

Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society.

---

EXCURSIONS

TO

DUBLIN, POWERSCOURT, COOLLATTIN, CARTON,  
AND KILLARNEY, IRELAND:

AND ALSO TO

DOLPHINTON, LANARKSHIRE.

1897.

# ROYAL SCOTTISH ARBORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

---

## EXCURSION TO IRELAND, 1897.

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH ARBORICULTURAL SOCIETY having visited, within the past twenty years, most of the best wooded districts in Great Britain, and extended its investigations to the well-managed forests of North Germany, the Council resolved to cross the Irish Sea with the TWENTIETH EXCURSION, in 1897, to inspect some of the finest wooded domains in the south and west of Ireland. Although it is only an easy journey of about fifteen hours by land and sea from Edinburgh to Dublin, comparatively few of the members of the Society had ever visited the southern parts of the Emerald Isle, and a large number of them were anxious to see for themselves the conditions under which Forestry was pursued in that verdant division of the United Kingdom. The result of this was one of the most numerously attended of all the Society's Excursions, the large muster of the members, headed by the *President* of the Society, R. C. Munro Ferguson, M.P., of Raith and Novar, taxing in no small degree the energy and tact of the hard-working *Secretary*, Mr Robert Galloway, in making satisfactory arrangements for the necessary transport and commissariat of such a numerous party. This, however, was successfully accomplished in good time for the Excursion, and, considering the large number to be accommodated, everything went off with a regularity and smoothness that could scarcely be anticipated, as the sequel will show.

After the conclusion of the General Meeting of the Society, held at Edinburgh on Monday, 16th August, the members going with the Excursion to Ireland mustered at West Princes Street Station at 4.45 P.M., to proceed to Greenock by a special train of

saloon carriages furnished for the party by the Caledonian Railway Company. A comfortable and quick run without a stop landed the party at Greenock by 7 o'clock, when they at once embarked on board the Dublin and Glasgow Steam Packet Company's splendid screw steamer the "Duke of Fife," the finest ship of the "Duke" Line. The whole of the passenger accommodation of that spacious steamer was placed at the service of the Society, the Company running another steamer the same evening to carry the ordinary passenger traffic. Timed to sail at 7.30 p.m., the pressure of the traffic delayed the start for over an hour, but at last getting under weigh, a pleasant sail was enjoyed down the Firth of Clyde. The night being cloudy and thick, the picturesque coasts of the Firth were but dimly seen through the haze. By the time Ailsa Craig ("Paddy's Milestone") was dropped astern, most of the party had retired to their berths to sleep—as they vainly hoped! from the quiet appearance of the sky at the moment. On entering the Irish Sea early on Tuesday morning, a lively breeze began to spring up, which culminated in a stiff gale, in the teeth of which the gallant "Duke of Fife" struggled hard to maintain its course, but lurched and pitched "nearly as bad as the 'Prague' in the German Ocean," as a seasoned traveller remarked. Four or five hours of that style of "rocking on the deep" did not add anything to the comfort of the party, and delayed the arrival of the steamer at Dublin until four hours behind time. The last hour or two at sea was tolerably quiet, and those who had got their sea-legs on enjoyed a good view of the picturesque coast as they sailed past the islands of Lambay and Ireland's Eye, and rounded the bold promontory of Howth Head into Dublin Bay. The sky having cleared, and the sun breaking through the clouds, the beautiful scenery was seen to advantage by most of the party, nearly all of whom were now on deck enjoying the fresh air, and apparently none the worse for the rough tossing of the early morning.

On reaching the North Wall Quay at noon, no time was lost in getting ashore. Mounting the carriages in waiting, the party drove to the Gresham Hotel, in Sackville Street, Dublin, where the headquarters of the Society were established during the Excursion. The delay at sea had not only caused the loss of some hours, but interfered considerably with the arrangements made by the Committee for the first day's work, and they resolved to have luncheon over at the hotel before starting with the programme.

Through the excellent management of the hotel, lunch was quickly served, and before 2 o'clock all were ready to be off to carry out the tour of inspection arranged for the day. The afternoon proving bright and pleasant, after a preliminary taste of a genuine Irish shower, the programme was successfully accomplished, and the party returned to the Gresham Hotel in nice time for the Excursion Dinner at 8 o'clock.

An Itinerary and Map of the District to be visited had been prepared, and were sent to each member of the party about a week before the date of the Excursion. This was of considerable service, and enabled the members to come well prepared to enter into the spirit of the occasion, and to reap as much profit from the inspection of each place as was possible under the circumstances. Among those who took a part in the Excursion, which was brilliantly led by the *President*, who took the keenest interest in the inspection of the woods and estates visited, and worked hard to make the tour in Ireland a thorough success, were the following gentlemen:—R. C. Munro Ferguson, M.P., of Raith and Novar, *President of the Society*; Professor Wm. Somerville, Durham College of Science, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Charles Buchanan, Penicuik Estate; and Alexander Milne, Edinburgh—*Vice-Presidents*; James Cook, Arniston Estate; Malcolm Dunn, Dalkeith; David P. Laird, Edinburgh; George Mackinnon, Melville Castle; and James Robertson, Panmure—*Councillors*; Robert Galloway, *Secretary and Treasurer*; John Anderson, East Wemyss; James Armit, Antrim Castle, Antrim; William Ballantyne, Wormiston, Peebles; David Brown, Chevet Park, Yorkshire; F. W. Burbidge, Curator, Trinity College Botanical Gardens, Dublin; Alex. D. Christie, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire; William Christie, Fochabers; William Clark, Edinburgh; R. W. Cowper, Sittingbourne, Kent; David Crombie, Powerscourt; W. S. Curr, Ninewar, Prestonkirk, East Lothian; Wm. Davidson, Masserene, Antrim; J. E. Dean-Drake, Stokestown House, New Ross; Joseph Dick, Wentworth, Rotherham; Alex. Don, jun., Fettercairn; A. Douglas, Baldersby Park, Thirsk, Yorkshire; James Douglas, Charleville, Co. Wicklow; Robert Douglas, Edinburgh; Wm. D. Edminson, Berwick-on-Tweed; Wm. Erskine, Oaklands, Trinity; Adam Fergusson, Edinburgh; Robert Forbes, Kennet, Alloa; Frederick Foreman, Eskbank; James Foster, jun., Kennet, Alloa; A. B. Foulis, Edinburgh; R. B. Fyffe, Lindertis, Kirriemuir; Wm. Gemmell, Green-

dykes, East Lothian; Jas. A. Gossip, Inverness; P. D. Gow, Bonaly, Colinton, Midlothian; Peter Gow, Johnstone Castle, Wexford; H. M. Graham, Inverness; Peter Grant, Ovenstone, Forfar; Andrew S. Grant, *North British Agriculturist*, Edinburgh; Henry Gray, Edinburgh; Richard Grove, Banchory, Aberdeen; George Halliday, Rothesay; W. B. Havelock, Brocklesby Park, Lincolnshire; A. Henderson, Tullamore, King's Co.; W. Henderson, Gosford, Co. Armagh; D. Inglis, Portobello, Midlothian; W. Inglis, Brodick, Arran; George Jack, Dalkeith; James Kay, Bute; A. Knox, Edinburgh; R. V. Kyrke, of Penywern, Flintshire; Andrew Leitch, Buckhaven, Fife; Thomas Lunt, Keir, Perthshire; M. S. M'Coubrie, Tullamore, King's Co.; Alex. M'Gregor, Penicuik; Alex. MacHardy, Inverness; Richard M'Intosh, Powerscourt; Thos. Mackay, Inverness; Wm. Mackinnon, Edinburgh; Wm. M'Laren, Altyre, Forres; J. M'Lennan, Castle Boro, Enniscorthy; Alex. M'Rae, Manchester; John Michie, Balmoral; W. Michie, Bedford Estate, Devon; George Milne, Johnstone Estate; J. K. Milne, Kevock Tower, Lasswade; Wm. Milne, Foulden, Berwick; S. Moore, Edinburgh; A. Morgan, Crieff; Hugh Morgan, Crieff; Malcolm Morgan, Crieff; Hugh Munro, Penicuik; John Murdoch, Dalkeith; Robert Murdoch, Dalkeith; Walter Page, Myregornie, Kirkcaldy; George Patterson, Athy, Kildare; George Paxton, Kilmarnock; R. C. Paxton, Kilmarnock; Henry Perkin, Gulworthy, Tavistock; Henry Philp, jun., Dunfermline; John Philp, Dunfermline; George Porteous, Lasswade; George H. Potts, Lasswade; Wm. Proudfoot, Raith, Kirkcaldy; H. Ramsay, Myregornie, Kirkcaldy; Peter Reid, Lucan, Co. Dublin; A. D. Richardson, Edinburgh; James Robertson, of Hogg & Robertson, Seedsmen, Dublin; John Ross, Hopetoun, Linlithgow; Edmund Sang, Kirkcaldy; Andrew Shaw, Perth; Wm. Shaw, Lochgelly, Fife; Thomas Smith, Tring Park, Herts; James Stoddart, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian; Robert Storie, Dalkeith; James Tait, Penicuik; James Tait, jun., Penicuik; D. Thomson, Dunfermline; Wilson Tomlinson, Clumber Park, Notts; W. S. Turnbull, Geashill, King's Co.; W. B. Upjohn, Worsley Hall, Lancashire; James Waddell, Edinburgh; Robert Wallace, Leith; John Watson, Leith; James William Watt, Carlisle; William White, Edgefield, Loanhead; Alex. Williamson, Edinburgh; and George Williamson, Leven.

## FIRST DAY.

Tuesday, 17th August.

### THE PHOENIX PARK.

Shortly before 2 o'clock, and four hours later than the original arrangement, the party drove off from the Gresham Hotel in about a dozen carriages, drawn by strong teams of the active horses for which Ireland is famed. A rapid drive of about fifteen minutes through the streets of Dublin, and along the quays of the Liffey, brought the party to the Grand Entrance to the Phoenix Park. Here the party were met and welcomed by Mr William Dick, Bailiff of the Phoenix Park, who acted as their cicerone during the inspection of the extensive and most interesting domain, over which he so ably rules. The noble Park, counted one of the great sights of Ireland, extends to 1760 acres, and is one of the most magnificent public parks to be met with in Britain. Within its wide area are broad stretches of plains, picturesque heights, and quiet valleys; several pretty sheets of tree-fringed water, and hundreds of acres of thriving woods, among which the profusion of venerable hawthorn trees is a prominent feature. Among the other features of this famous Park are the widely-known military review ground, popularly called "The Fifteen Acres," but which in reality is a spacious plain over 500 acres in extent; "The People's Garden," a beautiful area of 13 acres of lawns, beds, walks, and shrubberies, tastefully laid out and kept up by the Government for the instruction and entertainment of the public; the Zoological Gardens, famed for their fine collection of live specimens of animated nature, especially the *Carnivora*; the "All Ireland" polo ground; five cricket grounds, enclosed and well kept, for the use of public cricket clubs; and several bandstands and promenades are also maintained for the amusement and recreation of the Dublin citizens. The open spaces of the Park are thickly studded with forest trees of all kinds, both ancient and modern; and, to add to the animation of the scene, a herd of about one thousand fallow deer, which are said to be the fattest and finest under the Crown, with about eight hundred head of cattle, are maintained and fattened during the summer on the fine rich pastures.

On entering the People's Garden, the party met the contingent from England, who had escaped the storm at sea, and had proceeded thus far ahead of the main body. After exchanging courtesies and renewing old acquaintances, the whole party were led by Mr Dick through the People's Garden, which was found to be on a scale of magnificence quite in keeping with the other outstanding features of the Park. In the walk round the lower portions, many objects of arboricultural interest were pointed out, amongst them being several grand ash trees of stately dimensions, quite the best that were seen during the day. A beautiful line of Acacias, *Robinia Pseudo-acacia*, also drew forth many expressions of admiration, the trees not only growing vigorously, but being exceedingly pretty as well. Round the terraces were planted, in tasteful design, the choicest specimens of yews and hollies; while on the rockeries were seen beautiful purple hazels, which blended particularly well with the flowers and the shrubs, giving a very fine effect to the surroundings.

Ascending by a massive flight of steps to the higher ground, a circuit of the upper garden was made, noticing as it was passed the fine statue to the Earl of Carlisle, a popular lord-lieutenant of Ireland in the sixties, and the founder of these gardens. A fine view was here obtained of the Wellington Monument, a stately obelisk of granite, 200 feet high, standing a little distance off in the Park.

In the immediate neighbourhood of Lord Carlisle's statue, a fine specimen of the Golden Willow attracted the notice of the party, and although this beautiful tree shows to better advantage when denuded of its foliage in the winter, its handsome proportions and graceful outline commanded attention. There was also seen near here a most interesting collection of the rarer and choicest kinds of Conifers, their vigorous growth and general luxuriance indicating how well the soil and climate of the district agreed with them. Here also was seen a fine collection of the choicest and newest of ornamental shrubs, generally in fine healthy condition, and comprising many species rarely seen in the open air in such vigorous health in Great Britain. Among them two fine species of *Aralia*—*Aralia nymphaefolia* and *A. pulcher*—excited much interest, from their peculiarly cut foliage and very effective habits.

Mounting the carriages at the west gate of the gardens, the drive was continued to the right, past the Royal Irish Constabulary

Barracks, so as to afford the Excursionists an opportunity of inspecting the plantations of thorns, which grow throughout the Park in great abundance, attaining in many cases tree-like proportions. Passing the Zoological Gardens on the left, with the Marlborough Barracks on the right, a circular group of eight huge English elms, each containing a very large amount of measurable timber, attracted attention; and also a very tall and handsome example of the Lombardy poplar which stood near by. A short distance beyond, a turn to the left was taken, and passing the Viceregal demesne, a very pretty growth of water-lilies was seen in the beautiful lake within the grounds. In passing along, some very fine elms and other park trees were observed, amongst them being an avenue of limes about three miles in length. This avenue was planted about fifty years ago; but the soil did not seem to be particularly well suited for the development of the trees, and but few of them have attained to a fair size at their age. On this account, alternate clumps of horse chestnuts were being introduced as occasion offered, they being expected to do better than the limes. On the right hand side, the limes were flanked by artistically arranged groups of elms of about one hundred and fifty years' growth, the trees in many cases measuring up to 13 feet in circumference. The most notable feature in the Viceregal demesne, viewed across the lake, was the profusion of very fine beeches and elms, many of which were of noble dimensions, and girthed at 5 feet up over 13 feet of stem.

Arriving at the western gate of the Viceregal grounds, the first object that attracted notice was the Phoenix Column, standing prominently in the centre of the Grand Drive. From this spot — about the highest in the Park — a fine view was obtained of the Dublin mountains lying to the southward. The Grand Avenue stretched right and left from here across the whole breadth of the Park, a distance of about four miles. By the side of the avenue, a little way off to the left, was seen the scene of the dastardly crime known as the Phoenix Park murders, the spot where the victims fell being marked by two crosses cut deep in the greensward.

On the right were observed some grand specimens of the oldest Oaks in the Park, computed to be at least five hundred years of age; and they were considered by the specialists to compare well, both in size and in the vigour of their growth, with good oaks of



their age growing in any part of the country, under similar conditions as to soil and exposure. Here also, on the opposite side of the Grand Avenue from the Viceregal Lodge, was the entrance to the Chief Secretary's (Mr Gerald Balfour) Lodge and demesne, where, in the well-wooded grounds, there was seen growing some grand examples of park trees, notably a fine specimen of the Durmast Oak, *Quercus sessiliflora*, and a few very fine Oriental planes, sycamores, and other large and shapely ornamental trees.

Resuming the drive, the route swept across the north-western section of the Park to Whitfield Lodge, the residence of Mr Dick, lying on the western confines of the demesne, and a veritable home of all the choicest and rarest of hardy Conifers, thriving in such a manner as to delight the eye of the connoisseur. They showed evidence of being selected with taste and tended with much care, and the inspection of them afforded a rare treat to the Coniferæ specialists. Among the finest examples were a grand specimen of the Monterey Cypress, *Cupressus macrocarpa*, one of the future trees for Ireland, and which attracted much attention. A splendid example of the weeping variety of the common Yew, *Taxus baccata Dovastonii*, said to be the finest of its kind in the country, was an object of great interest, and on being measured was found to be 12 feet in height, and 132 feet in circumference of the branches. Near it stood a remarkable specimen of the small-leaved Yew, *Taxus baccata adpressa*, of a compact and pleasing habit of growth, and measuring 102 feet round the branches. A handsome specimen of the *Wellingtonia gigantea* was much admired, and the company were informed by Mr Dick that it was placed here in 1857, and probably was the first *Wellingtonia* planted in Ireland. It stood about 50 feet high, the stem girthed 10 feet 8 inches at 5 feet up, and it was well furnished with branches from base to apex. Among the host of notable Conifers in this most interesting collection, it must suffice to mention a grand example of the silvery variety of the Cedar of Lebanon, *Cedrus Libani glauca*, bearing cones freely, and a handsome specimen of *Libocedrus decurrens*, planted by the Earl of Carlisle when lord-lieutenant of Ireland. Of the numerous fine examples of hardy ornamental trees and shrubs, including a great variety of hollies and other evergreens, as well as the choicest of flowering shrubs, time would not permit of special notice being taken of them,

but they comprised many specimens of great interest to the connoisseur in such attractive objects.

The company would have lingered long amongst those rich arboreal treasures, but time pressed, and much had yet to be seen ere the shades of evening began to fall. The carriages were accordingly again requisitioned, and a start made to finish the exploration of the Phoenix Park without further delay. The route arranged to be taken was by the south-west of the Park, past the Ordnance Survey Office for Ireland, and on by the Horse-Shoe Valley, from whence the road ascends through thriving plantations to the level of the "Fifteen Acres," where, on the vast open space, the military reviews and sham fights are held. On the way, great masses of old, middle-aged, and young hawthorns were grouped on the right and left, while on an island on the left, just after passing the Ordnance Survey Office, were some vigorous Austrian pines and *Wellingtonias*, fringed with a belt of evergreen oaks. The drive passed near the Royal Hibernian Military School, where five hundred boys—all soldiers' sons—are educated and trained for the army. In the vicinity of the Deerkeeper's Lodge, near the Magazine Fort, a grand view of the Royal Hospital of Kilmainham, the "Chelsea Hospital" of Ireland, and the grim walls of the State prison, came into view amongst the trees across the valley. Soon after, the tall column of the Wellington Monument again appeared in sight, and presently a view of the splendid equestrian statue of Lord Gough, which stands at the junction with the Grand Avenue, completed the round of the Park, part of which had to be left out of the programme till Friday, when it was seen on the way to and from Carton. The whole drive, which was new to the great majority of the visitors, was much appreciated, and before parting with Mr Dick, he was cordially thanked by the President for the great treat which he had provided for the party. To the courtesy of Mr Dick the Society is also indebted for the following particulars about a few of the more noteworthy trees in the Phoenix Park.

The Park lies at an average altitude of 160 feet, and the soil is a stiff, calcareous loam, resting on boulder-clay. The Oak, Elm, Ash, Beech, Sycamore, Spanish Chestnut, Poplar, Plane, and Horse Chestnut all thrive well, and are generally satisfactory as park trees. With the exception of the Ash, the timber produced is of excellent quality.

The following Table gives the measurements of some of the best specimens of the trees in the Park :—

*Measurements of Trees in the Phoenix Park, Dublin.*

NAME OF TREE.	Age.	Height.	Girth at 5 ft. up.	Diameter of Spread of Branches.	Aspect.	REMARKS.
	years.	feet.	ft. in.	feet.		
Ash, . . . . .	200	100	14 1	73	Level	Some fine Ashes, 10 ft. to 14 ft. girth.
Beech, . . . . .	200	80	18 0	87	„	Largest tree in the Park.
„ . . . . .	200	100	12 8	73	„	Many fine boles 30 ft. to 40 ft. high, and from 10 ft. to 12 ft. girth.
Chestnut, Horse, . . . . .	100	60	12 1	73	„	Grows freely, but easily broken.
„ Spanish, . . . . .	60	60	9 0	50	„	Numerous trees with fine stems of 20 ft. to branches.
Elm, English, . . . . .	200	100	15 3	73	Level	Many Elms 12 ft. to 15 ft. girth.
Ivy, . . . . .	100	18	2 2	„	„	Spreading over a Thorn; stem 12 ft. long.
Oak, British, . . . . .	400	60	14 9	40	Level	Many fine Oaks, girth 10 ft. to 13 ft. at 5 ft. up.
„ „ . . . . .	400	80	13 3	73	„	
„ Durmast, . . . . .	400	50	14 0	71	„	The only old tree, and probably indigenous—14 ft. stem; in fine health.
„ Holm, . . . . .	200	60	10 0	54	E.	Evergreen Oaks do splendidly.
Plane, Oriental, . . . . .	60	60	8 4	70	„	Handsome, healthy tree.
Poplar, Black Italian, . . . . .	60	100	13 0	50	„	40 ft. clean stem.
Sycamore, . . . . .	150	60	10 10	73	Level	Thriving well; ought to be largely planted.
Wych Elm, . . . . .	100	60	12 2	70	S.	Grand specimen.
<i>Abies cephalonica</i> , . . . . .	50	60	8 2	36	„	A fine tree; grows well.
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> , . . . . .	50	60	19 4*	60	S.	A handsome and free-growing tree.
<i>Taxus Dovastonii</i> , . . . . .	50	12	3 0	132	„	A grand specimen.
<i>Wellingtonia gigantea</i> , . . . . .	40	50	10 8	27	S.	An original tree; very handsome.

\* The girth of stem at 18 inches up, where it begins to branch into four huge limbs, girthing 6 feet, 5 feet, 7 feet 4 inches, and 12 feet respectively.

## ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, GLASNEVIN.

Leaving the Phoenix Park at the Ashtown Gate, a drive of about a couple of miles through a pretty suburban country brought the Excursionists to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin, situated in a charming spot on the small river Tolka, in the northern suburbs of Dublin. Here the party were met at the entrance by the assistant-curator, in the absence of the director, Mr F. W. Moore, who, with the chiefs of the departments, cordially received the party, and conducted them over the most interesting parts of the famed Gardens.

The first object to receive attention was a very fine group of yew trees known as "Addison's Walk," which were planted to commemorate the visit of Addison to Tickell, the poet, of whose demesne the Gardens at one time formed part. The trees looked fairly vigorous, but few of them had attained the proportions that might have been expected from their age, the soil, which is mainly a thin light loam on hard limestone gravel, not favouring their development. The finest of the yews was about 55 feet high, 8 feet 1 inch in girth, with a head of branches 41 feet in diameter.

Of other fine specimens of trees seen in the Gardens, the most remarkable were the beeches at the pond, the best being 84 feet high, 11 feet 8 inches in girth, and 74 feet in diameter of head; a grand example of the purple-leaved beech close by, 68 feet high, 9 feet 11 inches in girth, and 69 feet in diameter of branches; some good walnuts near the palm-house, about 60 feet high, and 6 feet 9 inches in girth; a splendid specimen of the Cedar of Lebanon, 60 feet high, 11 feet 10 inches in girth, and 67 feet in diameter of branches; and a unique example of *Planera Richardi*, 53 feet high, and 8 feet 7 inches in girth of stem. A handsome clean-stemmed ash stood 74 feet high, and 8 feet 9 inches at 5 feet up. On the thin calcareous soil the Coniferæ generally do not flourish, but there were good specimens of the Scots fir; of Corsican pine, 65 feet high, and 7 feet 8 inches in girth; of Pallas's pine, 61 feet high, 9 feet 7 inches in girth, and 57 feet through the branches; and a nice collection of young Conifers. Adjoining the oak group was seen the first Deodar which came to Ireland; while in the Pinetum the original plant of the Golden Yew attracted much attention. On the lawns and in various parts

of the grounds many choice specimens of trees and shrubs were noticed, some of them being rarely seen in a flourishing condition elsewhere in the British Islands. At most of the centres visited during the week this was the outstanding feature, thanks to the mildness of the Irish climate, particularly near the sea.

The conservatories at Glasnevin are arranged in three groups, and were found well stocked with admirable specimens of nearly all the recognised Orders of plants. The collection of palms, orchids, ferns, and aquatic plants was particularly admired. As public collections, they are probably only surpassed by those of the Royal Gardens at Kew. The Royal Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin were founded one hundred and three years ago, under the auspices of the Royal Dublin Society. Since 1877 they have been under the charge of the Science and Art Department, and a special grant is annually voted by Parliament for their maintenance. The perfect state of order which prevailed everywhere showed the money had been well spent in maintaining such a splendid national establishment.

