bitants adhered to the royal cause during the war of 1641, until the arrival of Cromwell, to whose superior force they submitted without opposition. No other occurrences of historical importance took place until the year 1798, when several bands of insurgents sought refuge in the mountainous fastnesses here, after the dispersion of their main body in Wexford, and continued’ to harass the neighbouring coun­ties, until tranquillity was restored, partly by making terms with their leaders, and partly by cutting roads and establish­ing military posts through the interior of the country, which till then had been nearly impassable.

The county forms one of the four great mountain groups of Ireland. The land rises from the valley of the Liffey and Dublin Bay on the north, by successive ridges, in­creasing in height, and occasionally intersected by deep glens, to the middle of the county, whence it again subsides to the borders of Wexford and Carlow. The direction of the range is from north-east at Bray, to south-west, the central part of the line being usually the most elevated, and the surface declining to the sea on the east, and the level country of Kildare and Carlow on the west. Lugna- quilla, to the east of Baltinglas, is the most elevated point of the range : its summit is 3039 feet above the sea-level. To the north, on the verge of Dublin county, are the But­ter Mountain, 1459, Kippure, 2473, and the Three-rock Mountain, 1763 feet high ; more southerly, Djouce, 2384 feet, and Sugar-loaf, 1126. In the centre are Thonalagee, 2683; Comaderry, 2296; Lugduff, 2148; Knockreagh, 1559; and Croghan, 2175. The glens form very striking and picturesque features of this romantic district, being deep, narrow, and several of them densely covered with wood. The most celebrated are the Dargle, near the county of Dublin ; Glencullen, Glencree, the Glen of the Downs, the Devil’s Glen, Glenmalur, the Glen of Imail, and the Vale of Ovoca. The rivers are few and small, all having their sources in the central group. The Liffey, which rises in Djouce Mountain, and after a circuitous course through Kildare, discharging itself into Dublin Bay, is known chiefly as having the metropolitan city on its banks. The Slaney, which rises near Glendalough, is not navigable until it has traversed the greater part of Wex­ford county. The Ovoca is formed by the junction of the Awenmore and Awenbeg at the meeting of the waters in the romantic Vale of Ovoca. It is afterwards joined by the Daragh or Aghrim from the west, and empties itself into St George’s Channel at Arklow. The Vartrey, a small stream, falls into the sea north of Wicklow Head. Numerous lakes lie in the valleys between the central mountain-ridges. They are small, but generally surrounded by very pic­turesque scenery. The most remarkable are Lough Bray, in Glencree, near the borders of Dublin ; Lough Dan, Lough Tay, Luggelagh, and the lakes of Glendalough. The last form an object of peculiar interest, from their romantic si­tuation, the remains of ancient ecclesiastical structures in their neighbourhood, and the popular legends connected with them. The coast presents a succession of fine pros­pects, but is much dreaded by mariners, in consequence of the sand-banks that skirt it. These are, the Kish Bank, each extremity of which is marked by a floating light; Bray Bank, the Codling, South Ridge, Wicklow, and Arklow Banks. The southern extremity of the last named is also marked by a floating light. The only harbours in this line of coast are those of Wicklow and Arklow, both fit only for small vessels. The projecting point of Wicklow Head is marked by two fixed lights. A few creeks afford shelter for fishing-craft. Herrings and round fish are taken off Wicklow Bank, where also oysters and lobsters are caught ; but the business is carried on with so little spirit, owing, it is said, to the want of capital, that fish is brought from Dublin for sale. The state of the fisheries in 1836 was as follows :

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | No. | Tonnage. | Men. |
| Decked vessels 39 1174 156  Half-decked ditto 153 1425 858  Open sail-boats 57 — 246  Row-boats 14 — 38 | | | |
| Total of fishermen 1298 | | | |

The western side of the county presents one of the great granite formations of Ireland, extending from Kingstown Harbour to the south-western extremity of the county. Each side is bordered by a range of clay-slate rock, passing into greenstone or a greenstone-slate. The rest of the county consists of clay-slate, graywacke, and graywacke-slate, interspersed in various places with small patches of granite, quartz-rock, and greenstone-trap protrusions, with whin­dykes. The eastern side of the granitic range abounds with metalliferous veins, while the western is totally desti­tute of them. Lead has been raised near Lough Dan, at Luganure in Comaderry Mountain, at Glendalough, and at Ballyfinshogue ; copper at Ballymurtagh and elsewhere. The annual produce of the lead-mines now in operation is estimated at 2500 tons, valued at L.38,000 ; and of copper and lead in other mines at 12,500 tons, value L.35,000. The granite supplies inexhaustible quantities of stone for building and flagging. Slates for roofing are procured at Dunganstown and Carnew. The climate, though moist, is healthy ; the lower lands near the sea produce the arbutus, myrtle, and laurestinus, which flourish in the open air, sel­dom requiring artificial protection during winter. The character of the soil is very various; near the sea, and along the banks of the larger rivers, it is rich, abounding with limestone, limestone-gravel, and marl. The moun­tainous tracts have generally a deep thick covering of heath and turf, based upon disintegrated granite. This part con­tains large tracts of bog. Along the verge of Dublin boundary, a substratum, lying within a few inches of the surface, forms a crust impenetrable to water, thus render­ing the upper soil wholly unprofitable until this layer be broken up with the axe, for it resists the action of the spade or plough; after which, when blended with the subjacent clays, it forms a productive soil. Much of the natural tim­ber with which the county was at a former period nearly covered, is still preserved, forming an important feature in the landscape ; and young plantations are yearly rising around the mansions and villas with which this district, the chosen pleasure-ground of Ireland, is thickly studded.

The progress of the population, as far as it can be ascer­tained from authorities worthy of notice, is as follows :

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year. | Authority. | No. of Inhabitants. |
| 1760 De Burgo 43,872  1792 Beaufort. 58,000  1812 Parliamentary census 83,109  1821 Ditto 110,767  1831 Ditto 121,557 | | |

The latest of these returns gives an average of one in­habitant to ever}’ four acres. The return of the Commis­sioners of Public Instruction in J 834, which, being arran­ged according to dioceses instead of counties, cannot be deemed strictly accurate, gives a gross population of 118,661, of whom 25,005 were members of the established church, 322 Protestant dissenters, and 93,334 Roman Ca­tholics. The number of children receiving instruction in the public schools at the under-named periods was,

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Males. | Females. | Sex not ascertained. | Total. |
| 1821 5597 3108 8,705  1824-6 6377 4671 285 11,333  1836- 7 1151 1012 2,163  1837- 8 1232 1042 2,274  1838- 9 1549 1351 2,900 | | | | |