

Pococke's
Tour in Ireland

in

1752

Edited
with an Introduction and Notes,

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(1891)

INTRODUCTION

The reader will find in this volume an exact transcript of Dr. Pococke's Tour through Ireland in the year 1752, as it is contained in the original manuscript now deposited in the Manuscript Room of Trinity College, Dublin. That document was often asked for, but was always reported as lost till a few years ago, when the Assistant Librarian, the late Mr. French, discovered it lying concealed among the treasures of that great collection. [1] The occasion of the present publication was as follows. In December last I contributed an article to the Christmas supplement of the *Daily Express*, describing some tours through Ireland, taken and recorded in the earlier part of the eighteenth century. Among others described by me was Pococke's Tour, into which I had dipped from time to time. That article attracted the notice of a well-known and respected citizen of Dublin, who recognised the value of the long-lost document, and generously offered to bear the expense of its publication. It is much to be hoped that his example may stir up others to publish the numerous and valuable Irish records which are at present lying hidden and useless in our manuscript collections, such as the *Liber Niger Alani*, the *Crede Mihi*, and the great Registers of Christ Church Cathedral, which would throw more light upon the history of mediæval and feudal Ireland than any other documents with which I am acquainted.

The Tour here printed is, as I have said, an exact transcript of the original. I have printed all the mistakes in grammar, in geography, in the spelling of names, whether of towns or persons, making no attempt to correct them. This narrative illustrates one point most clearly. Pococke was a learned man, an F.R.S., and a Church dignitary ; but spelling was not a fixed quantity in his mind. His spelling of the same name often varies three or four times on the one page. It has more interest, however, than a merely orthographical one. This Tour is a most interesting contribution to Irish social history during a period which is remarkably dark, and deals with a district of country — the sea-coast line all round Ireland — of which very little is known at that precise period. Pococke started from Dublin, went north to the Giant's Causeway, penetrated the extremest wilds of Donegal, entered the farthest recesses of Erris, Achill, and Belmullet, at a time when Belmullet was two days' journey west of Westport, and when no wheeled vehicle had ever entered that district, or was to enter it till seventy years later. That circumstance did not trouble Pococke, for he always travelled on horseback, with outriders, as Richard Cumberland, in his chatty *Memoirs*, tells us he met him in Wales. Pococke's observations and notices about this part of Connaught are specially important, be-

cause he came just half-way between Cromwell's period and our own. His notices illustrate the effect of the legislation of Cromwell. The Roman Catholics of Iceland had been, as all know, transported into Connaught ; but it is not as well known that while Cromwell wished to cut them off from the rest of Ireland by the Shannon, he also tried to cut them off from the sea, by forbidding any Roman Catholic to settle within a certain distance of the coast — I forget the exact distance — and then settling Protestant colonists all along the coastline. Cromwell tried, in fact, to place the Roman Catholics within a ring-fence. The result is that even to the present day the sea-board parishes contain a more numerous Protestant population than those more inland. It will be easily seen by anyone acquainted with the west, that Poccoke followed the coast-line very exactly, and seems to have found good congregations all along the coasts of Sligo, Mayo, and Galway.

