

Barony – The Liberties of Galway

Parish – Ragoon, St. Nicholas E. & N. and S. & W.

Town – Galway

Co. Galway

TOPOGRAPHY:

Galway is built on a narrow neck of land gently ascending from the sea and river and the river Corrib fed by Lake Corrib flows through the town to the sea and Galway Bay is one of the finest in the world extending some thirty miles eastward of the Isles of Aran and it can accommodate the largest liners and since the recent improvements to the docks the tender can clear the liners at any tide and the town itself is a thriving business town with several big industries and Galway is a blend of ancient and modern and the Spanish influence is to be seen in the narrow streets and is very prominent in such places as Buttermilk Lane, where one could shake hands with ones' opposite neighbour, the Spanish Arch and in the pale beauty of the Claddagh women.

The climate here is most salubrious and the soft south west wind while bringing plenty of rain keeps the atmosphere free from any humidity, while the convenient and excellent facilities for both sea and river bathing conduce to the health of the inhabitants.

Galway is known as the capital of the Gaeltacht and in the crowded streets here the soft tones of the Gaelic is mixed with the harder tones of English. Practically all the shopkeepers are able to transact their business in Gaelic and many a hard bargain is driven with them by the beshawled and bainin clothed Connemara and Aran people who exchange their hard won carrageen and turf for the products of civilisation.

The tourist has everything he could ask for in Galway:- bathing – shooting – riding – dancing – golf – tennis – cinemas – theatre – boating – yachting and every sort of indoor recreation. There are some beautiful walks around the city – out by the docks and Loc an tSaile, around the Dublin Road, and down along the railway line – out along the Headford Road and across to Menlo and down by Terryland – out through Salthill past Gentian Hill and round and in by Taylors Hill last and best of all – up Shantalla across to Tona Brucki and down home through Newcastle; on this last mentioned walk you get one of the best possible views of Galway and at the same time on a clear evening you can see the isles of Aran and the hills of Clare.

Galway is a great centre for bicycle tours, one of the best of those being out to Spiddal, across the bog road to Moycullen and home along the banks of the Corrib, other places within easy reach are Headford, Kinvara and Oughterard.

ANTIQUITIES:

Lynch's Castle is the oldest mansion in the city of Galway. The Lynch Family was the leading family in the city until the middle of the seventeenth century, eighty-four members being Mayors of Galway. There are many sculptured slabs in the building.

The castle stands at the junction of Shop Street and Upper Abbeygate Street. It is a rectangular building of four storeys, 44 feet in length, 28 feet long, and 45 feet high. There is a projecting annexe in the north side in which the principal stairs is situated.

The premises are now used as a branch of the Munster and Leinster Bank Limited, and the interior possesses no feature of interest.

The doorway is rectangular, surmounted by a panel which is enclosed in a plain hood moulding, on which is carved a human head. The Shop Street wall contains five sculptured slabs, and on the one directly over the doorway is carved an ape holding a child. There is a legend that once when a fire broke out in the castle an ape took a child from its cradle and carried it to safety. On the second slab the Royal Arms are in the centre, other arms on its side. The Royal Arms are said to be those of Henry VII, with those of FitzGerald, De Burgh, Bermingham, Blake and Lynch surrounding. There is a two line inscription under the royal arms reading "Rex Anglie f.f. et dyno hyb. Rega t' which is translated "Long live the King of England and France and the Lord of Ireland". The slab is decorated with conventional leaf patterns, and in the centre of the upper margin a human head is carved.

There are three sculptured slabs over the right-hand window in the second storey; one of them is inscribed in gothic Letters "Post Tenebras spero lucem" (After darkness I hope for the light"). Above this is a slab on which is carved an animal, apparently a lion. Above this slab is a rectangular slab on which is carved the coat of arms of the Lynch's.

The windows in the second and third storeys have hooded mouldings decorated with conventional leaf patterns, and a human head. Beneath them are merchant's marks.

Here are blocked openings in the first and third storeys. These were probably peep-holes. There are gargoyles, some plain some sculptured, around the walls; they were intended to prevent the water from trickling down from the roof on to the walls.

There is a projection on the north side resembling a machiollation, mainly on the second storey. Its purpose is obscure, but it may have been an opening through which rubbish was thrown out. The perforated cortels are under the right hand window in the third storey. They probably supported a beam with a bell attached. There is a blocked window with a trefoil head, a hood moulding, this apparently, was not part of the original castle. Here are some more sculptured slabs, on the highest of which is carved the coat of arms of the Fitzgeralds. The third slab is sculptured with the figure of a lion, similar to that on the south wall of the castle. The third slab is inscribed in Gothic letters "Deposuit

potentes de sede et exaltavit humiles” (Luke 1.52) “He hath put down the mighty from their seats and exalted the humble”.

BROWNE’S DOORWAY:

Built into Eyre Square in Galway is an entrance of a house which originally stood in Abbeygate St. This house was built for a Browne who married a Lynch. It bears an inscribed tablet which relates that it was removed from the house in Abbeygate Street in 1906 “to preserve the architectural style of the great houses in the days of Galway’s civil opulence”.

THE LIONS’ TOWER:

The remains of the bastion of this tower are situated in Eglinton Street. All that is to be seen is three bare walls, this tower is the first of the fourteen towers protecting the walls of Galway. This tower was built in 1647.

LONG WALK:

This should really be called the Long Wall from the Irish An Balla Fada. This is probably the site of the drowning of Gaillimh, inghean Breasail.

HORSE ISLAND:

This is situated opposite Wood Quay where the road to the Cong boat passes. In the ancient days horses used to be driven down here to water. They were kept from going too far into the stream by a rope.

BUTTERMILK LANE:

Was formerly called Upper Shoe Makers Lane, it is one of the real old lanes of Galway with very little space between the windows of the opposing houses.

LITTLE SHOE MAKERS LANE:

Is the lane between Augustine Street and Middle Street. This is called in Irish Boithrin na Sudairi (Shoe Makers Lane) was Boithrin na Sodaire (The Lane of the Trotters) from people running down it to be in time for Mass at the Augustinian Church.

THE LIGHTHOUSE:

(OILEAIN NA gCAORAC – THE ISLAND OF THE SHEEP):

Legend has it that when Fionn Mac Cuail's mother was fleeing from her enemies she arrived at Monneennaghishch and handed Fionn for safety to some sailors who were standing nearby. The mother was killed and Fionn was secreted on the Lighthouse Island where he spent some of his youth.

CNOC NA SGONNSA:

(THE HILL OF EXECUTIONS):

This hill is situated beside Monneennaghishch and the site of the gallows is supposed to be at the back of a house presently occupied by a Mr. Hughes. It was the custom here to behead the persons after their execution and to put the heads on spikes. It was here that a man named Burke from Westport was hanged, and whether arranged by the handman or otherwise, was let down before he was dead and taken into a nearby house and revived and lived a long life after that.

During the Hanging Assize before '98 seventy people were condemned to death in Galway and hanged here.

GENTIAN HILL:

This hill previously known as Blakes' Hill and still called in Irish Cnoc an Bhlacaigh, is the well known hill on the sea coast at Knocknacarra.

“Here is Blakes' Hill over the sea whither the young men of Galway were wont to come a-horseback and third day of their May game and then dine between this hill and the Castle of Barna”.
(O'Flaherty I.C. 60).

HISTORIC HOUSES; BURIAL PLACES:

Information supplied by Isaac O'Conaire (deceased) and given to me by Sean Ford, D.J.

ANCESTRY OF PADRAIC O'CONAIRE:

Thomas O'Conaire, his father, born at Garafin, Rosmuc, was son of Padraic Mharcuis O'Conaire, son of Marcus O'Conaire, the great grandfather.

His mother was daughter of Micheal Mac Donnchadha and a Miss Comerford. This Micheal Mac Donnchadha was son of Reamonn Mor of Lettermullen, and was uncle of the late Martin Mac Donnchadha. The Comerfords were well known in Galway Commerce and shipping.

Of the marriage of Tomas O'Conaire and Miss Mac Donnchadha there were three sons, Isaac, Micheal and Padraic.

The children were born in High Street, Galway where their parents lived and had a shop. Both parents died while the boys were very young.

Padraic's first school days were spent at the Presentation Convent. His brother Isaac had the duty of accompanying the boy infant to school. Padraic spent a considerable time at Rosmuc, at his grandfather O'Conaire's. He was for a time at Blackrock College.

The House where Padraic was born is the premises at present known as "the old Malt House", presently occupied by Mrs. Agnes Walsh.

SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS:

A chalyteate spring (of the same class as the celebrated Scarborough waters) about twenty feet below the level of the street outside the east gate, was once in great repute! Hardiman: There is now no trace of this spring.

THE GALWAY FISHERY:

(Condensed from the account by Arthur E. J. Went: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy: Vol. XLXIII: Section C: No. 5.)

The Galway Fishery is a several or exclusive fishery situated in both tidal and fresh water extending from Lough Corrib to the sea. It is of great interest to the general public because of the sight afforded during the runs of salmon. There are multitudes of those fish below the Jail Bridge in the town of Galway waiting to ascent the regular weir some 200 yards up stream. The phenomenon which is almost unique in this country has only been observed in comparatively modern times owing to alterations in the bed of the river and those in connection with the utilization of water power in the town having produced just the conditions necessary to hold fish in this river until there is a sufficiency of water flowing over the weir to entice the fish to make the passage. As far back as 1823 mention is made of this fishery in the records.

(Pipe Roll, 10 EDW. II):

We find that in the year 1343 at an inquisition post-mortem taken in Kilkenny it was shown that Matilda, Countess of Ulster was dowered by the death of her husband with Inter Alia “a salmon fishery in the escheated town of Galway which is accustomed to yield £10”. In 1343 it was only valued at 100/-. The eel fishery formerly valued at 40/- was valued in 1343 at 20/-. (Inquisition post mortem 16, Edward 3rd). In the year 1543 the Lord Deputy of Ireland pronounced a decree in favour of Richard Blake in a suit against one Arthur Kirwan. (Blake Records, Series 1, Record 104). This decree was concerned with a fishery called “Fourthe-de-hayle” which is described as extending from “the eel weirs of late monastery of Cnoknay Bridge of the said town of Galway. In length and breadth from the Bridge called Friars Minor Bridge in the Isle of Yndowyl”.

Hardiman in his history of Galway states that after the grant of the fishery to Richard Parrys in 1384 Walter de Beriham Lord of Athenry appears to have acquired some interest in this fishery. It is on record that one Henry Blake paid the sum of 6/8 for the fishery of Fourthe-de-Hayle to the Lord of Galway during the year 1394. Among the other owners of the fishery in the ensuing year were the Burkes, Blakes, Lynchs, and other Galway merchants who at various times leased this property from the Crown.

