

sistance in this way, which, having been gathered for some time into heaps, they draw to their barren field, and spread on in the form of ridges, digging the intervals or furrows, which, by the following year, are so far ameliorated, as to mix to some advantage with the artificial ridge. To this they add whatever manure or compost they may have collected, and take with it a crop of potatoes. This point once attained, they go forward systematically, till a surface-sod is produced, by laying down with clover and rye grass, and having afterwards drawn a sufficient coat of marl upon this, they reckon themselves secure as to all future produce, cultivating the usual routine of crops with the regular application of manure and compost, in which lime is sometimes a chief ingredient.

In this case they have an additional stimulus to their industry, as improving their own property. This circumstance occurs also on the mountain of Forth, where, and taken in in the same manner, cleared of rock, and carefully improved, has become the uncontested possession of the descendants of the first occupiers, out of which they vote as freeholders hitherto exempt from rent, tithe, or tax.

This species of improvement on the moor is not prohibited by the proprietor of the surrounding soil. It is either undertaken by the rich farmer who has money to spare, or by the poor cottager who is in want of a settlement. The habitations of both present themselves, the former on a good scale, well built and comfortable; the latter, though of the smallest description of house, yet in point of neatness and cleanliness, so striking and picturesque, as to arrest attention, and make it impossible to pass without desiring to have a view of the interior.

In one of these (eighteen feet by twelve in the clear, and six feet high in the side wall, divided into bedchamber and kitchen), without any previous notice of a visiter, appeared as much cleanliness and comfort as could be wished. The house white as snow inside and out; the thatch in perfect order, and ornamentally executed; the clay floor dry, smooth, and swept; the door sound, fitted to its door case, and impervious to wind; the fire place and chimney of brick, with an ingenious contrivance for a warm press in the flue wall: the dresser clean, and displaying three tiers of dishes equally so; the pewter spoons as bright as silver, arranged in a little frame in three retiring rows; the whole protected from the dust of the roof by a matting composed of junks of wheaten straw, stitched together with cord; and both rooms brightened by a sufficient light from well formed cottage windows, which are never suffered to remain a second day without being cleaned.

The old woman who presided in answer to a compliment paid to her extreme neatness, replied, "that it deserved none, that her mother taught her to be cleanly, that it was a nasty thing to be dirty, and she could not bear it; that there was no trouble in being clean; that it was only to go about the business regularly, and there would not be ten minutes more lost by it in the day; but she hoped the gentlemen would take a look at the garden, for it was far cleaner than the house."

The approach to the garden was by a narrow gravelled path, neatly edged, through a stripe of mown grass, ornamented by a few healthy shrubs. The garden itself, not a quarter of a rood, but planted round upon the back of the fence with trees, and having in it a proportionate garden house and pigeon house only six feet square, a gravel walk, a plot of cabbage, a crop of peas, with a number of lilies, roses, and various other flowers.

The farm (not exceeding two acres in the whole, divided into five fields by parallel fences), was entered through a double gate of cheap materials and workmanship, fixed upon the head ridge of the first field, which head ridge was continued open through all the divisions, giving the opportunity of drawing the manure to each of them, and of separating any of them from the rest by an occasional gate.

The crops were barley, oats, beans, and potatoes, surprisingly good for such a soil, the entire improvement having commenced within five years.

The family, an old man and his wife, with two grown up sons, one of them a tailor, the other a labourer.

This minute detail is intended to show that, even amongst the least affluent in these baronies, cleanliness and comfort are become systematic from habit, and that therefore, the introduction of such habits amongst the lower classes, however arduous and disappointing at first, will tend to establish them eventually. At present, however, the inhabitants of this district are more regular of their own accord, than are the peasantry elsewhere in ornamented cottages, subject to the frequent inspection of the most anxious proprietors.

But to return to the great source of the prosperity of this district—its thriving agriculture. In viewing the luxuriant crops in other parts of these baronies, one would suppose them scarcely to be rivalled, yet in one favoured parish, they seem to be exceeded.

The soil is a rich, dark, sandy loam, with a substratum of yellow clay, of course some retentive water, and requiring surface drainage, which is here beneficially practised.

The ease with which sea manure is procured adds annually to its fertility. This parish forms one of the eastern points of Ireland, called Carnesore Point; and being peninsular, bounded on the south by St. George's channel, and on the west by the Lady's Island Lake (which communicates with the sea), all parts of it are within the reach of sea sand and sea weed, the latter being washed in by the surf, and deposited in large heaps, which ferment and putrefy, and are drawn up in that prepared state (as also in a fresh state occasionally) for the use of the respective farms.