This Tour, again, illustrates the social state of Ireland in another aspect. It shows the stable, fixed character of its population belonging to the upper ranks, notwithstanding all the changes we have experienced, Poccoke's position gave him access to the higher ranks of the gentry ; and I would venture to say, that representatives of much more than one-half of the families mentioned by the Archdeacon would be now found occupying much the same position as then. Peppers, Hamiltons, Stewarts, Wynnes, Shaw Taylors, Browns, Boyds, O'Donnells, Burys, Pallisers, Nunns — to take but a few specimens — these are all mentioned by Poccoke, and are still all well-known family names in various parts of Ireland. Manners and customs — the state of civilisation — the operation of the penal laws and of the Charter School system — the names and emoluments of the clergy — the condition of trade, commerce, and manufactures — the rent of lands and houses — the state of architecture in country parts — all these points and many others find illustration in the pages of this Tour. The theological position and ritual of the Irish Church and its dignified clergy in Queen Anne's time are, for instance, illustrated by a passing notice on p. 182. Bishop Milles was a learned churchman of the Laudian and Caroline school. He came from Oxford to Waterford, introducing altar-pieces, separation of the sexes in church, and other customs of this kind, now regarded as modern ritualistic innovations. [2] Poccoke seems to have made a point of observing the natural history, the botany, zoology, and geology of every part of Ireland. This fact renders the Tour of interest to the student of natural science ; while the careful notices and descriptions which he bestows upon our ancient buildings, ecclesiastical or secular, deserve the thanks of every antiquarian student, as more than a hundred years ago they engaged the careful attention of that celebrated Irish antiquary, the Rev. Mervyn Archdall, who made a copious use of the manuscript which we here print, in the notes to his *Monasticon Hibernicum*. I have already said that the manuscript of this Tour was long regarded as lost, and only came to light by chance. This tour of 1752 was not the only tour through the West and South made by Poccoke. Travelling was for him the great end of life ; and he seems to have made a tour through Connaught, Clare, Kerry, and Cork in 1749, the manuscript of which is now unknown. He several times refers in the text of the present Tour to the observations he made on that occasion ; and from a notice in a note in the Kilkenny Archæological Society's Journal for 1862, I conclude that fifty years ago some persons knew of the existence of the manuscript of the earlier tour, and had used it. It is possible, indeed, that the document in question may be in Oxford, Poccoke by his will left all his manuscripts not expressly disposed of to the "Ratcliffe Library" including the original Minute Book of the Proceedings between 1683-89 of the celebrated Dublin Philosophical Society, established by Sir William Petty, Dr. Molyneux, and Archbishop Marsh, which used to meet in Trinity College. The value of these tours is very great from an historical point of view. They preceded Arthur Young's tour by a quarter of a century, they penetrated a part of Ireland he never visited, and they leave us a truthful record of what Ireland was then like. How hard, for instance, it is for a modern Irishman to realize the state of this country when Poccoke saw, as he mentions in his Donegal tour, a priest celebrating Mass in the open air, upon a large rock on a lofty mountain's side.

Pococke was a perpetual traveller. He made extensive tours throughout England and Scotland. These have been already published : the English tour by the Camden Society, and the Scotch by the Scottish History Society. The present publication proves that he was not neglectful of the country where he lived, and where his memory is still perpetuated in the useful Pococke Institution which he founded in the city of Kilkenny. Many other details concerning him, his appearance, mode of life, travels, hospitality, and learning will be found in Vallancey's *Collectanea*, vol. ii., *Antiquities of Irishtown and Kilkenny* ; in Mrs. Delany's *Autobiography* ; E.Cumberland's *Memoirs* ; and in Prim's *History of St. Canice's*. Pococke when Archdeacon of Dublin entertained Mrs. Delany and a large company at an afternoon party at his residence. That lively lady did not, however, at all appreciate the learned traveller, but confesses on more than one occasion that she found him and his entertainments extremely dull.

I have tried to find out where Pococke lived when Arch-deacon of Dublin and Ector of St. Peter's, but have failed. Perhaps some reader may be able to throw light on this local problem. About two years ago, the remains of an Egyptian mummy were found in Marsh's Library. It is possible that it may have been deposited there by Pococke upon his return from Egypt. The priced auction catalogue of his coins and medals, dated 1766, is in Trinity College Library. There were several portraits taken of Bishop Pococke. One hangs at present in the Board Room of the Incorporated Society in Harcourt Street ; while again, Nichols, in his *Literary Anecdotes, l.c.*, tells us that there was a full-length portrait of him, in full Turkish dress, pos-sessed by Pococke's first cousin, Dr. Milles, Dean of Exeter.

[1] Eighty years ago it is described as lost, by Nichols in his *Literary Anecdotes*.

[2] The Rev. Dr. Groves informs me that he has a manuscript diary of an ancestor of his, who was Presbyterian minister of Waterford in Bishop Milles' time, and that this diary contains ample evidence of the High Church ideas and practices inculcated by the Bishop.

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All Saints' Vicarage, Blackrock,
2nd April, 1891.

Dr. Pococke's Irish Tour, 1752

On the 10th At noon we set out, all the officers, Mr Herne and the Collector on an expedition in the Revenue Sloop to the Islands, and had a most delightfull voyage through them to the south west. The sea gains on them and some are almost divided into two ; there are fine stones on the shoar round them, some of the petrified coral rubbed into pebbles and some of the Mycetites ; They are Islands covered with pasturage and some with corn ; forty of them belong to Mr. Medlicot, some to the Archbishop of Tuam, some to Mr. Brown of Westport and other proprietors on the bay ; they say there are 800 of them, and it is look'd on as the Archipelago in miniature and is a most singular beautiful bay : — At the mouth of it is Clare Island, belonging to the old proprietors the Omellies, I was told it was worth £200 a year ; To the south west of it is Buffin, belonging as I was informed to Lord Clanrickard and worth £150 a year ; They have in these two Islands a pretty breed of small horses : they do not submit to pay any tax but the hearth money, and have good water in them, and so have many of the small Islands. About ten leagues off is a bank, where there are plenty of Cod, and it is supposed that it is part of that bank which extends to Newfoundland, being supposed to be hills in the sea where the fish lye : on this they have between 40 and 50 fathom water : the fish have very much failed on all the coast since they have burnt the sea weed for kelp, which they not only take away as the sea leaves it, but they cut it off in the sea that it may be thrown

up, the fish spawning on this weed. We returned to Newport and they spent the evening with me. In the river of Newport they have the large fresh water pearl muscle.

