

Mayo, a maritime county

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MAYO, a maritime county of the province of Connaught, in Ireland. bounded on the east by the counties of Sligo (from which it is separated by the river Moy) and Roscommon, on the south by the county of Galway, and on the west and north by the Atlantic Ocean. According to the ordnance map of Ireland, constructed for the Irish railway commissioners in 1836, it lies between $53^{\circ} 27'$ and $54^{\circ} 19'$ South and between $8^{\circ} 31'$ and $9^{\circ} 20'$ W. long., and ex-tends from Achil Head on the west to the junction of the Sligo and Roscommon boundaries at Ballagnadereen on the east, 72 statute miles, and from the centre of Loch Corrib on the south to Downpatrick Head on the north, 58 miles. The length of the coastline from the mouth of the river Moy on the northeast to the the head of the Killery Harbour on the southwest, exclusive of the minor indentations of the shore, is about 250 statute miles. The area, as ascertained by the ordnance survey has not yet been made public. According to the map constructed under the superintendence of the society for the diffusion of Useful Knowledge, it contains, 1,023,273, English Acres, or 1698 square statute miles. According to Mr. Griffiths estimate, it consists of

Cultivated land	871,984 statute acres,
Unprofitable Bog and mountain	425,124 „
Water	57,940 „
Total	1,356.048 statute acres,

or 2117 statute miles, being next to Cork and Galway, the third largest county in Ireland. In 1831 the population was 367,956

Mayo has a very diversified surface, embracing a part of the great inland plain which extends across the centre of the island, together with a large extent wild and mountainous country interposed between the western verge of that plain and the sea. The mountainous region consists of two principal districts, seperated from one another by Clew Bay, a capacious inlet of the Atlantic, which running inland to a distance of fifteen miles, by from seven to eight miles in width, meets the western extremity of the plain at Westport. The mountain groups lying south of Clew Bay cover the entire barony of Murrisk, and stretch beyond the bounds of the county into the highlands of Joyce Country and Connemara. [GALWAY.] The area which they cover within the limits of Mayo is about fifteen miles by twenty, and is bounded on the north by the level land about Westport and by Clew Bay, on the west by the Atlantic Ocean, on the south by the long narrow inlet of the great Killery Harbour and the Joyce Country mountains, and on the east by the flat country constituting the basin of lochs Mask and Carra. The most easterly of the various mountain groups comprised within these limits is constituted by the Furmnamore and Partry Mountains, which, extending in a north-easterly direction from the head of the Killery form a continuous range of fifteen miles in length, rising abruptly over the western shores of the above-mentioned lakes. The elevation of Furmnamore, rising about midway between the Killery Harbour and Loch Mask, is 2210 feet. The other chief summits of the range are Bengorriff, near its southern extremity, 2038 feet, and Slieve Bohaun, terminating it on the north, 1294 feet.

On both sides of the chain are bold ravines, traversed by streams descending on the one hand into Loch Mask, and on the other into the valley of the Owen Errive aver, which runs southward into the head of Killery Harbour, and also into the valley of the Ayle. The Ayle, running northward through the first part of its course, dips underground immediately on emerging from the mountain district, and, passing eastward round the terminus of the range for two miles under the limestone-rock of the plain, rises again and flows southward, along the opposite side of the mountain, into the head of Loch Mask. One of the sources of the Owen Errive is the Lake of Glenawagh, which lies in what is locally termed a *prison*, being a bowl-shaped hollow in the northern side of Furmnamore, surrounded by perpendicular precipices 1500 feet high. West of the valley of the Owen Errive lies the group of Muilrea, skirting the northern shore of the Killery, and extending inland in a direction generally parallel to that of the range of Slieve Partry. Muilrea Mountain, which rises immediately over the northern entrance to the harbour, is the highest ground in the county, being 2682 feet in altitude. Next in the range eastward, is Benberry, 2610 feet ; between which and Bengorm, 2224 feet, lie the romantic lakes of Doolough and Delphi, with the shooting-lodge of the Marquis of Sligo. These heights, as they trend eastward, are broken into numerous lateral valleys, of which the most considerable is Glen Laur, watered by the main branch of the Owen Errive. Above Glen Laur the highest point of the range is 2429 feet. Northward from the immediate group of Muilrea the centre of the district of Murrisk rises into undulating hills of from 900 to 1200 feet in height, the general slope of the country being towards the north-west, in which direction most of the streams rising in the interior make their way through openings in the hilly country to the sea. The northern verge of Murrisk, bordering on Clew Bay, is occupied through a length of ten miles by the range of Croagh Patrick, running parallel to the shore. Croagh Patrick, locally called the Reek, rises immediately from the water's edge in the centre of the range to an altitude of 2610 feet, presenting a very perfect conical outline on every side, and forming by much the most conspicuous feature in the surrounding scenery. The general character of this district is sterile, though among the undulating hills of the central part there are extensive tracts of coarse pasture. The only place having the character of anything more than a hamlet throughout the entire tract is the little village of Louisburg, near the coast on the north-west.