Richard Martena has a grant during pleasure at a rental of 6/8 per year of three places for three nets upon the water of Galway by the bridge and the sea on the second of October, 1583. (Patent rolls 24 and 25. Henry 8th. M 6. N page 20). Some years later Thomas Martin was granted five places for six nets on the river by the bridge of the town and the sea, to hold at a yearly rent of 8/4.

Roger Challoner was granted a lease in 1538 for forty years at a rental of 20/- sterling of a mill known as the Martyns Mill and was of the Fishery of the water or river of Galway, except the three places granted to Thomas Martyn. The said Roger Challoner was given licence to use nets wheeles, casting spear, set nets and other engines and instruments whatsoever, and to take all species of fish by himself, his servants, his deputies, and assigns. (Patent Roll 27 and 28 M3P0101. Henry 8th).

By the lease patent dated 9th March, 1670 Elizabeth granted to Gyven Faymmit Mayor, the bailiffs and commonalty of Galway and their successors Inter Alia “the custom of one salmon every Wednesday out of the great Weirs on the river of Galway. A salmon every Saturday out of the high weir and a salmon every Friday out of the “hale” (Haul) net, and each as many eels as should be taken weekly in one day out of twenty eel weir. (Part of the possession of the Monastery of St. Francis) and a salmon every Friday out of ?yces places by the bridge of Galway. (Part of the possession of the Dominican Friars) not to alien without licence. Fine £4. 11s.

In consideration of a loyalty and good service to the mayor bailiffs and commonalty of the town of Galway and to encourage them to future good service on the 11th September 1588 Elizabeth granted in reversion to the Mayor etc. of Galway the Mill called Martyns Mill and the fishing of the river or water of Galway, with licence all kinds of fish within

the said river with any engines and instruments for a period of fifty years from the termination of the lease to Roger Challoner granted by Henry 8th, subject to a payment of 53/4 current money in Ireland per annum. In 1597 one Edward Fitzgerald of Rathstillagh in Kildare was the owner of the fishery. In 1602 Sir George Carew President of the Province of Munster. In 1615 Sir John King and Adam Loftus, Knights. In 1661 Sir George Preston, Knight. Thence by inheritance George Eyrec?, Eyrecourt, County Galway. Thence by sale to Edward Eyre, Galway. This family retained possession of the fishery until 1882, leased it from time to time.

In 1811 John Francis Hutchison a lessee of the fishery took proceedings against a Galway resident Robert Persse for trespassing on several fishery and forcible entry. Apparently there had been from time memorial a gap in the salmon weir? through which small boats with difficulty could pass up and down the river. Finding that this gap decreased the catch of fish in the river the lessee closed the gap and Robert Persse pulled down the obstruction and later fished in the several fishery. Perrse's actions were the subject of the law suit just mentioned and it was determined that the gap should be kept open. On the charge of trespassing the jury found against the defendant a decision which Hardiman states increased the value of the fishery. In 1852 for a consideration of £5,000 Edmund Ashworth of Edgeton Hall, Turton, Lankashire and Thomas Ashworth of Poynton, Cheshire.

Numerous residents of the town of Galway were habitually angling in the river without permission. In 1855 action was taken against some of those Galway persons and after a series of lengthy trials the titles of Edmend and Thomas Ashworth were upheld in the court of the Queen's Bench, and in 1861 the owners were granted a perpetual injunction. The fishery passed from Thomas and Adam Edward to Mrs. Hallot (nee Ashworth) and from her it passed at her death in 1922 to Lieutenant Colonel E. G. K. Cross D.S.O. of Weir House, Galway, in whose possession it is at the present day.

HISTORY OF THE CITY OF GALWAY:

The name Galway is derived from the Irish Gallimh derived from Gaillimh, the daughter of a pre-Celtic King, who was drowned in the river here beside a rock which is marked and celebrated in 1651 map of Galway. In a Papal Bull of 1484 there is a reference to the "village of Galway". Galway did not come into being as a town until the anglo-Norman period. The de Burghos spent a great deal of the early thirteenth century fighting for possession of this territory with the O'Flaherties. Once they got possession, however, the de Burghos became more Irish than the Irish themselves.

About this time the town of Galway got a charter from Edward First of England and a grant for the making and maintaining of the town walls, soon became a walled town devoted to commerce organized on English lines and completely cut off from the native Irish surrounding it. The first of the English settlers were the Athys and Kirwans, then came the Lynches, Blakes, Bodkins, Brownes, Deanes, Ffrenches, Martins, Joyces,

Skerrits and the Darcies. These families were known as the tribes of Galway. Hence Galway was nick-named “The Citie of the Tribes”.

In the year 1334 the de Burghos in the west split into two great families, the Upper and the Lower Burke afterwards the Earls of Clanrickard and Mayo and for two hundred years they ruled as Irish Chieftains. The merchants of Galway, however, by this time firmly wedded to English law stoutly repudiated the attempted domination of the Burkes. In 1484 they were given a charter with power to elect a Mayor and bailiffs of their own, which also contained a clause to the effect that neither the Lord MacWilliam of Clanrickard nor his heirs should settle anything in the town without permission.

In 1273 the Church of St. Nicholas was built and the militia started objecting to their inclusion in the rural diocese of Annaghdown. In 1484 St. Nicholas was erected into a Collegiate Church and in the following year by a Bull of Pope Innocent 8th, Galway was granted an ecclesiastic jurisdiction under a warden and eight vicars. (See History of St. Nicholas Church). One of the laws of Galway at this time was “no man in the towne shall oste or receive any of the Burkes, MacWilliams, Kellies nor no cepte elles” and neither “O ne Mac shall strutted ne swaggere through the streetes of Galway”. After some time Galway controlled practically the whole of the wine trade of Ireland, with great warehouses and distributing centres spread over the country. All the time the Galway citizens were trying to keep the Irish way of life outside the town walls. It was enacted that all natives must renounce their Irish names that no free man should quit the town without leave of the Mayor, that no man should be free of the corporation unless he spoke English and shaved his upper lip weekly, that no one should sell or lend to any outlandish (Native Irish) man. In the year 1549 Thomas Martin built the west gate and tower with the significant inscription:- “From the furious O’Flaherties good Lord deliver us”.

In 1652 the town surrendered to Sir Charles Coote. The terms of surrender were shamefully violated, some thousand of young women and girls dispatched as slaves to the Barbados, clergy were persecuted, towns folk were stripped of their belongings, houses were confiscated, emblems of royalty and all church property was destroyed, churches and abbeys turned into stables and the clergy were dismissed from Galway. About this time also a plague visited Galway, all Roman Catholic citizens were forbidden any office in the Corporation and the Irish Catholic population was evacuated from the town. About this time Galway City was offered to the citizens of Gloucester as payment of a debt of £10,000 due to them and also to Liverpool.

Again in 1691 the town surrendered to Williamite troops under General de Ginkel.

The treatment of the old Natives and Catholic inhabitants on Galway caused so many families to depart the town but in 1693 it was resolved that no passage should be thenceforth granted to any of the inhabitants and coercive measures should be taken to repress the licentiousness of the soldiery. In 1703 it was enacted in Parliament that no papist should be allowed purchase any house or tenement in Galway and every Papist them? inhabiting the town should provide securities in a reasonable penal sum, with

condition for his or her faithfully bearing himself towards her majesty. (Queen Ann) in the year 1716 Roger Blakeney, the Mayor, turned all papists out of the town except about twenty of whom he took securities. Despite all restraints and restrictions the inhabitants of Galway still retained a portion of the commercial enterprise which formerly distinguished their ancestors and trade was not altogether neglected. In the year 1740 a return was made of the State of the town. Militia at that time consisted of three hundred effective Protestant inhabitants. During the Scottish Rebellion in 1748 the old prejudices against the Catholics were for a while revived.

In the year 1745 Stratford Eyre was appointed governor of the town and from one of his returns it appears that the fortifications were then entirely out of repair and in ruinous condition. Notwithstanding the many impediments under which the Catholic inhabitants laboured their number considerably increased, while the Protestant part of the population appears to have diminished. In the year 1762 it was stated in the House of Commons on the part of the Corporation that Galway was mostly inhabited by Papists and the population of the town and liberties amounted to 14,000. Of this scarcely 350 were Protestants. Galway was in a very poor state around this time and until the Catholic Bill of 1793 grass frequently grew in many of its public streets. From that period, however, the inhabitants began to exert themselves. The limits of the town were extended beyond the walls. About this time the town walls were in ruins and several extensive stores and timber yards were erected thereon.

The Corporation was dissolved under the Municipal Corporation (Ireland) Act of 1840, but in the year 1937 a private Bill known as the Local Government (Galway) Act of 1937 restored the corporal status.

GALWAY SEA FISHERY:

In 1762 it appeared in evidence before the Irish House of Commons that “the fishery in the harbour and bay of Galway is remarkably good, that there is the best herring and cod fishery there in the kingdom, and a cod-bank near Bophin, about a night’s draft from the shore. The bay of Galway on the outside of the Aran Isles is remarkable for sun-fish, which are there in plenty, and of such value, that if a boat be out for two months and takes one sun-fish, the owners think themselves repaid. The fishermen of Galway supply the city of Limerick with sea-fish, and a great part of the inland county. In the fishing season about two hundred boats are employed in the bay and harbour, of which about one hundred and sixty belong to the town, and the rest to the county of Clare side of the harbour”. (Com. Jour. Vol. VII, A.D. 1762).

According to Dr. Young (whose information is generally correct) there were in 1776 from “two hundred to two hundred and fifty boats belonging to the town, forty or fifty boats of which were employed in the spring fishery for cod, hake, mackerel, etc. These boats are from four to six tons, some nine; they cost in building £20 a boat, and the nets and tackle about £15. The nets are of hemp tanned with bark; there are five to six men to a boat; they fish by shares dividing into sixty; they have had this fishing time

immemorial. The plenty of fish decreased these fifteen years. A middling night's take is five thousand fish; all they get is sold unto the country, and the demand is so far from being answered that many cargoes are brought in from the north. The fish sell at 1s. 4d. to 2s. 2d. a hundred". The Doctor further adds "on the coast of Conamarra there is, from the 10th April to the 10th May, a fishery of sun-fish which is done by the herring boats; one fish is reckoned worth £5; forty or fifty boats employed on this". – Young's Tour.