The general method is to make a compost heap, consisting of equal proportions of sea weed, sea sand, earth and dung, which is applied to the bean and potato crops, after either of which they take a crop of barley, sowing with it red clover and rye-grass, which they mow but once, (unless when clover seed is to be saved); and mending, as they term it, the clover lea with a little of the compost, they sow barley again, and after that, in some cases, oats, previous to a new dressing of manure for potatoes or beans, thus keeping up an enriched and unvarying rotation.

Parts of this peninsula are scattered over with rocks or boulders of granite, of various sizes, some of which they undermine and burn, and are not deterred from the use of the plough, even where numbers of those rocks appear upon the surface, being repaired by abundant crops. What obstacles in farming will not industry and manure overcome!

This parish consists of 1000 acres, a fifth part of which is under sand banks and waste, and at least a tenth of it of that rocky description which has been mentioned. 100 acres are supposed to be annually under the plough, upon which the crops are, drilled potatoes, beans, barley, oats, (wheat rarely), hemp, flax, clover, and rye-grass, all of the best description, and of the most productive return.

The number of families are ninety six, notwithstanding which there is every appearance of comfort and abundance, but three persons of the entire number requiring charitable support, and these three aged women.

There is scarcely a stackyard to be seen without a supply of corn (at least one fourth of the annual produce) remaining in the middle of July, and yet the rents of any land let within seven years are from 35s. to £5 an acre.

During the years of high prices for agricultural produce, rent seemed to be a secondary consideration; what change may now be expected is a matter of anxious speculation, even the farmers of the barony of Forth are under considerable alarm; and if they shall find themselves unequal to the late rents, it is to be feared that few other parts of Ireland will be able to bear up against them, for the farmer in these baronies can do more on seven acres, which is the usual extent, than in other places is effected upon twenty.

The circumstances and produce of a farm of seven acres were noted with great accuracy, and the following is the result:—

A Farm of Seven Acres.

Crops.	Acres.			Barrels per Acre.	Total Brs.
	A.	R.	F.		
Barley,	3	0	0	20 of 16 stones,	60
Beans,	1	2	0	16 of ditto,	20
Wheat,	0	0	20	8 of 20 stones,	1
Oats,	0	1	0	20 of 16 do.	5
Potatoes,	0	2	0	120 of 20 do.	66
Meadow,	0	3	0	2½ tons of Hay.	
Pasture,	0	1	0		
Hemp,					
Flax,					
Garden,	0	2	20		
House,					
Offices,					
Total acres, ..	7	0	0		

Stock.—Horses, 2; Cow, 1; Sow, 1; Pigs, &c.,

At the high prices for corn, those seven acres would yield a handsome profit, even at a high rent; but it must be considered that, exclusive of the rent and taxes, a number of persons are to be supported, and in a degree of comfort, too peculiar to these baronies, and especially in this particular parish.

In so very populous a country, an equal prosperity cannot be supposed to pervade every house, and some, either from disposition or from necessity, may not live as liberally as their neighbours; but the general habit is said to correspond with what was observed in the house of a farmer upon ten acres,—a family of seven people dining comfortably upon meat and potatoes.

The regular routine is this. On Sunday, a large piece of pork or bacon is boiled, in some cases accompanied by a joint of half-fed veal; on Monday and Tuesday what remains of that is served up cold; on Wednesday, herrings; on Thursday, pork or bacon boiled; Friday and Saturday, herrings. The staple vegetable, the potato, forms a material dish at every dinner. For breakfast, they have uniformly barley bread and milk; for supper, potatoes and milk.

This is universal in the parish of Carne, and pretty general through other parts of these baronies.

With scarcely any pasture ground, the horses are kept in good condition, by having the grass which grows upon the banks cut and carried to them. In every respect an extraordinary industry prevails. Rents are paid with the utmost punctuality, and the farmers are enabled to live comfortably and respectably, a credit to the property on which they reside.

A tenant upon twenty acres erected a farm house of forty-seven feet by eighteen in front, and fourteen feet high in the side wall, with a brick porch. In the upper story, three rooms; on the ground floor a kitchen eighteen feet by fourteen; parlour fifteen by fourteen; bedroom ten by seven; a small store room and two unexpensive staircases; which latter and very unusual circumstance was sensibly accounted for by the farmer's correctness and propriety