On the 11th I set out to the south and all the officers went Newport, with me and dined with Mr. Brown of Westport, who had sent compliments to me that he should be glad to see me. The road is very pleasant near those little bays which are westward from the harbour and in sight of delightful Islands. I went to the top of some hills to have a view of them ; About two miles and a half distance we came to a rivlet called Moinah, which goes under a hill about a quarter of a mile into the sea, and the tyde comes in by the same passage. A little farther we came to a well wall'd round which they call Omeles Well : concerning which there is a tradition in the country, that a female child of this family, being dipt in it became a male, which was probably some trick in order to secure the estate of the family in that child. We descended to Westport a small village situated on a rivlet which falls into that bay, and makes the south-east corner of the great bay, in which there are some small Islands. The foot of Crow Patrick mountain comes into it which is called (the Eagle mountain) by reason that it appears like an Eagle stretching out its wings ; tho' from the north east from Castle bar it does not appear in that manner : It is not determined whether this mountain or Nefin is the higher. The coast extends about ten miles farther to the County of Galway, where the country on the western ocean is called Connemarra () probably the name of some ancient clan ;— This it is likely is about the extent of the Barony of Ballynehinch ; to the north east of this is the Joyces country on Lough Mash and Lough Chorrib, probably the Barony of Ross. To the south east is the country of Eyre Connaught, taking in I suppose the Barony of Moyeulau. I had designed to have rode along the sea coast, but the weather was so unpromising, that I laid aside that design. Mr. Brown's house is very pleasantly situated on the south side of the rivlet over which he has built two handsome bridges, and has form'd Cascades in the river which are seen from the front of the house ; which is built of Hewen stone, a course marble they have here : It is much like Bedford house in Bloomsbury Square, except that it has a pavilion in the middle over the Attick story in which there is a large convenient Bed chamber for the young people, of the size of the hall, the design is with nine windows on a floor and for five rooms ; one of which a back wing is not built : It is an exceeding good house and well finished, the design and execution of Mr. Castels : Mr. Brown designs to remove the village and make it a Park improvement all round ; there are fine low hills every way which are planted and improved, and the trees grow exceedingly well : the tyde comes just up to the house ; and the Cascades are fine Salmon leaps. In the house are handsom chimney pieces of the Castle bar marble, which are a good black without any white in them like the Touchstone, which the Italians call Paragonè and value very much.

On the 12th I rid out with Mr. Brown to a hill to see the prospect and to the Park, where he has several red as well as fallow Deer, and in the afternoon I walked out to the quarry and to the side of the bay. I had forgot to mention a small Island called Ennis Turk to the south west of Clare Island, there is a good slate quarry in it. They have hers a marle with which they manure sandy lands, but I could not be informed that it had any sheils in it. Mr. Brown makes use of oxen to draw dung, stones, &c. : on sledges which they easily load.

On the 13th Mr. George Brown a younger son, who is at the College, and Mr. Blake a young gentleman of Estate, going my way accompanied me, and showed me three miles off, a little beyond a village call'd Baleyburk, a caye to the right, into which the river Anne falls, and goes for some way under ground, and coming out again falls, as they told me into Lough Carray, and is a river which in the maps is represented as lost in a very small Lough to the west of Lough Carrah. It is a very fine face of a rock, consisting of about fifteen strata which lay very regular, I believe most of them are of plain black marble, as I was informed it is of that colour, but some of them when broke are of a brown colour. The river runs principally into one hole, which is as a beautiful arch, the strata rising one over another and each beyond the other, until it extends to the face of the rock, the passage may be forty feet wide and long,