THE MAY FLY:

It begins its life as a tiny egg dropped into the Lough by the mother fly. It develops into a sort of helpless beetle to be used as food by the other insects that live at the bottom. The development period lasts for two years, when a hard shell encases the beetle-like creature, and in the months of May and June the shell floats to the surface and out comes the green or grey May fly with delicate body, dainty wings, and a long tail. If the wind is strong enough it moves him along the surface until the greedy trout snaps him up, or he is blown against the rocks and smothered in the surf. With a lighter win he rises from the surface and flies away to the nearest clump of bushes or trees, and there after the course of a few days, he becomes quite black, decay begins, and he is of no further interest either to the trout or the angler. From the moment he reaches land, however, he is much sought after by anglers and their boatmen, and the task of catching and transferring him to the fly-basket often provides more genuine amusement than the sport which he afterwards gives when sailing away at the end of your cast with the dapping book carefully embedded in his slender body. It is a short life and a merry one certainly with the May fly, for after two long years at the bottom of the lake, he comes forth for a few short hours to circle in the sunshine, if perchance he should escape the hungry trout.

The origin of dapping with any natural fly is somewhat obscure. But there can be little doubt that since civilized beings first endeavoured to tempt the unknown out of the waters, the surface flies on which fish feed have been used either in their natural form, or to serve as a model for an artificial imitation. There are, of course, artificial "flies" not modelled on any natural flies, but these are simple lures. The fish are tempted to snap at them more because of their rich diversity of colour than through a desire for food. One of the earliest references to the term "dapping" or "bobbing", as it is still called in some parts of the west, is found in O'Flaherty's history of West Connacht, edited and annotated by James Hardiman in 1846. When dealing with that long narrow inlet of Galway Bay which separates the Carraroe peninsula from Gorumna Island, the annotator mentions that it was the harbour of the great man of the sea who was principally occupied in seizing and plundering the merchant ships passing to the port of Galway. In his spare moments he appears to have amused himself at the gentle art of angling, and

"His angle rod was made of a sturdy oak,
His line a cable that in storm ne'er broke;
His hook he baited with a dragon's tail;
He sat upon a rock and bobb'd for whale".

The hook is not described, but we can picture the anchors taken from the plundered vessels being used.

FREE SALMON FISHING:

The May fly period lasts until the middle or end of June, when the free salmon fishing, already begun, is at its best in Oughterard Bay, and in the Bay along the Cong and Doorus shores. The salmon (grilse) enter the lake at Galway and are obliged to remain in these bays until the rivers in the neighbourhood are in flood to allow them to pass to the upper reaches. July is usually a quite month, unless the angler is keen on trolling for big trout, or is interested in perch or pike fishing. If so, he can gratify his desires to any extent he wishes. The perch move about in shoals and may easily be seen in the bright sandy bays all round the Lough. The pike confine themselves to their well-known grounds, and the angler anxious for a 30 lb. specimen need not pass Corrib.

From the 1st August to the end of the season trout fishing is again the great attraction, and the general sportsman can combine shooting with fishing during this period, as the Lough at present is literally alive with mallard and teal. During the second dapping season natural flies and insects are again used with great success. Any good pattern white trout fly is equally successful, but the “scorcher” and “invicta” amongst brown trout flies are very good; and the point to note in connection with artificial flies for Corrib is that they must be mixed much richer in colour than similar flies used successfully in other brown trout fisheries. Coarse noded flies on No. 10 hook are also very successful. These can always be obtained locally at moderate cost. As regards the natural flies used at this period, the “daddy-long-legs” with or without the grasshopper, is the great favourite. Other flies, insects, and spiders have been tried, and, in fact, there is an endless field of investigation and research work on this question of natural trout flies awaiting the entomologist with sufficient means and leisure to devote to the subject.

THE FISHING GROUNDS:

The angler unfamiliar with Corrib, except on the map, must be nonplussed by the extensiveness of its fisheries. It is easy to picture him saying: “Shall I try those well-sheltered bays along the shores, or hidden round the corners of the larger islands, or shall I push out into the broad explored lake and try the deges? of those long, rocky shallows which suit every wind?” The answer is : Consult your boat man, and when you get to the particular fishery selected, be prepared to fish it steadily all day even though the lunch interval may find you with an empty boat. The cardinal mistake in fishing this great island ocean is to move about from bay to bay, or from shallow to shallow, simply because the first few drifts are blank. It often means that the angler misses “the Rise” in the different grounds visited, and he returns to his hotel in the evening rumbling at the fishing, the weather, the boatman, and the flies.

The Lough contains twenty-eight well-defined bays along its shores, none of which could be completely fished in the course of a day's angling. There are as many more fisheries in the open lake between Oughterard and Cong and between Rabbitt Island and the Hill of Doon. It follows, therefore, that the tourist angler may fish Corrib for almost two months, and need not exercise his art on any particular fishery the second time. This accounts for the fact that the fishing ground on Corrib are never overcrowded, and it is estimated that with two hundred boats fishing all round the lake, overcrowding need not take place in any of the fisheries.

THE LOWER LAKE:

Taking the different bays from Galway upwards, the lower lake must be passed over as an unknown quantity so far as angling is concerned. Why this should be is not easily understood, as both the Claregalway and Cregg rivers which flow into it, contain excellent spawning grounds. The nature of the bottom, however, may have something to do with it. The bright sand is reflected on the surface and gives both trout and angler an opportunity of examining the surroundings through the white water. Special weather conditions are necessary to fish such waters successfully, usually a day when the clouds are heavy and leaden, and the mist is coming in from the sea or down from the mountains.

ANNAGHDOWN BAY:

Annaghdown Bay, on the right, and the waters in the vicinity of all those islets and rocks on the left of the steamer's course contain some of the finest trout in Corrib. Before cross-line fishing was prohibited in 1898, the fishermen from Oughterard and elsewhere paid special visits to these fruitful fishing grounds, and to the neighbouring bays of Ballinduff, Mount Ross, and Ower to fill their boats: they can be fished in any wind and will repay a visit even to this day. There is one danger, however, to be guarded against during the may fly season, and that is the scarcity of fly in these waters. The angler should therefore, see that he is well supplied with flies before he ventures forth into these fisheries.

BALLINDUFF BAY:

Ballinduff Bay, in the formation of the bottom, is closely related to the lower lake, and what has been said about that fishery applies equally to this bay. It is well worth while, however, to take advantage of any suitable day which turns up during the season to dap this picturesque bay – the trout are fine, lusty specimens running up to 4 lbs. and 5 lbs., and play most vigorously like all trout coming off a clear sandy bottom. This area is also the home of the otter, and anyone interested in otter hunting should establish his headquarters here for a month or two.

KILBEG WATERS:

Around Kilbeg, Knockferry, and Lees Island there are several fine fishing grounds, and angling competitions are conducted from Kilbeg during the season. The natural tourist centres for all these fisheries are Headford, Kilbeg and the farm houses in the Knockferry district. They can also be fished from Galway and Tuam by motoring to these places, and having procured men and boats beforehand.

CLYDAGH AND ANNAGHKEEN BAYS:

Coming along towards the middle lake there are Clydagh and Annaghkeen bays on the right, backed by the extensive woods of Clydagh, and on the left are the bays of Collinamuck, Cornelistrum and Birchall. In the centre portion are several ranges of shallows and bare untenanted islands, and between these shallows and island are several deep holes all full of trout; in fact, in any part of these waters extending from Rabbitt Island to Kilbeg the angler may put up his rod and try his luck without the least fear of being on unsuitable fishing ground.

RABBITT ISLAND SHALLOWS:

Long before reaching Rabbitt Island the red roof of the pretty modern bungalow of Mr. C. A. Moon (of Galway) comes into view, and as the island is approached in early summer the white fringe of hawthorn which encircles it, and the sturdy hawthorn fences which intersect it, present as pleasing a picture as there is in the lake. Round about this island, with the exception of the large pike ground to the left of Devenish Island, the trout angler may exercise his art to advantage on some of the best stocked waters in Lough Corrib. During the May fly season catches running from twenty to thirty trout per boat are taken from this fishery. The average weight may not be as good as in other parts of the lake, as the grounds are much frequented by young trout, but you can rely on numbers when fishing the Rabbitt Island shallows.

CURRAGHMORE SHORE:

Passing along from this fishery, the Curraghmore bays on the right are really an extension of the Rabbitt Island grounds, and, on the left is Ard Bay, from whence many a pleasant fishing holiday has been organized and enjoyed by Mr. Parker Brennan, of Galway, and his friends.

ARD AND COTTINGHAM'S:

Near by the wooded headland of Ard comes well into the lake, and further west the historic Inisgarraun hides the deep indentation of the lake shore known as Cottingham's Bay. The great wide reaches of the "old lake" stretch away to Inchangoill, and the well-cultivated peninsula of Doorus, while over on the right the white washed farmhouses on Inchiquin and Inishmicatrere are "mirrored in the waters" of their respective bays. To many anglers this "old lake" stretching from Oughterard to Cong, and from Doorus to Rabbitt Island, is really Lough Corrib. It contains the best fishing grounds, and the principal tributary streams and rivers flow into it. It is also studded with the most interesting and historic islands, and the great "mystic mountain ranges" of the West, split in twain by the long lonely valley of Maam cannot be viewed to better advantage than from a point between the islands of Inchiquin and Inishbeagh. The most convenient centre from which to fish all the fisheries within the "old lake" is Oughterard, the headquarters of the Corrib Fisheries' Association, and the popular resort of tourist anglers for the past twenty-five years. From this centre the angler will now be conducted to the different fisheries within reasonable distance. Setting off from the river bank at the lower end of the town the winding course of this sluggish river is followed to its mouth – a distance of about a quarter of a mile. On the way we pass the ancestral home of the O'Flaherties peeping through the well-wooded demesne at Lemonfield, and as Oughterard bay is entered, immediately on the right is the so-called "new pier" – a disgrace to the Corrib and to the charming bungalow of the Hon. H. E. O'Keover, which is situated on the lake side close by.

BOG AND PORTOCARRON BAYS:

Moving ahead, the nicely wooded island of Carbery, where all the May flies fore-gather for that crowded hour, and the inhabited Illaunconaun are over on the left, and to the right are the bays of Bog and Portocarron. These bays are separated by the narrow headland known as Portacarron Point. The formation of the bottom gives its name to the former, and the contrast between it and the clear bright sand of Portocarron is not equalled in such a short distance anywhere else in the lake. Round the two islands and across into these bays are well-known trout grounds.

PORTOCARRON BAY:

Portocarron Bay, if fished on a suitable day, provides sport as lively as may be experienced anywhere. The trout average 2 lbs., and play as bravely as a 5 lb. grilse. West and south-west winds suit it best, and the day must be cloudy and misty as the average depth of water is only seven feet.

COTTINGHAM'S BAY:

Into Cottingham's Bay the boat is now paddled, leaving Inishcosh and its famous pike ground on the left. The long low reef of rocks headland of Ard, are away in front, and to the right are Corrib View House and the ruins of Aughnanure Castle. Trout up to 2½ lbs. and 3 lbs. are frequently caught in this bay, and should the angler strike a lucky spot here, he will have reason to remember it. South-west winds suit the shallows best, but in the inner portion a west wind gives better fishing.

