12 girls, by giving 10 acres for ever and twenty at five shillings an acre, [3] which I went to see and travelled on towards Castlebar three miles farther, I saw to the west Elm Hall, a seat and good plantation of Mr. Cuffs of Ballinroab, passed by —— the house and Estate of Mr. Domick Brown, and about a mile from Castle bar —— saw Mr. Millars. Castle bar is very pleasantly situated on a rising ground to the east of the river which falls out of the Lough of Castlebar that has communication with several beautifull Loughs round about. It is a pretty good small town, having a good market and a Horse Barrack, and they have lately built a handsome church of Mr. Castles design, it is the Greek Cross with three galleries : The windows and Cornish are of hewen lime stone which is the finest black marble, and is without mixture polishing as well. The Church is covered with a very good light stone slate of which there is a quarry in a mountain near called Sleanbawn ; and about two miles from the town they have a quarry of good flags of the same kind of lime stone as the ornamental parts of the Church : There is also the black medicinal slate in some mountain near. This is the estate of Sr. Charles Bingham now abroad on his travels, who has a small house near the town, built on the scite of an old Castle after the revolution : The two large round towers of the Castle remain in which his grandfather lived with his Father-in-law Dr. Vesey Archbishop of Tuam in King James's wars and defended themselves against the enemy.

On the 4th Mr. Ellison the Clergyman of the town and Mr. Johnson a neighbouring Clergiman came to see me : I set out at noon and observed the road at Killalla which comes to the West of Lough Conn and to the east of Nefin ; and going near a mile saw another road which leads into Erris, we soon came near to Lough Honey to the —— which falls into the lake of Castle bar and passed by Lough barry from which there is a communication by a river into the other. I observ'd here that the rocks are chiefly a cement of pebbles a litle like that of Hertfordshire, and many fine stones might be found among them that would polish very beautifully with a variety of good colours : In two miles we came to a rivlet and a litle farther to the river Broheh which rises out of Lough Belta, call'd in the maps Blata about two miles to the north east and in about two miles falls into the bay of Newport.

We came to Newport called anciently Ballyvickan or Baleyvaughan, it is most beautifully situated on a height to the north of a small river which about a mile —— lower falls into that famous bay which is full of beautifull Islands. Westport a much older town being at the south east angle of it. This estate was a lease of 999 years from the Ormond family to Commissioner Medlicot and tho' consisting of 70,000 acres, yields at this time but £1700 a year, it was then valued only at £600 a year, of which £200 a year was fined off. Mr. Pratt who was clerk of the Treasury had a lease of it from Medlicot, built this litle town, which from him was called Newport Pratt. On his failing he suffered himself to be ejected : and now Mr. Medlicot has bought the reversion of the £400 a year of Ld. Arran after that Lords death. It . consists of the Mannor of Burifool, which has great privileges as a Court for Civil Causes not exceeding £40. The old Mansion house and Castle, are on a litle Peninsula on the bay of Burryfool, which winds up from the harbour towards Lough Furren, it was converted into a barrack where Theophilus Bolton late Archbishop of Cashel was born, when his Father was a Captain quartered here ; opposite to it is the Convent of Burrifoole which is a poor church and building, tho' it makes some figure at a distance ; in it I copyed this inscription on a tomb, Orate pro anima Davidis Oge Kelly qui me fieri fecit sibi et heredibus suis Anno

Domini 1623 et ejus uxori Arabia Barret. It is said that this Convent was founded in the time of Henry VII by the Butlers, and they have a great Pattern or festival here on August the 4th St. Dominicks day : near it is the ancient Parish church of Burrifool, removed by an act of Vestry and Council to a Glebe about a furlong above Newport on the opposite side. At this place there was formerly a little town, and at present there are a few scatter'd houses. This being the port and a place of some small trade untill Newport was built. The Market of Newport consists chiefly of frieze, yarn stockins and different sorts of Corn ; the provisions in this place are very cheap from June to Christmas. Beef a peny, Mutton five farthings a pound, chicken pence a piece, a fat goose for six pence, a Turkey for the same and fat Ducks two pence a piece, fish also is very cheap, and they have a Merchant who imports very good French wine at £16 a Hog:head.

