

# THE CANADIAN METHODIST MAGAZINE.

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## PICTURESQUE IRELAND.

### II.

THE county of Limerick, traversed by the winding Shannon, is one of the most fertile in Ireland, especially the beautiful region known as "The Golden Vale." The city of Limerick is one of great antiquity and of much historic interest. It was besieged several times, and the old castle, shown in our engraving, which was built by King John, still shows the breaches made by the Parliamentary cannon. The great gateway and round towers are still in good preservation, but the picturesqueness of the castle is marred by the modern roofs and by the building of the barracks, into which the interior has been converted. Limerick was the last place in Ireland to submit to the Cromwellian forces, a matter of which many of its inhabitants are very proud. The present population is about 50,000. The Protestant part of the city is thrifty and clean; but just reverse must be said of the Roman Catholic portion. It is situated about eighty miles from the mouth of the Shannon, and has an active foreign and coasting trade. It has two fine cathedrals, Anglican and Roman Catholic, and many of the older houses are in the Flemish style.

In the county of Limerick, near Rathkeale, was the settlement of Palatine refugees, among whom some of Wesley's earliest converts in Ireland took place.

In a contemporary list of these "Irish Palatines" occur the names, afterwards so familiar in the United States and Canada, of Embury, Heck, Ruckle, Sweitzer, and others. They are described by a historian of their adopted country as frugal and honest, "better clothed than the generality of Irish peasants. Their houses are remarkably clean, beside which they have a