Mathew, and Woulfe. Subsequently to the year 1172, it was granted by Henry 1I., who obtained possession of it after several sanguinary contests, to Theobald Fitz-Walter, surnamed Butler, from the office which he held in the king’s household. It was reduced to the form of an English county by King John in 1210, and in 1328 Edward III. erected it into a county palatine, in favour of the first earl of Ormond ; and though that king shortly after re-assumed the regal prerogatives, they were regranted in 1337, and in 1372 confirmed, to James the son of Theobald, and his heirs male for ever. This grant affected only the lay lands of the county, those belonging to the church being a se­parate jurisdiction, with its own courts and officers, under the name of the county of the Cross of Tipperary. The county continued to be thus divided both in fact and name until after the restoration, when the grant of the regalities was not only confirmed to the duke of Ormond by Charles II., but extended over the whole of the county. The juris­diction continued in the family till the attainder of the last duke of Ormond, in consequence of which the whole of the ducal property reverted to the crown, the palatinal rights were abolished, and the records belonging to it deposited in the king’s courts of chancery and common pleas, where they still remain. The county suffered greatly during the civil wars of 1641, in the course of which the town of Clonmell, after a gallant resistance, obtained ho­nourable terms from Cromwell, who conducted the siege in person.

The surface is much varied. To the south it. rises into the range of the Knockmeledown Mountains, the highest summit of which is 2698 feet above sea level. North of these are the Galtees, the highest of which, Galtymore, rises to an elevation of 3008 feet. Proceeding still farther north, are the Slievenamanagh Mountains, 2582 feet high : the Keeper, 2265; Arragh, 1558; and a portion of the Devil’s Bit, 1572 ; the remainder of which last-named range extends north-east­erly, forming the line of demarcation between King’s and Queen’s counties. The rest of the county presents an un­dulating surface, seldom perfectly level, and in some parts rising into hills of some elevation, the most considerable of which are the Slieveardagh Hills, bordering Kilkenny county, and Slievenamuck, near the base of which the town of Tip­perary is situate. The only large river that passes through the county is the Suir, which has its source in the last-named range of mountains, near Roscrea, and after flowing in a southern direction, by Templemore, Thurles. and Cahir, to Ardfinnan, takes a western course by Clonmell, and, passing through Carrick-on-Snir, enters the county of Waterford, and discharges itself into the Atlantic through the estuary of Waterford harbour. The Shannon forms part of the western boundary of the county, from its most northern point, at the junction of this river with the Lesser Brosna, through its expansion called Lough Derg, and thence to O’Brien’s Bridge. The Lesser Brosna is the northern boundary from Parsonstown to the Shannon, and the Nore traverses a small portion of the north-east of the county. There are no lakes of any extent ; three of small size, worthy of notice chiefly from their shape and romantic position, lie in the glens of the Galtees.

The mountains are mostly composed of clay-slate, sur­rounded by sandstone ; those of Knockmeledown are also capped with horizontal strata of this latter mineral. The part of the Devil’s Bit range which projects into the county is wholly sandstone, as are also the groups of the Galtees and Slievenamuck. The beds of the latter range horizon­tally, so as to furnish large quantities of excellent flags from the quarries there. Slates of good quality are raised in the district adjoining the southern extremity of Lough Derg, and carried in large quantities to various distant places by the Shannon navigation. There is also a very extensive and valuable slate-quarry near Clonmell, which enjoys cqual fa­

cilities of transport by the Suir. In the east of the county, from Killenaub eastward, is a coal-field, generally considered to be an offset or continuation of that in Kilkenny and Queen’s counties. The seams, which lie between slrata of sandstone and shale, are in some cases single, in others double, and even treble. The thickness of those in the Coal-brook mines, which have been long worked, is from one to two feet. The produce of these works consists of one fourth coal and three fourths culm. The former is in considerable demand for manufacturing purposes, being highly esteemed on account of the large portion of pure carbon contained in it; the latter is equally so for making lime, and is also used for culinary purposes when wrought up into balls with clay. Ironstone, though found in large quantities in the Coalbrook works, is not applied to any profitable account. The village of Silvermines, on the northern side of the Keeper Moun­tains, derives its name from the mines of silver in its neigh­bourhood, which at a former period had been largely worked, as were copper-mines in the same neighbourhood ; but both have been relinquished. Copper was also raised at Lacka- more, near Newport, but with a similar result. Zinc, man­ganese, malachite, galena, and white lead, have been found in various places. The natural caves discovered in 1833 in a low limestone hill, near the southern base of the Galtee Mountains, and about midway between Cahir and Mitchels- town, present a peculiar feature in the geology of the county. They are entered by a passage sloping downwards, about 200 feet in length, which opens into a subterraneous cham­ber nearly eighty feet long and upwards of thirty at its greatest height; whence proceed other passages commu­nicating with a number of interior caves of various sises, that have obtained names chiefly from their discoverers, or from some peculiar resemblance, whether real or fanciful, to objects of general notoriety. Their roofs, sides, and floors are adorned with a great variety of stalactites of singular appearance, and in some parts there are small reservoirs of the purest water. The number of these apartments has not yet been accurately ascertained ; nor has a detailed geolo­gical account of the interior yet appeared. They are ge­nerally known by the name of the Mitchelstown caves from their vicinity to that town, and are objects of much care to Lord Kingsborough, on whose estate they were discover­ed. The level part of the county is chiefly limestone, con­stituting one extremity of the great field of that formation, which spreads over all the central portion of Ireland. Its most striking peculiarity is the rock of Cashel, consisting of a mass of limestone arranged in concentric strata, rising precipitously from the surrounding plain.

The soil in the plain country, and in the extended val­leys, is a rich calcareous loam, capable of producing the finest crops with little aid from human industry. The town of Tipperary forms the centre of a tract of flat country lying between the Galtee and Slievenamanagh ranges, and ex­tending from the county of Limerick westward to Golden and the Slieveardagh Hills in the opposite direction, which, from its extraordinary fertility, has been called the Golden Vale. Another tract of similar character, but not so ex­tensive, lies in the northern baronies of Ormond. The soil on the hills and mountain sides is light and poor, partaking much of the character of the substrata of clay-slate and sand­stone on which it rests. The southern extremity of the great Bog of Allen spreads itself into this county in its north-eastern quarter, from Roscrea to Holycross, not how­ever in one continuous sheet, but in detached portions. It appears to have owed its origin to the obstructions in the channel of the Nore, a small portion of which skirts the county here. The whole of these detached portions of be; contains 35,000 acres, the most elevated part of their surface being about 400 feet above the sea, and therefore perfectly capable of drainage. The timber found here is chiefly fir. yew, and oak, the latter perfectly black, from the action of