#### ST ANNE'S, CLONTARF.

From the Botanic Gardens the horses' heads were turned eastward, and a smart drive, through the outskirts of the city of Dublin, brought the party out on the northern shores of Dublin Bay. Following the shore for some distance, the marine scenery of the splendid bay was seen on the right, lit up in all its magnificence by the sun now sinking low in the west. Arriving at the Sea Entrance Lodge to St Anne's, the beautiful residence of the Right Honourable Lord Ardilaun, the Excursionists entered the demesne, and driving up the charming avenue curving round to the right, they noticed, as they passed along the drive, the profusion of the Holm or Evergreen Oak, *Quercus Ilex*, and the fine yew trees sweeping the well-kept lawn with their drooping branches. A little farther on, the cortege passed beneath a curious old arch and tower, richly draped with ivy, and emerging on the upper plateau, on which the mansion stands, a beautiful view to the left displayed a fine stretch of broad lawns sweeping around groups of handsome ornamental trees, with here and there a fine specimen standing alone on the smoothly shaven greensward. On the right, and stretching up to the mansion, were more beautifully kept grassy lawns, ornamented with some

grand examples of evergreen oaks, with their luxuriant branches spreading wide over the level sward, backed by handsome clumps of beeches, limes, and cedars, with a splendid undergrowth, chiefly of arbutus and rhododendrons, and an imposing first view of the mansion a short way off in the distance. Arriving in front of the mansion, the party were met and heartily welcomed to St Anne's by Mr Keating, private secretary to Lord Ardilaun; Mr Smith, the steward; and Mr Campbell, the gardener, who accompanied the visitors over the place, and kindly pointed out every object and point of interest to the visitors as they explored the various parts of this most interesting demesne. It had been the intention of Lord Ardilaun to personally conduct the visitors over his beautiful policies, but owing to the party arriving at St Anne's considerably later than the hour originally fixed upon, he had to leave for Dublin before their arrival to complete the arrangements for the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York on the following day.

Before starting on foot to inspect the grounds, the party were drawn up in a group immediately in front of the mansion, where they were photographed by an artist from Dublin. While waiting the usual preparations for this important function, the visitors enjoyed a charming view of the landscape in front of them, which within the policies has been laid out with admirable taste and effect, backed up in the distance by the grand panorama of the surrounding country, with the summits of the Dublin mountains appearing far off on the left. Running straight out in front to the westward was the grand avenue, fully a mile in length, with a smooth and well-made carriage drive in the centre, 30 feet wide, margined with a proportionately wide breadth of grass, on which, and standing well back on either side, was a handsome line of trees, consisting of *Pinus insignis* and *Quercus Ilex* alternately, the first being supplanted by *Pinus austriaca* for a part of the distance. In the park, and at some distance behind the lines, were fine clumps of beech, elm, and oak. This grand avenue was in excellent keeping with the splendid mansion, to which it is the principal approach. Away on the right, in the distance, was seen the handsome parish church of Clontarf, recently built by Lord Ardilaun. It stands on the north-west side of the demesne, and, by the judicious planting of ornamental trees, which have made good progress in the time, the effect produced was already very fine.

The artist having finished the photographing, the party were invited to enter the magnificent front hall, which, with its massive marble pillars and broad staircase of the same material, was indeed a grand apartment. Adjoining it was the noble palm-house, well filled with lofty specimens in admirable condition. The party were then led through the statue gallery, where some of the very finest masterpieces of the sculptor's art were seen and admired. Passing through the beautiful drawing-room, rich with its many art treasures, the party entered the dining-room, where, by the kind directions of Lady Ardilaun, a most refreshing tea awaited the company, and was gratefully partaken of by all of them. The views obtained from the windows of this spacious dining-room were of the most charming description. Verdant arches were formed by openings between the lofty trees at 40 or more feet from the ground, through which was seen the beautiful Bay of Dublin, with the towns of Kingstown and Dalkey lying beyond it, backed in the far distance by the Dublin and Wicklow mountains. From the dining-room the party passed into the adjoining conservatory, where there was seen a grand collection of decorative plants. Two handsome tree ferns, *Dicksonia antiartica*, spanned the marble floor at a height of 14 feet; and graceful creepers hung in festoons from the lofty roof, with tall *Dracænas*, over 20 feet high, towering above the other subjects, produced a highly pleasing effect.

Passing out into the pleasure-grounds, a varied collection of hardy flowering trees and shrubs was seen grouped around the lawns with the best effect, gracefully winding and well-made walks leading in and out among them, and giving the idea of a wide extent of ornamental grounds. A group of evergreen oaks close to the conservatory was much admired. They hide from the mansion the picturesque flower-garden, with its famous yew hedges, closely clipped and curiously formed into a variety of arched corridors and openings of a mediæval character. The borders between the hedges were filled with old-fashioned and herbaceous plants, giving quite a "Plantagenet Era" look to the place, as one wandered between the tall and trimly kept hedges. Crossing the lawn to a broad terrace overlooking Dublin Bay,—on the side towards the bay was a neatly clipped yew hedge 4 feet high; and on the land side the yew hedge rose to a considerable height, to shelter the grounds from the easterly blast.

Taking the walk to the left, it led the party down the glen to the ornamental ponds. On the way they passed beneath some fine old beech trees, and also through an artistic bit of rustic rock-work. The ponds, as they are called, were beautiful sheets of clear water, dotted with richly-wooded islands, and with many interesting species of wild fowl sailing slowly about on the water and appearing quite at home. The ponds derived their supply from the overflow of St Anne's Well, a copious and limpid spring near them, and of some historical notoriety. The glen was a very pleasant spot, and has evidently at some early period been washed out by the force of the sea. Through the ravine at the head of the ponds, ran a winding walk, cool and pleasant, and crossing here and there a briskly running stream winding its way to the sea. Large beech, elm, and sycamore trees overshadowed the glen, and a large variety of ferns and wild flowers adorned its recesses and slopes.

Leaving this lovely spot, the party were led to a fine piece of ornamental planting, in which Lord Ardilaun takes a special interest. Here were seen growing luxuriantly large numbers of *Pinus insignis* and *Cupressus macrocarpa*, both splendid maritime trees. All the choicest of Conifers and broad-leaved trees, flowering and berried shrubs, were amply represented, and were making excellent progress. A winding walk led the party through the Pinetum, past many beautiful groups of choice Conifers and other trees. A walk running towards the north-east was particularly noticed, being perfectly straight for about half a mile, with a handsome line of evergreen oaks on either side, each a regular pyramid about 16 feet high, and 8 feet through at the base. Passing from this interesting spot by a walk which lay through another extensive piece of rustic rock-work, a visit was paid to the numerous ranges of glass-houses, in which were seen much of interest to the gardeners of the party, especially in a large structure where many fine specimen plants were seen standing among and upon a natural-looking ground-work of large rocks, with creeping plants and ferns growing freely in the interspaces, a tasteful and pleasing arrangement. Again joining the carriages, St Anne's was left by the grand avenue debouching on the main road at Clontarf. Driving rapidly through this flourishing suburb of Dublin, the Gresham Hotel was soon reached, all well satisfied with the pleasant afternoon spent in and around Dublin.



## THE EXCURSION DINNER.

The Annual Excursion Dinner of the Society was held in the Gresham Hotel at 8 o'clock, when a company of upwards of a hundred members and their friends sat down at the well-furnished tables. The *President*, R. C. Munro Ferguson, M.P., of Raith and Novar, occupied the chair, while the croupier's duties were admirably discharged by Professor Wm. Somerville. A number of distinguished guests were specially invited to meet the *President* and members on the occasion of the first visit of the Society to Ireland. Among those who were able to accept the invitation were Sir Robert Sexton and Councillor George Macnie, representing the Corporation of Dublin; Professor Carroll, of the Albert Model Farm, Glasnevin; Mr Thomas Porter, of the Irish Land Commission; Mr Robert Bruce, Agricultural Superintendent of the Royal Dublin Society; Mr George M. Ross, Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society of Dublin; Mr W. A. Fraser, of the *Irish Farming World*; Mr Wm. Dick, Bailiff, Phoenix Park; D. Crombie, The Gardens, Powerscourt; and Andrew Campbell, The Gardens, St Anne's, Clontarf.

After a substantial dinner, purveyed in excellent style, the Chairman gave the loyal toasts, which were received with great enthusiasm; and in reply to the toast of "The Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Town Council of Dublin," proposed by Mr Alex. Milne, Alderman Sir Robert Sexton said he regretted that the Lord Mayor was not himself able to be present to respond to the toast. It was always a pleasant thing to be associated with Scotsmen. He had experienced their hospitality in Edinburgh only a few years ago, and they were very pleased to see so many of them in Dublin that week, on their visit to the woodlands of Ireland. The attempt made by the Corporation to plant trees in Sackville Street had not been very successful, but in visiting the suburbs of the city they would see plenty of well-grown trees. Some of their thoroughfares in that respect presented quite a Continental appearance.

Mr PORTER, of the Irish Land Commission, in proposing the toast of the "Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society," said he had just returned from a visit to Scotland, where he had seen many fine woods, and other things which they had not in Ireland. He had come back with the firm impression that if they could only get, in the poorest parts of Ireland, some of the fine woods which

he saw in Perthshire, it would be a lasting blessing to the country. They had many beautiful spots in Ireland which deserved to be better known than they were. He hoped the effect of that excursion would be to direct attention to them, and make them better known to travellers. The accommodation might be a bit rough, but they would have the satisfaction of knowing that they were amongst honest people.

The CHAIRMAN, in responding, said it gave him very great pleasure to do so in the capital of Ireland. Some allusion had been made to the three trees in Sackville Street as worth hardly any more consideration than the three tailors of Tooley Street. But these were far from being all the trees in Ireland, or even decent samples of them! He doubted if there was elsewhere to be found anything finer than the splendid avenues of trees begun by Lord Chesterfield in the Phoenix Park; and they had also seen there many handsome ornamental trees and beautiful gardens well able to hold their own with anything they had in Scotland. And when to-morrow they visited Powerscourt, they would see well-grown, large, and rare trees, not in threes, but in hundreds of thousands. In the south-eastern parts of Ireland tree-planting had been carried to great perfection. He did not say that more might not be done. It was the object of their Society to see that more should be done—that tree-planting should be carried out on a more systematic, more thorough, and more commercial principle than that which had occupied the attention of arborists in the past. Perthshire might be beautiful, but even Perthshire was not perfect. Since coming there they had had one or two questions asked them by Mr Burbidge, curator of Trinity College Gardens. The first was, How best was an Extensive System of Forestry likely to be of Permanent Value to Ireland? That was a big question to answer offhand. But he hoped that the new members of their Society which they might get in Ireland, or any distinct Society that might be formed in Ireland, would give their attention to the matter, so as to bring about a solution of the question, whether it should be done by the Government, by the Land Commission, or through a special Forestry Commission. There was, perhaps, another solution, namely, that such an amount of public interest might be awakened in the matter that landowners might be induced to take it up for themselves. The object of that Society was to provide a centre where all who were interested in forestry could focus their

opinions, and where forestry in all its aspects could be discussed. A practical view of improved forestry was that it would give employment to many men at home in producing that which at present had to be imported. Witness the enormous piles of imported timber to be seen on the Clyde, at Belfast, and at Dublin, and which might to a very large extent be grown at home. Their object was to make forestry a commercial success; but to bring that about they must have forestry education and training, which he hoped would before long occupy a far higher position in public esteem, and a more important position in domestic economy, than it did at present.

Mr MICHIE, Balmoral, proposed "Forestry Education," remarking that when it became more generally recognised that the sources of their present supply of timber were being rapidly exhausted, the public would probably insist on the Government doing something practical.

Professor CARROLL, in reply, said he was sorry that in that country they had not had an opportunity of making themselves practical foresters, or even theoretical foresters. They would, however, be able to see for themselves what had been done to improve Stephen's Green in this respect, where at one time there was not a bush worthy of being named.

Other toasts followed, and an instructive and enjoyable social function was concluded by the whole company standing up and singing "Auld Lang Syne."

---

## SECOND DAY.

Wednesday, 18th August.

With a heavy programme before them on the second day of the Excursion, the members had to be early on foot, to breakfast and then proceed to Harcourt Street Station, to start by train for Bray at 8 o'clock. The places to be visited on this day were situated in the picturesque northern part of the County of Wicklow, and included the richly-wooded policies of Powerscourt, the seat of Viscount Powerscourt, K.P.; Charleville, the seat of Viscount Monck; and Killruddery, the seat of the Earl of Meath. By an arrangement made with the Dublin, Wicklow,

and Wexford Railway Company, the Society was accorded the privilege of a special train of saloon carriages each day the members were in the County of Wicklow. This proved a great advantage in economising time, by travelling expeditiously at suitable hours, and in perfect comfort. Starting punctually at 8 o'clock by the special train from Harcourt Street Station, a short run of about half an hour brought the Excursionists to the fashionable marine watering-place of Bray, the "Brighton of Ireland." The journey lay through a pretty country, thickly studded with handsome mansions and neat villas, the residences of local magnates and prosperous Dublin citizens. On the way, the agricultural members of the party had their first opportunity of noting the superiority which Ireland generally enjoys over Scotland in the matter of climate. Harvest was not begun when they left home, but here the stooks were everywhere to be seen, while one enterprising farmer had actually begun to stack a field of evidently well-dried grain. All farm crops appeared to be abundant, and the soil and climate favourable to the industrious agriculturist.

#### POWERSCOURT.

On arriving at Bray, the party were met by Mr M'Intosh, forester, and Mr Crombie, gardener to Lord Powerscourt, who were to act as the guides of the Excursionists for the day, and most ably and pleasantly they performed their duties to the large and oft-times exacting company. About thirty cars, of the "raal Irish jaunting" type, had to be requisitioned to convey the party over the route for the day, a distance of about twenty miles. Amid the customary bustle and excitement of a crowd of Irish car-drivers, the members were soon all seated upon those handy vehicles, most of them enjoying the novel experience for the first time, and implicitly obeying the shout of the driver to "hould on, bhoys!" by tightly grasping the seat handrail and "holding on" with all their might. The imposing array caused a considerable amount of stir in the fashionable town as it passed along the principal streets on its way to Powerscourt, the effect being heightened by an ample display of brightly coloured bunting and decorations, in preparation for the Royal visit of the Duke and Duchess of York a day or two afterwards. Crossing Bray Bridge and wheeling sharp to the left, the route lay along the "Valley of Diamonds," a richly-wooded valley full of charming and well-

sheltered villas. A drive of about an Irish mile brought the party to the boundary of the Powerscourt estate at the Dargle Bridge. A little farther on the party dismounted from the cars at the foot of the Dargle, "Glen of Oaks," and entering by the lodge gate, they walked up through the romantic glen, the steep rocky sides of which were richly covered with hanging woods, chiefly natural oaks; knarled and stunted with age many of them were, but exceedingly picturesque. The walk extended for about a mile along an easy path, from whence, at several points, charming views were got of the lovely scenery, with the Dargle river leaping and tumbling from ledge to pool in its rocky winding course in the depths of the glen. Coming out on to the ridge at the head of the glen, splendid views were got of the Great Sugar-Loaf Mountain, 1670 feet high, the Little Sugar-Loaf, 1120 feet, and Bray Head, 693 feet, overlooking the Irish Sea, as well as of numerous other objects of interest in the locality. Emerging on the highway and turning to the right a little distance, the handsome parish church was seen on the right front, with the sweetly pretty "Honeymoon Village" of Enniskerry nestling snugly in the valley below.

On arriving at the main entrance to the policies, the members were met by Viscount Powerscourt and his eldest son, the Hon. Mervyn Wingfield, who most heartily welcomed them to Powerscourt. The noble Viscount, a grand type of the good old Irish nobility, took personal charge of the large company of arborists, and conducted them over his splendid demesne. Under his genial guidance, a most interesting and instructive day was spent, amid works of art and scenes of sylvan beauty and arboricultural skill, which are never likely to be forgot by those who had the good fortune and pleasure to be present. Powerscourt is traditionally said to have received its name from one of Strongbow's followers, De la Poer, of Norman descent, who here built a castle and called it "Poer's Court." The district at that early period was known as Feracaulan, and was then, and for long afterwards, in possession of the powerful old Irish sept the O'Tooles, who, with the equally famous Wicklow and Wexford septs of the O'Byrnes and the Kavanaghs, driven by the Saxon invaders from the rich lowlands, long held sway and harried the adjacent country from their strongholds in the fastnesses of the Wicklow mountains. On the accession of James II. in 1603, "the manor of Powerscourt, containing a ruinous castle, and all other lands and possessions," which had previously been forfeited

by the chiefs of the O'Tooles, "containing in itself five miles in length and four in breadth, for the most part mountain and stony, all of which is now, by occasion of war, waste, and the natural infertility of the country, very barren," were granted to Marshal Sir Richard Wingfield, to be held for twenty-one years at a rent of £8 Irish. In 1609, in reward for the signal services rendered by the Marshal in quelling rebellion, the king granted him and his heirs for ever the whole province of Feracaulan, adding in 1610 the castle and lands of Benburb, extending to 2000 acres, in Tyrone, with the manor of Wingfield, and a demesne of 800 acres, in Wexford. Created Viscount Powerscourt in 1618, the lands and titles have descended in the Wingfield family to the present noble owner, who succeeded his father in the titles and estates, as seventh Viscount, in the year 1844, and has therefore held them for the long period of fifty-three years, and carried out many great improvements on the lands, and on the aspect of what was in the days of the O'Tooles "a stony, infertile, and very barren" country.

The introduction and courtesies over, the first objects to attract the attention were some fine specimens of *Pinus insignis*, which stood in the bays right and left of the Main Entrance Gate. With Lord Powerscourt and the President leading the way, a start was at once made with the inspection of the policies. A visit was first paid to a huge old oak, with a massive stem and magnificent head of spreading branches, which stood in the park a little way to the right of the entrance. A tree of noble proportions and picturesque aspect, its stem was found to girth 15 feet 6 inches at 5 feet up, and 18 feet 8 inches at about 1 foot from the ground; and the party were informed by Lord Powerscourt that it was one of the finest of the park oaks on the estate.

Returning to the main approach, and proceeding up the unique avenue, which winds along the brow of the valley for nearly a mile, the party had pointed out to them some fine examples of oak, elm, beech, Scots fir, and other trees, as well as many thriving specimens of the Newer Coniferæ, for which Powerscourt is famed. Exceptional interest attached to these coniferous trees, from the fact that, like the bulk of the others of the same class seen all through the extensive demesne later in the day, they were mostly raised from seed, and planted by a Scottish member of the party, Mr Dunn, Dalkeith, when he was at Powerscourt nearly thirty years ago. The trees were generally of fine growth and proportions, and seemed to be tended with the greatest care.

The beech avenue was voted one of the best that could be seen anywhere. The trees in particular at the upper end, near the mansion-house, being of exceptional size, and quite equal, it was said, in girth and length of stem to the splendid beeches seen by the Excursionists of the Society, in 1895, on the Deister Hills, in Hanover, Germany. The calcareous nature of the soil seemed to be admirably adapted for the clean, free growth of the beech; and their tall cylindrical stems ran up to a great height and were generally free from branches, although grown wider apart than is considered proper by Continental foresters. Near the top of the avenue, the party deviated to the right, for about a hundred yards, into the open park, to afford the company an opportunity of inspecting a magnificent specimen of an old ash tree, with a lofty umbrageous head, the largest of its species now remaining at Powerscourt. Another grand specimen, of considerably greater dimension, formerly stood near by, but unfortunately it had succumbed to storm and decay some years ago. The tree left appeared to be in a vigorous condition, and every possible care being taken to preserve it, there is good hope that it will remain, for many years to come, an object of pride to the owner and of admiration to arborists. Its sturdy bole girthed 16 feet 8 inches at 5 feet up, and 23 feet 2 inches at 2 feet above ground; the well-balanced top towering up in the air to about 90 feet.

The way was now led to the mansion-house—a noble edifice, substantially built with granite of a pleasing light grey tint, and occupying a magnificent site overlooking a very beautiful landscape—through which Lord Powerscourt conducted his visitors, exhibiting and explaining to them his extensive collections of pictures and other objects of art, of which he is a well-known connoisseur. In the entrance hall was seen a marvellous collection of German and Hungarian deers' heads and other trophies of the chase, mostly collected by the present noble owner. A grand collection of old armour and other antiquities also excited much admiring comment, as did also a large massive single-plank table which stood in the centre of the spacious hall. The plank had been cut from the stem of a "Champa" tree, *Michelia Champaca*, a tall evergreen tree allied to the Magnolia, and growing all over India up to 6000 feet above sea-level, and furnishing a durable wood which is much used for building and cabinetmaking. The table was brought from India by the noble owner, and was a splendid sample of the woods of that tropical

region. In the drawing-room were seen many old and historical pictures of priceless worth, amongst them being a well authenticated portrait of "Prince Charlie." Perhaps the room which was most admired was the Grand Saloon on the upper floor, where the members were courteously received and welcomed by Lady Powerscourt. Here were seen many of the family and other pictures, dating back for several generations, besides an almost unique collection of marble and other statuary, representing a large number of persons and subjects. The handsomely painted panels, representing scenes from Moore's Melodies, were greatly admired. These were the work of the late Hon. Lewis Winkfield, a brother of the noble owner, who exhibited great skill as a painter. Many other valuable objects of art, of which Lord Powerscourt is justifiably proud, were also brought under notice in the half-hour's tour of the rooms, one of the most admired being a picture once owned by Pope Benedictine XIV., and presented to him by the Austrian Emperor. The picture represents the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, and was painted on solid marble. The deep vault into which the plate and other valuable family property were lowered on the occasion of the Fenian outbreak in 1867, was also noted with no little curiosity and interest.

Leaving the mansion and its rich treasures, the party proceeded to a spot in the park about 500 yards north-west of the house, to inspect the largest Spanish Chestnut on the estate, a magnificent tree in robust health, and pronounced to be as fine as any tree of the species seen by the members on the various excursions. Its enormous bole girthed 22 feet 6 inches when the tape was applied at 5 feet up, and tapered little to the spring of the main limbs about 20 feet up, the massive boughs and symmetrical head rising to a height of about 80 feet, and over 80 feet in diameter. Retracing their steps through the park, the party greatly admired its noble proportions; and the vast number of excellent timber trees, as well as the fine specimens of ornamental park trees, single and in groups, were the subject of much admiring comment.

Entering the extensive gardens and pleasure-grounds, the ranges of glass-houses were seen to be well furnished with fine fruits and flowers for the supply of the establishment. In a hurried walk through the amply-stocked kitchen garden, the party were much interested in a fine lot of the New Zealand flax, *Phormium tenax*, which throws up its gigantic flower-spikes and seeds freely every year. It was here grown in quantity for forming game



cover, the experts of the party declaring it to be admirably adapted for that purpose.

Stepping out on to the main terrace on the south front of the mansion, the panorama which presented itself to the visitors is perhaps unrivalled in the country for the variety and beauty of the landscape—art being most skilfully combined with Nature.

The grand series of terraced gardens cover an area of more than 20 acres, and have been all formed out of a rough grassy slope by the present noble owner, except the upper plateau next the mansion. A spacious main walk descends over the centre of the terraces from top to bottom, passing down by a series of massive granite stairs, richly embellished with statuary and sculptured works of art, many of them of great historical interest and value, brought from France, Germany, Italy, and other European countries. The terraces were tastefully decorated with many fine specimens of the choicest and most rare of coniferous and other ornamental trees and shrubs. At the bottom a beautiful circular sheet of water, adorned with a fountain, formed a magnificent centrepiece, beyond which lay a richly sylvan valley, with the bare conical peak of the Great Sugar-Loaf Mountain rising in the distance with rare picturesque effect.

The whole party of about one hundred and twenty—which included members of the Society representing Scotland, England, Ireland, and Wales—were photographed in a large group, arranged on the grand stair of the upper terrace, by Mr George Paxton of Kilmarnock, *Honorary Photographer* to the Society.

In the extensive and charming pleasure-grounds spreading out around the terraces, which the visitors now proceeded to walk through and inspect, numerous choice specimens of Conifers, particularly the rarer varieties, were seen and examined with much interest. Many of the earlier introduced species have attained to an age and size which show their natural habits and characteristic features. Every hardy ornamental Conifer that can be grown in this country was represented by some healthy and vigorous growing specimen; and many that are not at all hardy in Great Britain were here seen in a flourishing condition.