WIDE SHALLOWS:

The boat may now proceed between Inishcosh and the Inishgarraun towards the mouth of Inchiquin Bay, and the angler will observe en route shallows in the open lake running from the stakes on the steamer's course opposite Inchiquin Bay in a south-eastern direction to Inishgarraun. Should a suitable wind prevail these wide shallows are well worth trying. The clump of shallows at the Inishgarraun end yielded a 7½ lb. trout to the rod of Mr. M. P. Monaghan, Oughterard, during the May fly season of 1923.

INCHIQUIN BAY:

Proceeding into Inchiquin Bay, the angler is struck by the numerous shoals which separate the deep holes all over the Bay, and he wonders how his boat is to get through them. The mouth of the bay and along by the shore of the mainland are the best parts of this fishery. The many young trout on the shallows along the centre and up against the shore of the island are only hooked and landed to be returned to the lake once more, in accordance with the rule prohibiting the killing of trout under ten inches in length. Along the north shore of the island and across the mainland at Greenfield are shallows and rocks and parts around which trout are always ready to snap at the angler's fly. Good fishing can be obtained here in any wind and within the past few years Tuam anglers have fished these grounds very considerably from Greenfield, but for some unknown reason they do not appear to realize that it costs something to preserve Lough Corrib.

BALLYCURRIN BAY:

The passage from this fishery to Ballycurrin Bay is narrow but well-defined, and it is advisable closely to examine fishing tackle before wetting flies on this water. The mouth of the Black river is on your right, and in front of you are groups of pretty islets, with Ballycurrin pier and lighthouse over on the mainland. The fishing grounds extend along the shores of the islets and along the shallows bedding into the reeds at the mouth of the Black River. The average depth of water is ten feet, and 3 lb. trout are no exception. N.E. and S.W. winds suit it best. The trout are sulky at times, but a rise for an hour or two in this bay makes up for any disappointment previously experienced. During the May Fly season of last year this fishery gave of its best, two rods taking eighteen trout –

28½ lbs. – and during the autumn dapping season, with “Daddy-long-legs” and grasshopper, these rods took fifteen trout – 22 lbs.

INISHMICATREER – THE ROCKS:

The row across to the Inishmicatreer fishing grounds takes the angler over the Ballycurrin pike ground towards the island of Comelium and the long range of rocks guarding the entrance to Ballynalty Bay soon comes into view. Along and between these rocks excellent fishing has been obtained during the past few years – 2 lb. and 3 lb. trout? taken pretty freely.

BALLYNALTY BAY:

Inside those rocks shoals stretch all the way across towards the school on the island, and inside those shoals is the well known bay of Ballynalty, remarkable because at its mouth rocks and shallows are everywhere, and in the lower portion clear bright sand forms the bottom and turns the water white. It has a series of pockets on either shore well stocked with 2 lb. trout, and at the north-west corner is the famous “quarry”, which has never been known to fail the energetic angler. North and N.W. winds suit the drift across the mouth of the bay, and into some of the pockets; the lower portion required special weather conditions, and a fairly even temper, as it is possible to fish it all day long and even see a single rise.

CASTLETOWN BAY:

Not far from the school on Inishmicatreer begins the causeway leading to the mainland, and through the bridge thereon the boat now passes into Castletown Bay, which is sheltered by the island from those west winds which come down with such force from the Maam Valley and across the lake by Inchangoill. This stretch of water running from the causeway in a N.W. direction to the point of Curraghduff is as pretty and as good a fishery as there is in the lake. On the left the undulating surface of Inishmicatreer is well tilled and fenced, and on the right are the orchards of Castletown, with two tiny bays for shelter in case the N.W. wind blows too hard. The bay may be fished in any wind; the tiny inlets hold trout up to 1 lb., but through the centre and up against either shore trout upto 5 lb. may be expected.

SALTHOUSE BAY:

At the upper end of this bay the wide opening leading into Salthouse Bay presents itself; and as we move up towards the rocks at the Castletown end we see that Salthouse is a pretty big lake in itself, running inland to the right for nearly a mile. An examination of the rocks projecting the entrance from Castletown, and the intervening stretches of deep

and shallow water clearly reveal fishing ground where monster trout should be concealed. Down the bay are several well-wooded islands – some with Irish oak – and occasional reefs breaking the surface. Here in this deep water, running from 10 ft. to 19 ft. the angler may enjoy his best day's fishing on Corrib, or experience his greatest disappointment, for the trout are so well fed that even with suitable weather conditions during the May Fly season they fail to rise, and they are big trout these in Salthouse Bay, and when they come from under a rock to take away your dap don't be caught napping or you will find that your hook and cast are under that rock in front before you have time to realize that's wrong. They refuse to provide sport unless you compel them to do so, and from the moment of striking your fish, you must exercise all the skill and judgment at your disposal, or you will find that at the end of that first run the trout has returned to his home still hooked, but determined to stick to his quarters. Neither coaxing nor force will succeed in getting him to renew the tussle, and if you don't break at once and get finished with him, the sharp edge of the rock will do it for you, and you are left to admit defeat and lament your ignorance. The extreme lower portion of this bay like that of Ballynalty, has a clear sandy bottom, and can only be fished successfully under special conditions, and the boatman will soon decide whether it is worth while trying it. It is hard to come away from Salthouse whether you have had a good or bad day; the casual examination of the ground during the various drifts tells you that it is perfect trout ground, and no matter what your best fish for the day may weigh, you feel that there are better fish left behind to give sport to some luckier angler on another occasion.

MOYTURA BAY AND CONG SHORE:

Leaving Salthouse at the Moytura side and heading towards Cong, from which, by the way, all the bays along this side of the Lough can be conveniently fished, a chain of islets on the right hides the pretty bay of Moytura, over which stands conspicuously Moytura House, the residence of Dr. R. M. Roe, and at one time the residence of Sir William Wilde, the historian of Lough Corrib. Along the shore to the "white monuments" which mark the steamer's passage into Cong Pier are numerous reefs and small green islands, in which good sport is always forthcoming. The magnificent woods and castle of Ashford – the property of Lord Iveagh – the wide expanse of lake in front runs a beautiful group of islands from Inishdoorus to Ilaunree. Further west the tilled fields go well up the slopes of Ben Levi – or Mount Gable, as it is sometimes called. And now we can appreciate the efforts of the witch who hurled stones, and curses presumably, from the summit of Ben Levi across the lake at her opponent on Carn Seefin.

CONG SHALLOWS:

Immediately to the west of the entrance to Cong Bay are excellent trout grounds patronised by Cong anglers in preference to the Salthouse grounds, but from this point westwards to Coal Park, past Golden Bay, the waters run deep, and fishing grounds are scarce till the Carrick shallows and Cornamona Bay are reached.

CARRICK SHALLOWS AND CORNAMONA BAY:

These waters are all well stocked from the fine spawning beds on Doughta River and Carrick streams, and can be conveniently fished from Carrick and Doorus, where suitable accommodation is available. The group of islands on the left partially hide the Doorus peninsula, but let these not hide from the angler the fishing grounds which lie between the group and the peninsula.

DOORUS BAY:

During the May Fly season of 1923 Messrs. Kyne and Palmer, fishing these grounds from Oughterard, caught twenty-six trout weighing 40 lbs., and on the following day Messrs. Power and Monaghan, fishing the Inishdoorus end, returned twenty-three trout, weighing 32½ lbs. In these waters Captain Palmer also caught a rainbow trout weighing 1½ lbs., which it is thought, was the first of its species taken from Corrib.

FARRAGHT BAY:

Coming round Inishdoorus, the boat proceeds westwards to Farraght Bay, reputed to hold some of the biggest trout in Corrib. There are a few islets and several rocks dotted against the mainland: the drifts are short, and the bay is well sheltered, except from the south and south-east, and the angler anxious to kill the record trout during the dapping season should fish here.

DOON AND MAAM BAYS:

Coming along to the point of Doon Wood, the pike angler sees before him, under the shadow of Lackavrea, the famous pike grounds of Doon and Maam bays, stating to contain pike so big and so ferocious that the Greatman's fishing tackle would scarcely hold them.

RINNEROWAN BAY:

The trout angler, however, has no piscatory interest in these waters, so he turns eastwards to fish the trout grounds all along the lake's margin, in view of the famous Oughterard Hill of Doon road, to the Canaver shallows and Rinnerowen Bay, where 2 lb. trout are neither shy nor scarce.

CURRAREVAGH AND GORTDRISHA:

Ribeens, Currarevagh, and Gortdrisha bays are so well sheltered that they are only fished when conditions are too rough further out. Overlooking Currarevagh Bay and nestling in the fine wood which borders the lake at this point is Currarevagh House, the property of Cpt. H. D. Hodgson, and away to the back stretch his extensive shooting drives and moors. Gortdrisha House, which overlooked the bay of that name, stands well above a perfect modern plantation sheltering well-kept orchards, and is occupied by Dr. Macnamara.

BORUSHEEN BAY:

Coming round Forannagh point we enter the bay of Borusheen, with its many pockets stocked with two-pounders. On the left, at the lower end, are the islands of Rosillaun and Inishdawee, around which many a brave trout has fought in vain, and on the right is the humpbacked shore of Derrymoyle and Borusheen, from whence the hardy fishermen of Corrib put out in their frail punts in February and March to troll its vast finishing grounds, and to offer exposure and danger not to be repaid by the best men and those of Oughterard, fashioned by the great lake, and their terrible struggle with the unknown for a mere existence, are far more interesting than the formation of the great mountains of the West, or the history of the oldest castle along the lake shore. During the summer months they ply for hire and place their wonderful knowledge at the disposal of the tourist angler, and if the sport does not come to expectations it won't be the fault of these brave sons of Corrib.

“BOOZERS’ BAY”:

Crossing over towards Oughterard Bay south of Inishdawee, we pass the nicely situated bungalow known as “Duneiry”, the property of Major Reynolds, and paddle through that special preserve of the local Waltonians known as “Boozers’ Bay”, where we leave them behind us full of imperishable hope flogging the waters with wonderful energy. As we row across Oughterard Bay, Inisharboe stands prominently on the left, and we move up between it and Inishoel to get a view of the group of islands: Cussafoor, Urkaunbeg, Urkaunmore and Bilberry, which appear to flash across Inchagoill.