On the 5th I set out with a guide on hired horses for the Barony of Erris and particularly the Mullet. We came in a mile to a rivlet they call the Ford, which falls into the bay by the Abbey, half a mile further we were to the east of Lough Furren a beautiful Lake into which the tyde comes, tho' we could not see the communication : It is about a mile long and half a mile broad, Lough Rafarn falls into it from the north and is much higher, this is almost as wide and long : on the east side of it, the hills are cover'd with wood, and on the west are high mountains ; I observed here a reddish free stone : We went over a hill from which there is a fine view of these lakes and the bay, which appear all like one Lough full of Islands extending for twelve miles to Crow Patrick. We went to a river which we crossed several times, and another falls into it, which we also crossed often and went frequently along the bed of it, and in my return I observed in it towards the Lough near which I went in another road, several bodies of trees lying in it, which they grew on the spot, and were washed down by the torrent. We past Letikeyn a few houses to the east of the rivlet, called four miles from Newport ; We here turned to the west, going up the hill for some way along the bed of the rivlet ; here I found myself as in an Amphitheater, encompassed with high mountains which made a very Romantick appearance, To the east Bockworth and Billing Carragh, to the north Carnen, and west of that Mamarahy and of that litle Nefin. To the west Crooknegrah (sheep mountain) to the south Furcleogh : We gain'd the top and descending had a small Lough to the right, passed through some very difficult bogs, and ascended on the side of Mamarakty having those high mountains to the south, which stretch towards the Island of Achil to the west and make the northern point of the bay of Newport : These mountains about five one beyond another have a very curious aspect, the tops of most of them appearing with escallop hollows in perpendicular broken rocks ; They are full of Red Deer, which are very indifferent food, being never fat, however the hunting of them affords good diversion to those who traverse island the mountains on foot, but they frequently escape the dogs. This mountain that I had ascended was of a sort of silver mica, which is not a lime stone, for they have none beyond the first hills we crossed to the river, but there is from that to the bay a vein of blew lime stone gravel which is good manure, they have also in many places about Newport a marie with shells in it, but the land being stiff, it is not a proper manure for it. (We here sprung a cock Grouse the only one I had ever seen flying and appeared very beautiful.) Having gained the height on the side of the hill, we turned northward, and dined at a stream which gushes out of the side of it, from which place I had a glorious view of the mountains of the Isle of Achil, of the sea and some fine mountains to the north east ; descending for a mile, we crossed four rivlets and ascended along the foot of a mountain called Kormestity, which appears very beautifully like two grand bastions. We travelled on and had to the east another high steep and rocky mountain, and we went by a road which is over a rivlet, and coming to a large vale, in which there is a house and farm, we crossed a mountain torrent and ascending went round the side of the hill for three miles, to what they call the river, in the map it is called the salmon fishery, and the mouth of it is part of the black sod harbour ; I here observ'd a stone, a sort of silver mica, which lyes very much in the form of the members of Architecture, and one I saw much like a large Cornish : As soon as we had the mountain to

the east of us, we had to the west a morass extending to the sea now full of little fords : The most dismal looking country I ever saw, and they say, the greater part irreclaimable ; Here are however not far from the foot of the hills, three or four little farms which chiefly belong to herds. The river we crossed was a rough bottom and very dangerous in time of floods : there is a road by this river to the east into Tirawley which rises out of the mountains near Lough Conn, but it is very boggy and almost impassible, except after that there has been dry weather for some time : We here got into a Cabin where they had clean straw and clean blankets ;— but the man observing the smoak was very troublesome to me, he made me a low seat near the fire, and I found it was not so inconvenient, the smoak rising up and condensing above. The guide called for an egg, broke off the top and emptied it into a scollop shell, as I thought to dress it, for the poor here use scollop shells for all uses they can, as they do on the Red sea, but I was surprized when I saw him give a dram about in the egg shell ; the woman also melted tallow in a scollop and dipt the rushes in it, and another time they twisted several rushes together, to make a larger light, and stuck it on a slit stick, the base of which was a large turf into which they run one end of it. The common people of the country live too much on these poor wretches when they travel, seldom bringing anything with them ; and they were surprized when I distributed my bread and meat and what I had among them, and that I gave them a piece of money when I went away. All their vessels are of wood, most of them cut out of solid timber, their stools are long and narrow like a stilion, and their table is a long sort of stool about twenty inches high and broad and two yards long ; their food chiefly oat cakes baked on the griddle and potatoes with their butter milk : they had killed a goat and were boyling part of it ; but I suppose it was not very good, as they industriously concealed it from me ; but they offered to prepare me what they had to eat, which for strangers, is new milk, eggs, butter and oat cake : They have here a french potatoe with a purple blossom, it is something like an apple, but is watery and not so good as the other kinds. However this potatoe does best in sandy and I believe boggy grounds, and the cold and moisture of the potatoe is a good corrective of the heat of the oaten diet. It is the custom for the poor especially the children to come in and sit by the fire of those who are in better circumstances as well as travellers of all kinds, and they give to all, of what is going in their own way.

