

and years before Christ; but that Chiron and Atlas were allegorical or Mythological personages, and ought to have no place in the serious history of our species.

“ The Irish history declares an alliance with these Chaldeans of Dedan; and from their title *Tuatha-Dedan*, Chal. *Tatha*, which Symachos explains by *Thuai*, i. e. *Haruspices*, or soothsayers, there cannot be a doubt, in my opinion, that the Hibernian Druids were of that race: New proofs will rise in every page of this essay.

END OF CHAP. I.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

View of the antient State and Settlement of the English in the Baronies of Bargie and Forth, in the County of Wexford

WHATEVER credit may be due to the accounts of antiquarians, respecting the civilization, wise institutions, and happy state of the Irish nation in more remote periods, it is certain that on the invasion of the English in the reign of king Henry the second, towards the latter end of the twelfth century, the people were as barbarous as any of the uncivilized nations of Europe at that period. It therefore could not be supposed that agriculture had made any considerable progress: the inhabitants subsisting chiefly on flesh, of which it appears they had abundance from the numerous herds of cattle, with which Ireland then abounded.

In the time of the Romans we are informed, that the eastern district of the county of Wexford, extending from the river *Oboca*, or *Ovoca*, which is still near the northern boundary of this country, was inhabited by a tribe called the *Menapii*, who had for their chief city *Menapia*, being placed to the eastward of the *Madora*, *Slanus* or *Slane*.

The western part of the district of

Wexford was possessed by the *Bri-gantes*, who also owned all *Waterford*, and gave the name of *Bergie* to their part of *Wexford*, which to this day gives the name to the barony of *Bergie*, or *Bargie*.

The chief city of *Menapia* has been confounded with *Waterford*; some have also asserted, that it was situated where *Wexford* is now placed. From the inspection of a very antient copy of the map of *Ptolemy*, the geographer, who flourished about the year of Christ 140, there remains little doubt that the antient *Menapia* was situated where *Fernes* now stands, and that it was also the chief city of king *Dermond* on the landing of the English. *Wexford* was then inhabited by the *Danes*, or *Ostmen*, to which king *Dermod* laid siege with the aid of *Fitzstephen* and *Fitzgerald*, and about three hundred and ninety men they had brought with them to his assistance. The town, on surrendering, was granted to *Fitzstephen*, and *Carrig*, with the lands adjoining, to *Fitzgerald*. To *Hervey de Mountmorres*, a relation of *Earl Strongbow*, he gave the two cantreds or hundreds lying between *Wexford* and *Waterford*, which are now denominated the baronies of *Forth* and *Bargie*. There seems at this period to have been very few people in this district, and indeed, by every account, the greatest part of *Ireland* was inhabited at this time by tribes of people very little farther advanced, than the inhabitants of *North America* on the first invasions of the Europeans. To this thin population, as well as to the division of the island into numerous small tribes, is to be ascribed the facility with which the English established themselves, with scarcely any army, or scarcely a battle, after the few encounters on their first arrival, so that in a few years they had wholly subdued the natives, not only in the county of *Wexford*, but in various parts of the four provinces. It was, however, in the two cantreds

or hundreds, granted as above-mentioned to Hervey de Mountmorres, that a colony of Anglo-Saxons who had been for some time settled on the sea coast of South Wales, was planted, since called the baronies of Forth and Bargie, and known in the country by the name of the English Baronies, not only from the first English colony having been there first planted, but from their descendants remaining to this day much more unmixed with the original inhabitants, than any other in this district.

This part of the county of Wexford was well calculated for an infant colony. These baronies are surrounded on the east and south by the ocean, and on the west are separated from the rest of the county by an arm of the sea, called the Scare of Bannow; on the North they are bounded by a ridge of mountains, called the mountain of Fort or Forta, signifying strong or strength, and from this it would seem that the barony of Fort or Forth had its name. The inhabitants of this colony, about fifty years ago, spoke the Anglo-Saxon language in considerable purity, a vocabulary of which was collected by that assiduous and learned illustrator of Irish Antiquities, General Vallancey; the inhabitants still speak among one another, a dialect of the Saxon mixed with the English and have no Irish whatever.

These baronies extend about ten Irish miles from east to west, along the sea shore, and stretch from thence to the mountain of Fort or Forth, to the breadth of eight miles. The whole extending from the mountain of Forth, consisting of low land, entirely alluvial, containing marl mixed with shells. In some places the horns and bones of the moose deer have been found. There is here also limestone of marine origin, nor does the granite appear any where but at Concarnepoint, which consists of compact granite.