ISLAND FISHERY:

The group, Inishbeagh, Mucklagh, Coad, Inishiana and Ilaunbieragh stretches in a north-easterly direction to Inishmicatreer. The waters round all these islands are well stocked, and can be fished to advantage, with the exception of those round Cussafoor and across at the back of Inchiquin, where young trout appear to foregather. These waters should be avoided by anglers anxious for good sport and interested in the welfare of the lake

INISHANBOE:

Before leaving these waters for Inchangeill we cannot but admire the extremely pretty residence of Captain E. W. Anketell Jones, who may be described as the “captain of the lake”. Inishanboe, like every other island, has its legend, and Wilde states how the fairies placed “the old white cow on this island to feed the starving heir of the Offlahertird because the old chieftain had respected their right when he paused in flight on the slopes of Knockma”. There is not, however, at present any suggestion of poverty in this island, in fact, the hospitality of the owner is in keeping with his family tradition; and if the fairies were now to return, either with or without the white cow, the beautiful lawns, gardens, and strawberry plantations would remind them of fairy land.

INCHANGOILL AND INISHANNAGH:

There remains now but the final fishery of Inchangeill and Inchannagh to be visited, and those are the islands in the distance covered with pine and larch. The direction of the wind is all-important in these waters; at the west, or “coffee-house” end, N. or N.W. winds give best results. West winds suit the south shore, and with a S.W. wind you can fish the drift along the east shore of both islands. This fishery is the home of some of the biggest and some of the smallest trout in Corrib. The deep holes between the shoals along the western shore have yielded 6 lb. and 7 lb. trout to the fly, and the shallows between the islands have often sent forth sprat of 6 ozs. and 7 oz. Here again anything may happen: the angler may return with a record catch, or be disappointed. However, if “it’s very slack”, which refers, of course, to the fishing, a walk through the interesting island of Inchangeill after the lunch interval will take your thoughts from fishing to the early stages of Christianity in Ireland, for on this island “monks sang day and night to the lisp of the great waters”, and the ruins of their ancient churches showing chaste specimens of early Irish decorative art, are still there to interest the angler and the antiquarian.

BEACHY SHALLOWS:

We must now go across to that red stake on the right, which marks Beachy shallow, and there all round is the final home of all the aged trout of Corrib. Here, then in the centre of the “old lake”, the angler may spin or troll for a record trout, as fancy takes him. And here it was in 1921 that Captain Palmer, of Galway, landed a perfect specimen which weighed 14³/₄ lbs.

OUGHTERARD BAY:

We can troll through all this deep water from Cong to Bilberry, and as we row across through Oughterard Bay towards the mouth of the river we see the salmon angler endeavouring to tempt his favourite fish to the surface.

THE CORRIB FISHERIES' ASSOCIATION:

The story of the preservation of this unrivalled fishery is simple. The Corrib Fisheries Association was founded in 1898 by a few local gentlemen for this purpose. It has carried on ever since in spite of many difficulties. It is open to everybody interested in the welfare of the Lough, and it is worked on a voluntary basis by a management committee representing every interest from that of the tourist angler to the local fisherman. It has to rely mainly on voluntary subscriptions, and the inspectors and bailiffs are paid out of these funds. How much the Corrib Fisheries owe to the founders of the association, and to those who have followed in their footsteps, history alone will tell. The valuable work done by the late Mr. S. B. Doig is not yet properly realised, and that of his nephew – Colonel C. P. Doig, D.S.O., the present popular president of the association – and the management committee associated with him, are only too anxious to continue this valuable work, is evident to every Corrib angler.

There is nothing of an artificial nature connected with this great fishery. Even the banks of the Oughterard River are as nature made them, with not even a jetty to step from into your boat. The tourist anglers should, therefore, be prepared for many experiences and pleasures other than those which good sport provides. He can be assured, however, of a courteous welcome to a civilization as distinct and as foreign as that of any European country, and he will enjoy a freedom of movement unknown to city life, in a country where time has as yet no definite economic value.

THE CLADDAGH:

Outside the walls of Galway is situated the fishing village known as the Claddagh. In olden times the community there were entirely separate from the citizens of Galway and used to elect their own king. Fishing was the mainstay of the inhabitants and as we have seen from "Trade in Galway" the fishermen had certain privileges in the city of Galway and were not allowed to follow any other trade. The Claddagh women have always been noted for their raven haired beauty and they resemble in some ways the exotic Spanish women.

The Claddagh was once a very picturesque village with its little thatched houses and the women wearing colourful shawls. However, all those buildings were condemned as insanitary and torn down and small slated buildings erected in their stead. Very few of the women now wear shawls. The Claddagh ring of two hands holding a heart is widely known.

The blessing of the water of the Bay is carried out every year by the Dominicans and is a most picturesque ceremony with all the Claddagh boats gathered round, all the Claddagh boats decorated with flags and bunting escorting the officiating priest out to the centre of the bay. We find from Hardiman that in 1812 there were five hundred families in the Claddagh with their own mayor whose decision was decisive and whose boat was generally decorated with a white sail. The Mayor used to act as a species of admiral when at sea. "The men carrying in their boats some potatoes, oaten cake, fire and water, but never spirituous liquers".

It is very seldom the Claddagh women marry outside their village and in the early times marriage was probably preceded by elopement. The couple were usually supplied with a hut and a share in a boat. The Nativity of St. John the Baptist used to be celebrated by a procession through the town and they were headed by a band of music, the men arrayed in white jackets and bearing long poles, the emblems of their profession. They stopped outside the houses of the principal inhabitants from whom they generally received money. And when they came back to the village they used to dance around a bonfire, always bringing home part of the fire which they considered sacred. Up to recent years the only language spoken in the Claddagh was Gaelic.

TRADE IN GALWAY:

In Galway as elsewhere throughout the Middle Ages the Guild system was introduced. All crafts and trades were represented in the City but perhaps the most notable was that of the candle makers and the tanners. Up to the end of the 16th century the tallow candle was the only source of artificial light and in Galway as a rule an excellent supply of the raw material was available, in fact a considerable quantity was exported from time to time. The Corporation records are full of references to the buying and selling of hide and a lucrative trade both in England and the continent was carried on with them. Galway was dependent for the bulk of its food supplies and other requirements such as fuel and light upon the native population. Consequently, despite all restrictions from the earliest days a lively intercourse was established with the natives in the immediate neighbourhood. Seven market places were established in Galway for fresh water fish, sea fish, flesh meat, cattle and horses respectively, also the leather market for the selling of various goods and the corn market where all other wares "were sold indiscriminately" (Hardiman). Through the east and west gates the Irish came regularly with large supplies of cattle, turf, wood, wattles, frieze, linen cloth, broad cloth, butter, corn, grain, honey and poultry etc. It was a crime for a citizen to go out of the gates to buy hides or even to make a bargain for them. Everything must be bought in the markets.

The fishing trade was one of the most important in the town and one of the most carefully supervised. Prices were regulated forestalling purchase and even the time and method of fishing prescribed. Every precaution was taken to increase the fisherman's craft. In 1585 it was ordered that no sea manor fisherman should "take in hande either the plowghe, spade or teithe that would barr them from fyshinge. Both to serve themselves and the

common wealthe with fyshe in consideration where of the said fisher and his wife and famylie be reasonable served before others with all necessarie sustenance and foode of prouition as cometh to the market whereby they mought be the better hable toerne their said livinges that way and have better hope”. (Hardiman). In the fish and flesh meat markets it was a rule that the mayor, warden and baillif be served first and from a vast field of regulations one fact emerges clearly: now that as there was no tax on bachelors in these days the unmarried man in the purchase of many necessary commodities had invariably to give away to the prior claims of house holders.

A foreign merchant could not trade in the city only through the medium of his broker, he was liable to expulsion, he could buy only from the citizens never from a foreigner and could not remain within the city with his wears for more than forty days. Only guilds men could keep shops, they alone could buy and sell and they alone could act as brokers. This rule necessarily militated against the native Irish who formed the bulk. Another outstanding characteristic of commercial life in Galway was the exceptional care the Corporation took to secure honest trading by the merchants of the town and by their agents abroad. Debts and dues to merchant strangers had to be carefully discharged and adequate guarantee given to the Mayor for such payments before cargoes could be unloaded.

The chief exports were fish, hides, leather, tallow, wool, linen, horses, cattle, grain and timber.

The chief imports were wine, iron and salt and in lesser quantities coal, lead, tin, alum, manufactured goods such as iron rods and English cloth were a considerable feature, finally, condiments? spices and silks were of considerable importance as imports.

Wine came from France in the 13th and 14th centuries but after the first half of the fifteenth century Spanish wine became the staple import.

COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS, GALWAY:

The Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, Galway, is the largest parish church of the medieval period in Ireland. It stands “a lasting testimonial of the piety, wealth, and public spirit of its founders the former inhabitants of Galway” (Hardiman). The church was founded in 1320 and on its completion it was solemnly dedicated to St. Nicholas of Myra in 1458. Donatus O’Murray was elected Archbishop of Tuam in 1484. He erected the Church of St. Nicholas into a college of exempt jurisdiction. The act having obtained the sanction of Pope Innocent Eighth by Bull dated 6th of February following. The Mayor and the equals of the town elected a Warden and Vicars according to the powers vested in them.

Dominick Lynch Fitzjohn Mayor in 1486 made several additions to the church and bequeathed it several legacies. James Lynch Fitzstephen Mayor in 1493 (who had condemned and executed his only son for a rash murder) made many valuable additions

to the church. The warden and vicars were not, however, left in peace in 1496 they petitioned Pope Alexander 6th stating that although the several parishes were canonically united to the Church of St. Nicholas that Maurice O'Flaherty Clarke claimed to the vicarage of the Parish Church of St. Nicholas of Moycullen etc. After much litigation two Papal Bulls, the sitting of commission in Clonfert various claims, in 1529 the Dean of Kilfenora on a commission issued from Cardinal Wolsey Confirmed the title of College and terminated all disputed.

Shortly after this Lord Deputy Gray seized and confiscated the ornaments of the church. In 1551 Edward 6th acting on a petition from the citizens of Galway changed the church of St. Nicholas into a Collegiate to be called the Royal College of Galway. Although by this grant the church changed to a protestant institution yet the warden and vicars for many years after continued the old religion owing to the immediate succeeding Catholic reign of Queen Mary. About this time Nicholas Lynch Fitzstephen laid many considerable additions to the church. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth the Catholic Clergy edentates? had granted in perpetuity to their friends and kindred the greatest parts of the possession of the college and the unsettled times the exterior parishes were gradually usurped by the diocesan rectors.