On the 6th We set forward the Gratefull Host accompanying us above a mile to show us the way through a bog to a large Lough to the north west called Curraghmore Leterahery out of which the Curragh river Munry rises, which we crossed : The Lake does not appear very large in this situation, but seeing it from an higher, I observed two large bays extending to the east and west, there is a small Island near the side we pass'd the ground to the south being on a declivity, I observed that the bog hung over at this part of the Lake, and in some places hung down for two or three yards, kept together by the heath, tho' the hard ground did not appear to have been lately worn away, but was greenish and some plants grew out of it, and I was informed that especially in wet seasons water runs between the bog and the hard ground which made me inclined to think that where bogs are on a declivity and the lower part of them as here is broken away, that they do actually move by their gravity ; as the Ice in the Glacieres of Savoy certainly does, and falls down into the valley, and they affirm, that the ice when it moves is attended with a great noise : We had a boggy way for a mile, and passing by two houses soon came to a Vale, in which there runs a rivlet, and there are two or three natural mounts in it, one of which has been fortified ; here I stop'd and took some refreshment, and crossing over the foot of a hill, came to a strand which is made by the blacksod harbour to the south and stretches along the south east side of the country within the Mullet ; A very beautiful Peninsula stretches out into the bay, joined to the eastern land by a long narrow Isthmus. They have a bed of small oysters here, which at spring tides is left by the sea, and the people go and pick 'em up, pickle 'em and send them to Dublin : They sell them here for a penny a hundred, and on the bank they will load a horse for fourpence. We continued winding round the strand to avoid the bog above, on which the sea has gained in some places, insomuch that there is in some parts, bog on the strand, and one cannot ride on the sea

weed, there are also several stumps of trees on the strand. From this strand in my return I went up to the height to see the bay which is formed by Broadhaven to the north, and with this bay forms that neck of land which is called the Mullet, and joyns that long strip of land to the mainland which is called Erris within the Mullet : on the south side of this neck of land Sr. Arthur Shanes, whose estate it was began to build a litle town, and actually cut a communication across the Isthmus large enough for a small boat to pass, which is now choaked up : They laid out also much money on roads into this country, made along the sides of the hills, by cutting away the bog, but this was found to be a bad way, for it makes a course for the water, and rain washing away the earth, leaves it a very stony rough road, and when this is done in a flat country, it has not only this effect, but the bog fills up the trench again : for the true way of mending their roads is by raising a Causeway of gravel, and where it is very soft, by laying a litle heath under it. All the half barony of Erris consists of two parishes, Kilcommon taking in all without the Mullet ; and Kilmore all that is within the Mullet ; and they have some time ago obtained an Act of Parliament to build a church on the Mullet for the united parishes. We came within Mullet to that fine peninsula which is about twelve miles long from north to south and about a mile broad one place with another ; the north end is chiefly high heathy ground, from which I saw the stags, as they call 'em, off Broadhaven : the rest of the land is partly in small hills, and partly consists of long rising ground, of good land and some sandy banks and loughs ; being altogether a most delightful spot in summer. In these sand banks they find a great variety of shells, and lately they found some very curious vertebrae of fish, of which I produced a specimen : They have also discovered some tombs, which they call the tombs of Lugnadumme they say they are of an extraordinary size, but now they were all covered over again by the sand. I went to the house of Mr. Anthony Odonnel to whom I was recommended by Mr. Odonnel of Newport ; I met his Nephew on the road, who very politely showed me the way, and among other questions asked me if I had any acquaintance there, which was on purpose to have invited me to his house, tho' he had the good sense not to say it ; I dined at Mr. O'donnels, took a walk and saw the old walls of the church of Tarman Carra buried in sand, which they say was the church of a Nunnery. I took a ride in the evening along the sea shore to the north east, which consists of litle bays, made by the low rocky cliffs, and the waves rolling in on these rocks in calm weather, has one of the most beautiful effects I ever saw. I observed a small detach'd rock, which had some fortification on it, and going further saw a litle head, which was defended by a modern fortification, made across the neck of it in Queen Elizabeths time, as they say, in order to deposite goods that were ship wreck'd, that they might not be plundered by the country: They had also built two barracks, one at Carne on the Mullet, the other at Learne on the east side of this Land within, in order to prevent the landing of privateers, but Queen Amies peace prevented the turning them to that use. I went on further and returned seeing a litle to the westward a passage under ground from the sea, where the tyde goes in about fifty yards and is seen from a large hole over it.

