

—“Every Thing is very plentiful there, as the place is encompassed with Coal-Pits, and there is a navigable River from whence they can convey them to what distant markets they see most convenient.” The conveyance of Coal-pits to distant markets we may now reckon among the lost arts.

Describing England generally, the Geographer-Royal informs us that it “is a Country of a temperate Air; the Soil produces Plenty of Grain and Fruit . . . as for Beer there is no where so good in all the Northern Countries. It abounds with Cattle, Game, Fish, &c., And in short, is blest with all the real Necessaries of Life.”

To Mr. Cowley, as to England generally, Scotland was then little more than a foreign country, as we may gather occasionally from his remarks. In his account of how Scotland is divided, he says, “The whole Kingdom is divided by the River Tay, into the South and North Parts (!) the South Part whereof is most populous and civilized . . . the North Part still retaining the Customs and Manners of the ancient *Irish*.” A man who lived one hundred and fifty years ago and whose capacity for belief was equal to Mr. Cowley’s (as will be seen shortly) may be pardoned for his faith in that historical myth which attributes to Ireland the source of Scotland’s population. It may be particularly interesting to your Scottish readers to learn the names of the Counties of Scotland according to our authority—these were, “in the North, Lochabar, Broadalbin, Perth, Athol, Angus, Merns, Mar, Buchan, Murray, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness and Strathnaver; in the South, Tiviotsdale, March, Lauderdale, Liddesdale, Eshdale (probably Eskdale), Annandale, Niddisdale, Galloway, Carrick, Kyle, Cunningham, Arran, Clydesdale, Lennox, Stirling, Fife, Strathern, Menteith, Argyre, Cantyre and Lorne.”

He is kind enough to say that “The Air is sharper, but more pure than that in England,” and that “The Men in General are well-made, and of a robust, hale Constitution.” Quite unwittingly, of course, he makes the very paradoxical statement that “those who DISSENT from the Church of England and are called *Presbyterian*, are in much greater numbers than the Churchmen, so that Presbyterianism is the established Religion of the Country.”

One more quotation from this volume by the “Geographer to his Majesty” and we shall leave Scotland for the Sister Isle. “Their Historians,” says he, “boast of many natural Rarities, among others: Of some Geese that breed in Logs of Wood floating on the Sea; and of others which hatch their Eggs with one Foot, and have a fishy Taste. Of the Lake Lowmond, in which are fish without Fins, very pleasant to eat; of the peculiar quality of its Water, which turns Timber into Stone. Of the floating Island in a Lake, which is in a constant Ebullition, be the Air ever so calm. Of a Cave in the County of Buchan, from the Roof of which drops Water, which petrifies into Pyramids that are of a Middle Nature betwixt Stone and Ice. There are no Rats to be met with in Sutherland; and when any are brought there they instantly die.”

So far as the names of the Irish Counties go, if we except the spelling, they correspond with the present divisions. The exceptions are the Catherlough and Ardmagh.

Describing that town whose name is so indissolubly connected with the story of the cats, our authority gravely relates, “This City is remarkable for enjoying the four Elements in Perfection, from whence ’tis said to have  
‘Fire without Smoak, and Earth without Bog,  
Water without Mud, and Air without Fog.’”