about 20 high, this leads to the grotto in which the river runs about sixty feet wide from the passage, seventy long, and 50 high, through this the river runs, but being then a flood, it was all over flow'd ; To the west of this are two or three other passages into which the river runs when it overflows. Returning to the road we saw Kil Turk a little beyond it to the left, a fine old ruined Mansion house of Mr. Browns in which his father lived, and to the north of that we saw Holyhill, Mr. Chambers's. About three miles farther we came to Balin Tubber Convent ; Near Kilturk we passed through Balikeen, where the famous Fair had been held just 3 measured miles from Castlebar ; This is an handsome Convent, called also De Fonte, from the Irish name which signifies the Town of the Well or Spring : there are handsome pillars and arches in it, and at the east end are two windows of the Saxon Architecture. The Lords of Mayo have their burial place here in a chapel in which there is a handsome altar piece and an altar of hewn stone, round the latter are the figures of our Saviour and the eleven Apostles in relief. Here I took leave of those gentlemen who went on in this road, which leads first to Castle Burk, the seat of Lord Mayo, where I heard there were some petrified stumps of trees and some underground passages to the Castle ; beyond it is Rusk Garrah, Sr. Henry Lynches on Lough Carrah, it then goes to Holy Mount, the Estate and seat of Vesey Arch-bishop of Tuam, which was esteemed a fine place in those times, and so it goes to Tuam ; But I crossed to the Ballinrobe road I had left a little before ; we soon came near Lough Corra at Ballikeneh and I went to a rivlet and took some refreshment. I saw to the north about two miles Newbrook Mr. Bingham's, and going on came to the bridge of Fere, under which Lough Carrah passes into Lough Maske, tho' it is spoken of as a great work, yet it is only a long Causeway, with one arch in the middle which is not large. We passed over a greater work, a road made across a morass, having had a view of Lough Mask to the south for some time, I came to Balinrobe, a very small town pleasantly situated on the river Robe, which about a mile below it falls into the Lough Mask. The large map of Ireland makes a small Lough here which is wrong. They have a handsome sessions house built of hewn stone, the assizes being held at this place and at Castlebar alternately : They have here fine quarries of a dark grey marble which rises so well that they make ashler very little inferior to hewn stone. This town belongs to Mr. Cuff who lives close to it, and is endeavouring to improve the town. There is a Charter School here for thirty children which I went to see ; where Mr. Miller, Minister of the place and Mr. Lanergan & clergyman of a neighbouring parish came to me and they spent the evening with me. There are remains of a church of a Monastery of Augustinian hermits near the town.

On the 14th I breakfasted with Mr. Miller, having received an invitation from Mrs. Cuff in her husband's absence to breakfast with her, but her hour being too late, I was obliged to send an excuse. Mr. Miller set out with me towards Lough Mask ; About a mile from the town I saw a large kern of loose stones, it may be twenty feet high and forty feet diameter, another about a mile to the south with a fosse round it, and a smaller between them, the tradition is, that two armies engaging there, Kerns were erected over the slain of the principal of them : We came to a fine old Castle called Castle Mask, from the top of which I had a beautiful prospect of Lough Mask, with many Islands in it cover'd with wood and one in particular with a pleasure house belonging to Mr. Cuffe : We had also a view of the mountains of Joyces country. This Castle belonged to one of the Burks of Ld. Clanrickard's family. On the top of Benleveh in Joyces Country I was informed that there was a large Lough near this country of the Joyces in Lough Cherrib is an Island called Castle Kirk which is the name of Mr. Middletons house in Denbighshire in Wales. I was told that at Long Abbey there is a stone head said to be design'd for Roderick O'Connor King of Connaught. Beyond Lough Mask to the north west towards the sea is a mountain called Ferramore on which there is such a debt to the Crown that no one will occupy it ; on it they say are traces of a town, sd. to be begun to be built by some stranger who came to settle in these parts, and as it is supposed by those people who afterwards built Galway. In Lough Mask is an Island call'd Inch en Keill, consisting of about sixty acres, in which there are two churches. There is also another Island

called Innish Enearton (The Earls Island) to which they say Strongbow fled and was killed there, and if I mistake not they show some place for his tomb.