Proceeding to the small glen in the eastern part of the grounds, two fine specimens of the Italian Cypress, *Cupressus sempervirens*, were pointed out, with their heads broken off about 40 feet up by the snowstorm of January 1895. Among other notable trees seen in this locality was an *Abies grandis* of about thirty years

old, and measuring 6 feet in girth of stem. Many fine specimens of rare exotics were seen and much admired in the "Wilderness," a deep hollow with a peaty soil, in which American plants of many kinds were growing with great luxuriance.

Ascending a rustic stair beside a curiously interesting rockery formed of tufa, the party were on the lower margin of the circular pond, which they had so much admired from the upper terraces. Here, growing near the pond, was seen a grand example of the New Zealand beech, *Fagus Cunninghamii*, a beautiful but rather tender tree, growing vigorously. A little farther on, on the slope at the south end of the west terrace, a fine group of Scots fir, about two hundred years old, were much admired. One of the largest stems, which were of a good height, was found to girth 12 feet 8 inches at 5 feet up. Rounding the hill, the party were shown a group of the Chinese yew, *Cephalotaxus Fortunei*, the bushes being heavily laden with plum-like drupes, or fruit, a rare occurrence still in this country. Regaining the high ground, a host of rarities among trees and shrubs were observed, among them being a handsome specimen of the Japanese silver fir, *Abies Veitchii*, introduced in 1879 by Messrs Veitch of Chelsea. A fine example of *Aralia Sieboldii* had attained to wonderfully large proportions to be grown in the open air. In this vicinity was also noted a very nice bush of *Desfontainea spinosa*, as well as a group of handsome Conifers, amongst them being a well-furnished example of *Abies Webbiana*, in fine healthy condition.

Returning to the north lawn, the party were entertained to a sumptuous luncheon in a large marquee erected for the occasion. After lunch the *President*, Mr MUNRO FERGUSON, M.P., in name of the company, proposed a most hearty vote of thanks to Lord Powerscourt for the great attention he had paid them, and the handsome way in which he had treated them. Lord POWERSCOURT, in reply, expressed his pleasure at being able to let them see something of interest to arborists. He hoped that that would not be the last visit of the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society to Ireland.

The party then mounted their cars, and proceeded to the waterfall, a distance of about four miles. Sweeping down the fine wide drive to Tinniehinch and turning to the right, the road lay up the valley of the Dargle, keeping near the river and following its windings for about three miles in the private grounds. In the course of this lovely drive, numerous handsome specimens of Conifers and other ornamental trees and shrubs were noticed thriving

remarkably well in the deep soil and shelter of the valley. A short distance from the turn at Tinniehinch the party alighted in order to see a huge British oak, which was found to girth 19 feet 6 inches at 3 feet from the ground, and 20 feet 10 inches at 1 foot from the base. A short distance up the glen on the right there was seen a splendid Douglas fir, with a tall, straight stem, girthing 7 feet 11 inches at 5 feet up. Close beside it grew a very fine example of *Pinus insignis*, measuring 10 feet in girth at 5 feet up. Both trees, it was stated, were only planted in 1864.

A hundred yards or so farther on, and on the opposite side of the Dargle, in the beautifully wooded demesne of Viscount Monck, a grand hornbeam tree, standing by itself a little way off in a meadow, attracted not a little attention. All the way the splendid Conifers line the sides of the drive, occasionally expanding into plantations of some acres of a single species, or several species mixed together. One of these groves, of about two acres in extent, was formed entirely of the Chilian pine, *Araucaria imbricata*, planted in 1869. It was growing remarkably well, and formed an object of interest to the visitors as they drove past. Three miles on the way the Deer Park, a wide area of over 1000 acres of forest, was entered. The park contains a considerable extent of natural woods, chiefly venerable oaks and grand old birches. A large area of plantations of larch, Scots fir, and Norway spruce, clothe the high and steep slopes of the valley; and a mantle of the richest verdure, of hazel, holly, and dwarf birch, with a profusion of ferns, covers the face of the precipitous cliffs where trees cannot cling. The park lies in a well-sheltered amphitheatre on the northern shoulder of the Wicklow mountains, and maintains a herd of upwards of five hundred head of deer, including some fine specimens of Japanese, Californian, and other rare breeds, beside the usual fallow and native red deer.

The stupendous waterfall for which the Deer Park is celebrated is situated at the head of the amphitheatre, and is formed by the union of several of the head-streams of the Dargle river, which find their sources high on the sides of Djouce Mountain, 2384 feet; War Hill, 2250 feet; and Tonduff, 2107 feet. When the river is in flood it leaps over the high escarpment of about 370 feet nearly clear into the pool at its base, and then forms a sight of great grandeur; but on ordinary occasions the water for the greater part of the height assumes more of the features of a steeply-gliding cascade than a sheer fall. Under any conditions,

it is a remarkably interesting object, and was witnessed by the visitors with great interest and admiration, few of whom had ever seen anything to approach it, amid surroundings of a grandly picturesque character. Having feasted their eyes for a while on the grandeur of Nature, the party were led by Lord Powerscourt up the shoulder of the hill to the right of the waterfall to see some stately old oaks of a great size, which grew in scattered groups on the hill-side, and were evidently the sturdy remnants of the ancient Irish oak forests.

Retracing their steps to the entrance to the Deer Park, the party took the public road to the right up the hill towards Charleville, where a splendid view was had looking towards the left up Glen Cree, with the huge round top of Kippure, 2473 feet, the highest mountain in North Wicklow, closing in the view. Standing conspicuously on a commanding site at the head of the Glen are the somewhat gaunt and solitary-looking "Glen Cree Barracks." Used now as a Reformatory for boys, the lads have industriously reclaimed some hundreds of acres of the upland wastes, which now grow useful crops, well sheltered from the blast by thriving plantations formed at an altitude of 1200 to 1500 feet above sea-level.

Extensive planting operations were carried out on the sides of Glen Cree about thirty years ago by Lord Powerscourt—Ballyreagh plantation alone extending to about 700 acres. It was formed of a mixture of larch, spruce, and Scots fir, with a sprinkling of poplars in the moist parts, and hardwoods and the Newer Conifers in the better spots. These trees have thriven remarkably well, and are now fast assuming timber proportions, the larch being perfectly free from the "blister" which proves such a scourge to it in many parts of Great Britain. During the time that Lord Powerscourt has ruled over his extensive estates, he has carried out many vast improvements upon them, not the least of which has been the extensive plantations he has formed on various parts of the property, adding largely to its amenity, as well as to the intrinsic value, and giving a much needed employment to a large number of working-people.

In the formation of the Powerscourt plantations, a free use was made of the most promising timber species of the Newer Coniferæ, and their merits as timber trees are being accurately tested along with those of the older species of forest trees. The results of the enterprise of Lord Powerscourt in making those

valuable experiments, are of the greatest interest to foresters, and reflect high credit on the forethought and skill displayed by the noble owner at a time when forestry received but small attention from the public. Arriving at the confines of Charleville, the party drew up to bid good-bye to Lord Powerscourt, who was leaving them there after treating them to a most instructive and interesting day's inspection of his splendid estate; for which Mr Dunn, on behalf of the Excursionists, cordially thanked his lordship, and on his call they gave Lord Powerscourt three most hearty cheers as he drove off.

As the time was too limited to allow of the party taking measurements of the more notable trees, Mr Crombie, on the instruction of Lord Powerscourt, kindly supplied the figures and remarks in the following Tables. The measurements given are those of the finest proportioned trees in Powerscourt demesne. The soil is generally a light loam, on an open gravel subsoil of great depth in places. The altitude varies between 400 to 700 feet, about four miles from the sea, and fairly well sheltered, except in the higher exposed parts. Generally speaking, the conditions of soil, aspect, and climate are highly favourable to tree-life.

*Measurements of Broad-leaved Trees at Powerscourt.*

NAME OF TREE.	Age.	Height.		Girth at 5 ft. up.		Diameter of Spread of Branches.		Aspect.	REMARKS.
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.	ft.	in.		
<i>Ailanthus glandulosa</i> ,	30	24	0	2	5	17	0	E.	Healthy growing tree.
Alder, . . . . .	unknown	54	0	15	4	44	0	S.	Grand tree; sound.
Ash, . . . . .	"	80	0	16	8	54	0	S.W.	Fine old tree; healthy.
Beech, . . . . .	"	106	0	16	7	76	0	S.E.	Noble tree; perfectly sound.
Birch, . . . . .	"	63	0	5	9	39	0	S.E.	Grand specimen.
Black Poplar, . . . . .	45	52	0	5	7	43	0	S.	Healthy tree.
Elm, . . . . .	unknown	100	0	16	7	76	0	S.	Remarkably fine tree.
Gean, . . . . .	"	48	0	9	9	43	0	S.E.	Fine tree; very fruitful.
Horse Chestnut, . . . . .	"	82	0	12	3	46	0	S.W.	Grand tree; sound.
Lime, . . . . .	"	95	0	12	10	63	0	N.W.	Clean; fine tree.
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> ,	40	46	0	4	3	44	0	S.W.	Fine specimen.
Oak, . . . . .	unknown	66	0	15	10	57	0	S.E.	Splendid tree.
<i>Pterocarya caucasica</i> , . . . . .	35	39	0	3	9	27	0	S.	Fine and free growing.
<i>Quercus Ilex</i> , . . . . .	unknown	38	0	5	10	33	0	S.E.	Fine tree.
Spanish Chestnut, . . . . .	"	84	0	22	6	78	0	S.	Magnificent specimen.
Sycamore, . . . . .	"	78	0	13	0	84	0	N.	Beautiful healthy tree.
Walnut, . . . . .	"	39	0	8	3	31	0	S.E.	Healthy old tree.
White Thorn, . . . . .	"	33	0	7	10	35	0	...	Unique old tree.

## Measurements of Coniferous Trees at Powerscourt.

NAME OF TREE.	Age.	Height.		Girth at 5 ft. up.		Diameter of Spread of Branches.	Aspect.	REMARKS.
		years.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.			
<i>Abies Albertiana</i> , . . .	30	52 0	4 4	24 0	S.E.	Fine ; free growing.		
„ <i>Alcoquiana</i> , . . .	30	22 0	2 3	16 0	S.W.	Fine specimen.		
„ <i>balsamea</i> , . . .	35	53 0	5 1	29 0	S.	Healthy ; fine tree.		
„ <i>Brunoniana</i> , . . .	28	24 0	3 4	22 0	S.E.	Fine healthy specimen.		
„ <i>canadensis</i> , . . .	40	27 0	2 10	20 0	S.	Fine tree.		
„ <i>cephalonica</i> , . . .	30	48 0	6 2	31 4	S.	Grand specimen.		
„ <i>concolor</i> , . . .	30	47 0	5 2	17 0	S.E.	Very healthy.		
„ <i>Douglasii</i> , . . .	35	90 0	9 7	27 0	S.E.	Magnificent tree.		
„ <i>excelsa</i> , . . .	unknown	100 0	7 8	29 0	S.W.	Handsome tree.		
„ <i>firma</i> , . . .	25	27 0	2 2	13 0	S.	Growing freely.		
„ <i>Fraseri</i> , . . .	30	43 0	4 9	18 6	S.E.	Healthy specimen.		
„ <i>grandis</i> , . . .	32	66 7	5 9	34 0	S.E.	Magnificent specimen.		
„ <i>magnifica</i> , . . .	30	52 0	6 6	18 3	S.W.	Healthy and beautiful.		
„ <i>nobilis</i> , . . .	32	51 0	5 3	24 0	S.	Very fine specimen.		
„ <i>Nordmanniana</i> , . . .	30	53 0	4 9	21 0	S.E.	Remarkably fine.		
„ <i>numidica</i> , . . .	25	23 0	3 0	16 0	N.	Growing freely.		
„ <i>orientalis</i> , . . .	30	38 0	3 10	14 0	S.E.	Fine specimen.		
„ <i>Pattoniana</i> , . . .	30	27 0	3 10	21 0	S.	Healthy ; well-furnished.		
„ <i>pectinata</i> , . . .	unknown	110 0	14 0	68 0	E.	Noble old tree.		
„ <i>Pindrow</i> , . . .	30	44 0	3 4	17 0	S.E.	Healthy ; fine tree.		
„ <i>Pinsapo</i> , . . .	35	49 0	5 11	22 0	S.	Splendid specimen.		
„ <i>pungens</i> , . . .	28	18 0	1 1	10 0	N.	Growing in too wet a soil.		
„ <i>sitchensis</i> , . . .	30	54 0	6 3	34 0	S.W.	Beautiful and healthy		
„ <i>Smithiana</i> , . . .	35	49 7	5 6	28 0	S.E.	Handsome specimen.		
„ <i>Webbiana</i> , . . .	30	37 0	3 4	24 0	S.W.	Very fine specimen.		
<i>Araucaria Cunninghamii</i> , . . .	30	17 0	1 9	9 0	S.	Healthy ; sheltered.		
„ <i>imbriata</i> , . . .	30	43 0	3 2	17 0	S.	Healthy growing tree.		
<i>Arthrotaxis Doniana</i> , . . .	28	24 0	2 5	7 0	S.E.	Fine healthy specimen.		
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> , . . .	30	48 0	5 10	33 0	S.W.	Fine tree.		
„ <i>Deodara</i> , . . .	40	51 0	6 10	48 0	S.W.	Splendid specimen.		
„ <i>Libani</i> , . . .	unknown	85 0	10 7	32 0	S.E.	Fine old tree.		
<i>Cryptomeria elegans</i> , . . .	30	21 0	2 7	9 8	S.	Fine specimen.		
„ <i>japonica</i> , . . .	40	44 0	6 4	35 0	E.	Fine dense tree.		
<i>Cupressus erecta viridis</i> , . . .	30	38 0	5 4	9 0	S.W.	Very fine specimen.		
„ <i>funebriis</i> , . . .	30	27 0	2 11	10 0	S.	Fine healthy tree.		
„ <i>Knightiana</i> , . . .	23	26 0	1 3	18 0	S.	Grows well ; handsome.		
„ <i>Lawsoniana</i> , . . .	32	46 0	5 2	21 0	S.W.	Beautiful and healthy.		
„ <i>macrocarpa</i> , . . .	40	57 0	7 10	43 0	S.W.	Very fine specimen.		
„ <i>nutkaensis</i> , . . .	30	46 0	3 7	19 0	S.E.	Handsome specimen.		
„ <i>sempervirens</i> , . . .	30	39 0	2 1	6 0	S.	Good specimen.		
„ <i>torulosa</i> , . . .	30	29 0	3 0	9 6	N.W.	Growing freely.		
<i>Fitzroya patagonica</i> , . . .	30	21 0	1 3	18 0	S.	Very fine and healthy.		
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> , . . .	25	20 0	1 4	9 0	S.W.	Nice healthy tree.		
„ <i>recurva</i> , . . .	25	13 0	1 7	17 0	S.	Perfect specimen.		
„ <i>virginiana</i> , . . .	25	22 0	2 3	11 0	S.W.	Very fine.		

## Measurements of Coniferous Trees at Powerscourt—Continued.

NAME OF TREE.	Age.	Height.		Girth at 5 ft. up.		Diameter of Spread of Branches.	Aspect.	REMARKS.
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.			
<i>Larix europæa</i> , . . .	unknown	75	0	12	3	45	0	N.E. Magnificent specimen.
<i>Libocedrus chilensis</i> , . . .	27	27	0	2	5	13	0	S.E. Fine specimen.
„ „ <i>decurrens</i> , . . .	30	28	0	3	8	11	0	S.W. Growing freely.
<i>Pinus austriaca</i> , . . .	40	44	0	7	2	42	0	S.W. Fine specimen.
„ „ <i>Cembra</i> , . . .	35	39	0	3	3	14	0	N. Beautiful tree.
„ „ <i>densiflora</i> , . . .	30	37	0	3	1	18	0	S. Handsome species.
„ „ <i>Don Pedro</i> , . . .	28	17	6	1	8	13	0	N.W. Growing freely.
„ „ <i>excelsa</i> , . . .	40	52	0	6	8	28	0	N.W. Grand tree.
„ „ <i>halepensis</i> , . . .	28	21	0	2	1	15	0	N. Growing freely.
„ „ <i>insignis</i> , . . .	40	90	0	9	11	29	0	N.E. Grand specimen.
„ „ <i>Jeffreyi</i> , . . .	30	34	0	4	7	19	0	S. Fine specimen.
„ „ <i>Lambertiana</i> , . . .	30	42	0	4	10	17	0	S. Growing freely.
„ „ <i>Laricio</i> , . . .	40	36	0	3	4	15	0	S.W. Fine tree.
„ „ <i>macrocarpa</i> , . . .	40	48	0	6	2	34	0	S.W. Very fine tree.
„ „ <i>monticola</i> , . . .	30	28	0	4	1	23	0	S.W. Handsome tree.
„ „ <i>Pinaster</i> , . . .	unknown	54	0	9	8	30	0	S.E. Fine old tree.
„ „ <i>pinæa</i> , . . .	40	37	0	5	2	19	0	S.W. Fine tree.
„ „ <i>ponderosa</i> , . . .	30	38	0	4	9	18	0	S. Fine specimen.
„ „ <i>pyrenaica</i> , . . .	30	41	0	3	5	21	0	S.W. Growing freely.
„ „ <i>Strobus</i> , . . .	30	42	0	3	5	17	0	S. Fast growing.
„ „ <i>sylvestris</i> , . . .	200	98	0	12	8	27	0	S.E. Grand sound tree.
<i>Taxodium distichum</i> , . . .	30	17	0	1	10	19	0	S. Grows freely.
„ „ <i>sempervirens</i> , . . .	35	54	0	8	2	26	0	S.W. Fine specimen.
<i>Taxus baccata</i> , . . .	unknown	42	0	9	11	48	0	N.E. Fine old tree.
<i>Thuia gigantea</i> , . . .	30	72	0	6	9	23	0	S.W. Exceedingly fine.
„ „ <i>occidentalis</i> , . . .	40	33	0	2	1	19	0	S.E. Fine specimen.
<i>Thuiopsis dolobrata</i> , . . .	28	29	0	2	0	14	0	N.W. Fine healthy specimen.
<i>Wellingtonia gigantea</i> , . . .	40	74	0	9	1	25	0	S. Healthy and handsome.

## CHARLEVILLE.

The river Dargle forms the boundary between the estates of Charleville and Powerscourt for several miles, and the Excursionists had already seen much of the best wooded parts of Lord Monck's beautiful demesne while pursuing their investigations on the Powerscourt side of the valley. It was, however, with great regret that it was found it would be impossible to spare another couple of hours in the afternoon to explore the policies on foot, where much was to be seen of interest to arborists. The time speeding fast, the party were obliged to pursue their way without stopping, and requested an apology to be conveyed to Viscount Monck for their inability to visit his beautiful seat on that

occasion. With Lord Monck's kind permission, his able steward, Mr Douglas, who accompanied the Excursionists on their tour that day, has given for this Report the following particulars about some of the finest trees and objects of arboreal interest at Charleville.

The estate of Charleville lies on the south side of the valley of the Dargle, with a general slope to the north, and the richly-wooded policies are from 300 to 500 feet above sea-level. The soil generally is a rich clayey loam, resting on a brick-clay sub-soil. Most of the broad-leaved trees thrive well on this soil, grow fast, and produce straight, clean timber, of first-rate quality. Many of these trees with the finest stems appear to have been close-grown in their earlier stages, and therefore possess clean, cylindrical boles, with no taper to speak of, to a great height. Whether this has been the result of an early practitioner of the Continental system, or—what is much more probable—early neglect, is not known; but the early crowding, with due attention to thinning in later stages of growth, has produced wood that no timber merchant would dare to “turn up his nose at,” but would rather cast an admiring eye upon. These trees form a splendid example of the value, from a timber point of view, of the close system of growing forest trees in the earlier stages of their life. Within the past quarter of a century some of the finest and largest trees have disappeared, from one unfortunate cause or another; the best oak on the estate being ruined by a landslip, and the largest Scots fir and Spanish chestnut going down before the gales. The heavy snowstorm which fell here on 12th and 13th January 1895 played sad havoc in the woods, the great weight of the damp snow clinging to the branches and bearing down all before it. The broken tops and limbs of many fine trees, both at Charleville and Powerscourt, still bear witness to the severe mauling they received, although the worst examples have been cleared away. The storm was of a local character, and Charleville appeared to have suffered most, as the snow fell to a greater depth than ever was known there, not excepting the noted “Fenian storm” in March 1867, when the snow was over a foot deep—an unusual snowfall for the south of Ireland.

The following measurements of the best specimens of the various kinds of trees were carefully taken last autumn, with a view to an accurate record for Lord Monck's future use. The height in all cases was taken by the good old method of sending a boy up



each tree, with a long light pole and a 100-foot tape measure, thus ensuring as much accuracy in the height as in the girth when taken at "5 feet up." The "Irish Yew Walk" referred to in the "Remarks" has a grand row of twenty-seven Irish yews on either side, or fifty-four in all, extending to about 260 yards, and forming a fine avenue of a tree of Irish origin, quite in keeping with the surroundings. The "English Yew Walk" is of a similar type, but for about half of its length—242 yards—it has been trimmed into a massive hedge, while the other half has been allowed to assume the natural wide-spreading character of the common yew. The broad-leaved trees are mostly growing singly in the open park, and are generally splendid specimens, with handsome, umbrageous heads, the beau-ideal of park trees. The fine avenue called the "Cedar Walk" was planted in 1851, to commemorate the great International Exhibition held that year at London, and the trees having done well, it is a most graceful and attractive feature of Charleville, extending to 328 yards in length. Many other Conifers beside the specimens in the Table have been planted within the past twenty years. All thrive and grow freely, the Chilian Pine, *Araucaria imbricata*, excepted, the soil appearing not to suit it.

*Measurements of Broad-leaved Trees at Charleville.*

NAME OF TREE.	Height.	Girth at 5 ft. up.		Diameter of Spread of Branches.	Aspect.	REMARKS.
		ft. in.	ft. in.			
Ash, . . . . .	86 0	19 6	83 0		N.W.	Sound; with a grand head.
Beech, . . . . .	70 0	15 0	65 0		N.W.	Grand spreading tree.
Chestnut, Horse, . . . . .	66 0	12 6	57 0		S.	Splendid spreading tree.
„ Spanish, . . . . .	60 0	14 0	55 0		S.	Fine spreading tree.
Elm, . . . . .	90 0	17 0	87 0		S.	A perfectly balanced head.
Lime, . . . . .	85 0	14 0	65 0		S.	A handsome tree.
Oak, . . . . .	70 0	12 4	76 0		Open.	Grand stem; 11 ft. girth at 18 ft. up.
„ Evergreen, . . . . .	47 0	10 0	56 0		S.	
Poplar, Balsam, . . . . .	65 0	9 0	40 0		Open.	Splendid specimen.
„ Black Italian, . . . . .	90 0	11 0	55 0		W.	Very handsome tree.
Sycamore, . . . . .	65 0	14 0	58 0		S.	Fine spreading head.

