

From R. Herbert's collection of Notes
R.R.
THE OLD IRISH TRUCKLES.

The common cars used for bringing farming produce into market, and for all other usual carting purposes in years long past, were called truckles. They were rudely constructed cars, very like what are at present used in Limerick for carrying kishes of turf, their great peculiarity being their primitive plan of wheels, which had no spokes, being made of solid wood, cut out of a board about two inches thick. They were small, not exceeding about two feet and a half in diameter, and were shod with iron. Instead of revolving on iron axles trees they were permanently made fast to wooden ones, about four inches in diameter, made of tough timber, which revolved with the wheels. The writer of this recollects seeing a few of them in his very youthful days, about 1820, when the last of them were going out of use. In the first Directory of Limerick, dated 1768, all duties tolls and customs, with few exceptions, were computed by horse loads and truckle loads. In those days all small quantities, termed horse-loads, were brought to town in two baskets, one at either side of a horse, suspended from two wooden pegs, made fast in what was called a straddle; and large quantities were called truckle-loads. In Dublin now, the common cars for goods traffic are of a very superior description, provided with springs, which no doubt will after a little become more general. These, compared with truckles, are one of the many improvements of the last hundred years.