We got into the road from Balinrobe to Hetford, which passes thro' the Nail, from which we had gone from Cong to Tuam three years ago : We came to Garn church a mile from the Nail, where I saw a quarry of fine marble, which polishes a brownish black, they work it with the hammer for about sixpence a foot. We saw on Lough Chorrib a point of land called Baley Cumea, a very fine situation of Mr. Lynches, and to the east we saw Skrool famous in History for a very horrid Massacre :. In this road I observed what they call the Terloughs, that is meadows that are cover'd with water in the winter, which goes off as it comes in, by underground passages ; some of them are good meadows and some only marshes. We crossed Ross river into the County of Galway, and saw the large Abbey of Ross. About a mile lower on the same water : We came to Hetford a small town where there is a barrack and a Mansion House of late Lord St. Georges, now of General St. George, but leased by the late Lord to his daughters heir, married on Mr. Usher now Usher St George, who lives there ; I was met two miles^ from this town by the Revd. Mr. Fletcher brother to my Agent in Dublin, to whom I had sent that I would come and dine with him, he conducted me half a mile beyond Hetford to his house, where after dinner taking leave of Mr. Miller ; Mr. Fletcher went with me six miles in my road. I passed over Achlin bridge and saw an old castle Ballinacort lately fitted up ; it is in a fine situation and the seat of Mr. Kirwall. In three miles I came to Baliclarah ; and near it on a rivlet saw Clare Galway Abbey, where the high tower in the middle of the Church built on arches 13 a curious piece of architecture ; I saw the chapel of the church converted into a Mass house. Three miles more brought me to Galway; where I went to the house of my old friend Mr. Simcocks Warden of Galway.

Galway is pleasantly situated on a fine bay, which is a very good harbor, and on the river which comes out of Lough Chorrib, which spreading here to the east, they call it the Lough ; the river runs on a rocky bed, and dividing Galway into three parts it forms two Islands to the west of the Town, on one of which there is a Nunnery. This town was inhabited by the Hollerns Fishermen till one Lynch in 1280 got a grant of the lands of it, from Edward II. and as tradition saies built two Castles, both called Reinville, one against the Hollerns the other against the Flakerta of Cunnehmarrah. This was anciently in the Diocese of Anadown, which place I saw on the right on the Lough coming to Galway, it is now absorpt in Tuam. The people of the town got an exemption of this and several other pariahes from the Pope, on account as they pretended of the ill behaviour of the clergy the Bishop sent to them : Some say this was when Anadown was united to Tuam. This exemption they got confirmed to them by Charter from Edward the 6th, who gave them a power to elect, a guardian and three Vicars of the Church exempt from all jurisdiction whatsoever ; the Guardian and senior Vicar preach alternately in the morning, the other two in the afternoon, and the three Vicars take their turns weekly to read prayers and visit the sick. The Corporation also have a power of punishing or even removing them within the year. This town was formerly of great trade, to which they apply'd themselves when the other parts of Ireland were very unquiet : They had a great trade in Spanish wines, which were formerly drank ; but above all to America, till the act pass'd which obliged all ships from America to touch in England, from which time the trade of this town began to decay. When the town was in this flourishing condition, there were many large houses built in it of hewn stone, after the Spanish manner, most of which remain and one sees a great number of fine carved windows. Doorcases, chimney pieces, and bow windows in these houses. The trade is now mostly carried on to France and Spain by the Roman Catholicks, who have correspondents there, and are jealous of others coming into any share with them. When the town was in this flourishing condition, the merchants here purchased almost all the Lands in this country which doe not belong to the Church and the Earl of Clanrickard : The descendants of which merchants are now possessed to the value of £100,000 a year, and others have forfeited or sold to a much greater value. They were of the name of Blake, Darcy, French, Linche, Kirwan, Joyce, Martin, Brown, Bodkin, Terrets, Athy,

Funt, Penrice, the three last are extinct or near it. If they had submitted to Oliver Cromwell, it would probably have been much better for the town. The remains of the forts he built to attack the town and defend the passes between the Loughs and the sea, are still to be seen. Lord Mountjoy built the Citadell at the south east part of the town. They have a large church adjoining it, the Lynches have a chapel in which they bury : In the vestry on three large stones are cut as big as human life, Our Saviour, the Virgin Mary to the right, and to the right of that God the Father and over his head the Dove, they were dug up some where about the church : To the north of the town are the remains of a Franciscan Convent, and the face of an altar or tomb with some reliefs of Saints on it. Both the Franciscans and Dominican have Convents here, and there is a Nunnery which serves also for a Boarding School : Just without the gate is a mineral water of a strong taste, which they use for purging, and when drank plentifully, it is said, they answer the end of Scarborough waters. About two miles to the north east in the way I came is a rivlet, which comes out of the river that falls from Lough Cborrib, it is call'd Pool Hurley, it goes underground there and comes out into the bay of the sea which extends to the east. From a hill about a mile above the town by the canal, is a very fine prospect of the sea, of the country on the other side of the bay, of the isles of Arran, of Eyre Connaught, the Joyces country and Lough Chorrib. They have in Galway three barracks, which hold two Regiments and a half of the present compliment ; for it is a garrison town with a Governor who has a salary of £800 a year, but he does not commonly reside, and then the commanding commanding officer acts as Governor.*