## Measurements of Coniferous Trees at Charleville.

NAME OF TREE.	Age.	Height.		Girth at 6 ft. up.		Diameter of Spread of Branches.	Aspect.	REMARKS.
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.			
<i>Abies Albertiana</i> , . . .	20	43	0	3	6	21	0	S. Healthy; too close planted.
„ <i>canadensis</i> , . . .	36	40	0	5	6	34	0	S. Very nicely furnished.
„ <i>Douglasii</i> (1), . . .	36	74	0	6	9	42	0	Open. Healthy; too close planted.
„ „ (2), . . .	25	69	0	5	6	35	0	S. Promising; in good situation.
„ <i>excelsa</i> , . . .	...	105	0	8	0	25	0	S.E. Straight healthy Spruce.
„ <i>grandis</i> , . . .	22	58	0	5	4	25	0	S. Well furnished; quick growing.
„ <i>lasiocarpa</i> , . . .	22	37	0	3	6	18	0	S.E. Healthy, but slow growing.
„ <i>Morinda</i> , . . .	36	50	0	5	4	27	0	S.E. Very good specimen.
„ <i>nobilis</i> , . . .	22	43	0	3	6	17	0	S.E. Fine healthy tree.
„ <i>Nordmanniana</i> , . . .	29	52	0	4	6	25	0	S.E. Robust and handsome.
„ <i>pectinata</i> , . . .	...	110	0	14	6	45	0	S.W. A noble "Silver."
„ <i>Pindrow</i> , . . .	28	51	0	4	6	25	0	S. Very good specimen.
„ <i>Pinsapo</i> , . . .	22	38	0	4	0	30	0	Open. Grandly furnished.
<i>Araucaria imbricata</i> , . . .	36	34	0	4	0	17	0	Open. Gums and branches "rust."
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> , . . .	36	57	0	6	0	45	0	E. Fine, and free growing.
„ <i>Deodara</i> (1), . . .	46	59	0	7	6	49	0	S.E. } In "Cedar Walk," 42
„ „ (2), . . .	46	56	0	7	10	35	0	S.E. } trees, all doing well.
„ <i>Libani</i> , . . .	40	41	0	6	6	35	0	E. Nice trees; slow growing.
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> , . . .	30	42	0	4	0	18	0	Open. Healthy, but slow.
<i>Cupressus Lawsoniana</i> , . . .	28	42	0	4	10	20	0	S. Nicely furnished.
„ <i>macrocarpa</i> , . . .	26	40	0	5	4	25	0	S.E. Fine; grows fast.
<i>Larix europæa</i> , . . .	...	89	0	12	0	62	0	S.E. Fine straight bole; branched to ground.
<i>Pinus austriaca</i> , . . .	36	54	0	5	6	24	0	S.W. Vigorous example.
„ <i>excelsa</i> , . . .	36	56	0	6	6	40	0	S.E. Grows freely.
„ <i>insignis</i> (1), . . .	37	76	0	10	4	30	0	S.E. Injured by snow in 1895.
„ „ (2), . . .	25	70	0	7	0	35	0	S. Grand promising tree.
„ <i>Pinaster</i> , . . .	36	45	0	6	0	25	0	N.W. Injured by snow.
„ <i>pinæa</i> , . . .	36	45	0	5	6	30	0	S.W. Fine large cones.
„ <i>sylvestris</i> , . . .	...	78	0	11	0	50	0	N.W. Many fine Scots Firs.
<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i> , . . .	38	51	0	9	6	35	0	Open. Grand tree; quite healthy.
<i>Taxus baccata</i> , . . .	...	41	0	8	0	40	0	Shelt'r'd. Finest tree in the "English Yew Walk."
„ <i>fastigiata</i> , . . .	44	20	0	...	...	12	0	Shelt'r'd. The best in "Irish Yew Walk."
<i>Thuia gigantea</i> , . . .	27	58	0	5	6	25	0	S.W. Fine, and quick growing.
<i>Thuiopsis borealis</i> , . . .	25	38	0	3	6	20	0	S. Handsome specimen.
<i>Wellingtonia gigantea</i> , . . .	27	59	0	10	6	20	0	Open. Nobly characteristic.

## THE GLEN OF THE DOWNS.

Leaving Charleville behind, the route lay for some distance through a wildly picturesque country, where the primitive Irish cabin, and the proverbial "gintlemin who pays the rint," the pig, were much in evidence. Anon the active horses toil up the shoulders of the Great Sugar-Loaf Mountain, and strike into the head of the Rocky Valley, a barren, rocky defile in the northern spurs of the mountain, down which the road runs till it reaches the venerable hamlet of Kilmacanogue. Here the main road was joined, and wheeling to the right, a rapid drive of about two miles, through a charming upland valley, brought the party to the head of the Glen of the Downs.

The drive down the narrow and richly-wooded defile, about a mile in length, with the steep sides of the Glen rising to a height of 500 or 600 feet, densely clad in rich woods to the summit, was greatly enjoyed, although by the time the finest part at the east end was reached rain was coming down in torrents, and threatening to spoil the remainder of the day. The sides of the Glen were chiefly clothed with natural oaks on the left, with a southern aspect; while on the northern aspect, on the right, along the base of which the road ran, the hazel predominated. Beneath them, a luxuriant greenery of ferns and other plants, through which rock and boulder cropped, lent a softening charm, and increased the interest in the scene.

Turning sharply to the left at the foot of the Glen, and passing through the pretty rural village of Delgany, the party alighted from the cars and walked up the steep road skirting the extensive and well-wooded demesne of Bellevue, the seat of F. Latouche, Esq. At the summit, which was reached just as the rain cleared off, a splendid view was had of the whole "Wicklow Shore," and northwards over Bray and Killiney, to Dublin Bay and Howth Head in the distance. Mounting the cars at the top of the hill, and bowling quickly down the northern slope, the Killruddery policies were reached at the Deer Park entrance about 6 o'clock.

## KILLRUDDERY.

From the entrance to the demesne, a charming drive was enjoyed, sweeping down through the wild and picturesque Deer Park, on the eastern slopes of the Little Sugar-Loaf Mountain. At the bottom of the hill the ornamental grounds were entered,

and driving along the magnificent Lime-tree Avenue, its grand proportions were greatly admired. Composed of a double line of limes about one hundred and fifty years old, set well back from the carriage drive, they towered aloft to at least 100 feet, with their lower branches sweeping the greensward, and formed a grand approach to the mansion-house of Killruddery, standing in beautiful pleasure-grounds in the bottom of the valley, and looking straight out this grand avenue. At the inner end of the avenue the company were met and welcomed by Mr Childs, the gardener and forester, on behalf of the Earl of Meath, who acted as guide to the party with much acceptance while they inspected the beautiful gardens and grounds, amply stocked with a wealth of trees and other features of interest to arborists.

The demesne and ancient abbey or monastery of Killruddery were the possessions, in early pre-Reformation times, of the monks of the Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr, at Dublin. On the dissolution of monastic institutions in the reign of Henry VIII., the king presented the lands and heritages of Killruddery to Sir William Brabazon, a distinguished warrior and statesman of Anglo-Norman lineage, and ancestor of the present noble owner. The deed of gift is still extant, and in perfect condition, among the archives of the noble family. The privileges of the right of private jurisdiction within the "Liberties of the Earl of Meath," in Dublin, derived through the monks, and including the sole right to supply water to that portion of the city, were only abolished so lately as the year 1859. The arms of the "Liberty," which hung over the judge's seat in the Manor Court, are now at Killruddery.

Many interesting remains of the monkish period were still to be seen, although most of the ancient abbey buildings have long ago disappeared. Among those observed by the party, were a broad moat for the defence of the abbey; a number of curious triangular areas, radiating from two circular centres, divided and enclosed by high hedges of yew and hornbeam, kept neatly trimmed; an ancient bowling-green, closely surrounded by a high yew hedge, within which the monks could enjoy the game beyond the observation of vulgar eyes; a fish-pond, in the shape of the Ace of Clubs—and the party were informed that three other ponds formerly existed in the shape of the aces of the other suites of a pack of cards, but, falling into decay, they have long been closed up; a circular ornamental pond, with a beautiful fountain and arrangement of jets playing in it, surrounded by a tall beech hedge,

some 24 feet in height and 15 feet through, with a passage or arcade, about 7 feet wide and ten feet high, running all round in the middle of the hedge; and a sylvan theatre, enclosed by a bay-laurel hedge. These curious remains of mediæval times were viewed by the visitors with great interest.

Taking the numerous company in charge, Mr Childs led them up the Araucaria Walk, where a few good examples of the Chilian Pine were seen, while others were evidently not at home in the soil of the district. Following a winding walk up through the woods to the summit of a rocky height, overlooking the handsome mansion and the beautiful gardens and lawns around it, a magnificent view was obtained of the whole landscape around, with Powerscourt House appearing in the distance amid rich woodlands, backed by the brown peaks and ridges of the Wicklow mountains. In coming down from the rocky eminence, many splendid trees of Scots fir were passed and greatly admired, as perfect examples of first-class timber trees, with clean, lengthy "gun-barrel" stems, exactly suited for commercial purposes. One of the finest of these pine trees was measured, and found to girth 9 feet 5 inches at 5 feet up; and many others closely approached, if they did not exceed, it in size. A little lower down, on the side of a fine wide grass terrace, two grand trees of *Pinus insignis* were much admired, and on the tape being put round their stems, at 3 feet up, they were found to girth 14 feet 6 inches and 14 feet 3 inches respectively. Near them stood a splendid example of the Mount Atlas Cedar, *Cedrus atlantica*, which had developed an extra rich silvery tint on its foliage, and formed an exceedingly handsome tree. In the vicinity were seen a row of grand old Evergreen Oaks, several of which were girthed, and the largest measured 10 feet 10 inches round the stem at 5 feet up. Such gigantic Holm Oaks formed a topic of discussion to the arborists for some time.

The party were now led along several of the grass walks with high clipped hedges on each side; some of yew, close and massive, and others of hornbeam, more free, light, and airy, of the style seen at Sans Souci, Potsdam, Prussia, in 1895. Passing round the large ornamental sheet of water, reminding the party of one of the prominent features of a Dutch country seat, they entered a high plantation of stately trees, intersected in every direction by straight formal grass walks in the Dutch or Flemish style. Here were seen numerous examples of the finest

class of timber trees; and two clumps of gigantic beeches, with very tall, clean, and straight stems, growing close together, were declared by an eminent authority to surpass anything the party saw in the famed beech forests of Germany in 1895. Considerable time was spent in examining this fine plantation of trees, the opinion being freely expressed by the members that for the production of timber, Ireland, so far as they had seen, was quite equal to any part of Europe, and surpassed the most of it.

The flower and kitchen gardens received a short visit, and were seen in beautiful order; and on the lawns were noticed several very handsome specimens of ornamental trees. A splendid copper-leaved beech was particularly observed, standing on a fine breadth of smoothly shaven lawn near the flower-garden. Its clean stem of about 10 feet high, girthed 10 feet 6 inches at 5 feet up, and was crowned by a magnificent canopy of branches drooping with their tips to the ground, and forming a regular hemisphere of about 70 feet through. The last object examined was the curiously interesting sylvan theatre enclosed with a bay-laurel hedge, where possibly open-air plays had been performed in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, a curious relic of the olden time.

Through the courtesy of the Earl of Meath, the following dimensions of some of the most notable trees were supplied by Mr Childs.

*Measurements of Trees at Killruddery.*

NAME OF TREE.	Height.		Girth at 5 ft. up.		Diameter of Spread of Branches.	REMARKS.	
	ft.	in.	ft.	in.			
Ash, . . . . .	63	0	16	0	40	0	Grand old tree.
Beech, . . . . .	104	0	14	6	103	0	Splendid specimen.
„ Purple, . . . . .	60	0	10	6	70	0	A model Purple Beech.
Chestnut, Horse, . . . . .	76	0	12	0	39	0	Fine specimen.
„ Sweet, . . . . .	48	0	21	0	36	0	Massive old tree.
Lime, . . . . .	80	0	11	4	45	0	Very handsome.
Oak, . . . . .	53	0	14	8	97	0	Sturdy old tree.
„ Evergreen, . . . . .	75	6	11	0	83	0	Very fine specimen.
<i>Abies nobilis</i> , . . . . .	63	7	6	4	35	0	Grows fast; handsome.
„ <i>pectinata</i> , . . . . .	101	0	10	9	15	0	Splendid Silver Fir.
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> , . . . . .	41	5	7	2	53	0	Beautiful silvery variety.
<i>Pinus insignis</i> , . . . . .	76	8	15	0	50	0	Grand specimen.
„ <i>sylvestris</i> , . . . . .	69	6	9	6	38	0	Very fine Scots Fir.

The above trees are growing in a good deep loam on a marly subsoil—one of the best soils for hardwood trees. The average altitude is about 150 feet, a mile inland from the Irish Sea, well sheltered, and with a south-west aspect. Numerous other trees of the same and other kinds are growing throughout the policies, but the examples given are a fair average of the best class. Soil and climate are evidently highly favourable to the growth of ordinary forest trees, as well as to a considerable variety of the choicer kinds of coniferous trees.

As evening approached, Killruddery was left by the east avenue leading towards Bray, and a short run of about twenty minutes through the town to the Esplanade, landed the party at Bray Station. Here the special train was in waiting to convey them back to Dublin, which was reached in good time for 9 o'clock dinner. The weather in the afternoon was a good deal broken by heavy showers; but notwithstanding, the day's tour was very much enjoyed by everyone, the excellence of the woods seen at Powerscourt, and indeed all along the route, coming as a surprise to the members whose first visit it was to Ireland.

---

### **THIRD DAY.**

**Thursday, 19th August.**

#### **COOLLATTIN.**

The Excursionists having another long day's work before them at the farther end of the Co. Wicklow, had to be astir betimes, in order to accept the invitation of the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland to an inspection in Merrion Square Gardens of their Autumn Fruit and Flower Show. A large number of the members enjoyed the privilege for half an hour in the early morning. Proceeding thence to Harcourt Street Station, they found the special train again in waiting to convey them to their destination, a distance of about sixty miles to Shillelagh, where they were to visit the extensive woodlands and policies at Coollattin, the seat of the Right Hon. Earl Fitzwilliam, K.G.

Punctually at 8.15 A.M., the special train left Dublin, and ran over the same route as yesterday to Bray, where a short halt

was made to pick up a few members. Resuming the journey, about a mile beyond Bray the line is carried round the precipitous sea-front of Bray Head by a succession of heavy cuttings, tunnels, viaducts, and embankments, the views from the latter revealing many scenes of wild grandeur in the deep gorges below. Running down the coast to Wicklow, the visitors had an opportunity of seeing the far-famed "Wicklow Shore" district, where the richly-wooded landscape, abundant crops, and luscious green meadows, attracted the admiration of everyone. The crops here were the richest and best that had yet been seen on the tour, many of the fields of grain, which was mostly in the stook, and the big crops of Swedish turnips, reminding one more of East Lothian than of Ireland, the only difference being that the fields were here much smaller.

Turning sharply inland at Wicklow, the route was through a very picturesque country to Rathnew, at which is the station for the romantic Devil's Glen—another of those wildly-picturesque bosky defiles for which the county is celebrated. Some five miles farther on Rathdrum Station was passed, where tourists alight to visit the Seven Churches of Glendalough, about eight miles off in the heart of the mountains, and one of the most famed of the numerous remains of early ecclesiastical buildings in Ireland. Descending the valley of the Avonmore, the line ran down the "Sweet Vale of Avoca," immortalised by Moore, but the "Meeting of the Waters" (the Avonmore and Avonbeg) could not be seen from the train.

The scenery of the Vale was exceedingly lovely, but it was considerably marred in places by mining operations, and the poisonous water discharged from the copper and lead mines spoilt the bed of the river for miles. Richly wooded, and adorned with many fine country seats, the Vale of Avoca, despite the utilitarian aspect of the neighbourhood of the mines, was well worthy of the laudation of the poet. Leaving the main line at Woodenbridge, the branch line to Shillelagh was taken up the valley of Aughrim through well-wooded scenery, till Ballinglen Station was reached at 10 o'clock. Here the party alighted from their train, which went on to Shillelagh to await their return in the evening.

On the platform they were received and heartily welcomed by Earl Fitzwilliam's representatives, Frank Brooke, Esq., the estate agent; Mr Adam Johnstone, the forester; and Mr James Whytock, the gardener, who had kindly come to conduct the party for the



day. Led by Mr Brooke, the arborists were soon mounted on a long array of well-horsed country jaunting cars, kindly provided by Earl Fitzwilliam to convey the Excursionists during the day over his lordship's extensive estates and woodlands; a favour that was of the greatest benefit to the members of the Society in such an outlying part of the country, where transport of any kind was difficult to find for a large party. No time was lost in making a start, and a splendid pair of bays in Mr Brooke's carriage led the way at a spanking pace.

About a mile on the road the first visit of the day was paid to Ballybegg, a beautiful seat on the Fitzwilliam property, occupied by Major G. G. Newton, J.P. Alighting at the entrance to the park, the members enjoyed a great treat for half an hour, inspecting the numerous fine trees and arboricultural features of the park, in which Major Newton takes a keen interest, and explained to the party many interesting details about the grand old trees, comprising numerous splendid specimens of oak, beech, lime, sycamore, ash, elm, larch, Scots fir, silver fir, and others, standing singly, or forming small groups and larger groves, scattered with much taste over the park. Among the many fine trees examined and admired, perhaps the greatest interest was displayed in the inspection of one of the primeval oaks which five hundred years ago covered the whole of the district. It was judged to be of the age of at least seven hundred years. From its massive bole two gigantic limbs branched upwards, but unfortunately only one retained life. Its measurement was found to be 28 feet 5 inches in circumference round the double trunk, about 5 feet from the level of the ground. In its immediate vicinity was seen a stately park oak, carrying a well-shaped canopy which covered a massive bole girthing 18 feet 3 inches at 5 feet up. A Portugal laurel, pronounced to be one of the largest ever seen by the members of the Society, attracted considerable interest on that account, and its stem had attained a girth of 8 feet 2 inches at 3 feet up. On reaching the terrace in front of the house, from which a charming view was obtained over the park, and away far across the country, a beautiful flowering ash was pointed out, and then the company were led to view a huge Hungarian oak, whose exact species raised some discussion, but it was generally agreed that it was a grand example of *Quercus austriaca*, closely allied to the Turkey oak. Its form was tall and stately, and its clean, branchless stem contained a large amount of excellent

timber. A handsome specimen of a *Pavia*, or the Californian horse chestnut, with a very symmetrical head, was much admired; and then the party joined their cars waiting at the west entrance.

On leaving Ballybegg, a fine view of Coolalug and Killaveney woods was obtained, covering nearly 400 acres of the Fitzwilliam property. The trees are chiefly Oak copse, of fifty to eighty years old, with a few clumps of sound Larch of good size and quality. Driving along some distance through an upland country laid out in well-cultivated small farms, the conveyances were pulled up for a short time at the small country town of Tinahely, where a weekly market and a monthly cattle fair are held. Advantage was taken of the stop to inspect a very interesting country saw-mill, belonging to Mr Wentworth Taylor, where the visitors saw timber being cut, on quite economical principles, into a variety of sizes suitable for the market. There was no attempt to make a show of the place, but the machinery was of the most approved type, and driven by a powerful turbine wheel, fed by a small mountain stream—a cheap and effective motive power, where even a small head of water can be obtained. Mr Taylor also carries on several branches of business at Tinahely; and in connection with the saw-mill, he makes an improved style of wooden beehive, which has attained great popularity amongst beekeepers, and has created another useful industry in this out-of-the-way place.

Mounting the cars again, the road was taken at a lively pace for Shillelagh, still some miles distant. On reaching the summit of the ridge over which the route lay, a splendid view was obtained of the Ballyshonogue plantation, on the opposite side of the valley, and on the estate of Earl Fitzwilliam. Some fine farms were now passed on the way, one of the most attractive being Mr Bourne's holding of Forttown, which, with its fine commodious dwelling-house, was pleasantly situated on the high land to the right of the road. The cars were halted for a few minutes at the old mansion-house of Ballyraheen, now tenanted by Joseph Hopkins, Esq., which was the scene of a very stirring incident in the Irish Rebellion of 1798. A Loyalist party taking shelter in the house were attacked by the rebels, who were only repulsed after some severe fighting, and after several lives had been lost. The marks of the bullets on the slated walls of the building are still distinctly visible, and were examined with no little interest by the visitors. From Ballyraheen, which stands on a com-

manding site, a good view was obtained of Coollattin Park and the adjoining woods. Ballyraheen Wood, which lay nearest, contained about 37 acres; Tomnifinogue, 229 acres; Ballykelly, 179 acres; and Coollattin, 358 acres—equal to a total of 803 acres, composed mainly of mixed plantations of the usual forest trees.

Turning to the left at the cross roads when they quitted Ballyraheen, the party drove down the hill to the new Red Lodge entrance to Coollattin policies. Entering Tomnifinogue Wood at a short distance inside the policies, the route lay along the side of the river, where a number of very fine Scots fir were observed, some of them with stems of great height, and girthing 10 feet or more at 5 feet up,—“first-class timber” they were pronounced to be by an authority in the timber trade. Equally good, if not so numerous, were the stately Larch and Spruce passed on the way through this fine wood, the commercial value of which must be considerable. The drive of about a couple of miles through the wood was greatly enjoyed by the members, and passing out over the railway at Deegan’s Bridge, the public road was followed to the pretty rural town of Shillelagh. In early times the district was noted for its Oak forests, in which the Irish found their famous “Sprig of Shillelagh,” a handy weapon for defence or offence, as the occasion might require. Tradition says that the Shillelagh Oak Forests also supplied the celebrated cob-webless beams in Westminster Hall during the reign of Rufus—William II. of England, *circa* 1087-1100.

At Shillelagh the members were met by Lord Milton, M.P., the grandson and heir of the aged Earl Fitzwilliam, who extended to them a very hearty Irish welcome, and expressed the regret of the noble Earl at not being able to be present that day in order to himself conduct the members of the Society over his demesne. Before starting for the demesne, however, Lord Milton invited the Excursionists to the Town Hall, where he entertained them to a princely luncheon. At the close, on the call of the President, three ringing cheers were given for Earl Fitzwilliam; and Mr Munro Ferguson, M.P., then proposed the health of his noble colleague, Lord Milton, which was enthusiastically received by the assembled company, and drunk with full Highland honours. In his reply, Lord Milton again expressed the regret of Earl Fitzwilliam that he was not able to meet the Society, but he extended to them a most cordial welcome to Ireland, and hoped

they would enjoy their visit to its woodlands. Referring to the place in which they were met—the ancestral home of the national weapon of Ireland—Lord Milton said it was a mistake to suppose that the shillelagh was made from the ordinary blackthorn of Ireland. The original shillelagh, as it was known in that district, was an oak sapling, the root of which formed the head. In that sense the shillelagh was something more than an Irish weapon; it represented what in other days was the “Wooden Walls” of the navy for the defence of Britain. He had to thank them, on behalf of his grandfather, for the cordial way in which they had received his name. He could assure them, that whether they came again to Ireland or to Yorkshire, they would always be sure of a warm welcome on Lord Fitzwilliam’s property.

After luncheon the cars were again mounted, and the party, headed by Lord Milton, started on a tour of inspection of Coollattin Park, which lies about a mile east from Shillelagh. To the left, after leaving the village, was seen the ground where the well-known Shillelagh Fair is held. On the other side was passed several of the fields of the home farm, in the first of which was seen a Massey-Harris reaper and binder, a novelty in this part of Ireland, busy at work cutting down a heavy crop of black oats. Farther on was passed a field with a grand crop of Swedish turnips; while in the immediately adjoining field the Scottish members of the party were gratified to see a group of Border Leicester rams, one of them being a fine type of the Buccleuch strain, bred at Dalkeith, and bought last year at Edinburgh. Others were from the flocks of the Earl of Morton, Mr A. J. Balfour of Whittinghame, and other leading strains. From the appearance of the stock, and the evidences of high-class management which were noted all over the farm, it came as no surprise to be informed that the farm manager, Mr Robertson, was a Scotsman hailing from Forfarshire. Although he has been over fourteen years in Ireland, he still adhered to the Scottish system of farming, which answered well in that part of Ireland, and afforded a striking contrast to the small and indifferently cultivated fields which were too much in evidence in that otherwise rich and beautiful country. The home farm at Coollattin extends to some 800 acres, about 300 acres of which is under the plough.

The home farm-steading was inspected with much interest by the agriculturists, and found admirably complete and suitable for the purposes it has to serve. The estate workshops adjoining

were also found to be exceedingly complete in all departments, comprising a smith's forge, plumber's and carpenter's shops, and a saw-mill, all in constant use, and fitted up with every improved machine and appliance without regard to expense. A huge steam-engine supplies the motive power for all parts of the vast establishment—farm-steading as well as workshops.

Entering the grounds by the gate opposite the estate offices, the party walked along a charming avenue through a fine plantation, lined on each side of the drive with handsome specimens of the choicest Conifers and other ornamental trees. The ground beneath them was covered with a rich undergrowth of rhododendrons and other American plants, among which were fine patches of the St John's Wort, *Hypericum calycinum*, one of the best plants for growing in the shade. Among other notable trees along the avenue that were inspected by the arborists, a large and shapely Menzies' Spruce, *Picea (Abies) Menziesii*, attracted much attention; and a grand example of Japanese Cedar, *Cryptomeria japonica*, had a straight bole girthing 8 feet 3 inches at 5 feet up.

Approaching the extensive and beautifully-kept flower-gardens and pleasure-grounds, over which the party were conducted by Mr Whytock, the horticultural section of the Excursionists were much struck with the great number and variety of the beautiful plants with which they were decorated, many kinds being planted out here with grand effect which in Scotland could not be successfully grown in the open air. The beds in the flower-garden were generally planted on the mixed system, and presented a gorgeous appearance to the visitors by the rich colouring and lovely shading of the flowers and foliage. Mr Whytock said it required annually about 100,000 plants to fill the flower-beds; and, besides, there were large collections of the choicest alpine and herbaceous plants in appropriate places in the extensive grounds. Passing into the fine kitchen garden, it was seen to be fully cropped with the best of everything in the way of vegetables; while the exceptionally good walls by which it was surrounded were fully covered on the inside by clean and well-trained fruit trees, the picture of health, fertility, and good management. The outer face of the walls was covered entirely with the finest tea-roses, which were growing under a glass cope, projecting 18 inches, and effectually protecting them from injury by frost. By such means an abundant supply of choice roses was obtained weeks before those in the open were ready to expand. In a hurried run made through the extensive ranges of roomy

glass-houses, all recently erected on the most approved principles, they were found to be well filled with a superb stock of plants and flowers, and splendid crops of fruit, to meet the demands of a large establishment.