Now the Corporation was under Protestant control the Catholic inhabitants (still meeting privately) elected their own Mayor, bailiff and sheriff in order to preserve the succession of their Catholic wardens and vicars. In 1643 the Catholics possessed themselves of the church. During the Cromwellian time the Catholics were indiscriminately banished and the rights of the Protestant warden and vicars were totally disregarded. The chapel was used as a stable and it was considerably injured by the soldierly. On the accession of James 2nd the Catholic clergy again assembled in the town and began to elect wardens and vicars. In 1691 after the surrender of the town to Ginkel it was again given to the established clergy in whose possession it is still. The church as it now stands consists of an aisles? chancel, a central tower, transept, various pillars, a nave with wide side aisle and a south porch. The overall length from the west doorway to the east gable 152 feet. The breadth over the transepts 135 ft. and of the nave and aisles 83½ ft. the chancel 61½ ft. by 25 ft. internally and possibly incorporates an earlier building. Perhaps the church of the Templers or chapel of Saint Nicholas. The three south windows of the chancel are each of two lights with pointed trefoil heads and plain bar tracery. The large east window has five lights with intersecting bartracery over the trefoil bar heads.

The mullions and tracery of all the windows of the chancel are recessed from the outer wall face, the fills, jambs and arches of the recesses being plain chamfered in the case of the south windows. In the east window there are mouldings of later type in place of the chamfers, and the W?lling? below the sill is later than that on each side of it. The other ancient features of the chancel are: an aumbry a plain sedilia recess and a priest's doorway, all in the south wall. In the north wall are the door to the sacristy – the modern vestry, a structure containing old features but apparently a re-building of comparatively modern date – and the organ archway which seems to be modern. The wall plastering in this and many other places conceals any evidence there may be for dating.

Next in order of place and – with the nave – in order of date are the transepts. The north transept is twenty-one feet six inches in width and thirty-nine feet in length internally, measuring from the inner, southern, face of the tower piers. These are its original dimensions. The north window has three lights with pointed trefoil heads and intersecting bar-tracery: a three light edition of the south windows and of the chancel which it resembles more closely than it does the east window. It has no external recess, however. Beneath it, in the same wall but to the east, is an arched recess with small shafts to the jambs. It is either a tomb recess or a sedilia. Over the window, in the gable, is a small window of three lights with round heads. It will be shown later that this window is of sixteenth century date, an insertion and an indication of the raising of the roof about 1561.

In the east wall of the transept is a window of three lights with pointed trefoil heads but without tracery. Over it externally there is a rough relieving arch and, internally, a back, or rear-arch. Seven feet to the south of this window the jamb and part of the relieving arch of a similar window are visible in the outer face of the wall. The rest of this window is covered by the north wall of the organ chamber and, though this wall is modern, it is probably sited on an older foundation.

The south transept, sixty-seven feet three inches in length, was originally of the same length as its counterpart opposite. The irregularities in the wall visible internally mark its original southern limit. On the east side immediately adjoining the chancel is a small vaulted chapel of doubtful date. It is covered by a wagon vault, spanning north to south, under a lean-to roof against the transept wall and its windows – three-light and uncusped ogee heads to the east, two light with square head to the south and with square-headed externally – are possibly fifteenth century but may be insertions. Over the east window is a small circular window with mullions in the form of a cross. That this is the Christ mentioned in the index to the map of 1651 next in order to the High Altar of Nicholas in the choir and described as “the Altar of Jesus Christ in the chapel of Christ judging at the right of the entrance to the Choir”.

Some 16 feet to the south of the archway to this chapel is a window similar in design and dimensions to the north window of the opposite transept.

The southern section of the transept, 28 feet 3 inches long by 20 feet 6 inches wide, the Lynch “Aisle” or chapel of Our Lady is precisely dated. It is the work of Nicholas Lynch Fitz Stephen, “commonly called Nicholas more e’Linche”, Mayor of Galway in 1554 and again in 1561.

The extension – the chapel – is peculiar in design, giving the impression, internally, of being two storeys in height. What may be called the ground floor storey has four windows; one in the east wall, two (now built up) in the south wall and the fourth in the west wall. The east and south windows are similar; triplet lights with round heads, the centre light being higher than the side lights. The embrasures are widely splayed internally and have semi-elliptical rear-arches. The western window is of two lights with bluntly pointed heads. In the upper parts of the walls – the upper storey – over the east

and west windows described are windows of three lights precisely similar to those in the east and south walls below. In the south wall, centrally over the pier between the lower windows, is a beautiful three light window with “Curvilinear Decorated” tracery. The mullions, tracery bars, jambs and arch are moulded and the tracery elaborately cusped. The hood moulding is of ogee form at the apex rising into a small crocketed pinnacle. Its section is a hollow chamfer decorated with square flower paterae and springs form carved stops; a head on the west side and an excellently carved mermaid on the east.

At the south-western angle of the chapel is a turret square in plan, containing a winding stairs entered by doorways from the chapel and from outside. The stairs leads to the roof walks and to a doorway opening into the upper part of the chapel.

In the West wall of the older portion of the transept a small doorway leads to the present heading chamber, a modern erection apparently upon the site of an older building. This chamber partly covers the lower part of the most easterly window of the south isle. Upon the junction on the nave with the transepts rises the central tower.

Five of the six columns are circular in plan, the plan of the sixth – the eastern column of the south arcade – may be described as reduced by four quadrants concave to the circle. The cap of this pillar is of fourteenth century type. At the western extremities of the arcades are square responds – projections from the west wall of the same width as the nave walls – with attached shafts on the faces corresponding to the inner order of the arches over. The spreading capitals of the intermediate pillars are wide enough to accommodate both order of the arches. The tower piers, however, are rectangular and possess no attached shafts with capitals or even corbels to support the inner orders of the arches abutting from the nave. These rest upon the moulded capitals of the piers; features barely wide enough to accommodate them. Moreover the outer order of the arch comes well within the western face line of the pier, and more important – the capital is definitely of a 15th century type, made up of a number of small mouldings lacking the boldness of the earlier work. It is evident that the western piers and arches which form the ends of the aisles, are a partial rebuilding – a casing or refacing – of the original pillars and walls.

The three large south windows of the aisles, each of three lights, have uncusped tracery of a design similar to that of the south window of the transept the lines of which seem to have served as the model. There is a window, already referred to, high up in the east gable of the aisle partly covered by the roof of 1561. The west window of four lights, which has tracery of original design but related to that of the south windows, is one of the most striking features of the church. It is recessed in a deep splay from the outer wall face decorated with delicate hollow banded shafts at the angles. The label or hood moulding of hollow section decorated with vine leaf knots and of ogee form, rises into a crocketed pinnacle.

The three north windows of French’s aisle have less graceful tracery than the windows in the south aisle opposite showing, in fact, a marked degeneration in design. The central window is a copy of the south windows, that to the east has plain intersection bar-tracery

and semi-elliptical heads to the lower lights while that to the west has reticulated tracery of crushed and clumsy form.

The roofless chapel which projects from the north aisle is shown on the map of 1651 to be the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. Viewing the west front crowned by the three gables of the nave and aisles the difference between the masonry of the central portion and that to the north and south of it can be seen quite plainly. In the later aisle gable walls the stone work is regular well wrought and fine jointed in contrast to the hammer-dressing and wide joining of that of the central portion.

The central window lighting the nave is quite evidently an insertion. At the south west angle of the south aisle is a large buttress panelled on the west and south faces. It is continuous with the west wall and forms its southern end and, though the masonry is more finely dressed, is apparently coeval with the wall adjoining.

The carved gargoyles which project from below the parapets of the south aisle wall are remarkable for the variety of their design. There are thirty of them. The plainest are of plain tapered octagonal sections and paired with are tapered twist forms; others have a twisted stem with a 'daisy' form face. There is a bridled horse or ox head, a Griffin, a hairy face (lion), a manticora (man-lion), an ox head, the Lynch arms and many human heads or faces – two in some cases – looking different ways. It is notable that these are over the centres of the windows and that the water delivering sideways from the sprouts would be less likely to fall on the window below.

Above the gargoyles are plain parapet walls of squared ashlar crowned by stepped battlements of the Irish form with steep coping stones. This work continues around the transept and chancel walls, the gargoyles of the transept being of the plain tapered octagon form. The tower, so well seen in distant views but so difficult to examine from nearer positions, is square in plan with canted angles. In the centre of the face of each cant is a shallow pilaster. The windows of the ringing storey are partly or wholly closed by the abutting roofs. There are eight recesses, two in each inner wall face, of this storey. Those towards the nave and transepts are closed – except the one looking south – one of the former containing the door to the nave roof space. Those looking east over the chancel roof, which is lower than the other roofs, were of two lights: the frames are modern. The south-east window has an ogee cinque-foil head. In the north east and south walls of the belfry are tall three-light windows with ogee trefoil heads and in the west wall is a single light. That these windows were originally designed to have louvers is clear. The existing glazing sashes are comparatively modern. Each face of this storey is recessed but the parapet, with its ox-head gargoyles, is flush with the corner piers of the tower.

There is a very fine altar tomb or altar and canopy in the east wall of the chapel of the Blessed Virgin. It is of 16th century date and "Flamboyant" style, quite the most foreign looking work in the building.

Of special interest is the crowned figure of Our Lord with upraised hands and open robe fastened at the neck and below the waist. The feet have been defaced. A second notable feature of the interior is what is known as the "Confessional" which was re-erected in modern times in the recess at the built-up archway of the chapel of the sacrament in the north aisle. Much of its stonework is modern but the twisted pillar, ogee heads and label over seem to be original. The font basin, square in plan tapering downwards, is decorated on two of its faces with tracery designs similar to those of windows and on another face are the Lynch trefoil and lynx. It is of 16th century design and was doubtless presented by one of the Lynches.

The benitier or holy water stoup or font is in three pieces excluding the round base stone which may not be ancient. Above the lowest stone is an octagonal base uncarved and splayed in plan and is decorated all round with boldly cut conventionalised leaves, one to each face and angle of the octagon. Each leaf is of lozenge shape suspended, as it were, from a slipped stalk the end of which is curled over. Alternating with the leaves are single similar slipped stalks which form, with the leaf stalks, a continuous band. The round bowl-stone projects strongly over that below and has, below the rim a decorative border of vine stalks from which depend conventionalised vine leaves. All the decorations are of 15th century type much superior in design and workmanship to the font. The bowl is very roughly worked.

(Taken from the article by Harold J. Leask M.R. I.A. Reprinted from The Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society. Vol. XVII, Nos. I & II).

Among the other items of interest in the building are the flags of the Connacht Rangers, which they carried in the Penninsular and Crimean Wars.

There is a tomb of a crusader named Tertheig dated 1566 with a Maltese cross and anchor superimposed showing that he was a sailor. On the tomb of Jane Eyre, daughter of Sir Edward Eyre, who died in 1760 and after whom Eyre Square was named. We find the following inscription:- "The sum of £300 was given by Jane Eyre to the Corporation of Galway for the yearly sum of £24 to be distributed in bread to thirty-six poor subjects on every Sunday for ever".

Amongst other tombs we find one with a trowel, compass, and square super-imposed showing this to be the tomb of a stonemason and another three hammers and three crowns denoting a goldsmith, another with scissors and tape measures denoting a tailor and another, sheers and glove, denoting a glove maker, and another, axe, chisel, but, t-square and set square, denoting a carpenter.

