

In many instances, however, they commit acts of turbulence and cruelty, arising from bad education and habits. These, it is to be hoped, will gradually yield to the active means, now employed by different parties, for the improvement of the population.*

15. *Curiosities.*—The most remarkable natural curiosity is the Giant's Causeway, at the northern extremity of county Antrim. Curious round towers, of great antiquity, are found in many parts of the kingdom; the uses of which are unknown.

16. *Inland Navigation.*—The principal canals are the Royal and Grand Canals, from Dublin to the Shannon; and the canals from Lough Neagh to Belfast and Newry.

17. *Representation in Parliament.*—By the act of Union, the temporal peers of Ireland† elect 28 of their own number for life, to represent them in the house of lords; in which also one of the archbishops, and three of the bishops, have seats by annual rotation. In the house of commons, there are 100 Irish members; two for each of the thirty-two counties, two for the city of Dublin, one for Trinity College, two for the city of Cork, and one for each of thirty-one cities and boroughs.

18. *Historical Sketch.*—In the reign of Henry II. Ireland was annexed to the English crown. James I. introduced colonies from England and Scotland, caused justice to be regularly administered, and promoted civilization and general improvement. In 1641, in the reign of Charles I. Ireland, as well as England, was involved in a civil war, which was terminated by Cromwell. At the Revolution in 1688, the Catholics supported James II. in opposition to his successor, William III.: the latter, however, was finally successful. In 1782 the British parliament surrendered their claim to controul or modify the decisions of the parliament of Ireland. In 1798 there was a rebellion, which was soon suppressed; and, at the beginning of the present century, the Union of Great Britain and Ireland took place, from which time Ireland has ceased to have a separate legislature. In 1829, the Roman Catholics of the United Kingdom were relieved from the disabilities to which they had been previously subject on account of their religion.

Their numbers are supposed to be about equal to those of the established church, and the number of their congregations is between three and four hundred.

The bishoprics in the established church are as follows: Under the archbishop of Armagh, the primate of the kingdom, (1) Meath, (2) Clogher, (3) Down and Connor, (4) Derry, (5) Raphoe, (6) Kilmore and Ardagh, (7) Down and Clonmacnoise; under the archbishop of Dublin, (1) Kildare, (2) Leighlin and Ferns, (3) Ossory; under the archbishop of Cashel, (1) Limerick, Ardfer, and Arghadee, (2) Waterford and Lisamore, (3) Cork and Ross, (4) Cloyne, (5) Killaloe and Killeenora; and under the archbishop of Tuam, (1) Elphin, (2) Clonfert and Kilmacduagh, (3) Killala and Achonry. The Roman Catholics have, in their church, about the same number of dignitaries, under the same titles.

* 12. The ancient Irish language, which is considered the best preserved dialect of the Celtic, is very generally spoken by the Roman Catholics, who are descended from the original inhabitants of the country; and many of whom, in the remoter districts, are unacquainted with English.

† 13. The temporal peers of Ireland are nearly 220 in number.