In the beautiful and well-kept pleasure-grounds, which were next inspected with great interest by the Excursionists, most of the choicest and most recent introductions among hardy trees and shrubs have been freely planted, and were generally doing well. Rhododendrons of the finest varieties, and all the tribe of American plants, do remarkably well in the natural soil, with a little well-rotted manure or leaf-mould added to increase their vigour. Among the hosts of fine trees in the pleasure-grounds were two splendid examples of Scots fir near the mansion-house, which at once drew the attention of the arborists. The long, clean stem of the tallest, 75 feet high, was found to girth 10 feet 3 inches at 5 feet up; while the smaller specimen was 69 feet high, with a girth of 8 feet 6 inches. A handsome specimen of *Cryptomeria japonica*, which seemed to thrive well in the climate of Ireland wherever it was seen, stood in the vicinity of the Scots firs, had a stem girth of 5 feet 6 inches, and had attained a height of 58 feet at forty-five years of age. Near the sunk fence between the grounds and the park, a grand example of the Chilian pine, *Araucaria imbricata*, was seen and greatly admired, and not far off a handsome tree of *Picea Morinda* attracted much attention.

After an hour spent in wandering through the beautiful grounds, inspecting and admiring their many rare charms to the arborist, the party found their cars waiting at the front of the mansion, which stands on a fine commanding site, and overlooks a wide extent of charming country. Once more mounting the cars, the drive was continued along the avenue for a short distance, when, turning sharp to the left down a steep hill, the old road along the Brow Wood was followed. In the wood were seen many fine old oaks, with tall, columnar stems girthing many feet, and of great value for commercial purposes. On emerging from the Oak Wood, a splendid specimen of *Picea Menziesii* was observed standing close to the drive, the stem of which girthed 9 feet 7 inches at 5 feet up. Several other fine trees of the same species were seen in the vicinity, as well as handsome examples of many other Conifers, especially of *Cedrus atlantica* and the Douglas Fir. The last of the trees noted before leaving this locality were some well-grown Weymouth pines,

*Pinus Strobus*, of considerable size and age, and near the entrance gate were some splendid examples of *Araucaria imbricata*.

Leaving the policies at Lattan's Bridge, the road back to Shillelagh was taken at a rapid pace, and with about half an hour to spare before the train started, the time was occupied in visiting and inspecting the new cottages recently erected by Lord Fitzwilliam for the workmen on the estate. Clean, comfortable, and commodious almost to a fault, for working-men, they were each provided with a large garden, in which were seen excellent crops of vegetables, and the front plots were exceedingly gay with lovely flowers. Lord Fitzwilliam takes a great personal interest in the cottagers and their gardens, and has the estate divided into six districts, allotting to each of them a set of handsome prizes for the best kept cottages, the best cropped and kept vegetable gardens, and the best kept and gayest flower-plots or gardens. In addition, Lord Fitzwilliam holds an annual show at Shillelagh for the whole estate, when, in separate large marquees, a flower show, a bread, butter, and honey show, an exhibition of needlework and knitting, and many pens of fat pigs and poultry, are entered for competition, and are awarded valuable money prizes; the whole of the prizes and expenses of the show being defrayed by Earl Fitzwilliam. A couple of judges from Great Britain—Mr Upjohn, Worsley Hall Gardens, Lancashire, and Mr Lunt, Keir Gardens, Perthshire—had been through the cottages and gardens, making the awards, the day before the arborists visited Coollattin, and they had said that they found the cottages and gardens generally in such a marvellously clean and tidy state, and everything about them in such excellent order, that they had much difficulty in finally deciding the awards. From what was seen by the Excursionists during their hurried look round the cottages at Shillelagh, the results appeared to be most satisfactory, and amply rewarded the kindly feeling and generosity of the noble owner.

The party were greatly indebted to the forester, Mr Adam Johnstone, and the gardener, Mr James Whytock, for the valuable information they courteously gave to all inquirers during the long day's tour through their departments; and as time was too limited to take many measurements of the finest trees, Mr Johnstone supplied the want with the following notes and figures.

In the Brow Wood, one of the finest on the estate, the Oaks were of large dimensions, clean, straight, and well grown; on a

rich loamy soil, resting on slaty rock, with a northern aspect. They averaged about 70 feet in height, and of ten trees measured, the average girth, at 5 feet up, was 12 feet; the greatest girth being 14 feet. Many other oaks in this fine wood girthed over 10 feet at the usual height, 5 feet above ground; and the other kinds of trees were also large and well grown. A Scots Fir, 70 feet high, girthed 9 feet 4 inches; and a Larch, 83 feet high, girthed 8 feet 7 inches at 5 feet up. A handsome and massive stemmed Beech, growing near the front of the mansion, was over 65 feet in height, with a bole girthing 15 feet. The soil generally at Coollattin is of a light loamy nature, resting on a loose, shingly subsoil, in which both hardwoods and coniferous trees thrive well as a rule; altitude, 300 to 450 feet. A few of the sizes of the finest Conifers are given in the following table:—

*Measurements of Coniferous Trees at Coollattin.*

NAME OF TREE.	Age.	Height.		Girth at 5 ft. up.	Diameter of Spread of Branches.	Aspect.	REMARKS.		
	years.	ft.	in.	ft. in.				ft. in.	
<i>Abies canadensis</i> ,	50	30	0	...	31	0	S. W.	A fine specimen. Healthy and handsome. Free growing, and fine.	
„ <i>Douglasii</i> ,	45	62	0	6	8	30	0		S. W.
„ „	45	56	0	8	6	43	0		S. W.
„ <i>Menziesti</i> ,	55	66	0	9	6	36	0		S. W.
„ „	55	62	0	9	7	42	0		S. W.
„ <i>Morinda</i> ,	35	56	0	3	11	21	0	N. E.	Very handsome tree.
<i>Araucaria imbricata</i> ,	50	45	0	5	6	21	0	N. W.	} Fine specimens.
„ „	45	40	0	6	0	27	0	S. W.	
<i>Cedrus Deodara</i> ,	35	38	0	5	9	31	0	S. W.	Very graceful; doing well.
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> ,	45	52	0	5	8	31	0	S. W.	Thrives well; fine tree.
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> ,	50	46	0	12	5	52	0	S. W.	} Fast growing Cypress.
„ „	25	35	0	4	5	29	0	S. W.	
<i>Taxodium sempervirens</i> ,	50	64	0	9	7	33	0	S. W.	} Thriving and handsome.
„ „	50	57	0	10	8	36	0	S. W.	
<i>Wellingtonia gigantea</i> ,	40	65	0	10	6	29	0	S. W.	} Grand specimens.
„ „	40	60	0	6	9	21	0	S. W.	

After finishing the tour of the cottages and the town, the members gathered at the railway station, to which Lord Milton and their guides accompanied them. With a cordial good-bye, and a ringing cheer for Lord Milton, the party entered their special train, which steamed off from Shillelagh punctual to a minute. Dublin was reached in less than a couple of hours,



everyone feeling that he had enjoyed a very satisfactory day's tour, to which the Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Company had largely contributed, by the excellence of the train accommodation they provided on both days for the transport of the large company.

## FOURTH DAY.

Friday, 20th August.

### TRINITY COLLEGE BOTANIC GARDENS.

The programme for the fourth day was again a full one, and the members were early astir to view *the principal sights in the city of Dublin* of interest to arborists, including a visit to Trinity College Botanic Gardens, at the kind invitation of the curator, Mr F. W. Burbidge, and to the Royal Dublin Society's Grounds at Ball's Bridge. On the way to the College Botanic Gardens a number of the Excursionists walked through St Stephen's Green, one of the most spacious city squares in the country. Originally a large bare-looking space, with no pretensions to any special use or beauty beyond affording a loitering-place for the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, it was taken in hand by the Guinness family about twenty years ago, and beautifully laid out as a "People's Garden," at a large cost and in good taste, and being open free to the public at all reasonable hours, the boon is one to be envied by the inhabitants of any city.

The College Botanic Gardens were reached at 6 o'clock, when the visitors were met at that early hour by Mr Burbidge, who heartily welcomed them, and acted as their cicerone over the Gardens, which were found to be literally stored with rare and beautiful trees and shrubs, all of the deepest interest to the arborist. Situated on the south-east side of the city, about a mile from the College and University of Dublin, to which they belong, the Botanic Gardens extend to 8 Irish acres, enclosed by substantial walls and stout iron railings. The original garden enclosed within the wall was only 3 acres in extent, and was started in 1806-7 by John Townshend Mackay, LL.D. An

addition of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acre was made in 1832, and a similar addition in 1848, and those added portions being planted with trees and shrubs, formed shelter-belts from the south-west to the north-east, and thus rendered the inner garden an exceptionally favourable habitat for exotic vegetation from temperate regions.

When it was first started, the garden was quite in the open country, but now it is essentially a town garden, the city of Dublin having expanded its suburbs around it, until the dust and smoke from the encroaching city has checked the free growth of the *Coniferae*, while the strongly calcareous nature of the subsoil, resting on limestone, precludes the culture of *Ericaceous* plants—azaleas, rhododendrons, and the like—to the best advantage. It has, however, been widely known from its earliest days as a garden well stored with choice hardy, half-hardy, and tender exotics, among which ligneous plants have always held a prominent place. It was here that the famed "Dragon Tree" of Teneriffe, *Dracæna Draco*, first flowered in Europe, and created the sensation of the period.

From the beginning, ninety years ago, to the present time, the garden has been fortunate in having a succession of distinguished Curators, who, by their fame and success as botanists and cultivators, have made its name world-wide. Its founder and first Curator, Dr John T. Mackay, was an eminent botanical authority, and author of the *Flora Hibernica*. He was succeeded by James Bain, A.L.S., celebrated in his day as a successful botanical cultivator, who grew to great perfection many rare plants, difficult to cultivate in those days, before anyone else in this country succeeded in growing them with success. He also assisted Dr Mackay in the preparation of the *Flora Hibernica*, and added several new species of plants to the Irish flora. The present Curator, F. W. Burbidge, M.A., F.L.S., V.M.H., while combining in an eminent degree the qualifications of his predecessors as a botanist, cultivator, and author, has also gained great distinction as a successful traveller and plant-collector in the East Indies; and his knowledge of plant-life, and many experiences in pursuit of it at home and abroad, added to his genial presence, have made Mr Burbidge one of the best known and most popular men of the day in his own profession, as well as outside of it.

In the walk round the garden, a host of rare, curious, and

highly interesting plants to arborists were pointed out by Mr Burbidge, and their history, merits, and uses were graphically explained by him to the eagerly listening visitors, who could have devoted a day, instead of the hour allowed, to a close inspection of arboreal treasures seen on every hand; and only a few of the most notable could receive more than a passing glance. Amongst these were a very fine specimen of the Japanese "Wax-tree," *Ligustrum lucidum*, about sixty years old, 35 feet high, and 40 feet through, in splendid health and foliage, and which flowers freely here in the months of October and November. A fine example of the common Mulberry, *Morus nigra*, closely pruned and fruiting abundantly; and of the silkworm Mulberry, *M. alba*, on the leaves of which the silkworms feed, were inspected with great interest. A beautiful specimen of the American Elm, *Ulmus americana*, about 90 feet high, and the tallest tree in the garden, attracted much attention and laudation, owing to its very graceful contour, and its stem beautifully feathered nearly to the ground. A very large specimen of the Purple Beech, *Fagus sylvatica purpurea*, claimed attention from the arborists, from the fact that its hollow trunk had been cleaned out and filled up with cement, and the opening had since then been healed over by the growth of the tree, so that nothing of the cement in the interior could be seen. A handsome tree of *Cladrastis tinctoria*, better known as *Virgilia lutea*, was just beginning to put on the rich golden tints for which its foliage is noted in autumn; and an example of *Gleditschia horrida*—its strong spines or thorns, some inches in length, and as sharp as needles—was more of a terror than an attraction to the passer by.

A grand old specimen of the hawthorn was examined with great interest, as it was supposed to be one of the original "Beggar's Bushes," from which the name of the locality, Beggar's Bush, was derived, and therefore it must be more than a century old. Another fine species, the Italian Hawthorn, *Crataegus Azarolus*, a nearly evergreen thorn, with very large flowers, was much admired for its fine proportions. A well-grown and wide-spreading tree of the Weeping Scots Elm, *Ulmus montana pendula*, better known in Scotland as the "Camperdown Elm," was specially noticed, as being, in the words of the curator, "A noble tent-like example of a Five-o'clock-Tea Tree." A curiously forking specimen of the Cedar of Lebanon, *Cedrus Libani*, had a cluster of six stems branching off at the ground, and was said

to have been transplanted to the garden when thirty years old. A picturesque example of the Stone Pine of Italy, *Pinus pinea*, with a clean stem and a fine head, was bearing a number of its large and heavy cones, and had ripened fertile seeds in 1887. A graceful ash from Asia Minor, *Fraxinus lentiscifolia*, was represented by a fine specimen, light and airy in its habit, and one of the finest of the genus for ornament. Several well-grown examples of *Arbutus hybrida* (syn. *A. andrachnoides*) were much admired, their rich bright-red bark being particularly effective amid the greenery. The date plum of South Europe, *Diospyrus Lotus*, and *Pinus Pallasiana*, from the Crimea, of which there were several fine examples, were examined with much interest. A splendid tree of *Cratægus tanacetifolia*, over 45 feet high, and well furnished with branches, was bearing a fine crop of "haws," which were said to make an excellent marmalade. A Cut-leaved Alder, *Alnus glutinosa laciniata*, which had curious tuber-like excrescences on its roots, was over 60 feet high, and a fine example of the species. A very interesting tree was a rare and handsome example of the Paper Birch of the Himalayas and Tibet, *Betula Bhojpattra*, raised from seed sent home by Sir Joseph D. Hooker, C.B., when travelling in India. Winter's Bark tree, *Drimys Winteri*, brought from the Straits of Magellan in 1579 by Captain Winter, and used by the early voyagers as a substitute for quinine, was represented by a fine example.

A grand specimen, about 30 feet high, and nearly as much through, of an Irish variety of Holly, *Ilex aquifolium Hodginsii*, was worthy of note; a nurseryman called Hodgins, whose name this fine variety of holly worthily commemorates, having raised and sent out some of the finest varieties of the holly from his nurseries at Dunganstown, Co. Wicklow, and at Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary. Many ornamental varieties of the beech, ash, lime, elm, and other forest trees were represented by fine specimens, all of great interest to the Excursionists, and much more time could have been well spent in examining them, but a halt had to be called at the appointed hour, to allow the party to proceed with the programme. The soil of the Gardens is a rich, deep, alluvial loam, on a subsoil of sea-deposited sand, resting on limestone, and only a few feet above high-water mark. The following Table of the sizes of a few of the notable trees was kindly supplied by Mr Burbidge, and records the dimensions of some remarkable trees of their kind.

## Measurements of Trees in Trinity College Botanic Gardens, Dublin.

NAME OF TREE.	Age.	Height.		Girth at 5 ft. up.		Diameter of Spread of Branches.	Aspect.	REMARKS.	
	years.	ft.	in.	ft.	in.				ft.
<i>Alnus glutinosa laciniata</i> ,	60	60	0	6	6	35	0	...	Cut-leaved Alder; fine.
<i>Arbutus hybrida</i> (syn.) <i>A. andrachnoides</i> ),	50	40	0	3	0	40	0	S. W.	{ Fine specimen; rich red bark.
<i>Betula Bhojpattra</i> ,	16	18	0	0	6	5	0	S.	Paper Birch of N. India and Tibet; a rare and hand- some species.
<i>Cedrus Libani</i> ,	94	35	0	6	0	39	0	S. W.	Thirty years old when planted here.
<i>Cladrastis tinctoria</i> ,	45	30	0	...	...	...	...	...	Foliage turns rich yellow.
<i>Cordylone australis</i> ,	20	25	0	2	0	6	0	S. W.	Leaves useful for tying.
<i>Corylus Colurna</i> ,	50	30	0	3	6	20	0	...	Levant Hazel Nut.
<i>Crataegus Azarolus</i> ,	40	30	0	4	6	30	0	S.	Italian Hawthorn; very fine.
,, <i>oxyacantha</i> ,	100	50	0	6	6	42	0	S. E.	"Beggar's Bushes;" <i>ante</i> 1806.
,, <i>tanacetifolia</i> ,	50	45	0	6	0	30	0	S. W.	Splendid tree, fruits freely.
<i>Diospyrus Lotus</i> ,	50	40	0	3	6	30	0	S. E.	An interesting tree; "Date Plum."
<i>Drimys Winteri</i> ,	15	16	0	0	8	12	0	N.	"Winter's Bark;" very interesting.
<i>Fagussylvatica laciniata</i> ,	45	35	0	4	0	30	0	W.	Fern-leaved Beech; beauti- ful.
,, <i>pendula</i> ,	45	40	0	5	6	40	0	W.	Weeping Beech; fine speci- men.
,, <i>purpurea</i> ,	60	75	0	...	...	...	...	...	Very large; hollow trunk filled with cement.
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> <i>pendula</i> ,	45	40	0	5	0	30	0	S. W.	{ Weeping Ash; very fine example.
,, <i>lentiscifolia</i> ,	40	30	0	4	0	30	0	S.	Very light and graceful tree.
,, <i>monophylla</i> ,	45	60	0	7	6	25	0	N. W.	Whole-leaved Ash; fine.
,, <i>ornus</i> ,	55	50	0	4	6	...	...	...	Handsome small tree; flowers freely.
<i>Gleditschia horrida</i> ,	45	40	0	...	...	...	...	...	Curious "horrid" looking spines.
<i>Ilex Hodginsii</i> ,	40	30	0	3	0	25	0	N. W.	A grand Holly.
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> ,	60	35	0	...	...	40	0	E.	Wax tree; grand specimen.
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> ,	50	45	0	5	0	40	0	S. W.	Tulip tree; fine specimen.
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i> ,	45	40	0	3	6	25	0	S.	A very fine specimen.
<i>Morus alba</i> ,	55	25	0	3	4	15	0	S. W.	Silk worm Mulberry.
,, <i>nigra</i> ,	70	30	0	5	3	30	0	S. W.	Fine tree; much pruned in.
<i>Pinus Pallasiana</i> ,	45	45	0	6	6	40	0	W.	Several fine trees.
,, <i>pinæa</i> ,	75	50	0	6	0	35	0	S. E.	Grand example of "Stone Pine."
<i>Platanus orientalis</i> (var. <i>acerifolia</i> ),	45	60	0	6	0	50	0	S. W.	{ Maple-leaved or "London Plane."
<i>Quercus Fordii</i> ,	40	50	0	5	0	25	0	...	...
<i>Tilia alba</i> ,	40	45	0	4	6	30	0	S.	Silver-leaved Lime; fine.
,, <i>europæa</i> ,	60	60	0	6	0	45	0	S.	Handsome specimen.
<i>Ulmus americana</i> ,	60	90	0	6	6	30	0	S. W.	Tallest tree in the garden.
,, <i>montana pendula</i> ,	70	40	0	9	0	48	0	S. W.	A Five-o'clock-Tea Tree.

## THE ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY.

After heartily thanking Mr Burbidge, a few minutes' walk brought the party to the entrance to the extensive establishment of the Royal Dublin Society at Ball's Bridge, where the visitors were warmly welcomed by the Agricultural Superintendent, Mr Robert Bruce, who spared no trouble in conducting them over the splendid premises and grounds, and explaining the purposes they were designed to serve in connection with the great Horse and Stock Shows held by the Society. The spacious offices, halls, yards, stables, stores, retiring and refreshment rooms, and every necessary accommodation and appliance for conducting the shows, and carrying on the work of the Society, the leading one of its kind in Ireland, were inspected with admiration, they were so well-arranged, substantially built, and complete in every detail. Everything was in perfect order for the opening of the great Horse Show, the number of entries requiring accommodation to be provided for no less than 1400 horses. All was quiet and orderly; but the visitors saw the place under totally different conditions when they returned from Killarney on the following Wednesday, and beheld every foot of space crowded with a gay and fashionable company, and the Horse Show at its height, under Royal auspices and the inspiring influence of a glorious sunshine. The presence of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York, and the splendid weather, drew a record attendance at the Horse Show, which is unrivalled as an exhibition and competition of carriage and saddle horses anywhere in the world. Finishing their hurried inspection, and cordially thanking Mr Bruce for the treat the members had received, all haste was made on cars to the Gresham Hotel, from whence, after breakfast, they were to start for Hamwood and Carton, to complete the programme of the day.

## ON THE ROAD.

At 9 o'clock a dozen of well-horsed and commodious brakes were drawn up in Sackville Street, in front of the Gresham Hotel, and the members took seats in them to set out to accomplish the main part of the programme for this day—a visit to Carton, the seat of his grace the Duke of Leinster, in

Co. Kildare ; and to Hamwood, the seat of Charles R. Hamilton, Esq., in Co. Meath. Starting from the headquarters punctually at the hour, the same route was followed through the city as on the first day to the Phoenix Park, and driving right across it past the "Phoenix" Pillar, the Grand Avenue was seen in all its length and breadth, and very much admired. Leaving the Park at Castleknock Gate, a westerly course was followed for some miles, through a rich and well-wooded country, to Hamwood, where the first visit was to be made. On the way, the rural villages of Blanchardstown and Clonee were passed, and the visitors had an opportunity, as they drove along, of seeing some typical examples of the Irish mud cabin, and the samples were not attractive residences for civilised humanity as seen from the outside. On looking inside one of them, where a short halt was made, the interior arrangements were still less inviting, and the "mud cabin," however much associated with sentiment and national feeling, was unanimously considered out-of-date in the British empire at the end of the nineteenth century. Nearing the quaint old village of Dunboyne, with its Castle in a fine park on the left, the route lay through some of the rich pastures for which Meath is famous, and which are said to fatten two bullocks an acre yearly without any extraneous feeding.

#### HAMWOOD.

About a mile beyond Dunboyne, the brakes drew up at the entrance to Hamwood, where the party alighted to enjoy an inspection of the beautiful policies and pleasure-grounds, which have been laid out with great taste, and contain many features of interest to the arborist. The elegant mansion-house stands on a fine site in a beautifully undulating and well-wooded country, and was built in the year 1768 by Charles Hamilton, Esq., the great-grandfather of the present owner, and is a most charming country residence. The soil is a strong calcareous loam, resting on stiff yellow clay, the altitude being about 300 feet above sea-level, and moderately well sheltered. Among the special features of Hamwood were numerous fine specimens of Conifers, mostly planted between the years 1844 and 1850 by the father of the present proprietor, who succeeded to the estate in 1880. Mr Hamilton takes the greatest interest in the welfare of the splendid collection of ornamental trees and shrubs which so

richly adorn his ancestral home. A walk round the grounds, and an inspection of their treasures under his guidance, was a treat greatly enjoyed by every member of the party.

The Excursionists were met at the main entrance to the grounds, and most cordially welcomed to Hamwood, by Mr Hamilton and party of friends whom he had invited to meet the visitors. Headed by Mr Hamilton, the party proceeded up the main avenue, admiring the splendid beech trees which stood on either side, with numerous grand specimens of ornamental trees, both Conifers and hardwoods, interspersed among the stately beeches. Among the more notable were a splendid example of the Monterey Cypress, *Cupressus macrocarpa*, which appeared to flourish remarkably well everywhere at Hamwood; a beautiful specimen of the Weeping Beech, *Fagus sylvatica pendula*,—the beech trees were evidently at home in the soil and climate,—and a curiously grafted example of the Flowering Ash, *Fraxinus Ornus*, with a large and remarkably symmetrical head, which was said to flower profusely every season.

Proceeding through the pleasure-grounds, the members examined with great interest many of the grand specimens of Conifers with which they were so richly embellished. A very fine Menzies' spruce attracted much attention, from its fine colour and wide-spreading habit, being thickly feathered with branches from base to apex. In an avenue stretching away to the left of the front of the house were some really magnificent examples of Conifers, the oldest and mostly the largest on the place. Among them were grand specimens of such fine Conifers as *Abies Albertiana*, *A. nobilis*, *A. grandis*, *A. Douglasii*, *A. cephalonica*, *A. Nordmanniana*, *Araucaria imbricata*, *Cedrus Deodara*, *Pinus insignis*, *P. monticola*, *Taxodium sempervirens*, *Thuia gigantea*, *Wellingtonia gigantea*, and others of graceful habit and fine proportions.