We find that Alderman Blakeney who died in 1731 has a coat of arms with three laughing cats over hung by a mailed fist.

THE STORY OF THE BELLS:

There are ten Bells in St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church, cast at seven different dates from 1590 to 1898. They were hung for ringing by the late Mr. H. S. Perrse, when he gave two new Bells in 1891. After some time it was seen that the vibration was putting a great stress on the old tower, and "chiming" was substituted for "ringing". Unfortunately the method of chiming was not satisfactory, and one after another of the bells cracked, until in 1930 only three of the Bells could be used. The clock Bell being only used for the hour's strike, and the "Clifton" Bell being out of tune.

The vestry considered various plans, and after much thought decided in 1934, to have the Bells recast, into a chime of ten Bells. They obtained a loan, on the security of the Spiddal Church compensation money, from the Representative Church Body. The Bishop of Tuam gave a grant from a fund at his disposal, and the Lord Primate gave £50 from the Beresford Fund.

The vestry decided to expend as much of the available money as possible on the Bells, so as to secure as heavy a chime as the old Bells, they accordingly left to a future effort, the enlargement of the Louvers, which would permit the sound to escape from the steeple more clearly. In 1935, after several interviews with representatives of Messrs. Gillett & Johnston of Croydon, they placed a contract with that firm, for the recasting of the Bells, and with Messrs. Thomas McDonogh & Sons, Ltd., Galway, for the work of removing, transit and replacing of the Bells in the steeple.

The oldest Bell, probably, was the "Great Bell" which was tolled on Sundays (Hardiman, P. 260, note 36). It was "renived be Master James Linche" in 1590, but was first cast by Hugh Butwall, when is not recorded. This "Master James Linche" was Mayor of Galway in 1590, and did a considerable amount of work including the raising of a tower, and casting of other Bells. But some dispute arose between him and the Corporation about payment, and the matter was submitted to arbitrators, who, in 1592 awarded a sum of 563?, because, "sundry of said workes were beneficial and necessarie for the utilitye of the Commons and Corporation". But the money was not paid, and in 1620, Ambrose Lynch son of James obtained an order from the Chancellor for the payment of the £63 with £40 interest.

The "French" Bell is next in order of age dated 1631. Hardiman's History gives the inscription, but affords no clue as to how or when the Bell was hung in St. Nicholas'. The decorations have been reproduced on the new Bell, and the original decorations have been preserved, and will be an interesting memorial of this old Bell.

John Clifton's Bell is dated 1638. Hardiman does not mention the Bell in his list, possibly because it was not used, it was out of tune, and apparently was not rung for over one hundred years.

Two Bells were cast in the Mayoralty of Colonel Theodore Russell, at the same time the steeple was built on the tower. It is constructed of oak beams, sheeted with. This idea

was again mooted early in the 19th century, and definitely abandoned: the weight would have been too much for the supporting piers.

Colonel Russell was Mayor from 1674-1685, and one of the Churchwardens, Simcockes, was Sheriff in 1680 and Mayor in 1694 and 1695.

In 1726, two more Bells were added, Nos. 4 and 5 of the old peal. Charles Gerry was Mayor. The names of the founder of the Bells is given as Tobias Covey, and as the name Covey is found twice in the list of Sheriffs shortly after 1726, it would seem that these Bells were cast in Galway by local craftsmen.

In 1890, Mr. Henry S. Persse gave Nos. 1 and 2 in memory of his wife, Eleanor Alice Persse, and so completed the peal of eight, and at the same time rehung all the Bells in a new pitchpine frame, which as it is perfectly sound, is used for the recast chime.

The last of the Bells, the Clock Bell, was given in 1898 by Bishop O'Sullivan, who had been Rector of Galway for eighteen years. The clock, which formed part of the bishop's gift, has been much appreciated by the citizens of Galway ever since, and is an excellent time-keeper. The Urban District Council supply the electricity for the illumination of the clock faces.

INSCRIPTIONS ON THE BELLS:

No. 1-F. 3-0-8 lbs.

The Bells No. 1 & 2 were Erected.
By H. S. Persse.
To the Glory of God
And in loving memory of Eleanor
Alice Persse
Died 17 June 1890
J. Murphy Founder Dublin 1891.

No. 2-E. 3-2-8 lbs.

The Bells No. 1 & 2 were erected
By H. S. Persse.
To the glory of God
And in loving memory of his
Beloved wife
Eleanor Alice Persse
Died 17 June 1890
Bless the Lord oh my soul
103 psalm
J. Murphy founder Dublin 1891.

No. 3-E Flat. 4-1-0 lbs.

10H Anes Clif Tonmefe Sit 1738.

No. 4-D. 4-3-14 lbs.

At the Corporation Charge
Theodore Russell Mayor TS RB
CH W 1684.

No. 5-D. 6-1-23 lbs.

At the Corporation Charge
Charles Gerry Mayor TC 1726.

No. 6-B. 7-3-10 lbs

At the Corporation Charge
Charles Gerry Mayor
Tobias Covey Founder 1726.

No. 7-B. Flat. 9-0-14 lbs.

Domp Gavdeffroy De La Rue
Par La Grace De Diev Abbe De St.
Savlve Et Sr De Cavron
Vvalois Ma Nomme Povr
Servir Aleglis Dv
Dict Cavron 1631
Lovis Longree Novs at Faict 1631.

No. 8-A. 10-3-14 lbs.

Hvgh Butwal First Founder of
Thes Belld
Renived Be Master James Liniche
Mai or Au D 1590 T W

No. 9-G. 14-1-19 lbs.

M. Byrne Bell Founder James's St.
Dublin
XXVigilate XX Paroeciae Diu Post
Dioecis Pastor
Me Dei Gloriam Dedicavit
I T MDCCCXCVIII

No. 10-F. 18-2-14 lbs.

This at the Corporation Charge
Tr Mayor Tho Simcockes Rich
Plvmmr Ch Wardens 1684

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH OF IRELAND, GALWAY:

Daily Prayer, 12 noon.
Litany, 8 o'clock.
Friday, 7 o'clock Evening Prayer.
Sunday, 8.30 Holy Communion, and
11.30 Morning Prayer.

Note:-

In this church Columbus is supposed to have heard Mass before he set sail for America and among his crew there was one Galway man.

CHURCHES:

GALWAY CITY:

The Church of St. Mary of the Assumption: (Church of Our Lady).

Masses: - Sunday, 8, 10, 11 a.m.
 Weekdays 7.30, 8, 10.
 Devotions 4 p.m.

An Apostolic Brief issued in 1488 by Pope Innocent the 8th at the request of three Galway Canons put the Dominicans in possession of the church of St. Mary of the Hill. The Mayor of Galway (the famous James Lynch) erected a new choir for the Fathers at his own expense.

By an English Royal Mandate under Queen Elizabeth, they were deprived of their possessions. Shortly afterwards they regained possession. In 1642 Lord Forbes landed in Galway Bay to subdue the Catholics of Galway. He erected his batteries on the Church itself in an effort to take the city. The effort failed, but ten years later when Galway was threatened by the Cromwellians a unique document was drawn up by the citizens of Galway, in which they promised to rebuild the Church exactly as it stood if the Dominicans would consent to have it razed to the ground until they were left in peace again. The Fathers agreed and the Church was demolished. Twenty years later it was quoted by the Blessed Oliver Plunkett in his memoirs that the Galway Dominicans possessed the noblest and most richly adorned Church in the entire kingdom. In 1698 the community suffered in the drastic general exile.

From 1800 to 1891 the Dominicans continued their ministry in a small church in the Claddagh. In 1891 the present Church was built on the brink of the Atlantic of glistening Galway granite. In this Church is preserved a strikingly beautiful statue of Our Lady, which was hidden throughout the centuries of persecution. This statue is popularly known as “Our Lady of Galway”, and is an object of great veneration, many making pilgrimages here in order to gain special requests. This image of Our Lady of Galway is the embodiment of radiant and exultant joy.

ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH, SEA ROAD:

This church of Gothic architecture was dedicated 31st July, 1863.

Possess two silver chalices inscribed:

1. ‘Calix Societatis Iesu Res. Gal. 10. Ber. Anno 1620.

2. '1634'. From the Congregation of Mullingar to the Jesuits for their home Missions, 1856.

Note: In the Pro-Cathedral there is a silver chalice with inscription:

'Ora pro Stephano Bruno Societatis Iesu sacerdote qui me fieri fecit pro Residentia Galviensi eiusdem Societatis 1634'.

Masses on Sunday: 7, 7.30, 8, 9, and 11 o'clock
Devotions: 7 p.m.

Masses on Weekdays: 7, 8 and 9 o'clock.
Devotions: 7.30 p.m.

THE ABBEY CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN EGLINGTON STREET, GALWAY:

The present Abbeygate Street of Galway takes its name from the original Franciscan Monastery which was built on the site of the present Courthouse. The founder was William de Burgho, who died in 1394. The church was founded in the second half of the 13th century. The foundation was suppressed under Elizabeth in 1369 1569?. The present Abbey church was built in 1820. There is simplicity and dignity in its Doric fluted pillars which are similar to those in the Courthouse Galway.

Masses on Sunday: 8, 9, 10, and 11 o'clock.
Devotions: 7 p.m.

Masses on Weekdays: 7, 8, and 11 o'clock.
Devotions: 7.30 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING:

Consecrated 1936. This church is designed in a Lombardic Romanesque style and its most prominent feature is a fine square tower ninety-five feet high covered with scalloped copper tiles.

Masses: Sundays 9, 11 o'clock.
Devotions: 6.30 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH CHURCH:

This is a Gothic structure, built in 1882, opened in 1884.

Masses on Sundays: 8, 9, 10 and 12 o'clock.
Devotions: 7 o'clock.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH:

Was built in 1898.

Masses on Sundays: 8, 9, 10 and 11 o'clock.
Devotions: 7 o'clock.

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCH:

This is a Gothic Structure.

Masses on Sundays: 8, 9 and 11 o'clock.
Devotions: 7 o'clock.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, GALWAY:

University College Galway is situated just outside the City on the west side of the River Corrib. The main building in the perpendicular style of the English Gothic was erected in 1848. It is built of cut limestone in the form of a quadrangle. Over the principal entrance facing the town is a clock tower one hundred and eight feet high.

The College grounds are extensively planted with many varieties of ornamental shrubs and trees, and a large portion of the western side forms a botanical garden.

THE LIBRARY:

The foundation of the Library dates from the opening of the College in 1849. Its first Librarian was the well-known Archaeologist, James Hardiman, the author of "The History of Galway". There are 60,000 volumes in the Library, and amongst the many valuable books and journals are the ancient Corporation Books of the City of Galway, dating from the year 1486, the first year of its incorporation up to the beginning of the nineteenth century. It also contains the map (of which only two copies are extant) made in 1651 by order of the Marquis of Clanrickard to illustrate the extent and importance of the town.