The mountainous district lying north of Clew Bay is of considerably greater area, extending upwards of forty miles from east to west, by thirty miles from north to south. Separated from the range of the Ox mountains in Sligo by the valley of the Moy and the low basin of Loch Conn, thus standing insulated in the north-western part of the county, it nevertheless corresponds, in the direction of its principal groups, both with the range above mentioned on the east, and with that of the Slieve Partry mountains on the south. The Croagh Moyle mountains, forming the most advanced group towards the plain, appear as a continuation of the Sligo highlands, running in a direction from north-east to south-west, from the valley of the Moy to the head of Clew Bay at Newport. The highest point of this range is 1655 feet. Corresponding in direction with the Croagh Moyle range is the group of Nephin, which extends from Loch Fyough, near the northern shore of Clew Bay, at a distance of about five miles from the exterior range, to the western shore of Loch Conn. The chief summits of this range, commencing from the west, are, Buckoragh, 1922 feet, Bereen Curragh, 2295 feet, and Nephin, 2646 feet ; the last, being the highest ground in this district, forms an object of great grandeur, rising abruptly over the western verge of Loch Conn. In the intermediate valley bounded by these ranges, which constitutes the principal pass north-wards from Newport, lie Loch Beltra, the waters of which run south-westward to Clew Bay at Newport, and Loch Lavalla, which discharges itself north-eastward into Loch Conn, the latter lying within the mountain-pass of Barn-na-gee. Northward from the range of Nephin lies a vast tract of comparatively level but extremely desolate moorlands, bounded towards the east by the fertile valley of the Moy, and westward by the nearly semicircular amphitheatre of the Tyrawley and

Nephin Beg mountains. A subordinate and nearly parallel ridge of low elevation divides this tract into two portions, the waters of one of which flow eastward by the Deel river to Loch Conn, and those of the other, passing through a gap in the centre of the range, run westward by the Owenmore river to the head of Blacksod Bay. The altitude of that part of the chain north of this gap is from 900 to 1200 feet ; south of the valley of the Owenmore the heights are loftier and of a more striking outline, being broken into lateral valleys and defiles, and containing many small lakes surrounded by striking precipices. The chief heights here are Slieve Cor, 2368 feet, Nephin Beg, 2012 feet, and Cushcamcurragh, 2262 feet ; the last rises immediately over the shore of Clew Bay, from which point the range takes a westerly direction, occupying the entire promontory of Corraun Achil, and beyond it, rising again into very bold eminences throughout the large island of Achil, which is separated from the mainland by a very narrow sound running up between Clew Bay and Blacksod Harbour. The surface of Achil Island is extremely mountainous, and its shores are perhaps more precipitous than any equal extent of coast in the British islands. At Minaun, on the south side of the island, the cliffs, which are slightly overhanging, have an altitude of 1000 feet and upwards ; and at Keem Head, which terminates the island westward, the whole side of the mountain, which appears to have been rent asunder by some convulsion of nature, constitutes one shelving precipice of 2222 feet, springing immediately from the water's edge. The island is of a triangular shape, the northern and eastern sides being fourteen and twelve miles in length respectively, and the base, which faces the offing of Clew Bay towards the south-west, being fifteen miles in length. The northern side of the island constitutes the southern boundary of Blacksod Bay, a great arm of the Atlantic included between the wild district of Erris, which stretches westward from the chain of the Nephin Beg mountains on one side, and the low peninsula of the Mullet on the other. The Mullet, extending fifteen miles in length, is connected with the mainland of Erris by an isthmus five miles long by one mile on an average in breadth, which separates the head of Blacksod Bay from the head of the Bay of Broadhaven, included between the Mullet and the mainland in a similar manner on the north. The thriving little town of Belmullet is situated on the narrowest part of the isthmus, where it is only 400 yards wide. The peninsula is better tilled and less desolate than the mainland ; there is a considerable village on it, called Binghamstown, near the head of Blacksod Bay ; and Major Bingham, the chief proprietor, has a permanent residence farther south. The southern part of the peninsula is low and sandy, but the surface is varied on the north by some inconsiderable eminences, of which Slieve More, 432 feet in height, rising over the western entrance to Broadhaven, is the chief. From its comparatively level surface and the facilities for procuring seaweed and sand for manure, this remote district possesses great capabilities of improvement ; but the immense tract of bog and mountain interposed between it and the market-towns of the interior has hitherto been a great obstacle to traffic. Nevertheless the town of Belmullet, which has sprung up since 1825, now consists of two streets of slated houses and a neat square, and has a yearly increasing export of grain. During the period of railway speculation in Ireland, a few years ago, Belmullet was much spoken of as the terminus of a great western railway, by which it was proposed to open the vast desolate tract lying between it and the valley of the Moy, but the design has not been encouraged. Nothing can exceed the bleakness and sterility of the entire tract lying between the shores of Blacksod and Broadhaven bays and the valley of the Moy. On the western side of the Trawley and Nephin Beg chain are numerous lakes, of which the greatest is Loch Carrowmore, five miles in length, which discharges its waters by the Owenmore river, famous for its salmon, into Tullaghan Bay, an arm of Blacksod Harbour. Between Tullaghan Bay and the Nephin Beg mountains lies the district of Ballycroy, where some herds of the red deer still survive. This part of Mayo has recently become pretty well known, as the scene of an interesting work entitled " Wild Sports of the West."