There was also observed a nice example of a very interesting ornamental tree, the Crested Beech, *Fagus sylvatica cristata*, of which few good examples are to be found in the country. It was about twenty years planted, and about as many feet in height, and promising to make a very fine ornamental tree at no distant period. Many fine varieties of ornamental broad-leaved trees afforded topics of discussion to the members in passing, and it was noted that while the cut-leaved variety of the Birch, *Betula*



*alba laciniata*, was thriving luxuriantly in the limestone soil, the cut-leaved variety of the common Walnut, *Juglans regia laciniata*, could barely maintain an existence. Trees and shrubs with variegated foliage, such as the Purple Beech, *Fagus sylvatica purpurea*; several varieties of variegated Sycamores, *Acer Pseudoplatanus*; the silvery foliaged variety of *Negundo fraxinifolia*; the purple foliaged *Prunus Pissardi*, and many others, were in splendid luxuriance.

In the charming flower-garden near the mansion—the beds of which were laid out on grass in a beautifully natural style—a considerable time was spent by the members in critically examining the numerous rare and beautiful trees and shrubs. The collection included nearly every choice tree and shrub of an ornamental nature that will grow in the climate of Ireland. Needless to say, many were seen by the members from Scotland which they rarely, if ever, saw growing in the open air in their own country. Not only were they growing here, but many of them were forming handsome specimens, and promising to be highly effective features as they attain to greater dimensions.

In the kitchen garden, the ornamental trees and shrubs in a preparatory stage were still a leading feature, Mr Hamilton adding a specimen of every choice plant to his collection as soon as it appears, and thus keeping fully abreast of the times with the choicest varieties and rarities. A particularly attractive and still somewhat rare Conifer, *Cupressus macrocarpa aurea*, was seen here, the picture of health and beauty, in two well-developed specimens, nearly 6 feet high. It was decidedly superior in habit and richness of colour to the favourite golden variety of Lawson's Cypress, *Cupressus Lawsoniana flava*. But the time had now arrived when the party must haste on their way, and much of interest could only be glanced at in passing. Still, it was felt by every member that the hour had been extra well spent in viewing the arboreal riches of Hamwood under the leadership of the highly esteemed owner, to whom they were indebted for the dimensions of some of the finest trees they saw, and which are given in the Table of Measurements. The soil at Hamwood is a rich calcareous loam, of great fertility, resting on a yellow clay subsoil; a fine staple for tree growth, as well as for grass and cereals. The policies and grounds lie at an altitude of about 300 feet, and are fairly well sheltered.

## Measurements of Trees at Hamwood.

NAME OF TREE.	Age.	Height.		Girth at 5 ft. up.		Diameter of Spread of Branches.	Aspect.	REMARKS.	
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.				ft.
<i>Abies Albertiana</i> , . . .	20	29	0	1	10	18	6	S.E.	Graceful habit.
„ <i>Alcoquiana</i> , . . .	21	29	0	2	1½	18	8	S.	A beautiful Spruce.
„ <i>cephalonica</i> , . . .	51	53	0	8	8	20	0	S.E.	Fine thriving specimen.
„ <i>concolor</i> , . . .	30	50	0	5	9	44	0	S.E.	Handsome; very fine.
„ <i>Douglasii</i> , . . .	21	57	0	6	3	34	0	S.E.	Fast growing; fine tree.
„ <i>firma</i> , . . .	21	24	0	1	11½	12	0	S.	Distinct and handsome.
„ <i>grandis</i> , . . .	20	32	0	3	2	21	0	N.	A fine specimen.
„ <i>Menziesii</i> , . . .	44	36	0	6	5	34	6	S.	Fine spreading example.
„ <i>Morinda</i> , . . .	22	25	0	2	6	16	0	S.	Distinct and graceful.
„ <i>nobilis</i> , . . .	30	34	0	3	2½	21	0	S.E.	A handsome specimen.
„ <i>Nordmanniana</i> , . . .	30	50	0	5	5	22	0	S.E.	Shapely tree; fine colour.
„ <i>Pindrow</i> , . . .	22	16	0	1	7	34	6	S.	Very good specimen.
<i>Araucaria imbricata</i> , . . .	51	44	0	5	10	29	0	S.	Perfect; branches to ground.
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> , . . .	51	45	0	4	11	36	6	S.	Good specimen.
„ <i>Deodara</i> , . . .	51	71	0	10	2	33	6	E.	Beautifully feathered; very fine.
„ <i>Libani</i> , . . .	60	39	0	9	2	54	0	S.	A fine spreading tree.
<i>Cupressus Lawsoniana</i> , . . .	30	34	0	3	6	26	6	N.	Grand specimen.
„ „ <i>crecta viridis</i> , . . .	21	25	0	3	0	...	...	S.	Very fine; distinct habit.
„ <i>macrocarpa</i> , . . .	51	74	0	6	9	59	0	E.	Beautifully feathered; very fine.
<i>Pinus insignis</i> , . . .	51	67	0	13	0	55	0½	S.E.	Very fine; rich green colour.
„ <i>monticola</i> , . . .	51	62	0	6	6	26	0	S.E.	A handsome tree.
„ <i>Pyrenaica</i> , . . .	51	65	0	9	0	49	0	S.E.	Healthy and vigorous; fine specimen.
<i>Taxodium sempervirens</i> , . . .	51	51	0	9	8	35	0	S.E.	Very perfect specimen.
<i>Thuia gigantea</i> , . . .	40	52	0	7	8	36	0	S.E.	Handsome and free-growing.
<i>Wellingtonia gigantea</i> , . . .	30	46	0	7	1	26	6	S.E.	Very handsome and beautiful.
Crested-leaved Beech, . . .	21	19	0	0	10½	12	0	S.	Fine example; very interesting.
Fern-leaved Beech, . . .	57	43	0	6	10	54	0	N.	Beautiful; fine specimen.
Flowering Ash, . . .	67	34	0	4	10	30	0	N.W.	Beautiful flowering tree.

## CARTON.

The brakes were waiting close at hand when the party finished their inspection of Hamwood, and getting quickly into their seats, the Excursionists drove off for Carton, accompanied by Mr Hamilton of Hamwood, who is the agent for the Duke of Leinster over the extensive family estates. About half an hour's drive across a fine rich country landed the party at the east entrance to

the policies of Carton, where they were met and welcomed most heartily by two of the ducal officials, countrymen of their own—Mr Robert M'Kerrow, manager at Carton, from Ayrshire; and Mr Alex. Black, gardener, an East Lothian man—who acted as their conductors over the extensive grounds and policies at Carton with great tact and enthusiasm.

The Geraldts, Fitzgeralds, or Geraldines have been in possession of Carton—formerly spelt Carthyn—since the year 1176, when the Manor of Maynooth, including Carton, was granted to Maurice Fitzgerald. His descendants were created, first, Earl of Kildare in 1316; next, Marquis of Kildare in 1761; and Duke of Leinster in 1766—all three titles being the first created of their order in the Irish Peerage. Passing through considerable vicissitudes in the eight centuries that have elapsed since the Fitzgeralds first became owners of Carton, the original domain still remains under their sway, and, with a wide extent of fertile country stretching far out around it, has been always well managed, and its capabilities highly developed, through the enterprise, skill, and marked taste of a long succession of noble owners, residing on their estates and taking a personal interest in their improvement.

Maynooth Castle was for ages the chief family residence, but falling into a dilapidated state in the early part of last century, Robert, nineteenth Earl of Kildare, began in 1738 the erection of the present handsome mansion on the site of a former and much smaller one, and carried on the work till his death in 1744. His Countess afterwards completed it, in accordance with the Earl's bequest, by the year 1747, at a total cost of over £21,000. James, twentieth Earl of Kildare, intended to have made substantial additions, and, it is said, on being told in Dublin on one occasion, "Carton is on fire," he replied, "Let it burn!" But the fire did no great damage, and although the mansion was repaired, the additions were not made. Instead thereof, the Earl enclosed the demesne of about 1100 acres with a substantial wall, erecting four lodges and gates, forming extensive plantations, and planting an avenue of elms at the Maynooth entrance, which was, however, blown down in a great gale in 1822. When enclosing the demesne, a small place called Waterstown was included, and the Earl not wishing to disturb an old gentleman who lived in it till he died in 1769, the house was afterwards retained as an ornamental cottage, and, with the surrounding grounds, is now the "Cottage Garden." William

Robert, second Duke of Leinster, made the approach from Kellystown Gate, and carried out other works to beautify the policies, in the end of last century; and many improvements and additions have since been designed and executed by his successors in the title and estates up to the present time—the reigning Duke, who is a minor, being the sixth in the ducal line. In the autumn of 1849 Queen Victoria visited the Duke of Leinster at Carton, when great rejoicings took place, in which the populace heartily joined. The mansion contains a splendid collection of pictures by famous artists, besides many notable, rare, and valuable works of art and family heirlooms.

Starting from the east gate, where the party alighted from the brakes, a drive leading to the left through a fine plantation of mixed hardwoods was followed to the river Rye, which flows through the demesne, and in its course forms several beautiful ornamental sheets of water. One of the first objects to attract attention was a magnificent ash tree, with a clean straight bole nearly 40 feet in length, and girthing 9 feet 8 inches at 5 feet up, a valuable timber tree; and other ashes were afterwards seen closely approaching its grand dimensions. Turning to the right at the river, and following its picturesque banks for a considerable distance in the direction of the mansion-house, the precipitous rocky escarpment on the right hand, draped with ivy and many other creeping plants, formed a picturesque feature in the landscape. Along the river-side some grand beech trees, of very large dimensions, were much admired. Bearing to the left, and approaching the Cottage Garden, the visitors were greatly struck by the numbers of fine trees and shrubs growing in this part of the grounds. Quite a wealth of arboreal features engaged the close attention of the visitors for some time, chief among them being the numerous examples of stately forest and ornamental trees. The various instruments of measurement were brought into frequent requisition, and the note-books of the arborists were rapidly filled with the highly gratifying results. More especially was particular notice taken of a remarkably fine example of the American White Oak, *Quercus alba*, with a handsome head and a fine clean stem, girthing 8 feet; a gigantic Cedar of Lebanon, with a stem girthing 14 feet 6 inches; two splendid Larches, one 12 feet and the other 9 feet 3 inches—all at 5 feet from the ground. Among other notable trees seen growing here were a tall and stately Occidental Plane; with an *Abies Douglasii*,

*A. grandis*, *A. nobilis glauca*, *A. Nordmanniana*; *Pinus Cembra*, *P. excelsa*; and a grand Yew—all exceedingly fine specimens of their kind.

The beautiful Shell-House—so called because it is lined, walls and ceiling, with practically all the known varieties of shells, both home and foreign—was inspected with much interest. It was nearly all executed by her own hands, by the late Duchess of Leinster, and took about fifteen years to complete. Amongst other uses, it serves as a museum, and is filled to overflowing with most interesting collections of antiquities and curios, including a unique collection of Irish Bog Oak ornaments. Many of the choicest and rarest of hardy climbing plants were trained over the house with fine effect, and immediately in front was a very pretty rose garden, exceptionally well laid out, and containing specimens of nearly every known variety in cultivation of the “Queen of Flowers.” The effect during the flowering season may be more easily imagined than described.

Recrossing the ornamental water in the bottom of the valley, some stately silver firs and beeches of great height were observed on the farther side, the whole effect being fascinating in the extreme. The company then directed their steps towards the mansion, by a broad carriage drive along the margin of the lake; noting in passing several fine clumps of ornamental trees on the side of the larger lake, the edge of which was charmingly fringed with scarlet-barked dogwood, and gracefully overhung with choice golden and crimson-barked willows.

Approaching the mansion, a noble pile, with the broad rolling park in front, spreading far out on either side, and tastefully embellished with stately trees, the visitors were cordially received by Lord Frederick Fitzgerald, in the absence of his young nephew, the Duke of Leinster. A rather heavy shower drove the party for a few minutes to shelter, and afterwards a hurried but most pleasant quarter of an hour was spent in examining the lovely flower-garden in front of the main entrance, under the guidance of Mr Black. One of the chief ornaments of the garden was the marble table of Gerald, ninth Earl of Kildare, which formerly stood in the council room of Maynooth Castle, and has a Latin inscription upon it with the date 1533, and the war-cry of the Fitzgeralds, “Crom-a-boe.” Several notable trees were also seen in the vicinity of this garden, amongst them being a fine spreading beech and a stately chestnut, with two lines of fine cedars

and Irish yews, which gave tone and colour to the whole scene.

The party next, on the invitation of Lord Frederick Fitzgerald, adjourned to the racquet-court, where they were entertained to a most handsome luncheon. Before rising from the hospitable board, Dr WILLIAM SOMERVILLE, Vice-President of the Society, and Professor of Agriculture and Forestry, Durham College of Science, Newcastle-on-Tyne, in name of the company, proposed a vote of thanks to the Duke of Leinster and Lord Frederick Fitzgerald for the splendid reception which they had met with, and for the great treat which had been afforded them in the inspection of such a magnificent domain. Lord FREDERICK FITZGERALD briefly replied, expressing the pleasure they all felt that the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society had at last visited Ireland, and he hoped that it would not be long until they repeated their visit.

The Excursionists now proceeded to devote the remaining hours of the afternoon to the completion of their programme of the day. Their inspection commenced with the lawns and shrubberies, where some very fine specimens of pines and a few of the best beech trees on Carton estate were seen. Many fine ornamental specimens of rare trees were also noticed in passing, including tulip trees, snowdrop trees, and plane trees, which adorned the scene and justly claimed much admiration. Proceeding down the long broad walk to the Kitchen Garden, some very handsome beech and lime trees were seen and greatly admired for their stately proportions; and two yew trees and two beeches were noticed with their branches curiously interlocked in each other's arms. In the American Garden were observed a pair of very handsome Tulip trees, *Liriodendron tulipiferum*, with fine stems, girthing 9 feet each at 5 feet up; a fine example of the Western Plane, *Platanus occidentalis*; the Snowdrop tree, *Halesia tetraptera*; and some brightly coloured trees of *Cedrus atlantica glauca*; with choice rhododendrons, azaleas, heaths, and numerous other American plants, for the display of which the garden was well designed.

At the spacious kitchen garden a run was had through the extensive ranges of glass-houses, well filled with first-rate crops of fruit, and well-grown plants and flowers, to meet the requirements of the ducal family, and showing great skill and success in their cultivation. The open garden was found to be fully cropped with all the best varieties of hardy fruits and vegetables, the

borders gay with choice flowers, and the large area adorned with many ornamental features, and divided into sections by handsome yew hedges, which were much admired. All was in perfect order here, as well as in the flower-gardens and grounds, and displayed everywhere judicious taste and skilful management.

Leaving the kitchen garden, a couple of fine specimens of the handsome Spanish fir, *Abies Pinsapo*, were objects of much admiration. In the vicinity was inspected with much interest the Italian Pergola, a curiously pillared and flat open roofed erection, built by the late Duchess of Leinster in 1894. Choice climbers—roses, jasmine, clematis, Virginian creeper, honeysuckle, and others of free-growing and graceful habit—were trained up the pillars, and hung in free festoons over the open verandah-like roof and sides, and gave a peculiarly light and airy tone to the formal lines of the erection. Beds of flowering shrubs, azaleas, rhododendrons, kalmias, heaths, spiræas, and such like, adorned the base of the walls, and the effect was charmingly pleasing.

The remainder of the time at the disposal of the Excursionists was fully occupied in strolling through the extensive pleasure-grounds and noting their hosts of arboreal rarities, not the least conspicuous among them being the splendid examples of forest trees. The soil is generally a deep, rich loam, on a clayey, and in places a gravelly subsoil, eminently suited for the growth of trees, and situated at an altitude of 60 to 100 feet. The chief species of tree in the policies was the beech, which flourishes with great luxuriance; but oaks, elms, limes, chestnuts, sycamores, and conifers grow with a healthy vigour into large and shapely trees, which successive generations of the Leinster ducal family have cherished and tended with the greatest care, through the long period of years in which the Fitzgeralds have reigned at Carton. The demesne contains about 1100 acres, of which about 400 are under timber and water. The majority of the timber trees consist of beech, ash, and oak of great age, and generally of excellent quality. The beech is particularly fine, of great size, clean, and well grown, and famed for its smooth bark and cylindrical stems, and the milky white colour of its wood when cut up. It formed an instructive object-lesson to those of the party who examined the fine beech woods in Hanover, in Germany, in 1895, and the Irish product came through the ordeal with credit to itself.

The party learned from Mr M'Kerrow that the late Duke of Leinster took a very keen interest in forestry, and planted with

trees every spare piece of ground in the demesne, mostly with a mixture of the ordinary forest trees. The larch, Scots fir, and Austrian pine are now doing remarkably well, the soil and other conditions being eminently suited for their healthy development. A young plantation of larch, formed in 1887, was thinned last spring, and the average height of the trees was found to be 15 feet, no "blister" or disease of any kind affecting their growth. The late Duke also planted a large number of specimen Conifers in the park and plantations, which are generally thriving well, and promising to become handsome trees in course of time. Among the best, and for which the soil seems admirably suited, are the Douglas fir, Cedar of Lebanon, *Pinus insignis*, *Abies Englemanni glauca*, and the following silver firs—*Abies grandis*, *A. nobilis*, *A. Nordmanniana*, and *A. Webbiana*. The Monterey Cypress, *Cupressus macrocarpa*, grows fast, but shows a tendency to die off; still, some examples of it are getting up into fine specimens. The whole of the trees and woodlands on the Leinster estates have been managed with great care, and full attention has been paid to their welfare for many years, a not too common occurrence in the past in Ireland, but which it was hoped might be more frequently seen in the future.

To Mr Black the party were indebted for the following particulars about the great yew tree at Maynooth Castle, which time did not permit them to visit. It is traditionally said to have been planted by Maurice Fitzgerald, who built the castle in 1176. At 6 feet above ground its massive stem girths 20 feet, with a total height of 50 feet, and a circumference of 236 feet round the tips of the branches. An old tradition has it that "Silken Thomas," the tenth Earl of Kildare, on the last evening he spent in the castle, when his fortunes and those of his house were dark as the gathering storm, sat beneath its outspreading branches, which had sheltered so many of the Geraldines, and that he played on the harp that he loved, though his heart was full of forebodings for the future. If the voice of human song, burdened by human sorrow, could reach the dead, the strains of that harp might have found an echo in that of the sleeping warrior who first planted this ancient tree. The tree is still in fine health, and may go down through ages to come as a living remembrance of the stirring scenes in Irish history that have occurred under its shade and in the venerable castle in its vicinity.

A very interesting arboreal event took place in the grounds at



Carton in 1897, when the youthful Duke of Leinster and his two brothers each planted a tree in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. The tree chosen and planted by the Duke was a vigorous young specimen of the Cedar of Lebanon, *Cedrus Libani*; that by Lord Desmond Fitzgerald an *Abies Nordmanniana*; and by Lord Edward Fitzgerald an *Abies grandis*—all trees that may flourish at Carton for ages, and mark a unique national epoch, as living memorials of an eventful year.

*Measurements of Trees at Carton.*

NAME OF TREE.	Height.		Girth at 5 ft. up.		Diameter of Spread of Branches.	Aspect.	REMARKS.	
	ft.	in.	ft.	in.				ft.
<i>Acer Negundo variegata</i> ,	20	0	1	8	16	0	S.	Very beautiful and hardy.
Beech,	70	0	15	6	112	0	S.W.	} These are only a few samples of numerous grand Beeches in the policies.
"	110	0	14	0	70	0	...	
"	98	0	13	0	74	0	S.	
"	96	0	15	0	65	0	N.	
Box Tree,	21	0	...	...	26	0	S.	Grand specimen.
Cherry,	40	0	7	0	50	0	S.W.	Beautiful in flower.
Chestnut, Horse,	80	0	13	0	70	0	S.W.	Splendid tree.
" Spanish,	64	0	12	0	54	0	W.	A grand tree.
<i>Halesia tetraptera</i> ,	22	0	2	6	30	0	S.	Beautiful tree.
Larch,	88	0	12	0	43	0	S.	} Very fine timber trees.
"	85	0	9	6	40	0	N.	
"	95	0	10	6	35	0	W.	
Lime,	85	0	10	6	35	0	W.	Handsome specimen.
Oak, English,	93	0	14	6	102	0	S.E.	Grand specimen.
" White American,	68	0	8	0	61	0	W.	Very handsome tree.
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> ,	80	0	7	6	66	0	S.	} Does well here, like other American trees.
"	89	0	9	6	58	0	S.W.	
" <i>orientalis</i> ,	55	0	9	0	48	0	S.	
Tulip Tree,	68	0	9	0	43	0	S.W.	} Very handsome trees; in robust health.
"	61	0	9	0	58	0	S.E.	
"	63	0	7	6	25	0	S.E.	

RETURN TO DUBLIN.

Having accomplished their task by half-past 4 o'clock, the Excursionists again mounted the brakes, and with three rousing cheers in honour of the Duke of Leinster, and "one cheer more" for the gentlemen who had so ably and courteously conducted them that day, the party drove off on their way to Dublin, a distance of about sixteen miles, taking the route by the south side of the

Liffey. The way lay through the beautiful landscape of Carton Home Park, and out by the entrance on the road to Leixlip, a small town on the banks of the Liffey, amid scenes of great loveliness. The Liffey was crossed on a substantial bridge, and the scenery of the river and the neighbourhood was of a very picturesque type. The special attractions here were an old castle erected by one of Strongbow's followers, and the famous "Salmon Leap" in the river a little distance above the bridge.

On leaving the outskirts of Leixlip, the party entered the policies of Lucan House, the seat of Colonel C. Vesey, and under the guidance of the gardener, Mr Peter Reid, enjoyed a beautiful drive along the charming banks of the Liffey for about two miles. Throughout the whole length the grounds were richly wooded, and many of the trees were of great height and length of stem, which, had time allowed, would have borne a closer inspection by the arborists. Only one short halt could be made, to view a grand old elm, 100 feet high and 19 feet in girth at 5 feet up, and a few handsome and well-grown Coniferæ in the vicinity of the mansion-house.

Amongst the most notable of the Conifers was a splendid example of *Wellingtonia gigantea*, planted in 1860, beautifully feathered from base to apex, with its graceful branches forming a handsome cone about 60 feet high, with a fine massive stem girthing 15 feet 2 inches at 5 feet up. A very large and widely-spreading example of *Cupressus macrocarpa* attracted much attention; as also did a gracefully-weeping variety of Larch, about 55 feet high, and with a bole girthing 12 feet 3 inches at 3 feet up. Large and very handsome specimens of many fine broad-leaved trees were observed, including purple and fern-leaved beeches, variegated Turkey oak, and sycamore; cut-leaved birch, lime, and alder; the black walnut, red and yellow paviors, and numerous others of an ornamental character, all growing vigorously in the finely sheltered and very beautiful demesne. This lovely drive, coming unexpectedly as it did at the end of the day, was enjoyed immensely by the Excursionists, and at parting with Mr Reid, he was heartily thanked for his courteous and kind attention to the party.

The road was now taken through the pretty village of Lucan with its famed chalybeate spring, the waters of which are said to be a specific against many ailments to which humanity is heir, the Spa attracting numerous invalids to drink its waters and

enjoy the salubrity of the neighbourhood. The day, which had been lowering for some time, now broke out in a terrific storm of rain, and for some miles of the road it poured down in torrents, to which, however, the party were becoming well seasoned, and, in defiance of the deluge, the great beauty of the scenery received a due mead of attention and admiration. Crossing the Liffey again at Chapelizod, the famous "Strawberry Beds" (a great popular resort of the Dublin citizens when that luscious fruit is in season) lay right and left of the road for a mile or two on the north bank of the river. Driving through the Phoenix Park, the Gresham Hotel was reached about 6.30 o'clock, where dinner was partaken of before starting for Killarney.

Those who were going home the same evening drove direct to the North Wall Quay, where they joined the steamer "Duke of Argyll." It is one of the oldest steamers of the "Duke" Line, and the sight of the paddles was not at all a pleasing one to those who had the recollection of Monday night still in their mind's eye. The old boat, however, gave everyone a most pleasant surprise. She made a splendid passage, landing her whole complement of passengers—and it was not a small one—in perfect condition early on Saturday forenoon at Greenock, and the arboricultural contingent reached their homes safe the same day, all highly delighted with their trip to Ireland.