On the 7th I set out with Mr. Odonnels son and newpew to ride to the south of this land : To the south of this part is a strip of land called Annah joyned only by a small neck ; and the strand east of it, as well as that to the north is called the strand of Annah ; this in the map is made an Island, and called Emlokrash, the reason of which is this, it was in one farm with the land to the east of Tarmon Carrah, which goes by this name. We then came to an open strand called Baludurish, in which there are several rocks under the water which render'd it terrible to the sight, even in a calm when the tyde was coming in ; but when we return'd and the tyde way going out, it was very beautifull : on the point to the south of it, are the remains of a Convent called the Convent of the cross and near it is a church of the same name, which the Protestants had begun to repair, for Sr. Arthur Shane planted about twenty Protestant families here, on leases for ever of small farms, mostly under a hundred acres : This Gentleman left two daughters, one married to Mr. Bingham of Newbrook, the other first to Mr. Wynne, and now to Mr. Carter second son of the Master of the Eolls, these ladies hold the estate in Co

partnership. [4] Opposite to this is the Isle of Ennis Clory, which is a great burial place, of this Island they say no rat or mouse will live in it, and go so far as to affirm, that if they bring the earth and shake it in a sack of corn, none of these Vermin will touch it. To the south of this is Enniskerah and south of that Enniskeah, where if I mistake not, is a mineral water, and to this land people frequently go to pass some time for their diversion. The people in this Country are very hospitable, if you cannot stay to have a sheep killed they offer Ale a dram, Eggs and butter, and the woman of the house sits at the table and serves you : They have an odd way in some parts in the north, I did not see it here, when they would preserve meat, they put it into meal to preserve it from the flies, as I suppose, but it becomes musty and very disagreeable. We came to Lough Cross, a beautiful lake about two miles in circumference, here are wild Ducks, which as we rode within a few yards of them did not move into the water, and when I rode towards 'em, only walked gently in like tame ducks, and there is a little Island in it, in which I suppose they breed. An extraordinary thing happened in relation to this lake a few years agoe ; there was a rivulet run from it, to the sea, with a mill on it, in a great flood, it carried away the mill, and the passage was stop'd up, on which the lake retired near a hundred yards from its western bank, so that probably there is some communication under ground from the sea. We came soon after to the Lough of Leame near which is the building designed for a barrack ; Riding on we came to Castle Tarah, the ruin of a large old building : Towards the south point of the land we ascended Mount Tarman, a round hill not long ago covered with herbage, but the rabbits, burrowing in the land, the wind blew it away, and has left a more curious top all cover'd with beautiful large flat stones of grey granite : From this hill is a fine view of the Island Mount of Achill, which is very mountainous and about 2 leagues Tarman -distant : There are in it 25,000 acres of land, and it lets for £300 a year ; the inhabitants have a kind of sheep here, with a coarse wool fit for yarn stockings, which they spin and knit and sell the stockings for about ten pence a pair ; and with this produce they pay their rent ; They have oats and potatoes sufficient for their own use ; this is part of Mr. Medicotes estate. There is a great knowledge gained by experience, as to feeding their cattle on all these mountains, they find that for six months or some certain time they thrive on the same spot and then fall off, so that they move 'em to other parts ; some parts are fit for cattle of different ages, and some at different seasons of the year. We came down from this hill to Mr. Gambles house, and took some refreshment there ; which was very civilly offer'd us : and returning we went to the east side and near Mr. Markhams the pleasantest situation in the place which command a view of the Lough, of the sea and Islands and of Blacksod harbour, of Mullet and Erris to the east, as well as the Isle of Achil ; that Island is represented as divided in the middle by a chanel ; there is water goes almost through, but not so as to divide it into the greater and lesser as represented in the Map ; but little Achil as I was informed, is only that very small Island at the south point, which is placed in the Map without name. They have a custom of raising heaps of stones called here Iaktch, in other parts Kerns, to the memory of the dead, mostly in the shape of sugar loaves, which are kept up as long as their friends remain, and are raised commonly not far from the church, in the way to and from the house ; some are built with mortar and have inscriptions on them. We came to the Mullet and when we were out of it, we took some refreshment ; I parted with my friends and the cattle they had mounted me on, and set forward the same way I had come with Mr. O'Donnel the gentleman I had met at my entrance into it, who was going to the Fair of Balyheen. [5] The way I was coming into this Country by Broadhaven is round by that bay very difficult and boggy and is two days journey from Killalla. [6] Going along the bog I saw an Eagle and crows about a carcass, for these birds never take notice of their brethren the carnivorous race ; It was of the large kind, and he seemed to attempt to raise himself, but remained very near us, and when we went towards him, he flew low to a turf stack at a little distance, for in a calm they sometimes find it difficult to raise themselves from the ground : About half an hour after we saw him fly over us to the north east to the sea. We took up our lodging about a mile to the north of the river at Mr. Nashes farm house where we had a fine view of the lake ; here is an old Square Castle in ruins called Clonatekilly ; a little below it are two caverns,