The remainder of the country, consisting almost wholly of open undulating plains, is divided by a low range of eminences running south of Castlebar into two principal districts, the waters of one of which run northward by the Moy to the sea at Killalla, and those of the other southward to lochs Mask and Corrib, and so to the sea at Galway. The district immediately surrounding Westport, the waters of which run westward to Clew Bay, is comparatively of inconsiderable extent. The valley of the Moy from the sea to Foxford, which is situated fifteen miles above the mouth of the river, is open, and contains much improved and improvable land, especially in the neighbourhood of Killalla [KILLALLA] and Ballina. Ballina, the third town in the county, about six miles above the estuary of the Moy, is situated partly in the county of Mayo and partly in the county of Sligo, the portion on the right bank of the river, which is within the latter county, being called Ardnaree. Ballina is of recent origin, there having been no town here prior to 1729, when Lord Tyrawley gave the first impulse to industry in this district by the establishment of a cotton factory. The prosperity of the town has however been mainly owing to the enterprise of various traders who have been induced to settle here since the beginning of the present century in consequence of the local facilities for carrying on the grain and provision trades. In the vicinity of the town are numerous seats of resident gentry. Between Ballina and the range of Nephin is Loch Conn, a fine sheet of water eight miles in length by from one to four in breadth, communicating on the south, by a very narrow strait in the neck of land called the Pontoon, with Loch Cullin, a sheet of smaller dimensions, through which it discharges its waters into the river Moy close to Foxford.

The little town of Crossmolina, on the high road from Ballina to Belmullet, stands at the head of Loch Conn, and is surrounded by a tolerably fertile tract of country. The valley at Foxford is contracted by the approaching ranges of the Croagh Moyle and Slieve Gamph mountains, the latter constituting the western extremity of the Sligo group. Southward from this point the features of the valley are lost in the wide extended plain which opens inland. The hill of Slieve Carnon, rising to a height of 855 feet, is the only considerable eminence in this district. Running nearly north and south, it separates the vale of Castlebar on the west from the open tract spreading eastward into Roscommon, the former being watered by streams terminating in Loch Cullin, and the latter by the numerous and widely extended feeders of the Moy. The main stream of the Moy, rising in the county of Sligo, runs westward through an open upland valley bounded on the north by the line of the Ox mountains, and on the south by low undulating hills of from 600 to 700 feet in height, skirting the northern verge of the great plain. This vale is thinly inhabited, and much encumbered with mountain bogs ; towards its western extremity however, near the point where the Moy, after receiving its tributaries from the southern plain, turns northwards, there is a good deal of cultivation round the small town of Swineford. Southward from the low range mentioned as bounding the valley of the upper Moy the country is more thickly inhabited and more productive. Under these eminences on the eastern verge of the county is the small town of Ballaghadereen. The immediately surrounding district is bleak and swampy, but the bogs disappear on travelling westward and southward into the pastoral tract extending from the Roscommon border on the east to the vicinity of Castlebar on the west and from the Slieve Carnon on the north to the border of Galway on the south. This tract, embracing a very large extent of country, is named generally the Plains of Mayo, though the locality to which the name strictly applies is confined to the rich grazing lands immediately south of Slieve Carnon. The small town of Ballyhaunis is situated on the eastern verge of these plains, Claremorris near the centre, Hollymount on the south, and Ballyglass and Balla on the west. In the neighbourhood of the four last towns are numerous seats of resident nobility and gentry, among which Castlemacgarret, the residence of Lord Oranmore, near Claremorris, is the most conspicuous. The tracts of bog are also more numerous here than in the northern and central portion of the plain, occupying most of the valleys, and in several instances insulating the demesnes of the gentry. The country nevertheless, from the closeness of the demesnes and the quantity of

