the south point of which is marked by a floating light. These are called Kilgorman, the Rusk and Ram, and Black­water Bank. Wexford harbour forms a large and safe land­locked basin ; but the entrance to it is obstructed by a bar, on which at times there is not more than seven feet water ; and in the passage up to the quay there are several shifting banks, that render the navigation hazardous even to those acquainted with it. Within the harbour are the two small islands of Beg-Eri and Great Island, on each of which are the remains of monastic buildings. The Tusker Rock, about five miles from shore, between Greensore and Carnsore Point, has on it a revolving light, with two faces bright and one deep red. Bells are also rung in foggy weather. South of the coast, and west of Carnsore Point, are the two Saltee islands. South of them is a floating light; and between them and the mainland is a narrow ridge, called St Patrick’s Bridge, with but from seven to ten feet of water on it at ebb tide. Farther west are the fishing harbours of Crosfarnogue and Fethard. The latter is a creek, dry at low water. Still farther, the projecting point of Hookhead, forming the eastern side of Waterford harbour, and having on it a light-house 100 feet high, forms the western extremity of the coast, which thence tends northwards to the mouth of the Barrow, having on it Duncannon Fort, that commands the entrance to that river and to the port of Waterford.

The basis of nearly the whole county is a stratum of clay-slate, graywacke, and graywacke-slate, interrupted by several small patches of quartz rock near Gorey, one of larger size south of Wexford, and another south of Ennis- corthy. A small protrusion of greenstone trap, with whin­dykes, appears to the north of Gorey. The carboniferous or mountain limestone shews itself to the south of Wex­ford, along the shore of the harbour. It forms also the ex­tremity of Hookhead Point. Mount Leinster and Black-stairs are a continuation of the great granite formation of Wicklow, constituting its southern termination, which is here broken through by the valley of the Barrow or New- Ross river. On its eastern verge it is bordered by clay- slate, passing into greenstone-slate. Granite also shews it­self in two patches south of Carnsore Point. The Saltees are of clay-slate, supporting beds of sandstone. Slates are raised in several places. A lead-mine at Cairn, after hav­ing been worked for some time, and abandoned, has been re-opened. Silver was formerly raised at Clonmines, where it is said that the Danes established a mint for its coinage. Copper ore has been discovered near Wexford, and remains of ancient mines are visible in several places. A perfect skeleton of the great moose-deer of Ireland, found in a bog, is now in a private collection in the county. The soil in the south-eastern parts is a rich alluvial mould, mixed with coralline sand and limestone. The peninsula of Hookhead, which rests on a limestone bed, is peculiarly fertile, both throwing up a rich herbage, and yielding heavy crops of grain. The quality of the soil deteriorates on proceeding westward ; but the farmer finds a valuable equivalent in these districts, in the large tracts of turf or peat-moss with which its surface is overspread.

The progress of the population, according to the calcu­lations most deserving of credit, has been as follows :

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year.** | **Authority.** | **Total Inhabitants.** |
| 1760 De Burgo 66,804  1792 Beaufort ...115,000  1812 Parliamentary census 160,000  1821 Ditto 170,806  1831 Ditto 182,991 | | |

The latest of these returns shows a population of one in­habitant to every three acres of land of all kinds, or of 1 to every 2∙95 of cultivatcd land. The return of the Com­missioners of Public Instruction, made in 1834, but which,

being collected in dioceses instead of counties, cannot be deemed strictly accurate, gives a total of 187,497 souls, of which 21,602 were members of the established church, 317 Protestant dissenters, and 165,578 Roman Catholics. The number of children receiving instruction in public schools, as stated in returns made to parliament at various periods, is as follows :

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year.** | **Boys.** | **Girls.** | **Sex not ascertained.** | **Total.** |
| 1821 7,924 3930 11,854 | | | | |
| 1824-6 10,951 7233 585 18,769 | | | | |
| 1836-7 2,174 1637 3,811 | | | | |
| 1837-8 2,280 1789 4,069 | | | | |
| 1838-9 2,825 1748 4,573 | | | | |

According to the return of 1824-6, in which alone notice is taken of the religious persuasion of the pupils, the numbers of each were as follows : Members of the established church, 2298; Protestant dissenters, 30; Roman Catholics, 15,641 ; those whose religious persuasion could not be ascertained, 100. The number of schools, as stated in the same return, was 380, of which 34, having 2278 pupils, were maintained by grants of public money ; 24, with 1943 pupils, by volun­tary subscriptions ; the remaining 322, with 14,548 pupils, wholly by the fees paid for instruction. There is an endow­ed school at Ferns, on the foundation of Erasmus Smith, in which the master receives an annual salary of L.30, in addi­tion to the pupils’ fees. At New-Ross there is a school, founded by Sir John Ivory, with an additional endowment from the corporation.

The county is divided into the eight baronies of Bal- laghkeen, Bantry, Bargie, Forth, Gorey, Scarewalsh, Shel­burne, and Shelmalier. These are subdivided into 143 parishes, all, except two in the diocese of Dublin, being within that of Fems, which is nearly conterminous with the county. The diocese was united with that of Leighlin until after the passing of the act for reducing the number of sees in Ireland; under the provisions of which the united dioceses were in 1835 joined to that of Ossory, and the three are now held by one bishop, who is a suffragan to the archbishop of Dublin. Previously to the union, the coun­ty was represented in the Irish parliament by eighteen members, two for the county, and two for each of the boroughs of Bannow, Clonmines, Enniscorthy, Fethard, Newborough, New-Ross, Taghmon, and Wexford. By the act of union the number was reduced to four ; two for the county, and one each for New-Ross and Wexford, which arrangement has been continued under the reform act. The number of electors for the county, immediately previous to the passing of that act, and at several subse­quent periods, was as follows :—

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year.** | **No.** |
| 1831 1686 | |
| 1832 3007 | |
| 1833 2907 | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year.** | **No.** |
| 1834 3006 | |
| 1835 3006 | |
| 1836 3567 | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year.** | **No.** |
| 1837 3567 | |
| 1838 3567 | |
| 1839 3567 | |

The number of electors is to that of the total population as 1 to 51, and to that of the heads of families as 1 to 8½. The county is in the Leinster circuit. The assizes are held in Wexford, and general sessions of the peace at the same place, and in Enniscorthy, Gorey, and New-Ross, twice in the year : in each of these last-named towns there are bride­wells. The local government is vested in a lieutenant, six­teen deputy-lieutenants, seventy-four unsalaried magistrates, and a stipendiary. Under these there is a constabulary force, consisting of a county inspector, seven sub-inspectors, eight head constables, and 240 constables and sub-constables. The county infirmary, house of industry, and fever hospital, are in Wexford. There are also fever hospitals in seven other towns, and numerous dispensaries throughout the county. Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey, and New-Ross, have been fixed on as sites for the workhouses of poor-law unions.