The number of the children of each religious denomina­tion, as stated in the return of 1824—6, being the only one in which this point is noticed, was, members of the establish­ed church, 3666; dissenters, 31 ; Roman Catholics, 7270; besides 366 whose religion could not be ascertained. The number of schools, according to the same return, was 258, of which forty-four, having 3526 pupils, were supported by grants of public money; thirty-eight, with 1619 pupils, by voluntary subscriptions; and 176, with 6188 pupils, wholly by the fees paid by the pupils.

The county is divided into the seven baronies of Λrklow, Ballinacor, Newcastle, Rathdrum, Shillelagh, Upper and Lower Talbotstown. These are subdivided into fifty-eight parishes, of which forty-nine are in the diocese of Dublin, two in Ferns, and seven in Leighlin. The diocese of Glen- dalough, which anciently comprehended the greater part of the county, having been united to that of Dublin in 1497, has been so intimately amalgamated with it that their re­spective boundaries cannot now be ascertained. The county returned ten members to the Irish parliament, two for the county at large, and two each for the boroughs of Baltinglas, Blessington, Carysfort, and Wicklow. All the boroughs were disfranchised at the time of the Union, and those of Wicklow and Baltinglas are the only two to which corporate privileges are to be granted under the municipal corporation act. The number of electors was, in

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year. | No. |
| 1831 1013 | |
| 1832 695 | |
| 1833 1566 | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year. | No. |
| 1834 1670 | |
| 1835 1670 | |
| 1836 1679 | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year. | No. |
| 1837 1679 | |
| 1838 1679 | |
| 1839 1380 | |

The number of electors is to that of the inhabitants as one to eighty-eight, and to that of the heads of families as one to fifteen. The county is in the Leinster circuit. The assizes are held in the town of Wicklow, where the county court-house, prison, and infirmary, arc built. Ge­neral sessions of the peace are also held there and at Bal­tinglas. The local magistracy consists of a lieutenant, sixteen deputy-lieutenants, fifty-nine other unsalaried ma­gistrates, and a stipendiary. Under these is a constabulary force, consisting of a county inspector, five sub-inspectors, six head constables, and 199 constables and sub-constables. There is a second infirmary at Baltinglas, and four fever­hospitals, with a number of dispensaries in different parts. Lunatics are sent to the district asylum in Dublin, into which twenty-two cases from this county are admissible ; but several patients are still kept in the county prison. Baltinglas, Rathdrum, and Shillelagh, have been fixed on as sites for workhouses for unions under the poor-law act.

The rich low' lands near the sea, and along the banks of the Slaney and Ovoca, are under tillage, all the operations of which are carried on according to the most approved systems. Much of the mountain district is adapted for pasturage, particularly for feeding a small breed of sheep, whose meat is much prized in the Dublin market. The mountain of Lugnaquilla has a fine sheep-walk on its summit. Lime and marl are the chief manures : the former is brought by sea from Howth to the districts near the coast; it is also drawn in large quantities from Carlow to the inland parts. Butter is made in large quantities in the dairies, which are generally attached to the farm-houses. The fences in the most highly improved districts are of white thorn ; in other parts earthen mounds, and in the rocky mountainous heights dry stone-walls

The manufacture of flannels was here carried on exten­sively, and a market-house for their sale was erected at Rathdrum ; but it has declined greatly, and the woollen manufacture is now nearly confined to the fabrication of friezes and coarse cloths for home-consumption. Some coarse linen is also wrought for the same purpose. But **the** county owes its wealth wholly to its agriculture. Most

of the produce is sent to Dublin ; but some is exported from Wicklow and Arklow, and the quantities are annually increasing. The annual average of the exports and imports through these places is estimated as follows :

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | Exports. | | Imports. | |
|  | Tons. | | L. | Tons. | L. |
| Wicklow 16,000 85,000 8,000 15,000  Arklow 900 8,500 4,000 6,500 | | | | | |
| Total 16,900 93,500 12,000 21,500 | | | | | |

This is the only county in Ireland in which there is no banking establishment, either private or joint-stock ; yet it is the most thriving in proportion to its population and ex­tent of productive land. There are loan-societies in eight places: the sums in the hands of borrowers at the close of 1839 amounted to L.9315, the number of borrowers dur­ing the same year to 9100.

Though the high state of prosperity this county displays is mainly attributable to the well-directed efforts of agri­cultural industry, yet some portion of it must be allowed to arise from the number of men of landed property whom the extraordinary beauty of the country has induced to make it their chosen place of residence, thus heightening its na­tural advantages of scenery by the adventitious ornaments of splendid mansions and villas, surrounded by demesnes laid out in the most refined style. Two main lines of road conduct the stranger through it. The one on the eastern side, and mostly near the sea-coast, presents an almost un­interrupted succession of splendid prospects, through a highly cultivated country. Proceeding from the city of Dublin, through the Scalp, the lands of Powerscourt, the Dargle, the Glen of the Downs, Delgany, the Devil’s Glen, Luggelagh, Glendalough, and the Vale of Ovoca, to Arklow, the eye finds nothing to rest upon but scenes of rural beauty. The other main road, along the western side, chiefly through the rich valley of the Slaney, presents a si­milar succession of scenery of a less romantic character. Even the intermediate space, though wholly composed of mountain tracts little capable of high cultivation, presents several wild landscapes of combined cliff and glen, to which an easy access is found through the military road already noticed.

The peasantry, notwithstanding the proximity of the me­tropolis, resembles that of the more remote agricultural districts in habits, dwellings, and mode of life ; the chief article of food being the potato, and the fuel turf, though coal imported from England is in general use among the wealthier classes, especially near the sea.

There are several cromlechs still existing, and many raths. Ruins of monastic buildings are to be seen at Baltinglas, Wicklow, Rathdrum, and Glendalough or “ the Glen of the Two Lakes,” where there is a pillar-tower, and the remains of several places of religious worship, one of them being the cathedral of the ancient diocese, from which it has acquired thc name of “ the Seven Churches.’’ It had been the site of a city, the metropolis of the sept of the O’Tooles, and is now a place of great resort for visitors, from its pic­turesque scenery. Several castles were built in this county by the English, the sites of most of which can still be as­certained by what is left of their structures.

Wicklow, the assize-town, is built on an elevated spot projecting into the sea near the mouth of the Vartrey. **It** was originally the site of a castle erected by Maurice Fitz­gerald, and was long maintained as a post of importance, under the superintendence of a constable. The town is small and irregularly built, owing most of its support to the assizes and sessions. It was a borough by prescrip­tion, but its corporate rights were confirmed by a charter of James I., granted in 1613, to be enjoyed under a port­reeve, burgesses, and freemen, who had a right of **ex-**