timber, particularly about Hollymount and Ballyglass, has a rich appearance, which is considerably heightened by the vicinity of lochs Mask and Carra on the west, and by the extended mountain background on the west and north. South from Loch Carra and Hollymount an open fertile district extends along the eastern shore of Loch Mask, stretching inland without any incumbrance of unprofitable land as far as the border of Galway. This tract contains numerous private seats, and the small towns of Ballinrobe, situated on the river Robe near the point where it enters Loch Mask ; Cong, situated on the narrow neck of land dividing Loch Mask from Loch Corrib ; and Shrule, a poor village on the Galway border near Headford. The structure of the isthmus on which Cong is situated is very remarkable, the entire waters of lochs Mask and Carra passing by a subterraneous channel, which can in some places be approached by natural caves in the limestone rock at a depth of forty feet from the surface, to the lower basin of Loch Corrib. The scenery in this neighbourhood is very striking from the extent of water on all sides, and the grand mountain boundaries rising immediately over the western shores of both lakes.

The district surrounding the head of Clew Bay contains the towns of Westport and Newport, the former situated on a small stream running into the south-eastern angle of the bay, and the latter on the river which discharges the waters of Loch Beltra into its north-eastern angle. Westport is a well built and handsome town ; two of the principal streets run parallel to the river, the borders of which are laid out as a public walk, with rows of trees. Westport House, the residence of the marquis of Sligo, by much the finest mansion in the county, stands in the immediate vicinity of the town, between it and the sea. From Westport to Newport the head of Clew Bay is studded over with green pasturable islands, varying in size from a few acres to half a mile in length, and in number amounting to 170. The shore along the head of the bay is also good arable and pasture land, and is worn into numerous peninsulas and low promontories, many of them wooded, which greatly increases the picturesque effect. On one of these promontories is the residence of Sir Samuel O'Malley, Bart., a considerable proprietor; and at Newport also, close to the shore, is the seat of Sir Richard O'Donel, another owner of large tracts in the neighbourhood. The whole scenery of this district is remarkably striking ; the beauty of the head of Clew Bay, with its labyrinth of islands, in particular, would appear to have been generally known from an early period, as they are distinguished as ' the Fortunate Islands,' in an Italian map of the sixteenth century.

The only harbour generally frequented on the northern coast is that of Killalla, formed by the embouchure of the river Moy. The bay is a square of about five miles each way, with a range of sandhills extending across the bottom. In this range there are two openings, one forming the bar of the Moy, and the other that of Killalla harbour. Formerly vessels for Ballina entered by the Killalla bar, and sailed by the lagoon at the back of the sandhills to the pool of Moyne, where they discharged by lighters ; but since the execution of some improvements in the Moy a few years since, the navigation has been direct ; and vessels of 200 tons now sail up to within a mile of Ballina. From Killalla bay westward the coast for a distance of twenty miles rises in lofty cliffs, affording very little shelter for craft of any kind. There are coves at Balderig, Port Terlin, and Port-a-cloy, where yawls can be kept, but these places, being open to the north and in immediate connection with the main sea, are always exposed to a heavy ground-swell. The last, which is a narrow inlet bounded by steep cliffs of several hundred feet in height on both sides, has a depth of twenty-four fathoms at its mouth, and four fathoms close in-shore. This iron-bound coast continues to Benwee Head, between which and the north-eastern extremity of the Mullet is the entrance to Broadhaven. This bay consists of an outer and an inner harbour, the entrance to the latter being somewhat less than half a mile in width, in four fathoms water. The land-locked basin within runs up seven miles to Belmullet, and affords good anchorage throughout. The only use to which this fine harbour has been turned is the protection of a few row-boats employed in the fishery. The western

shore of the Mullet has no shelter for vessels of burthen further than that afforded in western gales by an open anchorage under the lee of the Inniskea islands in the offing. The shores of the great bay of Blacksod Harbour affords numerous excellent roadsteads and several sheltered spots well adapted for landing cargoes. Of these the principal are Tarmon harbour, Elly harbour, and Sallee harbour, on the shore of the peninsula ; Belmullet and Cleggan, at the head of the bay ; and Tallaghan bay and the sound of Achil, on the shore of the mainland. The side of Achil facing the offing of Clew Bay is mostly a cliff with no shelter for any larger craft than boats, which may be drawn up on the beach in one or two coves. The southern shore of Corraun Achil is also for the most part ironbound. Neither is there any good shelter on the opposite coast of Murrisk bounding the lower part of Clew day on the south ; but the upper end abounds with a multitude of safe and excellent anchorages, among the numerous islands between the creeks of Newport and Westport The mouth of the bay also being covered for one-third of its breadth by Clare Island, the whole basin enjoys a considerable shelter from the prevalent run of the sea. The remainder of the coast of Murrisk between Clew Bay and the Killery possesses no harbours, but there is anchorage in westerly winds in four fathoms water under the lee of Innisturk Island in the offing. Innisbofin, another island constituting part of this county, although lying more off the coast of Galway, possesses a tolerable harbour, which was esteemed of such importance in the time of the Commonwealth as to be made the site of a small blockhouse, the ruins of which still remain. The Killery harbour has been described under the head Galway. Small piers have been constructed from time to time, at costs vsrying from 100*l.* to 2000*l.*, at Killalla, Belmullet, Sallee, Tarmon, Bullsmouth, Achil Sound, Clare Island, Oldhead, Innisturk, and Bundurra.