On the 22d at Galway I walk'd out morning and evening, and Mr. Heathcote in a regiment here, who was one of Lord Chesterfields pages, came to see me, and spent the day with me : In the evening I look'd into the Assembly to see the Company, for the Clergy go here in their Coats. On Sunday the 23rd I went to wait on the judges and attended them and the Corporation to church and preached before them. Warden Simcocks not being well, I dined with the judges at the Mayors, the Gentlemen of the Grand Jury being there I came home and Dr. Lynch spent the evening with us. On the 24th I took a litle ride, but the weather did not favour. Mr. Darcy came to see me and brought an invitation from the Grand Jury to dine with them, but I was engaged to the Wardens ; That Gentleman spent the even with us. A very remarkable thing happened there in relation to one of the Lynches, so long agoe as that he was the fourth or fifth Mayor of the town : His son was coming in a ship from Spain, murder'd the Spanish Captain, brought the ship into Galway and sold the goods. When this fact came to his fathers knowledge, the son was tryed by the father and condemned, who sat on the bench, and intercession being made for him ; he bid the persons come to him in the afternoon, and when they retur'd they saw the son hanging out of the chamber window. This house remains as a specimen of an inferior sort of building, and over the door is a deaths head and bones of a skeleton. I examined some of the records of the Town; — found that in 1511 butter was a peny a pound and a hundred of Eeles here sold for two pence and a Cod for a half-peny in 1526 a carpenter and mans pay was two pence a day with diet. When six and eight pence only was allowed for the Mayors dinner the twelve Aldermen and such others as he should ask, and there was such & plenty of fish in 1701 that a thousand Herrings were sold for eight pence. In 1646 they condemned a book as against the King, entitled *Disputatio Apologetica et Manifestivaa de Jure Regni Hiberniae pro Catholicis Hibernia adversus Haereticos*. There is an order that no corn be burned or scortched in the town. In 1632 the oath of Supremacy and Conformity in Religion being required the Mayor and officers resigned, and others were chosen who took the oath. In 1649 they had the plague. In 1654 the Irish were dismissed from all offices, and English protestants chosen in their room. In 1691 the Town surrender's to Genkle on the 26th of July. Having mentioned the Bishoprick of Anadown or Enaghduin, it is to be observed that the Bishoprick of Mayo was united to it in 1210. The Bishoprick of Enaghduin was long disputed by persons who pretended a right to it from about 1250 to 1318. In the Episcopal Register at Exeter I find Bps of Annadown suffragans to the Ep of Exeter in the following years viz.

Henry. in 1395 and 1898.

John 1438.

Thos 1458.

