



LIMERICK—ASHLUNKARD TOLL-BRIDGE—IRISH JAUNTING-CAR.

rich green surrounding them, and the "pig in the sty and the cow in the stable," with their fat sides and sleek coats, gave abundant testimony to rich pastures and a bountiful harvest of hay. Never in the past was the prospect so good for an immense yield of potatoes, and yet, with the perversity of the race, the farmers were constantly lamenting the possible appearance of the dreaded blight.

The reputation for extraordinary beauty of the Connemara district is widespread, but my time was devoted largely to Killarney and its charming lakes, and I lingered for only one day at old Limerick, just on the confines of this delectable region, and looked over toward Galway and the enchanted land "be-yant." Limerick* has awakened

from the lethargy of the past, and has taken on a new lease of life. The tide was out during my stay, and the shipping was resting on the mud in the bed of the river.

Killarney, always attractive, never looked more beautiful than when I saw it in July. The genuine Irish fair was in progress. The rural population came in their best "bib and tucker," each man leading his horse attached to a cart containing his prize pigs and sheep, and followed by the heavier animals on foot. After the distribution of premiums and the sale of the stock, with the coming of nightfall the festivities were to begin, and as each man carried a "blackthorn" under his arm, and the rule is to "hit the head nearest to ye fast and frequent," the probabilities were for a very lively evening. An Irishman under the influence of a "drop of the crather" may "mix up" with his best friend, but there is no malice in it; the re-

* From this port Philip Embury, Paul and Barbara Heck, and the other Irish Palatines, set sail for New York, bringing with them the germs of the Methodism of the New World.—Ed.