The only navigable river in the county is the Moy. An extended system of inland navigation has been proposed [CONNAUGHT], but, as yet, there are no canals within the county.

In no part of Ireland has the want of good roads been more felt, or have their advantages been more fully exhibited than in Mayo. In 1802 there was no road whatever passable for wheel-carriages in winter through western Tyrawley and the entire of Erris, a tract equal in area to many of the inland counties, and the district about Ballina was very ill supplied with means of communication. Roads have now been constructed, partly by government and partly by grand jury assessments, through both these districts, the chief lines being from Castlebar to Belmullet through the centre of Tyrawley, and from Killalla and Ballina eastward by Swineford towards the terminus of the Royal Canal. Other good roads, from Castlebar to Ballina by the Puntoon, and from Ballina by Crossmolina to Belmullet, have also been recently constructed. The district of Murrisk has also been opened by a new and excellent road from Westport to the head of the Killery harbour, where it joins the line of government road through Connemara. The western parts of Murrisk are still unprovided with sufficient means of communication, and part of the district lying along the base of the Slieve Partry mountains next to Loch Mask is altogether impassable for carriages. The champaign part of the county is in general well opened, the principal line of road being that which leads from Westport and Castlebar through Hollymount towards Tuam.

From the vicinity of the Atlantic and the quantity of wet surface exposed, the climate of the western districts is damp and ungenial. The level part of the country, having the protection of so great a barrier of mountain in the direction of the prevalent winds, and lying open towards the east and south, enjoys a climate as mild as most of the midland counties. From the remains of submarine forests on the coast and the quantities of bog-timber found on the sides of the most exposed mountains in Murrisk and Erris, it would appear that trees formerly flourished throughout the western district, where it is found very difficult at present to rear plantations even in the most sheltered spots.

Geology.—The geological structure of Mayo resembles, in its general features, that of Galway, exhibiting an arrangement of primary and secondary rocks skirting a limestone basin. As usual, the champaign district and the field of limestone are co-extensive, the primary and secondary formations being confined to Erris and western Tyrrawley on the north, and to Murrisk on the south. It has been remarked that in many of the western bays of Ireland the rock which forms the bed or bottom of the bay consists of the flætz limestone, while the projecting promontories situated to the north and south of each are composed of primary or transition rocks. This observation is strikingly illustrated in Clew Bay, where the sea reaches to the verge of the limestone plain between lofty promontories of primary rock on each side, the structure of the bottom of the bay being manifested by a multitude of limestone islands rising round its upper extremity. The eskers which occur throughout the limestone plain near Westport exhibit traces of a current setting towards Clew Bay. Near Loch Conn and Killalla they indicate a current running north-ward in the line of the Moy. The verges of the plain are, as is usual in similarly situated districts, traversed by numerous subterraneous channels, remarkable instances of which occur at Cong, and in the courses of the rivers Ayle and Owendaff, the latter of which has a subterranean course of two miles near Shrule, where it forms the county boundary. The Mullinmore also, a stream descending from Nephin, runs underground for about three miles.

The southern half of Murrisk, embracing the Furmnamore, Partry, and Muilrea groups, belongs to the grauwacke series ; towards the plain in the valley of the Ayle, a tract of yellow sandstone lies between the clay-slate of this formation and the flætz limestone. Patches of limestone also occur in some places in this valley. The northern division of Murrisk consists mainly of mica-slate with protrusions of granite and quartz, bordered along the north-western coast towards Clew Bay by a tract of old red sandstone, which rises again on the southern and eastern side of the opposite island of Clare, overlying the granite of which the nucleus of that island consists. Of the quartz protrusions in the mica-slate field of northern Murrisk, the chief is the peak of Croagh Patrick. The exterior ranges of the northern mountain district consist chiefly of old red sandstone interposed between the mica-slate of the primary field of Tyrrawley and Erris and the flætz limestone of the champaign. This tract evidently belongs to the same formation which shows itself in the north-west of Murrisk and in Clare Island. It constitutes the southern portion of Corraun Achil, a portion of the range of Nephin Bay, and the entire group of Croagh Moyle, from which, sweeping north-ward between the base of Great Nephin and Loch Conn, it forms the boundary between the mica-slate field and the limestone of the valley of the Moy throughout the whole extent of Tyrrawley. The mica-slate field, as it stretches northward, recedes, and near the coast constitutes but a small portion of the district about Broadhaven. The limestone tract has a corresponding extension in that direction, occupying the greater part of north-eastern Tyrrawley, but nowhere reaching to the sea, from which it is separated by an extensive field of yellow sandstone and conglomerate reaching from the north-east of Erris to Killalla. Throughout the great mica-slate field, comprising all Erris, the Mullet, the island of Achil, and southern Tyrrawley as far eastward as great Nephin, granite and quartz protrusions are of frequent occurrence, generally constituting the loftiest and most striking elevations of the different mountain-chains. Granite again rises on the opposite side of the valley of the Moy in the Slieve Gamph mountains over Fox ford, supporting flanks of mica-slate as in the opposite range of Nephin. Throughout the primary district iron-ore is abundant, and bloomertes have been worked near Tallaghan bay and in the valley of the Deel, but are now given up from want of fuel. Indications of coal are said to have been observed in Slieve Carnon, and deposits of manganese occur near Westport, but at present there are no mining operations carried on in this county beyond the quarrying of slates Marble susceptible of a good polish has been raised in several parts of the barony of Murrisk.