---

## EXCURSION TO KILLARNEY.

**Saturday, 21st, to Monday, 23rd August.**

The General Excursion of the Society, extending over four days, having been completed with the visit to Carton on the 20th of August, the members were free to return home, or to join in the Special Excursion which had been arranged to visit the district of the Lakes of Killarney, in Co. Kerry. Upwards of sixty of the members resolved to join this Excursion, and after dinner at the Gresham Hotel, on their return from Carton on Friday evening, the brakes were again requisitioned, and the party were driven to Kingsbridge Station, Dublin. There the Great Southern and Western Railway had provided three special

saloon carriages, in which the Excursionists were to travel by the ordinary night train to Killarney, a distance of about 185 miles, right across Ireland. Taking possession of their carriages, and settling themselves down as comfortably as they could for the long night journey, under the depressing influences of a very wet and chilly evening, the train left Kingsbridge at 8.35 P.M., at a speed that could not be called "racing," as known in the sister island of Great Britain. It was, however, steady and quiet, and, in defiance of the wet, chilly air outside, the party managed to while away the night in the carriages in tolerable comfort. Stretched out at full length on the seats, tables, and even floors of the saloons, as best they could find room for themselves, most of the members enjoyed a sound sleep, as the train crept softly along in the darkness through the green meadows and fertile fields of Kildare, Tipperary, Limerick, and Cork, into the barren wilds of Kerry. Stops were few, but lengthy; refreshments scarce and temperate; and the pace so cautious, a collision was scarcely possible, and if one had unfortunately occurred, the most wakeful watcher could hardly have felt it, thanks to the judicious moderation displayed by all concerned. However, the longest and pleasantest of journeys will come to an end, and by 5 o'clock on Saturday morning the train steamed safely into Killarney, where the members were comfortably quartered during their stay in the district at the Glebe and Innisfallen Hotels.

The ordinary tour of the Lakes of Killarney, including the trip through the far-famed Gap of Dunloe, and the sail down the beautiful lakes in row-boats, requires three whole days to leisurely accomplish it, and the Excursionists having to inspect the extensive woods and policies of the Earl of Kenmare, K.P., at Killarney, and of H. A. Herbert, Esq., at Muckross Abbey, between Saturday morning and Monday afternoon, they had no time for loitering by the way. The party were favoured with tolerably good weather, on the whole, for enjoying the tour, and admiring the grandeur of the scenery and the sylvan richness of the beautiful and romantic district. The rich luxuriance of tree-growth, natural and planted, was a constant theme of conversation as well as of general admiration. On the steep slopes of the mountains around the lakes, and the rocky islets that thickly stud their bosoms like emerald gems, the wealth of their sylvan mantle was the most striking object to the visitor when

approaching them by land or water. On many of the islands, and particularly on Innisfallen, or the "Sheep Island," the immense size of many of the older trees quite surprised the most experienced and far travelled of the arborists. In the vicinity of Ross Castle, around Muckross Abbey, and in the neighbourhood of Torc Waterfall, many giants of the forest were seen, noted, and very much admired.

Among the hosts of the Newer Conifers and other trees and shrubs introduced from foreign climes, there were none that riveted their attention, or had a deeper interest to the arborists, than the famed native "Strawberry Tree," *Arbutus Unedo*, of which the Killarney district is the natural habitat in the British Islands. It was not seen in any abundance growing naturally far from the shores of the lakes and islands. It was noticed in greatest abundance around the shores of the Lower Lake, in Muckross demesne, and Dinish Island on the Middle Lake; and on the shores and islands, especially on the islet called, from being clothed with it, "Arbutus Island," in the Upper Lake. The older trees were not particularly attractive in their appearance, being too often scraggy and bare, but when they are heavily laden with bright scarlet fruit, in shape and colour bearing a close resemblance to a strawberry, but sadly wanting in the fine qualities of that luscious fruit, their attractions would thereby be greatly enhanced late in the autumn. Of the oak, ash, elm, birch, holly, hazel, rowan, thorn, and yew, all indigenous, many aged veterans were observed in the course of the wanderings of the party over this romantic district.

#### KENMARE DEMESNE.

The members, after their arrival from Dublin in the early morning, rested at their hotels till breakfast time, and at 10 o'clock, the hour fixed for starting with the day's programme, they were all ready, and as fresh and keenly interested in the spell of hard work before them as they were on the first day of the Excursion. Four roomy brakes, with which Killarney is well supplied, drawn by strong, active teams of horses, were marshalled at the door of the Innisfallen Hotel before 10 o'clock, and the members, mounting to their seats, started at the hour, with Mr M'Callum, forester, and Mr Breeze, gardener, to the Earl of Kenmare, in the leading brake, to act as cicerones to the party

for the day. Arriving at the Glebe Hotel, where the half of the party were quartered, they were found ready seated, in the same number of brakes, to join in the day's tour. Starting again immediately, the Mallow road was followed as far as the Deer Park entrance to Kenmare demesne, and driving in there, the first object that attracted the attention of the arborists was a grand example of an Ash tree, over 60 feet in height, with a splendid bole girthing 11 feet 3 inches at 5 feet up; the distance from the ground at which all the trees at Killarney were girthed, except another height is named. The drive lay through the Deer Park, having a fine plantation of large oaks on the right, with tall, clean boles of great commercial value, and much admired by the timber-merchant members of the party. On the left lay the rolling grassy expanse of the Deer Park, studded with grand old oaks of massive proportions, said to have been planted in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, three hundred years ago. About midway across the park a splendid clump of about thirty beech, oak, and horse-chestnut, was observed a little off on the left, and contained some splendid examples of each of those trees. One of the finest of the beeches was about 85 feet high, and girthed 12 feet 3 inches round the stem; a chestnut, 80 feet high, and 10 feet 5 inches in girth; and an oak, 64 feet high, and 12 feet 10 inches in girth.

On reaching a gate at the top of the Deer Park, the party alighted to pay a visit of inspection to the Fairy Glen, a wild and charmingly picturesque spot, with the foaming stream of the Deenagh in full flood from recent rains. Entering at the gate, and traversing the glen on foot, it was found thickly clothed with natural oak on the banks and higher parts, and in the deep soil by the stream were many splendid trees, among which were some of the first larch introduced to this part of Ireland, with very fine spruces, silver firs, beech, and Spanish chestnuts. The trees were much admired by the arborists for their long, clean, cylindrical stems, towering to a great height in the shelter of the glen, the silver firs, as usual, topping the others, and reaching to the unusual stature of 120 feet or more. One of the finest silver firs actually measured 122 feet in height, with a girth of 10 feet 6 inches; whilst another girthed 12 feet 5 inches, and was only a few feet shorter. A tall Spanish chestnut girthed 10 feet 2 inches, and similar trees were plentiful in the best parts of this finely wooded glen.

Arriving at Coolcorcoran Bridge, at the top of the Fairy Glen, the party mounted the brakes in waiting, and drove off

along the crest of the heights of Aghadoe, from whence a magnificent view was obtained of the Lake Country, with the Tomies and Purple Mountains rising between the lakes and the Gap of Dunloe, and, more to the right, the Macgillycuddy Reeks, with Carnntual, 3414 feet, the highest mountain in Ireland, dimly seen through the haze. Away on the left front, in the distance, beyond the lakes, were seen the Torc and Mangerton ranges. Passing the picturesque ruins of the ancient church of Aghadoe, conspicuous in the landscape for many miles around, the visitors had a close view of an early Irish Round Tower, reduced now, however, to a mere stump, standing by the roadside in weird loneliness. Descending the steep western slope of the hill by the road past the modern church of Aghadoe, and wheeling sharp to the left when at the foot of the hill, the entrance to Lord Kenmare's West Park was soon reached. Entering the park at the West Lodge, the drive was followed in an easterly direction, through some fine thriving young plantations of larch, Scots fir, and Corsican pine, of twenty or more years' growth. The larch, in particular, was noted by the foresters as of fine clean growth, and perfectly free from "blister," the great pest to the grower of larch in many parts of Great Britain.

Arriving at the Victoria Lodge, the Home Park was entered, and keeping to the highway, which passes through it, some fine old timber trees were seen at Prospect. Amongst them were some notable trees of large dimensions—a grand beech, with a great bole girthing 14 feet 10 inches, and a spreading head of branches 66 feet in diameter. Another gigantic beech had a wide umbrageous head, 52 feet high and fully 70 feet through, with a stout stem 11 feet in girth. A splendid Wych elm was 56 feet high, 70 feet through the branches, and the bole girthed 11 feet. An oak of stately mien was over 70 feet high, with a clean, straight bole of 40 feet to the first branch, and a stem-girth of 7 feet 3 inches; while an equally handsome lime tree, of about the same height, girthed 7 feet round the stem. To the right lay the fine larch plantation of Bellevue, stretching away for about two miles towards the Lower Lake, formed of pure larch, and, like all other plantations of that tree seen by the Excursionists in the district, perfectly healthy, and thriving with marked luxuriance. On the left lay the Game-wood, in which were observed many fine forest trees and handsome specimens of the New Conifers, among the latter being a handsome tree of *Pinus*

*insignis* about 65 feet high, with a stem-girth of 7 feet 10 inches. In this vicinity the party were privileged to inspect Lady Kenmare's private cottage and flower-garden, very prettily laid out, and gay with floral beauty. Within the cottage the members had the pleasure of viewing a rare and valuable, as well as numerous, collection of pottery and china ware, of both very ancient and modern patterns.

Passing on to the handsome Terraces in front of the Mansion-House, a splendid modern edifice on a commanding site overlooking Lough Leane, or the Lower Lake, a considerable time was spent in the enjoyment of the magnificent scenery, viewed from this high and commanding coign of vantage—the grand view of mountains, lakes, and forests being unequalled in Britain in its charms. The gardens and terraces around the house were of the greatest interest to the members, and showed what the judicious application of taste and skill was capable of performing in assisting Nature to develop its beauties to the highest perfection. At intervals along the terrace, artistic bastions were thrown out, from which the more delightful views could be seen to better advantage. One of the most picturesque of the objects in the landscape was the ivied ruins of Ross Castle, towering up through the mass of foliage on the neck of the land connecting the richly wooded peninsula of Ross "Island" to the mainland.

Leaving the Mansion-House, and walking through the policies, numerous fine specimens of ancient forest trees, and handsome examples of the Newer Coniferæ, of which lavish use was made for the purpose of ornament, proved of the greatest interest to the arborists, and demanded frequent observation. Among the timber trees which were seen in the Home Park were many grand specimens—oak, ash, elm, beech, and sycamore predominating—their tall, clean, and shapely stems making them the beautiful of a tree for the timber merchant. Among the Coniferæ which flourish with great vigour, there were many fine specimens of *Pinus insignis*, along with *Cupressus macrocarpa*, *Abies nobilis*, *A. Nordmanniana*, *Araucaria imbricata*, *Wellingtonia gigantea*, and *Cupressus Lawsoniana*—all over 50 feet in height; and, perhaps, finest of them all, the Douglas fir. The fine old oaks which adorn the grounds were also regarded with a large degree of interest, those which were planted in the reign of Queen Elizabeth being a notable instance of the prolonged vigour of tree-life in the district. In one of the numerous avenues radiating



from the mansion there was seen a fine yew tree, planted at the time of the birth of the present noble proprietor. It has grown vigorously in the seventy years that have passed, and developed into a very fine specimen, worthy of the event it commemorates.

The Excursionists having exhausted the objects of interest in the immediate neighbourhood of the mansion, the carriages were again resumed. Driving down the main avenue, which was undergoing extensive improvements in anticipation of the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to the estate at the end of the week, and turning into one of the many walks running to Deenagh Lodge, a number of fine Scots fir were seen, one of which girthed 7 feet 10 inches, with a long clean stem. An ash girthed 12 feet 7 inches; and a short-stemmed lime tree girthed 11 feet  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches at 3 feet up, being the narrowest point, where the swell of the branches began. Traversing the drive, the visitors' attention was attracted to the magnificent clumps of rhododendrons which line the avenue for a considerable part of its length. Their full rounded heads were particularly noticed, and remark was made upon the great area of ground which several of the larger specimens covered. Towards the entrance the drive led through an avenue of stately beeches of one hundred and seventy years' growth, their tall, straight, cylindrical stems, with beautiful smooth shining bark, towering to a height of 100 feet before the branches arched over and interlaced so closely as to shut out every ray of light. On the way attention was frequently directed to the numerous plantations which grew within the policies. These consisted generally of a mixture of forest trees—larch, Scots fir, spruce, silver fir, and broad-leaved trees all thriving well. Most of the plantations have been formed by the present noble owner within the past thirty years, and their healthy vigour, and the size to which the trees have attained in the time, point to the soil and climate of the county of Kerry as being admirably adapted for the culture of forests. A feature in these plantations, which the arborists were quick to notice, was the total absence of blister on the larch, and the freedom of the trees in general from every disease of a serious character.

Skirting Bellevue Wood for a little distance, some very old oaks were noted; a sturdy veteran, with a short massive bole, girthing 16 feet 4 inches at 4 feet up, the spring of the branches beginning at that height, and carrying an immense umbrageous top. Another old oak girthed 14 feet 9 inches at 5 feet up, and

its branches extended to a diameter of 60 feet. A stately beech girthed 14 feet 7 inches, and another 12 feet 4 inches; while a Wych elm was 10 feet 4 inches in girth. From here the drive was continued through a part of the Home Park, full of fine timber trees, to Ross Castle, a distance of two miles to the south-east, on the shores of the Lower Lake. Ross Castle, a battlemented stronghold of the usual mediæval type, was erected by the O'Donoghue, who held regal sway in the district, about the year 1500. It was held for Charles I. by Lord Muskerry, but eventually surrendered to Cromwell's troops under General Ludlow. From the castle the drive was followed round the shore of the peninsula of Ross Island to Arbutus Point, projecting far into the Lower Lake. A splendid view was obtained of the lake and islands from the Arbutus Walk, that indigenous tree growing abundantly towards the point.

Driving back by the old copper-mine, and out on to the highway, the Home Park was entered again at Reen Lodge, and passing along a splendid beech avenue of ancient date, the Pinetum was reached, and some fine specimens of the Coniferæ were seen and greatly admired. The general luxuriance of Conifers in the district prevailed here; and among many others noticed was a splendid example of the Douglas fir, 86 feet high, and 45 feet through the branches, with a handsome stem girthing 8 feet 7 inches at 5 feet up. A *Pinus insignis*, of which many fine trees were seen in the course of the day's drive, had a height of over 80 feet, a stem-girth of 13 feet 10½ inches, and a diameter of spread of branches of 64 feet. A very fine example of the common Yew had a clean stem girthing 8 feet 5 inches; and four tall Irish Yews, the largest at Killarney, stood at an average 20 feet in height, with a girth round the branches of 37 feet 8 inches; exceedingly fine specimens. Passing out by the spacious main avenue and the principal entrance to the policies, close to the town of Killarney, the Excursionists reached their hotels at 1 o'clock for luncheon.

A rest of half an hour was all that could be given, when the Excursionists were in the brakes again, and off to complete the day's tour, taking the road for Kenmare, which passes for some miles through the rich sylvan scenery of the lakes. On leaving the town, and passing the main entrance to Killarney demesne, a grand avenue of splendid lime trees extended along the high road for some distance; on the left of which was seen the large

kitchen garden, with Mr Breeze's residence and several fine ranges of fruit-houses occupying a well-sheltered site just outside the town. A little farther on, at Woodlawn, were observed some remarkably fine old oaks. Among them were two handsome oak trees, each about 80 feet high, and girthing 9 feet 5 inches and 10 feet 3 inches respectively. Very fine trees were seen all the way to the river Flesk, which bounds Lord Kenmare's estates in this direction.

#### MUCKROSS ABBEY.

Continuing the drive across the Flesk Bridge, the Excursionists were on the estate of H. A. Herbert, Esq. of Muckross, and the entrance to the policies was reached about two miles out from Killarney. Soon after passing the entrance, the party alighted from the brakes in order to view the ruins of the ancient Abbey of Muckross, said to have been founded, as a Franciscan monastery or abbey, in 1340 by the MacCarthys, princes of Desmond, and occupying the site of a more ancient monastic building burned down in 1192. Within the square formed by the cloisters the arborists had their attention closely concentrated on the examination of a magnificent yew tree with great spreading branches, whose solemn and solitary appearance well accorded with the nature of its habitation. It was said to possess the largest bole of any tree of its kind in the district. The bole was 20 feet high, 12 feet in girth at the ground, and 9 feet 4 inches at 5 feet up; and the tree had a total height of about 50 feet. Its age has been computed to be as great as that of the abbey itself, the monks being in the habit of planting a yew tree at the consecration of an abbey. About a hundred yards from the abbey ruins a very interesting *Abies nobilis* attracted notice from its size and shapely appearance. Its height was found to be 84 feet, and its girth 8 feet 7 inches. Near by a grand *Wellingtonia gigantea*, 84 feet high and 12 feet 9 inches in girth, was greatly admired. Driving now along the avenue leading to the demesne, the arborists passed through plantations with many handsome Conifers of the newer species. Among these *Pinus insignis* was conspicuous for the luxuriance of its growth, a feature common to it all over the west of Ireland. One, in particular, was carefully examined, and found to have a bole measuring 13 feet 2 inches in circumference, and a height of about 90 feet.

Muckross House, an Elizabethan mansion overlooking the

Middle Lake, aroused considerable interest, from the rumoured intention to purchase the demesne for a royal residence in Ireland, and from the Queen and the late Prince Consort having resided here on their visit to the lakes in 1861. A group of trees, called the Royal Family, and standing on the lawn in front of the house, also created considerable interest, having been planted by Her Majesty and members of the family on the occasion of their visit to the district.

Driving farther through Muckcross woods, many notable examples of oaks, elms, beeches, limes, chestnuts, and other broad-leaved trees were seen and commented upon. On the Muckcross peninsula, running out between the Middle and Lower Lakes, which was richly wooded throughout, and especially beyond it on Dinish Island, the Excursionists had the opportunity of inspecting some of the best specimens of the oldest *Arbutus Unedo* in the district, which here grows in the most luxuriant manner, finding its way into every nook where it can obtain soil for its roots. Many other very fine examples of forest trees, and handsome, well-feathered Conifers, were seen and inspected, especially near Dinish Cottage, at landing-place on Dinish Island, where the party had to shelter for a short time to allow a drenching shower to pass over. Mounting the brakes again, and crossing the bridge over the stream from the Upper Lake, the route was towards Torc Waterfall. The woods which were now entered extended round the Middle Lake and far up the slopes of Torc Mountain, which overlooks it on the south, the older Scots fir, larch, and silver fir being noted for their clean growth and the excellent quality of their wood. Some of the finest of these were observed near to the foot of the glen leading up to the famed Torc Cascade, one of the greatest attractions in the Killarney district, and which was viewed with some interest, after having seen the much grander waterfall at Powerscourt.

The rest of the afternoon was spent in viewing the numerous objects of interest in this charming neighbourhood, and the return journey was begun at 6 o'clock, Killarney being reached at half-past seven.

#### THE SCENERY OF THE LAKES DISTRICT.

The Excursionists were so busily employed over the inspection of the splendid trees and woodlands—which were the main object

of their visit to this richly endowed sylvan country—that only a small portion of the time could be devoted to viewing the grand scenery of Killarney, for which the district is deservedly famed. Multitudes of tourists yearly flock to it from all nations to view the picturesque beauties with which Nature has so lavishly adorned it; and special provision has been made for their comfort and pleasure in the large number of commodious hotels that are found all over the district. Although the visit of the members of the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society took place at the busiest period of the tourist season, they received every attention and comfort in the two excellent hotels where they were quartered, the managers of the Glebe and the Innisfallen vying with each other in their endeavours to promote the comfort of their guests, and to make their short stay in the locality as pleasant and enjoyable as possible. That they had succeeded in their laudable efforts every member was ready to vouch for at the end of their few days' sojourn.

As the time was so limited for the work to be accomplished, every minute had necessarily to be made the most of, and early and late the Excursionists were on the way to see what they could of the picturesque country, delightful scenery, and most interesting woodlands, so that before the last of the party quitted Killarney, very little of any interest was left unseen by them. In their drive through the Deer Park, over the heights of Aghadoe, through the beautiful policies of Killarney, along the shores of the lakes, round Ross Island, through the Muckcross policies and wooded peninsula, across Brickeen Bridge and Dinish Island, past the "Meeting of the Waters," and on through the beautiful woods to Torc Waterfall, and along the road homeward to Killarney, the scenery the whole of the way was extremely beautiful and enjoyable. Of a wilder type of grandeur were the rugged mountains and the barren country on the way to the far-famed Gap of Dunloe. On reaching Kate Kearney's Cottage, where the road ends for four-wheeled carriages, at the mouth of the Gap, the party dismounted from the brakes to proceed through the Pass. Owing to the large number of the party, and the scarcity of weight-carrying hacks among the crowd of rough Kerry cobs waiting to transport visitors through the Gap, many of the strongest of the company determined to march all the way across it on foot, and they enjoyed the long walk and the incidents by the way with great pleasure. The cavalry division, well mounted

on the hardy little Kerry horses, and accompanied by a squadron of mounted tourists, rode gallantly through the Pass, maintaining their seats with a dignity and ease that would have done credit to an Arab. The natives trotted close behind, keeping a watchful eye on the steed and its rider, so that no mishap befell, and all were safely landed at their destination,—Lord Brandon's Cottage, at the head of the lakes. In splendid weather the wild Gap was crossed and seen at its best, and it was admitted by all to be one of the sights of Nature, which, once seen, are never forgotten.

After luncheon at the head of the lakes, the party embarked in the boats sent to meet them from their hotels, and rowed down the whole length of the lakes by strong-armed and willing boatmen, with nothing to do but sit still and enjoy the magnificent scenery as they glided past it in the bright sunshine, was a pleasure rarely met with in the same perfection. From the start at the head of the Upper Lake to the landing at Ross Castle, the interest and beauty of the scenery never flagged. The racy and humorous descriptions of the scenes, and the stories so pleasantly told by the boatmen, with the waking of the echo at the Eagle Rock, and other echoing-places on the route, by a blast from the bugle of the Innisfallen Guide, and "the shooting of the rapids" at the Old Weir Bridge, all lent additional pleasure and zest to the glorious sail the party enjoyed on the beautiful Lakes of Killarney.

The town of Killarney, with a population of about 5500, has not many attractions for the visitor, and therefore no time was spent over it, beyond a stroll through the market held on Saturday, when the farmers, with their wives and daughters, and their country produce, often of a very primitive kind, crowded the main street of the little town. Their picturesque homely garb, and quaint manners and language in dealing with their customers, were exceedingly interesting to the visitors from beyond the seas. The only buildings of any note were the churches of several denominations, St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral, the Episcopalian, and the Presbyterian exhibiting the best styles; and the numerous fine hotels, at which most of the male population appeared to find employment as guides, porters, waiters, drivers, and boatmen. On the kind invitation of the minister to the members on the first day of their arrival, the Scotsmen and their friends attended divine service on Sunday in the Presbyterian kirk, filling the neat little edifice until scarcely an empty seat was left, a "record"

audience in those parts, as they were informed at the close of the interesting service.

Within a short distance to the westward of the town are situated the fruit and kitchen gardens, with the forcing-houses, of the Earl of Kenmare, through which the members were conducted by Mr Breeze, of whose extensive charge they formed an important part, and were found well suited for the purposes to be served. On the north side, immediately behind the Innisfallen Hotel, are the extensive estate workshops and saw-mill, over which the party were led by Mr M'Callum, who had a thorough grasp of all the details, and made the inspection of those works most instructive to the party. Here the natives are taught the art of wood carving and modelling by an artist specially employed by Lord Kenmare, and some clever specimens of their handicraft were shown to the visitors, the taste of the design and the neat workmanship exhibiting considerable native talent, which the members hoped would develop into a useful branch of forest industry, where the supply of the raw material was so abundant and good. The large saw-mill, which was driven by a powerful steam-engine, had various descriptions of saws running, cutting up the home-grown timber into a variety of scantlings, planks, battens, and boards; spokes, felloes, naves, shafts, and linings for country carts and other vehicles, for all of which the members were told there was a good local demand. A large stock of planking and boards of various sizes were seasoning in the store-sheds, and on examining them, the wood of fully matured trees was vouched, by the timber merchants of the party, to be of first-rate quality.

