

The surname of the house of Donegal was anciently written CIRENCESTER, and the family appears to have been one of eminence in the co. Devon; quartering, according to Sir William Pole, in his MS. *Survey of Devonshire*, the arms of the Raleighs, the Beaumonts, the Willingtons, &c. The first who settled in Ireland was,

SIR ARTHUR CHICHESTER, Knt., 2nd son of Sir John Chichester, Knt., high-sheriff of Devonshire in 1552 and 1578, and M P. for the same co. in 1553 and 1562, by Gertrude, dau. of Sir William Courtenay, Knt. of Powderham Castle, co. Devon (see CHICHESTER, Bart. of Raleigh). In 1603, he was sworn of the privy-council; and in 1604, appointed Lord-Deputy of Ireland, in which year he established two new circuits, sending the first justices of assize into Connaught, and reviving the circuit of Munster, which had been discontinued for more than two hundred years, so that the circuits, which had previously been confined to the *English pale*, thenceforward included the whole kingdom; and with such effect that, in a very short time, there were not found in all the Irish counties so many capital offenders as in the six shires of the western circuit in England. Sir Arthur, in consideration of his services, military and civil, obtained considerable grants of land in the province of Ulster, and was created *Baron Chichester, of Belfast*, in the peerage of Ireland, 23 Feb. 1612. His lordship continued in the government of Ireland for ten years successively, and was re-appointed in July, 1613; in which year the harp of Ireland was first marshalled with the arms of England, and has since continued to be impressed upon the coin of the realm. In Nov. 1615, he retired from his high office, and was appointed, in 1616, lord-high-treasurer of Ireland. Lord Chichester chiefly resided at Carrickfergus, where he erected, in 1618, a magnificent mansion called Joymount. In 1622, he went ambassador to the palatinate, and thence to treat of a peace with the emperor. During his residence at the imperial court, being besieged in the city of Mainchina, or Manheim, by Count Tilly, he remonstrated against the violation of the law of nations in besieging an ambassador; to which Tilly replying, that he noticed not his being an ambassador; his lordship thus answered the messenger:—"Had my master sent me with as many hundred men as he hath sent me on fruitless messages, your general should have known that I had been a soldier as well as an ambassador." His lordship *m.* Letitia, dau. of Sir John Perrott, Knt. of Haroldston, co. Pembroke, Lord-Deputy of Ireland, widow of Vaughan Blackham, Esq.; and *d.* in London, 19 Feb. 1624, when, leaving no issue, the barony expired, while his large estates passed to his brother, *See. I*