Soils &c.—The soils of the champaign tract are in general similar to those of other limestone districts : the best lie about Balla, Claremorris, and Hollymount on the south, and round Ballina on the north. Towards the Sligo and Roscommon borders the soil is light and moory ; it is light also throughout the greater part of the tract bordering on Galway, but of a deep and rich quality near Cong and along the eastern shore of Loch Mask.

The tillage lands in the immediate neighbourhood of Westport have been for the most part reclaimed from a comparatively moory state ; but more northward towards Newport the soil is naturally sweet, and produces large crops of the best oats. Throughout both mountain districts, north and south of Clew Bay, cultivation only occurs in detached patches. In Murrisk however and Tyrawley are good tracts of upland pasture which answer well for the breeding of young cattle, though not equal to the fattening of stock. The common fence throughout the north and west of the county is the dry stone-wall, or in the moory parts sod-ditches. In the central district and towards the borders of Galway sod-ditches and quickset-hedges are general, but wherever stones can be easily had, dry walls are preferred by the country farmers. The oats grown in Mayo are of a superior quality, but the wheat is in general inferior to that of Galway.

The coast fishery, which might be rendered very productive, gave occasional occupation, in 1836, to 3768 fishermen. The craft employed consisted of 4 half-decked vessels, 12 open sail-boats, and 677 row-boats. The principal fishing-bank on the north lies between Downpatrick Head and Broadhaven, at about 3 miles from the shore, in 30 to 45 fathoms water, where turbot, sole, cod, ling, haddock, and hake are taken. Between the Stags of Broahaven (insular rocks in the offing of that bay) and the island of South Inniskea is another bank, in 18 to 30 fathoms water, on which the same fish abound. From 40 to 50 miles due west of Achil Head some fish are taken [GALWAY] ; but this fishery, requiring vessels of a better sort than are here in use, has been almost wholly abandoned. Blacksod Bay and Clew Bay also contain extensive fishing-banks for turbot, sole, plaice, &c., and vast quantities of oysters and lobsters may be taken on the shores of both. The herring-fishery is chiefly prosecuted, in the season, near the mouth of the great Killery harbour.

The principal river fisheries in the county are those of the Moy, Ballycroy, and Newport rivers. The salmon-fishery on the first lets for 1500*l.* per annum ; the others are preserved by the proprietors. In the Newport river salmon are in perfect order all the year round.

The condition of the labouring classes is somewhat better in the remote and thinly-inhabited tracts than in the plain. From 6*d.* to 8*d.* a day for 100 working days in the year is the average rate of wages in most parts of the county ; but in some districts the working days do not average more than 30 in the year. There is much wretchedness among the peasantry of the north-eastern parts of the county ; and although the people of the mountainous western districts, in years of ordinary productiveness, are rather better provided with the necessaries of life than the residents on the plain, they have occasionally, especially in Erris and Achil, been reduced to an extremity of distress scarcely ever experienced in any other part of Ireland, by failures in their crops.

There is a large number of resident gentry : of the nobility, the marquis of Sligo and Lord Oranmore are the only residents.

The manufacture of linens is carried on to a considerable extent by the country people : the cloth is generally sold green by the small manufacturers, and bleached in other counties. At Belclare near Westport are factories on a large scale for linen and cotton fabrics. There is also throughout the county the usual manufacture of friezes and coarse wollens. In 1831 there

were in Mayo 16 bleachers, 10 reed-makers, 30 weavers. 5 brewers, 11 corn-dealers, 18 tobacconists, 3 maltsters, 58 millers, and 154coopers.