about six feet wide and high and ten long, covered with stones laid across, within one of them was a narrow hole about three feet square like a drain ; these seem to be places to hide in upon any danger. They have a way in this country of burying children in some little plat near the house, when they are at a distance from the church, and such a burial place I saw.

On the 8th We set out and crossed the river on each side of the banks of which towards the sea are little spots of arable land and several houses ; and one part of it goes by the name of Kilkeny, where they have a considerable salmon fishery. Several people joyned us going to the fair and we made up a little caravan of about seventeen horses : and when we stop'd twice and I divided my bread and liquor among them, and to the two or three protestants my meat also, I was had in great esteem among them, and so early in the evening I finished this curious uncommon journey and arrived at Newport ; where my friends of Newport spent the evening with me. [7]

- [1] See the Dictionary of National Biography for a memoir of Castels, who, though a German by birth, was a leading Dublin architect in the first half of the eighteenth century. His name is there spelt " Castle." He built several Churches, besides Leinster House, the Rotunda Hospital, and the other public buildings mentioned in that article.
- [2] It is difficult to recognise the names which Poccocke assigns to many places in Sligo and Mayo. He seems to have been much puzzled by the Connaught pronunciation, when such a well-known mountain as Benbulbin becomes for him Ben Wall ben.
- [3] This Protestant colony had practically vanished by 1831, when the number of Protestants resident at Manilla was returned as 54.
- [4] See Otway's *Sketches in Erris* for the history of this Protestant colony and of the Shaen property. The names of the colonists are given on p. 349. On p. 90 is a description of the Church of the Cross. The fortifications referred to above are fully described by Otway, pp. 64-71. Poccocke's earlier narrative serves to correct his speculations about them. See also the Ordnance Survey Letters, and their account of Erris, and Knight's *Erris in the Irish Highlands*.
- [5] This fair seems to have vanished. It is not mentioned in the Statistical Survey of Mayo, or in the Ordnance Survey Letters, when treating of the Parish of Ballyhean.
- [6] The Rev. Caesar Otway's *Sketches in Erris* may be compared with the whole of this narrative. It will be seen from it that there was not much change in Western Mayo between 1750 and 1840. Mr. O'Donnel of Erris is also mentioned by Otway, perhaps the grandson of Poccocke's friend ; but the circumstances of the family were much decayed by Otway's time. See *l.c.*, p. 57. and above, p. 90.
- [7] Knight's Erris furnishes in the Appendix an account of the extraordinary method of travelling in that country before roads and wheeled vehicles were introduced in 1820. Knight explains a method of passing sloughs and bogs, to which Poccocke refers on p. 66, above. This scarce little work gives interesting details of pre-historic customs of land tenures, agriculture, etc., then existing.

Poccocke's Tour in Ireland in 1752 (1891)

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