forms a kind of peninsula, cut off from the remainder of the county by a line of marshy land, which has the appear­ance of having been once under water. There are no large rivers in the interior. The Suir forms its northern boun­dary, from beyond Clonmel, to the estuary formed by its junction with the combined waters of the Barrow and Nore. Vessels of 800 tons come up to the city of Waterford, where they can discharge their cargoes at the quay ; barks and large lighters can proceed upwards to Carrick-on-Suir, and boats of fifty tons to Clonmel. The Blackwater, called also the Owenduff and Owenmore, “ the black and the great river,” after flowing through the western part of the county, forms part of the boundary on the side of Cork county, and discharges itself into Youghal harbour. It is navigable for vessels under 100 tons to its confluence with the Bride, a smaller stream which joins it from the west. The Brickey empties itself into Dungarvan harbour. The Neir, in the west of the county, is a small tributary of thc Suir. There are no lakes, except a few of very small size in the Cummeragh Mountains, the largest, called Cumme- loughs, are but six or eight acres in extent, the others, called Stilloughs, smaller. A tract at Ballyscanlan, in Middlethird barony, covered with water during winter, subsides into a small lake in the dry season. The county enjoys the benefit of an extensive line of sea-coast. Two miles east of the city is the Little Island, of triangular shape : after which the coast takes a southern direction, forming the western side of Waterford harbour, at the en­trance of which is the pier harbour of Dunmore, with a light­house exhibiting a fixed light, red towards the sea and bright inland. The harbour, in which vessels of fifteen feet draught may lie afloat, covers a cove of six acres. West of Dunmore are the small islands of Fileskirt. Farther westward, between Brownstown and Newtown- heads, is Tramore Bay, notorious for shipwrecks. A ves­sel caught in it finds it almost impossible to work out by plying to windward. The ground is so foul and rocky, that cables are frequently cut and ships lost. The north-west is the only part which affords a possibility of escape, the east being so shoal and rocky that vessels driven on that side are involved in terrible breakers at a considerable distance from shore. Proceeding westward are the small grassy rocks called the Islands of Jeane, and the inlets called Bonmahon, Clonea, and Rineshark. Dungarvan harbour affords shelter to vessels of ten feet water. Ard­more Bay and Whiting Bay are still farther west. You­ghal harbour forms the western boundary of the county. Off the coast, and extending along that of the southern part of the adjoining county of Wexford, is the Nymph Bank, long looked upon as an inexhaustible source of sup­ply of round fish, but, according to late reports, much less productive than had been represented ; the fish not being abundant, and of a poorer description than those taken on other banks.

The eastern part of the county consists of clay-slate, in­terrupted by small patches of primitive limestone, suscep­tible of a high polish, and by conglomerate and basalt, which latter appears in a columnar form on the cliffs over the sea. A copper mine at Knockmahon has been worked for several years, with good profit, by the Mining Company of Ireland. The ore is sent in a crude state to Swansea to be smelted. The average annual produce is stated at 4500 tons, valued at L.40,000. Lead was formerly raised in large quantities in the same district. The veins in the hill of Cruach and on the shore at Kilmurrin are said to have given out a large quantity of silver. The western part of the county is old conglomerate, with red, purple, green, and gray clay-slate. It is bordered in many parts by a band of millstone grit and white sandstone, which also con­stitutes the fringe of a broad bed of carbonated or moun­tain limestone, that passes through a great part of the in­terior from east to west Slates from the quarries south of Lismore are raised at an average of 2800 tons annually, value L.4200. Mineral veins are also found in this dis­trict. At Ardmore an iron mine was formerly wrought from which steel of superior quality was said to have been fabricated. The sandstone in many places is wrought into millstones. Ochres, boles, and clays, fit for the manufac­ture of earthenware, are found in various places.

The population of the county, according to calculations made at different periods, was as follows :

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date.**  1760  1792 | **Authority. Number of Inhabitants.** | |
| De Burgo  Beaufort | .....60,096  ....75,000 |
| 1812 | Parliamentary census | ....119,457 |
| 1821 | Ditto | ...127,842 |
| 1831 | Ditto | ...148,077 |

According to the last of these returns, there was one in­habitant to every 32/3th acres of the entire surface, and the same to every 21/3d acres of cιdtivated land. The popula­tion, according to the return of the Commissioners of Pub­lic Instruction in 1834, which, being stated in dioceses in­stead of counties, cannot be considered numerically ac­curate, gives a total population of 182,018 ; of which num­ber the members of the established church were 8391, the Protestant dissenters 861, and the Roman Catholics 172,766. The proportion of Roman Catholics to Protes­tants, including Protestant dissenters, is as 1 to 0·05352, or as 1 to 1/20th nearly ; or the Protestants are to the Roman Catholics as 1 to 18∙67. The number of children receiving instruction in public schools was as follows, according to the returns under the population act in 1821, those of the Commissioners of Education in 1824-6, of the Commis­sioners of Public Instruction in 1834, and of the Board of National Education in 1836-7-8-9.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date.** | **Males.** | **Females.** | **Sex not**  **ascertained.** | **Total.** |
| 1821 | ...6088... | 2119... | — ... | ... 8,207 |
| 1824-6... | ...9476..., | 5524... | 182 | ...15,121 |
| 1834 | ...7200..., | 4100... | 300 | ...11,600 |
| 1836-7 | ...3498..., ...2901... | 1397...  1774... |  | **.. 4,895** |
| 1837-8... |  | ... 4,675 |
| 1838-9... | ...3510.... | 2644... |  | ... 6,154 |

According to the return of 1824-6, in which only the religious persuasion of the people is noticed, the numbers are, of the established church, 1373; dissenters, 100; Ro­man Catholics, 13,662; religious persuasion not ascertain­ed, 46. Out of the total number of 284 schools, stated in the same return, 22, having 1363 pupils, were maintained wholly by grants of public money ; 32, having 3648 pu­pils, by voluntary contribution ; the remaining 230 schools, containing 10,271 pupils, were maintained wholly by the fees paid by the relatives of the children.

The county is divided into the eight baronies of Cosh­bride, Coshmore, Decies within Drum, Decies without Drum, Gualtier, Glenaheiry, Middlethird, and Upperthird, which are subdivided into seventy-four parishes, thirty- three in the diocese of Waterford, and forty-one in that of Lismore ; the cathedrals of each of these being in the cities of the same name with the respective dioceses. It sent eight members to the Irish parliament, two for the county, and two each for the city of Waterford and the boroughs of Dungarvan, Lismore, and Tallow. By the arrange­ments at the time of the union, the number was reduced to four, two for the county, and one each for Waterford city and Dungarvan. The reform act for Ireland added one member to the city. The constituency of the county under the act of 1829, by which the forty-shilling free­holders were disfranchised, and at other periods since the passing of the reform act in 1832, was as follows;