Mayo is divided into the baronies of *Erris* (half barony) on the north-west, containing only hamlets and villages : *Tyrawley* on the north, containing the towns of Ballina, population (independent of the portion in Slizo) 5510 ; Killalla, pop. 1125 : and Crossmoolina, pop. 1431: *Gallen* on the north-east, containing the towns of Foxford, pop. 1068, and Swineford, pop. 813 : *Costello* on the east, containing the town of Ballaghadereen. pop. 1147 : *Clanmorris* on the south-east, containing the town of Claremorris, pop. 1476 : *Kilmaine* on the south, containing the town of Ballinrobe, pop. 2604, and the village of Shrule, pop. 507 : *Carra* in the centre, containing the town of Castlebar [CASTLEBAR], pop. 6373, and Tillage of Minola, pop. 450 : *Murrisk* on the south-west, containing the town of Westport, pop. 4448 : and *Burrishoole* on the west, containing the town of Newport, pop. 1235.

Castlebar is the only corporate town in the county: its charter bears date the 11th of James I. The corporation is now extinct.

Westport is a place of considerable commercial activity. The exports of corn, meal, provisions, and other agricultural produce, in 1836, amounted to 11,800 tons, of the value of 87,805*l.* : the imports in the same year, consisting principally of coals, iron, sugar, flax-seed, tallow, and salt, amounted to the value of 28,517*l.*

Ballina has also a large and increasing trade in agricultural produce. The exports in 1836 amounted to nearly 9000 tons of corn and meal and 500 tons of provisions, of a value, including a small export of kelp, hides, and feathers, of 70,568*l.* The imports in the same year were to the value of 13,532*l.*

The exports from Newport in the same year amounted to the value of 2269*l.*, and consisted wholly of corn. These do not appear to have been any imports. In the same year the exports from Belmullet amounted to the value of 2940*l.*

Prior to the Union Mayo was represented by four members, two for the county and two for the borough of Castlebar. The representation is now limited to the two county members. In 1837 the constituency consisted of 1,350 voters. The assizes are held at Castlebar ; and quarter-sessions at Castlebar, Westport, Ballina. Claremorris, and Ballinrobe. On January 1, 1836, the police force of the county consisted of 7 chief constables of the first class, 2 second-class ditto, 46 constables, 203 subconstables, and 15 horse, the cost of maintaining which establishment amounted, for the year 1835, to 10,142*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*, of which 4853*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* was chargeable against the county. The total number of prisoners charged with criminal offences who were committed to the county gaol in the year 1836 was 1115, of whom 1002 were males and 113 were females. Of these 230 males and 11 females could read and write at the time of their committal, 306 males and 42 females could read only, 437 males and 85 females could neither read nor write, and of the remainder the instruction could not be ascertained. The district lunatic asylum is at Ballinasloe, in the county of Galway. The county infirmary is at Castlebar, and there are dispensaries in all the towns and large villages. In 1836 there were four newspapers published in this county, to which 50,925 stamps were issued during that year. There are seven barracks in the county, affording accommodation for 1200 men, but they are only partially occupied at present.

History &c.—This county formed part of the grant made by King Henry II to William Fitz-Adelm de Burgho about the year 1180. It would appear that the new possessor had very soon made a permanent settlement, as in the 24th year of the reign of King Henry III., the

then king of Connaught made a journey to England to complain of the invasion of his territory by the family of the Burkes. The lord-justice of Ireland was on that occasion commanded to ‘ root out that unjust plantation, which Hubert, earl of Kent, had, in the time of his greatness, planted in those parts ;’ but the command was never acted on, Richard de Burgho having obtained a new grant of all Connaught after the death of O’Connor, the then king. There is very little known of the subsequent proceedings of the settlers until the period of the great rebellion succeeding the assassination of William de Burgho, earl of Ulster, in A.D. 1333. [BELFAST.] About this time Mayo was a county, as appears by a roll of the 49th Edward III., preserved in the chancery of Ireland. It fell away however from all subjection to the English law immediately after the murder of the earl ; for some of the younger branches of the Burke family, seeing that the entire province of Connaught would be inherited by his infant daughter (who afterwards married Lionel, duke of Clarence, and he gave the crown its title to the inheritance in the person of Henry VII.), seized upon the counties of Galway and Mayo, and, to avoid the consequences of their usurpation, not only cast off all allegiance to the English law. but renounced their English names and habits, identifying themselves and their followers in all respects with the native Irish. The name chosen by Edmund de Burgho, who seized on Mayo, was MacWilliam *Oughter* MacWilliam ‘ the farther,’ to distinguish his family from that of MacWilliam *Eighter*, or ‘ the hither.’ who had in like manner usurped Galway.

