The Forth mountain divides the county into two districts, differing as widely from each other in character as if they were in separate islands. The country to the south of this mountain, containing the baronies of Forth and Bargie, is peopled by the descendants of the English colony which was located here in the time of Henry II. Their manners, customs, mode of dress, and even in a great degree their language, still retain traces of the peculiarity of their origin. The appearance of these baronies, when viewed by a spec­tator placed on the summit of their boundary ridge, is not unlike the south of Devonshire. The entire district is well peopled. The farm-houses, as in Devonshire, are built of clay, and thatched, with neat offices, and generally a vege­table garden attached to them. The unwearied and well- directed industry of the farmers insures a large return from the land. The whole is under tillage, and the vicinity of the sea enables the farmer to obtain a plentiful supply of sea-weed and calcareous sand for manure, besides which marl is found in abundance. Fuel is scarce; but the want of turf is supplied by the use of furze, which thrives here luxuriantly, and with which the mounds of earth that form the general fence of the farm are thickly topped ; thus in­suring at the same time the most perfect security against trespass, shelter for the cattle in severe weather, and a sup­ply, sufficient though not profuse, of fuel from the prunings of the furze. The fences are sometimes further fortified by a hedge of quicksets along the centre of thc top of the mound. It is said that there was a turbary along the shore, which the encroachments of the sea have long ago covered with sand, and with water during flood-tides. The princi­pal crops are barley and beans : these are to be seen, in the peninsula of Carne, growing luxuriantly on land so over­spread with stone as to induce the opinion that the ground was wholly unproductive. Poultry of every kind is reared in all the farm-houses, chiefly for exportation to Dublin and Liverpool. Many farmers pay much attention to the rearing of bees, and efforts are frequently made to preserve the stock while taking the honey. The sandy reaches near the coast form burrows for immense numbers of rabbits, the flesh of which is deemed to be of a peculiarly good flavour. The shores are frequented by numerous flocks of wild and sea fowl, among which the barnacle is most highly prized. Round fish is taken in large quantities on the eas­tern extremity of Nymph Bank, which is off the coast; and also at the station of the floating light off the Saltees. The inshore fishing employs many hands, their open boats being enabled to run for shelter during rough weather into the numerous creeks and inlets which indent the coast. Shell­fish is plenty. The Wexford oyster is carried to Dublin, where it finds a ready market, more on account of size than flavour. Wexford town is the chief market for the produce of the farms ; and many of the inhabitants have never tra­velled farther, looking on all beyond the mountain as a foreign country. An elderly woman, the wife of a respect­able farmer, in answer to a question as to the extent of her travelling through the country, replied, “ that she had never been out of Forth. On one unlucky day, indeed, she had been prevailed upon to go to the top of the moun­tain ; but the sight of the wide world that there opened on her overcame her : her head grew giddy, her stomach sickened, and she hastened home, determined never again to expose herself to such a hazard.” The dialect of the pea­santry, of which some vestiges are still preserved in com­mon conversation, was Saxon-English of the time of the Henries and Edwards. The rector of a parish there, when reading Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales while overseeing his reapers in a field, was struck with the similarity between many words in his book and the expressions he heard from those around him. On reading some passages of it to them, he was peculiarly struck with the surprise and pleasure expressed by them when they found themselves able to understand what was written in a book. They were fully competent to interpret what was read, and gave explana­tions of phrases and passages which to him were abstruse, in a manner more satisfactory than the commentators whose notes were annexed to the printed text. Their usual mode of saluting each other is simple and pleasing. On meeting, one asks, “ Is it long since ?" meaning to inquire whether the interval of absence has appeared long. The reply is couched in similar terms of artless courtesy—“ Yea, joy.” The young people are passionately addicted to festive amusements, such as dancing and hurling. At their mar­riages, which in other respects are celebrated according to the forms usual elsewhere, an apple is cut into small pieces and thrown among the crowd, a custom derived from England, but the origin of which is unknown. The dress of the peasantry until lately w∙as, for the men a jacket or short coat, waistcoat, and trunk breeches, with a round narrow-brimmed hat; for the women a short jacket and petticoat, bordered at bottom with several rows of coloured ribbon or tape ; the head-dress was a kerchief. The people live comfortably, are industrious, cleanly, and well-con­ducted. The poorest farmer eats meat twice in the week, and the table of the wealthier is covered with butcher- meat and fowl. The usual beverage is home-brewed ale or beer of excellent flavour and colour. The women do all manner of field-work, except ploughing, and receive equal wages with the men. The manners and customs of the inhabitants of the other baronies resemble those of the Irish peasantry throughout the surrounding counties : there is less attention to external appearance and to domestic comfort and cleanliness. The soil also is poorer, and the farming less precise. There is, however, no disinclination to exertion, no want of the application of personal labour : the defect lies in its misdirection. In the western baronies, where there is neither sea-weed, marl, nor limestone, the petty farmer will take long journeys to draw home a load of lime, forty load of which are required to manure an acre. Beans are everywhere a favourite, though an uncertain crop. Wheat is sown in quantities sufficient to render it an important article of export. In most respects the system of tillage or the description of crops differs little from those of similar soils elsewhere. But it is observed, that even in those districts of the northern baronies in which the soil is good, abounding with marl alternating with a clayey loam, and adequate, by proper management, to give an abundant return to well-directed industry, little is perceptible of the activity, comfort, or happiness of the southern baronies. This difference is most striking on the estates in which the practice of letting lands to middle-men is most prevalent.

The manufactures carried on in the county are those of woollen cloth, checks, and coarse linens, all for the home­consumption of the district, and wrought in the farm-houses. A cotton factory near Enniscorthy failed. Iron was also manufactured in the same neighbourhood. At present the raising of grain and rearing of cattle is almost exclusively the occupation of the inhabitants, and the export of the agricultural produce the sole article of commerce. The prin­cipal markets for grain and flour are Wexford, Enniscorthy, and New-Ross. Much butter is sent to Dublin through Gorey ; and much also is exported to Liverpool, together with swine and poultry. The exports of the county through Wexford have been estimated at 30,000 tons, value L.330,000 ; and the imports through the same channel at 40,000 tons, value L.600,000. The communication with the counties in the interior is carried on chiefly by the Barrow, which is navigable for barges to Athy, where it meets the Grand Canal. A line of railroad from Wexford to Carlow has been surveyed by the Commissioners of Railways, but no steps have as yet been taken towards its formation. There are five banking establishments; one a branch of the Bank of Ireland, one of the Provincial