The appearance of the baronies

from the mountain of Forth is not unlike the appearance of the south of the county of Devon, from the mountains of north Dartmore, though on a much smaller scale. The whole is well inhabited. The farm-houses, generally as in Devonshire, are built with mud and thatched, appearing warm and comfortable, with convenient out-houses adjoining; even the very small farmers of from five to ten acres, have their habitations comfortable and convenient. The inhabitants do not live entirely on potatoes, as in many other parts of Ireland. They have always oatmeal boiled with milk, for breakfast, and meat for their dinner twice a week, on Sundays and Thursdays, and very often on Tuesdays.

In these baronies the general complaint of indolence, idleness, and want of employment is never heard. The cultivation of the soil, in which the inhabitants are fully occupied, affords them all the means of subsistence and comfort, attended with a degree of prosperity, and even wealth unknown in other parts of Ireland. Such facts as these naturally arrest the attention of any persons desirous of real investigation, and strongly indicate what may be done in other parts of the island by what has actually taken place in one district.

While in many parts of Ireland, the haggard face of poverty too frequently wrings the feeling heart, we here behold nothing but cheerful cultivators, amongst whom want and misery are equally unknown, unless from the tales of mendicant wanderers, who bend their steps hither, to partake of the well-known hospitality that accompanies the plentiful, though humble board of the inhabitants of the English baronies. Nor although the crouds of beggars which pour into this happy region during the summer months, from very remote parts of Ireland, would seem sufficient to overpower their hospitality and kindness, are they ever found to

apply for relief in vain: while amid the natives of those baronies the true spirit of their English ancestors is kept up, and begging looked upon as an indelible disgrace. None, indeed, are found to stand in need of assistance but the old, blind and infirm, and sometimes young children becoming orphans. All these are readily and cheerfully maintained by their neighbours, without the necessity of recurring to parochial rates or assessments which proves that this district is fully able to support its present population: and no apprehension of want need be entertained, even with a considerable increase of the number of its inhabitants.

The barony of Forth comprehends twenty-two parishes, including the town of Wexford, which is divided into four parishes within the walls, and three in the suburbs. That of Bargie contains thirteen parishes, and the population of both, from returns made in the year 1800, may be calculated as follows. The two baronies, exclusive of the town of Wexford, within the walls, and three in the suburbs. That of Bargie contains thirteen parishes, and the population of both, from returns made in the year 1800, may be calculated as follows. The two baronies, exclusive of the town of Wexford, within the walls, contain 39,275 acres, and 3,090 houses, which, at six to a house, will give 18,540 inhabitants: if we add to this, the population of Wexford, amounting to 5,922 souls, it will give 24,462 inhabitants in the two baronies; of which 1740 families are wholly employed in the cultivation of the soil, in such a manner as not only to support themselves in great ease and comfort, but to produce a surplus, forming a very considerable addition to the wealth and revenue of the kingdom. This surplus produce is chiefly barley and wheat, the potatoes and oats being considered as the food of the inhabi-

tants, although considerable quantities of both are sold in the town of Wexford, with great quantities of poultry, and abundance of pork, beef, mutton, and excellent veal; and there are also some dairies, where a considerable quantity of butter is made up for exportation, and some cheese; a considerable fishery for oysters lobster, turbot, and soles is carried on upon the coast. In the winter season also, the herrings make their appearance in considerable abundance: to which ought to be added immense flocks of wild-geon, barnacle, teal, guinard, ducks, geese, and wild swan, altogether forming an abundance not only of the necessaries, but of the luxuries of life, not to be surpassed in any districts of the British Islands.

The parishes on the sea-coast are divided into small holdings of five, six, ten, and sometimes twenty acres, on which is exhibited that wonderful industry and exertion, which never fails to take place in Ireland, where the inhabitants have any security by leases, for the enjoyment of the fruit of their labour, however small the extent of the field they have to cultivate.

On contemplating the appearance of such a state of society, who would not be led to wish that such were the state of the whole island, and not of this island only, but of many extensive districts both in the north and south of the sister island, as also to investigate the causes, and point out the probable remedies which prevent the same appearance from striking the eye of the traveller, and attracting the attention of the philosopher. But we state facts, and leave to others to draw conclusions.

Frazer's Survey of Wexford.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
A PERIODICAL work may be very useful in disseminating