#### INNISFALLEN.

After seeing about half of the members off on a couple of heavily laden four-horse coaches, and given them a parting cheer to send them on their way to Glengariff, the remaining members of the party, led by their trusty guide, Mr M'Callum, drove down to Ross Castle, and while boats were being got ready to convey them across to Innisfallen Island, they went along the shore to the right a little way, to inspect the private fleet of boats maintained on the lakes by Lord Kenmare. Near the boathouse the party were met and cordially welcomed by the Earl of Kenmare, who had just arrived at home, and who expressed his pleasure that the members had been able to see so much of the woods and

the scenery, and hoped they would carry with them to their distant homes a favourable impression of Ireland, and particularly of the "wilds" of Kerry. Cordially bidding the members good-bye, they proceeded to inspect the handsome barges, in which Royalty had enjoyed the beauties of Killarney on former occasions. The finest boat of the fleet had just received a thorough overhauling and varnishing, in preparation for the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York the same week. A crew of eight oarsmen and a coxswain, picked from among the local boatmen, were receiving a special training to row the State Barge with the Royal party over the lakes. Most of the crew had rowed stroke-oar in one or other of the fleet of boats that conveyed the Scottish Arboriculturalists adown the lakes, and the prospect of rowing the Royal personages evidently made them feel proud of the honour they were to receive.

Returning to Ross Castle pier, the party embarked in two stout boats and put off for Innisfallen. Rounding Ross Point, the boats caught the full swell of the storm that had suddenly begun to blow with strong gusts down the glen, but the boatmen pulling stoutly at their oars, with a friendly swing from a seaworthy passenger as they neared the strand, landed the party safe on Innisfallen, nothing the worse of the taste they had got of the waters of the lake. Sheltering beneath trees and amid ancient ruins as best they could till the worst of the storm blew over, the party proceeded to inspect "Sweet Innisfallen," the largest and most interesting of all the islands in the lakes. In spite of the weather, which at the moment was in one of its wettest fits, never, however, lasting very long, and the rich deep grass through which they had to wade, the party spent an hour of great enjoyment, wandering over the island inspecting the remarkably fine old trees, and the numerous interesting ruins of much more ancient ecclesiastical buildings. The island has an area of about of 21 acres, and the earth upon it appeared deep and rich; the luxuriant pasturage, amongst which the fine breed of Downs sheep, the only stock maintained on the island, were nearly lost to view. A monastery was said to have been founded here by Saint Finian Lobhar, or "the Leper," at the end of the sixth century, and the ruins still extant show the abbey had acquired considerable dimensions at a later date.

The grand monarchical trees of the island were, however, the main attraction to the arborists. Several of them were measured during the inspection, a difficult operation in the heavy downpour,



and the party had to fall back on their willing guide for correct data of these notable trees. That Mr M'Callum readily undertook to supply, and to him the members are indebted for the careful measurements he made of most of the fine trees recorded in the tour through Killarney woods. The numerous giant examples of the ash are the special arboreal feature of the island. They are generally of immense spread of branches, greater in proportion to the height than is usual with the ash, and the boles were in the same proportion shorter and thicker—still they were in no sense pigmies of their kind, either in total height or length of bole, the average height being about 70 feet, and the stems about a third of that length of clean timber. A monarch among them, which grew near the centre of the island, with enormous swellings or spurs around its base, girthed 18 feet at 7 feet up, forking at 15 feet into three great limbs, and surmounted by a magnificent canopy of branches. Not far off was one 15 feet 4 inches in girth, and another ash in the same vicinity was 12 feet 6 inches in the girth of a long clean stem, of great commercial value.

Near to the main block of ruins, towards the east of the island, the first ash measured girthed 11 feet 8 inches, with a splendid bole; and at a short distance away an immense ash grew out of the top of a circular ruin—about 5 feet high and 10 feet in diameter, supposed to be the base of an old round tower or belfry—and girthed 16 feet round the stem at 5 feet up. In the old Abbot's Green stood a splendid ash over 80 feet high, and with a long clean stem girthing 11 feet 4 inches; and near by was another with a stem-girth of 14 feet 10 inches. All the ashes on the island exhibited the same free growth, clothed with abundance of large healthy foliage, amidst which the jet-black shining buds stood out conspicuously. No ash trees on the island are felled, but blown trees or broken limbs that have been sawn-up for use were found to be of very fine quality, elastic and close grained, and smooth under the tool. Several large oaks were also observed, none of them, however, nearly so large as the great ash tree; and the finest, which stood on the skirts of the Abbot's Green, girthed 10 feet 7 inches. Beech, elm, Spanish chestnut, and several other forest trees grew freely, but were not of extra dimensions. Numerous old thorns, hoary with age, were seen all over the island; one fine specimen, having a single clean stem about 12 feet in length, and girthing 4 feet 6 inches at 5 feet up, was much admired. Near to it a grand old Yew, *Taxus baccata*, was

about 40 feet high, with a clean stem fully 20 feet in length, and girthing 6 feet 8 inches, attracted considerable attention. The arboreal "King of the Island" proved to be a sturdy veteran Holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, said to have been planted by the monks in long bygone ages, which was girthed at 4 feet up its massive stem, and found to measure 15 feet 4 inches, drawing forth the admiration of all present.

By this time the island had been thoroughly well explored, and the hour had arrived when the arborists must quit this most interesting spot. Getting on board the boats, the party were rowed across to the mainland, and disembarked at Lady Kenmare's private quay; walking back to Killarney through the woods in the Home Park, taking a parting glance as they passed on at the numerous grand trees which so handsomely adorn the spacious park. Making their exit along the main approach and out by the principal entrance, the party had luncheon at their hotels, and then drove to the station to start for Dublin by train at 2.15 P.M. A hearty God-speed and a parting cheer from the crowd as the train steamed out of the station, with the clear notes of the bugle of the Innisfallen Hotel guide, playing "Auld Lang Syne," sent them on their way with pleasant recollections of Killarney.

### KILLARNEY TO DUBLIN.

Traversing in daylight on Monday the route they came down by on Friday night, the party enjoyed a good look at the country, and saw some of the notable sights as they swept past them. Running up the valley of the Flesk, the scenery was characteristic of the Killarney district, and generally well-wooded till, at about seven miles, Headford was passed, where the line branched to the right for Kenmare. On the right, passing Headford, were seen a fine range of mountains, with two conspicuous summits called The Paps, 2268 feet in height. Some distance farther on Caherbarnagh Mountain, 2239 feet, stood boldly out in the landscape. Nearing Millstreet the country assumed a richer aspect, and, after passing the town a short distance, Drishane Castle, an ancient stronghold of the MacCarthys, converted into a modern mansion, was observed on the right. The route now lay along the Blackwater valley all the way to Mallow, through a country with few objects to interest the traveller, beyond the ordinary features of an Irish landscape. The main line from Cork to Dublin was

joined at Mallow. About seven miles farther, on the right, the ancient garrison town of Buttevant was approached, and the ruins of ecclesiastical buildings and the ancient defences of the town looked very interesting. Kilcolman Castle was noticed on the right, soon after leaving Buttevant. In the sixteenth century Spenser, the poet, held the Castle and 3000 acres of land, and here wrote his charming "Faerie Queen" about 1589, by which his fame was best known. The Ballyhoura Hills were noticed on the right in nearing Charleville, and the country presented an interesting aspect as the run was made past Killmallock and Limerick Junction, with the fine range of the Galtee Mountains closing in the distance on the right. The country around there acquired a miserable notoriety in the days of the Land League—New Tipperary being only a short distance from Limerick Junction, and Mitchelstown lying at the southern base of the Galtees; but all signs of those times had happily passed away, and the land might well be said to "overflow with milk and honey," appearing to be admirably adapted for both dairy-farming and bee-keeping.

Some miles on the run for Thurles, the next important station on the line, the Rock of Cashel was pointed out a few miles off on the right, rearing its head, crowned with ancient monastic ruins, to a height of 300 feet over the surrounding plain. Nearer Thurles, and on the same side, were the celebrated ruins of Holy-cross Abbèy, founded in 1182 by Donnell O'Brien, King of Munster. About five miles beyond Thurles, the Devil's Bit Mountains were noticed on the left, where the notch was seen from which the Evil One bit out the rock, which he was said to have dropped on the plain to form the Rock of Cashel. Tipperary was left and the Queen's County entered soon after passing Templemore, and the river Nore was crossed on the way to Maryborough, a chief connecting centre of railways. After passing it a few miles, the richly timbered demesne of Emo Park, the seat of the Earl of Portarlington, could be seen on the right. Entering the County of Kildare at Portarlington, there was nothing observed worthy of note till the interesting county town of Kildare came into sight, when notice was taken of the Round Tower, 103 feet high; the celebrated Cathedral, beautifully renovated in 1882; and the remains of the ancient Castle of the Earls of Kildare. Four miles farther and Newbridge was reached, the main-line station for the great military encampment on the Curragh of Kildare; lying about three miles off to the south, and

seen on the right on the way from Kildare. The route then lay along the valley of the Liffey, passing Sallins, the station for Punchestown, five miles away, and famous as the leading Irish steeplechase course; and through a prettily wooded country, until Dublin was reached at Kingsbridge terminus, in less than five hours from Killarney, a great improvement on the night journey going down.

---

## EXCURSION TO KENMARE, GLENGARIFF, BANTRY, AND CORK.

**Monday, 23rd, and Tuesday, 24th August.**

This delightful trip, through a wild and romantic country, occupied the greater part of two days, and the members who joined in it were amply rewarded for their exertions. Starting from Killarney early on Monday forenoon on well-horsed coaches, the route lay along the sylvan shores of the lakes, and ascending the ridge of hills lying between them and Kenmare Bay, many grand views were obtained of the lake scenery before the crest of the Pass was reached, at a height of 1000 feet. The mountains are wildly rugged and picturesque, while the scenery, as Kenmare Bay was approached, was of the charmingly "rugged and soft" nature peculiar to the sheltered bays that deeply indent the south-western shores of Ireland. Kenmare lies amidst pretty scenery at the head of a fine bay, about twenty miles from Killarney, and time for luncheon, with a rest of about an hour, was allowed before a start was again made to cross the wild mountainous country lying between Kenmare and Glengariff, a distance of about eighteen miles, through more of the marvellously wild and picturesque scenery for which the whole of that part of Kerry is famed. The road had been engineered with much ingenuity, and although steep and winding, it was still good for travelling upon, and some of the worst pulls for the horses have been humanely avoided by the construction of several roomy tunnels through which the road runs. The summit of the Pass was reached near the boundary between the counties of Cork and Kerry, at an altitude of some 1200 feet, and the run down to Glengariff afforded the party a magnificent view of Bantry Bay, and the richly picturesque scenery, amidst which it lay. The visitors rested over the night at Eccles Hotel, which gave them time to view some of the sights for which

Glengariff, "the rough glen," is famed. Starting betimes next morning, a beautiful drive of about ten miles round the head of Bantry Bay was greatly enjoyed, and the party was landed at Bantry Station in good time to start by train for Cork, a distance of nearly sixty miles.

After leaving the vicinity of Bantry, with its charming bay and fine landscape, the country had little to show of special interest till the neighbourhood of Bandon was reached, when the landscape improved in aspect and fertility, with a few family seats seen environed in woodlands. On the left, just before reaching Bandon, Castle Bernard, the family seat of the Earl of Bandon, was observed charmingly situated in a well-wooded park, through which the river Bandon flowed, traversing a beautiful and richly wooded valley all the way to Kinsale, about twelve miles distant to the south-east, and famed as the scene of numerous historical events in mediæval times, as well as for its modern great fisheries. Arriving at the Albert Quay Station, Cork, the party were quartered at the Imperial Hotel. In the afternoon, Cork, the third largest city in Ireland, with a population of about 75,000, was inspected, and the party spent an hour very pleasantly in viewing its busy quays and some of its principal streets—the South Mall, George Street, Grand Parade, St Patrick Street—and other objects of interest in the city and its vicinity. Some of the party sailed down the river and across the spacious island-dotted basin of Queenstown Harbour, and returned by rail to Cork. Others took the train to the north for a few miles to visit the "Groves of Blarney," and enjoy the music of the "Sweet Bells of Shandon," returning in good time to the Imperial Hotel at Cork.

## HOMeward BOUND.

**Wednesday, 25th, and Thursday, 26th August.**

Astir shortly after 5 o'clock on Wednesday morning, the party left Cork by the first train for Dublin. There was nothing of special interest seen until, about six miles from Cork, another far-famed ancient stronghold of the great Irish sept, the MacCarthys, Blarney Castle, was observed rearing its battered ramparts high above the trees a little distance off on the left, but too far away for the famous "Blarney Stone" to be distinctly seen. A bare and monotonous country was then passed through on the way to

Mallow, the only notable object being the ruins of Mourne Abbey, about twelve miles from Blarney, on the right. At Mallow the railway from Killarney to Dublin was joined, and the route from thence was the same as that traversed by the party from Killarney; Kingsbridge Station, Dublin, being reached at noon.

Driving to the headquarters at the Gresham Hotel, the contingent from Cork joined the Killarney party, and the united company proceeded to visit the great Horse Show of the Royal Dublin Society, then open at Ball's Bridge. There the exhibition of somewhere about 1400 saddle and carriage horses; the enormous gathering of the beauty and fashion of Ireland to welcome the presence of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York; the glorious weather; and the immense enthusiasm and loyalty displayed on all sides, were a grand finale to the Society's first visit to Ireland. The drive back to headquarters about 5 o'clock through the lavishly and gaily decorated streets, with the multitudes of people crowding the pathways, cheering vigorously all along the Royal route, was seeing Dublin at its very best. Picking up the luggage at the Gresham Hotel, where all had been so comfortably entertained on landing in Ireland, the North Wall Quay was soon reached, and all safe again on board the good ship "Duke of Fife," bound for the Clyde. After a quiet night at sea and a comfortable rest, without any disturbing *mal de mer*, the party were landed at Greenock on Thursday morning, in nice time to reach home the same day. The Edinburgh contingent travelled again in two special saloons kindly provided for them by the Caledonian Railway Company.

Throughout the whole tour to the south of Ireland, occupying from first to last ten days' constant travelling, everything had passed off in the most successful manner, and without a hitch from beginning to end, for which the party were mainly indebted to the indefatigable Secretary, Mr Robert Galloway, whose arrangements and working out of details have become as nearly perfect as reasonable people ever expect them. As a small token of how highly they appreciated the services of the Secretary in the course of the Excursion, the members made him a present at the close of a valuable set of silver dessert cutlery, with appropriate inscription, in a handsome morocco case—a recognition well earned and heartily accorded. So ended, to the gratification of all concerned, the first tour in Ireland of the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society.

## EXCURSION TO DOLPHINTON, LANARKSHIRE.

Saturday, 23rd October 1897.

ON the Council receiving a cordial invitation to visit his estate from John Ord Mackenzie, Esq., W.S., of Dolphinton, arrangements were at once made for an Excursion to Dolphinton, on Saturday, 23rd October. At that late period of the season for an Excursion, only a few days' notice could be given to the members that it was to be held, but Mr Mackenzie's well-known zeal in forestry, and his popularity as one of the oldest members, who had rendered valuable services as Auditor to the Society, drew forth such a hearty response to the announcement, that the muster of the members was the most representative and numerous of any Saturday Excursion ever held by the Society. Marshalling under the leadership of the energetic Secretary, Mr Robert Galloway, at the Waverley Station, shortly after 10 o'clock on Saturday forenoon, the company were conveyed to Dolphinton in three roomy saloon carriages, provided by the North British Railway for the Excursion. Gathering members at almost every station on the way, the party had increased to almost three score when they reached Dolphinton Station at noon. Here they were met and most cordially received by the veteran arborist, Mr John Ord Mackenzie, who, in the eighty-sixth year of his age, had come out to welcome the members, and personally conduct them over his richly-wooded and most interesting policies. Among others present on the occasion were two Misses Borthwick, granddaughters of Mr Mackenzie; Sir James R. Ferguson, Bart. of Spitalhaugh; Charles Anderson, *North British Agriculturist*, Edinburgh; Robert Baxter, Dalkeith; Charles Buchanan, Penicnik; Thomas Chalmers, Raith; Philip Cockburn, Dalkeith; James Cook, Arniston; Andrew Croall, *Scotsman*, Edinburgh; Robert Douglas, Edinburgh; Malcolm Dunn, Dalkeith; Wm. Erskine, Oaklands, Trinity; Dr John Falconer, St Anne's, Lasswade; D. T. Fish, Edinburgh; Frederick Foreman, Eskbank; George Fraser, Edinburgh; Robert Galloway, *Secretary*, Edinburgh; John G. Gordon, Edinburgh; A. A. Green, Edinburgh; George Haig, Garvald; George Hannah, The Glen; James Harvey, Mortonhall; George Jack, Dalkeith; James Jones, Larbert; David Kemp,

Edinburgh; D. P. Laird, Edinburgh; Robert Lindsay, Edinburgh; George Macdonald, Raith; Alex. M'Gregor, Penicuik; D. F. Mackenzie, Mortonhall; George Mackinnon, Melville; Wm. Mackinnon, Edinburgh; John M'Laren, Ballencreeff; John Methven, Edinburgh; Alex. Milne, Edinburgh; J. K. Milne, Kevock Tower, Lasswade; James Moffat, Edinburgh; Hugh Munro, Penicuik; John Murdoch, Dalkeith; P. H. Normand, Whitehill, Aberdour; H. Philp, Dunfermline; G. H. Potts, Fettes Mount, Lasswade; James S. Reid, Balbirnie; Wm. Sinclair, Blackwood; James Smith, Hopetoun; John Smith, Peebles; John Stewart, Whitehouse, Abington; Wm. Stewart, Dalhousie; James Stoddart, Bonnyrigg; Robert Storie, Dalkeith; James Tait, Penicuik; James Tait, jun., Penicuik; Robert Wallace, Edinburgh; John Watson, Edinburgh; W. M. Welsh, Edinburgh; and John Williamson, Loanhead.

In 1880 the Society held the Summer Excursion of that year in the district, when Dolphinton was the first of the estates visited, on the 5th of August. The company on that occasion numbered about thirty, three of whom were amongst the party on the present visit, and they noted with much satisfaction the splendid development in the interval of seventeen years of the *Newer Coniferæ*, which are one of the most interesting features of the policies. It was then said—"Dolphinton seventy or eighty years ago was nearly a barren waste. Mr Mackenzie's father began the process of reclamation and improvement, and when the present owner succeeded to the estate, which comprises about three thousand acres, he continued the good work inaugurated by his predecessor. A large part of the estate is upwards of 800 feet above the level of the sea, but so judiciously has the planting been executed, and so admirable have the woods been disposed for shelter, that the climate has been materially ameliorated."

This latter fact was corroborated by those who were present on both the occasions, they maintaining that the country had materially improved in appearance, and the air felt now as mellow and genial in the middle of October as it did in the first week of August on the former occasion. The weather was as fine as could be desired for the present visit, and considerably enhanced the pleasure of the stroll through the woods, inspecting the numerous fine specimens of Conifers.

A walk of about a mile along the tree-sheltered highway, with Mr Mackenzie in his carriage at the head of the company, brought



the party to a small stream, a feeder of the Lyne, which falls into the Tweed near Neidpath Castle. Mr Mackenzie informed his visitors that the stream was the boundary of his estate in that direction, and also formed the parish boundary, as well as the boundary between the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire and Peebleshire. Moreover, it flowed for some distance along the crest of the watershed, and a few small stones laid in its course would send the water at pleasure eastward to the Tweed and into the German Ocean, or westward to the Clyde, and through it into the Atlantic. Crossing the bridge over the stream, the entrance to Dolphinton policies was close at hand, and entering through the neat gateway, the party were immediately busy with the inspection of the numerous fine trees they saw as they leisurely strolled up the beautiful avenue leading direct to the mansion-house. The oaks, beeches, limes, sycamores, and other broad-leaved trees were beginning to assume the brilliant autumnal tints on their foliage which gives such an attraction to a richly-wooded landscape like that in which Dolphinton is located.

Near the head of the avenue the party turned to the left, and entered the plantation lying between the drive and the garden. The first object that attracted particular attention was a grand specimen of the *Abies Douglasii*, planted in 1850. Its girth at 3 feet from the ground was 9 feet 6 inches, having increased from 6 feet 1 inch, the measurement on the occasion of the last visit of the Society, in 1880. Near by, Mr Mackenzie pointed to an American Scarlet Oak, *Quercus rubra*. The tree was damaged in a recent severe winter, but was now recovering, and was seen in beautiful leafage. Passing on, a very fine old sycamore called for notice, and on being measured at 4 feet from the ground, girthed 13 feet 2 inches—a very handsome tree of its kind in this upland country. The kitchen garden was then entered, and here some choice examples of the *Juniperus recurva*, from the Himalayas, were much admired. The excellent arrangements for the supply of water to the place were shown to the visitors. It is in a convenient spot in the plantation behind the kitchen garden.

Proceeding through the well-cropped garden and green-houses, the visitors made their way to the mansion-house, in front of which they enjoyed the hospitality of Mr and Mrs Mackenzie, who were ably assisted in attending to their numerous guests by the Misses Borthwick. The kindness of the host and hostess being duly acknowledged, the next function was to photograph the whole party

in a group in front of the house, which was very successfully done by Mr Philip Cockburn, of Dalkeith. The visitors then proceeded along the West Avenue, at the end of which a handsome new gateway had just been erected, the style and workmanship of which were greatly admired. The new Lodge was nearly completed, and was inspected with great interest by the members, the interior fittings and sanitary conveniences being of the most complete and approved pattern.

The members then retraced their steps, and proceeded to walk through the beautiful grounds and plantations, accompanied by Mr Mackenzie and his forester, who pointed out to the visitors the numerous fine specimens of Conifers growing luxuriantly in the plantation above the mansion. Two specimens of the *Abies Douglasii*, a Conifer for which the estate is famed, girthed respectively 7 feet 6 inches and 6 feet 6 inches at 3 feet from the ground. A beautiful example of *Abies grandis* was pointed out as having been grown from seed by a daughter of the house, Mrs Tod, about thirty years ago. An *Abies Menziesii* was also much admired, it having been planted by the late Mrs Mackenzie the day before the marriage of the Prince of Wales. The graceful *Abies Albertiana* and the silvery *Cupressus Lawsoniana glauca* adorned many parts of the beautiful plantations, and numerous examples of the Newer Coniferæ were noticeable all round the grounds. Generally they were healthy, tall, and of handsome outline; the coloured foliage of the broad-leaved trees lending effect to the scene.

Turning to the right down through the pretty glen, there were seen some of the finest specimens of the Coniferæ at Dolphinton. Among them were grand examples of the Douglas and Menzies Firs; *Abies nobilis*, *A. Albertiana*, *A. magnifica*, *A. grandis*, *Thuia gigantea*, *Retinospora obtusa*, *Cupressus Lawsoniana*, and other varieties of the cypress family, all seeming to thrive well in the cool soil and clear air of the district. Considering that they were growing at an average altitude of 800 feet above sea-level, their healthy and luxuriant condition was most remarkable, and speaks volumes for the effect produced in tempering the climate by judicious tree-planting. The father of the present proprietor commenced planting early in the present century, when most of the ground was unreclaimed; and Mr Mackenzie has, during his long life, persistently kept up and continued the work, which has always been a pride and a delight to him. He recalled with

pleasure the previous visit of the Society to his estate in 1880, and produced the list of members who had then signed their names in his album, and a few of whom were present on this occasion also. Before bringing the pleasant afternoon to a close, Mr Mackenzie, assisted by Mrs Mackenzie, who is also an ardent arboriculturist, planted a young tree in commemoration of the visit of the Society in the Diamond Jubilee year. The tree was a fine variety of the Himalayan Spruce, *Abies Morinda*, which had been presented to the Society by Mr Foreman, Dalkeith. The position was in an open glade at the top of the "Nobilis Avenue," so called from having a row of fine young *Abies nobilis* planted on each side of the path. A short distance from where the memorial tree was planted, a dark glaucous-leaved variety of spruce was observed, and a discussion arose as to its identity, but it proved in the end to be a fine example of the "Blue Spruce," a silvery variety of the Black Spruce, *Abies nigra*.

Shortly afterwards the company, having regained the main avenue, took farewell of Mr and Mrs Mackenzie, and, on the call of Mr Buchanan, gave three ringing cheers in their honour as they departed. Before returning to the station on their way home, the party enjoyed a grand walk over the estate, going by the old parish church and across the valley, past the pretty artificial pond at Meadowhead, to the South Hill, entirely clothed with plantations, from the summit of which, in bright sunshine, a gorgeous view was obtained of the landscape to the north. Going through the wood, many fine timber trees were observed, consisting chiefly of Scots fir, Norway spruce, and larch; and thousands of seedling rhododendrons were springing up in patches in the openings of the wood on the northern aspect of the hill.

Wending their way to the railway station, the company departed from Dolphinton by the evening train, having spent a glorious afternoon, with much pleasure and not a little profit.