All the followers of the family in the county followed his example. The D’Exesters, or D’Exons, took the name of Mac Jordan : the Nangles, or family of De Angulo, took that of MacCostello ; and of the inferior families of the De Burghos, some took the names of Mac-Hubbard, MacDavid. MacPhilben. &c. From this time till the reign of Queen Elizabeth the MacWilliam of the day continued to exercise the authority of an independent potentate. Many families from Galway and Ulster put themselves under the protection of the successive chiefs, and it is probably to this period that the first introduction of many of the most prevalent names at present in the county—Blake, Brown, Kirwan. Macdonnell, &c.— is to be referred. The first step towards a return to English law and manners was made in 1575 when the then MacWilliam, accompanied by the O’Malley and a number of the clan Donnell, came to Galway and made his submission, consenting to pay 260 marks per annum for his country, and to allow his followers to hold by English tenure. This chieftain is described by Sir Henry Sidney, who received his submission, as unable to speak English, though conversing fluently in Latin. The county was shortly after again declared shire ground. The Burkes however soon began to repine under the new government, and, after many complaints, broke into rebellion, in which they were joined by the clan Donnells, Joyces, and other families in the south of the county. To appease these tumuls Sir Richard Bingham marched to Ballinrobe on the 12th July, 1586, and having razed several castles of the Burkes and Macdonnells, and given the rebels, who had been joined by a body of 2000 Scottish islesmen, a signal defeat at Ardnaree, on the Moy, succeeded in restoring the county to tranquillity. The old families of Mayo, in general, took part in the rebellion of 1641 and the succeeding wars, and very extensive forfeitures were the consequence. The forfeitures consequent on the war of the Revolution extended to 19,294 acres, of an estimated total value, at that time, of 37,598*l.* 3*s.* The families of Burke, Browne, and Dillon were those chiefly affected. During these troubles however Mayo was not the scene of any military operations of importance ; the only memorable event of that kind, since the battle of Ardnaree, being the invasion, by the French, under General Humbert, in 1798. The invading force consisted of 1100 rank and file only ; but such was the alarm caused by their unexpected descent, that they easily carried the towns of Killalla and Ballina ; and, being joined by a large body of the peasantry, defeated General Lake, at the head of 6000 men, before the town of Castlebar. [CASTLEBAR.] The surrender of the invading force at Ballinamuck however soon restored tranquillity. [LEITRIM.]

The antiquities of the county are chiefly ecclesiastical. There are round towers at Killalla, Turlogh, Meelick, and Balla. At Cong are the remains of a splendid abbey, originally founded in the seventh century, and re-edified by O'Connor in the twelfth. An archiepiscopal crozier of surprisingly beautiful workmanship, made by command of Turlogh O'Connor, the father of Roderick, the last native king of Ireland, and preserved at Cong until very recently, is now in the possession of the Royal Irish Academy. At Ballyhaunis are the ruins of a largely endowed abbey founded by the family of Nangle. Very fine remains of a Franciscan friary at Moyne, founded by William de Burgho, are still standing. Rosserk abbey, in the same neighbourhood, built by the Joyces in the fifteenth century, is another very striking ruin. Rathbran, also near the Moy, but of which all traces have now disappeared, was a foundation of the Jordans, the remains of whose castles are very numerous throughout the barony of Gallon. The remains of Ballintubber abbey, seven miles from Ballinrobe, are among the most elegant specimens of early architecture in Ireland. It was founded by Cathal O'Connor about the latter end of the twelfth century. Numerous other remains of religious houses founded by the families of De Burgh, O'Malley, and Nangle, throughout the county, are enumerated.

The military antiquities are not in general of much extent or interest. Carrig-a-Nile, near Newport, is said to have been a stronghold of Grace O'Malley, a daughter of that Mac-William who submitted in 1573, still commonly known in Ireland by the name of Giana Naile, and celebrated for her exploits against the English, especially by sea. Doona Castle, on the shore of Tullaghan bay, was another seat of the O'Malleys, and is still a place of considerable extent : so also is Inver Castle, on the shore of Broadhaven, which probably belonged to the same family. On a detached rock, near Downpatrick Head, are the remarkable ruins of Doonbriste, or ' Broken Castle,' so called from certain remains of an antient building on the cliff, corresponding exactly with other ruins situated on the summit of a detached rock, standing in the sea about 300 yards off, which is hence inferred to have parted from the mainland in some convulsion of nature. None of the other feudal remains are worth notice.

The county expenses are defrayed by grand jury presentments. The amount levied in 1835 was 27,051*l.* 14*s* 7¼*d.*, of which 6003*l.* 14*s.* 1½*d.* was for repayment of government loans, 5565*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* for police, 9457*l.* 9*s.* 6½*d.* for public institutions, and salaries, &c., and 6025*l.* 3*s.* 2¼*d.* for the construction and repair of roads and bridges.

(Statistical Survey of Mayo, Dublin, 1802 ; Frazer's Guide through Ireland, Dublin, 1838 ; Second Report of Railway Commissioners for Ireland ; Cox's History of Ireland ; Parliamentary Reports and Papers.)

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