The Library is open to members of the College, and to others living in the province of Connacht on conditions set forth in the Library regulations, a copy of which will be sent to intending borrowers on application to the Librarian of the College.

HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE:

The College is of the Queen's University were founded under the provisions of the Act 8 and 9 Victoria, Cat. 66, entitled "An Act to enable Her Majesty to endow New Colleges for the advancement of Learning in Ireland" Galway was selected as one of the sights; and on December 30, 1845, Letters Patent were issued incorporating it under the name and style of "The President, Vice-President and Professors of Queen's College, Galway".

By the Irish Universities Act (1908) Queen's College, Galway became a constituent college of the National University.

In 1929 the "University College Galway Act" was enacted by the Oireachtas Eireann under the heading "An Act to make Provision for increasing the Annual Grant payable to University College, Galway and for securing that Persons appointed to offices and situations in that College should be competent to discharge their duties through the medium of the Irish Language".

THE PRESENTATION CONVENT:

This order first came to Galway under the patronage of the Very Rev. Warden Ffrench in 1815. They were first in Kirwans Lane and then in Meyrick Square. Here they continued till 1819 when they removed to their present site.

DOMINICAN CONVENT: Taylors Hill:

In 1644 the Dominicans first came to Galway. They were driven out in 1652 and again in 1698, however, some of the nuns stayed on in the town and resumed their work when the persecution finished.

THE MERCY CONVENT:

The site occupied by the Convent and Schools of the Sisters of Mercy once formed part of an island – St. Stephens Island. The whole island had been given to the Franciscans. In 1833 the nuns came to Galway at the invitation of George Browne, Bishop of Galway. They took charge of various institutions in Galway and opened schools there. In 1842 the convent was transferred to the present site. The sisters are famous for their teaching of the poor and especially for the good work they did during the Famine years in Galway. In 1870 the sisters took charge of the Magdalen Asylum in College Road, and in which they are now running a most efficient laundry. They are also in charge of a national School at Eglinton Street. In 1921 a knitting industry on a small scale was introduced to the industrial school, this is still flourishing. In 1937 they opened a secondary school and in 1940 they celebrated their centenary with scenes of great rejoicing.

POOR CLARES:

After the religious suppression of Henry 8th and Elizabeth there were no religious communities left in Ireland. The Poor Clare nuns were amongst the first to start communities here. They arrived in Dublin about 1625. During the insurrection in 1641 they fled from the convent on the shores of Lough Ree and settled in Galway in a house near the Church of Saint Nicholas.

In 1649 the nuns petitioned the Corporation of Galway for a grant of land in Nuns' island, this was given to them. In 1651 they were expelled by the Cromwellians but returned to Galway before 1672 and they had to rent their convent on Nuns' Island from a courtier of Charles 2. The convent was burned down in 1691 and the nuns took refuge in a house in Market Street.

So the tale of persecution goes on until in 1740 two of the nuns journeyed to London to interview Queen Caroline, after which they returned home after having secured five acres of land on Nuns' Island. A century later the present Convent was erected and from this convent in the year 1934 six Poor Clare nuns left to found a community of their order in Portsmouth at the invitation of the Rev. William J. Cotter, Bishop of Portsmouth.

ST. IGNATIUS COLLEGE, SEA ROAD, GALWAY:

The foundation stone of this College was laid in March, 1861. The college was opened in February of the following year. This is a secondary school attached to St. Ignatius Church. At present there are about one hundred and fifty pupils.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, GALWAY:

Was erected in the year 1909 by the Rev. Dr. O'Dea, Bishop of Galway, and first opened in 1912 as a Diocesan Seminary. Scott was the architect of the building.

GALWAY TECHNICAL SCHOOL:

Technical education in some form or another has been available in Galway since approximately the year 1890. The present school is a very fine building in Father Griffin Road, Galway, has about five hundred pupils and is one of the best equipped Technical Schools in Ireland.

The feature of this school is the fact that it possesses the only Navigation Department in Ireland and scholarships are available at it from Irish Shipping Ltd.

SCHOOLS:

Convent of Mercy Secondary and Preparatory Schools, 750 pupils.

Saint Brendans National School, 150 pupils.

Presentation National School, 800 pupils.

St. Nicholas' School, 450 pupils.

PATRICIAN BROTHERS SCHOOLS, GALWAY:

The congregation which takes its name from St. Patrick was established in Tullow, Co. Carlow in 1808. In 1826 the Catholic Warden of Galway gave the charge of the large schools in the city itself to the Patrician Brothers, and they began their labours in the Lombard Street Monastery School.

Most Rev. Doctor McEvelly, the then Bishop of Galway, greatly desired to open a Seminary to promote the equivalent of the present-day intermediate education, and he invited the Brothers to aid him in this project, and so in 1852 St. Joseph's Seminary, Nun's Island, was founded.

His Lordship took a great interest in the school and used to teach there himself, so that the school became popularly known as "the Bishop's School", a name which it still preserves.

In order to cater for the increasing number of boys, the Brothers purchased what was formerly known as Pearse's Bond Stores, and reconstructed them into a new and beautiful school in 1931.

Amongst the distinguished alumni was Father Tom Burke, O.P. who earned from the Pope the title "The Prince of Preachers", and in more recent years the renowned Irish writer and novelist, Padraig O'Conaire.

GALWAY PORT AND HARBOUR:

The following are the figures relevant to the Channel and both the Dun Aengus and Commercial Docks:-

Length of the Approach Channel to Dun Aengus Docks	1,300 yards
Depth	28' MHWS.
Bottom width of Approach Channel	260'
Dock Gates Entrance to Dun Aengus Dock	65'
Depth on Cill Dun Aengus Dock	28' MHWS
Depth of Turning Area	24'
Length of North Quay Dun Aengus Dock	384'
Length of South Quay Dun Aengus Dock	356'
Width of Dun Aengus Dock	160'
Length of New Pier extending seawards from Dun Aengus Dock	350'
Width of New Pier	53'
Depth alongside New Pier at L.W.S.T.	12'

Commercial Dock:

Vessels drawing up to 16' at M.H.W.S. can enter the Commercial Dock. The length of the West Quay is 700' and of the South Quay 580'.

Storage:

The following are the measurements of the sheds owned by the Harbour Commissioners:-

Transit Shed on South Side of Dun Aengus Dock:

This shed is in three sections, the measurements of which are as follows:-

Length	104'
Width	29'
Height to eave	12'
Length	74'
Width	25'
Height to eave	9'
Length	58'
Width	24'
Height to eave	8'

This shed built throughout of corrugated iron and concrete flooring.

Shed at North-West Corner of Dun Aengus Dock:

The measurements of the portion of this shed which would be available for cargo are:

Railway Facilities:

The Great Southern Railways Company have a line running from Galway Station which branches out in a line running across the West end of Dun Aengus Dock and a line running across the east end of Commercial Dock.

Stevedoring:

The present practice is for the Shipping Companies or Importers concerned to employ one of their permanent employees to superintend the discharge of cargo.

The men are paid on a daily rate of 13/- per eight hours, with 1/- per day extra in the case of vessels coming from foreign ports. The overtime rate is 2/6d. per hour; 3/- per hour for meal hours worked; overtime after 12 p.m. (midnight) double ordinary time; overtime on Sundays double ordinary time.

Cartage: The present charge for cartage from Dun Aengus Dock to Transit Shed at Commercial Dock is 1s. 5d. per ton.

Towage: Towage when necessary can be undertaken by The Galway Bay Steamboat Company, Limited.

Pilotage: Pilotage is compulsory from roadstead to Socks.

The main difference that the improvements have effected is that the tender can leave and re-enter the docks at all tides. Hence passengers on the liners can be disembarked in the shortest possible space of time.

INDUSTRIES:

Connacht Mineral Water Co.
J. Young's Mineral Water Works.
Les Modes Modes Modirne. (The Galway Hat Factory).
The Galway Foundry.
The Galway Woollen Mills.
Lydon's Woollen Mills.
Hunter's Woodworkers.
McDonagh's Chemical Industry.
McDonagh's Milling and Trading Co.
Thomas McDonagh and Son Hygiae (Manufacture of disinfectants and other chemicals).
Galway Tile Company.
Coldchola Ltd., (For tar).
The Connacht Laundry.
The Magdalen Laundry.
Stewart & Co.
Convent of Mercy Knitting Industry.

GALWAY FAIRS, 1943:

January	Tuesday, 5 th Wednesday, 6 th	Pigs Sheep and Cattle
February	Tuesday, 2 nd Wednesday, 3 rd	Pigs and Horses Cattle and Sheep
March	Tuesday, 2 nd Wednesday, 3 rd	Pigs Sheep and Cattle
April	Tuesday, 6 th Wednesday, 7 th	Pigs Sheep and Cattle
May	Tuesday, 4 th Wednesday, 5 th Tuesday, 25 th Wednesday, 26 th	Pigs Sheep and Cattle Horses and Pigs Cattle and Sheep
July	Wednesday, 7 th	Cattle, Sheep and Pigs
August	Wednesday 4 th	Cattle, Sheep and Pigs
September	Tuesday, 7 th Wednesday, 8 th	Horses and Pigs Cattle and Sheep

October	Tuesday, 5 th Wednesday, 6 th	Pigs Sheep and Cattle
November	Tuesday, 2 nd Wednesday, 3 rd	Pigs and Horses Sheep and Cattle
December	Tuesday, 7 th Wednesday, 8 th	Pigs Sheep and Cattle

THE COUNTY JAIL:

In 1686 the Grand Jury selected an old castle as County Jail and in 1791 they built the present jail. Hardiman says that the prisoners were very comfortably accommodated “the Galway County Jail is near the river and there is a new court and no pump. The criminals are in two long rooms with dirt floors and no fire places. The debtors have small rooms above the stairs. Allowance to felons; a sixpenny loaf of household bread every other day (Weight, 3lb. 12 oz.) which they often sold for 4½d. to buy potatoes. Jailers salary £20. 1788 April 1, debtors 4, felons etc., 14.

Some years ago it had been decided to discontinue the use of these premises of the jail. The Corporation handed them over to his Lordship the Bishop of Galway for a nominal sum of £10.

THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE:

This building stands on the site of the Ancient Abbey of the Franciscans. It was commenced in 1812 and opened in 1815. It is an impressive building with a lofty portico supported by fluted pillars. The statue of the lion and the Unicorn which once rested on the roof is now in the grounds of the University. This is also the seat of the County Library.

Surveyed by C. W. Kenny
26th June, 1943
(for I.T.A. copyright)