On the 25th I was at the doors of Mr. Brown and Mr. Darey, took leave of Captain Heathcote and after dinner set out, young Mr. Simcooks accompanying me three miles to Oranmore, where a rivlet falls into the bay ; two miles farther we came to Daren bridge, and half a mile farther to Shilcollogan bridge. I observed several large entrenchments on the mountains of Burren to the west, in the county of Clare, one of them they say was the Residence of O'Laughlin King of Buriem, and on the Bay about four , 'miles distant is the Abbey of Corcumro, which they say is a fine ruin, and that on the graves are laid tombs of wood, many of them being of yew, with some remains of inscriptions on them : It was anciently called St. Marie's Abbey : within a mile of Gort we passed through a village called Kiltorton. The sheep in all this stony country produce very fine wool much valued and is sent to Dublin and Cork. I was at Gort in 1749 in our Tour through Munster and Connaught : it was the estate of the Oshognusses and was forfeited ; and now there is a Barrac in an old Mansion house of that family built within the walls of the (in the) Castle, it is a very poor market town like a village : In my way to this place about six miles from Galway, I had a view of the house of Mr. Walter Taylor, whom I had seen in Galway, he is above four score years old, and told me had seen about 460 descended from his Father, and several great grand children ; he rid lately from Dublin to Tullaghmore in one day, which cannot be less than sixty english measured miles, it is 45 computed irish miles if I do not mistake : As his passion has been to encourage a good breed of horses, so at this time he is a constant attender of all diversions in this country, relating to the improvement of that noble animal. On the 26th I went two miles south west, passing by an uncommon oval Castle at Newtown ; the mountains of Burren appear to be stony, but the summits of most of them are round and appear as in beautifull Terraces. I came to Kilmacduagh situated on a rising ground over some litle Loughs which are to the west. It is the See of an ancient Bishopruck now united to Clonfert and consists only of old buildings and of two or three Cabins ; it was called the church of Duah : About the middle of the 6th Century, it had the name of Kil-mac-duah, that is the church of the son of Daah, Kiimadugh. commonly called it seems Kil-macough. The first building that offers is the ancient Cathedral in the form of a Latin Cross ; on the south side of which is an ancient Altar in good taste ; under a relief of a Bishop is this inscription Sanctus Coloman Patronus Totius Diecesis Duacensis : In the middle is a crucifix and a person on each side with Ave Maria and some devotion round it : In the Oshugnussy chapel, the old Proprietors, is their tomb of the Corinthian, order and I observed their arms the Castle of , Gort supported by two Lyons. In that chapel there is a tomb with this inscription. Orate pro anima Edmondi ocachel Praepositi et Canoniei Duacensis 1742, To the south is a chapel called Shatrany. To the west in the church yard is a small cell where they say the Patron Saint was buried, and that the body was afterwards carryed to Agherrim. Between this and the church is Macduaghs Chapel, in which there is a standing large dead Tree, of which they take pieces by way of Relicks ; and to the south of this is a raised work of stone, which they call the Saints Bed. In the church yard is one of the round towers, if I mistake not ; fifteen feet in diameter : it is finely built of stones well chosen, but do not seem to have been hamerd and they are not all laid in regular courses, the lower Tier sets out 9 inches, the entrance is about twenty feet above the ground : there are five small windows round at top with pointed arches, and there about six others without any order in different parte : By measuring the shadow I concluded it to be about 82 feet high, a litle of the point at top is broken off; This I think is the best I have seen after that of the church of Ardmore. To the east of the church is our Ladies chapel and to the north of it St. John Baptists. To the north of it is the Monastery of Kilmacduagh, said to be of Regular Canons ; it is on a neck of Land between two Loughs, of which authors mention, that they empty in summer by whirlpools ; but I found that the water goes off only in a very dry summer and that rarely ; when they do empty they catch Eeles and other fish. The church tho' small is a very neat building the pillars and arches of the entrance

to the Altar part and of the east window are in a beautiful style, and the Angles at the east end, are worked as in pillars, as at Lismore Cathedral : To the south of the church is a Sacristy, and adjoining to that a room, in which they probably deposited the valuable effects of the church, which because it is arch'd they call the jayl. There is a chapel on the south of these, and a room which I conjectured might be a Refectory, and from the buildings, I imagined the Canons might live in separate houses not built in the best manner. To the north of the church is an old wall about two feet from the other, it is out of its level, and they have a story of its being a place of penance, and that penitents were used to get in between the wall and let themselves down by way of punishment The Bishops house to the north of St. Johns Chapel, or as some call it the Seminary is a building of two rooms on a floor ; what is singular is a building on the outside like a chimney, but from what I could gather, it was the stairs to which there is a passage,

by a sort of a bow window which rests on one stone in the wall, from which they say the Benediction used to be given. 27th. In the way to all these buildings is a Holy Well with a circular enclosure. From this place I came again into the high road at Crushea two miles from Gort, where there is a tolerable Inn. At Tuberin we crossed a stream from the County of Galway in Connaught, to the County of Clare in Munster, we came to Loughed bridge which I conjecture to be the river which in part forms those Loughs that are to the west of Crusheen : Half a mile farther we crossed another stream and in half an hour more came to Cnisheen on an eminence where there is a very good Inn, at which I dined : Till we came to the County of Clare the face of the country is all rocky being a greyish marble as I conjecture ; about Galway it is full of cockles and the Conchae auomiaae, and in almost all parts the petrified coral more or less. But here the face of the country is entirely different, all in little well improved hills, not without wood and something like Northampton Shire. We went on and immediately crossed a stream and had a fine view of Lough Rinohacrounah, we passed three streams in a mile and came to Brincastle, and crossed three more below, I came to a village called Span. .Hill, where the road strikes out to Ennis which I had formerly gone in. This place is three three milea from Crusheen, we soon came to Molieth Mr. Macnamarrahs, well improved and a fine situation, and at the end of three more came to Quin, having had a view of Col Hickmans house and of the plantations of Mr. Burton and Sr. Edward Obrien we had passed in our former journey through this country. Here I saw fine lime-stone with much of the coral in it (in it) entirely consolidated with the marble. We had also in this road a view of the pleasant bay beyond those Gentlemens seats, which extends to the north from the Shannon and is full of Islands. At Quin is one of the finest and most entire Monasteries I have seen in Ireland, it belonged to Franciscan Minorites, and is called in Ware Quinchy; it is situated on a fine stream, there is an ascent of several steps to the church, and at the entrance one is surprized with the view of the high altar entire, and of an altar on each side of the arch to the Chancel ; To the south is a chapel with three or four altars in it, and very Gothick figure in relief of some Saint probably of St. Patrick on the north side of the Chancel is a fine monument of the Macnamaraha's of Ranace. On a stone by the high altar I saw the name of Kennedy in large letters ; In the middle between the body and the chancel, is a fine tower built on two Gable ends. The Cloyster is in the usual form with Couplets of pillars, but particularly in that it has buttresses round by way of ornament ; there are apartments on three sides of it ; what I supposed to be the Refectory, the Dormitory and another grand room to the north of the Chancel ; with vaulted rooms under them all ; to the north of this large room is a closet over an arch, which leads to an opening, that seemed to be anciently a private way to go down in time of danger, in order to retire to a very strong round tower, the walls of which are near ten feet thick, tho' not above seven or eight feet from the ground ; it has been made use of without doubt since the dissolution, as a pigeon house, and the holes remain in it : In the front of the Convent is a building which seems to have been a Forastieria or apartments for strangers, and to the south west are two other buildings : On the other side of the river is a parish church, with a tower built to the corner of it . . Half a mile to the north east is a beautiful turret of a Castle. We went on three miles further to a small town on a fine Rivlet.

On the 28th I went three miles to Six Mile bridge, where there is a handsom new church, and near it Mr. Ivers has a pleasant new built house. The ride from this place to Limerick is very delightful, being well wooded and in sight of the fine river Shannon, and of the beautiful country on the other side of it. The appearance of the Country on this side Galway is very different from what it was farther north for I observed the corn ready for the sickle, and when I passed Gort, I found the harvest in several places far advanced: It is all a hot lime stone which makes the harvest very forward ; and I was told that the cattle turn themselves frequently in the night on account of the heat of the ground. In about 2 miles I saw a large old house, near the river called Bunratty, which was the Mansion house of the Obrians, the ancient Earls of Thomond. I came to Limerick very strongly situated by nature on the Shannon : To the east of it is Irish town, which is pretty strongly fortified, the whole being about two miles in circumference ; excepting the principal street ; All the rest of the town consists of narrow lanes, and it is a very dirty disagreeable place ; Tho' so large there is not one good Inn where strangers can be well accommodated ; they have a tavern indeed which has lodgings in it, commonly filled by of officers : Both the air and water are looked on as unwholesome, and the army commonly loose many of their men here : They are chiefly quarter'd in a barrack within the citadel on the west side of the town, and this large city, which has such conveniency of water, has not so much as a fire Engine to make use of, in case of any accident of fire. The Cathedral is a very mean heavy building, but the Quire is fitted up in a neat manner ; and in it is a magnificent tomb of black marble, erected to the memory of the Grandfather the Earl of Thomond who lived in the time of King Charles the Second, in the place of an old one defaced, of which two couchant Statues remain. This Cathedral was built by Donald O'Brian King of Limerick, and there is a church, in Limerick called St Munchin, now a Parish Church which is said to have been the Cathedral, and that it was founded by St Munchin first Bishop of Limerick. It is remarkable that the present Cathedral stands near north and south ; and they have a tradition that it was a palace of the O'Brians: The Bishoprick of Ardfort probably taking in the County of Kerry is united to this see, and in that is the absorpt Bishoprick of Hoghadoe the church of which I formerly saw over the lake of Killarne. There is an old Convent turned into a Tan-yard, which they call the Abby it is on the north side of the town. They have a good Mole for shipping to lye in : There is a great manufacture of Serges here, and a very great number of working people in the town, greater perhaps than in any place of the size ; and I cannot think they can be less than 40 thousand souls in the town and suburbs. They import wine, timber and all sorts of goods for the supply of this country, and great part of the County of Tipperary, as well as the Counties of Clare and Kings County : But Cork lies much more convenient for the Export. I walk'd round the town either on the walls or within them and went to the Cathedral service.

Pococke's Tour in Ireland in 1752 (1891)

Author : George Thomas Stokes , Richard Pococke

Publisher : Hodges, Figgis

Year : 1891

Language : English

Digitizing sponsor : Google

Book from the collections of : Harvard University

Collection : americana

Notes : Filmed with : Similitudes, or, The Israelites and the Irish / P.A.O. Neymo.

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June 14 2010